

Women In Libraries

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ALA/SRRT FEMINIST
TASK FORCE

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Editors: Kay Jones
Pat Lester

FTF IN CHICAGO

The Feminist Task Force met three times in Chicago at ALA Midwinter in January; Meetings were chaired by Julia Koehler. Several announcements were made. If you are interested in receiving the "Issues in Pornography" packet, it can still be obtained from Christine Jenkins, 321 Eights St., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Susan Beck is indexing WIL and has applied for a grant to help her out. The NCTE publication, Your Reading, lists books on homosexuality under the subject heading "Disease and Illness"! The Indianapolis ordinance has been filed again. Susan Vaughn and Kay Jones volunteered to be nominated for the Equality Award Jury. Susan is also looking for another member for the Merritt Fund Committee. See page 5 for a full description of the Committee and its goals.

Dee Conkling (Weber Co. Library, Roy, Utah) is coordinating the Coalitions Program for the ALA annual meeting in New York. Presentations will be made by FTF, COSWL, the ACRL Women's Studies Discussion Group, Women In Libraries, Women Library Workers, the LAMA Women Administrators Discussion Group, and maybe the RASD women's groups. Other appropriate groups can send information which will be distributed.

It was decided that FTF will prepare stickers for feminists to put on their name tags in honor of the COSWL Tenth Anniversary Celebration; Gail Warner is taking care of this. Leftover cash in our budget will go toward defraying expenses for the reception. Pat Simon and Diane Kadanoff are working on Women's Nite Out. Lorene Ludy from Ohio State is looking for program ideas for San Francisco and would like to hear from anyone who has an idea for "something entertaining."

Gail Warner contacted candidates for Council and the following women would like to receive FTF support: Joan Collett, Marva DeLoach, Dana Rooks, and Gail Warner. Cinder Johanson has informed WIL that Pat Rom and Jane Botham are also Council candidates and fairly well known as feminists.

Quite a bit of discussion went on about the preconference suggestion for San Francisco. Betty-Carol Sellen is coordinating the effort to present "Librarians as Colleagues: Working Together Across Racial Lines" on June 24-26. The purpose is to enable the participants to examine the ways in which racism has become and remains institutionalized. Francie Kendall would act as trainer with her partner, Renetia Martin, and will structure the preconference to provide learning, experiential, reflective, and skill development approaches toward communicating across racial and cultural lines. Jody Bush has prepared a proposal for an ALA Goal Award to help with the funding. Betty-Carol Sellen, Kay Cassell, Susan Vaughn, and Joan Marshall are hosting a fundraiser dinner to be held Friday evening at annual conference to assist with the costs. See next page for a reservation form. This tax deductible dinner calls for casual dress and an interest in contributing to a worthy cause and a good time.

COME TO A FUNDRAISER
for the

**SRRT FEMINIST TASK FORCE
PRE-CONFERENCE**

**"LIBRARIANS AS COLLEAGUES:
WORKING TOGETHER ACROSS
RACIAL LINES**

A ROUND ROBIN DINNER

FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 27, 1986

(ALA Annual Conference begins Sat. June 28)

HOR D'OEUVRES & CASH BAR AT THE HOME OF KAY CASSELL

DINNER AT THE HOME OF BETTY-CAROL SELLEN

DESSERT AT THE HOME OF SUSAN VAUGHN

COFFEE AT THE HOME OF JOAN MARSHALL

----- CUT ALONG LINE AND RETURN -----

Contribution (\$25.00 minimum)

\$ _____

Yes, I will come to dinner.

I cannot come to dinner but here is my contribution.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone * () _____

Please send local travel information and I will get there on my own _____
I want an escort from the Marriott Marquis Hotel _____

This dinner is planned to raise funds to support a conference dealing with racism, scheduled in Berkeley to precede the 1987 ALA Conference.

(RETURN TO BETTY-CAROL SELLEN, BROOKLYN COLLEGE LIBRARY, BEDFORD & AVENUE H,
BROOKLYN, NY 11210)

COSWL IN CHICAGO

The Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship met three times. It was reported that the re-entry project report and the brochure, "The Re-Entry Woman in Librarianship," have been distributed in response to requests which have come in. They are listed in the 1986 ALA Checklist of Publications and are distributed through conference placement centers. A press release has been distributed by the ALA Public Information Office relating to the COSWL bibliography project, announcing the availability of the book lists for \$2 from COSWL/ALA. The question came up about reprint rights and it was decided that requests for reprints will be referred to the compilers. If reprints are allowed, they should refer back to the whole set for sale.

Mary Walters reported on the progress of the oral history goal award project; a draft will be out in the spring and further progress is expected by annual conference. It was decided that a press release would be polished up concerning the Speakers' Bureau. In the meantime, if you know of a good feminist speaker, tell her about the Bureau...the COSWL staff liaison at ALA can provide additional information. The results of the State Association questionnaire were distributed: 37 state associations answered the survey and responses indicate that there are many exciting activities relating to the status of women in librarianship in state associations. Membership data indicate that states estimate that between 60 and 90% of the personal members of state associations are women, but very few states have collected data about their membership as to gender, salary, education, job title, experience, publishing, or professional activities. Seventeen states have some part of their association that focusses on the concerns of library women in one way or another.

The issue of advancing women in librarianship was discussed. Barbara Ivy has been asked to chair a subcommittee to develop a plan of action. Many interesting questions were raised: how can women be encouraged to apply for administrative positions, why are divisional program speakers and panelists so often men, and how can women be nurtured and mentored? One possible partial solution would be to fund an improved project for career development and assessment centers.

The Tenth Anniversary Celebration plans are progressing: Flo Kennedy has been contacted about speaking at the Sunday program. More details on this exciting program will be released in the next issue of WIL. A reception is being planned to honor all present and past COSWL members and others who have helped COSWL in the past ten years. A quilt is being prepared by the Quilters of the Wisconsin Women Library Workers, coordinated by Sue Searing. Volunteer quilters are needed; contact Searing at University of Wisconsin-Madison. American Libraries and Library Journal have been contacted informally to see if they might entertain a special issue on women in librarianship and/or a special article on COSWL's ten years. This is going to be a major theme at annual and much help is needed to make it a success.

Katherine Phenix updated the Women's Directory with the same type of information contained in the previous edition; it should be out this year and will be sold to cover costs. There is a new subcommittee working on the bibliography: Lori Goetsch, Sarah Watstein, and Katherine Phenix. The finished bibliographies should be ready by annual conference. Lynn Miller and Marnie Warner are working on a brochure on what we can do in discrimination cases. Barbara Ivy's research class at Texas Women's has "volunteered" to analyze the statistics about Council nominations, gender representation, and implications. SRRT Civil Rights Task Force and Minority Concerns have both expressed interest in contributing to the anti-racism preconference.

ACRL WSDG IN CHICAGO

The ACRL Women's Studies Discussion Group met twice in Chicago. The first meeting was a business meeting and several announcements were made: Sue Searing said the supplement to the Women's Studies Core Bibliography will be done in May. Women's Legal Rights in the U.S.: a Selective Bibliography is available for \$3.95 from ALA. A petition was circulated for RASD members to sign indicating they wanted the RASD Women's Materials and Women Library Users Discussion Group to be able to continue. "Out of the Stacks," a collection of biographical essays in memoriam of Valmai Fenster is available from Wisconsin Women Library Workers. Lori Goetsch reported that there will be two librarian panels at the National Women Studies Association meeting June 11-15: "Working for Change, Women as Activists," with panelists Mary Vela Creixell, Michelle Leber, Janet Freedman, Jackie Eubanks, and Edie Bjorkland; and "Bringing Global Feminism into the Library," with panelists Yoko Tajuchi, Susan Williamson, Eva Sartori, and Sarah Pritchard. Beth Stafford and Virginia Clark will present papers, too. Joan Ariel announced that work continues on the Women's Studies Checklist; Choice Bibliographical Essays may be interested in offering it at around \$7. Beth Stafford reported on the draft of the Women's Studies survey which will be sent to approximately 2,300 academic institutions; the questionnaire will be out in the fall and will query collection development policies regarding women's materials, bibliographic instruction, and reference service. Ruth Dickstein announced that the subject headings list related to women is done and she is trying to get it in publishable form. The question about whether the discussion group should change its status to a section came up for discussion. It was pointed out that ALA would fund a newsletter for a section. The group voted to approve attempting to reach section status and Chair Sarah Watstein agreed to take it to Council.

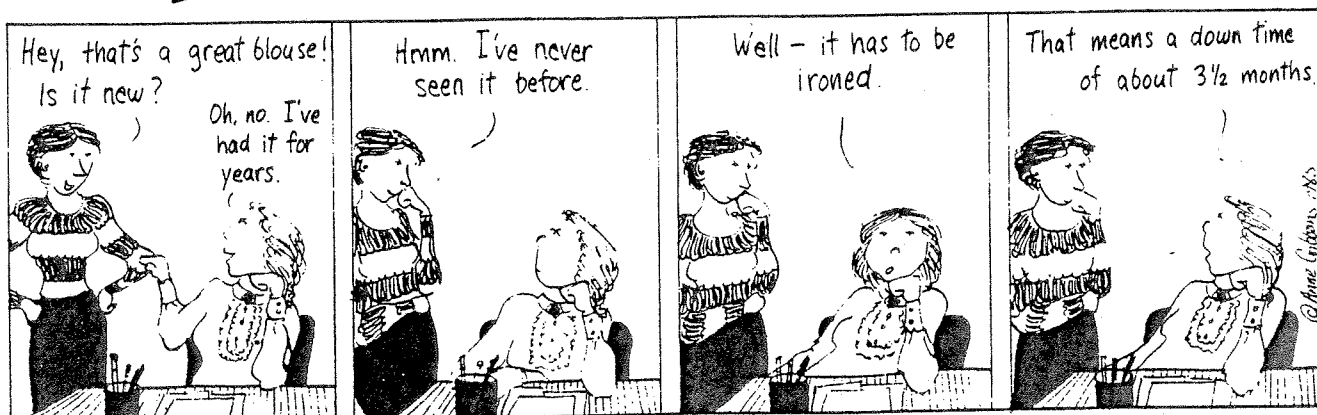
The second meeting was an explanation and examination of the Women's Index. A presentation introducing the index was made by Mary Ellen Capek of the National Council for Research on Women. The Index was in "test" form; it will be tested by various institutions for two months. The Index is a thesaurus made from lists from 35 centers which were combined and "de-duped." Capek said they tried to stick to ANSI standards and anticipated that the primary use would be for indexing and online searching. Estimated time of publication is January, 1987. The group looked at copies of the Index and played with it for an hour to try to help identify some problem areas which might exist.

ALA INSTITUTE ON PAY EQUITY

On June 25-27, COSWL is hosting a preconference on pay equity. This institute is designed to train librarians and library support staff to select the most effective methods to establish pay equity in libraries. When participants return to their regions, they will set up similar training programs at state conferences, serve as resource persons in their geographical areas, and form a national network of librarians and support staff to contact, develop, and share resources and expertise. Librarians and library technicians actively working on pay equity issues in their libraries and professional associations are encouraged to apply. Effort will be made to register participants from most of the fifty states and from public, academic, and special libraries. Sponsored by COSWL, the ALA Commission on Pay Equity, and the Office of Library Personnel Resources Advisory Committee, this Institute is funded in part by an ALA Goal Award of 1985. The registration fee is \$40, which includes packets of materials, coffee breaks, and the reception on Wednesday. Space will be limited to 100. For more details or for registration forms, contact Sue Galloway, Project Director, Reference Department Central University Library (C-075-R), University of California at San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093.

Long Overdue

A FEMINIST COMIC STRIP BY ANNE GIBBONS



We are very fortunate to have received permission from talented feminist cartoonist Anne Gibbons to run her comic strip even though we cannot pay for it. If you know of an appropriate publication which could afford to actually pay for it (at a very reasonable cost), contact Gibbons at 195 Eighth Street, Brooklyn NY 11215.

MERRITT FUND

What is the LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund? It's a source of funds for librarians who've been dealt with unfairly. It's been called "the non-5013C, non-ALA trammelled, ready-assistance mechanism." It's there to help. The Merritt Fund was established in 1970, as an arm of the Freedom to Read Foundation, to provide direct financial aid for the support, maintenance, medical care, and welfare of librarians who are or have been "threatened with loss of employment or discharged because of their stand for the cause of intellectual freedom, including promotion of freedom of librarians to select items for their collections from all the world's written and recorded information." In 1975, the Merritt Fund was reestablished as a separate entity governed by three Trustees elected by its member contributors, and its scope was broadened to include librarians "discriminated against on the basis of sex, sexual preference, race, color, creed, age physical handicap, or place of national origin, and/or denied employment rights."

How does the Merritt Fund help? In 1983, its Trustees awarded the following aid: a Mississippi high school librarian, out of work for three years after being harassed on the job, received \$750 for medical care. A physically handicapped New Jersey federal librarian, who suffered harassment and reprisals for using complaint and grievance processes, received \$1,000 for legal expenses. A Massachusetts public librarian, fired for physical limitations caused by illness, received \$500 for medical and living expenses. A Canadian university librarian, who filed a discrimination charge based on race, color, or national origin with the province Human Rights Commission, received \$1,000 for legal fees.

The Merritt Fund, established in memory of a staunch defender of intellectual freedom, is supported solely by donations from concerned groups and individuals. Because direct financial aid is given to individuals, contributions do not qualify as tax deductions. Hundreds of persons have donated to the Merritt Fund to support their colleagues in need; thousands more should. Contributions, and applications for aid, should be sent to Trustees, Merritt Fund, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

PORNOGRAPHY

In view of the continuing interest of the Feminist Task Force in the subject of pornography, you will want to see the publication by Margaret Smith and Barbara Waisberg, Pornography: a Feminist Survey. This bibliography includes 51 annotated entries for recent books and articles within four themes: sexuality, social construction of perception, perspectives on pornography, and control of pornography. The authors are feminist adult educators who have pioneered the development of education programs on the issues of pornography and violence against women. They also authored The Pornography Workshop for Women. Order Pornography from Boudicca Books, P.O. Box 901, Station K, Toronto, Ontario, M4P 2H2, Canada, for \$4.50

CONGRESS ON WOMEN

The Third International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women will be held at Trinity College, University of Dublin, from July 6 - 10, 1987. The aim of the Congress is to bring together academics and practitioners from all over the world, researching, teaching or in policy positions relevant to women. The Congress will provide a forum in which issues of importance to women - many of which cut across traditional disciplinary lines - will be addressed. The Congress is held every three years. The first Congress, on the theme, "Women's World: the New Scholarship," was held in the University of Haifa, Israel, in December 1981 and was attended by 600 women and men from 35 countries. This was followed in April 1984 by the Congress in the University of Groningen, the Netherlands, where the theme chosen was "Strategies for Empowerment." Over 650 women and men from 45 countries participated in the second Congress. The theme for the next Congress is "Women's World 1987: Visions and Revisions." If you are interested in preparing a paper for presentation at the Congress or if you would like to receive one of the informational brochures, write Kay Jones, UNM Library.

NEW BOOK

Osterweil, Wendy, ed. Alternative Press Publishers of Children's Books: a Directory. 2nd ed. Madison, Wisconsin: Cooperative Children's Book Center, 1985. \$8/\$9 in Canada.

The second edition of this title contains 150 publishers, fewer than the 1982 edition but including 42 new entries, to be expected in this ever-changing field. Cross references for name changes are given. Information in each entry is gathered from letters to publishers, catalogs, resources in the Cooperative Children's Book Center, journals and newsletters, and librarians. The distributor information is especially valuable. It might be helpful to note if the presses produce instructional materials, games, or posters. Producers such as Pacific Cascade Records which handle contemporary non-sexist children's records might be included. In addition to the bilingual index by 17 languages and the geographical index by state and province, the new distributor and subject index are useful. The inclusion of Canadian presses is a valuable resource. The subject index could have used a more hierarchical organization and combined some terms such as sex roles and non-sexist. The coverage of feminist and non-sexist publishers is fairly comprehensive when compared with the ACRL Women's Studies Discussion Group Checklist which also includes publishers of young adult materials. That list includes several organizations producing curriculum materials and two or three additional presses. This directory includes two, New Victoria Printers and Over the Rainbow, which were contacted for the ACRL list but did not respond - a good example of the difficulty of contacting these presses and keeping up to date. Every library with a children's collection - public, school, or college - could use this directory. It is hoped that they will continue publishing new editions regularly.

Eileen E. Schroeder
Memorial Library
SUNY College at Cortland

NCPE

The National Committee on Pay Equity put out a record of goals and 1985 accomplishments which was distributed at one of the COSWL meetings in Chicago. The American Library Association is on their Board of Directors. The purpose of NCPE is to examine and educate the public on the causes and roots of pay inequities between women and men, and whites and people of color. Formed in 1979, NCPE has grown to include over 300 individual and organizational members. Some of the things they have accomplished in 1985: planned, organized and coordinated meetings and conferences to promote the pay equity movement. Served as a consultant to U.S. General Accounting Office in GAO efforts to report to Congress the position of pay equity advocates around the country. Published and distributed reports. Provided technical information to the public, members of Congress and other governing bodies, and organizations. Developed and completed comprehensive research projects to explore new arenas of pay equity. Supported the enforcement of sex-based wage discrimination laws, such as filing an amicus brief in the case of the American Nurses' Association vs. Illinois; ALA filed a separate brief in support of the ANA.

CUTS AT LC

According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, 3/5/86, the Librarian of Congress, Daniel J. Boorstin, has told a House subcommittee that the nation could suffer a historic disaster because of the cuts allocated to the Library of Congress by Gramm-Rudman. LC's budget has been cut from \$238 million to \$220 million this year which has necessitated a reduction in hours the Library will be open to the public, a cutback in staff and acquisitions and projects. Mr. Boorstin said that if Congress continued to slash the Library's budget, its collection could disintegrate in a decade and "be destroyed in two decades." He added: "Historians will not fail to note that a people who could spend \$300-billion on their defense would not spend \$18 million on their knowledge--and could not even keep their libraries open in the evening. They will recall the last epoch of the Roman Empire when Romans were so fearful of the barbarians that they imitated the barbarians."

WOMEN WRITERS

The Eighth Women Writers Conference will be held April 2-5, 1986, at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. Designed to provide a forum where writers, teachers, scholars, librarians, and readers can discuss and examine various historical, literary, and creative contributions by women, the Eighth Women Writers Conference promises to deliver another stimulating four days. For brochures, registration information, and more details, write or call Women Writers Conference, 106 Frazee Hall, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0031, (606) 257-3295.

YOU ARE THE GAME

The Indiana University Audio-Visual Center has announced the release of an important new title which is unique in its field and should be of interest to feminist librarians. "You are the Game: Sexual Harassment on Campus is the first videocassette to deal with the problem of sexual harassment of college students by professors. It dramatizes the situation of two women college students who have experienced different forms of sexual harassment. The 59-minute color production is available for purchase (\$110) or rental (\$35) in 3/4" video (order #EVU-2210) or 1/2" video (order #EVH-2210). Order from Indiana University Audio-Visual Center, Bloomington, Indiana 47405. It is also available for preview.

EDITORIAL CHANGES COMING

Editors Kay Jones and Pat Lester are requesting to be relieved of their responsibilities at the end of this volume year. It would be possible for one person to be responsible for the entire thing if she had unusual stamina and plenty of free time, or the job could be divided as it now is with one person preparing the content and the other person being responsible for the duplication, mailing, and subscriptions, or perhaps a team at some library might want to subdivide it even further. For the content part, Margaret Myers, the COSWL liaison at ALA, always sends lots of material from various sources which can be summarized or otherwise included and the announcements for upcoming ALA meetings and the reports on past ALA women's meetings take up quite a bit of space. The publishing part requires some label-making mechanism, time for folding and stapling, and an organizational scheme to keep track of bills, payments, renewals, and changes of address. We would be happy to pass along any wisdom we may have gleaned in our performance of these duties. Anyone interested in all or any part of these rewarding tasks should volunteer to Julia Koehler, FTF Chair, 17 Willow Drive, Olney, Illinois, 62450. The takeover should occur during the summer with the new volume due to begin in September.

WOMEN IN LIBRARIES, Newsletter of the American Library Association Social Responsibilities Round Table Feminist Task Force, is published 5 times a year from September to June. Subscriptions are \$5 for individuals, \$8 for institutions prepaid, and \$10 for invoiced institutions. Send checks, payable to WOMEN IN LIBRARIES, to:

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