



MPLA Newsletter

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Editor: Jim Dertien

June 1983

School Books, Censorship and Island Trees

This is a talk given by Barbara Bernstein, Executive Director Nassau Chapter, N.Y. Civil Liberties Union, at the Tri-Conference of the Mountain Plains Library Association, April 8, 1983, Wichita.

I am delighted to be here today, because I love to talk about Island Trees.

Not that I like book banning. But when something like this happens, it's a good opportunity to find out what we really believe, what democracy and our constitutional system mean. It provides a chance for us to define what we stand for and of course to make that stand. It makes me feel very American.

I am always amused that the book banners assert that we are the radicals and they are the conservatives when, in fact, it is the other way around. It is we who are conserving our 200-year-old tradition of freedom, and they who are radical in departing from it. This may be worth pursuing for a moment because there may be some among you who, while grateful for the support of the ACLU in challenging the banning of books, may actually see us as radical otherwise.

The ACLU is a non-partisan, non-political organization that really has only one goal and one client; the Bill of Rights, which was added to the Constitution to secure the rights of individuals by setting limits on government power. But those rights

are not self-enforcing. If a legislature or a governor or president or police chief or school board violates those rights, there is no self-executing mechanism. The courts enforce, but they can't initiate action, so somebody has to go to court to claim that his rights are being violated.

Often that somebody is very unpopular—a radical, a Communist, a Black Panther, a Socialist, a Nazi—whose rights the lawmakers or other government officials don't mind violating at all. So the Socialist or the Black Panther or the Nazi has to stick his neck out to test the fairness of the law, which the rest of us rarely have to do, because no one usually prevents Mr. and Mrs. Middle America from speaking freely or voting.

Why should we care if Communists or Nazis are denied rights? Because we all apply to the same law for our rights and if we bend them out of shape to get at our enemy, then we have to be willing to be governed by the same twisted law if our enemy were elected to power and wanted to use it against us.

Over the years the ACLU has become identified with our clients on the assumption that if we represent their right to speak, then we must believe what they say. Of course, that's nonsense, but our defense of the right to speak became confused in people's minds with the speech itself. Nothing helped clear up that confusion more

than our defense a few years ago of some American Nazis in Skokie, Illinois. Nobody thought for a minute that we were defending what the Nazis stood for so, while it hurt us among our members for awhile, it did help in a way nothing else has, to rid us of the problem of being identified with the speech of our clients.

This is a long way of explaining why we are the conservatives who want to keep the First Amendment intact without qualifications either on the speech or the speaker, and why the book banners, and sometimes the burners, are the radicals who want the speech to conform to their political ideas before they will allow it.

Jules Feiffer, the author and cartoonist, once complained at an ACLU dinner that we never represent people who you'd want to hang around with, who you'd invite to your house for dinner. Well, once in awhile we do, and in the Island Trees case, we had a chance to represent some ordinary, normal American students who had never done a disruptive, unpopular thing in their lives but got mad when the school board said they couldn't read some books.

I think it might be useful here to review the facts and events of the case, so that we all have the same basis on which to discuss the outcome in court, not only in this case but for the future.

In September, 1975, three members of the board of education,

including the board president, attended a conference of "conservative" parents and teachers, called Parents of New York-United, or PONY-U, in upstate New York where a list of 32 "objectionable books" was distributed along with a list of excerpts with offensive language. They found that they had 11 of these books in the school library but did nothing about it until February at which point they ordered the principal to remove the books. Though you probably know the books we are talking about, let me name them here for the record:

The Fixer Bernard Malamud, winner of the Pulitzer Prize

Go Ask Alice Anonymous

Best Short Stories, edited by Langston Hughes

The Naked Ape Desmond Morris

Down These Mean Streets Piri Thomas

Soul On Ice Eldridge Cleaver

A Hero Ain't Nothing But A Sandwich Alice Childress

Slaughterhouse Five Kurt Vonnegut

A Reader for Writers, edited by Jerome Archer.

Originally, **Black Boy** by Richard Wright, and **Laughing Boy** by Oliver LaFarge were also removed but they were officially returned so they are not at issue here.

At the time of the removal, the then superintendent of schools warned the board members that they were not following any due process, that this would create a community uproar, that they should leave the books in the library until a formal decision was rendered, that there had been no chance for any other professionals, administrators or teachers to review the books or give any other opinions, that this action would create a community outcry, and indeed he was right. There was.

In early March they issued a press release explaining their actions. That's where the off-quoted phrase, "anti-Semitic, anti-Christian, anti-American and just plain filthy," originated in describing the books. In response to the community uproar, they then appointed a review committee, a hand-picked group of eight to represent the community. It is important to note that of all the people who volunteered to serve on the review committee, they picked no one who was opposed to the ban.

To this select review committee, they gave only the vaguest guide-

lines—"educational suitability, appropriateness and good taste." They did not tell the committee what offended them in the books. Three months later the committee made its recommendations: retain **The Fixer**, **Go Ask Alice**, and **Best Short Stories** by Negro Writers. Remove **The Naked Ape** and **Down These Mean Streets**. Split on **Soul on Ice** and **A Hero Ain't Nothing But a Sandwich**, return **Slaughterhouse Five** with parental approval, and no comment on **A Reader for Writers**, because the single copy given them did not allow all to read it.

At the July, 1976 school board meeting, the board president read off the committee's vote on the books and proceeded to ignore it. Their own hand-picked committee did not support them on the ban, so they simply disregarded it, giving only their reason for the ban that the books were "educationally unsound." By this time the board members had finally read the books, having been embarrassed into doing so because of charges that they had banned the books in ignorance.

We then filed suit. The immediate response of the board was to turn to the community for ratification of its actions by taking a district-wide poll through its newsletter. Sixty percent of those who responded (which was about 20% of the residents) supported the board. The board claimed majority support and of course it was correct, in that it was re-elected twice in the intervening years, though narrowly.

Their own hand-picked committee did not support them on the ban.

Well, what about majority rule? In fact, what are the arguments the board used to defend itself? The board based its legal authority on two main arguments: 1) that the N.Y. State Education Law gave it the right to select books for the libraries and the curriculum and with that right went the right to remove; and 2) that it had the **right**, rather the **duty**, to transmit the majoritarian values of the community, i.e., the majority rules. It said it represented a conservative community whose values would not allow books with "vulgarity, profanities, explicit

descriptions of sex, or disparaging remarks about blacks, Jews or Christ." It further argued that the school is a unique setting because it acts in place of parents and must be especially sensitive to the minor children of those parents, that students do not enjoy the same full-blown constitutional rights as adults in any case. It added that there is no "right to know" corresponding to the right to speak. To support the constitutionality of its actions, it pointed to the majority support it received both in the district poll and in the school board elections. It said, in effect, that no constitutional rights were implicated, certainly not "sharply and directly," and therefore none violated, because it was all a question of local control. In short, they claimed that the Constitution was not involved at all.

Sounds reasonable. The State Education Law does give the school board control over the libraries and curriculum, and it does allow the board to transmit the values of the community. And surely no one would argue that books that are legally obscene belong in school libraries, or that minors have the same degree of constitutional protection as adults in the community. So what's wrong? Plenty, though as we shall see, it is no mean task to prove it.

Not easy, because first and foremost, while the Constitution requires the government to remain neutral with regard to speech, the school board is the one government agency that makes content-based decisions every day in its choice of what goes into the libraries and the curriculum. Those judgments cannot be avoided. When the government is the teacher and the student a minor, this close and continuing relationship requires a sensitive and exact articulation of the rights of each. No decision will be easy.

So the special burden we had was to prove that even in a situation where strict neutrality of speech is impossible, where school boards are authorized to transmit community values, even in such a case the First Amendment was offended. The difficulty was proved by the fact that before the case even reached the Supreme Court, 12 judges split evenly on the matter. The lower court decided for the board, the Appeals

continued on page 9



From Your President. . .

Wichita Conference reports are coming in. They indicate that all three associations made a profit on the conference. MPLA should make at least \$2,500, which will help MPLA continue to offer a variety of continuing education opportunities for our members.

With regard to Wichita Conference attendance, MPLA had ninety-two members attend, fifty-two people who belonged to MPLA and the Kansas Library Association (KLA), and seven people who belonged to MPLA, KLA and the Kansas Association of School Librarians. We had 80 exhibitors to whom we owe a large debt of gratitude for helping making the conference possible. As you make library purchases, whenever possible consider those companies that support our professional association.

With the Wichita Conference behind us, plans are well underway for our next conference May 2-5, 1984, in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The Wyoming Library Association has suggested "Humanities Horizons" as the theme. If you have comments or suggestions on this theme, please let me know.

Committee appointments and correspondence have accounted for most of my MPLA duties in the past
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month. I was very pleased at the volunteers who wrote indicating an interest in serving on a committee, and then at the positive response from those asked to serve. The list of committee members is included elsewhere in this newsletter. The Convention Handbook Committee is new and has been charged with development of a handbook by the 1984 MPLA Conference.

It is significant for members to know that the National Council for Quality Continuing Education has given the Mountain Plains Library Association the authority to decide which continuing education offerings in the MPLA area meet National Council standards. Our Voluntary Recognition Committee is accepting applications in this area now.

MPLA will be sponsoring a poster at ALA. If you plan to attend, stop at the poster displays at the Biltmore Hotel, Colonnade Room, Tuesday, June 28, between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and see your poster and visit with Joe Edelen, Blaine Hall and I, as well as other MPLA members.

Also the resolution the MPLA Board passed concerning confidentiality of library records has been submitted to J. Dennis Day, Chairman, ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee, for consideration at ALA.

Plans are underway for a fall MPLA board meeting on Monday, September 12, in Cheyenne. MPLA board members will meet with Wyoming board members to coordinate plans for the 1984 conference. MPLA board members and committee chairs will report at the September 12th meeting. Procedures manual, committee terms, bylaws, and the convention manual will be some of the major items of concern. If any member has business to bring before this body, I would appreciate knowing about it by August 1, so that I may include it on the agenda.

Your association is only as strong as your work invested. Take time to look over association activities and if you have suggestions, let me know.

—Donna Jones



Executive Board Highlights Committee Reports

Children's and School Librarians. Chairperson Kathy Buxton reported that only the Salt Lake Public Library and the Bemis Public Library, Littleton, Colorado had contributed to the Section's Program Resource Box, and that other libraries were encouraged to participate in order to make the Box more valuable as a resource. The Section recommended to the Executive Board discontinuation of their membership in AASL due to cost and inability of persons to attend meetings. Nancy Chu reported on the new TV program, "Reading Rainbow," which originates from Lincoln, Nebraska.

Continuing Education. Chairperson Bob Carmack advised the Board that only one pre-conference grant application had been received, it being from the Wyoming Library Association. This was approved in the amount of \$327.82. He reported that due to lack of registrations the previously scheduled Library Management Skills Institute had to be cancelled. The Committee is working on a pre-conference pro-

gram on fund raising which it has targeted for presentation prior to the Wyoming conference. Emphasis will be on wide-ranging techniques and approaches, including grants, but not grant writing.

Professional Development.

Chairperson Doug Hindmarsh indicated that at the time of the Wichita Conference nine 1983 regular applications had been received, 3 had been awarded; and five were pending a decision in Wichita. One application had been denied, and one application had been returned because the individual's library could not afford to match the grant offered. Applicants were from the following states: Colorado, 2; Utah, 2; Kansas, 1; Wyoming, 3; South Dakota, 1.

The Professional Development Grants Committee will use the Continuing Education Committee's previously developed One-to-One Guidelines for general direction in granting awards for on-site visits. The Board had voted to formally discontinue that particular CE program and request that individuals interested in on-site visits make application for a professional development grant.

The Committee's new grant application emphasizes the program proposal and its benefit to the applicant, while de-emphasizing the applicant's background and education.

Awards. This year, reported Jim Swan, chairperson, awards would be given to the following persons: Thomas Jones, Veteran's Memorial Public Library, Bismarck, ND, receiving the Distinguished Service Award; Jamestown Sun, Jamestown, ND, receiving the News Media Support Award; and an Honorary Membership to Ford Rockwell, Wichita, Kansas, who was twice president of MPLA and editor of the **MPLA Newsletter**.

Finance. Ed Byars, committee chair, reported on a committee recommendation to increase dues in order to cover the actual cost of operating the association. It was noted that MPLA has one of the lowest dues schedules in the eight state region with the last dues revision made prior to 1977. He reported that adoption of the dues change will require a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote by the membership. The recommended changes are:

Retirees, students, trustees	\$8.00
Personal Members	\$12.00 for salaries \$12,000 or less.
	Add \$1.00 for each \$1000 above \$12,000 (no ceiling)
Institutions	Under \$50,000 - \$20.00
	Retain present scale for \$50,000 or more
State Library Associations	\$40.00

The Executive Board accepted the recommendation, indicating that the proposed dues change be submitted to the membership for their consideration through the vehicle of a mail ballot with their decision to be effective January 1, 1984.

Public Relations. Jim Dertien, chairperson, reported on a media kit used by the committee to supply information to other professional publications and to state association newsletters. He also proposed a membership campaign advertising series aimed at readers of state association newsletters, and a second campaign aimed at getting existing members to find two new members willing to pay half-price introductory rates. The committee also demonstrated its new MPLA conference display unit.

Executive Board To Urge ALA To Act On Model Confidentiality Legislation

Acting on a recommendation by Tom Jones, City Librarian for Bismarck, ND, the MPLA Executive Board passed the following resolution:

Whereas the need for confidentiality of library circulation and registration records has long been accepted as an important principle in the practice of American librarianship;

Whereas all states and territories have chapter membership in the American Library Association;

Whereas the open records laws of most of these states will necessitate the enactment of statutory exemption to provide for confidentiality of library circulation and registration records;

Whereas the American Library Association has encouraged and promoted the principle of confidentiality of library circulation

and registration records as an ethical concern;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Mountain Plains Library Association requests that the ALA Council urge the Office of Intellectual Freedom to do the following:

- (1) to draft a model policy for legislation for confidentiality of library circulation and registration records; and
- (2) to develop and disseminate a packet including guidelines and support documents to assist in securing passage of needed legislation; and
- (3) to report regularly on progress achieved to ALA Council and the library community.

Approved April 8, 1983.

Montana Library Association Officially Represented at Wichita Conference

Avis Anderson, Dawson County High School Librarian, Glendive, Montana, officially represented the Montana Library Association at our tri-conference in Wichita in April. She attended for purposes of reviewing how MPLA functions as an organization.

Half-Price New Membership Promotion

Included in this issue you will find a full-page "1/2 PRICE FOR 2" new membership offer, authorized by the Executive Board at their April meeting.

The new promotion asks you, as a member, to put your pride in MPLA to work and introduce two colleagues to our Association. You will need to find two persons who have not previously been members. They should each calculate their personal rate for normal membership, then divide each rate by two. The sponsoring member then secures checks for half the regular rate from each person, has them complete the special half-price form, and sends it to Joe Edelen.

It is a terrific buy, especially considering the potential membership gains your colleagues stand to receive. So we hope you will give it some effort. Our Vice-President/President-Elect, Dorothy Liegl, has already secured memberships

from eight persons, and it appears she is determined to find more. Dorothy says that her contacts have been very enthusiastic about this introductory offer.

Professional Development Grants Announced

Cynthia Berner, chairperson of the Professional Development Grants Committee, has announced the following persons whose applications have been approved:

Russell Robertson — Summer Institute on Scientific Creationism, July 25-29, 1983, Christian Heritage College, El Cajun, California.

George Jaramillo — Information and Technology at the Crossroads, September 17-21, 1983, Baltimore, Maryland

Joe Edelen — Microcomputer Pre-conference at ALA Annual Conference 1983, June 24, 1983, Los Angeles, California.

Ronald Rudser — Certificate of Advanced Studies Program, June 14-August 11, 1983, University of Denver, Denver, Colorado.

New Membership Brochures and Membership Directory At The Presses

Joe Edelen and Jim Dertien have sent to our printer the copy for our revised membership brochure and our 1983 membership directory. When ready the membership brochure, with its several inserts, will resemble a file folder. It is designed to serve each member as a permanent file location for MPLA information. In the future when changes are announced in MPLA's various programs each member will simply receive an updated insert and be instructed to place it in the folder. This will save the Association considerable expense for reissuing the entire publication. The new folders will be sent to all current members, to all new members, and all or parts of it will be used in special new member promotions.

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The new membership directory will be issued on newsprint and will be somewhat slimmer due to a few editorial changes.

The membership folder is designed to provide members with as much information as possible about their association, and suggestions for inserts or information additions should be sent to Public Relations Committee Chair, Jim Dertien, Sioux Falls Public Library, 201 North Main Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57102.

Country School Legacy in ERIC Data Bank

Some 1,500 pages of original research on the role of the country school in western states will be available in the data bank of the ERIC system—as a result of an extensive project funded by the National Endowment on the Humanities, the County School Legacy project, sponsored by MPLA, and directed by Andrew Gulliford.

MPLA Committees 1983-84

(Names only are given. Please secure addresses and phone numbers from your membership directory.)

Nominating Committee

Dorothy Rice, Chairman
Jan Beck
Morel Fry
Helen Hoyt
K. L. Janecek
Jim Marvin
Dorothy Middleton
John Nixon

Professional Development Grants Committee

Cynthia Berner, Chairman
Douglas Hindmarsh
Tom Jones
Ruth Foley
Kathrine J. Buxton
Richard Allen

Public Relations Committee

Jim Dertien, Chairman
Barbara Fraley
Blaine Hall
Jane Kolbe
Frank Schepis
Pete Sullivan
Judy Zelenski

Voluntary Recognition Committee

Stephen K. Ooton, Chairman
Terry Brennan
Douglas Hindmarsh
Dorothy Liegl
Don Reynolds
Barbara Tooker

Convention Handbook Committee

Dorothy Middleton, Chairman
Vee Friesner
Blaine Hall
Donna Jones
Jerry Kaup
Dorothy Liegl
Joe Edelen, ex-officio

Federal Relations Coordinator

Dorothy Middleton

Awards Committee

James Swan, Chairman
Alberta Carter
Dora A. Jones
Helen E. Higby
Susan Kling

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Jerry Kaup, Chairman
Elmer Bachenberg
Brian Beattie
Diane Caley
Gary P. Gillum
Jean Johnson
Dan Seager

Continuing Education Committee

Douglas Hindmarsh, Chairman
Lynette Anderson
Bonne Campbell
Bob Carmack
Carol Connor
Nelda Mohr
Mary Southwell
Barbara Tooker

Finance Committee

Edward W. Byers, Chairman
Phyllis Baker
Hailie Gunn
Amy Owen
Russ Robertson
Joe Edelen, ex-officio

Intellectual Freedom Committee

Heather McQuarie, Chairman
Joe Anderson
Ella Jean Bailey
Dennis Day
Dora A. Jones
Tom Jones
Richard Rademacher
Dan Siebersma



Tom Jones receiving Distinguished Service Award



Ford Rockwell with his Honorary Life Membership



Gordon Hansen, Jamestown Sun, receives News Media Support Award.

MPLA Presents Awards

Tom Jones, Ford Rockwell, and Gordon Hansen of the Jamestown (ND) Sun were recipients of MPLA awards presented April 7 at the annual conference held in Wichita, Kansas.

Tom Jones, Director of the Veterans Memorial Public Library, Bismarck, ND, received the Distinguished Service Award for his continuing efforts on behalf of libraries in North Dakota. He was the primary force behind establishing state aid for public libraries in

North Dakota. His leadership as a library director and among other librarians qualified him as a candidate for the award.

Ford Rockwell, former director of the Wichita Public Library, now retired, was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in MPLA. Ford is remembered for his tireless efforts on behalf of MPLA when it was a fledgling organization. He was twice elected president and served as the editor of the MPLA quarterly publication for years.

Gordon Hansen, publisher of the **Jamestown Sun**, Jamestown, ND, received the New Media Support Award for his newspaper. The Sun has demonstrated its support for the library for several years. It was especially helpful to the library when a mill levy increase was needed to continue the programs of the library.

James Swan, chairperson of the Awards Committee, made the presentations on behalf of MPLA.

Around the Region

Colorado

Joint Meetings Aid Cooperation

For several years the boards of the four public libraries in Arapahoe County have been meeting quarterly to discuss areas of common concern. Out of this spirit of unity came a proposal to develop a plan for cooperative collection development for the county.

The directors of the Aurora, Englewood, Littleton and Arapahoe Regional Libraries are now meeting on a monthly basis and have begun a county-wide collection evaluation process. They have named themselves A-PAL: Arapahoe - Public Access to Libraries. As the name implies, their scope of interest will extend to any area that relates

to the public's access to the library services within the county. (**Newsletter**, Colorado State Library, March 1983)

Privacy of Library User Records Now Law

Colorado Governor Lamm recently signed House Bill 1114—Privacy of Library User Records—into law. The law says that a publicly supported library shall not disclose any record or other information which identifies a person as having requested or obtained specific materials and service or as otherwise having used the library.

Records may be disclosed only in the following instances: a) when necessary for the reasonable opera-

tion of the library; b) upon written consent of the user; c) pursuant to subpoena. Any library official, employee or volunteer who discloses information in violation commits a Class 2 Petty Offense and could be fined. (**Nexus**, March/April 1983)

Kansas

Statewide Library Card Released

Governor John Carlin, Speaker of the House, Mike Hayden, and President of the Senate, Ross Doyen, proclaimed National Library Week and were presented with the first Kansas

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Library Cards at ceremonies April 5 in Topeka.

The Kansas Library Card is an identification card issued by a local system member library on an annual basis to any patron who has a local registration card with verified address and who has had no recent history of abusing local library privileges. The card is tangible evidence to the patron of the spirit of cooperation and resource sharing characteristic of Kansas libraries. It is a reassuring indication to the lending library that the patron is a recent user in good standing at his home library.

The Kansas Library Card project is the culmination of more than a year of planning by a special task force of the Kansas Library Network Board. The KLNb has appropriated funds for printing the cards, explanatory information for implementing the project and a certificate for each participating library to display. The KLNb also created a reimbursement fund to compensate lending libraries if a loaned item is not returned. Non-return of materials was found by the task force to be a negligible problem in Kansas systems which issue a system-wide card and in states with a similar statewide program. The Kansas Library Card will be most useful to people traveling outside their regional system boundaries since in-system reciprocal borrowing through walk-in access has been a hallmark of system participation since 1968.

The Kansas State Library in Topeka is coordinating the program with the assistance of the regional library systems. Participation by a local library is voluntary. A Kansas Library Card holder is subject to the circulation policies of the lending library and is responsible for returning the borrowed materials directly to the lending library.

Library System Funding Amended

The 1983 Kansas Legislature increased taxing authority for the seven regional library systems through amendment to statutes that had held these taxes to the levy limit established in 1965, when the systems were first developed. The amendment allows the regional systems to tax .75 mill on all property not otherwise being taxed for

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public library services. The previous limit was .5 mill.

An "Open Records Act" signed into law on May 6 provides specific exemptions for sensitive library records. These exemptions read as follows:

"Except to the extent disclosure is otherwise required by law, a public agency shall not be required to disclose: . . . Library, archive and museum materials contributed by private persons, to the extent of any limitations imposed as conditions of the contribution. . . . Library patron and circulation records which pertain to identifiable individuals."

These are two of twenty-nine exclusions in the act. Personnel records of any public agency are also exempted.

Nebraska

Confidentiality Legislation Passed

It comes as a surprise to most Nebraskans to learn that until May of this year, library records have been legally available for public scrutiny. Under the "sunshine," or public access provisions of Nebraska law, anyone could request the names of individuals who had checked out a library book or film, or could even ask for a list of items checked out by an individual library patron. Such information was not protected by statute, though some libraries had individual policies concerning such records.

This January, Senator Vard Johnson of Omaha, introduced LB 108 in the Nebraska legislature. This bill specifies that records kept by publicly-funded libraries and which link patron names with library materials or services are not subject to the state's sunshine law and are not available for public inspection. Many librarians across the state worked hard over the past two years to secure such a law, and we are pleased to have this legislation to back the privacy policies of individual libraries.

Heavy Alumni Load for Library

A survey of the alumni of the University of Nebraska at Omaha,

by UNO's Center for Applied Urban Research has revealed that a full 40 percent of its alumni contacted by phone use the university library. The library's circulation records indicate that alumni checked out over 9,000 books a year. (LJ/SL) **Hotline**, April 18, 1983)

Fees for Film and AV Use

The Appropriations Committee of the State Legislature has advised the Nebraska Library Commission that beginning with the next fiscal year, part of the funds required to operate the Nebraska Film and Audiovisual Service will have to be provided by the users of the service.

This means that beginning July 1, 1983, fees will be charged for the use of NLC film and AV materials. Though the state will furnish about 75 percent of the cost of the service, the remainder will have to come from user fees.

At their February meeting, members of the Library Commission approved a fee schedule which is expected to yield the funds necessary to continue film and AV service.

Fees will vary with film size: size 1: \$3.50; size 2: \$4.00; size 3: \$5.00; size 4: \$6.50. All audiovisuals will have a fee of \$2.00. (Film size is indicated by the first nonzero digit in the film number, e.g., no 0340 is a size 3. Audiovisuals will have an 800000 number.)

All fees are for one or two days and 50 percent will be added for each additional day. All overdue films and audiovisuals will be fined 75 percent of the handling fee for each day overdue. (**Overtones**, Feb.-March, 1983)

Nevada

Automated Circulation Systems Installed

Two new CLSI automated circulation systems were installed in May. The Ormsby Public Library in Carson City is the site for a system which will serve that library, the Nevada State Library, the Minden and Zephyr Cove libraries of Douglas County, and the Churchill County Library in Fallon. The system which will serve Elko County Library System, and, ultimately, Humboldt and White Pine counties will be installed

around the first week of May. Both host libraries have had to arrange for special rooms to be built for the computers, tape drive, printers and disc storage units which comprise these systems. In addition to a dust-free environment, the computers require a constant temperature and humidity level. While this has been going on, participating libraries have arranged for phone lines to be installed to connect them with the main computer.

Once the systems are installed, libraries will begin re-registering patrons and issuing them cards with zebra numbers (bar code labels) affixed. The libraries in the Carson City system plan on issuing a card which may be used in all of the member libraries. While patron registration is going on, tapes from our COM vendor, GRC, will be loaded onto the system, so that tedious keying of materials records can be avoided. After this is done (a four-to-six-week project, local libraries will call up records at their terminals, check the information, and add local bar codes and call numbers. After a library has judged that enough materials have been input, they will go "on-line," using the system to check materials in and out. (Dateline, March-April 1983)

South Dakota

Computers to Miss Summer Vacation

A dozen of the Brookings School District's computers will not be getting a summer vacation this year. Instead, the school board has agreed to loan those computers to the Brookings Public Library for use in the library's summer reading program. A Brookings teacher will write programs to be used for record-keeping for the reading program. In addition the library has acquired one hundred programs on cassette.

The twelve school board-owned computers will join the three PET Commodore 4032 personal computers already owned by the Brookings Public Library. The library will provide the computers to the public whenever the library is open, at no charge. (Bookmarks, March-April, 1983)

Utah

Computer Literacy Task Force

The ULA Executive Board has appointed a Task Force on Computer Literacy. This task force has been charged with recommending the course of action ULA should take to promote computer literacy among librarians throughout the state. The members of the task force would like librarians and other interested people to give input on three issues: (1) What are the computer literacy needs among librarians throughout the state? (2) What resources are already available for learning or experience with computers? (3) What would you like to see ULA do to increase computer literacy? (Horsefeathers, April 1983)

Modular Library in Salt Lake City

Ground breaking ceremonies have been held for the new Salt Lake City Public Library Avenues Branch. Construction of the city's first new branch since 1964 will begin in late spring. The branch will be modular library with the first module to be built and three other modules to be added as funds become available. (Horsefeathers, May 1983)

Wyoming

Wyoming Nuggets

Over the past few years, Coe Library (University of Wyoming) has experienced an increase in the demand for information about important issues that affect Wyoming. Unfortunately, while interest in local topics grows, the available literature needed to satisfy that interest is often scanty and difficult to find.

In an attempt to solve this problem and serve our patrons' needs more fully, the Reference Department at Coe Library has launched a new series of library guides entitled **Wyoming Nuggets**. Each guide focuses on a current, controversial issue of particular concern to Wyoming residents. At present, three guides are available: 1-Mineral Severance Tax; 2-Boomtowns; 3-The

MX Weapons System.

The **Wyoming Nuggets** series departs from the typical bibliographic handout in a significant way: it shows the student how and where to find information on the topic rather than only providing a list of citations to specific materials.

(Newsletter of the University of Wyoming Librarians, Spring 1983)

Renaissance Pleasure Faire A Unique Library Offering

Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library is once again hosting a Renaissance Pleasure Faire, August 28 from 12-6 p.m. in Kendrick Park. This year's Faire will be co-sponsored by Sheridan College. In preparation for the event the county library will have a series of four workshops with the first one on May 17. Topics of the pre-Faire workshops are: Introduction to the Renaissance, Simple Costume Design, Easy Booth Ideas and Basic Banner Designs. Applications are now ready for individuals wanting to participate and entries from around the state are encouraged. Booth fees are \$10 for an individual or organization, \$40 for a business booth.

Plans call for an assortment of art and craft booths, food, stage entertainment, wandering entertainment, Wee Ones' Glens (games, puppet shows, obstacle course and story telling).

Faire admission will be free once again and prizes will be given for the three best booths, banners and costumes. (The Outrider, May-June 1983)

Checking It Out

USA Today carried the "story" during library week. A chart identified, on a state-by-state basis, the number of pieces of material checked out, and the number of pieces per capita. The national average: 4.83 pieces per capita. In states where most BCR libraries are located:

Colorado	4.91	Nebraska	5.34
Iowa	8.37	South Dakota	5.96
Kansas	7.	Utah	6.84
Missouri	5.12	Wyoming	6.43

Average: 6.25!! S'pose it has anything to do with resource sharing? (BCR news release)

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Court split 2-1 for us, and an appeal by the school board to the full Court of Appeals of 10 judges resulted in a 5-5 split.

And the burden is compounded by the notion of majority rule. If the school board truly represented the majority of the Island Trees residents, why shouldn't the district poll and the board's re-election have settled the matter? Because this is not an issue like budget or school construction, to be settled by popular vote. All elected officials derive their power from the Constitution or from statute, often both. The duties of a president or a representative are defined in the Constitution but that doesn't mean their power is unlimited. In fact, the Bill of Rights was written to protect the people from the enormous power given to its elected representatives. The Bill of Rights protects the lowliest individual from the reach of the highest authority in the land. If a President cannot take away those rights, neither can a school board.

It is no argument then to say that because the school board members were elected by a majority, they can do no wrong. If they are going to tell students that certain ideas are bad and mustn't be read, then they are abridging the students' First Amendment right to read and be exposed to a variety of ideas, so that, in the words of one Supreme Court case, they might "discover truth out of a multitude of tongues." Indeed, controversial ideas do not win popular elections, any more than the people who express them, so it is no wonder that the Island Trees residents voted to support the board. If minorities had to win elections to assert their rights, our schools might still be legally segregated, political dissidents might still not be able to distribute literature, and state legislatures apportioned by 19th century census figures might still run our states.

As the majority in the landmark **Tinker** case ruled,

Any departure from absolute regimentation may cause trouble. Any variation from the majority's opinion may inspire fear. Any word spoken in class, in the lunchroom or on the campus that deviates from the views of another person may start an argument or cause a disturbance. But our Constitution says we must

take this risk (Terminiello) and our history says that it is this sort of hazardous freedom—this kind of openness—that is the basis of our national strength and of the independence and vigor of Americans who grow and live in this... often disputatious society.

That is what the Island Trees book ban was all about— a class First Amendment confrontation between a "transient majority" and those who seek to express or read a variety of ideas, including unpopular ones. The problem is to define when the rights of the **majority** to select become censorship of the **individual's** right to select ideas.

The plaintiffs (the five students) claimed that those limits were reached when the school board

"In our system students may not be regarded as closed-circuit recipients of only that which the state chooses to communicate."

exceeded its right to promote community values by precept and example and proceeded to ban political and philosophical ideas offensive to it, to eradicate dissenting viewpoints, to impose a "pall of orthodoxy" over the library and classroom.

Though this was the first case to come before the Supreme Court involving the banning of books, we could refer to a line of cases defining the limits of school board power. Just 60 years ago, your neighbor, Nebraska, banned the teaching of any foreign language below the 8th grade. The Court said that this was an arbitrary method of promoting the English language and therefore unconstitutional. Twenty years later, in the midst of World War II, the Court ruled that patriotism could be encouraged but not compelled by a flag salute (*West Virginia v. Barnette*). The Court rejected the notion of majority rule when it declared:

The very purpose of the Bill of Rights was to withdraw certain subjects from the vicissitudes of political controversy, to place them beyond the reach of the majority and its officials.

In another case (Epperson) originating in your sister state, Arkansas, the Supreme Court ruled in 1968 that the state could not ban the teaching of evolution. Finally, in the landmark students' rights case, **Tinker v. Des Moines**, the Court once again rejected the principle that a state must foster a homogeneous people. It wrote:

In our system, students may not be regarded as closed-circuit recipients of only that which the State chooses to communicate. They may not be confined to the expression of those sentiments that are officially approved.

Taken together all these decisions repudiate the Island Trees school board's claim of unlimited discretion in transmitting the values of the majority. These cases all say that while promoting community values, a school board may not do so by eliminating the expression of conflicting values.

While there may be cases where it is difficult to determine when the promotion of majoritarian values eliminates the competition, this case wasn't one of them because the school board conceded that its purpose was to represent only the orthodoxy of the majority of Island Trees residents.* Though none of the preceding cases involved book banning, we argued that the same decisions that did not allow school boards to punish students and teachers for expressing unpopular ideas could not leave school boards free to ban books that express unpopular ideas.

If the school board may not ban anti-war symbols, by what conceivable logic may it ban anti-war books? or anti-American or anti-Christian books?

The board's other major argument, that the state gives it the power to remove as it has the power to select, we rejected. Questions of time, shelf space and money suggest that every book cannot be bought. And choosing a book from among the hundreds available, while it may involve impermissible motives, is subject to too many other factors. But a negative curricular decision is

Footnote:

*In fact, the school board attorney argued in his brief to the Supreme Court, "To accede to the wishes of a militant few in their community would be to disregard their electoral mandate."

a different matter. As Judge Newman of the Court of Appeals said, "There are few legitimate reasons why a book, once acquired, should be removed from a library not filled to capacity." However, if a school board announced, as happened recently in Oregon, that it would purchase no books that spoke disparagingly of the founders of the country, then the selection process would be just as subject to constitutional scrutiny and, indeed, the Oregon ACLU has taken the legislature to court.

I'd like to look now at the board's stated reasons for singling out these particular books. The original basis was the list from the PONY-U conference, which contained excerpts with vulgarities and also editorial comments on the anti-religious and anti-American flavor of some of the books. It turned out that several of the books had no vulgarities, but ideas that the board found offensive. And there were some books that had both vulgarities and offensive ideas. In addition to this list, we learned what the board members actually thought of the banned books only from depositions, because they offered no reasons to the public, other than the generalities pronounced in their newsletters and minutes. Here is what we learned:

1) In **A Hero**, they objected to the use of the word 'ain't' in the title, and also to the unpleasant historical fact that George Washington had slaves.

2) **Soul On Ice**. Aside from vulgar language, it was written by an author who is described as a leader of the Black Panthers, and "full of anti-American material and hate for white women."

3) **The Naked Ape** had a chapter describing human sexuality and the board said they banned it because they don't teach sex education in their schools.

4) **Go Ask Alice**, for language, drugs, excerpts.

5) **Down These Mean Streets**, for language, and admitted it accurately reflects the life of a black/Puerto Rican child growing up in Harlem.

6) **The Fixer**, for language, which they felt was anti-Semitic.

7) **Slaughterhouse Five**, as it was anti-Christian, and used phrase "bum with no connections."

8) **A Reader for Writers**. Referring

to Swift's Modest Proposal, they said that the subject of eating babies was inappropriate to teach students. However, in the PONY-U list, it made reference to another essay in which Malcolm X was referred to as a 'black leader'. It is likely that the book was banned for the Swift essay because there are so many other superb authors included and the book is not compulsory, nor is the essay.

Some of the books were banned because of vulgar language and some of them also had unpopular

ideas. But there are still books in the Island Trees libraries that have some of the same language that remain untouched. Indeed, there has been no attempt to check through any other books other than those on the PONY-U list, leading inexorably to the conclusion that the language in the banned books was merely a pretext for the unpopular ideas. To quote Judge Newman again:

If the victory is modest because it is not final, it is nevertheless a crucial statement for the conservation of free inquiry, which is the bedrock of democracy.

Ideas and the language needed to express them are always related. . . A school's effort to regulate vulgarity is not unconstitutional because it is not completely thorough, but if only isolated examples are condemned, the inference will be strengthened that vulgarity was the excuse, not the reason for book removal whose principal, or at least partial, motivation was political.

A word about vulgar language: We do not quarrel with a parent's right to regulate vulgar language at home. The school board is, however, more than a parent to its students. It is an agent of the state and must operate within constitutional bounds. Children have no First Amendment rights at home, but they do in school. As the Tinker decision ruled, "Parents may forbid children from wearing black armbands. Schools may not."

Even if school boards have a right to teach proper language, they may not do so by banning books that contain some bad language. The brush is too broad. Narrower means must be found. It's instructive to

hear what the school board president had to say about the teaching of bad language: "The book (**A Hero**) is not very conducive to good speaking manners. It is completely improper English and you can't try to teach proper English and allow students to read things that are improper." While this might apply at the grade school level, it defies belief that high school students are unable to appreciate that the dialogue of uneducated and unschooled characters is not intended as a grammar lesson. If the students will simply imitate the language of

the characters, can they be safely permitted to read books whose characters speak with foreign accents or in regional dialects? Since the board conceded that the banned books accurately portrayed the way people speak, the conclusion is inescapable that the board did not want its students to learn about the way people live and talk in poor urban areas, in ghettos.

What kind of people ban books? What are they afraid of? I can't get inside the minds of the Island Trees board members, but I can share with you the perceptions of someone who did a study of other book banners. Author and historian Frances Fitzgerald, who won a Pulitzer Prize for her book, **Fire In The Lake**, about our experience in Vietnam, reported at a conference on free speech and the radical right about her interview with Jerry Falwell and his followers in the Moral Majority. Here are her conclusions:

The Moral Majority wants to control if not destroy public education in this country because they fear the ideas students are exposed to are there. They want to control the books, the curriculum, the teachers. Falwell himself told Ms. Fitzgerald that "Most public school texts are Soviet propaganda." The Moral Majority wants to eliminate from the curriculum any and all references to sex education, drug education, human ecology, ethnic studies, black literature, conflict between parent and child,

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mythology, pagan cultures, anything derogatory about any historic American figures, any books with non-horizontal writing or any books which do not read from left to right. That is only a partial list.

THEY ACCEPT THE LITERAL WORD OF THE BIBLE as the prescription for all human behavior, but they have not stepped back far enough away from the Bible to see that the Bible itself is contradictory. To reconcile these contradictory notions is to create a system of thought larger than the Bible itself. That requires analysis, inquiry, comparing and contrasting the worth of one notion against the next of recognizing moral dilemmas and grey areas. They have no system of thought beyond the literal word of the Bible.

They are fearful of science because the scientific process is one of constant analysis, of subjecting your conclusions to the test of proof and being able to toss them out if they prove wrong. But they already know what is right so there is no test to make.

Ms. Fitzgerald describes their fear of ideas they oppose as the SLIPPERY SLOPE CONSTRUCT. That is, if you accept an idea, there's no end to where it will lead, and you can't prevent it. So they say abortion has to lead to genocide. If you can kill a fetus, then there's nothing to prevent you from killing an old person or a handicapped person. If you let a child read a book about drugs, he'll take them; or a book about crime in the ghetto will lead to crime. She calls it the You-Are-What-You-Eat-Theory. They have no faith in human nature, no faith in intelligence, no faith in young people to reason or to have common sense. Students are vessels into which the proper information is to be poured.

As I listened to her, it made perfect sense with regard to the Island Trees school board, though they deny being religious fundamentalists or even members of any group. But isn't the same mental process at work when the board president says the title of **A Hero** will teach students bad language?
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Even improperly motivated, the school board might have fared better if they had used some kind of due process in the book removal. So far from even articulating any guiding principles for book removal other than the broad generalities mentioned before, the board used no due process whatsoever in removing the books. And it was this lack of the mechanism of due process that the Court found as offensive as the lack of substantive guidelines. Pointing to a procedure in which the books were removed before any board members had read them, solely on the basis of excerpts prepared by anonymous readers far removed from the students of Island Trees, in which the recommendations of an ex-post facto review committee were totally ignored with no explanation, in which public approval was sought to ratify the removal, suggesting that free speech was somehow to be determined by majority rule, the Court of Appeals ruled that such "erratic, arbitrary and free-wheeling procedure left it a matter of guesswork for teacher, librarian and student. . . whether other efforts at self-expression on their part will be curtailed with equally little opportunity for defense."

If your guidelines in Kansas are anything like those issued by the N.Y. Board of Regents, they will say something like this:

A literary work should be judged as a whole and where a book contains sexual incidents or profanity, a decision to include it should be made on the basis of whether the book presents life in its true proportions, whether the circumstances are realistically dealt with and whether the book is of literary value.

With guidelines, the board would have had to spell out its objections, offering at least an opportunity for challenge and discussion in a calm atmosphere. For instance, I like to think what might have happened if the board had to articulate its objections to **The Fixer**, which it claims is anti-Semitic. We know that the book, far from being an offense to Jews, was about anti-Semitism at the turn of the century in Russia. If some review committee or group of professionals, librarians and teachers, had had a chance to discuss the theme of this book with

the school board members, we think it could possibly have been retained. After all, not only was **The Fixer** assigned in class and on the Board of Regents test, but it was also in the curriculum of the Arch-Diocese of Long Island.

But what if it were truly anti-Semitic? What if, as a liberal columnist wrote in our local paper, **Newsday**, we were talking about the famous or infamous anti-Semitic tract, **The Protocols of the Elders of Zion**? Would we allow that in our library, he challenged? Of course we would, we replied. The success of such a tract depends on an ignorant and uniformed citizenry prepared to believe its absurd lies. Rather than remove it, we would have students discuss it openly in their classrooms, just as we would have them read **The Fixer** to learn how anti-Semites talk. Thus the necessity of well-stated and explicit guidelines.

Finally, we come to what the Supreme Court said about all the arguments. As you know, four justices (Brennan, Marshall, Stevens and Blackmun) in an opinion written by Justice Brennan, agreed with the Court of Appeals in rejecting the board's claim of absolute discretion, ruling that of all the reasons school boards may remove books, the deliberate suppression of ideas may not be one of them. Because students use a library voluntarily, the Court ruled, a school board could not assert its claim of unfettered discretion as it could in the more compulsory climate of the classroom. Three of the justices, moreover, ruled that above and beyond the right to express ideas there is a parallel right to receive ideas, saying, "It would be a barren marketplace of ideas that had only sellers and no buyers."

In a passage that represents the heart of the ruling, Justice Brennan wrote,

Petitioners rightly possess significant discretion to determine the contents of their school libraries. But that discretion may not be exercised in a narrowly partisan or political manner. If a Democratic school board, motivated by party affiliation, ordered the removal of all books written by or in favor of Republicans, few would doubt that the order violated the constitutional rights of the students

denied access to those books. The same conclusion would surely apply if an all-white school board, motivated by racial animus, decided to remove all books authored by blacks or advocating racial equality and integration. Our Constitution does not permit the official suppression of ideas.

And, the ruling concluded, the key to deciding if the Constitution were involved would be in determining motivation. For that, a trial would be necessary. When joined by Justice White, who felt that a constitutional issue might be involved but that it was premature to speculate, the majority sustained the Court of Appeals decision.

The four dissenting justices for a variety of reasons supported the board's contention that its choices are exclusively a matter of board discretion.

While some have called this a narrow victory, we don't look at it that way. It is miles away from defeat, which would have occurred had the Court recognized no limitation whatsoever on a school board's power to remove books. The bottom line was political motivation and that principle was sustained.

If the decision is not a thumping,

21-gun salute to the plaintiffs, that is because the issue had never before been considered by the Supreme Court which had no list of precedent cases other than the school board cases dealing with actions other than book banning. When charting new waters, it is not surprising that the Court chose to wet its toes rather than plunge right in.

We are encouraged because the most important effect of the decision has been its deterrent effect, and we hope that it will continue to stay the rush to ban books. The prospect of school officials being forced to trial to explain why they chose to ban certain books should restrain school boards across the country as it gave pause to the Island Trees school board members who opted to forego trial and return the books to the library shelves.

You may know that at the same time, they imposed a requirement that parents be notified any time a student took out one of the banned books, or any book that may have "objectionable material." We have been successful in negotiating an end to that requirement based in part on a New York state law that protects the confidentiality of library records. The law was passed two years ago after some members

of the Radical Right demanded to know who was taking out books and films on sex education and abortion. Fortunately, we did not have to go to court to have the parental notification requirement dropped.

Aside from its deterrent effect, will the Supreme Court decision give any legal guidance for future cases? The only way to judge that is to speculate as to what would have happened if this case did proceed to trial. Remember, the Court ruled that the key was determining motivation. Here there is little precedent to guide us. According to our attorneys, motivation is difficult to prove, judges are reluctant to find that public officials acted in bad faith, and public officials are capable of concealing their true feelings. So we would have to ask the Court to determine who has the burden of proof, that is, does the plaintiff have to prove the school board's motivation was improper or does the defendant board have to prove its motivation was proper? We would ask the court what kind of evidence would be required to support a claim of improper motivation.

In short, with these points not yet litigated, it is no surprise that the Court was as conservative as possible in laying out new doctrine. But

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we are delighted that the Court has set the foundation for developing new doctrine. And we can be reassured that as new cases arise, they will develop principles designed to protect and enhance constitutional claims. Of course, all this is speculation. What is not speculation is that the Island Trees case tested the limits of the First Amendment and fortunately our capacity for constitutional growth has permitted the expansion of First Amendment principles to meet this new challenge of censorship. If the victory is modest because it is not final, it is nevertheless a crucial statement for the conservation of free inquiry, which is the bedrock of democracy.



About You

Andrew Gulliford, Silt, CO, has been accepted into the American Culture Ph.D. program at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Andy was Project Director for MPLA's County School Legacy humanities effort. He has a fellowship to teach in Bowling Green's Department of History and in the School of Journalism. Andy reports that his book on country schools is still at the publishers.

Helen Higby, formerly the Lander, Wyoming librarian, is the new library development officer at the Wyoming State Library effective April 1. She will serve as a consultant to county and institution libraries as well as coordinate services to the blind and physically handicapped. Helen began her library career as a page in Fremont County. During the next eleven years she moved upward through several positions before becoming the Lander librarian, a post she held from July 1976 to February 1983. She received an MPLA Professional Development Grant in 1982.

Geri Schmidt, Collection Support MPLA Advertisers

Development Consultant for the Colorado State Library, has received an alumni achievement award from Illinois State University—the first such award made during the University's Communication Week.

Pat Montgomery, currently Granger Branch Librarian, Salt Lake County Library System, has been appointed as the new Park City Library Director. Ms. Montgomery will assume her new responsibilities on May 16th.

Robert Malinowsky, Associate Dean of Libraries at the University of Kansas, will leave in July, 1983 to become General Manager/Senior Editor of Libraries Unlimited, Inc., in Littleton, CO.

Deborah Iverson, Sheridan (WY) College librarian was named Outstanding Librarian for 1983 during the Wyoming Library Association Convention in Sheridan, May 11-14.

Richard Dougherty, a former administrator at the University of Colorado, now director of the library at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, has been awarded the ACRL Academic or Research Librarian of the Year Award for 1983.

Continuing Education

Date: July 31-August 6, 1983
44th Annual Puppeteers of America Festival

Sponsor: Iowa State Center
Location: Ames, Iowa
Description: Festival will include workshops, performances, demonstrations, exhibits, and a variety of special events. Very valuable for librarians.

Contact: Festival Office, 2834 Ross Road, Ames, IA 50010

Date: August 2-5, 1983
Genealogy Workshop

Sponsor: Brigham Young University
Location: Provo, Utah
Contact: BYU—Genealogy Workshop, BYU Conferences & Workshops, 297 Conference Center, Provo, UT 84602.
Phone: (801) 378-4785, Attn: Vicki.

Dates: July 10-15, 1983,
July 31-August 5, 1983 or
August 14-19, 1983

Improving Your Management Style

Sponsor: Brigham Young University
Location: Alta Ski Lodge (also October 10-14, 1983 BYU Conference Center, Provo)

Description: The seminar consists of intensive sessions on management development. The emphasis is on the continual improvement of an effective style of management, allowing you to expand your knowledge and learn how to narrow the gap between knowledge and practice. Registration limited to effective group sizes.

Contact: Carolyn Terry, Management Programs, Conferences and Workshops, BYU, 297 CONF, Provo, UT 84602, (801) 378-4784.

Certificate in Information Management

Sponsor: Graduate School of Librarianship and Information Management, University of Denver.

Description: In response to information industry developments the Graduate School has created a certificate program in information management. It offers three options for specialization: Information Records Management, Information Resource Management, and Communications Technology. All courses are offered after 6:00 p.m. and meet twice a week for two hours. Each certificate program requires the completion of six 4-quarter-hour courses.

Contact: Dr. G. Edward Evans, Associate Dean, Graduate School of Librarianship and Information Management, University of Denver, Denver, Colorado 80208, (303) 753-2557.

Joblist

Deadline: July 15, 1983
Position: **Systems Specialist, Information Retrieval Services Department**

Salary: \$16,200
Library: Bibliographical Center for Research, Denver, Colorado

Duties: The Systems Specialist will be responsible for conducting basic and advanced BRS training sessions, training on DIALOG, providing technical assistance in database searching, marketing IRSD services, promoting IRSD services at conventions, contributing periodically to BCR's newsletter, and assisting in the creation or presentation of new workshops.

Qualifications: MLS or equivalent, a minimum of two years' experience in searching BRS and DIALOG, excellent oral and written communication skills, experience in training and marketing, and the willingness to travel. Familiarity with the use of microcomputers and Tymshare's OnTyme-II electronic mail is desirable.

Send resume and names of three references to Joyce Coyne, Personnel, BCR, 1777 S. Bellaire, Suite G-150, Denver, CO 80222.

Deadline: Until filled
Position: **Assistant Librarian for Cataloging**

(Half-time, 9 months a year)

Library: Memorial Library, Kansas Wesleyan, Salina, Kansas

Qualifications: MLS from ALA-accredited school, ability to do original cataloging using AACR 2 and OCLC, strong service orientation in helping students, faculty and administration to use the library, and desire to work in an undergraduate church-related college.

Responsibilities: As one of two professional librarians, will gain experience in many aspects of librarianship, with primary emphasis on cataloging and reference.

Salary: Negotiable.

Send resume, letter of application, placement credentials to: Darryl B. Podoll, Head Librarian, Memorial Library, 100 E. Claflin, Salina, Kansas 67401.

Deadline: September 15, 1983

Position: **Circulation Librarian/Department Head**

Salary: Dependent on rank: Instructor (min. \$17,000) or Assistant Professor (min. \$19,000).

Library: South Dakota State University Library, Brookings, SD

Duties: Plan, organize and direct

circulation, reserve and book-stack services in a land-grant university library. Supervise two technicians plus student assistants. Spend up to one-fourth time at the main information desk including some weekends and evenings on a rotating basis.

Qualifications: ALA-accredited M.L.S. and minimum of two years' relevant experience required. Second master's and supervisory experience in an academic library are preferred.

Send resume, academic credentials, and three current letters of recommendation to: B.J. Kim, Documents Librarian, South Dakota State University Library, Box 2115, Brookings, SD 57007. An AA/EEO employer.

Deadline: Not indicated
Position: **Retrospective Conversion Specialist**

Salary: \$17,000+

Library: Kansas City, Kansas, Public Library

Duties: To supervise long-term project converting catalog records to machine-readable form and later helping to plan and implement an automated catalog and circulation system for 340,000 volume public library.

Qualifications: Requires M.L.S. and at least 3 years' experience including cataloging with OCLC, DDC, LSSH, and AACR-II. Ability to train, supervise, develop operations, plan computer applications is important. Necessary to work part of schedule in off-peak periods.

Interviews available at ALA. Please send resume and list of potential references to: Charles Joyce, Kansas City Public Library, 625 Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66101.

Deadline: July 8, 1983

Position: **Director**

Salary: Commensurate with experience

Library: Library, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD

Duties: Responsible for the organization, operation, and development of the library and its facilities including policy formulation, implementation of technological systems, and long range planning. Responsibilities also include being an articulate spokes-

person for the library in the marketing of its programs, the preparing of grant proposals, fund raising, and the securing of public support for library operations and development. Faculty status (12 month appointment).

Qualifications: ALA-accredited M.L.S. and either Ph.D. or second master's degree preferred. The successful applicant will have demonstrated experience and ability in the areas of responsibilities stated.

Send resume, three letters of reference, and salary requirements to Dr. Arthur L. Olsen, Provost, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD 57179. An AA/EEO employer.

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Statement of Publication

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Back issues of the **MPLA Newsletter** and the **Mountain Plains Library Association Quarterly** are available in microform from Xerox University Microfilms, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.

Copy Deadlines

MPLA representatives in each state are responsible for supplying the **Newsletter** with information to share throughout the region, but all librarians are invited to send in newsworthy items. To assure publication in any given issue, please submit copy by the dates indicated below to the Editor.

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