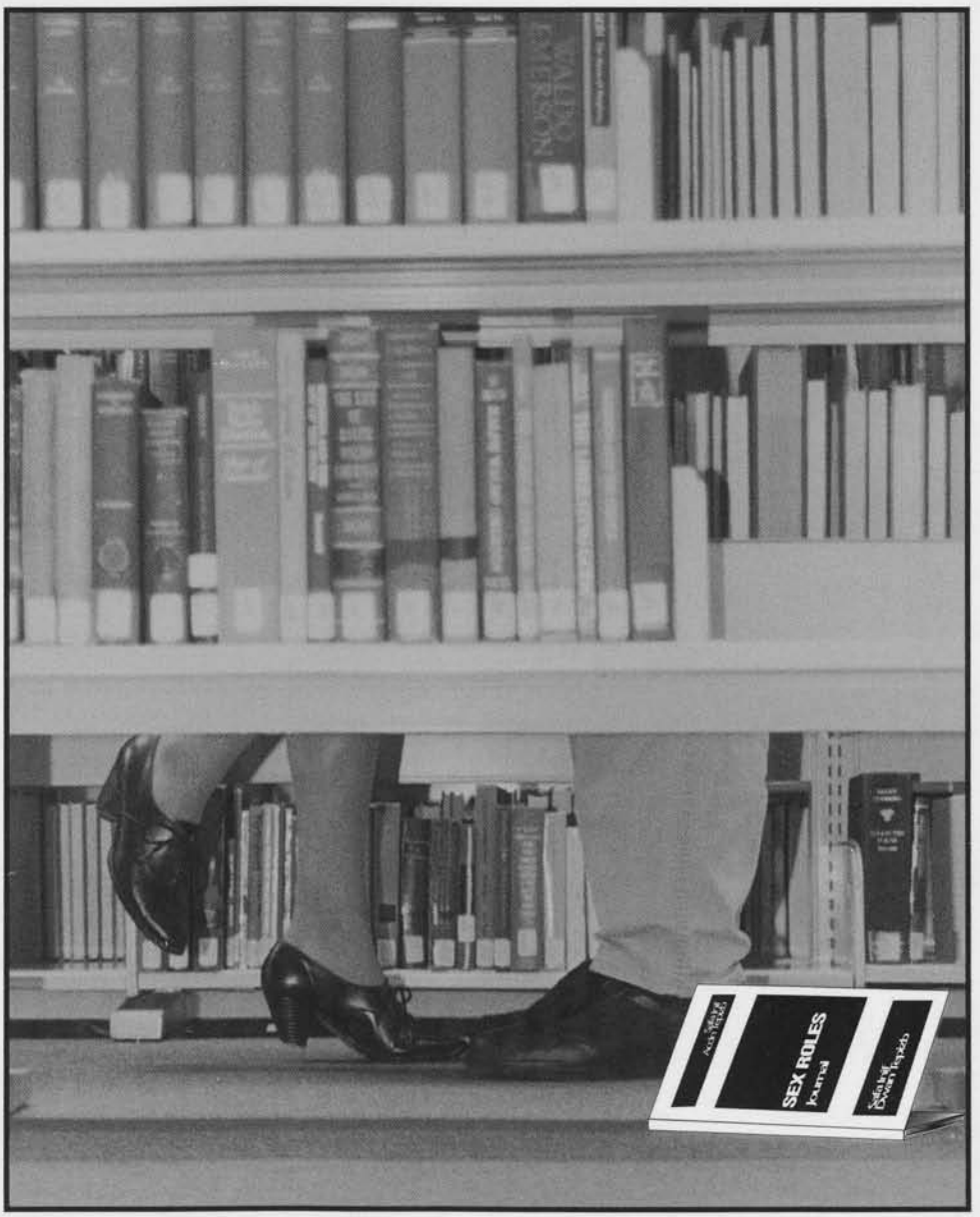
Summer 1995
Sex and the Library

North Carolina Libraries



Popular images of public librarians are fraught with sex or sexlessness, perhaps because these individuals have so often been the gatekeepers of literature about sex.

— James V. Carmichael, Jr., Page 59

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North Carolina Libraries

Summer 1995

Sex and the Library

Guest Editor, *Pauletta Brown Bracy*

Features

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From the President

Gwen Jackson, President

During the 1993-95 biennium, a recurring theme of this column has been "Celebrate Libraries and Celebrate Life." With this issue, we are celebrating another occasion. North Carolina Libraries *has been awarded the 1995 H. W. Wilson Award!*

The H.W. Wilson Library Periodical Award is "presented to a periodical published by a local, state, or regional library, library group, or library association in the United States or Canada which has made an outstanding contribution to librarianship. All issues for the calendar year prior to the presentation of the award will be judged on the basis of sustained excellence in both content and format, with consideration being given to both purpose and budget. The award is presented only in those years when a periodical merits such recognition."

The citation of the announcement of this award made by Arthur Curley, ALA President, and Elizabeth Martinez, ALA Executive director, states: "North Carolina Libraries, *the official publication of the North Carolina Library Association, meets and exceeds the criteria outlined by the H.W. Wilson Library Periodical Award; sustained excellence in content and format, with consideration to both purpose and budget.*

"Using thematic quarterly issues that present a balanced treatment of the chosen theme, North Carolina Libraries *strives to publish individual articles that are of interest to the state's libraries and to library services in North Carolina. Each issue contains a variety of articles. Continuing columns create a journal identity for the reader. Book reviews and reports of the business and meetings of the association's membership are of interest to all librarians throughout the state.*

"Under the leadership of a volunteer editor, North Carolina Libraries *consistently meets the needs of its readers with attractive covers, high quality graphics and typesetting, and appealing articles. All of these elements contribute to an outstanding publication. The editor and the North Carolina Library Association should be justly proud of this excellent journal."*

Please join me in congratulating Frances Bradburn, Editor and the North Carolina Libraries *Editorial Staff —*

Rose Simon, John Welch, Dorothy Davis Hodder, Al Jones, Michael Cotter, Harry Tuchmayer, Artemis Kares, Barbara Miller Marson, Michael Van Fossen, Joline Ezzell, Rhonda Holbrook, Diane Kessler, Jeffrey Cannell, Suzanne Wise, Frank Molinek, Jean Williams, Megan Mulder, Joan Sherif, Ralph Scott, and Anne Wilgus.

This group of volunteers *spends many hours preparing every issue of our journal — from the glimmer of an idea to the finished product we hold in our hands. Thank you for sharing your time and talents! The North Carolina Library Association is most fortunate to have the national recognition that our journal has brought.*

Through the efforts of editorial staffs, the history of the Association and changes in our profession have been preserved. I have recently spent time looking through the past twenty-four years of the journal — since I became a member in 1971. The articles, features, and Association minutes provided a trip down memory lane, reminding me of the "hot topics" of the past decades and reminiscences of friends and occasions. Have you taken such a trip?

Whether your "trip" be one of reminiscences or actually getting away from the usual routines of work, travel safely and with Godspeed. Above all, celebrate *life and libraries!*

Confirmed by the Research:
There IS *Sex in the Library!*

by *Pauletta Brown Bracy*

Censorship thrives in the boundless realm of public opinion. Unconfined by parameters, it pervades any aspect of American life. Dichotomies of what is right or wrong, good or bad, virtuous or decadent pose little problem for those who steadfastly hold to their positions in defending intellectual freedom or practicing censorship. Ultimately, both groups of citizens consider themselves acting in the best interest of the common good — to either protect constitutional rights by ensuring access to information in varied format or to preserve the morality of the nation by eliminating and suppressing expressions of thought.

Research has documented the tremendous impact of this ongoing battle, and this article provides an overview of censorship in the state of North Carolina. At best, the research is minimal. Though many would attest that censorship does happen, for it is an all too familiar news report, the dearth of research on the topic suggests that it often is not documented. Existing findings and conclusions, however, serve to remind us of two important phenomena: (1) that intellectual freedom and censorship continue to be critical issues for other professions, and (2) that the incidence of censorship is on the rise and it is becoming increasingly successful.

Revelations and Realities: A Study of the Literature

Two studies outside librarianship focused on journalism in high schools, and also the arts. Kathleen Douglass Phillips examined freedom of press in North Carolina high schools. In a survey of statewide journalism teachers/newspaper advisors and case studies at three high schools, she confirmed that North Carolina high school journalists experience prior review, prior restraint, and censorship as basic tenets of their journalism education.[1]

A crisis in the arts labeled "culture war" led People For the American Way, a 300,000 member watchdog group that gauges censorship activity and regularly publishes findings of surveys, to begin monitoring challenges to artistic expression. *Artistic Freedom Under Attack, Vol. 3* contains analyses of 104 nationwide cases that occurred in 1994 and were documented through a survey, arts publications, and press coverage.[2] The prevalence in thirty-three states reflected an alarming successful censorship rate of seventy-eight percent. Sexuality or perceived sexual content in art headed the list as the basis for objection.[3] Of the three North Carolina case studies, two occurred in Durham and involved of photography and performance; the third incident, in Hudson, involved theater.

The nature of our profession in handling all kinds of information mandates the special attention that we pay to censorship. We have embraced allies in the classrooms of both public and private educational institutions that have found themselves victimized by the work of the censors. In an article prepared for *Tar Heel Libraries* last year, Gene Lanier, Chairman of the North Carolina Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee, confirmed that challenges to library and classroom materials continue to rise in the state.[4] Reporting a total of fifty-two titles, he cited seven different locations of attacks. The greatest number of twenty-nine occurred in Charlotte. Chapel Hill followed with about half as many as the top-ranked Charlotte; and Asheboro, Canton, Durham, Goldsboro, and Elizabethtown had three or fewer complaints.

Employing mail survey and interview methodologies, People For the American Way in North Carolina[5] sought to determine the scope of censorious activity among North Carolina English and Social Studies teachers. Two hun-

In a disturbing thirty-two percent success rate, censors removed or restricted the challenged materials. Geographically, teachers in fifty-one of the seventy-four counties [in North Carolina] reported cases; the greatest activity occurred in Wake and Guilford counties.

dred and fifty-three teachers representing seventy-four counties responded to the survey conducted during the 1988-1989 school year. Selected follow-up interviews were conducted with thirty-six teachers from twenty-seven counties.

Data led the researchers to conclude in the report, *School Censorship in North Carolina: Conflict in the Classroom*, that censorship is a serious threat to North Carolina schools because more than twenty-five percent of the teachers surveyed indicated that they had faced challenges, and an additional ten percent who had not faced challenges knew of colleagues who had faced them.[6] Topics of realistic and contemporary perspective including sex, religion, politics, and death were those most challenged. In a disturbing thirty-two percent success rate, censors removed or restricted the challenged materials. Geographically, teachers in fifty-one of the seventy-four counties [in North Carolina] reported cases; the greatest activity occurred in Wake and Guilford counties. A final conclusion consistent with most attempts to measure the scope of the problem is the practice of self-censorship or voluntary censorship. In this research, a number of teachers admitted that perceived pressure from school administrators and the community make them self-censor their teaching.[7]

Published in November 1990, People For the American Way in North Carolina's *Censorship and Sex-Education: A Survey of North Carolina Health Educators* substantiated censorship and/or self-censorship as major concerns among 111 North Carolina health educators and health coordinators.[8] Birth control was reported as the most challenged subject matter among the health educators. Fifty percent of the respondent health coordinators reported that they had been challenged by a parent or told by a school official that a particular subject matter was inappropriate for the classroom. Results also revealed that although challenges sometimes result in censorship of existing curricula, more often the result is self-censorship of potential subjects by the educators themselves.[9]

Considering another aspect of the problems in the classroom, Mary Ann Weathers concentrated on the role of organizations that challenge curriculum materials and instructional strategies. Her doctoral dissertation, "An Investigation of the Impact of Special Interest Groups on Curriculum and Instruction in North Carolina 1983-1988," focused on K-12 North Carolina public schools during 1983-1988.[10] Documenting the increased numbers of challenges, the targets of the challenges, and the predictable sources of the challenges, Weathers also described the impact of the main groups initiating the challenges — the Eagle Forum, the Conservative Evangelical Right, and the Ku Klux Klan. A final analysis considered the threat that pertinent beliefs of those groups pose to public education.

Since its founding in 1983, People For the American Way has conducted national annual surveys of censorship. Typically, data are collected through mail surveys and individual interviews with parents, librarians, teachers, and school administrators. The reports contain summaries of the findings, identification of trends, and case studies of statewide incidents. Statistics confirming the prevalence of censorship reflect only those cases reported and investigated. People For the American Way stresses that its reports offer only a brief synopsis of the problem because the clear majority of censorial activity is unreported.

Last year's report, *Attacks on the Freedom to Learn, 1992-1993*, ascertained that attacks continue to rise and challenges were successful in 41 percent of the cases.[11] Nearly half of all reported challenges were to library books and the most frequent rationale was for religious reasons. The second most cited complaint was sexual content. In the state-by-state analysis, North Carolina ranked 16th, tied with three other states.

... although challenges sometimes result in censorship of existing curricula, more often the result is self-censorship of potential subjects by the educators themselves.

Much remained the same the following year except for the startling revelation of North Carolina's ranking. In the most current report, *Attacks on the Freedom to Learn, 1993-1994*, the state [North Carolina] ranked fourth nationally and experienced twice as many challenges as the previous year. A total of twenty-one incidents was confirmed.[12] Similarly on the national scene, censorship continued to rise, to the highest in the twelve year history of the report, with a success rate comparable to that of the previous year. The most frequent complaint lodged against materials, at a level of 31 percent, was that the treatment of sexuality was found to be offensive.[13]

Seeking public opinion regarding censorship, Ray L. Carpenter conducted a survey in Spring 1987 to determine the views of 497 North Carolinian adults about whether the local public libraries should remove books critical of church and religion from shelves.[14] Seventy percent of those surveyed concurred that the library should not remove the books.

To further explore attitudes and examine differences between those who defend intellectual freedom and those who support censorship, respondents expressed opinions on civil liberty issues, sex, drugs, and alcohol. Regarding matters of sex, data revealed that library defenders are better informed than the censors about the state obscenity law, are more permissive about adult use of pornography, and are stronger supporters of freedom of speech and press where pornography is concerned.[15]

Both those who support intellectual freedom and those who support censorship strongly supported public school education about sex and AIDS, but considerably disagreed about the distribution of contraceptive information and products. Depicting sexual activity not identified in the context of "education" was viewed as obscene by large numbers in both groups, especially depictions of homosexual activity. About 25 percent of all respondents had seen an X-rated movie and approximately 30 percent had read a pornographic magazine.[16]

The emergent profile of those who defend intellectual freedom is of "a middle class, well educated, and *generally* tolerant majority".[17]

Update of the Thorson Study

In 1986, Barbara A. Thorson reviewed volumes of the American Library Association Office of Intellectual Freedom's *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom* to present a brief overview of censorship from 1981 to 1986 in North Carolina.[18] Based on reported incidents in the *Newsletter*, she provided statistical data on annual frequency, locations, complainants, reasons, affected institutions, and outcomes. In an effort to render a more current perspective, issues of the *Newsletter* dated January 1985 through March 1995 were studied, replicating Thorson's

categories of data.

The total number of cases reported during the time frame was forty-eight. The years of greatest activity were 1987 and 1994. (See Table I) A factor in the 1987 statistics could be the enactment of the state's pornography law which went into effect October 1, 1985. Under this version of the statue, "items are obscene if they violate local community standards as determined by a jury, and disseminating obscenity is punishable by up to three years in prison."[19] Following subsequent lawsuits by eighty video dealers, the North Carolina Supreme Court ruled in July 1987 that the law was constitutional. It also was noted in the news report that the law was considered to be one of the toughest in the country.[20] The least activity of one reported case was in 1989. For libraries, the most active years were 1987 and 1993; no incidents specifically involving libraries occurred in 1989 and 1995 to date. Comparatively, about half as many library cases as cases in other settings or situations were reported.

In Table I, "Other Setting or Situation" was established as a category to identify the variety of censorious activities including the classroom, where required reading that was deemed objectionable was often substituted with alternative titles. Videos used in instructional activities were also targeted. Student press was under attack in four incidents including newspapers as well as a literary magazine. Research previously described in this article illustrates the nature of this growing phenomenon.

Art exhibits constitute another category, within "Other Setting or Situation" and included challenges made in a non-public secondary school, an arts center, and a university. "Library Exhibit" was treated separately only to distinguish it momentarily from the "Library" category that centers on materials such as books, magazines, and audio-visuals, and to alert librarians about the potential for challenge in this generally uncontested area as well. (Otherwise, it is a case of library censorship.) The two cited cases occurred in Durham[21] and Hillsborough[22] and both involved displays assem-bled for observance of gay and lesbian pride during the month of June.

Drama produced for school and interpretations facilitated in classroom activities were criticized for sexual content and religious reasons. Two incidents involved local newspapers and editorial censorship of syndicated cartoons.

A category called "Mass Movement" was created as a descriptor within "Other Setting or Situation" for collective efforts to censor. In one instance, grocery stores in Taylorsville were asked to remove five magazines that a group considered offensive "in content, anti-family, and objectionable to the general moral public."[23] A boycott of one store was announced after it failed to comply. In the other circumstance, the Catawba County district attorney sent letters to record stores directing them to remove and stop sales of a record considered to be obscene. This action followed his review of the recording, prompted by a request from a Hickory minister.[24] A similar kind of movement was a purgative fire that occurred in Hendersonville. Led by a minister in an anti-rock crusade, 125 to 150 people ritually burned album covers.[25]

Clothing was the center of controversy in an incident in which Durham junior high school students were suspended for displaying the Confederate flag. Lawsuits filed by parents on behalf of the students were settled and as a result, students were allowed to wear the battle flag.[26]

Finally, the involvement of a state agency was noted. The North Carolina Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources destroyed 15,000 Spanish-language anti-AIDS brochures that graphically depicted how to use a condom.[27] Disagreement over reasons why the brochures were destroyed fueled the controversy. A spokesperson for the agency said that the literature had been printed without proper review and denied that explicit content was a factor.

Regarding location, the incidents occurred in thirty different cities and counties throughout the state. (See Table II) The total number of five cases each was reported in Charlotte and Raleigh; Durham followed with four. The greatest frequency of one incident occurred in twenty locations.

In comparing this data to Thorson's, parents remained the most active complainants. (See Table III) Numbers reflect multiple objectors in some cases. Second ranked organized efforts included such groups as Concerned Charlotteans, Alexander County Citizens for Decency, Right to Life, Bladen County Coalition of Christians, and Orange County Coalition Against Pornography. Students acted in concert with parents or individually to constitute the third ranked category of initiator of complaint.

In an atypical case of inclusion as opposed to exclusion, at a church meeting in Raleigh, the Reverend Jerry Falwell charged that the State Department of Public Instruction would not allow copies of *Abortion and the Conscience of the Nation* by Ronald Reagan to be donated to schools because of the Department's pro-abortion leadership.[28] A Gaston County Right to Life chapter was unsuccessful in its attempts to donate the books to the county school libraries. A spokesperson from the

TABLE I.
Number of Reported Cases by Year

Year	Library	Other Setting/ Situation	Total
1985*	1	1	2
1986	1	2	3
1987	4	4	8
1988	1	2	3
1989	0	1	1
1990	1	4	5
1991	2	3	5
1992	2	4	6
1993	4	3	7
1994	1	7	8
1995**	0	0	0
TOTAL	17	31	48

** The Thorson study covering January and March reported two incidents. No additional ones were reported for the remainder of the year.*

*** January and March only.*

TABLE II.
Locations of Censorship Attempts

Asheboro	1
Asheville	1
Burlington	2
Canton	1
Carthage	1
Chapel Hill	2*
Charlotte	5*
Concord	1
Durham	4*
Eden	1*
Elizabethtown	1*
Fayetteville	2*
Forysth County	1*
Gaston County	1
Goldsboro	1*
Hendersonville	1
Hickory	1
Hillsborough	2
Kinston	1*
Lexington	2
Mount Pleasant	1
New Bern	1
Newton	1
Raleigh	5
Rockingham County	1*
Rutherfordton	1*
Taylorsville	2*
Wake Forest	1*
Watauga County	1*
Wilmington	1*
Winston-Salem	1
TOTAL	**48**

*(*Indicates inclusion of a library environment)*

TABLE III.
Complainants/Sources of Complaints

Complainant/Source	# of Incidents
Parent (Including Grandparent)	20
Organization/Organized Effort	8
Student	7
Minister	6
Citizen	5
Principal/Headmaster	5
Newspaper Editor	2
Superintendent	2
Teacher	2
District Attorney	1
State Agency	1
Unknown	1

agency explained that the state had no authority to place books in school libraries. Similarly, a Charlotte-based support group for gay youth complained about a Mount Pleasant High School production of *A Chorus Line* because a gay character had been dropped from the script.[29] Following an organized protest to have the character reinstated and a threatened lawsuit, the production was canceled before it opened.

TABLE IV.
Reasons for Objections

Reason	Frequency of Incidence
Sexuality	31
Religion	6
Language	4
Racism	3
Politics	2
Anti-Family Bias	1
Death	1
Literary Merit	1
Morality	1
Realism (Violence)	1
Values	1
Unknown	1

An examination of the reasons for objections does indeed confirm that there *is* sex in the library (and other places, as well). (See Table IV) Further defined for purposes of this analysis as homosexuality, lesbianism, AIDS, birth control, abortion, pornography, and rape, sex as a reason [for censorship] exceeded all other reasons combined. Religious objections encompassed satanism, witchcraft, secular humanism, and using the Lord's name in vain. Language problems were mostly because of perceived profanity.

In a case of "Principal Discretion" involving high school press as well as sex as a reason, parents and a principal in Durham complained about an ad placed in the newspaper by a gay youth counseling group.[30] In a compromise, the ad was relocated in an edition of the newspaper. Continuous complaints by parents led to total suppression by the principal. Literary merit was the basis of concern in Rutherford County.[31] The school board voted unanimously not to remove *Cabbage Patch Kids — The Just Right Family* from elementary school library shelves. The citizen's complaint was that the book used ungrammatical writing.

TABLE V.
Institutions Involved in Censorship Attempts

Institution	Frequency of Involvement
High School	19
Middle/Junior High School	9
Public Library	9
Elementary School	4
College/University	2
Newspaper Company	2
Arts Center	1
Community Movement (fire)	1
Grocery Store	1
Non-Profit Center	1
Record Store	1
State Agency	1

TABLE VI.
Objects of Censorship

Books
- *Abortion and the Conscience of the Nation* (Reagan)
- *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (Twain)
- *Angel Dust Blues* (Strasser)
- *Annie on My Mind* (Garden)
- *Cabbage Patch Kids — The Just Right Family* (Callen)
- *The Color Purple* (Walker)
- *Daddy's Roommate* (Willhoite)
- *Eric* (Lund)
- *Flowers for Algernon* (Keyes)
- *The Grapes of Wrath* (Steinbeck)
- *Heather Has Two Mommies* (Newman)
- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (Angelou)
- *I Want to Keep My Baby* (Lee)
- *The Joy of Lesbian Sex* (Comfort)
- *The Joy of Sex* (Comfort)
- *Just So Stories* (Kipling)
- *Loving Women* (Falk)
- *The Martian Chronicles* (Bradbury)
- *Naomi in the Middle* (Klein)
- *Opus Pistorum* (Miller)
- *Run, Shelley, Run* (Samuels)

Magazines
- *Cosmopolitan*
- *Glamour*
- *Life*
- *Mademoiselle*
- *Playboy*
- *Vogue*

Audiovisual Materials
- "Dice Man Rules" — Andrew Dice Clay (record)
- "DeGrassi Junior High" series (video)
- Unnamed Spanish-language video on sexuality

Comics/Cartoon
- "Doonesbury" (Trudeau)
- "Kudzu" (Malette)

Drama
- *Bats in the Belfry* (Randazzo)
- *A Chorus Line* (Bennett)
- *Table Settings* (Lapine)

Student Press
- *Falcon Cry* (Durham)
- *Paw Print* (Raleigh)
- *Pirate's Hook* (Durham)

TABLE VII.
Disposition of Attempts at Censorship

Outcome	Frequency of Outcome
Successful (materials removed)	22
Unsuccessful (materials retained)	21
Partially Successful	3
Unknown	2

Of the institutions involved in cases, the high school was the most targeted environment, and was followed by the middle school/junior high school and public library which tied for second place. (See Table V) The elementary school was the next ranked setting. Compared to Thorson's study, this longer list reflects greater involvement of various types of institutions in attempts to censor.

Table VI contains data on the types and titles of materials involved in cases. The clear majority of books had one complaint, but *The Color Purple, The Grapes of Wrath, Daddy's Roommate,*and *Heather Has Two Mommies* had more than one complaint. With the exception of *Playboy*, the magazines cited were those referred to earlier in the "grocery store" case.

Resolutions of cases were categorized from the perspective of the censor. Of the reported cases, an almost equal number were successful in that the materials were removed and unsuccessful in that the materials were not removed. (See Table VII) In a couple of cases involving reading lists for the classroom, the titles were removed from the lists of required reading but retained in the school library media center. Such was the case in Lexington with *Eric*[32] and in Randolph County with four videos in the "DeGrassi Junior High" public television series.[33] Those cases in which students were given options to select other titles were considered "partially successful" because the titles became alternative choices instead of remaining the originally required books to read.

Individual researchers, People For the American Way, and this up date of the Thorson examination have provided substantive evidence that our profession has cause for concern. It is incumbent upon us to remain diligent in our efforts to promote intellectual freedom and to be alert to the expanding magnitude of the problem of censorship. Of equal importance is for librarians to keep abreast of censorship as it occurs under *all* circumstances and not isolate ourselves within the confines of library facilities and limit our thinking within the theoretical framework which undergirds the profession. None of us as professionals and citizens is immune.

(Reports, other publications, videotapes and membership information from People For the American Way may be obtained by writing the office at 2000 M Street, NW, Suite 400; Washington, DC or calling 202 467-4999.)

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[2] People For the American Way, *Artistic Freedom Under Attack, vol.3* (Washington, DC: People For the American Way, 1995), 7.

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[4] Gene D. Lanier, *Tar Heel Libraries* 17 (May/June 1994): 16.

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[10] Mary Ann Weathers, "An Investigation of the Impact of Special Interest Groups on Curriculum and Instruction in North Carolina 1983-1988," (Ph.D. diss., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill , 1990). *Dissertation Abstracts International* vol. 51/10-A, page 3323.

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[12] People For the American Way, *Attacks on the Freedom to Learn, 1993-1994* (Washington, DC: People For the American Way, 1994), 151.

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[16] *Ibid.*

[17] *Ibid.*

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[19] *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom* 35 (January 1986): 17.

[20] *Newsletter* 36 (November 1987): 233.

[21] *Newsletter* 35 (September 1986): 171-172.

[22] *Newsletter* 42 (September 1993): 144-145.

[23] *Newsletter* 37 (September 1988): 156.

[24] *Newsletter* 40 (November 1991): 201.

[25] *Newsletter* 39 (November 1990): 218.

[26] *Newsletter* 39 (March 1990): 58.

[27] *Newsletter* 39 (May 1990): 103.

[28] *Newsletter* 36 (January 1987): 12.

[29] *Newsletter* 42 (July 1993): 108.

[30] *Newsletter* 42 (January 1993): 14-15.

[31] *Newsletter* 36 (November 1987): 239.

[33] *Newsletter* 43 (July 1994): 115.

[33] *Newsletter* 42 (May 1993): 73.

alt.sex:

Detour Off the Information Highway

by *Frances Bryant Bradburn*

Editor's Note: *All information for this article has been gathered from a variety of sources on the Internet. The best resource that this author has found is* **gopher://chico.rice.edu:1170/11/More/Acceptable**. *While the resources on this list asked that quotes not be taken directly from their documents, this article would not have been possible without this information source.*

Horror stories abound: Federal agents swarm an urban high school after a student threatens the President through the school's e-mail account; innocent children stumble upon an alternative lifestyle bulletin board while completing a homework assignment; parents discover bomb-making instructions downloaded from the Internet stashed under their son's mattress. Salacious stories, true or exaggerated, haunt all librarians as their publics clamor for more and more Internet access. Additionally, Congress is increasing librarians' worry quotient as it considers S. 314, the "Communications Decency Act of 1995," a bill that would "impose fines of up to $100,000 and jail terms of up to two years upon those using telecommunications devices to send obscene, indecent or harassing material over the network."[1]

But the truth of the matter is that issues such as these represent only a minuscule problem when we look at the overall value and potential of the Internet. Yet in order to sustain our patrons' access to the myriad resources available online, to protect ourselves and the institutions we represent, and to gain control over the next major censorship battleground, we librarians must be proactive. One of the prime resources at our disposal as we take this proactive stance is the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). An AUP is a statement of common understanding among Internet service providers and the people who use their service—a Code of Conduct, if you will. Every institution that offers Internet service should have an AUP in place *before* allowing access to its system. This protects not only the institution itself, but its Internet service provider as well.

Acceptable Use Policies are difficult for librarians, however, because they are fraught with intellectual freedom issues. AUPs often are designed for patron signature, especially in the case of Internet use by a minor. Additionally, real freedom of speech, freedom of expression, and privacy issues usually are addressed. The necessity of addressing institutional requirements for system security, as well as organizational and staff liability, is in direct competition with an individual's rights to free speech, privacy, and access to information. (ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee will discuss its draft statement, "Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks: an Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights," at this year's annual meeting in Chicago.) Then, too, some institutions limit Internet access to certain groups, classes, or even to certain hours. Equal access issues often take a back seat to a library's financial or curricular issues.

Interestingly enough, K-12 schools may have fewer problems crafting AUPs than their other library counterparts because their prime focus for Internet use should be the curriculum. Additionally, individual schools or school systems already have in place procedures for dealing with many of the problems that surround Internet use. For instance, most schools have Codes of Conduct that address plagiarism, copyright violation, and even inappropriate language. Indeed, a school's field trip guidelines can apply to Internet use. After all, the Internet is one huge, virtual field trip, and students are representing their school out on the Internet as surely as if they were walking the halls of the state capitol. Most schools even require a parent's or guardian's signature for field trip participation. In short, a school's AUP can be based upon a variety of documents already in place—its selection policy, its codes of conduct, its field trip guidelines.

Public, special, and academic libraries tend to craft broader, less-defined AUPs than K-12 schools, often foregoing signature requirements, and spending less time on the moral and ethical issues of Internet use. All AUPS, however, regardless of institutional affilia-

tion, should contain these four components: mission statement, service provider, clientele, and disclaimer.

Mission Statement:

The mission statement, your statement of intent, is the most important part of an AUP. It is a library's *raison d'etre*, the basis for all its service and, subsequently, the protection for both you and your service provider. The mission statement answers the questions: Why is your library providing Internet access? How is this resource being used? For schools, the traditional response is to support the school's curriculum, perhaps even a specific curriculum area such as social studies or science. For other libraries, it may be to supplement and enhance reference service, or to provide access to major academic collections in areas that have no local college or university. Pithy statements such as "To enhance the school's teaching and learning activities" and "To encourage open, scholarly communication and research" are often part of an institution's AUP.

Service Provider:

The disclaimer as to *your* institution's gateway is a part of any AUP. Whether your service provider is *NandO, Interpath,* or ECU, this information should be stated in your AUP. Additionally, review your service provider's AUP as you are writing your own. Check to see that your institution is in agreement with the gateway's AUP. It may be that your gateway has a policy of monitoring and reading all bulletin board or e-mail postings. Your insti- tution's privacy disclaimers cannot be in conflict with your gateway's.

Clientele:

Also included within your AUP is a declaration as to whom you serve. Is Internet access only for staff reference librarians, students and faculty at your school alone, or the entire community? Spell this out within your AUP.

Disclaimers:

Most institutions believe it is important to remind their patrons that their access cannot be used for profit or extensive personal business. Additionally, libraries usually post a disclaimer that they cannot be responsible for loss of data, the content of general postings, or the down-time of the system. Some disclaimers even include the penalty(ies) for misuse. All these simply serve to protect both the service provider and its gateway and, ultimately, everyone's use of the system.

There are myriad other issues to address as libraries craft AUPs. Some may be included with the AUP itself; others can be attached or distributed as expectations or information. Whatever the distribution decision, all these issues should be discussed at length and decisions made before Internet access, especially e-mail opportunities, is offered your staff and patrons.

One of the basic issues of electronic access to information, especially the e-mail provision of many Internet accounts, is privacy. All users need to understand up front that guaranteeing complete e-mail privacy is an impossibility. Any system operator can access e-mail and bulletin board postings on the system. Therefore, to guarantee privacy is heresy. We can, however, provide an institutional policy that deals with when and how we access individual patron information if the need should arise. Schools that insist on monitoring student e-mail activity as well as institutions that use a gateway that monitors postings should post this information in full view of their patrons.

One privacy issue that users tend to overlook is that of re-posting information. Whether as part of the AUP or provided as attached information, patrons should be reminded that re-posting another person's correspondence, whether to you personally or to a list, without the person's permission, is a violation of that person's privacy and may even infringe upon copyright.

The operative statement for Internet/e-mail use is "privacy, not anonymity." We have an obligation to protect our institutions and ourselves.

Another issue is anonymity. The operative statement for Internet/e-mail use is "privacy, not anonymity." We have an obligation to protect our institutions and ourselves. Anonymous postings from our schools or libraries are equivalent to anonymous letters being sent from a local post office — not post office box, post office. Many institutions feel that in order to protect themselves, they must provide their patrons with some sort of identification whether it be a sign-in/sign-out sheet or individual e-mail addresses. That way, if a problem arises (the threat to the President or principal, copyright infringement) they will be able to follow up on the allegation.

Of course, this forces us to confront the freedom of expression issue immediately. Where do individual rights end and individual responsibility — not to mention general decency and common sense — begin? Most AUPs offer some type of network disclaimer that places responsibility for opinions and their subsequent airing directly on the user. Some may offer an additional caveat along the lines of, "We provide an intellectual climate of free and open discussion within the boundaries of appropriate school conduct." The morals and ethics of Internet use will be hotly debated, especially as the federal Communications Decency Act comes closer to a vote. All patrons deserve protection from harassment and unsolicited contact; all patrons ought to act decently and ethically in all their dealings, both electronic and otherwise. The bottom line, however, is that this conduct cannot be monitored effectively by the institution. Consequently, the education of patrons should be discussed and, ideally, provided by the institution that offers access.

Again, schools may be the most effective vehicle for this education, yet all providers should make an attempt to inform their public of expected behaviors when using this resource. Explaining about the common courtesies of checking and clearing e-mail regularly, not usurping the terminal when others are waiting, not altering electronic information, and not using another's password or entering another's mailbox should be a part of any patron's initial access to the Internet.

Finally, as distasteful as it may be, all AUPs or their accompanying support materials should address the consequences of AUP violation. Schools, colleges, and universities can refer to their discipline procedures and/or Codes of Conduct. Public libraries and special libraries may simply state loss of privileges as their "big stick." Whatever the penalty, patrons should know up front the expectations for use of this invaluable resource and the consequences of its misuse.

Reference

[1] *Net.News*, 1, 2 (March-April 1995): 2.

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North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

NCDPI InfoWeb Acceptable Use Policy

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's InfoWeb is designed to offer easy access by the education community and general public to information about education in this state.

The Goal of NCDPI InfoWeb

The goal of NCDPI InfoWeb is to promote innovation and educational excellence in North Carolina. To achieve this, the network provides quality, equitable, and cost-effective information resources.

Use of NCDPI InfoWeb

Successful operation of the service requires that its users regard NCDPI InfoWeb as a shared resource, with the common purpose of advancing education in North Carolina.

The intent of the NCDPI InfoWeb Acceptable Use Policy is to ensure that all uses of NCDPI InfoWeb are consistent with the purposes of the agency. The policy does not attempt to detail all required behavior by its members. The following general guidelines are offered:

1. Any use of NCDPI InfoWeb for illegal purposes, or in support of illegal activities, is prohibited.
2. All use of NCDPI InfoWeb must be in support of education and research in North Carolina and consistent with the purposes of the agency.
3. Any use of NCDPI InfoWeb for commercial purposes is prohibited.
4. Any use of NCDPI InfoWeb for product advertisement or political lobbying is prohibited.
5. No use of NCDPI InfoWeb shall serve to disrupt the use of the network by other users.
6. All communications and information accessible via NCDPI InfoWeb should be assumed to be private property.
7. All NCDPI InfoWeb conferences and bulletin boards will be moderated.
8. Any NCDPI InfoWeb user's traffic that traverses another network may be subject to that network's acceptable use policy.
9. From time to time, the agency will make decisions on whether specific uses of NCDPI InfoWeb are consistent with this policy.

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Sex in Public (Libraries):

An Historical Sampler of What Every Librarian Should Know

by *James V. Carmichael, Jr.*

As historical and sociological objects of study, public libraries present a mirror to their host societies, not only of those societies' reading tastes and information needs, but also of their predominant social values. From a modern perspective, some would argue that American public librarianship reflects a wide though perfect image of society like a Hubbel telescope, indecipherable in its constituent parts, but forming a coherent whole. Others would contend that the image is distorted through a convex lens, so that the public library embodies a larger spectrum of ideas than actually exists in the immediate host society. Conversely, there are those who perceive a concave lens that condenses or omits certain aspects of the world of ideas that the community finds distasteful, or harmful to its interests. Professionals in the public library field have been extremely prolific, if somewhat ambiguous, in articulating a positivist philosophy of collection development that balances community needs with the principles of intellectual freedom. This philosophy, it would seem, is intrinsic to American democratic principles, although actually, each generation of public librarians has refined it to suit changing social conditions. Perhaps in no area is this more true than in the complex of ideas that define the topic of sex and sexual mores.

Popular images of public librarians are fraught with sex or sexlessness, perhaps because these individuals have so often been the gatekeepers of literature about sex. Certainly, they have been held accountable for the sexual content of the literature they acquire, and the political, economic, religious, and philosophical content, as well. Very often, sexual content has provided the pretext by which much more disturbing aspects of the work — an attitude of rebellion, a flaunting of conventional mores, a political philosophy that bears disturbingly anarchic overtones — are suppressed. Standards of decency have provided the traditional venue of attack, but it is much harder to attack philosophical, religious, or political ideas knowledgeably. Europeans understood the relationship between sexual libertinage and anarchy, and sequestered pornographic collections in national libraries to which only the keeper of books had access. Is it any wonder librarians of every type were resented?

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In some American books and films, however, the public librarian is depicted as a pretty, romantic figure, drifting in and out of the sexual miasma of great literature, equally adept at handling steamy fiction and steamy patrons with chaste and unsullied hands (*No Man of Her Own*, 1932). Her sister in academic or special libraries, on the other hand, is thoroughly abstracted by the constant traffic of soul-stirring ideas (*Desk Set*, 1957). Ironically, in works of the genre, the librarian ends up with her (always her) man, whatever her constituency. In other fictional works, the public librarian is an anti-heroine (nearly always a anti-hero*ine*), has no physical allure, bears a pale, repressive countenance, silences flirtations in the stacks, or casts a glance over the top of her glasses that would shrivel the sexual organs of any patron in her path. It is, therefore, not surprising that pornographers sometimes use libraries as the settings for their fantasies, and sexy librarians as the central figure in the culminating orgy: comic value derives from lambasting an authoritarian stereotype.

In more complex fictional works, like Frances Newman's *Dead Lovers Are Faithful Lovers* (1928), the heroine rebels

against the ennui of her profession and its baggage of gender roles in search of "illicit" passion (with a married or unmarried man). Newman's heroine definitively rejects the seedy Victorian gentility of "old" Atlanta for the (unfulfilled) hope of the urban boosters, which her financially well-connected paramour represents. In a more recent example, Richard Powers' *The Gold Bug Variations* (1992), the librarian-narrator — a veritable font of trivia and "expertise" — forsakes the public library's reference desk and her seedy librarian lover for a patron who incidentally introduces her to one of the genetic de-coders of the double helix. The abandonment of the traditional librarian turf of disconnected facts and bits of information in favor of sexual passion, spiritual fulfillment, and new appreciation of science (no less) is unmistakably pointed. In both Newman's and Powers' works, sex and librarianship are metaphors for a larger complex of social values.

One usually has to resort to fiction to find that public librarians have any sexual life at all, for biographical accounts of librarians reveal very little of librarians' personal lives. Sydney Pierce has lamented the lack of "dead Germans" in the profession[1] — figures of the stature of Nietzsche and Freud whose influence is universal, and whose eminence could only be enhanced by revelations of eccentricities, including sexual peccadillos. Part of the ahistoricity of librarianship may reside in librarians' perpetual low self-esteem, even in face of research that indicates that their modern public image is benign. Moreover, public librarians preserve the records of mankind even while they destroy their own papers, thus robbing future professionals of their biographical heritage, "warts and all." In conducting biographical research on a deceased public librarian, it is not unusual to find a scattered paper trail of committee appointments, clippings that document professional achievements, a cache of insipid "personal" papers, and little else to add a vital third dimension to the dry professional portrait other than the occasional marriage certificate, reminiscences of children, or (rarely) the presence of a candid surviving associate.

Many of the current generation of emerging professionals are too young to remember the struggles of public librarians, publishers, and legislators as they broadened the boundaries of permissible discussion of sex. Sadly, with the current emphasis on technology, students have little time or initiative to explore the subject during their professional education programs. They may be only dimly aware of the polarization of community values around the subject of sex, and have little historical sense of the principles that these battles engaged. Thus, while only thirty years ago, literary works by Henry Miller and William S. Burroughs had to be smuggled into the United States in their (Paris) Grove Press editions, they now typically collect dust as leaden curiosities on the shelves of larger public libraries (Filmic accounts of these authors' struggles, however, such as *Henry and June* (1992) and *Naked Lunch* (1993), circulate briskly at video stores). Given the numbing frequency with which nearly every class of material now is challenged by somebody, students may be hard pressed to understand the definitive (now quaint) court cases of only several decades ago — for example, Ralph Ginzberg's fight to publish nude (breasts exposed) photographs of Marilyn Monroe in the pages of the literary journal, *Evergreen Review*. Consider publishers' century-long hiatus on common Anglo-Saxonisms. How would the early "liberal" courts — the one that defended *Lady Chatterly's Lover*, for example — react to Madonna's *Sex*, a Mapplethorpe portfolio, or even the novels of Danielle Steele?

How would the early "liberal" courts — the one that defended Lady Chatterly's Lover, *for example — react to Madonna's* Sex, *a Mapplethorpe portfolio, or even the novels of Danielle Steele?*

Since the nascent American library profession was given its first push by Melvil Dewey, the commerce of sexual ideas has been restricted by societal mores. In Dewey's (1851-1931) heyday, the rigid separation of public morality and private behavior, concern over female "purity," and the limitation of frank discussion of sex to the Gradgrindian explanations of medical, legal, and scientific tomes, confined public exploration of these issues to the realm of metaphor and euphemism. Reading between the lines of some of these tomes, one can detect concerns that continue to haunt us. Thus, a turn-of-the-century women's advice manual,[2] in a titillating chapter entitled, "Liberties Men Take," enumerates 1) "the coarse liberties attempted by strangers in public places or conveyances;" 2) "the effort men make to lead young women into unconventional or imprudent actions;" and 3) "the attempt at love-making which men make toward married women" — in other words, sexual harassment, unmarried sex, and "hitting on." It is worth explaining that Dewey, one of the fathers of the (public) "library idea," was the object of controversy during his life, not only because of his communitarian beliefs (including the use of Christian names with acquaintances and the general loosening of social strictures, although apparently not sexual mores), but also because of rumors of sexual misconduct brought forth by four female fellow-travellers in the 1905 ALA post-conference excursion. Mary Wright Plummer of Pratt Institute, one of the offended principals, would not sit in the same room with him.

Whatever their personal views, public librarians of the Gilded Age faced their most serious challenges from community leaders who sought to limit library acquisitions to prescribed fictional works (if the community condoned fiction at all), and eagerly condemned "pernicious trash" that would corrupt youth and sully the "pure" female mind. A list of such "trash" might astound the modern reader. The secretary of the Nebraska Library Commission, for example, was admonished by the President of the Commission Board for ordering Margaret W. Morley's popular study of the principles of biology, *Life and Love* (1895), because he thought it was "one of those books which must be circulated with discretion and not a book which should go into the hands of young people. We have no way of preventing that after it once leaves the library." As for Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *Women and Economics: a Study of the Economic Relation*

Between Women and Men (1898), he dismissed it as unworthy of public purchase, since surely "there must be plenty in the Women's Club Library ... to cover this point."[3] Innocence was defined by age; power was circumscribed by sex.

Between 1915 and 1920, women from every class, of whom Margaret Sanger was only the most famous, banded together to promote the idea that women owned their own bodies and therefore had a right to practice contraception. By the 1920s, the Great War and Prohibition had loosened Victorian morals sufficiently to remove illicit sex from the red-light districts and into the rumble seats of jalopies. In New York, a flourishing gay sub-culture became the object of fascination and even tolerance, yet even in the heat of prosperity and "flaming youth" (as it was called), American prudery resurfaced with a regularity that foreign observers found remarkable.[4] Particularly in the South, Victorian moral values lingered longer than elsewhere — for example, in the collection policies of some public libraries. Women had great difficulty in liberating themselves from veneration as "Dixie's Diadem," and at Dayton, Tennessee and elsewhere scientific values suffered defeat to religious rote in the courts, while the rest of the country howled at the side show. Indeed, at times, the South earned H.L. Mencken's soubriquet, "desert of the Bozart." From Georgia, one young lady reported in 1921 that

> At college I looked on literature as something apart. Since I have come home to Georgia, I find that it is better to submit myself to the direction of our good Baptist clergyman, and have no books on our library shelves that I cannot read alone to the young.[5]

Frances Newman, the Atlanta librarian-author mentioned previously, announced by the title of her first novel, *The Hard Boiled Virgin* (1925), that she had flatly rejected contemporary middle-class southern sexual mores. The book was immediately banned in Boston and became a best seller. Her former employer, Atlanta's librarian, Tommie Dora Barker (1915-1930), had some years before noted in a personnel evaluation letter that Newman displayed contempt for the public's opinion, since "the stupidities of the public irritate her," although the brilliance of her literary knowledge was unsurpassed.[6] Newman railed particularly against the subjugation of well-born belles in the round of debutante balls, teas, and church socials where they were expected to be vanquished by socially appropriate beaus in sometimes loveless matches, or else be relegated to a life of dim spinsterhood. She had even more contempt for the conventions by which unmarried women of impecunious means were assigned miserable and colorless "careers" in the limited range of exclusively female occupations like librarianship. Indicative of the tone of her criticisms is her characterization of library self-censorship in her last novel, *Dead Lovers Are Faithful Lovers*. There Barker, thinly disguised as Miss Joma Currier, reminds her staff that "a novel is considered immoral if it makes vice attractive, or if it separates an act from its consequences" — with obvious reference to the procreative potential of the sexual act.[7] It should be noted that the real-life Barker justified such a caricature to some degree, since she once fired an employee for speaking in terms "of unspeakable vulgarity" of her supervisor, and dismissed another student from Atlanta's library school, then located on the top floor of Atlanta's Carnegie Library, for lying about her age on her application "by a whole year."[8] With respect to this last folly, it should be stated that Barker's disapproval did not extend to graduates of the school who *under*estimated their age by more than a year, either on application forms or in the first edition of *Who's Who In Librarianship* (1933), presumably because overestimation implied moral turpitude in seeking premature entree to the privileges of adulthood, whereas underestimation represented the option of "shedding" experience always available to a southern "lady."

Ironically, although Georgia legislators were prescient in opening the office of State Librarian to women as early as 1896, Georgia did not formally ratify the Nineteenth Amendment giving women the right to vote until 1976. The peculiar ambiguity of southern states towards gender roles (and by implication, sexual mores) extended to men as well. Thus, men were not admitted to the South's only accredited library school until 1931, supposedly because as librarians, they could not earn enough to support a family, but also because of a deeply-held belief in the "separate spheres" of the sexes; coeducation in southern universities occurred in most cases only after racial desegregation had become inevitable. Moreover, library schools had to exercise great care in attracting "manly" graduates, since the imputation of effeminacy by association with a female profession had to be avoided. "Effeminacy," it should be noted, did not necessarily carry the burden of association with homosexuality in the 1920s that it did only a few decades later. One of the most prominent southern male librarians of the 1920s and 1930s, a father of three children and the founder of three southern library education programs, had executive abilities that were highly ranked by his instructors at the University of Illinois even though his graduate file carried a recommendation that warned his employers of his effeminate manner and high-pitched "soft" voice.[9] Even Dewey's "old maidish" quality had been noted some years before, for as American society became more permeated with the cult of masculinity in the late nineteenth century, men in intellectual or service occupations ran the risk of being labelled "effeminate gownsmen" or "the third sex."[10]

The loosening of sexual mores was stalled by the national emergencies of the Great Depression and the Second World War during which time, incidentally, women made short-lived gains in traditionally male occupations, but was sent into retreat by the Cold War Era. During the 1950s, the country reached a "liberal consensus" on sex.[11] Reproductive sex within marriage became the legitimate vehicle for greater sexual fulfillment for both sexes; sexual experimentation outside marriage was confined to petting, which supposedly had marriage as its object, and, once more, illicit sex was relegated to the bordello and racy literature. Sexual "deviance" (i.e., homosexuality) was uncovered and

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punished mercilessly even within the public library. Thus, librarian John Settlemayer of Atlanta cooperated with the Atlanta Vice Squad in a sting operation on homosexuals frequenting the men's room of the Atlanta Public Library in 1957. To understand the tenor of the times, it should also be mentioned that the Library's Motion Picture Review Board regularly excised scenes with overtones of miscegenation in features like *Band of Angels* and *Imitation of Life*.

It seems somewhat startling now to realize that Grace Metalious' soapy potboiler *Peyton Place* (1956) once marked the boundaries of the hotly-contested terrain of the struggle between family values and sexual license in the editorial pages of *American Libraries*, or that teenagers smuggled copies of Eustac Chesser's *Love Without Fear* (1957) into their rooms because of the author's frank discussion of the right of liberated sexual expression within marriage. Who now can remember the early Supreme Court cases concerning controversial classics like Frank Harris' *My Life and Loves* or Edmund Wilson's *Memoirs of Hectate County* that, along with the fall of Senator Joseph McCarthy, the demise of segregation in the South, the resurgence of feminism and the gay rights movement, spelled an end to the liberal consensus on sex?

What D'Emilio and Freedman felicitously call "the commercialization of sex and the sexualization of commerce" in the 1970s definitively changed the way Americans viewed sex, for "many Americans came to accept sexual pleasure as a legitimate, necessary component in their lives, unbound by older ideals of marital fidelity and permanence," while at the same time, the "tension in sexual liberalism between the celebration of the erotic as the peak experience in marriage and the effort to contain its expression elsewhere, made sex ripe for commercial exploitation."[12] For almost two decades (ca. 1960-79), an unparalleled degree of laxity gave rise to experimentation in sexual behavior that would have been unthinkable only a few years before, plus a plethora of alternate lifestyles and living arrangements, and a basic re-definition of the limits of verbal expression. More alarming indicators also surfaced, such as pornographic movie houses and bookstores, a rise in venereal diseases, a flourishing bathhouse and massage parlor industry, and sex manuals which glorified sexual experimentation at the expense of state statutes which criminalized some of the specific acts these best sellers touted. Some librarians might marvel at the fact that North Carolina and South Carolina in the 1970s led the nation in the number of adult movie theaters, "belying the notion that pornography was the product of big-city decadence."[13]

Like its host culture, the public sector of the library profession reflected these profound social changes. The rhetoric of social activism became part of the editorial battery of the library press, even if the professional credo of librarians, expressed in such documents as the ALA "Code of Ethics," professed neutrality. At this time, "neutrality" seemed to imply openness to all comers in selection decisions, and if anything, erred on the side of liberality rather than nit-picking literary distinctions. One group of "radical" librarians sought basic re-definition of the staid library policies of the past through an overhaul of patron policies, classification systems, and subject headings which in the new social context, now seemed whimsical, if not regressive: "We say `No way!' to Shh!." In one sense, academic librarians led the way for public librarians, defining the context in which reform should occur: one University of Massachusetts librarian denounced as intolerable the way the library establishment disregarded unmarried citizens: "Through its polarization of what gets into 301.42 [Marriage and family] and what gets left outside in 301.415 [Sex life outside marriage], Dewey reinforces Official Sexual Orthodoxy. Baby-making sex inside marriage is Good. All other sexual activity is `perversion.'"[14] On the other hand, a public librarian, Sanford Berman, actually modelled subject-heading reform for the profession at large in Hennepin County, Minnesota.

Trying to keep in step, the American Library Association's Task Force for Gay Liberation had been formed in 1970 under the aegis of the newly-founded Social Responsibilities Round Table, the first such professional organization anywhere. Delegates to the 1971 ALA in Dallas were unprepared for the spectacle that ensued as Israel Fishman and gay activist Barbara Gittings put up a "Hug-a-Homosexual" booth that was featured on national television news broadcasts. The Task Force's agenda was serious, however: Gittings voluntarily compiled and updated an annual gay and lesbian bibliography that for years was the only list of its kind. She did this, she said, because in growing up, she had found very few positive images of gay people on the library shelves. On the feminist front, women in librarianship were challenging inequalities and discrimination in the work place and sexism in the media. Through organizations like the Social Responsibilities Round Table and the Black Caucus, a backlog of professional and literary wrongs was righted, some more successfully than others, adding perhaps an uncomfortable degree of social relevance to the rising tide in professional debate.

Not until the 1980s, when conservative proponents learned to exploit the national media equally as well as their liberal counterparts, was the Right able to mount a successful counter-attack to the sexual liberation movement and librarians who had viewed with alarm the broadening of the public librarian's explicit social mission, the decline in moral certitude, and who had questioned the value-free literary aesthetic of the post-modernist age, redrew boundaries for the traditional "liberal consensus" on sex. With the election of Ronald Reagan as President, conservative footing in the national debate on sex was secured, and sex was irretrievably politicized.

In more than a century of struggle to define the limits of sexual license, the only constant has been that of youth: it is the sexual behavior and attitudes of youth that serve as the bottom line of debate, and at no time more so than the present. No longer is only the economic future of the country threatened by the cycle of teen-age pregnancies, welfare mothers, drug-addicted fathers, or the failure of society to resolve such controversial topics as abortion, birth control, and sex education. Now life itself is threatened by transmission of the AIDS virus through casual sexual encounters, shared needles, and even contaminated blood supplies. These frustrations have fuelled a cynical backlash against the liberal values of the late 1960s and early 1970s, not only from the right, but also from former proponents of liberal social values on the left. The current shrill and strident tone in discussions of sex and social values permeates even the pages of the official professional association journal. Professional credos of open-mindedness and neutrality notwithstanding, the pages of *American Libraries* have become littered with the detritus of bitter partisan debate from the liberal, conservative, and even the "neutral"

camp, on the general topic of social responsibilities and professionalism, from which the topics of sex and professional image are never too far distant.

At the 1995 meeting of the Association of Library and Information Science Education in Philadelphia, the Dean of one of the largest library schools in the country took the profession to task for its lack of strategic vision as indicated, among other things, by its preoccupation with gender issues, sexuality issues, and social issues which he called "icing on the cake of librarianship" from which the "cake" threatens to collapse. Yet while an increasing amount of rhetorical attention has been paid to some of these issues in recent years, a review of library literature yields only a few citations to research studies on the attitudes of any type of librarians towards sex, all of them now long outdated. Moreover, even though statistical studies continue to show that salary differentials between male and female public library employees have narrowed considerably in recent decades, librarians continue to have sexual problems, some of which seep into the library. Evidence of sexual harassment continues to surface in public libraries, just as it does in the corporate world. Given the relatively commonplace aspect of sexual matters in the present decade, and the penalties associated with ignorance, public librarians would be foolish to deny the sexual undercurrents in their lives. A recent multi-million dollar court award in San Francisco in September 1994, to a sexual harassment plaintiff, Rena Weeks, suggests that courts are serious in their intent to punish the misuse of sexual power. As these principles are extended into a wider arena of cases, justice rather than gender may be served, and the tide of male backlash quelled.

During the past year, the author and Marilyn L. Shontz of UNC-G's Department of Library and Information Studies have conducted a national survey of Canadian and U.S. 1993 MLIS/MLS graduates of ALA-accredited programs on the subjects of social responsibilities, gay and lesbian issues, women's issues, and diversity issues. Interestingly, significant differences in responses to survey items were more likely to be determined by graduates' self-described social orientations (radical liberal, liberal, moderate, conservative, liberal conservative) than by their sex, their sexual orientation, their age, their library type, the region of their school or their personal acquaintance with someone who had died of AIDS. Over 79 percent of respondents agreed unequivocally that if they were in charge of collection development in a public library, they would have acquired *Daddy's Roommate* or *Heather Has Two Mommies* if those titles represented the best of their type available. On the other hand, qualitative comments which accompanied the responses made clear that these librarians, over half of whom were thirty-five or younger, are more comfortable with a passive, neutral form of sexual tolerance through such activities as collection development, than they are in proactive programming which incorporates sexual issues, sexual minorities, or controversial sexual topics like abortion. This means that while most patrons may expect their varied information needs for explicit information on sex to be met by these new professionals, new professionals feel that their own personal agendas will not meet an equal degree of tolerance. Some graduates reported never having discussed women's issues, gay issues, or even broader social issues like poverty or world hunger in any of their library education programs, although these are issues central to the controversy that informs current political debate, news hour polemic, and the national struggle to redefine community values.

... librarians continue to have sexual problems, some of which seep into the library.

What about the future? Obviously, neither the library and information profession nor society as a whole can afford to turn back wistfully or angrily to simpler, less sophisticated times. Sexually-explicit material is a readily-available commodity on the Internet, in video stores, on television, and in every form of advertising. Public librarians, whatever their personal beliefs, must be informed about sex, unblinkingly conversant about its legal, biological, political, medical, religious, artistic, and (even) romantic aspects, and aware of the ideological polarities that mark its outer regions. The firing of the U.S. Congress' historian because she had once stated that children needed to know about Nazi philosophy demonstrates how disingenuously political opponents purposefully confuse knowledge with advocacy. Society faces a fate far worse than "moral decline" if citizens don't learn everything they can about sex, for until a cure is found for AIDS, the hypocritical attempt to suppress sexual information hurts the very people it is meant to protect.

To return to the original metaphor

of this essay, the problem with mirrors, even those not purposefully designed to distort reflections, is that they are easily obscured by grime. In a dirty mirror, even images close at hand may seem blurred. If public libraries are the mirror of society, then public librarians, when they emerge from the background and display some movement in the interest of the public (the viewer), generally receive a favorable reception, more favorable, perhaps, than they care to acknowledge. Public librarians must realize, however, that their image is reflected in the mirror as well as that of "the public." They are inextricably bound to the fabric of the host society even as they serve it. Neutral? Probably not. Fair-minded? Well, that's possible. While the library and information profession in recent years has more often than not welcomed recruits of every religious, political, social, and sexual persuasion and professes to welcome the "marketplace" of ideas, it behooves librarians of every stripe to be thoroughly familiar with the entire evolution of that marketplace, including its sexualization, in order to make professional and personal decisions that truly reflect the best of that tradition.

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Mission Position:
Censorship in the Corporate Library

by *Justin Scroggs* and *Teresa Leonard*

"And so, without more circumstance at all,
I hold it fit that we shake hands and part:
You, as your business and desire shall point you;
For every man has business and desire,
Such as it is; ..."

— *Hamlet*, Act I, Scene V [1]

Though our troubles are perhaps less grave (pun intended) than the Prince of Denmark's, librarians, corporate and otherwise, face a dilemma. In serving our patron base, we make decisions on a daily basis — retain this item, discard that one, purchase the third, and ignore the fourth. In wrestling with these choices, we face the potential that members of the population we serve will take issue with the decisions we make. As we are all aware, in some cases such criticism has led to the removal of materials from library shelves and the loss of employment by librarians making or defending the decisions. Such is our situation.

Some forty years ago Lester Asheim, now Professor Emeritus of the School of Information and Library Science, of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, described our dilemma:

> "To the selector the important thing is to find reasons to keep the book. Given such a guiding principle, the selector looks for values, for virtues, for strengths, which will overshadow minor objections. For the censor, on the other hand, the important thing is to find reasons to reject the book. His guiding principle leads him to seek out the objectionable features, the weaknesses, ...[2]

While the distinction between "selector" and "censor" is perhaps arbitrary — and this point has been widely debated — in the end the distinction is largely pointless. Librarians make choices. If an item is not judged as worthy of inclusion in a collection, it is excluded.

In building and maintaining collections, corporate librarians base their decisions on the potential value of an item as well as its current value. These choices are made in the same manner regardless of the library type. We ask questions about the item and its potential uses in furthering company aims.

These questions asked in the evaluation of an item may include:

> Is the source authoritative and comprehensive?
> Is it affordable?
> Does it occupy too much shelf space?
> Do the patrons want it?
> How long will it be current?

The one question that is largely irrelevant in the corporate setting is: Is it offensive?

The one question that is largely irrelevant in the corporate setting is: Is it offensive?

We generally do not collect materials of mass interest. While the latest issue of *Sports Illustrated* might well be found in a number of corporate libraries, most would not contain a single copy of any of the eleven banned books that led to the 1982 landmark Supreme Court decision, *Pico v. Island Trees*.[3] Nor would we generally be interested in collecting the works of Grisham, Waller or Angelou. Succinctly stated, our mission is different from the missions of other types of libraries.

Our mission is to build a collection, not for the general public, but for the corporate environment in which we work. In that environment seemingly irrelevant materials, old telephone directories for example, are often of greater value than the current edition. With this limited focus, our col-

lections are largely discipline-specific and often small in size relative to the collections of other types of libraries. It would be no surprise that the library collection at the software giant SAS Institute, located in North Carolina's Research Triangle Park, consists primarily of materials about computers and related topics.

In general our collections are not open to the public and thus are not open to public scrutiny and the attempts at censorship that can follow. Our collections are built with corporate funds. The "We don't want our tax dollars spent on that" and "We don't want our children to have access to such things" arguments have little relevance in our arena. We are not by and large driven by "higher" goals. We are not charged with the task of providing resources for the educating of America, serving as repositories of our intellectual heritage or responsible for the entertainment and enlightenment of the general population.

Ours is perhaps a less lofty and, thankfully, less ambiguous charge. The focus of corporate collections is perhaps clearer than that of other types of libraries. Rarely is an acquisitions decision made on the basis of a subjective moral judgment of "good or bad." Each item collected is, in theory, directly related to a specific institutional project, task, or purpose. In that respect, pressure on our collection development decisions comes from another direction.

In the broadest sense, our acquisitions concerns are the same as those of public, academic, and school libraries. Our goal is to provide access to items desired by our patrons, both present and future, in a timely and cost-effective manner. As an integral part of the corporate world, however, our collections compete for space and resources with other segments of our companies. In the for-profit sector library, our budgets are measured by the same criteria as the allocations of the company's other departments. Serials subscriptions are reviewed as carefully as inventories and expense reports. In the corporate world, we are more likely to experience censorship pressure in the form of criticism for wasting company resources or for over- spending than for purchasing objectionable materials.

As noted above, our collections are more specialized in focus and are often smaller in size. In addition, our libraries and library resources may be spread among a number of locations serving company employees around the globe. Serving patrons in such an environment provides us with opportunities and challenges. One result of these narrow and often far-flung collections is that we quite often participate in the larger realm of inter-library interactions as net borrowers.

For many corporate libraries access to a particular item is more important than the possession of it. In the same way that it is often in the corporate best interest to use contract labor or lease equipment, corporate libraries frequently make use of the collections of other libraries. It may be cheaper to arrange to borrow from a local library or pay inter-library loan fees than to purchase, catalog, circulate, and store an item. In this respect we experience the effects of censorship not as professionals in the field of library and information science, but as borrowers or patrons.

By and large, we are more concerned with censorship in public and academic libraries, from whom we so frequently borrow materials, than in our own milieu.

... we are, in the broadest sense of the word, censors ourselves, or at the very least "hoarders" of information.

In our libraries, we would perhaps not purchase a copy of *Heather Has Two Mommies* for our permanent collection.[4] But we might on occasion need access to a copy. The decision to add Newman's book to our collection is based on a cost-benefit analysis of the purchase, not on the appropriateness of the content. In the corporate arena, the fact that we are considering the book at all would imply that the book has a potential use by someone in our company. Appropriateness in our arena speaks to the usefulness of an item, not to the possible offensive nature of its contents.

We choose to collect the item or borrow materials based on how much or how often they would be used versus the cost of acquiring them. If an item is judged to be of sufficient worth, we get it; if it isn't, we don't. All collection development decisions are based on the larger corporate focus. By and large, we are more concerned with censorship in public and academic libraries, from whom we so frequently borrow materials, than in our own milieu.

As borrowers, corporate librarians affirm the principles of freedom of information. We want access to all types of materials. Yet when placed in the role of lender, we may not be quite so liberal.

Many corporate libraries are selective users of services such as OCLC, participating as borrowers, but not lenders. And when it comes to materials generated in our corporate settings, we are not all that fond of "freedom of information." A large percentage of the information contained in corporate libraries is proprietary or of use in creating proprietary materials. In this context, information is seen as a company resource in much the same way as computer code or pharmaceutical formulae.

Even when source materials, such as census data, are to be found in the public domain, dissemination of that information to a potential competitor is still suspect. Competitors have the same opportunity to access these data for themselves; it is our interpretation or understanding of the data that is to be protected. In this respect, we are, in the broadest sense of the word, censors ourselves, or at the very least "hoarders" of information. As frequent guardians of proprietary information, we are more concerned with materials going out than with materials coming in. Only those on "our side" have complete and unlimited access.

Often the materials we produce can themselves be viewed as products. This is especially true in the for-profit arena. Information is for sale, not for loan. Magazines, television networks, and newspapers copyright their stories and vend them via online databases or by fax. In many cases it is the corporate library that does the vending. After all, even in libraries, business is business.

In one sense corporate libraries lead a sheltered existence. We generally serve adults only, our patrons are typically concerned only with items needed for their jobs, and our collections are not usually funded by tax dollars. These circumstances allow us to operate in an environment largely free of censorship based on moral or ethical grounds. Most frequently, censorship only inconveniences us, and then only when it hampers our ability to access materials in other libraries in a timely fashion.

In terms of the collections we manage, we choose materials for inclusion based on their value in meeting company objectives. These materials more often are held to standards of value per dollar spent than to standards of offensiveness or appropriateness. Ours is not a public mission. We are a consumer of the resources of other libraries in the same ways as other patrons. If the truth be known, we often are censors ourselves, restricting access to the information in our care to persons within our corporate family. Due to the particular demands of the corporate environment, censorship in general is not a constant concern. If we need an item, we attempt to find it, buy it, or borrow it. If we are criticized in making collection development decisions, it is most frequently for wasting money — not for collecting items of questionable moral or ethical quality.

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Has your library initiated an innovative program to encourage reading? North Carolina Libraries *is looking for new and exciting programs for possible use in an upcoming issue. We're looking for ideas from all types and sizes of libraries, and for readers of any age. If you have been involved in creating such a program, please send a brief (one paragraph) description of the program, photographs, brochures, and other promotional materials to:*

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Hard Cases:

Some Issues Concerning the First Amendment's Protection of Free Speech and Free Press

by *Susan Steinfirst*

Librarians, who provide access to the written word as well as access to spoken words, music of all varieties, and now information in myriad electronic formats, are guided by their interpretation of the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights.

The First Amendment in its entirety protects rights other than free speech and free press, saying: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." This article, however, focuses on the two most important aspects of the Amendment's protection for librarians, that of free speech and free press, the right to speak and write what one wishes in a free society.

Most American children, by the time they are in fourth grade, know that the First Amendment of the Constitution protects our freedom of speech and freedom of the press. As we grow older, we come to realize that the famous words, "Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press," are symbolic of our democracy, because they impose a legal barrier to official censorship, then and now considered one of the greatest dangers to a strong democracy.

Legal scholars today, as always, are debating the strengths and weaknesses of the First Amendment in consideration of today's historical, social, political, economic, and technological changes; and indeed, some legal scholars and laypersons — liberal and conservative — are, in fact, debating whether the First Amendment serves all the people equally well. We are, as Cass Sunstein, a law professor at the University of Chicago, has said in his book, *Democracy and the Problem of Free Speech*, "in the midst of a dramatic period of new thought about the meaning of free speech in America."[1] Indeed, as Henry Lewis Gates, Jr., a black historian and scholar at Harvard, has written (even before our recent November election!), "These are challenging times for First Amendment sentimentalists."[2]

Several striking issues in the 1990s have risen to the surface again and again. Funding of the arts, including broadcasting, is one of them. Should "offensive" art be funded by the government, by all our tax dollars? If so, should it be restricted? What is the role of government in funding art? Should the NEA and public radio be eliminated?

Another topical issue is hate speech (and ensuing speech codes or bans), a problem particularly on college and university campuses, which arose out of the issues of political correctness, multiculturalism, and the needs and rights of marginalized people in our society to be protected by the institutions of which they are a part. Still another controversy is pornography, which will be discussed in greater detail later. Free speech issues still mean protecting the rights of children, especially — but adults also — to read, hear, and see what they want. Some other general issues of free speech include restriction of song lyrics, new regulation of the press, denying reporters access to some governmental information, begging that can be defined as harassment, and the old stand-by, flag burning.

These are all, as Sunstein has called them, "hard cases," ones that even the most adamant of the First Amendment absolutists have to reckon with. Pornography, cross-burning, student newspapers that print harmful lies about minority students, and professors who teach that the Holocaust did not happen are just a few examples of painful issues to each of us and to the country, but these issues are ones that absolutists say have to be overcome in an open, democratic forum in order to preserve the sanctity of First Amendment rights. It is what we have to pay, they say, to ensure the protection of speech for all; if we give in on just one tough issue, we'll have to give in on others.

Critics of the First Amendment, on the other hand, say we are overprotected by it, and that the First Amendment has become both an "icon" and a means by which difficult moral decisions can be avoided. The First Amendment has produced a climate that fails to protect the unempowered in our society.

Our thinking about these tremendously important issues is aggravated by several factors. Gates has suggested,

for example, that there is a hierarchy of free speech. Political speech tends to be protected, while commercial speech does not; there are always political and historical ramifications to free speech. But even more important is the lack of a clear definition of free speech. Legal scholars, for example, argue and debate whether action (nonverbal expression) is free speech.

At issue, and very much at the center of the discussions about First Amendment rights today, is interpretation, which is necessary because those fourteen words framed by our Founding Fathers are not at all crystal clear and were never intended, most scholars and legal critics would agree, to be taken literally to ban all limits on free speech. What the writers of the First Amendment meant to protect in the eighteenth century might not be what they intended to protect in the future. Quoted often on this subject is the U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, a First Amendment absolutist, who wrote that the writers of the Bill of Rights "neither said what they mean nor meant what they said when they composed the free speech clause in the First Amendment."[3] Historically, federal appellate judges and the Supreme Court have heard, hear now, and will continue to hear cases which debated, debate, and will continue to debate First Amendment issues, and they will make decisions that will have repercussions for all further First Amendment issues. Only speech is protected by the First Amendment, and that which is declared to be an action, or a consequence of speech, is not. "Categorization" is the legal buzzword, says Gates, for deciding whether expression is protected at all and for then deciding what category it fits into. In this way, certain types of speech, namely libel, invasion of privacy, obscenity, commercial speech, and speech posing irreparable threat or "clear and present danger," have become exceptions to some degree to the First Amendment rule. Also, some forms of speech are not considered protected speech if their purpose is to incite violence; this concept of "fighting words" is based on the decision of *Chaplinsky v. New Hampshire* (1942), which said that words that were "likely to provoke the average person to retaliation," would cause a breach of speech.

There have been liberal interpretions of the free speech clause by those who believe there should be no limits on free speech and by those who agree with Justice William Douglas, who said in 1952, "Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions."[4] And there are rising conservative interpretations of free speech, those who believe, as stated above, that expression has become overprotected to the exclusion of other (even constitutionally protected) rights.

As a means of explication of interpretation, this article will now summarize briefly the contents of three relatively new books that deal with interpretative issues: Stanley Fish's *There's No Such Thing as Free Speech, and It's a Good Thing Too* (1994), which attacks liberal ideas about interpretation and First Amendment rights; Nat Hentoff's *Free Speech for Me, But Not for Thee* (1992), which epitomizes the absolutist stance on the free speech clause; and Catherine MacKinnon's radically controversial discussion of pornography and its protection under the First Amendment, in her 1993 book, *Only Words*.

In a series of eighteen lectures (five of which are based on the "debates" he staged with Dinesh D'Souza, the author of *Illiberal Education*), Stanley Fish argues that expressions such as "free speech" are really just abstractions that have no meaning. Everyone, he says, would like to censor and suppress something. (A Milton scholar, Fish reminds us that even Milton, in his glorious paean to freedom of speech, *Areopagitica*, said essentially that freedom of speech is good for everyone but the Catholics.) Terms, such as "free speech" and "freedom of the press" are malleable and determined by what the "good guys" find correct right now.

At issue, and very much at the center of the discussions about First Amendment rights today, is interpretation, which is necessary because those fourteen words framed by our Founding Fathers are not at all crystal clear and were never intended, most scholars and legal critics would agree, to be taken literally to ban all limits on free speech.

Free speech, Fish says over and over again, is determined by political and historical considerations and nothing more: "We are all products of different histories; we are all committed to truths, but to truths perpetually in dispute."[5] "The line between what is permitted and what is to be spurned is always being drawn and redrawn" depending on its historical context and "[s]tructures of constraint are simultaneously always in place and always subject to revision if the times call for it and resources are up to it."[6] There is no such thing as fairness when it comes to the laws, because fairness is just another abstraction also based on different assumptions and background: "The truths any of us find compelling will be partial, which is to say they will be political."[7] Free speech, Fish says, is therefore just the name we "give to verbal behavior that serves the substantive agendas we wish to advance — a political prize."[8]

Fish spends a lot of time debunking what he calls liberal views on censorship. He insists, for example, that all specific free speech issues should be seen within broad contextual limits because we are inescapably bound by our "interpretive communities" (e.g., in the case of hate speech, the interpretive community is the university and its students and faculty). There is nothing neutral about free speech, he says, and we would do well to realize this and say that some speech is better than others and that *de facto* censorship is a fact of life. (It is on this assumption, the lack of neutrality, that Fish defends speech bans on campus, saying that we have to protect those who have been dealt with unfairly because "talk of equality, standards, and level playing fields is nothing more than a smoke screen behind which there lies a familiar set of prejudices rooted in personal interest."[9])

At issue for Fish, as for most critics of the First Amendment, is the issue again of interpretation, which he says is the tool of whatever group of people is in power and has authority at any given time. "The courts," he says, "are never in the business of protecting free speech *per se* ...; rather, they are in the business of classifying speech (as protected or regulatable) in relation to a value — the health

of the republic, the vigor of the economy, the maintenance of the status quo, the undoing of the status quo — that is the true, if unacknowledged, object of this protection."[10] The law is not formalistic — consistent, precise, or simplistic — and so it is always open to interpretation. All law is challengeable, although we must always remember, Fish insists over and over again, that "it is impossible not to interpret from an ideology or moral vision."[11] "Interpretation," he insists, "is the name for the activity by which a particular moral vision makes its hegemonic way into places from which it has been formally barred."[12]

Because of the dominance of interpretation, law has what Fish calls an "ad hoc quality," though he feels that this "doctrinal inconsistency," the "inability of doctrine to keep itself pure and precise"[13] is a strength rather than a weakness because it produces rhetoric: "The law is a discourse continually telling two stories, one of which is denying that the other is being told at all."[14]

What is needed, Fish says, is an ad hoc, case-by-case balancing of interests. You have to balance whether harms caused by offending speech (as in the case of hate speech on campus or pornography) might materialize, and if so, they must be weighed against harms produced by regulation. Again, Fish says, this will depend on the social and institutional context in which the speech is occuring. (There would be a difference between the public school and the university.) Furthermore, Fish says the weak, who are basically unempowered, tend not to be protected by freedom of speech. In terms of "hard cases" — campus hate speech and pornography, especially — Fish comes down "reluctantly and cautiously" on the side of regulatory actions: "Some of the things that the First Amendment, as now interpreted, allows, and by allowing, encourages, are worse than the scenario set out in *Fahrenheit 451*."[15] Furthermore, he argues, since nothing spoken is free from consequences, we have to "take responsibility for our verbal performances — all of them — and not assume they're taken care of by the Consititution."[16] There are risks in permitting speech that is harmful, and risks that may deny us art; but Fish is "persuaded that at the present moment, right now, the risk of not attending to hate speech is greater than the risk that by regulating it we will deprive ourselves of valuable voices and insights or slide down the slippery slope toward tyranny."[17]

Stanley Fish is really not the enemy of free speech. He says repeatedly that he would not regulate against it unless he felt that not to regulate it would cause more harm than to uphold the tenets of the First Amendment blindly. And, because speech is so tied to ideology and power, he believes that it is an impossibility: "The truth is not that freedom of speech should be abridged but that freedom of speech is a conceptual impossibility because the condition of speech's being free in the first place is unrealizable." Because all speech is informed by politics and ideology, he goes on, "there is no such thing as free (ideologically unconstrained) speech; no such thing as a public forum purged of ideological expressions or exclusions."[18]

Nat Hentoff, whom Fish calls (among others) a mouthpiece for a "very neo-conservative political agenda"[19] would heartily disagree with Fish's wavering, issue by issue, on First Amendment matters. Hentoff's thesis is that the First Amendment is essential to democracy and that its protection must be given to all people, empowered or unempowered, liberal or conservative, man, woman and child, no matter how popular or unpopular any of their views may seem to someone else. "The First Amendment wasn't drafted to protect bland comments, inoffensive criticism or popular ideas. It was adopted specifically to ensure that controversial speech is not squelched and, in particular, to protect the free discussion of ideas."[20] He would agree with Fish that there is a tendency in all of us to censor: "Censorship — throughout the sweet land of liberty — remains the strongest drive in human nature, with sex a weak second. In that respect, men and women, white and of color, liberals and Jesse Helms are brothers and sisters under the same skin."[21] But, and this is the gist of his book, though we believe in our own First Amendment rights, there is a tendency not to defend the rights of others whose views we oppose (e.g., anti-abortionists vs. free choicers) to speak openly and freely.

The essays in Hentoff's books deliberately work at dispelling the need to censor the hard cases—hate speech on campus, issues of political correctness, pornography, offensive literature for young people, offensive works of art—all the while championing the absolutist notion that "the Bill of Rights is for *everyone*, even the politically incorrect."[22]

He speaks of the tendency of campus administrations to protect the civility of the community over the right to free expression by installing speech bans barring certain people from speaking on campus as well as the desire on the part of many minority students, and women of all colors, who believe that the First Amendent must give way when hate speech is at issue, by saying simply and plainly that everyone, no matter how despicable his or her point of view, is entitled to free expression, however obnoxious and hurtful it may be.[23] Hentoff, who feels that speech bans don't work and serve mainly to make the university administration and minorities feel good "by creating and sustaining true equality on campus by eradication of speech that makes minorities, women and gays feel unwanted,"[24] thinks that political correctness — the politically correct intolerance of issues such as racism and sexism — is at the root of this evil.

He argues against Catherine MacKinnon's theory that hate speech and pornography are really Fourteenth Amendment (civil rights) issues rather than First Amendment (civil liberties) issues. The Fourteenth Amendment guarantees everyone equal protection under the law, and most Fourteenth Amendment cases are usually litigated as group rights rather than individual rights that the government must implement. But Hentoff argues that the First Amendment supersedes the Fourteenth. He also argues against the position, held by Fish and MacKinnon, that the unempowered are weaker and deserve more free speech than others and that members of these groups should get a little extra free speech. Hentoff says that in those communities that impose bans so as not to hurt the community, students are really being instructed to see themselves as "fragile victims," and that is not the way they will learn empowerment. It is wrong, he says, to think you can suppress certain kinds of unpopular speech because it does so much harm. The inviolability of the First Amend-

... freedom of speech is itself empowering because it opens young people to all points of view, the open marketplace of ideas.

ment is not to be tried because of it. The First Amendment does not say that freedom of speech is "limited only to ideas and symbols that further freedom, dignity, and nonviolence."[25] "If speech is to be free," he says, "there is always a risk that those who would destroy free speech may be sufficiently eloquent to use that constitutional freedom to end it."[26] That is a chance we have to take.

Hentoff's book is the only one of the three that discusses issues of censorship and free speech related to children. In his discussion of Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*, a book he has championed for many years, Hentoff uses the argument that freedom of speech is itself empowering because it opens young people to all points of view, the open marketplace of ideas. Hentoff cites very specifically many of the problems caused by the book's 160 instances of the word "nigger," and notes that indeed he understands that blacks believe that the book makes them feel unworthy and that some black children have been taunted by their white classmates because of it. He says that banning the book makes school systems feel that they have done the respectful thing to these kids and their parents. And he says that any and every child should have the right to say he or she is not willing to read the book, telling us that we (as adult teachers and librarians) have to be, above all, sensitive to to other people's feelings.

Hentoff says that we need to help children understand the book historically, to help them understand the context in which it was written and what Twain, whom he calls a humanitarian, was trying to say. The meaning of the book, Hentoff says, quoting an article by Russell Baker in the *New York Times*, is that the white adults in the book Huck encounters are all white and disreputable; ironically, the only character of honor is the black man, Jim. We underestimate the capacity of young people to think for themselves and to understand the satire and meaning of the book, he says, and we do not respect young people enough to allow them to talk and think for themselves. If we ban the book, if we restrict the flow of ideas through language, we show we do not trust readers to make up their own minds. We silence debate, the marketplace of ideas, which to Hentoff is the horror of regulating free speech — anyone's free speech. Learning new ideas empowers people.

Hentoff also discusses the inroads that have been made against children's free speech. *Tinker v. Des Moines* (1969) gave young people the right to protest the war in Vietnam by wearing black armbands to school, with the implication that the rights of everyone — even the young — were not to be abridged. It also protected their right to free expression in student newspapers with some limitations (e.g., the writing was not to cause substantial disorder in school and there was not to be obscenity). In 1988, however, school authorities were given the right to censor school-sponsored papers. Hentoff also notes the tendency on the part of some librarians to think that a little censorship is okay if some material is offensive or dangerous for children and young people. But, he says, attempts to control what anybody reads, and therefore thinks, though increasing across the country, is itself dangerous and should be stopped. The right to free speech as outlined in the First Amendment is a given for all citizens no matter what their beliefs, no matter what possible harm their beliefs, as expressed in language, might cause. For free speech to flourish, the good must be allowed with the bad. As Henry Louis Gates, Jr., so concisely put it, "When pluralism decided to let a thousand flowers bloom, we always knew that some of them would be weeds."[27]

Catherine MacKinnon's thinking on issues of the First Amendment is diametrically opposed to Hentoff's and Gates's. MacKinnon, a law professor at the University of Michigan, argues in her book, *Only Words* that pornography, which she defines as " the graphic, sexually explicit subordination of women through pictures or words,"[28] does not fall under the rubric of free speech. Because it is action rather than speech, and therefore a civil rights issue, pornography should be treated and litigated as such.

Her argument is: pornography is not just speech ("only words") that serves as an outlet for male sexual fantasies that should rightly be protected by the First Amendment free speech clause. Rather, it serves as a manual for men who use it to shatter women's civil rights by humiliating and subordinating them. The Fourteenth Amendment, rather than the First Amendment, should be invoked because women's equal rights have been abridged. Pornography should be treated as defamation rather than as an issue of discrimination. It is the ideas in pornography, not the words, that hurt: "Pornography (especially films) is not con-

Because it is action rather than speech, and therefore a civil rights issue, pornography should be treated and litigated as such.

stitutionally free speech,"[29] she says. Indeed, it is not speech at all. The First Amendment protects pornographers because it says the experience is one of thought. But, she says, the consumers of pornography do not want to think when confronted by pornography. They want to "live it out"; they want to be violent and act violently.

The issue of equality, or lack of it, is at the core of McKinnon's argument. She says: "What is wrong with pornography is that it hurts women and their equality."[30] "The Constitutional doctrine was developed without taking seriously either the problem of social equality or the mandate of substantive legal equality."[31] Those who lack equality, she says, lack power and need more protection. Some people — the powerful, she argues, as do many others, including Stanley Fish — get more free speech than others and are more legally protected.

As might be expected, MacKinnon detests the reflexive appeal to free speech, saying that when that occurs the government can make no judgment as to content. There are no "false ideas," just "offensive ones" that we cannot silence. The notion that in order to protect free speech we have to take the bad with the good is equally odious and wrong to her. "This approach is adhered to with a fundamentalist zeal even when it serves to protect lies, silence dissent, destroy careers, intrude on associations, and retard change."[32]

MacKinnon and Andrea Dworkin have proposed that there be city and state laws that would allow women to sue pornographers, writers, artists, and film makers of pornography, publishers of pornography, and sellers of pornography if they find a piece of literature, a film, magazine, etc., to be offensive and can make the Office of Equal Opportunity believe that they have been maligned. Fines can be levied, material can be removed, and an injuction ("a prior retraint") can be issued forbidding further dissemination of the book, magazine, record, media, etc. Though such a law passed in Indianapolis, it was overturned as a restriction of free speech, although, as MacKinnon argues, it is similar to a law endorsed lately by the Canadians in their newly formulated Charter of Rights and Freedom.

MacKinnon's theories are hotly discussed even among feminists who are unsure about the evidence linking pornography to systematic violence, citing that the data are more anecdotal than proven. The ACLU has opposed the bill when it has been discussed in various cities and states again on the inadequacy of the data linking pornography with crime and on the grounds that pornography as speech is protected by the First Amendment.

MacKinnon, however, remains adamant that what is needed now is a change in our thinking about First Amendment protection:

> We need a new model for freedom of expression in which the free speech position no longer supports social dominance, as it does now; in which free speech does not readily protect the activities of Nazis, Klansmen, and pornographers, while doing nothing for its victims, as it does now; in which defending free speech is not speaking on behalf of a large pile of money in the hands of a small group of people, as it does now. In this new model, principles will be defined in terms of specific experiences, the particularity of history, subtantively rather than abstractly. It will notice who is being hurt and never forget who they are. The state will have as great a role in providing relief from injury to equality through speech and in giving access to speech as it now has in disciplining its power to intervene in that speech that manages to get expressed.[33]

MacKinnon's argument is compelling because most thinking people find pornography abhorrent. Indeed, pornography, as well as hate speech on college and university campuses, freedom of written and artistic expression that is offensive to both individuals and groups of people, cross burning, and Nazi and Ku Klux Klan marches, are "hard cases," not easily defended.

A glance at some recently collected articles from the *News and Observer* and the *New York Times* does, indeed, give credence to the issue of the use of the First Amendment to say what we please. Some examples include: a University of Michigan student, jailed on charges of transporting threatening material across state lines because he published a sexually violent piece of fiction about a classmate on the Internet, who invoked the First Amendment, saying "I haven't harmed anyone. I think it is a violation of my First Amendment rights and probably several other rights;"[34] the state of Vermont, which voted down a resolution that would ban flag burning because it would "diminish the very freedoms and liberties for which the flag has stood for over 200 years"[35] (however, 45 states have urged Congress to pass an amendment on flag desecration); a local artist, who said her First Amendment rights had been abridged when a Raleigh art gallery asked her to remove a piece of art which is said to be "sexually offensive"; a letter to the editor of the *New York Times*, which complained that, in the case of the president of Rutgers University, who had made a careless remark about the ability of black students to do well on college entrance exams because of their genetic hereditary backgrounds, what is at stake is free speech: "The potential link between genetics and intelligence continues to be of public and academic interest, and it ought to be possible for reasonable people to talk about the subject freely, especially in a university setting, without rousing anybody's thought police";[36] and a radio station in San Francisco, which invoked its right to broadcast under the First Amendment after changing its format to conservative from liberal (declaring itself "the new voice of the city"), appalling politicians and gay-rights leaders who have been opposing the new

New thinking about the First Amendment clause indicates a move toward looking at the environmental context in which the speech takes place (e.g., the university or the public schools), focusing on who is the target audience for certain forms of speech, and always looking out for "fighting words."

station, insisting that it goes beyond poor taste and has crossed the line into inciting violence.[37]

While Nat Hentoff and Henry Louis Gates, Jr. would argue that it is a difficult time for First Amendment purists, and Catherine MacKinnon and probably Stanley Fish would argue that the current First Amendment thinking tends to be absolutist (with exceptions mentioned earlier in this paper), I think Cass Sunstein's statement that "[w]e are in the midst of a dramatic period of new thought about the meaning of free speech in America"[38] is most to the point. Critics of our current legal status are persuasive in their notions of group-based harms, such as those described by Catherine MacKinnon in terms of pornography and Stanley Fish in terms of hate speech on campuses. There is a perceived move to get the federal courts and the Supreme Court to take account of group particularity and of the inequality of certain groups. Furthermore, current social theory emphasizes that "expression which distorts or undermines self conception can be a serious social problem."[39]

Kathryn Abrams, in an article, "Creeping Absolutism and Moral Impoverishment: The Case for Limits on Free Expression," discusses some of the problems of the absolutist tendencies of the First Amendment, noting that this has "contributed to a climate where expression is overprotected, and members of the intellectual community are deterred from thinking systematically about how to reconcile expression with other norms—for example, respect for and recogition of politically marginalized groups."[40] New thinking about the First Amendment clause indicates a move toward looking at the environmental context in which the speech takes place (e.g., the university or the public schools), focusing on who is the target audience for certain forms of speech, and always looking out for "fighting words." What this does is focus more on the victim and the nature of the harm, which absolutist First Amendment readings disallow. "Such criteria pave the way to a system where a speech interest will be neither an icon nor a ground for moral judgment, but one factor to be placed in the balance with other, socially valued goals."[41] Hard cases, indeed, for librarians, who protect their readers', listeners' and viewers' rights to read, listen and view, to ponder with great care.

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Subtle Censors:
Collection Development in Academic Libraries

by *Mae Rodney*

"Intellectual freedom is the right of people to hold any belief whatever on any subject, and express such belief or ideas in whatever way the person believes appropriate... the second component of intellectual freedom is the right of unrestricted access to all information and ideas regardless of the medium of communication used."[1]

Facilitating free access to all information is primary to the mission of any library, especially an academic library. The basic purpose — to provide sufficient information for making informed decisions — is imbedded in academic library mission statements and collection development policies. Often, the parent organization's mission statement is the guide for the library's mission. These statements are the foundation for the objectives and specific policies included in collection development policies. Secular or state supported college/university libraries may have very general missions — the collection will support the curriculum, faculty research requirements, and general reading needs of the university community; whereas, smaller colleges or denomination-supported institutions may have more definite missions — support the curriculum and faculty research. The general purpose of mission statements should be to guide the collection development process toward clearly appropriate titles while avoiding questionable additions.

In a comprehensive academic environment, intellectual freedom is demonstrated by almost unlimited access to information, from the pros and cons of assisted suicide, to the availability of a variety of resources relevant to the controversy over *Daddy's Roommate*, to almost unlimited access to various formats. The objective — building collections that educate — is accomplished by collecting current, varied, and relevant resources on contemporary issues. Broader-based mission statements direct librarians to provide for the general reading interests of the university community. A very unusual opportunity, however, may arise when a questionable title is requested. Do librarians avoid purchasing that specific title because funds are not available?

In academic environments where the mission is specific — build and maintain a collection relevant to the curriculum — the issue of censorship may be clouded by adhering to a strict interpretation of the mission statement. Librarians must decide how "hot" topics such as the religious right or left, sexually explicit literature, or directions for the making of bombs will be addressed. When is it censorship? When is it building a collection that reflects the curriculum?

Libraries with limited budgets must review carefully every title added to the collection since a tight, useful collection is the goal. Budgets rather than policies ought to limit the quantity and variety of resources in academic libraries. Are there instances when the "budget" becomes a means of censorship?

Collection development methodologies further document librarians' belief that the library empowers patrons by providing sufficient balanced information for patrons to make their own decisions and possibly to improve their social conditions.[2] Democratic selection methods should be used to cover

Since budgets can prohibit acquiring extensive collections, and since hidden agenda may preclude the purchase of specific controversial materials, many libraries have embraced resource sharing to extend patron access to information.

adequately all aspects of the curriculum, including recommendations from subject bibliographers, selection committees, and faculty representatives. But are there cases when the thrust to support the curriculum becomes the overwhelming goal, rather than providing varied information for intelligent decision making?

Since budgets can prohibit acquiring extensive collections, and since hidden agendas may preclude the purchase of specific controversial materials, many libraries have embraced resource sharing to extend patron access to information. Resource sharing became an important component of library services when publishing rates skyrocketed, library funding decreased, and patron informational needs beyond the resources within one library increased. Today, resource sharing is so expected that national accrediting associations require statements that describe the provisions made to transport resources between libraries and/or the borrowing procedures visiting patrons must follow.

The formation of national bibliographic utilities, such as OCLC, which placed thousands of shelflist files online, increased access to all resources cataloged online. OCLC and other bibliographic utilities greatly increased the importance of interlibrary loan services by offering patron access to information located in libraries within and even beyond the United States.

The need for formal resource sharing arrangements between libraries beyond interlibrary loan is increasing because articles, books, and visuals are being accessed through sophisticated indexes, databases, and online catalogs. Businesses, such as *UMI Article Clearing House* and *CARL UnCover*, provide articles for a fee plus copyright charges. These services are excellent, but fees are often beyond what faculty and students are able or willing to pay.

Shared online catalogs also increase the significance of resource sharing because patrons can review catalog entries for several collections. The downside to shared databases is the fact that patrons are exposed to information that is not immediately accessible, thus leading to increased user frustration. Several North Carolina academic libraries are sharing databases, but only the three western UNC libraries (Appalachian State University, UNC-Asheville, Western Carolina University) supply patrons reliable, prompt access to titles listed in the shared databases in a cost effective manner. With today's diverse population, written resource sharing agreements that do not include a reliable, prompt means to transport desired resources are not sufficient. Librarians can no longer rely on the intent to provide access to information; instead they must devise realistic means of delivery.

As new formats are designed, production costs increase, and library funding shrinks, decisions about what information and which formats to acquire become increasingly difficult to make. With each new format, the problem broadens. Music is produced as scores, compact discs, tapes, and records in various speeds. Written information is generated in everything from books to videos to multimedia compact discs. The statistical probability of having the specific format desired by a patron decreases as the number of formats available for titles grows. In addition, the selection of the most appropriate format involves issues of durability, sound or visual quality, or entertainment quality. For example, libraries with large record collections now are faced with the task of finding record players and attempting to decide how the music will be preserved, transferred, and stored in a format that contemporary patrons can utilize.

Technology and varied formats can be used to offer more reliable access to current information and maintain balanced collections. For example, microfiche subscriptions can be used instead of traditional bound periodicals to maintain access to required journals. Combining microform reader/printers as companion equipment ensures high quality reproduction of articles.

The extent and variation of media formats cause many librarians to rely upon larger or specialized collections to give patrons access to video and films. Videos are excluded from many small collections because of the expense of purchasing and maintaining them. Some libraries must adopt this policy because budgets are so limited that any attempt to acquire newer media, even on a limited or controlled basis, would limit the number of books received and journal subscriptions maintained. Additionally, the varied subjects produced on videos can place some librarians in the position of determining the "appropriateness" of a title for a collection or using restricted access policies in their circulation.

Many librarians feel that the limited subject headings or access points that have been assigned to media have limited access to this information.

Because of the size of their budgets and the extent of their collections, large libraries have provided more information in varied formats to satisfy patron needs. They also have responded more effectively to patrons with unique physical needs. While they have purchased varied formats, they have not been able to solve adequately the problems of cataloging, indexing, and storing these resources. Processing and storage of media are not done with the same care and consistency as that of books. Many librarians feel that the limited subject headings or access points that have been assigned to media have limited access to this information.

Librarians committed to providing unrestricted access to information have devised indexes and catalogs to help patrons identify and locate media, as well as other resources in their collections. But the basic design of traditional indexes — using standardized subject headings and indexing a constant group of journals — immediately creates a barrier for patrons in locating current information. The subject headings used are not terms commonly considered by the

Either by omission or commission, much of the information about the world's minorities currently is being withheld from the average researcher because of the design of common indexing systems.

general public and are difficult to interpret. The chance that a patron will select the same heading as the indexer is slight.

Another limitation — indexing standardized journals — severely limits access to current and sometimes controversial information. Researchers in specialized areas such as Women's Studies, African American Literature, or African American History have difficulty locating information because the indexing of these topics is not sufficient and the journals that are indexed are not those that cover those subjects.[3] In the book *Unequal Access to Information Resources: Problems and Needs of the World's Poor*, Kay Klayman Brown describes indexes as obstacles to retrieving information.[4] Either by omission or commission, much of the information about the world's minorities currently is being withheld from the average researcher because of the design of common indexing systems.

New CD-ROM-based indexes have enhanced access to current resources significantly; patrons can search for information covering two to three years at one time using Boolean and keyword searching capabilities. Keyword searching eliminates the necessity of using standardized terminology. Full-text databases expand patrons' access to current literature and increase the chances of finding a desired article. In addition, CD-ROM full-text databases often provide patrons almost immediate access to articles without leaving the workstation. These databases are good, but they still limit access to current information because, again, publishers select titles included in the database; moreover, these titles often are the same as those found in traditional paper indexes.

Journals are a vital section of academic library collections, but the growing number of journals and escalating publishing costs have made journal collections difficult to control. Originally, serials collection development policies consisted of adding all titles recommended by faculty and maintaining subscriptions until titles ceased publication. Because of inflation, sustaining serial collections within the limitations of the budget is an awesome task. Serial collection development policies have been modified to direct expansion and ensure that collections mirror instructional programs while, at the same time, outlining review procedures for additions and cancellations from renewal lists. While the professed intent will be to provide the most useful serial collection within specific budget guidelines, subtle opportunities to shape academic collections and censor potentially controversial titles and topics will arise continuously.

The Internet has allowed information to be shared beyond the walls of the library at a faster rate than ever before.

Although technology in theory is bringing libraries closer to the goal of universal and equal access, the goal has become more elusive because of the vast amount of information produced.

Although technology in theory is bringing libraries closer to the goal of universal and equal access, the goal has become more elusive because of the vast amount of information produced.

Vice President Al Gore coined the term Information Superhighway in 1978. This concept has developed into a "seamless web of communication networks, computers, databases and consumer electronics that put a vast amount of information at users' fingertips." [5] One of the objectives of the Internet or Information Superhighway is to provide the general public with the information they need when they need it, but increased public access to information is unlikely because many people will not have access to computers and/or will not be able to afford line charges.

Internet users are already facing several urgent issues. Can users express their opinions without censorship? Can users remove unwanted comments and advertisements from the screen? Can "members" of informal user groups be banned from participating in the group without concerns for censorship?[6]

The Internet will, in theory, make more information available, but the audience will be smaller. A select group will view the Internet as a "world library and the individual library will simply be one information supplier among many."[7] Whitson suggests that the role of the local library will be to provide patron access to the resources needed via electronic means. In addition, the local staff will help patrons with "defining information needs, since the network of information resources will be more complicated and searching those resources efficiently will require experts."[8] He predicts that libraries will have basic collections that will be accessible without costs or subsidy, but many of the services and resources acquired through electronic means will require some form of cost recovery.

If too many libraries embrace an electronic means of disseminating and preserving information, the average citizen's intellectual freedom and the right of access to information will be controlled because a small group of people will determine what is included on the Internet. Decisions will be made based on limited information. '

Electronic publishing has generated some controversial points. Among them is the question of its role in the scheme of providing information to the masses. Scientists and researchers view electronic publishing as an excellent means to share research promptly with fellow researchers and to receive equally prompt feedback.[9] Critics indicate, however, that it allows information to be shared only among a select few. Controversy apart, electronic publishing has several short comings, including lack of indexing and adequate tamper-resistant security.[10] Also, very few people control which information is digitized, and information that is covered by copy-

If too many libraries embrace an electronic means of disseminating and preserving information, the average citizen's intellectual freedom and the right of access to information will be controlled because a small group of people will determine what is included on the Internet.

right laws is not generally accessible. Those persons with the money will "make the rules, and those who invest billions in the new digitized world will have control of access to knowledge and information, and limitation of intellectual freedom is boundless."[11]

Because of the information explosion, the varied formats used in publishing, and the introduction of electronic publishing into the information arena, the task of providing patrons with comprehensive access to information has become even more challenging. Adding in the factors of limited budgets and protesters, the challenges librarians must overcome to safeguard the public rights to have sufficient information for informed decision-making will be great. Although these issues are significant and the costs great, academic librarians must not abdicate their mission to provide sufficient written information to educate and inform the public. Building and sustaining comprehensive academic collections guarantees that intellectual freedom will be upheld. Libraries without extensive resources should, as a group, decide which ones will provide access to specific formats or highly specialized subjects, and design a reliable, efficient, timely means to transport information among libraries. These efforts are important and will ensure that the library mission to inform the masses continues to be met.

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POINT

"Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty"

(Attributed to Thomas Jefferson)

by Bill Roberts

At a time when government employees are under attack in Oklahoma City and Washington and Raleigh, when the NRA can issue a statement that "government officials" are "jack-booted terrorists" the librarian at least knows that his role in the defense of Intellectual Freedom is not only legitimate but also imperative as a defense for democracy. To turn our backs on fifty years of the progressive realization by the library world that every citizen deserves access to the world of knowledge and that each individual should have his or her right to make up his own mind as to what he wants to read, see, or hear, would be to turn our backs on the gains of an entire generation of Americans. The librarian stands at the doorway of the house of knowledge, preaching free access to every form of material and expression!

It was not always so. Early librarians tended to be censors — they wanted only the best books in the library. As a young director in Iowa in 1965, I threw out so many Arcadia and Avalon and Hardy Boy books that the Library Board of Trustees questioned the shrinking of the collection by the Director. Today the Forsyth County Public Library buys all of these books for their patrons without any questions.

If a librarian in 1970 lost his job defending Intellectual Freedom, he could go down the street and get another job, usually at no loss of salary. Losing your job and/or causing your library to lose its popular standing in the community are results that most library directors want to avoid. Second, a librarian has to decide how far he will go defending an unpopular topic. Most people will defend a librarian wanting to keep *Catcher in the Rye* in the library. Fewer people will defend Mapplethorpe and his photographs. Fewer still will defend a Ku Klux Klan exhibit in the local library; in fact, the defense of the Klan or the American Nazi Party can cost the support of other community liberals who would usually back Intellectual Freedom.

What should be the position of the librarian as we approach the year 2000? Most public and school librarians are members of a county or school bureaucracy that has a procedure for handling complaints or grievances. This procedure should be set out and known by all involved. In order for librarians to protect themselves, they need to make sure that their input is part of the total process, and that they do not stand out. They definitely must not be seen as opposing the School Board, the Library Board or the County Commissioners. Librarians make the points that need to be made, and should involve the Board Attorney or County Attorney for a legal opinion as well. Then they should accept the decision as made by the board, commission, or court.

Librarians basically are liberal. Librarians basically are fair people who want to provide a balanced view in every library, and most librarians came into librarianship because they wanted to help other individuals better themselves and prepare themselves for a place in our society.

We serve like the vestal virgins of Rome under a set of rules decreed by the American Library Association that are generally accepted by all. Librarians are expected to defend Intellectual Freedom, but they are no longer expected to lose their jobs over it.

Is Intellectual Freedom a legitimate issue for library professionals today? As libraries enter the world of the Information Highway, the World Wide Web, and the shrinking of the Planet Earth, the librarian stands in a place of honor: the guarantor of the Democratic way of life through the provision of all knowledge to all people. Yes, it is a legitimate issue!

COUNTER POINT

Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places

by Harry Tuchmayer, Column Editor

It's nice to know that the survival of democracy comes down to sex! After all, it seems that everything else in today's world does. In fact, librarians can sleep easy tonight knowing that their stalwart defense of the 616.85835's and that special project in beefing up the 616.96's will aid us not only in the pursuits of the flesh, but in the much loftier pursuit of intellectual freedom.

Don't misunderstand, I like sex — and I think you have the right to like it, not like it, or tell me that it's none of my business what you like or don't like. But what does any of this have to do with libraries and intellectual freedom? Can somebody please tell me how Doeena Renshaw's *Seven Weeks To Better Sex* contributes anything to the body politic? — Obviously, the body politic ain't what it used to be!

The pursuit of one's sexual pleasure has been called many things in the past, from perverse to liberating, but I've never heard it called an intellectual pursuit and quite frankly, I resent it! Intellectual pursuits may have changed somewhat over the years, but not that much. Titillating pictures, graphic descriptions of intimate acts, and other published works meant solely to arouse may have their place in bookstores and on nightstands, but not necessarily in the public library.

That doesn't mean there isn't a market for this material, nor does it mean that publishers should be prevented from selling or distributing such filth. Buying sexually explicit material, or even a good old "how to manual" on the finer points of lovemaking, may be perfectly appropriate purchases for individuals in need of advice, assistance, or just plain fun, but it's an inappropriate purchase for a publicly supported institution. Librarians can and should support "access to every form of material and expression," but it doesn't have to be free and available in the library.

In fact, try finding any good smut, pornography, or even a current sex manual in the library — you can't! Libraries don't buy these things very often, and why should they? Aside from the very practical reason that these books rarely, if ever, stay in your collection very long — in fact, you might as well just give then away — they just don't warrant the spending of precious dollars on inappropriate materials.

Librarians make purchasing decisions all the time, and rarely, if ever, do they decide to purchase this stuff. Is that censorship, or common sense? And if we are not buying it, then why are we always making such a loud noise about keeping it in the library? Isn't it hypocritical to argue that we stand firm against censorship when we quietly censor, by choice, materials we deem "inappropriate, too expensive, or of poor quality" according to one reviewer's opinion?

Intellectual freedom is not about the right to publish and display perverse and vile photos of a deeply personal act. It is, and has always been about the right to say and argue a point of view, about the right to take a courageous stand on issues of public meaning and importance, without fear of censorship and retribution. Perverts who hide behind this banner do the principles of intellectual freedom and librarians a disservice.

Isn't it hypocritical to argue that we stand firm against censorship when we quietly censor, by choice, materials we deem "inappropriate, too expensive, or of poor quality" ....

— Tuchmayer

Librarians are expected to defend Intellectual Freedom, but they are not expected to lose their jobs over it.

— Roberts

Wired to the World

— by *Ralph Lee Scott*

In keeping with the theme of this issue of *North Carolina Libraries*, "S*x in the Library," this edition of Wired to the World will cover a major free dating service available on the Internet. *American Singles* is a nationwide, nonprofit dating service run by Rich Gosse, who describes himself as "America's foremost authority on the Singles Lifestyle." Gosse, author of *How to Find a Lasting Relationship, The Singles Guide to America, A Good Man is Easy to Find*, and *The Divorce Book*, is a frequent guest on talk shows such as *Oprah Winfrey, Donahue*, and CNN. He also travels the lecture circuit. You can reach Mr. Gosse via e-mail at: **73125.11 35@compuserve.com**

American Singles can be accessed via MOSAIC or Netscape, at the **URL: http://www.apk.net/as/** . The *American Singles* Home Page contains links to five additional pages: Men Seeking Women; Women Seeking Men; a sneak preview at the *American Singles Picture Book*; instructions on how to respond to listings in *American Singles*, and an application for joining the *American Singles* nonprofit dating service. *American Singles* is a CNI (Coalition for Network Information) affiliate and displays its logo on its home page.

Joining *American Singles* is as easy as filling out an online registration form. The form requests the standard dating information: name, phone number, race, age, sex, occupation, education, children, height, weight, hair color, eye color; information about smoking, drinking, drug use; "three adjectives that describe me best are"; and type of relationship desired (dating, committed (I won't touch that one — WTW editor), and marriage). Similar information is requested about the person you are seeking: race; acceptable age range; minimum educational preference; smoking\drinking\drugs OK? Respondents also are asked to estimate how many miles away the person can live from them, and to describe the type of person they are seeking. Most information is provided on a voluntary basis by the applicant as desired. If you send in the form, you also are asked to certify that you are eighteen years old or older, single, and not currently in a "committed" (here is that word again!) relationship. *American Singles* is further authorized to release all information provided on the form, does not screen members, and assumes no liability regarding the dating of individuals. While the *American Singles* dating service is free, voluntary contributions from users of the service are accepted.

If you like, you can also send in a photograph and it will be included in a forthcoming *American Singles Picture Book*. A example of this picture directory can be seen by clicking on the "Sneak a peek" line on the *American Singles* Home Page. Three sample entries with photographs of the singles are included on this page. At this point you can cut to the chase (so to speak) and go to either of two pages: Men Seeking Women, or Women Seeking Men. Each of the these sections is organized by country, state, and then city. For example this week, there are two men in Arizona seeking women, the first listed is in Mesa, and the second is in Phoenix. Each gives his first name, race, age, occupation, the famous three adjectives that describe him best ("fun," "happy," "loyal" in the case of the Mesa guy), what he enjoys, and the type of relationship he is seeking. (No one is listed as: "dumb," "stupid," and "dull"; although one person lists himself as "mischievous" as a come on! Most are "stable," "loving," etc.) A typical entry follows: "Bobbi, Oakland, African-American, 59, Librarian, MA, 5'5/118, NS/ND, adventurous, genuine, serene, classy. Enjoys performing arts, read, walk. OPEN to D/O or C/R with SM, Black preferred, 50-65, HS+, NS/NA/ND, fit,stable, authentic, caring, kind, fin.secure; within 90 miles. W4954." Some international respondents are listed (this week Canada, Germany, and New Zealand), and this will no doubt grow as the number of Internet users increases. The person from New Zealand "enjoys hike" (sic!), and likes to travel and dance anywhere!

After you have made a selection from the list of people waiting to meet you in *American Singles*, there are three ways you can respond. One choice is by USNAIL MAIL to *American Singles*, 4 Highland, San Rafael, CA 94901. Using this method, you enclose a letter to the person using the code number giving in their listing. *American Singles* will forward the letter to the person unopened. A second way is through the Compuserve e-mail address: **73125.1135** which happens to be the address of Rich Gosse. A third way is through *Cupid's Switchboard*, which is a specialized telephone answering service with two methods of access. The first is a regular long distance toll charge call to 616-798-4887. Payment at this number is via major credit card. The second method of access to *Cupid's Switchboard* is through a 900 telephone number, 900-726-7136. The cost here is $1.95 a minute and calls can run up to ten minutes (that's $19.50 for those in the dumb and dumber category). In both cases *Cupid's Switchboard* will call the members you want to contact and give them your phone number. If they are available, they will either speak with you NOW, or call you back! (Oh, the wonders of this modern technology!)

While there are many other dating services, some very specialized, available on the Internet, *American Singles* claims to be the only ***free*** service currently available! Some others found on a recent Lycos search include: *The CyberStore*

Dating Service (**http:// www.gate.net/marketplace/Dating-Service.html**); *The Ulti-Mate Dating Service* (**http://www.primenet.com/~jekagan/dating/**); *The NETCENTER-DATING CENTER* (**http:// netcenter.com/cetcentr/dating/index.html**); and *The Alternative Lifestyle Dating Service for Bis* (**http://www.cs.colorado.edu/homes/mcbryan/public_html/bb/715/10/summary.html**). *The Dating Center* ad reads, alas, "Win a free trip to Mexico or Hawaii. Guide to the Best in the Nation. Find IT Faster – Interactive Yellow Pages! Females are admitted FREE! ...Please send pictures where the lighting is bright, such as an outdoor situation, with the sun behind the camera, so that ..."

The author hopes that Wired to the World readers enjoyed reading about *American Singles* and the many other dating services available to library patrons with Internet access. Other articles in this "S*x in the Library" edition of *North Carolina Libraries* will help you deal with some of the access issues raised by unbridled patron Internet passion in the Library. And you thought all those people were looking at Internet library catalogs!

Instructions for the Preparation of Manuscripts for *North Carolina Libraries*

1. **North Carolina Libraries** seeks to publish articles, materials reviews, and bibliographies of professional interest to librarians in North Carolina. Articles need not be of a scholarly nature, but they should address professional concerns of the library community in the state.
2. Manuscripts should be directed to Frances B. Bradburn, Editor, **North Carolina Libraries**, Media and Technology, State Dept. of Public Instruction, 301 N. Wilmington St., Raleigh, NC 27601-2825.
3. Manuscripts should be submitted in triplicate on plain white paper measuring 8 1/2" x 11" and on computer disk.
4. Manuscripts must be double-spaced (text, references, and footnotes). Macintosh computer is the computer used by **North Carolina Libraries**. Computer disks formatted for other computers must contain a file of the document in original format and a file in ASCII. Please consult editor for further information.
5. The name, position, and professional address of the author should appear in the bottom left-hand corner of a separate title page. The author's name should not appear anywhere else on the document.
6. Each page should be numbered consecutively at the top right-hand corner and carry the title (abbreviated if necessary) at the upper left-hand corner.
7. Footnotes should appear at the end of the manuscript. The editors will refer to The Chicago Manual of Style, 14th edition. The basic forms for books and journals are as follows:

   Keyes Metcalf, Planning Academic and Research Library Buildings (New York: McGraw, 1965), 416.

   Susan K. Martin, "The Care and Feeding of the MARC Format," American Libraries 10 (September 1970): 498.

8. Photographs will be accepted for consideration but cannot be returned.
9. Upon receipt, a manuscript will be acknowledged by the editor. Following review of the manuscript by the editor and at least two jurors, a decision will be communicated to the writer. A definite publication date cannot be given since any incoming manuscript will be added to a manuscript bank from which articles are selected for each issue.
10. **North Carolina Libraries** holds the copyright for all accepted manuscripts. The journal is available both in print and electronically over the North Carolina Information Network.
11. Issue deadlines are February 10, May 10, August 10, and November 10. Manuscripts for a particular issue must be submitted at least 2 months before the issue deadline.

North Carolina Books

Dorothy Hodder, Compiler

On January 5, 1862, twenty-year-old George Job Huntley wrote his friends and relations back home: "I have not read nary letter from home since I come to camp. I have been dreaming a good deal about home for several nights and would like to hear from you all."

George Job Huntley of Rutherford County and and Montgomery County's Burwell Thomas Cotton were former school teachers in their early twenties when they joined North Carolina's 34th regiment; neither man lived to become a veteran. As a part of Stonewall Jackson's "Light Division," the 34th served in every major battle fought by the Army of Northern Virginia, from the Seven Days Battles to Appomatox Court House. In their letters home, these two men reveal the excitements, boredom, fears, and general misery of camp life and battlefield. Cotton, commenting on the battle at Chancellorsville, wrote, "It was the most horrible sight I ever beheld. The battle field was burned over & the dead & wounded were burned badly." Huntley told those back home that "the death of a man here is nothing more than the death of a hog, or at any rate not much more." Huntley, who thought Goldsborough was the "nicest place I ever saw in my life," began writing home requesting summer clothes on March 20, 1862. He finally received them, covered in honey that had leaked out of another container in the package, on July 23, 1862. The letters do reveal a few lighter moments. Cotton, who received his new set of drawers in December 1863 (and hoped that they would "last longer than the war"), told his sister in a March 1864 letter that he was "very sore having been engaged in snowballing for two days." He assured her "it was fine sport but I think I have pretty well paid for my part."

Michael W. Taylor.

The Cry is War, War, War: The Civil War Correspondence of Lts. Burwell Thomas Cotton and George Job Huntley, 34th Regiment North Carolina Troops.

Dayton, Ohio: Morningside,1994.
194 pp. $30.00 plus $2.50 shipping and handling.
ISBN 0-89029-321-X.

Michael W. Taylor's compilation of these letters home contains a brief history of the 34th, a good index, twenty-five photographs (twenty were of men mentioned in the letters), and six battle maps. His footnoted annotations consist primarily of individuals' service records gleaned from standard sources such as Clark's *N.C. Regiments*. Succinct notes in the text provide a valuable historical framework for the letters—the explanatory notes never overwhelm the correspondence. A more thorough discussion of the original letters themselves, however, would have proved helpful. Future researchers will be left to wonder if they were a part of larger sets of family papers or, for that matter, where they currently reside.

In his last letter written on June 17, 1864, Burwell Thomas Cotton told his sister, "I fear the end of the war is a long way off." It wasn't for him; he fell six days later. Just as George Job Huntley had expectantly awaited news from home during his first months of service, readers will quickly flip to each letter, waiting to hear from the young lieutenants.

Works such as these give a voice to history.

— *Thomas Kevin B. Cherry, Rowan Public Library*

John Hairr.

Bizarre Tales of the Cape Fear Country.

Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina: Triangle Books, 1995. 88 pp. $9.95. ISBN 1-884570-17-8.

This little book contains nineteen short stories, averaging four to five pages in length, culled from the history of the Cape Fear region. Unfortunately readers expecting the bizarre, as promised in the title, are likely to be disappointed. Mr. Hairr is a faithful reporter of local traditions that surely are common in many areas, including a river rafter who fell in the water, a patriot who fell afoul of Lord Cornwallis, a construction worker entombed in the poured concrete of a bridge pier, and not one but two operations that were successful but for the fact that the patient died. Even those tales that could make some claim to bizarreness, like "The Murder of a Tory Captain" or "When Flesh and Blood Rained Down," suffer in the telling. Hairr is not a storyteller, and his conscientious, unembellished presentation of the few facts available on these cases adds up to curious anecdotes of local interest, but not blood-chilling stories with wide appeal.

Recommended for comprehensive North Carolina history collections.

— Samantha Hunt, New Hanover County Public Library

Barbara Wright.

Easy Money.

Chapel Hill: Algonquin Books, 1995. 390 pp. $18.95. ISBN 0-945575-63-7.

Jay (short for Jacqueline) Winbourne, Barbara Wright's feisty heroine, is too old for her years. She and her father Jack raised each other after her mother died of a ruptured blood vessel in the brain when Jay was five. Jack Winbourne ought to be writing plays, but, lacking confidence in his writing, he trades penny stocks instead. He devotes intense study to developing trading systems that he then lacks the confidence to follow, and loses money steadily. While still in high school, Jay has become skilled at juggling creditors and manuevering around her father's mood swings. When he confesses that he has lost her college fund trying to recoup other losses, however, she breaks away and moves from their home in Colorado to New York City to try life on her own.

In the course of exploring the city, Jay falls for Russ, a jazz pianist fourteen years her senior with a history of serious drug abuse, and takes him as her first lover. She is lucky enough to find work as a secretary for Yang Byung-suk, a highly cultured Korean novelist, blind from birth, who is writing his autobiography. Jay was an indifferent student in high school, but Mr. Yang's wide-ranging interests and scholarly discipline prove to be a good stand-in for the college education she is missing, and provide a strong contrast to Russ's and Jack's wasted talents.

The other solid influence in Jay's life is her North Carolina grandmother, Leeta Mae, source of family history, quilts, love, recipes, and values. Jay's and Jack's visits home to the relatives they regard as hopelessly unsophisticated provide a great deal of the charm and humor of the book. Although Jay is not conscious of having much in common with her country Mimmaw, she has grown up to be much the same sort of nurturer, taking care first of Jack and then Russ. She lacks her grandmother's balance, however. Even though she remains relatively unchanged as Russ grows bitter about his musician's income and turns to serious drug dealing and using, she suffers a breakdown after they break up and he subsequently goes to prison. Her father, who has at long last taken himself in hand and resumed writing (with his mother as heroine), comes to New York and nurses her back to health.

Jay, a creative person drawn to creative people, expresses herself primarily through junk sculpture. As she observes her father, Russ, and Mr. Yang at work (or not), she learns a great deal about art as work worth doing. Barbara Wright has written a satisfying coming of age novel, skillfully tracing Jay's slow transition from a naive girl, constantly imposed on by others, to a young woman with a sense of what she wants to learn and accomplish for herself. The descriptions of North Carolina are particularly evocative.

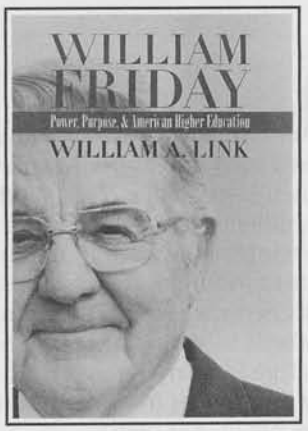
Recommended for high school and public libraries.

— Dorothy Hodder, New Hanover County Public Library

William A. Link.

William Friday: Power, Purpose, and American Higher Education.

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1995. 494 pp. $29.95. ISBN 0-8078-2167-5.



In the 1970s a national news reporter visiting North Carolina came to the conclusion that "This is Bill Friday country." That brief statement was indicative of the power and influence that William C. Friday, President of the University of North Carolina (UNC) from 1956 to 1986, wielded within his native state. A man of patience, dedication, and dogged persistence, Friday attained his influence by using his low-key personal communication skills to reach compromise and consensus with others rather than by riding roughshod over them.

During Friday's tenure, UNC weathered the infamous Speaker Ban Law, the emergence of the UNC system (including the controversy over the East Carolina University School of Medicine), the Vietnam War and campus activists' protests, and a protracted struggle with the federal government over integration policies. While dealing with these major challenges, Friday also worked on a national education panel under President Johnson and played a major role in bringing the National Center for the Humanities to the Research Triangle Park.

While this book contains many of the standard elements of a biography, William A. Link, a professor of history at UNC-Greensboro, has written about more than just the facts of Friday's life. This book is also a history of UNC and the UNC system as it changed during the thirty years of Friday's leadership. At the same time, it is an examination of the local, state, and national politics that swirled around Friday and UNC. It is at the intersection of these points that Professor Link's narrative rises to the level of high drama and captures the reader's attention. For example, by using meticulous scholarship, Link is able to create a "You Were There" feeling for the reader as he describes the intricate movements behind such events as the Speaker Ban Law or Governor Scott's 1969 proposal to send the National Guard onto the UNC-Chapel Hill campus.

This is an excellent work that all academic, community college, and public libraries will want to add to their collections. It presents a particularly balanced view of the era of Bill Friday's UNC presidency that is well written and documented. The volume has an extensive bibliography, a comprehensive index, and is illustrated with black-and-white photographs.

— John Welch, State Library of North Carolina

Other Publications of Interest

The second volume of ***The Papers of Zebulon Baird Vance***, edited by Joe A. Mobley, is now available from the North Carolina Division of Archives and History. Its publication is notable not only because it covers 1863, Vance's first full year as Civil War Governor of North Carolina and a crucial year in the history of the Confederacy, but also because it has been in process for three decades under several different editors. (The first volume, edited by Frontis W. Johnston and covering the years 1843-1862, was released in 1963.) Major defeats at Gettysburg and Vicksburg, along with public dissent and unrest over conscription, desertion, inflation, shortages, tax in kind, impressment, speculation, Federal raids, and fear of insurrection, all added up to widespread disillusionment with the war in North Carolina during 1863. Vance's papers paint a vivid picture of a governor torn between his people's fears and hardships, and his own loyalty to the cause of Southern independence. Contains an index and calendars of documents included or omitted in this volume. (1995; Historical Publications Section, Division of Archives and History, 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27601-2807; xxxix, 436 pp.; $35.00, plus $3.00 postage and handling; ISBN 0-86526-262-4.)

Another popular sport in North Carolina is described in Jerry Bledsoe's first published book, ***The World's Number One, Flat-Out, All-Time Great Stock Car Racing Book***, just released with a new introduction in a 20th Anniversary Edition. Bledsoe explains how stock car racing got started and why, and explores the charisma that keeps drivers and fans coming back for more. (1995; Down Home Press, P.O. Box 4126, Asheboro, NC 27204; 335 pp.; paper, $13.95 plus $2.00 for shipping and $.84 tax for NC residents; ISBN 1-878086-36-7.)

The fourth edition of Dr. Bertram Hawthorne Groene's guide, ***Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor***, includes revised and updated information on important source books, state and national archives, and forms necessary to trace the military history of a Civil War veteran. It also offers information about the National Park Service Civil War Soldier's System, scheduled to premiere in 1996, that will offer parts of the army records of Union and Confederate soldiers on computer at National Park Service Civil War commemorative sites. (1995; John F. Blair, 1406 Plaza Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27103; xii, 130 pp.; $14.95; ISBN 0-89587-123-8.)

Daniel Barefoot of Lincolnton, North Carolina, spent fifteen years exploring the state's 301-mile-long coastline and writing the local history and stories he collected. At the end of his journey he had a single-spaced 1,147-page manuscript weighing fifteen pounds. John Blair, Publisher, took on this mammoth work and has transformed it into the latest additions to its popular *Touring the Backroads* series, ***Touring the Backroads of North Carolina's Upper Coast*** and ***Touring the Backroads of North Carolina's Lower Coast***. Reminiscent of the WPA guides of the 1930s, these guides are rich in the history, legends, and ghost stories of the region's largest cities and most obscure country roads. They are broken down into marvelously detailed tours that travelers could cover in a long weekend, and are illustrated with black-and-white photographs and detail maps. Each has an appendix of addresses, a detailed bibliography, and an index. The writing is exceptional, avoiding the real estate gush and the monotonous listing of hours and prices of the run-of-the-mill travel guide. While locals will, of course, note minor mistakes, they will most likely say that Barefoot has done their corner of the coast justice. Few readers will pick these up without feeling the impulse to toss them into a bag and hit the road. (1995; John F. Blair, 1406 Plaza Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27103; xiv, 365 pp. and xiv, 363 pp.; paper, each $15.95; ISBN 0-89587-125-4 and 0-89587-126-2.)

In his introduction to ***Country Roads of North Carolina***, Glenn Morris notes that "North Carolina has more country roads than you have time." This slim volume is a companion to exploring a very few of them, in nine areas scattered from the mountains to the Outer Banks. Morris's comfortable philosophy is "if you don't have to be somewhere, you can't get lost," but he provides detailed directions to exploring each area, with telephone numbers for local attractions at the ends of the sections. No maps are included, but beautiful pencil drawings by Cliff Winner make this a very attractive book. Indexed. (1994; Country Roads Press, P.O.Box 286, Lower Main Street, Castine, Maine 04421; xi, 157 pp.; paper, $9.95; ISBN 1-56626-067-1.)

Scarcely a quarter of the year goes by without at least one new book about fishing in North Carolina, a topic of apparently unlimited interest. This time it's ***Fly Fishing in North Carolina*** by Buck Paysour, author of *Tar Heel Angler* and *Bass Fishing in North Carolina*. This folksy mixture of advice and anecdote includes lists of places to fish and order fishing tackle, books to read, addresses for more information, and an index. Senior fly fishermen will appreciate the large print format. (1995; Down Home Press, P.O. Box 4126, Asheboro, NC 27204; 288 pp.; paper, $14.95 plus $2.00 shipping and $.89 tax for N.C. residents; ISBN 1-878086-38-3.)

Horseback Riding Trail Guide to North Carolina, by Martha Branon Holden, fills a real need for public libraries, especially in areas where this sport is popular. In addition to listing trails in North Carolina National Forests, Parks, and Seashores; State Parks, Forests, and Natural Areas; Game Lands; and Regional Trails, it also briefly lists local trails in Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. The first section outlines basic trail guidelines, including rules, safety, and horse restraint, while the final sections detail first aid for horses and riders, and camp recipes. Includes maps and photographs, lists of sources of information and gear, bibliography, and index. (1994; Bandit Books, P.O. Box 11721, Winston-Salem, NC 27611-1721, available from John F. Blair, 1406 Plaza Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27103; xiii, 258 pp.; paper, $11.95; ISBN 1-878177-06-0.)

Loyal Jones and Billy Edd Wheeler have published their fourth collection, ***More Laughter in Appalachia: Southern Mountain Humor***, packed with jokes, anecdotes, poems, riddles, songs, and other artifacts of Southern wit. (1995; August House Publishers, P.O. Box 3223, Little Rock, AR 72203; 218 pp.; paper, $10.95; ISBN 0-87483-411-2.)

Out of the Closet, But Not on the Shelves:
North Carolina Gay and Lesbian Newspapers

by *Thomas Kevin B. Cherry*
in collaboration with *Plummer Alston Jones, Jr.* and *Rodney E. Lippard*

In 1947, using carbon paper and the office typewriter, a young Los Angeles secretary produced nine issues of *Vice Versa*, the first lesbian publication in American history. Although she could only produce ten copies of each edition, these copies were passed from friend to friend, reaching dozens, perhaps hundreds of women, all eager to read about themselves and others like them. When told by a friend that she shouldn't be "publishing" this work, that it might even get her arrested, the secretary replied, "Why? I don't mention the city it's from. I don't mention anybody's name. And it's not a dirty magazine by any stretch of the imagination." Her friend replied that even though *Vice Versa* had no "cuss words or anything like that in it," the newsletter would still be considered dirty by straight people because it was about the "girls."[1]

The friend had good reason to offer this warning. In 1924, Chicago's Society for Human Rights published the journal *Friendship and Freedom*, the first U. S. gay publication. The organizers were summarily arrested on obscenity charges.[2] Thirty years later, the October 1954 issue of *One*, a Los Angeles gay publication then nearly two years old, was seized by the local postmaster for being "obscene, lewd, lascivious, and filthy." The issue's cover story was on the law of mailable material. The resulting legal case went to the U. S. Supreme Court which cleared the magazine, but offered no written opinion.[3] This controversial history is reflected in the holdings of gay and lesbian newspapers in North Carolina libraries.

North Carolina can claim three gay and lesbian newspapers: *Community Connections*, *The Front Page*, and *Q Notes*. A recent phone poll of the ten public libraries in the state serving the largest populations found that not one had a single issue of these publications on its shelves. A similar survey of North Carolina college and university libraries showed almost the same results. Duke began collecting *The Front Page* in 1989 and Wake Forest in 1994. Only the North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill maintains full runs of *The Front Page* and *Q Notes;* it just began collecting *Community Connections*.[4] No other college or university reported holdings of these publications. Like those Los Angeles women in the 1940s, there must be a number of gays and lesbians in North Carolina seeking information about themselves and others like them, but unlike the slim carbon copies of *Vice Versa* that attempted to meet those women's needs, these three North Carolina publications are professionally produced, widely distributed, and cover a broad spectrum of information: news articles (both from wire services and staff-written), features, commentary, resource directories and announcements, reviews (books, music, theatre), and even cartoons.

One of the more important services offered by these three publications is their listings of gay and lesbian events and resources that are covered by very few, if any, other publications. Here one finds the pertinent information regarding gatherings such as the NC Gay and Lesbian Attorney's Spring meeting, the Charlotte Gay and Lesbian Film Series, a performance by the Common Woman Chorus, meetings of Gay Fathers, and a country western two-step dance. Here musicals, plays, book signings, and other cultural events find column space alongside listings of HIV services and "gay friendly" houses of worship. Resource directories list the telephone numbers to various North Carolina religious bodies, educational associations, and various support groups and twelve-step programs. The numbers, varieties, and locales of groups and associations in these lists might surprise first-time readers (e.g. the Lambda Amateur Radio Club in Fairview and a gay and lesbian political potluck in Kernersville). In a world where few other media sources dare to speak the names of these organizations, these few lines of typescript provide the only real publicity and notice groups such as these get.

Since few readers of these publications subscribe and most pick them up free of charge in clubs, restaurants, and bookstores, a hefty portion of the cost of publication is borne by advertising. All three periodicals carry advertisements ranging from real estate ads to church announcements and from caterers to pet groomers. A large percentage of these ads come from bar and club promotions. Among the notices of drink specials, theme nights, and burlesque shows are photographs of high-haired female impersonators, campy comedians, and other performers. Sometimes a full-page and often a double-page spread, the ads regularly feature photographs of young, muscular men in their underwear, much like the photograph of rap singer Marky Mark that was plastered throughout America's shopping malls a year or two ago. Personal ads and "1-900" phone lines also generate revenue for all three newspapers. These personal ads are slightly more explicit than those that

*La•gniappe (lăn-yăp´, lăn´ yăp´) n. An extra or unexpected gift or benefit. [Louisiana French]

The Front Page. Raleigh, NC: Bugle Publishing, Inc., 1979- . Bimonthly. P.O. Box 27928, Raleigh, NC 27611. E-mail: **frntpage@aol.com.**

The Front Page is the oldest of the three publications at sixteen (and only three years younger than North Carolina's oldest gay publication, *Lambda*, the newsletter of UNC-CH's gay, lesbian, and bisexual group). It carries the greatest number of news wire pieces of the three. With compilation columns devoted to North Carolina, national, and world news, as well as items originating from the GayNet News Service, this Raleigh-based publication is filled with brief, one- or two-inch pieces with titles such as "Sex Ed Debate Flares in McDowell County," "HIV Protein Discovery," "Idaho Group Planning Another Ballot Measure," and "Australian Gays Win Partner Benefits." In addition to these short squibs, *The Front Page* does publish staff-written news items, primarily concerning North Carolina-based or regional events. "Chapel Hill Recognizes Partnerships" and "Triad Political Group Forms" comprised most of the first page of the April 28, 1995 issue. This same issue contained a two-page interview with Candace Gingrich, half-sister to Newt Gingrich, and a chapter from *School's Out*, a soon-to-be-published work that chronicles the experiences of gay/lesbian/straight alliances in the Chapel Hill and Brookline, Massachusetts public schools. *The All American Boy*, memoirs of Scott Peck, son of Marine Col. Fred Peck, was also reviewed in this issue. *The Front Page* offers commentary, with editorialists in this same issue covering the Oklahoma bombing and Conservative-induced homophobia. It also publishes three cartoons, all with national distribution: "The Chosen Family," "The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green," and "Dykes to Watch Out For."

Q Notes. Charlotte, NC: Pride Publishing & Typesetting, 1986- . Monthly. P.O. Box 221841, Charlotte, NC 28222. E-mail: **Pridtype@cybernetics.net.**

The Charlotte-based publication in the trio, *Q Notes* contains wire service pieces, as well. These articles concentrate on national issues and tend to be fewer, but longer items with headlines such as "White House to Meet with Gay and Lesbian Officials." *Q Notes* also carries the most staff-written material of these three North Carolina newspapers. Its May 1995 issue featured articles written by staff concerning the Clinton military policy, the fire at the White Rabbit Book Store in Charlotte, and the second National Miss Gay Pageant held in Atlanta. Commentary in the issue touched upon subjects including the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, community involvement, and a piece on self image and beauty. It also carries a column prepared by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) that tracks the portrayal of gays and lesbians in the media. In addition, the May issue of *Q Notes* contained a short music review of "Message of Love," a European dance house mix and one cartoon, "Curbside."

Community Connections. Asheville, NC: Community Connections, 1988- . Monthly. P.O. Box 18088, Asheville, NC 28814.

The smallest of the three newspapers and the only nonprofit publication of the bunch, *Community Connections* has the look of a nonprofit with its wide leading and large type. It carries no wire service reports, and most of its articles are localized to the southern Applachian region. Coming out of Asheville, this newspaper has a wide range of distribution that extends to most of western North Carolina and parts of Virginia, Tennessee, and South Carolina. It is also distributed in Atlanta. Features comprise a higher percentage of the articles in *Community Connections* as compared to the two other publications. "Springtime in the North Carolina Mountains," "Timberfell Lodge, a Paradise for Men in the Southern Appalachians," and "Lodging In and Around Asheville," were headlines associated with the three most prominent articles found in the April 1995 issue. News articles included "Pat Robertson Announces Antiviolence Stands on Air" and "Asheville Gay Father Makes History." One regular column, "Boots and Saddles," keeps track of the gay and lesbian country western activities in the area. The April issue also contained a review of a recently released jazz disc, Tom Briggs's *Moonlight*, and one comic strip, "Dykes to Watch Out For."

appear in Raleigh's *News and Observer* and the Research Triangle's newsweekly, *The Independent*. *The Front Page*, which runs the greatest number and most explicit of these types of ads, attempts to segregate most of this sort of advertising to one classified "pullout" section, allowing readers not wishing to peruse these items to dispose of them easily. *Community Connections* actively edits such ads to reflect the standards of mainstream publications.

Libraries and librarians do not need to be sold on the importance of newspapers in a community's life; they recognize their cultural importance and the often unique information found upon the tall, flimsy pages. As just one example of this recognition, during the last several years the North Carolina Newspaper Project has gone to great lengths to attempt to preserve Tar Heel newsprint for future generations. In the case of these three alternative newspapers, however, it is apparent that libraries are not providing access to all of the resources that they generally champion.

And, as it was in 1947 Los Angeles, so it is in 1995 North Carolina: most readers of gay and lesbian newspapers get their copy from a friend who borrowed it from an acquaintance who just happened to visit some out-of-town nightspot.

References

[1] Eric Marcus, *Making History: The Struggle for Gay and Lesbian Equal Rights, 1945-1990, An Oral History* (New York: HarperPerennial, 1993): 6, 10.

[2] Polly Thistlethwaite and Daniel Tsang, "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender" in *Magazines for Libraries*, edited by Bill Katz and Linda Sternberg Katz (New Providence, NJ: R. R. Bowker, 1995): 745-58; and John D'Emilio, "Dreams Deferred" in *Making Trouble: Essays On Gay History, Politics, and the University* (New York: Routledge, 1992): 34-35.

[3] Marcus, *Making History*, 2.

[4] The ten public libraries serving the largest populations were determined from the State Library's *Statistics and Directory of North Carolina Public Libraries, July 1, 1992-June 30, 1993*. The ten largest college and university libraries in the state were determined by number of books, as listed on the State Library's North Carolina Information Network (NCIN). Phone calls were made to the local reference desk, except in cases where the call was forwarded to the periodicals unit of the library. Individuals on the staffs of these newspapers did state that their publications were sent to some of the libraries contacted.

North Carolina Library Association
Minutes of the Executive Board

April 28, 1995

Members of the North Carolina Library Association Executive Board and guests met in the media center of East Mecklenburg High School on April 28, 1995, at 9:30 a.m. President Gwen Jackson presided. The following Executive Board members and committee chairs were present: Augie Beasley, Margaret Blanchard, Frances Bradburn, Joan Carothers, Wanda Brown Cason, John Childers, Cynthia Cobb, Martha E. Davis, David Fergusson, Nancy Clark Fogarty, Janet L. Freeman, Richard Fulling, Dale Gaddis, Beverley Gass, Gwen Jackson, Gene Lanier, Judy LeCroy, Maria Miller, Sandra Neerman, Christine Tomec, John Via, and Cristina Yu. Also attending were Vice Chairs Carol Freeman, Phyllis Johnson, Karen Perry, and Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin.

President Jackson thanked Augie Beasley who serves as media coordinator at East Mecklenburg for serving as host for the meeting. Principal Eugene Hawley welcomed the group.

Christine Tomec was introduced as the new administrative assistant for the association. Ms. Tomec began work in mid-January.

Minutes of the January 20, 1995, meeting were approved as was the Treasurer's Report.

Christine Tomec presented the Membership Report showing a current total of 1712 members. On December 31, 1994, 1804 memberships expired. Renewal notices have been mailed twice. As of this date 1146 have renewed their memberships. One hundred forty-nine new members have been received into the association in 1995.

President Jackson congratulated Frances Bradburn, Editor of *North Carolina Libraries*, for the recent announcement that *NCL* has won the 1995 H. W. Wilson Award. A blue ribbon was presented to Ms. Bradburn as a symbol of this honor.

Committee Reports

AIDS Materials Awareness Committee: Frances Bradburn reported that the committee will meet in June. A Friday morning program is being planned for the NCLA Conference in October.

Conference Committee: The NCLA Biennial Conference will be held in Greensboro October 2-6, 1995. David Fergusson reminded board members that the conference theme is *Libraries Link Lives*. In May a postcard will be mailed to association members, with full registration information being sent in August. Registration fees for the conference are the same as in 1993. Members are urged to make hotel reservations as soon as possible in order to get conference rates. The Program Committee has secured Hiram Davis, Deputy Librarian of Congress, as speaker for the Ogilvie Lecture. The Touring Theatre Ensemble of Greensboro will perform for the Friday luncheon. Those with suggestions for Table Talks should contact Waltrene Canada. SIRS will sponsor a gala reception from 5:00—7:00 on Thursday evening. Because of space limitations, exhibits will be in place on Wednesday and Thursday only. Helen Tugwell is in charge of local arrangements and has secured a dining room at Guilford College as site of the Executive Board Dinner.

Finance: Beverley Gass distributed a written report that told of the committee's meeting on April 7, 1995, to revise a draft of procedures that govern NCLA operating funds. This document is being written to define budgetary practice as NCLA moves to a system of fund accounting. Under the new system the administrative assistant will have more involvement in fiscal matters. Conference funds procedures will be developed as well as procedures for restricted funds that are managed by sections and committees. Ms. Gass asked that two forms be completed and returned to her by May 26, 1995—one asking for input about restricted funds and one regarding section accounts. Karen Perry noted that two areas of concern are the handling of conference funds and the delivery of cash to the administrative assistant. She also asked whether the reconciling of bank statements by the past president would be difficult under the new procedures. Janet Freeman answered that this should not be a problem. Ms. Perry expressed concern about the procedures regarding investments. Chair Gass responded that an Investments Subcommittee would probably be needed to make recommendations on this topic. She said that there would be further revision of the NCLA Financial Procedures statement and that the Finance Committee would meet again in early June. President Jackson asked that board members be notified of the revision by e-mail and asked the administrative assistant to print and distribute a list of board members' e-mail addresses so that there could be correspondence about this matter.

Governmental Relations: Carol Southerland was not present, but President Jackson reported that plans are well under- way for Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. on May 9, 1995.

Intellectual Freedom: Gene Lanier presented a written report detailing activity of this committee for the first quarter of 1995. He is serving on the ALA committee to formulate a new interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights. The committee hopes to finalize its work at the ALA Conference in Chicago in June. The Chair urged all those who are using or planning to use the Internet to formulate an Acceptable Use Policy. He and Frances Bradburn will present a program on this topic in Chicago.

Membership: John Via distributed a list of those recommended by the committee for special honors to be awarded at the Biennial Conference. Frances Bradburn made a motion that "NCLA Membership Committee recommendations for Life Membership, Honorary Membership, and NCLA Distinguished Library Service Award be accepted as presented." Dale Gaddis seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously. Chair Via offered NCLA posters with attached membership forms to any who wanted to distribute them. Such posters have brought in 23 new members in the past two years. Cynthia Cobb asked if minuses in the current membership report were to be expected. Christine Tomec responded that the decline in April was expected; figures should climb by July. President Jackson said that letters promoting NCLA membership have been sent to both ALA and SELA members who live in North Carolina but are not currently NCLA members.

Publications: Sandy Neerman reported that committee members met in Matthews on April 18, 1995. Since the committee now incorporates two former groups (Publications and Marketing), discussion centered around how the two will work together. Other topics were conference planning and the Pass the Buck campaign.

Special Projects: Patrick Valentine was not present, but President Jackson pointed out that the committee has been hard at work approving grants for the Biennial Conference.

Reports of Work Groups

Intellectual Freedom: Gene Lanier stated that the group has met all of its benchmarks.

Organizational Issues: Janet Freeman

distributed a report that showed the combined section and round table responses to a survey measuring reaction to the five vision statements formulated by the work groups. The report was for information only and required no action. Chair Freeman asked that board members reflect on the survey results.

Personnel: The work group had no formal report, but David Fergusson noted that there seems to be a current trend toward reducing professional staff in the public libraries of North Carolina. President Jackson asked that the Personnel Work Group investigate this situation and report to the board.

Technology: President Jackson said that the progress of NCLA-L and the growth of the Technology and Trends Round Table both reflect the work of this group.

Other Reports

North Carolina Libraries: Frances Bradburn thanked the board for financial and personal support that has enabled the journal to win the H. W. Wilson Award for the 1994 publishing year. She noted that there were some problems of distribution with the last issue through no fault of the *NCL* staff.

ALA Councilor: Martha Davis gave a report on the ALA Midwinter Conference held in Philadelphia in February. A record number attended. The hot topic for discussion was ALA Goal 2000 which includes a recommendation for a $25 dues increase to be spread over three years in order to support the work of the Washington Office. The issue of the composition of ALA Council was debated in round table discussions at the conference. In the general session it was decided not to address the issue at this time. Whenever the matter is introduced at general session Councilor Davis will present the NCLA recommendation which was approved in January, 1995, regarding election of at-large Council members.

SELA Representative: Nancy Clark Fogarty presented a written report with information on the SELA Leadership Workshop held in Atlanta March 24-25, 1995. The October conference in Charlotte was successful financially, and attendance was good for a stand-alone conference. The 1996 Conference will be held in Lexington, Kentucky. Since the decision about the 1998 Conference is not final, board members were presented the following motion by Ms. Fogarty: "...that the NCLA Executive Board inform me by vote of its preference for the location of the 1998 SELA Conference, with the choices being Greenville, SC, and Little Rock, AR." Janet Freeman seconded this motion. Board members voted to support the Greenville location, and President Jackson asked that Ms. Fogarty vote accordingly.

Section and Round Table Reports

Documents: Rich Fulling noted that the section's spring meeting will be Friday, May 12, at North Carolina State University. Title of the session will be *Electronic Processing of Federal Documents: An Update on What North Carolina Libraries Are Doing.*

Library Administration & Management Section: Dale Gaddis reported that the section met on March 17. Plans were finalized for the NCLA Conference program. There will be a preconference session presented by Abigail Hubbard using LAMA's Leadership Survival Kit. In addition, three conference programs are planned. The Ropes Course scheduled for April 6 was canceled due to insufficient number of registrations. A meeting was also held on March 17 to plan the first biennial NCLA Leadership Institute which will occur in 1996. The institute will be modeled after the Snowbird Institute offered in Utah, and participants will be limited in number and selected for diversity and leadership potential. Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin has agreed to co-chair the steering committee for the Institute; another co-chair is yet to be named. The next meeting of the section will be on June 16 in Durham.

NC Association of School Librarians: Augie Beasley informed board members that the 1996 NCASL Conference will be held August 7-9 in High Point. The NC Department of Public Instruction will provide assistance for this conference. NCASL plans to have one-day meetings in August the years of NCLA conferences.

NC Public Library Trustees Association: John Childers said that the association has been working on its conference program. There will be a newsletter issued by mid-May.

Public Library Section: Margaret Blanchard reported that the Planning Committee met in Asheboro in February to discuss the program for the Biennial Conference. A reporter for National Public Radio will be speaker. The committee will meet again in May in Greensboro. The emphasis in the North Carolina public library community is on the support of legislation that would increase state funding from $10.9 million to $18.5 million. Bills to this effect have been introduced in the current General Assembly.

Reference & Adult Services Section: Bryna Coonin was unable to be present but sent a written report. The RASS Board met on March 10 in Durham. The Spring Program was held on April 28, 1995, at UNC-Charlotte and was entitled *Tool or Toy: The Role of Internet in Information Services.* Planning continues for the RASS program scheduled for the Biennial Conference.

New Members Round Table: Maria Miller reported that the round table's Internet workshop in November was successful. The conference program will be on the subject of customer service.

NC Paraprofessional Association: Joan Carothers told board members that author Tim McLaurin will speak at the Biennial Conference.

Round Table for Ethnic Minority Concerns: Cynthia Cobb stated that the Executive Board met March 31 in Greensboro. The round table will celebrate its anniversary at the Biennial Conference. Nominations are being sought for Roadbuilders Awards. Chair Cobb asked David Fergusson when awards would be presented at the Conference, and he responded that the Thursday General Session would include an awards ceremony.

Technology & Trends Round Table: Cristina Yu spoke about the teleconference on the subject of copyright to be aired May 1 at several sites around the state. Five sponsors have helped to underwrite cost of the teleconference: the *Winston-Salem Journal,* the *Charlotte Observer,* Faxon, UMI, and Yankee Book Peddler.

Old Business

John Via reminded board members of the motion passed in October that would offer free membership to the New Members Round Table to all those joining the association. He questioned how this membership would be funded until it could become a part of the budget. The amount agreed upon to provide the New Members Round Table with $2.00 per new member, and Christine Tomec reported that approximately 200 persons would qualify for the free membership. Mr. Via offered to provide funds for this from the Membership Committee's budget as long as the total amount did not exceed $500. President Jackson thanked the Membership Committee and asked that a letter be written to all new members saying that they have automatically become members of the New Members Round Table. David Fergusson asked that all new members with e-mail addresses also be automatically added to NCLA-L.

New Business

President Jackson presented a request from the Public Library Association asking that NCLA endorse their 1998 meeting to be held in March or April in Charlotte. Margaret Blanchard stated that the NCLA Public Library Section would support this endorsement and made the following motion: "NCLA endorse PLA to be held in Charlotte, NC in March 1998." David Fergusson seconded this motion. The motion was carried.

In regard to the *Proposed Revision of the ALA Code of Professional Ethics* dated February 7, 1995, President Jackson requested the Board's endorsement. David Fergusson made the motion that "NCLA endorse the ALA Code of Professional Ethics. (Revised 2/7/95)." Augie Beasley seconded this motion. The motion was carried.

President's Report

President Jackson thanked board members for much hard work. In the current issue of *North Carolina Libraries,* she has asked for feedback on three specific questions and she asked that board members give them consideration. The questions are:

1) Has NCLA made progress in realizing the visions that were established at the beginning of the biennium?
2) Does NCLA need to chart a new course or change direction to accomplish our goals?
3) Do we as members of NCLA need to renew our commitment to NCLA and to the profession?

The report of the Task Force on Governance is not complete but will be distributed to Executive Board members prior to the July meeting when it will be submitted to a vote. If passed, it will be presented at the Biennial Conference for approval by the membership.

Next meeting of the Executive Board will be July 21, 1995, in Greensboro.

Respectfully submitted,
— Judy LeCroy, Secretary

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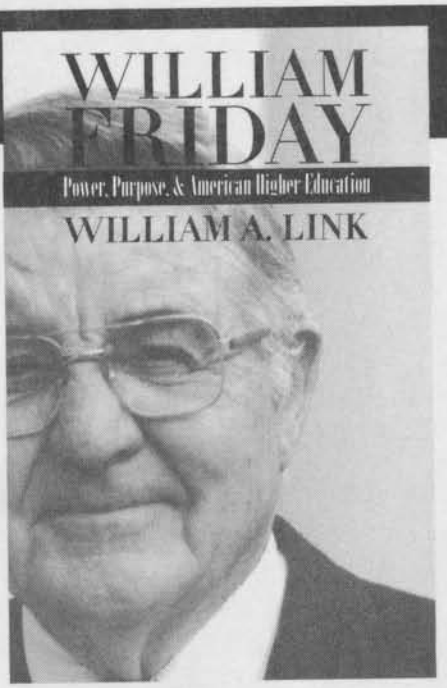

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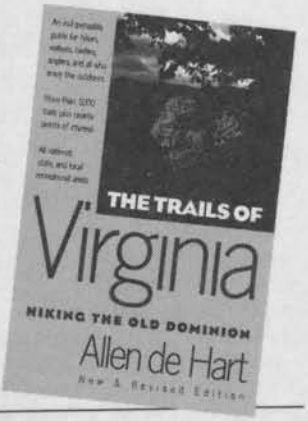

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