

# Social Responsibility Round Table) Newsletter A LA

January 1982

Number 62

A Challenging Perspective on Contemporary Psychiatry; An  
Interview with Leonard Roy Frank

by Doris Kirschbaum

"Mental illness\* is a pejorative label used to justify the social control of selected individuals through involuntary psychiatric interventions. Those affected are troubled or troublesome people who have not violated any laws and therefore cannot be criminally prosecuted and imprisoned, but whose ideas and actions, values and life styles, threaten established power relations.

The task forces within SRRT reflect a concern for the oppressed minorities in our society. Leonard Roy Frank, activist in the psychiatric inmates liberation movement, believes that the so-called "mentally ill," are society's most silenced and brutalized minority.

In 1962-63, for a period of eight months, Frank was involuntarily committed to a psychiatric facility and underwent a combination of 50 insulin coma and 35 electroconvulsive treatments. For six years after his release, he read and studied in order to regain the knowledge that he believes had been destroyed by the shock treatments. In 1972, he joined the staff of "Madness Network News," an alternative publication, and thus began his protest against the oppression of psychiatric inmates and others who fall within the control of the psychiatric establishment. Two years later, he and a friend, Wade Hudson, co-founded the Network Against Psychiatric Assault (NAPA), an organization which they felt could be effective as a political weapon in the fight against involuntary commitment.

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Forum for the Future of Literature: Librarians Group Report

4. The proposed Writers' Society or a similar agency publish a Minnesota small press review-and-bibliography journal.
5. MLA, the American Library Association, and other groups provide free exhibit space at annual conferences for small and alternative non-profit producers and distributors, these to be selected or invited by a Literary Round Table or some other appropriate body.

Education for Librarians

We recommend that:

1. Library school regular and continuing education curricula immediately include segments on the independent press, the national trend toward publishing conglomerates, and the increasing manipulation of reading tastes.
2. OPLIC, in conjunction with the writing and publishing community, conduct small press workshops throughout the state.
3. Library schools sponsor a colloquium on small press publishing in Minnesota, the proceedings to be published.
4. MLA and MEMO (the Minnesota Educational Media Organization) undertake ongoing

Leipzig Meeting of International Federation of Library Associations,  
Social Sciences Section approves renewal of Working Group on Peace  
by Elizabeth Morrisett

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