

Social Responsibilities Round Table Newsletter flirt

April 1982

Number 63

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INSIDE:

- Off Our Shelves: Agent Orange and the Progressive P
Directory, p. 3
- Cut-Backs: Reaganomics and Librarians, p. 4
- Labor: Professional Goals and Union Representation,
Bibliography: Criticism of Psychiatry, p. 6

QUICK NOTES

PHILADELPHIA '82

Since SRRT will have no hospitality suite at Philadelphia, the SRRT booth can be used to give and receive messages. Volunteers are needed to greet visitors to the booth and to answer questions. If Task Forces want items to be displayed at the booth, either single copies for display purposes or multiple copies for distribution, samples should be sent to the booth managers for planning purposes. Send names of volunteers and/or sample items to:

William J. Calaway
Head, Adult Services
Arlington Heights Memorial Library
500 N. Dunton Avenue
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

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TASK FORCE COMMITTEES

ALA requires minutes of all meetings. Send the minutes of your Denver task force meetings to the SRRT Coordinator,

Barbara J. Pruett
2734 Ordway St. N.W., Apt. 1
Washington D. C. 20008

for forwarding to ALA.

SRRT STATE AFFILIATES

The SRRT Constitution states:

An Action Council consisting of ten SRRT members plus a representative from each task force selected by that task force, plus two members from state affiliates upon their approval by Action Council shall constitute the coordinating body for the Social Responsibilities Round Table.

Action Council is interested in identifying SRRT state affiliates and having them serve on the Council. Please send information about your group and names of those members who are interested in being part of the Action Council to:

Barbara J. Pruett, Coordinator
2734 Ordway St. N.W., Apt. 1
Washington, D.C. 20008

THE SRRT NEWSLETTER

is published 4 times a year. Manuscripts and letters pertaining to editorial content should be sent to the editor at the Enoch

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AGENT ORANGE

What is the Effect of Reaganomics on Librarians?

by Donna L. Nerboso, Sanford V. Lenz Library
Cornell University NYSSILR

Labor

PROFESSIONAL GOALS AND UNION
REPRESENTATION
by Joan Higbee, speaking to
members of the National Librarians
Association

Tenure quotas, lay-offs, dilution of professional work with clerical tasks followed by job audits and down gradings, statistical standards of production for cataloguers that lead to ten-hour days and weekends at the office, academic status requirements that include research, writing and teaching in addition to library duties but offer limited professional leave and no sabbaticals -- these realities of existence threaten the well-being of many librarians. While documenting their scope of their expertise, library professionals should simultaneously learn pragmatic skills that will enable them to respond assertively when faced with sustained insecurity, demotions, systems based upon piece-work production and publish or perish syndromes. Acceptance of collective bargaining, combined with full legal rights of contract enforcement, mean that librarians assume responsibilities inherent in shaping the contractual environment of their work environ-

Only by fusing the knowledge of those goals and objectives that distinguish their profession with negotiating skills at the bargaining table can librarians truly defend their right to function as fully productive human beings. Sections in union contracts that are written to assure time for professional reading, writing, and

conference attendance are needed to prevent burn out and assure the individual librarian's identification with librarianship as a whole. The impact of standards for on-the-job performance must be carefully monitored by unions so that quantifiable forms of production are not used improperly in cost/benefit analysis to deny professional leave and restrict staff to endless days of repetitive tasks.

In coming to terms with their own needs, librarians may prove a creative force within the union movement. How, for example, will we use grievance proceedings and arbitration to enforce earned rights to a professional existence and honest merit-promotion systems? What legal support will we require and receive from our unions? What percentage of our dues will be returned to us in union services?

Through collective bargaining with management and the careful evaluation of union services, organized librarians earn the self-reliance and assurance that comes from taking responsibility for devising pragmatic strategies to further

professional ends. Librarianship and unionization have a symbiotic relationship -- they support and reinforce each

other when synthesized by librarians determined to defend the dignity of their profession.

Compiled by Leonard Roy Frank, August, 1981

Peter Roger Breggin, *Electroshock: Its Brain-Disabling Effects* (New York: Springer, 1979). Based on his personal examination of six electroshock victims and an extensive review and analysis of the literature, a Washington DC psychiatrist exposes the fraudulent claims of shock proponents that their procedure is safe and effective.

, *Chemical Lobotomy* (New York: Springer, in press). Breggin applies his brain-disabling thesis to psychiatric drugs, especially the major tranquilizers, with equally devastating effect.

Doug Cameron, *How to Survive Being Committed to a Mental Hospital* (New York: Vantage, 1979). A former inmate's frightening account of being institutionalized in Texas.

Judi Chamberlin, *On Our Own: Patient-Controlled Alternatives to the Mental Health System* (New York: Hawthorn, 1977). An outstanding book about the system and what to do about it by a leading activist in the psychiatric inmates liberation movement.

Phyllis Chesler, *Women and Madness* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1972). A feminist psychologist's study of the damaging effects of "mental health" treatment on women.

Bruce Ennis, *Prisoners of Psychiatry: Mental Patients, Psychiatrists, and the Law* (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1972). Using his own experiences defending "mental patients," an ACLU attorney reveals the nature of psychiatric injustice.

Michael Foucault, *Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason* (New York: Random House, 1965). A French philosopher's study of madness from 1500 to 1800.

Leonard Roy Frank, ed., *The History of Shock Treatment* (Self-published: 2300 Webster St., #603, San Francisco, CA 94115, 1978). Through more than 250 chronologically arranged excerpts from the literature a shock victim traces the history of one of psychiatry's most dehumanizing procedures.

Jant and Paul Gotkin, *Too Much Anger, Too Many Tears: A Personal Triumph over Psychiatry* (New York: Quadrangle, 1975). A young woman and her husband's moving, personal account of her being caught up in the psychiatric system.

Sherry Hirsch, et al., eds., *Madness Network News Reader* (San Francisco, New Glide, 1974). A spirited collection of articles, poems, and letters-to-the-editor --many from the early issues of *Madness Network News*--in three sections: "The Madhouse," "The Cure," and "The Resistance."

Ken Kesey, *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* (New York: Viking, 1962). This story of a thousand-faced hero who gets lobotomized for standing up against psychiatric tyranny is --in Kesey's words--"the truth even if it didn't happen."

(continued on next page)

