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To: SRRT Members

From: Linda Pierce, SRRT Coordinator

It appears to be time for the review of the annual conference. Virtually all of the Task Forces sponsored some type of program and were well received and attended. (See: Task Force News)

STATEMENT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE to  
SUPPORT THE COUNCIL ON INTERRACIAL  
BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

The culturally pluralistic press performs an important role in librarianship, unifying and educating the profession around the themes of racial, sexual, and personal diversity, including choices of politics, religion, and lifestyle. It points the profession toward a direction not always taken seriously.

Publications such as *Interracial Books for Children Bulletin*, the organ of the Council on Interracial Books for Children (CIBC) and many others, provide diversity of voice and access, and encourage cultural pluralism. Yet we hear voices which would discourage these tendencies.

We hold that the CIBC has, since 1966, been doing what teachers and librarians should have been doing for many years - namely, reaffirming the freedom, dignity, and quality of the individual citizen, on which our democratic government is based. While exposing the hidden biases against racial groups, women, people who are "different," as seen in books for children, CIBC has enlarged its scope to include discussions of militarism and homophobia, and has sponsored writers from targeted groups. In addition, CIBC has provided extremely useful bibliographies and guidelines for librarians interested in the positive aspects of peoples outside the American mainstream.

We have learned, each in our own ways, that discrimination pervades mainstream American culture, and that our institutions, including libraries, reflect this fact. We are not content with this discrimination, however, and call on librarians to examine their own preconceptions in these matters. Some of us have moved away from a position of bewilderment and anger at CIBC, through a self-criticism followed by a better understanding of the critical position taken by the Third World, feminist, gay, and disability rights activist contributors to the *Bulletin's* pages. As librarians, editors, writers, we have known the temptation to

believe we were intellectually "pure." But unlike Galileo's contemporaries who could not believe that there could be spots on the "pure" Sun, and therefore blamed the dirt in his telescope, we believe that even an uncomfortable truth is worth listening to.

If it were clearly understood that criticism that makes the hearer uncomfortable is not censorship, we might help, as librarians, to reduce the strangeness of Americans to each other, while giving each group its best chance to express its "right to be different," to borrow a phrase of Lillian Smith.

We call attention to positive discussions of the CIBC and *Bulletin* Editor, Bradford Chambers, in recent issues of *Technicalities*, the *SRRT Newsletter*, and *Sipapu*, and invite librarians to read these documents.

Above all, we resent the implication, wherever expressed, that criticism by the oppressed is simply another form of censorship. While many of us are "mainstream Americans," all of us have learned from criticism of this sort. We therefore call for a transformation of public values.

As practicing librarians committed alike to intellectual freedom and to social responsibilities, we denounce all smear attacks against CIBC. We express our support for its continuing efforts:

to sensitize teachers, librarians, writers, and publishers to racism, sexism, and other anti-human biases in children's media;

to promote truly multi-cultural unbiased literature; and

to produce resources on vital but widely neglected topics like militarism, the Ku Klux Klan, homophobia, and Central American oppression.

(Continued on p. 4)

STATEMENT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE

(Continued from p. 3)

No other organization has done these things so well or so long as the Council on Interracial Books for Children. We invite the profession to give them support.

Noel Peattie, Winters CA  
Joan Goddard, San Jose CA  
Marlene England  
Marjorie Joramo  
Bonnie Jo Dopp, Washington DC  
Vincent Jennings  
Patricia Case, Philadelphia PA  
Zoia Horn, Berkeley CA  
R. Dean Galloway, Berkeley CA  
Elizabeth Morrisett, Butte MT  
Em Claire Knowles, Davis CA  
Sanford Berman, Hennepin County MN  
Janice M. DeSirey, Hennepin County MN  
Gretchen M. Wronka, Hennepin County MN

## HELP NEEDED TO...

### Find new members

This is the year to bring new members to SRRT. Surely it is the last worthwhile bargain. The \$5.00 membership fee affords opportunities to meet other concerned librarians and to keep informed of timely topics through the worthwhile and interesting Newsletter. Now is the time to increase our membership. Let's each one of us get one new member this year. Have you seen the new brochures explaining the functions and concerns of

the parable of the captured goose who confidently (but naively) took the fox to court. As the goose looked around the courtroom it discovered that the sheriff was a fox and "the judge, he was a fox, and the attorneys^ they were foxes, and all the jurymen /sic7, they were foxes too." In the realm of communication, the editor, as Bontemps noted, is apt to be a fox. "The publishers, like as not, could turn out to be a fox. The critics who review the book, the editors and publishers of the publications that carry the reviews, they're foxes." The sales people, booksellers, selection committees are often far too homogeneous to remember that the public is multiracial and multicultural.

The two Los Angeles meetings of the GTFstf-jsl

Since the features that Bontemps describes are largely structural features in librarianship, they need not be viewed as inherently resistant to change. But the beliefs in both white superiority and male superiority are more pernicious and more difficult to challenge by means of programs. In *The Second Sex*, Simone de Beauvoir gives some insight into why social change can be so easily thwarted: "It is always difficult to describe a myth; it cannot be grasped or encompassed; it haunts the human consciousness without ever appearing before it in fixed form. The myth is so various, so contradictory, that at first its unity is not discerned...."

Despite the difficulties, the Civil Rights Task Force has this agenda:  
1) highlighting well-researched materials on social history and thus counteracting misinformation; 2) educating professionals and non-professionals about stereotyping; 3) encouraging power sharing and multicultural input in book selection and evaluation.

Donnae MacCann, Member  
Civil Rights Task Force

\*\*\*\*\*









# EN issues task for NEWSLETTER

FALL 1983 NO. 5

DR. HERB GOLDBERG WITH MITF AT ALA LOS ANGELES

The first MITF-sponsored program at an ALA summer conference was presented Sunday, June 26, 1983, at the Los Angeles Convention and Exhibition Center with Dr. Herb Goldberg as the featured speaker. Dr. Goldberg's title was, FROM THE HAZARDS OF BEING MALE TO THE NEW MALE TO THE NEW MALE-FEMALE RELATIONSHIP: IS THE MEN'S MOVEMENT REALLY HAPPENING? This, taken from the titles of three of his books, a trilogy, follows a progression of his thinking through his research as a psychologist and his clinical practice.

According to Dr. Goldberg, the question is an illusive one. Men's issues are human issues. These do not lend themselves well to external type movements. How does one march in the streets about the fact that he doesn't have a friend, can't express emotions, is body destructive and has undergone conditioning which has destroyed his sex life. A man is part of the men's movement: if he is coming to the awareness of what his masculine conditioning has done to his life and the inevitable end points and impasses to which it leads him; if he is sometimes taking yoga instead of football; if he sometimes is drinking carrot juice instead of beer; if he is giving his male buddies a priority in his life; if he is refusing to relate to the women in his life on the basis of protectiveness and guilt; if he does not label himself hatefully in a sexual situation; if he gives vent to his emotions; if he refuses to be a work machine; or if he cultivates his playful side. The men's movement is the rehumanization of the male.

What we are talking about is not male or female but rather feminine versus masculine defense systems. Being born male or female subjects us to conditioning which kills off some of our defense systems. Masculinity kills off the human side of males and exaggerates the power side. The male becomes the actor. The

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