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Mitchell-Powell—contributing editor of *American Libraries*,
joined Chris and Cathy in what Brenda called “a review slam.”

Librarians around the World (Hanover, Germany, Laurentius, 1997, distributed by CRISES Press); alternative books and periodicals from other publishers; and t-shirts featuring the front-and-back-cover illustrations of next year's 8th ed. of Berman and Danky's *Alternative Library Literature*. Sales and requests for samples of these items, while not brisk, were somewhat encouraging. A big new AIP banner helped draw people's attention. Chuck D'Adamo designed a joint APC/AIP/CRISES Press flyer. Flyers for *Progressive Librarian* were also distributed. On Sunday after their presentation "Watching the Left, What Librarians Need to Know," Michael Parenti and David Barsamian spent an hour or two at the booth talking with visitors and signing copies of their books.

In a setback, production of the second (April) issue of AIP's new review journal *Counterpoise*

ENVIRONMENT IN THE NEWS

for the solutions to unprecedented problems.” It is hoped that this TFOE program helps to stimulate an interest in sharing the harvest and to prepare a banquet feast for the hungry.]

Fred Stoss served as moderator of this program and provided an introduction to this information session. He provided a brief historical background of the contexts through which our current information needs have evolved.

Jerry Curry <jwcurry@utkx.utk.edu>, from the Energy, Environment, and Resources Center at the University of Tennessee and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, discussed the role of NASA’s Earth Observing Systems Distributed Active Archive Centers as a source of global change information.

Donna Alward <donna.alward@ciesin.org> and Joe Schumacher <joe.schumacher@ciesin.org>, from the Consortium of International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) and the Global Change Research Information Office, further described the coordinated access to global change data and information resources through the CIESIN Gateway.

Anne Frondorf <Anne_Frondorf@nbs.gov>, at the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII), detailed efforts already underway in creating a national biological information infrastructure.

Susan Jover <jover@us.net>, Vice President at the Congressional Information Service, described Environment Abstracts and their efforts as a private-sector vendor in an environmental information infrastructure.

Jacques Kapuscinski <Kapuscinski.Jaques@epamail.epa.gov>, from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, provided a review of the environmental information programs of the EPA and demonstrated the activities of the EPA Library Network, a national information network of libraries and other specialized information programs of the agency.

Fred Stoss <fstoss@acsu.buffalo.edu>, TFOE Chair and Associate Librarian at SUNY Buffalo, presented information on the efforts to create a National Library for the Environment within the proposed National Institute for the Environment (NIE).

Cynthia Lopez <clopez@lff.org>, Advocacy Director for Libraries for the Future (LFF), described LFF’s ongoing

activities in promoting public libraries’ services, collections, programs, and other resources for the environmentalist.

Environmental Education Resources for the 21st Century:

TFOE MEMBERS SURVEY

This has no bearing on your status as a member of any of these affiliations: TFOE, SRRT, or ALA. TFOE would like to get an updated list of its members. ALA maintains no such records of task force members.

If you receive the *SRRT Newsletter*, you are a member of SRRT. If you are not now a member of TFOE, please indicate your desire to join by sending me your name, postal address, and email address.

Are you a member of ALA? Yes No

Are you a member of SRRT? Yes No

Are you a member of TFOE? Yes No

Name:

Address:

Email address:

Return this information to:

Fred Stoss
Science and Engineering Library—Capen Hall
SUNY Buffalo
Buffalo, NY 14620-2200
fstoss@acsu.buffalo.edu

—Fred Stoss
TFOE Coordinator

GAY, LESBIAN, AND BISEXUAL V

Record numbers were present at all GLBTF events during ALA's Annual 1997 San Francisco Conference. Commendations go out to the local arrangements committee headed by **Chet Mulawka**. Over 80 queer librarians marched in the San Francisco Gay Pride Parade. More than 450 people attended the social sponsored by the San Francisco Public Library. The annual program, "No Kid'in Around: Womyn's Press in the New Millenium," cited in *Library Journal* as a "must see" program, had over 130 attendees! This was an excellent follow-up to the bang-up second annual GLBTF Book Awards Breakfast where seating was at full capacity.

GLBTF NEWSLETTER

The newsletter is back on a regular publication schedule. If you have items of interest that you would like to see included, email the editor, **Cal Zunt**, at: mzunt@phoenix.kent.edu. We will be happy to include items as space allows.

Volunteer with the GLBFT: If you're interested in assisting with planning activities (or any other committe work) for Midwinter in New Orleans in January 1998 or for the events for Annual '98 in Washington, D.C., please contact **Michael Miller** at: miller@columbia.edu. He will be happy to direct you to the correct committee chairperson.

BOOK REVIEWS

If you are interested in reviewing books for the GLBTF newsletter, contact **Barb Stevens** at: stevenbr@uwec hl1qthw"B2qew"B:R

A HISTORY OF THE
HAWAH WORKING GROUP

Pat, you have already been extraordinarily successful in bringing this issue to the attention of librarians. Of course it is important not just for Hawaii but for the rest of the country and internationally, as vendors claim total technical bibliographic control and evaluation of new titles ... What I'm suggesting is that you take charge of this complex and important problem for AIP over the next months, with our support, because you know it best and are all fired up about it. Keep us informed of developments and ideas by e-mail, and we'll work with you. How does that sound?"

Pat didn't accept immediately. First she asked for more information about the group's purpose and position within ALA. I replied on 8 October with the following charge:

"So, back to your question: who are we odd ducks, and is this to be a long- or short-term venture? Let's operate in the short term, but leave the door open for the long term if that seems feasible and desirable in the future. Let's give ourselves a name and a mission statement that covers this whole area, not just Hawaii, or public libraries, or the present time. But let's focus for now on the present finite issue, not some sort of broad general study that may be beyond our capabilities. In other words, let's agree on a name and a mission statement that

two Montessori Magnet Schools in the Dallas public schools
and an MLIS graduate student at Texas Woman's University in

“requesting a financial and management audit of the Hawaii State Public Library System”; the library employees union sued Bart Kane, the Board, and Baker & Taylor to cancel the contract; a blue-ribbon committee recommended unanimously to the Board that the contract be broken; the Board then voted to instruct Kane to break the contract; he did so in a long letter to Baker & Taylor; and B&T has recently replied rebutting that letter point by point and threatening to sue. The Board of Education has just renewed Kane’s contract for only six months and ordered him to clean up the mess. Two of the 13 members voted to fire him immediately.

American Libraries (May 1997) published the text of a three-way telephone interview by associate editor George Eberhart with Bart Kane and Pat Wallace. The next month’s issue (June/July) ran an excellent article by Carol Reid. Within ALA, several efforts by HWG to build bridges to the mainstream library managers in ALCTS have been relatively unsuccessful, although Pat has been able at least to open a dialogue with them.

The Hawaii panel presentation moderated by Pat at the ALA annual conference in San Francisco on 29 June was a tremendous success. About 250 people attended the two-hour program moderated by Pat Wallace, and most stayed for an additional, unscheduled hour of questions and discussion that ended with a standing ovation. Six Hawaii librarians—**Norman Fitzpatrick, Deborah Gutermuth, Dale Huber, Sarah Preble, Stephanie Strickland, and Carol Tomioka**—gave first-hand accounts of the difficulties they had personally experienced with the total outsourcing contract. Their stories, ranging from the hilarious to the tragic, held the audience spellbound. Sandy Berman weighed in with a blistering attack on the inadequacies of vendor-supplied, minimal cataloging, and I spoke about how collection-development librarians and directors, influenced by their commercial “partners,” often base selection decisions and fund allocations on corporate values rather than professional principles. After the conference, Stephanie wrote Pat Wallace and HWG a letter that I hope she won’t mind my sharing. I think it reflects a general feeling that many of us share within HWG.

“Pat,

I just want to extend Mahalo Nui Loa (thank you very much) for all your hard work during the past year. It would have never happened without you. You have done so much for us in Hawaii. You have done even more for our beloved profession. People are going to know

about the “Hawaii Model” because of who and what you are. I am looking forward to a long association with HWG of SRRT/AIP.

My husband said Martin Warzala of B&T was having a fit during the presentation. He said the woman sitting next to him tried to calm him down. Norman Oder of *U* was interviewing Arnie Wight as we left. Arnie, as you no doubt know, claims that Bart made B&T enter into the contract. B&T knew all along that local librarians need to be involved with selection.

I am truly sorry that I was unable to meet and spend time with all HWG members that attended the conference. I enjoyed meeting, talking with, and listening to Sandy, Charles, and you. AIP, from all accounts, did very well on all presentations. Congratulations to all. Really enjoyed those presentations. Not a single sleeper!

I tried to make the ALA Council meeting on Tuesday. No luck. How did the resolutions make out? I’ll be interested in hearing from anyone who attended. Can we expect an update from you soon? I kind of expected a message from Michael Golrick by this time. Guess everyone may be a little busy celebrating the 4th and otherwise relaxing after attending the conference.

Once again, Pat, thanks for everything. We need more people like you in our profession—heck, in the world.

Aloha,
Stephanie”

The ALA Council resolutions that Stephanie asks about were drafted on the first evening of the San Francisco conference when she, Norman Fitzpatrick, Deborah Gutermuth, Sarah Preble, Carol Tomioka, Pat Wallace and I met for two hours with councilors **Mike Golrick** (the principal drafter), **James Casey** and **Debra Gilchrist**. We wrote the “Tribute to Hawaii Librarians” and an earlier version of the “Resolution on the Outsourcing of Collection Development” that are printed here.

Hawai'i to safeguard the right of local control of selection of library materials;

AND THAT copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i and the president of the Hawai'i Library Association.

Moved by Michael A. Golrick, Connecticut Chapter Councilor; Deb Gilchrist, Councilor at Large; and James Casey, Councilor at Large

1997 Annual Conference of the American Library Association, San Francisco, California. Reviewed for confirmation with guidelines by Council Resolution Committee.

LITERACY ASSEMBLY REPORT

There will be a Literacy Fair at the ALA Annual Conference next summer in Washington, D.C. Present planning would have the fair located at either the Library of Congress or the Smithsonian Institution, and the fair would include presentations, demonstrations, etc. As planning progresses, information should be appearing on the ALA website.

A description of the Literacy in Libraries Across America project, which is a collaboration between ALA and the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, is also on the ALA website (<http://www.ala.org/literacy/>), and a listserv has been initiated to promote discussion about literacy issues. You can join the discussion by sending a message to listproc@ala.org. Your message should say: sub library-lit <your name > .

The Assembly spent some time discussing its future and its relationship to the Office of Literacy and Outreach Services, and in particular how it might be more effective in the future. Using the listserv for communications, meeting at the Midwinter Meeting only, using feedback from accomplishments, and disseminating information about the results of programs rather than just information about programs' existence were some of the suggestions.

—Tom Wilding

Literacy Assembly Liaison

TO THE EDITOR

Has Council "outsourced" dealing with the issue of the Hawaii outsourcing model? When the issue was initially brought to the attention of ALA Council, many councilors claimed they simply didn't know enough about the particulars to make a judgment of the general issues involved. I don't believe that we can continue to plead ignorance. Anybody who wished to familiarize themselves with this matter in intimate detail has now had access to all the documentation, including very close press coverage from the Hawaiian press. There was an important forum at Conference where Hawaiian librarians themselves, those involved in this very conflict, laid out their case in the presence of a representative of Baker & Taylor and a standing-room-only crowd. There was ample opportunity there for pro-and-con discussion of what was at issue in the Hawaiian collection outsourcing policy. I hope councilors who claimed "lack of sufficient information" availed themselves of the possibilities of informing themselves about the matter at Conference. Hawaiian librarians and their advocates also went to some lengths to bring the outsourcing issue to the appropriate bodies like ALCTS and had it presented to the Council caucus.

I admit to being vexed that, despite all this, the collection outsourcing issue in Hawaii and its general implications were not brought to the Council floor in the form of any of the resolutions about them on the agenda. First, Councilor Goldrick withdrew the main resolution for reasons which to me are inexplicable. Every formal report was given higher priority and read in its entirety. A lengthy speech by Elizabeth Martinez was given privilege. The reintroduced/ reformulated Collection Outsourcing resolution was placed dead last on the agenda of Council HI. Efforts to move it up for action were thwarted. Even after the Hawaii legislature sided with the librarians against Baker & Taylor and its defenders in management, even after it was clear that the issue was of great public concern outside professional library circles and had become one of those rare "hot" library issues which seem to beg for attention by our professional association—even then, even now, it seems that the Council clearly prefers not to deal with it. That is Council's pleasure and its right. So be it. But if this wasn't an issue with which ALA should have legitimate concerns and the right to an official opinion, I don't know what is! Apparently, however, our

RESOLUTION ON ALA AND THE GATES LIBRARY FOUNDATION

WHEREAS Council commends the Gates Library Foundation for its support for computer development in libraries in poor communities;

AND WHEREAS Council believes that there must be a comprehensive look at all the implications of such unprecedented philanthropic largesse;

AND WHEREAS Gates' interest in libraries can reasonably be seen as linked, at least in part, to plans to promote his own products and services and to maximize his corporations' market share and is not motivated entirely by the same dynamic as the concerns of public libraries and librarians;

AND WHEREAS the huge amount of money and Microsoft software involved may influence the direction of public library development in a way that ties libraries to the priority of specific electronic services over resources, services, and materials public libraries feel they must provide;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the GLF be asked to include on their board of directors a significant number of prominent librarians, including the ALA Executive Director, representing the range of views on library priorities and the place of electronic services, in recognition that librarians involved in their project at the local level must be the ultimate arbiters of professional issues;

AND THAT ALA Council recognizes that ALA's gratefulness to the GLF and similar enterprises should not imply that public libraries can be revitalized and sustained by principal reliance on private largesse, and that we will redouble our efforts for public support for libraries through changes in government policy at all levels.

Submitted by Mark Rosenzweig, Councilor at Large

PROPOSAL FOR A PROGRESSIVE COUNCIL CAUCUS

In view of the power of the agenda-setting Council Caucus—essentially a caucus of the entire Council and therefore not really a caucus at all—which meets, late at night, prior to Council meetings to vet proposals and resolutions and agendas and scenarios of action to be acted out on the floor of Council in a charade of open democratic discussions and debate, I have called for the convening of a Progressive Council Caucus, an initiative of the Progressive Librarians Guild, but not limited to

its agenda. It would be, rather, an organizing focus for effective presentation of those kinds of items the Council powers-that-be seek to keep off the agenda or foreclose debating or maneuver with preplanned parliamentary tricks to send into the black hole of consideration by committees or simply "table," he. kill. A Progressive Council Caucus will be open to sympathetic *members* of ALA as well as Councilors, representing those perspectives and constituencies and issues that need organized, united action to make any impact. It will seek to raise awareness of common concerns among groups like SRRT, people of color and cultural diversity, and among reform-minded individuals in the divisions and round tables generally—g/l/b/t activists, techno-critics, corporate watchdogs, union activists, and those who just feel that the trend of ALA is toward a less democratic, elite-dominated organization with a technocratic and managerialist bias. The purpose? To form common fronts on issues, platforms, etc. and to develop a sense of solidarity among disparate groupings—as well as issue-based

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