

**LIBRARIANS
for
SOCIAL
CHANGE**

no.2

15p



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Librarians for Social Change no.2: Spring 1973

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Cover:


Robert Conrad found the cartoon in a German magazine;
Shirley Woods adapted it; John Noyce added the lettering.
Just in case you don't read Swedish or Norwegian,
Knullar = FUCK

We trust you are all suitably shocked and outraged by
this affront to public decency. Letters of protest will
not be published in the next issue.

JOURNALS OF BRITISH PACIFISM

by June Neilson

The peace movement tends to be small and struggling, but its journals are valuable, often carrying items ignored by the mass media.



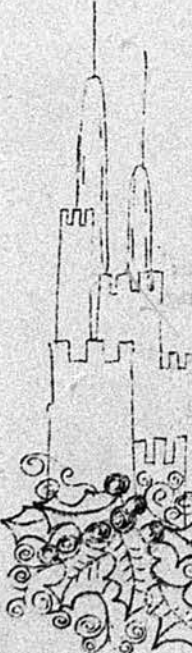
In Britain, we have the valiant PEACE NEWS, published since 1936. It comes out each Friday priced 7p., annual postal subscription £4.94, with reduced rates of 10% for students and old age pensioners, and a special trial subscription at 50p for 7 weeks. Available on order from all newsagents or by post from Peace News, 5 Caledonian Road, London N.1. Tel. 01-837 9794/5. This newspaper is fully printed in blue or black (and occasionally even in green) with its own special line in bizarre Blake-like illustrations. Representing commitment to pacifism and a non-violent approach to political and social change, it consists of news items, in-depth articles, poetry, conservation topics and a free events service. A must buy.

From the same source come PEACE PACKETS, a fat bundle of booklets and leaflets on pacifism and related topics, selected from various organisations. Annual subscription is £1.50 a year, available from Peace News, address above. A recent packet for example included amongst others, The General Electric Company Ltd.; Anti-report, published by Counter Information Services; On war, national liberation and the State, by Nigel Young, a Peace News pamphlet; Get off their backs by Paul Cavatine, from Haslemere Group and Third World First; and Bibliography on peace, freedom and non violence for use in schools, edited by J. Huggon, published by Kropotkin's Lighthouse publications. A bargain.

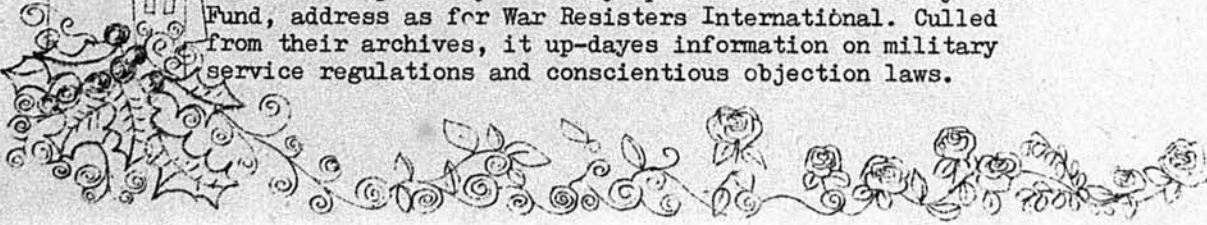
War Resisters' International - a collection of organizations working for peace - publish a number of periodicals, the chief being WAR RESISTANCE, a quarterly journal priced 20p., annual subscription £0.80, available from War Resisters' International, 3 Caledonian Road, London, N1 9DX. Most issues are devoted to a particular topic, a seminar on non-violent action or perhaps the problems of economic development or triennial reports from member organizations. Its international flavour is emphasized by the fact that the journal is also published in French, German and Esperanto.

Up-to-date information on the movement is available in the WRI NEWSLETTER, published 10-15 times a year. Annual subscription is £1.00., available from War Resisters' International, address above.

TRAINING IN NONVIOLENCE is a quarterly bulletin at 50p. per annum, forming a link between the individuals and groups concerned. This duplicated stapled production includes reports on training courses, new developments, articles, addresses and publications of use, essentially a newsletter.



The Lansbury House Trust Fund, an independent educational trust founded by War Resisters' International publish a quarterly bulletin entitled COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE AND THE OBJECTOR. This is included with War Resistance or is available separately for £0.50 p.a. from the Lansbury Trust Fund, address as for War Resisters International. Culled from their archives, it up-dates information on military service regulations and conscientious objection laws.



Annually in November, the prisoners for peace honour roll is published by War Resisters' International. This is a list of conscientious objectors in prison, to enable people to send Christmas greetings to those prisoners as a symbolic gesture of support. It is available free.

The Peace Pledge Union consists of individual members each one taking a pledge, viz. 'I renounce war and will never support or sanction another.' Various publications may be noted. The PACIFIST is a monthly journal priced 7½p, annual subscription £1.20, with reduced rates for students, old age pensioners and under eighteens, available from Peace Pledge Union, 6 Endsleigh Street, London WC1. Tel. 01-387-5501. Information broadsheets termed FACTS AND FALLACIES are also available at 2p. each.

The Youth Association of the Peace Pledge Union publish SIN-Studies in nonviolence, a series of information and discussion papers towards a nonviolent society, issued four times a year at £0.50. Its aim is to build up a pacifist handbook in an expanding file, so each annual volume consists of four issues in a folder. Its duplicated format has sections on the theory and practice of nonviolence, education, pacifists and pacifism, ideas and contacts, information, non violence in Britain, and related organizations.

WORLD ISSUES: current problems in international relations, commentary and digest is published quarterly by the Friends Peace and International Relations Committee, annual subscription £0.35, available from the Committee at Friends House, Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ. This journal is edited by Gerald Bailey, looking at the international scene. Pacifism is of course a central part of the Quaker faith.

Recent events have seen the growth of local publications, arising from nonviolent action groups. One of the first was ROOTS - the focus for nonviolent radical activity in Edinburgh, issued every 6-7 weeks at 6p. Postal subscription for 3 issues costs 25p from Roots, 6 Lonsdale Terrace, Edinburgh. Tel. 031-229 1861 or 667 3663. Roots is a lively lithographed magazine with articles, news, cartoons and events.

Turning to other forms of communication, pacifist films are available from Concord Films Council, Nacton, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP10 OJZ. A catalogue is available.

A list of music, protest songs and the spoken word on record is available from Dick Sheppard House, 6 Endsleigh St., London, WC1.

Finally one must mention the pacifist bookshop, Housmans at 5 Caledonian Road, London N.1, who will supply booklists on pacifism and related topics, any book in print and even, pacifist stationery.

Editorial note

The COMMONWEAL COLLECTION, 112 Winchcombe Street, Cheltenham, Glos., GL52 2NW. (0242 57065). This is a free postal-loan library designed for those concerned with the problems of peace and the creation of a nonviolent world. The library is entirely dependent on voluntary help and gifts of money and books. An Author Index is issued, price 10p + postage.

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I can't see what you're saying

Sarah A. Williams

I hope no-one thinks I'm merely on an ego trip - I would just like to outline a few of the problems which I and other deaf, or partially deaf, library students, librarians and library users must face.

I am too deaf to be able to decide what is being said if the speaker is behind me - although I am able in most cases to hear the sound of the voice. In other words I must be able to lip read the speaker.



In the library where I worked, as in most others, the users are inclined to voice their enquiries in a cryptic whisper cum-mumble, and then look offended when I say "Pardon"? No, I don't (emphatically) want to be shouted at - I merely need a clear, well-modulated voice - something which everyone thinks they have, but which few people actually possess.

A clear voice is one which can be lip-read, even if the listener, or rather, watcher, is completely deaf, hearing no sound at all - which is the state I am in without the help of my hearing aid - except that I am able to hear very loud noises, and can often feel the vibrations of noise through the bones in my face leading up to my ears.

Those people who do not open their mouths, or who move them in the wrong way in speech (it is amazing how many people make one sound, but position their lips for another) are anathema to the lip-reading deaf person. I find it extremely difficult to like people whom I cannot lip-read, even if they are the nicest people around.

It is these bad speakers who are most likely to think deaf people are dumb as well, idiots, shy, or stand-offish. How wrong they are.

I have been to meetings of a new society (Breakthrough), to which deaf and hearing people belong, and because all these people know each other's limitations, conversation flows freely - sign language is very rarely used, because clear speech, and understanding is the norm.

Another problem is that it is almost impossible for me to carry on a conversation with more than one person comfortably. I am, however, able to talk with two or perhaps three if a) I concentrate hard on understanding the drift of the talk, so that one or two missed words do not matter, b) if they are all clear speakers; c) if they are sitting or standing in one position throughout, where I can see their lips move; d) if they don't all talk at once!

Loud background noise will, however, render any sustained conversation impracticable in the extreme.

In lectures I find it virtually impossible to discover what people behind me are saying - unless I work it out from the lecturer's answer. I obviously prefer the seating arrangement to be circular - but, alas, last year, the prospect of all sitting facing one another for all, or most, lectures, was not received favourably by my fellow students. I wonder why? Is it too



embarrassing? Do they prefer to hide behind one another? I should love to know.

Note-taking is beset with complications. I have to watch the lecturer's face, decide at the speed of light whether what he is saying is worth recording, take it down nearly as quickly, and look up again before he continues to another sentence- if only I could write straight lines without looking! As it is, I manage, by virtue of the fact that I have a reasonable memory, and I supplement this on occasion with quick glances at my neighbour's notes. I could copy all my notes up, but this is tedious, to say the least, and I have only done this rarely.

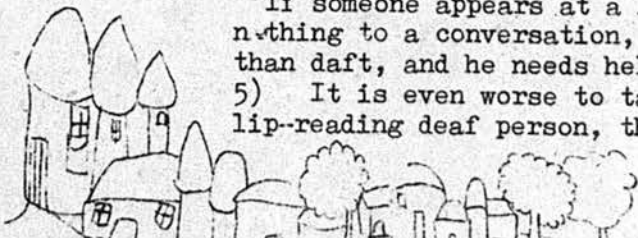
I have never been able to decide whether I should inform people on first being introduced of my handicap, or whether to let them find out - or not, according to their perception, or lack of it. I must admit to feeling rather smug if someone finds out after knowing me for a while, and says, "I never would have guessed it", but this does not often happen. I am more likely to be regarded as (kindly) shy, or (unkindly) as uncommunicative, or stupid. You only have to ask my parents, or close friends, and they will tell you that, in fact, I can talk the hind leg off a donkey, given half a chance! This is true of far more deaf people than others realise.

I have probably bored you by this diatribe, but having got all this off my chest, I would suggest a few points to look out for if you think the person you are talking to may be deaf. Librarians are bound to meet these people who have what I call, the "invisible handicap".

- 1) If they consistently follow your face with their eyes, they are lip-reading you, and would appreciate it if you kept your head still, did not cover your mouth up with your hands, a book or your hair (common nervous habits) and, of course, spoke clearly and fairly audibly, but without exaggeration.
- 2) If your remarks get the answer "Pardon"?, or, less politely, "Eh"?, "What"? (or simply a blank look and a grunt (one of my worst habits is a tendency to say what I can only spell as "Uhn"!)) please speak more clearly and face them all the time. Some deaf people never let you know they have not heard you, but you can only discover this if they don't make proper answers, never say a whole sentence, but just say "MM" or nod at intervals. These people need more help and encouragement to say when they miss something.
- 3) Try not to get irritated if you have to repeat yourself- it's very discouraging, and it is likely that it is you who are at fault, by speaking too fast, too soft or just too unintelligibly.
- 4) Please, please don't think a deaf person is stupid - or you will have joined the ranks of a headmistress, who read my reasonably good school report from my old teachers, but on discovering I was deaf, relegated me immediately to what was known as the "backward" class, or, more cruelly, the "no-hopers". (I was in fact there only two days before being moved).

If someone appears at a loss, or contributes little or nothing to a conversation, he is far more likely to be deaf than daft, and he needs help.

- 5) It is even worse to talk with your mouth full to a lip-reading deaf person, than to someone else. This means



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full of cigarette, pipe or fingers, as well as food!

6) Just in case you think this is all far too much effort, remember that a deaf person, especially one in totally hearing company, has to make far more effort to keep up the same standard as hearing people at school, college or anywhere. Like the Red Queen, we must keep on running fast to stay in the same place. If we lose concentration once, we may miss something important, although missing a spicy piece of gossip, the punch-line of a joke or the closing line of a film, can all be just as frustrating.

7) If you don't like people guessing what you are really thinking behind a sphinx-like mask, remember that lip-reading deaf people are usually very alert to changes of feature and expression which others may miss.

8) Tone of voice, bad grammar, guttural or nasal speech (I hate American voices) are all things to which deaf people are sensitive in the extreme.

I have a theory that most partially deaf people are better off in normal hearing company most of the time, but deaf people will not feel able to cope with this until hearing people learn how to speak to them. Once a deaf person hears, and/or sees what is being said, he is no different from anyone else.

(Sarah Williams is a student at Brighton Library School, and wrote this piece originally for their magazine, Ollie)

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GROUPS ↓

GAY NEWS, the fortnightly paper for gays, has printed several articles and news comments recently on gay books and mags in libraries, including a letter from the LfSC editor. A gay group is forming in LfSC. The coordinator is Robert Elbert(37, Convent Hill, London SE19 3QX).

Other LfSC groups:

Anarchist Library and Information Workers- coordinator:
Richard Alexander, 35 Hardy Rd, London SW19 1JA.
Feminist group - coordinator, Anne Alexander, address as above.

We hope to form other 'subject' groups and also area groups. National coordinator is (for the time being anyway) John Noyce, the LfSC editor, 67 Vere Rd, Brighton, Sussex, BN1 4NQ. Addresses of subscribers are printed later in this issue. Please correspond with others in your area, and get meetings together.

LONDON GROUP meeting: Sunday April 29th, 1973, at 2.30pm -
at Richard and Anne Alexander's place(address as above)

RISING FREE LIBRARY -197 King's Cross Road, London WC1
(01-837 0182)

The following statement has been issued by the Rising Free Library Collective. We strongly endorse the setting up of this library; several members of LISC are already helping to organise this library, and advise on organisational problems. If you live near London and can spare a day to go and help, ring or write to Sarah at "Rising Free.

" Over the past years Agitprop assembled an amazing collection of the left wing political literature that came out in that time. This is now being sorted out and indexed so that it can be used by those who need it.

This material is nowhere near a complete collection and there's much more on some areas than others (see very rough guide at the end) but it does include pamphlets, newspapers and broadsheets from the whole spectrum of left activity in this country and in some others. We don't want all this to go to waste, but neither do we want it to become the object of the 'PhD' approach to knowledge-passive consumption and regurgitation.

We see it as a tool to be used in the struggle for change and valuable only if it becomes one element in the development of political consciousness and strategy. This library is not an academic commodity.

It should be a good way of making contacts within areas of interest and in the country, as you can get a good idea (from the literature) of who's working where on what. And you can learn a lot from the history and present of the left; the lessons of earlier struggles in industry, in the community, against the legal system, etc, are valuable for us now. There's a lot of information here.

To improve the library there are some obvious things that need doing. First, to fill the gaps in what is already there by completing series of papers and getting as much as possible of the stuff that came out in the past few years that we don't have at all.

We are particularly short on the material from other countries. Second, it would be good to translate a lot of the literature in foreign languages so that more people can read it. Third, in order to keep the library up to date new material needs to come in. The only possible way for this to happen is if people send in a couple of copies of anything they produce, as we are likely to miss things and anyhow we couldn't afford to buy everything it would be good to have. So please help.

These are just some ideas we have of how the library can be used and how it can grow but its effective development depends on everyone who uses it. As its used, people will see what's useful and necessary.

As for practical things, the library will be open as many days and evenings as we can manage (though not at all for a couple of months while we sort it out). There won't be a fixed charge for using it although donations for upkeep will be welcomed. It can't be a lending library both because there aren't enough copies of things and because what's there would gradually disappear. But there will be a photocopier and we will send copies on request at cost price.

MONEY. The library's housed near King's Cross as that seemed as accessible as anywhere in London and we pay rent because squats are too insecure and buying was out of the question. Rent and rates are about £500 a year, then there's the phone, heating, equipment, etc. We've applied for all the grants that we can think of that don't have strings attached and we asked individuals for donations, but so far we haven't raised enough money. We're already £300 in the red so any little money helps a little (lots helps lots).

VERY ROUGH LIST TO GIVE SOME IDEA OF WHAT'S IN THE LIBRARY

English, Scottish, Welsh

- a) pamphlets, papers, etc, from aligned left organisations, eg. CP, CPGBML, CPBML, IS, IMG.
- b) major left publishers, eg Partisan, IWC, Pluto, LRD.
- c) smaller left publishers, eg. Stage One, New Beacon, Falling Wall
- d) subject orientated periodicals, eg. Case Con, Needle, Arse, Community Action.
- e) T.U.'s & Workers papers, eg. Voice, Tribune, Mineworker
- f) Sexual struggle papers, eg. Gay News, Shrew, Women's Paper
- g) Black Liberation papers, eg. Grass Roots, Freedom News.
- h) Local Papers. eg. Red Camden, RAP, Mole Express, Gutter Presses.
- i) Movement & Underground Papers, eg. Hapt, Syncic, 7 Days, It, Ink.
- j) Single Issue. eg. CU literature, Antistudent, SN8 pubns.
- k) News Bulletins. eg. Black Box, Free City, BIT, P.N.S.
- l) Student Papers. eg. 1/-, Beaver, Penny Red, Brighton Mole (LfSC ed: student?)
- m) Hand outs, leaflets for campaigns, demonstrations & meetings
- n) Legal/political documents, eg. Conspiracy Notes, Pig Book, Bust Book.
- o) Other things. eg. Stepney Words, Ostrich, Leaves of Grass, etc.

Irish

Pamphlets, papers from Officials, Provos; P.D., Anvil, B & ICO, as well as much on Ireland from left groups all over the world.

European

Papers and single issues, eg. Cahiers de Mai, Lotra Continua, Hotcha, Oeuff, SPK, Patriotic Front of Turkey, Portuguese Colonial Bulletin, etc.

Middle East

eg. Fifth of June, Israel Palestine Social Action Group, Institute for Palestine Studies, Israca, etc.

Africa

Namibia News and much else on and from liberation struggles in Africa which is produced elsewhere, eg Cabral, ANC, Ben Barka.

Asia

IMLA, Vietnamese Studies, and much else from Asia.

Latin America

Some material from Latin America, eg. Tupamaros, Che Guevara, etc.

Cuba

eg. Gramma, Tricontinental, Direct from Cuba, CSPAAAL,

North America

- a) local papers, eg. Babylon, The Grape, Terminal City Express, Los Angeles Free Press, Rising Up Angry, etc.
- b) Journals, eg. Radical America, Radical Therapist, Detroit Gay Liberator, Akwesasne News, Cell 16.
- c) Single Issue. eg. NEFP, REP, BAREP, Ramparts, ARG
- d) News Bulletins, eg. Liberation News Service.
- e) Underground Papers, eg. Rolling Stone, Georgia Straight.

Reference Books

Assorted directories handouts, company manuals etc.
and finally

Founding Fathers

Marx, Lenin, Mao, Bakunin, Kim Il Sung, Lin Piao

JESUS IS JUST ALRIGHT



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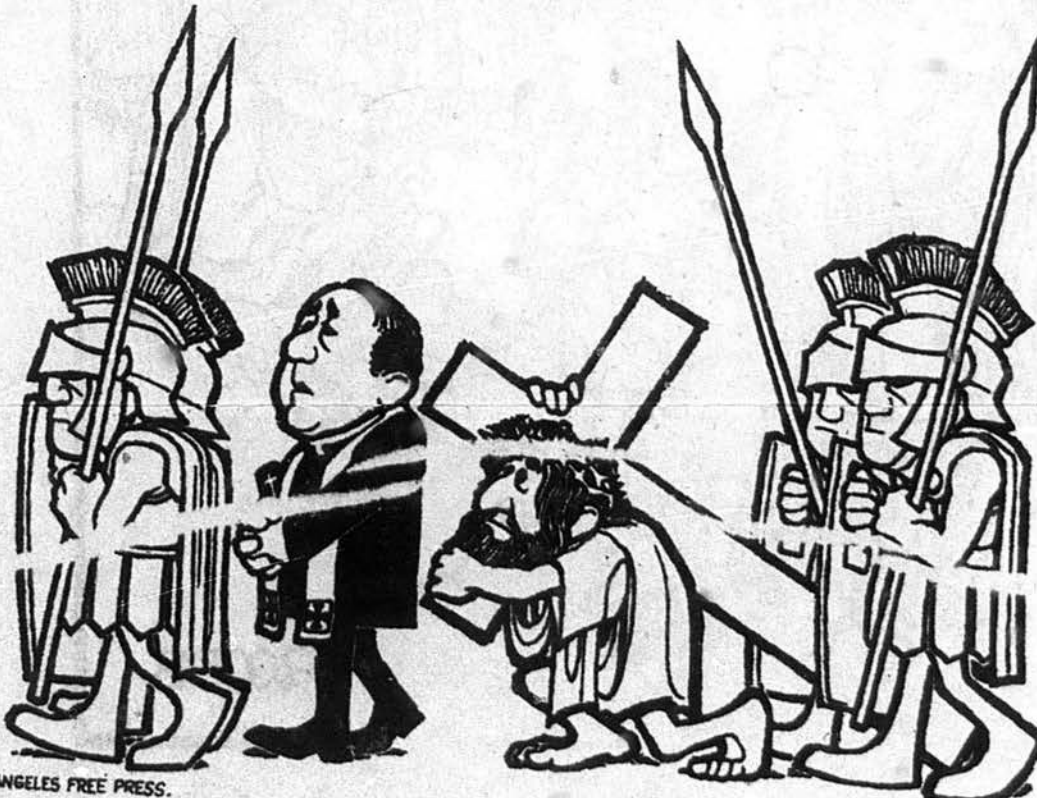
LOS ANGELES FREE PRESS -
AUGUST 11, 1967.



"WILL THE REAL JESUS CHRIST PLEASE ASCEND.."

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R. COBB



LOS ANGELES FREE PRESS.

RCOBB

C O N D E M N A T I O N

Listen to this:

yesterday six Vietcong came through my village.
 Because of this my village was bombed-completely destroyed.
 Every soul was killed.
 When I come back to the village now, the day after,
 there is nothing to see but clouds of dust and the river, still flowing.
 The pagoda has neither roof nor altar.
 Only the foundations of houses are left.
 The bamboo thickets have been burned away.

Here in the presence of the undisturbed stars,
 in the invisible presence of all the people still alive on earth,
 let me raise my voice to denounce this filthy war,
 this murder of brothers by brothers!
 I have a question: Who pushed us into this killing of one another?

Whoever is listening, be my witness!
 I cannot accept this war.
 I never could, I never shall.
 I must say this a thousand times before I am killed.

I feel I am like that bird which dies for the sake of its mate,
 dripping blood from its broken beak and crying out:
 Beware! Turn around to face your real enemies-
 ambition, violence, hatred, greed.

Men cannot be our enemies-even men called 'Vietcong!'
 If we kill men, what brothers will we have left?
 With whom shall we live then?

Reprinted from

The Cry of Vietnam, poems by Nhat Hanh, drawings by Vo-Dinh.
 (Unicorn Press, P.O.Box 1469, Santa Barbara, Calif.93102, USA)

A beautifully produced booklet. The poems expressing the
 anguish of the poet. The drawings showing the harsh realities
 of Vietnamese life. If only it wasn't so expensive!

(Unicorn Bookshop, 50 Gloucester Rd, Brighton, can obtain
 copies, price £1.00 - remember its only 45pages)

The Whole Earth Library & Switchboard, Keele University.

We continue our series of extracts from the original pamphlet circulated at Keele.

C. GROWTH OF W.E.L.S. - OUR GROWTH

The first libraries were religious collections—the monopolists of revealed mysteries were also the sole curators of the Book. Current ideologies of Objective Truth are attenuated poor relations of Revealed Theology and correspondingly there is still something of the sacred in the atmosphere of Keele Library which is perpetuated/reflected in the bureaucratic division between "Them" the senior library staff, and "us", the readers.

The Whole Earth Library will never become a reified collection of mysteries whose guarding obstructs self-enlightenment. Its sole purpose is to help people make sense of their own world and change it. People who use it may often want to develop switchboard meetings, discussion groups, study and action groups, encounter groups etc, to follow through the themes and questions in the books further. In turn, these groups and meetings can feed back their own group discussion papers, manifestos, theses, pamphlets, personal accounts, reading lists, etc. to the W.E.L. This will help us to see books by the like of Marcuse (or Goodman or Reich or de Beauvoir or Cabral or Ginsberg) as stemming from the same kind of ongoing critical discussion processes or experiences that we ourselves are engaged in.

Compulsory essays are a blasphemy against the whole spirit of learning, ie no bloody use to us and no bloody good to anyone else. Words should be precious gifts between people, people to whom the words may lead to personal/social change, not privatised academic success.

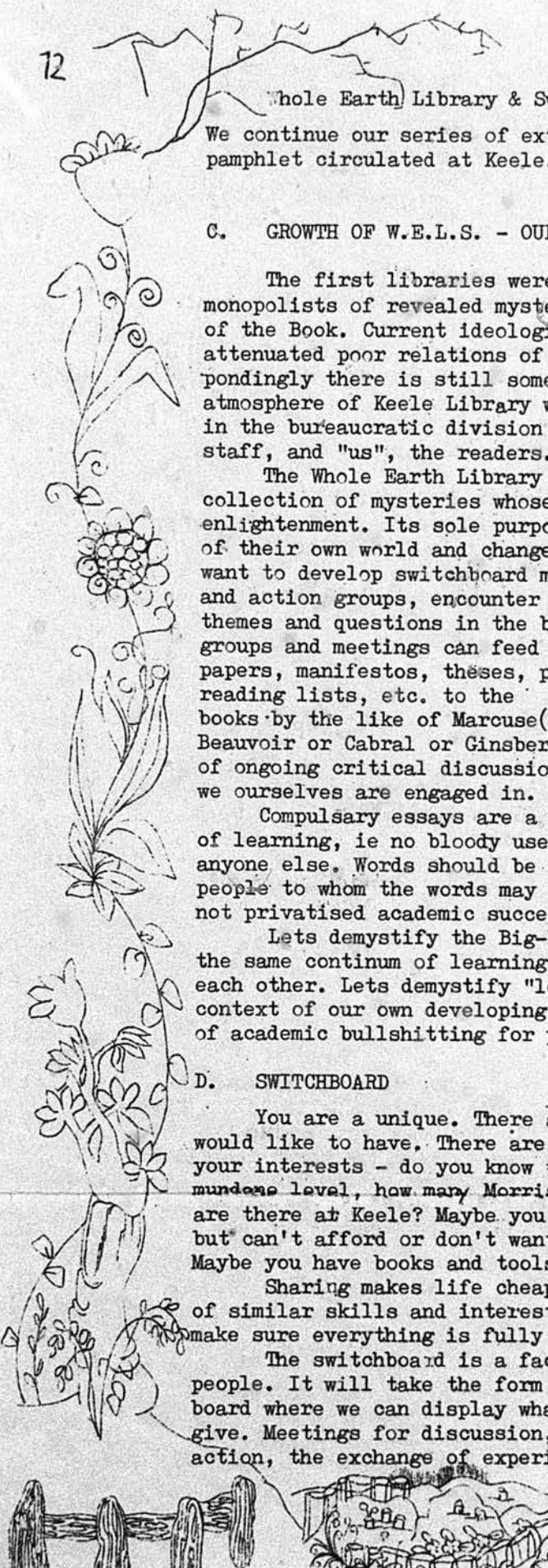
Lets demystify the Big-Names by locating their works on the same continuum of learning as our own papers written for each other. Lets demystify "learning" by locating learning in context of our own developing praxis rather than in context of academic bullshitting for personal advancement.

D. SWITCHBOARD

You are a unique. There are skills you have that others would like to have. There are other people at Keele who share your interests - do you know them all? For instance - at a mundane level, how many Morris 1000 car manuals and tool kits are there at Keele? Maybe you need a specific tool or book but can't afford or don't want to buy it - why not borrow it? Maybe you have books and tools that others could use sometimes.

Sharing makes life cheaper and gets you meeting people of similar skills and interests. Let the information spread, make sure everything is fully utilised.

The switchboard is a facilitator a means of linking people. It will take the form of a filing system and noticeboard where we can display whatever it is we want or have to give. Meetings for discussion, working out study programmes, action, the exchange of experiences, information, tools, skills,



can be arranged through the, switchboard by adding to or searching through the poly-classified card index system we will be evolving. If you've difficulty visualizing it, think of computer dating, only its not computerised and its not (necessarily) dating. Any help? The basic division in the switchboard will be

a. skill-learning (where the notion of teacher/taught applies), &
 b. co-learning where the presumption is that all can contribute, if not all equally, and the two or more learners can help each other explore further, divide the initial field of study amongst themselves, and generally create their own frame of reference.

I M P O R T A N T:

Please don't use vague catch-all categories like "modern drama" or "Marxism" but state specific authors or specific books or specific problems or specific theses you want to discuss. You'll get fewer replies but each one will be of more use. But even with fairly specific categories you may find that you don't want to pursue the match once you start to discuss a frame of reference or once you meet the respondent. Fair enough, there should be no obligation to stay and talk just because a card has been matched. The switchboard creates the possibility of learning link-ups, but does not dictate the options utilised.

The same specific card can nevertheless be filed under different vague themes eg. Card aying "Want to discuss Kropotkin's "Mutual aid" with reference to Wynne Edwards' "Theory of Social Evolution" could come under the heading of Anarchism or Ethology or Politics or Sociology. So you'll have to decide how many cards (albeit specific) you make out.

Aside from the two main divisions between skill-learning and co-learning, separate sub-sections can be developed for eg. hitching arrangements.

(to be continued next issue)

 For further discussion of switchboards see a pamphlet entitled 'Antistudent' published last year and available from movement bookshops. A short extract:

" ...So no more worshipping books as private commodities. Let's lend and borrow and pool.... Lets start informed discussion groups and help networks and switchboards and mini-libraries"

See also Ivan Illich, Deschooling Society, for an early contribution to the subject of switchboards.



Only Paper Tigers

Why do librarians fight shy of the alternative press? The first librarianship journal in Britain to look at the alternative press was the Assistant Librarian in August 1970 (about two years too late) and then it looked at the American scene - which admittedly isn't overly different from our own. And then came the coverage of the OZ trial and the Little Red School Boo and the protests from irate librarians - "I have written to the L.A. to withdraw my membership". "My continued membership of A.A.L. is certainly in the balance", and so on. What appears to have happened is that many librarians have read the overground press coverage (which was hardly unbiased!) of the trial but haven't consulted the primary source. Maybe they should take out trial subscriptions.

Libraries are centres of information dissemination - or should be. Caroline Coon, a co-founder of Release, mentions that OZ gives a balanced approach to drug taking. If anything, OZ had actually prevented the problem from getting worse, simply by refusing to moralise, or dogmatise, about the various forms of drug addiction - should libraries accept a social responsibility? Release has a library - with the available information there.

All libraries have to select materials, and items are rejected according to criteria which may include moral or political considerations. This, of course, is only local censorship - the exclusion may only operate for one library system. It can be argued that librarians have no more right to attempt to control what people should read than national governments. Indeed, in free societies they have less right and their legal responsibility is entirely governed by legislation. It might appear, then, that so long as libraries do not supply material which is proscribed by the government they should not concern themselves with the matter at all. Unfortunately, librarians regularly exclude material of which they disapprove - even in the British Museum, where certain holdings are not included in the public catalogues. The argument on behalf of the censor is as follows - that it is a professional duty to exclude what is regarded as 'bad'; the librarian (and his committee) are responsible to a community which might object to certain types of material: the library needs to protect the young and unstable from evil and disturbing influences. However, think of this - suppose racial tension developed in a certain area and there is also an increase in racist literature which is wholly obnoxious to the liberal mind. What should be the attitude of the librarian? One thus realises that a liberal institution cannot easily survive in an illiberal community. However, librarians must put down their knitting and fight these local book-burners. The public library movement, both in Britain and America, says it is firmly committed to a positive struggle against the local



book-burners - for proof, documents have been issued. It is reasonable to suppose (my own experience bears this out) that some librarians and potential librarians share the prejudices which are typical of the lower middle-class from which they are often recruited and others belong to religious organisations which provide guidance on reading matters and whose activities are likely to extend beyond their flock.

Davinson, in 'the Periodicals Collection' (Deutsch, 1969) says there are two major levels to the problem of selecting periodicals for a library - those periodicals that are absolutely indispensable in a given library situation are selected. There are also the peripheral periodicals - it would be impossible on economic grounds for any one library to purchase everything of marginal interest. It is suggested that libraries should take those periodicals which are indexed by the major indexing services - thus reaping a greater reward. However, what freedom is this and where do the alternative press publications come in? It is a pity that librarians should be thus tied. Perhaps the alternative press should be seen as a completely different category which should be regarded through the balance it gives to a periodical collection - although the articles are sometimes important it is the idea that is equally valid. It would be interesting to look at how often librarians review their periodicals acquisition choice.

The American Constitution guarantees freedom of speech. The Library Bill of Rights includes "there should be the fullest practical provision of material presenting all points of view concerning the problems and issues of our time, international, national, and local; and books and other reading matter of sound factual authority should not be proscribed or removed from library shelves because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval" Should one select material to meet current demand? I believe that one should not use this as a criteria for exclusion - for library users are unused to seeing the alternative press libraries in libraries and they have been conditioned not to expect it there. So, here is where the library's educative function surely plays a part.

As for selecting those periodicals which are indexed in readers guides - ie those of "permanent reference value" - and only those, what about current opinions? The library exists as much for the supporter of the alternative press as for the supporter of the Spectator, Paris-Match, and Punch.

Cost is also said to be a criterion for selection. OZ costs £3 a year - about the price of one hard-backed book (which may duplicate the information in another)

Thus in many libraries the selection criteria for periodicals is of doubtful validity - demand and available indexing - or is it left to chance. It is easy to accept the crutch of the index, even though the purpose of that index is not to influence selection. It is easy, as well, to continue a subscription once entered. More important, periodical selection can be influenced by tactical devices, the gift in particular, unrelated to library selection policies or principals.

(extracted from an essay written last year by David Futter whilst studying librarianship at Loughborough University)



BOOK NON-SELECTION IN WEST SUSSEX COUNTY LIBRARY

The following books have not been purchased by West Sussex County Library. The comments are extracted from memoranda circulated to all staff, who are then expected to refuse requests for these titles from readers.

- SUSANN, J. The love machine. (W.H.Allen. £1.75)
'This novel has been evaluated, and should not be purchased' (June 1971)
- ALDRIDGE, Alan, editor. Beatles illustrated lyrics, no. 2. (Macdonald. £1.50)
'Format not suitable for library use' (June 1971)
- HARVEY, E. The other woman. (Elm Tree. £1.75)
'13 case histories of marriage difficulties. Author is a feature writer for "Woman's Own"' (June 1971)
- MILNE, A.A. Winnie the Pooh! A reproduction of the original manuscript. (Methuen. £5)
'Not an edition suitable for libraries' (August 1971)
- M The way to become a sensuous man. (W.H.Allen. £2)
'There are many better other books on sex - not a very serious approach' (October 1971)
- MANDELKAU, Jamie. Buttons: the making of a President. (Open Gate Books. £2.50) 'President Buttons, of the London Chapter, Hell's Angels, England- motor cyclists. Expensive book for a minor ephemeral topic' (November 1971)
- CHAPMAN, G., editor. Monty Python's Big Red Pook. (Methuen. £1.50)
'Mainly illustrations of the T.V. programme. Not library material' (November 1971)
- EDWARDS, David. Dare to make magic. (Nigel Press. £1.80)
'Handbook for practioners of the occult-of limited appeal' (November 1971)
- THORNE, Edward. Your erotic fantasies. (Spearman. £2.10)
'Not library material' (December 1971)
- DALLAS, Karl. Singers of an empty day. (Kahn & Averill. £2)
'Ephemeral book on pop-singers' (December 1971)
- HAINING, Peter. Warlock's book: secrets of Black Magic from the Ancient Guimoires. (W.H.Allen. £1.50)
'A practical book of black magic, not library material' (January 1972)
- WHITTET, G.S. Lovers in art. (Studio Vista. £1.80)
'Will not bind - no margins' (March 1972)
- BLACKER, Harry (NERO) Some of my best jokes are Jewish. (W.H.Allen. £1.50) 'Cartoons - not library material' (March 1972)
- THE COUPLE: a sexual profile by Mr. and Mrs. K. as told to Monte Gherler and Alfred Palea. (W.H.Allen. £2.00)
'A personal account, ghosted and not well written. More practical books in stock' (March 1972)
- CLAESSON, Bert H. Boy girl - man wman: an intelligent guide to sex education for young people. (Calder & Boyons. £2.25)
'Treated as a clinical exercise with no consideration of moral judgements' (April 1972)
- BARTON, Stuart. Human swap shop. (Lyle Publications. £1.80)
'Wife-swapping - not library material' (April 1972)

The Beatles years. (Wise Pubs. £2.50)
 'Not library material' (May 1972)
 O'GRADY, John. Aussie etcket of doing things the Aussie way.
 (Kaye & Ward. £1.05). 'Not library material' (July 1972)
 FARREN, Mick, and BARKER, Edward. Watch out kids. (Open Gate
 Books. £2.50) 'Expensive and does not add any useful material
 to the subject of youth culture' (August 1972)
 WHITEHORN, Katharine. How to survive in hospital. (Eyre Methuen.
 85p). 'Not library format or library material' (October 1972)
 GABOR, Mark. The pin-up: a modest history. (Deutsch. £4.50)
 'Overpriced and not library material' (November 1972)

Two comments from the pre-book memoranda era:

ALDISS, B.W. The hand-reared boy.

'As there have been several complaints about the above book
 from the public it has been decided that in future all copies
 should be placed on restricted circulation' (memorandum from
 the County Librarian, December 1970)

NEVILLE, Richard. 'Play power.

Seen on approval March 1970. Manuscript comment on order:
 'Not purchased. Not censorship but discrimination (responsibility
 of the librarian)' - no signature, but in the chief cataloguer's
 script. As far as we know, Play power still has not been
 purchased.

Editorial comment:

We leave it to readers to make up their own minds as to whether
 these books should have been bought. A memorandum is circulated
 once a week containing between 3 and 10 titles which West Sussex
 will not buy even if requested by a reader. That's about 250
 books in a year. Food for thought?

'WHY DOES LIMAVADY BRANCH LIBRARY NOT STOCK ENID BLYTON BOOKS?

And who is responsible for saying that the branch does not
 have these books?... "It is unfair to refuse to provide them
 just because some tinpot twit thinks Big Ears and Noddy are
 queers", said Mr. Brown' (Coleraine Chronicle, via Punch, Nov. 1972)
 Seriously though, why don't libraries take Enid Blyton books
 (and Biggles, etc)?

"I was a bit worried about David's job at one time" he says,
 "though I never said anything to him. I didn't want to influence
 him. I thought working in a library, giving out books at 2d
 a shot, didn't seem much of a career. But now that he's in it,
 I realise what a lot there is to it and I'm very pleased"
 (Sunday Times Magazine, November 5th, 1972)

If you see any snippets about libraries in the national and
 local press, do sent us a photocopy or the cutting.

Censorship: some afterthoughts

Robert Conrad

I think there are two varieties of censorship in libraries. The first, that of the dictatorial senior librarian categorically banning a book for reasons of his own, prompts wonder and pity. What must be the mentality of such a person! Usually, controversies about censorship focus on the corruption of juveniles, but isn't it time someone documented the effects seen in those who do the censoring? I believe that they would observe increasing personal rigidity, pomposity, intolerance, and all kinds of other detrimental personality changes. We know that few people remain uncorrupted by power. We should also note that most are belittled by it.

The less pernicious type of censorship operates in much the same way as, by Durkheim's description, do punishments in school: as a formal indication of disapproval. Authority pronounces its opinion. In the instance of a controversial book, the tide these days being against authority, the book will almost certainly appear on the shelves within just a few years. There'll be very little fuss and no hurt feelings. Being able to show disapproval usually matters more to the indignant moralists than does any actual spiritual damage that may occur when the book does eventually become available. Indeed, I suspect that in the rare cases when the righteous might prove to have been right, it will be found that they have already lost interest and moved on to tilt at other windmills.

There isn't much of a lobby for what are called "dirtybooks". Usually these have their own outlets elsewhere in the town, and if they are excluded from the shelves of the local public library their devotees are not likely to make a matter of principle out of it. The difficult exceptions are those books thought to be of literary or documentary interest. What qualifies a senior librarian to discriminate in these areas: degrees?, published works, a Diploma in Applied Aesthetics? Wouldn't it be fairer simply to distinguish (a) good sex books from (B) lousy ones, and to let connoisseurs of such books do the distinguishing?

Distinctive bindings won't fool anyone, and putting the porn on a high shelf will penalise not only toddlers but tiny adults as well. I should like to find The Story of O and The Hand-Reared in a special section of Erotic Literature. I don't think that the children would cluster there. It is a rare kind of boy (other than one already dissolute) who has the nerve to hang about in the library browsing through an obviously sexy book, or looking at the pricks and cunts in photos of Amazon Indians and anatomy books. I remember how as a guilt-ridden 13-year-old I trembled before my librarian as I asked for the Kinsey Report. With a stern look of discouragement he fished it out for me from under the counter. But it wasn't what I really wanted. Nothing in Kinsey came near to suggesting to a puzzled teenager the intensity, irrationality, complexity and delight of sexual love. A few well-written, bawdy "dirty books" could have made up the difference. Roll on the Revolution!

(Robert Conrad is a poet and writer living in Brighton)

So you think we've got problems?...

Libraries and censorship in Czechoslovakia

During a press conference given by the Minister of Culture, Dr. Bruzek, on 20th November last year, the Minister claimed that there was no censorship of books in Czechoslovakia, nor was there an index of proscribed literature.

This claim conflicts with a series of directives and instructions issued by the Ministry of Culture, and signed by Dr. Bruzek, in May of last year. These instructions and directives, which draw their authority from Law 53/1959 of the Penal Code, required all public and institutional libraries to screen their shelves and remove all anti-state and ideologically unsound literature. Anti-state publications were defined as publications which attacked the Constitution, Marxism-Leninism or the policies of Socialist states, or which contravened the Law. The definition also included publications which defame the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, any other Socialist state or their representatives. It was further stated that the definition also included Trotskyist, White Guardist or Fascist publications.

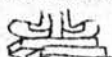
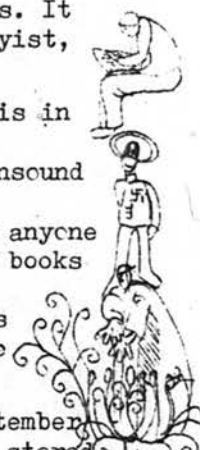
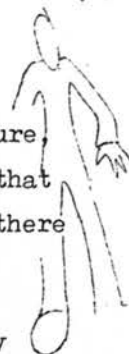
Literature is held to be ideologically unsound if it is in conflict with the basic principles of the policies of the Socialist states. Apart from classifying as ideologically unsound any book written by Masaryk, Benes or any other bourgeois politician, the Ministry has also included books written by anyone who was active in 1968 or 1969. The classification includes books written by such authors, although the books themselves are ideologically innocuous. It also includes any book which is ideologically sound, but which has a foreword or an epilogue which is objectionable.

The screening process was to be completed by 30th September 1972, and all material withdrawn from open shelves is to be stored in special closed archives. In libraries which are too small to have the requisite space available, the offending material is to be wrapped and sealed in parcels. In all cases, lists of books withdrawn from circulation are to be sent to the Ministry, which will then decide on their disposition. The State Library has been charged with the responsibility of maintaining a catalogue of all books on the Index.

Although these books are now withdrawn from open circulation, they will still be available for certain people. Ideologically unsound books may be consulted by designated experts, and, in exceptional cases, by university students if they have the authorisation of the deans of their faculties. Anti-state literature will in general be available to members of the Central Committee and, in special cases, to experts if they first request permission.

Reprinted from PRAVDA VITEZI no.3 January 1973. This contains informative articles on the political and cultural repression in Czechoslovakia. We recommend this useful periodical, which is the bulletin of the Committee to defend Czechoslovak Socialists. Price 10p per issue. Subscription- 6 issues 50p, 12 issues £1.00 post paid- to Quintin Hoare, 32 Belmtha Villas, London N.1.

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We understand that several libraries are very concerned about the amount of sick leave being taken by staff, which disrupts feasibility studies and work flow programs carefully worked out by their management teams. The following contract should prove of use in such circumstances.

CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT

To all Staff re Excessive Absence

1. SICKNESS. No excuse. The Management will no longer accept your Doctor's Certificate as proof. We believe that if you are able to go to your Doctor, you are able to attend for work.
2. DEATH (Your own). This will be accepted as an excuse. We should like two weeks' notice, however, since we feel it is your duty to train someone else for your job.
3. DEATH (Other than your own). This is no excuse. There is nothing you can do for them and henceforth no time off will be allowed for funerals. However, in case this should cause some hardship to some of our employees, there are those who might care to note that on your behalf, the Management has a special scheme in conjunction with the local Council for lunch-time burials thus ensuring that no time is lost from work.
4. LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR AN OPERATION. We wish to discourage any thoughts you may have of needing an operation and henceforth no leave of absence will be granted for hospital visits. The Management believes that as long as you are an employee here, you will need all of whatever you already have and should not consider any of it being removed. We engaged you for your particular job with all your parts and having anything removed would mean that we would be getting less than we bargained for.
5. VISITS TO THE TOILET. Far too much time is spent on this particular practice. In future the procedure will be that all personnel shall go in alphabetical order.

For example: Those with the surname beginning with the letter 'A' will go from 9.30 to 9.45, 'B' will go from 9.45 to 10.00 etc.

N.B. Those of you who are unable to attend at your appropriate time will have to wait until the next day when your turn comes again.

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See p 6.

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R E V I E W S or what they said about the first issue (good & bad!)

Bob Usherwood in ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN in January pontificated on our title and the likelihood of it alienating 'a large number of the profession'. Well, we only print 400 copies Bob, so that doesn't bother me in the slightest... Meanwhile Chris George, writing in Brighton Library School's OLLIE, described LfSC as 'a dissenting journal, hopefully less coldly intellectual, and predictable as AL'... Another of our readers, Dave Quayle, writing in the CAMDEN NEWSLETTER, devoted two A4 sides to the journal and said, ^{some} nice things: '30 stencil duplicated pages refreshingly free from professional image and more mercifully, status hang ups', 'it has good vibes and is produced with an exhilaration not found elsewhere in the British library press'; nice one Dave, ta... I find it very hard to describe the aims of LfSC, so I was very pleased when PEACE NEWS summed it up for me: '(LfSC) sees a role for librarians as a catalyst for change in society itself-given their central position in our data-banked, bumph-producing, fact-producing yet ill-communicating world-as well as analysing repression and censorship within libraries themselves'... other mentions included a two-line comment in NEW LIBRARY WORLD (my own fault for not sending them a copy of no.1), and a splendid write-up by Tom Edwards in LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE ABSTRACTS. B.N.B. mentioned us of course, which resulted in quite a few orders, the good old RECORD gave us two plugs, which really helped to spread the word, and the BOOKSELLER mentioned us way back in the autumn before the journal came out. To everyone, many thanks, just keep spreading the word.

JN.

NEWZ, BIT N PIECES, ODDS AND SODS, THINGS NEEDING A MENTION page.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: further to the article on p19, the texts of the two library directives are printed in INDEX, 1973: no.1, pp.105-108. (The problems of collecting 'samizdat'-unpublished repressed writings-is also discussed in this issue of INDEX-pp.116-7)

WOMEN STUDIES ABSTRACTS, published in the U.S., needs abstractors, especially in Britain and Europe to prepare abstracts on articles of interest to women appearing in periodicals. I've done a few abstracts for them myself, but obviously they would prefer female abstractors- details from the editor, Sarah Whaley, P.O.Box 1, Rush, NEW YORK 14543. WSA is an excellent abstracting service which really needs to survive. Maybe the LfSC Feminist group could organise something? (which reminds me that on p6 I referred to Anne by her married name-she prefers her own: Anne Colwell. Sorry Anne!)

WHOLE EARTH LIBRARY, KEELE- Keith Paton, one of the founders of the library, wrote a short article in PEACE NEWS, Oct.20th, 1972-they've reprinted this article, which is free for the asking (SAE a must)- Peace News, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1.

INTERNATIONAL TIMES (IT to its readers) that pioneer underground paper is selling off (damn the typewriter) its surplus back issues - contact John Carding at IT, 11b Wardour Mews, London W1A 4PF (01-434-1372)

OTHER RADICAL LIBRARY MAGS AND GROUPS- how about some exchanging??

SIPAPU sent a copy recently-very nicely printed, and some good content- Noel Peattie, Route 1, Box 216, Winters, CA95694, California, U.S.A.

I'd like to exchange with all college library school journals, and other library radical groups (anyone know who to contact for the LIBRARY ACTION group) both in Britain and overseas.

MICROFILM REPRINTING - The Harvester Press of Brighton are reprinting on microfilm and microfiche the publications of British pressure groups- forthcoming packages include The Alternative Press, The Left in Britain, The Right in Britain, Peace and Liberation Movements, Sex, Morals and Society, etc. Sounds good- info from Harvester Press, 50 Grand Parade, Brighton, Sussex. Very shortly LfSC will be available on microfiche from Harvester- good for a laugh I suppose, who knows the royalties may even enable us to actually print an issue in the future (the LfSC pipe dreams dept working overtime again).

INDEXES - in the States a group of radical librarians are indexing the major underground/alternative/left papers. Something similar needs doing over here for the British papers. Harvester Press have said they'll publish the indexes, so any offers- I'm finishing ZIGZAG, and am ploughing through OZ, and a few others are being thought about, but really the field's wide open... ideas, offers, etc, to me at the usual address (indexing IT might make a good F.L.A. thesis for someone-??).

WHOLE EARTH CATALOGUE and its offspring- JOHN MAY, formerly of FRENZ, is producing, with others, something called: The Catalogue: an Index of Possibilities - sounds good, and knowing John it will be good. They want helpers - Clonose Publishers, 2 Blenheim Crescent, W.11.

Boring but necessary info. MONEY and things

LfSC costs 20p for a single copy.

Subscription rates:

individuals: 45p for 3 issues

libraries (direct): 60p ditto; (via agents) 80p.

Overseas rates on application.

(LfSC on microfiche - orders to Harvester Press, address as above)

All money, preferably by uncrossed postal order (it saves bank charges) payable JOHN NOYCE, - send to 67 Vere Rd, Brighton, Sussex, BN1 4NQ.

A few copies of no.1 are still left, if anyone wants one.

The Editor Speaks ...

No.2 at last hits daylight! The gestation period of an issue of LfSC is usually 3-4 months, whilst I gather material, type it up, duplicate, collate, answer correspondence, sell the previous issue, oh yes, and do all the other work. The journal is non-profit making by the way. I try to publish in the journal articles on subjects which are not likely to appear elsewhere in the librarianship press. There's quite a lot of material being published in non-library journals which I try to reprint; ditto the library schools have a lot of semi-published ideas/articles which need a wider audience. People generally have welcomed the concept of the magazine, though a few have misunderstood my motives.

A group of like-minded librarians has grown up around the magazine, and we hope more will be formed (see pp.6 & 21) Hence we are publishing a list of addresses of subscribers in the hope that an exchange of ideas can begin and groups can form. In this context, I'd like to contact the elusive Library Action Group, and to exchange ideas/info with other radical groups/papers both here and abroad.

I've always been interested in the bibliographical side of things, which you'll see from the back cover. The survey of alternative information services and alternative libraries is very important, and needs to be comprehensive. So if you know of a collection of left-wing/underground/radical publications drop me a line so we can include it in the list. Several LfSC group members are helping to organise some of the libraries and are making their own library collections available to others in their area- Richard Alexander and Anne Colwell are doing this in the London borough of Merton, for instance.

A word about the production of the journal. I use duplicating as that's the cheapest method for a 400 print run, with a printed front cover. As you'll realise from the Ron Cobb cartoons, photo stencils are not the best way to reproduce graphics, so those will have to be printed in the future - but to do this we must have more subs!!

Its amazing how most libraries in this country have behaved like the proverbial ostrich and hoped we'd go away-they all wanted specimen copies, pity they (some, not all incidentally) can't fork out 20p to pay for them. Response from overseas has been far better - the library service of Jamaica has taken out 14 subs, one for each of its branches presumably. Now why can't British libraries do this, after all the price is kept right down. But most won't, so the ideas will have to be spread by personal contact. So show you're copy round.

Right. I've had my moan. Now for the credits. The graphics livening up the text are by my flat mate, Shirley Woods. My other flat mate, Robert Conrad, wrote down his thoughts on censorship. The front cover is a joint effort of all three of us. Thanks also to Richard Alexander for unearthing the article on Czech libraries.

As editor I've been invited to a meeting of 'editors of professional journals' at the L.A. in June. Hope its not too boring-something about 'standards' I gather. I leave you with this parting thought: How the hell do you 'standardise' LfSC?

A Smoothie Publications/ Librarians for Social Change project:

Alternative bibliographies! Its coming together!

DIRECTORY OF ALTERNATIVE MEDIA PERIODICALS, compiled by John Noyce.
2nd ed. 1972 + Supplement. Over 1000 titles listed covering
the whole spectrum of the Alternative Press in Britain, 1965-1972.
The definitive edition.

individuals, £1.30 libraries, £2.45

3rd edition in preparation - will list current titles only
(tentatively, 4th ed, 1974, will be a further 'definitive' ed)

ALTERNATIVE PRESS INDEXES series (tentative title), a series of
in-depth indexes to individual papers, series edited by John
Noyce for the Harvester Press. Help wanted to index as many titles
as possible.

CONTACTS: alternative organisations. 1st ed. 1972 15p.

2nd ed. in preparation as DIRECTORY OF ALTERNATIVE ORGANISATIONS

DIRECTORY OF ALTERNATIVE INFORMATION SERVICES & LIBRARIES
in preparation. Help needed to make this survey comprehensive.

IRISH SECTARIAN PERIODICALS, compiled by Paula Howard.

Detailed listing of all political newspapers and other serials
being published in Ireland in Spring 1973.

individuals, 10p ; libraries, 20p.

(we might also add that many alternative periodicals are being
reprinted on microfiche and microfilm by the Harvester Press as
part of their Primary Social Sources series)

Other titles include:

DAVID MERCER: A CRITICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY, compiled by Francis Jarman.
The first detailed bibliography of this important contemporary
writer. In preparation.

WORKERS' COUNCILS IN LIBRARIES by Richard Alexander.

A proposal for more staff involvement in the management of libraries.
In preparation.

We welcome other mss/ideas for publication.

John Noyce, 67 Vere Rd, Brighton, Sussex, BN1 4NQ.