

Social Responsibilities Round Table) Newsletter ALA

NEWSLETTER

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Women's Task Force Questions Candidates

On Tuesday, January 24-th, the SRRT Task Force on Women provided a forum for ALA's presidential candidates Thomas Galvin and Gerald Shields. Both candidates gave introductory speeches, and then answered questions that Task Force coordinator, Diane Gordon Kadanoff asked on behalf of the Task Force, as well as several questions put to the candidates from the floor.

Introductory Remarks:

Galvin believes the field should be "open to talent", he wants ALA to begin a dialogue with the information industry, he has a strong commitment to restructuring ALA, sees the "democratizing" of Council as a mistake and believes the effect was the opposite, wants ALA program and staff to be accountable to membership. Shields says that having worked there he understands the problems and politics of ALA headquarters. He would, if elected president, "emphasize issues, not tinkering with structure." He said the profession needs a unified voice and not the fragmentation that would result from certain restructuring proposals.

Q : What is your position regarding the delayed updating of the Library Bill of Rights, that would make it conform with the sexism and racism awareness resolution? .

(Continued on page 2)

inside:

Book Review:

ON EQUAL TERMS
p.4

EYE ON THE
LIBRARY PRESS
p. 5-6

Issues:

NUTRITION
P 3

Reporting from Chicago:

Betty-Carol Sellen
Michael O'Brien

Notes from Mid-winter

The President's Program, presenting a draft "toward a national information policy,"¹ received worse than mixed reviews in Chicago.

Shirley Echelman, President of the Special Libraries Association, found the language "inexact" and commented that librarians are "relatively unimportant in information." She criticized the emphasis in the draft on libraries, labeled the document "nothing but a manifesto for public libraries", and also suggested it be turned over to Edwin Newman for treatment of "linguistic disease."

Other critics included Audrey Grosch, President of the American Society for Information Science who complained that the draft is "an idealized statement that ignores real world problems."

Expect to hear more on this one leading up to the annual conference this summer. There is a battle brewing here and the ingredients include the information industry, library funding, and library services, free access and information systems. Big business.

Council...

Several resolutions were passed by Council during mid-winter week with little discussion or debate, and a couple bear noting for commit-

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