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Rhode Island Library Association

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## Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 50, no. 11

RILA

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# Rhode Island Library Association BULLETIN



**TELEVISION AND LIBRARIES  
JUNE 1978**

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
150 EMPIRE STREET  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

June 1978 Volume 50 No. 11

Indexed in Current Awareness  
Library Literature  
Z673R52 57-26438

EDITORIAL NOTICE:

The Bulletin appears monthly except in August. News and articles should be submitted to the editor by the 10th day of each month for publication by the end of that month.

The Bulletin is a publication for public, school, academic and special libraries of Rhode Island. Published by the Rhode Island Library Association, the Bulletin welcomes news and discussion of interest to RILA members. Articles contained herein, however, do not necessarily reflect the ideas of the RILA membership, or the Bulletin staff or advertisers. All articles about library and media matters will be considered. All should be signed and should not exceed ten double spaced typed pages unless the editor is consulted.

The Bulletin subscription rates are \$7.00/year for agencies or individuals not holding membership in RILA. Advertising rates per issue are \$20 per 1/4 page, \$35 per 1/2 page, and \$50 per full page. Call the advertising manager for further information.

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# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

"Television and Libraries Issue"



Some time ago I announced my resignation as editor of the RILA Bulletin, effective June 1, 1978. So after nearly five years on the editorial staff and three years as editor, my experience with the Bulletin, and the Rhode Island Library Association, comes to a close.

As many of you know, my experience in a Rhode Island library closed last August in dismissal at the Pawtucket Library on unsubstantiated "budgetary" grounds. With the absence of standard employment protection for the non-unionized librarian in that library's regulations, in the law, and in the procedures of the Rhode Island Library Association, there was no immediate means of retaining the position. A campaign for formation of a RILA personnel committee brought about its establishment. But an appeal to that committee to investigate my dismissal only brought a response that the committee had decided to survey personnel policies in R.I. libraries instead. Recourse to the law has involved months of research which will result in a suit against the director and trustees of the Pawtucket Library this month. The suit requests only a credible explanation of why the dismissal occurred, or damages.

Whatever may be the decision of the courts on that suit, when litigation is complete an appeal to investigate the dismissal will be forwarded to the American Library Association. The ALA ordinarily does not deal with cases where litigation is in progress. After an ALA decision, I may write an autobiographical account of the dismissal experience. A national publisher has already indicated interest in such an account, and in a year or two it may provide some clarification on the current sad state of employment security for librarians, and some deterrent to capricious employers.

As some of you know, the shadow cast by unexplained job dismissal, the current state of the economy, and the overproduction of librarians by the graduate library schools, resulted in some difficult competition for new employment, and in 10 months of unemployment for me. While that experience has been financially and psychologically exhausting, thank God, it is about to end as I will shortly assume a new position in Connecticut.

My experience with a Rhode Island library has raised some bitter questions, and has produced some sore wounds, neither of which will soon disappear. But my experience with the Rhode Island Library Association in the production of its Bulletin has had rather the opposite effect. While I have worried in the wee hours as I dashed off article after article month after month; while I worried about accuracy, unjust offense, or simply boring you the readers; while I worried about wasting your good time and money; while I have erred; I invariably found the ultimate result of editing the Bulletin to be most rewarding. The response to almost every issue was quite ready,

sympathy was most generous, and moral and financial support most stimulating. I can only hope that your new editor, Matthew Higgins, and his associate editor Judith Plotz, receive the same degree of support.

For encouraging me so much to improve the Bulletin, for so kindly praising its good points and bearing with its bad ones, for RILA's 1978 "Special Tribute," I am most deeply thankful to all of you. Yet tribute should really go to the many who have served on the Bulletin staff, to contributors of news and articles, to RILA members, to RILA Executive Boards, and most particularly to the last three RILA presidents, James Giles, Daniel Bergen, and Ardis Holliday. For their support, for your praise and support, I am most heartily grateful.

Such praise is indeed a high reward, a reward beyond my just desserts. In closing I would beg you, however, not to forget that praise, yours, mine, ours, is the second highest award that one can give to another. The highest award is the mutual protection of employment for oneself and others, and what that means--food, shelter, the opportunity to prove competence in a vocation, and the dignity earned by doing so. Employment security for the competent is the greatest award that an Association can give its members, that you can give to one another, and to yourself. I would urge you, by way of farewell, to strive most energetically to have RILA, and if necessary, state law, guarantee you that security. Because it is you, laboring well and fully, who deserve the highest award.

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On another note I would like to thank the RILA Membership Committee and its chairwoman Jane Gudelsky for their efforts on the May Bulletin, the second annual RILA membership directory. This June issue's feature article is focused on television and libraries, on why television should be in libraries, on why it is the most important library medium. I hope that you find the article challenging. Sandra Feit, a delightfully eccentric illustrator from Philadelphia, has provided our video art work inside. The cover is also her take off from an old Baker and Taylor cover by Doug Taylor.

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RILA 1978-79 MEMBERSHIP FEE DUE JULY 1--MEMBERS NOT RENEWING  
WILL RECEIVE NO BULLETINS AFTER JULY-AUGUST ISSUE.

# Letters to the Editor



9 May 1978

Dear Editor:

Although I've left the state [of R.I.] for a one year inter-governmental mobility assignment with six cities south of Dayton, Ohio concerning the use of cable TV, I am still following R.I. library activities via the BULLETIN. Since you are asking for comments regarding the upcoming Governor's Conference on Library and Information Science, I would like RILA to consider the topic of cable TV and the implications it holds for libraries in terms of transmitting information to the community and the library as a community access center.

Since the Public Utilities Commission of R.I. controls the right to franchise cable systems in the state, a dialog between state officials and librarians on this topic I think is essential if librarians desire to open up new channels of communications with their public.

At present the growth of cable TV in R.I., except for the Westerly area, has been non-existent because of current court proceedings in the state. This will hopefully end soon, and when a decision is made many cable companies will be approaching the densely populated (and therefore lucrative) R.I. area. What services will they provide, how will libraries, schools and other non-profit organizations fit into the picture should be addressed. Some interesting background reading for what has occurred in R.I. concerning cable TV appears in the "Biennial Report of the Public Utilities Commission and the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers for the Years 1973 and 1974" (p. 134-289). The comments are written by the then Public Utilities Chairman Archie Smith. Some of his ideas need some serious reexamination before franchises are handed out, especially in light of the recent cable TV growth throughout the country and national court rulings regarding cable TV.

The potential inherent in this relatively new communication medium of cable TV and the possibilities it opens up for libraries and community oriented groups must be recognized. As Douglas Davis commented in a NEWSWEEK article (Nov. 21, 1977, p. 29): "We now have in our hands the means to change the mind-numbing course of television.... (cable TV) may be the last chance to insure--on our main channels of communication--diversity of thought and action." Librarians surely have a role to play.

Sincerely,

Ronald G. Heroux, Executive Director  
Miami Valley Cable Television Council  
100 West Spring Valley Road  
Centerville, Ohio 45459



# CALENDAR

*The RILA Calendar is maintained by RILA's Continuing Education Committee. If you have a date for any event of library/media interest, please telephone it to Pat Bisshopp, 438-9500, or mail it to her at Meeting Street School, 667 Waterman Ave., E. Providence, RI 02914. All meetings listed here are open to interested members of the library community.*

- June 8 RILA Executive Board Meeting, Barrington Public Library, 2 p.m.
- June 12 "State Documents Project Meeting," CRIARL (Consortium of R.I. Academic and Research Libraries), Dept. of State Library Services, 10 a.m.
- June 13 Adult Book Meeting, "Fashion: Clothing - Homemade/Designers, Male/Female," Warwick Public Library, 9:30 a.m.
- June 14 "The Handicapped in YA Fiction," Young Adult Round Table, Meeting Street School, East Providence, 9:30 a.m.
- June 14 Preview of children's films, RI Library Film Cooperative, Warwick Public Library, 9:30-12 noon, repeated at 1:30-4 p.m.
- June 17 "Business Reference Materials," Workshop 1., Graduate Library School, University of Rhode Island. Fee: \$30.00.
- June 20 Interlibrary Loan Teletype Procedure Review, Providence Interrelated Library System, Meeting Room, Providence Public Library, 2-4 p.m.
- June 24-30 Annual Conference, American Library Association, Chicago.
- July 9-22 Summer Media Institute, Northfield Mount Hermon School, western Mass. For information consult: Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.
- July 12-16 "The Library Planning Process," Institute 1., Graduate Library School, University of Rhode Island. Fee: \$200.00.
- July 13 RILA Executive Board Meeting, URI Library Conference Room, 2 p.m.
- Aug. 5-9 "On-line Systems: Design and Use," Institute 2., Graduate Library School, University of Rhode Island. Fee: \$200.00.
- Sept. 24-26 31st Annual Conference, New England Library Association, Wentworth, N.H.
- Nov. 1-2 RILA 1978 Fall Conference, Sheraton-Islander, Newport.

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**Renew membership by July 1**

**or Bulletins will stop coming after July-August issue**



## R I L A • S R R T H O T L I N E

The RILA Bulletin editors ask local library employers in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut to send us news of upcoming openings at any level in their libraries. There is no advertising fee. Write or call Barbara Cohen, Adams Library, Rhode Island College, Providence, R.I. 02908 (telephone 401-456-8125).

Job-seekers desiring a copy of the most recent monthly Jobline may obtain one by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to either of the SRRT coordinators:

Candice Civiak, Providence Public Library, Providence, R.I. 02903  
Marcia Hershoff, Woonsocket Public Library, Woonsocket, R.I. 02895

**M.I.T. LIBRARIES.** Exchange and Gifts Librarian (part-time, 25 hours). Responsible for the Libraries' gift and exchange program. Supervise one part-time assistant and students. Qualifications: MLS, 3-5 yrs. experience in technical services and/or collection development. Organizational skills; supervisory ability. Submit resume and names of 3 references by June 5, 1978 to: Margaret A. Otto, Assoc. Director of Libraries, Room 14S-216, M.I.T., Cambridge, MA 02139. (NYT, May 14)

**MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS.** Director. Responsible for development, improvement, and coordination of library services for all residents of the Commonwealth. Salary open. Qualifications: MLS from accredited school, 10 yrs. of diverse library experience, 5 in administration. Apply by July 1 to: Mass. Board of Library Commissioners, c/o Search Committee, 648 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02135. (NYT, May 14)

**VISUAL SERVICES, DESIGN LIBRARY.** Librarian (part-time, 20 hours). Coordinate public services and collection development in audio-visual collection of library specializing in architecture, landscape architecture, and planning subjects. Responsibilities include acquisition, cataloging, circulation, reference, supervision of one staff member and students. Qualifications: BA in related field; MLS; familiarity with A-V materials; experience in a slide library or media collection. Salary \$11,500+. Send resumes to: Philip E. Lernbach, Asst. University Librarian for Personnel, Harvard University Library, Cambridge, MA 02138. (Chron. of Higher Ed., May 15)

**SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY.** Library Director. Responsible for overall administration of 100,000 volume library. 12 month appointment; faculty status; reports to academic VP. Qualifications: MLS; additional advanced degree preferred. At least 5 years academic library administrative experience. Salary commensurate with experience. Position open Sept. 1, 1978. Send resumes and references to: Dr. Charles E. Ford, Academic Vice-President, Sacred Heart University, P.O. Box 6460, Bridgeport, CT 06606. Deadline: June 15, 1978. (Chron. of Higher Ed., May 15)



ANDOVER, MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY. Assistant Director. MLS from ALA-accredited library school plus five years experience including two at supervisory level. Primary responsibilities include book selection, personnel, and building maintenance, plus other related responsibilities. Salary range: \$13,087-\$15,751. Position open: October 1 (tentatively). Apply to Nancy C. Jacobson, Director, Memorial Hall Library, Elm Square, Andover, MA 01810. (EMRN, April 78)

BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY. Head Librarian. MLS from ALA-accredited library school plus Massachusetts certification and interest in small library development in a community of 14,000. Varied responsibilities. Salary range: \$8,500-\$10,730 (in five steps). Send resume to Mrs. Joanne McAneny, 19 Saddleback Hill Road, Bellingham, MA 02019. (EMRN, April 78)

PITTSFIELD, MASS. PUBLIC SCHOOLS. Elementary School Librarians. Send applications to: Director of Services, P.O. Box 1187, Pittsfield, MA 01201. (Wilson L.B., May 78)

BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE. Public Services/Reference Librarian. Requirements: ALA accredited MLS and 2 years experience. Duties: reference service and collection development. Salary: \$12,199-20,441. Send application and resume to the Director, Learning Resources Center, Bristol Community College, Fall River, MA. (Mass. Bureau of Library Extension, May 17)

NELINET. Assistant Director for Member Services. Requirements: MLS, 4 years exp. including work with OCLC and automated systems. Salary: \$16,000+. Apply to: N.E. Board of Higher Education, 40 Grove Street, Wellesley, MA 02181.

BROWN UNIVERSITY. University Librarian. Send letter of application and credentials to Eric Widner, Executive Officer, Faculty of Academic Affairs, Box 1862, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912.

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. Senior Information and Transfer Specialist. For further information contact: Mr. Curtis A. Laffin, Assistant Regional Leader, Coastal Ecosystems, Fish & Wildlife Service, US Dept. of the Interior, One Gateway Center, Suite 70, Newton Corner, MA 02158.

SAVE THE BAY. Volunteer Position: Coordinator for Save the Bay's Library. Contact: Susie Dayan, Save the Bay, Providence, RI, (401)272-3540.

ADLER, SHEEHAN, AND POLLACK. Law Library Job. Updating of looseleaf services and legal literature; acquisitions and cataloging; reference work. Contact: Peter Kennedy, Adler, Sheehan, and Pollack, Hospital Trust Tower, Providence, RI. Sal.: \$8,000 for new graduate.

BIGELOW FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY. Head Librarian. Required: MLS; Massachusetts certificate; administrative exp. and skills in children's programming. Send letter and resume to Board of Trustees, Bigelow Free Public Library, Clinton MA 01510, by June 12.

FORBUSH MEMORIAL LIBRARY, WESTMINSTER. Head Librarian. Supervise other staff members and volunteers, initiate programs of community interest, work on budget control, and assist in the work of the trustee board. Minimum requirements: MLS degree from an ALA accredited library school. Send resume to Ms. Elizabeth Bowen, Forbush Memorial Library, Westminster, MA. For further information, write or call the library at 874-2172. (Cracker Barrel, March-April 78)

NORTON, MASS. Elementary School Librarian. Qual.: Must meet certification requirements. Librarian for grades K-5. Contact: Supt. of Schools, Norton, MA.

WESTERLY PUBLIC LIBRARY. Director. Resort community of 18,000 seeks director for Library and Regional Center. Book collection over 100,000. Budget of \$390,000 for library, Regional Center, 18 acre park and Art Gallery. Staff of 17 full time. Four years administrative experience. ALA accredited MLS. Minimum salary \$17,000. Employee benefits. Apply by June 19, 1978. Search Committee, Westerly Public Library, Broad Street, Westerly, RI 02891. An equal opportunity employer.

SEEKONK LIBRARIES. Library Assistant in Children's Dept. Degree in early education or equivalent. Must be creative in developing and publicizing children's services in library. Salary: \$7,000. Send resume to Sharon E. Davis, Director, Seekonk Libraries, 440 Central Ave., Seekonk, MA 02771.

EMMA PENDLETON BRADLEY HOSPITAL. Library Assistant. Skilled typist; shorthand necessary. Knowledge of library procedures and some advanced background in behavioral sciences desirable. Duties varied and interesting. Excellent benefits. Mon. thru Fri. 8:30 to 4:30. Call for appointment 434-3400, ext. 239.

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. Reference Librarian. MLS required; knowledge of American history and descriptive bibliography desirable. Salary \$9,500+. Position to start July 1978. Submit resume to Ms. Rachel Stuhlman, Head of Reference, Dept., Boston Athenaeum, 10-1/2 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108. (NYT, May 21, 1978)

RILA INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM COMMITTEE: The IFC will ask the RILA Executive Board at its next meeting to condemn application of the state's new obscenity law to non-commercial agencies such as art galleries, museums, and libraries. The law specifically prohibits interference with such agencies. This request is in response to the recent Providence police raid on a local gallery photographic exhibit. The RILA protest, if approved by the Board, will be sent to the Providence Police chief, the mayor, the city council and the city solicitor, as well as the ACLU (in support), the state's governor and attorney general and Judge Raymond Pettine.

# Membership Renewal Form

JULY 1, 1978 - JUNE 30, 1979

MEMBERSHIP RATES (DUE AND PAYABLE JULY 1, 1978)

## Individual

First Time Member	\$ 5.00
(other than a student)	
Student (one year only)	3.00
Trustee	5.00
Income:	
\$ 0,000 - \$ 4,999	5.00
5,000 - 6,999	7.00
7,000 - 8,999	9.00
9,000 - 10,999	11.00
11,000 - 12,999	13.00
13,000 and above	15.00



## Institutional (without voting privileges)

Budget:	
\$ 0,000 - \$ 24,999	\$10.00
25,000 - 99,999	20.00
100,000 - 299,999	30.00
300,000 and above	50.00

For each \$10 of institutional dues paid, one non-member will be allowed to attend major conferences at member rate, but without voting privileges.

Your dues include receipt of the RILA Bulletin (11 issues/year).  
Non-member Bulletin subscription - \$7.00/year

Association dues support such activities as legislation, continuing education, intellectual freedom, public relations.

Membership fees are tax deductible; please retain this section for your records. \_\_\_\_\_ (Amount paid)

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SECTION AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT.

Your listing in the annual Membership Directory is based upon the information provided below. Please notify us of future changes of address, affiliation, position, or telephone number.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Library or Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Business Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Dues amt. \_\_\_\_\_

If you do not wish your listing to appear in the annual Membership Directory, indicate by checking here: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form and payment to: RILA, Attn. Jane M. Gudelsky,  
Westerly Public Library, Broad Street, Westerly, RI 02891  
(Telephone: 596-2877)

(5/78)

# Rhode Island Library Association **SPRING CONFERENCE**

*-by Matthew Higgins*

In spite of the rainy weather on Tuesday, May 9, the membership turned out, if not *en masse*, in substantial numbers for the RILA Spring Conference and 75th Anniversary Celebration at the Providence Public Library. During the first hour, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., registration went smoothly and diets were forgotten--or held in abeyance--with hard-to-resist pastries, accompanied by coffee, getting the upper hand over many of us. Generally, it was an hour for renewing old acquaintances, making new ones and chatting on a variety of topics in and out of librarianship.

The scheduled business meeting started promptly at 11:00 a.m. with Association President Ardis Holliday presenting the new director of the Providence Public Library, Anna Lee Bundy, to the membership. Ms. Bundy was warmly welcomed and, in turn, welcomed the conference attendees to the P.P.L. She expressed regret that she could not stay but, instead, was scheduled to deliver a speech at a Massachusetts Library Association meeting. She further explained that this commitment was made before she knew that she was coming to Providence.

Moving along briskly, President Holliday saluted the Past Presidents of RILA who were present at the meeting, acknowledging the receipt of notes from those who were unable to attend. The names of those present were read as follows: Jean Nash, James Giles, Kay K. Moore, Elizabeth Myer, Selby Gration, F. Charles Taylor, Charles W. Crosby, Dorothy Budlong, Glen Brown, Richard Olsen, Ellen Stone Harris, Paul Basin, Richard Robbins, Dan Bergen, and Janice D. Franco. On a sad note, President Holliday noted the recent death of RILA Past President Paul Crane.

The RILA President then read two statements and requested that they be entered into the Association record. The first statement, a tribute to retiring Providence Public Librarian, F. Charles Taylor, was as follows:

"On behalf of the members of the Rhode Island Library Association I extend to F. Charles Taylor our warm personal wishes for a happy retirement. Your calm, reasoned, but very persuasive presence will be missed by the Association. We pay tribute to your many professional achievements in the American Library Association, the New England Library Association, and the Rhode Island Library Association. You have exercised capable leadership in developing the Providence Public Library into an

outstanding institution. Those who have had the pleasure of working with you fondly speak of their colleague and friend. Indeed, you imbibe the ideals of compassion, warmth and fairness in relating to your fellow librarians. You are truly a 'gentle' man. Our thoughts and good wishes go with you in everything."

The second statement, a tribute to Leo N. Flanagan, the outgoing editor of the RILA Bulletin, was delivered with equal sincerity:

"On behalf of the membership of RILA I wish to express the gratitude of the membership to Leo N. Flanagan, editor of the RILA Bulletin from 1975 to 1978. Under his leadership the Bulletin has developed into a quality professional publication. For the past three years Mr. Flanagan has spent some part of every day on the Bulletin. He worked approximately thirty hours a week on each issue. He has been thrifty in his management. When he assumed the editorship the Bulletin was printed in 8-1/2 x 11 inch format. In 1977 the Association saved \$1,000.00 by using photo-reduction, resulting in the cheaper 7 x 8-1/2 inch format. He introduced the concept of themes for particular issues. Issues have featured book mobiles, outreach, bibliography, and the valuable membership directory. He pioneered the Gallimaufry and Quotable Quotes. However, his chief contribution has been the highlighting of controversy. The Bulletin has spoken to the membership about unionization, the quality of the U.R.I. Graduate Library School, censorship and the job-market to cite a few pithy topics. The Bulletin has incorporated contemporary graphic design from Aubrey Beardsley to Polish art. The membership extends its sincere appreciation to Leo N. Flanagan for unflinching service to the Association."

Preceding the Committee Reports, Ruth Corkill delivered a brief Treasurer's Report, or, as she termed it, a report on the Association's financial situation. Citing the \$639.00 profit earned from the "Bohling Book Sale" and prudent spending, she concluded that the financial situation was healthy. Between the savings account and the checking account the Association's total cash, as of April 30, 1978, was \$3,348.56. Also with 83% of the year elapsed only 76% of the budget has been expended.

Roberta Cairns, Chairperson of the Public Relations Committee, presented the first committee report. Beginning with an appeal for new members for her committee, she went on to outline the Public Relations Committee's major objectives. She cited some of the committee's achievements and future plans including the planned preparation of a short slide/tape presentation that will highlight visually the library services available in Rhode Island. A poster campaign is planned, as is an intensive media campaign which will include spot announcements on local public service radio. A major goal of her committee is to develop a better relationship between local libraries and the local business community.

In her report for the Continuing Education Committee, Bee

Lufkin began with a description of the functions of her committee. She reviewed the committee's plans presently in process to gain CEU recognition. In addition the Continuing Education Committee is developing a survey instrument designed to assess continuing education policies in Rhode Island libraries. The committee has approved a model policy on continuing education for personnel development as written by the NELB Task Force. The model policy will be submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

John Bucci, reporting for the Conference Committee, extended an invitation to any interested members to join his committee. He described the committee's functions, responsibilities and programs. His major emphasis was on the role of the committee in the planning of the Fall Conference. He has been in contact with Gerry Shields and the prospects of Shields being at this year's Fall Conference are very good. He is also hopeful that Sandra Coleman, the Chelsea librarian, will be present. Programs on computerized circulation systems, the abusive patron, copyright and several other topics are planned.

A new, and potentially powerful committee, the Personnel Committee, is chaired by Earl Schwass and has met just once. Along with Chairperson Schwass the committee members are Helen Giles, Karen Light, Nancy Peace, Richard Olsen, Frank Hanaway, Susan Weddington and Anne Parent. At the first meeting the committee decided on its function, jurisdiction and procedures. Broadly the committee's functions are (1) to recommend policies, procedures and standards that should govern employment in R.I. libraries, and (2) to act as an ombudsman in employment disputes. Chairperson Schwass stressed the need for agreement on policies, standards and procedures, but was no less emphatic with the caveat that the committee must proceed cautiously because of the complexity of personnel issues.

Trustee Chairperson, Christian King, who arrived later, delivered her report via two letters to Kathleen Gunning. Her committee, it seems, had very little to report and not much in the way of plans for the future. She did suggest that there was a great need for more cooperation between trustees and librarians particularly in the areas of public relations and legislative activity. She specifically requested that librarians update trustee lists and forward them to her. Perhaps the most important suggestion in Chairperson King's letters was that it was time to hold another trustee get-together. A tentative date of June 26 was set with the place still undetermined. Additional information will be furnished to trustees.

In her report for the Intellectual Freedom Committee, Kathleen Paroline expressed a great deal of pessimism and a small measure of optimism. In reference to the recently enacted obscenity legislation (the bad news) she was hopeful that the "commercial gain" clause might provide protection for libraries (the good news). At the same time she warned that because of other recent examples of censorship in the state we must not rely too much on the commercial gain exemption. Instead the IFC must work vigorously to fight censorship and she encouraged new members to assist in the fight.

Judy Einhorn's Outreach Committee is, she reports, made up of a group of librarians who are committed to extending library services especially to those not traditionally served. Her committee is currently engaged in a survey of library services in R.I. Response to the survey has been good and results will be published in the Bulletin this Fall.

Lee Flanagan, the outgoing editor of the Bulletin and Chairperson of the Bulletin's Committee, outlined some of the Bulletin's major accomplishments over the past year. Included in the accomplishments were the successful campaign with the IPC for the establishment of the Personnel Committee and the push for the 75th Anniversary Celebration. He extended his thanks to all Bulletin readers and contributors. He was particularly grateful to the Executive Board for its moral and financial support. He cited some of the Bulletin's problem areas emphasizing that the major problem is the reluctance of RILA members to send news items to the editor.

Paul Rinaldi, reporting for the Constitution and By-laws Committee briefly stated three matters that have been considered for reform by the committee. Under consideration are additional members-at-large on the Executive Board, structuring for membership participation in the nominating process and changing of the fiscal year to correspond with the electoral year. In reporting for the Nominating Committee, Nancy Chudacoff asserted that a major goal of this committee is to make the nominating process as open as possible. She briefly described the steps being taken to achieve this goal and encouraged RILA members to contact committee members. Jane Gudelsky's Membership Committee is avidly seeking to increase its membership while attempting to identify the needs of all librarians. Trustees are being strongly urged to join RILA and letters asking for their support will soon be mailed to them.

The Legislative Committee headed by Charles Churchwell has been busy but, in his words, has not much to show for it. He acknowledged that the Association has some critical problems and stressed the need for an effective lobbyist at the General Assembly session. He further pointed out that this would cost money and suggested that a surcharge on Association dues might pay the bill. What is really needed, in his opinion, is a knowledgeable librarian with some political acumen who could take the time from his or her job to lobby. The Association would then reimburse the specific library for the lobbyist's time.

Special RILA Representative Roberta Cairns and Louise Sherby reported on the progress of the Steering Committee for the Governor's Conference and the U.R.I. Graduate Library School Advisory Committee respectively. It seems that the work of both committees is proceeding as scheduled.

DSLS Director, Miss Jewel Drickamer, addressed the meeting, praising the Government Relations Committee for its role as a reinforcer of DSLS's budgetary efforts. She has reason to believe that we would be receiving a five cent per capita increase. Also, the amount granted to Westerly Public Library was \$7,000, or \$300 short of the amount that would bring it up to the \$55,000 requested.

In another unexpected development it seems that Salve Regina College and Rhode Island Junior College are to be granted \$7,500 each as special research centers, although not part of this year's request. In addition, the Governor is giving the DSLS Director \$10,000 cash from his contingency budget toward the Governor's Conference. She thanked RILA for its support and encouraged its continuing input and support.

As we moved on to discuss the future objectives and concerns it became apparent that time was not on our side. The reports had run on too long, despite President Holliday's request to keep them short (about 3 minutes). A principal reason for this proposed dialogue between members and officers was that there never is enough time at the annual meeting for such a session. The disproportionate discussion time notwithstanding, there was enough time for some exchange. The perennial RILA issues--the hiring of a paid lobbyist and publicist--fostered some heated discussion but little resolution. Other areas of concern were use of non-print media in public libraries, the involvement of RIEMA members in RILA, the role of special librarians in RILA and payment for public library services by business groups. While topics were generally stuck to, some members wandered far afield and into the trivial, and further used up valuable time. And time was in the saddle forcing the ongoing discussion to come to a halt.

During the luncheon break the Past Presidents were guests of the Executive Board at a local restaurant. After lunch the members celebrated the Association's 75th birthday. Champagne and cake were served to the members while the Ballad Mongers' melodious voices fought hard to be heard over the din of the crowd. Other entertainment included The Puppet Workshop, The Silent Clown, The Mair Davis Duo, The Barrington Boys' Choir and the Kaleidoscope Company. While these groups served to entertain, their presence gave librarians the opportunity to see what they had to offer for library performances.

Ardis Holliday announced that she will be turning over the presidency of RILA to Kathleen Gunning on July 1 of this year. As she will be leaving for Texas early in the Fall, President Holliday felt that July 1 was a suitable time for the new Association President to take over.



SEEING IS BELIEVING:  
PUBLIC LIBRARIES VERSUS TELEVISION  
- by Lee Flanagan © 1978

"They come to see . . ."

- Ovid



"I believe television is going to be the test of the modern world, and that in this new opportunity to see beyond the range of our vision we shall discover either a new and unbearable disturbance of the general peace or a saving radiance in the sky. We shall stand or fall by television--of that I am quite sure."

-E.B. White, 1938

"This instrument can teach, it can illuminate; yes, and it can even inspire. But it can do so only to the extent that humans are determined to use it to those ends."

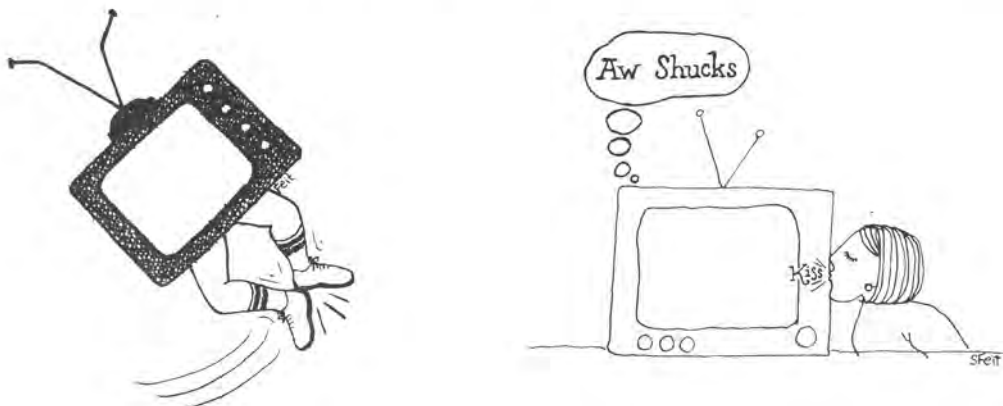
- Edward R. Murrow, 1958

In Newsweek just a few years ago there appeared a curious article on the future of television viewing.<sup>1</sup> The man of the house has settled down for a long night's viewing. At the flick of a switch an 84 inch television screen lights up with the opening scene from "Jaws II," coming to him unsevered by commercials on the local pay-cable channel. When the movie ends, he pulls out the latest selection from the Video-Disc-of-the-Month Club. He places a stereo record-sized video disc on a turntable device wired to the 84 inch television receiver, presses a button, and sits back to enjoy the recorded feature, a Jack Nicklaus golf lesson or some x-rated erotica. With his midnight sandwich and Schlitz, the hypothetical viewer concludes the evening with a football game he missed the previous Monday night. A video cassette recorder unit, which taped the contest while he was out, promptly plays back all the action, with every Howard Cosellism intact.

Newsweek's reporters might have added that on the next morning the above viewer's wife touched a series of telephone buttons to a local computer base, and brought to life on a 36 inch kitchen wall screen the weather report, the day's school lunch, a one page summary of the news, current on-sale items in local stores, and the community events calendar. Then with the morning's first cup of coffee she watched a 4 minute travelog on Brazil, where she and her husband planned their next vacation. Who needs to trudge out to the public library in the rain?



There is no science fiction fantasy in these scenes. Large screens, pay cable, video discs, video cassette recorders, and computer information on demand via the television to be already exist, and is known as "alternative" television hardware and software. Mass production for the home market is delayed only by last minute refinements in engineering and marketing plans.



If network television has held the American public for thirty years with its less than mediocre standards, "alternative" television, a virtually unlimited source of information and entertainment of one's choice, is bound to be hypnotic. Where does that leave the public library? If it does not change, and recognize itself as a public agency providing public information through all of the major public media, including television, the public library will probably be a moribund rustitution well before the turn of the century. When taxpayers find the information that they need on a home wall screen, tax support for public libraries will cease. They are already in a great deal of trouble.

Chicago public librarian Alex Ladenson observed a few years ago that book circulation figures were dropping in his library, and were dropping in all of the large cities.<sup>2</sup> He might have added, in some towns too. In the cities the exodus of a reading middle class to the suburbs is in part the explanation. And another part of the answer is that many public libraries have felt the loss of children, drawn away by school libraries improved with ESEA funds. But what is the explanation for a circulation drop in a town library that has been serving a stable, older population? And what is the explanation for a 25-year stagnation in the percentage of people reached by public libraries, despite a massive library effort to change that?

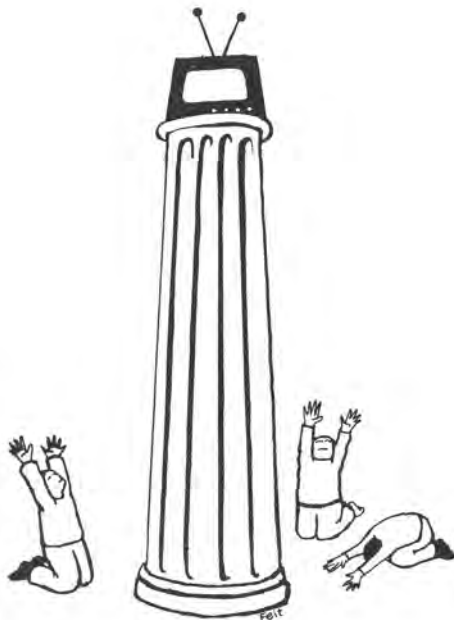
It was a quarter of a century ago that Robert D. Leigh, in The Public Library in the United States, showed that only ten percent of the public uses public libraries with any regularity.<sup>3</sup> In 1967

a study by the Institute of Public Administration at Penn State University concluded that neither the size nor the composition of the public library's clientele had changed much in twenty years, though there did not seem to be any identifiable opposition in the community to library service, and in fact there seemed to be more public acceptance of libraries.<sup>4</sup> And it was only in 1975 that Joseph Sakey, director of the Cambridge Public Library in Massachusetts, said the same thing.<sup>5</sup> There is, unfortunately, little current evidence for precisely what percentage of people public libraries do reach with regularity; that is, monthly or quarterly. But many library administrators do certainly concur with the ten percent figure, and most would certainly agree that they do not regularly reach 25 percent of their public.

Yet public library service has been much improved in the last generation. And librarians are considerably better trained. And book collections have never been more extensive and better selected. Libraries are much better publicized and funded. Coordination through regionalization is vastly improved. And librarian administrations have become more meticulous through surveys of community information needs and establishment of institutional performance measures. Then too, the public is better educated, it has more leisure, and its demand for information and entertainment is greater than ever before. 'What's wrong? Why are people simply not dashing to the public library in hordes, especially now when money is tight, inflation is decreasing real income, and public library service is free?



Can Marshall McLuhan be right? Are people just becoming less and less print oriented? There is evidence that they are, says Ladenson. We certainly know that some of the better schools are training them to be, and that there is evidence that is not necessarily a bad thing. On the contrary, there is even more evidence that it is a good thing to rely less heavily on word or verbal communication alone.



In a normal two person conversation, the verbal components (i.e., what would appear in print were a transcript to be made) carry less than 35 percent of the social meaning of the situation, while more than 65 percent is carried by non-verbal messages. So reports David Johnson in Reaching Out on a 1971 study by McCroskey, Larson and Knopf.<sup>6</sup> This may seem surprising, but we communicate by our manner of dress, physique, posture, body tension, facial expression,

degree of eye contact, hand and body movements, tone of voice, continuities in speech, spatial distance, and touch, as well as by words. Insofar as this is so, we must question to some extent the weakness of ordinary print, of reading, as a vehicle of communication. And we must ask, just how and when the media, such as television, might be better employed.

Educational psychology has now demonstrated that people can learn more, and learn more easily through an audiovisual method. There are more cues to meaning. Consequently, people enjoy more. So it is not surprising that Ladenson finds circulation of "non-book" items is increasing, and people are asking librarians directly for information (as they now get it from television commentators) rather than for books.

Most people certainly enjoy more with television than reading, as survey after survey has demonstrated. Television is the public medium, the medium the public has chosen, the medium that reaches most people in more places more times than any other ever has. Public surveys for years have shown that, and the following samples are proof.<sup>7</sup> A 1969 Canadian survey showed that three quarters of those interviewed felt television had the greatest effect on their lives of any medium, and two thirds felt that television was the most powerful medium in its ability to affect people's way of thinking or behavior. A 1970 A.C. Nielsen survey confirmed television's importance to the public in its finding that the average American household keeps the television set on 5 hours, 59 minutes a day, an increase since the 1950's. Ninety six percent of these households have television sets, and there is a television set for every two people in the nation. By 1973 Nielsen found that the average American man watches 22 hours of television per week, the average child of 6-11 years watches 26 hours a week, and the average woman watches 29 hours a week. That largely confirms the 1970 W.R. Simmons survey which noted that the average adult views 21.6 hours a week, and 60% of American adults watch more than 4 hours of television a day. Forty percent of American adults average as many hours a week before the tube as the average librarian works at his or her job.

FCC Chairman Newton Minow's 1961 assertion that network television was a "vast wasteland" has been challenged only by people such as Charles Sopkin, who chose to characterize it instead as "a gigantic garbage dump."<sup>8</sup> Fifteen years of improvement in public (educational) television and occasional quality network productions have not changed the great bulk of network television production, which is as mindless as ever. Yet television viewing in 1978 occupies 4 hours of adult time a day and is not decreasing.<sup>9</sup> Regardless of age, race, creed, income or education Americans watch, watch, watch. While the amount of weekly viewing is related to social status as determined by education and income, the differences are not startlingly great. College graduates view 17.3 hours per week compared to 21.7 hours a week for high school graduates. Those with incomes of \$15,000 to \$24,999 see 17.6 hours of television a week, while those earning \$5,000-\$7,999 exceed that amount by only 5.9 hours a week.<sup>10</sup>

Americans are watching television, and the world is watching American television to an extent that all other media pale in comparison. A television special, drawing only ten percent of the available audience, still reaches more people than an issue of Time. Attendance at motion pictures in the United States was 19.2 million in the year 1970, down from 41.1 million in 1960, and down from several times that number in the late 1940's. Yet one television special such as Roots or The Holocaust can draw three to five times the number of people in a week who go to movies in a year. In fact, in one night many more people may watch a television movie than the number attending all movie theatres in a year. 130 million Americans watched President Nixon resign. 600 million people around the world watched the astronauts in Apollo 11 make the first manned exploration of the moon. One in every six people on the globe had the same experience at approximately the same time. By the end of the first quarter of the next century with the spread of television satellites and receivers two out of every three people, or 5 billion people, could experience one moment in history together. The global village is a reality, instant audio visual communication is a global reality, through the magnetic universal compulsive medium of television.



Of the four major public communications media of the twentieth century, television, audio recordings (radio-records-tapes), print (books-newspapers and magazines), and film (motion pictures-slides and photographs), television is clearly overwhelmingly history's dominant medium. The motion picture, the phonorecording, and the book have been swamped! If the public is not flocking to improved

public libraries, it is because the public has chosen to spend its four free hours a day with television.

The only problem is that the public library is supposedly the institution established to provide public information and entertainment through public communications media. Or so we have heard. Yet the public library ignores the dominant communications medium, television. Public library trustees see it as frivolous. And public librarians refuse to use it. According to Seth Goldstein's "Video in Libraries," a 1977-1978 status from Knowledge Industries Publications, no more than five percent of public libraries are presently committed to video, and those that are seldom spend more than \$5,000 of their annual budgets on it.<sup>11</sup> Have public libraries, supported by the public, no obligation to heed the public choice of television as the public medium? If public librarians believe in intellectual freedom, in democracy, and in consistency, how can they strive for books representing in content all points of view, yet





in format tell the public footing the bill it cannot learn or enjoy in the communications medium it most prefers?

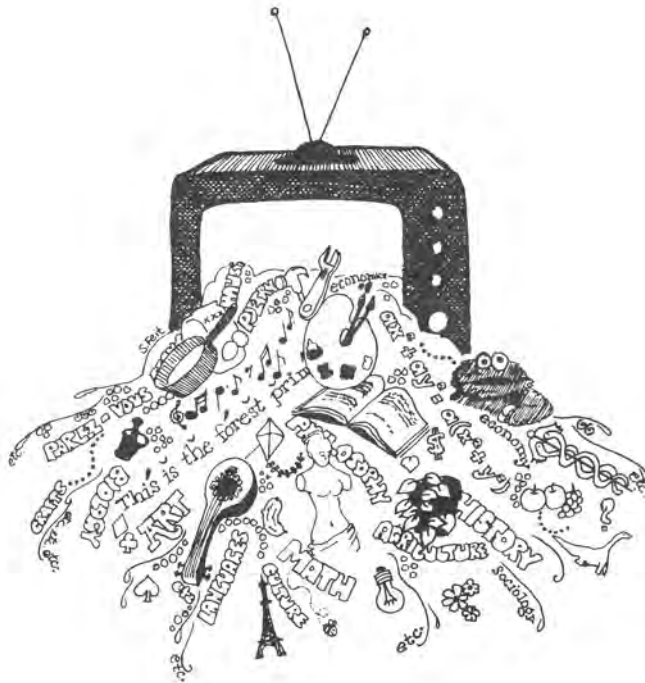
Network television may be largely a "wasteland" with an occasional oasis. But the occasional oasis has proven that television can achieve an informational or educational value rivaling or sometimes surpassing print, surpassing print sometimes in depth, and almost always in numbers reached. Schools, colleges, and their libraries have clearly demonstrated the power of television to teach and inform. With studio production equipment, video cassettes, portable cameras and recorders, programmed monitors, receivers, educational networks, and cable systems, academic and school libraries are providing a host of new educational experiences, especially in public educational institutions. Television sets are now standard equipment in 77 percent of public elementary schools and 69 percent of public high schools.<sup>12</sup> With both books and television school and academic libraries will continue to attract students, not to mention television script writers.

No one has asked the public librarian to abandon books. Nor has anyone asked the public librarian to defend them to the death, the death of the public library. By their very nature, books, allowing in depth explorations at one's own pace in any illuminated environment in a very carefree portable form, will survive. Nor is anyone asking the public librarian to relinquish the role of professional decision-maker in the area of public communications. But if in all other matters the public librarian maintains that intricate balance between



the public's wishes and the librarian's own knowledge of what is (according to the ALA Library Bill of Rights) interesting, enlightening and informative, how is it that the public librarian has wholly ignored the public's wish for three decades to know through television? Why is it that the public library believes it is only in the book, or print business, though in its proclamation it claims to be in the business of getting information to the greatest numbers in the most accessible manner or medium? Are as many people as comfortable with books as with television? Can as many understand books as can understand television? Can books reach the proverbial non-reading non-user of the library, the pre-school child, the crippled elderly, the ill educated teenager? Can books ever fully provide the combined audio and visual instruction ultimately necessary to master a skill such as knitting, a craft such as carpentry, a procedure such as safe biking? Can books ever provide the audio and visual enjoyment necessary to fully appreciate a baseball game, a classic motion picture, or a symphony orchestra? School and academic librarians realize that. But what do public librarians realize?

It is estimated that over 60 million adult Americans are not high school graduates. With few exceptions it can be safely assumed that most of these are not and will not become the kind of readers



who regularly use a public library. Yet experimental educational and informational programs using video material for these people, half the American public, have been tried and found successful.<sup>13</sup> These people, often untrained, confused, alone and impoverished, face the chaos produced by unprecedented social and technological change since World War II. The sudden post war increase in population, massive migrations of the rural poor to the cities and the urban well-to-do out of the cities, a massive increase in production of recorded information, an industrial electronics revolution, expansion of government, the growth of special interest groups, the possibility of world annihilation, growing shortage of fuel and food reserves, and ecological disasters, have produced a growing pattern of complex organization demanding that the individual have more and more instruction to achieve social coordination. This is Daniel Bell's "post-industrial age," the age in which information has become so necessary that it has also become valuable, valuable enough to be the world's best selling, most used commodity. Yet at least half the American adult population finds it difficult to secure vital information through print. What is the public library's obligation to assist the whole public's survival through television information? What is the public trust of the public library, books, or free information to those in need of it? What is the public library's desire to guarantee its own survival?

The overwhelming majority of the public prefer television to any medium. Yet an elitist and ignorant public library, supported by the public, ignores that preference and bemoans the "ignorance" of the public. How long in these times of taxpayer revolts, political funding cuts, and scarce dollars will the public fund an institution that does so little for so many so much of the time? Will public librarians awake in time to meet the public need, and by doing so, meet its own? McLuhan tells us that railroads failed because the men who owned them thought their business was trains rather than transportation. Will public libraries fail because those who manage them feel their business is books rather than public information via public medium? It has been forty years since the first ALA pronouncements on television. Will public librarians see it as the dominant public medium and use it? Only a few years remain in which to decide.

*This article is the first part of a three part paper being submitted for national publication. Part two will deal with the problems and possibilities of television per se, and part three will address specifically how public libraries can use it.*

#### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> Harry F. Waters and Ann Ray Martin, "Video's New Frontier," Newsweek, December 8, 1975, pp. 52 & 57.

<sup>2</sup> Eric Pace, "Showmanship: New Tactic to Fight Library Declines," New York Times, September 17, 1974, pp. 1 & 24.

<sup>3</sup> Robert D. Leigh, The Public Library in the United States: The Report of the Public Library Inquiry. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1950).

<sup>4</sup>William R. Monat, "The Community Library: Its Search for a Vital Purpose," ALA Bulletin, 61, December 1967, pp. 1301-1310.

<sup>5</sup>Joseph Sakey, "Comment from the Field on the NCLIS Draft," Library Journal, 99 (February 15, 1974), p. 457.

<sup>6</sup>David Johnson, Reaching Out: Interpersonal Effectiveness and Self Actualization. (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1972).

<sup>7</sup>Leo Bogart, The Age of Television. (New York: Frederick Ungar, 1972), p. 355 and ff.

<sup>8</sup>Bogart, p. 361.

<sup>9</sup>Richard Reeves, "The Dangers of Television in the Silverman Era," Esquire, 89, April 25, 1978, p. 48.

<sup>10</sup>Bogart, p. 375.

<sup>11</sup>"Video Revolution Dragging in Libraries," American Libraries, 8, May 1977, p. 228.

<sup>12</sup>"School Staffing Survey," National Center for Educational Studies, U.S. Department of Health Education and Welfare, Office of Education, Spring 1970, as reported in the National Center for Educational Statistics Bulletin, February 9, 1971.

<sup>13</sup>The National Cable Television Association, Cable Television and Education. (Washington, D.C., 1973), p. 38.

ARDIS HOLLIDAY: Ardis Holliday, RILA President from 1977 to 1978 is planning to leave for Texas early in the Fall. Mrs. Holliday, who began as a library intern at the Providence Public Library in 1963, has been director of the Westerly Public Library since 1973. A capable administrator and knowledgeable librarian, Mrs. Holliday has worked hard in furthering the library's role in the community. As RILA President she has exhibited strong leadership and genuine dedication to the Association, tirelessly striving to achieve its goals. In previous years she has unselfishly given her time and energy to serve on RILA committees. All those who have worked with or known Mrs. Holliday will miss her warm personal friendship, her joyful nature and her concern for the welfare and feelings of others.



## RI GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

REPORT ON GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE  
12 May 1978

The Steering Committee for the Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services met on April 11, 1978 at the Department of State Library Services at 7:30 p.m.

The Committee was fortunate to have Kevin Flaherty, our liaison from the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, with us and to have him address our committee. The forthcoming R.I. Conference was discussed in general terms in relation to the National Commission. It was emphasized that this is to be a citizen conference and that planning for regional speakouts is essential. In addition, emphasis was placed on developing issues and topics which are realistic and that discussion take place relating to state and National goals. The importance of goals and objectives, budget and delegate selection was discussed.

Our Steering Committee has divided into three sub-committees and we will list the names of members who may be contacted for additional input and information:

The Conference Organization Committee will deal with delegate selection, budget, speaker selection and conference format. Membership includes: Linda Cranston, Chairperson; Richard Botelho, Guido Cerilli, Knight Edwards, Jean Ladd, and Mildred Nichols.

The Issues and Problems Committee is concerned with goals for the conference, regional meetings, and task forces. Membership includes: Diane Kadanoff, Chairperson; Nancy Chudacoff, Charles Churchwell, William Croasdale, Louise Dolan, Laurence Eaton, George Favre, Sen. Robert Janes, Sherwin Kapstein, Helen Kelly, George Parks, and Earl Schwass.

The Public Relations Committee is charged with all promotion and public relations regarding the conference and the members have taken on the responsibilities of representing individual areas of the media and promotion. This committee is sponsoring a logo contest and all R.I. Art Teachers have been notified and asked to submit designs by May 24th. The membership includes: Joan Reeves, Chairperson; Alice Avedesian, Lee Bernier, Roberta A.E. Cairns, Janina D'Abate, and Nancy Fain.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roberta A.E. Cairns, RILA Representative  
Governor's Conference Steering Committee



# CHRONICLES OF CALLIMACHUS

- "edited" by L.N. Flanagan

## Preface

As you know, Callimachus was one of the first five great librarians at the ancient library in Alexandria. No time server, no political compromiser, no paid hireling, he regularly voiced independent and unsparing criticism. Irritating and irreverent, he spent his life speaking the theretofore unspeakable and unspoken. Some of us think that his spirit still wanders libraries today and that some librarians are yet haunted by his presence. While I indeed have confessed to having been so affected by numerous visitations from him, and have previously aired his views in the *Bulletin* in hope of pacifying him, I now find myself concerned that I haven't heard from him in some weeks. Has he sensed that I am about to resign as *Bulletin* editor? Is he wandering abroad at night in search of a new Scribe for his thoughts? Has anyone else heard from him? Will anyone else hear from him? Will he follow me? I don't know.

Callimachus has appeared only three times in recorded history, once in ancient Greece, once in Renaissance Italy, and once in Rhode Island in the 1970's. Or rather, he has appeared in print only at these times. Who is to say how many have heard from him in person? Should you, for example, dear reader, awake to something going bump in the night, do not bury your eyes in the pillow and pull the covers over your ears. Do not be afraid. Get up, and go down to your study or library or wherever your books are kept. Propitious spirits tend to keep vigil in the vicinity of good books, and we will presume that you possess good books. Go down, pour yourself a glass of wine if you wish, make yourself comfortable in your fireside chair, and listen. Listen. And if after a while, in the quiet darkness of very early morning, you should hear a voice, or even voices, listen. Listen carefully. Take notes if need be. Have no fear. Many have heard voices. Jesus did. St. Joan did. You are in good company. Heed the voice, even if it seems only a small one, even if it seems to be only within your head, even if it seems to be saying the strangest things. It may be the voice of Callimachus, it may be a wiser spirit, it may be your conscience. Then in the next day, or month, or year, most especially if the voice continues to speak, act on it. Speak to close and trusted friends. Perhaps they too will have heard voices, and will act with you. Perhaps Callimachus, or who knows whom, will speak to you, and will tell you something that we all should know. And you will write it down for us. Perhaps you will hear, and be brave, and honest, and will write. Perhaps your enemies will think you mad, perhaps strangers will avoid you, perhaps your employer will fire you. But your friends will be with you, even those whom you have not yet met. Perhaps as you write you will sometimes be uncertain, anxious, fearful. Finally, you will not care about fear and uncertainty. You will care only for what you must say, and for those poor people who are more afraid than you, so afraid they do nothing, or worse, they do what they do not believe. Perhaps you will be poor, unemployed, homeless. Perhaps you will be happy with yourself. Perhaps you will start a revolution. Maybe a small revolution?

As I said, Callimachus has not been about for some weeks. Hence this column, perhaps the last of its kind, for a little while, is composed of some fragmentary notes gathered here and there in various conversations with Callimachus. These notes are not very coherent, or well organized, and I must ask you to bear with me in trying to understand them.

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#### CHRONICLE XIV: Reproving Reflections for Rhode Island

It is my impression that the writer of pornography is more readily and vehemently defended by librarians than is the writer of library criticism. This may be ironic, but it is also a sign of immaturity in the field. Adolescent children, after all, take great interest in sleazy rock music stars, and ridicule their teachers.

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Why does RILA's official logo have in it 8 books and 2 letters, or 4 letters and 6 books, depending on how one looks at it, and nothing else? Did not someone say that libraries were now concerned with human communication through film, television, phono recordings, graphics, and computers?

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Was it Franz Kafka in The Trial who observed that writers write, or speakers speak, to create a satisfying fictive world when the actual world is unsatisfying? Does the enormous amount spoken and written of intellectual freedom in librarianship suggest some need to fictively supply what to a large extent does not exist in the actual library world? Confusion, nay, glaring contradiction on the subject of a librarian's primary obligation in the Library Bill of Rights, suggests that the reality of intellectual freedom is doubtful. How does one choose books that are informative and enlightening, and yet choose books representing all points of view?

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Has any instructor in a library school ever considered doing a survey of the "professional" reading habits of librarians? A short hand count survey done at several recent conferences in this area has shown that only about 5% of librarians claim to read any 6 library journals with regularity. And if their claims, and the claims of all who assert that they read any books or journals in the field were examined by academic examination, how proud would they be of the results?

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If no one opposes a single library/media umbrella association in Rhode Island, why does one not exist?

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While the general public approves of libraries, why do the more critical elements in this society, in cinema, advertising, and fiction, still find librarians to be the subject of humor? Why do librarians, in their diffidence in admitting to being librarians before strangers, confirm a fear that they may be received humorously?

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Library science might be an impressive field, if it were a science, if it encouraged the intuiting of hypotheses (and I mean inviting, for in its initial and most brilliant insights science is as creative and imaginative and wonderfully fantastic as any fairy tale), the regulated broad-based testing of those hypotheses in laboratories, then replication of measured research solutions in the field by an agreed upon authority, and the scholarly publication of and learned conferences on that research. But how much allowance is made for intuition in librarianship? Where is our testing? Where are our demonstration libraries, and laboratories? Where is the research authority that we have all agreed upon? Is it our library schools? Our library associations? What can we measure, the cost of a card catalog, our community's need to know, the size of an information unit, the effectiveness in learning through television over print, the usefulness of one theory of administration over another? There is no more science in library science than in drinking alcoholic spirits. Some do it badly, some do it well, and nobody is altogether sure why. Science is knowledge, proven information, proven by labor. What in library research really manifests the oft touted commitment of librarians to it?

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On television these days R.I. Governor J. Joseph Garrahy is advertising a Governor's Citizen Information Center where, according to the advertisement, a citizen can get an answer to any problem or question simply by calling one number. In fact, this Center provides information only about State services. The Providence Journal's Action Line provides a broader range of information, if at a slower rate. United Way operates an Information and Referral Line, and advertises it on bookmarks deposited at the Providence Public Library. It is already growing difficult in this small state to determine how many "information centers" exist. Enough exist to confuse the average citizen.

Why are so many information centers necessary? What happened to the library as the information center? Does the growth of so many other information centers indicate that the library has failed to do its job? Or have librarians failed to tell the Governor, United Way, and the general public that the library is the information center? Why are libraries not the single citizens' information centers for government and other public and civic service agencies? Why has the Dept. of State Library Services not compiled a catalogue or referral directory of all other area service agencies for local reference librarians? Why are libraries not using television every day to tell the people that they can get any answer to any question at one telephone number, at one information center, the library???

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In the seventies there has been much talk about the "new breed" of librarian. At first glance there does indeed seem to be a new breed, better educated, and therefore better paid, and therefore better dressed and groomed. In mind and body librarians have changed. But have they changed in their temperament, or is the dominant feeling still one of timidity? Is the only problem in changing librarians' primary allegiance from their institutions to their profession a problem of fear?

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It remains one of the great curiosities of public librarianship that a librarian's competence, tenure and advancement is frequently decided by a board of trustees, composed of clergymen, school teachers, furniture salesmen and pharmacists. While a surgeon's competence, tenure, and advancement on a hospital staff is decided by his senior peers or colleagues.

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It may be the most important function of any state association of librarians to establish an effective legal procedure for insuring to its members, and even non-members, equitable salaries, appropriate medical, pension, vocation, and other fringe benefits, and due process, grievance procedure, and employment security. Why has no American state library association done it?

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I do not understand how modern librarians can refer to themselves as an Association, or worse, as a profession, without being willing to defend one another, and one another's employment rights. It is difficult for one to perform professionally when one is out of work.

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In labor (union) law, in a dispute between an employer and an employee, the employer is not recognized as the final court of appeal. This is simply because the employer is an "interested" party in the dispute, and may be tempted to look after his interest before the interest of justice. Therefore the law wisely elects an arbiter, neither in sympathy or antipathy toward either disputant, to settle the dispute. But in some R.I. public libraries, the final court of appeal in a dispute between employer and employee may be the employer, the Board of Trustees! Such trustee authority is allowed by R.I. law 29-4-6. Should the RILA Government Relations Committee draft new legislation amending RI 29-4-6 to place final arbitration authority in a dispute between a librarian and a library board with the State Board of Library Commissioners? Under R.I. law 29 3.1-4 the Library Commissioners already act as a board of appeal on decisions regarding library services and library construction.

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Since the Department of State Library Services currently enforces standards in public libraries as to the amount of training



a librarian must have, as to the number of hours a library must be open, as to the minimal amount of library financial support, and the like, since these standards were first composed by the R.I. Library Association, could RILA draw up standards for the rights and responsibilities of public library staffs, defining for the first time their rights to certain salaries, fringe benefits, grievance and employment security safeguards, and other working conditions? Could these standards in turn be submitted to the Dept. of State Library Services and the Board of Library Commissioners for approval and enforcement?

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The University of R.I. currently conducts a broad range of courses for clerical library employees and for graduate librarians. Should the same school conduct a course for public library trustees, school and college administrators, and others with ultimate authority over libraries and librarians, covering current problems in information access, media technology, library economics, library standards, and library personnel practice? Should the Department of State Library Services mandate the course for public library trustees?

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In fact, do not librarians have much more work yet to do in their profession more in their institutions?

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## GALLIMAUFRY

-By Matthew Higgins

URI GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL GATHERING: One hundred and twenty-five happy alumni and friends of the GLS crowded the Student Senate Room of the Memorial Union on April 15 at the GLS's First Annual Gathering. It was a day devoted to social and educational activities that drew enthusiastic comments from those present. After opening remarks by University Vice President William Ferrante and Graduate Library School Dean Bernie Schlessinger that painted a continuing up-beat picture of the future, Patricia Pond, Associate Dean of the University of Pittsburg School of Library and Information Science, presented a thoughtful and impressive discussion of staffing in libraries, and implications for library education. Spirited discussion followed in small groups and continued into lunch. The afternoon featured hectic moments among the eight discussion groups as conversation continued on pertinent and timely issues. A pleasant wine and cheese party was followed by a guided tour of the new GLS quarters at Rodman Hall.

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REGIONAL CENTER'S NEW COMPUTER TERMINALS: Pawtucket Public Library is now linking up with the Providence Public Library's computer with the arrival of three computer terminals. The hookup is thought to be a "first" in the eastern United States in terms of a major library satelliting service and information to a smaller one. Among their functions the terminals will identify delinquent users, calculate fines and print overdue notices. All Pawtucket titles will be entered and added to the existing data base of Providence titles.

REGIONAL CENTER'S EXPANSION PLANS: Larry Eaton, director of the Pawtucket Public Library, presented plans for a \$2.5 million conversion and renovation of the Regional Center to the Pawtucket City Planning Commission. The adjacent welfare building is included in the plans prepared by Robinson, Green and Beretta. The building exteriors will remain essentially as is with some minor changes to the landscape.

R.I. HISTORICAL SOCIETY APPEAL: Mrs. Florence Manni of the R.I. Historical Society Library is asking for donations of all printed, manuscript and graphic materials dealing with R.I.'s people and institutions. These materials include annual reports, special city programs, tax lists, school committee reports, student publications, and business, agency, club and church source materials

for the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Donations may be brought to Hope and Power Streets or donors may call 331-0446 for pick-up.

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**RHODE ISLAND ARCHIVISTS:**  
R.I.C. Special Collections librarian reports that the Rhode Island Archivists, a group of archivists and special collections librarians working in Rhode Island college, public, state, and Federal libraries, have reactivated their organization. A meeting was held at Brown University in March, and a second meeting was held at the Naval War College in Newport on May 9. The group plans to hold meetings at member's libraries from time to time to discuss mutual concerns. A program is being planned for the RILA Fall Meeting to present a description of archival and special collections resources in the state. For further information about Rhode Island Archivists, contact Clifton Jones, Manuscript Curator, The John Hay Library, Brown University, Providence, R.I. 02912.

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**BROWN LIBRARIAN'S RESIGNATION:** Charles Churchwell, head of Brown University's 1.5 million volume library since June 1974, has announced his resignation effective September 1. Churchwell will then accept appointment as the new university librarian at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Stuart Sherman will serve as acting librarian while a search committee seeks a successor.

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**NELA SCHOLARSHIP:** This year a \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a student enrolled in the MLS program at Southern Connecticut State College. The recipient will be selected by the College's Division of Library Science and Instructional Technology. The NELA Educational Assistance Committee stipulates that the scholarship be awarded to a New England resident who is a part-time or full-time MLS student with a demonstrable financial need.

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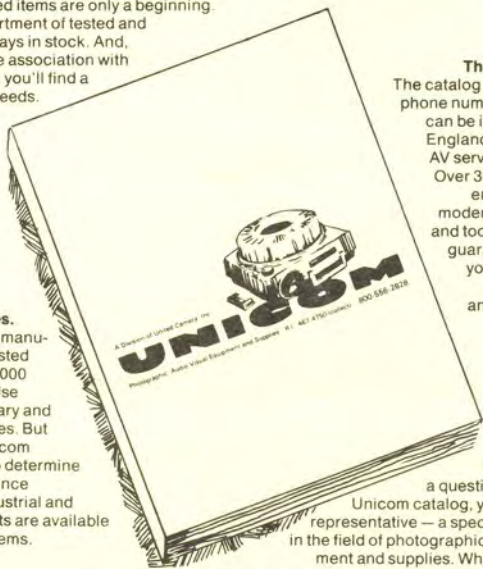
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