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library newsletter

May

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

1985

"The purpose of the liberal arts is not to teach businessmen business.... It is to awaken and develop the intellectual and spiritual powers in the individual before he (she) enters upon his (her) chosen career so that he (she) may bring to that career the greatest possible assets of intelligence, resourcefulness, judgement and character."

A. Whitney Griswold
Saturday Review
March 27, 1954

RETIREMENTS

This spring and summer the Library will lose over 38 years of cumulated service with the retirement of Betty Brown and Gloria Miller of the Catalog Department. Betty, who retired at the end of March, started working for the Library as a part-time employee in September of 1968. Prior to coming to Boise State College she was employed by First Security Bank, Morrison-Knudsen and Time where she was an assistant secretary to Henry R. Luce. Betty is a 1942 graduate of Stanford University.

Gloria Miller's career began at Boise Junior College where she received her degree in 1943. She then attended Colorado State College of Education at Greeley and received her B.A. in 1945. From 1946 to 1949 Gloria worked for BJC as the Circulation Librarian. At that time the library was located in the present Administration Building. The next fifteen years were family years and in 1965 Gloria returned to Boise State College Library as a part-time employee earning \$1.50 an hour. In August 1966 she became a regular full-time staff employee in the Catalog Department. Gloria will retire towards the end of June.

What can one say to such dedicated employees as they leave for a well deserved change of pace? Thank you! Thank you for a job well done and best wishes for your retirement years.

SUMMER INTERN

Columbia University will be contributing an intern to the BSU Library this summer. Mary Pound of Ontario, Oregon, a student of the Conservation Programs, Columbia University School of Library Service will be working with Lonna Dodd for one month. Mary is in the first year of a three year program which includes "formal academic study of paper chemistry, the structure and technology of records materials, their protection and care, the history of books and printing... and the administration of conservation programs." The summers are spent on planned projects to be conducted in cooperating libraries.

The object of Mary's visit to BSU is to acquaint her "with the range of problems and practices that occur in ... in-house library mending and shelf-preparation units," to become acquainted "with the pressures and volume of work in real-world situations," to balance the "idealized atmosphere of the Conservation Programs' own conservation laboratory" and to relate "shelf-preparation and library binding to overall library conservation needs." Welcome to the real world, Mary.

We will make Mary acquainted throughout the Library when she arrives so that you can make her feel welcome.

John Stuart Mills

"Men are men, before they are lawyers or physicians or manufacturers; and if you make them capable and sensible men they will make themselves capable and sensible lawyers or physicians."

(Surely Mills, if he were alive today, would have written men & women)

LICHTENSTEIN RECEIVES FIRST FACULTY AWARD

Dr. Peter Lichtenstein will be the first recipient of the Library's newly-created Faculty Library Award. Dr. Lichtenstein, who has been at BSU for 10 years, has an impressive record of research and publication to his credit; in addition he is known as a popular and dedicated teacher of economics in BSU's School of Business. However, more importantly (to us, anyway) he is known to library staff as a professor who regards the Library as an integral part of the educational process and the Library faculty as valuable members of the teaching team. Dr. Lichtenstein's contributions include outstanding efforts in building the economics collection, working with Janet Strong to develop an economics research class, arranging for bibliographic instruction for upper-division economics students, and providing School of Business funding to print and distribute a library-generated guide to economics literature at BSU. We are pleased to honor him and express the Library's appreciation for exemplary library-oriented education. A formal announcement and award will be made in the fall.

The Faculty Library Award Committee would also like to thank those individuals on the Library staff who nominated people for this award. We had a fine selection of candidates from which to choose and selecting from among them was not easy. We would also like to express appreciation to Dave Crane, Adrien Taylor and Janet Strong, whom we relied on as sources of additional information about the candidates.

REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHIES - VIETNAM

Recently the Reference Department has had several requests for information concerning Vietnam veterans and combat stress syndrome (sometimes called Vietnam Syndrome). In response to these requests several bibliographies were prepared and placed in the bibliographic file. One bibliography was searched on the WLN system and lists books and government documents on the subject. The other bibliography was created using Psychological Abstracts online. It has been annotated to show those periodicals that

are owned by the BSU Library. Those articles on the list that are from periodicals that are not available at BSU have been ordered through Inter-Library Loan. So far 19 items have been received and placed in the pamphlet file under the subject heading "Post-traumatic Stress Disorder"--the approved psychiatric term that covers combat stress syndrome as well as stress syndromes experienced by survivors of disasters and other stressful, life-threatening situations. The bibliographies in the bibliographic file are filed under "Vietnamese War, 1957-1975--Psychological Aspects."

SUMMER HOURS

June 10th - August 3rd

Mon - Thurs 7:30 am - 8:00 pm

Friday 7:30 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Thursday, July 4 CLOSED

August 5 - August 16

Mon - Thurs 7:30 am - 6:00 pm (Note change)

Friday 7:30 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday CLOSED

Overbooked

IS THE book as we know it in danger of extinction? You might have gathered that from a story in *The Post* this week on the computerization of the Library of Congress. There are people involved in that work who see a future when the many thousands of words now contained in a book such as *War and Peace* will be compressed into a glob of data to be called forth whenever desired from some faraway central storage space and read on a video screen instead of the printed page. Books will be for museums.

Traditionalists are understandably alarmed at this prospect. They needn't be. Video screens are not going to replace books. Here are a few reasons why:

You cannot read a video screen lying on your stomach.

You cannot stack up several video screens to hold a door open or put a crease in your pants.

You cannot mark your place in a video screen with a carrot or a banana peel.

You cannot inscribe on the inside cover of a video screen, "To my dearest friend, with deep and heartfelt appreciation for all you have done for me" and then two

years later find it on a table at a rummage sale, marked "50 cents."

If you leave a video screen on a rocking chair on the front porch it will be stolen. If you try to read it in the bath you will be electrocuted. If you throw it at your cat it will be destroyed (the video screen).

You cannot break the silence in a room by slamming a video screen shut and exclaiming, "This man is a damn fool."

You cannot dog-ear corners on a video screen to mark the dirty parts.

You cannot stand in a pulpit and read Scripture from a video screen with anything approaching the proper degree of reverence.

Used video screens, because they do not smell properly musty or have any intrinsic interest, will not be resold by eccentric people who run cobwebby shops in low-rent buildings. Instead they will be thrown in the dumpster. In time, perhaps, it is they rather than books that will become extinct.

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STAFF CHANGES

The last Newsletter was issued in December 1984. Some of the staff changes will be rather old news by now. We had good intentions of coming out with an issue before now but lack of hard news and a rather busy winter came between us and our editorial duties. So it is.

Ferrol Bixby is now working in the Monographs Department as the Account Clerk. Before coming to the Library she worked for BSU Purchasing and before that at Waremart and the Department of Transportation. Ferrol is a graduate of Borah High School and attended Boise State University.

Brand new ot Serials is Claire Cunningham, who hails from Glocester, Rhode Island. After high school Claire lived in Pensacola, Florida and Brunswick, Maine before moving to Boise. Welcome to Ferrol and Claire.

As this issue was being produced word was received of the resignation of Kim Hickman. Kim is on a nine month appointment and would normally not be working during the summer. She is going to seek a full-time position. Good luck Kim!

Hold the press! One more resignation to report. Dottie Miller has resigned to leave for a position with the Federal Government. She will be working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Beginning July 1 the Library will benefit from increased hours by Terry Madden and Andy Ribner. Terry will now be full-time and Andy will move to four-fifths time. Modest increases but every little bit helps.

In case you haven't noticed Gwen Pittam is back and quietly working in CRC.

ONE VICTORIAN manual on etiquette warned librarians to shelve the books by male authors separately from the books by female authors unless the writers were married.

HERE & THERE ABOUT THE LIBRARY

The following is from the January 8th WLNews:

A number of WLN members have been engaged in several projects for which they deserve acknowledgment and thanks. Such efforts benefit all users of the WLN Computer System and contribute greatly to the quality of the WLN data base. Special thanks to:

Boise State University and Portland State University staff members for systematically upgrading the descriptive portions of the Carrollton Press records added to the WLN data base with their holdings. Both libraries are working with Bibliographic Maintenance, which has responsibility for the accuracy of the name and subject headings on the Carrollton records.

The Circulation Department has engraving devices for entering an ID on stereos, cameras and other valuables. They may be checked out for home use.

In anticipation of growth additional shelving has been ordered for CRC, Documents and the circulating collection. CRC will expand the juvenile literature collection and the rapidly growing record collection. Circulation and Documents will use the new shelving for general expansion.

CRC has received new headsets and stereo record players for the listening area. This equipment will replace the worn-out items which EMS has loaned us for use. In the near future we hope to replace our tired tape decks as well.

Recently Dave Baldwin attended several workshops in D Base II and Dialog. Dave reports that he learned a lot and will be able to assist all of us more efficiently in the future.

CRC now has four pay typewriters. They are Royal electronic machines and cost a quarter for twenty minutes. CRC replaces the ribbons and provides a little assistance with their use. However, the company responsible for the machines has placed a manual with each machine for more thorough instruction. The machines have been well-received so far although most patrons don't stop to tell CRC their reactions.

Approximately half of the Devries recordings donation has been processed and made available for use. Many patrons are pleased to be able to listen to the movie and soundtrack programs as well as albums by artists from the early days of rock and roll. Two classes are being planned for the fall term which will require use of these albums. They have proven to be a needed addition to our phonorecord library.

The Lewis Clark State College "Update," similar to our "Focus Factsheet" gives kudos to the BSU Library for providing enough paperbacks to start a collection similar to our Browsing Collection in the LCSC Library. We are happy to be able to help our colleagues up North.

A civilization in which there is not a continuous controversy about important issues, --- is on the way to totalitarianism and death.

Robert Hutchins
Saturday Review
October 17, 1953

Look out how you use proud words,
When you let proud words go, it is not easy to call them back,
They wear long boots, hard boots; they walk off proud;
they can't hear you calling --
Look out how you use proud words.

Carl Sandberg

A quiz from the April 1983 College & Research Libraries News

ARE YOU A BOOK BATTERER?

To commemorate their Care for Books campaign, the University of British Columbia Library published this quiz which supposedly appeared in the *Review of Bibliotension*.

Learn the truth about your attitudes to books. Do you harbor a deep resentment to printed forms of information? Do you long for a world pure and ignorant, free of all learning? Are you a pussycat in your relations with other people, but a tiger when handling books? Are you actively trying to reduce the amount of information in the world by abusing books? This short test will reveal your true attitude. Check the most appropriate response.

1. I remove books from the shelf by pulling the top of the spine and am pleased to hear the sound of tearing, especially with a new book.

___always ___frequently
___sometimes ___never

2. I eat or drink while reading and feel better when crumbs drop into the pages or when I spill coffee on them.

___always ___frequently
___sometimes ___never

3. I push down hard on the spine of a book when I'm photocopying in order to break its spine.

___always ___frequently
___sometimes ___never

4. I mark my place in a book with a rusty paperclip or a wet lettuce leaf unless I have a slice of bacon handy.

___always ___frequently
___sometimes ___never

5. I leave books on the radiator or in the sunlight, and am disappointed when the paper doesn't yellow in a day or two.

___always ___frequently
___sometimes ___never

6. I underline and annotate books with a pen, especially library books, so that others will have the benefit of what I believe the truth to be.

___always ___frequently
___sometimes ___never

7. I like to read while showering and store books in the bathroom because watching pages curl turns me on.

___always ___frequently
___sometimes ___never

8. When shelving books, I fill each shelf as full as possible and am gratified when I can jam that last volume into a space obviously too small for it.

___always ___frequently
___sometimes ___never

9. I like to stack books up in piles, putting the smallest and flimsiest books on the bottom and topping the pile up with the largest, hoping that the

whole thing will go tumbling onto the floor.

___always ___frequently
___sometimes ___never

10. I razor or tear articles, pages, pictures out of library books, especially if I think something might be useful to others.

___always ___frequently
___sometimes ___never

11. I give my dog a book to chew whenever I run out of Gaines burgerbits and call him "Bookcruncher" for short.

___always ___frequently
___sometimes ___never

SCORING:

Give yourself 3 points for each "always," 2 for "frequently," 1 for "sometimes," 0 for "never." Add up the total.

26-33 = unhealthy attitude to books and learning. Leave university and go to work as far from all information as possible. You should consider professional treatment.

17-25 = you require immediate therapy if you intend to continue at university or work where printed information is handled. Ask your family doctor to refer you to your nearest bibliotherapist.

8-16 = your attitude to information is unhealthy and you need actively to change it.

1-7 = watch yourself. You could be developing a hostile attitude to books and learning. There is still time to redirect your potential hostility.

0 = congratulations. Your attitude towards printed information is very healthy. Stay vigilant.—*Reprinted from the University of British Columbia Library Bulletin and written by Jocelyn Foster, UBC orientation librarian.* ■■

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