Oklahoma City Explosion Closes Downtown Public Library

The fatal explosion which ripped through Oklahoma City's federal office building on April 19 shookup people for blocks around, including staff of the Metropolitan Library System's headquarters and downtown branch.

Located two blocks south of the blast site, the library was about to open for business at 9:00 a.m. when the explosion blasted out windows throughout the four story structure. Luckily, there were no serious injuries. Two staff members were treated for minor cuts and released from area hospitals.

"We're very thankful there were no serious injuries, especially when you consider the proximity of the library to the federal building," Lee Brawner, Metropolitan System director, said.

Brawner said the library implemented its disaster plan, and staff members split operations between the Belle Isle branch, located in the northwestern section of the city, and the Capitol Hill branch on the south side of the city until they could return to the downtown building. Government officials secured a 15-square block area of the city.

Staff member Evelyn Davis credits office areas equipped with venetian blinds with protecting employees from serious injuries. "There was a giant boom, and then the windows blew out. The building lost 85% of its windows," Davis said. Davis also added that staff members are functioning with a strong sense of pulling together.

A psychologist was called in to talk with staff members the morning following the explosion. Library officials said the downtown branch phone and fax lines continued to operate following the evacuation.

--Bill Petrie
Oklahoma Department of Libraries
OLA President's Message
Democracy, Deliberation and the Written Word

One of the new adventures I have embarked upon in the last two years is an association with the Kettering Foundation's National Issues Forum. A nonpartisan organization, the NIF teaches a process by which citizens can more effectively wrestle with complex national, regional and local public policy issues. The Foundation produces study materials on a variety of topics, with the pamphlets presenting a variety of points of view about an issue. These well-researched materials, along with a set of procedures used by trained facilitators, are the basis of a working out in lots of local settings of perceptions and underlying values.

The NIF philosophy makes clear distinctions among deliberation (the goal of a forum), discussion, and debate. Debate is the fare we are usually served up on television; it is the typical basis of what gets passed off to us as public issues programming on broadcast and cable television. Debate, however, is not about understanding the point of view of others; it is about scoring points and "winning" the contest. Television programmers love debates because they are emotionally captivating, visceral and easy to format. But from a public policy point of view, no one in the audience is actually informed by this programming, and no one's mind is changed. These verbal contests are formulated to be as simple as possible—two sides, pro and con, we and they, thumbs up or thumbs down. No complexity is allowed to distract us from the competition that is being staged for our entertainment: an issue with three or more points of view? Unheard of!

Public discussion is a great improvement over debate. In discussion the rules hold that all points of view need to be expressed. To be fair, there actually is issues programming on television that does qualify as thoughtful discussion. But, as the National Issues Forum process indicates, discussion by a panel of policy "experts" on television, as thoughtful as it may be, does not engage viewers as individual citizens in the hard work of deliberating how best to balance difficult tradeoffs across deeply felt values underlying issues. For deliberation to take place as a nation, we as individuals have to take ownership back from the televised experts, and discuss issues with our neighbors and others. Finally, there is one thing more that is necessary for discussion to become deliberation: each of us must have come together to find a workable solution. We must have a personal investment in a shared, public outcome.

There is a parallel between the continuum of debate-to-deliberation and the two modalities of information retrieval that we use in our political landscape today: the graphic image and the written word. Since its beginnings in the 1450's through its ascendancy up to about the middle of this century, print has been the essential medium of reasoned, thoughtful, logical and sequential information. Writing and reading are both deliberative acts: they give the author and the reader time to reflect and weigh the import of what is written. The written word promotes distance between the reception of information and responding to it. The graphic image, on the other hand, is not about reason and deliberation as much as it is emotional appeal and visceral response. Our Founding Fathers gave us a Declaration of Independence, a Constitution, and a Bill of Rights: reasoned written words. Yet today, we are served up slick images and sound bites orchestrated by spin doctors and image consultants, and our foreign policy seems to be driven by public responses to satellite images delivered by CNN cameras around the world.

Our nation needs advocates and facilitators of the deliberate and the reasoned communication of public policy issues: the written word. Public libraries, once thought of as the arsenal of a democratic society, have helped play that role in the past. Today it is more important than ever that we not abdicate this responsibility.

--Bob Swisher

THE OKLAHOMA LIBRARIAN is the official bulletin of the Oklahoma Library Association. It is published bi-monthly. The inclusion of an article or advertisement does not constitute official endorsement by the Association. It is mailed to each member of the Association upon payment of annual dues.

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Circulation and Advertising Office:
THE OKLAHOMA LIBRARIAN, 300
Hardy Drive, Edmond, OK 73013. Third
class postage paid at Edmond, OK
73034. Publishers Permit No. 61. Circula-
tion 1000.

Editorial Office: Susan McVey, Okla-
ahoma Department of Libraries, 200 NE
18, Oklahoma City, OK 73105 (405)
521-2502. Printed by Transcript Press,
Norman, OK 73069. c. OLA.

OLA SCHEDULE/HOLIDAYS

May 4 Legislative Committee, ODL - 10 a.m.
May 5 Membership Committee, Hardesty So. Reg. Lib., Tulsa - 10 a.m.
May 9 National Legislative Day
May 19 Program Committee/Executive Board-Southern Oaks P.L., OKC
May 26 Sequoyah Children's, ODL - 10 a.m.
June 1 Legislative Committee, ODL - 10 a.m.
June 8-9 Leadership Retreat, Bartlesville
June 22-29 American Library Association, Chicago
Rural Library/Rural School Teamwork Task Force
Report to the Legislature, State Board of Education and the Oklahoma Department of Libraries
March, 1995

Preface
The Rural Library/Rural School Teamwork Task Force was created by Representative Don McCorkell and Senator Ed Long in enrolled House Bill 2596. The Task Force was composed of sixteen (16) members including one or more representatives from the legislature, school libraries, public libraries, school board, school superintendent and regional university. The task force held three meetings during which six subcommittees were formed to facilitate the completion of the duties described in HB 2596.

Task Force Membership
Senator Ed Long, Chair, Enid
Representative Shelby Satterfield, Vice-Chair, Tulsa
Senator Ben Robinson, Muskogee
Jeanie Johnson, Library Media Section, State Dept. of Education
Helen Watts, Stratford
Naomi Cullen, Cherokee
Gwen Bailey, Thackerville Public Schools
Don Davis, Cameron University
Catharine Cook, Public Library of Enid & Garfield County
Jeanie Johnson, Library Media Section, State Dept. of Education
Representative Larry Roberts, Miami
Pamela Allen, Kennedy Library of Konowa
Dan Parrish, Weleetka Schools
Pam Nelson, Goodwell
Marilyn Hinshaw, Eastern OK District Library System
Beverly Jones, Southwestern State University
Robert Clark, Oklahoma Department of Libraries

Subcommittee Findings
Library Needs and Rural Libraries/ Rural Schools Cooperation

Definition:
"Rural" means both geographical isolation and size. Geographical isolation is determined by lack of transportation. For this reason, children are automatically more likely to be isolated than adults. A child living in a metropolitan area with good bus service is not isolated from a library ten miles away. This is not true of a child in a small town with no public transportation.

Needs:
According to reports received from 1993, most rural schools are meeting standards or have filed for a deregulation plan, the major problem seems to be staffing. By 1999 all schools must have at least a part-time qualified staff person.

Not all school library media centers have telephones or computers. This limits their access to technology. Most public libraries have (or have been offered) computers with modems.

The major need for public libraries is stable, dedicated and adequate funding. This would allow the hiring of qualified staff.

The need of both groups is for free access to telephone lines for communications. There are many possibilities for resource sharing if all libraries could access free or inexpensive communication networks.

Rural towns also have a need to meet standards for schools or risk the possibility of the school being closed. This is seen as a very real threat to the continued existence of rural towns.

Cooperation:
The most likely area for cooperation is through sharing of resources through technology. Possibilities include the joint purchase of on-line and CD-based data services.

Another possible area of cooperation, especially for rural communities, would be the sharing of staff between public and school libraries. This would, of course, assume that public library service had sufficient financial support to hire qualified staff.

One of the least likely areas of cooperation is shared physical space. Adults are reluctant to use libraries housed on school grounds, and school administrators do not want non-school personnel on the grounds for various security reasons. The only workable solution seems to be having a shared facility across the street from the school, as in Stratford. However, a caveat to shared facilities is the real difference in public and school library missions, which leads to the development of very different collections and services. Also, school library media centers are designed to be used by groups. Public libraries are designed to be used by single individuals.

Library Services in Rural Communities and Rural Schools
Consensus is that service and programming of both public libraries and school libraries varies greatly from site to site. It is reasonable to state that the services are limited due to limited funding; i.e., many small public libraries operate in confined quarters, with little resource material, and with minimally paid staff.

The staff is very seldom professionally trained, having come to the position as a volunteer or someone who is "interested in literacy or reading." The rural schools are required to have a library media center. However, only the high schools must have certified staff at this time.

Rural Schools/Higher Education Institutions Cooperation
Schools and higher education institutions have traditionally developed collections and services which do not meet the adult public library user's needs. Each of these institutions can provide supplemental services to a person without public library access, but the services can only be expected to be supplemental.

Access to basic public library service is still needed, perhaps through county service or even centralized mail supplemented by technology based reference services. Users of supplemental electronic services will minimally need access to a computer with modem and a facsimile transmission machine, as well as telephone lines which can support these technologies. Additionally, they will need technological support and training in use of available resources.

(continued on p. 16)
cooperation based on shared electronic technology will probably be dependent on local or subsidized access to a network node. Any such cooperation will be dependent on reliable data transmission of sufficient bandwidth through the local telephone company or other communications provider. Higher education institutions can provide supplemental services to public library patrons by: in-library use; loaning of materials, either directly or through interlibrary loan; or accessing electronics databases from off campus. Most academic libraries now serve all adults who walk into the library; few, however, loan materials directly to the general adult population without additional fees. Access to electronic databases from off campus is available for some campuses, but it tends to only be the library catalog, at least without a campus identification number. State site licensing to selected databases might remove some of these limitations. State supported higher education institutions in Oklahoma have access to the Internet; it would, in some cases, be possible to provide this access to non-campus users.

Licenses for Technological Services

A recent U.S. Commerce Department report "Putting the information Infrastructure to Work" emphasizes four roles of libraries in this environment. These include:
1. Serving as information equalizers by providing affordable access to all citizens;
2. Providing instruction and training to information users;
3. Organizing networked information; and
4. Preservation of electronic data.

The role of equalizer, trainer and organizer of information need to be especially emphasized as statewide technological services are addressed.

Most library services, which are technology based will apparently provide statewide licenses or services now. How the services might be provided varies widely. Some provide dedicated access points through Internet (e.g. Amigos/Uncover and the National Library of Medicine). Some provide a service loaded on a mainframe and compact disk drives, probably at a comprehensive university or the Department of Libraries (e.g. UMI and Information Access). A variety of services were surveyed for existence, cost and availability of state wide licenses and services. The following responses illustrate general availability:

- Amigos/Uncover - provides tables of contents and article access to 17,000 journals. Basic service for $10,000 annually provides 4 dedicated access channels, with additional channels available for $2,500 each. The holdings of those libraries included in the Oklahoma Union List of Serials may be added to the display. There is a set service fee for article delivery and applicable copyright fees. A deposit account of $500 minimum is necessary to cover this fee or payments can be made by individual users through credit cards.

- Information Access presented Magazine Index Select - includes 100 full titles for $20,000 for a one year pilot, with the understanding that existing subscriptions would not be canceled during that time. Business Index and Magazine Index, including 650 full text titles would be available for $50,000.

- UMI/Periodical Abstracts Research II and ABI/INFORM - provides general reference and business reference databases of 2800 titles. Twenty simultaneous users to both databases would cost $82,365 annually. The general database alone would be $40,000 annually for 20 simultaneous users. Full text documents are also available via facsimile transmission equipment. This includes a host site fee (which has already been paid by Oklahoma State University for its users) and additional fees for additional sites. These sites costs range from $1,975 to $8,975, depending on database and population served by the site. In addition, equipment needs include hardware and software to operate the database, CD Rom drives to hold the full text databases, print stations and fax servers. The software for the product to operate on existing hardware is available separately for less than $10,000.

Statutory and Regulatory Provisions

It is recognized that a comprehensive package of legislation enacted in 1992 addressed statutory needs of the public library system and that generally any barriers which exist to restrict cooperation among public libraries, rural schools and higher education institutions are not statutory. Furthermore, it is important to note that in November, 1994 State Question 666 passed. This measure amended the constitution by raising the millage cap from four to six mills in counties with more than 150,000 people. It also raises the millage cap from four to six mills in counties in a multi-county library system with a county having more than 150,000 people. The county may use these taxes to provide any libraries and library services that are allowed by state law. The bill also authorized counties to vote to levy taxes to support a single county library system.

Use of Technology to Meet Accreditation Requirements

The number one barrier to the use of technology in meeting accreditation requirements is financial support. Currently, the local telephone companies have not negotiated for a special, reduced line rate for education. Many federal grants are lost due to the lack of a special rate for education. In addition, because it is generally cost prohibitive for libraries to build their own networks, they must depend on state and other resources. However, the state has been delayed in establishing a statewide network which would include schools, higher education institutions and libraries.

Task Force Recommendations

Recommendation #1: That the Legislature allocate continued funding for the establishment and development of telecommunications access for all Oklahoma citizens through both school and public libraries. Libraries currently using the Internet need telecommunications services to access it. With the development of electronic networks, where one lives no longer matters, as long as one has access.

Recommendation #2: Rural schools and public libraries in...
Edmond Media Specialists Offer Lobbying Tip for OLTN

Recently, the Library Media Specialists at Edmond Memorial High School, Erma Stewart and Kay Mades, presented information on the Oklahoma Library Technology Network (OLTNT) to the Edmond Educational Endowment (EEE) group which meets in their library. They distributed the 1995 ODL-OLTN brochure, which describes OLTNcat and legislative requests, along with a list of addresses, phone and fax numbers of all local legislators. They then presented a five-minute history of OLTN, showed a search, gave their use statistics and asked for the EEE's support of the OLTNcat by contacting their legislators. In less than 10 minutes, the librarians educated many influential community patrons who seemed interested in encouraging their legislators to support the appropriations for the OLTNcat.

Since many community groups meet in libraries, an offer to present a short program, invite local legislators to be present, and show the value of the OLTNcat project, may be a way that librarians can get more citizens to contact legislators statewide to support OLTNcat. For more information contact: Erma Stewart or Kay Mades (405) 340-2850.

Library Supporters Urge Congress to “Pass A Buck”

This National Library Week, April 9-15, the American Library Association (ALA) and library advocates across the country aim to send a special message to Congress — “Pass A Buck” for libraries.

“Americans can't wait for our nation’s libraries to have the information they need,” said Patricia Glass Schuman, a past president of ALA and chair of the new “Americans can't wait” campaign announced during the ALA Midwinter Meeting, February 3-9, in Philadelphia. Schuman, who is also chair of the ALA Legislation Committee, pointed out that libraries now receive only 57 cents per person from federal tax dollars, that funding for college and research libraries has been cut and that there is no federal funding for school libraries.

“That’s why we’re asking Congress to ‘Pass a Buck’ for libraries,” Schuman said. “That's only 43 cents more but it will help libraries acquire computers and other resources to prepare for the 21st century.” Schuman noted that many public, school and college libraries can’t keep up with the worldwide explosion of information. Many have had to reduce services due to cuts in funding. Some do not have the computers and wiring to connect to the Internet.

“Our nation’s leaders say they want libraries to be part of the information superhighway but it takes more than good intentions. We need leadership and a commitment of funds at the highest level.” She urged all library staff, Friends, trustees and supporters to call, write or e-mail their Congressional representatives to register their support.

Schuman said key legislative goals for ALA include renewal of the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) with a special focus on helping libraries acquire the technology they need to provide public access to the information superhighway and funding for school libraries, as authorized but not yet allocated, under the revised 1994 Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

The “Pass A Buck” campaign was launched at Freedom of Information Day ceremonies on March 16 in Washington, D.C. The goal is to bombard members of Congress with postcards beginning during National Library Week, April 9-15, with a cut off date of June 1.

A free “Pass A Buck” tip sheet with camera-ready art is available from the ALA Public Information Office.
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800/843-8482
A Dues Increase for ALA???
by Bettie Estes-Rickner
Oklahoma ALA Chapter Councillor

For the first time since 1989, ALA members will vote this spring on whether or not to support a proposed dues increase. Election ballots to be mailed in April, 1995 will give members the opportunity to respond to the ALA Goals 2000 initiative.

Funding for Goals 2000 will provide the needed dollars to position our association as a major force for libraries, librarians and library users in the 21st century. Dues are the most reliable source of revenue for any association and about 20 percent of ALA's operating revenue comes from dues. ALA management will continue to seek cost savings and higher revenue to support the current work of the association and to address the many urgent issues needing our attention.

The increase in dues will go directly to support the work of the Washington Office and to establish the Office for Information Technology Policy in Washington. ALA will work closely with state chapters and organizations to inform and involve all library staff and supporters in making ALA Goals 2000 a reality. The ALA Treasurer will report regularly about how the money is spent.

All ALA members, including division members, will benefit considerably from having an enhanced legislative and technological presence in Washington. The additional resources available will address members' and divisional concerns in areas such as intellectual freedom, youth services, technology, governance, management and will support all types of libraries and librarians.

The dues increase will be phased in over a three-year period beginning in September of 1995--$10 the first year, $10 the second year and $5 the third year. Regular dues would total $100 at the end of three years--less than the current dues of some state library associations and many comparable national organizations.

Ballots for the dues increase and other national and divisional offices must be returned to the Chicago office by June 2, 1995. Please call me if you have questions about the dues increase or any other chapter concerns.

I hope that you are in agreement that a vote for the dues increase is an investment in a stronger association, stronger libraries and a stronger voice for the American people in advocating a free and open information society.

ALA Announces “Americans Can’t Wait” Campaign

The American Library Association (ALA) has announced a new campaign to alert policymakers to the urgency and scope of the public’s need for information and for libraries that can meet those needs: The message: “Americans can’t wait.”

“Americans of all ages can’t wait to have the information they need at their libraries,” said ALA President Arthur Curley in announcing the campaign. “Having the information we need when we need it is critical to our jobs, our children’s education, the health and well-being of our families.”

Curley noted that many of the nation’s public, school and college libraries can’t keep up with the worldwide explosion of information. “Libraries are an American value,” said Curley. “They are one of our nation’s most beloved institutions — but libraries can’t live on love. It’s time our nation’s leaders recognize this and make a significant investment.”

The “Americans can’t wait” campaign has three key strategies:

1. Provide library advocacy training and support materials to help mobilize a national network of library advocates
2. Sponsor a “Pass a Buck” postcard campaign urging Congress to increase federal support for libraries to a dollar per person
3. Conduct an intensive media campaign, including a 10-city media tour with the ALA president and other campaign leaders.

The goals are to increase public awareness and understanding about libraries and their role on the new information superhighway, to increase contacts between library advocates and legislators and to secure passage of key federal legislation, including renewal of the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) and funding for school libraries, as authorized but not allocated, under the revised Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

The “Americans can’t wait” campaign is sponsored in cooperation with Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA) and Libraries for the Future, an independent citizens group that advocates library support. It will be launched during the ALA Midwinter Meeting, February 3-9, in Philadelphia. Curley urged librarians to organize campaigns in their communities. Strategies and tips for mounting an advocacy campaign are contained in a new Library Advocacy Now! Action Pack published by ALA. Sample materials include an “Americans can’t wait” speech, news release, op-ed piece, letter-to-the-editor and a set of 50 pocket cards with “Quotable Facts about America’s Libraries.” A Library Advocacy Now! Action Pack ($10 plus $4 for shipping and handling) along with Library Advocacy Now! buttons, posters, t-shirts and other promotional materials in support of libraries are available from the fall ALA Graphics Catalog (orders of $30 must be prepaid) by calling 800-545-2433, press 7. Fax: 312-836-9958.

A free “Pass a Buck” tip sheet with camera-ready art for “Pass a Buck” postcards is available from the ALA Public Information Office, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Telephone: 800-545-2433, ext. 5044.
Library Legislative Day Rescheduled to May 9

May 9 is the new date for the 1995 observance of Library Legislative Day, cosponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) Washington Office, the Special Library Association (SLA) and the District of Columbia Library Association. Legislative Day is usually celebrated on the Tuesday of National Library Week and would have been held on April 11 of this year.

The ALA Washington Office, in consultation with the ALA Committee on Legislation and many of the partners and library groups who participate in the annual grassroots effort, reconsidered the original date when it became clear that the new calendar for the House of Representatives had been substantially changed by the 104th Congress.

The House is scheduled to be in recess for three weeks beginning at the close of business on April 7. Although the Senate will be in session, most representatives will not be in Washington on that date.

"The ALA Washington Office regrets the schedule changes this will require for library supporters," said Carol Henderson, ALA Washington Office executive director. "But, the sea change in congressional leadership, congressional agenda and congressional calendar made it necessary to make changes to best influence events and to focus our efforts at a time when more legislators will be available."

For library groups unable to change meetings already scheduled near the April 11 date, the ALA Washington Office will coordinate an advocacy training session and briefings on the Washington political climate and the congressional legislative agenda. A full day will be planned for April 11 using the ALA Library Advocacy Now training package. Washington insiders will also be used as resource persons for in-depth briefings. The day will be geared to prepare library and citizen advocates for the new May 9 Legislative Day observance and for visits to legislators in home districts throughout the year.

Details on how to sign up for the April 11 training will be provided to all Legislative Day state coordinators and others soon. For more information, call the ALA Washington Office at 202-547-4440.

Library Postal Rate Increases Despite Fight

The library rate charged by the U.S. Postal Service increased January 1 despite attempts by the American Library Association (ALA) to fight the increase.

Librarians are urged to send documentation on the impact of the increase such as discontinued services, uses of alternative delivery mechanisms or cost increases to the: ALA Washington Office, 110 Maryland Avenue, NE, Washington, D.C. 20002. Fax: 303-547-7363. E-mail: alawash@alawash.org.

In testimony before the Postal Rate Commission, ALA argued that the proposed 73.7 percent library rate increase was unjustified compared with the 10 percent average increase proposed for all rates. ALA said library rate mail accounts for only 0.02 percent of all mail volume and sampling error may be responsible for the high cost changes reported by the Postal Service.

"Once it was clear that the Postal Service would not agree to cutback the proposed increase, ALA immediately became intervenor to the extent of our ability," said ALA President Arthur Curley. "Unfortunately, ALA does not have the resources to audit the Postal Service's cost-data and rout out the source of the apparent error. The necessary legal and economic expertise would have cost a minimum of $200,000." ALA argued that:

- the extraordinary size of the rate increase would have a devastating impact on the fixed budgets of publicly-funded and nonprofit libraries and educational institutions;
- the Postal Service data used to justify the increase is of questionable value.
- the Postal Rate Commission has in the past taken into account the impact of out-of-proportion rate increases and adjusted the proposal accordingly.

The library rate makes possible the mailing at less than commercial rates of books and other library and educational materials among libraries, schools, colleges, museums and other nonprofit entities. Publishers and distributors use the library rate to deliver materials ordered by schools and libraries. It is used heavily by many libraries for books-by-mail programs to reach isolated and homebound users, for delivery of books reserved by users and for interlibrary loan.

A few major library rate mailers have already indicated they plan to discontinue books-by-mail service or library rate delivery of materials reserved by users because of the increase.

Library rate mailers considering private delivery services are urged to combine package mail throughout the library systems or cooperatives or with other mailers, and to bargain for favorable contracts or volume discounts. While the Postal Service is limited to a specific rate schedule, libraries may be able to negotiate with private providers.

RENEW YOUR OLA MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 1995-96!

Another view of Metropolitan Library System's library in downtown Oklahoma City damaged by the bombing on April 19.
Author Caroline B. Cooney has won the 1995 Sequoyah Young Adult Book Award for her novel *Flight #116 is Down*. Cooney will accept the award during a presentation at 4 p.m. on Friday, April 21 at Edmond Memorial High School.

The Sequoyah Young Adult Book Award program, sponsored by the Oklahoma Library Association, encourages Oklahoma students in grades seven through nine to read books of literary quality. A Masterlist of titles is compiled each year by the Sequoyah Young Adult Book Award Committee. To be eligible to vote for his or her favorite book, each student must have read at least three titles from the Masterlist. Voting takes place each January. Over 3,000 students participated in voting this year.

The 1995 Sequoyah Young Adult Book Award Winner, *Flight #116 is Down*, is the compelling and suspenseful story of what happens when a jumbo jet crashes in teenager Heidi Landseth's back yard. Readers are involved in the moving stories of the rescue workers and the passengers, some of whom live, some of whom die. Copies of the book are available in bookstores and libraries around the state.

The Sequoyah Young Adult Book Award was established in 1986, and is named for Sequoyah, a native Oklahoman and the inventor of the Cherokee alphabet. Previous Sequoyah Young Adult Book Award winners include authors Eve Bunting, Annette Curtis Klauser, and Neal Shusterman.

**Kehret is Sequoyah Children's Award Winner**

Peg Kehret has won the 1994-95 Sequoyah Children's Book Award for her book *Horror at the Haunted House*. Two children, chosen to represent the boys and girls of Oklahoma, will present the award to Peg Kehret during the Oklahoma Library Association's state conference. The presentation will take place on Saturday, April 29, 10 a.m. - 12 noon, at the Doubletree Downtown Hotel in Tulsa.

The Sequoyah Children's Book Award program, sponsored by the Oklahoma Library Association, encourages boys and girls of Oklahoma in grades 3 through 6 to read books of literary quality. A Masterlist of 20-25 notable books is compiled each year by the Sequoyah Children's Book Award Committee. To be eligible to vote for his/her choice of the best book, each student must have read at least two titles from the Masterlist. The winning book is chosen each January.

Desiree Webber, Chairperson of the Sequoyah Book Award Committee, said that over 71,000 children participated in the voting this year.

The Sequoyah Award honors Sequoyah for his unique achievement in creating the Cherokee alphabet, the eighty-six symbols representing the different words in the Cherokee language. The Sequoyah Book Award, established in 1959, is the third oldest "children's choice" book award in the United States.

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Ethical Situation Case Study

What Would You Do?

The library at a southern university, a publicly supported academic institution has just begun providing public access to the Internet via Mosaic through the school's main computer system.

Tom Jones is the librarian on duty at the reference desk on Saturday afternoon. When helping a new user gain access to the Internet, he notices that the man at the next Internet computer is looking at diagrams for homemade bombs. It appears to Tom that this man has gained access to an electronic version of the infamous "Anarchists' Cookbook." Recent media coverage of the formation of local independent militia groups has included anonymous interviews with some members who talked about the possibility of blowing up local governmental offices.

What should Tom do?

Ethics Case Study Response

In the November/December 1994 issue of the Oklahoma Librarian, Sondra Lewis, head librarian of a public library, had a difficult time in choosing books in the subject area of religion because she finds many books in this area to be offensive to her even though she knows there are people in her community who want to read them. She asked how to walk the fine line between what she feels she should buy for a balanced collection and what her community wants in the collection.

Ruth Wiens and Virgie Boyd, Readers Services Department, Tulsa City-County Library, submitted the following response:

"Congratulations to Sondra Lewis—by recognizing this problem she has taken the first step towards solving it. Too often the problem gradually goes away by itself as dissatisfied patrons simply stop expecting to find materials on certain subjects. Perhaps they stop using the library altogether.

"First, Lewis needs to review her library's mission which, hopefully, includes a commitment to providing quality books representing a diversity of views. No—she should not buy 'books that are fluff or poorly written.' But how to make an informed decision about subjects she finds offensive?

"No one person has expertise or interest in all areas. To select high-quality books on religion, Lewis can use review journals (don't miss Church & Synagogue Library), patron requests and recommendations from experts in her community. The ultimate solution is to develop a relationship of mutual respect with someone in the community who does have the expertise and interest. Lewis probably could find a library staff person or board member who fits the description, or who knows of someone who does.

"Take it gradually by finding some area of mutual agreement (commitment to the library, perhaps). It's a professional and personal challenge, and Lewis sounds like she is up to it. Lewis could use the same strategies to tackle other controversial topics such as homosexuality."

Festival of Books Speakers Announced

Lois Ehlert, Walter D. Myers, and Floyd Cooper will be featured speakers at the University of Oklahoma's sixteenth annual Festival of Books Conference on Saturday, October 14, 1995. The theme of this year's conference is: Creative Connections. Contact Kathy Latrobe at the University of Oklahoma, School of Library and Information Studies, 401 West Brooks, Norman, OK 73019. (405-325-3921) (E-mail: klatrobe@uoknor.edu).
PEOPLE AND PLACES

Dennis Day, Director of the Salt Lake City Public Library and former president of the Mountain Plains Library Association, has an inoperable brain tumor. Anyone wishing to send him cards should send them to: Dennis Day, 2141 St. Mary's Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108.

Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Oklahoma State University Library has assumed a new position. She is now the Director of Development for the OSU Library. Jennifer was formerly the Patent and Trademark Librarian.

Susan McVey, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, is now the Deputy Director of ODL. She had served as Acting Deputy Director of ODL since November 1, 1994. Susan was formerly the head of the Cartwright Law and Legislative Reference branch of ODL.

Ringling, Oklahoma, has a new library - Gleason Memorial Library, 5th and Main, PO Box 585, 73456 (405) 662-2925. The librarian is Jackie Flotow and their hours are Wednesdays 2-7 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays 1-6 p.m. The official opening was during Circus Days, September 3, 1994.

Rita Knop is the new children's librarian at Elk City Public Library. Rita started in August, 1994.

Mountain View at the Addie Davis Memorial Library has a new librarian, Dawn Rogers who started in August, 1994. Mountain View has also been named a Main Street grant recipient for 1995 and the library is instrumental in the project.

Helen Watts is the new librarian at the Chandler-Watts library in Stratford, Oklahoma. Helen started in August, 1994.

Hennessey Public Library received State Aid for the first time for FY 1994-95. Esther Staggs is the librarian.

Somerville Receives Award

Mary R. Somerville, Director of the Miami-Dade Public Library System, one of the nation's 10 largest public library systems, has been awarded the University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies Alumni Association Award of Merit.

Somerville received her MLS from the University of Oklahoma in 1971. She began her library career as government documents librarian for Lincoln City Libraries, Nebraska, and has worked at the Louisville, Kentucky, Public Library, and Broward County Library before joining Miami-Dade in 1990.

She is an outstanding member of the profession, committed to library users, with 20 years service to children and young adults, four John Cotton Dana award-winning programs, creative television and radio programs, and a variety of activities supporting electronic access to information through libraries.

She oversaw the massive reconstruction and reopening of four libraries destroyed by Hurricane Andrew and the renovation or enhancement of 11 other facilities.

Somerville is a contributor to many boards and committees, both in the community and the library profession. She was one of five emissaries from ALA and ALSC to Russia and the Ukraine in 1989. She is a member of the American Library Association's Executive Board and currently is a candidate for President of ALA.
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