

## Report from the President

Many of our committees are using the summer months to re-group and make additional plans since meeting at the Spring Workshop in Greensboro. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee chairmen for their excellent work and participation these last few months. It has become necessary for some of the committees to be especially active as the General Assembly considered such items as supplemental education funds and anti-obscenity bills. I sincerely feel that we are finally beginning to be heard by people who have taken us for granted through the years as well as some who have never been concerned with us at all. All the letters, telegrams, telephone calls, and conversations by the membership to the opinion-makers have not gone unnoticed. You are to be commended for your outstanding participation.

A number of people have been added to the committees since the last listing in the journal. New members on the Audio-visual Committee are Jeff Fletcher, Barry Mangum, and Marilyn Webb. Pat Setzer has joined the Library Resources Committee. Suzi Rose is new on Membership along with Kay Taylor. The Public Relations Committee added Jane McRae, Phillip Ritter, and Gloria Watterson. Joy Hays and Gene Huguelet are the new appointees to the Scholarship Committee. Aileen Aderholdt serves on the Ad Hoc Annual Sessions Committee and Pamela Wood on the committee investigating reorganization. Bill O'Shea has been designated as the new Federal Relations Coordinator since Dennis Bruce has left the state. We welcome these people to the committee structure.

We still find it difficult to comprehend that Ray Moore has been taken from us. She will not soon be forgotten. Her im-

pact on this organization, our journal, and especially intellectual freedom matters were of a permanent nature. Judie DeJonge has kindly agreed to serve as the new chairman of the Intellectual Freedom Committee. This committee will be sponsoring one of the general sessions at the biennial conference.

My congratulations go out to our newly elected officers. The Nominating Committee chaired by Bernie Sheffield presented us with an outstanding slate from which to choose. Leonard Johnson was elected first vice-president (president-elect). He will work very closely with Annette Phinazee who will accept the presidential gavel at the biennial conference. Serving in the other posts will be Leland M. Park, William H. Roberts, Richard T. Barker, Margaret E. Rogers, and John M. Johnson.



Gene D. Lanier

These members bring experience, training, and intelligence to our Executive Board. With leadership such as this, the North Carolina Library Association should continue to grow and progress.

Let me again remind you to look closely at the information you will be receiving concerning the biennial conference in Winston-Salem scheduled for October 30 - November 1 at the Benton Convention Center. Make your plans now to take advantage of the wonderful program, exhibits and serendipity. See you this fall!

## Letter to the Editor

After reading Nix's "The Disadvantaged and Discipline in the Public Library," (NCL, Summer, 1974), I could not but think of the purpose of library service as it relates to non-mainstream peoples.

It appears to me that the underlying issue here is not discipline, but that these young people have not been oriented to the workings of the larger social order, of which the library is a part.

I myself am black, have worked as a high school librarian, and know well the attitudes of young adults as mentioned in the article.

To offer these young people games, films, and records instead of introducing them to skills and attitudes needed to find information so that they can become productive and contributing members of the society is a disservice to us disadvantaged.

Libraries have, historically, held the objective of assimilating varied cultural and ethnic groups into the mainstream of society. Seen from its broadest perspective, this objective has not been to make everyone alike, but more to inform those on the periphery of the societal circle of how the dominant circle works, thus allowing those who aspire entry into the circle the lever by which to enter productively.

Given the current identity awareness of today's varied cultural and ethnic groups, the library has, to a great degree, rele-

gated this historical objective to a lower level of priority when planning programs of service to the disadvantaged. Granted, cultural and ethnic awareness are priority elements in the quest for identity, but they are NOT top priority in the struggle for productive and self-enhancing economic and political survival in the larger system. And the disadvantaged ARE a part of the system whether they or the system will acknowledge it outright! More importantly, history shows that it is with this economic and political clout that a people come of age.

Economic and political power are forceful weapons not for the creation of one kind of people, but for the attainment of a wholesome livelihood in this society. The opportunity for and the achievement of a wholesome life are goals of all people, without regard to cultural or ethnic orientation.

This writer decries most efforts in library work with the disadvantaged which make the library appear to be a community recreation hall. Sure people must identify with the building as well as the program of services, but to assume a recreational stance to the neglect of the educational posture is to further disadvantage the disadvantaged. Library programs and services must stress, in service to the disadvantaged, the political and economic realities of the society. Current domestic events indicate our continued survival will depend upon sound, intelligent decisions made by ALL citizens, not just a knowledgeable few.

The call then is for libraries to re-emphasize this historical objective of assimilating the disadvantaged into the mainstream of the dominant society. This objective does not imply a perpetuation of the *status quo* or the need for revolution. It attempts to create an informed and knowledgeable citizenry — the lifeblood of a democracy.

Regards,

M. Mosley, Jr.  
Assistant Librarian  
Cape Fear Technical Institute