

Intellectual Freedom Committee - Report
Michael Greenlee, Chair
ILA Executive Board Meeting
April 23, 2004

This is an update on the activities of the Intellectual Freedom Committee since the last ILA Board meeting on January 14, 2004. This report will comment on the goals listed in the ILA Strategic Plan which are currently in progress.

Objective 1: Continue to advance open access to information for all Idaho residents

Goal 2: **Plan an Intellectual Freedom workshop** for trustees by Nov. 2004 – In progress. Cynthia Toppen has secured a presentation slot for me at the 2004 ILA annual conference. To drum-up trustee interest, Tim Hillebrand allowed me to publish a short essay on censorship in the trustee newsletter.

Goal 3: **Intellectual Freedom Speaker's Bureau** – Elizabeth Brandt, Univ. of Idaho Professor of Law, has agreed to be part of the Speaker's Bureau. Prof. Brandt is a member of the ACLU and speaks and writes on issues related to intellectual freedom. She also provided me with the names of other individuals who might be interested in participating.

Goal 4: **Monitor national intellectual freedom issues** and report to the Idaho Library Community – In January, I submitted a report to the ILA Board concerning the issue of Cuban librarians, a subject then being debated at the ALA mid-winter conference. Continue to post messages on LIBIDAHO on intellectual freedom issues.

Objective 2: Support Idaho's libraries and library staff on Intellectual Freedom issues

Goal 1: **Annual fundraiser** for intellectual freedom – "Larry" Sinatra and his Big Spender Troupe are tentatively scheduled for entertainment at the IF Auction.

Goal 2: **Distribute information packets on intellectual freedom** to Idaho libraries – Continuing to work on the Intellectual Freedom Handbook to be posted on the ILA web site. Hopefully, will be completed by the end of April.

Goal 3: **Provide counsel to libraries and library staff** facing intellectual freedom challenges – In March, I was contacted by Mary Ann Funk, librarian at Lewiston High School, for assistance concerning a challenge to Sports Illustrated. A parent objected to the inclusion of the swimsuit issue as part of the library collection and asked for its removal. Mary Ann was determined to keep the issue in the collection or cancel the entire subscription. I offered her advice on how she should proceed and suggested arguments on why this removal would be censorship. In the end, the review committee unanimously agreed to keep the

swimsuit issue in the collection. No word on whether the parent will appeal the committee decision.

Goal 4: Develop and distribute electronically information packets on Banned Books Week by 2005 – No news to report.