

Report of the Intellectual Freedom Committee
Michael Greenlee, Chair
ILA Executive Board Meeting
Nov. 21, 2003

1. New IF Committee Members

The IF Committee has five new members:

Michael Greenlee, Chair, University of Idaho
Robert Wright, Blackfoot Public Library
Harriet Newlin, American Falls District Library
Leonard Hitchcock, Idaho State University
Peggy Cooper, Boise State University

2. IF Speaker's Bureau

On Nov. 6, 2003, I attended a workshop on intellectual freedom in Post Falls, ID, conducted by Candace Morgan. Candace said she would be willing to speak on IF issues as part of our Speaker's Bureau.

3. Web Site Update

I've spoken with Michael Samuelson about updating the IF web site. The new committee roster has been added and a number of dead links have been removed from the web page. Since the web page will be the main source of IF information, I hope to redesign the page to make more current information available. The following are two features I would like to add to the web site:

- An IF manual with information on the basics of IF, the IF Committee, how to prepare for censorship challenges, sample forms/policies, and ALA policies.
- An IF news section to keep ILA members updated on national and state IF issues.

4. Censorship Challenge

On October 22, 2003, I received a phone call from Mary Edmonds at the Post Falls School District about a book challenge at Mullan Trail Elementary School. The challenge was to books by Alvin Schwartz in the "Scary Stories" series. Post Falls has a policy in place for handling censorship challenges and the challenger completed the Review of Instructional Materials Form. An initial hearing was scheduled for the first week of November. I placed Mary in contact with Beverly Becker of the ALA IF Committee and I offered to appear at the hearing, if they felt they needed assistance. At the hearing, the Review Committee decided to retain the book with current safeguards in place. Mary sent me a copy of the challenge form and I will add it to the Incident Log on the IF web site. No word on whether the challenger will attempt to appeal the decision for a full hearing.

5. Future Plans

- Compile IF Manual
- Web site updates
- Help draft a paper on Idaho Libraries and CIPA compliance