



the front line

'You should consider standing for President' I was saying to a female colleague the other day. 'There have only been four female Presidents in the history of the Association (out of a total of 32) in what is frequently referred to as a female dominated profession.'

Her reply included most of the comments which a number of people have made to me on the subject; 'But isn't it an awful lot of work?' and 'How do you fit it all in?' etc.

I can't deny that there are many additional calls on my time, but there are also many rewards. In this issue I thought I would share some of my experiences of being in 'the front line' with you.

There can scarcely be any more rewarding experience than being the conveyor of good news to unsuspecting colleagues. Although not a member of the Honorary Awards Committee (this is the body headed by the Past President, and including the Chairperson of the Board of Education), the President has the privilege of contacting the recipients of awards as soon as a decision has been made. Thus it was my happy duty to ring Jean Whyte and Jim Dwyer to tell them they had been nominated for the prestigious H.C.L. Anderson Award — the highest accolade our Association offers for outstanding professional service.

Jim will forgive me, I know, if I say that it was a special pleasure for me to be able to tell Jean of her award because our LAA associa-

tion goes back more than 30 years to the time when she was President, and I Secretary of the S.A. Branch in the mid '50s.

A major pleasure which the Presidency offers is having the opportunity to meet and speak with members in Branches and Regions — the true life-blood of the Association. One is brought face-to-face with the dedicated enthusiasm of both office bearers and general members in such meetings. My visits, so far, to the Queensland Branch and the Hunter Regional Group were both enjoyable and rewarding, and showed that these groups were in good hands and in good health. I am looking forward to similar meetings throughout the country and will be commenting shortly on forthcoming visits to Adelaide and Perth.

An unexpected pleasure (only because of the relatively short notice) was the annual dinner which Jenny Adams and I attended as guests of one of our kindred associations, the Australian Book Publishers' Association, in Sydney recently. All the luminaries of the Australian book world were there plus other dignitaries. In all some 200 people heard Richard Walsh propose the toast in an extremely witty speech. Jenny and I came away believing that our Association could raise its public profile, as well as enjoy itself, by emulating this ABPA example.

And finally there was the recent two-day Council meeting — the first for this year, and the first which I had chaired. Almost 50 items were on the agenda including Equal Employment Opportunity Legislation; Library Standards; Charging for Library Services; LAA 50 Celebrations; National Information Policy, and, of course, the Honorary Awards, to name but a few. The level of debate and discussion by both Councillors and our senior Head Of-

fice staff made me feel that with such a team providing support, being in the front line was a privilege rather than a hardship.

I hope someone out there (and dare I suggest a female someone) will start thinking about standing for Vice-President, 1988 (President-elect 1989). I've given you plenty of notice — you have about six months to make up your mind!

Peter Dawe
President

IFLA IN BRIGHTON

The Library Association will host the 53rd IFLA Conference in Brighton from 16 to 21 August 1987.

The theme of the Conference is 'Library and Information Services in a Changing World' and there will be many pre and post-conference activities, including a pre-conference international symposium on 'Open systems inter-connection: communications technology of the 1990s'.

Brighton will see a major publicity campaign by the LAA to promote the 1988 IFLA/LAA Conference in Sydney. This will include a booth in the trade exhibition, and a 50th birthday party.

We expect that there will be a large number of Australians attending Brighton, and we would welcome hearing from you. It would be appreciated if delegates could advise Helen Sweeny, Secretary of the IFLA Conference Planning Committee of their intention to attend. Helen may be contacted at Swinburne Library, John Street, Hawthorn VIC 3122 (03) 819 8184.

Barrie Mitcheson
Chairman,

IFLA Conference Planning Committee

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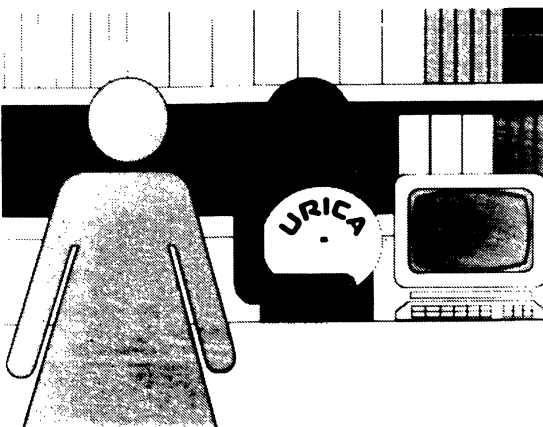
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