

PICKET LINE



Tom McKeon, Industrial Information Officer

Salary scales

As reported in the previous *inCite*, the 1990 ALIA Salary Scales booklet is now available. Copies are available free of charge to members and at a cost of \$4 for non-members.

Please call the National Office and ask our receptionist, Stacey, if you wish to obtain a copy. I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank Amy McIntyre for her assistance in compiling the booklet. It was a very difficult job to extract the information from employers and unions in a year when no-one seemed sure about salary matters.

There have been many wage

changes since the information was gained for publication. Many of the awards have had a 3 per cent rise granted in the period of April to July 1990. I would like to correct one omission. The New South Wales Hospital Libraries have a classification level that I left out. There is a grade of 'Librarian, Graduate' which is lower than 'Librarian Grade 1'. At 14 December 1989 the Librarian, Graduate salaries ranged between \$22 924-\$30 136.

A new union for professionals?

A number of members have contacted me and asked about the proposed new union — the Federation of Professional Employees. There is currently a need for smaller unions to find partners, as the Federal Government is seeking to raise the minimum membership of unions to 20 000 through legislation. There is also a fear that the interests of employees in professional occupations may not be adequately understood and represented in large industry-based unions. In such unions members of a given occupation will form a very small part.

The Association of Professional Engineers, Australia (APEA) is proposing the formation of a union which could cover all types of professional employees, and could have this coverage in parts of both public and private sector employment. Such a union

would be called the Federation of Professional Employees (FPE). This proposal has the backing of the ACTU Secretary, Bill Kelly. As an initial step, the APEA is courting 16 other smaller unions that represent professional employees, some, such as the CSIRO Officers Association and the Professional Officers Association, currently cover librarians. However, it must be noted that these unions have other options for merger partners. If the 17 unions merged, it would have a membership of 40 000. It is intended to have internal representation on occupational lines.

The ACTU backing for this proposal is on the basis that such a union would have to gain future members by expanding into areas where there currently are no unions and no awards, i.e. the private sector. It is unlikely that the FPE would be allowed to cover professional workers currently covered by other unions, such as State Public Service Unions.

It is very difficult to be certain about the shifting sands of union amalgamation. I am keeping in touch with the APEA and seeking clarification of some matters. Some librarians are finding this proposal attractive, for good reasons. However, it should not be seen as the answer to the dream of 'one union for all librarians'. It may rather be the start of one large union for some librarians, including members in private enterprise who currently have no options in this regard. ■

From the Editor's desk

But I don't want to kiss you and break the spell – I like you just as you are...



Do all of you really like *inCite* just as it is? At the end of August I asked for suggestions on what it should be doing in 1991, and how we could do it better.

So far not one ALIA member has come forward with suggestions, brickbats, bouquets or any other kind of reaction. *Is anybody out there listening?*

Peter Judge ■

Corrections

1. Budgeting for books

We gave the *incorrect* telephone number for the suppliers of this book, ABPA, in *inCite* 17 p 14. Enquiries should be addressed to Rebecca Kaiser on (02) 29 5422.

BUDGETING for BOOKS

GLOBAL FUNDING



2. ALIA serial publications — subscription rates

inCite issues 16 and 17 were despatched with mailing labels carrying on their versos subscription rates for a range of ALIA serial publications. For reasons that are too complex to pursue here, *both* of these were *wrong*. Please, dear readers, pretend these labels never happened. The correct rates will appear on your membership renewal forms.

To those of you who queried the different rates for various categories of subscriber, we can only say that ALIA members (whether personal or institutional) have special discounts on all publications, just as they do for other ALIA activities. The different rates for Australian, overseas, or overseas (Air-mail) subscriptions are based on the minimum average surcharge needed to recover real distribution costs. ALIA does not try to make a profit on its publications but it does expect books and journals to cover their full costs. Members should not have to subsidise items in which they may not be personally interested.