

Dark side of the Light?

School librarians in Western Australia have been warned of the dangers lurking in some of the books they are handing out to their innocent students.

The warning comes from the Festival of Light which is asking the librarians to sign a petition calling on the State Government to 'ban all literature from our school systems carrying filthy, indecent or blasphemous incidents or words, and incidents of excessive violence; and that any book carrying such words or incidents be used in our school system only if available in an edition specially prepared for school study purposes and omitting such filthy, indecent, blasphemous or violent incidents or words'.

One of the books to come under the FOL's fire is Albert Camus' classic testament of French existentialism, *The Outsider*. Here's how FOL describes it:

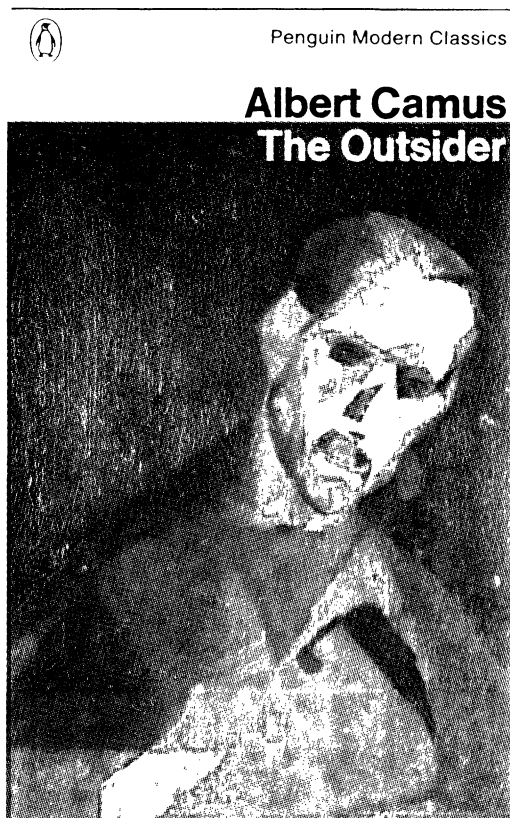
'Morbid story. Paints a shocking picture of Christianity. Presents the Church as empty and shallow. Starts with a mother's death and sad, sad funeral, goes on through murder and cheap relationships – ends with expected execution.'

'Would appeal to the morbid or the perverted.'

Another is *The Collector* by John Fowles, one of the more highly regarded of contemporary popular novelists. This one, says FOL is 'the story of a male pervert and his capture of a young English girl – a Buddhist. Very morbid – very unhealthy reading. Certainly nothing to commend it for school reading. Girl ends up dead. Pervert sets up for next victim.'

'Would appeal to perverted minds.'

FOL's tireless – and presumably incorruptible – researchers have spared no time or trouble in their search for sex and violence. Attached to the petition is a list of offending extracts from books like William Goldman's



'Would appeal to the morbid or the perverted'

Marathon Man – somebody should have told Sir Laurence Olivier before he agreed to act in the film – Thomas Kenneally's *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith*, Barry Oakley's *A Salute to the Great McCarthy* and George Johnson's classic story of the depression in Australia, *My Brother Jack*.

They are documented exactly and reprint-

ed, presumably word for word. Amongst the predictable four-letter words – like love and work – can be found one or two strange examples. Perhaps FOL didn't know what they meant and included them just in case. For instance, from *Marathon Man*: 'Seven policemen couldn't move that quietly if all their graft depended on it', and from *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck: 'Don't give 'im no chance. Shoot for his guts.'

Still, for all their energy and diligence, FOL have missed one or two obvious offenders. How about this scenario:

'A morbid play. The hero is obsessed with his mother's sex life, and suspects she had a hand in his father's death. He broods incessantly on his own death and drives his girl friend to suicide before killing his best friend and dying himself.'

We always knew there was something rotten in the state of Denmark.

MIND at work

Project MIND (Meeting the Information Needs of the Disabled) is an effort on the part of the University and College Libraries Section of the Library Association of Australia to promote the improvement of library and information services to disabled students and staff in tertiary educational institutions.

Disabled users are defined as 'People who have activity limitations which affect their functioning in the library to such a degree that one or more special services not offered to other users and/or intensified existing services are required to ensure that they are not disadvantaged relative to the general population'.

Project MIND is part of a nationwide initiative, led by the National Library of Australia, the National Advisory Council for the Handicapped, and the LAA to upgrade and rationalise all forms of library service to disabled people. MIND will liaise with individuals, groups and instrumentalities concerned with the overall development of library and information services and education for disabled people.

It is considered of vital importance that the Project should be strongly influenced and guided by people who have experienced disability. The Project began with a suggestion by Dr Pierre Gorman (Senior Research Fellow in the Faculty of Education at Monash University) himself deaf since birth.

The work of MIND will be closely integrated with the Melbourne State College/LAA National Workshop to be held at MSC from 19-23 May 1980.

For further information contact Donald Schauder, Convener MIND Working Party, c/o Library Resource Centre, Prahran CAE, 142 High St, Vic 3181. Phone (03) 51 0381 ext 292.

Incite ... 'anarchist ... revolutionary ...'

We were hoping that after the first issue of *Incite* we would be inundated with letters from members pointing out where we were going wrong or where we were going 'right'. But, from the only letter we've received, it appears we're going Left!

The letter tells us that *Incite* is ... 'a newsletter with a title more suitable for an anarchist or revolutionary rag'. Unfortunately, the person who wrote the letter does not want it published.

If you read the 7 March issue of *Incite* you would have seen the LAA's estimated budget for 1980. You would also have seen what proportion of the total is spent producing *AustLibJ* and *Incite*. This is your money that is being spent. Surely, it's up to you to let us know if you're ecstatic or furious with what's being done with your hard-earned cash.

Incite is always looking for news on what's happening in the library profession. So send those long or short news items, features, happenings, in fact, anything at all – we'll be

only too happy to give them consideration.

Send all contributions to Irene Strachan, Editor, *Incite*, Library Association of Australia, 35 Clarence Street, Sydney. If you don't feel like writing the copy you can always phone me on (02) 29 7724.

Aust book fair

THIS year the Sydney Book Fair is to be held at Paddington Town Hall from April 17-19. This is an Australian book fair and only Australian books will be on sale. 'Australian' is defined as: first published in Australia/originated in Australia; written by an Australian author or resident; about Australia.

The LAA will be there waving a few flags so why not drop in and see the fair. Hours of opening are: Thursday 9am-5pm (trade and booksellers only). Open to the public from 5pm-9pm Thursday and 10am-5pm Friday and Saturday.