

# Organize to Stop Berkeley Public Library Layoffs & Cuts in Services

The Board of Library Trustees met January 26 to an overflowing room of angered and concerned citizens and union members. The Library Director, Jackie Griffin, claimed to be concerned about providing good service to library users. In truth, her vision is a **fully-automated** library with less staff. Are we ready to lose the human touch and face longer lines?

**>>>>What impact will the Director's Dream Library have on our children?**

With fewer staff in the big, new main library building, can parents feel confident that their kids will be safe in the library?

**>>>>Will the Director's Dream Library close the digital divide? NO!** This nightmarish proposal will have Berkeley Public Library more available to computer owners and users. Increasing amounts of specialized services and information are available "24/7" to home-computer users, while others only have access during the library's shrinking open hours. Tech-savvy people might coast through, but the rest will be left behind with fewer public service staff available to help us.

**>>>>Did you know that the Director's Proposal calls for 14 or more layoffs** to long-term public sector staff? At the same time, high-paying Management jobs - - for people sitting behind desks in offices-- are being added!

**>>>>Did you know the library has been pursuing a policy of ultra-aggressive weeding?** Apparently, 3,000 books have already been tossed from the 300's section. Seems like a strange time to cut books out of the collection when money available is diminishing! Plus, the staff who know those subjects best are being "reorganized" with duties "reassigned." What will tossing these books, and laying off the staff that cares about them, do to your intellectual freedom?

**>>>>Meanwhile, Director Griffin is sinking her talons into your civil liberties!** Did you know that Radio Frequency Identification Devices (RFIDs) are now busily being inserted into each library book? **This technology, which John Ashcroft would love, will enable a book to be tracked without your knowledge. The**

**American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and citizen's groups have successfully stalled RFID installation in San Francisco Public Library.**

**WAKE UP, BERKELEY! THE NIGHTMARE IS HERE!**

This is the library we will have if the Director's plan is approved.

If you are concerned about library services, privacy, and retaining the community-based library we know and love, act now:

*>>Exercise your democratic rights while you still can on:*

**City Council Meeting**

**Tuesday February 8, 2005,**

*arrive at 6:30 pm to fill out a speaker card*

Council Chambers is in RIUSD Bldg On MI K and Allston Way (with the spire on top)

**Board of Library Trustees' Meeting**

**WEDNESDAY February 9, 2005 at 7:30 pm**

**AT THE SOUTH BRANCH LIBRARY**

RUSSELL AND M.L.KING (1 block north of Ashby BART)

**\*\*Please stay for the entire meeting. Real business is done after the public comment period.\*\***

**Bring a neighbor and bring a friend!**

***PASS ON THIS INFORMATION! No Time to Loose!***

WRITE to Board of Library Trustees (BOLT)

c/o Berkeley Public Library 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley, CA 94704

BRING a copy of your letter to the BOLT meeting Weds. 2/9/05

CALL City of Berkeley Councilmembers:

Linda Maio	510-981-7110
Darryl Moore:	510-981-7120
Max Anderson:	510-981-7130
Dona Spring:	510-981-7140
Laurie Capitelli	510-981-7150
Betty Olds:	510-981-7160
Kriss Worthington	510-981-7170
Gordon Wozniak:	510-981-7180

And Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates: 981-7100  
Of course, you can try reaching the Director, Jackie Griffin: 510-981-6100

TELL the media what you think:

>>>Berkeley Daily Planet: [opinion@berkeleydailyplanet.org](mailto:opinion@berkeleydailyplanet.org)

3023A Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94705

>>>San Francisco Chronicle:

Letter to the Editor, 901 Mission St., SF, CA 94103

**JOIN US! We're BOLD: Berkeleyans Organizing for Library Defense.**  
**Voice mail message number is: 415-568-5157**