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Letters to the Editor

Katina Strauch

Against the Grain

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Rumors continued from page 1

Technical Services and Head of Collection Development at Emory University. Congratulations, Jane!

**Buzzy Basch is holding a “Negotiating Services and Fees with Subscription Agencies” seminar on September 27 at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Texas at Austin.**

Dr. George Lewis, Director at Mississippi State University retired at the end of June after a long career.

**Well, we’ve never known someone to really win something big! Mary McLaren (University of Kentucky) did just that! She just got back from a whirlwind tour of Europe courtesy of British Airways. Her sister won and she went along while their husbands watched their two children. In her spare time, Mary has also agreed to coordinate the Automation Luncheons at the 1991 Charleston Conference.**

And Tom Leonhardt (Director of Libraries, University of the Pacific) and Fred Lynden (AUL for Technical Services, Brown University) have announced the publication of a new annual on acquisitions and collection development by JAI Press. The call for papers is out if any of you want to contribute. Tell Fred or Tom.

**Letters to the Editor**

**Hey, y’all, keep ’em coming!!!**

**Dear Katina,**

I would like to comment on your letter on page 42 of *Against the Grain* (3#2) [regarding Katina’s phone call to a publisher who was less than cooperative]. I think this is endemic to the industry. We in the book business go through this several times a day to find out the price and availability of journals and books. I am sure it doesn’t help to know you are not alone. It might be an interesting project for a publication such as yours to see if we could not influence the publishing industry to be more efficient and interested in handling the inquiries from the book and library world (i.e. their customers).

Sincerely,
Jerry Alper

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**Dear Katina:**

As much as I liked my article in *Against the Grain*, v.3#3, I noticed that there was a line left out and, so, doesn’t make sense. Please note that on page 33, the first full paragraph, the fifth and sixth lines down should have read:

“at least some minimal degree of creativity.” A factual compilation may possess the requisite originality...

Thanks.

Sincerely,
William M. Hannon, Esq.
Schiff Hardin & Waite

Editor’s note: Sorry about that. Please note, also, that William Hannon is at Schiff Hardin and Waite (the “e” was left off) and that he is the Esq., not the firm!

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This letter appeared in *Chemical and Engineering News*, June 10, 1991 and is being reprinted here with the permission of J. D. Andrade (University of Utah). Your Editor thought you’d all be interested . . .

I was pleased to read of the merger of Elsevier and Pergamon Press scientific publisher (C&EN, April 8 page 5). Let us now hope that the merged company will see fit to help minimize the cancerous proliferation of technical journals by minimizing the number of new journals, and by merging, combining, and otherwise phasing out existing journals. I recently wrote to Robert Maxwell, president of Perga-
Against the Grain

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mon Press, to express my displeasure at their launching of yet another biomaterials journal, the field I work in, and in which there is an overabundance of journals.

I suspect that the major culprit in journal proliferation is the academic community. Most industrial scientists and engineers do not need to publish profusely to receive salary increases and advancement. Profuse and excess publishing is endemic in a university environment in which promotion and tenure are judged by research productivity, which generally means the number of papers in peer-reviewed journals. Clearly, if professors have difficulty publishing in the existing journals, their chances are increased dramatically by the launching of new journals. The process simply has to stop.

The guilt rests squarely on the shoulders of university presidents, vice presidents, deans, and chairmen. The excess publishing nightmare would disappear almost overnight if universities based their retention, promotion, and tenure decisions on a limited—preferably small—number of quality publications, rather than by weighing the candidate's publication list, which is the norm in most institutions.

I would urge readers of C&EN who feel as I do to express their displeasure with the current trend by writing directly to the presidents of those companies who continue to offer unneeded and unnecessary journals.

J.D. Andrade
Professor and Chairman
Department of Bioengineering

From your editor

Well, here we are again. The summer has been pretty spectacular, for more reasons than one. At least here in Charleston we are breathing a sigh of relief that Hurricane Claudia missed the coast.

This issue is, once again, chock full of lots of information. And the next issue will hopefully be out for the Charleston Conference November 7-9 so we have to get to work on that right away. Send us something!

There are still plenty of places for the Charleston Conference, so be sure and register. A new preliminary conference program flyer is being mailed to you even as I type. It's hot off the press today, September 12, 1991.

PLEASE keep sending us information, etc. And let us know if you want to get involved with the production of Against the Grain in any way — writing copy, helping to get ads, whatever you might like.

Another thing, I've tried a little something different with the table of contents of this issue because I was going nuts myself looking for stuff and I'm intimately familiar with this publication! I figured if I was going nuts, you all must be too, so I decided to put more of an indication of the content rather than the catchy titles. But, not to worry, the titles are still there! Let me know if you like this change or not!

And, in our next issue, we'll try to deliver on some things that we had to cut from this issue because of space problems — most notably, an interview with that wonder man, Lyman Newlin.

Finally, our quote for this issue — "I'm thirty years old, but I read at the thirty-four-year-old level." Dana Carvey