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Masthead

Editor

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Against the Grain

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Cartoons:

Bill Shelly

Ads:

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Send comments, contributions, letters, etc., to:

Katina Strauch
Coordinator, Charleston Conference
Head, Collection Development
College of Charleston Library
bus. phone: (803)792-8020
home phone: (803)723-3536
FAX: 803-792-8019 or 792-5505
Mlinux courier: Strauch

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the sky' and am relieved to hear that all is well on this motorway and in fact make my first port of call at Kingston Polytechnic south of London in one and a half hours—good going! (N.B. A polytechnic is much like a University as regards the level of study, degrees awarded etc. However, our universities have always been much more research orientated than the relatively new polys.) No great problems encountered here and after a short while I am back out on what is turning out to be an unusually spring-like February day. I move on to a further education college. Here there is an interesting situation which is affecting a large number of college and school libraries in in the capital, namely the abolition by the government of the Inner London Education Authority which made the mistake of being a left-of-centre organisation during the lifetime of a right-of-centre government. These establishments are being handed over to hues and there is much uncertainty regarding future funding.

Next to a college of technology which covers every level of teaching from the equivalent of fifth form senior school work to degree level; I reflect on the distinction between different types of colleges and think 'what a muddle'!

On to sunny Brighton where the beaches turn out to be closed to some Middle 'eastern freighter'!

In the evening I meet up with the manager of our Library supply for a very pleasant meal with the Head of Library Supply Service who has been travelling in the West Country and we go out for a very pleasant meal with the Head of Learning Resources of Brighton Polytechnic and the former holder of that position who has been travelling in the West Country who has now become an Assistant

Polytechnic Director. The restaurant "Il Teatro" lives up to its excellent reputation.

FRIDAY

It's going to be another very pleasant day weatherwise. No, we British don't only talk about the weather! Although I have to say it has been unusual with semi-hurricanes, lashing storms, and now this warm stuff. Last night's wine is getting to me and I decline the waiter's offer of a full English breakfast!

My first call is at a college along the coast where we supply a textbook shop. Then on to Brighton Polytechnic to see the Acquisitions Librarian. In the past this library has been a very good customer with a big capital investment programme, but today the talk, as in other establishments, is of budgetary pressures etc, etc. Never mind, looks like they're going to "rationalize out" a number of their suppliers. With a bit of luck we'll stay in and will benefit from receiving a larger share of the cake.

I take the M1 motorway London bound and wish that it was always as empty, and head for a South London higher and further education college which has been struggling for survival. The buoyant new Head of Library Learning Resources is a long standing customer of Collets from two previous jobs and certainly has ideas which would help put the college on its feet. After a light Indian meal I head homewards. I thank heaven for the great weather—it's 65 degrees in London—as it takes me three hours to do a journey largely similar to the one that took only one and a half hours yesterday! God bless the M1! Still, it provides thinking time... I think I don't want to face my desk again on Monday! ☘