

2008

## 2008 Charleston Conference Opportunities to Participate

Editor

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# Bet You Missed It

Press Clippings — In the News — Carefully Selected by Your Crack Staff of News Sleuths

Column Editor: **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel)

**Editor's Note:** Hey, are y'all reading this? If you know of an article that should be called to *Against the Grain's* attention ... send an email to <kstrauch@comcast.net>. We're listening! — **KS**

## HIDDEN FUNDING GAFFES by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Tobacco giant **Vector Group**, parent of **Liggett Group LLC** funded kicked in \$3.6 million for a controversial lung cancer study that suggested annual CT scans. And the authors got a share of royalties from **General Electric Corp.** which makes CT scanners. None of which the *New England Journal of Medicine* was aware of when it published the articles.

"This has been a learning process for us," says the journal.

See — **Keith Winstein** and **Suzanne Sataline**, "Health Journal's Correction," *The Wall Street Journal*, April 3, 2008, p. B16.

## FIVE TOP READS by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

The famous **Roger Mudd** lists his top five works on journalism: (1) *The Press* by **A.J. Liebling** (Ballantine, 1961); (2) *The News Business* by **John Chancellor** and **Walter Mears** (Harper & Row, 1983); (3) *The Journalist and the Murderer* by **Janet Malcolm** (Knopf, 1990); (4) *The Elements of Journalism* by **Bill Kovach** and **Tom Rosenstiel** (Crown, 2001); (5) *Reporting From Washington* by **Donald Ritchie** (Oxford, 2005).



See — **Roger Mudd**, "Five Best," *The Wall Street Journal*, April 5-6, 2008, p. W8.

## JPEG JACKPOT by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

A "patent troll" is someone who trolls the patent office looking for a disused patent that can be used to shake down business. Chicago lawyer **Anthony Brown** was one of the first to be so labeled. He found the patent for the JPEG for compressing electronic files for faster transmission and got the owners to assign it to him for a cut of the profits. Then he began suing **Sara Lee**, **United Airlines**, **FTD** and **Sears**.

But a curiosity of the patent system allows anonymous challenges to the validity of the patent and the life of the patent does not get extended by the time out period. **Brown** won the first one, but the review took seven years. Now a second one has been filed.

See — **Asher Hawkins**, "The Unlucky Troll," *Forbes*, May 5, 2008, p.44.

## VOYAGING BOOK IN HAND By Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

If you've had enough eco-touring, the literary tour is booming. Paris is an obvious one visiting the sites of the expats of the 1920s and 30s. **Hemingway** buffs can further broaden with Oak Park, Ill., Cuba, Africa and Spain. *To Hell and Back With Dante* takes tourists to the streets of Florence. You can do a Joyce tour of Dublin and *Galicia Spain* covers the writings of **St. John** of the Cross, **St. Teresa de Avila**, and **Jack Hitt**, a contemporary American writer.

See — **Emily Lambert**, "Scriveners' Holiday," *Forbes*, May 5, 2008, p.100.

## Rumors from page 10

previously digitized years 1900 to 1910 of the **Tribune**. Editorials from **Horace Greeley**, the paper's colorful publisher, influenced the abolishment of slavery, infamous presidents and politicians, and encouraged the settlement of the West. Reform-minded **Greeley**, whose newspaper had a circulation of more than a quarter of a million by the 1860s, helped form the **Republican Party** and ran for president in 1872. The fabulous **Rod**

access to more than 80 years (1841-1922) of news – including the early years of this once influential and avant-garde newspaper. **ProQuest**

**Gavin** is the senior vice president of publishing for **ProQuest**.  
[www.proquest.com](http://www.proquest.com)

Speaking of **ProQuest** and retirement (way above), guess who I just heard from the other day? The incomparable **Debbie Hodges**! And, guess what? **Debbie** was retired for how long? Three months? And she is working again! She is **Academic Sales Representative** for **Knovel**! <dhdodes@knovel.com>.

And, very sad news for the **College of Charleston**! The amazing **Kristen DeVoe**, our very first **Electronic Resources Librarian** (and winner of the **2007 Outstanding New Librarian Award for South Carolina**) is leaving the College! **Kristen** has been volunteering for **Hospice of Charleston** and has decided that is what she wants to do with her life. So – she is changing careers to attend graduate school in social work in Chicago. Her last day at the College is 11 July. **Kristen** plans to stay in touch and hopefully will keep writing her **Innovations** column for **ATG** (she has a cool one in this issue, p.12, about **integrating Firefox** and **GreaseMonkey**) and editing *The Charleston Report*. My fingers are crossed. Good luck, **Kristen**! And please keep in touch

And, speaking of the **College of Charleston** and smiling and upbeat, we have a fantastic new **Reference librarian**, **Adrian Tinsley** <tinsleya@cofc.edu> who has done her first column about **End Users** (who we all want to know about), in this issue p. 74. **Adrian** comes to us from

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## 2008 Charleston Conference: The BEST of Times... Opportunities to Participate



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