2000

From Your Editor

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Guess what it’s like to be stuck on an airplane for 19 hours and you don’t have a good book to read, or a magazine, or even a laptop to download an eBook onto? And everyone around you is either luxuriating in first class or business class (me? of course not, not on my salary!), sleeping, watching one of the three airline movies, or reading something so, of course, you couldn’t dare ask to borrow it! Well... this is the spot that your beloved editor found herself in three weeks ago. A stack of five novels were neatly laid out at home, not brought (a mistake... duh...) but clearly not forgotten. Nothing to read. ARGHHH!!! This is the stuff that nightmares are made of.

I wish I had had this issue of *ATG* to read. What a delight it would have been! First, there are the four articles by Fran Wilkinson and Linda Lewis, Beth Herzog, John Schmitt, and Dave Tyckoson, all ably edited by the awesome Tom Gilson. Plus the article by Anthony Oddo, ably edited by the equally awesome Beau David Case. Then there are the interviews with Evelyn Fazio and Donald Hagen. And the profile encouraged with Anthony Oddo. And I could have read about the Smithsonian bestsellers from Julie Gammon, Oxion by Sandy Paul and Albert Simmonds, more bestsellers from Bob Nardini and Françoise Crowell, or what tools are needed to manage a website by Haivang Yuan. There’s alumni remote access by Tony Ferguson and tons of book reviews. How brilliant I would have been upon arriving at my destination.

So — don’t you all be like I was, reading-deprived. Pick up your issue of *ATG* lovingly and read away. And happy traveling to the Charleston Conference in November! See you here!

Yr. Ed. 🌞

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**Letters to the Editor**

Send letters to <strauchk@earthlink.net>, phone or fax 843-723-3536, or snail mail: Against the Grain, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409. You can also send a letter to the editor from the *ATG* Homepage at [http://www.against-the-grain.com](http://www.against-the-grain.com).

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**Reply to Mr. Chepesiuk:**

From my perspective, the entries on “celebrity casualties” of the war on drugs were not particularly enlightening, so, yes, I would not have included the other entries you mentioned either. Perhaps an entry on the individual and societal costs of the war on drugs mentioning some of these people, would have been more appropriate. But even more effective in getting across the terrible costs of the drug trade on all involved may have been entries on the individual countries, highlighting the impacts of the drug trade, especially with relevant statistical information. While you did a nice job covering these issues in your historical overview, it might have been more useful having this type of information in the body of the encyclopedia within individual country entries.

While President Andres Pastrana Arango’s foreward points to his and his country’s obvious commitment to the war on drugs, it did not, in my view lend itself to the reference value of your book. Thus my lack of comment. Again, entries within the text on the individual countries involved would have been more helpful from a reference standpoint.

Your encyclopedia is a good reference. Overall my review conveys that fact. I am sorry that you do not agree with some of my criticisms, but I stand by them.

Yours truly,

Tom Gilson <gilson@cofc.edu>

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