June 2005

From Your (who would have guessed) Editor

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Recommended Citation

Strauch, Katina (2005) "From Your (who would have guessed) Editor," Against the Grain: Vol. 17: Iss. 3, Article 2.
DOI: https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.4871

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Letters to the Editor

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Dear Editor:

Against the Grain’s Mark Herring has outdone himself this time. His most recent “Red Herring” columns, his three-part series on Internet filtering (November, December-January, February), is something of a tour de force. Herring’s piercing critique of the anti-filtering ALA establishment, his common sense concerns about the perniciousness of pornography, and his contention that traditional collection development selectivity ought to be applied to the Internet all make a great deal of sense. His arguments won’t be easily answered.

In the process, Herring’s three-part series challenges us all. He encourages us to explore old prejudices, asks us to reexamine the profession’s status quo, and bids us think hard about liberty and free speech. Even so, I fear his cogent arguments and his challenge may fall on deaf ears. I frankly wonder. Are those of us in the library field too hidebound to listen? Are we too entrenched to think outside the box (or outside of the screen for that matter) on issues of censorship?

Let’s hope not.

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