From Your (celebrating) Editor:

I love this time of year. Maybe it’s because it’s my birthday month but as I get older I really don’t look forward to the big event anymore. No. Now I have a real reason to like this time of year.

My first grandbaby was born December 20! His name is Trifton Raymond Walser and he is a cute little bundle of energy. Even when he cries he is cute!

Ever faithful to Against the Grain, we have persevered and turned out another great issue. Ed Colleran of the Copyright Clearance Center has put together several papers by Karen Oye, Eugene Mopsik, Victor Pearlman, and Dan Duncan dealing with orphan works, the problems associated with them, and the legislation that has been pending for some time. We have interviews with Mehdi Khosrow-Pour (IGI-Global) and Jonathan Dahl (IEEE).

Back Talk in this issue is about food and the library, one of our favorite subjects. We have another Humble Opinion about reference services by Celia Rabinowitz! Ellen Finnie Duranceau outlines eight principles for an emerging ecosystem regarding Open Access. We have a discussion by Sandy Thatcher of the ACRL Report on establishing a research agenda for scholarly communication, a look at the recent developments in the Tasini decision by Bill Hanney, Todd Carpenter views the landscape regarding ERMS, Elaine Robbins tells us how to enhance our OPAC with LibraryThing, Christine Fisher has a group therapy on database trials (and tribulations), Ned Kraft gets out his psychologist glasses to amuse us with librarian psychology. Michelle Flinchbaugh has two Biz of Acq columns (by Susan E. Thomas and Xan Arch) on Wikis in Acquisitions and a sample journal display at the Pratt Institute Library, and John Cox asked why private equity is interested in publishing. Whew! And that’s not all by any means.

Meanwhile, I have to go get on an airplane to see my grandbaby! Merry Christmas, Happy Hanakah, Kwanza, etc.

Happy New Year! Here’s hoping that 2008 brings all you ever desired.

Love, Yr. Ed. ☺

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <kstrauch@comcast.net>, phone 843-723-3336, or fax 843-805-7918, 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.

Dear Editor and Colleagues:

It is with a mixture of anticipation and regret that I announce my retirement as of April 1st, 2008 — my 38th anniversary at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, all but eight months of it in Acquisitions. I wanted to write to thank those who have so frequently helped me with the many challenges facing us in recent years. And I wanted to wish everyone the best as you address the new demands and rapidly changing environment in which all of us find ourselves these days. It is a very exciting time to be working in the field of scholarly communication and I know that there will be many lively conversations in years to come! Also, I want to thank Katina and her hard-working conference planning committee for many years of successful and stimulating gatherings to discuss the critical issues each year. The key to the Charleston Conference’s success, in my opinion, is the active involvement of librarians, publishers, and vendors working together toward the common goal of benefiting our users. For my money, the Charleston Conference is the best buy around!

With warm regards,

Janet L. Flowers (Head / Acquisitions Department, CB 3902, University Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27514-8890 US; Phone: 919-962-1120; Fax: 919-962-4450) <jflowers@email.unc.edu> http://www.lib.unc.edu/acq/

Dear Editor:

Returning after a few years hiatus, I just can’t live without ATG! Thanks for an engaging, informative source!

Flora G. Shrode (Head, Reference & Instruction Services, Merrill-Cazier Library, Utah State University, UMC 3000, Logan, UT 84322-3000; Phone: 435-797-8033; Fax 435-797-2880) <flora.shrode@usu.edu> ☺

AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES

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2008 Events Issue Ad Reservation Camera-Ready
Annual Report, PLA February 2008 12/12/07 01/09/08
MLA, Book Expo April 2008 02/20/08 03/05/08
SLA, ALA Annual June 2008 04/16/08 04/30/08
Reference Publishing September 2008 07/16/08 07/30/08
Charleston Conference November 2008 09/03/08 09/17/08
ALA Midwinter Dec. 08/Jan. 09 10/29/08 11/19/08

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Kahn continues as CEO of ProQuest.
www.cambridgeinformationgroup.com
www.proquest.com
www.csa.com

Speaking of ProQuest, did y’all see Tina Orozco in Charleston? She had just returned from her HONEYMOON. Tina is now Tina Taylor. Congratulations, Tina!

I can’t believe it! Jack Montgomery <jack.montgomery@wk.edu>, our wonderful, caring, Johnny-on-the-spot colleague, has been out of pocket! Here’s the story. Monday, December 3rd, Lesley and Jack were at the local mall and had just finished dinner. As he waited for Lesley, Jack began to feel a bit wobbly. He took a step and began to stumble. When he tried to get up, he couldn’t move his left arm. Medics came within minutes and gave him oxygen and he regained the movement in his arm, leg and speech. He stayed in the hospital for several days. It seems that Jack had a Lacunar infarct which usually occurs as a result of arterial blockage caused by high blood pressure (hypertension).

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