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Letters to the Editor

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Send ideas by July 31, 2012, to any of the Conference Directors listed above.

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Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <kstrauch@comcast.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.

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed reading the piece by Laura Harris (Joining the Dark Side, ATG v.24#2, April 2012). Early in my career, I had a similar experience: I had never considered working for a vendor but received an unexpected — and interesting — job offer from one. For 15 years, it was a largely wonderful experience. I agree with Ms. Harris when she says, “I’d like to encourage people to reconsider this attitude [of shunning that career path].” So, it perplexes me that the title of her column refers to “the Dark Side.” Why should anyone be attracted to a career in something it perplexes me that the title of her column refers to “the Dark Side.” Why should anyone be attracted to a career in something that Harris — and others — refer to as the Dark Side?

Please, please think about removing this terminology from your lexicon. It only perpetuates the myth that vendors = evil capitalists. As Harris demonstrates so eloquently, many library vendors, in an effort to serve their customers more effectively, hire librarians for their skills, expertise, and familiarity with the very problems they are trying to solve. That doesn’t make them dark at all in my book!

Katy Ginanni <ksginanni@email.wcu.edu>

Dear Editor:

I do think the commenter makes a good point, however, and if it is possible to change the name of the piece, perhaps it could be something like, “Descending from the Ivory Tower?”

Thanks, Laura Harris, Springshare <laura@springshare.com>