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From Your Editor

Katina Strauch
Against the Grain

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From Your (Whining) Editor

Talk about Annus Horribilis! The way I figure it, 1993 can only get better. I spent a terrible Christmas vacation (ten days off, no less) in emergency rooms and doctors' offices with a poor sick son who was home for a vacation himself. He seems well now so I can only hope that he's not somehow allergic to home!

So — that's my excuse to those of you who I haven't written, thanked, or otherwise badgered. Forgive me. On the positive side (at least for my bank account), we have just been able to get the bills for the 1993 *ATGs* in the mail. So you got to hold onto your \$25 a little longer. In these tough economic times that's not bad, right?

This is the year of **Volume 5** of *Against the Grain*. I remember back in March of 1989 when **Steve Johnson** of Clemson agreed to lay out the first few issues of *ATG*. I remember the first issue — 10 whole pages. I remem-

ber talking to Steve at all hours of the night as we tried to finish an issue before he went white water rafting. I remember the thrill of the first subscription to *ATG* (**Arnold Balk**, University of Georgia). His check is still on my bulletin board because I couldn't bring myself to cash it.

Well, I have never been one to check out the future too closely, but I had no idea *Against the Grain* would get this far. Five years? Sixty pages? We have definitely created a monster. But it is a sort of good, sweet, kind, little monster like ET or something.

So — this is going to be Annus Bonus Cinquus.

This issue has a couple of great features. First, we have included new graphics compliments of publishers (Dover Publications, Inc. and Hart Publishing Company, Inc.) of woodcuts, etc. (see this issue, page 4). Second, we have tried to include some more infor-

mation about the world of writing and publishing. There is an interview with an exciting new author, **Connie May Fowler** and the always energetic, vivacious, and working Sandy Paul has sent us a paper about **Algonquin Books** by one of her students at the New York University Publishing School. Not to mention the great standbys like Group Therapy, Bet You Missed It, Publisher Bestsellers and Best Kept Secrets, Innovations, Mourning Serial, Book Pricing Update, Library Bestsellers, Legally Speaking, Chaos, Firehose, Publisher and Library Profiles, And They Were There, And We Weren't There, Acquiring Minds, we could go on and on.

Enjoy. Let's all have a good year — together.

••Your Editor

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