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Letters to the Editor

Katina Strauch
Against the Grain

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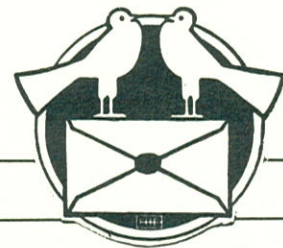
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Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor are welcome in any way, shape or form.! — KS



Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to the piece on the librarian by Jerry Seay in the November issue of *Against the Grain*. I do enjoy his humor but I want to take issue with his comments about the designation librarian.

I am proud to be a librarian and I believe that the name encompasses more than the word information ever could. Information can be valid or false, trivial or useful, overwhelming in volume. It is often misleading, not worth keeping. Who would be a scientist of information rather than a librarian of knowledge?

Librarians are about knowledge and learning. We create the atmosphere and provide the resources so that learning can take place. We plumb the depths of literature, glean the wisdom from past great thinkers, encourage the curiosity of our students and foster questioning in search of answers. Books and journals are our treasures but we also know how to harness the electronic wonders to pursue what our users need and help them to evaluate it. I believe the mind of the librarian is the best resource in any library.

Our problem is not our name. Our problem is that we have not made known to people what it is we do. And that we must do because others are declaring that they can absorb the library into the computer center or make it a section of information. So I would be a librarian. It is a word with a great heritage. Let us tell

people we are in the knowledge business. Nobody can do better than we can.

Sincerely,

Lucretia W. McClure
(Librarian Emerita, University of Rochester Medical Center)

Dear Editor:

I sure did enjoy seeing the Wake Forest/Dynix VISTA blurb in *ATG* (February, 1994)!! We had a great beta test with Dynix's new remote database access system, and we are really encouraged that Pat Craumer and her staff are continuing to develop the service — adding databases, as well as enhancements to the search software. Since we are a Dynix site, our interest in VISTA is understandable. However, Dynix plans to market this service to non-Dynix libraries as well. Anyone interested should contact Pat. She is a very approachable and very knowledgeable person.

Best wishes,

Charles Getchell
(Wake Forest University)

Dear Editor:

The Board was wrong. You should not have published that unsigned letter [February, 1994]. The degree to which

an opinion is valuable and worthy of respect is directly related to an individual's willingness to commit him or herself to it.

There are, of course, extraordinary circumstances when a letter should be published unsigned: the contents are truly important, and it is reasonable to assume that the writer will suffer major harm if he or she is revealed. Neither applies in this instance. In fact, what does this letter have to do with what *ATG* is all about, except in a cosmic sense?

As a rule our profession suffers because not enough people are willing to go on the line and express anything, let alone what they believe. Please don't encourage a behavior that must be fought.

Christian Boissonnas
(Cornell University)

Dear Editor:

I just wanted to let you know that last week, when I was traveling, I read the latest *ATG* cover to cover and I thought it was fabulous!! So much material of real substance (as well as fun gossip). Anyway, since in your very charming editorial you advised us that we'd BETTER READ THIS ISSUE!, I wanted you to know that I did and I'm glad I did!!

Sincerely,

Becky Lenzini
(CARL Corporation) ☞

Legally Speaking from page 9

nient copyright policies which do not exceed the legal bounds of fair use. Crews is not pushing university policy makers to be more aggressive or to take an adversarial stand against copyright owners. Rather, he argues that these policy makers need to become more informed about the intellectual nature and the legal realities of fair use, so that they can stop being so intimidated by judicial decisions and the threat of lawsuits that

really do not apply to them. In other words, Crews shows us that copyright law, including legislative intent in drafting the fair use provisions, is on the side of the university.

Crews analyzes 183 university copyright policies, mostly from ARL institutions. Interestingly, librarians were the leading developers of these policies, having authored just under half of them. Other developers included administrators (27%), legal counsel (16%), and faculty (3%). I leave the remaining details of the analysis to your reading. The critical finding of the study is that most of

the policies had as their stated purpose compliance with copyright law and avoidance

The Beaver Bites Back?

Edited by David H. Flaherty
and Frank E. Manning (McGill-Queen's University Press, 1993).

This book is subtitled *American Popular Culture in Canada*. That subtitle was

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