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Letters to the Editor

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Against the Grain

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From your (puzzled) editor:

I am becoming more and more convinced that life is a matter of communication. Just the other day, my 14-year-old daughter (Ileana) was having lunch with yours truly and a newly-turned 21 student worker (Joni). Shall we say that I am from the older generation. Anyway, very seriously, they say, "hey that's phat!" (Of course, I thought it was spelled "fat.") And, come to find out, that this "phat" word is some sort of acronym that ALA hasn't used (yet), that means Pretty Hot And Tempting. Seems to have come from some "new age" rap music that even the experts (Ileana and Joni) didn't know.

This issue of *ATG* (like its predecessors) is all about communication. It carries several articles about reference books and how they are bought and sold. **Bob Balay** from *Choice* (p.24) gives us a perspective on the definition of reference books. **Tom Gilson** reviews some (p.44) as well as giving us an example of a book that was on the Web but became a print product (p.22). **Fran Wilkinson** does her usual thorough job of interviewing reference and a collection development librarians about what they like and don't like about reference books (p.1). **Robert Chapman**'s discussion of a review-driven purchase plan (p.86), and **Rob Richard**'s Feast of Choosing the Right Format (p.52). And our regular columns are all great, as always. **Tony Ferguson**'s Back Talk (p.94), **Barbara Stewart**'s Latin American Web sites (p.90), **Terry Hinkle**'s Teaching Acquisitions (p.80), **Sarah Tusa**'s Bet You Missed It (p.70), **Rosann Bazirjian**'s Group Therapy (p.74), **Barbara Dean**'s Profiles Encouraged (p.42, 58), **Eamon Fennessy**'s On the Street (p.76), etc., etc. And the registration for the **Charleston Conference** is also in this issue (p.49). Y'all come!

Yr. Ed.

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Event	Issue	Insertion Order	Camera-Ready Copy
Reference Books Issue	September 97	7/2/97	7/16/97
Charleston Conference	November 97	9/3/97	9/17/97
ALA Midwinter	December 97/January 98	11/5/97	11/19/97

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <strauchk@cofc.edu>, phone or fax 803-723-3536, or snail mail: *Against the Grain*, 209 Richardson Ave., 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>>. So now you don't have any excuses to put it off!

Dear Editor:

Thank you for the TIPS coverage in the April issue of *ATG* (v.9#2, p.73). We will certainly take Elsie's comments (and others) seriously and see what else we can do in terms of electronic formats. We welcome any input from interested parties. I read the April issue on the plane home. I also really enjoyed the *Choice* article (p.56) and **Barry Fast**'s comments on Hawaii (p.69).

Lauren Lee
<lee@bookmail.brodart.com>

Dear Editor:

Thank you for my recent copy of *Against the Grain*. I'm a new subscriber,

and truly enjoyed every page. I look forward to the next issue.

Tricia Butler
(Director of Circulation, Academic Press) <tbutler@acad.com>

Dear Editor:

My name is Ramona Faust. I am a 23-year-old library assistant from Germany looking for someone with an interest in correspondence and exchange of experiences. I hope you can help me to find someone via your magazine.

I am working mostly at a children's library in Gotha which is a town with nearly 50,000 inhabitants in the German federal state of Thuringia. The whole town

library has around 90,000 media, including books, newspapers, and magazines, CD, cassettes and games. The annual lending is around 210,000.

I am interested to find out something about public libraries of this size, how do they work compared with the ones in Germany, and what kind of problems they have.

So, if there is someone who works at a similar public library and wants to write me, here is my address below.

I would be very glad if you could help me. Thank you very much and many greetings from Germany.

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