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Letters to the Editor

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From Your (sobered) Editor:

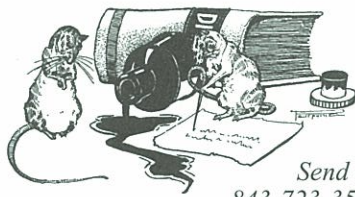
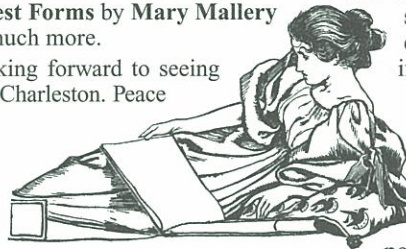
Dear all of you. Time will be forever marked by the events of September 11. Not only will we remember where we were and what we were doing, but we will remember if an event in our lives happened before or after September 11. It was a horribly beautiful day. Many innocent people who were just doing their jobs like you and I do every day were blotted cruelly from the landscape.

Still, life goes on. All of your *Against the Grain* editors faithfully turned in their columns and their articles and we are thankful that our lives are still basically normal. This issue—with the feature theme of **Problems in the Pipeline: Forces of Change for Publishers, Distributors, and Libraries**—was ably guest edited by the fabulous **Robert Birch** of Greenwood Press. Included are articles by **Niko Fund**, **Marifran Bustion**, **Matt Nauman**, **Jay Askovich** and **Forrest Link**, **Gary Shirk** and

John Kistler. The interviews are with **Nicholas Basbanes** of *Patience & Fortitude* fame (who will also speak at the **Charleston Conference**) and **Dave Schappell** of **Amazon.com** (who will do likewise). Other highlights of this issue include: A new column called **Books Are Us** about books about librarians, vendors, publishers, booksellers, etc. (please send us contributions), an op ed by **John Perry Smith** (We don't need no stinking librarians) just to get us thinking, **Why Don't We Do It On the Web?: Online Book Request Forms** by **Mary Mallory** and much, much more.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you in Charleston. Peace and love.

Yr. Ed.



Letters to the Editor

Send letters to strauchk@earthlink.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:

Many thanks for **Joyce Ogburn's** very interesting piece chronicling a brief history of licensing milestones of the last 10 years or so. It was most informative and useful.

By this note, I want to add an item that seems to have been only indirectly noted but has made a difference to literally thousands of librarians and others engaged in licensing. That is the creation, over time, with support from the **Council of Library and Information Resources**, of a very comprehensive Licensing Web site (**LIBLICENSE**, at: <http://www.library.yale.edu/~llicense/index.shtml>).

This site went "live" in 1997 and contains a wealth of information in addition to the Model License (which a number of publishers and libraries have adapted for their own

use) that **Joyce Ogburn** referenced. For example, see an extensive set of links to licensing information from many organizations; a bibliography that contains references to numerous articles, books, and principles — much of this information with live links to full content. The most interesting part of the **LIBLICENSE** Web site is the professionally developed and freely downloadable software that enables librarians or others to create their own customized licenses from a set of numerous generic options. The **LIBLICENSE** site is in continuous review and development, and it benefits from the input of many users who suggest additional resources and improvements.

Sincerely, **Ann Okerson**
Yale University Library
ann.okerson@yale.edu

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President) make the following points: 1) While additional investment funding looked extremely positive a few weeks ago, those investors made the decision not to invest based on several factors, including overall economic conditions. 2) **netLibrary** immediately began to pursue the possibility of being acquired by a number of possible candidates with interest in the library, publishing and eBook marketplace. Those discussions continue today. 3) It is true that the majority of employees returned to work with the understanding that salaries would be significantly reduced and that future employment would be dependent on identifying an interested buyer and related bridge loan financing. Their passion for eBooks and their deep concern for our customers and business partners is reflected in the number of those who returned to work on Monday morning, ready to continue to service and support customers as management works through this difficult transition period. 4) Access to **netLibrary** eBooks continues. Should that change, we will be contacted via email. 5) Apparently, some related services may be put on hold temporarily. For example, ordering promotional materials will be problematic. Additionally, **netLibrary** will be reorganizing and reassigning staff to help wherever needed. See also "E-Book Provider **netLibrary** Puts Itself Up for Sale, Worrying Librarians" by **Jeffrey R. Young** <http://chronicle.com/free/2001/10/2001101802t.htm>.

Janet Flowers' father-in-law passed away on Saturday, Oct. 6. We will hope by some miracle to see her in Charleston in November, and in the meantime we all send her our best condolences.

The Johnny-on-the-spot **Michael Young** <youngm@csc.albany.edu> has stepped forward and agreed to take over Janet's acquisitions preconference. Michael is in charge of acquisitions at **SUNY Albany** and does a lot of teaching himself. He is looking forward to the preconference. Hooray!

Speaking of **SUNY-Albany**, the incredible **Heather Miller's** (Assistant Director for Technical Services and Systems) <hm766@csc.albany.edu> son, **Andrew**, graduated from **Cornell** and has just gone back to Cornell to start graduate work at the College of Veterinary Medicine. Heather and her husband will be in Charleston for the Conference!

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AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES

| VOLUME 13 2001 / 2002 | Event | Issue | Ad Reservation | Camera-Ready |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| | ALA Midwinter | Dec. 01/Jan. 02 | 10/24/01 | 11/14/01 |
| VOLUME 14 2002 / 2003 | Event | Issue | Ad Reservation | Camera-Ready |
| | Annual Report, ACRL, ARLIS | Feb. 2002 | 12/12/01 | 01/09/02 |
| | SLA, MLA | April 2002 | 02/06/02 | 02/27/02 |
| | ALA Annual, AALL | June 2002 | 03/27/02 | 04/17/02 |
| | Reference Publishing | Sept. 2002 | 07/10/02 | 07/31/02 |
| | Charleston Conference | Nov. 2002 | 08/21/02 | 09/11/02 |
| | ALA Midwinter | Dec. 02/Jan. 03 | 11/13/02 | 12/04/02 |

