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Letters to the Editor

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From your (reading-deprived) editor



Guess what it's like to be stuck on an airplane for 19 hours and you don't have a good book to read, or a magazine, or even a laptop to download an eBook onto? And everyone around you is either luxuriating in first class or business class (me? of course not, not on my salary!), sleeping, watching one of the three airline movies, or reading something so, of course, you couldn't dare ask to borrow it! Well ... this is the spot that your beloved editor found herself in three weeks ago. A stack of five novels were neatly laid out at home, not brought (a mistake ... duh ...) but clearly not forgotten. Nothing to read. ARGHHH!!! This is the stuff that nightmares are made of.

I wish I had had this issue of *ATG* to read. What a delight it would have been! First, there are the four articles by **Fran Wilkinson** and **Linda Lewis**, **Beth Herzog**, **John Schmitt**, and **Dave Tyckson**, all ably edited by the awesome **Tom Gilson**. Plus the article by **Anthony Oddo**, ably edited by the equally awesome

Beau David Case. Then there are the interviews with **Evelyn Fazio** and **Donald Hagen**. And the profile encouraged with **Anthony Oddo**. And I could have read about the Smithsonian bestsellers from **Julie Gammon**, Onix by **Sandy Paul** and **Albert Simmonds**, more bestsellers from **Bob Nardini** and **Françoise Crowell**, or what tools are needed to manage a website by **Haiwang Yuan**. There's alumni remote access by **Tony Ferguson** and tons of book reviews. How brilliant I would have been upon arriving at my destination.

So — don't you all be like I was, reading-deprived. Pick up your issue of *ATG* lovingly and read away. And happy traveling to the **Charleston Conference** in November! See you here!

Yr. Ed. 



Letters to the Editor

Send letters to [<strauchk@earthlink.net>](mailto: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>](http://www.against-the-grain.com).

Dear Editor:

This letter should be directed to Tom Gilson. Thank you for reviewing my book (see *ATG* April 2000, p.46), but your comment about entries for Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, etc. not belonging in my encyclopedia didn't make much sense and, unfortunately deflected the book's major theme. The war on drugs is over 100 years old, contrary to the image generated by the media, and, historically, Joplin, etc. were all major, high profile casualties of that War. I also had entries for more recent historical figures, including Pryor, Belushi, Len Bias and others, but you didn't say anything about them. Should I have left them out, too? That myopic perspective is quintessentially American and graphically explains why U.S. policy re the War on Drugs is a failure. Also, there is no mention [in your review that] Colombian President Andres Pastrana Arango contributed a foreword to the book.

Ron Chepesiuk

<110423.2656@compuserve.com>

Reply to Mr. Chepesiuk:

From my perspective, the entries on "celebrity casualties" of the war on drugs were not particularly enlightening, so, yes, I would not have included the other entries you mentioned either. Perhaps an entry on the individual and societal costs of the war on drugs mentioning some of these people, would have been more appropriate. But even more effective in getting across the terrible costs of the drug trade on all involved may have been entries on the individual countries, highlighting the impacts of the drug trade, especially with relevant statistical information. While you did a nice job covering these issues in your historical overview, it might have been more useful having this type information in the body of the encyclopedia within individual country entries.

While President Andres Pastrana Arango's foreword points to his and his country's obvious commitment to the war on drugs, it did not, in my view lend itself to the reference value of your book. Thus my lack of comment. Again, entries within the text on the individual countries involved would have been more helpful from a reference standpoint.

Your encyclopedia is a good reference. Overall my review conveys that fact. I am sorry that you do not agree with some of my criticisms, but I stand by them.

Yours truly,

Tom Gilson <gilsont@cofc.edu>



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Event	Issue	Ad Reservation	Camera-Ready
Charleston Conference	Nov. 2000	08/23/00	09/06/00
ALA Midwinter	Dec. 00/Jan. 01	10/25/00	11/08/00