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## On the Road

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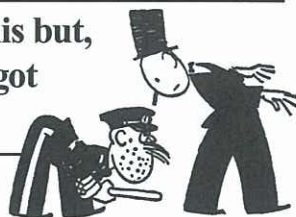
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# On the Road

**“Son, I hate to tell you this but, your mom and dad just got picked up by the police”**



*A glimpse at “Life in the Trenches” — “On the road again/ Just can’t wait to get on the road again....”*

by **Janet L. Flowers** (Head of Acquisitions, Academic Affairs Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) <janet\_flowers@unc.edu>

Column Editor, **Don Jaeger** (Alfred Jaeger, Inc.) <don@ajaeger.com>

Sunday, June 28, 1999 New Orleans, LA  
Hot and Muggy: Heat Index at 105°

After having heard about our earlier wild night on the town with a trip down Bourbon Street around midnight, our son, Thomas, was slightly better prepared to hear news such as this, atypical of his parents as it was. \*

Those attending the **ALA Annual Meeting ‘99** know how steamy the weather was. Sunday, June 29th was a heavy-duty day for me beginning at 8:00 AM with a fascinating meeting on E-books and ending at 5:30 PM with an equally interesting one on e-journals. Sandwiched between those meetings, I slipped in and out of the **ALCTS/AAP** all-day program on their marketing survey. Follow this with a fun time at the **Gale Party** at the Aquarium, where, yes, I stood in line to get a free tee shirt. Add to this, a brief pop-over to the **Innovative Interfaces** dessert party on the riverboat. This left two very tired people, including my husband, Ed, who was recovering from recent shoulder surgery.

So, when we got to the Sheraton a few minutes before the Gale shuttle bus was to arrive, we were weary indeed. At that point, we got picked up by the police! OK, so the real story was this. When we asked about the bus, it wasn’t there yet, but a nearby policeman offered to give us a ride in his squad car. As I had never ridden in a squad car and was hot and tired, I thought this was a great idea. Well, lo and behold, his squad car was an unmarked, new Cadillac! So, I got two firsts for one, as I had never ridden in one of those either!

We asked the policeman, who was very nice and a member of the vice squad, if there was some way we could prove to our son that we had indeed ridden in his car? ... he just laughed! He also gave us a good lecture on the dangers of the street. We will never know what motivated this kind gesture on his part. Was it because he saw how tired we were? Was it because he was concerned for our safety? Was it because he wanted to get out of the heat for a few minutes and into the air-conditioned comfort of

his car? Was it all three? Whatever the reason(s), this was one time that we were grateful for the long arm of the law and the way it embraced us at this particular time on the road.

For those who do not know me, I want to quickly add that everyone who does would call me a law-abiding citizen. In fact, when my high school class wrote its prophecy, the prediction was that I was going to become famous for my book entitled, *How to Evade the Law*. This was humorous at the time as I was known for be-

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ing squeaky clean and never a rules breaker. (And, yes, this is the book I will never write as I have no clue as to how it is done!)

\*It should be noted that this trip was just a walk back to our hotel after attending “City of Angels” at the theater. 🐼

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81	ACCENTS	55	THE CHARLESTON ADVISOR	43	LYNNE RIENNER PUBLISHERS
2	ALFRED JAEGER	77	THE CHARLESTON REPORT	61	MAJORS
5	ATG	57	CHOICE	75	McFARLAND
17	AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY	55	COUTTS	67	MARTINUS NIJHOFF
39	AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS	23	EASTERN BOOK COMPANY	13	McGraw-Hill
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