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From Your Editor

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From your (accentuate the positive) Editor:

I know that some people accuse me of being a Pollyanna and so be it. But, you know, I get downright tired of people telling me/us everything that is wrong with librarianship. How we entered the profession because we couldn't do what we really wanted to do! And now we are mentioned as one of the four worst professions to be in in the twenty-first century. Give me a break! Librarianship is a noble and needed profession. If our society is going to have any record of the past and hope to move into the future, there is going to have to be some sort of record for posterity. And you can argue over what you call librarians, but the function of what we do will remain for always. I believe that. And all of us in the profession need to real-

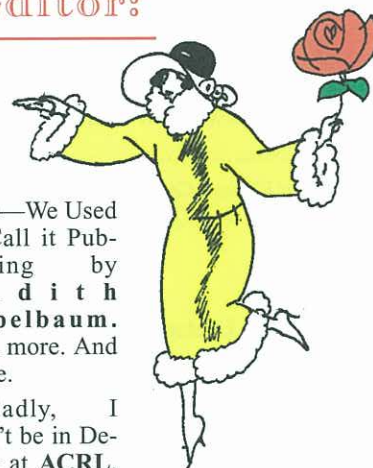
ize that and celebrate it! Quit going along with everybody cutting us up. Stand up and be counted! Just say no!

Enough. This issue of *ATG* is a case in point! Look at all of the wonderful information that is contained within it. We have interviews with the delightful **Ursula Springer** and **Gary Wilson**. There are feature articles from **Tom Izbicki**, **Linda Brown** and **Eileen Hiller** and **Ken Kirkland**. **Linda Defendeifer** has done an interview with some publishers about mergers and acquisitions. **Tom Leonhardt** has an impassioned defense of the "real" book (as opposed to the "electronic" book). **Rick Anderson** gives us a short course in licensing. **Martin White** tells us about higher education in the UK. We have a new col-

umn—We Used to Call it Publishing by **Judith Appelbaum**. And more. And more.

Sadly, I won't be in Detroit at **ACRL**, but all of you have a great time and learn a lot! See you in June!

Yr. Ed. 



Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <strauchk@cofc.edu>, 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:

Hi. Just a quick note to say I got the copy of *Against the Grain* (v.10#6, Dec 98/ Jan 99) and enjoyed it very much; read it from cover to cover!

The **Group Therapy** columns, especially, provide a needed service, I think.

And I'm still giggling at the "How many librarians does it take" (**Acquiring Minds**, p. 62).

Sincerely,

Jeanette Skwor

(U. of Wisconsin Green Bay)

<SKWORJ@gbms01.uwgb.edu>

Dear Editor:

Thank you so much for the replacement copy (of v.10#6, Dec. 98/Jan 99). I know the message was passed along to you that I really like *ATG*. In an effort to be more accurate, I love it! I tend to deny myself the pleasure of reading it all immediately so I can savor the wonderful experience of reading your publication. As you have probably figured out, I am not a librarian by profession, but have a love of books and the publishing industry. Thanks again for your obvious dedication to maintaining the quality of this special publication. Best wishes.


Cordially,

Dr. Howard P. Blackman

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LaGrange, IL) 708-354-5730

Editor's note: Okay. I know that sometimes issues of *ATG* get screwed up in going through the mail. And don't hesitate to request another copy if this happens, okay?—KS 

Charleston Conference Dates To Remember

November 4-6, 1999

November 2-4, 2000

Against the Grain — Deadlines 1999 — Volume 11



Event	Issue	Ad Reservation	Camera-Ready
ALA Annual	June 99	4/7/99	4/28/99
Reference Books	Sept. 99	6/23/99	7/21/99
Charleston Conference	Nov. 99	8/25/99	9/15/99
ALA Midwinter	Dec. 99/Jan. 2000	10/27/99	11/17/99