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sotto voce-"I read the news today, oh boy."

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sotto voce — “I read the news today, oh boy.”

by **Bob Schatz** (Everett's) <everbob@yahoo.com>

I was twenty-five years ago that I spent the summer at Harvard at its annual “Publishing Procedures Course.” There I made friends with a Midwesterner named **Peter Coveney**. While I found my way in the work world on the vendor side of things, Peter ended up in publishing, first as production manager for **Northern Illinois University Press**, eventually working his way east to his present position as a Executive Editor at **M.E. Sharpe** outside of New York City. We’ve only seen each other three times in that intervening quarter-century, but I consider Peter a great friend. Somehow, we’ve kept in touch all these years, most recently through the wonders of email.

One of those recent emails carried with it an unexpected burden. **Kim Cavallero**, a colleague of Peter’s and Vice-President and Director for Marketing for M.E. Sharpe, and her eight-year-old daughter, Jessica, were killed in a roller-coaster accident that occurred in New Jersey, one of several such accidents that happened within a week of each other during the summer. As quickly as it takes to read this paragraph—forever gone.

Such things aren’t supposed to happen. Freak accidents, we all know in our hearts, don’t happen to real people; they happen to non-existent statistical people, the same people who get killed in train wrecks in London, or are washed away in Mexican floods. In the reading of an email, I was reminded that very real people are affected by events impersonally represented in the news. Ask not for whom the headline reads.

I can’t say that I was a friend of Kim’s, but we had built up a tradition of touching base at every **ALA** to pass messages back-and-forth to and from Peter. Because of that, we had reason to converse every six months, and to renew our own acquaintance. I liked Kim. She was always pleasant, always glad to see me.

Kim was one of the last people with whom I spoke at last summer’s **ALA**. **Colin Harrison, Beverley Geer, October Ivins, and Paul Wilkins** (of Monash University in Australia), and I were having lunch in that funky little tavern across the street from the New Orleans Convention Center. Kim happened by, and we had a nice chat. Little did I

know that it would be the last five minutes I’d spend with her.

Somewhere in New York or New Jersey there’s a family that is now without a wife and mother, without a daughter and sister. How they carry on is beyond me. Yet, somehow people find ways to mend their lives, even after tragedies of this magnitude. I’m in awe of that.

When I first thought about writing about this, I was going to try to craft it into something about how libraries overcome disruptive events too: budget cuts, vendor buyouts, etc. I don’t want to cheapen Kim’s memory, though, by making her death into a piece of salesmanship. Someone did that once with the memory of my friend **Jim Cameron** and it was very hurtful. I don’t want to repeat the same mistake.

Still, I will say this. We seem to live in a world where our professional interactions become increasingly transaction based, rather

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will take reasonable care to protect the data from being abused. She pointed out that Chadwyck-Healey tries to simplify its license agreements. She expressed doubt that an all-purpose licensing agreement can be developed because individual library needs and requirements vary. Peterson reminded us that we are in a transitional period with a movement toward access from ownership. She outlined major concerns and made suggestions about options for dealing with them.

Twenty-two workshops were presented on a diverse group of topics, from which each attendee could select four. The workshops were very popular because they provided material of direct relevance to serialists; each had its finger on the pulse of an important issue in the serials community. The workshops were offered on a variety of topics so there was something for everyone.

"The Pricing Implications of Site and Consortia Licensing into the Next Millennium," was presented by **Simon Inger**, Managing Director of **CatchWord**; **Taissa Kusma**, Director of Electronic Product Development for **Academic Press**; and **Barbara McFadden Allen**, Director of **CIC Center for Library Initiatives** and Assistant Director of the **CIC Committee on Institutional Cooperation**. Each presenter shared thoughts and opinions about pricing implications for site and consortia licensing. Inger began the workshop with comments about production costs and pricing. Kusma gave a talk entitled "Licensing and Pricing Models: The Publisher's Perspective." She believes that we are in a transitional phase and that more library input is needed. She outlined various pricing models now in use. An advantage to consortial licensing is that it can be less costly, but there are also fewer options for customization. McFadden Allen shared "A Personal View." She sees little difference between individual and consortial pricing. Instead, the benefits to libraries are safety and influence in numbers. The workshop concluded with a pointed question and answer

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than relationship based. While that may be the more efficient way to get things accomplished, such efficiency may come at a subtle, yet significant cost. Even when I don't land a sale, one of the things I value most in my "new" line of work is meeting so many new people. Taken as a whole, librarians are great folks: very hard-working, welcoming, open-minded. Sometimes librarians are not the best business-people in the world. They don't always buy from


period with no consensus being reached.

"Dear Abby/Dear Abbott Revisited 'Let's Talk Electronics!'" featured **Tina Feick**, Vice President of **Blackwell's Information Services** as the panel Moderator, with the following panelists: **Keith Courtney**, Director of **Taylor and Francis Ltd.**; **Karen Cargille**, Head of the Acquisitions Department at the **University of California at San Diego**; and **Mike Markwith**, Chief Executive Officer, **Swets & Zeitlinger Inc.** The workshop began with Tina Feick establishing several ground rules which included "no bashing of any kind." Cargille surveyed the room and found that more than half in attendance were librarians, with the rest constituting a mix of vendors and publishers. Discussion between the panelists and audience flowed freely, mostly concentrating on e-journals and other technology-centered issues.

In "Taming the Octopus: Coming to Grips with Electronic Resources" **Nancy Markle Stanley**, Head of Acquisitions Services, and **Angelina F. Holden**, Member of Acquisitions Services, both of **Penn State University Libraries**, presented an overview of **ERLIC (Electronic Resources Licensing Information Center)**. ERLIC is Penn State's customized database, which uses Microsoft ACCESS, to track license, order, funding, supplier, content, and maintenance data for their electronic resources. The system provides forms, reports, and hyperlinks to information. Workshop participants were given an online demonstration of ERLIC and a brochure featuring its major features and sample screens from the product.

A number of **NASIG** Networking Nodes were available on Saturday afternoon, including Cataloging, Document Delivery Services, Management of Electronic Journals, Preservation Issues, Preserving the Journal Archive, Public Libraries, Reference/Public Services Librarians, Standards, Union Listing, and Revisiting the Virtual Library. These gave participants the opportunity to concentrate on their special areas of interest with like-minded people. The Preservation Issues Networking Node met with six participants in attendance, mostly serials librarians, some new to pres-

me, or share my view of what's important. Somehow, because of Peter's email to me, I'm a little less concerned about that than I used to be. While I hope I can talk at least some of you into buying my wares, I think I'll try to keep my focus directed just a little longer on building bridges between us as people. In the long-run, that may be more important.

Sometimes a roller coaster is an amusement, sometimes it's a metaphor for life's ups and downs, and sometimes it is a too-grim reminder never to take your interactions with others for granted. 

ervation responsibilities. **Fran Wilkinson** and **Jane Hedburg** (who filled in for **Marilyn Fletcher** who could not attend this year's conference) introduced themselves, shared a little about their backgrounds and asked attendees to do the same and to identify their interests. Topics of interest included bindery interfacing with ILSSs, commercial binders, disaster preparedness planning, book repair, brittle books, digitization, preservation photocopying, and getting support from the administration for preservation activities. The small but enthusiastic group shared their concerns and knowledge on these issues and gave each other tips on where they have found helpful print and Web resources. Everyone is still anticipating the long-awaited **Library Binding Institute Standard for Library Binding**, 9th edition. How to select a commercial binder, whether or not to use the request for proposal process to select one, and the advantages of touring the binder's facility when possible were discussed. The importance of properly educating the library's administration, especially the development officer, regarding raising funds for preservation activities including the processing of special manuscript collections was stressed.

Users Group Meetings, scheduled for early Sunday afternoon, included **CARL**, **DRA**, **Endeavor**, **Innovative Interfaces**, and **SIRSI**. The conference featured a social event on each of the first two nights of the conference and offered a "free night" on the third night where conference goers could attend one of several planned events or go out and explore Pittsburgh on their own. The first evening "opening night," was described above. The second evening offered a dinner/dance cruise aboard the Gateway Clipper, "Majestic." Everyone had a wonderful time visiting, eating, dancing, and enjoying the beautiful views from the ship as it cruised down the Allegheny, Monongahela, and the Ohio rivers. The sunset was breathtaking! On the third night, if attendees did not want to forage out on their own, they could choose from seeing a Pirates baseball game, playing at the Keenwood Amusement Park, attending a production of the "West Side Story" at the Civic Light Opera house, or taking in the sites at the Three Rivers Arts Festival in downtown Pittsburgh. Each night a late night social (from 10 p.m. to midnight) allowed **NASIG** night owls to visit, play cards, have a cool drink, and relax.

The next (fifteenth annual) **NASIG** Conference will be held at the **University of California at San Diego, CA**, from June 22-25, 2000. The theme is "Making Waves: New Serials Landscapes in a Sea of Change." **Karen Cargille**, conference planning chair, is already hard at work to make this a memorable and valuable conference. The annual event is highly recommended to anyone who works with serials or just wants to know more about them. See you there!