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## Bet You Missed It-What do old books and tv writers have in common?

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# Bet You Missed It

## Press Clippings — In the News — Carefully Selected by Your Crack Staff of News Sleuths

Column Editor: **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel)

*Editor's Note:* Hey, are y'all reading this? If you know of an article that should be called to *Against the Grain's* attention ... send an email to <kstrauch@comcast.net>. We're listening! — **KS**

### FOR PROFITS IN THE CROSSHAIRS by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

The Department of Ed is not pleased with the low rate of loan repayment by college students and has focused in particular on for-profit colleges of **Strayer**, **U of Phoenix** and that ilk. A proposed rule would strip the schools of federal funding if the debt repayment rate does not exceed 45%.

The money-losing *Washington Post* owns the money-making **Kaplan**, which is not just the familiar test prep courses but an online university like **Phoenix**. Its repayment rate is 28%. The *Post's* stock has dropped 31% over the past year, and this will not be helpful for them.

*And what will DC bureaucrats read if the Post goes?*

**See** — **Melissa Korn**, "For-Profit Schools Fret Over Repayment Test," *The Wall Street Journal*, Aug. 17, 2010, p.B6.

### SCORN NOT THE TV WRITER by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

TV writers are churning out 52-page scripts every eight days and are ravenous for material. With that kind of workflow, writers rule on TV shows, and meddling producers and directors can't interfere.

Writers not only get even with childhood bullies and other people who have ticked them off, but can kill off an actor's part seemingly with impunity. **Ed O'Neill** (Al Bundy) of "Married with Children" avows crossing a TV writer is suicide. This was spoofed on "Friends" with Joey getting a soap opera gig, irritating the writer, and suddenly his character falls down an elevator shaft and is eliminated.

Even big time actors are not bullet-proof. **Nicollette Sheridan** died a gruesome death on "Desperate Housewives." "Fantasy Island's" **Hervé Villechaize** was called into **Aaron Spelling's** office and found the waiting room was filled with other little folk who could shout "The plane! The plane!" **Aaron** was tired of his raise demands.

**See** — **Amy Choizick**, "Revenge of the TV Writers," *The Wall Street Journal*, Aug. 20, 2010, p.W1.

### WHAT? THE LIBRARY DOESN'T WANT THOSE OLD BOOKS IN YOUR OFFICE by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

To discard books or not? **Sir John Squire's** 1919 essay "On Destroying Books" notes that "books may not have as many lives as a cat, but they certainly die hard, and it is sometimes difficult to find a scaffold for them." The author threw a sack of inferior poetry books off Chelsea Bridge into the Thames.

Others think no book should be destroyed. Future scholars may wish to study the inferior works of the past.

When the library turns down your gift, there's always Books for Africa and Books for Soldiers.

**See** — **Cynthia Crozen**, "Dear Booklover," *The Wall Street Journal*, Aug. 20, 2010, p.W4.

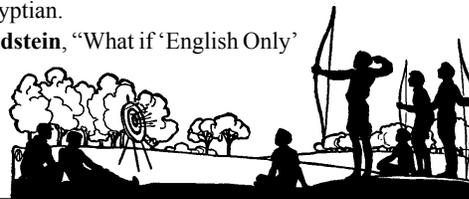
### WHEN EVEN THE FRENCH SPEAK ENGLISH by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Americans have always been lambasted for not knowing other languages than English. And the failing is getting worse, mainly because beginning the study of a language in the 9th or 10th grade pretty much guarantees you will never master it.

On the other hand, English has won. **Ben Wildavsky's** *The Great Brain Race* describes English as the language of international exchange in commerce and intellectual and scientific matters. The Chinese and the Indians are obsessed with learning English.

And then there's the prediction that adequate machine translations "will almost certainly be available as phone apps within a decade." You'll walk down a street in Cairo talking English into the phone and have it come out Egyptian.

**See** — **Evan Goldstein**, "What if 'English Only' Isn't Wrong?" *The Wall Street Journal*, Aug. 20, 2010, p.W9.



### Rumors

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(p.20), **Paul Needham** and **Peter Shepherd** (p.26), and **Henk Moed** (p.34), contribute papers on the issue of statistics.

### Future Dates for Charleston Conferences

	Preconferences and Vendor Showcase	Main Conference
2010 Conference	3 November	4-6 November
2011 Conference	2 November	3-5 November
2012 Conference	7 November	8-10 November
2013 Conference	6 November	7-9 November

Still remember the first time I heard about **Johann's MESUR** at the **Fiesole Collection Development Retreat** in Glasgow in 2009.

[http://digital.casalini.it/retreat/retreat\\_2009.html](http://digital.casalini.it/retreat/retreat_2009.html)

Speaking of the **Glasgow Fiesole Retreat**, the tartan-wearing **Derek Law** (I still remember his Dickensian "best of times, worst of times" keynote back in November of 2008) was our gracious host and a good time was had by all. In fact I just got an email from **Derek** who was at home watching the diamond Jubilee of the **Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo** ceremony complete with the Pipes and Drums of the **Citadel!** Shucks! Wish I could have been there. <http://www.edintattoo.co.uk/>

There are two **op eds** in this issue of **ATG**. Why don't you send yours in for the **Charleston Conference** issue or any other issue for that matter? (**Steve** (see above) sent his from the **ATG Website!**) The lovely **Elaine Robbins** (coincidentally of the **Citadel Library**) has written the second **op ed** about **Trend Overload** (p.40). This is a very real problem

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