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# Bet You Missed It: Press Clippings -- In the News -- Carefully Selected by Your Crack Team of News Sleuths

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**I Hear the Train A Comin'**  
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are specious, the latter because the access is not free to the libraries footing the bill, and the former because clearly the *Research Works Act* is a jab and not a handshake to the NIH. The **Association of American Publishers (AAP)** statement on the bill (see <http://www.publishers.org/press/56/>) picks up on the duplicative access thread by claiming, "Journal articles are widely available in major academic centers, public libraries, universities, interlibrary loan programs, and online databases. Many academic, professional, and business organizations provide staffs and members with access to such content." The AAP frames the bill as a stance against Big Government, "preventing regulatory interference with private-sector research publishers." This speaks to my final point below.

4. The political discourse in the United States today is dominated by anger toward the perceived collusion between well-heeled corporate interests and the politicians beholden to them. The Occupy Wall Street movement, in particular, gives voice to the fury at a system that has abandoned the primacy of the common citizen. The *Research Works Act*, if the visceral reaction against it among rank-and-file scientists and academics is an indicator, is scholarly communication's Occupy moment. The narrative of the publishing industry donating heavily to two members of the **House** in exchange for the introduction of a bill that helps protect their bottom line at the expense of public access to research resonates in this, our national winter of discontent. It is this take on the *Research Works Act* that is finding a better reception than the AAP's "reduce regulatory interference" spin. **PubMed Central** has put 2.3 million articles and counting in the hands of the 99% — indeed, in the hands of the 100%. The *Research Works Act* faces a heavy headwind as a result. 🌳

## 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**

#### HISTORY FOOD HEAVEN by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

If you're in Charleston, SC for the justly famed **Charleston Conference**, try to get a reservation (start 3 months in advance) at restaurant **Husk**. **Chef Sean Brock** has created a true sensation. With the aid of two former **Citadel** professors — **Richard Porcher** (biology) and **David Shields** (English Lit Colonial period) they have re-created lost Southern fare — a culinary reclamation project if you will. Think Ossabaw pig — a native pig raised on native nuts, cured with local sea salt. Think heirloom veg and grains not tasted since the 1800s laced with local oddities like cattails and poke-weed.

**Shields** unearthed the antique recipes and **Porcher** scoured the countryside for the lost plants. He found sea bean, sheep sorrel, wild mustard and yucca flower in Johns Island; purslane, pine tips, lamb's quarter and Queen Anne's lace on Edisto.

And they planted it all. Wild ramps, garlic scapes, black radishes, fiddlehead ferns. American chestnuts, Ethiopian blue malting barley, China black rice and Sea Island cream peas. Rattlesnake beans, Carolina Gold rice, Carolina white gourdseed. Rare varieties of oats, wheat and cowpeas.

*Southern Living* and *Bon Appetit* are gushing praise.

See — **Burkhard Bilger**, "True Grits," *The New Yorker*, Oct. 31, 2011, p. 40.

#### DICKENS MANIA by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

They're filming a new version of *Great Expectations*, with of course **Helena Bonham Carter** as Miss Havisham. Wick- edness, corruption, squalor in the belly of the Victorian beast. And we use the term "Dickensean" to describe just that.

It's the **Dickens** bicentenary and it's being celebrated in 50 countries. Exhibitions, amateur theatricals, commemorations, and in London, of course guided walks. You can go to **Dickens World**, a theme park in Chatham, SE England and ride **Disney** type rides through the novels.

Good reading on him? Try **Robert Douglas-Fairhurst**, *Becoming Dickens* or **Claire Tomalin**, *The Invisible Woman: The Story of Nelly Ternan and Charles Dickens* about his secret mistress.

See — **Joshua Hammer**, "Mad For Dickens," *Smithsonian*, Feb. 2012, p.72.

