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Bet You Missed It-What do science fiction and false moustaches have in common?

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Rumors
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businesses, will give the opening keynote on Thursday morning. In her abstract she says today's scientist is ... "looking for a new kind of help. They want air traffic control support" to navigate through all the online data and research. Talk about serendipity! Can't wait to hear the speech! Thursday morning, first thing!

The **bookstore is still alive and well** in some parts of the world! Was intrigued to read the interview with **John Riley** that was done in September by **The Spine Nine**, a great Website that promotes old bookstores! **John** is the owner of **Gabriel's Books** which is in Northampton, Mass. **John** opened his first bookstore when he still a senior in college and stocked it with the 3,000 books he had already bought himself. I was embarrassed that I have known **John** for forever, right, **John**? and I didn't know any of these things about him! **John**, BTW, is also a fantastic sales rep for **BUSCA** in Ithaca NY.

<http://www.getaspinebooks.com/2012/09/the-spine-nine-gabriel-books.html>

<http://www.buscainc.com/>

And, speaking of bookstores — **Tom Leonhardt** talks eloquently about bookstores like the **Intimate Bookshop** in Chapel Hill, NC (which I myself remember, pardon the pun, intimately), **Powell's** in Portland, Oregon, **Booked Up** in Archer City, and the main subject of his column **Browser's Books** in Albany, Oregon, owned by **Scott Givens**. See this issue, p.88. <http://www.browsersbookstore.com/newsletter.html>

And speaking of **Booked Up**, remember when my son **Raymond Walsler** (talk about a Bookman! he knows where every book is in our house and we have a lot of them and he rarely visits since he's married with kids and in the Army). Anyway, **Raymond** wrote an article many issues ago about **Larry McMurtry's, Booked Up**. When **Raymond** retires from the Army I would not be surprised if he opened a bookstore and maybe he would need an acquisitions assistant!

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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)

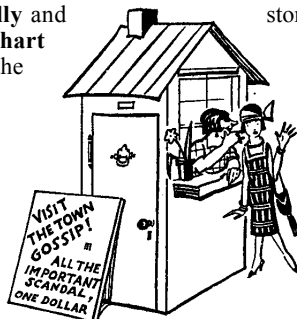
*Editor's Note: Hey, are y'all reading this? If you know of an article that should be called to **Against the Grain's** attention ... send an email to <kstrauch@comcast.net>. We're listening! — KS*

CLOAK AND DAGGER by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Who better than **Robert Service** to bring us the wild, wooly, and murderous story of espionage in the early days of the Bolshevik Revolution? The Reds consolidated their power through terror while the West tried to strangle the regime in its cradle. The deranged Polish nobleman **Felix Dzerzhinsky** founded the bloody Cheka while the mysterious **Sidney Reilly** and the amateurish diplomat-spy **Robert Bruce Lockhart** opposed him with every intention of slaughtering the top Bolsheviks.

Reilly and **Lockhart** came so close to achieving their goal that, to this day, the Kremlin still believes in the global reach of the British secret services.

See — **Simon Sebag Montefiore**, "The Best of Enemies," reviewing *Spies and Commissars* (*PublicAffairs*, 441 pages, \$32.99), *The Wall Street Journal*, May 29, 2012, p.A11.



GEORGE ELIOT OF SCI-FI by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Science Fiction in the fifties and early sixties was largely male-written with a woman here and there sneaking in "wearing a false moustache." Via her agent, **Ursula Le Guin** submitted "Nine Lives" to *Playboy*, which, of course, was desperate for high-quality fiction to wrap around the naked babes so that, "taken as a whole," the mag wasn't obscenity. The story was submitted under **U.K. Le Guin**.

Upon acceptance, the agent admitted the truth to the fiction editor, who feared their readers would be frightened by a female author. So **U.K. Le Guin** became part of literary legend.

When asked to submit an author biography, **Ursula** rejected, "He is a housewife and the mother of three children" and opted instead for "It is commonly suspected that the writings of **U.K. Le Guin** are not actually written by **U.K. Le Guin** but by another person of the same name."

See — **Ursula K. Le Guin**, "The Golden Age," *The New Yorker*, June 4 & 11, 2012, p.77.