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From Your Editor

Katina Strauch

Against the Grain

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From your (sleeping) editor:

Rumor has it that I never sleep. I want to dispel that rumor. I love to sleep. I sleep as much as I can. In fact, the other night, when I was up working on ATG because I couldn’t sleep, my husband was up too. He was asking me if we ever would have started ATG without a computer. I said, “Of course, but it would have been a lot harder.”

This month I have gone through some bitter/sweet experiences. First, our son Raymond (now 23!) graduated from Army Ranger School in Ft. Benning, GA. Boy was I proud! And, second, one of my most favorite people in the whole wide world, Cerise Oberman, Director of the Libraries and Computer Centers at SUNY Plattsburgh, came to visit and keynote the LOEX conference on May 9. Cerise left the College of Charleston 15 years ago when Raymond was a little kid, about 8 or 9 and she was head of reference at the College. Things were different then. When she left, I got her IBM Selectric II typewriter which was a state-of-the-art machine. And who would have predicted or believed what has happened in our world in the intervening 15 years?

This issue of ATG is a case in point. Many of the articles are about fulltext, that concept that we didn’t know a thing about ten or fifteen or even five years ago. But it is now the driving force behind many of our decisions and delivery of service. We have an article/survey about fulltext providers by Judy Luther (p.18), from Albert Simmons on standard identifiers for electronic information (p.78), from Norm Desmarais about the digital video disc format (p.76), from Eleanor Cook about the pitfalls of searching the World Wide Web (p.75), from Glenda Alvin about the problems of acquisitions management (p.72), from Alfred Gans about the subscription pricing models (p.34), from Philip Hallman about the National Film Registry (p.80) and more and more. We also have a charming article from Jack Walsdorf about a collector writing a book (like we used to write them ...) (p.29). Our interviews in this issue are with Tim Collins (EBSCO Publishing) (p.36) and John Regazzi (Engineering Information) (p.38).

This issue of ATG shows the enormous information resources that are at our fingertips and on many of our desktops. It is exciting! Let’s wake up and read all about it! And see you in San Francisco!

Against the Grain — Deadlines
1997
Volume 9

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Rumors
from page 1

Phone: +44(1481)-832701; fax +44(1)481-832698) which is a holding company for other publishing-related operations with which Duncan and the previous owners of Carfax are involved. Publishers Services Ltd. has at least two companies that publish medical journals and videos for the pharmaceutical industry. Also, they have a substantial equity share in CatchWord, Ltd., which is developing the RealPage Internet publishing system.

Word was announced in April that Knight Ridder plans to sell Knight Ridder Information, Inc. (KRII). You will remember (see ATG, Sept. 95, v.7, #4, p.22) that KRII consists of CARL and UnCover as well as Dialog and DataStar. Knight Ridder has recently negotiated the purchase of four newspapers from the Disney Company including the Kansas City Star, the Fort Worth Telegram, the News Democrat in Belleville, IL, and the Times Leader in Wilkes-Barr, PA.

Approximately 13% of all books published appear simultaneously in both cloth and paper editions. Among university press publishers, the figure jumps to 32%.

Some people don’t seem capable of ever losing their cool. Your editor is definitely not one of them. But, Helen Protasewicz, who is celebrating 20 years of service with Alfred Jaeger, Inc., is. Helen, who started in the back volume periodical business with Don Jaeger’s father, Alfred himself, quickly advanced from a collator to Sales Manager, her present position. Congratulations, Helen, and thanks for your assistance and friendship over the years!

Speaking of Alfred Jaeger, Inc., remember when Michael John Horak, author of The Evil Side of a Racetrack was at the booth last year during ALA annual? Did you meet him? Word is that Michael’s book is in its *second* printing so you might want to visit his Web site <http://www.yearbooknews.com> to learn even more.

And there’s more from Don. He hasn’t been busy enough forming Jaeger Global Enterprises and playing ice hockey and baseball with his kids (see ATG, v. 8, #4, Sept. 1996, p.33). In addition, he and Susan and the boys have recently moved to a new house to top it all off! Talk about topsy-turvy.


Blackwell’s intends to make a significant investment in the redevelopment of the Blackwell’s On-line Bookshop <http://blackwell.co.uk/bookshops/>, which has been successfully continued on page 8

<http://www.against-the-grain.com>