Adventures in Librarianship: DonCo

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Adventures in Librarianship: DonCo

by Ned Kraft (Ralph J. Bunche Library, U.S. Department of State) <kraftmo@state.gov>

[Run title script: Iron Mike Library Systems... Produced by Don King and DonCo Enterprises... Filmed before a live audience. Cut to stage camera one with applause.]

OG: Ahh... Thank you. Thank you. Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm your host, Oscar Gossett, and I'm here to tell you about an extraordinary new product.

Audience: [Gasp]

OG: Let me ask you, how many of you work in libraries?

Audience: [All hands up. Heads nod in approval]

OG: And how many of you are happy with your integrated systems?

Audience: [Hands quickly go down. Annoyed mumbling]

OG: Folks, do I have a product for you. Mike Tyson got together with Don King of DonCo Enterprises to produce the library system of your dreams. Because he's so excited about this product, Mike has graciously agreed to come here to tell you about it. Should we bring him out?

Audience: [Applause, hoo-hah, whistling]

[Mike Tyson enters. Smiling. Waving. Bashful.]

OG: Mike, great to have you here. You're not going to bite me, are you?

Audience: [Laughter]

MT: That's very humorous, Oscar.

OG: Seriously, Mike, why are you so excited about the Iron Mike Library System? With all the big-name systems out there, what's different about yours?

MT: It's... It's a very good system, Oscar.

Audience: [Applause]

OG: I mean, specifically, what's so special about the Iron Mike System? How about circulation? How does circulation work?

MT: Yes, circulation does work. It works spectacular. I've used it myself and I can tell you. I've used it while traveling, at the training camp, in the shower. The circulation is great.

OG: And cataloging?

MT: Yes, cataloging. I'm pretty sure that works too. That works especially well. I'm pretty sure.

Audience: [Applause]

OG: And I bet it has a wonderful OPAC display, doesn't it?

MT: Oh, yes, yes, very much so. Whenever ladies come over to my house they inevitably comment on how wonderful that OPAC display is.

OG: Now, Mike, if you were going to walk into a store and buy some other library system with all those features, how much would you expect to pay?

MT: Oh, I... I think millions of dollars, Oscar. Seventeen million.

OG: But how much do you think we're selling the Iron Mike Library System for? A thousand? Five Hundred? One hundred?


OG: Mike, what if I told you that by calling now, we'll sell the Iron Mike Library System for $79.95?

Audience: [Gasp]

MT: I would be astounded, Oscar. Simply flabbergasted. Did my agent agree to that price?

OG: That's right, folks! Call now and get the Iron Mike Library System for just $79.95!

MT: [Moves threateningly close to OG] I said, did my agent agree to that?

OG: The first ten callers will receive as a special bonus the Iron Mike barcode wand!

Audience: [Applause. Whistling. Hooting.]

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Allen Williams, MLIS

by Allison P. Mays (Acquisitions Librarian, Millsaps College, 1701 N. State Street, Jackson, MS 39210; Phone: 601-974-1083) <maysap@millsaps.edu>

Name: Allen Williams, MLIS
Title: Currently unemployed and desperately seeking work.
Born: Fowler, Michigan 1971 – a mid-western farm boy at heart!
Current Residence: Sunnyvale, California – the center of Silicon Valley, horrible commutes and cost of living, but a wonderfully rich culture with many outdoor adventures.
Education: BA in Creative Writing, Minor in Theatre Production (1995) — Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Michigan Masters in Library & Information Science (1999) — University of Texas, Austin, Texas
Work Experience: I have a strong passion for information and fostered this while working in the periodicals department of Grand Valley State University. I pursued my graduate degree with the intent of staying in academic libraries, but my curiosity got the better of me. I soon explored special libraries and work in the Internet industry.
1991-1994: Library Clerk, Grand Valley State University
1995-1998: Periodicals Specialist, Grand Valley State University
1998-1999: Library Research Associate, Sulzer Orthopedics
1999: National Editor, Networker.com
2000-2002: Product Marketing Manager, SolutionCentral Media
2002: Founder, Between the Stacks

Hobbies & Interests: My most current hobby has been soapmaking. I learned how to make handmade soap — a combination of olive, palm, coconut and avocado oils to make a rich and wonderful soap. My favorite soap is scented with orange and ylang-ylang essential oils and contains ground chamomile flowers.

I am also an avid camper and enjoy the outdoors. A few weeks ago I spent a few nights along the Big Sur coast. Hiking can be fun as well, especially at Tahoe and Yosemite. I love living in California.

Former Body Piercing: Tongue and nose... I don’t miss the tongue piercing at all. It was only a matter of time before I chipped a tooth! The nose piercing was fun though and occasionally wish that I still had it. However, my mother is a much happier person now that there isn’t any metal on my body.