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Letters to the Editor

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I have just learned that my 31-year-old son Raymond is going to Iraq in the next two weeks. He is now at Ft. Bliss, Texas. So besides being happy and stressed about my daughter who just started medical school in August, I have more to chew my nails about. So, to take my mind off of it all, I have been working on the Charleston Conference and Against the Grain instead of taking tranquilizers. And we have another great Conference Issue! Jill Carraway has put together an intriguing group of articles by Emily Stambaugh, Elise Anderson, Cynthia Hodgeson, Andrew Pace, and Jenny Walker, Tim Bucknall, and Chuck Hamaker on the trials, tribulations, challenges and opportunities of eBooks and eJournals. An intriguing Biz of Acq deals with a strategy for increasing print acquisitions and circulation, Mary Massey provides her final installment of “Leaving the Books Behind” and starts her new column “Something to Think About.” And speaking of new columns Anne Langley brings Case Studies to ATG. Her first study is on Collection and Technical Services. There are three ATG Special Reports in this issue, first we have Gene Waddell’s “In Indian Territory,” then Helle Lauridsen tells us “How to Beat the Serials Crisis” and Doug Cook, Steve McKinzie and the ACLC’s 40th Anniversary Planning Committee bring us “A Pennsylvania Library Collaborates Celebrates its Past and Plans for its Future: A Forty-Year Commitment to People, Service and Collection Development.”

We have interviews with Jane Burke the General Manager of Serials Solutions and Howard Harris the General Manager of Library Dynamics, and David Moore has furnished his profile encouraged. Plus there are reviews of reference titles from Tom Gibson and Debbie Vaughan asks us to consider the library “bookstore model” in her “Monographic Musings.” Peter Shepherd has taken on “International Dateline” and brings us more on open access in Europe. Don’t miss Eleanor Cook’s “Drinking from the Firehouse — The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same” and Greg Tannenbaum’s “I Hear the Train A Comin’” which is an interview with Heather Joseph who follows Rick Johnson as Executive Director of SPARC. And finally we have Jack Montgomery’s Wondering the Web — Subcultures on the Internet? Whew! That’s a lot...and believe it or not, there’s even more!

Well, time to take a tranquilizer. See y’all soon in Charleston!

Cheers,
Yr. Ed.

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <kstrauch@comcast.net>, phone or fax 843-723-3536, or snail mail: Against the Grain, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409. You can also send a letter to the editor from the ATG Homepage at http://www.against-the-grain.com.

Dear Editor:

Susan Campbell <scampbel@ycp.edu> and I are offering our services as Mentors to new people coming to the Charleston Conference this year. We hope that people will contact us with questions, ideas, suggestions, and whatever they want to talk about.

Sincerely,
Pam Cenzer
University of Florida, Marston Science Library
<pamcenz@mail.uflib.ufl.edu>

AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES
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FOR MORE INFORMATION
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action moves from Blackboard to the college library staff, which handle the licensing details.

Guess what? David Levinson’s niece’s wedding is the same weekend as Charleston! The nerve! Plus the wedding had to be moved from New Orleans so Karen Christensen and David will not be in Charleston this year. In the meantime, we can read all about them and Berkshire Publishing Group in Business Week. July 26, 2005. In the article “CEO’s Tech Too box,” it says that “pods, RFID tags, and mesh networks are among the ten new technologies that should be on the radar of every chief exec.” And Karen is one of those quoted (did you know that her father worked for Honeywell and since she grew up with computers she wasn’t a fan of them…until lately?). Karen is talking about Wikis and their importance for scholars collaborating on the same text. Anyway, this article should be read by Stephen Spielberg or maybe Michael Crichton for movie material.

http://www.businessweek.com/technology/content/0507/c20050726_8027.htm

And speaking of Wikis, in this issue we have a Technology Left Behind on Wikis by the incredible Cris Ferguson <cris.ferguson@frrman.edu>, see this issue, p.83. And speaking of Cris Ferguson. She is wonderful. Cris and Jack Montgomery <jack.montgomery@wku.edu> (who is also double wonderful) have worked hard to put together the Memory Book for the 25th Charleston Conference, included with your Conference booklet. Plus Cris has put together the history of the Charleston Conference Table Talk on Friday afternoon at four o’clock at the Conference. See you all there!

And speaking of the Table Talks, many many thanks, credit and kudos go to Barbara Schader <bschader@calpoly.edu> (Science, Math & Engineering Librarian, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo) who agreed to be the Director of the Table Talks which have never been done before. Barbara was Johnny on the spot (or Jeanette on the ball) and brokered the whole event. Thanks to Barbara. And Barbara was helped in Local Arrangements by the intrepid Debbie Vaugh of the College of Charleston who doesn’t miss a trick either.

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