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Adventures in Librarianship -- American Idle

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This is it. We’re down to our final three librarians. My name is Ryan Seafoam and this is American Idle!”

“Let’s meet our judges. First, from Cleveland Public, the infamous Randy Down.”

“Wassup, dawg!”

“From the Northern Miami State University Janitorial Library, Paula Freshly.”

“Hi.”

“Finally, you either love him or hate him and I’ve never met anyone who loved him, from the Library of PS 32 in New York City, Simon Cudgle?”

“Hmm.”

“And here’s our final three librarians: Sammy Mott, Conchita Fragrence, and Bill Terpid. Are you nervous kids? Yes? No?”

“Sammy, last night you presented an authority record for Quaker Oats Company. Randy said he liked your style, but thought you didn’t ‘bring it.’ Paula said that you’re a beautiful young man and that she wouldn’t mind marrying you. Simon thought that your 670 fields were “flaccid” and your 667 fields were “perhaps some sort of library prank.”

“Conchita, you showed the audience your circulation speed by wanding twelve patrons through with 43 books in 24 seconds. Randy liked your outfit, thought you were “way fast,” but lacked “that soul thing.” Paula thought you were a lovely girl and would make a wonderful mother some day. And Simon, to him your performance was “amateurish at best, bordering on vulgar.”

“Finally, Mr. Terpid. Your display of spine repair left Randy feeling “sort of queasy inside” as if he had eaten a bad taco. Paula loved your big strong hands and the way you squeezed the glue out of its tube. Simon suggested that you not be allowed near tools or books ever again.”

“But the audience voted in record numbers. Thirty-seven callers jammed our phone lines. And the results... for our 2007 American Idle contest... for the best librarian in America... the most talented... the results... were... inconclusive. Oh yes I’m sorry everyone. They were all crank calls! Please come back next week, and for as many weeks as it takes. I promise we’ll come up with the 2007 American Idle, our favorite librarian, even if it kills us!”

ProQuest CSA and the Early English Books Online (EEBO) Text Creation Partnership have announced the call for entries for the 2007 EEBO in Undergraduate Studies Essay Competition. The competition grants five prizes with cash awards totaling more than $2,500. The deadline for submitting essays is October 31, 2007. Winners will be announced in January 2008. The EEBO in Undergraduate Studies Essay Competition honors undergraduate research papers that rely on research conducted via the Early English