

The GREEN BEAN

Number 523

March 18, 1988

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

With this issue of the GB, the format will change. The calendar, rather than taking up the entire front page, will be assimilated into the news items and will consist only of library and University related events.

Please let me know of your response to this tentative change.

KLA ACADEMIC SECTION/KENTUCKY ACRL SPRING MEETING

The joint spring meeting of the KLA Academic Section/Kentucky Chapter of ACRL will be held April 7-8 at the Seelbach Hotel in Louisville. The conference theme is "Academic Libraries in the Search for Excellence." The keynote speaker for the conference, Malcolm Getz, Director of Vanderbilt University Libraries, will speak on the topic "Excellence in Libraries: Volumes, Bytes, and Efficiency" at 10:30 a.m. on April 7.

Other featured speakers include Lester Pourciau, Director of Libraries, Memphis State University, and David Farrell, Associate Dean for Collection Development, Indiana University Libraries.

VAN TO KLA

The library van will be going to KLA on April 7 and 8 if there are enough interested people. The van will go and return each day. If you are interested in taking the van to KLA, please let Carol Ranta in the Director's Office (7-3801) know by March 31.

KENTUCKY SLA/KLA SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION JOINT MEETING

"Marketing Your Library and Yourself" will be the theme of the spring joint meeting of the Kentucky Chapter of Special Libraries Association and the Special Libraries Section of KLA April 28-29 at the Seelbach Hotel in Louisville.

Kaycee Hale, founder and executive director of the Fashion Research Centers at the Fashion Institute of Design and Management in Los Angeles, will present workshops on the conference theme on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning.

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**The Newsletter of the University
of Kentucky Libraries**

For more information, contact Joanne Goode, Mathematics Library, at 7-8365, or Janet Stith, Medical Center Library, 233-5727.

PC LEARNERS GROUP

Last month's meeting of the PC Learners Group on February 28, featured a hands-on workshop on advanced DOS techniques conducted by Bonnie Cox.

The March meeting will feature a discussion of batch files led by Gary Stottlemeyer who will demonstrate how these grouped commands in DOS can increase our efficiency in using computers.

On Thursday, April 26, the subject will be public domain software -- the many types of software programs that are available at little or no cost to users.

If you have questions regarding either the March or April meeting, call Christie Robinson at 7-1060, or Gary Stottlemeyer at 7-8349. (Submitted by Christie Robinson.)

"SLOW FIRES" TO BE SHOWN

In connection with National Library Awareness Week, April 17-23, the Staff Development Committee, will present three showings of the film "Slow Fires: On the Preservation of the Human Record." This film documents the steady loss of the printed record through the deterioration of paper. The film is narrated by Robert MacNeil and is designed to raise awareness of this problem in library users in general, in addition to librarians and historians.

The film will be shown in the Peal Gallery, King Library-North, on April 11 at 1:30 p.m., April 13 at 10:00 a.m. and April 19 at 12:30 p.m. (Submitted by Joanne Goode.)

KAREN COBB FUND

The library has sent \$175.00 to Romelia Hogan, Karen Cobb's mother, for the church building fund in Karen's name. This amount included a donation of \$25.00 from the Library Staff Organization and donations from individuals within the library. (Submitted by Kathy Martin.)

MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS FOR LIBRARY ADMINISTRATORS

The School of Business Administration of Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, will be offering a middle management and an advanced management program for library administrators on July 17-22, 1988.

The fee for the middle management program is \$675 and that for the advanced management program is \$725. The fees include instructional materials, lodging and most meals.

A brochure describing the programs in detail is available in the GB office, 204 King Library South, or from Christie Robinson, 7-1060.

IN MEMORIAM

Karen Elaine Cobb

9 November 1957 - 21 February 1988

On Saturday, 27 February, 1988, the mortal remains of Karen Cobb were laid to rest in her native soil, not far from the Wilson Dam on the Tennessee River, in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. Though the trees were bare, the day of her homegoing was unseasonably warm, giving the lie to late winter as only the lower valley of the Tennessee can do. The sky was an embracing canopy of blue and white, a magnificence of creation that is almost a commonplace in that region of the country. A throng of people -- Karen's large and loving family, scores of friends and acquaintances -- gathered at the little church that had nurtured her in youth, to express profound grief and to say farewell.

Karen Elaine Cobb, a faculty member with appointment in the Reference Department of the Margaret I King Library, was taken abruptly from the university community in circumstances that we cannot comprehend. She leaves behind her a record of performance and service that will not be easily replicated. Karen was a 1980 graduate of Talladega College, the historically black institution in the Alabama foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. After a year as an elementary-school librarian in Muscle Shoals, Karen came to Lexington in June 1981. She obtained employment as a staff assistant in the Circulation Department of King Library, and impressed all with her poise and composure at that frantic and demanding service point. During the latter part of her work there, she was a fellowship student in the College of Library and Information Science, having been recruited and encouraged by library staff who recognized her great potential. As part of her studies, she completed a practicum in the Law Library and subsequently considered combining her library degree with law school, a career option she never entirely abandoned. Awarded her Master of Science in Library Science in December, 1984, she began her professional appointment in Reference in February 1985, and worked there until her tragic death.

Karen quickly matured into a reliable provider of information and interpreter of library collections, mastering the bibliographical tools of her trade, including the then-new LS/2000 online catalog. Her pedagogical interests had ample exercise as she

learned the skill of teaching library use to students in classes ranging from freshman composition to graduate seminars. She developed her own trademark style of providing individual attention to students who wanted and would profit by it, even though this required many extra hours of her. (One of those she tutored in this way was All-American Kenny Walker. When I pressed her for details of her conversations with Kenny -- basketball fanatic that I am -- I was hoping for new insight into the Georgetown game and the like. I will never forget Karen's answer: "Basketball's the one thing I won't talk with Kenny about -- he has plenty of outlets for that.")

Karen participated in a variety of projects outside the library, serving as faculty adviser to the Black Graduate and Professional Students Association, one of the planners for the Martin Luther King Cultural Center, and a resident adviser in the Freshman Summer Program. In the Reference Department, she was given responsibility for managing our fee-based Computer Search Service and for articulating and responding to the special needs of handicapped users of the library. In fulfilling both tasks she acquired confidence with various new technologies. She became a leader in introducing applications of microcomputing within the library system. The special expertise she was developing gave her new personal opportunities as well: at the time of her death, she was contemplating leaving academe for the world of commerce, to do business as an information consultant, but she had, at the same time, a deep commitment to the mission of the university. We will never know what Karen would eventually have chosen; we are assured that she would have done it well. Such were her gifts.

Those of us who knew Karen are left with memories. I will remember her working late into the evening at the library, finishing up a report or reading in the voluminous literature of librarianship. (There was always a new book on Karen's desk -- a practical manual on some aspect of her job, often something more theoretical, for Karen was building a firm philosophy of library service.) Another of her late evenings she spent mounting an exhibit in the library to commemorate the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. That is a special memory for me because I had lent her some artifacts for her display cases, and the occasion was one of the few times when she and I shared our experiences of growing up, in the not-so-deep South, during the civil-rights revolution.

Karen's roots add another dimension to her tragic loss. On the Sunday of her death, the Herald-Leader began an ambitious series of articles on the real state of relations between the races in Lexington. Karen Cobb played a very significant role in fostering better relations between black and white in the university setting. She never directly referred to this role

with me, but it was clear that it was an important one to her and one that she willingly shouldered. Soon after she started in Reference, I found this note in our suggestion box:

As a black student, I feel ill-at ease with some of the staff when I need help. I was very happy last week when Ms. Cobb so graciously assisted me, relieving me of the feeling of being helpless.

Thanks for Ms. Cobb & I shall point her out to other black UK students who've experienced my feelings ... nothing personal, but it is a fact of life. Get more Karen Cobbs.

I believe the writer of that note would have said something very different after three more years of Karen's influence, if indeed he felt moved to comment at all. Her impact here -- in the library, on this campus -- was at once subtle and dramatic and will remain a lasting contribution.

One of Karen Cobb's many facets was an interest in writing. It saddens me that I never asked to see the plays she wrote for the summer students she lived with in the dormitories, or the poetry she sometimes referred to. The first belletristic effort of hers that I read, in fact, were some lines of verse included in the program for her funeral. I close these inadequate remarks of mine with her own words, which had become so wrenchingly self-reflexive with her death:

Keep us guessing
Why you left so suddenly
Swelling our eyes with tears,
And our hearts with sorrow.
Leaving us to find endings,
To unfinished conversations
About us, about you,
About love, about life,
About a sister
With eyes the color
of a sunset
Dipped in honey!
Who was torn
Away like the
Last page of a novel.

"Periit corpus, sed nomen in ore est.
Vale collega et amice, et in pace
requiescat animus tuus."

(Contributed by Brad Grissom.)

CALENDAR

March 25 Gallery Series: "Irish Music" : Concert :
Dr. Ron Pen, School of Music.

Sanders-Brown Lunch Series: "Caregiving for
Alzheimer's Disease Patients: The Role of
Time" : Lecture : Dr. John F. Wilson,
Department of Behavioral Science.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO APRIL 1 GB.

April 1 Gallery Series: "Women's Oral History" :
Lecture : Pam Goldman.

NEXT GB.

STAFF TRANSFERS

Gracie Hale Special
Collections to Online
Cataloging.

NEW STAFF...WELCOME ABOARD!

Mark Cave..Agriculture Library.
Sharon Miller...Reference.
Diana Tolzin.. Acquisitions.

\$25,800-\$35,800 Assistant
Librarian; \$28,600-\$39,800,
Associate Librarian. Deadline:
April 10, 1988.

Head, Chemistry Library.
University of California at
Berkeley. Salary:
\$31,008-\$44,676. Deadline:
May 1, 1988.

GEORGIA

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Library Technician VI, grade
10. Medical Center Library,
Interlibrary Loan Dept. For
information call Winn Theirl,
233-6565.

Director of Instructional
Support Services. Emory
University. Salary: \$35,000
minimum. Deadline: May 1,
1988.

Director of Collection
Development. Emory University.
Salary: \$37,500 minimum.
Deadline: May 1, 1988.

CALIFORNIA

Head, Music Cataloging Section.
Stanford University. Salary:
\$28,600-\$39,800, Associate
Librarian; \$32,600-\$48,100,
Librarian. Deadline: April 1,
1988.

ILLINOIS

Head, Circulation and Binding.
University of Illinois,
Urbana-Champaign. Salary:
\$25,000 minimum. Deadline:
May 16, 1988.

Assistant to Deputy Director of
Libraries. Stanford
University. Salary:

Architecture and Art Librarian.
University of Illinois,
Urbana-Champaign. Salary:
\$26,000 minimum. Deadline:
May 1, 1988.

Assistant Law Librarian(s).
One and possibly, two
positions. University of
Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.
Salary: \$20,000 minimum.
Deadline: May 15, 1988.

NEW MEXICO

Public Access Automation
Librarian. University of New
Mexico. Salary: \$20,000
minimum. Deadline: May 15,
1988.

NEW YORK

Preservation Librarian.
University of Albany, State
University of New York.
Salary: \$22,000 minimum.
Deadline: March 21, 1988.

Assistant Director, University
Libraries, Graduate Library for
Public Affairs and Policy.
University of Albany, State
University of New York.
Salary: \$30,000 minimum +
\$2,000 stipend for duration of
appointment. Deadline: April
8, 1988.

Head, Technical Services.
Columbia University. Salary:
\$28,500-\$38,475 - Librarian II;
\$31,500-\$45,675 - Librarian
III. Deadline: none given.

OREGON

Catalog Librarian. University
of Oregon. Salary: \$19,000.
Deadline: April 15, 1988.

Serials Catalog Librarian.
University of Oregon. Salary:
\$19,000. Deadline: April 15,
1988.

Documents and Public Affairs
Librarian. University of
Oregon. Salary: \$19,000.
Deadline: April 15, 1988.

Orientalia Bibliographer.
University of Oregon. Salary:
\$23,000-\$27,000. Deadline:
May 1, 1988.

TEXAS

Associate University Librarian.
Rice University. Salary:
competitive and commensurate
with qualifications and
experience. Deadline: March
31, 1988.

PRODUCTION STAFF

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