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Productivity, Literacy, and Democracy. We are dealing with some heavy issues in libraries this fall! Issues that are important in the libraries that we are designing to meet the needs of the nineties and beyond.

I hope each of you has given these issues some serious thought as you have attended, or make plans to attend, your regional Governor's Conference on Libraries. It is not often we get the opportunity to share what we think about libraries and their future with such a large audience. The Division of State Library has done us a great service by scheduling regional conferences within easy driving distance of every citizen in North Carolina. It enables us to attend and to encourage trustees, friends, and government officials to contribute to the issues and resolutions that will be taken forward to the State Governor's Conference and then to the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Science.

The conferences in Charlotte (where Governor Martin was the speaker), Durham, Deep Run, and Winston-Salem were enlightening. Each conference included representatives from libraries, the general public, government officials, and trustees. Yet to come are the conferences in Supply, Franklin, Lenoir, Elizabeth City, and Rockingham. If you haven't yet participated in this important activity, PLEASE DO. It is not only important for libraries, it is important for North Carolina. Call your local public library if you need more information.

Many of the sections and roundtables have had meetings and/or workshops during the late summer and early fall. I don't dare to mention any of them specifically for fear of leaving one of them out. Let me tell you, though, that our association continues to amaze me with our ability to offer such valuable continuing education opportunities. The sections and roundtables seem to have an endless supply of innovative and creative ideas for offering workshops that are very worthwhile. Again, I am proud to say I am part of the North Carolina Library Association.

Have you made your reservation for the NCLA bus to Nashville? You should have received a flyer from Jerry Thrasher (Cumberland County Public

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for the 90's

Library, 300 Maiden Lane, Fayetteville, NC 28301) about the December trip to the Southeastern Library Association Conference. If not you should contact him right away to be sure you will be included. The cost is only \$99.00 round trip. I

hope we will have a large number of North Carolina participants in the SELA conference. I look forward to seeing you there!

Barbara Baker, President

Over to You

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

My attention was recently drawn to a letter from Tom Broadfoot to the editor of *North Carolina Libraries*, published in the summer 1990 issue. In that letter, Mr. Broadfoot referred to a conversation he had with me in early May 1990, about leather dressings. I have several comments in regard to the letter.

First, I wish that Mr. Broadfoot had informed me that he was publishing an article on this subject. I appreciate that he accurately reflected my advice to him on leather dressing (i.e., don't use Vaseline on books). However, it would be common courtesy to let me know about the article if he were talking with me as a part of his "research" into the issues. Furthermore, he should have verified my name before referring to me in print.

Second, if he has taken the trouble to seek advice on leather dressings from an expert and

then confirm suggestions by contacting other experts, I wonder why he does not bother to pay attention to that advice. There is an extensive body of knowledge on preserving skin-based artifacts; however, not all artifacts can or should be treated the same way. Vaseline for shoes may be acceptable (although a cobbler may disagree), but then no one expects their shoes to last for hundreds of years.

Third, I am honored that Mr. Broadfoot has associated me (a preservation administrator) and my advice with Jan Paris, a respected *conservator* with a professional reputation that speaks eloquently of her quality, character, and ethics.

Sincerely,

Sandra Nyberg

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