
Forewarned

Rose Simon and David Fergusson, Guest Editors

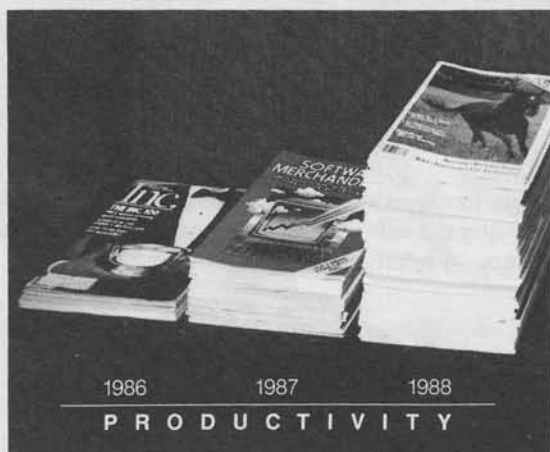
What do librarians think is funny about their work? Do catalogers and reference librarians laugh at the same things? Do directors laugh at all? These and similar musings led to the effort to produce this collection of (mostly) homegrown North Carolina library humor. It is an assortment of anecdotes, parodies, short stories, and drawings that reflect our own vision of incongruity, inconsistency, and absurdity in a microcosm dedicated to order, preservation, and intellectual excellence. Humor in the library enlivens and enriches what could otherwise be a lengthy series of singularly routine workdays.

Gathering this collection of humor has been a surprisingly challenging task. Apparently the only profession less likely than librarians to admit

publicly that they can make light of their work is the clergy. Not all of the material received and reviewed has been included. The most surprising discovery, or rediscovery, has been that regardless of one's type of library or job title, we do not all agree on what is or is not funny. Submissions that sent some into convulsions of mirth left others as stone-faced as the denizens of Easter Island. Some of the least funny (hence, rejected) material was produced by ourselves. Items selected for inclusion in this issue were approved by a consensus of chuckles. We hope that you will find most, if not all, of them to your taste, and that you thoroughly enjoy this outlandish portrayal of our professional encounters with chaos, madness, and plain bad karma. ■



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