

CROSSFIRE

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND

HAPPY

NEW

YEAR



Ralph

Julie

Tim

THE WORK GOES ON
By Ralph W. Hansen

After years of decreasing demand for services the statistics for 1987-1988 seem to indicate that students and faculty, are returning to the Library. While the figures have not reached the peak of 1981-1982 there are hopeful signs that demand for the Library's services are on the upswing. Consider the circulation of books, probably the universal measure of library services. Last year the number of books circulated by the BSU Library, from all sources including CRC and Documents, increased by 4566 or 3.4% to a total of 135,137. If we use the figure of 7,500 FTE students that translates into 18 books per capita. I have not researched how this stacks up to national norms.

Probably the most significant figure is the turn-around in use of the Reserve services of the Library. Reserves are provided by both Circulation and CRC and the figures are a combined total. They show a 19.7% increase over last year. From 1981-82 through 1985-86 Reserves had decreased from 22,942 to 15,705 transactions. Surely, we thought, the use of reserves was dying and would soon no longer be an important function of the Library. Then in 1986-87 an up-trend was observed and the activity of this last year

confirmed that reserves are alive and well at BSU.

The only decline for 1987-88 was the exit count. Last year 520,968 exits were counted from the first and second floors. This was a decline of 7803 or 1.5% over the previous year. Most of the exits, 83%, were through the first floor exit by the Circulation desk. No count is maintained of the number of absent-minded students who walk out of the emergency doors but the number seems to be declining.

Another measure of library service is the count of materials picked up from tables and red shelves in public areas. This count includes materials from the Microform area, the Reference Room and other public service points. Last year witnessed a substantial increase of 8.9% or 29,194 items re-shelved or refiled. Just to acquaint you with some of these activities consider that 22,949 microfilm reels were refiled, 7,998 maps were refiled, 335 boxes of Frank Church materials were returned to the shelves, and 119,020 periodical pieces were re-shelved.

Last year 62,405 questions were asked at the various reference desks throughout the Library. Of this number 77% were directed to the staff in

the Reference Room and of the 47,989 questions that they were asked 65% were deemed to be "reference" questions rather than directional. Reference questions have a greater intellectual content than "where is the Reader's Guide"?

Inter-library Loan seems to have peaked after years of rapid growth. This past year requests handled decreased by 1% to 6,795. That is not to infer that they can sit back and relax. With the new Fax service additional demands have been placed upon them and the effect of fax will bear watching. (Figures for the first four months of 1988-89 indicate a major increase of 21% !)

Computer searching continues its inexorable increase. Last year 282 searches were performed. It would be interesting to peer 10 years into the future and learn what the figures are for 1998.

Everybody in the Library, I am sure, works hard to meet the needs of our constituency and not all of the effort is reflected in statistics, or statistics that are reported regionally and nationally and thus appear to be the most important. Consider that last year at least 228 tours of the library were provided by Public Service staff. I say at least because I am uncertain as to the completeness of the reporting of tours given. Also how many of you know that CRC has tape duplicating machines and that they will copy tapes

not in copyright (usually class lectures) without charge. The users must bring their own blank tapes. Last year CRC copied 1,976 tapes, a modest drop from the year before when 2,005 tapes were copied.

Statistics aside, the staff of this library are to be commended for their work conscientious ethic which is a credit to us all.



"Rambo II was not a pharoah sir,...you're thinking of Ramses..."

Christmas is once again upon us, bringing lots of festivities and fun for all. It is a time of laughter, celebration, and of course, eating. Below are several favorite Christmas recipes contributed by Carole Clemons. Enjoy!

MOM'S EGG NOG

- 1 pint whiskey
- 1 pint cream
- 1 pint milk
- 1½ cup sugar
- 6 eggs, separated
- 1 oz. rum, 120 proof

Beat eggs and 1 cup sugar. Beat whites stiff and add ¼ cup sugar. Fold together and add liquids. Sprinkle with nutmeg.

Use ½ recipe for about 6 small servings. Guaranteed to make Christmas morning a painless event.

SPICY PINEAPPLE ZUCCHINI BREAD

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup salad oil
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 2 cups shredded zucchini
- 1 small can drained crushed pineapple
- 3 cups unsifted flour
- 2 tsp. soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. baking powder
- 1½ tsp. cinnamon
- ¾ tsp. nutmeg
- 1 cup each chopped nuts and raisins

Beat eggs with rotary beater. Add salad oil, sugar, & vanilla. Continue beating until thick and foamy. With a spoon stir in zucchini & pineapple. Combine flour, soda, salt, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg, nuts, & raisins. Stir gently into zucchini mixture until just blended. Pour into 2 greased and floured 5" x 9" loaf pans. Bake in 350 degree oven for 1 hour, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pans 10 minutes and turn out on wire racks to cool thoroughly.

THINGS I'D NEVER HAVE KNOWN IF IT
WEREN'T FOR OUR PATRONS
By Adrien Taylor

"It's an old saying, but true, if you become a teacher, by your pupils you'll be taught"; this old saying is well known and survives because of the accuracy of its meaning. There is, naturally, another side to it too. Over this past semester I've "learned" a number of interesting "facts" from our patrons in the Reference Room; some of them remind me of previous "learning experiences."

Just last week I overheard one man ask Terry for help in finding material about a specific author. This author has proven that the Bible is the "actual word of God" but subjecting the text to mathematical analysis. Our patron tells us that the author knew that neither the Hebrew nor Greek language contains any numerals and that those people relied upon words to convey numbers; the author "discovered" which letters stand for which numbers and then discovered that the number seven appears throughout the Bible regularly, thereby proving that it was written by one person and since "God's number is seven we know who that person is."

It was a good semester for me to learn about squirrels. One patron told me that all squirrels have a mark on their right shoulder and that these marks are unique to families; that is how they can recognize one another and this keeps them from inbreeding. A different (should I say another) patron assured me that squirrels have

burial grounds and that if one squirrel finds the body of another s/he removes the body to the burial ground.

A couple of years ago I had one patron assure me that the CIA ("or someone like that") published the National Enquirer. The reason was, if I can correctly remember the logic here, that the CIA (or whomever) knows what is true and wants the American public to know but doesn't want the public to panic because of the flying saucers, so is gradually getting said public to accept the "truth" about UFOs so that when the official announcement is made it won't be such a shock. The patron further assured me that the people whose names are used in the news stories either are cooperating with this plan -- if the stories are good; or, -- if the stories are negative these people had their chance and refused.

Moving right along to the patron of a couple of summers ago who wanted information about Radon -- right, we all know we should be concerned. This patron is really concerned because the aliens who have been visiting Earth need radon to support their lives so they've been "planting" it around for when they (the aliens) move here because their planet is running out of food.

Ah yes, by our pupils we'll be taught.

Happy Holidays!

LIBRARY NEWS

Interlibrary Loan has a new part time employee. Lisa Ingalls started December 12. She graduated from Prairie High School in Cottonwood, Idaho in 1982. She then graduated from Lewis Clark State College in 1984 with an Associate of Applied Science Degree.

She has been married for the past 4½ years to Warren Ingalls (related to Laura Ingalls, who wrote Little House on the Prairie).

Her hobbies are scratch board, calligraphy, and drawing.

In the weeks before Christmas the Library received two fine gifts. The first was the private library of the late Ted Trueblood, Idaho writer, outdoorsman, and environmentalist. The gift includes Mr. Trueblood's papers (diaries, correspondence, and writings) as well as his photo collection, a complete set of his periodical articles, and his extensive library of books on hunting and fishing, which range from Izaak Walton's The Complete Angler to Datus C. Proper's What the Trout Said. The Ted Trueblood library was presented to the library by the Trueblood family.

The second major gift received in Special Collections

was a set of approximately 200 books on Idaho history from the Idaho State Historical Society. The books will be added to the Idaho Collection. They include works on all aspects of Idaho's past, including its geology, literature, and local history.

During December the Maps Department purchased a beautiful color relief map of the state of Idaho. Produced by Allan Cartography of Medford, Oregon, at a scale of 1:500,000, it was printed by Pikes Peak Lithographing of Colorado Springs. It makes a colorful addition to our Idaho map collection.

Two members of the Library staff will be spending the holidays in rehearsal for a play. Gerry Bryant is directing the Oscar Wilde classic, The Importance of Being Earnest for Stage Coach Theatre, Inc. Claudia Scott will be appearing as Lady Bracknell. Production dates are January 6-7, 12-14, and 19-21 at Playhouse 2000, 2000 Kootenai (top of Protest Hill). Gerry and Claudia will be happy to make reservations for you or you may call the box office at 342-2000. Remember, laughter is an excellent cure for the January Blahs. P.S. Paychecks will not be distributed to those that do not attend one of the productions.



CROSSFIRE is published by the Boise State University Library. Contributors to this issue are Gerry Bryant, Carole Clemons, Ralph Hansen, Gwen Pittam, Claudia Scott, Julie Stubbers, Adrien Taylor, and Alan Virta. Comments should be sent to Julie Stubbers, editor.