



A Newsletter for Employees of the University of Louisville Libraries
Vol. 27, No. 5 ♣ September, 2011

The Owl

"The Owl of Minerva takes flight only as the dusk begins to fall." — Hegel

COMICS!

The Ardi and Dick Wilson Collection

*On How I Got to
Totally Geek-Out
on the Job*

by James Manasco, Head, Collection Development

Delinda Buie told me about the Ardi and Dick Wilson Comics Collection a few months ago and asked if I could lend a hand with the exhibit (currently on display in Rare Books and immediately outside). Even though I had worked in Special Collections for several years back in the day, I had not had much to do with the exhibits that were frequently displayed there. I wasn't sure what my involvement would entail, but I was happily informed that my main contribution would be to provide my "expert" commentary on the individual comics.



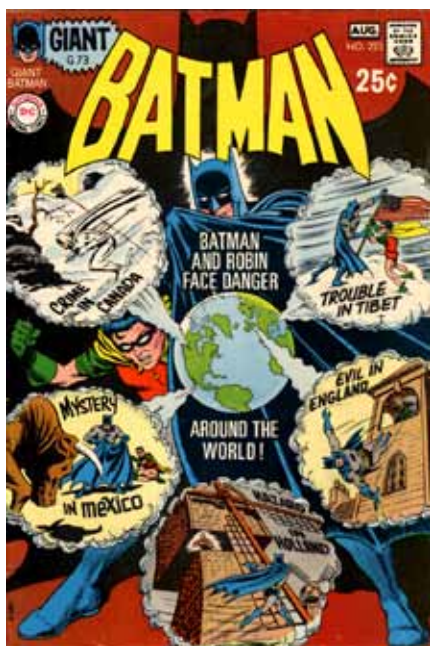
Many years ago, when Watergate was still a current event (Kids, if you don't know what that reference means, check out Wikipedia for the 411. Don't worry, Uncle James will still be here when you get back. Ready? Good!), the whole reason I learned to read was so that I could read comics to myself. I didn't (and still don't) like to be read to and I really liked the images I was seeing in the comics in their spinning racks at Rice Drugs and Houchen's in Beaver Dam, Kentucky, and I wanted to know what the words were saying about the stories inside. This was a much better motivation than anything my first or second-grade teachers could provide to make me read. I mean, really, who could care what Dick and Jane did, even if you threw in the tantalizing addition of Spot? I was much more interested in how the Justice League was doing against Kanjar Ro, with his multi-faceted eyes and his Gamma Gong (not making that up, folks). These were giants and deserved to be treated as such.

My early comic book tastes were largely DC-oriented, though I did like some Marvel titles (but they didn't seem to be as numerous). I was especially enamored with "Superboy and the Legion of Super-Heroes," al-

though any interesting cover could catch my eye and make me part with my precious limited funds. Rice Drugs had the better selection, but the workers there didn't seem to be as tolerant of a browsing/reading kid. Houchen's tended to have more Disney and Richie Rich/Casper/Hot Stuff comics (which my Mammy was a fan of), which weren't of real interest to me, than the DC and Marvel superhero titles. However, no one paid any attention to me reading to my heart's content there. In fact, when I was probably in second grade, I had selected a bunch of comics from Houchen's and took them to my mom to see if she would buy them for me. She was a bit distressed with me, since she happened to be in the Dollar Store next door. I had shoplifted and didn't even realize it, nor had anyone at Houchen's noticed. But she did buy those comics for me.

Back then, comics could be bought for a dime, soon to rise to 15 and later 25 cents. I couldn't wait for Mom to go grocery shopping on Saturday's when she would hand me a dollar to go comic shopping. Through the years, this tradition continued but, alas, the number of comics I could purchase with that dollar declined steadily. But my interest never waned.

The summer before my junior year in high school, I discovered Neil Gaiman's *Sandman*. While his characters weren't in the usual superhero vein, I was fascinated by the adult-level storytelling and his skills as an author. Gaiman was asked to revamp a long-standing DC Comics character, the Sandman, but did not keep the original character or his history (though he did have the original character appear and have a connection with this new character). Gaiman's Sandman was one of the Endless, anthropomorphic representations of universal concepts. Sandman was Dream. The rest of his "family" was: Destiny, Death, Destruction, Desire, Despair and Delirium (who had originally been Delight). Gaiman remains my favorite author to this day and we have a standing rule in Collection Development that we have to acquire all his works.



When I went to college at UK, I discovered the joy that was The Comic Connection, my first comic-book shop, thanks to my buddy from high school, Mark "Porky" Siler. Porky went to the University of Kentucky the year before I did and had already discovered its pleasures. I couldn't believe a whole store would be devoted to the medium, and I was in hog heaven. Thanks to my library job, I had a bit more money to spend but, unfortunately, the comics were also much more expensive, now in the dollar or more range each. Still, you could often find me there, especially when I had Mamaw-money in hand from a trip home.

Porky and I were (and still are) true comic-book geeks. If you've ever seen Kevin Smith's *Mallrats*, you can get an idea of the conversations we had about the characters and storylines. Comics were an escape and an entertainment, true, but they also became ingrained into our souls in a fashion. We loved comics like some people love soap operas. We critiqued the stories and talked about

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how we would have done it better, were we writing. Porky's favorite character was Batman. My favorite character was Wolverine of the X-Men.

I even had a poster of Wolverine hanging in my dorm room that I moved from place to place until it finally disintegrated at some point. Wolverine was gifted with enhanced senses, a healing factor, and an adamantium (Marvel's indestructible metal) skeleton which included bionic adamantium claws that would shoot out of the backs of his hands. Wolverine was a tough character, rough around the edges, but had a sense of honor and duty. He had no problem killing, but did not murder (try to figure that one out, folks). He was a sucker for kids, calling the teenage X-Man Kitty Pryde (Sprite, Ariel and then finally Shadowcat) "punkin'." When Katie Power, the youngest member of Power Pack (a pre-teen superhero brother/sister quartet), stumbled on him while he was injured and disoriented during a battle with Lady Deathstrike and the Reavers, she was able to help him until his superhuman healing factor repaired his injuries enough to defeat his foes. Wolverine did make her close her eyes so she could not see the carnage he perpetrated in this defeat and carried her away from the area. When he asked her if she was afraid of him, she quietly said "a little." Wolverine quickly assured her he was her friend and would never hurt her. Bottom line, I thought he was just plain cool.

That was until Chris Claremont, long-time writer of *X-Men*, decided to make Wolverine's adamantium claws natural bone instead of the bionic implants they had always been depicted as being. Yep, I could buy people with metal skeletons, mystical powers and aliens from other worlds, but when the internal logic of the comic broke down, I lost that loving feeling. Presently, my favorite character is the Golden Age (1940s) Green Lantern, Alan Scott. If you saw the recent *Green Lantern* movie, you saw the Silver Age (late 50s/60s) and current Green Lantern Hal Jordan. Hal's ring is scientifically-based and he is part of a corps of interstellar "police officers" who maintain order in the universe. Alan's ring was mystical and powered by a magic green lantern (hence the name). He was also a unique character, while Hal was one of 3600 Green Lanterns in the universe. In both cases, the power rings allowed the character to create solid light "constructs" of anything they could imagine and gifted them with the power of flight among other abilities. In the DC Comics universe, a Green Lantern power ring is considered the most powerful weapon in the universe. In the Silver Age, in order to be selected to be a Green Lantern, one had to be honest and totally without fear. Oh! And have strong will-power. In other words, I have absolutely no hope of ever being inducted into the Green Lantern Corps (*sigh*).

I never thought my nearly 40-year love affair with comics would have a practical outcome. I mean, sure, there is no doubt it made me more popular with the ladies (Porky and I took our wives with us to a comic book shop in Lexington a couple of years ago; Porky told them this made us "gods," since most guys in the store had probably never even had a romantic relationship...) and more in demand at parties, but really, I haven't seen that much result of my obsession, except for the boxes in my closets and under the beds back home (I don't collect comics, I just never throw them away), until now. I know I probably frightened Delinda with my comments about the characters and how I got excited over Supergirl or how Batman and Superman used to be best friends, but now don't really get along, though they maintain a grudging respect for each other. Or how the first "maxi-series," a comic series that was only intended to be 12 monthly issues, *Camelot 3000*, was such a ground-breaking work that showed a vision of King Arthur's return during England's greatest need. Or how the Swamp Thing was destined to become part of the Parliament of Trees. Or...well, that's probably enough for now.

Suffice it to say, I encourage all of you to check out the Comics! exhibit downstairs in the Rare Books Room. The heroes and villains will be in attendance until October 7. If you have any questions that my so-called "expert" knowledge in comics can help with, you can find me in LL38, surrounded by several figures from the comics, including the Justice Society of America, the Endless and even Batgirl (she was a librarian, after all).

From the Dean of Libraries . . .

By Bob Fox, Dean, University of Louisville Libraries

Welcome to a new exciting Fall semester! It seemed like a relatively quiet summer in terms of student activity, though we have hosted several exhibits in our special collections/rare books area and curated a wonderful exhibit on artist books from the Art Library. I've been heartened to see all the activity in our libraries this month. It has been interesting for me to note several activities that libraries staff participate in to acquaint faculty and students with our collections, services, and spaces. I'm open to your suggestions for ways that we can improve letting everyone know what we have to offer.

Over the summer, we conducted our library/unit strategic planning sessions. I hope that you had an opportunity to participate in one of these sessions or the open session we held at the end of summer. The information we've collected during these sessions will play a key role in our final plan which I expect will be completed this semester.

I'm happy to welcome Denise Nuehring, our new Director of Development, who joined us August 15. Denise will play a key role in raising private funding that will help us implement the ideas coming out of our strategic planning. She is making the rounds of our various libraries so if you see her, please welcome her to our group.

Finally, as we all deal with the longer lines, tighter parking, and more noise associated with a busy new semester, please remember that we are here because of and for the students. A smile can go a long way for a new student who might be lost or doesn't know how to search for an item. ☺



*Robert E. Fox, Jr.
Dean, University Libraries
cordially invites you to attend
a reception honoring*

Ms. Erea Marshall

upon the occasion of her retirement

*Thursday, September 29, 2011
2:00 P.M.
Elstrom Library
Silent Study Room*

*RSTP
852-6745
jessie@louisville.edu*



Library and Department News

Ekstrom Library Administrative Office

New Hires

Andrew Huff accepted the position of Library Associate with Ekstrom Library Circulation, effective July 15, 2011. Andrew reports to Melissa Horrar.

Pam Yeager accepted the position of Program Assistant Senior in Special Collections and reports to Amy Purcell. Pam's first day was September 12, 2011.

Nicholas Sweat accepted the position of Library Assistant with Ekstrom Circulation Document Delivery, effective September 12, 2011. Nicholas reports to Andrew Huff.

Changes of Appointments

Allen Ashman's term faculty appointment was changed to tenure-track status effective August 1, 2011. He is now full-time as Technical Services Librarian.

Carrie Daniels has been named Director of the University Archives and Records Center and University Archivist, also effective August 1. She has been serving in these positions on an interim basis for the past three years.

Randy Kuehn's term faculty appointment was changed to tenure-track status effective July 1, 2011.

Collection Development

Bob Roehm spent several days last month in Reno for the 69th World Science Fiction Convention. That's him lounging in the Dragon Throne from HBO's production of George R.R. Martin's *Game of Thrones*.

Special Collections

Separated at Birth – an exhibit

Chris Maynard and Bill Carner met at the Rhode Island School of Design in 1966. The two Leica-carrying art students built their friendship on their love of street photography, irony and humor.

Now, 45 years later, they're having their first joint exhibition, a retrospective, *Separated at Birth*, in the Huff gallery at Spalding University. The longtime friends will be exhibiting photographs from the last two centuries, as well as a few drawings of their dogs.

Maynard worked as an editorial photographer and then as a *New York Times* photographer and picture editor. Carner has been a photo educator and, for the last 33 years, the photo wrangler at the University of Louisville Photographic Archives. Over the years they've used different cameras and tried different formats, even going digital in the 21st Century, but the imagery always remained uniquely their own. The exhibit is made up of vintage black and white silver gelatin prints, some dating back to





Bill (left) and Chris drinking grad student whisky at Harry's in 1969. *Photo by Bill Burke.*

the 1960s, color prints, digital inkjet prints and the afore-mentioned drawings. While the subject matter is as varied as the media they've used, the through-line that holds it all together is the humor and their love of seeing with a camera.

The exhibit runs from October 9 – December 11, 2011 in the Huff Gallery, Spalding University.

Steamboats: A Way of Life

Sue Finley, Bill Carner, and volunteer Jim Reising are curating an exhibit as part of the Steamboat Bicentennial. The exhibit contains images from Photographic Archives' Howard Steamboat, Caufield & Shook, Potter and Standard Oil (New

Jersey) collections and will be in the Howard Steamboat Museum, 1101 E. Market Street, Jeffersonville, Indiana through October 2011. The running theme is people and steamboats.

Kornhauser Library

Nice Feedback!

From a library patron: "My name is Shady, I am a visiting student from Cairo, Egypt, I'd like to say a big fat THANKS for you, all the people who really helped me during my 'stay' here at your library without you, all your wonderful team, I won't be able to do anything in my orthopedics research elective. I am really grateful." -Shady

UARC

Kathie Johnson had a wonderful time in New York City at her final meeting as a board member of the Alliance for American Quilts (soon to go international). In the three-day "Quilters Take Manhattan" the organization had an Executive Committee meeting, a full Board meeting, and put on three fund-raising events: 1) an evening focusing on the Modern Quilt Movement (97 attendees) at the loft home of artist and new board member Victoria Findlay Wolfe; 2) a Saturday afternoon discussion and fashion show (175 attendees) at the Fashion Institute of Technology, featuring quilters Marianne and Mary Fons, radio personality and designer Mark Lipinski, and Jay McCarroll (winner of *Project Runway* in the first season); and, 3) Cocktails at The City Quilter (70 attendees), a wonderful fabric store in Manhattan. If you don't recognize any of the above names, Google them and you will see that we pulled in some heavy hitters.

Ron and Kathie were able to vacation for the three days following the meetings and had fabulous time seeing Battery Park and the Statue of Liberty, Greenwich Village and Washington Square, Ground Zero and the new construction; Chinatown and Little Italy; the Guggenheim, Metropolitan and Museum of Modern Art. They went up in the Empire State Building, walked along the High Line, ate at Chelsea Market, strolled through Central Park, ate at fabulous restaurants, and walked, walked, walked. Kathie started planning a return trip on the flight back to Louisville.

Delphi Center

Delphi Center September workshops

What makes a great college teacher "great?" Find out on Sept. 29 during a Delphi Center Dine & Discover session that explores Dr. Ken Bain's research findings. Learn more about this and 13 other lunchtime sessions at <https://louisville.edu/delphi/faculty-instructional-development/programs/dine-and-discover/>. Learn more about these programs at <http://louisville.edu/ideastoaction>.

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Name: Matthew Goldberg

Preferred nickname (if you have one): Matt

UofL position and dept: Ekstrom Library- Media Resources Evening Supervisor

Schools Attended: B.A. in History from the University of Louisville

Pets: I have two cats: one named for the James Bond villain Dr. No, and the other named Fuzzball

Zodiac Sign: Sagittarius

Hobbies/Activities: Baseball, eating, reading history books, and watching cupcake shows with my girlfriend

Favorite Food: I'm a big fan of American food (love Goose Creek Diner and Comfy Cow Ice Cream)

Favorite Vacation Spot: The family cottage in Upstate New York, in the Thousand Islands. The best place in the world (besides Louisville)



Name: Andrew Huff

Preferred nickname (if you have one): Andy or Drew

UofL position and dept: Library Associate/ ILL Coordinator Circulation Dept.

Hometown: Bowling Green, KY

Schools Attended: Western Kentucky University, University of Louisville

Significant Other/Family Members: Spouse: Rachel Sons: David and Elijah

Unusual previous positions: Dishwasher, Theme Park Ride Operator

Zodiac sign: Taurus

Hobbies/Activities: Spending time with my family, Linux, Playing Piano

Name: Pamela C. Yeager

Preferred nickname (if you have one): Pam

UofL position and dept: Program Assistant Senior, Special Collections, Ekstrom Library

Hometown: Louisville

Schools Attended: B.A. in Art History from UofL

Significant Other/Family Members: husband Don, sons Ben and Joe and Joe's wife Rachel (pictures available)

Pets: our cat Cookie (ditto)

Unusual previous positions: For the last 3 ½ years it has been my great pleasure to work at the Speed Art Museum

Hobbies/Activities: reading, crossword puzzles, walking, cat wrangling

Favorite Books: any by Jane Austen and Barbara Pym

Favorite Movies: Gosford Park, Young Frankenstein, and of course all those Jane Austen interpretations, even the bad ones

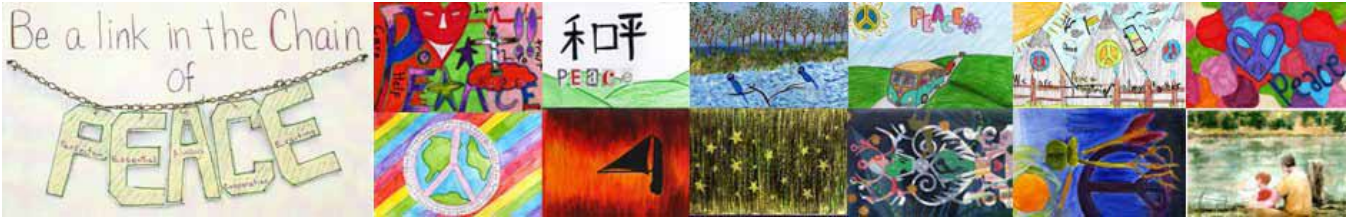
Favorite Food: anything but liver

Favorite Vacation Spot: Grand Canyon and Zion National Park

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself: I am so very lucky to be back!



Library Exhibits



Ekstrom Library

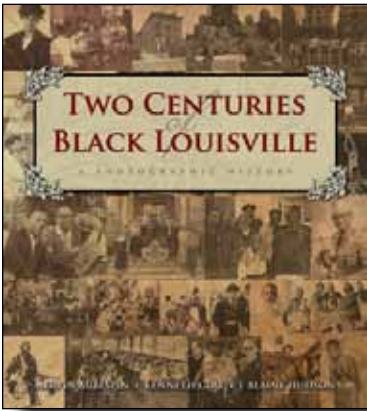
Ekstrom Library

Chao Auditorium and West Wing First Floor Display Cases

Peace Postcards

International Day of Peace, September 21, 2011

September 2011



Special Collections

Photographic Archives Gallery

Photographs from Two Centuries of Black Louisville

By Mervin Aubespin, Kenneth Clay and J. Blaine Hudson

June 24 - September 30, 2011

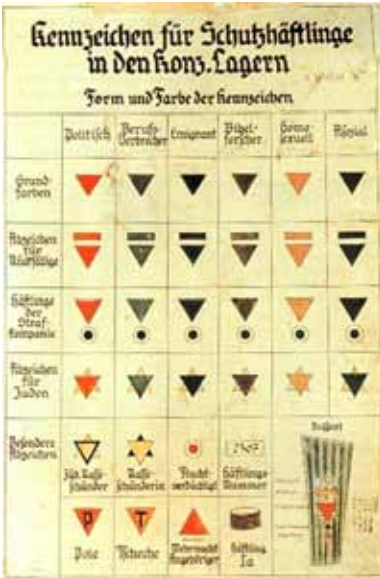
Rare Books

Kain Gallery

COMICS! the Ardi & Dick Wilson

Comic Collection

August 8 – October 2, 2011



East Wing, First Floor

Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals: 1933-1945

September 19 – November 28, 2011

Lobby Cases

Alice Hegan Rice

Summer 2011

Music Library

First Floor

Audiology - Preventing Hearing Loss in Musicians

Third Floor

Music Therapy @ UofL - 10 Years and Counting

September 2011



Above: The pink triangle (second column from right) was the designated camp badge for male homosexual prisoners, as shown on this undated chart titled "Distinguishing Marks for Protective Custody Prisoners." In addition to the basic badge (top), variations marked repeat offenders, prisoners in punishment battalions, and homosexual Jews. Other colors identified political prisoners, previously convicted criminals, emigrants, Jehovah's Witnesses, and so-called asocials. [Dokumentationsarchiv des österreichischen Widerstandes](#), Vienna/UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM #098

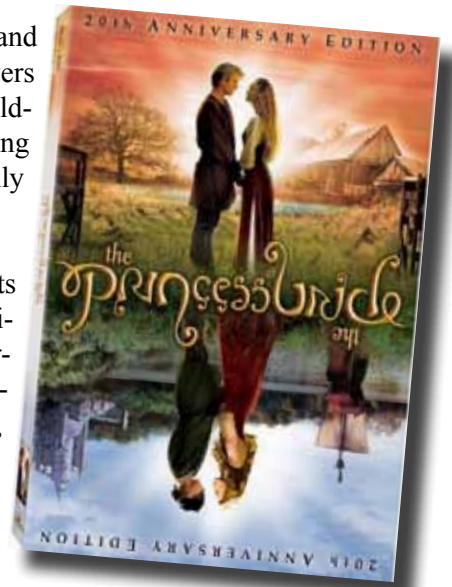
--Media Resources News--

POPULAR CULT CLASSICS

By Matt Goldberg, Media Services Dept.

Now that the semester is officially underway, and students are flooding back to our charming campus, the Media desk will resume its function as a Mecca for UofL's dorm dwellers. Whether they are freshmen discovering the joys of DVD rentals, or upperclassmen looking for something to watch instead of doing their homework, the Media department will soon be crowded by students, eager to partake in our collection. This month, in honor of their return, I present to you the films that college students consider the quintessential movies to watch while whittling away the time between classes; that is, when they are not studying, of course. Without further ado, a list of cult classic films popular among university students:

1. *Super Troopers*: A low-budget comedy, *Super Troopers* (2001), follows the misadventures of four idiot state patrol officers in rural Vermont, and their attempts to avoid work, foil mischievous pot dealers, and battle with the local police force. The humor is crass, and the dialogue is campy, but the film is a great choice for a night in with your bros.
2. Moving away from the R-rated section of our DVD library, is the clever and heartwarming film *The Princess Bride*. A staple for romance and comedy lovers alike, *The Princess Bride* (1987) follows the eponymous heroine, and her would-be rescuers. Presented as a fairy-tale, college students have little trouble enjoying its highly quotable dialogue. Full of sword-fights, faraway lands, and devilishly quick humor, the film is a must see.
3. Far darker than *The Princess Bride* is the 1999 cult hit *Fight Club*. With its gloomy imagery and extreme violence, the film attracts college students by satirizing contemporary culture. In particular, the film examines the seedy underbelly of American society, in a surreal, yet haunting way that recalls other cinematic classics like *Taxi Driver*. Edward Norton and Brad Pitt shine in the film, particularly in its shockingly brilliant ending.
4. One of the best independent films of the last ten years, *Juno* (2007) follows the spunky sixteen-year-old Juno MacGuff, as she searches for a creative way to handle her unplanned pregnancy. Starring Ellen Page and Michael Cera, the story is both endearing and riotously funny. Besides its witty script, *Juno* also boasts one of this list's best soundtracks.



Other titles that frequently grace the screens of dorm room televisions are *Animal House*, *The Goonies*, *The Big Lebowski*, *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, *Starship Troopers*, *Labyrinth*, *Mulan*, *Surf Ninjas*, *Blade Runner*, *The Shawshank Redemption*, *Scott Pilgrim vs. The World*, and *Roadtrip*. These movies are an enjoyable escape from the rush of college life. Whether they are deep and inspiring, or laughably bad, their cult status throughout the university is due to their ability to entertain. These movies help provide a sense of community, and whether that occurs in Bettie Johnson, Center Hall, or anywhere else our students convene, they know they are being brought together by a movie worth watching.

THANK YOU HAPPENINGS



Thanks to **James Manasco** for serving as expert consultant and co-curator for the first exhibition of the Ardi and Dick Wilson Comics Collection. The exhibition received a lot of good press, and has been a hit with the community and our students. —*Delinda Buie*

Thanks to **Raymond Slaughter** and the dock students for the great job in removing and recycling the seating from the old auditorium. Another big thank you to Raymond Slaughter and the dock students for cleaning and shampooing all the comfortable seating in the public spaces of Ekstrom Library. This meant a direct cost savings to the library of \$30 or more per chair. —*Diane Nichols*

Margo Smith and Chris Poche would like to thank **Sheila Birkla, Mioshi Cobble, Diane Nichols, Craig Patton, and Weiling Liu** for all their help in installing the new microform machine in Current Periodicals & Microforms.

Amy Purcell and Andy Clark would like to thank the tomato lady.



... for contributing to this issue of The Owl