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Editing an Editor: Paul Simon’s Newspaper Articles to Become New Book

John S. Jackson is a familiar figure to the SIUC community, and he has embarked upon the daunting task of editing the journalistic writings of arguably the most famous southern Illinoisan of the twentieth century, Paul Simon. It was as a young newspaper owner and editor in Troy, Illinois, in 1948 that Paul Simon began his life-long love affair with the printed word. A few years later Simon revealed political corruption within Madison County on the front page of the Troy Tribune, and the power of the press emboldened Simon as a crusader and as a writer. As an ambitious young journalist, Paul Simon seemed fearless, though self-effacing, stating, “A newspaper can be a powerful force for good, even when operated by someone with almost no experience.” Over the next fifty years Paul Simon would write over twenty books and contribute thousands of columns to Illinois newspapers.

A native of Waldo, Arkansas, John S. Jackson came to SIUC in September 1969 as an instructor in what is now SIUC’s Department of Political Science. After attaining full professor status in 1978, he soon became acting dean of the Graduate School. Next he served for more than eleven years as dean of the College of Liberal Arts. In 1996 he began three years of service to the University as provost and vice-chancellor for academic affairs, and in June 1999 he became SIUC’s seventeenth chancellor. He joined the Paul Simon Public Institute in 2002, and he continues to teach courses in political science. For years he’s been familiar to many southern Illinoisans as the media’s “go to” authority on regional, Illinois, and national politics.

The genesis for this forthcoming book, tentatively titled The Essential Paul Simon: Timeless Columns, Articles, and Sandwiched between Paul Simon’s typewriter and his image on the wall, John S. Jackson stands in the Paul Simon corner of Special Collections.
continued on page 7...
Message from the Dean

Whither eBooks

In my last column, I cited eBook trends as one of the “fundamental shifts” in libraries and scholarly communication. Since then there is more news. On March 17, 2011, the Association of American Publishers announced that sales in January of eBooks increased by 115% (!) compared to the same month in the previous year. The press release also notes that hardcover sales fell just over 11% and adult paperbacks dropped nearly 20%.

As these statistics demonstrate, whatever the future of eBooks it is clear that usage is growing—significantly. The various hand-held devices, such as the Nook, Kindle, and iPad, are an important part of this trend. For libraries, these devices pose special challenges. The ability to lend books on dedicated e-readers has been highly restrictive, if not impossible, and lending is fundamental to what libraries do. As I write this column, Amazon announced that Kindle owners will be able “…to borrow Kindle books from over 11,000 libraries in the United States… Customers will be able to check out a Kindle book from their local library and start reading on any Kindle device…” This sounds promising and I am anxious to learn more. However, lending is not the only element of what libraries do. I remain very concerned about the restrictive control that publishers seem intent on preserving with digital devices through digital rights management.

This obsession showed itself recently when Harper Collins announced that it would not allow its eBooks to be checked out from a library more than twenty-six times. Why twenty-six? Harper Collins claims research that it says demonstrates this limit “…was arrived at after considering a number of factors, including the average lifespan of print books, and wear and tear on circulating copies.” I love that in response some librarians at the Pioneer Library System in Oklahoma put a video on YouTube (http://goo.gl/iTXvw) showing copies of numerous Harper Collins books that have circulated many more times than twenty-six and seem to be in excellent condition, ready to be enjoyed and discovered by another reader.

Even more disturbing to me, however, than this particular restriction is the instant removability of a book from a digital device that these controls imply. For as long as there have been books, there have been efforts to suppress them, remove them, limit access to them, and, yes, burn them. If we as a society accept the premise that books can be removed from our possession at a moment’s notice as a condition of our “licensing” (not ownership) of the content, a fundamental underpinning of an informed electorate in a democracy is lost. Ironically and sadly, the digital medium that would potentially enable this tragedy is otherwise capable of a vast increase in communication of ideas.

If we accept these restrictions for the book in its digital form, we will lose a vital channel of discourse in society. I fear that new ideas will be limited to the blogs and twitter messages of the world. These media have value, to be sure, but the loss of the “extended argument” of the book—carefully constructed, thoughtfully argued and well-researched and documented—will be a very great loss, indeed. It is this far greater loss that publishers do not seem to grasp beyond the worries of an immediate next sale.
With research library budgets strained by the increasing costs of electronic journals and databases, more traditional reference/replacement volumes are sometimes left behind. The Library Is Seeking . . . looks for private funding for those items that would not otherwise be purchased by the library. If you are interested in underwriting one of these items, please contact Kristine McGuire at kmguire@lib.siu.edu or 618-453-1633.

$300 for Encyclopaedia of African American Music, edited by Tammy Kernodle, Horace Maxille and Emmett G. Price III. African Americans’ historical roots are encapsulated in the lyrics, melodies, and rhythms of their music. In the 18th and 19th centuries, African slaves, longing for emancipation, expressed their hopes and dreams through spirituals. Inspired by African civilization and culture, as well as religion, art, literature, and social issues, this influential, joyous, tragic, uplifting, challenging, and enduring music evolved into many diverse genres, including jazz, blues, rock and roll, soul, swing, and hip hop history. Over 500 in-depth entries by more than 100 scholars on a vast range of topics such as genres, styles, individuals, groups, and collectives as well as historical topics such as music of the Harlem Renaissance, the Black Arts Movement, the Civil Rights Movement, and numerous others.

$845 for Correspondence and Journals of the Thackeray Family by John Aplin. Marking the bicentenary of the birth of William Makepeace Thackeray in 1811, this five-volume critical edition represents the most substantial collection of hitherto unpublished material relating to the novelist and his gifted family.

$375 for Encyclopaedia of Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment & Recovery, edited by Gary L. Fisher and Nancy A. Roget. “A work of the scope and quality of this encyclopedia on a topic of major and current interest comes along infrequently. This set covers relevant aspects of some 300 topics related to substance abuse in a format that is consistent throughout. Most topics have subheadings; all have cross-references and references to the literature. The topics are organized into groups of related interest in the form of a reader’s guide. Despite the large number of contributors, the book reflects a unity of style achieved by consistent editing. This two-volume work of 1,000 pages is authoritative, easy to use, and most informative.”—Choice

The Preservation Unit of Morris Library is requesting funding to create custom enclosures for Special Collections’ Buckminster Fuller three-dimensional models. SCRC’s University Archives is home to an estimated 150 Fuller 3D models, believed to be the largest such collection in the world. These models were built to demonstrate structural concepts such as tensegrity, a Buckey term that literally blends tension and integrity. The cost of a handmade box is $150 in time and archival materials, and the construction of twenty custom boxes is planned by Preservation. To sponsor the construction of one or more box(es) to which a commemorative label will be placed, contact Kristine McGuire at kmguire@lib.siu.edu or 618-453-1633.

$375 for A Companion to Irish Literature by Julia M. Wright. This two-volume set covers an unprecedented historical range of Irish literature from the Middle Ages to the present day. Featuring nearly sixty original essays written by a distinguished cast of literary scholars, the Companion explores poetry, drama, and fiction in both English- and Irish-language traditions.
Harry Truman was in the White House, and Ozzie and Harriet Nelson were on television. It was 1952, and the first hydrogen bomb had been detonated. Jonas Salk developed and introduced the polio vaccine, and Dwight Eisenhower retired from the military. The 1950s were also a time of trends and fads that produced coonskin caps, phone booth stuffing, hula hoops, hunkerin' (people crouching on the balls of their feet), and panty raids.

Apparently an Illinois college—Augustana in Rock Island—holds the dubious distinction of staging the first panty raid in America. According to the college's website, "Police were called at 12:39 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 25, 1949, six minutes before the raid was to begin. Apparently, neighbors were concerned about a large group of men gathering in the shadows behind the Woman's Building. [Reportedly] 250 men took part in the ensuing 10-minute incursion, many of whom were members of various fraternities . . ."

The event seemingly became a national sensation, making headlines in the Chicago Tribune, the New York Times, and Time magazine. Augusta's website indicates that this adventure actually furthered the American lexicon. “It’s believed a reporter for the Daily Dispatch newspaper of Moline was the first to add the momentous modifier ‘panty’ that would set off a fad on American campuses throughout the 1950s.”

The next significant incident involving women's lingerie occurred in March 1952 when University of Michigan students raided a dormitory, which precipitated additional raids around the country. By the summer of 1952 this epidemic of mischief had spread to fifty-two campuses. On May 21, 1952, the national contagion came to Carbondale when "A wave of juvenile vandalism, commonplace on college campuses for the past two weeks, lapped onto the SIU campus in Carbondale as 1,000 frenzied male students stormed sororities and Anthony Hall [then still a women’s dormitory], destruction-bent and in quest of panties,” according to the Southern Illinoisan.
Morris Library's Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) holds a number of telling photographic prints that capture the mischief and mayhem of this simpler time.

The Southern's article, "Panty Dormitory Raid Fad Spreads to Southern Illinois University Campus," reveals four were injured and two were arrested in the chaos of the evening. Though there were no serious injuries, arrested were two twenty-year-old males that "rocked the police car, deflated some air from its tires and that of the Jackson county sheriff's car that screamed to the scene." The newspaper’s account further states, "An electric feeling was in the air as early as 6 p.m. as crowds of scheming youths began to gather. By 11 p.m., the fast-swelling mob trooped down to Mill and University bellowing for panties and other trophies."

Understandably a concerned SIU President Delyte Morris was in the midst of the fray, accompanied by Jackson County State's Attorney John Gilbert and Carbondale Police Commissioner D. Blaney Miller. But he took a stern view on what today seems like innocent fun gone awry. Morris summoned a sound truck and grabbed the microphone when it arrived. "It's time to go home. The state's attorney is here, and criminal or civil action can be taken," he said.

In the weekly Egyptian that was published on May 23, 1952, President Morris had written an editorial, "The Thin Line of Difference" that appeared on the paper's front page. He wrote, "Between right and left there is so small a turning. Between right and wrong there may be only a shadow of a distinction. The thin line of difference between acceptable conduct and unacceptable conduct is easy to cross."

Campus unrest had been quelled—at least for the time being. Panty raids continued through the 1950s and early 1960s, but the advent of coed dormitories and the sexual revolution of the 60s all but extinguished the phenomenon of the panty raid by 1970.  

Anthony Hall's housemother, Mrs. Edna Spires Travis of Herrin, admonishes one of the evening's revelers.

Police Commissioner D. Blaney Miller, Delyte Morris, and a loudspeaker put an end to the evening's fun.

Giddy with their ill-gotten gains, the raiders of the night proudly display their booty.
dynamics reflect and influence modern Arab families and how these family bonds. The author uses both early and semi-fictional works by women writers from across the Arab world, the study offers a first-hand account of how Arab women view and experience this primary bond. The author uses both early and contemporary writings of Arab women to illuminate the traditional and evolving nature of mother-daughter relationships in Arab families and how these family dynamics reflect and influence modern Arab life.

$375 for *The Wiley-Blackwell Handbook of Infant Development*, edited by J. Gavin Bremner and Theodore D. Wachs. The editors offer a fully updated second edition of an authoritative handbook that documents major advances and research in the area of infant development. With ten new chapters added since the first edition, this publication represents a significant revision. Within the volumes, all chapters are written by leading international researchers and practitioners in the field. This set’s greatest value comes from its broad summaries of major research and its extensive bibliographies.

$335 for *Handbook of the Birds of the World. Volume 14: Bush-Shrikes to Old World Sparrows*. This series is the first ever to illustrate all the species of birds in the world, in addition to providing access to all the essential information about each one of them. This volume includes coverage of the Passeriformes: bush-shrikes, bowerbirds, crows, starlings, and more. Fifty-one color plates, more than 650 color photographs, and distribution maps. Morris Library currently holds volumes 1 through 13 of this acclaimed series.

$210 for *Mothers and Daughters in Arab Women’s Literature* by Dalya Abudl. This study explores the mother-daughter relationship as the most fundamental and most intimate female relationship and as the cornerstone of Arab family life. Drawing on autobiographical and semi-fictional works by women writers from across the Arab world, the study offers a first-hand account of how Arab women view and experience this primary bond. The author uses both early and contemporary writings of Arab women to illuminate the traditional and evolving nature of mother-daughter relationships in Arab families and how these family dynamics reflect and influence modern Arab life.

$140 for *Women in Music: A Research and Information Guide* by Karin Pendle and Melinda Boyd. This work is an annotated bibliography emerging from more than twenty-five years of feminist scholarship on music. This book testifies to the great variety of subjects and approaches represented in over two decades of published writings on women, their work, and the important roles that feminist outlooks have played in formerly male-oriented academic scholarship or journalistic musings on women and music.

$425 for *Encyclopedia of Animal Science*, edited by Duane Ulrey. Written and edited by a distinguished team of experts, this second edition contains more than 300 entries that explore the broad field of animal science. The coverage underscores the interdependence of production agriculture, economics, and environmental sustainability in contributing to a stable and flourishing society. Each entry provides a succinct overview designed to help readers acquire basic familiarity with the key terms and current knowledge of the subject, augmented by selected literature citations.

$355 for *Encyclopedia of Death & the Human Experience*, edited by Clifton D. Bryant and Dennis L. Peck. A two-volume set. “With a focus on the actions, emotions, beliefs, and traditions of the human experience, this interdisciplinary compendium of approximately 330 lengthy entries provides an excellent reference to the cycle of dying, the social-psychological emotions, and the cultural constructs surrounding the process. Both editors are sociologists, and the wide-ranging editorial board and contributors provide multidimensional perspectives in the arts, psychology, anthropology, religion, philosophy, medical practice, and international cultures. The encyclopedia is organized in 16 categories, which range from conceptualization of death and dying and its portrayal in the media and popular culture to coping with loss, cross-cultural perspectives, disposition of the deceased, mass death, the process of dying, rituals, suicide and euthanasia, and even “unworldly” entities.” — *Choice*
Newsletters, came last year when Jackson began working in a focused manner on the project. His research has been done almost exclusively with Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) at Morris Library, which holds the Paul Simon papers. Presently, the book is to be published by SIU Press in 2012. Jackson was intimately familiar with Simon’s writing, having read virtually all of his books and articles over the years. Jackson offered, “We frequently get requests for information on Paul and his books and articles and that information is sometimes hard to find. So, it seemed that it was time for a collection of his most important and enduring writings to be made available to a wider audience. I was very aware of the Paul Simon papers at the SIU Special Collections site and all the good work Walter Ray had done on them. I also knew that Paul wrote on a wide variety of subjects, many of which are still very timely today.”

The sources that Jackson has tapped for Simon’s writings are too numerous for a comprehensive list, but include the Troy Tribune, Harper’s, Columbia Journalism Review, Parade, suburban Chicago’s Daily Herald, the Chicago Tribune, the Chicago Sun-Times, the Washington Post, various Lutheran publications, and National Public Radio. Beginning with “Trojan Thoughts” in the Troy Tribune in 1949, Simon wrote a weekly column, though intermittently, that usually bore his initials in various permutations, ending in 1996 with “P.S./Washington,” which had started at the beginning of his congressional career in 1975.

Organizing and structuring material that spans decades and that was written for different purposes was a challenge, but Jackson explained, “First, I separated out the columns and articles by theme or topic and arranged all of them in that manner. Then, the ones I chose for inclusion in the book were arranged chronologically.”

Throughout his political career Paul Simon was known for his honesty and integrity, and his writing style reflected that vision. In Paul Simon: The Political Journey of an Illinois Original, author Robert Hartley noted, “He wrote simply, in short sentences and with easily understood words and usage. He preferred to write about one subject at a time, rarely mixing topics in a way that might confuse a reader. . . If he wrote on more than one subject in a column, he clearly separated them. He was not bashful about proclaiming his position on issues but did not use the column to mention every legislative initiative he sponsored. Simon spoke directly to readers of all education levels and stations in life.”
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inancial gifts from library friends empower Morris Library and ensure its position as one of the top research libraries in the country. We appreciate this tradition of private support, which is critical to the quality of the library’s collections, programs, and services. In furtherance of the goals of Southern at 150, SIUC and the SIU Foundation retain six percent of all gifts to strengthen the advancement program.

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On June 7, 8, and 9, Morris Library will provide the opportunity for you to share your memories of Old Main by taping them. If you were a student, teacher, or visitor to Old Main during the building’s eighty-two year presence on campus, and you’ve memories to impart for posterity, please contact Gordon Pruett at gpruett@lib.siu.edu or 618-453-1660. Too, at 3:00 pm, Wednesday, June 8, Guyon Auditorium in Morris will host speakers on the history and architecture of the university’s first building and Old Main.

You are invited.
Details at 618-453-1660.