

place ourselves, we will have made a passage, but will we have made an impact?" Davis asked.

Both Marilyn Miller (president, ALA) and Robert Wedgeworth (president, International Federation of Library Associations) had greetings for the conference at its closing session. Miller delivered hers in person, fresh from her trip to India, and Wedgeworth delivered his via videotape as he was still in India presiding over the IFLA conference. Both spoke of the sights and sounds of India and of the universality of librarianship. And both warned against being overwhelmed by the responsibilities of our position, the immensity of our task of bringing knowledge and information to all people on the globe. "I have seen," Wedgeworth said, "how people die from lack of routine information."

In his final, emotion-filled remarks to the culture keepers attending the conference, Dr. Axel Boyd (BCALA president) spoke of the "family" that had gathered in Columbus. He said, "This is a defining moment in the history of African American librarianship, but it is only a point of departure. We have been empowered here to move into the future." Boyd closed by announcing that the next BCALA national conference will be held in two years on Labor Day weekend in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. ■

Letters

The importance of acting

To the Editor:

As a former librarian turned investigator, I often peruse the professional literature of both fields. Thus, I read with considerable interest Trudi E. Jacobson's excellent report on "Good acting secret of successful BI" in the July/August issue. By citing Dean William E. Connor's contention that teaching is theater, Ms. Jacobson is quite correct. However, I would add that an important, but sometimes overlooked, part of investigative work is also theater or acting. The intent, goals, and results of the theatrics in my field and in Ms. Jacobson's may differ, but the techniques, such as focusing on your subjects and role playing, are similar. In more than 15 years as an investigator I have learned that acting, especially spur-of-the-moment improvisation when needed, is a handy skill to possess, and if one is good at it, the results can be satisfying. After all, what's the old good guy/bad guy routine but acting?—*Mark H. Winnegrad, associate investigator, N.Y.C. Dept. of Transportation*

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