The Nemesis Extraordinaire (continued ...)

Library Journal (pp.43-49).
It shows a U.S. periodicals price increase of 9.5% for 1989 excluding Russian translation journals. With the translation journals, the numbers come out to 8.2%. Most libraries are reporting 8-10% increases, though some are reporting half that. At LSU, we have noted some later than usual supplemental billings from some of our U.S. vendors, so watch for those.

Ethical Issues
The Chronicle (February 22, 1989, p. 1) provided yet another report of a committee concerned about fraud in research. The panel, appointed by the Institute of Medicine, recommended universities set up formal courses in responsible research for all science students and make sure that academic departments devise written regulations outlining correct publication practices for students, faculty, and staff.
A report on a conflict of interest study was in the April 26 issue (A13, Carolyn J. Mooney, "Universities Admonished for Inadequate Policies on Research Ethics") calling attention, among other issues, to research whose publication is restricted by financing sources. The article is based on work done by Karen Seashore Louis, University of Minnesota, Judith P. Swazey, President of Acadia Institute, and Melissa S. Anderson, a doctoral student. If ethical publication guidelines are needed at research institutions, representation of library concerns should be sought. ALA? RLG? ARL? SLA? Where are you?
And a letter from a sales rep concerning a previous employer is not someone that should be encouraged by silence. Most of us don't want to hear how bad the competition is, but how good your own services are.
Another point: did a major publisher study of serials pricing at LSU, we wish him well in his new role. He plans to continue actively researching and writing on issues in acquisitions and collection development. Suppliers who hire professionals with working experience in libraries represent a healthy trend. I hope it continues.

For libraries wondering how to get some of the information others are reporting on their serials for smaller collections, see Helen M. Shuster's article "Fiscal Control of Serials Using dBase III+" in Serials Review (Spring, 1989, pp.7-19). The FAXletter (cited previously) also notes that Barbara Nan Schichtel, librarian at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids Michigan has developed a serials database covering about 1,000 titles for budget analysis and control. You can contact her according to the newsletter at 1-800-678-3704, ext. 3704 for more information.

Extraordinary:
3. outside of the regular staff; sent on a special errand; having special authority or responsibility...[I'm speechless . . .]. . . definitions once again courtesy of Webster's New World Dictionary . . .

Gordon & Breach
All of us have heard about the Gordon & Breach Physics Today controversy, haven't we? Gordon & Breach feel that the Barschall article in a recent issue of Physics Today presented skewed and erroneous data about their journals. What can I say? To paraphrase Walt Disney: "This is the stuff that lawsuits are made of . . ."

For an ongoing discussion of this issue, see the electronic newsletter on serials pricing issued by Marcia Tuttle (Bitnet: Tuttle @UNC.BITNET). It's fascinating!

As we go to press . . . we have learned that Chris Schneider (Gordon & Breach) is alive and well after surgery. Get well soon, Chris!