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Bet You Missed It

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Bet You Missed It
Press Clippings — In the News — Carefully Selected by Your Crack Staff of News Sleuths

Column Editor: Sarah Tusa (Lamar University Library) <stusa@alam.edu>

Welcome to Sarah Tusa, who has taken on this awesome and time-consuming task of editing BET YOU MISSED IT! Thanks, Sarah and you too, Rosann for doing it for so long! And thanks to all of you out there who do the abstracts. Love and hugs, Yr. Ed. — KS

Paper Money
by Twyla Racz (Eastern Michigan University)

According to the author, the paper industry’s revenue gains for 1993 were due to price increases leveled to cover higher paper prices. In his overview of the industry for 1996, Loquist states that with a stable economy and a low inflation rate, revenue should increase 2.7% over 1995 except in binding, which will have a decline. See — William S. Loquist, “Economic Outlook for the U.S. Printing and Publishing Industry,” Publishing Research Quarterly, vol.12 (3) (fall, 1996), pp. 22-27.

Stop that Treaty
by Pamela Rose (SUNY at Buffalo)


For Love of Mileva Maric
by Pamela Rose (SUNY at Buffalo)


More Treaty Discussion
by Pamela Rose (SUNY at Buffalo)

The worry is over for now for the scientific community. Talks on a new international treaty on database rights never got started because of the opposition from U.S. scientists and developing nations, and it is not clear when they might resume. Opponents felt that the treaty designed to protect databases from piracy would hinder access to data and increase costs. Meanwhile, the U.S. negotiating team accused a White House Office of Science and Technology observer of distributing information to other negotiating teams that represented the position of Netscape — a position that differs from the views of the U.S. government. See — “Treaty on Database Access Stalled,” Science, vol.274 (December 20, 1996), p. 1999.

A Popular Pilot
by Rosann Bazirjian (FSU)

The author describes the Pilot, a 4.7” long and 3.2” wide PDA (personal digital assistant) from U.S. Robotics, which is inexpensive, compact, easy to use, and hooks up to your PC “with no hassle.” The Pilot will track appointments and store phone numbers, and easily attaches to a serial port on your PC to load into your office machine. Pushing a Hotsync button quickly synchronizes the data between your PC and The Pilot. It also includes a hand-writing recognition system called Graffiti. The Pilot sells for between $300 and $500 depending on the model you choose to purchase. The article includes a photo of the device. See — Michael Himowitz, “Why Users Love the Pilot,” Fortune, vol.134 (9) (November 11, 1996), p.224-226.

Finance on the Web
by Sandy Beehler (Old Dominion Univ.)


ActiveX
by Sandy Beehler (Old Dominion Univ.)

For those of you, like me, who don’t know — ActiveX is a piece of Microsoft technology that “allows a piece of computer code (a program) to run from inside a Web page.” This article is a tutorial that explains how ActiveX works and how it can be used in a Web page.” See — “Activating ActiveX,” Internet World, January 1997, p.108.

<http://www.against-the-grain.com>
Virage Runs Herd on Images by Rosann Bazirjian (FSU)

The author describes the work of Ramesh Jain, the founder of Virage. His firm sells software that searches images. The user is able to choose any image on a database by inserting a digital image file from a CD-ROM or photo scan. The Virage software then boils the image down into a template that allows it to compare with other templates. Jain said he began developing the software in 1993.

Chief Knowledge Officers by Margaret Lewis (U. of IL at Urbana-Champaign)

Originally printed in the Wall Street Journal, this article documents the appearance in corporate America of the position of Chief Knowledge Officer. “Sifting, editing, and updating knowledge turns out to be a management, rather than a technology challenge,” reports David Bank, who compares duties of knowledge workers in several large corporations and presents a chart of comparative salaries. See — “Chief Knowledge Officers Help Firms Know It All,” by Margaret Lewis, National Business Employment Weekly, (December 15-22, 1996), p.34.

When Bill Gates Talks ... by Rosann Bazirjian (FSU)

This article is made up of excerpts from Bill Gates, that 41-year-old billionaire that we all know and love. The excerpts are fascinating. He talks about the decline of the middleman as more and more influence about services, buyers and sellers migrate to the market. The middleman, he claims, will disappear as buyers and sellers begin to go direct. Bill Gates’ statements on the information age ten years from now are also thought-provoking. He asserts that by the year 2006, “computers will be talking to us, and it will see. It will see when we walk into a room.” He claims that when a computer can recognize you and respond to speech or gestures, it becomes more “persuasive” in how it fits into your environment and “how you can use it as an information tool.” Finally, there are excerpts from Gates on libraries and how important an influence books can and should be in the lives of our young children. See — “Bill Gates, A View from Olympus” Forbes ASAP, (December 2, 1996), p.165-166.

Webway Hol! by Twyla Racx (Eastern Michigan University)

In November, 1995, CMP Media, Inc. initiated TechWeb, the electronic version of all their publications. In this article, the company’s president and chief executive officer discusses the lessons learned, including “Netiquette” as electronic pioneers. See — Michael S. Leeds, “Brave New Web,” Publishing Research Quarterly, vol.12(3) (Fall, 1996), p.16-21.

Digital Protection by Sandy Beehler (Old Dominion Univ.)

The topics of this article are the two main solutions to protecting digital material: legislation and technology. The author finds many thorny problems with the legislative approach, but finds “digital rights management systems” more promising. Several such systems are described. See — “The Copyright Question,” Internet World, (January 1997), p.64.

Mapping it Out by Sandy Beehler (Old Dominion Univ.)

Web city guides such as At Hand, BigBook, Cityscape and Yahoo are partnering with local newspapers to distribute local content through the World Wide Web. This article offers practical advice to publishers who may be attracted by the seemingly sweet deals being offered. It also includes brief descriptions of some well-known city guides. See — Rosalind Resnick, “Partnering Pitfalls,” Internet World, (January 1997), p.40-42.