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Bet You Missed It/ Press Clippings, In the News

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Bet You Missed It

Press Clippings — In the News

Column Editor **Rosann Bazirjian** (Syracuse University)

Under Every Keyboard, There May Be a Lawsuit

by **Rosann Bazirjian**
(Syracuse University)

This article discusses the new variations that manufacturers are developing for keyboards in order to alleviate "R.S.I." or repetitive stress injuries. This ailment is responsible for a loss in productivity, rising insurance costs, as well as worker's compensation claims. Ergonomics experts agree that design, posture, and workload all affect who will get R.S.I. and who will not. Although some manufacturers are exploring innovative keyboards, others such as Lexmark, the maker of IBM keyboards are reluctant to do so for fear that it will look as if they are admitting a defect in design and hence might receive some lawsuits as a result. One new model key-

board is hinged in the middle, so that the keyboard can be raised to move the hands "into a more natural, thumbs-up position." These hinges also allow the halves to pivot forward and backward. In addition, individual keys can be moved closer or further apart, depending on what the user feels is more comfortable. The article continues to describe other types of keyboards developed by the Kinesis Corporation, Health Care Keyboard Company, Medinova A.B. and Industrial Innovations.

See — "Different Strokes for Computing" by Barnaby J. Feder in *The New York Times* for August 9, 1992.

Publishing Pirates Plod the Plank

by **Twyla Racz** (Eastern Michigan University)

Technological advances have contributed to the problem of trying to control domestic and international copyright violations. The Association of American Publishers, the International Intellectual Property Alliance, and the U.S. Trade Representative, a newly created cabinet post, have been working effectively to reduce these offenses. Domestically, a successful lawsuit was filed against Kinko's, and large corporations have agreed to pay for copies through the Copyright Clearance Center. Internationally, although some headway has

been made in Indonesia and China in protecting intellectual property, the most progress has been in Korea. Publishing pirates have been fined, jailed, and the best detriment of all, forced to publish a public apology in the local newspapers. The author urges Central and Eastern European publishers now undergoing economic transformation to insist that laws be passed to protect their intellectual property.

See — "Current Copyright Enforcement," by Fred Kobrak in *Publishing Research Quarterly* for summer, 1992, pages 30-33.

Sex Vobiscum — But . . . Is It In The Budget?

by **Bill Mingin** (Lange & Springer Scientific Booksellers)

The acquisitions or collection development librarian in need of a change should consider the New York Public Library's Pornography Collection. Chief Research Librarian Beth Diefendorf isn't sure who initiated it or when exactly. "I think it was personnel in acquisitions in the 1970s . . . for a while, a group of librarians would go every year to Forty-second Street bookstores." Of course, such unscientific methods could lead to biases in the collection. Was there really a trend to "swinging" in the 70s and "domination" in the 80s, or is it an accident of acquisitions? Author Stacey D'Erasmus notes that there are few pornography archives in a world so full of the stuff, among them the Library of the Kinsey Institute for Research on Sex, Gender, and

Reproduction, the Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality in San Francisco, and the Cornell University Human Sexuality Collection (very well-endowed, notes D'Erasmus, tongue in cheek, at \$824,000). The Cornell archive includes a collection of documents on gay male culture, both lesbian and gay men's popular fiction collections, "a strong sadomasochism collection," and a new building with state-of-the-art equipment open to anyone — "you don't have to be using it for scholarly purposes," says full-time "Human Sexuality Archivist" Brenda J. Marston.

See — "Research File: Pornography Archives" by Stacey D'Erasmus in *Lingua Franca* for vol.2(3), June-July, 1992, pp.50-51.

Score One for the Scientific Publishers

by **Rick Heldrich** (College of Charleston)

Texaco's claim it could photocopy copyrighted articles from journals that its scientists used in their research, without participation in the Copyright Clearance Center of Salem, Mass., or fees paid directly to publishers was recently denied. Texaco's rationale was that the copying was of research nature, beneficial to society and hence exempt from fees. Texaco is clearly a large research concern; but Judge Leval, Federal District court of New York, disagreed with their arguments. Judge Leval ruled against Texaco on the grounds that Texaco's re-

search was designed to enhance Texaco's financial wealth. He stressed that Texaco should obtain a Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) license. Publishers rejoiced in his decision. CCC expects an onslaught of new contracts to join its current stable of licensees — DuPont, Dow, Monsanto, Amoco, Exxon.

See — "Photocopy Copyrights: Publishers Win Landmark Fair Use Case" by David Hanson in *Chemical & Engineering News* for August 3, 1992, pages 4-5.

It's All in the Digits — Copyright Law and Digital Technology by Rosann Bazirjian (Syracuse University)

This article discusses the difficulty of reconciling "twenty-first century computer technology with nineteenth-century laws protecting intellectual property." Many are beginning to fear that our new technologies which have the potential of enabling us to retrieve information within minutes in hand-held computers is in jeopardy because of traditional publishers and broadcasters who fear that their products will be copied easily. This fear of copyright infringements is making several refuse to sell digital versions of their products. This is a very real problem as we are beginning to see computers developed which allow us to transfer information from one system to another with a touch of a button. One such example is Macintosh

Quicktime. This software has made it easy for personal computer users to add "small snippets of digital video to their programs." Part of the problem is that traditional publishers are unable to decide how to standardize charges for the digital versions of their work. Many feel that the move to digital media will force a redefinition of the copyright law. Others, however, feel that the only solution is to educate users how to behave ethically. As Denise Caruso, editor of *Digital Media* says, "a way has to be found to protect data if this revolution is going to be real."

See — "In a World of Instant Copies Who Pays for Original Work" by John Narkoff in *The New York Times* for August 9, 1992.

The President, The Tenured, and The AAUP by Rick Heldrich (College of Charleston)

SD University President, Thomas B. Day, has postponed the termination of 146 tenured faculty and the closing of nine departments — temporarily at least. Instead, 47 non-tenured faculty will be released and library acquisitions and equipment budgets will be slashed. At Day's request, Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics, Donald Short, had followed the faculty senate request that academic cuts be "deep and narrow," effecting certain departments but leaving others untouched. Under Short's plan, chemistry would have been relegated to teaching courses required by other departments, while math, geology and astronomy would have been unaffected.

According to chemistry chair Ring, Day would have been faced with a faculty call for his head had he not changed the nature of his cuts. A related article ("San Diego State Faces the Tenure Policy" by David P. Hamilton in *Science* for the 31 July 1992, volume 257, page 603) San Diego also was facing a visit by the American Association of University Professors. What happens next is uncertain, but it has the potential to get ugly.

See — "Faculty Cuts at San Diego State Averted Until 1993," by Rudy Baum in *Chemical & Engineering News*, for August 31, 1992, page 33.

High Tuition Blues by Sandy Beehler (Cornell University)

U.S. universities are under fire, suffering cutbacks in all services. The public sector is worse off, but private universities are losing students because of high tuition fees. Four factors have pushed up education costs: competition for star professors (especially in the sciences), raised salaries, soaring cost of research facilities, and higher expectations from consumers in everything from sports to wider course of-

ferings. At the same time, government spending on education has dropped, as have private endowment funds and anti-academic complaints are growing. The solution lies in scaling down activities, "unbundling" academic programs (similar to resource sharing among academic libraries) and raising prices for state universities.

See — "Poisoned Ivy" in *The Economist* for August 15, 1992, page 18.

Picture Perfect -- Photographs on CD by Joan Loslo (Univ. of Northern Iowa)

"Photo CD," a compact disc option for the storage of photographs, is now available to the American consumer. Up to 100 images can be stored on a disc for about \$1.00 a frame and can be viewed on an ordinary television set using a special CD player. Photographers with computers powerful enough to manipulate images can use the CDs to print studio quality pictures on their color

printers. Eastman Kodak is hoping that special photo CD players — which will also play music CDs — will also be available eventually. Photo CDs take advantage of the same technology which is already being used for the storage of documents on computer discs.

See — "Can You Picture This?" by Philip Elmer-Dewitt in *Time* for August 24, 1992.

Don't Play in My Back Yard by Keith Stetson (Fairfield University)

Association of American Publishers president Nicholas Veliotis said at a July 23rd Senate Rules Committee hearing that a measure under congressional consideration which would give the Library of Congress authority to sell certain products and services "would divert it from its traditional mission,

would allow it to compete unfairly with private businesses, and could lead the library to view profit maximization as its overarching goal."

See — "The Library of Congress and the Profit Margin," in *Publishers Weekly* for August 10, 1992, page 10.

Creativity and Supervision: an Innovative Approach

by **Stephanie Bazirjian**
(Texas State Library and Archives)

Many supervisors inadvertently train their employees to stifle their creative impulses by reacting negatively when presented with innovative ideas. Not only does this discourage initiative, but the result is often a loss of productivity and a decline in morale. It is

noted that probably the most critical factor in encouraging or discouraging initiative is the supervisor. All supervisors need to evaluate their reactions to staff ideas and suggestions to determine whether they may actually be standing in the way of possible improvements. Despite their fear of change or worry about personal security, a supervisor's reaction to employees' ideas must always reflect a realistic assessment of the situation. Supervisors need also to guard against giving mixed

signals to their staff—claiming that they are open to suggestions yet invariably picking apart every new idea brought to them. Many times, a critical opportunity for improvement can be missed in just this way.

Staffers presented with the "that's the way it is done here"

line may be less inclined to bring

the manager's attention to problems in systems or procedures at an early stage, when minor problems can be kept from becoming major catastrophes. Remember, the job of a supervisor is not only to maintain operations—it should also encourage improvements and innovations by creating an atmosphere of open communication.

See — "Are you Stifling Initiative," by Gilda Dangot-Simpkin in *Supervisory Management*, v.27, no. 9, September, 1992, page 11.

Name that Cipher by **Katina Strauch** (College of Charleston)

In the age of electronic information, quantum cryptography may have a role to play. Authenticating a message, who the message comes from, and the time line of confidential decisions are just some of the issues which come to mind. This detailed article gives us a view of the history and art of cryptog-

raphy and is fascinating in its description of the search "for a system that [will] allow two people to exchange messages in absolute secrecy."

"Quantum Cryptography," by Charles H. Bennett, Gilles Brassard and Artur K. Ekert in *Scientific American* for October 1992, pages 50-57.

Parallel Publication = Duplication?

by **Pamela Rose** (SUNY, Buffalo)

Current Clinical Trials (CCT) and *The Lancet* will join forces in a pioneering adventure in "parallel publication" by offering papers published by the online journal also in an abridged form in the weekly British journal. While the editors anticipate criticism of the venture as "an encouragement of multiple publication," they contend

that the audiences are different and both papers will be clearly identified as two versions of the same thing. Associate publisher Pat Morgan hopes to gain a needed boost to CCT.

See — Online Journal Joins Forces with *Lancet*" by Constance Holden in *Science*, v.257, no.5075, September 4, 1992.

To Do or Not to Do — Much Ado About TQM

by **Bobbi Gwilt** (Syracuse University)

J. Mathews and Peter Katel took a brief look at TQM — total quality management — in American business in the 1990s. After enjoying a decade of THE management trend of the 1980s, the TQM approach is being abandoned or re-evaluated by several American companies. Douglas Aircraft, Florida Power & Light, and the Wallace Company of Houston have all ended or

a survey of 500 companies by Boston's Arthur D. Little, a slim 36% said the process was having a "significant impact" on their ability to quash competitors." Japan's success with TQM is credited to their length of time with the program (many companies have used this since the early 1950s), easier labor relations in general (when compared to the U.S.) and a stable economy which

enhances long-term growth possibilities.

There are companies such as Xerox, Motorola, Federal Express, and

Harley-Davidson for whom TQM has made a

substantial difference. But, while TQM can be an important survival technique, it is equally important to realize its limitations.

See — "The Cost of Quality," by J. Mathews in *Newsweek*, September 7, 1992, pages 48-49.

dramatically reduced their TQM programs. Two key components are essential for success with the TQM approach: patience and labor peace. In the short-term view or in financially troubled times, TQM's contribution is very minimal to a company's turnaround. "In

The Right Side of the Track by **Stephanie Bazirjian** (Texas State Library and Archives)

The definition of "habit" according to Webster is a "tendency to perform a certain action in a certain way." In the business world, some habits reinforce good performance and should be embraced, while others derail your effectiveness and must be avoided. What can you do about some of these harmful habits? a) Learn to say "no." Don't make commitments you can't keep. Common symptoms of overcommitting are missed deadlines, protracted schedules, and excessive overtime. Too little attention is given to primary objectives. b) Don't participate in unproductive meetings. Many meetings produce minimal results. To avoid this, prepare an agenda, distribute it in advance, and stick to it. Schedule meetings for right before lunch or quitting time. If you are invited to a meeting, make sure you are an active participant. c) Don't perform too much detailed work. Try to see the "big picture" and know adequate detail to effectively delegate, but let your staff resolve incongruities. Spot check work to ensure consistency, but avoid becoming buried in excessive detail. d) Don't "take the monkey." A supervisor's job is to delegate wisely and assure that staff members do not put the mon-

key of responsibility — either inadvertently or on purpose — back on the supervisor. This reverse delegation can happen very easily and ends up throwing both the supervisor and the staff member off track. e) Avoid undisciplined interactions. Interacting informally with employees is necessary but must not become unproductive or out of control. Maintain control when employees visit you. f) Make sure that you have upward communication. Ensure enough dialog with your boss to stay on track. g) Follow up on assigned tasks. Don't just "expect" but "inspect." Of course, the degree of follow up varies with the complexity of the work. Don't let things fall through the cracks because you haven't touched base. h) Don't ignore the mundane but necessary chores. Allocate dedicated time for these lower priority tasks.

To conclude, commit to change and refuse to reinforce poor work habits. Though it won't happen overnight, eventually poor work habits will be replaced by those that keep you on track.

See — "Work Habits that Can Derail Your Career," by James McAlister in *Supervisory Management*, v.37, no.9, September, 1992, pages 6-7.

Psst . . . Psst . . . PLAO by **Sandy Beehler** (Cornell University)

An article entitled "C'est magnifique — France's Grand Library Writes the Book on Data Access" discusses information technology issues relating to the new Bibliothèque de France. Highlighted is the Poste de Lecture Assisté par

Ordinateur (PLAO) — computer assisted reading station — designed to store documents and images for researchers.

See — *InformationWeek* for August 24, 1992, page 36, 38, 40 (sidebar).

Crisis Zone! by **Sandy Beehler** (Cornell University)

There is a fear that if the dollar drops below DM1.44, it could fall further and weaken the stock markets. Intervention by central banks is not working for several reasons. A chart showing the fluctuation of the dollar's exchange rate as tied to interest rate differentials shows the cycle

heading toward a crisis zone where U.S. interest rates will be forced to rise. The only solution to the dollar's slide is for U.S. interest rates to rise while German rates are lowered.

See — "Dollar Vertigo" in *The Economist* for August 15, 1992, p.62.

Profit Is As Profit Does? by **Sandy Beehler** (Cornell University)

Hamaker's Hamakers discusses Elsevier's decision to cut vendor discount rates 25% and increase prices by 10-12% despite reporting profits 85% higher than companies of comparable size. Chuck Hamaker argues that high short term profits being taken now eventually destabilize the STM journal system in the long run by undermining

the good will of subscribers whose numbers represent Elsevier's base for future profits. (See also *NOSPI*, no.45, comment by Lelde Gilman in reply to Hamaker.) (Also *ATG* for September 1992)

See — *Newsletter on Serials Pricing Issues*, no.44, August 17, 1992.

Funding Research Proposals by **Margaret Axtmann** (University of Minnesota)

This article provides an historical perspective on the system used by the National Science Foundation to judge research proposals. The author first describes the evolution of both policy and process at NSF from 1950 to 1975. The article then shows

how this system fared under the pressure of outside forces and events, particularly in the 1970s.

See — "Good Science Gets Funded," by George T. Mazuzan in *Knowledge*, September 14, 1992, pages 63-90.

Russian Statistics Available by **Sandy Beehler** (Cornell University)

A quarterly report, "Russian Economic Trends," offers insights into the Russian economy along with more comprehensible statistics than have previously been available. The report is produced by two British economists funded by the European Community. It is

available from Whurr Publications, 19B Compton Terrace, London N1 2UN; or P.O. Box 1897, Lawrence, KS 66044-8897.

See — "Magic Numbers" in *The Economist* for August 9, 1992, page 63.

Rank Has Its Privileges by Pamela Rose (SUNY, Buffalo)

A dispute between David Lipman, head of the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) at the National Library of Medicine, and a group of software manufacturers came to the attention of Congress through a letter to William Natcher (D—KY), acting chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. Lipman began offering DNA sequence data along with information retrieval software, similar to end-user products for sale at much higher prices, causing the software group to charge NCBI with using its “privileged access” to undercut the private offerings. One of these products, Entrez Software, combines sequence information from GenBank and other major genome databases with Medline, so researchers can call up bibliographic references to a particular

piece of DNA sequence. NCBI, of course, gets the Medline data for free, allowing sale of Entrez for only \$57 a year as opposed to comparable programs at \$1000. Congressional staffers were concerned, urging both parties to come to a speedy settlement of the dispute or else risk a substantial budget cut. Lipman asked for support from the genome community, eliciting through e-mail a flood of support by fax into the Congressional offices. Eventually, a policy statement was hammered out meeting some of the software group’s concerns, and NCBI agreed to keep the companies informed of future development plans.

See — “The Perils of Involving Congress in a ‘Catfight’” by Leslie Roberts in *Science*, v.257, no.5067, July 10, 1992.

New and Newsworthy from Publishers Weekly by Keith Stetson (Fairfield University)

A federal judge ruled that profit-making companies must obtain permission and compensate the copyright holder before photocopying copyrighted journal articles, a decision hailed by the AAP as “a major decision upholding copyright protection under American law.” (August 3, 1992)

A forty-page supplement: “Special Report: The American Revolution in Book Production,” describes the latest technologies used by printers, binders, prepress houses, and publishers. This issue of *PW* also has a four-

page report on French publishing, and a preview of the Frankfurt Book Fair. (September 14, 1992)

Reed International PLC of the U.K. and Elsevier NV of the Netherlands have agreed in principle to merge, subject to the approval of the shareholders of both companies. The article includes a large chart listing the principal operations of the companies. Based on forecasts for the year ending December 31, 1992, the combined group would have before tax profits of \$760 million.

Intellectual Property Wrongs? by Sandy Beehler (Cornell University)

America is working to harmonize intellectual property rights through GATTs (stalled) Uruguay round of trade negotiations. The U.S., with a huge trade surplus in ideas, has a major stake in securing these rights. With controversy surrounding many recent patent case decisions and copyright problems being compounded by the increasing use of technology (especially in music and art), lawyers stand to gain most from the struggle to define

intellectual property rights. At the moment there is international consensus on the concept that intellectual property rights should be enforced worldwide, but little agreement on what those rights should be (See also “Freeware,” p.56, for another point of view on copyrighting of computer software.)

See — “Policing Thoughts” in *The Economist* for August 22, 1992, page 55.

Would You Buy A Car From This Publisher? by Sandy Beehler (Cornell University)

This article compares the British publishing industry to a car industry run by designers — lots of new products but not enough attention to market forces. For example, in 1991, 68,000 new titles were published in Britain, versus 44,000 in the U.S. Two big problems — resistance to technology and the Net Book Agreement that prevents retailers from dis-

counting book prices. British books cost twice as much as similar U.S. titles. Some big publisher groups and new companies ARE doing better. But they face a threat if the British market, now separate, is forced to become part of the European market.

See — “No End of Books” in *The Economist* for August 29, 1992, page 54.

Once More With Meetings — Committee Entrenchment: Not on Firm Ground by Twyla Racz (Eastern Michigan University)

The author, chief executive of the British Publishers Association, states that running either a professional or trade association is “quite the most difficult job in the world.” After explaining the differences between a professional and a trade association, he proves his statement by describing the role of trade associations including the myriad tasks, problems, and restraints en-

countered. One pitfall to beware of: while it is necessary to set up committees to aid the association, care must be taken to avoid not only bureaucracy but entrenchment of committee members.

See — “The Roles of Professional and Trade Associations” by Clive Bradley in *Publishing Research Quarterly*, summer 1992, pages 59-68.

Name That Sex by Rick Heldrich (College of Charleston)

Copyright infringement, plagiarism, or miscommunication — whatever the truth is, both Drs. Weissmann and Freeman have been entangled in a contentious battle over the use of a chapter in a copyrighted text which was authored solely by Weissmann. The chapter appears in the text, "The Syllabus, A Categorical Course in Nuclear Medicine" which was used twice by Freeman. In the first instance, Freeman apparently had the chapter retyped and submitted it, listing Freeman as sole author, to the Republic of China for use in a text. In the second instance, Freeman is alleged to have used the Weissmann manuscript for a postgraduate course handout by photocopying the material which had Weissmann's name replaced by Freeman's by use of white out. On August 20th, 1987, the day after the discovery of the use of the material in the postgraduate course, Weissmann filed suit to protect the copyright of the original work. The next day, Weissmann was locked out of the office and they got a restraining order to prohibit use of the material in the course. Two months later, in October of 1987, Weissmann was dismissed (at the same time that Freeman was promoted) from the Montefiore Medical Center. Weissmann filed a subsequent suit of sexual discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Freeman's defense is based on Weissmann's lack of credentials, not being certified by the American Board of Radiology.

In 1988, a federal court ruled that Freeman had not violated Weissmann's copyright. This decision was reversed on a ruling made in favor of Weissmann, after appeal. Freeman's appeal of the reversal was denied by the U.S. Supreme Court. A subsequent congressional investigation was held on Capitol Hill in 1990 by the Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations subcommittee, chaired by the now deceased Representative Weiss. That subcommittee concluded that institutional policies on investigations into misconduct were not followed. Now a second congressional investigation, headed by Representative Dingell has entered the fray. This time the issue will call into question federal support for institutions that violate Public Health Services misconduct procedures. The Weissmann-Freeman controversy is a political hot potato involving advocates for women's issues, the National Coalition for Universities in the Public Interest, and the Kaplan foundation. Both Freeman and Weissmann enjoy support for their actions in various quarters and a clear cut, universally accepted resolution does not seem likely.

See — "After Five Years, Heated Controversy Persists in Science Copyright Case," by Ron Kaufman in *The Scientist*, vol. 6, no. 18, for September 14, 1992.

Would You Trust Darth Vader? — I'll Take Two by Rosann Bazirjian (Syracuse University)

Prices are being slashed in the personal computer business as manufacturers bring out less sophisticated models and sell through mass merchants. Companies such as Compaq have dropped prices up to 32% as they have brought out a line of computers costing under \$1000. Other companies such as Dell Computer and ASI Research have followed suit. Many smaller companies will be hurt by this price war, i.e., Packard-Bell, Zeos, Everex and Northgate. Compaq, with its less expensive ProLinea line is swamped with orders, and claims to have won back as many as 90 corporate clients. All are waiting, however, to see what IBM will do, as IBM claims they will introduce an inexpensive computer by the end of the year. This less expensive computer

will not include all of the features of their more expensive models, will have slower chips, and the graphics will not be of the same quality. Andrew Kupfer predicts that computers selling under \$1000 will be available in department stores and price clubs. They will sell machines with preloaded software, ready to run "with the flick of the switch" and appeal to people who use computers for a single purpose, i.e., word processing. The winner of the price war is certainly the consumer. Kupfer says, "Whatever you do, it will cost you less than you'd have dreamed a year ago." Amen!

See -- "Who's Winning the PC Price Wars?" by Andrew Kupfer in *Fortune* for September 21, 1992, pages 80-82.

Change of Face by Katina Strauch (College of Charleston)

This is about Leonard Riggio, 51, "the heavyweight champ of the bookselling business." Riggio is "the biggest individual owner of bookstores in the country." Among other things, Riggio owns a large part of Barnes & Noble, Doubleday, Scribners, and B. Dalton's. Riggio has crafted the Barnes & Noble superstores and apparently wants to have even more growth as he has filed a plan with the SEC to sell "a third of Barnes & Noble to the public for about \$130 million." Several key players are nervous about this whole scenario, not the least of who are the smaller booksellers who don't want to be put out of business. The publishers

are also nervous as much of their stock is tied up in Riggio's bookstores and can be returned if not sold. Though Riggio is called a "scrappy entrepreneur" who "plays by his instincts," there are some who feel that his plan of bookstores is not economically viable. Still, it is a change of pace to hear someone say, "I want people to like my stores. Why don't people just sit back and say, 'It's wonderful to have another bookstore in town.'"

See — "Barnes & Noble's Boss Has Big Growth Plans That Booksellers Fear," by Meg Cox in *The Wall Street Journal* for September 11, 1992, page 1.

Cry The Beloved Gutenberg
by Phil Dankert
(Cornell University)

Project Gutenberg, for those who may not be aware of precisely what it is, creates and distributes electronic texts (*The Declaration of Independence*, *Moby Dick*, *Roget's Thesaurus*, and 1990 U.S. Census Data to name four examples only) using computers. It was created by Michael S. Hart, who is an assistant professor of electronic text at Illinois Benedictine College. Its ultimate aim is to "distribute a trillion electronic copies from a collection of 10,000 books. It is interesting to note that, according to the author, no librarians wished to be quoted for this article, but did express their feelings anonymously. One important criticism centered on the fact that Project Gutenberg does not offer certain attributes of books — "the version, the typeface, the edition" — and these are critical. Other criticism ranges from the charges

that Project Gutenberg's offerings are subject to the potentially larger problem that its creator, according to several individuals, is "uninterested in informing his users of such things as the edition of the text that was used for the electronic version." Such criticism, however, does not deter Mr. Hart from forging ahead. He believes that eventually "all of human knowledge will be placed in computers" and, to quote him directly, "getting the books there is something that's only going to happen once . . . unless somebody wants to enter them all over again, they'll be based on our work."

See — "Electronic Versions of Public-Domain Texts Draw Praise and Fire," by David L. Wilson in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* for August 12, 1992, p. A15-A16.

Who's to Blame?
by Sandy Beehler (Cornell University)

This issue of the *Newsletter on Serials Pricing Issues* presents radically different points of view regarding a comparison of scientific journals compiled by Dr. Henry Barschall, emeritus Physics Professor at the University of Wisconsin. Publisher Gordon & Breach, whose publications were included in the surveys, brought suit in European courts on the basis of "unfair competition by illegal comparative advertising." The first segment of the newsletter is a press release from Gordon & Breach entitled "Inaccurate Survey Statistics Impact

Quality of Scientific Data Supplied by Libraries." The second segment is a statement by the American Physics Society and the American Institute of Physics (defense parties in the suit) called "Gordon & Breach Press Release is Misleading." The statements are too wordy to summarize, but well worth reading for their diametrically opposed views of the same set of facts.

See — *Newsletter on Serials Pricing Issues*, number 43, August 10, 1992.

Book Budget Bust
by Pamela Rose (SUNY Buffalo)

Research universities are seeking to redefine themselves in response to an unprecedented combination of budgetary and social pressures. Total state funding for universities declined last year for the first time in a decade as state governments cut back their commitments to higher education. The American Council on Education (ACE) conducted a survey of 411 universities in spring, 1992, in which 40% of respondents

cited reducing library acquisitions as one of eight short-term impacts resulting from the current crisis. Long-term impacts included deferred maintenance, slower expansion of new technology, and more revenue-generating programs.

See — "Cracks in the Ivory Tower" by Eliot Marshall and Joseph Palca in *Science*, vol. 257, no. 5074, August 28, 1992.

A Russian—New Haven Accord
by Lynne Branche Brown
(Pennsylvania State University)

Yale University Press announced that it has acquired exclusive rights to publish many documents from the former Central Party Archives. Jonathan Brent, senior editor at Yale University Press, said the Russian Center for the Preservation and Study of Documents of Contemporary History has agreed to the joint venture between Russian and Ameri-

can scholars. Beginning in 1993, a series of at least nine books entitled "Documents of Communism" will be published through the agreement.

See — "Yale Press Buys Rights to Publish Documents in Russian Archives by a *Wall Street Journal* Staff Reporter in *The Wall Street Journal* for July 29, 1992, page B5.

Now That's Service
by Lynne Branche Brown
(Pennsylvania State University)

The *Wall Street Journal & Business Bulletin*, "a special background report on trends in industry and Finance," reports on some "trendy" libraries. They note that some libraries are mailing requested items to patrons. The Orange County Library System in Orlando, Florida, is highlighted, saying it is easier to mail the requested book to the patron than to hold the item while the patron is notified. Other

libraries mentioned include the County of Los Angeles Public Library, which mails books on tape (for a fee), and the Bagaduce Music Lending Library in Blue Hills, Maine, which mails original sheet music around the world.

See — "Michener by Mail? Some Libraries Will Oblige" in *The Wall Street Journal* for August 20, 1992, page A1.