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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) <tusa@almark.lamar.edu>

Predictions by Rosann Bazirjian (FSU)

The author, **Joshua Levine**, interviews **Michael Dertouzos**, the individual who runs MIT's Laboratory for Computer Science in this *Forbes* article. The twenty-eight staff members are encouraged to "moonlight as entrepreneurs" in order to develop new and innovative computer products. Dertouzos speaks about the need for an "info-tailor" to package portions of the Web for individual mar-

kets and buyers. He also projects that within the next three to five years, we will increasingly notice the delivery of human work over the Web. He claims we are seeing that now in some form with email, but, he sees a day when "ubiquitous" videocams will come into our daily working lives. See - Levine, Joshua, "The Web and the Workplace," *Forbes*, vol. 159 (11), (June 2, 1997), p. 178-180.

But How Much is the Popcorn? by Rosann Bazirjian (FSU)

This article focuses on disk storage and a new company named **TeraStor**. TeraStor's chief executive officer is **James McCoy**, who helped found two of the disk drive industry's largest firms, **Quantum Corp.** and **Maxtor Corp.** Right now, "garden-variety" disks can store a billion bits per square inch. TeraStor claims they will be able to do ten times that amount. A disk which is $4\frac{3}{4}$ " across would store twenty gigabytes on one side. McCoy claims that is more than enough to store four

full-length Hollywood movies. McCoy hopes TeraStor is ahead of its competitors such as **Matsushita** and **Sony** who are marketing DVD disks. By comparison, DVD disks can only store one movie at a time on 4.7 gigabytes of space. In addition, DVD is read only. TeraStor will be read/write. McCoy hopes to have TeraStor drives on the market next year. See - Nee, Eric, "Trillions of Bytes," *Forbes*, vol. 150 (6) (March 24, 1997), p. 154-156.

Tenure on the Internet by Philip Dankert (Cornell University)

Does editing an electronic journal require the same rigor as editing a print journal? This and similar questions are related directly to a phenomenon that is affecting more and more scholars in the humanities. As candidates for promotion "stock their portfolios with Internet-related accomplishments, many evaluation committees are skeptical." (Is an Internet project teaching, scholarship or service?) Even though more departments in this field have begun to embrace technology, and thus prospects

for scholars who are using the Internet have brightened, the risks still weigh on the minds of those hoping to attain tenure. The bottom line here may well be that "some tenure and promotion committees say they don't want to be left, ten years from now, with a roster of professors whose careers revolve around a short-lived fad." See - Guernsey, Lisa, "Scholars who Work With Technology Fear They Suffer in Tenure Reviews," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, June 6, 1997, pp. A21-A22.

Turn on Your Books, Class! by Sandy Beehler (Old Dominion Univ.)

Entrepreneur **Joe Jacobson** is experimenting with new packaging for electronic information that would give the world an easily

portable electronic "book" -- one that would be erasable and reusable. See - "Digital Ink," *Wired*, vol. 5 (5) (May 1997), p. 162-167.

Virtual Anxiety by Philip Dankert (Cornell University)

In this point-of-view article the author, who is President of Harvard University, expresses the opinion that over time anxieties about the Internet will be resolved much as they were in an earlier age about "huge libraries filled with countless books." (Diderot feared that the world of learning would "drown in books.") More fundamentally, he believes that there is a "very close fit" between the structures and processes of the Internet and some of those of traditional uni-

versity education. Caution, however, is needed when situations and circumstances are changing so rapidly. "We must not let the intriguing potential of the new technologies drive us headlong toward innovations that erode rather than strengthen education. We must not undervalue the continued need for books ..." See - Rudenstine, Neil L., "The Internet and Education: a Close Fit," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, February 21, 1997, p. A48.

Freedom's Just Another Word by Sandy Beehler (ODU)

Malcolm Howard discusses federal and state court decisions that limit public access to government databases providing public information in electronic form. The courts argue that the efficiency of such databases in collating information constitutes

an added value that is not covered by the FOIA. At the heart of the debate are the issues of individual privacy versus public access to information. See - Howard, Malcolm, "No Freedom of Information," *Wired*, vol. 5 (4) (April 1997), p. 90-97.

Whither Publishing?

by Philip R. Dankert (Cornell University)

Can university presses fill the role once occupied by publishers such as **BasicBooks** (folded into its parent company **HarperCollins** in May)? This, as well as other shakeups in the publishing world, has thrown a spotlight on university presses, some of which are attempting to position themselves as an alternative for both academic authors "fleeing commercial houses" as well as for novelists and other non-academic writers. One of the big questions in this scenario is whether they can fill the gap in

what is referred to as "midlist" publishing--books that sell 5,000 to 15,000 copies. While no one questions that the publishing landscape has changed, there are those who feel that "unless academic culture radically changes, university presses won't be able to fill this gulf" (i.e., publishing popular books; those of general interest). See - McMillen, Liz, "University Presses See Opportunities in Shakeup in the Publishing World," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, June 13, 1997, pp. A15-A16.

Techno-Fees

by Philip Dankert (Cornell University)

Should a technology fee be charged to college students? Although more than half of all U.S. public institutions of higher learning imposed technology fees in 1996 some critics would argue that computing resources are just as necessary as libraries and thus, like library costs, should be rolled into tuition. While technology fees presently range from \$10.00 to \$75.00 per semester (a lot of money for cash-strapped college students),

this is still substantially less than students would have to pay to purchase their own computers, modems, printers and Internet access. More importantly, it can probably be assumed that a vast majority of students are not eager to go to a campus where they don't learn about computing. See - Young, Jeffrey R., "More Colleges Charge Students a Separate Fee for Technology," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, June 13, 1997, pp. A23-A24.

I Wonder How Your Engine Feels

by Sandy Beehler (Cornell University)

This brief article gives useful tips on using search engines to find information over the Internet. Definitely worth a read

if you don't have a lot of time to waste! See - Nichols, Stephen J., "Find it Faster," *Internet World*, June 1997, p. 64.

Only Your Computer Knows for Sure

by Katina Strauch (College of Charleston)
<strauchk@cofc.edu>

For those of us who have Apple computers (and love them), all this business about Apple and Microsoft (which just purchased a \$150 million stake in Apple) is confusing. Will we still have our trusty Apple's? Or will they be taken over by the ubiquitous Microsoft? Well, this article takes a little different tack.

It talks about Java, which, Gilder says, "has the power to break Microsoft's lockin of applications profits and lockout of rival operating systems." Many of my techie friends say this is hogwash, but I am wondering ... See — George Gilder, "The Battle Beyond Apple," *Wall Street Journal*, August 8, 1997, p.A12.

Massive New Libraries in Britain and France

by Joan Loslo (U. of Northern Iowa)

Both Britain and France are opening huge new national libraries. **The British Library** will be the new home for the book collection of the **British Museum**. The first section of the library will open in November, though architect **Colin St. John Wilson** first began designs for the building 35 years ago. The enormous new **Bibliothèque**

Nationale de France opened last winter. It stands on an 18-acre site on the eastern edge of Paris. Both libraries hold vast historical collections in addition to obtaining copies of everything published in their countries each year. See - Adler, Jerry, "Where the Books Are," *Newsweek*, vol. 130 (2) (July 14, 1997), p. 72-73.

Copyright Revisited

by Twyla Racz (Eastern Michigan University)

The uncertainties of the electronic environment are causing libraries and publishers to make new decisions. No longer will libraries be the only holders of information because publishers now offer digital document delivery. The author, vice president of the **Association of American Publishers**, states

that mature international standards of copyright protection are necessary. Therefore, both libraries and publishers must cooperate to protect copyrights. See - Risher, Carol, "Libraries, Copyright and the Electronic Environment," *Publishing Research Quarterly*, vol. 12 (4) (Winter 1996/97), p. 50-56.

Library of America

by Twyla Racz (Eastern Michigan University)

In this article **Hurley**, founder and president of the **Library of America**, answers the questions asked about this unique publishing activity. "How it got started?...who chooses the books? who buys them? what are the best sellers?...where does the money come from?" She also discusses what is new, e.g. multimedia

CD-ROM of nineteenth-century poetry, and what is planned, including methods of allowing small libraries to be able to afford the Library of America. See - Cheryl Hurley, "Rescuing America's Literary Heritage; The Story of the Library of America" *Publishing Research Quarterly*, vol. 12 (4) (Winter 1996/97), p. 36-49.

"Must-Have" Competition

by Katina Strauch (College of Charleston)
<strauchk@cofc.edu>

"We want to use our strength in hard copy and combine it with the Internet to make us even stronger," says **Reed Elsevier's** business-information unit executive vice president, **Michael Cole**. Elsevier has purchased several companies in 1996 and 1997, including the **Chilton Business Group** trade magazines from **Walt Disney** (\$447 million) and **MDL Information Systems, Inc.** (\$320 mil-

lion). "But the company's results also have been weighed down by the costs of developing new technologies," says the article, "which increased 40% from the 1996 first half ..." Reed Elsevier's current strategy seems to be to sell some of its newspapers in favor of the "must-have" information — business and otherwise. See — Robert Frank, "A Stodgy Publisher is Turning Electronic," *Wall Street Journal*, August 11, 1997, p.A10.

Administrative Glut?

by **Rick Heldrich** (College of Charleston)
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Administrative growth is not just a problem on your campus, it is a documentable condition nationwide. Biggest growth is in support of faculty research (post-docs, lab techs), followed by student service (admissions, counseling, etc.), and then the bureaucratic bunch. Who is paying for those post-docs and lab techs? No comment. Who is to blame for administrative bloat?

Plenty of blame to go around for us all. What does it mean? Don't count on less administration. Lower salaries (for faculty and staff?) seems to be the solution proposed by one top administrator. See - Robert Finn, "On Administration — Universities Try To Halt Administrative Bloat," *The Scientist*, vol. 11, No. 13, June 23, 1997, page 1, 3.

At What Price Diversity?

by **Rick Heldrich** (College of Charleston)
<heldrichr@cofc.edu>

It seems that everyone is having conversations and making plans for multidisciplinary teaching and research. **Richard Zare's** career has been interdisciplinary and in this article he addresses problems and advantages of multidisciplinary efforts. His opinion is that "Only the existence of healthy disciplines and strong

leadership makes possible meaningful multidisciplinary studies." Don't dilute or stop investing heavily in disciplinary holdings when trying to build up interdisciplinary stock!!! See - Richard Zare, "The Paradox of Multidisciplinary Programs," Commentary in *The Scientist*, May 26, 1997.

Technology and Library Budgets

by **Joan Loslo** (U. of Northern Iowa)

Bill Gates' gift of \$200 million to public libraries prompts an article about the many problems libraries face in the electronic age. Mentioned in the article are restriction of Internet access, the problems of the new **San Francisco Public and New York Science, Industry and Business** libraries, and Hawaii's

contract with **Baker & Taylor**. The point of view of the article is indicated by the subtitle: "Some Hi-Tech Libraries Get Low Grades." Strained budgets are given as the source of most of the problems. See - Shapiro, Laura, "What about Books?" *Newsweek*, vol. 130 (1) (July 7, 1997), p. 75.

Technology in Teaching

by **Katina Strauch** (College of Charleston)
<strauchk@cofc.edu>

This is an interesting read. The article's about **Grace Johnson-Page**, an assistant professor of management and accounting at **Marietta College** in Ohio who uses computers extensively in her classroom. On her Web site, Ms. Johnson-Page describes specific projects and techniques used by dozens of faculty members from data that she gathered on a recent sabbatical when she visited 150 different professors. Visit her Web

site at <<http://www.marietta.edu/~johnsong/reform/>>. The site also features interviews with college administrators, computer-services directors, and librarians. And there is also an extensive bibliography of books and articles on technology in teaching. See - Kelly McCollum, "Information Technology at Liberal-Arts Colleges," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, April 30, 1997.

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