terminals. It always retains compatibility with older systems. The only retraining required is to enable the operators to take advantage of the more powerful features provided.
In the field of typewriters, they have electronic daisywheel typewriters from a reputable supplier. This supplier now has enhancements for this range of typewriters, including an add-on screen which provides true word processing, using the typewriter as a keyboard and a printer. Once again they have not been left behind by new technology.

The benefits the firm has received by moving to new technology have been substantial. By development of the accounting system over some years, a wide range of management information is easily obtained. A new type of report can be generated virtually on request using a third generation query language. Secretaries have quieter typewriters, which can remember commonly used addresses, and underline and bold print at the touch of a button. Many of them can call a draft letter up onto their screen, amend and reprint it. The word processing sections access functions such as a spelling dictionary as well as standard forms and all the other benefits of word processing. Lawyers have access to legal information stored on the computer and indexed automatically.

I strongly believe that those firms which are holding off making any advance in their office systems are denying themselves the benefits of current technology. There is no reason to do this on the basis of what will be available in the future. By coming up to date now, they will still have access to the advances of the future.

➤ Knox Cameron, Sydney Solicitor & Computer Consultant

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EFT Fraud

Members of the NSWSCL who attended the October meeting and heard Dr. Alan Tyree speaking on electronic fund transfers (EFT's) were well prepared for a news item appearing in the Sydney Morning Herald on 18 October 1983. The Herald reported the conviction for stealing of an unemployed Victorian man who withdrew $470 from an automatic bank teller knowing full well that his bank account held far less than that. The man told police "It kept on giving me money and I kept on going for my life". The man's lawyer told the magistrate "I was surprised these machines gave out all this money. If the machine had not malfunctioned or done this, my client would not be here today". In fining the man $60 and ordering him to repay the $470, the magistrate suggested that to publicise this particular theft would be "totally and completely irresponsible". Such a view would no doubt be applauded by Mr. Ron Cameron of The Australian Bankers Association who also addressed the October meeting of the NSWSCL and appeared reluctant to answer hypothetical questions about exactly such frauds and the methods, if any, employed by Australian banks to prevent them.

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Recent papers

Listed below are brief details of papers received by the Editor in the course of preparation of this newsletter but not included because of their length and the more academic nature of their contents when compared to the topical items which are included. Where possible sufficient details of the author, venue and timing have been included to allow readers interested, to contact the authors themselves for further information.

The Computer, the Law and the Profession - What Lies Ahead? - 13 pages

John de Groot, President of QSCL, Principal, Lecturer, Legal Practice Courses QIT, School of Law. This paper was presented on 1 October 1983 to the Annual Symposium of the North Queensland Law Association.

Problems of Access - Hurdles for Australia. Wide Dissemination of Legal Information - 12 pages

Dr. R.A. Brown B.A., L.L.B., Barrister of the Supreme Court of N.S.W., Lecturer in Law, N.S.W. Institute of Technology, Committee member N.S.W. S.C.L. National Law Librarians Congress Perth, 30 September 1983

Liability for Mishandling of Personal Information - 39 pages

Associate Professor Robert Hayes, Law School, University of N.S.W. formerly Commissioner in Charge of the Australian Law Reform Commission reference on privacy.

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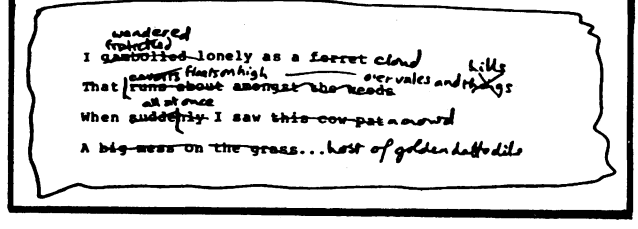
Seen in the U.K. "Bookseller", 24th Sept. 1983, in an advertisement for Apple word processing for authors and publishers:



Computer Ethics

The efforts of ACS and similar bodies to develop codes of ethics for computing professionals are well known, but the efforts of manufacturers to develop software with its own ethical standards just as strict as those of its human masters is less well known.

Pacific Computer Weekly of August 1-7, 1983 reports on the existence of Malaysian software "with a self-destruct mechanism called 'Piraticide' to safeguard against pirating", but unfortunately gives no further details of its operation.

Perhaps it is of Japanese origin, based on the code of hari-kari or 'death before dishonour' and therefore self-destructing if anyone attempts to interfere with it. Alternatively, though, it could be kamikaze software, destroying not only itself but also your system when you attempt such tampering.

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