



# EDITORIAL

## DESKTOP PUBLISHING ALMOST ARRIVES: Will it be in time for the next issue of COMPUTERS &LAW?



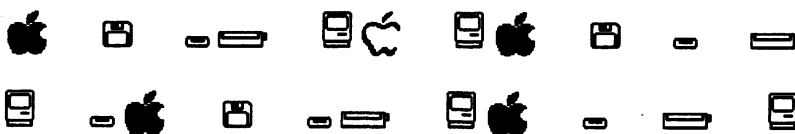
This issue of the Newsletter, like the last, has been produced entirely on an Apple Macintosh. The obvious difference in appearance is due to the emergence of a number of hardware and software items which are putting professional looking document production within the reach of amateurs. If this issue doesn't quite achieve everything that "desktop publishing" promises, then we can only plead that it is our first offence, and besides, they haven't got all the bugs out of it yet!

ReadySetGo is a page layout program from Manhattan Graphics which enables you to combine pictures, text, borders and shading in ways which are otherwise almost impossible on a microcomputer. Text and pictures are prepared in other applications, then transferred to a "box" on a ReadySetGo page. It is simple to use, but does have limitations such as an irritating habit of reversing the overlaps of blocks. Other page-makers such as MacPublisher and PageMaker are now becoming available and should be compared.

Next we should mention ThunderScan, an optical scanner and digitiser from Thunderware. This ingenious device fits into an Apple Imagewriter printer in place of a printer ribbon cartridge, whereupon it scans and digitises any picture fed through the printer platen. So it works like a printer in reverse gear - the picture starts on paper in the printer, and ends up as a MacPaint image in the computer. We have attempted to digitise some photos and drawings in this issue - the mixed results are mainly due to our inexperience and someone else having the instructions.

Last item to mention is the Apple LaserWriter, which produces the typeset-ready master copies directly from a Macintosh disk. It supports professional fonts such as Times Roman and Helvetica, which we have used - more are coming. The smaller page size of this issue is one present limitation of the LaserWriter.

Desktop publishing is almost here: if you have an interest in quality document production, check it out.



### Thank You Richard Ure!

Production of this issue of the Newsletter would not have been possible without the generous assistance and enthusiasm of Richard Ure. Richard is a Macintosh expert and enthusiast who is determined to introduce the legal profession to the joys of the Mac. He has certainly taught us a thing or two, and anyone interested in the Macintosh's legal applications would do well to seek his advice. Richard may be contacted at City Personal Computers (see insert to this Issue). - *Editor*



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