

EDITORIAL

Our spirits flying high from many congratulatory phone calls and letters, we are back with our second issue. I am also happy to report that, thanks to a lot of hard work, support and encouragement, Volume 3(1) is out on time. More importantly, I think readers will be impressed with the continued high quality and international representation of the articles which mark this issue. The rapidly increasing number of subscriptions and offers of exchanges has also been most encouraging.

Data Protection

A major, though not exclusive, focus of Volume 3(1) is on data protection. Oxford's Colin Tapper provides an excellent overview of 'New European Directions in Data Protection' which no doubt will have an impact much wider than Europe; while The Hon Justice Michael Kirby writes of recent OECD Initiatives on Information Security.

Herbert Burkert, Head of the Information Policy Research Group (INFOPOL), has submitted a very thought-provoking piece arguing the case for normative reconstruction of information law in his 'Public Sector Information: Towards a More Comprehensive Approach in Information Law?' In our final lead article on data protection, Greg Tucker relates OECD and European developments to the Australian legal context in exploring 'Frontiers of Information Privacy in Australia'. In addition to these lead articles we also review several recent publications on data protection, including Gordon Hughes' *Data Protection in Australia* (Law Book Company), Wayne Madsen's *Handbook of Personal Data Protection* (Macmillan) and Martin Wasik's recent book on *Crime and the Computer* (Clarendon Press).

Artificial Intelligence and the Law

Carrying on the theme from the previous issue, we also have four articles and a book review on artificial intelligence. Two articles, one by Professor Alan Tyree (University of Sydney) and the other co-authored by John Zeleznikow (Head of the Legal Reasoning Group, Department of Computer Science and Computer Engineering, La Trobe University) and Daniel Hunter (Co-editor, *Computers & Law*) are responses to articles which appeared in the first issue. We are pleased that the Journal has helped to foster debate in this increasingly important area of the law and we welcome similar articles/notes in response to this issue of the Journal. Two other articles report on recent 'AI' research and development in Scotland and England. Robin Widdison, Francis Pritchard and William Robinson of the Centre for Law and Computing, University of Durham, contribute a very practical, yet insightful, article on their attempt to integrate an expert system with a hypertext database of relevant primary and secondary text materials. Lilian Edwards, University of Edinburgh, writes of the problems, challenges and promises of building an intestate succession adviser.

Educational Developments

Continuing another trend started with the re-launch issue, we again focus on educational developments in computers in the law with Daniele

Bourcier and Janice Richardson's description of the University of Paris' New Scientific, Technical & Professional Diploma in the Domain of Law, Computing & Information Systems.

Legal Databases

Regarding legal databases, Dr Arne Mavcic writes of the International Documentation Centre on Constitutional Matters established in the Republic of Slovenia.

Conference Report

In our Conference Report Section, Dr Chris Keen (University of Tasmania) reports on the Network Conference held at the University of Tasmania at the end of 1991 and of which he was the chief organiser.

New Board Members

I would like to welcome Lilian Edwards, University of Edinburgh, and Peter Jones, University of Tasmania, to our Board of Editors. Lilian has contributed an article on expert systems to this issue and will report regularly on developments in her part of the world. Peter is an honours graduate in Computer Science and is the Computer Assistance Officer for our Law School. We have also invited two law students, Rachel Croome and Anthony McSweeney, to the Board. Anthony prepared the selective bibliography on Data Protection which is included in this issue. Rachel is busy organising sponsors for an 'Information Science and the Law' essay competition to be announced in the next issue.

Themes for Future Issues of the Journal

Finally, looking to our December 1992 issue, we invite contributions of articles, book reviews, conference reports, etc, especially in the area of computer contracts. Lynden Griggs, Lecturer in Law at the University of Tasmania, will be the editor of the December issue. The theme for June/July 1993 will be Computer Crime.

Special Thank You

Special thanks to Rick Snell and Veronica Connolly for their excellent editorial and managerial assistance; to Dr Stefan Petrow, who has been his usual reliable and efficient self in corresponding with exchanges and other subscribers; and to Lynden Griggs for his invaluable assistance with editorial and journal management work behind the scenes. Thanks also to Mr Daniel Hunter, Editor of *Computers & Law*, and Wendy London, Editor of *Computers and Law* for publishing abstracts of our leading articles.

Suggestions Welcomed

As always we welcome any suggestions you may have regarding ways to improve the Journal or ideas of any themes you would like to see us focus on for future issues. Just send suggestions to the Editor or email me at eugene.clark@law.utas.edu.au.