

It is interesting to observe the two types of lawyers: those that have computers and those that think that they'll wait a little longer to see if they are really going to catch on. The latter accept, although, that for some or in certain circumstances they are appropriate but not for them right now.

As technology progresses and increasingly more "user-friendly" programs become commercially available from your local computer shop, a point is being reached where we pass from tools for the sake of scientific advancement, to tools for people to use. This progression has inspired new life into the industry. Soon the days will be gone when we saw computers marketed for "computer people". We will see computers marketed for people.

IBM has initiated this trend in the United States with their decision to market their new home computer line, the PS/1 machines, through such giant retail outlets as Sears and others.

Apple's assault on the home computer market came even before there was a "home computer market". Indeed, they started at home and it was five years until Apple revealed their dream of a "computer on every desk". The dream was unique in that they implied a *usable* computer on every desk; one that could be used by everybody.

The state of the art is approaching a point where computers are surpassing a threshold of utility. We are entering a new phase as personal computers become far more "usable". In this respect, the introduction of Microsoft's new graphical interface, Windows 3.0 has been an important leap forward in the computer world.

The graphical user interface (GUI), such as that found on an Apple Macintosh or (now) on an IBM computer with Windows 3.0, is also termed an "Icon Environment", wherein objects are represented by little pictures (the icons) and are accessed by a pointing device, usually a mouse, thus removing the need to remember and type in complicated commands as in the old DOS environment. You simply "point-and-shoot".

Let me explain the advantages more clearly by way of example. For some time now there have been the dial-up services like Lexis, Link, Info-one and so on. These services can be accessed from a computer with a simple communications package. The searches can be down-loaded and stored in the PC or be printed on a local printer. Now, with Windows 3.0 or a Macintosh, this information can be directly imported into your favourite word processor for manipulation or document generation.

In a similar fashion, court transcript which is becoming more and more readily available on computer media can be searched as usual with Sonar or WordCruncher but now can be run alongside a word processor, so that when a phrase is found, it can be transferred directly into the new document. All this is possible because one may run a word processor in one window and a communications program in another and cut-and-paste between the two.

The real advantage of all of this to the end lawyer will be increased production *per unit of time*. And as one silk has commented to me on many occasions, "time is everything to a barrister...".

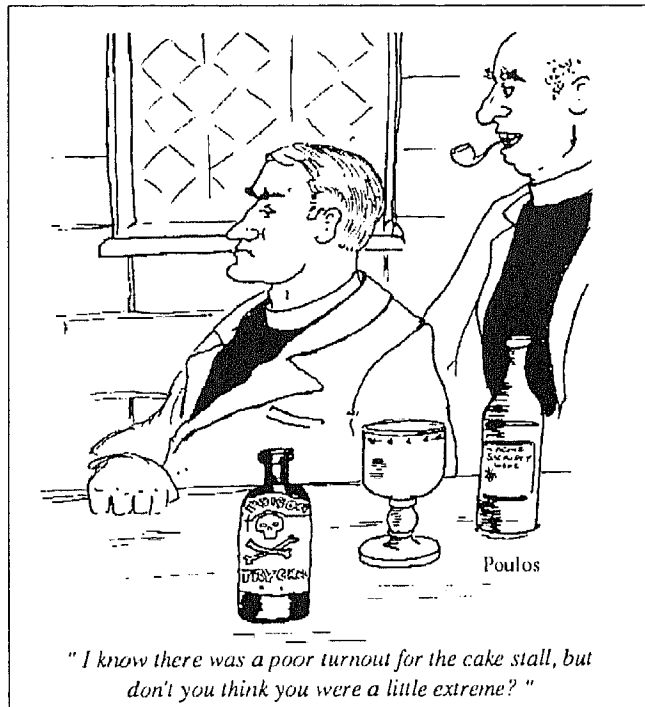
I would suggest that the Apple Macintosh machines still possess an advantage over their IBM rivals. Although Win-

dows 3.0 means a consistent interface, that does not extend to within the programs or applications. Apple still holds the lead here with most applications looking and feeling alike. The gain here: a shorter learning time to become familiar with new applications, thus further productivity.

All things considered, the old axiom that the right time to buy is when it's the right time for you still holds, however, with these latest enhancements, the right time for you may be here a lot sooner, if it hasn't arrived already, of course. □

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## Honesty in Advocacy

O'Keefe QC: Just take the unstressed, quietly living, regularly exercising, positive mental attitude, low cholesterol, careful diet, low blood pressure person, who has always been thin, they still have heart attacks?

Witness: I have many patients like that in my practice. Some of them have severe coronary artery disease and some have none. I do not know why they are different. Some of them - pardon?

O'Keefe QC: It was suggested by Mr Francey that they are probably all smokers.

Morling J: I thought you were describing Mr Francey.

O'Keefe QC: Certainly not me, your Honour. □

(*Australian Federation of Consumer Organisations v. Tobacco Institute of Australia, Federal Court of Australia*)