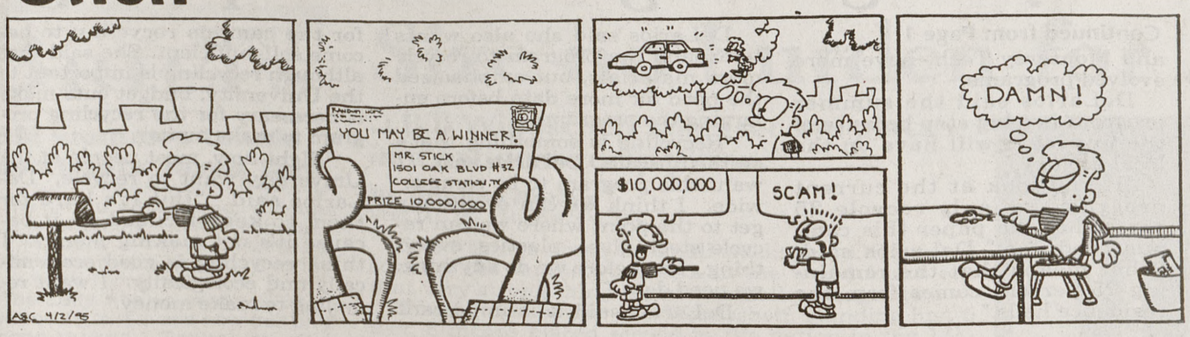
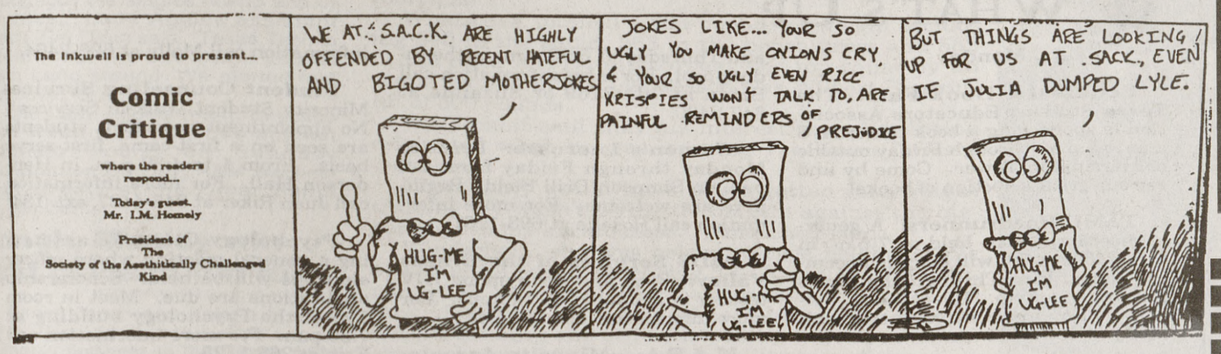
Stick

By Alvaro



The Inkwell

By Brad

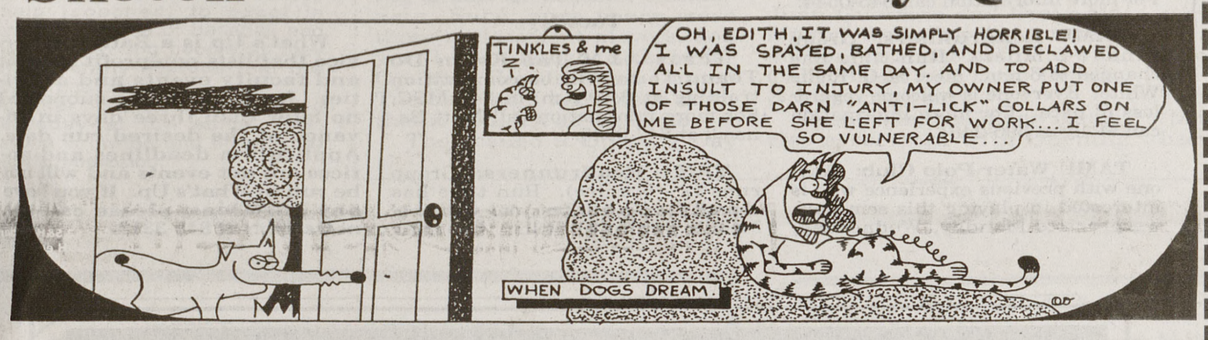


Adventures in Aggieland

By Greg

Sketch

By Quatro



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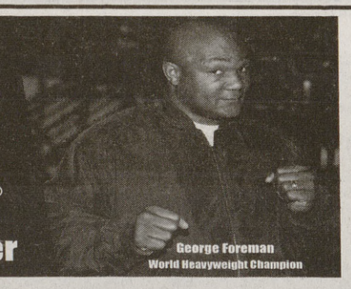

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This Week!

	Monday April 3	Tuesday April 4	Wednesday April 5	Thursday April 6
6 - 8 p.m.	Finc 341 Part I	Finc 341 Part II	Finc 341 Part III	Finc 341 Part IV
7 - 9 p.m.	Acct 230 Part III	Acct 230 Part IV	Acct 230 Part V	Acct 230 Part VI
9 - 11 p.m.	Bana 303 Part I	Bana 303 Part II	Bana 303 Part III	Bana 303 Part IV
11 p.m. - 1 a.m.	Acct 230 Part I	Acct 230 Part II		
8 - 10 p.m.	Acct 229 Part IV	Acct 229 Part V	Acct 229 Part VI	Acct 229 Part VII
10 p.m. - 12 a.m.	Acct 229 Part I	Acct 229 Part II	Acct 229 Part III	

Computing Toolbox

A weekly column dedicated to computing at Texas A&M

The legal and ethical use of software

Software piracy, the illegal copying of software, is a hot—and often confusing—topic in the computer industry these days. Many people don't realize that the illegal copying of software is a felony punishable by fines up to $100,000 per copyright infringement. The following questions and answers might clear up a few issues for you.

What do I need to know about software and the U.S. Copyright Act?

It's really very simple. The Copyright Law recognizes that all intellectual works (programs, data, pictures, articles, books, etc.) are automatically covered by copyright unless it is explicitly noted to the contrary. The owner of a copyright holds the exclusive right to reproduce and distribute his or her work. For software this means it is illegal to copy or distribute software, or its documentation, without the permission of the copyright holder.

If you have a legal copy of software, you are allowed to make a single archival copy of the software for backup purposes. This copy can only be used if the original software is destroyed or fails to work. When the original is given away, the backup copy must also be given with the original or destroyed.

If software is not copy-protected, do I have the right to copy it?

Lack of copy-protection does NOT constitute permission to copy software without authorization of the software copyright owner. "Non-copy-protected" software enables you to make a backup copy. In offering non-copy-protected software to you, the developer or publisher has demonstrated significant trust in your integrity.

May I copy software that is available through facilities on my campus, so I can use it more conveniently in my own office or room?

Software acquired by colleges and universities is usually covered by licenses. The licenses should clearly state how and where the software may be legally used by members of the relevant campus communities (faculty, staff and students). Such licenses cover software installed on stand-alone or networked systems, in private offices and rooms, and in public clusters and laboratories. Some institutional licenses permit copying for certain purposes. The license may limit copying as well. Consult your campus authorities if you are unsure about the permissible use of a software product.

May I loan software?

The 1990 modification to the Copyright Law makes it illegal to "loan, lease or rent software" for purposes of direct or indirect commercial advantage without the specific permission of the copyright holder. Non-profit educational institutions are exempted from the 1990 modification, so institutional software may be loaned.

Some licenses may restrict the use of a copy to a specific machine, even if you own more than the one system. In general, licenses do not allow you to install the software on more than a single machine, or to run the software simultaneously on two or more machines.

Isn't it legally "fair use" to copy software if the purpose in sharing it is purely educational?

Historically, the Copyright Law was modified to permit certain educational uses of copyrighted materials without the usual copyright restrictions. However, "fair use" of computer software is still a cloudy issue. The "fair use" amendments to the Copyright Law are intended to allow educational use of legally protected products, but it is limited (for paper-based products) to small portions of full works. For most software it is clearly illegal to make and distribute unauthorized, fully-functional copies to class members for their individual use. Making copies of a small section of code from a program in order to illustrate a programming technique might not be a violation. The best alternative is to clear any such use with the copyright owner or consult the appropriate authorities at your institution.

For more information about software piracy, consult the Fall 1993 issue of *Computing News*. Check a CIS Help Desk for copies or access the articles online through Gopher. A brochure entitled "Using Software: A Guide to the Ethical and Legal Use of Software for Members of the Academic Community" is also available. Send requests to COMPDOC@TAMU.EDU or call David Lawrence at 845-9325.●

The information in this article was taken from "Using Software: A Guide to the Ethical and Legal Use of Software for Members of the Academic Community," a brochure produced as a service to the educational community by the Educational Uses of Information Technology Program of EDUCOM and the Information Technology Association of America.

MODEMS update

Beginning April 10, CIS will require you to claim the MODEMS resource through the Access subsystem before you will be allowed to use CIS modems. The conversion process will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Monday and should be completed no later than noon.

A guest account will be available for access to the NOTIS and Access subsystems on the MVS (VTAM) system, allowing modem access to these systems without using a specific modem account and password. The resource in Access for the CIS dial-in modems is called MODEMS. You will need to get the MODEMS resource allocated to your Access account.

CIS will require that you claim the MODEMS resource through the Access subsystem for a number of reasons. First, the security problems with the open access configuration must be addressed. Currently, no way exists to track or prevent anomalous behavior through the CIS modem banks. The addition of PPP (Point-to-Point Protocol) makes the problem even worse. Second, this will allow CIS to gather statistics on who is using this resource. Statistics can then be used to try to increase the funds for support and expansion of CIS modem banks. Finally, this will restrict the use of the campus modems to our authorized customers—faculty, staff, and enrolled students at Texas A&M University.

If you have any questions or need help, please call the Network Availability Center (NAC) at **845-1988** or call any CIS Help Desk.

Computing Toolbox is published by Computing and Information Services (CIS) at Texas A&M University. Please send comments, topic suggestions, and questions for the Computing Wizard to SUGGEST@TAMU.EDU or call 845-9325. We want your input!