COPYRIGHT LAW CHANGE IN 1989

Joining the Berne Convention Mandated Change

The United States, on March 1, 1989, joined an international treaty called the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works. The U. S. copyright law had to be amended so that the U. S. could fulfill its obligations under the treaty. Some highlights of the change are as follows:

- 1. U. S. authors now have copyright protection in all 79 of the signatory countries. Authors from those countries are likewise protected in the U. S.
- 2. Notice of copyright is no longer mandatory. An author automatically owns the copyright of any work even though notice is not given and though the copyright is not registered. Notice is to be in the form © 1990 John Doe.
- 3. Registration must be accomplished before any infringement suit is brought for a work of U. S. origin. Registration within five years of first publication gains the benefit of a legal presumption of copyright validity. If a work is registered within three months of publication, or before infringement, the owner is eligible for an award of attorney's fees and statutory damages.
- 4. Copyright owners must deposit two complete copies or phonorecords of the best edition of a work that is publicly distributed in the United States, whether or not it contains a notice of copyright.

More complete information on the Berne Convention can be obtained by consulting Circular 3 of the U. S. Copyright Office.

lishers, or publishers must reform themselves. It is, I conclude, anybody's guess which if either of these scenarios is likely to occur in our lifetime. Of this much I'm sure though. It isn't the authors who created the problem.

TAA MEMBER HELPS PUBLICIZE TAA

Writes an Article for a Professional Journal

TAA member Rockwood (Rocky) Ross (TAA #152), writing in *Sigact*, has told its readers about writing texts and given them information about TAA. As a result, several readers have become members of the Textbook Authors Association. *Sigact* is a publication of a special interest group of the Association for Computing Machinery, a group interested in automata and computability theory.

Ross is a professor of computer science at Montana State University. His computer orientation shone through in the article when he explained with a computer-like program how to write a text. That program is reprinted here, with permission.

begin {write_textbook}

{Contemplate writing a book}
loop indefinitely
Get fired up about writing a book
Put it off
endloop

{Sign a contract}

Discuss the book with an editor

Sign a standard contract in a giddy and festive atmosphere of food, spirits, and a blur of activity

Toast your coauthors, the editor, and everyone else in sight to the success the venture and the close bonds of friendship that will be formed over the next months

Count your advance on royalties, and dream about more royalties

Lay awake nights worrying about the fine print of your standard contract, which seems to bind you forever to the publishing company and fix you to an ironclad manuscript delivery date

{write the book} finished:=false

loop

Choose a large random number, *n* loop *n* times

write a portion of the textbook

iron out differences with coauthors (preferably with a hot cattle branding iron)

choose a random number m between 1 and 365
nondeterministically choose one of the coauthors, X
Let X go on leave for sabbatical, leave of absence, leave of senses for m days

reduce your estimation of your coauthors' writing skills revise what you have written

reduce your estimation of your writing skills get angry with your coauthors for not doing their share

endloop

if writing is complete

then finished:=true elseif deadline is near

wrangle with editor over extending deadline breathe easy for a while

continued