

BELS *Letter*

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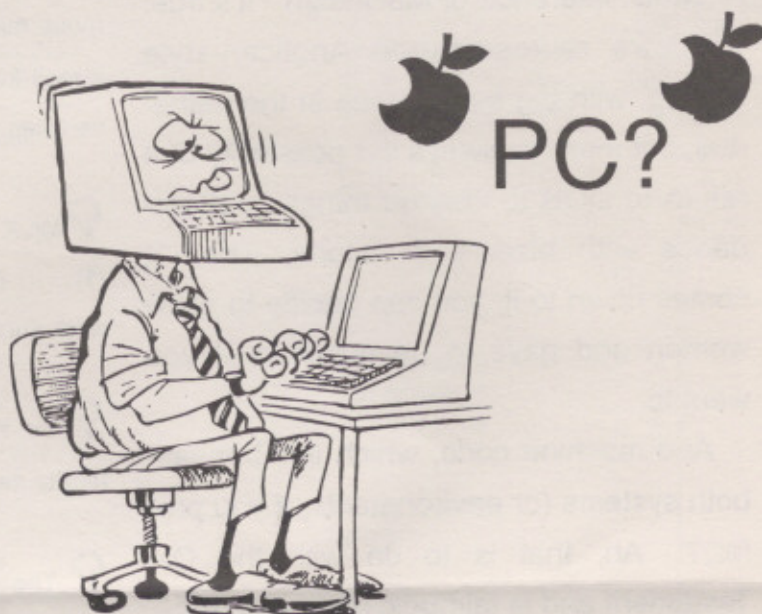
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Flo Witte, ELS

Issue 22

Fall 2000



Are You Catholic or Protestant?

The fact is that the world is divided between users of the Macintosh computer and users of MS-DOS-compatible computers. I am firmly of the opinion that the Macintosh is Catholic and that DOS is Protestant. Indeed, the Macintosh is counter-reformist and has been influenced by the "ratio studiorum" of the Jesuits. It is cheerful, friendly, and conciliatory; it tells the faithful how they must proceed step by step to reach--if not the Kingdom of Heaven--the moment in which their document is printed. It is catechistic: the essence of revelation is dealt with via simple formulae and sumptuous icons. Everyone has a right to salvation.

DOS is Protestant, or even Calvinistic. It allows free interpretation of scripture, demands difficult personal decisions, imposes a subtle hermeneutics upon the user, and takes for granted the idea that not all can reach salvation. To make the system work you need to interpret the program yourself: a long way from the baroque com-

munity of revelers, the user is closed within the loneliness of his own inner torment.

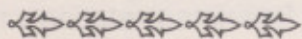
You may object that, with the passage to Windows, the DOS universe has come to resemble more closely the counter-reformist tolerance of Macintosh. It's true: Windows represents an Anglican-style schism, with big ceremonies in the cathedral, but there is always the possibility of a return to DOS to change things in accordance with bizarre decisions; when it comes down to it, you can decide to allow women and gays to be ministers if you want to. . . .

And machine code, which lies beneath both systems (or environments, if you prefer)? Ah, that is to do with the Old Testament and is talmudic and cabalistic. .

(Excerpts from an English translation of Umberto Eco's column "La Bustina di Minerva" in the Italian news weekly *Espresso*, September 30, 1994, found at <http://www.well.com/user/cynsa/engine.html>, May 23, 2000.)

Submitted by

• Miriam Bloom, ELS(D) •



Editorial Bloopers

Here are some examples of the evil that lurks in spellcheckers (eg, lavatories in place of laboratories). Some are the infamous misplaced modifier. Last but not least, is an e-mail from a confident young woman offering her services.

💡 Mr. X . . . will be assigned the following projects: (1) . . . (2) . . . (3) assassinating the general lab work such as plasmid preparation . . .

💡 Dr. X and Dr. Y have their own tissue culture facility near their lavatories . . .

💡 The resulting fusion contains irreverent amino acids in between the GST and each tandem repeat.

💡 During this relatively short period of time in our laboratory, Dr. X has demonstrated his outstanding ability in research through creative thinking, great enthusiasm, extraordinary laboratory skills, and indigence.

💡 The fluorescence signals at 340 and 380 nm collected from a 100 μm x 25 μm area of CA1 pyramidal cell layer with an adjustable diaphragm were detected by a photomultiplier at 1 Hz.

💡 Crude rat synaptosomes were isolated, hypnotically shocked, and separated by linear sucrose gradient.

💡 Interestingly, our dissociation-defective mutants, d54-72 and d94-112, lack some portions of the suggestive binding site.

💡 Interestingly, these residues have been determined to form a loop that is exposed on the surface of the M-PMV MA protein by recent NMR studies.

💡 Abbreviations used were not significant, NS and not done, ND.

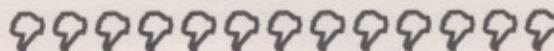
💡 Correct the spelling of 3Gilbert2 throughout the text. You are very wright about that.

💡 When the cells reached confluence, they were split into halves or thirds and replated on appropriate gelatin-coated dishes.

💡 The substance results from the in vivo side chain oxidative degradation of gamma-tocopherol in the liver, a member of the vitamin E complex.

💡 Tissue samples from 35 cases of meningiomas (10 male, 25 female) were obtained from surgical specimens at Samsung Medical Center from 1998 to June 1999 and used for this study.

💡 Apoptotic adherent cells were counted in four different random locations, each containing approximately 250 cells using a microscope.

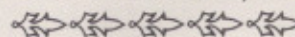


HOW NOT TO GET AN EDITING JOB:

Hi,
 Mi name is Sxxxx Gxxxx. I'm holding an MS in Biotechnology, if you are interested in help with your business I would be interestet in working for you. If you would like to get my CV or talk to me please reply.
 Regards,
 Sxxxx Gxxxx

Submitted by

• Jennifer Macke, ELS •



My advice to any young writer is: become an editor. You'll do less work, have less pressure, have more influence, make more money and best of all, you get to tell others what to do. . . .

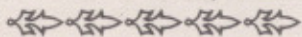
New York Public Library
 Writer's Guide



My Apologies to Pittsburgh

Of course, an editor's worst nightmare is to get almost 400 newsletters back from the printer, all nicely folded and ready for the address labels and stamps to be affixed, and to notice a misspelled word. Oh, it was not a correctly spelled word used incorrectly. No, it was a misspelled word that the spellchecker would have picked up. But for spellcheckers to work, you have to use them. Why didn't I use the spellchecker? Because I was certain that the word was spelled correctly. After all, that is where my father is from. That is where my former boss is from. That is where I lived and went to school for a year. That is where my family and I spent many a Christmas and summer holiday, visiting my grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. I know how to spell the name of the city that has been such a big part of my life even though I grew up and live in New Orleans. So why did I misspell Pittsburgh in the BELS Examination Schedule of the last issue of the BELS Letter? I must have a mental block about Pittsburgh! Could that be because Pittsburgh is such a part of my family life? Could it be that as a child I really hated going to Pittsburgh? Could it be that I have some long-held secret animosity toward my relatives? Well, who knows. I'll never figure it out. But perhaps you should check to see if you have any mental blocks that may interfere with your editing. You too may be misspelling Pittsburgh!

◆ Ann Morcos, ELS ◆



Flo's Search Is Over

I just came across an interesting problem. As you all know, the 29th edition of Dorland's now includes hyphenation. However, the syllabic breaks are sometimes different from those in Webster's Third. Examples follow:
phospho-rylate (Webster's Third)
phosphor-ylate (Dorland's)
tran-scription (Webster's Third)
trans-cription (Dorland's)

What's an editor to do? I'm typesetting a huge document, and I'd like to be sure that I'm hyphenating correctly. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated! (My instinctive reaction is to go with Webster, but maybe that's old-fashioned.) Help, please!

Flo

Flo sent this call for help out over the BELS list-serve recently. Here is a summary of the responses she received.

Thanks to all of you who responded to my question about hyphenation. I promised many of you that I would provide a summary of the replies. Here is said summary. We are nothing if not a diverse group!

Those who prefer Webster's: 19

Those who prefer Dorland's: 6

Those who prefer Webster's for one of my examples and Dorland's for the other: 3

Those who said "Choose one and stick with it": 4

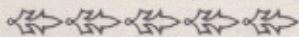
Those who recommended avoiding hyphenation altogether: 1 (I love this suggestion, but unfortunately it was impossible to follow for this 176-page book with two-column, right-justified text!)

Thanks to Diana Mathis, who wrote that the introduction to the 9th edition of Webster's Collegiate contains an interesting discussion of how the compilers of the dictionary decided on hyphenation (their choice was intended for typesetting, which was my primary interest with this question).

Thanks also to Heatherbell Fong, who wrote an interesting paragraph about the difference between American and British hyphenation: the American system breaks words at syllables for pronunciation, whereas the British system breaks words at the morpheme boundaries (derivation). The introduction to Dorland's states that the compilers of this dictionary intended their breaks to indicate pronunciation rather than syllabification.

Although we haven't completely resolved the issue, I appreciate your assistance! (By the way, I chose to go with the majority and use Webster's syllable breaks for my typesetting job.)

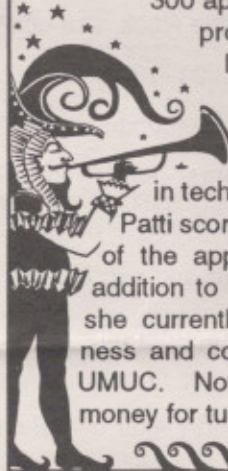
• Flo Witte, ELS •



BELS Members in the News

Julliana Newman recently received a Distinguished Technical Communication award in the "Scholarly/Professional Articles" category of the Society for Technical Communication's International Technical Publications Competition for a project titled "Head and Neck Melanoma." Way to go!

Patti Wolf has been accepted (only 25 of 300 applicants were) into the doctorate program at the University of Maryland University College. Beginning this fall, she will be pursuing a doctorate of management with a specialization in technology and information systems. Patti scored the highest on the written part of the application (a 20-page paper). In addition to working for her two companies, she currently teaches undergraduate business and computer applications courses at UMUC. Now, all Patti has to do is raise money for tuition! Good luck.



BELS Networking Breakfast at AMWA Conference

When: Saturday, Nov. 11, 7:30 to 8:45 a.m.

Where: Indigo Restaurant, Hotel Inter-Continental

What: Large breakfast buffet for only \$15 per person. Or order from the menu, prices range from \$7 to \$16, plus tax and gratuity. Hotel guests may charge the meal to their room.

Why: To get to know each other better.

How: Contact **Kathy Loudon, ELS, (847) 540-6089** e-mail her (klouden@mindspring.com) by Nov. 6.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

Karen Williams D'Arezzo, ELS, director of the Office of Grants and Scientific Publications at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) in Little Rock, Arkansas, passed away on July 27 after a 5-year battle with cancer. Karen was a respected writer and editor and her career spanned four states and three decades.

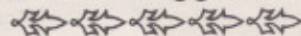
Karen, who graduated magna cum laude from the University of Tennessee after attending the University of Wisconsin at Madison, began her career working with her husband in campus ministry for Campus Crusade for Christ in 1972. Their assignments carried them to Boston; Johnson City, Tennessee; Austin, Texas; and Chicago. While in Chicago (1978–1981), Karen served as chief editor for the Development Office of Trinity College and as a consulting editor for the Evangelical Divinity School. In Knoxville, she was a project consultant, technical writer, and editor at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (1985–1987). In Little Rock, she continued to pursue her calling to science and medicine first at Biotechnical Services (1991–1993), then as senior medical science writer with the Area Health Education Centers of UAMS. She founded the Office of Grants and Scientific Publications at the UAMS Arkansas Cancer Research Center (ACRC) in 1994, which grew from a staff of 2 to a team of 6 writers and 2 professional support staff in just 5 years.

Karen loved clarity of thought and expression, whether spoken or written. She did not see herself, though, as simply a professional writer. She felt that she was on a mission to contribute in her own way to the treatment and eventual cure of cancers and other diseases. Karen said to her co-workers in an e-mail dated January 1999, shortly after her latest diagnosis of metastatic cancer:

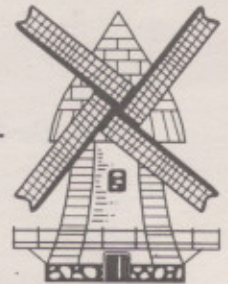
"I have been sad to be unable to be back with you at work this week. You know how much I truly enjoy . . . working on these great projects. Someone else has already sweated over and written the cogent research proposals that have formed the treatment options for me with melanoma. That gives me great, great hope that the work you are doing in cancer, virology, vision and hearing, and overall research education and design will eventually save many lives. What we do is very important—it is not just a job—it makes and breaks lives. Each extra effort counts. . . . So, please don't give up your devotion to helping basic, clinical, and population scientists develop and write research proposals in their very limited schedules."

Ms. D'Arezzo is survived by her husband, the Reverend A. John D'Arezzo, Jr., and three sons, Andrew, James, and Daniel, all of Little Rock, Arkansas. Gifts may be made to the "Karen D'Arezzo Memorial for Educational Support," Arkansas Cancer Research Center, UAMS, 4301 West Markham, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72207.

• Paula Card-Higginson, ELS •



New BELS Members
Tours, France, May 20, 2000



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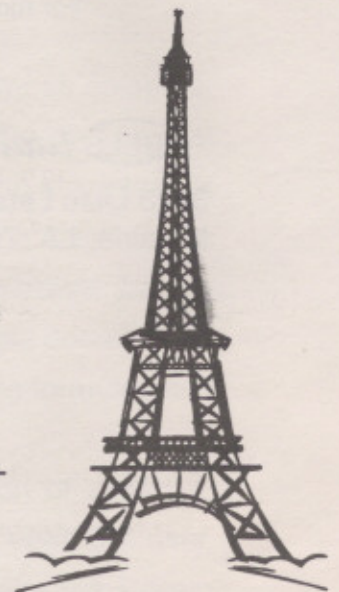
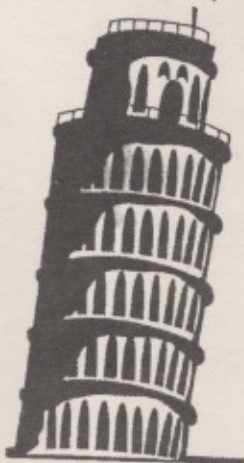
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BELS Examination Schedule

2000

Date	City & Association	Registration Deadline
November 7, 2000	Miami, FL, AMWA	23 October

2001

May 5, 2001	Washington, DC, CSE	21 April
September 15, 2001	Chicago, IL	1 September
October 23, 2001	Norfolk, VA, AMWA	9 October

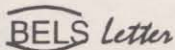
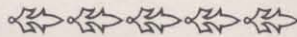
2002

March 23, 2002	Memphis, TN	9 March
March 23, 2002	Princeton, NJ	9 March
May 4, 2002	San Diego, CA, CSE	20 April
October 29, 2002	San Diego, CA, AMWA	15 October

2003

May 3, 2003	Pittsburgh, PA, CSE	19 April
May 2003	TBA, EASE	TBA
October-November 2003	TBA, AMWA	TBA

For more information, write Registrar, BELS, PO Box 8133, Radnor, PA 19087-8133



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