Computers will revolutionize learning if handled correctly

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pect of it, in the hope that the new program will be preferred by the original in some other ways, but nobody will be allowed to combine the best aspects of the two.

Today you can borrow books from public libraries in every city. But those who claim to own software are now trying to prohibit software lending libraries. When knowledge is distributed in the form of educational programs such as Athena, will public libraries be stuck with obsolete books? Will they have a small number of computers at the library (libraries are poor) on which you can use Athena, with pervasive and cumbersome built-in restrictions just to make sure nobody can take a copy of Athena home to read?

There is already one large system of educational software available only for a price: Plato, from Control Data Corp. Athena would be one more Plato. Presumably there will be others as well. Competition may lower their price per copy, but restrictions intended to preserve the ability to collect the price will remain. These restrictions, such as the ban on lending libraries, will continue to prevent the most advantageous use of the system even as the price drops. The revolution in education will have to wait until someone else starts another Athena project, and makes the results free as MIT could have done.

US is best

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posed written injury with heated replies. What is achieved is more damage than good, and the purpose of the letters written thusly is never realized. It is lost somewhere between the indignation and the anger. One can only defeat one's point in this way, as Dondel did in his letter.

But back to Malchman, in view of the fact that there are many people in the world who travel and who do not try to understand or accept cultural, social, or physical differences between their own and their host country, Malchman has poked fun at just these people for those who are not so narrowminded, for those who do indeed see past those things. Angry replies to this article about the US were neither necessary nor appropriate. At least Malchman, in his own way, justified his stay in a country he found ‘so loathsome.” That was more than his French critic did in his letter. I agree that good and bad exist everywhere, that we should “see beyond the facade.” But Dondel did nothing but defeat that idea in his letter.

Personally, I thought Malchman’s article was funny; in fact, it has found its home on my door. In light of the serious replies he received, I had to write in support of it, and my country. My reply has been pro-American, because America is my home. The same friend who asked me why Americans criticize their home so much told me also that despite all the problems his country is experiencing, it is still the only place in the world where he can say “I belong here; this is my home.” Home is truly where the heart is, where one’s family and friends are, no matter where on earth that may be. So please remember, if you are not a member of my household and you criticize my home, you criticize these things, and not only me. Don’t expect me to understand your side of it. Yes, Mr. Malchman, there is no place like home, to me.

Anne Lumsdaine ’85

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