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**WIPO MAGAZINE****Letters and Comment**

January 2007

WIPO Magazine welcomes comments on issues raised in our article or on other articles on intellectual property. Letters should be marked "for publication in the WIPO Magazine" and addressed to WipoMagazine@wipo.int or to the postal/fax address on the back cover of the Magazine. We regret that it is not possible to publish all the letters we receive due to space constraints. We will edit or shorten letters. (The author will be consulted if substantial editing is required.)

IP in universities – far from rosy

I am curious to know how much of the article and follow-up letters about IP in universities (see *Place - Issue no. 5/2006; Letters and Comment – issue no. 6/2006*) were written by academics whose jobs are actually parasitic on the backs of active academics, with whose interests I was concerned.

From a UK perspective, the article paints far too rosy a view of the interaction between industry and academia and fails signally to mention the important problems that have arisen in the past. My own notion that Academe and Industry can – and perhaps should – work together for mutual benefit is based on the notion that there is a fundamental disparity of objectives, which in many cases, even if no symbiosis presented in the article. Industry is about making profits for shareholders, while academia is a place where minds are trained, preferably in a disinterested environment.

Big industry is used to paying as little as it can get away with for the research it wants, often through disclosure agreements, and holding back on patenting in order to get 'lead-time.' In my own research programme which is not moving fast enough. These factors, together with the fact that much industrial research, are directly at odds with good practice in the education system, which is even worse, because in many instances they cannot actually afford the necessary resources, which therefore often end up being 'in-kind.' Twice, in my own experience, the major part of the research which I had collaborative research programmes walked away from the programme to elsewhere to their own profit.

Moreover, the basic rights of academics to their own ideas are being eroded. While the article describes how income from the IP of their academics is shared 'fairly' between the university and the academics, it is never clear how much say the academics themselves have had. Cambridge academics have tried, unsuccessfully, to prevent the University changing employment contracts so that academics can own their own IP. One wonders how Isaac Newton would have fared in Cambridge today?

From Bryan Harris, Professor Emeritus of Materials Science, University of Bath

Nepal's IP needs

I have been practicing law in the field of IP in Nepal for 10 years. And having been a regular contributor to the popular Magazine since 1998, I am disappointed never to have seen a mention of Nepal. Nepal is a member of WIPO and WTO, and has acceded to the Paris Convention and the TRIPS Agreement. But the relevant multi-lateral treaties are little understood from the perspective of the IP rights in Nepal. Inadequate manpower and knowledge to deal with IP is causing u

Nepal, a least developed country, is rich in biodiversity, traditional knowledge and of our lack of knowledge of how to protect them, third parties have for years been our intellectual assets. With growth and development becoming increasingly know which provides the means for converting man's ideas and creativity into property, importance. But first we need a strong national IP system, including technical assi Nepal.

From Ram Chandra Subedi, Advocate, Supreme Court of Nepal

Teaching respect for creators' rights

I was interested to read about the copyright teaching manual produced by a group (*Copyright to Teenagers, issue no. 6/2006*). At Pro-Music France, we are similarly young people on these questions. How can we explain to children and teenagers that intellectual "goods" exist in the same way as physical goods, and that just be of, or copy, is no reason not to respect their creators or rights-owners?

Whereas in the 20th century IP was only really of interest to businesses, nowadays concerns every citizen, consumer and client. And until the average citizen has wo notion, then all our efforts to condemn P2P file-sharing, or to apply Digital Rights I protection measures, will be in vain.

Through promusicfrance.com, we try to capture people's interest by talking about business of making music. A song-writer or artist cannot succeed alone. He has to and so to must his producers, manager and everyone else who makes his succes

From: Rémi Bouton, Editor in Chief, www.promusicfrance.com

Readers' letters are a hit

The different ideas on your Letters Page catch the reader's attention like shining where copyright is not so complicated, reading the article and letters about the case (*issues no.5 and 6/2006*) was like listening to a musical top hit.

From Raul N. Norbe, Filipino Inventors Solidarity For Christian Brotherhood
