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*...where every word is at home,  
Taking its place to support the others,  
The word neither diffident nor ostentatious,  
An easy commerce of the old and the new,  
The common word exact without vulgarity,  
The formal word precise but not pedantic  
The complete consort dancing together...  
~ TS Eliot, Four Quartets*



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## NEWSPAPER SAMPLE

### GLOBAL NIGHT COMMUTE

[...continued...]

#### What is the "Global Night Commute"?

This is a worldwide event organized by the Invisible Children Inc. organization. On the night of April 29th, people from all over the world will converge upon major urban centers such as Boston to spend the night out on the streets in order to raise awareness concerning the conflict in northern Uganda between the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the Ugandan government forces.

As is indicated by the host organization's name, this movement has been organized primarily around concern for the effect which this conflict is having on the children of Uganda. Symbolically the commute represents the conditions which force 30,000 children in northern Uganda to commute to larger IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) camps or specific shelters every night so as to reduce their risk of abduction by the LRA.

The actual event will last from 7:00pm on Saturday until 7:00am on Sunday and will involve a multimedia campaign documenting the event through video, photography, and an art project compiled from a contribution of each participant. There will also be a letter writing campaign where hand-written letters will be mailed en-mass to President Bush as well as one of your state's two senators.

#### What is happening in Uganda?

With the admission that I am by no means an expert, I'd like to share some facts which seem to frame the situation and demand our attention.

The conflict between the Ugandan government and the LRA is considered by some to be one of the longest standing current conflicts as it is now entering its 20th year. In 1986 President Museveni (recently re-elected in February's multi-party elections) and his National Resistance Movement (NRM) seized control of the government from Milton Obote thus co-opting many former rebel groups. But the LRA has continued its fight against the government claiming to represent the interests of the marginalized Acholi people of northern Uganda who comprise 4% of Uganda's population.

[...continued...]



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**BLOG SAMPLE**

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

**DRC has become a reservoir for the area's ethnic and national conflicts.**

- The ethnic conflict between the tutsis and hutus which sparked the Rwandan genocide subsequently spilled into the DRC where the conflict continues to this day.
- Ethnic Tutsi and former DRC General turned renegade, Laurent Nkunda, leads the National Congress for People's Defence (CNDP) which enjoys support from the Tutsi dominated Rwandan government. He claims that the government and the international community are ignoring systematic attacks on ethnic Tutsis conducted by the national army within the DRC.
- The CNDP has been accused of sustained human rights violations. According to Refugees International these violations include acts of murder, rape, and the pillaging of civilian villages. Amnesty International claims that the CNDP has abducted children as young as 12 forcing them to become child soldiers. Nkunda himself was indicted by the ICC in September 2005 for alleged war crimes.
- On the other side of the conflict is the national army FARDC which has also been responsible for numerous human rights violations. The CNDP alleges that FARDC is in league with the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) which is the ethnically Hutu anti-Rwandan militia whose members carried out the Rwandan genocide. While the international community agrees that some elements of FARDC have committed egregious human rights violations the force there is also a consensus that it can be salvaged because there are other positive elements.
- Finally, the Ugandan rebel group, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), continues to conduct attacks on DRC locals. Ever since the LRA settled in the DRC both the LRA and the Ugandan army have been responsible for abuses in the region. In 2005 the International Court of Justice found the Ugandan army guilty of both committing human rights abuses and illegally exploiting Congolese national resources. More recently, the UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) has reported that the LRA attacked villages killing at least 52 people while abducting and then executing another 159 children and 10 adults.



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## INFORMATIONAL SAMPLE

### GORDON COLLEGE

Gordon College (GC) is a Christian liberal arts college located 25 miles north of Boston, Massachusetts. It is considered one of the nation's best Christian colleges and is the only non-denominational Christian college in New England. Gordon College strives to provide an education which simultaneously advances critical thinking skills and Christian faith. The school is expanding with a new 80,000 square foot science and technology center. Dozens of study-abroad programs also serve to better equip students for life after college.

“Did you know...” facts:

- Going into Boston is easy with the nearby Commuter Rail. An hour's travel can move you from an evergreen forest to a forest of skyscrapers and brownstones.
- A short 3-mile bike ride will bring you to the beaches of Manchester-by-the-Sea where you can study, swim or play beach-soccer.
- Halloween in nearby Salem is a scream! Enjoy a night of candy and costuming in the land of the witch-trials every October.
- Gordon college contains the most complete library of historical documents from the pioneering computer company, Digital Equipment Corporation. The company's co-founder donated funds for the new science center.



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ACADEMIC SAMPLE

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

[...continued...]

### 1. A Short History of U.S. Intellectual Property Law and Computer Software

To those who think a copyright only protects the traditional expressive arts it may come as a shock to find that the first computer software developers received protection from copyright law because they were being denied direct protection from patent law. But this should not be surprising once the characteristics of software are considered. Since it is both a written work as well as a process, it can be both expressed and applied. In addition to that, it is much easier to apply for a copyright on an entire program than it is to prove to the patent office that you have achieved, within the program, some innovative process and deserve a patent for it. Do not fret if the previous sentence is confusing, patents will be discussed in detail in the next section; for now we will turn to software's first mode of protection: copyright.

#### Copyrights and Computer Software

Now we will embark on a quick foray through some important landmarks regarding the legal history of software copyrights. By no means is this extensive, but it is designed to give a glimpse and general understanding of the legal evolution regarding software copyrights. The subsequent history will touch upon several essential issues: Whether a copyright protects against copying...

- Programs written in Assembly/Machine language
- Operating Systems
- A program's structures (non-literal copying)
- A program's menu hierarchies (functional organization as viewed by the user)

It all began in the 1960s when the government began to issue copyrights on computer software even though software was not explicitly mentioned in the copyright law at that time. Several years later, in 1976, the Copyright Act was changed for the first time since 1909 to contain wording which Congress claimed to be broad enough to include computer programs as a type of literary work. However, the protection of computer programs under the 1976 Copyright Act was not made explicit until the later 1980 amendment.

Regarding programs in lower level languages (such as assembly/machine language) it was not until the 1981 case of *Williams Electronics, Inc. v. Artic International, Inc.* that it was made clear that computer programs were protected by copyright as literary works regardless of whether they were programmed



in higher or lower level languages. In the case, the Plaintiff, Williams Electronics, Inc., had received a copyright on a computer program written in assembly language which ran their video game, titled Defender. The defendant had clearly copied wholesale amounts of code directly from the plaintiff's program, even copying embedded code which outputted the text 'Copyright 1980-Williams Electronics'. Both the district court and the Third Circuit sided with the Plaintiff and upheld the language of the 1976 Copyright Act, which, following the 1980 amendment, explicitly protects computer programs regardless of whether the original was written in source (HLL) or object (LLL) code. The Third Circuit decision also affirmed that, in the broad language of the Copyright Act, a computer program was protected from being loaded into electronic memory devices without authorization.

Subsequent cases of note are *Apple v. Franklin*; *Whelan Assocs., Inc. v. Jaslow Dental Laboratory, Inc.*; *Plains Cotton Cooperative Ass'n v. Goodpasture Computer Serv., Inc.*; and *Lotus v. Borland*.

The next important case involves how the copyright law should be applied to an operating system. In the case of *Apple v. Franklin* the Third Circuit decided in favor of the Plaintiff, Apple, whose operating system had been largely copied by Franklin. Despite vigorous arguments on the side of the defendant, the court decided that operating systems were just as much the domain of copyright as any other software. The court compared the situation to the copyrightable nature of both literary books as well as books which contain instructions for the use of complicated machinery.

As far as understanding the concept of nonliteral copy infringement with regard to the structure of computer software, *Whelan* was seen as a paradigm. Traditional copyright spoke of literal (exact) copying of a work as well as the more ambiguous nonliteral (i.e. copying a play's plot while changing the dialogue); it is this latter type which *Whelan* interpreted as covering structural copying of computer software. Essentially, the case decided that *Whelan's* copyright extended to any elements of the computer program's design and structure which were not essential to fulfill its task. Even though the plaintiff's program was written in Event Driven Language and the defendant's in BASIC, the court decided that the structural similarity of the defendant's program infringed the plaintiff's copyright.

While several other cases followed the reasoning of *Whelan* in allowing protection for any structural design which was not necessitated by the purpose of the program, the *Plains Cotton* case did not. In *Plains Cotton* the Fifth Circuit found that elements of design and structure may be dictated by 'externalities of the market'. If it is shown that the market is such that elements of design are dictated by the need of the software clients (i.e. information generated by and to the user), then the copyrights on such elements are void.

Jumping forward to the nineties, the much discussed case of *Lotus v. Borland* dealt with the copyrightability of menu hierarchies within software. The importance of this case is that it designated the menu hierarchy, a way in which a person operates the program, as a 'method of operation' which



cannot be protected by copyright. The court considered the menu of a computer program to be analogues to the buttons or levers which are used to operate any physical machine since the menu was essential to the operation of the program. While the code used to program the menu was copyrightable, the menu structure itself was not since it served to operate the program, which is – from a user standpoint – merely a virtual machine housed within a physical machine. The decision of the First Circuit was upheld by the Supreme Court by the slim margin of a split court, which upheld despite expressing concern about protecting the expressive creativity used to label the menu hierarchy (i.e. word choice).

Since the Lotus case the court has become more comfortable with software copyright issues as there are now many established tests to avoid overprotection. The most important of these tests, is the merger test, which looks to see if the protection of a certain expression will end up protecting the underlying idea if very little creativity was – or could be – exerted in achieving the expression (remember, neither ideas nor functional systems are protected by copyright law). This is especially important when it comes to systems and methods of operation which are part of a computer program. In many cases the required function of a program as a whole, or some part of a program, is so restrictive that the available options constrict the creation of that segment to such a degree that the author's expression is merely functional and void of any real creativity, thus rendering it uncopyrightable.

While much more could be said, we will end our history of software copyright case law here. The first reason for this is that the cases from the 80s and 90s have laid a precedent for subsequent cases regarding the more basic issues of software copyright and to delve deeper would require more expertise than is expected for our current purposes. The second reason is that, after nearly 20 years of denying patents, the patent office unbarred its doors to a flood of software patents following the 1981 court decision of *Diamond v. Diehr*, which in turn has led to much controversy. So, we must now turn our attention to the history and controversy of computer software patents.

**[...continued...]**



**FICTION SAMPLE**

**[...continued...]**

A brisk wind curled through the alley's plastic bags, ruffling the trash and homes of the night before; and there she stood on the corner. Wiping the sleep from her eyes with one hand, she clenched the collar of her denim jacket and stared at each crack in the sidewalk as she slipped her steps into the spaces between. She walked deliberately, and with her slight limp I could have sworn that she was skipping down the sidewalk.

Cold white knuckles gripping the steering wheel, gray clouds wrapping around the brisk November wind, and a sleepy ragged bundle of childhood joy skipping down Wilmore street; this is the memory that I can neither shake nor remember. It floods into my mind as I drift to sleep, covering all other thoughts for that brief moment that my mind is off guard. But the moment I attempt to find her face, to find her smile in the cold, it is gone.

Sometimes I wonder if my mind is playing games with me. I'm quite certain that it is, and I've decided to play along.

**[...continued...]**



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SCREENPLAY SAMPLE

ACT ONE

**Ext. beyond the volcano - afternoon**

Tucked into a mountain ridge a volcano lays ahead at the edge of a large forested area. There is no sign of civilization in any direction. It is snowing on the forested area up to the edge of the mountain range in which the volcano lies.

Over the volcano lies a city, split in half by a river which cascades down the mountain range and into a ravine cutting through the city down into the ocean.

The area to the south of the river resembles a warehouse district with many housing projects, though its view is obstructed by the smog which hovers above it. The north side is clearly visible with its many glistening skyscrapers.

The volcano rumbles slightly.

**Ext. backyard - afternoon**

Jennica (8) runs in through the back-door into the kitchen. The autumn sun is shining outside. Her mother, Renee Soraldi (33), and father, Frank Soraldi (35), stand in the kitchen talking together. They are both smiling and each one has a light summer ale in their hand.

**Jennica Soraldi**

*Daddy, come push me, I wanna go higher.*

She points through the door. Frank glances through a window over the sink.

Crystal (11) is standing next to a tree from which hangs a swing. Erik (12) is swinging back and forth; on the ground in front of him lies an old beat up mattress. The ground around the tree is covered in bright yellow leaves. A row of trees with dark red and orange leaves lies 10 feet behind the swing.

**Frank**

*Alright sweetheart, I'll be right there.*

Jennica runs back outside.

Frank sets down his drink and gives Renee a peck. She watches as he walks out of the door, then she moves to the door and leans against the siding as she watches.

It starts to snow, although the sky still seems to be clear blue.

Erik peaks in the arch of the swing and then releases, jumping out and landing on the mattress.



**Jennica**  
*My turn.*  
*(towards house)*  
*Come on dad!*

A rumble is heard.

Jennica gets into the swing as Frank walks over to her.

**Frank**  
*You ready?*

Jennica nods.

**Frank (cont'd)**  
*Erik, you and Crystal better move that mattress back, we're gonna break the record.*

Erik moves over to the mattress and starts to drag it, as he struggles with it a bit, Crystal comes over to help him.

**Erik**  
*I got it.*

While tugging on the mattress Erik slips slightly and tears a tuft of grass out of the dark earth.

Crystal rolls her eyes and tugs along with him as they drag it further away from the swing set.

Erik and Crystal both stop and pleasantly walk over to watch. Frank is still pushing Jennica higher and higher.

A strong breeze blows from behind the tree stirring up many of the yellow leaves so that they blow past the swing and envelope Jennica; she is smiling.

Frank pushes Jennica one more time, she reaches the top of the arch and then jumps off towards the mattress. The leaves are now settled upon the ground, and all the trees are barren. A sea of red leaves lies on the ground behind the swing.

Jennica lands and rips through the mattress into a shallow pit underneath it. As she falls through she screams.

We hear the wind howling, leaves rustling, and thunder rolling.

Jennica begins to jump and claw at the mattress and walls trying to get out screaming for help.

She finally climbs out on the side opposite to the swings. She looks up and sees the volcano at the edge of the city issuing forth smoke. As Jennica turns around a strong wind whips around her, blowing her hair in her face. As she completes turning around and parts the hair from her face she is enveloped in red/yellow leaves which the wind is whipping around her, almost entirely blocking her vision. Each glimpse of the sky shows that it is now covered in dark clouds.