

## Uncle Sam vs. Walkman

# Battlelines Drawn for Next Year's Fight Over Home Taping

by Julia Haskett

Popular consumer practices such as taping an album or compact disc to play on portable or car stereo systems, or compiling a collection of personal favorite single recordings on one tape, are likely to be the focus of an intense legislative fight over home taping when the 102nd Congress convenes in January of 1991, according to the Home Recording Rights Coalition (HRRRC).

A lawsuit to bar the sale of a new consumer home taping technology known as the digital audio tape recorder (DAT) was initiated this past July, signalling the first event to serve as a dress rehearsal for the expected campaign to restrict the long-established consumer practice of home taping. DATs combine the mechanical technology of the VCR with the digital technology of the compact disc to produce cleaner sound with a superior dynamic range. The litigation came as an unpleasant surprise to consumers, who have been looking forward to sales of DAT in the United States for a long time. According to Gary Shapiro, Chairman of the HRRRC, "There is no reason they should be denied the right to enjoy this new format."

In Congressional hearings during the summer of 1990 on the issue of the DAT technology, the National Music Publishers Association, which is supporting the lawsuit to ban DAT sales in the United States, testified in support of royalty taxes on the sales of blank

tapes and tape recorders. HRRRC has maintained that noncommercial home taping for private purposes is encompassed in basic rights of American consumers and it has in past years helped defeat several attempts in Congress to enact royalty taxes that would infringe on such rights. Shapiro pointed out that obtaining such royalty tax legislation appears to be the real goal of the anti-DAT lawsuit.

He said that it is ironic for this suit to be filed so soon after a long-awaited study by Congress' Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) found there to be no evidence to confirm that home audio taping hurts record sales. To the contrary, OTA's study, released late last year, found that most consumers tape from albums they already own. The reason given most often was portability — making tapes for car tape players, personal stereos, "boom boxes", etc. The OTA found that, overwhelmingly, most consumers see nothing wrong with home taping and would not favor any legislation that would prohibit it or impose royalties on private taping.

If you'd like your voice to be heard on this issue, write to Senator Jesse Helms or Senator Terry Sanford at the U. S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 and Congressman David Price, House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515. For further information, contact the Home Recording Rights Coalition at 1-800-282-8273.

## If We Could Talk to the Animals

### What a way to spend fall break!

Ms. Jan Sullivan, biology department instructor, announces a special workshop, Dolphin Biology and Behavior, to be held October 12-14 at Cape Lookout, North Carolina. Planned activities include field trips to observe and photograph bottlenosed dolphins, and a visit to the North Carolina Maritime Museum. The deadline for sign-up is

Wednesday, September 13 so you need to see Ms. Sullivan as soon as possible to reserve your place. Fee for the weekend is \$150 (\$135 for Friends of the Maritime Museum). Ms. Sullivan's office is in Hunter Hall and her phone number is 829-8641. She promises a great learning experience and lots of fun!

## Attention Science and Math Students

# Applications Being Accepted for Hands-on Research

Are you studying science, physics, environmental and life sciences, mathematics or chemistry? If so, you may be interested in the Oak Ridge Science and Engineering Research Semester (ORSERS). ORSERS is offering college juniors and seniors an opportunity to do hands-on research at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in Tennessee during the academic year.

ORSERS is part of a nationwide effort by the U.S. Department of Energy to increase the quality and quantity of students preparing for careers in science and mathematics and is managed by Oak Ridge Associate Universities, Oak Ridge, Tenn. Participants become members of research teams engaged in long-range, intensive investigations employing advanced facilities and equipment. Fields of study include artificial intelligence, biomedicine, mathematics and engineering.

While the emphasis of the program is on hands-on research, ORSERS also includes an educational enrichment component. Participants attend seminars and symposiums sponsored by the divisions at ORNL and have the option of enrolling in a laboratory-approved course at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville or other nearby colleges. Students are also encouraged to arrange for the granting of academic credit by the home institutions for the research semester.

According to the National Science Foundation studies, by the year 2000 the United States will not have enough scientists to meet its needs. "Manpower projections for all types of scientist and engineers show the future demand for these specialists to be much greater than the supply," said ORSERS program manager Ernestine Friedman. "Experts contend that the gap is widening to serious, if not critical, levels."

To be eligible for participation in ORSERS, students must be 18 years of age, have completed the sophomore year at an accredited U.S. college or university and be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien. They must be working toward a degree in science or mathematics. Guidelines suggest an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

While in the program, ORSERS participants will receive a weekly stipend of \$200 per week, free housing, and travel reimbursement for relocation to the appointment site.

For more information about the program, contact Ernestine Friedman, ORSERS Program Manager, Science/Engineering Education Division, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, P. O. Box 117, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-0117.

The application deadline for the 1991 spring semester is October 20, 1990. The 1991 fall term deadline is March 15, 1991.

## City Entertainment

By Patricia Underwood

Looking for free entertainment? Check out Peace College for the Shady Grass Bluegrass Band on Monday, September 10, at 6:00 p.m. For more information call 832-2881.

If you are interested in learning tie-dye techniques and making wearable art (How many shopping days left 'till Christmas?). Call Artspace to enroll in their "Fall into Art" series of craft classes at 821-2787.

Meredith students, did you miss the "Crucible" auditions, but still want to get into theater? Well, this is your lucky break. Peace College is holding auditions for Wallace Shaw's thought provoking play "Aunt Dan and Lemor." For more

information call 832-2881.

The North Carolina Museum of History will show a series of films about space travel every Sunday this month. One of the features will be the 1983 film "The Right Stuff", shown at 2:00 p.m. on September 16th. The admission of, of course, free. The museum is also looking for volunteers. Fall training starts soon so call 733-3076 today.

Theater in the Park has two new plays opening this week; "Les Liasons Dangereuses" and Marriage of Bette and Boo." Ticket price is \$10.00 and \$5.00 if you go on a Tuesday or Wednesday. Call 831-6058 for times and dates.