

some to have evolved like Darwin's creatures through a force of its own. Public debates on technology tend to be conducted by experts and to concentrate on the microchip and employment. This text reframes the discussion and argues that technology ranges from language to a transnational corporation and that we all should share in technology choice. An interdisciplinary approach is used to explore some of the key issues in technology today, including virtual reality, gender, health, the environment, regulation, the information society, surveillance and globalisation. It includes a glossary of abbreviations and terms which ensures understanding of the nuances of

the text. Technology and technological debates are habitually framed by a small elite in western society using exclusive language and a narrow definition. Is technology 'neutral': an instrument of oppression and surveillance and capitalism and war, or an expression of the society which creates it? It has been defended as innocent, attacked as guilty and interrogated as an accessory after the fact. A key aim of this book is to encourage wider questioning.

#### **MUSIC BUSINESS**

**By Shane Simpson and Colin Seeger, North Sydney, NSW, 1994**

This text has been written for every artist

and musician or anyone working in the Australian entertainment industry. This text explains in layman's language the workings of the business of music. It purports to save managers, songwriters, young bands and label operators a great deal of money as well as hours of grief, as it explains how, and why, things are done in the industry and how to negotiate deals. Deal points which are standard overseas are not necessarily similar to the Australian practices. This text has not been written for lawyers, but is relevant to the novice performer as well as the experienced promoter, or the musician entering a record agreement for the first time. ☐

## **SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE NEWS**

### **► Making the Connection: Screen Producers Association of Australia Ninth Annual Conference, 2-4 November, Melbourne**

Sessions include 'Global Connections—Doing Business with the USA'; 'Pay TV—What the Programmers are Looking For'; 'Marketing Images—What Works, What Doesn't'; and 'Storytelling: Cultural Significance and Perspectives'. Speakers include Nick Herd from the ABA. Cost: \$650 (members); \$800 (non members). ☏ SPAA Conference Secretariat. Phone: (02) 262 2277. Fax: (02) 262 2323.

### **► Telecommunications after 1997: Carriage, Convergence, Consumers, 9 November, Sydney**

Carrier duopoly is promised to end in 1997. What changes will 1997 bring? More carriers with special rights and obligations to each other? Who has access rights to whose infrastructure? These issues will be explored as well as

how the government's social policy goals will be developed, implemented and monitored in a multi-carrier environment. Venue: Ionic Room, Masonic Centre, 279 Castlereagh St, Sydney. Cost: \$250. ☏ Communications Law Centre, University of NSW. Phone: (02) 663 0551 Fax: (02) 662 6839.

### **► Towards the Digital Revolution—European Television between Market and Regulation: the Sixth International Television and Film Forum, 10-12 November, Liege, Belgium**

This conference will explore how new technologies influence the development of programs and services, and what effect this will have on the audiovisual landscape. Venue: Palais des Congres, Liege, Belgium. ☏ Monique van Dusseldorf, European Institute for the Media, Kaistrasse 13, 40221, Dusseldorf, Germany. Fax: (49211) 9010456.

### **► Exploring the New Opportunities of Video-On-Demand, 16-18 November, London**

This conference offers comprehensive, up-to-the-minute market information and practical solutions for exploiting the new opportunities of video-on-demand, how cable companies are competing in the VOD arena, and unravels the regulatory and licensing issues to providing VOD.

### **► The 1994 Cable and Satellite Television Summit, 30 November-2 December, Hong Kong**

Key conference sessions will include: orbital slot regulation; broadcasting and licensing issues; the regulation of subscription television services; the latest satellite technologies for broadcasting; digital compression technologies; and copyright and legal issues. Venue: Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. Cost: US\$1395. ☏ IIR Limited, Hong Kong. Phone: 852 549 5618. Fax: 852 547 3836. ☐