

# Former teacher gets patent for file system

## Labeling method easy, inventor says

By LAURA BARNES  
Staff Writer

Hang on to your file drawers, organization freaks. A new labeling system invented by a retired USC professor might revolutionize the way people use files.

Charles Laurie, a former USC business education professor, has patented a tab that slides into any position on a folder.

"It is designed to position the tabs in the manner so that the names would be fully visible while alphabetical," Laurie said.

"And if you take a look at my filing system, you can spot it so easy that I find it easy to file directly, and it's easy to retrieve anything — so much so that now I'm reducing everything to folders," he said.

The secret, he said, is in his moveable VISITABS. They attach to folders by a slightly sticky or "low-tack" cloth flap.

Laurie's own file has hanging folders with VISITABS lining the left and right sides, and another uniform row down the middle. Any new files are labeled between the rows. He has everything from "Medicare" to "Jokes" titled and filed.

"It's very practical," he said. "The idea's very simple. Any fool

could have invented it."

The idea was patented this year after two-and-a-half years of learning the ins and outs of the patenting process.

"I started cold, without any assistance except my doctorate degree, which may be a psychological encouragement," he said. "I learned a lot from the (patent) examiners."

Laurie was turned down by one examiner, but instead of accepting refusal, he analyzed the office's position and sent a rebuttal.

"She (the examiner) wrote back to say the rejection was premature," he said.

"You have to be analytical, and you have to express yourself in a convincing manner," he said. "You also have to be heard."

Laurie was born in Egypt but was sent to Italy to attend French elementary and high schools. He later got his bachelor's degree at George Washington University and his masters and doctorate degrees from UCLA.

He admits being curious at an early age, gutting clocks to tinker with perpetual motion.

"I'm beginning to realize that's why someone who invents one thing always invents others, because he begins to realize that what is usually dismissed as a passing thought is really the basis for a good invention, especially if you know how to go about applying for it," Laurie said.

# Marines

Continued from page 1

death," Johnson said.

Watson believes the United States should have sped things up by giving Iraq 24 hours to release all hostages. He believes this is going to be a political rather than a military war.

Sellitto said, "The U.S. government is doing the best they can."

The Fox Marines are thankful for the support they have received from the American public. "The knowledge that people care about us helps keep the day-to-day discomforts in proper perspective," Johnson said.

When asked what he would say to students at USC, he said, "You provide meaning to sometimes meaningless work. Thank you."

Mail is their best support, Wat-

son said. "Many of us want to write to other people to get our minds off what might happen if things go bad," he said, asking that people pray for their safe return.

Support helps motivate them, Spann said. "Continue to support us because one day one of your children might be in the same spot as I am."

Sellitto hopes people back home will continue to support them. "Without their support, it makes everyone's job very difficult," he said.

The Fox Marines asked that people continue to support them by mail. "Let us know you haven't forgotten about us," Johnson said. "Most of all, treat us well when we get home."

# Aid

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tricked by these companies, but there have been inquiries and complaints about the companies.

"There have been quite a few people consulting us first about these private companies, asking us if they offer more than the office," he said.

"We don't have a policy against

the companies yet," Bannister said. "We just have to inform students of their potential harm. We have to get them used to consulting us first."

"Once students consult in us first and feel comfortable doing that, there won't be as much of a problem," he said.

# Economy

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business incorporations, the report said.

Hefner said more textile jobs will be lost, and residential and non-residential construction will be in a slump through 1991.

On the most positive side of this downturn, jobs in the service sector should increase and personal income will continue to rise but at a lower rate.

The rising gasoline prices could also have a positive impact on the state's economy by encouraging southerners to vacation closer to home.

"Overall, we are still optimistic about the economy of South Carolina," Hefner said. "The uncertainty factor is much larger than before with a much higher probability of the economy teetering over the edge into a recession."

Hefner offered three scenarios for the state's economy, all of which predict very low growth and one that predicts negative growth.

"For most of 1991, we are looking at a flat economy nationally," Hefner said. "If we are leading toward a recession, then it will be shallow."

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# Crime

Continued from page 1

The State University of New York system, the University of Michigan, California University of Pennsylvania, Millersville, Marquette and Mesa State College are among some of the schools considering the issue this year.

The reason campus police want more power is because of the increased use of weapons in crimes on college campuses, said John Carpenter, former president of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators. "It's really frustrating" for college police who don't have the power to arrest criminals, or carry a gun, yet still must confront seri-

ous crimes on campus, Carpenter said.

In recent months, there have been the murders of five students in Gainesville, Fla. In August, campus police had to face arsons, frightening riots, murders, assaults and other felonies at Lock Haven University, the State University of New York at Buffalo, Delaware State College, and the universities of Illinois-Urbana, and California at Berkeley.

"If they are law enforcement officers and requisite training offered, then they should be armed," said David Stromer, current president of IACLEA.

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