New Functions for Technology

This section describes the *UNIX*™ Writer's Workbench software, its philosophy (L. T. Frase), the programs (N. H. Macdonald), and people's response to the programs (P. S. Gingrich). The programs do many things that an editor does when proofreading and commenting on a paper, and they have stimulated much public interest. The programs have been discussed on the *Today* show, and in articles in *Time*, *Discover*, and other magazines and newspapers. Why are the programs so interesting? Part of the answer is that they relieve us from the drudgery of proofreading. But part of the answer is also that such programs come close to helping as a human would, without the embarrassment of personal criticism.