

Entertainment Outlook

The joys of discovering spreadsheets

A REVIEW BY
GEORGETOWN PUBLIC
LIBRARY
Gasse, Jean-Louis, *The Third Apple: personal computers and the cultural revolution*.
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1987.
Gasse once suggested that

France's two principal newspapers, one communist and one conservative, be merged, and a computer to be used to produce separate editions. The communists being better writers, would write the computer would change all the positives to negatives in order to give the conservative edition the appropriate slant!

Such is Gasse's approach to computers—irreverent, looking for a different way to make his point. For many North Americans, following the lead of Alvin Toffler, the "cultural revolution" of the computer is thought to centre around the concept of the "electronic cottage"—employees working at home and communicating with the "of-

face" through a computer. But Gasse's musings on the revolutionary nature of computers spring from his relationship with Apple Computers (he's v.p. for product development) and being a well-educated Frenchman. Thus we have essays on the joy of discovering spreadsheets (a truly mystical experience for those of us doing budgets!), on the limitations of artificial intelligence, and the poetry and art of the microcomputer. Opinionated and humorous, Gasse brings a sensitivity to the

subject of computers that much of the literature lacks. Instead of a sociological tract or computer manual, we are given a marvelous collection of essays. For that he can be forgiven comparing the Apple Macintosh with the apple that tempted Eve of the one that suggested the practical effects of gravity to Isaac Newton.



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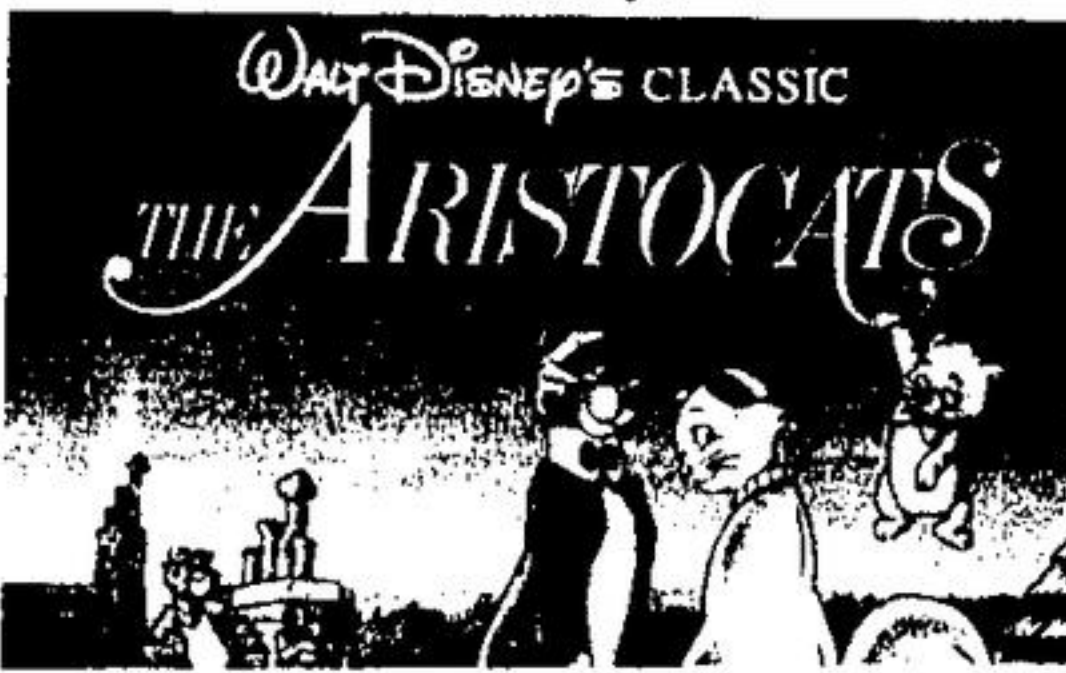
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