Editorial

One of the nice things about being an editor is the right to editorialize. While editorial responsibility implies that editorials should concern themselves with matters of great 'pitch and moment', there is sufficient latitude to deal with other matters as well.

In *this* editorial, I would like to talk about "gypsies".

Not the traditional bohemians wandering over the countryside with horses, wagons, bandanas and gold hoop earrings, but the modern gypsies of the information world, known variously as 'trainers', 'lecturers', 'seminar specialists', 'education associates' etc.

There are several tribes of information gypsies. They work for online systems centers, data-base producers, national and international organizations. We see them everywhere. They are bright, resourceful, loyal and cheerful despite their working conditions, the attitudes of their chieftains and often their audiences.

They endure the life of nomads, bad food, vicious airlines, and schedules that would tax Hercules. They are subject to loneliness: arriving in strange cities late at night, solitary dinners, traveling over weekends, all contributing to 'burn out' conditions.

With it all, they are knowledgeable and able to turn the complexities of their trade into useable skills for the benefit of others. Their contributions are surely as valuable as those of the entrepreneurs for whom they labor, the ingenious results of systems designers and the other 'movers and shakers' of the information world.

Let's hear it for the gypsies!

A.W. Elias