5 November 1997

TO: Bill Gilbreath
Ruta Fanning
Barbara Smith
Jane Jervis

FROM: Burt Guttman

SUBJECT: Xeroxing and time-wasting

Well, the good ol' (new) xerox machine up here in Lab I is acting up again; some sheets of paper are stuck in its guts somewhere that I can't reach, and where I can reach I'm in danger of burning my hands as I slip the junk out.

Faculty and staff members waste so much time and energy in dealing with cheap, malfunctioning xerox machines that it is worth just about any price to buy reliable machines that don't continually give us these problems. As a faculty member, I depend on xerox machines to make copies for my students. I usually don't have time enough to get everything over to the copy center, and often have to make only a few copies. The machine on the first floor of Lab I usually does the job very well, but it's used heavily; and what's the point of having a machine up here near my office if it always acts up and I can't depend on it?

My colleagues and I were hired at Evergreen because of our expertise in teaching and in operating certain instruments that are essential for teaching and research. Xerox machines were not on the list of devices I should have to wrestle with--certainly not if they cause us as much pain and frustration as they do. And, by the way, I do not have time to attend training sessions to learn how to fix inferior machines.