The \LaTeX{} Column

Jackie Damrau

In the April 1990 issue, I shared a beginner's type question. This issue I would like to share a macro that was recently needed in my job. I must give proper credit for part of this macro to Norman Richert, University of Houston-Clear Lake.

This example is an excerpt from the \textit{Wolf Cub Scout Book} from the section discussing \textit{Family Discussions} about \textit{Drug Abuse}.

Should anyone have a macro they would like to share, I urge them to submit the macro no matter how simple it may seem. The macro might be of help to others who are trying to solve a similar problem or help to answer a gray cloud that is hanging over the macro developer.
Double Item Macro

% Macros for "dblitem.sty"
% Date: March 1990
% Jackie Damrau
% SSC Laboratory
% e-mail: damrau@sscix1
% Special notation needed
% Parameters for SSC
\topmargin -.5in % Laboratory print environment
\oddsidemargin -.25in
\textwidth 6.5in
\textheight 8.9in

% Macros for "double items"
% Modified version of \item macro and context on
% p. 355 of TeXBook
% Norman J. Richert March 1990
% Univ. of Houston-Clear Lake
% e-mail: richert@cl.uh.edu

\newdimen\dblskip % Register for box w/dblskip width
\dblskip 7.5pc % Dblskip width of 7.5 pc
\newdimen\firstdbl % Register for box w/firstdbl width
\firstdbl 6pc % Firstdbl width of 6 pc
\newdimen\seconddbl % Register for box w/seconddbl width
\seconddbl 1pc % Seconddbl width of 1 pc
\def\dblhang{\hangindent\dblskip} % Indent width of dblskip
\def\dbltextindent#1#2{\noindent\hspace{\dblskip}%
% No indent, horiz. skip of dblskip
\llap{\hbox to \dblskip\hbox to \firstdbl[#1 \hfill]%
% left lap with 2 hbox spreads to arg1
\hbox to \seconddbl[#2\hfill]})\ignorespaces}
\def\dblitem{\vskip6pt\dblhang]% Definition of dblitem
\dbltextindent}
Family Discussions

Discussing the different myths about drug use is a good way to get children to open up. Listed below are several myths that parents can discuss with their children:

Myth No. 1  You won't become addicted to cocaine with casual use.

Fact  The two million cocaine addicts will tell you differently. The up-and-down cycle of the cocaine user who always needs more to get a kick is often started with casual use and often continued without the user knowing he or she is becoming addicted.

Myth No. 2  One time can't hurt you.

Fact  More potent, more available, and more lethal than ever, cocaine, heroin, and a rapidly increasing list of synthetic drugs can threaten the life of even a first-time user. Cocaine, once thought to be less dangerous than other drugs, in 1986 accounted for over 350 deaths. Today's marijuana has three times the amount of THC (the main mind-altering ingredient in marijuana) than marijuana that was available in the 1960s and early 1970s.

Code Used to Produce the Above Example

\header{Family Discussions}{Myths and Facts}  

Discussing the different myths about drug use is a good way to get children to open up. Listed below are several myths that parents can discuss with their children:
\dblitem{\myth{1}}{--} You won't become addicted to cocaine with casual use.

\dblitem{\fact}{--} The two million cocaine addicts will tell you differently. The up-and-down cycle of the cocaine user who always needs more to get a kick is often started with casual use and often continued without the user knowing he or she is becoming addicted.

\dblitem{\myth{2}}{--} One time can't hurt you.

\dblitem{\fact}{--} More potent, more available, and more lethal than ever, cocaine, heroin, and a rapidly increasing list of synthetic drugs can threaten the life of even a first-time user. Cocaine, once thought to be less dangerous than other drugs, in 1986 accounted for over 350 deaths. Today's marijuana has three times the amount of THC (the main mind-altering ingredient in marijuana) than marijuana that was available in the 1960s and early 1970s.

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