Reply 19/2/89

43 Ballantyne St.,
Thornbury, Vic. 3071
16-10-88.

Dear Sir

Enclosed are some items which I hope you might consider for
"Overland" - three poems, an essay on Joyce and a short "Guide to Semiotic
Clarity." You may be interested to know that this last piece was written by a
computer. I have a computer programme which randomly shuffles words around to
turn out endless reams of Semiotic jargon - of which this is a small sample.
(It also turns out pseudo-Shakespearean blank verse, obscure Japanese haikus
and various other literary "products").

Would you be interested in a short article on this? A lot of your
readers must have computers, and those who dont might be interested to see how
ccomputers can now mime human thought by turning out poetry and prose - of a
kind. If you wanted, I could put together an article on this, describing (in
English, not computer jargon) how the programme operates, and giving a few
examples of what it turns out.

Let me know if you think this is worthwhile.
Yours sincerely

Peter McConnell

(Peter McConnell).

P.S. A stamped, addressed envelope is included.

John,
This bloke sounds v. bright, and the type who
too easily invites facile dismissal. There may be
something here tho. a quick reading of the poems shows
an uncritical fondness for habitual phrases: 'glittering eye'
'savage joys' 'insatiable gullets' 'patriarchal beard' — as if years
of reading pulp novels had overlaid a native wit & intelligence.
Haven't read other than the poems. Do you think he deserves
a letter?

Barrie
25/10.

Tell him we've
accepted his poem
('At the Albion')
PR 28/10