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Problems

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Send Submissions to:
 Lynne A. Price
 TUG Macro Coordinator
 Calma R&D
 527 Lakeside Drive
 Sunnyvale, CA 94086

Paragraphs in tables

Problem #1: It is occasionally useful to produce tables in which the contents of some fields consist of entire paragraphs. At the last TUG meeting, Mark Blanford suggested the following technique

```
\input basic
\DefineFont{cmr10}{\bigfont}
\halign{#\hfil
  &\quad #\hfil
  &\save0\hbox par 1.5in
  &{#}\vtop{\unbox0}#
\cr
this is a test
&of vtop &\int +(-\infty)+(+\infty)#
&Now is the time for
all good men to come to the aid of their
party. The quick brown
fox jumps over the lazy dog. Ha ha ha.
\cr
A second
&paragraph
&uses {\bigfont a larger} font in order to test
what is really going on and does this work?
\cr
}
\vfill\ejct\end
```

which can be used to produce the following:

```
this is a test of vtop  $\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty}$  Now is the time for all
good men to come to the
aid of their party. The
quick brown fox jumps
over the lazy dog. Ha ha
ha.
A second paragraph uses a larger font
in order to test what is
really going on and does
this work?
```

Hanging punctuation

Problem #2: The term "hanging punctuation" describes punctuation symbols that extend into the margin so that line-initial and line-final letters will be aligned even when followed by punctuation. The following paragraph illustrates the technique:

'Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their party.' 'I hope this works.' "Do you also?" "Hope it works, I mean." 'In quotes.' 'In single quotes.' "In double quotes." How now brown cow? "The rain in spain stays mainly on the plain." This is a sentence. I should take the time to look for a nicely typeset book that has paragraphs, paragraphs, and paragraphs with hanging punctuation, so that I will have examples of characters, such as periods, commas, and quotation marks, that "protrude" into the margin. If I am lucky, this rather short, and very disjointed, paragraph will illustrate what I need to use to debug these macros.

The problem for this column is to prepare a file PUNCTUATION.TEX, so that the input shown below will produce the above paragraph. A solution will be given in the next issue.

```
\input punctuation
```

```
`Now is the time for all good men
to come to the aid of their party.'
'I hope this works.' "Do you also?"
"Hope it works, I mean."
'In quotes.' 'In single quotes.'
" In double quotes."
How now brown cow? "The rain in spain
stays mainly on the plain."
This is a sentence.
I should take the time to look for a
nicely typeset book that has paragraphs,
paragraphs, and paragraphs with
hanging punctuation, so that I will
have examples of characters,
such as periods, commas, and quotation
marks, that "protrude" into
the margin. If I am lucky, this
rather short, and very disjointed,
paragraph will illustrate what I need
to use to debug these macros.
\par\vfill\ejct\end
```

Hint for Problem #2: Users of versions of TeX that do not provide the \ifx control sequence may want to modify the input slightly, by inserting backslash characters before punctuation symbols.