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SECURITY SYSTEM

Putting pressure on art thieves. The thorny problem of display cases, or how to protect works of art from theft and vandalism while at the same time allowing them to be admired in the best light, has plagued museums and art galleries for ages. To date, all systems which attempted to solve the problem have been unsatisfactory, for a variety of reasons. Without exception, they have been expensive, required careful planning, were complicated to install, unattractive and anything but foolproof.

A new automatic showcase surveil-



The Cerberus showcase surveillance system.



lance system invented in Switzerland solves all these problems thanks to an entirely new concept. A loudspeaker diaphragm produces small cyclical pressure variations inside the display case. The uniform propagation of these waves is monitored by a pressure sensor which transmits the information to an electronic system for evaluation. The latter constantly compares these signals with the movements of the diaphragm and pressure variations inside the showcase. For as long as the case remains closed, the system indicates "normal operation". Any illicit attempt to enter the disply case immediately triggers an alarm.

Totally dependable, this system requires no maintenance. It automatically adapts to the shape and size of the display case and monitors itself on a permanent basis. The system is also sabotage proof and adapts quickly and easily to new requirements.

ROUND THE CLOCK BANK IN SWITZERLAND

Credit Suisse pioneers a sleepless telephone bank. Do you long to have a chat with your bank at midnight? Maybe you want to give a few cash management instructions at dawn? Voilà, the 24-hour Swiss telephone bank is at hand. From an office in the village of Horgen, over-

looking the Lake of Zurich, specially trained operators receive calls from clients anywhere in the world requesting a broad range of services. Customers can trade securities or precious metals, ask for information on their accounts or arrange cash transfers. Virtu-ally every type of banking service is now offered in the wee hours.

This service was born out of the intense competition which characterizes the Swiss Banking in the 1990's. Whereas Swiss banks in the 1980's, protected by fixed interest rate and commission agreements, spent relatively little time on thinking up new ideas to satisfy client comfort, they are now vying for customer favour.

A Credit Suisse market survey showed that a body of mobile, investment-orientated customers, wanted to do their banking at any time of the day, from anywhere in the world. The survey revealed that a wide range of Swiss, with little time during normal banking hours, wanted to do their bank business at night, on weekends or even Christmas Day. The Credit Suisse survey also noted that people like to deal with real people, and not computers.

For those worried about the security of dealing through a telephone bank, Credit Suisse suggests that misuse is difficult. Clients choose a password of seven to ten letters. To enter the system, a user gives one or two letters of the password at random. The person answering his call does not know the password. Only if the letters selected out of the password and the account number given by the client match the information stored in the computer, will any dealings be able to proceed.

Credit Suisse claims that with the arrival of telephone banking, the Swiss banking world is entering a new era.



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