KIERKEGAARD AND THE COMPUTERS

(The McGill Philosophy Department has done an extensive computer analysis of "aberrant frequency" words in the authorship of Soren Kierkegaard.)

Trapped in the works
amidst coils of wire
and multicoloured tubing,
rubbing shoulders with filaments
lodged between buttons poised
for pressing, a dialogue ensues
concerning fear and trembling.
The concept of dread capitulates
to numerical analysis.

Melancholy has ceased sweeping
the circuits of these machines,
signalling that the author finally
accepts separation from Regine Olson.
(Some key cells have failed to record
a similarity between his sacrifice
of Regine and Abraham's
near-sacrifice of Isaac.)

The Great Little Dane, packed
into a space more miniscule
than his reception by the Church
of Denmark during his lifetime,
now comes alive in his words,
preparing a brisk pamphlet to deny
anything deviant in his writings.

There is some clicking
and a message appears:
"I feel with increasing frequency
It's the computers which are aberrant."

David Lawson