**Checking for Matching Parentheses**

Unless you are writing very short documents, cleaning up can be one of the hardest parts of writing. The following macro double-checks your document, paragraph by paragraph, to determine if you have a balanced number of parentheses. The macro counts the number of left parentheses in each paragraph of your document and makes sure you have the same number of right parentheses. If you don't, the macro inserts a paragraph before the unbalanced paragraph indicating the error.

Sub CheckParens()

 Dim WorkPara As String

 Dim CheckP() As Boolean

 Dim NumPara As Integer, J As Integer

 Dim LeftParens As Integer, RightParens As Integer

 Dim MsgText As String

 NumPara = ActiveDocument.Paragraphs.Count

 ReDim CheckP(NumPara)

 MsgText = "\*\*\*Unbalanced parens in the next paragraph"

 For J = 1 To NumPara

 CheckP(J) = False

 WorkPara = ActiveDocument.Paragraphs(J).Range.Text

 If Len(WorkPara) <> 0 Then

 LeftParens = CountChars(WorkPara, "(")

 RightParens = CountChars(WorkPara, ")")

 If LeftParens <> RightParens Then CheckP(J) = True

 End If

 Next J

 For J = NumPara To 1 Step -1

 If CheckP(J) Then

 Selection.HomeKey Unit:=wdStory, Extend:=wdMove

 If J > 1 Then

 Selection.MoveDown Unit:=wdParagraph, \_

 Count:=(J - 1), Extend:=wdMove

 End If

 Selection.InsertParagraphBefore

 Selection.MoveLeft Unit:=wdCharacter, Count:=1

 Selection.Style = "Normal"

 Selection.TypeText Text:=MsgText

 End If

 Next J

End Sub

Private Function CountChars(A As String, C As String) As Integer

 Dim Count As Integer

 Dim Found As Integer

 Count = 0

 Found = InStr(A, C)

 While Found <> 0

 Count = Count + 1

 Found = InStr(Found + 1, A, C)

 Wend

 CountChars = Count

End Function

Note that there are actually two macros here. The CountChars function is called from within the main CheckParens macro. It is this latter macro (CheckParens) that is the one you should actually invoke on your document. When the macro is finished, you can search through the document, looking for the wording "\*\*\*Unbalanced parens" to see where you may have problems.

**Note**: the search parameters could be changed to look for other imbalanced objects in your writing such as { }, etc.