

General Delivery

From the President

Bart Childs

Our T_EX world has been progressing in impressive fashion. In spite of the fact that large number of errors have been found and corrected in the past year, T_EX is a mature and stable program. T_EX 2.9 is now widely distributed. When you consider the size of T_EX it is amazing that Don was able to create it at the level he did. Of course it is difficult to compare it with other software items because each is different. A high level language (HLL) does not have as many commands or elements. T_EX has about 200 primitives and plain T_EX adds about 700 macros to that. Most HLLs don't come close and from vendor the compiler is usually quite different. Barbara Beeton posed an interesting question, "if another error is found, what version of T_EX will it be?"

I have finished (?) a port to the Cray under CTSS. True to form, some errors in the Pascal compiler were found. The reason I question that I have finished is that I can't run the trip test. One of the errors is that I can't yet get input from the terminal. The trip test requires it. I plan to submit an article on the port to the next issue and include a few timings.

The finance committee has met twice since the annual meeting. We are in good condition and have added two permanent professionals, Clifford Alper and Alan Wittbecker, to our staff in Providence. Ray worked hard for that and we appreciate the efforts of other T_EXers that came up with the leads on these two.

I am preparing a review on the "T_EX: the Program" course that Don taught a year ago at Stanford. This course was videotaped, and the tapes are now available; see page 87 for details. We are also planning to have a small committee prepare a detailed syllabus on the courses that TUG offers. This will be available to all. We wish to ensure quality and continuity in T_EX instruction by TUG and internal courses as well.

In the process of incorporation, Ray took the opportunity to make a slight change in the way we had been operating. With our recent successes, it became obvious that the positions of President and Treasurer require more interaction with him. It would increase the continuity with TUG if these positions were not elected in the same year. At this

summer's meeting in Montreal we will be asked to confirm this schedule.

We decided to send Alan Hoenig to the T_EX meeting in Exeter this summer as a representative of TUG.

I can offer nothing but praise for the other officers you have elected. Rilla Thedford is building the volunteer network and Alan is timely with his correspondence. Thank you for providing such a good group. I think they simply reflect the organization.

Again, the TUGboat continues to improve. I found Doug Henderson's METAFONT column particularly useful and enlightening. You contributors keep up the good work.

Happy T_EXing.

TUGboat Docks at Fire Station

Alan Wittbecker
T_EX Users Group

Alas, TUG outgrew its space at the AMS. As the result of a search for larger quarters, T_EX Users Group will be moving on **May 1st** to the old (1866) Niagara fire station at 653 North Main Street in Providence. T_EX Users Group will occupy the top floor of the station, which has 1,200 square feet of office floor space and 800 square feet of storage space (the lower floor is occupied by Computopia, a retail computer store).

The station was renovated by Morris Nathanson Design and includes original firehouse memorabilia. Of great importance to us is the fact that it is only one block away from the AMS, so contacts and exchanges will continue to be close. TUG will be announcing a new phone number as soon as arrangements are complete.

All correspondence should continue to be addressed to:

T_EX Users Group
P. O. Box 9506
Providence, Rhode Island 02940-9506

All payments should continue to be addressed to:

T_EX Users Group
P. O. Box 594
Providence, Rhode Island 02901

The new address for delivery services is:

T_EX Users Group
653 North Main Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Donald E. Knuth Scholarship

Marie McPartland-Conn and Doris Hsia were honored at the 1987 Annual Meeting, University of Washington, Seattle, as the 1987 Scholarship Winners. They have volunteered to serve on the 1988 selection committee.

We are pleased to announce the Third Annual "Donald E. Knuth Scholarship" competition. Once again this year **two** Scholarships will be awarded. The awards consists of an all-expense-paid trip to TUG's 1988 Annual Meeting and the Short Course offered immediately following the meeting. Funding for one of the scholarships will be provided by ArborText, Inc., Ann Arbor, Michigan, and for the other, by the T_EX Users Group. The competition is open to all 1988 TUG members holding support positions that are secretarial, clerical or editorial in nature.

To enter the competition, applicants should submit to the Scholarship Committee by May 13, 1988, the input file and final T_EX output of a project that displays originality, knowledge of T_EX, and good T_EXnique. The project may make use of a macro package, either a public one such as L^AT_EX or one that has been developed locally; such a macro package should be identified clearly. Such features as sophisticated use of math mode, of macros that require more than "filling in the blanks", or creation and use of new macros will be taken as illustrations of the applicant's knowledge. Along with the T_EX files, each applicant should submit a letter stating his/her job title, with a brief description of duties and responsibilities, and affirming that he/she will be able to attend the Annual Meeting and Short Course at McGill University, Montréal, Canada, August 22-24, 1988.

Selection of the scholarship recipient will be based on the T_EX sample. Judging will take place May 14-June 13, and the winner will be notified by mail after June 14.

The Scholarship Committee consists of Marie McPartland-Conn, chairperson; Doris Hsia, Stanford University; and Alan Wittbecker, T_EX Users Group. All applications should be submitted to the Committee at the following address:

Marie McPartland-Conn
Henco Software
100 Fifth Ave.
Waltham, MA 02054

Notes from the Editor

Barbara Beeton

A few recent inquiries from readers have pointed out that (1) some people out there really *do* read TUGboat, and (2) some features your editor thought obvious really aren't obvious at all. So, here are some random notes on what to look for, and where.

Addresses of all authors, officers, steering committee members and others mentioned in significant capacities in an issue are given in the "best" form available starting on the next *recto* page after the title page. Starting with this issue, we're sending proof of the address list as well as proof of each article to the author for verification before it's published.

Cover 3—that's the inside back cover—is an extra-charge option for advertisers, but if TUG has something particularly important to announce, cover 3 will be reserved for that. Cover 3 of issue 8#3 contained the first announcement of the 1988 Annual Meeting, to be held at McGill University in Montréal from August 22-24. The meeting is also listed in the Calendar, and both the announcement (Call for Papers) and the Calendar are listed in the contents on the back cover. So the several inquiries, "When and where is this year's meeting?" tell me that something's just not getting through; we'll try harder to make this information more prominent, and suggestions for how to do it are welcome.

Suggestions for anything relevant to the present or future contents of TUGboat are welcome, of course. Editorial information, including the next issue's deadline (also in the Calendar) and the names of Associate Editors for various topics, is on the back of the title page, facing the address list. Addresses for the TUG office, including the street address (for express shipments that can't be delivered to a post office box) are given with the general TUG information on the inside front cover, and addresses of the various editors are included in the aforementioned address list.

The rapid growth of TUG's membership and continuing demand for back issues of TUGboat has made reprinting necessary. Some issues and full volumes have been reproduced from printed issues rather than from the original camera copy. This means that the statement "... can be taken as representative of the output..." is not necessarily true. Volumes 7 and 8 (all issues bound together) and some copies of issues 7#1 and 8#1 that were

not part of the initial subscription mailing are the only items affected.

Some efforts at generating standards or guidelines for certain topics of importance to T_EX users deserve a reminder. Robert McGaffey's committee to develop output driver standards (TUGboat 8#2, p. 161) can still use some more input; if you've just lost an argument with your output driver, which refuses to digest your new font of 256 characters, or tells you that it can only accept more than 4 fonts on page 27 when the moon is gibbous, send your suggestions to Robert. (See the address list ...) Christina Thiele and her committee are likewise attempting to bring order out of chaos by developing guidelines for writing scrutable macro packages (TUGboat 8#3, p. 307). It would be stretching the truth to say that all the macros I've written are well-structured and exhaustively documented; nonetheless, there are times when documentation and careful visual structuring are essential simply to preserve one's sanity under later deadline pressure. Send your best (and worst — what *not* to do is also instructive) ideas.

The TUG office has a new T_EXnician, Alan Wittbecker, previously with Nieman Ryan Publishing in the Northwest. He will be assisting in TUGboat production, as will a new volunteer, Tom Reid of Texas A&M University. They will be helping to retag the T_EX source files submitted for publication to use standard TUGboat macros where possible, or to make sure that newly-defined macros in one item don't subvert existing standard macros or persist to defeat the formatting of subsequent articles when a whole issue is strung together. It is my hope that, beginning with this issue, items can be returned to the authors after publication so that they can see what has been done to incorporate their work into a larger document. For authors whose submissions arrived on floppy disk, we intend to include the TUGboat macros in the return package, to permit the articles to be rerun in TUGboat format by the author, and, not inconsequentially, to provide an incentive for authors to prepare future articles directly in TUGboat format.

I would like particularly to thank one volunteer whose contribution was not properly acknowledged in the last issue. Doug Henderson, TUG's METAFONT coordinator and implementor of P_CMF, prepared the APL font (TUGboat 8#3, p. 275) and Silvio Levy's text Greek font (p. 20, this issue) for both laser printer and typesetter, a task for which no staff time was available at the Math Society. He is also serving as a repository of information on METAFONT parameter settings for various output

devices and of .mf source files for non-CM fonts and CM fonts in nonstandard sizes.

Two other volunteers whose long and devoted service deserves special recognition are Ken Yap, keeper of the L^AT_EX style collection, and Don Hosek, keeper of output device driver information. Both have worked hard to assure the accuracy of the information in their columns, suffered the indignity of having errors introduced during editing, and adjusted to the dictates of this Editor even if their local systems didn't make the task easy. Ken is looking forward to receiving his degree next year, and will be leaving Rochester; before he leaves, he would like to find a new home for the L^AT_EX collection, with someone who has a strong interest in L^AT_EX, an account on an Internet node that supports anonymous FTP, the support of the local system management in providing disk space and other encouragement, and time to do the job right. Particulars can be obtained from Ken by sending him an inquiry by electronic mail at Ken@cs.Rochester.edu; please send a copy to bnb@Seed.AMS.com.

And speaking of electronic mail, the TUG office now has Internet access through the Math Society's connection. Inquiries regarding membership records, subscriptions or orders can be sent to the TUG office manager, Karen Butler, k1b@Seed.AMS.com. Messages to management should go to Ray Goucher, reg@Seed.AMS.com. Address T_EXnical inquiries to Alan Wittbecker, aew@Seed.AMS.com.

Finally, some comments on T_EX outside of TUG. Chuck Bigelow's article, "Notes on typeface protection" (TUGboat 7#3, p. 146), has now been reprinted several times; the most captivating is the French translation by Jacques André in *TSI—Technique et Science Informatiques* under the title "Du piratage de fontes" — it makes the topic sound dreadfully sinister. Reviews of the IBM PC and Macintosh implementations of T_EX appeared in the January 11 issue of *The Scientist*, accompanied by benchmark data prepared by Malcolm Brown, moderator of T_EXhax. And, on the first page of the *Boston Globe* want ads for January 31, Stratus Computer listed a position for a publications specialist to work with "Tex [sic] (a typesetting language)". If you spot a reference to T_EX or METAFONT or TUG in any publication that may not make it to Rhode Island, send us a copy or citation — we like to keep informed about what the rest of the world is thinking.