General Delivery

From the President

Bart Childs

We have just concluded the '86 meeting at Tufts. It was a major step to hold the meeting at a location other than our Mecca. The differences were more than just a few thousand miles. Commercial eateries, watering holes, and hotels were not close. Still, the meeting was GREAT! Bill Schlessinger was a gracious and hospitable host. The dormitory arrangements received many compliments within my earshot. I never ate with the *real* people at the meeting because we always had a *Steering Committee* meeting during the lunch break, in a more private surrounding. I heard many good things about those meals and ours were good too.

Rilla Thedford did another excellent job of pulling a program out of our hesitant membership. Ray Goucher was *Johnny on the spot* and Karen Butler did her usual excellent job of keeping Ray and the steering committee pointed in the right direction. We are fortunate to have these dedicated employees and the great assistance of Sam, Barbara, and others at AMS. We owe them our gratitude and a lot more.

The meeting had more PC flavor than ever before, as one should expect. Our attendance was down a little. We desperately need a few good people to volunteer. Typical jobs for volunteers include:

- Annual meeting organizer, as in call for papers, etc. See a later item.
- Local host for annual meeting.
- Accounting and budgeting helper.
- Legal services; we need to become incorporated.
- Corporate relations, donations, fund raising.
- Volunteers to coordinate and help promote TUG courses. Several courses have been cancelled due to insufficient enrollment. We feel that just a little contact and selling would make these healthy. The income helps us all. We probably need an overall coordinator and then regional ones as well.
- Volunteer to solicit, coordinate, and encourage other volunteers.
- Public relations and advertising volunteer.
- Volunteers to hassle president, site coordinators, etc., for getting input to TUGboat, etc.
- A local chapter coordinator and a book on how to form one, etc.

A lot of people have volunteered to work, in response to Pat Fina's questionnaire. We will begin extracting names from that list soon. If one of the above items strikes your fancy, send Ray your name, best way to contact you, and your preferred assignment. It is best to do both a phone call and a written follow-up. I would appreciate a copy.

Here are some items from the Steering Committee meetings:

- The next meeting will be planned for the West Coast, perhaps at Stanford. The sentiment was that we had a great meeting and should move around some. This issue of TUGboat has a call for papers and a suggested session topic. Pierre MacKay, Joey Tuttle, and Richard Palais are the program committee. We feel the first day would include status reports, help sessions, vendor displays, and other "helpful" information. It is hoped that two more days with reviewed papers might be appropriate. Since TEX and **METAFONT** are stable, our society will likely become more like AMS, etc. **Remember that one of our biggest problems is individual timidity in the submission of papers and ideas to the meetings and TUGboat!**
- We are in better financial shape than last year. This has been due to good efforts by Ray, Barbara, Karen, and Stephan v. Bechtolsheim.
- Regional courses were taught at Harvard, Vanderbilt, Illinois Institute, and Stanford. We had to cancel 5 sets of courses due to lack of enrollment. *Just a few volunteers drumming up regional business could have made this more successful.* Twelve weeks of in-house courses have been taught at research laboratories, universities, and private companies.
- Our membership trends are shown by the following table:

	1983	1984	1985	1986
Members/Subscribers	755	1123	1498	2125
Institutional members	44	76	96	113
Annual meeting attend.	135	153	139	145
TUG courses taught	1	2	18	31

(Courses varied in length from two or three to five days.)

- Rilla Thedford and Allan Hoenig were elected Vice-President and Secretary, respectively.
  Thanks to Nelson Beebe, John Gourlay, and Richard Palais for preparing a slate of candidates. Rilla's election created an at-large vacancy in the Finance Committee. Amy Hendrickson was selected and has accepted that role.

- Ray Goucher will increase his contact with site coordinators to be more aggressive in pursuing potential TUGgers.
- We wish to acknowledge the following contributions to our society: Donald Knuth $6,441 from his royalties for *The TEXbook* and *The METAFONTbook*; Kellerman and Smith for contributing $905.16 for the first Donald Knuth scholarship; and Textset $1,000.
- Approval was given to hire a technical assistant for the TUG office. See the last page of this issue for a description of the qualifications for this position.

Donald E. Knuth Scholarship

The first Donald E. Knuth Scholarship was awarded this year to Jackie Damrau, an Editorial Assistant in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of New Mexico. The award included all expenses associated with attendance at the annual TUG meeting at Tufts, and at the two-day course on output routines which followed the meeting. Jackie is especially interested in uses of and extensions to LaTeX, and at the meeting volunteered to edit a TUGboat column on LaTeX. She has communicated to us the following news in connection with the scholarship award:

> "On a personal note, the Donald E. Knuth Scholarship enabled me to obtain a promotion. When I came to work on Monday, July 28, I was informed that my promotion was put through because of the accomplishment of proving that my work is invaluable to the department. I thank everyone for the honor of winning the scholarship."

Congratulations to Jackie on her accomplishments.

The Scholarship was funded by a grant from Kellerman & Smith of Portland, Oregon. TUG's thanks go to K & S for their generosity, and also to this year's Scholarship Committee: Maria Perkins of Vanderbilt University (chair), Carl Smith of the University of Maryland, and Linda Woessner of the NASA Langley Research Center.

One or more Knuth Scholarships will be awarded next year. Although next year's committee has not yet been named, nor have deadline dates been set, it is not too early for prospective applicants to begin designing their submissions.

The intent of the Knuth Scholarship is to encourage the increase of knowledge about TEX and to sharpen the TEX skills of non-technical users. The competition will be open to all 1987 TUG members holding support positions that are secretarial, clerical or editorial in nature. As this year, the award will consist of an all-expense-paid trip to TUG's 1987 Annual Meeting and the two-day course offered in conjunction with the meeting.

Submissions should include two applications of TEX: a TEX'ed resume, and the input and final TEX output of a project that displays originality, knowledge of TEX, and good TEXnique. The project may make use of a macro package, either a public one such as LaTeX 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.

Further requirements, dates, and the subject of next year's short course will be published in the next issue of TUGboat.

Barbara Beeton

1987 Annual Meeting, Call for Papers: TeX for the Humanities

Pierre MacKay
University of Washington

Editor's note: The Steering Committee at the last TUG meeting charged the Program Committee for the 1987 Annual Meeting to select and arrange a core program with a coherent theme; the papers presented within this framework are to be refereed and published in a volume of proceedings. The topic chosen, TeX for the Humanities, is expected to attract a different spectrum of users than have attended TUG meetings in the past; the invitation below will be extended to members of various organizations in the humanities as well as to present TUG members. In addition to the thematic program, the overall program will continue to include sessions on issues of implementation, hardware and software support, question and answer sessions, and other topics of general and technical interest.

Now that Donald Knuth's TeX typesetting system has become available on personal desktop computers such as the IBM PC and the Macintosh, the TeX user comunity is fast growing beyond its original nucleus of technically oriented users. Humanists in particular are coming to understand how TeX will provide a means of quality publication free from the constraints that have limited our use of foreign language texts and non-Latin character sets. The **METAFONT** program (part of the overall TeX system) is already available on a wide variety of computer systems and will soon reach the same personal desktop machines as now run the TeX program. Using **METAFONT**, we shall be able to supply text fonts in languages which have long been excluded from North American scholarly publication, and have become rarer even in European scholarly publication.

In recognition of this development, the TeX Users Group (TUG) is issuing a call for papers to be presented at the TUG general meeting on the West Coast, on a date during the last half of July or the first week of August. Depending on the response to this call, we shall organize an afternoon, a full day, or a full program of papers with the general theme *TeX for the Humanities*.

We urge that you give this meeting your special consideration. The TUG meetings are attended by a large group of commercial vendors who offer typesetting and proof-copy machines, font support, programming support, and book quality typesetting services. The best way to persuade these vendors to take an interest in the needs of the Humanities is to attend this meeting and make our presence felt.

Contributions will be judged for selection by the Program Committee and should show evidence of a good basic knowledge of the workings of TeX or **METAFONT** or both. The committee is equally interested in projects which have already achieved some measure of success and in designs for new projects. Papers selected by the committee will be eligible for publication in the Proceedings of this meeting, in a format to be announced at a later date.

The following deadlines will apply:

Title and short abstract	October 31, 1986
First selection	November 30, 1986
Long abstract	January 31, 1987
Firm selection	February 28, 1987
TeX copy for preprint	April 15, 1987
Final copy in machine readable form	
(not camera ready)	Last day of TUG meeting

Contributions should be submitted to a member of the Program Committee:

Pierre MacKay, University of Washington
Richard Palais, Brandeis University
Joey Tuttle, I. P. Sharp Associates

Report from ANSI X3V1

Lawrence A. Beck
Grumman Data Systems

ANSI X3V1 has been very busy since the last TUG meeting. As a result of our labors, the *Standard Generalized Markup Language* (SGML) has become an official International Standard (its official designation is ISO 8879) and the national ANSI adoption procedures are well underway. In addition, SGML has been provisionally adopted by the U.S. Department of Defense as the markup standard for all text used in interchange. The first instance of DoD citing this standard is in the *Proposed Military Standard for Automated Interchange of Technical Information* issued by the U.S. Air Force Logistics Command in conjunction with the CALS (Computer Aided Logistics System) Project.

DoD adoption of SGML means that the use of SGML will be a requirement in any DoD procurement (and eventually in all U.S. Government procurements) that involves interchange of text.

Since SGML is not a formatting language, this doesn't pose a problem for TUG. In fact, there are efforts already in progress to build SGML front end parsing systems that interface SGML to TeX. The first parser of this type has been built by Mr. Craig Smith of the Hahn-Meitner Institute (DM) in West Berlin. Dr. Alan Spragens of SLAC is also considering a project along the same lines; Alan has been invited to attend ANSI and ISO meetings and he may do so.

Copies of the SGML Standard can be obtained from

American National Standards Institute
1430 Broadway
New York City, NY 10018

Request ISO 8879 SGML. I believe that ANSI charges for these copies as it is a copyrighted document (ISO holds the copyright).

In addition, there are other projects underway which might be of interest to TUG, specifically, a project on Text Composition. This is a two-part project, the first covering *Text Composition Semantics and Syntax* and the second part being a standard for a *Text Presentation Metafile*.

The text presentation metafile may be of interest and/or concern to TUG as this is akin to the TeX DVI file. Two of the main participants in this effort are Adobe (who market PostScript) and Xerox (who are attempting to market Interpress). I believe that the subgroup would welcome input from TUG. As Grumman does not have an interest in the development of this standard, I don't keep a

hand in the work of this group. However, if TUG has a position that relates to it, I will be happy to relay it.

If anyone would like further information on these, or on other ANSI and ISO projects, they can contact me at my office. My phone number is 516-682-8478.

Towards a TeX Philology Group

Reinhard Wonneberger

These last times, there has been an increasing number of communications concerning the use of foreign and even exotic languages under TeX and its derivatives. While some of these efforts are backed up by larger institutions, others are more or less private. So there seems to be a growing amount of interest in exchanging information and cooperation in this area.

From a TeX point of view, *levels of effort* in this area quite naturally fall into the following categories:

- just using what is available
- design of foreign character sets
- macro support using TeX as it is
- modifications to TeX

From a *problem* point of view, the following topics seem to be of special interest:

- accenting
- hyphenation and alternatives like characters differing in width
- producing right-to-left text like a phone book in Arabic
- quoting right-to-left text like Hebrew in a Latin environment
- handling symbol scripts like Chinese

These languages, among others, are involved:

- Arabic
- Devenagari
- Greek
- Hebrew
- Russian
- Polish

To get started, we had an informal session at the Strasbourg TeX conference of June 19-21, which was mostly concerned with the question of how such a group could be organized. We compiled an ad-hoc

address list of people who were present and made it available to them.

To come to a sounder basis that might eventually become a TEX philology group, we suggest that the following information be provided by interested individuals and institutions:

1. Information for a more detailed address list:
    Name and address
    Affiliation
    Phone number
    Network address
    Level of effort
    Problems
    Languages

2. A short description of any project you have done, are doing, will do, or have heard of in any of these fields.

3. Bibliographic references, preferably with short comments.

It will also be interesting to know something of your concerns as an author, publisher, typographer, informatician, etc.

The material you supply, including address information, may be either published directly, or handed over to some volunteer to write an overview article.

Responses may be sent by either regular or electronic mail, to

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Drachenstieg 5
D 2000 Hamburg 63
Federal Republic Germany
Bitnet: B03WBG at DHHDESY3

or to

Barbara Beeton
American Mathematical Society
P. O. Box 6248
Providence, RI 02940, U.S.A
Arpanet: BNB@XX.LCS.MIT.EDU

An Idea Exchange on TEX Training

Laurie Mann
Stratus Computer

At the July TUG meeting, a number of us discussed issues related to the training of new TEX users. As a vehicle for exchanging ideas on TEX training and TEX macros, I volunteered to establish a publication called TEXtrain. The first issue was due out in mid-September, but since I had only two contributions (one of which was mine), I decided to hold off for a few months, to see if any other TUG members would be interested in contributing.

TEXtrain was originally conceived of as an "amateur press association" (APA for short). Contributions are sent to a central person, who then distributes them to other members of the APA. To remain a member of the APA, each member must contribute something to the APA every few issues. APAs are generally self-supporting — members pay for their own postage and repro costs.

Another way to handle the dissemination of training information might be to start a column on TEX training in a future issue of TUGboat. Barbara Beeton and I have discussed this possibility, and will probably continue to do so in the future.

If you have any feelings as to how this should be handled (by starting a specialized publication, by running a regular column in TUGboat, or by some other means), please write to me,

Laurie Mann
c/o Stratus Computer
55 Fairbanks Boulevard
Marlboro, MA 01752

or contact Barbara Beeton.