Editorial Comments

Barbara Beeton

Apology to our readers

It will not have escaped your notice that this issue
is late, very late. I won't bore you with the details,
only point out that there have been some changes
in circumstances that have made it impossible to
spend the amount of time necessary to keep *TUG-
boat* on schedule by myself. However, help has been
found, and a new production location that, unlike
the AMS computer facilities, is accessible to other
authorized members of the new production team.
This facility, at the Supercomputer Computations
Research Institute (SCRI) of Florida State Univer-
sity in Tallahassee, is due to the efforts of Mimi
Burbank, and we are deeply appreciative of her help
and that of the SCRI support staff.

An all-out effort has been undertaken to return
TUGboat to schedule by the end of the year. This
has already been described by the "old" and "new"
presidents in their "Opening words". I'll introduce
the new production team below.

Old faces, new faces

As with any volunteer-based endeavour, people who
have given of their time and energy in one set
of circumstances may find that they are unable
to continue when circumstances change. This has
happened once again on the *TUGboat* Editorial
Board. Jackie Damrau, the first recipient of the
Donald E. Knuth Scholarship, has been Associate
Editor of the LaTeX column since 1986. Jackie
has been a champion of the LaTeX user; her goal
has been to find better ways of explaining "how
to", as opposed to laying bare the gory details that
are of interest mainly to a developer. Both are
necessary, but we should not forget that this is a
users group. We wish Jackie all the best in her
future endeavours.

The new faces belong to the production team
that has been drawn together for the task of putting

TUGboat back on schedule. Mimi Burbank, men-
tioned above as our "angel", will assume the func-
tion of Production Manager. Christina Thiele, in
addition to production duties, has agreed to take
on the job of Associate Editor for Philology and
Linguistics. Robin Fairbairns, Michel Goossens and
Sebastian Rahtz complete the team. All these
individuals have considerable experience in editing
and producing TUG proceedings and/or other TeX
user group publications as well as other TeX and
computer-related talents too numerous to mention.
They have come in and "hit the ground running"
with an abundance of energy and good will. I
remain the Editor-in-Chief, responsible for major
decisions, overall guidance, and the person to com-
plain to if something goes wrong. I'm confident
that this team can deliver the goods.

MetaPost goes public

MetaPost, the extended METAFONT program by
John Hobby that creates PostScript output for dia-
grams and similar non-alphabetic shapes, has been
placed in the public domain by AT&T. Meta-
Post has facilities for including TeX output and
manipulating the resulting picture.

The distribution can be retrieved by anony-
mous ftp from `netlib.att.com/netlib/....` The
user's manual and auxiliary documentation are
in `.../att/cs/cstr` as `162.ps.Z` and `164.ps.Z`
respectively. The source distribution is `.../re-
search/metapost.tar.Z`. This is also mirrored at
CTAN in `tex-archive/graphics/metapost`.

The distribution requires the Unix Web2C
version of TeX and Tom Rokicki's `dvips`, which
contains special support for using downloaded TeX
fonts in included figures. A DOS version of MetaPost
is promised.

⋄ Barbara Beeton
American Mathematical Society
P. O. Box 6248
Providence, RI 02940 USA
`bnb@math.ams.org`