

General Delivery

From the President

Pierre MacKay

This will be a short message. A great many questions arose during the meeting this summer and we will have to chew them over rather thoroughly before we can digest them. (The imagery of this remark is familiar to any reader of the `TEXbook`.) What made this summer's meeting particularly significant was the growing awareness that now that `TEX` has come of age, the `TEX` Users Group must grow with it. At earlier meetings, the question of when and even whether the various flavors of `TEX` could be adapted to various machines occupied a good part of our interest. The effort of implementation was the hottest topic on the program, and legitimately so. But in the ten months since the first distribution of `TEX` 1.0, the `WEB` system has so thoroughly proved itself that, in the case of larger systems, at least, here is little to discuss except that it works. Those who, like Lance Carnes, are trying to squeeze `TEX` onto ever smaller machines are far from finished with implementation problems, but the learning curve is going up steeply. `METAFONT` will require another burst of effort once it too comes of age, but most of the lessons learned from `TEX` will be directly relevant to the various implementations of `METAFONT`.

With that understanding, the TUG steering committee is looking very carefully at the restructuring of the annual meeting. We must now study how we can best serve a community which is able

to assume that `TEX` is widely available and stable. In short, we must become even more a *Users* group than before. There is much to do. As Richard Southall forcefully pointed out this summer, layout and formatting are very demanding work, and require their own specific expertise. The `LATEX` generic document formatter is almost complete, and offers one example of what we can look for in the future. `AMS-TEX` will provide a good deal of the special polish needed for complex mathematical typesetting. But we also need to take the kernel of `TEX` and `PLAIN.TEX`, and build designer's interfaces around it, packages which work the way layout designers work, and which allow the designer's mock-up to be interpreted directly and easily into `TEX` commands. We need to offer much more of this sort of thing at the annual meetings, and we probably need to offer it at more than one level.

If we are going to get it right, we need help. We learned a number of useful things from the members who attended the summer meeting, and we are going to put our knowledge to work in the coming year. But we would also like to learn more from those who were not there this summer. What can we do to make the summer meetings more attractive? What should we do more of, and what should we do less of, both at the meetings and in TUGboat? Where should the meetings be held? (Yes, we are considering this very seriously, although we feel that one more meeting at Stanford is appropriate in honor of the expected release of `METAFONT`.) How shall we set the balance between the needs of the relatively new user and the problems of the emerging macro wizard? Let us know, and we will do our best to make the `TEX` Users Group serve the Users even more effectively.



METAFONT

Report of the Publications Committee

Robert Welland

A Publications Committee was formed at the summer TUG meeting. The temporary chairman of the committee is Robert Welland from the Mathematics Department at Northwestern University, and the remaining members are

Malcolm Clark	Imperial College, England
Maureen Eppstein	Stanford University, USA
Helmut Jürgensen	University of Western Ontario, Canada
Roberto Minio	Carnegie-Mellon, USA
Michael Urban	TRW Los Angeles, USA

The committee was asked to oversee publications which support the TUG community. It is to identify needs and encourage writers to fill them; and, when it is suitable, to arrange with Ray Goucher to have these works published by the AMS or some other suitable publisher.

Also, Ray was asked by the Steering Committee to set up a facility for distributing such materials. This will lead eventually to a central TUG distribution center.

As a start on our publication endeavours, Ray was asked to negotiate with Stanford University for the rights to publish the Stanford reports which pertain to T_EX. He was also asked to lease from Stanford the Metafont course video tapes and make these tapes available to the TUG community at reasonable rates.

Michael Urban has agreed to update his fine T_EX reference card and make it available to TUG.

Maureen Eppstein is going to act as a conduit for articles about T_EX applications for publication in TUGboat. Her main goal will be the promotion of good design. She will collect material on format and layout and present to TUGboat some exemplary layouts together with the T_EX code for their generation.

Helmut Jürgensen is going to edit a column in TUGboat devoted to T_EX and Metafont software with emphasis also on WEBware.

Roberto Minio has agreed to build an extensive bibliography of T_EX-related materials and of format and design materials.

Malcolm Clark suggested that we collect a list of books (and papers) which have been published using T_EX so that we will have a ready set of T_EX-produced examples to show other people. Please

send any information on this matter to Malcolm so that he can compile it for TUGboat.

It was suggested that a T_EX command structure dictionary be built (a task more easily conceived of than executed). Alan Spragens at Stanford's SLAC Computing Services Center has made a step in this direction and has offered to let us have the material he has developed. If someone in TUG feels that he or she has the language skills necessary to carry out this extremely challenging job and would like to do it, please get in touch with Bob Welland.

It was decided that we should increase to three or four the number of issues of TUGboat produced annually. The final decision on this matter is to be left to Barbara Beeton, the TUGboat editor.

It is easy to form a committee and start some projects, but to produce results this committee needs the help of the beneficiaries. If you have any suggestions or can help in any way, please give a hand.

Report of the Special Projects Committee

Arthur Keller

The Special Projects Committee was formed at the T_EX Users Group meeting in August with the charter of organizing courses (at the TUG meeting and otherwise), and evaluating other activities for TUG. Arthur Keller, Monte Nichols, and Craig Platt have agreed to serve on this committee. The 1985 TUG meeting will be a week-long course followed by a two-day short course and the three-day meeting during the weeks of August 5-16, 1985. We have decided to offer the week-long Intensive Introduction to T_EX again next year, and we are making arrangements to obtain the same facilities, as they worked well this year. The Annual Meeting Program Committee will handle the schedule for the three-day meeting. Suggestions should be sent to Arlene Azzarello or Joey Tuttle.

We are considering several alternatives for a two-day short course for the 85 meeting. We would appreciate feedback indicating your preferences or additional suggestions on courses and people to teach them. Alternatives include: (1) writing L^AT_EX document styles/L^AT_EX internals; (2) issues in document design; (3) a course on publishing by

a publisher; (4) how to edit your own copy; (5) an introduction to the new Metafont; and (6) a course on \TeX macro wizardry.

We are also considering methods of cooperating with the conference on \TeX for Scientific Documentation in Varenna, Italy (see page 147 for more information on this conference).

Comments may be sent to Arthur Keller. (See the inside front cover for the US mail address, telephone number, and computer mail address.)

Submitting Items to TUGboat

Barbara Beeton

TUGboat, along with TUG, has been in existence now for five years, and shows distinct signs of continued survival. The editorial board is growing, with volunteers in charge of editing specialized columns on various subjects; their names and addresses are listed on the inside front cover.

Articles on all subjects related to \TeX and TUG are welcome. If an article falls into an area covered by one of the editors, it should be submitted to the appropriate editor. Articles of general interest, or in areas not listed, should be sent to me. If you feel that some important topic has been neglected, and would like to become a columnist, please get in touch with me. TUGboat will be only as healthy as you make it.

Present plans call for three issues in 1985; this assumes that all 1985 issues will be put together in Providence. The deadline for receipt of material in Providence for the first issue is February 1; articles which are submitted through a subject editor should be sent earlier—Helmut Jürgensen (page 91) has asked that submissions reach him at least two weeks earlier, and the other editors would surely appreciate the same consideration.

It was suggested at the August meeting that one or more issues might be guest-edited, with only the printing and mailing done by TUG. Such an arrangement might result in an extra issue in 1985, or might limit the content of a particular issue to a particular subject. More concrete information will be published when known. Suggestions for areas of special interest for “topical” issues, and volunteers to guest-edit such issues, are particularly welcome.

Items are solicited in camera copy form, whenever possible. If copy has been prepared by \TeX and is legible, it will ordinarily be used as submitted, reduced photographically if necessary (advisable for copy prepared on an output device with 200 dot/inch or lower resolution), with running heads applied. The following specs were followed in preparing this issue of TUGboat:

text style	amr10 on 12pt
two-column pages:	
\backslash hsize, \backslash vsize	18.75pc, 52pc
intercolumn gap	1.5pc
page width	39pc
one-column pages:	
announcements	page 75
\backslash hsize	34pc
Southall article	page 79
\backslash hsize, \backslash vsize	24.5pc, 54pc
text style	amss10 on 12pt

Items are also welcome on magnetic tape (see below), or as net mail to me on the ARPAnet (**bb@SU-AI**), or deposited directly onto the Math. Society computer. (Call me for details of how to log in.) We are able to handle 800- and 1600-bpi tapes in either ASCII or EBCDIC. Some manual translation may be necessary with EBCDIC, so include a list of the special characters, with each character followed by its name, to assist in deciphering. Tapes in the following formats have been handled successfully; please specify clearly the format and density:

- (a) labeled ANSI-standard format;
- (b) blocked, fixed-length records (80 characters is convenient)
- (c) the generic distribution format generated by **TPREAD**.

Significant spaces and \backslash _ at the ends of lines are discouraged; such spaces tend to get lost and must be re-inserted by hand, especially if a file is transmitted on tape with fixed-length records.

A set of \TeX 82 macros for preparing TUGboat material is now under construction. I am attempting to follow the philosophies of $\text{L}\text{A}\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$ and $\text{A}\text{M}\text{S}\text{-}\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$, but neither macro package will be required to use the TUGboat macros, only **PLAIN**. As soon as it is ready for general use (almost certainly before the end of the year), a copy will be put on the distribution tape, and a message will go out over the TEX hax network; a suitable announcement will also appear in TUGboat.