President's Introduction

Nelson H. F. Beebe

The 1990 TUG meeting held at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, was our eleventh, and these *Proceedings* are the second to be published as a regular issue of *TUGboat*. Texas A&M is a big institution, with over 2200 faculty and 41000 students, 7000 of whom are graduate students. It is one of the few land, sea, and space grant universities, and also has the largest campus of any American university.

About 150 TUG members showed up, and almost all lived at the same hotel, so there were discussions going on from about 6:30 in the morning until well past midnight each day. I certainly enjoyed myself, and I would like to thank all of those who attended for contributing.

. The first morning was devoted to status reports about the new TeX 3.0 and METAFONT 2.0, the exciting work on the new LaTeX 2.10 implementation, reports from a number of international representatives, site coordinator reports, the first draft of a level 0 DVI driver standard, and archives and bulletin boards. In the afternoon, we were treated to Frank Mittelbach's insightful comments about the weaknesses of TeX, with ideas for future extensions.

I would like readers who have stretched TeX's limits to think seriously about writing up their experiences for *TUGboat* publication. While we *do* want to keep TeX stable for some time, we risk killing it if we do not simultaneously plan for its peaceful evolution, because competing commercial desktop publishing systems are also evolving.

Frank's talk was followed by two presentations about the use of TeX in Japan. The AutoLayouter system by Y. Miyabe and colleagues is a good example of an evolutionary direction that TeX implementations might follow, combining workstation-based document preparation with a set of tools for structured document editing and management.

The second morning began with vendor presentations, and it was good to hear that several already have implemented TeX 3.0. David Kellerman of Northlake Software showed some interesting slides illustrating the relative amounts of work that go into producing a solid commercial product—more than two-thirds is 'value-added', which clearly demonstrates that commercial, as well as public-domain, implementations of TeX are needed if it is to survive. The remainder of the day was devoted to discussions of macro writing (see particularly Amy Hendrickson's valuable ideas, and Andrew Marc Greene's expression parser), portable graphics, and the real world of book production.

The third day began with talks about using other tools to support TeX document preparation, the teaching of TeX, and the annual TeX help session hosted by Barbara Beeton. The problems and answers from this are finally going to make it into *TUGboat*, and I hope that this topic can be a regular column. The meeting wrapped up with the afternoon session on fonts. Michael Vulis has done some very interesting things with extensions to TeX, which I believe we should study as a pilot implementation of some ideas for TeX's evolution. The extensions can be suppressed by a command-line option to get a standard TeX which passes the *trip* test. Alan Hoenig's METAFONT implementation of the Dürer alphabet will, I trust, encourage others to consider similar projects with classic fonts.

Of course, a TUG meeting would not be complete without numerous social activities. We are very grateful to ArborText, Blue Sky Research, Computer Composition Corporation, Kinch Computer Co., Micro Programs, Northlake Software,

Personal TEX, TEXnology Inc., the Bryan/College Station Convention Center & Visitors Bureau, and the College Station Hilton for their contributions to making the Eleventh Annual Meeting a big success.

Our sincere thanks go out to all those who worked so hard to deliver such an excellent meeting, in particular, the program committee, staff members of the Texas A&M Computer Science Department, and the TUG staff—all of whom dedicated a considerable amount of time and effort over the past 12 months.

And lastly, our sincere appreciation to Lincoln Durst, whose diligent efforts have resulted not only in the production of a *Proceedings* of the highest quality, but in its timely appearance—within 10 weeks of the meeting.

Hope to see you in September at TEX90 in Cork!

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1990 Program Committee: The Program for the 1990 Annual Meeting of the TEX Users Group was organised by the following people, whose efforts to make the 11th Annual Meeting a memorable start to the new decade should not go unnoticed: Lincoln Durst, our new editor; Regina Girouard of the American Mathematical Society; Tom Reid, the on-site contact person (Texas A&M University, College Station); and Christina Thiele, Program Coordinator (Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada).