Editor’s Letter

It appears that my description of the SIGACT News submission deadline in the Editor’s Letter of the October 1993 issue (Vol. 24, No. 3) contained an error. The issue named for month $m$ was supposed to have a submission deadline of the first day of month $m - 2$, not $m - 1$ as stated. However, circumstances have changed in such a way that my error is not an error at all. It’s not often that the world changes to accommodate my mistakes! ACM HQ has informed me that we should rename our issues to March, June, September, and December if we wish to keep our second class mail license. Keeping that license is a good thing to do because it reduces our mailing costs by about a third, and hence keeps your membership dues down. You will note that the previous issue (Vol. 24, No. 4) was named December 1993 in accordance with this new policy.

As usual, this issue contains some very interesting contributions from members of the theoretical computer science community. There are far too many to mention individually, but I would like to take the time to spotlight a few of them. The minutes of the FOCS business meeting, recorded assiduously by Peter Gemmell, contain much interesting news and information. There is also a thoughtful piece from Jozaf Gruska on the newly formed IFIP Specialist Group on Foundations of Computer Science. Lane Hemaspaandra’s Complexity Theory Column contains the second half of Oded Goldreich’s interesting and informative guest column on proof systems. Joseph O’Rourke’s Computational Geometry is the 22nd in the series. This, Jeff Salowe’s Theory Calendar, and Rocky Ross’ Education Forum are the most frequent of our regularly appearing items, and are very much appreciated. And this year we have the STOC preliminary program due to the tireless efforts of Gilles Brassard. To these people and all of those who made this issue possible, thanks for all of your work!

Ian Parberry

Transitions

Changes of professional address to be listed in the Transitions section of SIGACT News should be sent by electronic mail to the Editor, ian@ponder.csci.unt.edu.

Oded Goldreich
Dept. of Applied Math and Computer Science
Weizmann Institute of Science
Rehovout, ISRAEL
Email: oded@wisdom.weizmann.ac.il

Lawrence L. Larmore
Chair, Dept. of Computer Science
University of Nevada
Las Vegas, NV 89514-4019
Email: larmore@earl.cs.unlv.edu

Quarterly Quote

If $A$ equals success, then the formula is: $A = X + Y + Z$. $X$ is work. $Y$ is play. $Z$ is keep your mouth shut.

— Albert Einstein
Editor’s Letter

This quarter’s issue contains a number of interesting contributions to which I would like to draw your attention. The report of the SIGACT Long Range Planning Committee includes a statement on the importance of theoretical computer science which eloquently states our raison d’être. I particularly found Lane Hemaspaandra’s Complexity Theory Column on “Not-Ready-for-Prime-Time-Conjectures” entertaining and informative. John Mitchell’s Logic Column contains a guest column by Yuri Gurevich on “Logic Activities in Europe”, which I found equally interesting, even though I am not a logician. Rocky Ross’ Education Forum contains valuable information about using visualization systems to teach algorithms.

Jeff Salowe has informed me that he will no longer be able to manage the Theory Calendar for SIGACT News. Jeff has performed a valuable service for many years by compiling his calendar, and I would like to thank him on behalf of the theoretical computer science community. If you are interested in volunteering as his replacement, please contact Jeff at salowe@virginia.edu, or me at ian@ponder.csci.unt.edu.

The SIGACT Executive Committee has undergone some changes recently with the addition of new positions. These include Electronic Publications (Fillia Makedon), Theorynet Moderator (Douglas Ierardi), EATCS President (Gregorz Rozenberg), Awards Coordinator (David Johnson), and Long Range Planning (Carl Smith). Telephone numbers and email addresses for these people can be found on the inside of the front cover.

Ian Parberry

Transitions

Changes of professional address to be listed in the Transitions section of SIGACT News should be sent by electronic mail to the Editor, ian@ponder.csci.unt.edu.

David Zuckerman
Department of Computer Sciences
The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX 78712
Email: diz@cs.utexas.edu

David R. Luginbuhl
Department of Computer Sciences
AFOSR/NM
The University of Texas at Austin
110 Duncan Ave, Suite B115
Bolling AFB, OH 20332
Email: luginbuh@afosr.af.mil

Quarterly Quote

The Feynman Problem-Solving Algorithm: (1) write down the problem; (2) think very hard; (3) write down the answer.

— Murray Gell-mann
Editor’s Letter

As announced in the last issue, Jeff Salowe has stepped down as columnist for the Theory Calendar. Joseph Ganley has kindly agreed to take over his duties for SIGACT News, starting with this issue. I would like to take the opportunity to welcome him among the SIGACT News staff of volunteers. He can be contacted at the following address:

Joseph L. Ganley
Department of Computer Science
Thornton Hall
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA 22903

Phone: (804) 982-2295
Fax: (804) 982-2214
Email: ganley@virginia.edu

We have a larger than normal issue for you, due to a large than normal volume of submissions. Thanks to everybody who submitted an item. There are far too many good things for me to draw them all to your attention. Enjoy!

Ian Parberry, SIGACT News Editor
Denton, TX; August 2, 1994

Transitions

Changes of professional address to be listed in the Transitions section of SIGACT News should be sent by electronic mail to the Editor, ian@ponder.csci.unt.edu.

Ami Amir
Dept. of Math. & Computer Science
Bar-Ilan University
Ramat Gan 52900
Israel
Phone: (972-3) 531-8407
Fax: (972-3) 535-3325
Email: amihood@bimacs.cs.biu.ac.il

Larry Reeker
Program Director
Knowledgement Models and Cognitive Systems
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1115
Arlington, VA 22230
Email: lreeker@nsf.gov

Susan H. Rodger
Dept. of Computer Science, Box 90129
D237, LSRC
Duke University
Durham, NC 27708-0129
Email: rodger@cs.duke.edu

Subhash Suri
Department of Computer Science
Washington University
Campus Box 1045
One Brookings Drive
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899
Email: suri@CS.WUSTL.EDU

Quarterly Quote

The juvenile sea squirt wanders through the sea searching for a suitable rock or hunk of coral to cling to and make its home for life. For this task it has a rudimentary nervous system. When it finds its spot and takes root, it doesn’t need its brain any more so it eats it. It’s rather like getting tenure.

— Attribution Unknown
Editor’s Letter

The theory community is currently mourning the recent deaths of two respected colleagues, Eugene Lawler of the University of California at Berkeley, and Donald Johnson of Dartmouth College. This issue contains an obituary for Gene Lawler, and a call for papers for a special issue of Mathematical Programming Series B devoted to Applications of Computer Science Techniques in Combinatorial Optimization, in honor of his memory. They will both be missed.

Starting with this issue SIGACT News will include advertising for products and services. We will, however, continue to run Calls for Papers, Conference Programs, and Theory Calendar entries for free, as a service to the theory community. Advertising will be handled by ACM HQ. For full information contact ACM’s Advertising Manager, Walter Andrzejewski (phone (212) 869–7440, email walker@acmvm.bitnet), or Advertising Coordinator, Tim Bennett (phone (212) 869–0687, email bennett@acmvm.bitnet). Both can be contacted by hard mail at ACM, 1515 Broadway, New York, NY 10036, or by fax at (212) 869–0481. We are particularly interested in receiving advertisements for books, so authors, call your publishers!

I am happy to announce that Victor Vianu (vianu@cs.ucsd.edu) will be taking over the Database Theory Column from Paris Kanellakis, starting with the next issue. Several people wrote to give the attribution for the last issue’s Quarterly Quote — it is by Daniel Dennett in Consciousness Explained. SIGACT News now has an information page on the World-Wide Web at URL http://hercule.csci.unt.edu/sigactnews, which includes information on scope, contact addresses, publication details, submission guidelines, deadlines, advertising, and Tables of Contents starting with the Summer issue of 1991.

Ian Parberry, Editor

Transitions

Changes of professional address to be listed in the Transitions section of SIGACT News should be sent by electronic mail to the Editor, ian@ponder.csci.unt.edu.

Luc Longpre
Computer Science Department
University of Texas at El Paso
El Paso, TX 79968
Email: longpre@cs.utep.edu

Rebecca Wright
AT&T Bell Laboratories, Rm. 4F–635
P.O. Box 3030
101 Crawfords Corner Road
Holmdel, NJ 07733–3030
Email: rwright@research.att.co

Dr. Stephen R. Mahaney
Associate Director - Research
DIMACS Center
Rutgers, The State University of NJ
P.O. Box 1179
Piscataway, NJ 08855–1179
Phone: 908–445–5928
Fax: 908–445–5932
Email: mahaney@dimacs.rutgers.edu

Quarterly Quote

One of the advantages of being disorderly is that one is constantly making exciting discoveries.

— A.A. Milne