

## Letters

To the Editor:

I have come to recruit you to 'a good cause'. The Mathematics department at Imperial will take on a rather special undergraduate this coming academic year. Special, because he is both deaf and blind. Naturally, he is able, highly motivated, and knows his way round a Braille terminal. Communication, in a general sense, is straightforward, if a little cumbersome. Mathematical communication? The obvious answer is T<sub>E</sub>X. How else can you communicate mathematics unambiguously (who said APL?), in an easy to learn way (some of his lecturers are getting old), and in a way which will grow as he learns? Someone else must have tried to do this. Do you know of any such attempt? If you could publish a short note about this project in TUGboat, we would be grateful. Any bright ideas, helpful hints, even words of encouragement, will be gratefully accepted.

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Editor's note: his letter was read at the August TUG meeting, and a few members seemed to have knowledge of others working with blind students. The question was posed, why is T<sub>E</sub>X obvious? T<sub>E</sub>X, aside from its typesetting capabilities, is a system for linearizing mathematics, with a vocabulary similar to what would be used by two mathematicians communicating over a telephone. The structural and positional relationships between symbols remain intact, and the macro facility makes it possible to develop 'shorthand' forms for frequently occurring expressions.

We wish both the student and his lecturers success.

## News & Announcements

### Calendar

Plans are being formulated to conduct T<sub>E</sub>X for Beginners courses in the Ann Arbor, Boston, Chicago, New York and Seattle areas next summer. The possibility of conducting other T<sub>E</sub>X-related courses in these areas in conjunction with the beginning courses is being considered, also. (See TUG's advertisement for instructors on page 156 for a list of possible subjects.) A complete list of locations and dates should be available for distribution to members in January 1985. The list will be published in this column in the March issue.

#### 1985

- Jan. 9-12 T<sub>E</sub>X exhibit (Textset, Inc., and TUG), American Mathematical Society Annual Meeting, Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, Calif.
- Jan. 31 TUGboat Volume 6, No. 1, Deadline for submission of manuscripts
- May 16-17 T<sub>E</sub>X for Scientific Documentation, Varenna, Italy. For additional information, see announcement on page 147.
- May 31 TUGboat Volume 6, No. 2, Deadline for submission of manuscripts (tentative)
- Aug. 5-9 T<sub>E</sub>X for Beginners, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif.
- Aug. 12-13 T<sub>E</sub>X Short Course (subject to be announced), Stanford University, Stanford, Calif.
- Aug. 14-16 T<sub>E</sub>X Users Group Annual Meeting, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif.
- Sep. 30 TUGboat Volume 6, No. 3, Deadline for submission of manuscripts (tentative)

**T<sub>E</sub>X for Scientific Documentation**

Varenna, Italy, May 16-17, 1985

*Call for papers*

A European Conference on the T<sub>E</sub>X System and related current applications will be held in Varenna, Italy, May 16-17, 1985. The aim is to provide a state-of-the-art survey of current work in this area and to encourage technology transfer and information exchange on the latest applications of documentation systems based on T<sub>E</sub>X.

The Conference will be supported by the following organizations:

- CNR (Italian National Research Council)
- FAST (Federation of Scientific and Technical Associations)
- Mondadori s.p.a. (Publishing House)
- UMI (Italian Mathematical Society)
- Università degli Studi di Milano, Istituto di Cibernetica

**Suggested presentation topics:**

- T<sub>E</sub>X system integration and improvement
- Font design
- T<sub>E</sub>X macro packages and development methodology
- Document structure standards
- End-user interfaces and work stations
- Preprinting, printing and typesetting
- Implementation of output drivers
- Integration of text and graphics
- Filing, retrieval and delivery of T<sub>E</sub>X documents
- Transporting text
- Document preparation environments
- Electronic publishing applications

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Papers accepted will be collected and published in Conference Proceedings by FAST. In addition a range of tutorials will be planned. Contributions in T<sub>E</sub>X source in machine readable form are encouraged. Diskette or tapes are welcome. Submit papers to

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according to the following schedule:

December 1, 1984: Submission  
January 31, 1985: Notification of acceptance  
March 15, 1985: Mailing of the final program and registration information  
May 16-17, 1985: Conference in Varenna

Official languages will be English and Italian. Simultaneous translation will be provided.