From the Editor-in-Chief

It seems to be an unwritten rule that many electronic trade magazines make a prediction for the coming year and comment upon the preceding one in the first issue of the year. While I feel that IEEE Micro is more of an educational and tutorial publication than a trade publication, I feel I should comment also.

At the risk of restating the obvious to most readers, but for the benefit of our readers in Antarctica, 1985 was a terrible year. We saw layoffs, pay cuts, shutdown weeks, unpaid holidays, and even one major manufacturer closing down with its resources being acquired by a larger one.

While the recession of 1985 seemed to have been reserved for the computer and semiconductor industry only, several industrial areas slumped in an economy that was otherwise generally good. Many computer and semiconductor companies saw this slump as a time of retrenchment and, even while suffering lower profits or in many cases losses, have held their teams together and are now vigorously attacking the marketplace with new products. The year 1986 looks like a winner.

I am hopeful that we can receive their photographs and biographies in time to be published in the April issue of IEEE Micro.

In the mailbag for February, we found five letters to the editor—an all-time record for us. In addition, we received 38 editorial response cards, the majority of which, again, were not from the US.

As usual, I will summarize the comments:

"Von Neumann arguments are interesting." A.L.V., Lisle, IL (I liked) "...the excellence of the articles in this issue." J.M., Sacramento, CA (I would like) "...a review of software sources...IBM PC, engineering, etc." J.L., Champaign, IL (I liked) "...Engineering Workstations" J.B.B., Groton, CT (I liked) "...Structure for Computer Networking." N.N.K., Pilani (Raj), India

"All articles were outstanding." A.S., Karachi, Pakistan (I liked) "...A MCU-based Control System...for a...Robot Arm." P.T., Szczechin, Poland

"Fine, go on!" K.W., Steinhausen, Switzerland

"More videotext...accessible in the Middle East...also articles for teenagers." H.D.A., Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

"More real-time software, more hardware; please send June issue (not received)." J.V.L., Clare, Ireland (Ed. note: We have!)

"I like IEEE Micro very much." M.E.D., Namur, Belgium

"AI, expert systems..." W.F., Vienna, Austria (Ed. Note: Your wish has been granted—expert systems will have its own magazine very shortly.)

"Business use of MPUs" J.S., Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Until April, best regards.

Jim Farrell