Being involved in industry allows me to keep a fairly close watch on the state of the semiconductor, integrated circuit, and computer business. Times are improving, especially for those companies bringing to the marketplace innovative, high-quality products. An industry leader once remarked that supply equalled demand for "about 15 minutes" in the semiconductor industry between "booms" and "busts." Perhaps the current slow, but steady, improvement is indicative of a more stable future.

Computer and semiconductor economic recessions hurt the technical press even more than they hurt industry. We have seen several excellent commercial technical trade press magazines, such as Systems & Software, IC, Engineering Manager, and Electronic Imaging, cease publication.

Computer Society magazines have been feeling the pinch also. Because we are much less dependent on advertising and very dependent on membership dues and subscription fees, our revenue is far short of expected expenditures. The Society is now working hard to find ways to overcome this serious financial problem and continue to bring you the in-depth technical information that you need. Your continued support, and that of your company or university, is greatly needed and appreciated.

I received 37 response cards since the last issue, only 14 of which were from the US. Most commented on our question requesting input on which 32-bit topics we should cover. I will not list all the responses, but they included distributed systems, operating systems, MPU benchmarks, standards, buses, board-level systems, development systems, and more.

A few comments on editorial content were in the stack also:

"...Liked the 80386 article...." C.L., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
"...Liked most everything.... Disliked the fact that few people (fill out the comment cards)." D.H., Rolla, MO
"...more EDIF...." V.T., Hamburg, West Germany
"...continuing standards...." G.B., San Francisco, CA
"...publish monthly!!" H.G., McLean, VA (A prospect that is very appealing—J.F.)

D.T. of Bellevue, WA, spent the time to send an excellent five-point suggestion on what topics to cover in the future on the 32-bit realm. I shall present his proposals to the full Editorial Board of IEEE Micro at our annual NCC meeting.

Many thanks,

Jim Farrell