From the Editor-in-Chief

Benchmarks!

When Thayne Cooper of Sperry-Univac called a few months ago proposing an article on microprocessor benchmarking, it provided me with a real flashback. It was over five years ago that two August members of your current IEEE Micro Editorial Board—Richard Mateosian and I—were present at the landmark EDN Carnegie Mellon benchmark meeting in the old Cahners building on Columbus Avenue in Boston. Of course, neither of us were associated with IEEE Micro at that time. We were among the participants. A lot of discussion took place during that meeting, and even now, years after the benchmark results were published in EDN, I still see references to it occasionally.

Thayne Cooper submitted the article, and it was reviewed as are all other articles. While it is Computer Society policy not to reveal the names of the referees of a specific manuscript, I can assure you that Mateosian and I were not the referees. The article appears in this issue on page 53. As always, your comments are invited.

The remainder of this issue I think you will find interesting also. Dick Stern continues his fascinating discussion on the legal aspects of integrated circuit design and copying; Bob Stewart gives us a humorous insight into his work on bus standards over the years as his farewell column; Victor Huang presents selected refereed articles on operating systems; and of course we include the other departments and features that you have come to expect. One absence this month is Dave Hannum, whose column is missing due do to labor difficulty. Dave will return in October.

Since the last issue I have attended the National Computer Conference. This is a key conference for several Computer Society committee meetings as well as the annual Editorial Board meeting for IEEE Micro. I regret to report that the poor attendance at NCC further worsened the current financial picture for the Computer Society. Several actions are being put in place to control expenditures and keep us solvent. The low turnout at NCC is a mystery to me. After seeing fairly large crowds at Electro and Mini-Micro in Boston, I expected a general resurgence in conference and convention attendance. Things are better this year than last year at this time, but we are not out of the woods yet.

This month’s mailbag contained 31 comment cards. One comment that I receive fairly often is a request for more coverage on new products. This is very difficult for a magazine of our size and frequency. The biweekly trade magazines will each publish four or five issues before IEEE Micro comes out with the October issue. We will continue to publish highlights on new products that we feel are of interest to you, but we just do not have the space to cover all the products that deserve coverage.

Other comments were:

"...VME...very welcome." J.A.G., Fishkill, NY
"Too much VME in this journal." D.Q., Urbana, IL
"...(requests) an article on Sperry VLSI-1100." R.M., Houston, TX
"...very happy with Micro...publish monthly...." B.H.H., Albuquerque, NM
"...(like to see)...Novix NC4000 Forth chip." D.L.M., Wichita Falls, TX

"...more new products..." B.D.B., Houston, TX
"...more recruiting ads...." P.M.V., Cedar Rapids, 10
"...more multiport serial communications ICs...." S.L.J., Austin, TX
"...(I dislike)...too specialized designs...." P.A.B., Pisa, Italy

Please keep the cards and letters coming. Your requests are a factor in the IEEE Micro editorial calendar. In addition to this issue focusing on operating systems, the October issue on multiprocessing (which has an incredible 16 articles in review), and the December issue on digital signal processing, 1987 looks like a leading-edge year also.

Watch for the TRON issue from Japan, a special issue from Europe, an issue devoted to new-generation microprocessors, and more.

A final note: After this issue, Kenji Kani of NEC, Japan, having completed two consecutive two-year terms as editor, leaves the Editorial Board of IEEE Micro. On behalf of the staff, volunteers, and readers, I would like to thank Dr. Kani for his hard work and contributions to IEEE Micro’s technical excellence—a job well done.

Jim Farrell

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