From the Editor in Chief

Benchmarks (continued...)

As expected, the 32-bit benchmark article in last issue caused some reader reaction. I was informed by one reader (P.M.M., Apple Valley, MN) that "Sperry-Univac" has been obsolete for a long time. I am nearly two name changes behind. P.M.M. informs me that the now-named Sperry Corporation will change its name again to Burroughs-Sperry. Another reader stated that the latest and fastest microprocessor from his company was not evaluated. Yet another questioned the method used for calculating results. These letters have been forwarded to the article's authors, and we will print them and their responses as soon as we receive them.

Early in September I attended Midcon in Dallas. I have attended this conference for many years, and it has been my privilege to serve on its Professional Update Program Committee. Again, I saw fewer attendees than the conference had previously attracted due to the continuing general malaise in the computer and semiconductor industries. I am pleased to report that the technical sessions were attended in numbers greater than would be indicated by the overall conference attendance. Putting together professional sessions takes the efforts of many people, but I think special recognition is due to Dale Litherland and his staff, of Electronic Conferences Management, Inc. Dale has done an outstanding job of managing and coordinating these sessions despite the poor economy. He is also responsible for the professional programs at Electro, Wescon, Southcon, Northcon, and Mini-Micro. A job well done.

Many responses received this month favorably mentioned Bob Stewart's farewell cartoon MicroStandards feature and Dick Stern's MicroLaw. Dick has written a 600-page book that completely and definitively describes the Chip Protection Act. See MicroNews this issue for information on Dick's book. The operating system articles and other columns were well received also. The "I disliked..." line on all 31 responses received this month was blank except one. That one said, "I disliked... nothing." (P.J.L., Rio de Janeiro, Brazil).

Other comments included:

"...Law and Standards are the most interesting..." (D.P., Hayward, CA)
"...cover the Amiga A1000 and Atari 520/1040 ST." (A.N., London, Ontario, Canada)
"(I liked)... 'A HLL Programmable Controller' " (J.C., Maputo, Mozambique)
"Compare Intel and Motorola 32-bit MPUs." (S.Z., Folsom, CA) (S.Z. wrote this before the August issue came out.-Ed.)
" 'Math Software in Basic' very well done..." (K.W.S., Waltham, MA)
"(I liked)...von Neumann discussions." (D.B.R., Indianapolis, IN)
"(I liked)...32-bit (MPU) benchmark article." (M.W.P., Hot Springs, AR)
"GO MONTHLY." (P.J.L., Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
"GO MONTHLY." (B.D.S., Toronto, Ontario, Canada)
"GO MONTHLY." (J.R.A., Briarcliff Manor, NY)

All of us appreciate your comments.

Jim Farrell

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