At the March 1987 meeting of the IEEE Standards Board several new standards were approved. Among them were:

- 802.5A, LAN: Station Management (supplement to IEEE Std. 802.5-1985),
- 854, A Radix Independent Standard for Floating-Point Arithmetic,
- 1014, Specification for a Versatile Backplane Bus (VME), and
- 1016, Software Design Descriptions, Recommended Practice.

A project newly authorized at that meeting was P1141, Forth: A Microcomputer Language Standard. This project is likely to become a joint project with X3.

Four backplane bus standards projects sponsored by the Technical Committee on Microprocessors and Microcomputers, or TCMM, have passed their sponsor ballots. They have been submitted to the IEEE Standards Board for adoption as IEEE standards. These projects are:

- P896.1, the Futurebus Backplane,
- P1101, the Mechanical Core Specifications for Microcomputers,
- P1196, A Simple 32-bit Backplane Bus (Nubus), and
- P1296, A High Performance Synchronous 32-bit Backplane Bus (Multibus II).

Seven new project authorizations are being requested of the IEEE Standards Board by the Computer Society's TCMM. These projects are:

- P1151, Modula II, A Modular High Level Programming Language,
- P1152, Smalltalk, An Object Oriented Programming Language and Environment,
- P1153, Page Descriptor Language,
- P1154, PILOT, A Program Instruction Learning or Teaching Language,
- P1155, A High Speed Backplane Instrumentation Bus,
- P1156, Connectors and Mechanical Packaging for High Reliability Bus Structures, and,
- P1496, Rugged Bus, A Very High Reliability Bus Structure.

In addition, a project authorization has been requested for the revision of IEEE 755, Extending High-Level Language Implementations for Microprocessors, a trial-use standard. This has been a contentious standard. It has already passed an appeal against its adoption that was filed by The Pascal Joint Committee chairman.

If these project requests are approved, I will include the details of the scope and list the chairman of each project in the next issue of IEEE Micro.

On another note, James (Bob) Davis, the chairman of the Microprocessor Standards Committee, has appointed Paul Borrill to be the chairman of P896.2, the project to develop a Futurebus Firmware Standard. Borrill can be reached at:

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