Our sister magazine, *IEEE Software*, will judge annually two $1000 awards aimed at promoting better parallel-processing applications. One prize will be for best speedup on a general-purpose (multiapplication) multiple-instruction, multiple-data processor; the other will be for best speedup on a special-purpose MIMD processor.

C. Gordon Bell, the director of the National Science Foundation's Computer and Information Science and Engineering Directorate, will fund the awards for the next 10 years. Bell said he offered to sponsor the annual awards to underscore his commitment to parallel processing.

Entries for the 1987 awards must be received by Dec 1. The winners will be announced in *IEEE Software*'s March 1988 issue. For complete rules, definitions, and submission requirements, write

Gordon Bell Awards  
IEEE Software  
10662 Los Vaqueros Cir.  
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

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**Department**

used, but it also has the drawback that in some chapters there is not much correlation between the example and the chapter contents.

At the end of each chapter are exercises and an annotated bibliography. The exercises range from simple recall of facts stated in the chapter to open-ended design projects.

With the mention of exercises, it is worth discussing the use of this book as an adjunct to university courses. Clearly it is not a textbook in the usual sense, but it would certainly be an excellent supplementary book for an introductory course in computer science or for a variety of other courses.

A high-school student with an interest well developed in computers and electronics would certainly benefit from this book, but Slater has really written it for experienced engineers. Many of its subtleties will be lost on students who lack design experience in industrial situations.

One of the book's great strengths in a teaching context is the high quality of the editing and production. From that standpoint this is one of the best technical books I've seen in a long time, although there are curious lacunae. There are a variety of subject-verb agreement problems, and there is particular difficulty handling constructions like the one starting this sentence. I have resigned myself to seeing "different than" in well-edited books, and I have almost stopped wincing when I see "due to" introducing an adverbial clause. But I have to draw the line at "indicate if" as a synonym for "indicate whether or not," since the former can easily cause a technical reader to begin to parse the sentence incorrectly and lead to an inevitable doubletake. Furthermore, an editor with a better technical background would probably have caught lapses like "1-2 ns/ft speed" and "fast delay times." All this carping aside, however, this is a well-edited book, and no professor need feel ashamed of recommending it to students.

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