



Bruce D. Shriver

## Changes—obvious and subtle

In my April 1987 editor-in-chief's message, I described several departments and features planned for *Computer*. Since then, I have been introducing the changes on a regular basis.

Sallie Sheppard, editor of the newly formed Computer Society News Department, brings readers timely and informative news items concerning the society's various activities. Ed Gallizzi has started a companion department, the Conferences Department, focusing on important technical highlights of society-sponsored conferences. Wiley McKenzie, as the new editor of the Book Reviews Department, has broadened its coverage not only in terms of the topics and the publishers represented, but also in the scope of media reviewed.

In last month's issue, we introduced the New Product Reviews Department headed by Dick Eckhouse. These reviews will provide both background to and representative samples of specific product classes.

This issue of *Computer* also contains new features.

**Point/Counterpoint.** Helen Wood, editor of the Standards Department, introduces the Point/Counterpoint format for discussing standards-related issues — a format that will be frequently used in the months ahead to

broaden the discussion in the increasingly important standards area.

**Survey/Tutorial Series.** I am also introducing our new Survey and Tutorial Series with several manuscripts in this issue. Surveys will be detailed reviews of the state of the art or the state of the practice in specific areas. Tutorials will be technically substantive introductions to given topics. Typically, both will contain substantial reading lists to aid readers interested in pursuing the topic in more depth.

I hope, as the pipeline becomes full, to have either a tutorial or survey in each issue of *Computer*. In particular, each theme issue will have a tutorial to provide background information for readers not working in the focus area, thereby helping them to understand and appreciate the articles devoted to the theme topic. I also hope to include more project surveys of the type that Guest Editors Jose Fortes and Ben Wah put together for their July 1987 special issue on systolic arrays. Such surveys should give readers a good idea of the variety of industrial, governmental, and academic efforts in a given area and will provide points of contact for these activities.

**Reader Service Card.** One of the more subtle changes in *Computer* has been our increased use of the reader service card to provide an easy commu-

nication path to our TCs, department editors, authors, and Computer Society services. For example, in this issue you can use the reader service card to

- obtain more extensive reports from several authors regarding the work described in their articles (see pp. 41, 57, and 69);
- tell us who you agree with in the Point/Counterpoint dialog in the Standards Department (p. 96);
- let us know how you feel about Section 1705 of the new tax law (p. 99);
- request detailed information on the Security and Privacy TC and the Microprocessors and Microcomputers TC, both of which are featured in the Computer Society News Department (pp. 100-101);
- obtain information on a new contest — computer bridge (p. 102);
- request a variety of membership and publication items (inside back cover).

While you're checking the card in response to one of the above items, don't forget to request additional information from that vendor whose ad you read. Our advertisers (who help pay our bills!) track results. Inquiries and sales leads, identifiable as originating from their ad in *Computer*, give a clear signal that their advertising dollars are being well spent.

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