Problems

Editor’s note: It seems that the time is ripe for certain ideas to pop out of the woodwork, from all directions. The two items below appeared independently, without the authors being aware that anyone else was working on the problem, although it’s clear from what they say that other people are interested. By mutual consent, solutions to the problem are deferred until the next issue. We can assure you, however, that the solutions operate from different premises, and comparison of the macros (and perhaps using them to create a new, general, solution) should be interesting and instructive.

\TeX\ Does Windows: A Progress Report
Alan Hoenig

We New Yorkers are a contentious lot. That's why people often approach me, chip on shoulder, to tout some mediocre typesetting program that can set windows within paragraphs. It's also why, I suppose, I rise to the bait and tout \TeX\ back. Most of these rival what difference their ability to do windows? (I a paragraph is set a \textit{window}.) Nevertheless, \textit{Or can it?} After all, \TeX\'s commands through to perform typesetting, and a human so why can't \TeX\ do the same? I finally is not altogether general—that's why this is horizontally centering a window of some given I will describe these ideas and their \TeX\ implementations, as well as the main ideas behind the macros.

Problem for a Saturday Morning
Donald E. Knuth
Stanford University

This puzzle was suggested to me by Sape Mullender, of the Centre for Mathematics and Computer Science in Amsterdam. He told me his belief that “the general design of \TeX\ is better than that of \texttt{troff}, but the real guru can make \texttt{troff} do things that you could never do in \TeX.” As an example, he showed me a page on which \texttt{troff} had typeset a picture in the middle of a “It's not pretty, but it can be done, and that's what think of a simple solution until the next Saturday Saturday afternoon. Can you guess how I typeset the paragraph you're now reading? (The answer will appear in the next issue. It doesn't demonstrate the superiority of \TeX\ to \texttt{troff}, but it does have some interesting and instructive features.)