Editorial Comments

Barbara Beeton

Remembering

One of the great pleasures of TUG is meeting so many interesting people. This is balanced by sorrows, when some of these people are taken from us.

Earlier this year, two deaths occurred in the \TeX family — Roswitha Graham and Norman Naugle. Later on in these pages, you will find a brief remembrance of each of them, written by a colleague. But let me do a little remembering here.

I met Roswitha in 1989, when she attended the annual meeting at the invitation of Bart Childs, then president of TUG, along with the heads of several other European \TeX groups, to share their knowledge of the many users of \TeX in their groups who were not members of TUG. These individuals sat on the TUG board for several years as Special Directors, and we came to know one another in that context. Roswitha was always concerned about what was best for the users and the organization; she took this responsibility very seriously, but with great charm and dignity. In the spring of 1992, after a standards meeting in Copenhagen, my husband joined me for a trip through parts of Scandinavia. While in Stockholm, we visited with Roswitha, both in town and on the Grahams’ island in the archipelago outside the harbor. During that visit, she showed us where Don Knuth had found a real web — constructed by a diligent spider — and she and I made arrangements to transcribe the tape of Don’s Q & A session following the presentation of his honorary doctorate from the Royal Institute of Technology (see TUGboat 13(4), pp. 419 ff). I remember Roswitha as a gracious and capable person, welcoming and caring.

Norman Naugle burst upon the \TeX scene much earlier; his name first appears in a membership list in 1982, and I met him that year at the annual meeting at Stanford. Outgoing, exuberant, all the adjectives one can think of to describe a Texas native (or \TeXas as it would later appear in the program of the 1990 annual meeting in College Station). Norm didn’t want anything to do with the TUG bureaucracy, but he surely spread the word about \TeX throughout Texas A&M — among other things, he is responsible for Bart Childs becoming president of TUG, and he nurtured a number of bright and enthusiastic students, among them Tom Rokicki, whom he mentored as an undergraduate. When I asked Tom if he had any thoughts in memory of Norm, he sent me this message.

Norman Naugle was a hero. He was my mentor at Texas A&M and he always seemed to have a job or a programming task that challenged and rewarded me. But more than anything else he was a great friend. He charmed my mother by bragging about her son, invited me to dinner when I couldn’t make it home over spring break, and generously shared his computing toys. It is my great fortune to have known him, and I will miss him greatly.

It has been a privilege to know both Roswitha and Norm, and I will miss them both.

New home for the UK TUG FAQ

Not long after the UK TUG FAQ was first published on paper, in the UK TUG Journal Baskerville (vol. 4, no. 6, December 1994), the group established a “temporary” Web address for interactive access to the FAQ. The School of Cognitive and Computing Sciences of the University of Sussex at Brighton was host to this “temporary” service for about four years, a service for which all \TeX users are grateful.

Now, at last, a “final” home has been announced by the UK TUG, established in association with the CTAN node at the University of Cambridge Computer Laborarory: http://www.tex.ac.uk/cgi-bin/texfaq2html?introduction=yes

The sources, and readily-printable copies, of the FAQ remain on CTAN in directory usergrps/uktug/faq.

The interactive FAQ still offers the same facilities as it always has, but there are plans to develop new facilities to further enhance its utility.

The FAQ is under constant development, and in particular a new printed version is in preparation. The UK \TeX Users’ Group would very much welcome contributions at this time.

Comments, suggestions and error reports concerning the FAQ should be addressed to the current maintainer, via uktug-faq@tex.ac.uk.

Thanks to Robin Fairbairns for this report.

TUGboat authors’ rights

In the last issue, we stated our policy about making TUGboat available in electronic form, via the TUGboat web pages. Although it was stated that authors retain the copyright to their own articles, we neglected to mention that TUG has no objection to authors posting this material on their own Web pages, or including it with packages on CTAN. Once an article has appeared in TUGboat, the author is welcome to include the reference in a footnote;
if an author requests it, we will return the file as published for the author’s use.

In fact, we encourage authors to keep their articles updated, if information in them is subject to change—what will appear on the TUGboat pages is just what appeared in print, except for application of errata and corrigenda, if any such are called to our attention.

Home site for ConTEXt

In the last issue, it was announced that the ConTEXt system, by Hans Hagen, was available at CTAN. Hans has reminded me that although the macros and maybe a few manuals are on CTAN, the main site is actually www.pragma-ade.nl. Here one can find about 50 Mb of macros, documentation, examples, and more; this is expected to double as Hans finds the time to sort things out. Since CTAN has limited disk space, only the most important pieces will be found there.

Credit where credit is due

The article on Father Truchet in the last issue of TUGboat was written by both Jacques André and Denis Girou. Unfortunately, Denis’ name was omitted from the table of contents. Apologies!

This omission has been rectified in the online version of the contents and in Nelson Beebe’s TUGboat bibliography.

The growing Russian TEX library

We have been informed that The BTEX Companion has joined the collection of TEX-related books now available in Russian. If you are interested in this edition, by Mir Publishers, please get in touch with Irina Makhovaya, the Executive Director of CyrTUG, at irina@mir.msk.su.

A new feature: Cartoons by Roy Preston

For about a year, visitors to the Typo-L web site have been amused by topical cartoons by Roy Preston. Topics have been wide-ranging: type identification and usage, commentary on particular types or typographers, questions about copyright protection, even a few ad hominem items inspired by various list correspondents. Many of the topics are (or should be) familiar to TUGboat readers, so I asked Roy for permission to publish some of his cartoons—and he has generously granted it.

Roy is a semi-retired former illustrator/graphic designer/art director/creative director with 25 years of experience in advertising. He lives with his family of three cats in Hardy’s Dorset, England, and spends his waking time painting, designing fonts, and indulging in discussions on Typo-L.

You can see some of Roy’s cartoons (and a lot of other interesting typo-related material) on the Typo-L web site, at http://www.ids.co.uk/preston/typo/. If you’d like to subscribe to the mailing list, instructions are on the web site. Typo-L was started as a TPX-related list (the “listmom” is our good friend Peter Flynn), though it has since been adopted by “mainline” type mavens; however, there are still a number of TPXies in the ranks.

So watch for the cartoons. I think we’re in for a treat.

Barbara Beeton
American Mathematical Society
P. O. Box 6248
Providence, RI 02940 USA
bnb@ams.org