

## General Delivery

### From the Vice President

Kristoffer H. Rose

Greetings, fellow TUG members!

We start 1999 as we did 1998 with a *TUGboat* loaded with a fresh edition of TUG's "**T<sub>E</sub>X Live**" CD for our members. This is the fourth version in just as many years; thus we are converging towards making yearly distribution a tradition. To emphasize this we have followed another T<sub>E</sub>X tradition and endorsed the CD with original artwork by Duane Bibby. This way we hope that you will proudly show it to your friends and explain to those few of them that are not already TUG members why they should join up to also get this unique piece that may become a collectors item one day – who knows?

While you are waiting for the CD to become a prestigious coaster it has lots of more direct advantages: it has runnable T<sub>E</sub>X systems for all major Unix variants (including Linux), Windows systems (NT, 95, and 98), for Macintosh, DOS, and OS/2. And of course it contains the latest versions of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X and a very large number of useful macro packages as well as full support for producing your documents in the world-wide web formats HTML and Adobe PDF. We are extremely grateful to Sebastian Rahtz, the editor of the **T<sub>E</sub>X Live** series, for the huge amount of work he has put into the integration of such a large collection of useful stuff!

Just one admonitory remark: each package on the CD comes with its own license. Please respect them so we can continue to provide you with a complete product. (We agree that this is a hassle and we are working on identifying a usable subset of **T<sub>E</sub>X Live** without usage or redistribution constraints—the CTAN archive maintainers have started a similar effort for their collections.)

But first of all: pop the CD in your drive, read the documentation in the `tldoc` directory, install what you want, and typeset beautiful documents!

Otherwise you will find in this issue an elaborate invitation to TUG '99 to be held in Vancouver in British Columbia (Canada) this summer. You can

check for yourself that the organizers have a great program that you will want to be entangled in. A month later the EuroT<sub>E</sub>X conference in Heidelberg takes up "paperless T<sub>E</sub>X" — the program for that is just being assembled as these lines are being written.

Also you will find a description of the members of the newly appointed TUG board of directors in this issue. We welcome two new members of the board, Cheryl and Stephanie, whom you can read about in those pages. As always the board is committed to further the purpose of TUG:

"To provide an organization for those who have an interest in systems for typesetting technical text and font design; to exchange information of same and associated use of computers and computer peripheral equipment; to establish standards and provide channels to facilitate the exchange of macro packages, etc., through publications and otherwise; and to develop, implement and sponsor educational programs, seminars, and conferences in connections with the foregoing. . ."

In the future this will involve the growing number of standards derived from SGML. In general SGML processing T<sub>E</sub>X has already proven it's value: the only completely free SGML processing system that supports the DSSSL formatting standard is the combination of James Clark's "Jade" processor using L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X with Sebastian Rahtz's `jadetex` package as a back-end. T<sub>E</sub>X made it possible to create a system that produces PDF directly from SGML! Specifically, standards for "typesetting technical text" are only just emerging, however, with the recent "MathML" proposal seeming to take off. If we want T<sub>E</sub>X to play a role in the future we must invest time and effort in learning about the requirements of these systems and to what extent T<sub>E</sub>X is suitable or adaptable for the job. I hope the articles and information in this issue will inspire you to start thinking about how we can best approach it.

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