



# Letters

Editor:

We would like to thank you for your part in a recent result of special personal significance. The intensive mutual investigation inspired by our first meeting at a AAAI'87 reception has culminated in our marriage last week. As we enjoy our honeymoon in Maui, we are grateful to you for helping us solve this previously open problem in parallel search.

Sincerely,

*Jack Mostow and Janet Tyroler Mostow*  
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Editor:

The medium has misplaced the message [that should have appeared in Winter 1988, p. 4] that I am now an assistant professor at the Ohio State University's LAIR, where connectionism is merely irreverent, not irrelevant, to AI.

*Jordan Pollack*

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Editor:

The Winter 1988 issue of *AI Magazine* carried a report I coauthored reporting on the June, 1987 Workshop on Theoretical Issues in Conceptual Information Processing. Despite the many chances I had to fix the manuscript, I somehow managed to miss an error that crept in and changed the intended meaning rather drastically in the section "From the Workshop Chair," by B. Chandrasekaran. A sentence in that section as published reads: "The goal of these gatherings has been to understand intelligence and cognition as feasible computations *as they apply* to the construction of performance programs for narrowly defined tasks (expert systems)." The sentence as originally written by Chandrasekaran read: "The

goal of these investigations has been understanding intelligence and cognition as feasible computations, *as opposed to* the construction of performance programs for narrowly defined tasks (expert systems) or formalization per se." As readers can see, quite a difference in meaning. His goal was to characterize how the shared goals of the participants in the TICIP series differ from some other groups of researchers in AI. All I can say is *mea culpa*, and I hope this letter may help to square things.

Sincerely,

*James Hendler*

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Computer Science Dept  
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Editor:

Our recent article, entitled "A Method for Evaluating Candidate Expert System Applications" (*AI Magazine* 9(4): 44-53), presented two examples of our evaluation process. One of these examples involved the domain of automated risk analysis of concrete dams. In the article, this domain was treated as simply an expert system application. However, it has been brought to our attention that this domain is actually an impor-

tant and novel use of expert system technology. Failing to recognize this, the article did not give proper credit for the idea of using the domain for an expert system application. We would very much like to correct this unfortunate oversight. Dr. Bruno Franck is entirely responsible for the conceptualization, specification, and implementation of an expert system for performing preliminary risk analysis of concrete dams. We believe that he should be given proper citation for his contribution. All interested readers should be directed to his Ph.D. thesis entitled "Preliminary Safety and Risk Assessment for Existing Hydraulic Structures: An Expert Systems Approach." Dr. Franck can be reached at the following address: Dr. Bruno Franck, Department of Forest Products, 108 Kaufert Lane, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455. Phone (612) 624-6289.

Thank you

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Editor:

I read with great interest the excellent article, "Intelligent Computer-Aided Engineering" by Ken Forbus in *AI Magazine* vol 9, no 3 (Fall, 1988): 23-26. Professor Forbus's forceful attempt to clarify the goals of ICAE (and in general, Intelligent CAD) systems is a fine research programme for the workers in the field. I personally thank him for writing such an eloquent paper.

Needless to say, there is now a visible interest in the intellectualization of CAD/CAE. Various groups, especially in the U.S., Europe, and Japan, aim at using AI theories and tech-  
(*Letters to the Editor continued on page 12*)

niques to build advanced CAD/CAE systems. Naturally, I would not expect Prof. Forbus to enumerate these groups, but I thought it would be useful to list some of the research papers written by the members of the IICAD project (with which I'm currently affiliated) at Centrum voor Wiskunde en Informatica (CWI). IICAD stands for "Intelligent, Integrated, and Interactive CAD" and was initiated by P ten Hagen and T. Tomiyama (now with the University of Tokyo) in 1986. CWI is a research center in pure and applied mathematics and computer science at Amsterdam. Information about the current status of the project can be obtained from Paul ten Hagen, Head of the Interactive Systems Dept., CWI, Kruislaan 413, 1098 SJ Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Email: paulh@cwi.nl.

The following is a sampler of recent IICAD publications

- V. Akman, et al. 1988 "Knowledge Engineering in Design." *Knowledge-Based Systems* 1(2): 67-77.

- V. Akman, P. ten Hagen, and T. Tomiyama. 1987. Design as a Formal, knowledge Engineered Activity. TR CS-R8744, CWI, Amsterdam

- V. Akman and P. ten Hagen. 1988. The Power of Physical Representations. TR CS-8819, CWI, Amsterdam. [To appear later this year in *AI Magazine*]

- B. Veth. 1987. "An Integrated Data Description Language for Coding Design Knowledge." In *Intelligent CAD Systems 1 Theoretical and Methodological Aspects*, eds. P. ten Hagen and T. Tomiyama, pp. 295-313. Berlin, W. Germany: Springer-Verlag.

- T. Tomiyama and H. Yoshikawa. 1987. "Extended General Design Theory" In *Design Theory for CAD*, eds. H. Yoshikawa and E. Warman. Amsterdam North-Holland.

Finally, I wish to draw your attention to the third Eurographics Workshop on Intelligent CAD Systems, held 3-7 April 1989 in The Netherlands. The topic this year was "Practical Experience and Evaluation."

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