FROM THE INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS EDITOR

The format of this column has remained essentially constant since Dave Dodson and I resurrected it in 1981. During that time our underlying computer support changed enormously, from typewriters to primitive PC text editors on pre-DOS microcomputers to TEX on powerful workstations. These changes reflect the more general changes in how we as a community publish. It has been several years since we last worried whether the hard-copy mockup sheets would successfully cross the Atlantic to Norway, and then again back to New York. Electronic publishing and document interchange are the norm, thank goodness.

But this format and this column have been able to respond to these changes only in superficial ways. It is clear that this service will remain valuable only if it goes "on-line", if it is much more current, more flexible and searchable. Those changes are sufficiently far from my usual duties to make it clear that others could carry this effort on more effectively than can I.

It is with pleasure then that I welcome Tom Rowan, from the University of Tennessee and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, as the new Institutional Reports editor. Tom is heavily involved with Netlib/NSHE, which puts him and SIGNUM in a wonderful position to capitalize on a great wealth of experience in electronic distribution and collaboration. He will have direct support from several other people from Netlib/NSHE, and I presume, from all the readers of this current column. I look forward to dramatic changes in this column in the near future. Any of you who care to participate in setting these new directions should forward your ideas to Tom via email: *rowan@cs.utk.edu*.

As my last words as editor, I want to thank Boeing for providing me with lots of secretarial support and release time. It has been a pleasure to have had an unbroken series of managers who shared a serious sense of corporate responsibility to our professional community.

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