Editorial

Jack D. Gaskill, Editor

Editorial Ramblings

One of the most difficult tasks I have encountered as Editor of *Optical Engineering* has been to write an editorial for each issue. A few of these editorials were not particularly difficult to compose, but the remainder required a considerable amount of thought and time and underwent many revisions before I felt they were acceptable. However, I have not always been totally pleased with the end result nor confident that it would convey the message that I intended to convey.

From the very beginning of my editorship, I have never fully understood just what topics might be appropriate for these editorials; however, it seems to me that editorials for a journal such as *Optical Engineering* should be interesting, informative, instructive, and maybe even entertaining. Furthermore, it seems to me that they should address topics that are related exclusively to the journal and should not venture into subjects of such general social concern as tax reform, capital punishment, the Strategic Defense Initiative, etc. While I feel that an editorial should reflect the personality of the editor, I do not believe that it should be used as a pulpit from which the editor preaches a sermon to the readership or bores them to death with extensive accounts of personal trivia.

I have no delusions about the correctness or importance of what I have written in the past or what I might write in the future, and I am certain that nothing included in my editorials is likely to change the course of world events in any major way or will even be remembered for more than a short time after publication. Nevertheless, one of my duties is to provide an editorial for each issue of the journal.

Regarding the tone and degree of formality of my editorials, I recently received a letter from a relatively new member of SPIE who was negatively impressed by my August 1986 editorial in which I addressed the quality of illustrations submitted to *Optical Engineering*. This gentleman indicated that he did not appreciate the frivolous tone of my editorial and my use of nonscientific words (e.g., "crummy"). He also questioned the seriousness of that editorial and of *Optical Engineering*. I'm sorry he felt that way, but I don't know how I would change it if I had the opportunity. I believe that it is best for writers to write as they would speak and to expose their personalities to their readers. I also believe that humor can be used quite effectively—even when dealing with serious subjects. Consequently, I have tried to lighten up my editorials somewhat by including some well-intentioned humor and to "call them the way I see them."

I would like to invite you, the reader, to let me know of any subjects you believe would be good topics for editorials; however, as far as my writing style goes, I am probably too far gone to make any significant changes at this stage of my life.

OPTICAL ENGINEERING EDITORIAL SCHEDULE

December 1986

Contributed papers on optical engineering

January 1987

**Optical Computing and Nonlinear
Optical Signal Processing**

Nasser Peyghambarian
Optical Sciences Center
University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ 85721 602/621-4649

February 1987

Optical Materials

Solomon Musikant
General Electric Company
Space Systems Div., Rm. U3027
Valley Forge Space Center
P.O. Box 8555
Philadelphia, PA 19101 215/354-3020

March 1987

Charge Transfer Devices

Eustace Dereniak
Optical Sciences Center
University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ 85721 602/621-1019

April 1987

Optical Microlithography

Joseph P. Kirk
IBM East Fishkill-Z40A
Route 52
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533 914/894-4911

May 1987

**Optical Information Processing: Systems,
Materials, and Devices**

Uzi Efron
Hughes Research Laboratories
MS RL69
3011 Malibu Canyon Road
Malibu, CA 90265 213/317-5214

June 1987

Contributed papers on optical engineering

July 1987

Visual Communications and Image Processing

T. Russell Hsing
Bell Communications Research
Room 2L-181
435 South Street
Morristown, NJ 07960-1961 201/829-4950

August 1987

Charge-Coupled Devices: Theory

September 1987

Charge-Coupled Devices: Applications

James R. Janesick
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology
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Pasadena, CA 91109
818/354-7734