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THE INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS

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No. 72

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"Lies, damned lies and statistics"

A Mr. Michael S. Elphick "Editor in Chief" of a computer trade journal, has in a recent editorial article taken the Institute to task; he claims that the evidence of "statistics" supports a charge of IEEE nepotism and totalitarianism; his use of the word "statistics" may owe more to politics than science. The IEEE is accused of ignoring the lessons of its own statistics, and this prompts Mr. Elphick to quote Mark Twain's well-known observation that people tend to use statistics as a drunk uses a lamp post: "more for support than illumination". Mr. Elphick too uses those same statistics; it might perhaps be permissible to point to the difficulties experienced by two drunks sharing the same lamp post.

His journal, he asserts, prompted the IEEE to distribute its 1984 US ballot papers by first class post; he then proceeds to the conclusion that since some 14% more ballot papers were returned [44,500 (1984) and 39,000 (1983)] there is "overwhelming evidence" that the interests of IEEE democracy would be served better by the use of first class post. He deceives himself; how is the data distributed, does he have a measure of variance and where is the significant difference calculation? Discontented with having only his feet firmly in the mire of statistical absurdity he proceeds to sink up to the neck, erecting an edifice of arguments based on ever more dubious "statistics". Having exhausted the data upon which further abuse of numbers might be based he proceeds to attack on other fronts.

United States members, it is charged, are a "necessary evil in this 'international' organisation. The non-US members provide IEEE directors with an excuse to take expenses-paid or tax deductible trips 'to meet local representatives' in exotic places. Even more important, overseas members are less likely actively to oppose recent totalitarian trends within the IEEE". [Is this how Region 8 sees itself? – Ed.]

The IEEE's model of a well-run organisation is, according to Mr. Elphick, the Kremlin, and the IEEE's journal "The Institute" is, so he believes, to be stripped of its editorial independence and only single board-nominated candidates will be proposed for each elected IEEE office – dissent would in this way be stifled. Further, it seems that more column centimetres in "The Institute" were devoted to single-candidate election matters than to a consideration of multiple candidate elections; the presumption being, one assumes, that the importance or force of an argument is in some way proportional to the number of words used to express it – a novel journalistic concept.

To argue a case in Mr. Elphick's manner would no doubt be admissible in politics, or even in religion; from it we learn much about the author but little about the subject. We are told nothing of Mr. Elphick's no doubt considerable contributions to the wellbeing of The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers.

Spanish medicine

By G. H. Byford, Chairman UKRI Section

MELECON this year took place in Madrid, amidst the modern architecture of the new part of the city and immediately adjacent to a football stadium, home of one of Europe's more successful teams. There were four themes: Solar energy, Radio communication, Digital signal processing and Bioengineering; I report on only the last of these.

The general tenor of the technical papers was towards an increasing involvement of mathematics and statistics in medicine, a tendency which can do nothing but good, since it is difficult to imagine how medicine can otherwise be persuaded to progress from its "descriptive science" era to the more numerate concepts which will enable it to take advantage of all that modern physics and modern engineering has to offer.

The analysis of physiological or pathological processes during sleep still commands attention, the eeg in particular; practical problems of scoring with a microcomputer and the rather more theoretical approach using Recursive Bayesian filters both stimulated discussion. The electrocardiogram, without which no television medical scene is complete, and perhaps also because it reflects the activity in so vital an organ, never ceases to attract papers; the removal of triboelectric interference in ecg amplifiers, electrocardiograms during strenuous exercise, and aids to monitoring during cardiac surgery were all represented; it is difficult to realise that the ecg has for almost a century remained what it always was, a two dimensional graph of voltage against time – perhaps it might have progressed further but for that engineering accident, the trace recorder.

There was a welcome appearance of papers on acoustics, stimulated perhaps by the glittering prize for anyone who can produce a really effective auditory prosthesis.

The subject of electric emanations from, and the effect of electric fields on, living organisms, has occupied the more adventurous

medical philosophers ever since 1729 when an English physician, defying the ecclesiastic authorities of the time, suggested that the brain functioned by means of the "electric effluvia". Sound scientific evidence still seems to be lacking but at least three papers did contribute to the subject; the beliefs that there must be "something in it" continue to accumulate but our understanding of the underlying electrophysiology is limited in the extreme.

There is an increasing use of "biofeedback" aids for the rehabilitation of hemiplegic and scoliotic patients. The patient is shown in some way how well he is performing his therapeutic exercises; he may then, without the intervention of a physiotherapist, himself take action to improve his performance – in a comparison of "feedback" and "no feedback", the results showed considerable promise.

There was much to set one thinking, and much which demanded comment so that remedial action might be taken. The facilities of the conference suite of rooms were excellent and the general organisation deserves a vote of thanks to both Professor Luque and his colleagues on the Steering Committee, and Professor Delgado and his team on the Bioengineering Technical Programme Committee. Local public transport to the Conference Centre was prompt, frequent and inexpensive and there were ample facilities for light refreshments and discussion; the generous provision of warm October sunshine was most welcome.

But what of the authors: sadly they in general left much requiring comment; it was not that their material was poor, rather that they were mismanaged. Medicine has now taken from other sciences large slices of technology; the great advantage of a conference of parallel but interrelated sessions is that it enables one to assemble a programme to satisfy personal interests. The Conference Management provided signal analysis, imaging and speech processing – all now a part of any medical armoury; the ingredients were there and the opportunity was first class, but all my personal programme came to nothing. On average 50% of the speakers failed to appear, even two of the bioengineering chairman

did not put in an appearance; it is sad to hear an increasingly embarrassed session chairman asking vainly for the next speaker, and the next, and the one after that. The kindest comment that one might make about this inconsiderate and unannounced absence is that it is exceedingly impolite.

The speaker who reads his "prepared statement" rapidly from a typewritten script just bores the audience, as is evident from the increasing buzz of private conversation. It is of course not easy to speak publicly in a foreign language – audiences know this; speak slowly and clearly and practise on your friends. One after another speakers produce slides filled with mathematics, incomprehensible to 100% of the audience; circuit and system diagrams are crammed with detail. These, together with slides produced from closely spaced typing and illegible writing, all contributed to a lack of that "information transfer" about which the President Mr. Eldon spoke so eloquently in the opening session – and someone should tell the projectionist that a screen placed parallel to the chairs, on one side of the room, can at most be seen by only 50% of the audience.

None of these comments is new, it has all been said before; but from the discontented mutterings of some conferees, action has to be taken before IEEE conferences acquire an unenviable reputation and potential participants start voting with their feet. Perhaps we should demand from authors at least a part of the registration fee when their paper is accepted, but before it is printed, and askthem to submit copies of their slides for acceptance, and perhapsupply them with a helpful instruction leaflet – disobey its recommendations and the chairman will terminate the paper. If mathematics are desirable could they not be presented on a poster, which could be studied in detail and at leisure outside the simpler oral presentation. But would there then remain sufficient authors to make a programme?

That all this is so unnecessary, was most ably demonstrated by Dottoressa Germana Banci, whose native language is not English and who used mathematics, statistics and legible slides – could she be persuaded to give a course of lectures, a compulsory preliminary for all speakers?

Have you paid? . . . If not, you should have

By Robert C. Winton, The Secretary of Region 8

The IEEE computer in New York presents its compliments to all members in Region 8; it would be most grateful if you could pay your subscription (dues) promptly and in accordance with the rules – failure to do so results in human intervention, with the inevitable risk of inconvenience to you and to the IEEE administration.

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If you experience difficulties with your subscription payment, be sure to put your membership number on all correspondence.

If you have written to the Member Services Department, and believe that they are not dealing with your difficulty efficiently, contact your Section Chairman.

If you do not belong to a Section, write to the Director Region 8 (his address is shown on the front page of this Newsletter). If your membership has been stopped, and should therefore be renewed, be sure to request the back issues of all the journals you normally receive.

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The Continuing Education Institute is dedicated to providing high quality professional development courses in engineering and applied science worldwide. CEI offers more than 100 'Public' and 'On-Site' programs across the spectrum of technology which focus on topics undergoing rapid change. CEI has sponsored such programs throughout Europe and the United States since 1979. These dynamic educational programs are taught by outstanding experts in their related fields. The following is a partial list of courses being offered during the spring quarter by the Electrical & Electronics Engineering Department.

SPRING '86 EUROPEAN SERIES

Programmable Logic Design Workshop

March 20–21, 1986 Munich, West Germany

CMOS Process Integration & Engineering

April 21–22, 1986 Munich, West Germany

Plasma Etching

April 23–25, 1986 Munich, West Germany

Modern Spectral Analysis

April 28-May 2, 1986 Munich, West Germany

Optical Signal Processing

May 13–16, 1986 Munich, West Germany

Error Correcting Codes

June 2–4, 1986 Munich, West Germany

Reed-Solomon Error Correcting Codes

June 5, 1986 Munich, West Germany

SPRING '86 U.S. SERIES

Analog MOS Circuit Design

March 10–13, 1986 April 1-4, 1986
Palo Alto, California Boston, Massachusetts

Microwave Circuit Design: Linear

March 10–15, 1986 Alexandria, Virginia

Films and Coatings for Technology

April 1–4, 1986 Los Angeles, California

Peripheral Array Processors

April 7–10, 1986 Natick, Massachusetts

Microwave Circuit Design: Nonlinear

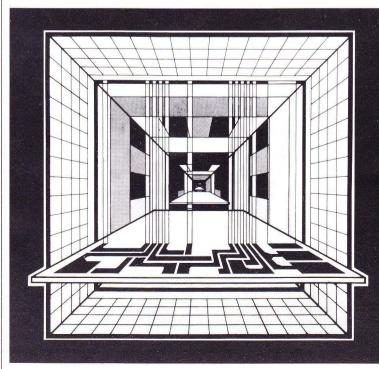
April 7-11, 1986 Washington, D.C.

Expert Systems

April 27–30, 1986 May 5-7, 1986 Cambridge, Massachusetts Monterey, California

Modern Microwave Measurements

May 19–22, 1986 June 16-19, 1986 Natick, Massachusetts Boulder, Colorado



For detailed course catalog and enrollment information contact:

Continuing Education Institute

Melbourn Science Park Moat Lane, Melbourn Cambridge, SG8 6EJ, England Telephone: National (0763) 60849 Int'l: +44 763 60849

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For New Course Development contact:

Dr. Tom R. Mincer
Founder and Executive Director
CEI World Headquarters
10889 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90024 USA
Telephone: +1 (213) 824-9545
Telex: 704789 CEI LA

April in Paris

Advanced Technologies and Processors in Communication and Power Systems

Eurocon '86 Paris – 21–23 April 1986

AT A TIME when the evolution of electronic and electrotechnical technology appears to be accelerating and deepening, becoming capable of completely modifying our civilisation, it seems useful to examine the validity of natural extrapolation of present trends, together with the impact of possible new technical phenomena. The aim of the conference is to examine how and how much the world and our way of life will be changed over the next decade. In particular the Conference will examine:

The present and future evolution of technology (especially in the field of materials, processing of materials, associate chemicophysics and biochemistry, computer aided design.

The evolution of architectures for signal and data processing, the evolution of software tools (such as artificial intelligence).

A large number of tutorial presentations will permit all participants, and in particular students, to have a realistic look at what can be expected by the end of the present century. Student contests within the framework of EUROCON '86 (and other facilities for students) should help in reaching this goal.

The Conference is organised by La Societe des Electriciens, des Electroniciens et des Radioelectriciens (SEE); IEEE French Section; and Le Groupement des Industries Electroniques (GIEL).

The sponsors are the Convention of National Societies of Electrical Engineers of Western Europe (EUREL), and Region 8 of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE).

Scope

New possibilities offered by new materials to be used in electronics and electrotechnics polymers, piezoelectric and electrochromic materials, liquid crystals, amorphous Silicon, III-V and II-VI semiconductors, new carbon fibres, glass fibres, biochemical components.

New possibilities offered by new means of processing those materials organometallic low pressure CVD, molecular beam epitaxy, utilisation of lasers, local nuclear reactions, ion implantation, ionic tooling, and by new possible artificial crystallic structures.

New possibilities of (and limitations resulting from) microlithography (optical, UV, electron beams, ion beams, X-rays) and relevant resines, methods and tools for testing of VLSI.

Evolution of components towards small dimensions and large powers – limitations of the evolution.

Possibilities and limitations of computer aided design and functional simulation of components (VLSI) of sub-assemblies, of equipment, of systems (communications, power generation, power transportation).

Using artificial intelligence and expert systems in industry, tertiary activities, architecture, aeronautics, medicine.

Evolution in signal processing: modern methods and their implementation (parallel architecture, systolic arrays). Impact on communication, navigation aids, medical equipment.

The Region

Distributed data processing organisations to be used in real time management and control systems. Examples of such a system (air traffic control, networks for transport of energy, management of production organisations).

Evolution in computer aided fabrication. The ESPRIT programme; its situation in 1986.

Further information and the preliminary programme may be obtained from: EUROCON '86, 11 rue Hamelin – F –75783 PARIS CEDEX 16 – FRANCE. Telephone 33 (1) 505 1427.

Circuits and Systems

1988 International Symposium, Espoo, Finland, 7–9 June Preliminary announcement

This symposium will take place on the beautiful seaside campus of the Helsinki University of Technology. Special sessions will be held on specific advanced aspects of the theory, design and application of circuits and systems. Workshops and short courses will be used to present the state-of-the-art in selected subjects.

Original papers are invited on all aspects of circuits and systems. Topics include:

VLSI design and applications

Distributed networks

Nonlinear circuits and systems

Graph theory

Power electronics and circuits

Computer-aided design

Mathematics of circuits and systems

Fault analysis

Large-scale networks

Solid-state circuits

Modelling and simulation

Circuit layout

Filter theory

Digital signal processing

Switched capacitor networks

Digital filters

Microwave networks

Active filters

Communication circuits

Computer networks.

Further information may be obtained from Dr. Jorma Skytta, Helsinki University of Technology, Department of Technical Physics, SF-02150 Espoo, Finland. Telephone: +358 0 4512467. Telex: 125161 htkk sf.

in Conference

Millimetre Waves

1986 International Workshop, Rome, 2-4 April

THIS workshop will be organised by the Middle and South Italy Section, and the Second University of Rome - Tor Vergata. It is sponsored by the IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society and will be held in the Second University of Rome. All aspects of millimetre wave technology and its applications will be included in order to create an opportunity for discussion and the exchange of personal experience.

The first two days will be devoted to the presentation of 16 invited lectures on the following subjects.

Mm-wave Sources and Amplifiers

Solid-state Circuits

Mm-wave Transmission Lines

Passive Circuits and Components

Mm-wave antenae

Solid-state Circuits

Propagation of mm-waves

Mm-wave systems – Applications

Mm-wave measurements.

An additional half-day will be devoted to group and panel discussions in which participants will be able to exchange their views with the invited speakers; time will be available to present one overhead transparency.

The list of invited speakers includes:

N. Alexopoulos (USA)

W. J. R. Hoefer (Canada)

S. Clifford (USA)

M. Maury (USA)

T. Itoh (USA)

A. A. Oliner (USA)

H. Meinel (West Germany)

K. Schuenemann

P. A. Rollard (France)

(W. Germany)

K. Solbach (West Germany)

A. Vander Vorst (Belgium) W. Wissemann (USA)

J. C. Wiltse (USA) J. Citerne (France)

I. Wolff (West Germany)

Further information may be obtained from: Professor Roberto Sorrentino, Chairman IEEE M and S Italy Section, Universita di Roma, Via Eudossiana 18, 00184 Roma,

Italy.

Electronics for Telecommunications

Symposium in Portugal – 1986

THE IEEE Portugal Section is organising this three-day Symposium, the provisional date for which is 21–23 May; it will be held in the Forum Picoas, Lisbon. It is sponsored by the IEEE Portugal Section, the Applied Electronics Centre of the Technical University of Lisbon, the Ordem dos Engenheiros, the Electrical Engineering Department of the Insituto Superior Technico. The principal topics will be:

Telecommunications Networks

Switching

Fibre Optics

Text Communication

Signal Processing

Authors are invited to submit three copies of their summary, two A4 pages in length (in English, French, Spanish or Portuguese); the summary should be sent before 20 December to Prof. Isabel Teixeira, CEAUTL, IST. 1096 Lisboa Codex, Portugal.

Notification of acceptance will be given before 28 January and the final version for the Symposium Proceedings should be received by Prof. Teixeira before 10 March. Since acceptance of the papers will be based on these summaries, they must provide clear information sufficient to enable referees to assess the significance of the work.

The Symposium languages will be Portuguese, Spanish, French and English; if sufficient demand exists, simultaneous translation may be made available. Full papers will be published in the Symposium Proceedings in the same language as that used for the presentation; all papers will be available at the start of the Symposium.

For further information please contact: Professor Isabel Teixeira, Telephone +351.1.800637 (Lisbon, Portugal).

VLSI and computers

First announcement and call for papers

COMPEURO '87 will be held in Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany, from 11–15 May 1987. The Conference is planned as the first in a series of annual major international events at which computer experts can meet regularly to present their latest results and to discuss trends, a need not met by any existing European conference. The scope of the conference will be:

The influence of VLSI on the architecture, design and future trends in data processing equipment, processors and systems, including new functions.

The influence of data processing on the simulation, modelling, design, manufacture and testing of VLSI components.

The state-of-the-art in the trends and status of VLSI technology, relevant to its application in data processing equipment and systems, including developments in technology and

The state-of-the-art in the trends and status of data processing systems and applications, relevant to the application of VLSI components in data processing equipment, including developments in technology and market trends.

Contributions are now invited. Prospective authors should submit as soon as possible a 300-500 word summary of their proposed paper; summaries should be received by 31 January 1986, acceptances will be notified by 15 March 1986 and submission of the complete papers is required before 11 September 1986. Summaries must include: a clear description of the contribution and why it is important, and in the case of original research contributions, a statement of what is novel about the contribution.

They should be sent to: Prof. W. E. Proebster, c/o IBM, PO Box 80 08 80, D-7000 Stuttgart 80, Federal Republic of Germany.

Also available from Professor Proebster is additional information and a more detailed list of the Conference Topics. The Conference language will be English, and the presentation of a paper will be limited to 20 minutes.

The CompEuro series of conferences is sponsored by Region 8 and the IEEE Computer Society. Additional sponsors for CompEuro '87 are the Verband Deutscher Elektrotechniker (VDE) and the Gesellschaft fuer Informatik (GI).

From the Sections

DENMARK

By P. Martin Larsen, Section Chairman SECTION MEETINGS

Optimisation Methods for the Design of Electrical Circuits. Associate Professor H. Gaunholt, Tech. University, Denmark.

Parallel Programming and Demonstration of Software Package. Professor B. Brinch Hansen, Copenhagen University.

Supra Conductors. Dr. R. Boll and Dr. K.-J. Best, Vacuum-schmeltze, FRG.

Some Topics from Colour Image Displays. Dr. W. Niblack, IBM, San Jose, USA.

University-Industry co-operation in Czechoslovakia. Professor P. Vavrin, Tech. University, Brno, CSSR.

A New Approach to Hetrojunction Theory. Professor A. Nussbaum, University of Minnesota, USA.

Active Interaction of Vision and Touch for Robotic Applications. Professor R. Bajcsy, University of Pennsylvania, USA.

State-of-the-art of Atomic Oscillators and Applications. H. Fruehof, Efratom Division, Ball Corporation, USA.

Hierarchical System Optimisation: Large Scale Networks. Professor A. S. J. Grammaticos, University of Patras, Greece.

Robustness of Multivariate Systems with Uncertain Inputs. Professor Dr. N. A. Kheir, University of Alabama, USA

In April 1985 the Past Chairman T. Sigurbjarnarson, of the Electrotechnical Group of the Icelandic Association of Engineering was encouraged to take the necessary steps to establish an IEEE Subsection in Iceland; the matter was discussed at a Group meeting on 8 May and was enthusiastically received. Mr. Sigurbjarnarson will now attempt to collect the 20–30 signatures necessary for an application.

History of Technology. The IEEE Press has decided not to publish the Danish Booklet "Six Accounts from the History of Technology". However, the Review Committee for the Distribution of Project Funds (Electro) has granted \$500 for translation of the three chapters which do exist in English; the Dutch publisher expects then to be able to locate an interested international publisher.

During the last five years the Section has established a library of IEEE Press books and publications; they are available for IEEE members only. An up-to-date list will be distributed to members annually.

Errata: The Editor apologises for two errors which appeared in the August Newsletter report from the Denmark Section. Assistant Professor Aage Pederson should have been Associate Professor, and following the last line there should have been "and the Society of Engineers of Denmark".

SWITZERLAND

By Prof. F. Gardiol, Chairman, Joint Chapter on Electromagnetism and Microwaves

The autumn meeting was held in Lausanne. The topic was "Microwave CAD/CAM and related computer techniques in Electromagnetics".

There were technical demonstrations in the Laboratory of Electromagnetism and Acoustics of the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne. An opportunity was provided for the attendees to become acquainted with the microwave CAD programme TOUCHSTONE, the microstrip layout package MICROS, automated measurements with the HP8510 Network Analyser and cavity parameter measurements with a programme developed at LEMA.

The retiring chairman Professor Gardiol stressed the peculiar situation encountered by those in Switzerland interested in microwaves. Most researchers are generally aware, through publications and conferences, of new developments in their field on a world wide basis, but all too often they have no idea what is going on next door. The basic purpose of the chapter is to encourage closer ties between those in Switzerland who are interested in microwaves – that need still exists.

Dr. Klaus presented the multiple multipole (MMP) technique for the study of electromagnetic scattering, a powerful method developed at the Electronics Laboratory of ETH Zurich. Dr. Azizi discussed the nonlinear analysis of class C amplifiers, showing the importance of matching at the second harmonic. Mr. Vollenweider presented CAD techniques for the layout of printed circuitry and Mr. Lott described the development of a 28 GHz microwave MESFET amplifier, using the CAD programme COMPACT at the Microwave Laboratory of ETH Zurich.

The officers of the 1986-1987 Committee are:

Chairman: Mr. Ray Ballisti, Gruppe Elektromagnetishe Felder, Inst. fur Elektronik, ETH Zentum, 8092 Zurich.

Vice-Chairman: Dr, Felix Nyffeler (Schaffner Elektronik), Baselstrasse 92, 4500 Solothurn.

Secretary-Treasurer: Mr. Jean-Francois Zurcher, Laboratoire d'Electromagnetisme et d-Acoustique EPFL, chemin de Bellerive 16, 1007 Lausanne.

The 1985 Spring Meeting was held in the magnificent "Saulenhalle" in Solothurn. Since industrial contributions have on previous occasions been somewhat scarce, this meeting was devoted specifically to industrial problems. Amongst these were: Optical vs. Radio Communication, Theory vs. Practice of Microstrip Planar Array Antennae, and How to Determine Accurately the dimensions of a Complex Waveguide Assembly prior to Brazing.

Election for Director-elect

Dr. Hugo Ruechardt will be Regional Director-elect for 1986

CONGRATULATIONS and WELCOME

You might wish to know

WITHIN the North American Continent the IEEE is achieving considerable success with a series of videoconferences broadcast by satellite. The next broadcast, the eleventh in the series, will be received in the United States, Mexico and Canada. The subject is "Fibre Optics: Techology and Applications"; it will be transmitted by one-way video and two-way radio and will be available to universities, companies and IEEE-entity sponsored locations.

The Spain Section has formed an Aerospace and Electronic System Society Chapter.

The Regional Activities Board approved a recommendation to the IEEE Committee that the minimum yearly income for reduction of dues (subscriptions), fees and Regional assessments be adopted at \$7,000 for 1986. During its meeting the IEEE Executive Committee established the 1986 minimum yearly income at \$5,000 with the provisions that this privilege be exercised only by individuals paying their own dues (i.e. not paid by an employer or other source) and that this privilege be limited to members for the first ten years after graduation.

The Egypt Section has received the Regional Activities Board Section Growth Award as the fastest growing Section in Region 8 during 1984.

The Computer Society is to set up an office in Brussels to improve services to members in Region 8. This is the first time that paid IEEE staff have been resident in the Region.

The University of Kuwait has received the 1984 Regional Activities Board Student Branch Growth Award as the fastest growing Student Branch during 1984.

The Regional Activities Board has approved a recommendation to the IEEE Executive Committee that agreements between IEEE and AEAI (Israel), AEI (Italy), EUREL (Europe), IFAust (Australia), SEE (France), SEP (Poland) and SEV (Switzerland) be renewed for a three year period ending 31 December 1988.

A Student Branch is to be formed at the Technical University, Munich.

The Regional Activities Board has approved a recommendation to the Board of Directors that, based on the results of the 1984 Membership Incentive Programme, which provides \$5.00 to a section for each new first time Society membership secured through that Section's efforts and \$5.00 to a Society for each new Institute member secures through that Society's efforts, continuation of the program be adopted. The Board of Directors took action on this recommendation during its August 1985 meeting.

Based on information received from the Regions, consensus was reached that the 1987 Sections Congress should be held for a duration of three days in a major city in California during the autumn.

The Fourth European Symposium on Semiconductor Detectors will be held in Munich from 3–6 March 1986. Its title is "New Developments in Radiation Detectors". By invitation only: requests to Mrs. R. Ludwig, Max-Planck-Institut fuer Physik und Astrophysik, Werner-Heisenberg-Institut fuer Physik, Fohringher Ring 6, D-8000 Munich 40. The European Organisation for Nuclear Research.

Melecon '87 will be held in Rome on 24–26 March. The Steering Committee Chairman will be Professor Valdini.

Letter to the Editor

Do you merit promotion?

Sir.

Under this title an article appeared in the August Newsletter suggesting that Senior Members who consider themselves eligible for Fellow nomination should write to me as the Region 8 Representative for Awards and Fellows. It is no doubt an excellent idea but unfortunately I am prevented by the Institute's bylaws from prejudging or sponsoring any candidate; all that I can do is to return their correspondence together with a Fellow grade nomination kit and some information concerning the proper procedure to be followed. The deadline for 1986 is 30 April. The better course wuld be to seek the advice and help of the Section Chairman.

Yours sincerely,

FOLKE BOLINDER,

IEEE Region 8 Representative for Awards and Fellows

Message from Region 8 Director

I ASK you all to make the advantages of IEEE membership known to your colleagues, and if they are interested, to make sure that the leaflets and publications list are available to them. If you do not have this material yourself, ask your Section for copies. There should be no shortage of supplies.

Our Sections have Membership Development representatives to foster this activity; but the point that I am making is that we should all be active in this field.

To all those who represent IEEE Conference committees, or who arrange Chapter or Section meetings, please make sure that you have been provided with a folding cardboard "Information Centre" to make membership literature available and clearly visible at the time of the meeting.

We are making a drive for new members, and in this our Section MD Representatives will be given advice and encouragement by our Region 8 MD expert, Professor V. E. Proebster.

I am writing this in September to meet our Newsletter deadline of 1 October, and by the time it reaches you our first Conference on the Iberian peninsula, the Melecon '85 Mediterranean Electrotechnical Conference, will have been held in Madrid at the Palace of Exhibitions and Congresses.

The next major Regional Conference will then be EUROCON '86, sponsored by the Convention of National Societies EUREL and by IEEE, and to be held in Paris on 21/23 April 1986. Organised by the French Society SEC in collaboration with IEEE France Section and with GIEL (Le Groupement des Industries Electronique), the conference will examine how much the evolution of electronic and electrotechnical technology will change the world and our way of life.

B.W.O.

Simplified arrangements for obtaining IEEE publications

By R. C. Winton, The Secretary of Region 8

I HAVE arranged with a UK company, London Information, that they will give a 10% discount on their charges for supplying IEEE books, publications and documents to Region 8 IEEE members who place personal orders. London Information are major suppliers of technical journals, proceedings, reports, specifications, standards, books and documents of all kinds from anywhere in the world. Their service includes free document research to identify particular requirements.

London Information will pass orders to the IEEE on the day they are received; the books, publications or documents will be despatched to them by air mail. London Information will send them to the member together with an invoice that includes freight and any currency transfer charges. The discount is available only to IEEE members who place an order personally and give their membership number; the reduction applies only to IEEE publications for personal use.

The address is London Information, Index House, Ascot, Berkshire, England SL5 7EU. Telephone: National 0990 23377; International +49 990 23377. Telex 849 426 Loninf G.

In addition to providing a discount I believe that these arrangements will greatly simplify the procedure for obtaining IEEE publications. Since orders can be placed in the UK, the cost of publications and freight does not have to be found in advance, currency transfer problems are eliminated or much reduced, and only a single payment is necessary to cover costs, freight and charges on currency transfer to the US.

Students' affairs

GREECE

By T. G. Kallimaris and D. Thauasas

THE President of our branch has resigned because his graduate studies now take him to the USA; Mr. Theodore G. Kallimaris is the new Chairman.

The organisation of the microfilm library will continue under the direction of the President; the library will serve southern Europe and the Middle East areas and will contain all IEEE publications. We are also continuing our efforts to translate English electrical, electronic and computer science terms into the Greek language and so create and English-Greek dictionary in our technical and scientific section.

It is our intention to publish a bulletin dealing with the activities of the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science departments of the Greek universities; we hope also to organise some conferences of interest to students.

First Announcement

NATO
ADVANCED STUDY INSTITUTE

LOGIC SYNTHESIS

SILICON COMPILATION

VLSI DESIGN

SSGRR - L'Aquila (Italy) July 7-18, 1986 The NATO ASI is organized and directed by:

P. Antognetti University of Genova-DIBE Viale Causa 13 16145 Genova - Italy Tel. +39-10-308000 Telex: 211148 G. De Micheli IBM Research Center PO Box 218 Yorktown Heights, N.Y. 10598 Tel. +1-914-945-1417 A. Sangiovanni University of California 401-G Cory Hall Berkeley CA. 94720 USA Tel. +1-415-642-4882

The NATO ASI will take place at Scuola Superiore G. Reiss Romoli (SSGRR) in L'Aquila (50 miles east of Rome). The facility is fully residential and includes lecture-halls and a well equipped computer center.

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