



Editorial

H. J. Caulfield, Editor

On Communication

Being the editor of a scientific journal has many perils, and, for that matter, so does being a scientist in general.

Just recently, my wife had to come to my rescue when a comparable pitfall befell me in a local fast-food establishment. Having ordered a generic burger and onion rings, I then asked for a large Diet Pepsi. The young lady behind the counter informed me, "We don't have any large Diet Pepsi." Having spent the entire day solving equally momentous problems, I replied without hesitation, "That's alright. Give me two small ones instead." Two thoroughly confused individuals, the young lady and I, stared at each other in consternation. Fortunately, my wife saved the day by explaining to me that the young woman meant that she had no Diet Pepsi at all. But why hadn't she expressed the true situation accurately and clearly?

This scenario perfectly illustrates one of the hazards of being an editor, who must make sense out of words as they are presented. This puts a peculiar burden on those who would write to such a person. They must express their thoughts clearly or their poor dumbfounded editor might fail to understand what they mean. Immortal prose is neither required nor asked; clarity, however, is essential.

Simple proofreading by an author is not always adequate to detect confusing or poorly phrased material. Much better is to have a colleague read the material closely for clarity of expression as well as accuracy of technical content. Failing that, reading the manuscript out loud is often effective, since hearing the words can be as important as seeing them when determining how they will strike someone else.

The purpose of publication remains the communication of information. Writers must expend some effort to make sure that their sentences actually accomplish that goal.

H. J. Caulfield

The editors of *Optical Engineering* and the officers and staff of SPIE are saddened by the death, on April 3, 1984, of a friend and frequent contributor to our journal and our society, D. J. Lovell. We will miss D.J.'s continuing technical contributions, the planned second volume of his popular book, *Optical Anecdotes*, and most of all his warmth and charm. A fine scientist and a fine human being has passed from among us.

OPTICAL ENGINEERING EDITORIAL SCHEDULE

September/October 1984

Particle Sizing and Spray Analysis

Gerald W. Stewart Aerodyne Research, Inc. 45 Manning Road Billerica, MA 01821 617/663-9500	Norman Chigier Carnegie-Mellon Univ. Dept. of Mechanical Engineering Pittsburgh, PA 15213 412/578-2498
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Robot Vision

David P. Casasent Carnegie-Mellon University Dept. of Electrical & Computer Engineering Pittsburgh, PA 15213	412/578-2464
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November/December 1984

Laser Spectroscopy

Fred Milanovich Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory MS L-524 P.O. Box 808 Livermore, CA 94550 415/422-6838	Stanley M. Klainer ST&E Technical Services, Inc. 20 Belinda Court San Ramon, CA 94583 415/829-7847
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Pattern Recognition

Joseph L. Horner Rome Air Development Center/ESO Hanscom Air Force Base, MA 01731 617/861-5563

January 1985

Optical Computing

John Neff DSO/ESD DARPA 1400 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA 22209	202/694-5800
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Optical Information Processing Components

Armand R. Tanguay, Jr. 523 Seaver Science Ctr. Univ. of Southern California University Park MC-0483 Los Angeles, CA 90089 213/743-6152	Cardinal Warde Room 13-3134 Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cambridge, MA 02139 617/253-6858
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February 1985

Integrated Optical Circuit Engineering

S. Sriram GTE Laboratories, Inc. 40 Sylvan Road Waltham, MA 02254 617/446-2607
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March 1985

Infrared Optics

Scott Armstrong The Aerospace Corp. P.O. Box 92957 Los Angeles, CA 90009 213/648-6412	Nelson Wallace The Aerospace Corp. P.O. Box 92957 Los Angeles, CA 90009 213/648-6150
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