

# EDITORIAL

This issue of *AI Magazine* is the first for which I have the privilege and the responsibility of serving as Editor. Lee Erman (whom you can blame for this event) asked me to serve as Editor under the assumptions that I was interested in the dissemination of interesting and timely information to the AI community (true) and that, having just left the hectic world of research management at ARPA, I would have copious amounts of free time on my hands (false). I accepted the offer mainly because it's hard to resist the opportunity to help shape such a potentially important publication during its formative phase.

At this point my plans for *AI Magazine* are evolutionary, not revolutionary, because the magazine has gotten off to a reasonably good start, all things considered. The first order of business is to try my best to make it a quarterly publication, as it's intended to be. Second, I'm going to emphasize articles that have broad appeal to AI researchers as well as to readers on the periphery of our community. The articles will be technical, but also understandable to non-specialists. I hope to include more graphics, similar in quality to the excellent drawings and photographs one sees in *Scientific American*. I intend to start some new features that will appear on a regular basis. One such feature is already in the works, and should start with the next issue. It will be called "AI Techniques and Methodology", and will be edited by Jaime Carbonell and Derek Sleeman. (More about that next time.) Also, beginning with the next issue, look for a change in appearance of the magazine as we shift the production activity to the AAAI office and put it into the able hands of Lou Robinson, our new Executive Director. (If you were unaware of Lou's new position, read the AAAI Minutes in this issue.)

I hope to establish an identifiable niche for *AI Magazine*, somewhere between the SIGART *Newsletter* and the *Artificial Intelligence* journal. The regular feature "Research in Progress" is already a step in that direction. For historical reasons we will inevitably overlap to some

extent with the Newsletter, particularly with respect to technical articles, which one now finds in both publications. As the magazine matures, however, I expect to see it develop its own distinctive style. We'll see.

A condition under which I accepted Lee's offer was that I could enlist a group of Associate Editors who could help dig out interesting and informative material, and keep the magazine broad in scope. That condition has been met most satisfactorily. I am fortunate to have a group of excellent associates who have agreed to work with me. They are:

Madeleine Bates (BBN)  
Lee Erman (USC-ISI)  
Ken Forbus (MIT)  
Brian McCune (AIDS)  
John McDermott (CMU)  
Steven Slade (Yale)

The task of an Associate Editor is to keep on the lookout for new and/or interesting work in AI of potential interest to us readers, and to actively solicit reports of that work by the people directly involved. The people listed above represent various geographical centers of AI research and development, and will thus serve to extend my own eyes and ears. As you can see from the list, some areas of the country are not represented. Let me know if you'd like to fill in the gaps.

Finally, a statement of the obvious: You, the members of AAAI, are not only the consumers of this magazine but its source as well. The hardest job that my associates and I have is keeping the pipeline full of good material. You can help either by providing that material or by giving us leads to other providers. Just get in touch with me or your nearest Associate Editor. ■

-- Bob Englemore