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Editor's Notes

The main component of this issue is a special section on Heterogeneous Databases edited by Amith Sheth. I would like to thank Amit for his effort in putting together this excellent section.

Following the special section are three submitted contributions. The first is a note by Kian-Lee Tan and Hongjun Lu dealing with estimating the search space of optimizing multi-way join queries in multiprocessor computer systems, i.e., the number of possible query execution plans that need to be considered. Cheng Hsu reports on the Metadatabase project that seeks to develop novel concepts, methods and techniques for achieving information integration across major functional systems pertaining to computerized manufacturing enterprises. Frank Manola argues that technical criteria of future database systems appear to be of decreasing interest in today's DBMS marketplace. His note describes the criteria that are important in today's "real world" environment.

The regular invited sections include the following material. The section on Database Research Centers presents a report on HP's database research activities, the section on Database Research Surveys includes a report by Dick Tsur on recent developments in Deductive Databases, and the section on Database Research Funding includes information of interest to researchers and developers in the database area. I would like to take this opportunity and welcome Marianne Winslett as the new Associate Editor who is in charge of the new section on database research funding. Marianne is replacing Marguerite Murphy who resigned from her position.

This issue is concluded with calls for papers and participation including a summary of upcoming database conferences prepared by Felix Saltor.

Arie Segev
October 1991

Chair's Message

Since the disintegration of communism in Eastern Europe and Soviet Union, ACM has initiated efforts to broaden the scope of technical exchanges among computer professionals and students to those parts of the world. As a part of these efforts, a local chapter of SIGMOD was started in September in Kiev, Ukraine. There has been a similar enquiry from some other parts of Eastern Europe, and a discussion of the possibility of another local chapter will commence shortly.

It is a pleasure to announce that SIGMOD will now have the annual "SIGMOD Innovations Award". The award will be given annually to one or more qualified nominees for innovative contributions to the development or use of databases and database systems; the contributions must have been reduced to practice and are in significant use in real world. The award will include \$1,000 per person (or group, if the selected nominee is a group), and a plaque or certificate. The winner(s) will receive the award during the opening session of the SIGMOD/PODS joint conference.

It will take another month or so to settle the issue of who will administer the award: either the ACM Awards committee or a separate SIGMOD committee. The awards committee will evaluate all nominations and pick winners. Until the issue of who will administer the award is decided, please go ahead and submit your nominations to me. I will forward them to the Awards committee. Each nomination should include a 200-word description, along with the name and address of the nominator. Nominations for contributions dating back over 10 years will not be considered. Each year, nominations must be received by the Awards committee by March 1.

Michael Carey, SIGMOD Treasurer, prepared the following financial summary.

During ACM fiscal year 1991 (FY-91), which ended on June 30th, the total revenue for SIGMOD was \$241,037. The major revenue sources were SIGMOD dues and income from conferences that SIGMOD sponsored and co-sponsored. Other sources of SIGMOD income were our Institutional Sponsors, which are listed in the front of this issue, and sales of conference proceedings. Our total expenses for FY-91 came to \$191,853. The bulk of these expenses were due to the cost of running conferences, the cost of printing and distributing the quarterly issues of SIGMOD Record (including the annual SIGMOD conference proceedings), and our annual contribution to the ACM budget. As a result, SIGMOD ended FY-91 with a net surplus of \$49,184, leaving us with a fund balance of \$133,430 as of June 30, 1991. As of that date, SIGMOD had a total of 3,853 members.

The SIGMOD officers will be discussing ways to keep the SIGMOD fund at a reasonable level (e.g., just under \$100K).

Won Kim
Austin, Texas
October 8, 1991

PETER LYNGBAEK
(March 9, 1955 - October 13, 1991)

Peter Lyngbaek once took a course to Americanize his Danish accent, but fortunately it failed. His charming accent and boyish good looks will be the easiest things to remember.

Peter was one of the first people to bring in the stunning news, on a bleak January morning in 1986, of the tragic explosion of the Challenger space shuttle. We suffered the same reaction on a recent Monday morning. Peter was struck down by a diabetic attack on October 13, in the rising arc of his young life and career.

His star was indeed rising. At age 36, Peter had just completed a major career milestone, and was celebrating in characteristically zestful style with his son Kristian and his parents at Yosemite when he collapsed. Other commitments kept his wife, Manon Janssen, from joining them on that trip. She was home with their younger son Steffen.

Peter balanced many tracks in his life as researcher, development project manager, husband and father, all the while keeping his diabetes under control. Just a few days before his death, Peter gave an immensely successful tutorial on object oriented databases at the OOPSLA conference in Phoenix. At the same conference, Hewlett-Packard unveiled OpenODB, the object oriented database product in which Peter played a leading role. For five years he was one of the chief researchers developing the Iris prototype at HP Laboratories. Then, taking a brave giant step in a new direction, he spent the last two years on loan to the Commercial Systems Division, coordinating the technology transfer and managing the development of the OpenODB product. He was about to wrap that up and return to research.

Peter joined HP Labs in 1984 after receiving his PhD in Computer Science from the University of Southern California.

Peter excelled at USC, publishing and presenting several research papers to launch his career as a highly respected computer scientist. His spirit will live on in the wonderful memories shared by the many good friends he made in Los Angeles. According to a student who followed Peter at USC "his excellent research and outstanding achievements have always been an inspiration".

A key member of the team at HP Labs, Peter was highly respected by everyone who knew him. He quickly established an excellent reputation in the professional community, as the author of numerous papers and as a participant on many conference committees and panels.

Technology transfer in Cupertino was a rough voyage through uncharted waters, needing Peter's perseverance

and optimism to survive through two divisions, two lab managers, three section managers, and a project management turnover. Colleagues liked his open, friendly, and professional manner, his supportiveness, and his honesty.

Next on the horizon was a planned trip in December with Manon to India, where Peter was to present a paper at the International Conference on Management of Data in Bombay.

Through it all the family was uppermost. Peter disliked leaving his family behind for business trips, and he often spoke proudly, sometimes ruefully, of the achievements and antics of Kristian and Steffen. Peter and Manon enjoyed visiting their families in Denmark and Holland, and the families often visited them here.

What else do we remember? A young woman asking "are you looking for a youth hostel?" as Peter wheeled a suitcase full of clothes and food across a square in Florence before VLDB in 1983. Sharing a cottage on a deserted beach on the island of Bali, before the 1984 VLDB in Singapore. The tri-lingual household: Kristian speaking his mother's Dutch and father's Danish, with English coming along later at nursery school. Cutting out traditional Danish decorations at Christmas parties. A ricetaffel dinner auctioned off for United Way. Sharing outdoor concerts high on the moonlit hillsides of Paul Masson winery... His laughter. His smile.

There are suddenly many things we'll never do together again. He will be sorely missed.

—Peter's friends and colleagues

Memorial donations "In memory of Peter Lyngbaek" may be sent to any of the following:

American Diabetes Association
Santa Clara County Chapter
4320 Stevens Creek Blvd. Suite #282
San Jose, CA 95826

Diabetesforeningen Landsforeningen for Sukkersyge
Postgiro 9010955
Filosofgangen 24
5000 Odense C. Denmark

Diabetes Vereniging Nederland
Postgiro 401246
Postbus 933
3800 AX Amersfoort
The Netherlands

Peter Lyngbaek Memorial Trust Fund
c/o Stans Kleijnen
11701 Timber Spring Court
Cupertino, CA 95014
(408) 973-9080
(for the education of Kristian and Steffen)