Welcome to spring and the tenth issue of our journal! We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the annual IRMA conference and discussing issues of concern to all of us as we proceed toward the end of the twentieth century.

As you know, computers are used in a widely diverse universe of companies for a variety of reasons. In the article, “The Administrative Use of Computers in Professional Sport Organizations,” Terry R. Haggerty reports on the results of a survey concerning computer usage in professional baseball, basketball, football, and hockey. Although the survey found similar problems to those in other organizations using computers, the significance of the individual problems proved to be different. The survey also revealed distinct approaches to implementing information systems to meet the organization’s needs.

In “Implementation of a Token Ring LAN: A Case of a University Business School,” Linda E. Duxbury and Anthony Koziol provide interesting insights into the LAN planning and implementation process. Although many organizations have successfully accomplished a LAN installation, not many have to confront the potential conflicts among the various groups desiring to use a LAN at a university business school. After presenting the background describing the planning and implementation process, this paper focuses on the lessons learned from the process: lessons that can be of value to other schools facing a similar project. In addition, these lessons can be generalized and applied to other large organizations attempting a LAN installation.

Janis L. Gogan in “Steering Through the Mist of Personal Computing: A Guide for Managers,” identifies two distinct roles that computers can play in helping a company attain a competitive advantage. The opportunities and risks associated with using “personal” computers in a business affect more than just the individual using a particular machine. Management must consider the nature of the application being used and its impact throughout the organization in order to manage the computer’s usage effectively.

The Expert’s Opinion contains an important, timely interview on database that recently appeared in the Journal of Database Administration. Our hardware review column introduces a new editor, Greg Welsh, and previews his approach to future hardware evaluations. In his software review, Mohammad Dadashzadeh takes a look at Alpha FOUR, a highly-touted competitor for the dBASE family of products. And that same reviewer also gives us a glimpse of a book about servicing microcomputers. In addition, Mohammad B. Dadfar reviews a new textbook on QuickBASIC for the Macintosh computer.

Finally, to keep you up-to-date, an index to the Journal since its inception is included at the end of this issue.

Glenn Byerly
Associate Editor