"WOW"
ICSE's
Window On the World

Thursday, May 22
Volume 8, Issue 2

Are You Ready for More?
Dance the Tango tonight!
By Hal Hart (TRW), WOW Editor

Most of you are now about half way through a busy conference! Some of you even re-energized yourselves at the ICSE run/job/walk at dawn today.

Probably right now you're heading in to hear our 2nd keynote presentation. Donna H. Rhodes from CSG Systems and past chair of the International Council on Systems Engineering will be giving us some insight into the world of Systems Engineering. After that, it's back into concurrent tracks all day – I'm already stumped as to which conflicting sessions to attend.

Today's WOW brings you more *hard-hitting* interviews, summaries of yesterday's keynote and awards, enticement to visit ICSE's exhibits and check out its posters, a report from the Doctoral symposium and one more workshop earlier in the week, and a rebuttal ("Letter to the Editor") on yesterday's review of the Agile Methods workshop. *And, that restaurant review we forgot on Wed.*

On the lighter side, we remind you of the ORLANDO acronym quiz and publish some helpful hints from the retired, undefeated champion of ICSE quizzes, Mary Shaw. And we review not only last night's jazz reception but 2 popular movies also, and we bring you late-breaking playoff scores, stock market news, … and several photos of the *People of ICSE*.

Finally, be sure you again recharge your batteries for another gala reception at 7pm tonight. *And there you will dance the Tango!*   -H^2

Inside this Issue

Opening Keynote Address
By Nigamanth Sridhar (Ohio State)

In the Wednesday keynote address, Jim Cassell (*Gartner Dataquest Research*) gave a sketch of where Gartner thought technology was headed. The stress was on the businesses community engendering zero-latency enterprises (ZLEs). The speaker gave his opinions on where software businesses should head in order to create the dynamic, interactive, and collaborative supply chains that would make them ZLEs.

Weather Forecast

Today: AM showers
High: 29 C (85 F)
Low: 16 C (62 F)

Tomorrow: *Partly Cloudy*
High: 30 C (86 F)
Low: 17 C (63 F)

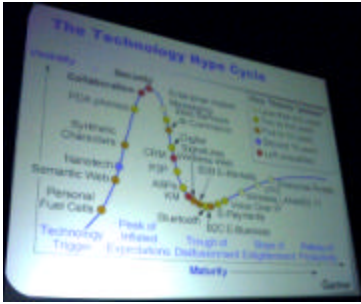### *Interview with Program Committee Co-Chair Michal Young*
By "WOW"

<u>WOW</u>: *You two (Michal Young, pictured at left above, and Jeff Magee) have been around ICSE organizing for a long time. Are you surprised at the quantity of new topics (more or less than expected?) represented among submissions and acceptances onto the program?*

<u>MY</u>: The rate of change seems fairly steady, and fairly healthy. There is a lot of continuity in the big themes, while particular approaches to those big themes evolve more rapidly. For example, process has been an important ICSE theme as long as I can remember, and it still is, but serious study of open source development processes is quite new.

<u>WOW</u>: *Give us the metrics -- how many submissions, how many reviews each, how many accepted, etc.*

Opening Keynote Address
(continued from page 1)

But the talk may have been better received by a bunch of business managers, rather than in the software engineering research community. I say this especially because one of the points he made was that the technology enabling ZLEs is already in place. The problem was that decision makers on the business side have to adopt these technologies.

The majority of the audience felt that the interesting portion of the talk was the hype cycle of global e-business: technology trigger, the peak of inflated expectation, the trough of disillusionment, the slope of enlightenment, and finally ending up on the plateau of profitability. One of the charts in Jim's talk had a curve that went through the hype-cycle with annotations of where in the hype cycle various current technologies lie. The audience would have loved to see more detail on this part of the talk, rather than learn where business aptitude should be focused.

New Keynoter Q/A Format – How did it work out?

WOW spoke with Will Tracz and others about the new Q&A format.

WOW: Will, you got in 12 questions in 25 minutes, was the new format a success?

Will Tracz: Definitely! We had too many questions. I probably should have stopped taking them at some point. But we were able to get lots of questions in.

WOW: How many questions did you not read?

WT: Five. There were also a number of similar questions that I combined.

WOW: I tested you on this by asking a nasty question that didn't get asked. You were censoring the questions!

WT: So that one was from you? I tried to phrase it a bit more nicely and combine it with another question.

WOW also asked attendees after the keynote for their opinions. The consensus seemed to be that this was a great way to take questions. One person noted that this was a nice to be able to ask a question without being afraid that people would know that it was you if the question turned out to be dumb.

Nit Picking

WOW has been informed that our survey of ICSE attendance has an error. The first conference, in 1975, was not called "ICSE" – it was the National Conference on Software Engineering.

Regardless, ignore that egregious blunder and **Don't forget to submit your entries for this survey and the ORLANDO Acronym quiz by 8.30pm today** (Thurs.). *See p.3 of WOW issue #1 (Wed.).*

Comments from the Sponsoring Societies
By Debora Weber-Wulff (VFH Berlin) & Anita Sarma (UC-Irvine)

IEEE Computer Society

The president of the IEEE Computer Society, Willis K. King, attended ICSE 2002 to present the Harlan D Mill's Award to Jesse Poore. WOW spoke with him after the presentation.

WOW: IEEE-CS is a co-sponsor of ICSE. Do you have many software people in your professional organization? Many of the attendees at ICSE are IEEE affiliated.

Willis King: Yes we do. A recent survey showed that more than half of our members define themselves as working with software.

WOW: Are they all software engineers?

WK: There are problems here in the US with the term "engineer", so we call them software professionals. IEEE is offering a new Certified Software Development Professional Examination (CSDP). There is information on our web site: http://computer.org/certification.

WOW: What is IEEE's Harlan D. Mill's Award?

WK: The award was established to recognize researchers and practitioners who, like Mills, have made long-standing contributions to the theory and practice of the information sciences, particularly to software engineering. This year the award went to Dr. Jesse Poore from the University of Tennessee for his contributions to function-based software development and statistical software testing.

WOW: What is the most important challenge in the field at the moment?

WK: Software engineering is important! There are standards, but the curriculum at the schools is not yet well defined. We are working on this with SWEBOK [Software Engineering Body of Knowledge], which has just recently been published. But it will take a few years. We need the support of the community to volunteer, to give us feedback, and to help forge some compromises. The opinions of practitioners in industry and in academia are quite divergent! We have a lot of work to do.

WOW: Is this your first ICSE?

WK: No, I attended one many years ago, but I don't remember where, I attend so many conferences!

WOW: Dr. King, thank you very much for attending today and for this interview!

Dr. King teaches Computer Architecture at the University of Houston in addition to his duties as 2002 President of the Computer Society.

ACM SIGSOFT

Alex Wolf, current chair of SIGSOFT, is around all week so it was easy to corner him for comments.

WOW: Where do you think ICSE stands in SIGSOFT?

Alex Wolf: ICSE is the flagship conference for the research community; it is the mainstream conference. ICSE allows different researchers to come together and exchange ideas. The only downtrend is that there are other special events being held alongside ICSE and given restrictions such as travel time and resources, researchers have a make a decision regarding which conference they would want to attend. The high expectations from the paper judging lead to a high rejection rate. ICSE expects mature papers sometimes the expectations border on the journal level, which might persuade others to go to other conferences. Though the acceptance rates have remained constant, the submission numbers have increased.

WOW: How should this be changed?

AW: It would help if Journals had a lower turnaround time, and if the distribution of journals were high. Then conferences could be used as the forum for novel ideas and journals for as the platform for mature work.

WOW: How do you envision ICSE in the future?

AW: ICSE should develop a set of criteria which could be used for evaluating the work. Even though software engineering encompasses diverse areas, the set of criteria should be good enough for evaluating all the work.

WOW: Any other comments?

AW: Its unfortunate that the ICSE venue had to be changed at such a

short notice, we hope that the conditions in Argentina change for the better soon.

Also would like to mention that the CAPS program of SIGSOFT is a great endeavor, it provides opportunities to students to get an early experience in their career. The CAPS program by using the profits from the conferences, allow students from under developed countries, underrepresented minorities or students with financial constraints to gain the rich experience of being present in a research environment.

Awards Ceremony
By Santhoshi D Basaveswara (UC-Irvine)

The ICSE awards ceremony was held on Wednesday, May 22, 2002. The recipients of the awards were honored for their service and commitment, and for making significant contributions to the Software Engineering community.

ICSE Service Recognition Award: Will Tracz, Lockheed Martin; Michal Young, Univ. of Oregon; Jeff Magee, Imperial College

IEEE/CS Harland Mills Award: Jesse Poore, Univ. of Tennessee

SIGSOFT Outstanding Research Award: Gerard Holzmann, Bell Labs

SIGSOFT Distinguished Service Award: Lori Clarke *(below)*, Univ. of Massachusetts

ICSE-10 Most Influential Paper Award: David Rosenblum, PreCache Inc. / UC Irvine

Recognition of ACM Fellow Election: Pamela Zave, AT&T Labs

Geek Humor

Arnold Schwarzenegger Virus: Terminates and stays resident. It'll be back.

Unfair Fare: Tuscany

Our PhD advisor, in a passing comment, suggested that we not venture into the Italian restaurant Tuscany, as it was overpriced and had bad food. But as is so often the case, we didn't listen. We went there for dinner with a large workshop group on Tuesday. We ended up being offered appetizers that were grossly overpriced ($15 for 3 little bruschetta), served practically uncooked ravioli with stale garnishing, and spoken to in fake accents by snooty waiters. In the end we paid over $50 per person for this experience. So the moral of today's story is: "Always listen to your advisor". This, apart from (hopefully) getting you your PhD, might also save you some bucks.

--Anita & Santhoshi

Editor's Note: Tuscany management was sensitive to the group's complaints, following up Wednesday with an offer of free appetizers. No comment regarding the apparently recurring quality issues.

"Cry for Me, Argentina"
(Part 2)
By Jane Pryor
(UNICEN, Tandil, Argentina)

Editors Note: Yesterday Jane enticed us with the charm of the Buenos Aires we're missing. Today she tells us more about Argentina.

Geographically, Argentina extends from 20º to 55º south latitude. That is a total of 5700 km (over 3500 miles) from La Quiaca on the border with Bolivia, to the southernmost city in the world, Ushuaia on the Beagle Channel. In the Northern Hemisphere this would be equivalent to a country extending from Prince Rupert in British Columbia, Canada, to Mexico City. Argentina therefore has a very great variety of climates, landscapes and natural resources.

The Argentine people descend from many different nationalities, cultures and religions. The original Spanish conquerors were joined by scattered groups of Welsh, Scottish, and Nordic settlers in the mid 19th century. The immigration laws toward the end of that century promoted and welcomed peoples from many lands. Italian, Spanish and Irish people emigrated in droves. Furthermore, many English came to this country when British engineering companies built the railways and installed telecommunications, creating the largest Anglo community outside of the Commonwealth. Armenians, Germans, European Jews, and in more recent years Koreans and Chinese among others, have all made Argentina their home when the future in their countries seemed unpromising. As in the US, the original indigenous inhabitants were decimated when extending the country's borders, making Argentina a unique country in Latin America as to its social and cultural background.

Argentina's current economic and political crisis is inexplicable given the high educational standards, added to a rich endowment that encompasses ample and varied mineral, agricultural, and scenic wealth. Yet a country that is a top exporter of grain is currently unable to avoid hunger in a growing percentage of its population.

However greatly this situation may affect the economic activity of the country, Argentines continue to go to school and university, researchers are writing their contributions and attending ICSE, family and friends gather around barbecues or "asados" on weekends, cinemas are full, and concert halls and theatres are as active as ever. Other than an exchange rate which is very favourable to the tourist, an occasional picket against politicians, it would appear that life goes on as normally as is possible.

Visitors are impressed both by the city of Buenos Aires as a very European looking city with an active cultural life, and the many unspoiled and beautiful landscapes. Despite the distances to be travelled to the different regions of the country, plane services are efficient and currently cheap for foreigners.

A day visit to an "estancia" or farm outside Buenos Aires satisfies the tourist's most expected image of Argentina: large fertile fields of grain, cattle roaming the pastures, "gauchos" on horseback, and a barbecue of delicious meat. The lucky visitor stays longer and gets to sample the rest of this vast country's offerings.

Yes, ICSE and its attendees indeed are missing a rich, unique experience in our Argentinean venue that was not to be…

WOW Whoops

Actually, it was *"Fire at Will"* we should have written yesterday, as many of you realized.

The ICSE 2002 Doctoral Symposium

By Jason Hallstrom (Ohio State)

The ICSE 2002 Doctoral Symposium provided participants the opportunity to share their dissertation research with experts from around the world. Students at early stages in their research careers presented a range of topics spanning the software engineering field. With four five-minute presentations and eight half-hour presentations, the symposium provided a chance for students to not only practice their presentation skills, but also to be exposed to questions and viewpoints they may not have encountered at their home universities.

In addition to the discussions related to student presentations, faculty members offered numerous helpful comments regarding Ph.D. research in general. The topics discussed included: selecting the appropriate advisor, managing the scale of your research, negotiating Ph.D. completion requirements, and many others. Noting that many of these topics are often difficult to discuss, the committee encouraged students to not only build relationships within their home universities, but within the software engineering community at-large.

Definitional clarifications of commonly misunderstood terms were also discussed, stressing the difference between *foundation work* as the work on which your research depends, as compared to *related work*, which is the competition from which your work must be distinguished. Members additionally emphasized the distinction between *evaluation* and *validation*, where *evaluation* is the process of carefully analyzing a particular property, and *validation* is the process of establishing truth. While these terms are familiar to software engineering veterans, they cause considerable confusion among new recruits; the symposium was certainly helpful in this regard.

Students embarking on *risky* research adventures are often concerned that the research will produce an impossibility result. A student trying to bridge the gap between two theories, for example, might spend several years discovering that such a bridge cannot be built. Have no fear! In a particularly encouraging discussion, the faculty members noted that this kind of research can indeed be useful. They warned, however, that a dissertation of this type is much more work, and places a larger burden on the student… But for the adventurous out there, venture on; there just might be some hope for us yet.

Recursive Acronyms

Only in our field: The <u>ADA Board</u> was a federal advisory committee in the 80's, where:
?? *"<u>ADA</u>"* stood for *"AJPO Director's Advisory,"* where
?? *"AJPO"* stood for *"Ada Joint Program Office"*
Then again, this may just be an argument for case sensitivity…

IWPSE 2002 Workshop Report

By Mikio Aoyama (Nanzan University)

Big surprise! More than 50 people attended the IWPSE 2002 (5th International Workshop on Principles of Software Evolution) on Sunday morning. The presentations and discussions continued for both days of the workshop. This is an indication of the growing interests in software evolution. Since the first IWPSE was held with ICSE 1998 in Kyoto, this is a returning home.

Software evolution is a somewhat crosscutting aspect within software engineering. So, the research subjects are diverse, related to almost all areas in software engineering. The IWPSE tries to find the basic nature of software evolution.

The keynote was given by Tetsuo Tamai (University of Tokyo), and 6 full papers and 20 short papers were presented. At the end of the workshop, some open issues were tossed up and discussed.

Looking at the various models and the analysis techniques presented, people felt a maturation of software evolution research, although it is still young. The subjects were enriched by extending the techniques to design evolvable software systems. The participants felt that there are many subjects still to be explored.

About the ICSE 2002 Exhibits & Posters

By Santhoshi D Basaveswara (UC-Irvine)

Please take advantage of your opportunities to visit both the exhibits and posters.

The book exhibition is being held in front of the Crystal. Apart from books,

there is other literature, like journals, the proceeding of other relevant conferences and so on, being displayed. The following is a list of the exhibitors:

?? Addison Wesley
?? Cross Talk
?? Elsevier Science
?? Flashline Inc.
?? Kluwer
?? Liveware
?? Microsoft Solutions Framewo rk
?? NetSol Technologies
?? QAI India Ltd.
?? Semantics Design
?? VA Software Corporation
?? World Scientific Publishing Pte. Ltd. (Singapore)

The following posters are being displayed at the ICSE poster session (in front of the Crystal ballrooms on level 1):

?? Enterprise Application Development By Means Of A Generic CORBA LDAP Gateway: *M Jandl, A Szep, W Randinger K M Goeschka*

?? An Agent Based Approach For Aspect Oriented Development: *J Andres Diaz Pace, Frederico Trilnik, Marcelo Campo*

?? Proto-Frameworks: An Object-Oriented Bridge Among Architectural Styles, Aspects And Frameworks: *J Andres Diaz Pace, Marcelo Campo*

?? Human Capacities In The Software Process: Empiric Evaluation: *Silviera Teresita Acuna, Cecelia Maria Lasserre, Viviana Elizabet Quincoces*

?? Software Validation Using Power Profiles: *Raimondas Lencevicius, Edu Metz, Alexander Ran*

?? Observing Timed Systems By The Means Of Message Sequence Chart Graphs: *Sebastian Blaustein, Fernand Oliveto, Victor Braberman*

?? An Architecture Centric Approach To The Development Of A Distributed Model Checker For Timed Automata: *Fernando Schapachnik, Victor Braberman, Alfredo Olivero*

Poster presenters will be available for discussions during the coffee breaks as well as during the receptions.

HINTS for the ORLANDO Acronym Quiz

By Mary Shaw (CMU)

WOW Note: We announced yesterday that Mary Shaw has agreed to retire

from the competition and judge the quiz instead. Well, some people took this as an opportunity, and asked her for hints so they could win.

Our judge, just being fair, thought that she couldn't give her advice to some people and not others. So she gave us this list of to be mindful of when coming up with entries:

Advice on ICSE acronym contests (the same things I tell my students)

Follow the rules: Make a seven-word phrase with words whose first letters spell ORLANDO

Try to relate your entry to the conference

Use generate and test strategies: write down some conference-related words than begin with O, R, L, A, N, D. Include nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs

Find 3 or 4 related words that make sense in the order that fits ORLANDO

Fill in the other letters with common words (it's ok to stick in a few small words to make the phrase work)

Try several (generate) and see which work best (test). Set your work aside for a few hours – fresh ideas may come to you

Be clever

Submit before the deadline

Be sure to have your entries in by 8.30 pm on Thursday or give them to any WOW staff member at tonight's reception.

2 Movie Reviews

"Star Wars: Attack of the Clones"
(Reviewed by Nigamanth Sridhar)

The clones attacked last week. And George Lucas seems to have struck most of the right chords, if not all. This episode was miles ahead of the previous installment that came out of Lucasfilm. It was really cool to see

Uncle Owen, Aunt Beru and Boba Fett as young (really young in Boba's case) people – did a lot to give perspective to the world of young Luke in the later episodes.

The light-saber fights were out of the world (sic)! And the validation of the claim that Yoda was the best there was with the saber was awesome. And when I found out that Yoda was a CG character, ILM went up in my respect scale. Christopher Lee did a nice job as Count Dooku, using the experience he gained as Saruman from the Lord of the Rings. Hayden Christensen did a pretty good acting job, but I could somehow not picture him with the heavy-breath and strong presence of Darth Vader… maybe he'll grow up in the next episode.

On the whole, I liked it a lot better than Episode I, and miles better than *Panic Room*!

May the Force Be With You!

Rating: Quantitatively Managed (CMMI Maturity Level 4)

"Panic Room"
(Reviewed by Jason Hallstrom)

Panic Room (which is not a reference to Gates' unveiling of Windows 98) is the newest film from David Fincher, director of *Seven* and *Fight Club*. Jodie Foster stars as the melancholy Meg, who at the start of the film moves into an uptown New York City townhouse equipped with an impenetrable room designed to protect the homeowner from unwelcome guests. Without saying too much, let's just say she finds a need for the panic room fairly early on in the film.

With profane language and rather explicit violence, *Panic Room* is not everyone's cup of tea. Nevertheless, Fincher's film is filled with beautiful camera work, outstanding performances, and nail-biting suspense. If excitement is what you crave, skip *Attack of the Clones* and step into the *Panic Room.*

Rating: Quantitatively Managed (CMMI Capability Level 4)

Interview with Program Committee Co-Chair Michal Young
(continued from page 1)

MY: 303 full research papers were submitted. Each was reviewed by at least three members of the program committee --- that's over 900 reviews. 45 of those submissions were accepted to the technical program, an acceptance rate of less than 15 percent.

The program committee worked hard not only to select an excellent technical program from that large set of submissions, but also to provide useful, constructive criticism to every single author. That's particularly important given the extreme selectivity of ICSE. Although the selectivity means that it is a real honor to have one's paper selected for publication, it also means that many more authors have the experience of having their paper rejected. I'm convinced that maintaining a strong pool of submissions depends not just on an open and fair selection process, in which each author can understand the rationale of the program committee, whether or not they agree with the results, but also on a process that provides useful feedback to all authors.

David Garlan pointed out to me a few years back that ICSE was just at the limit in two dimensions: program committee size and number of papers assigned to each reviewer. The program committee is as large a group as can sit around a table (a BIG table) and have a real, substantive discussion. Ideally it would be smaller. The number of papers reviewed by each program committee member is as large as one can possibly assign with the expectation of deep, careful reviews and substantive discussion. It's the heaviest individual reviewing load of any program committee I've served on. One could reduce the number of reviews per program committee member by increasing the size of the program committee, or by delegating reviews to others, but either would undermine program committee discussions. One could reduce the size of the program committee by assigning even more papers to each committee member, but they are stretched to the limit already. So we get along right at the limit in both dimensions. Fortunately (and not accidentally) we had a program committee made up of individuals who were not only willing to commit to such a large task, and carry it out responsibly, but who also interacted constructively over two long days of face-to-face discussion in which the actual selection was made.

WOW: Are to mention any seminal new topics on or directions with your technical program?

MY: "Seminal" is a judgment that can only be made in retrospect. Some years ago, ICSE stopped making best paper awards from the current technical program, and started recognizing influential papers from ten conferences prior --- a practice we will continue this year. I can make some guesses about important topics and directions, and you can make some guesses, and to some extent the selection of papers represents the best (educated) guesses of the program committee. None of us can be certain.

WOW: Tell us a little about the IMPACT program and its connection to ICSE.

MY: You should probably talk to Lee Osterweil about this, but here's my take:

There is a widespread perception that the engineering of software has made little or no progress while the engineering of computer hardware has followed Moore's law of exponential improvement. Is that perception justified? And if there has been progress, what if anything does it owe to software engineering research? These questions are important to ourselves as a research community, so that we can understand better how to conduct research that matters. It is also important for the software engineering research community to

provide sound, well-researched answers to those who fund the research, and who quite reasonably want to see their funding used well. The IMPACT program is attempting to make scholarly studies of how the results of software engineering research have impacted the practice of software engineering, and ICSE is providing a forum for sharing the results of those studies as they become available.

WOW: How hard is it to choose the Keynote and State-of-the-Art presentations?

Software engineering is such an eclectic field, and ICSE is such an eclectic mix of backgrounds and interests, that it can be quite a challenge to find a good mix. We don't want to simply have one speaker to appeal to group A, and another to appeal to group B, with each group attending only "their" sessions. Ideally we would like attendees to be stretched a little and rewarded by talks and presentations they would not likely see at the smaller, more specialized conferences and workshops they attend.

Techie Humor

A "clarification" is to fill in the background with so many details that the foreground goes underground.

WOW: Frankly, the fact that ICSE needs to always designate "Industry Presentations" seems to imply that it's not easy to spot the practitioner aspects of the program, and recognizes a disconnect between research and practitioner interests. Care to comment?

MY: I see it a little differently. There are a lot of research conferences that have essentially no role for practitioners. ICSE is a research conference, but we also recognize the interdependence of research and practice in software engineering, and work to maintain and nurture ties between the research community and practitioner community. This is in addition to, not in lieu of, industrial research in the technical program.

WOW: Were you disappointed in panel proposals, given that only 3 were accepted and it appears two of them came from ICSE stalwart Leon Osterweil?

MY: A small number of panel proposals is not unusual for ICSE or for other conferences that I am familiar with, so in that respect I am not disappointed. A lot of panel discussions in conferences degenerate into mini-presentations. Once in a while we see a great panel with real give-and-take among the panelists and audience, but it's the exception rather than the rule. If I knew how to engineer more of those occasional great panels, I would be more concerned about the numbers.

WOW: Many other conferences have gone to cyberspace refereeing, and tools have arisen to facilitate this. What compels ICSE to continue with long, large PC meetings to make selections?

MY: First a clarification: ICSE 2002 did use a cyberspace refereeing tool, namely Cyberchair, and I believe all recent ICSE's have used web-based reviewing tools. In addition we had two full, intense days of face-to-face discussion.

The phrasing of the question presupposes that the whole purpose of the PC meeting is to select papers. That's certainly an important purpose, and I believe the face-to-face discussion with the involvement of the whole program committee results in better decisions than we would make otherwise. But a program committee meeting serves other purposes, too. A discussion about whether to accept a particular paper is sometimes really be a discussion of research norms and standards in our field. It is not just measuring a particular paper against a fixed set of criteria, but exploring and refining those criteria. The program committee meeting is, among other things, a gathering of experts in several subfields of software engineering, engaging in face-to-face arguments about what constitutes a significant research contribution in software engineering, what constitutes persuasive evidence and sound

scholarship. I think that's very important.

WOW: What facet of the ICSE 2002 technical program do you feel will be your proudest bragging point years from now?

MY: As technical program co-chairs, Jeff's and my most important duty was to select a first-rate program committee. I think we succeeded.
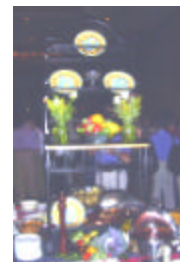

All that Jazz!
By Debora Weber-Wulff (VFH Berlin)

Wednesday's reception was accompanied by a group of four local jazz musicians who were hired on short notice, since the original stars came down sick. It was a difficult job to find tolerant musicians, program chair Will Tracz said, as they had to be willing to work with the amateur "rocket scientists" from the audience who just happened to have instruments with them and joined the group on stage for a number.

Anyone guess who the amateurs were? Right, no other than our own Michal Young and Will Tracz! Well done all around!

Conversation was thick and heavy as people scarfed up the hors d'ouerves (thinking this was dinner, since it cost $30), swaying slightly to the beat of the music.

We're looking forward to Will and Michal dancing Tango together tonight!

A Letter to the Editor
Extreme Reaction:
Counter Commentary
By Hakan Erdogmus
(National Research Council)

Jason Hallstrom's perceptions of Extreme Programming are plain misguided. XP and other agile processes may very well fade into oblivion if proven ineffective through practice. In the meantime, the jury is still out.

Hallstrom is ignoring compelling anecdotes coming from the trenches by latching onto mantras that he hopes will not resonate well with the ICSE audience. The research community in particular should be open to new ideas as well as the reincarnation of old ideas whose time may have arrived. We should resist the temptation to dismiss them just because they threaten deeply rooted beliefs and appear to nullify our past effort s.

XP and other agile processes, besides their emphasis on the social context and team dynamics (not dissimilar to what have long been advocated by DeMarco, Lister, Constantine, and their likes), encourage technical practices that merit at least further investigation. Pair programming, test-first, and refactoring come to mind. It is unfortunate that Hallstrom tries hard to give a negative spin to refactoring -- a practice that aims to improve the maintainability of code -- in the name of trashing a philosophy with which he disagrees.

XP may not a silver bullet, but it is not an undisciplined approach for hackers, as Hallstrom claims. If you are really curious, do not take Hallstrom's, my, or Kent Beck's word for it. Try it, and decide for yourself. Who knows, you might be surprised.

Techie Humor

Final Definitions From the Monday Morning Computer Guide
(concluded. from issues 0 & 1)

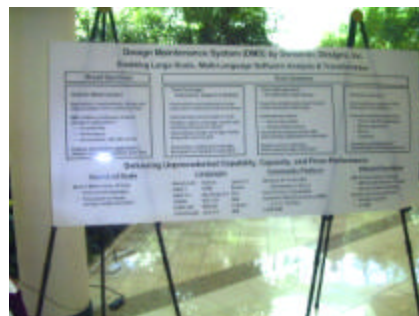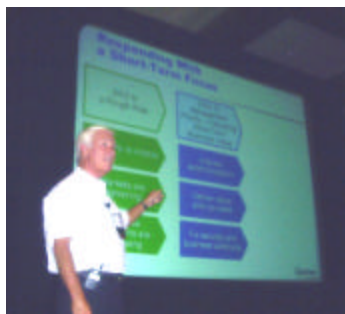**Mnemonic**: Something whose precise use one forgets.

Pointer: A type of dog that always seems to know which way the data went.

Prefix: A method of arranging a demonstration so that, just this once, the program works.

Reserved Words: The first choice for variable names.

Specification: An unreasonable request.

Unsupported: A class of features without which any given system is useless.

Quote of the Day

Why Assertions? *The logical choice* for automated runtime fault detection in debugging, testing, maintenance, production … low development cost, low overhead.., highly effective fault detection, informative diagnostics.., high overall return on effort.

-David Rosenblum, ICSE –10 Most Influential Paper Award, 2002

Stock Markets

DJIA	10,158	(+52)
NASDAQ	1,673	(+9)
S&P	1,086	(+6)
TRW	54.85	(unchanged)
Northrop-Grumman	124.48	(+0.44)

SOME PLAYOFF SCORES

NHL:

Detroit	**2 (OT)**
Colorado	**1**

Detroit leads W. Conf. Final Series 2 games to 1.

Carolina leads E. Conf. Final Series 2-1 over Toronto.
Next game Carolina vs Toronto tonight.

NBA:

LA & Sacramento tied at 1 game apiece in Western Conf. Finals.

Boston & New Jersey also tied 1-1 in Eastern Conference Finals.

No games until Friday