

EDITORIAL

It is with pleasure and some apprehension that I assume the duties of Editor. The founding of the *Journal of Computational Physics* in 1966 under the editorship of Alder, Fernbach, and Rotenberg is contemporaneous with my own introduction to computing and, more than any other single influence, has shaped my ideas on the possibilities of computing. In planning for this transition, I have learned that many of my colleagues feel just as intensely about the journal as I do. Their sense of ownership and involvement is a measure not only of the importance of the journal to their work in science, but also of the responsibility that is now mine. I am fortunate to be able to depend on advice and help from Alex Chorin, Tony Jameson, Phil Roe, the editorial board, and the editorial staff at Academic Press.

Now, as in 1966, "the purpose of the *Journal of Computational Physics* is to publish articles concerning techniques developed in the solution of data handling problems and mathematical equations, both arising in the description of physical phenomena." The journal will continue to publish articles describing original methods for solving new problems in all areas of numerical computation. It will continue to foster the development of new methods in well-established fields, and it will welcome submissions in new fields.

Of course, the journal will change. It has grown from a quarterly to a monthly journal, and it will grow this year by two extra issues in March and October to keep up with increased submissions. To cope with this growth, the associate editors have assumed a major role in managing the review process and the editorial staff at Academic Press a major role in providing support to the editors. In addition, there is now an editorial office at Los Alamos. The editorial assistant, Jan Muir, will answer authors' questions and assist the editors to ensure that all submissions are reviewed fairly and in a timely manner. There has been a streamlining and tightening of the review process which have already reduced the backlog and should result in significant reduction in both the time to first contact with the authors and the total time to publication. Academic Press has been more than generous in giving their time and resources to eliminate delays, and the editors have responded to the extra demands on their time in a helpful and uncomplaining manner. We all feel that our efforts will be worthwhile if we can better serve our colleagues.

The journal will have a new cover. Each issue, the cover will display a different computer-generated graphic from an article in that issue. The journal will be more colorful. To encourage the increased use of color graphics, two free color pages will be offered this year. The color pages will be granted by the editors when the use of color seems especially appropriate or informative. The journal will publish review articles more frequently. The editors will continue not only to consider contributed review articles, but also to solicit review articles when a field seems ripe for summing up or when an introduction to a new field seems especially appropriate.

There will be changes in what we expect of our authors and reviewers. Everyone agrees that the time to publication is too long. Many of the delays are our fault, and we are doing something about them. The authors also can help. We encourage careful preparation of manuscripts in conformance with the Information for Authors printed in the back of each issue. Authors are also encouraged to supply key words and to suggest reviewers. Unusually long or poorly written articles, no matter their intrinsic scientific merit, will encounter delays in review.

We are working hard to deliver manuscripts into a reviewer's hands and to speed accepted manuscripts into print. Our remaining task is to convince reviewers that their contribution to timely publication is the most important of all. The editorial staff in San Diego, the editorial assistant at Los Alamos, and the editors will all work together with the reviewers to accomplish this task.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation for Phil Roe's contributions as editor to JCP. Every issue reflects the high standards he maintained as editor. I hope that we who follow him can do as well.

Jerry Brackbill
Editor-in-Chief