



Editorial

Jack D. Gaskill, Editor

Confessions of an Editor

After a year in which United States presidential candidates, supreme court nominees, and television evangelists offered confession after confession, I have begun to feel that by not confessing something, I have not fulfilled my duties as Editor of *Optical Engineering*. As a result, even if it does rule out any future political aspirations I might have, I have decided that I must confess a shameful deed: I allowed myself to be "bought." That's right! In return for certain favors, I authorized the publication of a paper that otherwise might never have scattered any optical radiation to the eyes of the reader.

It all started when I received a manuscript from two authors who live in a cool, coastal city not too far from the Arctic Circle. One of the authors was on leave from his home institution and was serving as a visiting scholar at the Optical Sciences Center in Tucson. In addition, this author and I had been friends (well, at least acquaintances) for many years, and I thought it would be wise to take precautions to avoid any possible appearance of favoritism in the handling of his paper. I decided that if his paper was treated with benign neglect and never published, I could never be accused of favoritism.

Consequently, my first tactic was to inform him that I had somehow misplaced his file, which included all copies of the manuscript and original figures. However, he immediately produced several replacement copies, complete

with new "original" figures. I didn't feel comfortable misplacing his file a second time, so I took a more active approach. I presented him with a plastic bag containing ashes and bits of scorched paper. I then implied that his replacement copies and new "original" figures had been almost totally destroyed by fire, with only the title and authors' names left undamaged, to which he modestly responded that he felt the prestige of *Optical Engineering* would be enhanced even if we printed only what was left of his manuscript. When I objected to this suggestion, he quickly produced still more copies and more new "original" figures.

My next ploy was to inform him that his manuscript had been refereed by a panel of distinguished scientists and engineers from a country neighboring his and that the members of that panel had expressed some concern regarding the publication of his paper. He responded by suggesting the impossibility that such a panel could exist and, to avoid a potential international incident, I decided to change strategy once again. I was still plotting against him when he found my weakness: my urgent need to win a cycling competition. It took place while we were riding our bicycles from Sonoita to Bisbee in southern Arizona, a ride of about 100 km with the final 10 km a fairly steep climb to the tunnel at Mule Pass. Even though my imported Vitus weighed an incredible 20 lb and his rented Schwinn weighed a mere 14 kg, I arrived at the top of the hill several millions of microseconds ahead of him. It was then that the heady intoxication of victory caused me to compromise my principles and agree to accept the manuscript for publication. Only later did I begin to suspect that I might have been set up, but by then it was too late.

Well, now you know. I'm not proud of what I did, but I feel much better having confessed. I'm certain that some of you might be wondering who it was who took advantage of my weakness, but I have no intention of causing embarrassment to family and friends by revealing the name of that individual, whose biographical sketch appears on page 156 of this issue.

OPTICAL ENGINEERING EDITORIAL SCHEDULE

March 1988

Photomechanics I

Fu-Pen Chiang
SUNY/Stony Brook
Lab. for Experimental Mechanics Research
Stony Brook, NY 11794
516/632-8311

April 1988

Photomechanics II

Fu-Pen Chiang

May 1988

Industrial Applications of Optical Signal Processing

Bahram Javidi
Michigan State University
Electrical Engineering Department
East Lansing, MI 48824-1226
517/353-6329

June 1988

Contributed papers on optical engineering

July 1988

Neural Networks

William J. Miceli
Office of Naval Research
495 Summer Street
Boston, MA 02210-2105
617/451-4484

August 1988

Multiple-Aperture Optical Systems

Janet S. Fender
U.S. Air Force Weapons Lab.
Optical Phased Array Branch
Kirtland AFB, NM 87117-6008
505/844-9831