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Romania

I am writing to you on behalf of the professors and researchers in the Computer Science and Engineering Department of the Polytechnic Institute of Timisoara. The number of students in our department is over 1000 (full-time and evening class students), of whom more than 100 graduate as majors in computer science and engineering.

Until now, our activities have taken place in very difficult circumstances, due mainly to a meager technical endowment and to the isolation imposed by the political regime under which we lived. You certainly know of the recent events that led to the collapse of this regime and which have brought Romania back into the community of the civilized world, where our country rightly belongs.

Under these new conditions, we would like to establish contacts with our colleagues from other countries and to engage as soon as possible in the

world of scientific life. In this way we shall also ensure for our students a level of education appropriate for present-day requirements in computer science and engineering.

In order to make up for the years lost due to well-known reasons, we are eager to cooperate with you in the most diverse areas, such as:

- the exchange of books and technical reports;
- joint research groups;
- scholarships for students, Ph.D candidates, professors and researchers;
- visiting professors;
- meetings at symposia, conferences, congresses and summer schools.

Unfortunately, for a long time, this cooperation cannot be between equal partners. Rather, it will mostly represent a form of help that we badly need at the moment. It is our conviction, however, that little by little we shall be able to make our own contribution.

One of the most difficult problems facing us for many years is that of a less

than modest endowment with computing equipment. We believe that a way to overcome this problem would be through research contracts with foreign universities or firms. As part of these contracts we might obtain computers in exchange for programs written by Romanian researchers and students. Maybe you could help in this direction, too.

We are waiting for your answer and we hope for a close relationship between our departments.

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We are pleased to receive your publication, *Computers in Physics*, on subscription. However, we have noted that it now arrives in a plastic overwrap. This college has been active in recycling, and we are concerned about the use of plastic, which is not biodegradable. May we persuade you to consider following the example set by *The New Yorker* now mailed in recyclable brown paper overwraps? It is good to have protection for the covers, but we don't like to see the plastic! We urge you to change.

Louise Cothary
Library Periodicals
The Evergreen State College
Olympia, Washington 98505

Managing Editor Ben Bacon replies: Subscribers within the U.S. will note the change this issue to a brown paper overwrap. Our much larger sister publication Physics Today has also instituted this change. We'd appreciate hearing from any readers who find that the magazines are now damaged in mailing. Overseas shipments will continue to be polybagged.

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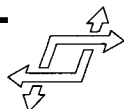
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