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LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

letters to the editor

EARTHQUAKE ON THE EAST COAST?
from David J. Pfaltzgraff
davepfz@fred.net

Tina:

I enjoyed your first hand report of your experiences with the shutdown of the air system and how you coped with the inconveniences. However, living about 40 miles east of Hagerstown, I always thought it was in Maryland! (Maybe there was an earthquake that caused a major realignment of the state lines that I was not aware of, but I'll just write it off as a result of the exhaustion and confusion arising from your experiences.)

Thanks,

Dave

ANOTHER MIRACLE PRICING MILESTONE
from Jeff Polk
polk@delos.com

512MB PC133 registered ECC dimms are now $74.69 with free shipping. That's less than $150/gigabyte of fast reliable RAM. Can you imagine contemplating a gigabyte of RAM for every desktop just a few years ago?

Every silver lining has a cloud: now operating systems can feel free to use up all that RAM.

ADVANCED ENCRYPTION STANDARD (AES)
from Edgar Danyelian

You may want to inform *;login:* readers that the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) has been approved and published as a US Federal standard FIPS-197. The standard is available at the following link: *http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/fips/fips197/fips-197.pdf*

Now there are [almost] no reasons to use DES if AES is available . . . .

LETTERS ABOUT GOOD WORKS

In keeping with the USENIX commitment to promoting representation of women and under-represented groups in the computing professions, USENIX contributed $10,000 in support of the **Richard Tapia Celebration of Minorities in Computing Symposium**. Held in October 2001 in Houston, the conference focused on celebrating the technical contributions and career interests of diverse people in computing fields, providing access to diverse researchers in computing, expanding the computing community, and sharing of knowledge between the different disciplines of computing. USENIX funding was used for scholarships for students to attend the event. Several of the recipients forwarded their words of appreciation:

From Eric Brittain . . .

I recently learned you are my scholarship sponsor for the Richard Tapia Symposium later this month. I've decided to write this email to introduce myself and thank you for my sponsorship.

I am currently a PhD computer science graduate student at MIT. I am originally from Atlanta, Georgia and my undergraduate institution was Clark Atlanta University. While I've been at MIT, I've conducted research in the areas of computer graphics, human computer interaction, educational technology and more recently planning techniques. I am working with a research group at MIT that seeks to develop pervasive computing technologies. More specifically, I'm researching ways a person can seamlessly use desktop, handheld, and cell phone as modes of communication without interruption and minimum human interaction.

I sincerely thank you for my sponsorship.

more letters . . .

From Martin Warioba . . .

I am a junior at Louisiana State University majoring in Computer Science with a minor in Mathematics. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for making possible my attendance at the 2001 Tapia Symposium. Without your sponsorship, all of this wouldn't have been possible and for that I want to say Thank You.

This will be my first computing symposium that I will be able to attend and I am looking forward to be part of it, learn a lot of things out of it and hopefully it will save as one of the rocks in building up my career.

From Rachel Elisabeth Vincent . . .

I am writing to thank you and USENIX for providing me with a scholarship to attend the 2001 Tapia Symposium. I am currently a fifth-year graduate student in the Department of Computational and Applied Mathematics (CAAM) at Rice University. My research interests include numerical linear algebra and computational biology.