

of TeX on VMS, since it makes using TeX more convenient.

I had one problem with TeX: I compiled SYSDP with /CHECK, and sometimes when loading a font I get a subrange error in MAKEPTS.

I am looking forward to the "final" version of TeX for the VAX-11, which will let me run the fancy macro packages published in TUGboat, and let me build font tables for my low-resolution printer. Keep up the good work, TeX fans, and, from now on, count me in!

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Computer: VAX-11
Output Device: IDS-460
Application: TeX posters

Editor's note: The hard copy of this report, printed on the aforementioned IDS-460, is too appealing not to share with the readership. One page (of 4½) is reprinted as an exhibit on page 13.

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Fonts
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FONT UPDATE
 Ronald Whitney

Probably the most important development concerning fonts since the last issue of TUGboat is the limited access that TeX users now have to the Autologic and Mergenthaler fonts (see the article by Fuchs, page 21). While this is very good news to those with APS-5's and Linotron 202's and at least a point of leverage to others, progress is still limited with regard to establishing a library of device independent font descriptions. Work on Euler at Stanford and a Cyrillic alphabet at the AMS is continuing, and other sites (including Autologic) have expressed an interest in METAFONT. Of course, not only alphabets but also other special fonts need our attention (see the article by Murphy, page 37). We hope that further developments and other ongoing research concerning fonts and METAFONT will be reported to the TeX community via TUGboat and TUG meetings.

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Warnings & Limitations
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Don't Just \let TeX Hang—\raise or \lower

Beware of repeating a \let statement; TeX hang, leaving you no alternative but to kill the leaving you with no error file to help in your nosis.

These four lines cause TeX to hang:

```
\let\oldsize=\size
\def\size{\oldsize}
\let\oldsize=\size
\size
```

These don't:

```
\let\oldsize=\size
\def\size{\oldsize}
\size
```

Nor do these:

```
\let\oldsize=\size
\ldef\size{\oldsize}
\let\oldsize=\size
\size
```

The above results were originally reported by Mike Spivak using the SAIL version of TeX. They have been duplicated by Lynne Price using the Pascal version on a VAX. An especially insidious variation has just occurred at the Math Society job \input a header file wherein

```
\let\italcorr=\/
\def\/{\unskip\italcorr}
```

was lurking. A second header file, essentially a copy of the first, was also \input, and some time much later on in the data, an italic correction was applied. After questioning whether the system had crashed (not an impossible occurrence), the local wizards for help. Diagnosis took a considerable length of time, and would have taken even longer had we not been familiar with the lesson from Mike's experience.

Not that anyone would try it, but \raise and \lowering boxes by negative amounts (in the current version, at any rate), has no different effect than using the same positive amounts. The following example says exactly what it's trying to do.

```
baselineraise 3ptbaselineraise -3ptbaseline
baselinelower 3ptbaselinelower -3ptbaseline
```

Barbara B