

Special Recognition for a Vancouver T_EXnician

by Michael J. Downes



On Tuesday afternoon, August 17, 1999, there was a pause in the afternoon program of regular presentations to extend special recognition to **Donald Arseneau**. The recognition took the form of a framed **Duane Bibby** original drawing that had been commissioned by the T_EX Users Group. The drawing was presented by **Michael Downes** with some brief remarks, reproduced here in an extremely free paraphrase.

Over the years many people have made substantial contributions to the community of T_EX users without receiving any financial compensation in return. **Donald Knuth** himself, of course, to kick it all off by giving T_EX into the public domain, but T_EX users around the world have also benefited greatly from the efforts of people such as **Tomas Rokicki (dvips)**, **Eberhard Mattes (emT_EX)**, **Thomas Esser (teT_EX)**, the members of the L^AT_EX team, and many others too numerous to name. The occasion of holding a **TUG** meeting here at UBC, however, seemed a propitious opportunity for extending some small recognition to someone who lives right here in Vancouver who has helped many T_EX users over the years. He has not had any advance warning that we were planning to do this, but we would like to present something to **Donald Arseneau**. Donald's contributions to the T_EX community fall into two categories:

1. He has answered countless questions over many years from all manner of users on the newsgroup comp.text.tex, and his answers have a reputation for highest quality.
2. He has contributed dozens of packages to **CTAN** for both L^AT_EX and plain T_EX users, including, but not limited to, the following:

braket:	Dirac bra-ket and set notation
cases:	Multi-case equations with big brace, and a number for each case
chapterbib:	Separate bibliography for each <code>\include</code> file
cite:	Supports compressed, sorted lists of numerical citations
drftcite:	Print the tags instead of the numbers for <code>\cite</code>
magaz:	Special formatting for the first line of text in a paragraph
optional:	Facilitate optional printing of parts of a document
overcite:	Compressed lists of superscript numerical citations
random.tex:	Generate random numbers
selectp:	Allows selection of individual pages to be output by L ^A T _E X or plain T _E X by specifying, for example, <code>\outputonly1,3,7-12</code>
shapepar:	Provides <code>\shapepar</code> command to typeset paragraphs in specific shapes
tabs:	Modifies L ^A T _E X's array and tabular environments to keep text from touching other text or hlines above or below

- threeparttable:** Tables with captions and notes all the same width
- titleref:** Cross-reference titles of sections and floats with captions just like `\ref` and `\pageref`
- truncate:** Truncate text to a specified width
- underscore:** Make ‘`_`’ print as `\textunderscore` in text
- url:** Provides a `\url` command similar to `\verb` that allows linebreaks at certain characters or combinations of characters, accepts reconfiguration, and can usually be used in the argument to another command. It is intended for email addresses, hypertext links, directories/paths, etc., which normally have no spaces
- oubraces:** Interleave `\overbrace` with `\underbrace`
- placeins:** Keep floats ‘in their place’; don’t let them float into another section
- resize:** Commands `\smaller`, `\larger`, etc., for setting the font size relative to the current size
- wrapfig:** Provides environments “wrapfigure” and “wraptable” that place a figure or table at the side of the page and wrap text around it

And here, as one bit of evidence of the high regard for Donald in the TeX community, is a mail message that appeared on the info-tex mail list several years ago, by [George Greenwade](#), “Father of CTAN”. (At that time info-tex was set up to act as a “tributary” of the Usenet newsgroup `comp.text.tex`: any mail sent to the mail list would also appear in `comp.text.tex` shortly thereafter.)

```
Date: 11 Jun 1992 16:38:03 -0500 (CDT)
From: "George D. Greenwade" <bed_gdg@SHSU.edu>
Subject: Style updates on FILESERV/Niord
To: info-tex@SHSU.edu, tex-archive@math.utah.edu
Cc: texhax@tex.ac.uk, uktex@tex.ac.uk
Message-id: <0095BF2D.C70DED60.11187@SHSU.edu>
X-ListName: TeX-Related Network Discussion List <INFO-TeX@SHSU.edu>
```

Donald Arseneau <asnd@triumfcl.bitnet> kindly forwarded me four style updates recently. The affected files are `cite.sty`, `overcite.sty`, `tabls.sty`, and `ulem.sty`. Briefly:

```
CITE -- Compress ranges of citation numbers; adjust spacing; allow spaces
      in input; \citen gives just number(s).
OVERCITE -- Like cite.sty, but superscripts; handles punctuation.
TABLES -- Keep text in {tabular} & {array} from touching vertically
ULEM -- Underlining for emphasis (\em). Define \ULine{..} also.
```

In `[over]cite`, he added

% Version 1992: Use \@citepunct for commas so it is easier to change.
Now, where commas are used as delimiters (i.e., [4-7,9,8,Einstein,6]), you
have control over whether or not a space exists.

Also, in overcite (only), he added \/ to allow hyphenation of the previous
word -- looks better in italics.

In tabs, the version is raised to 3.1 from 3.0. 3.1 adds some braces to
match some updates to LaTeX.

In ulem, the most work appears -- now it is acceptable as a plain TeX macro!
% Version 1992: make " {} " give two spaces, as it should; support \newline
% and \\\, \nolinebreak and \linebreak; add definitions necessary for
% plain TeX use. Support various types of 'underline'.
Quite a few options are now available.

To retrieve these files via e-mail, include:

SENDME STY.CITE
SENDME STY.OVERCITE
SENDME STY.TABLS
SENDME STY.ULEM

in the body of a mail message to FILESERV@SHSU.BITNET (FILESERV@SHSU.edu).
For anonymous ftp retrieval, the files are in the syntax associated with
the SENDME commands above in the [.STY] directory on Niord.SHSU.edu
(192.92.115.8).

The TeX community ought to extend its thanks to Donald for his continuing
efforts on these useful and popular files, as well as the others he is
responsible for creating.

Regards, George

%%
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%%

THANK YOU DONALD!

from the TeX Community

The TUG '99 Bulletin

September 1999

tug99-bulletin@tug.org

TUG'99

The 20th Annual Meeting
of the T_EX Users Group

T_EX Online: Untangling the Web and T_EX

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada
August 15–19, 1999

<http://www.tug.org/tug99/>
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