

Educational Matters

Hans-Jörg Kreowski

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First of all, I would like to wish all readers of the column a successful year 1998 accompanied by health and happiness. May you live in countries with peace and a prospering economy without the destruction of nature and the waste of resources. May your countries be governed by honest and far-sighted politicians who care for the people and do everything to provide a suitable environment for all important affairs including science and education. I know that this is wishful thinking in many cases.

Before the main contribution, I want to report an event that took place a few days before Christmas in Bremen. The *Prize for Excellent and Innovative Teaching*, donated by the association “Freunde der Universität Bremen”, has been awarded Frieder Nake (Professor for Computer Graphics and Interactive Systems). He is the first computer scientist at our department who got the prize, and he deserves it because he is not only dedicated to teaching for more than 30 years, but is also quite successful in fascinating students for scientific problems. The ceremony took place in the *Schütting*, one of Bremen’s most respectable buildings, that houses the Chamber of Commerce. Among the 200 participants, one could find many notabilities from economy, politics and science. The programme consisted of a long series of – partly boring – speeches with excellent musical interludes. Frieder’s words of thanks were the most impressive declaration of love to teaching and students. He addressed various aspects of education including an interesting and somewhat irritating idea: the eroticism of teaching.

I will not try to distract you further from reading the following paper. The author is researcher at the Department of Mathematics, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. His field is theoretical computer science. He also acts as adviser for computer subjects and computer labs in high-schools in the Municipality of Halkidiki. In the paper, a new computer science curriculum for the last three years of high-school education is proposed emphasizing theoretic topics.

Enjoy the reading. And, please, do not hesitate to send suitable contributions for the column to me.

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