Education—Curricula—Training

During the past year interest and controversy in computer science and information science education and training has increased notably. The keynote addresses given by George Glaser at the 1974 National Computer Conference and the 1974 EDUCOM in Canada have served to heighten this interest and controversy. Mr. Glaser’s views stimulated an immediate controversy that has not yet subsided, as was demonstrated during the education seminars at the 1974 ACM conference in San Diego. The courses presently being offered in colleges and universities have been both attacked and defended vigorously.

We take the position that some good work is being done in the colleges and universities, but there is a need that can only be provided for by taking an in-depth critical look at the present curricula coupled with cooperation by the industry in defining its needs. The four seminars offered reflect this concern and address to the problems faced by the educators and the users.

The seminar, Undergraduate and Graduate Education in Computer Science, summarizes the good work being done in the colleges and universities. To balance the viewpoints presented in this seminar, another seminar, Data Processing Education—A View from Education—An Appraisal from Industry, presents a critical analysis of the existing data processing education while balancing this with the viewpoints of the educators. A third seminar, Computer Science Education for Majors of other Disciplines, has been designed for noncomputer professionals whose activities require them to interface with computers. Areas covered include biologists, chemists, physicists, sociologists, ecologists, business administrators, linguists, architects, and teachers. The fourth seminar, Use of Computers in Education, under the sponsorship of AEDS, examines the use of computers in the educational process in primary and secondary schools, junior colleges and universities.