

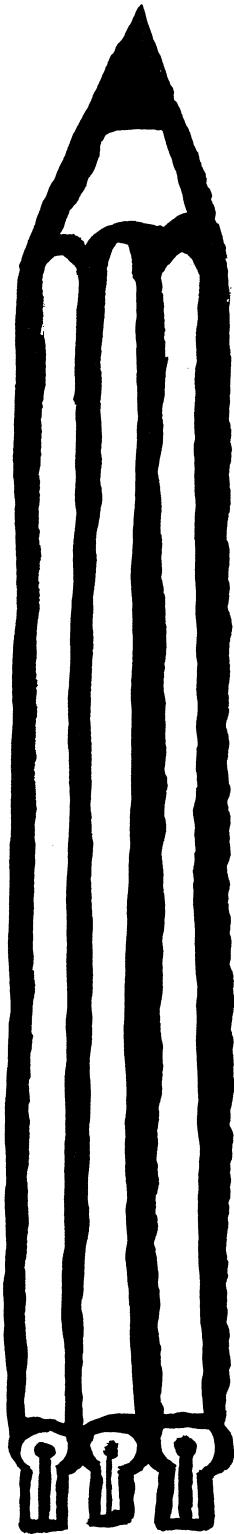


Dear Reader,

When I was a PhD student at Kyoto, Maurice Nivat came to Kyoto and gave a talk. I did not remember his topic, but do remember impressive scenes: He came to the lecture room with smoking. While he was being introduced, he was holding his cigarette in an upright position (you can imagine: his cigarette was slowly burning and its top part was becoming ash keeping the same shape and getting longer...) After the introduction, it was almost all ash and he started a new one with over-viewing his lecture. In the middle of his talk, he again asked us for a break and started smoking. After his talk, what he did before taking questions was of course to light up another cigarette.

A couple of days later, he came to our office and joined a small group of students, including myself, who were chatting. He told us where he had been. He liked the Hikone Castle (he did not pronounce "h", so we were not able to recognize "Ikone" for a while...). Then he said in a small voice that he was interested in one place near Kyoto Station that was well known as an ill-famed theater, and asked us to take him there. I immediately dropped out, but he was quite persistent and one of us had to say yes... I do not know what exactly happened, but I remember all these scenes as if they happened just yesterday. R.I.P.

As usual, our Oct issue is thick. We have several reports and related articles on ICALP and EATCS. Columns are very rich in this issue; there are even two articles in



Distributed Computing and Education. I usually took a (quick) look at all contributions and I often get to know that there are many different worlds in TCS that I have never heard of. I would say that the number of surveys and essays in each volume is quite a lot, which gives us this variety. Thank you very much for all the column editors for their great deal of efforts.

I was in Vancouver this summer and visited Yuri Gurevich at Microsoft, Edmonton. He has been an editor of the Logic column for roughly 30 years! I stayed in Edmonton only one night, but I liked it very much. Probably Edmonton is almost equal to Microsoft, meaning the city should have received much influence from the giant IT company. There are a lot of greens, no high buildings and a cozy shopping center in the downtown. I just ran into a building having a sign of Honeywell, which reminded me of a committee I was involved in, for selecting a new mainframe of the university I was working for, some 35 years ago. At that time, Honeywell was a strong competitor for mainframes, having several unique features (something like Windows = IBM vs. Mac = Honeywell now). At the beginning of my talk, I briefly apologized for using a Mac with an adapter in my hand, but it was not necessary. The projector in the room did have a VGA cable. Thank you, Yuri, for your hospitality.

*Kazuo Iwama, Kyoto
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