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The Crisis Continues Among Computer-Science Faculty

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David Gries's letter to the editor [ABACUS, Spring 1986] is perceptive and illuminating, especially on the problem of leadership in university departments. As Eric Weiss had pointed out [Editorial, Winter 1986], Computer Science certainly seems healthy enough in the quantity of students and demands of society. But Gries is concerned with quality rather than quantity. The demands of students and society have outstripped the resource allocation mechanisms of universities to the extent that quantity threatens quality in Computer Science research and education in the university. I think Gries's concern is real and it can help a new profession come of age.

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...and among the Students

... Or Is There Still a Crisis for the Students?

Before reading David Gries's letter to the editor [Spring 1986], I had stayed relatively neutral on the issue of whether the word "crisis" should be applied to the situation of academic computer science. Now I find myself agreeing with him that the matter is serious.

Gries says of the typical new CS chairman,
He spends far too much time...

• Trying to get more TAs, and grading papers because there aren't enough;
• Acquiring more computing machinery, and then looking for money to support it; ...