of TEX on VMS, since it makes using TEX more convenient.

I had one problem with TEX: I compiled SYSDEP with /CHECK, and sometimes when loading a font I get a subrange error in MAKEPTS.

I am looking forward to the "final" version of TEX for the VAX-11, which will let me run the fancy macro packages published in TUGboat, and let me build font tables for my low-resolution printer. Keep up the good work, TEX fans, and, from now on, count me in!

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Computer: VAX-11
Output Device: IDS-460
Application: TEX posters

Editor's note: The hard copy of this report, printed on the aforementioned IDS-460, is too appealing not to share with the readership. One page (of 4½) is reprinted as an exhibit on page 13.

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Fonts

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FONT UPDATE
Ronald Whitney

Probably the most important development concerning fonts since the last issue of TUGboat is the limited access that TEX users now have to the Autologic and Mergenthaler fonts (see the article by Fuchs, page 21). While this is very good news to those with APS-5's and Linotron 202's and at least a point of leverage to others, progress is still limited with regard to establishing a library of device independent font descriptions. Work on Euler at Stanford and a Cyrillic alphabet at the AMS is continuing, and other sites (including Autologic) have expressed an interest in **METAFONT**. Of course, not only alphabets but also other special fonts need our attention (see the article by Murphy, page 37). We hope that further developments and other ongoing research concerning fonts and **METAFONT** will be reported to the TEX community via TUGboat and TUG meetings.

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Warnings & Limitations

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Don't Just \let TEX Hang—\raise or \low

Beware of repeating a \let statement; TEX hang, leaving you no alternative but to kill the leaving you with no error file to help in your nosis.

These four lines cause TEX to hang:

```
\let\oldsize=\size
\def\size{\oldsize}
\let\oldsize=\size
\size
```

These don't:

```
\let\oldsize=\size
\def\size{\oldsize}
\size
```

Nor do these:

```
\let\oldsize=\size
\xdef\size{\oldsize}
\let\oldsize=\size
\size
```

The above results were originally reporte Mike Spivak using the SAIL version of TEX. have been duplicated by Lynne Price usin Pascal version on a VAX. An especially insi variation has just occurred at the Math Socie job \input a header file wherein

```
\let\italcorr=\/
\def\/{\unskip\italcorr}
```

was lurking. A second header file, essentia copy of the first, was also \input, and some much later on in the data, an italic correction was applied. After questioning whether the sy had crashed (not an impossible occurrence), the came to the local wizards for help. Diagnosis t considerable length of time, and would have even longer had we not been familiar with the lem from Mike's experience.

Not that anyone would try it, but \raisein \lowering boxes by negative amounts (in the version, at any rate), has no different effect using the same positive amounts. The foll example says exactly what it's trying to do.

baseline^raise 3pt_baseline^raise −3pt_baselin

baseline_lower 3pt^baseline_lower −3pt^baselin

Barbara B