**From a letter to the editor of *Datamation*, volume 29 number 7, July 1983**

The easiest way to tell a **Real Programmer** from the crowd is by the programming language he (or she) uses. Real Programmers use **Fortran**. Quiche Eaters use Pascal. Nicklaus Wirth, the designer of Pascal, gave a talk once at which he was asked, "How do you pronounce your name?". He replied, "You can either call me by name, pronouncing it 'Veert', or call me by value, 'Worth'." One can tell immediately by this comment that Nicklaus Wirth is a Quiche Eater. The only parameter passing mechanism endorsed by Real Programmers is call-by-value-return, as implemented in the IBM/370 Fortran G and H compilers. Real Programmers don't need all these abstract concepts to get their jobs done-- they are perfectly happy with a keypunch, a Fortran IV compiler, and a beer.

* Real Programmers do List Processing in Fortran.
* Real Programmers do String Manipulation in Fortran.
* Real Programmers do Accounting (if they do it at all) in Fortran.
* Real Programmers do Artificial Intelligence programs in Fortran.

If you can't do it in Fortran, do it in assembly language. If you can't do it in assembly language, it isn't worth doing.