By John Olson, Editor-in-Chief

A New Direction for PBDJ

Farewell to Sean Rhody, editor-in-chief of *PBDJ* for the last two years, who not only wrote a monthly editorial but also contributed many articles including the Class Wizard column. As with many of us in this industry Sean is moving into Web development. He's stepped down in order to take the same position for *Java Developers Journal*. In case you haven't heard, with a circulation of over 70,000 per month and growing, *JDJ* is the number one Java journal available today. Under Sean's leadership I'm sure it will thrive and continue to be the industry leader. I wish him the best in his new position.

As the new editor-in-chief oft *PBDJ*, I received a warm welcome from the editors, writers and production staff. I'm very thankful for the welcome, but it's like being welcomed into a family of which I'm already a part.

Let me introduce myself before laying out my goals for *PBDJ*. I had the good fortune of being selected for Team Powersoft back in 1994 when it was founded. I have been writing for SYS-CON Publications, Inc., ever since, contributing two chapters to the first **PowerBuilder: Secrets of the Masters** book. In addition to my monthly column, "PFC Corner," I've contributed other articles, product reviews and opinion pieces. I contributed to **PowerBuilder 5.0: Secrets of the Masters**, and for the recently published **PowerBuilder 6.0: Secrets of the Masters** (I wrote the chapter, "All About the PFC").

In addition to writing I'm also a frequent speaker at conferences, seminars and user group meetings. This summer I enjoyed speaking at the Swiss PowerBuilder and Internet Conference, as well as providing a day of training for the Finnish PowerBuilder User Group in Helsinki. I'm currently speaking, and providing training and consulting services on the PFC, Performance and Y2K compliance.

Although I do a large amount of writing and speaking, most of my time is spent providing software-consulting services. I began consulting in 1990 and have had the opportunity to work on exciting projects, including NASA's space shuttle systems and the Trans-Alaska pipeline. My company is currently working on large projects in Utah and Idaho while providing consulting services worldwide. Enough about me.

Now I'd like to lay out my goals for *PowerBuilder Developer's Journal.* Being on Team Powersoft has provided me the opportunity to build close relationships with many people at Sybase/Powersoft. From the CEO, Mitchell Kertzman, to support and product managers, developers and technical support staff, I have a high level of access within Sybase. My goal is to use these relationships to create a positive era of cooperation between Sybase and SYS-CON. The mission of this magazine is to be a service to its readers in both technical and editorial content. I will use my broad industry network to provide both. Watch for the following in upcoming *PBDJ* issues:

- **New writers.** Our current writers will continue to provide exceptional value for our readers, while we'll be introducing many new expert writers to serve you better. Watch for articles by your favorite industry experts.
- **New columns.** I'll be announcing some new columns in the next few months. Today I'd like to announce a new column on DataWindows to be written by Rik Brooks. Rik is a DataWindow guru who has recently published a book entitled Ultimate DataWindow. Be sure to check out his debut article in next month's issue.
- **Sybase insider articles.** What's it like to be a technical support engineer for a day? Watch for articles which will help you understand what it's like to work for Sybase.
- **Objective editorial content**, which isn't unnecessarily negative, but also isn't written by Sybase's marketing department. When Sybase deserves criticism or praise, we'll let you know.
- **Product announcements.** As new Sybase and third-party products are announced and released we'll be there to give you the details. Have you had trouble figuring out what Sybase's vision for integrated development is? We'll figure it out for you and put it in understandable terms. Watch for a big Sybase announcement in the next few months.
- **New Product reviews.** We've a whole lab full of new PowerBuilder related software products waiting to be reviewed. We'll show you which products are heads above the rest. We'll also review the Sybase products themselves and tell you how they stack up against the competition.
- **Clear vision.** Sybase has had trouble communicating its vision on using and integrating its broad variety of products to develop enterprise-wide client/server and Web applications. We'll dig into this issue to help you better understand their vision. In future months watch for a column dedicated to teaching you how to integrate PowerBuilder with Web development tools.

If you have comments or suggestions on how we can better serve you, our readers, I'd be happy to hear them. Thanks again for all the kind welcomes I have received. ◆