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**STANDARDIZATION  
WORKING GROUP REPORT**

Co-chairmen, Mahlon Kelly and Nick Spies  
Secretary, Ferren MacIntyre

**Attendees:**

J. Bowling, B. Bowman, D. Brumm, J. Calderon, J. James, D. Lindbergh, R. Miller, M. Ouverson, M. Pandolf, D. Petty, E. Porter, R. Root, M. Schulte (vendors, implementors, Standards Team Members, teachers, and users).

Discussion centered on the six points raised by Kelly and Spies (1985), which will not be repeated here. Aside from some good-natured grumbling ("The life, liberty, and Forth code of no man is safe while the Standards Team is in session"), the tenor was constructive. Team member Dave Petty defused the most-objected-to feature of '83 when he observed that although "." was no longer state-smart, nothing in the Standard prevented an implementation in which the error-response (of "." used interpretively) would be its '79 behavior.

Straw votes taken indicated strong support for:

1. A validation suite with which implementation could verify that their code conformed to the Standard.
2. Clarification of the difference between '79 and '83.
3. A monthly column in Forth Dimensions written by team members in rotation.
4. Extension word sets (strings, floating point, complex number, graphics ...).
5. A minimum lifetime of 5 years between Standard revisions.

Nick Solntseff of McMaster University volunteered to produce a validation suite. (He has done similar things for Pascal.)

Representatives of the Team observed that despite indications of dissatisfaction, they had received no written comments, complaints, or suggestions for extensions, even though a form had been provided for comments. The sense of the group was that this was because of the forms, but

we agreed that written communication was preferable to mere griping.

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Kelly, M. and Spies, N. 1985. Some Problems in Implementation of the Forth Standards, 1985 Rochester Forth Conference Proceedings.