

Holding Our Breath

As we sign off on this issue, the war has just begun in Iraq. The world seems to be holding its breath, and waiting.

Prior to the war, it had seemed that the U.S. manufacturing economy had finally bottomed out and was beginning to show signs of activity. But now, the world waits to see how the situation in the Middle East will play out and how the war will affect nations that have been close allies for much of the last century—and longer—but now have very diverse viewpoints on their own best interests.

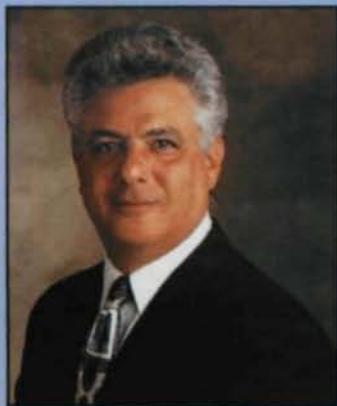
I had hoped to be able to write about the possibility of an economic upswing, but now I just hope that the pause caused by the uncertainty of war won't sap whatever strength and momentum the economy was accumulating.

I'm still hopeful that manufacturing activity will pick up by the end of summer. If activity does pick up, Gear Expo, October 5–8 in Columbus, OH, could be coming at the perfect time. With any luck, the stars will line up just right: The war will have ended, and everyone will have gotten back to more peaceful pursuits—our lives, our plans and rebuilding our economy.

Gear Expo only comes every two years, and recession or not, the technology doesn't stand still. Even if you're not in the market to buy any technology, Gear Expo is a fast, easy, and inexpensive way to see and learn about current technology. You can talk to the people who design, build, install, service and sell the equipment. You can meet much of the team of most every manufacturer, in one place. Going to the show can only help develop new relationships—and possibly new business—and facilitate the quick gathering of a wide variety of information. Those of you who do your research now will know best what to do when good fortune smiles on you.

All of us at *Gear Technology* will be there, along with a lot of other folks, looking for you to visit us. Stop by our booth to renew your free subscription, and you'll become eligible to win one of our worm/worm wheel clocks. We're also giving away a Grand Prize gear sculpture, as we have at past shows.

So make your hotel reservations now and start looking over the airline schedules. Hopefully, we'll have a good summer and look forward to the fall and Gear Expo with anticipation. At the show, you'll find solutions to increase your productivity and technology, and I'm sure you'll get a warm welcome from everyone there.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Goldstein".

Michael Goldstein,
Publisher & Editor-in-Chief