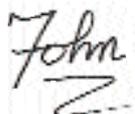# Current Issues
WE NEED A FEW FREE MINDS

The New Year has started well enough in Linux Land: the Christmas period saw a host of new projects and releases; some big corporations have recently chosen Linux as their corporate operating system; and new distributions have made Linux even easier to use.

Maybe it's too much winter weather but I have an uneasy feeling about some of the companies promoting Linux. My problem is with those that claim to be Linux friendly, but really just seem to be jumping on the bandwagon. How can I tell which are which? Well to me, the good companies provide source code and use open standards. They release products under the GPL and encourage development. I can see the need for proprietary code if you're a business. I understand you need to turn a profit and I realise that times are hard for many companies. I do use proprietary code and I even like some of it, but I prefer not to use it. I go out of my way to find companies that support GPL and Open Source. The others seem to have missed the point. Linux is not just an operating system produced by a group of technogeeks – it's a way of life. Being open means other people look at the code, the code improves and the product is better. No one has a reason to fear, as there is no unknown. I'll put my money where the source is and wait for the others to see the light.

Happy coding!

John Southern, Editor

GUARANTEE

We pride ourselves on the origins of our magazine which come from the very start of the Linux revolution. We have been involved with Linux market for six years now through our sister European-based titles Linux Magazine (aimed at professionals) and Linux User (for hobbyists), and through seminars, conferences and events.

By purchasing this magazine you are joining an information network that enjoys the benefit of all the knowledge and technical expertise of all the major Linux professionals and enthusiasts. No other UK Linux magazine can offer that pedigree or such close links with the Linux Community. We're not simply reporting on the Linux and open source movement - we're part of it.