Date: April 2, 2014

To: The Editor, San Jose Mercury

From: Myron Gananian, MD.

Subject: “The Missing Woman has been Discovered”

On April 30, 2009, you published an article by Mike Cassidy extolling the “founding fathers” of Silicon Valley: a group of men inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame at a Computer History Museum gala opening of the “50th birthday celebration of the integrated circuit”.

The following day I alerted you that a foundational contributor to the VLSI revolution was missing from that stage: a woman named Lynn Conway. You missed the point and missed a scoop.

Since then, a lot of others have wondered why Conway wasn’t on that stage. Many also wondered how the VLSI revolution had so suddenly happened, and why no one seemed able to fully explain it.

For over 30 years, no one thought to ask Conway. Meanwhile, she quietly stayed in the shadows, terrified of losing her career if her 1968 gender transition were uncovered. Conway finally stepped forward in 2012: the IEEE Solid-State Circuits Society published her “VLSI Reminiscences, in which she eloquently unfolded what happened.

As one early result, Conway will be honored as a Fellow of the Computer History Museum on April 26, 2014. As another, she will receive an honorary doctorate from Illinois Institute of Technology on May 17, 2014.

It’s quite a story. I encourage you to “get the scoop”, this time.

Respectfully submitted, Myron Gananian, MD., 1111 Johnson St., Menlo Park, CA., 94025-4413, 650-326-4642