

The following code fragment occurs often in the compiled version of library routines:

```
1  call next
2  next:
3  popl %eax
```

A. To what value does register %eax get set?

%eax is set to the address of the popl instruction.

B. Explain why there is no matching ret instruction to this call.

This is not a true procedure call, since the control follows the same ordering as the instructions and the return address is popped from the stack.

C. What useful purpose does this code fragment serve?

~~Here~~ This is the only way in IA32 to get the value of the program counter into an integer register.