



Banks of the Boneyard

A Journal of the Association
for Computing Machinery at UIUC

Editor: Jim Dobyns

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Professor Symposium

(“Faculty Spotlight”, which usually appears in this space, is on sabbatical. It will return in the next issue of the newsletter. —Ed.)

We proudly announce the 1986–1987 Professor Symposium series sponsored by ACM. Beginning next semester, faculty members from the Computer Science and other related departments will be invited to give presentations on their specific areas of research in the computer science field.

We hope this ACM sponsored project will strengthen the Department by providing a forum for presentation and discussion of current research area in the computer science field. These symposiums will be of particular interest to graduate students in the Department who are unsure as to which area of research to pursue. Of course, everyone is welcome to attend.

The Department is conducting research in a wide range of fields. Among the many area of research currently being studied are:

- Information Systems
- Database Systems
- Programming Languages
- Compilers
- Operating Systems
- Distributed Software and Networks
- Artificial Intelligence
- Numerical Analysis
- Architecture and Hardware
- Theoretical Computer Science
- Design Automation and Graphics
- Software Engineering

Announcements of the scheduling for these symposiums will be posted in notes files and around campus, as well as in the newsletter.

— Jim Dobyns

IBM Speaker

IBM will be featured at the next ACM general meeting on Wednesday November 19th at 3:00 pm in 151 Electrical Engineering Building. A manager of the advanced systems assurance group at IBM in Poughkeepsie, New York, will discuss “Testing New Large Computer Systems.”

The featured speaker of ACM general meeting on Wednesday December 10th will be a representative from Convex in Texas. Convex is a supercomputer development firm interested in recruiting University of Illinois computer science students.

We are already booking speakers for next semester. Some of the corporations from which we are trying to arrange speakers are: Cray Research, NASA, Intel, AT&T Network Systems, Bell Labs, and Hewlett-Packard. If you have any suggestions for speakers, or if you have any contacts at companies that would like to speak, please call the ACM office (333-5828).

As always, refreshments will be served.

— Peter Hlavach

Discounted Movie Tickets

As a service to our members, ACM is selling discounted Kerasotes Theatre movie tickets. Each ticket costs \$2.50 (a savings of \$1.50 off the normal price) and is good for about six months at any local Kerasotes Theatre (the Co-ed, Virginia Theatre, Urbana Theatre, T-Bird, etc.).

Supplies are limited, so come by the ACM office (1204 West Springfield Avenue Room 201) right away to purchase your tickets.

— Chris Gerrib

C Programming Contest

ACM is proud to announce the 1986 ACM Programming Contest to be held November 22nd from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Woodshop 3B2 microlab. The language is C as implemented on the 3B2s. There will be two divisions, undergraduates and graduates, with cash prizes for each. Teams of up to three people may enter, and each team member will get a computer. Signup in the ACM office, (1204 West Springfield Avenue Room 201) or at the next general meeting. The deadline to register is 4:00 pm Wednesday November 19th (after the ACM general meeting).

First place winners in each division will receive \$100, and second place will receive \$75. There will be a meeting at 8:30 am the day of the contest to answer last minute questions. Third place prizes may be awarded if there are enough teams.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- (1) There will be two divisions: graduate and undergraduate. Teams must consist entirely of full-time students. The graduate teams must have at least one graduate student as a member, but they may also have undergraduates. The undergraduate teams, however, must consist entirely of undergraduates. Teams must compete in only one division, and team members may be on only one team.
- (2) Teams will consist of up to three students and will compete in their respective divisions. Each team will get one computer per team member. Teams will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

(3) The contest will start promptly at 9:00 am. The programs will be handed out at that time. We will stop promptly at 12:00 noon. In those three hours, teams will have to solve six problems. The judges will test each problem on secret test data, and will decide if the answer is correct. If not, they will tell the team the first reason why it is wrong. The decision of the judges is final.

(4) The team in each division which correctly completes the most problems wins. The team in each division which answers the second-most problems gets second place, etc. Ties will be broken by the total number of minutes each team takes to get a solution. The shortest time-to-finish wins all ties.

(5) All programs will echo the input to the screen. Otherwise, output is to be as specified in the problem statement. If no output is generated after one minute of runtime, the program will be assumed to have an infinite loop. Hand-in procedures will be specified later.

If you have any questions about the contest, or if you would like to sign up, please call me (Chris Gerrib) at the ACM office (333-5828).

— Chris Gerrib

JETS Tour

On, Friday November 14th, JETS and the College of Engineering sponsored a research day for high school students. The day was designed to show these students current research in the various engineering curricula at the University of Illinois.

The Computer Science Department and ACM gave two tours, each an hour and fifty minutes long. During that time the students saw three different facets of DCS research: graphics, CAL (Computer Aided Logic), and the Cedar supercomputer (CSRD).

Thanks to everyone who volunteered as guides and project exhibitors. Special thanks to Professor Faiman who orchestrated the event. It was a huge success.

— Laura Mearvi

Electronic Mail -- Part I

(*"Electronic Mail -- Part I" is the first in a series of articles designed to enlighten readers as to the uses of electronic mail at the University of Illinois-Urbana campus. -Ed.*)

If you have an account on a CSO or DCS mainframe or minicomputer, you have access to a powerful communications tool—electronic mail (E-mail). This series of articles will discuss the use of E-mail from the UNIX environment and from the Cyber 175.

In UNIX, you can use the "mail" command to send electronic mail to users on your machine or on other networked machines both on and off campus. The simplest form of the "mail" command is:

`mail <user>`

where `<user>` is the login name of someone on your machine to whom you are sending the letter. (Don't enter the punctuation when using any of these commands, however—it is intended for illustrating what is a command and what is a name or site that you specify). For instance, if your login name was "zippy", you could send yourself a letter by entering "mail zippy". The "mail" program will ask for a subject. After entering the subject, you can type your message. When you're done, enter a "." or a "<CONTROL-D>" as the first character of a line and your letter will be sent.

If you are unsure of someone's login name, and you are using a machine which is running 4.2 BSD UNIX (such as a Pyramid, VAX, or Sequent), you can use the "finger" command to find out if your guess is correct by entering

`finger <name>`

at the UNIX shell prompt, where "`<name>`" is your guess of the person's login name. If you see ???s, your guess is incorrect; otherwise "finger" will provide the real name, home directory, (possibly) phone numbers, and other information about that person. Entering "finger" without a name will show who's logged in with their signon name and real name. You can also use the "who" command, which only shows the login names of those who are logged in.

If you cannot guess a person's login name correctly, a quick-and-dirty way to find out someone's login name is to enter

`grep -i xxx yyy /etc/passwd`

at the UNIX shell prompt, where "xxx yyy" corresponds to the person's real name. This will search the password file for an entry containing his or her name, and print out any entries which match. The first field of the entry will be the login name of the person for whom you are searching.

When you sign on in UNIX, the system will tell you if there is any mail waiting for you. To read your mail, simply type "mail" at the UNIX shell prompt. The "mail" function will then prompt you with an "&" or a "?" and wait for your command. Just press "RETURN" to view the first letter. After "mail" has shown it to you, it will again prompt you. If you want to dispose of the letter, type "d" for delete. If you want to save it in a separate file, type "s <filename>". If you want to read the next

letter, hit "RETURN". If there are no more letters for you to read, "mail" will give you an "EOF" error message. Typing "q" at the "&" or "?" prompt will append any messages that were not deleted or saved in separate files to a file in your home directory called "mbox". For more detailed information about the "mail" command, type "man mail" at the UNIX shell prompt.

Electronic mail on the Cyber 175 works differently. The "MESSAGE" command provides the interface to the Cyber's mail system. When you enter

MESSAGE

you will receive the "WHAT TO DO?" prompt. If you have received any messages, pressing "RETURN" will show the first one. After reading the first message, hit "RETURN" for the next one. If there are no more messages waiting to be read, you will get an error message. Typing "BYE" will exit the "MESSAGE" facility. Typing "HELP" will provide built-in help.

To send a message to someone else on the Cyber, use the command:

`TELL,<NAME>`

either from the Cyber system prompt or from "MESSAGE" prompt. You will be prompted for a subject, and you can then enter your message. When you have finished the message, enter a blank line to send the letter. (To enter a blank line into your message, type a space and then hit "RETURN".) For best results, "`<NAME>`" should be a Cyber user number. Social Security numbers will *not* work, and using a person's real name is chancy. You can find a person's user number using the "WHO" command, which is also available from both the Cyber system prompt or the "MESSAGE" prompt. "WHO" will prompt you with "WHO:"—type in a person's last name and hit "RETURN". You will then get another "WHO:" prompt, and you can enter more names. When you have entered all the names for which you are searching, hit "RETURN" at the "WHO:" prompt to start the search. If any of the names are found, you will be given the user number and name of that person. Note that some people use "handles"—"WHO" will print out the "handle" but it still knows the person's real name.

The next article will cover the use of electronic mail between various systems on campus. The third article will cover mailing to off-campus systems. Electronic mail makes communication with your classmates, friends, and

instructors very easy—try it out!

—*Russell Price*

Party and Bowling

By popular demand, yet another bash is in the works. Yes, R&R Sportsgrill is the place and the party will most likely be during the first week of December. More information will be given at the ACM general meeting on November 19th. You can also call the ACM office for details (333-5828).

Anyone interested in bowling with us at the Illini Union should sign up at the meeting or in the office. We will reserve a few lanes in December.

All members are welcome and encouraged to come by and join us for the weekly ACM Happy Hour at Murphy's Pub on Fridays around 4:00 pm. See you there!

—*Lisa Marchese*

Graphics SIG

The computer graphics special interest group (SIGGRAPH) met last week for a presentation by Professor Hearn on fractals. The next meeting is Monday November 24th at 7:00 pm in 115 DCL. The speaker for that meeting has not yet been determined.

The last regular meeting for this semester will be Monday December 8th at 7:00 pm in 115 DCL. Notice that the meeting times have been changed from Wednesdays at 3:00 pm to Mondays at 7:00 pm. This is an attempt to accommodate those who have complained of not being able to make previous meetings. By next semester, the meeting time should be established to accomodate as many people as possible.

This new SIG is now becoming well established, but there is much work yet to be done. As SIGGRAPH grows and attempts more and broader projects, seminars, workshops, tours, and presentations, there will be ample opportunity for all interested in computer graphics to participate in molding what you want SIGGRAPH to be. Your level of experience does not matter. If you would like to join SIGGRAPH, please contact David Trant (359-0742) or the

ACM office (333-5828).

—*Dave Trant*

Artificial Intelligence

ACM is announcing the formation of a new special interest group: SIGART (ARTificial intelligence). The goals of the SIG are to promote interest in AI and to provide a general forum for discussion. Currently, some of the projects that we would like to work on are: a series of lectures by University faculty members and graduate students, organizing informal discussions on topics of interest to the members, a newsletter, tours of some of the research laboratories around here, etc.

If you are interested and are not yet a member, you have probably already missed the organizational meeting. Fortunately, there are still a couple of things you can do to remedy the situation:

(a) You can attend the next meeting. (Look out for flyers announcing the time and place).

(b) You can get more information about becoming a member or getting involved in some of the projects by contacting Subutai Ahmad (398-4940 or 333-1681) or by calling the ACM office (333-5828).

No previous experience with AI is necessary. Any suggestions would be welcome.

—*Subutai Ahmad*

Networking Group

SINET, the Association for Computing Machinery's Special Interest Group for Networking, will have an organizational meeting on Monday November 24th at 7:00 pm in the ACM Student Lounge at 1204 West Springfield Avenue in Urbana. Anyone who is interested in networking is welcome to attend.

—*Russell Price*

Unix/C Workshops

The Unix Users and C Programmers (SIG-UUCP) will hold one more workshop before the end of the semester concerning Unix and C. On November 20th, "Programming is C" is scheduled. Our last general meeting of the semester is Tuesday December 9th.

All meetings and workshops are at 7:00 pm in 115 DCL.

If you would like more information, or if you would like to teach workshops or have any suggestions, please contact Michael Stegeman (359-0477) or Leah Kleidon (328-4994) or call the ACM office (333-5828).

— *Dan Weber*

Pizza Party

Sunday November 16th is the date set for the ACM Pizza Party at Willie's Pub at 25 East Springfield Avenue in Champaign (one block west of First Street). Come by at 7:00 pm and join us!

The cost is \$3.50 per person for pizza, pop, and brew. It should be lots of fun, and as always, bring friends—the more the merrier!

— *Lisa Marchese*

CSO

The Computing Services Office (CSO) has a number of short courses and meetings during the next few weeks. A listing of these activities, as well as a lot of other CSO information, is available in their monthly newsletter "OFF-LINE."

The newsletter is available in the lobby area of DCL. You can also be placed on their mailing list.

— *Jim Dobyns*

Questionnaire Response

The response from the questionnaires was quite good. You might even get us to believe that someone actually reads this fine addition to modern journalism. Many of you made some good suggestions for corporations that you wanted to see at the general meetings. Some of you even made suggestions for topics, activities, etc. So, here is a basic summary of the replies of those of you who took the time to reply.

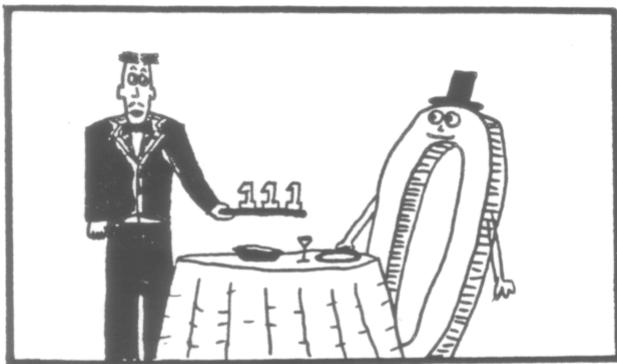
In the area of speaker topics, there were 35 requests for technical topics, 16 for non-technical topics, 27 for recruiting type talks, and 21 for general topics. Some suggested topics were: Computer Security, Microcomputers, Networking (I don't know whether this meant between people or inter-machine networking), Computer Medicine, and Computers in Education.

For tours of various places, there were 29 people who wanted to tour NCSA/CRAY, 11 for Gould (which we did on Thursday November 13th), 15 for McDonnell Douglas, and 19 for Bell Laboratories in Naperville.

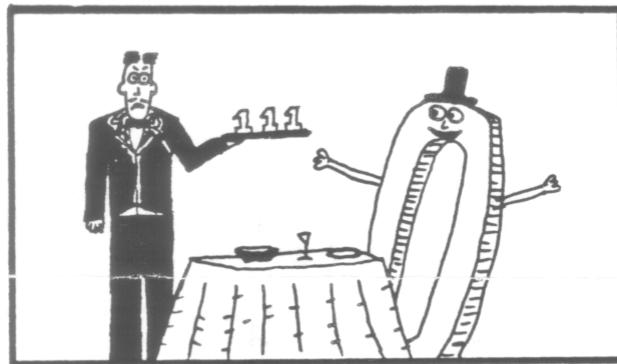
The companies that people expressed an interest in having come speak at general meetings are the following: 34 people wanted IBM, then 19 people wanted Intel, 24 wanted MicroSoft, 13 wanted DEC, 23 wanted NASA, and 13 wanted CERL. In addition, the following companies were suggested for future speakers: GTE Data Communications, Hewlett-Packard, AT&T, Data General, Gould, McDonnell Douglas, Tandem, Arthur Anderson, Allen Bradley, Wang, Honeywell, Cray Research, and Apple Computers.

On the subject of when and where to hold our general meetings, the response was almost 2 to 1 in favor of keeping our meetings in the current place and time, which is 151 EEB on Wednesdays at 3:00 pm. The reason we originally chose the time and day that we did was to cause as little class conflict as possible, and so that people who live off campus would not have to make a special trip back, and so that women members would not have to walk to or from the meeting in the dark. We can't possibly please everyone on this, but you will be happy to know that the same time frame next semester has even less potential for conflicting with CS courses.

— *John Tullis, Chairman*

Digressions

"EXCUSE ME, MR. NULL, BUT WHY DO YOU WANT ME TO TAKE THESE DIGITS TO THE KITCHEN?"



"WHY, THEY'RE MY COMPLEMENTS TO THE CHEF, OF COURSE!"

— Tom Bognet

Calendar of Events

Mon Nov 17 ACM Film Series.
3:00 pm 115 DCL.

Wed Nov 19 ACM General Meeting: IBM.
3:00 pm 151 EEB.

Thu Nov 20 UUCP Workshop:
"C Programming."
7:00 pm 115 DCL.

Sat Nov 22 C Programming Contest.
8:30 am 200 Woodshop.

Mon Nov 24 ACM Film Series.
3:00 pm 115 DCL.

Mon Nov 24 SIGNET Meeting.
7:00 pm ACM Lounge.

Mon Nov 24 SIGGRAPH Meeting.
7:00 pm 115 DCL.

Thu Nov 27 Thanksgiving. Home.

Wed Dec 3 EOH/CS Open House Meeting.
6:30 pm ACM Lounge.

Mon Dec 8 SIGGRAPH Meeting.
7:00 pm 115 DCL.

Tue Dec 9 SIGUUCP General Meeting.
7:00 pm 115 DCL.

Wed Dec 10 ACM General Meeting: Convex.
3:00 pm 151 EEB.

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