

New Computer Terminals One of Several Changes for Next Term Proposed

By RANDY CATOE

Several proposed changes in the configuration and administration of the campus computer system were announced this week by Provost of the Faculty, Bruce Stewart. Plans under consideration call for the addition of three terminals to the five which are now available to academic users, and for the creation of a computer terminal area in Founders Hall to house six of the eight machines. This facility, which, Stewart suggested, should be open to students on a seven day, 24 hour basis, will offer three video terminals and three printing terminals, one of which will allow students to store their programs on cassettes rather than on crowded system disks. Under the plan now being discussed Duke Hall and King Hall will each retain a terminal for users.

Stewart also announced plans for consolidation of the committee structure which is concerned with the campus computer facilities. These plans call for the creation of a single group to replace the two existing committees which deal, respectively, with academic and administrative uses of the computer.

As part of this consolidation, the college administration intends to ask Dr. Cyril Harvey to represent the concerns of academic computer users on his return from sabbatical this fall. Dr. Harvey, a former academic dean, will be returning to a teaching post in the Geology Department and to continuation of his efforts in the area of Institutional Research and Planning.

The need for more student terminals was among several concerns reported to the Provost in late February by a memorandum from the faculty committee on academic computer usage. The committee also reported student complaints of a lack of cooperation from Director of Computer Services Lee McLean, on problems encountered in executing academic programs.

The memorandum cited as an example of student frustration an incident in which a teaching assistant sought help with problems that arose when he attempted to imple-

ment the computer programs written by a professor who is currently on leave. The programs, which had previously operated without error, began to malfunction after being translated by the computer into machine language, in order to permit faster student access. According to the student's report of the incident, he then attempted to locate programming errors which might have resulted from recent changes he had made. He soon suspected, however, that the source of the errors was the translation process rather than the program itself. A bad copy could have been made of the original program.

His request to the Director of Computer Services, to retranslate the original working program met with denial. McLean, who had once before assisted the student with problems associated with the program, refused to offer further help and also discounted the possibility of translation errors. McLean suggested to the student that the problem would not have existed if the program had been written to include proper documentation to label and explain its logic.

After several hours spent searching for errors the teaching assistant finally

sought the aid of another worker in the computer center who repeated the translation process. The result on this occasion, however, contained no errors. Those that had caused the problem had in fact apparently been the result of a faulty translation, not of programming mistakes.

In response to reports of the incident Bruce Stewart reported that his office will ask professors who go on leave to provide complete documentation for vital programs that will be used in their absence. Stewart also explained that the Director of Computer Services had been requested by college officials "at the Administrative Council level" to refrain from involvement in academic programming problems in order to focus on the data processing needs of the Institution.

McLean, who has served in his post for almost a year, agrees with the Provost's statement that "the primary justification for the computer facility is the value it gives to academic programs." McLean added that "'Primary' does not mean 'only.' Right now 98 percent of the computer use is academically oriented." He went on to explain that the registrar's use of the computer to schedule courses and process grades is, in this sense, an academic use.

AF² Review in Medley

By ARLENE FURMAN and AMY FRIBUSH

(Sung to "Fire and Rain")

Just Thursday evening we hopped in the Phantom
 She took us all the way down to UNC-G
 Woke up this morning and we wrote this article
 on the Graduate Dance Thesis
 OH we've seen dances and concerts galore
 But we aint never seen one like this before
 There've been times we even
 Wanted to walk out the door
 But this time we felt like crying out for more
 The first entitled, *Diamonds in the Rough*
 made us wish we had arrived there late
 Costumes, music, dancers, steps all combined
 to make this dance seem only second rate
 (change to "Sounds of Silence")
 And then we really werent so sure
 just what the next piece had in store
Endless Chain proved to be a surprise
 Hear us now - we couldn't believe our eyes
 The opposition shown between blacks and whites
 Made us see justice in a different light
 And the emotion that was aroused
 within our souls
 made us feel
 That all men are men and truth is real
 (change to "Insy Weensy Spider")
 It was inspired by different paintings
 shown to us
 Portraits, landscapes, and abstracts all contributed
 to the total effect of dance and art
 used together
 (change to "Big Spender")
 The minute they turned out the lights
 We could tell this was a piece
 of conviction
 A traditional classic
 such movement, intense rythm
 so don't you wish you had been
 there to enjoy it with us.
 (If you need to be sung to, please contact AF² or send \$5 for a cassette recording.)

Don't Support Violence Against Women Boycott

Warner/ Electra/ Atlantic

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noodles



by jody markoff