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ST. PAUL COMPUTER CENTER UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55108

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Volume 1 Number 10 April 1981

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EASYTRIEVE

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Newly arrived at the SPCC is EASYTRIEVE, a versatile and easy-to-use information retrieval and data management system. Ideal for generating formatted reports, EASYTRIEVE programs are written in free format, and they look like written report requests. EASYTRIEVE gives one the ability to take information from data files in an easy manner and present it to the user in a meaningful, formatted report. It appears to cost significantly less per run than COBOL. An announcement of its release to users will be made at a later date.

-- MICHELE BURLEW

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MUSIC

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The present interactive system for the SPCC's IBM computer is called CMS (Conversational Monitoring System). Although CMS is a comprehensive, interactive system, it requires some time to become proficient with its operational concepts and command language. As an alternative to CMS, SPCC personnel are now investigating an interactive system called 'MUSIC'.

MUSIC (Mcgill University System for Interactive Computing) is a comprehensive interactive operating system with a collection of utilities, compiler interfaces, and application packages. The system performs such diverse functions as problem solving, program development, file editing, word processing, computer-assisted instruction, and batch processing.

Our experience with MUSIC so far has

demonstrated that it is easy to learn and can be easily applied to a broad range of computing needs. A decision on the use of MUSIC at SPCC and its release to users will be announced soon.

-- MEL SAUVE

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SAS DOCUMENTATION

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A revised document on "How to Access and Use SAS" is now available. Users will find this information sheet at either the Main Office, 33 North Hall, or at the Help Desk, 90 Coffey Hall. This document features a clarified discussion of the data and proc steps. The essentials of accessing the system are unchanged from the previous version.

Also, one copy each of "SAS Introductory Guide" and "SAS User's Guide" have been ordered for the reference desk of the St. Paul Campus Main Library. These manuals will be a handy reference for the occasional user, but regular users of SAS are urged to buy their own copies at the University bookstores.

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SAS SEMINARS

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This quarter, Mel Sauve will again give an introduction to the Statistical Analysis System (SAS). This series is especially useful for those who are thinking about using SAS or for those who have just begun to use SAS.

SAS is an integrated system for data management, statistical analysis, and report writing. It is comprehensive and yet easy to use. SAS manuals are available in the University Bookstores.

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The handout, "How to Access and Use SAS", is available at the Main Office, 33 North Hall, and at the Help Desk, 90 Coffey Hall.

The seminars are as follows:

"Introduction to the  
Statistical Analysis System (SAS)"  
Tuesday, April 28

"SAS: The Data Step"  
Wednesday, April 29

"SAS: The Proc Step"  
Thursday, April 30

Mel Sauve  
Assistant Director  
St. Paul Computer Center

3:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.  
B35, Classroom Office Building

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#### DOS JOB COST SUMMARY

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A job cost summary for each DOS computer run can now be printed on the last page for each job. Items included on the last page are central processor time, disk and tape I/O's, cards read, cards punched, lines printed, and the total cost for the job. Users may request this cost page by placing a "// EXEC LISTLOG" card immediately before the "/&" card.

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#### UCS NEWS NOTES

UNIVERSITY COMPUTER SERVICES  
DR. FRANK VERBURGGE, DIRECTOR  
MARY C. BOYD, COORDINATOR

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Coordinator's Note:  
Our first UCS News Notes introduced you to University Computer Services (UCS), directed by Dr. Frank Verbrugge, and to the eight regional University Computer Centers. This month, Dr. John E. Skeleton, Director of the University Computer Center at Duluth and Chairman

of the UCS Advisory Council on Network Planning, describes the background, function, and direction of the Advisory Council.

Advisory Council on Network Planning  
John E. Skeleton, Chair

The Advisory Council on Network Planning was established by Dr. Frank Verbrugge in July of 1980, subsuming the existing University Computer Services Network Task Force. The council members are Directors of the eight computer centers within the University--Crookston, Duluth, Health Sciences, Morris, St. Paul, University (Minneapolis), Waseca, and West Bank--and Dr. Verbrugge, the Director of University Computer Services, as an ex officio member. The primary roles of the Advisory Council are planning, coordinating, and advising--not decision-making. Each computer center is autonomous and responsible for meeting the computing needs of its own users.

Over the past several years, relationships between individual computer centers developed as the need arose. These relationships involved access to computing services in the form of hardware, software, and personnel. Gradually, and informal University of Minnesota network was evolving, based upon these individual arrangements. Over the same period of time, individual centers were acquiring equipment and developing expertise to meet the local computing needs. As the individual arrangements and the number of computing systems increased, it became clear that a structure to coordinate and guide this network was needed; and thus the Advisory Council on Network Planning was established.

In the fall of 1980, a day-long networking conference with personnel from all eight centers was held. After a technical presentation on networking, two working groups were formed to develop a broad plan for the University of Minnesota Computer Services network. One of these working

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## SPCC USER SURVEY

We would like to again solicit feedback regarding the needs and views of current and prospective users of the St. Paul Computer Center facilities. SPCC seeks input from all as an aid to determining the direction the Center should take in response to user requirements for support, services, hardware and software. This survey does not ask that you provide your name, but include it if you like. Please also indicate if you wish to be contacted regarding additional input. Your response will help us understand your computing needs so we can better match them with available resources. Kindly detach from Newsletter and return by May 10, 1981 to SPCC, 33 North Hall.

1. How do you describe your use of SPCC facilities?

	Heavy Use	Moderate Use	Light Use	None
IBM 4331 COMPUTER				
UCC 1004 Terminals:				
MERITSS or MIRJE Timesharing Terminals :				
Digitizer:				
Data Entry:				
Programming Staff :				

2. In general how satisfied are you with the services offered by SPCC?

Highly satisfied \_\_\_\_\_ Satisfied \_\_\_\_\_ Dissatisfied \_\_\_\_\_ Highly dissatisfied \_\_\_\_\_

3. If you were a user two years ago, how would you compare service now with then?

Better \_\_\_\_\_ (how?) Same \_\_\_\_\_ Worse \_\_\_\_\_ (how?)

4. What do you like best about SPCC?

5. What do you dislike about SPCC?

6. How would you rate SPCC's overall performance with that of other University centers with which you have had experience?

Better \_\_\_\_\_ (how?) Same \_\_\_\_\_ Worse \_\_\_\_\_ (how?)

7. What software capabilities do you need that are not now available?

8. What hardware do you need that is not available now?

9. What one change in SPCC services and facilities would make you the happiest?

10. You are a(n):

Undergraduate student \_\_\_\_\_ Graduate student \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty member \_\_\_\_\_ Civil Service staff member \_\_\_\_\_

11. Is the access to the SPCC facility of 7:00 a.m. to midnight, Monday thru Friday, adequate?

Can this be reduced?

12. Some characteristics of the SPCC facilities and services are listed below. How satisfied are you with each one?

	Highly Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Highly dissatisfied	Don't know or use
Accessibility of SPCC consultants					
Helpfulness of SPCC consultants					
Maintenance of open shop equipment					
Ease of acquiring project codes					
Reasonableness of service charges					
Security of system and data					
Job turnaround time					
Operating hours					
Convenience of access to facilities					
Tape, card and printout storage					
Data Entry services (key punch)					
Computer Operator personnel assistance					
User work areas					
Physical working environment					
Laboratory instrument assistance					
Demonstrations, user orientations					
Availability of various supplies					
Application programming services					
Timesharing use assistance					
Digitizer use assistance					

13. Please provide additional comments about SPCC services and facilities on attached separate sheets.

14. Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

groups addressed user needs and concerns; and the other addressed itself to the hardware, communications, and systems required for a smoothly integrated network.

The Network will slowly evolve over the next several years, as individual centers acquire equipment and services to meet the computing needs of their users. The overall Network plan will be a guide in these acquisitions and expansions. The Advisory Council will act as a coordinating mechanism and, of course, modify the plan, as new technologies become available.

The Advisory Council also considers issues that are not, strictly speaking, hardware-oriented. The Council has adopted the principle of equality of access and charging for users across the Network. For example, a faculty member making an SPSS run will be charged the same, regardless of the campus or the system on which the run originates. Personnel service rates (such as keypunching and programming) are reviewed periodically by the Council, in order to maintain overall consistency and equality.

Through the mechanism of the Advisory Council on Network Planning, it is felt that access to quality computing can be provided in a cost-effective manner through the University to meet the diverse needs of the University community.

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#### SPCC USER SURVEY

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Attached to this Newsletter is a User Survey. We ask that you take a few minutes, complete the survey and return it to SPCC, 33 North Hall before May 10, 1981. Thanks.