THE WEST BANK BUFFER

West Bank Computer Center
University of Minnesota

MARCH, 1973

PLOTS WITHOUT TRANSIENT TAPES

It is now possible, thanks to the efforts of John Gross and John Schmitt, to create CALCOMP plots by using the tape drives here at the West Bank. This eliminates transient tapes and thus improves turnaround time for plotting jobs. The plots are generated on the 6600 and are transmitted to the 3200 using John Schmitt's STR3 routines. John Gross has written a plotting package, CALCOMP, which then generates the actual plot tape here at West Bank. Writeups are available from John Gross in SSRFC or from the West Bank Center in 93C Blegen Hall.

The cost is slightly less than if the plot was made at the 6600. The packages involved are PLOTPAC and PLOTRAN on the 6600, and CALCOMP on the 3200. We do suggest you make a back-up tape or copy of your 6600 plot file. If the 6600 goes down before your file is transmitted back to the 3200 it will probably be lost.

West Bank Computer Center again thanks John Gross and John Schmitt for developing this software package.

REMOTE CARDS EXTINCT

Please note that we have replaced REMOTE cards with BIN cards. Bin cards are to be placed behind the job card and punched in the following format:

```
BIN.WSB0XXX
   \      \
Col. 1   zero
```

XXX being a three digit bin number chosen by the student.

You may improve your turnaround time by punching the bin number in the last ten columns of your job card or by writing it on your job card. This would aid the operators significantly.

CLASS TOURS

Any class using the computer may arrange a tour of the Center by contacting Hugh Smith in 93C Blegen Hall. It is also possible to arrange for a staff member to talk to any class concerning submission procedures. This is highly recommended to help eliminate the common errors committed by students.

CRTFTN UPDATE

CRTFTN is now available in a new improved 1973 model.

Mark Bronder is updating the CRTFTN precompiler first developed by MISRC. His new version makes only one pass through CRTFTN source code, instead of three, thus reducing compile time by 63%. Users will be happy to note that the new version is overlayed to allow compilation under the GL operating system. Further, some redundant code produced by the old CRTFTN has been eliminated.

The updated precompiler has not yet been put on the system library, but is on mass storage files. Users wishing to access it, may contact Mark in room 55 B.A. tower. Be forewarned, however, that this new version requires report statements to be defined before their use.

MERITSS COMES TO THE WEST BANK

The West Bank Instructional Time Sharing laboratory opened on a limited basis last quarter. Beginning spring quarter, it will be available between 8:30 and 4:30 Monday thru Friday. The lab is located in room 167 Soc. Sci. Tower.

The lab provides access to the MERITSS time sharing system for all instructional activities. The teletypes are connected to the 6400 Kronos system through a rotary port arrangement.

Use in hours other than those scheduled or reserved usage during scheduled hours should be arranged through Hugh Smith in 93C Blegen Hall.

Instructors wanting to obtain access numbers and passwords should see Hugh also. It takes about one day to process an application and get a valid number for you, so please come in prior to the time when you want access.

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENTS

Continuing software development by John Schmitt has resulted in an improved double buffering stream 3 driver. This driver gives you the fastest possible transfer rate on stream 3.

The system is undergoing an update to the Control Data level 288. This is a normal procedure and will have no effect on the users.

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STAT CONSULTANT

Randy Byers will continue to be available as a statistical programming consultant this quarter. He will be in room 167 Soc. Sci. Tower between 12:30 and 2:30 Monday through Friday. Randy is knowledgeable in OMNITAB, BMD, and SPSS problems. SPSS questions should be referred to SSRFC in 25 Blegen Hall whenever possible.

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