



# Banks of the Boneyard

A Journal of the Association  
for Computing Machinery at UIUC

Editor: Jim Dobyns

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## ACM Film Series

*(There have been some changes to the movie schedule. Some movies have been replaced by others, and the order of presentation has been changed. -Ed.)*

ACM films are shown every Monday at 3:00 pm in room 115 DCL. Admission is free, however, you must show your blue membership card.

On September 15th we are showing "Star Trek Bloopers II." Outtakes and bloopers from the original TV series, which will live forever in syndication. Also showing is "Introduction to Electronic Music." A technical look into the composition and production of electronic music.

September 22nd we are presenting "Information Systems & Databases." A case study of one corporation's information flow and its complexities. The second film will be "The Computer Programme[3]: Talking to a Machine." BBC-produced film examining principles of computer-driven musical instruments.

— Jim Dobyns

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## Newsletter Policy

Beginning with the next issue, all ACM members will receive a copy of the fine contribution to modern journalism, "The Banks of the Boneyard" in the mail. We hope to publish six or seven editions of the newsletter each semester.

This is your opportunity to write articles for a major modern publication...your organizational newsletter. Several regular columnists are needed, as well as people willing to produce various articles. Please contact me at the ACM office (333-5828) or call me at home (384-8444) for more information.

— Jim Dobyns

## PLATO Account

A PLATO account is now available to provide notesfile access for ACM members. The notesfile will be updated periodically to keep members abreast of upcoming ACM events and activities.

To access the notesfile, use the following sign on procedure: (1) For "PLATO name", enter "member" (without the quotes and in lower case), and (2) For "PLATO group", enter "acm" (also in lower case, no quotes).

You are now in the notesfile. To read and send notes, follow the instructions on the screen. To sign off the system, press SHIFT-STOP until the message "Press NEXT to begin" appears.

This notesfile service is available from most PLATO terminals. For suggestions or assistance, call the ACM office.

— Jim Dobyns

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## Meetings and Speakers

General meetings are held every 2-3 weeks on Wednesday at 3:00 pm in 151 Electrical Engineering Building. The first meeting will be on September 10 and will introduce the new ACM. Professors Gear and Friedman are scheduled to speak, as well as ACM officers and committee chairpersons. The second meeting on September 24th features Larry White from the National Center for Supercomputing Applications. The Cray X-MP and supercomputing at UIUC will be the topic. On October 15, Lynn Weistock-Wechselberger from the National Security Agency will discuss job opportunities in the intelligence community. Future speakers and topics include IBM, AT&T Bell Labs, Hewlett-Packard, and Computer Crime and Ethics.

— Jim Dobyns

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## A Matter of Self Interest

Any time you join an organization, it is natural to ask yourself "What's in it for me?". It's a good question. The answer is simple but accurate: what you get out of something is directly correlated to what you put into it. You can read the literature made available to you and see what the standard benefits of membership offer...professional and business contacts, the Special Interest Groups, job opportunities and social activities, etc.; but these are not the benefits that are most important.

The primary benefits that one can derive from participation in an organization are intangible, but priceless. When you participate in the business world, you may think that your technical skills will be of highest importance. In fact that is not the case. In reality your communications and leadership skills, and your abilities to work with others in a coordinated manner, are more important than technical abilities.

ACTIVE participation in an organization such as this one will allow you to develop those abilities at low cost. If you mess up here, you won't cause some company to lose  $X$  millions of dollars. You will have the opportunities to work with other people in running major events that affect people's lives; Engineering Open House and the Job Fair to name two. Many aspects of this organization have direct correspondence to a corporation or government agency. That's the nature of the beast.

You have the opportunity to participate in writing articles for this newsletter, creating and distributing publicity, maintaining our membership database, arranging social events and entertainment, fundraising and organizing major operations. During our first meeting all of the current officers and several committee chairpersons will introduce themselves and ask for people to help them run their committees. We also currently have some committees with unfilled chairs, so please come forward at the end of the meeting and talk to us if you want a leadership position.

Some people will go through their entire period at the University and never get actively involved. It's sad, as this often sets up a pattern that exists for the rest of their lives. The choices you make now will have long reaching effects, so come on and get involved!

— John Tullis, Chairman

## Programming Contest

Each year, the CS department and ACM sponsor a programming contest for all interested Illinois senior high, junior high, and elementary schools. Although programs are not due from contestants until February, we need to get organized now and send out contest information. If you are interested in helping, come to the ACM office or call me at 333-5828 (the ACM office number) or at 332-2036 (home phone).

— Chris Gervish

## UNIX Support Group

The UUCP is a new Special Interest Group of the ACM. We are designed as a user support and social group for UNIX Users and C Programmers. Academic activities will include several workshops that will be open to members. The workshops will cover the use of the UNIX text editor "vi", as well as beginning and advanced UNIX. A UUCP picnic and other social activities are in the works.

For more information please contact: Mike Stegeman at 359-0477 or Leah Kleidon at 328-4994 or stop by the ACM office at 1204 W. Springfield Ave, Room 201. Messages at the ACM office can be left c/o Metaxia Lianos, the SIG coordinator.

— Fred Worley, UUCP

## ACM Office and Lounge

Our office is located in Room 201 at 1204 W. Springfield Avenue in Urbana. Officers and committee chairpersons now staff the office from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Our telephone number is 333-5828. The Study Lounge is open during office hours for general use, and after office hours for Special Interest Groups who have reserved it with me.

— Tony Alonso