The ACM MacLab Is Coming!

From the Chair

Last week the ACM at UIUC acquired a portion of the machines granted by the Computer Fee Committee in early December. Three Apple Macintosh SE computers were picked up by ACM officers, and we hope to receive a Macintosh II and Laserwriter within the next few weeks so that the **ACM MacLab** can offically come online in March. Policies concerning the MacLab will be outlined in future issues of *BANKS OF THE BONEYARD* as well as presented formally to the ACM general members at the next ACM General Meeting on Wednesday, March 2 at 5:00 pm in Room 314 Altgeld.

The intent of the MacLab is to provide a dedicated site for ACM SIG's to hold instructional workshops on a regular basis, to host a Bulletin Board System, to maintain the ACM membership and corporate databases, and to provide ACM members with an alternate means of microcomputing at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The hours of the ACM MacLab will be concurrent with ACM Office hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

The computers will be tied together using an Apple Talk Network. The 3 Macintosh SE computers will be two drive systems. While the Mac II will have one 3.5 and a 80-100 Meg hard-drive which will act as a system server for the network. The network software will allow the SE microcomputers to access the main Mac II hard-drive and would allow us to add IBM's in the future as well. We are also looking at getting a 2400 baud modem for the Bulletin Board System in the near future.

The ACM MacLab was made possible by the recently instituted mandatory Computer Fee and a grant from Apple, Inc. We are sure this grant to the ACM at UIUC will benefit our members immediately and for this reason we continue to support the Computer Fee and hope our ACM members will also understand the necessity for a potential increase of the Computer Fee in the future.

—*Robert A. Camp, Chairman*
—*Chris Fuller, MacLab Director*

ACM Executive Nominations

Any ACM at UIUC members interested in running for one of the four elected positions of ACM:' ACM Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer should make their intentions known to the executive committee before 3:00 pm, February 26. Stop by the ACM Office during office hours or attend one of the executive meetings held on Friday at 3:00 pm in the ACM Lounge. Remember, all ACM at UIUC members interested in running must be an ACM National member.

—*Robert A. Camp, Chairman*

A Plea for Justice
ACM Newsstand Plucked From Woodshop

Terror rippled through the very fabric of the ACM at UIUC late last week when it was learned that—over winter break—a newsletter stand seemingly disappeared. Usually harboring current issues of the *BANKS OF THE BONEYARD* newsletter, the 4' 3" pine and plywood newsstand was nowhere to be found.

The thieved newsletter stand was last seen on December 11 at approximately 4:00 pm on the ground floor of the Woodshop located across the street from the Digital Computer Laboratory (DCL). It is natural wood color with the blue ACM logo set across the back of the stand. And it's one of a close family of newstands located here on campus.

Any potential leads can be reported at the ACM Office (333-5828), 1204 W. Springfield Avenue, Room 201. No crimminal actions will be taken if the stand is returned intact and whole.

Stated one understandably concerned ACM newsletter staff member, "all I want is my newsletter stand returned to me; all I want is justice."

—*Rich Bloch, Editor*

A Co-Op Semester at Monsanto

Last semester I had the opportunity to take off from a semester of academics and enjoy the experience of working in the real world. But before I begin describing my experience I would like to see a show of hands: How many of you readers out there felt a subtle chill or a twinge of anxiety when I used the phrase "working in the real world"? Be honest now... Aha! Quite a number of you I see. Don't worry, anxiety or fear of the unknown is a natural emotion. It is only dispelled by making known that which is unknown. That is why I co-oped last semester. I knew little about the business environment and was unsure about which area of computer science into which I wanted to go.

I felt that it was working experience that I needed.

Once I had decided that work experience would help me dispell some of my fears of the "real world" (and give my resume some more "oomph"), I then decided that it was the co-op program that would best suit my needs, as opposed to a summer internship type of job. A co-op term, which usually runs about 5-6 months gives a person more of a chance to begin and finish long-term, more in-depth projects for a company than a summer internship (2-3 months) would usually allow. A co-op term would push the graduation date back a year or so, since time is taken away from

school as opposed to just from summers in between, but I felt that the experience was worth it and I did not want to graduate having no idea what to do. I was able to work for 7 and a half months at Monsanto and didn't miss school a bit.

Which leads me to the company where I worked: Monsanto. A little background: Monsanto Company, located in St. Louis, Missouri, is a prosperous Fortune 500 company with a portfolio of products meeting today's needs. Often thought of solely as a chemical company, they are also: a leader in biotechnology and produce many

Co-Op at Monsanto

successful agricultural products, such as Lasso and Roundup herbicides; they own G. D. Searle of Skokie, Illinois, the manufacturer of NutraSweet; they are into synthetic materials and were the developer of AstroTurf; and they also have a major interest in the pharmaceuticals market and are the world's largest producer of aspirin. You may ask: Tom, being a computer science major, where did you fit into a company such as this? I worked in a group known as the Research Computing Consortium (RCC), a computer support group for Monsanto Agricultural Company's Technology division. Within the RCC I worked in a subgroup known as Computer Systems, where I worked as a Systems Programmer.

As a Systems Programmer I had the opportunity to work with those people who have the real power in a computing environment. Our job was the maintenance and upgrade of computer systems for hundreds of researchers and other RCC computer groups. (For those who are technically inclined, the systems we worked with included Digital's VAX 8650's, 8600's, PDP 11/780's, VAXstation II's, and microVAX's; and one of IBM's large 3081 systems.) I was exposed to the networking of the RCC's systems, a very interesting and complex field, and kept updated charts for the Consortium. I was the maintainer of several procedures that monitored the performance of the VAX systems and produced weekly and monthly statistical charts. I also had the opportunity to work with another co-op in the planning, designing, and implentation of a large relational database project to revise the procedures of performance data collection for both the VAX and IBM computer systems. I also worked on various other small projects throughout the term that dealt with various support support packages for the system users and operations groups, such as modifications to an electronic mail program and the design and

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As a Systems Programmer I had the opportunity to work with those people who have the real power in a computing environment.

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implementation of a package to automatically alert operations to locations of stalled or jammed laser printers.

I see the benefits that I have gained from my co-op experience at Monsanto as being in three categories: technical benefits, professional benefits, and personal benefits. Technically- I had the chance to actually use some of the skills I had learned here at school: structured programming skills, data structures, C, and FORTRAN were all useful. I also learned much at Monsanto to complement my school education including the VAX VMS and IBM VM/CMS operating systems; SQL/DS, a popular relational database package; various graphics packages; and literally scores and scores of acronyms for anything from memory modules to networking lines. Professionally-Co-oping gives you the opportunity to improve your skills without fear of making mistakes in order to learn. If you don't like the job your doing, you are out of it within a few months anyway and will be better able to narrow down your interests when it comes to graduation. I was able to meet and work with many intelligent and important people at Monsanto and learned the importance of professional skills such as time management, project planning, and communications. Personally- I enjoyed the fulfillment and boost in self-confidence that accomplishments in the professional environment provide. I learned how to capitalize on my talents and improve my weaknesses. The pay is definitely helping out with school expenses. But most of all I no longer have the anxiety of the unknown "real world" of business. Only a sense of excitement and challenge.

So if you shiver at the thought of post-graduation or your concept of "working in the real world" is an amorphous blob, then at least look into co-oping. I started co-oping as a senior, so if your worried about getting a late start on the program, I know that it is still a possibility. If you would like to learn more about my experience as a co-op give me a call at 328-3832 or call the ACM office on

New Computer Labs
Computer Fee Update

Co-Op at Monsanto

Mondays between 10:00 and 11:00 am or 4:00 and 5:00 pm. If you would like to learn more about Monsanto's co-op program you are in luck, as they will be at the Co-op Fair at the Illini Union on Feb. 15th. They are especially interested in CS-Math majors. For more information about the co-op program in general, contact Dean Hunt at 213 Engineering Hall or call 244-0906.

—Tom Begnel, Newsletter Staff

Summer Employment/Co-Op Job Fair

Anyone interested in obtaining a Co-op, Internship, or Summer employment is encouraged to attend the Job Fair from 1:00 to 9:00 in Illini Rooms A and B on Monday, Feb. 15. Over 20 companies, nationwide, will be represented and interviews held the next day. Some of the companies included are IBM Corporation, AT&T Bell Labs, GE-Lighting, and Rockwell Avionics. Bring copies of your resume or data sheet. Blank forms are available in the Co-op office; 213 Engr. Hall or the Engr. Placement Office; 206 Engr. Hall.

—Mary E. Podborny, Membership Chairperson

The computer fee has currently funded over 4 million dollars in computer related projects. Currently two computer labs have been created for all student and faculty use.

The first lab, provided with a funding of $300,000 is located in the basement of the Illini Union. The lab consists of 14 MacIntosh SE's with 2 accompanying laser printers, 7 Zenith Eazy PC's, and 9 IBM Personal System/2 model 30's. The lab's hours are:

Monday-Saturday, 9 AM -12 AM
Sunday, 12 PM - 12 AM

The second lab, provided with a funding of $205,000, will be located on the first level of the Undergraduate Library in the Media Center. The lab contains 24 IBM Personal System/2 model 30's with appropriate printers and software. This site is open:

Monday-Sunday, 8 AM - 12 AM

In the next issue, we will examine some of the other projects funded by the Computer Fee Committee.

For more information about the new computer labs here at the University of Illinois, call the ACM Office at 333-5828.

—Scott Mahlke, Newsletter Staff

Third Annual Computer Fair
The ACM is There

The Office of the Chancellor will be sponsoring the **3rd Annual UIUC Computer Fair** on April 25 and 26 to "demonstrate to the entire community the wealth and breadth of computer activities taking place on the campus" as described by Thomas Everhart. This two day event will entail series of free seminars and tutorials, exhibits and demonstrations by academic personnel and corporate representatives.

The ACM plans to actively participate in the Fair and will occupy a booth. Therefore, we are looking for interested people who are using computers in research, teaching, public service, or administrative activities to help the ACM present its contributions to this campus' computer activity. In additon we need ideas for logos to advertise the event. For more information contact Professor Roy Campbell (333-0215) or call the ACM Office.

--Robert E. Camp, Chairman

SORF Refund?

Should students take a refund of the SORF assessment that they paid as part of their registration fees? The ACM at UIUC currently receives approximately $200 per semester from the Student Organization Resources Fund. This adds substantially to our income each semester. I would like to suggest that members refrain from taking their refunds. Because of the large number of members in our organization I feel that our allocation should be larger. I have talked to a SORF board representative about increasing our allocation in the future. It would greatly enhance our chances for an increase if all of our members would refrain from taking a refund. So have one less pitcher of beer this semester and help us out. Thanks.

—*Nick Petrone, Treasurer*

New Trailer Lab Computer Site

The newly constructed Trailer Lab, located directly behind the Woodshop, contains 8 Sun workstations, 28 IBM RT's. and 28 IBM PC AT's. The lab is open:

Monday-Thursday, 10 am - 10 pm
Friday, closed
Saturday, 10 am - 10 pm
Sunday, 12 noon - 10 pm

For more information, contact the ACM Office at 333-5828.

--*Scott Mahlke, Newsletter Staff*

Faculty Spotlight

This issue's "Faculty Spotlight" focuses on **Assistant Professor Ralph Johnson**. Professor Johnson earned a B.S. in both Computer Science and Biology from Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois in 1977. From there he went on to gain both his M.S. and PhD from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. As a graduate student Prof. Johnson was awarded the National Science Foundation Fellow Award. He has also been designated a National Merit Scholar. At Cornell, Prof. Johnson also initiated a consulting firm known as Johnson Software. He arrived here at UIUC Dept. of Computer Science in 1985.

Prof. Johnson's research here at UIUC centers around the concept of object-oriented programming. Object-oriented programming is a style of programming that can greatly increase the reuseability of software. This offers the potential

for making software less expensive, more reliable, and easier to use. Prof. Johnson is exploring how to use object-oriented programming most effectively, how to utilize software tools in conjunction with it, and how to implement object-oriented programming languages. His biggest project right now is an optimizing compiler for SMALLTALK, one of the oldest and best of the object-oriented programming languages. His goal is to make SMALLTALK ten times faster than it is now. Prof. Johnson is also investigating user interfaces and an object-oriented operating system.

Prof. Johnson encourages students to make an effort to get to know their professors better and to get involved in some of their projects open for undergraduate help. An excellent way to accomplish this, he feels, is to sign

up for CS 290, an independent study course, which will be offered again next fall. CS 290 allows undergraduates the chance to earn credit by working on current projects with professors and grad students. It is an opportune chance to (1) discover what grad school work involves if you are interested in pursuing that route, and (2) learn to work on projects as a team, an important skill to have in both the academic and business environments. Prof. Johnson welcomes any students who may be interested in learning more about object oriented programming and SMALLTALK in particular to sign up for CS 290 next semester to assist on one of his many SMALLTALK projects. To get more information you may contact Prof. Johnson at 244-0093, or stop by his office at 130 DCL.

—*Tom Begnel, Newsletter Staff*

SIG Update

Introducing ACM SIGBIO
Special Interest Group in Biology/BioEngineering

SIGBIO is finally a reality. Our objective is to serve as a communication resource for all students, faculty and staff who share an interest in the varied uses of computer technology for the study or teaching of biologically-related subjects. We are just now gearing-up, but plan to be moving under full steam very soon. Look in the next issue of *BANKS OF THE BONEYARD* for the date, time and place of our first open

organizational meeting. Some of the topics to be discussed include financing options, possible speakers, seminars, etc. In the meanwhile, anyone who is interested can contact me at my office phone (333-9627) or through campus mail at 190 Medical Sciences Building, or call the ACM Office at 333-5828 and leave a message.

—*Michael Doyle, SIGBIO Chairman*

ACM SIGART at UIUC
Back on Track

SIGART is the ACM at UIUC Special Interest Group for Artificial Intelligence. Theoretically, our group is interested in the development of machines with the capacity for reasoning and understanding: machines that think. In practice, SIGART has five objectives for the 1988 Spring semester.

1. We are offering a LISP workshop. Our first meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 16 at 7 p.m.; definite time and place to be announced. The initial meeting will present LISP syntax in lecture format. Later meetings, however, will encourage discussion of solutions to particular problems. If all goes well, we will have access to some computer time and programs will be given at each meeting with solutions provided at the folowing meeting. The workshop is open to everyone,

novice or expert!

2. We hope to have three to five SIGART meetings featuring guest speakers. Previous topics include Computer Vision and Inductive Learning. We welcomeyour suggestions for future topics.

3. We have a couple projects for the Engineering Open House. Although nothing is closely tied to AI, we hope to change that next year.

4. We would like to coordinate the AI research at U of I by compiling a list of current projects and areas of interest. The idea is that anyone who supplies information for the catalog will receive a copy of the completed listing.

5. Last — but most important — SIGART is in a transitional phase. Many positions will be opening up

SIGMICRO (microcomputers) -- There will be a meeting on Tuesday, February 16 at 7:00 pm at the ACM Lounge, 1204 W. Springfield. Items to be discussed will be the Public Domain Library being compiled for the various microcomputers, as well as an update of the status of the EOH project for this year, and plans to set up a Bulletin Board.

If you use a microcomputer, or especially if you own one, then SIGMICRO is here for you. You can take advantage of what we are doing, as well as get in touch with others who have or use the same type of computer as you.

SIGNET (networking) - SIGNET is back,with up and coming seminars and projects in computer networking. Any students in business or computer science, with an ability to lead and see projects through should come to the meeting. The meeting will be held February 10 at 7:00 in 207 Gregory Hall. If you need fourther information or have any questions call 328-0752.

—*Steven J. Norris, SIGNET*

in May and we are looking for some people who are interested in AI and planning to spend some time at U of I. Our biggest goal for Spring '88 is to build a solid foundation to carry SIGART into the 1990's!

If you're not on our mailing list then watch for our fliers and class announcements.

— *Jeff Pittges, SIGART Chairman*

1988 CSO Computer Sites

The following Computing Service Office terminal sites are available for student and faculty use:

CSO NORTH (DCL)
14 Digital Computer Lab   Monday-Saturday, 24 hrs/day
333-7685   Sunday, 12 noon - 12 am

CSO SOUTH
70 Commerce West   Monday-Sat., 8 am - 12 am
333-4500   Sunday, 12 pm - 12 am

AGRICULTURE
N-120 Turner Hall   Monday-Thurs., 8 am - 10 pm
333-8170   Friday, 8 am - 5 pm
                                 Saturday-Sunday, closed

CHEMISTRY
150-154 Noyes Lab   Monday-Friday, 9 am - 5 pm
333-1728   Saturday-Sunday, closed

CRH SNACK BAR
120 Snack Bar   Daily, 12 pm- 12 am
333-1851

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
146 Electrical Eng. Building   Monday-Friday, 8 am - 12 am
333-4936   Saturday, 8 am - 5 pm
                                 Sunday, closed

FAR
Florida Avenue Res. Halls   Daily 12 pm- 12 am
333-2695

ISR
Illinois Street Res. Halls   Daily 12 pm- 12 am
333-0307

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
65 Mechanical Eng. Building   Monday-Saturday, 8am - 12 am
333-1430   Sunday, 12 pm- 12 am

PSYCHOLOGY
453 Psychology Building   Monday-Friday, 8 am - 5 pm
333-7815   Saturday-Sunday, closed

SOCIAL SCIENCE
202 Lincoln Hall   Monday-Friday, 8 am - 12 am
333-0309   Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm
                                 Sunday, 12 pm- 5 pm

Free Garcia's Pizza!

You say that you want to get more involved in the ACM but you don't know anyone? Or maybe you think the ACM is so efficiently run that they don't need anyone else's help? While we are efficiently run, there is always room for anyone who wants to get involved! So, the ACM at UIUC executives are sponsoring a **Meet The Executives Party** at Garcia's Pizza in a Pan (the one on 2nd and Green) on February 19th at 5:30 p.m.

The purpose of this event is to let you get to know us and to learn about the opportunities that ACM affords. We'll be there to answer any questions and listen to any ideas, thoughts, or beefs you may have relating to the ACM. We want all of you to have this informal opportunity to talk to us that is not available at the general meetings. So, bring your appetite to Garcia's and we'll be happy to see you there. And ... finally ...

From Champaign, where being a CS major has always given me the desire to take a computer science course, but I never quite got around to taking one, its

LATE NIGHT WITH THE ACM

On Tuesday March 22nd at 11:20 p.m. the **ACM SKATE DATE** will hit the ice. All ACM members are welcome to join in for the late night party at the at the Ice Arena. Take your $.50 for skates and your ACM Membership Card, because

Late Night Skate Date

we are going to have an awesome time and we don't take American Express. There will be future reminders in the meantime to keep you up to date on any new developments.

—*Scott Ernsteen, Social Chairman*

ACM Membership
Become Active in the ACM at UIUC

Are you an ACM member yet? Would you like to join the growing number of students, professors and CS professionals here at the University of Illinois expressing an interest in computer science and applications? Become a member of the ACM Student Chapter at UIUC.

Fill out the form at the back of this newsletter, or pick up a membership application at the ACM Office (333-5828) in Room 201, 1204 W. Springfield and join. Membership fees are $5.00 a year and benefit you as well as helps the ACM at UIUC bring its members more services and benefits in the field of computer science, and beyond.

Is your ACM membership expired? Check it out, and renew it today.

—*Rich Bloch, Editor*

The ACM (Not So Very) Wet T-Shirt Contest
Design Our T-Shirt and Win!

The ACM at UIUC is sponsoring its first annual **Not So Very Wet T-Shirt Design Contest**. All ACM members and nonmembers are urged to design a t-shirt to be used at this year's Engineering Open House in early March ... and perhaps beyond.

The logo design should be simple enough to duplicate in one or two colors and fit on a regular t-shirt. The only real request is that design use the distinctive ACM logo, which is "acm" in lowercase bold helvetica type, with a circle around it.

Winners for the ACM Not So Very Wet T-Shirt Design Contest will be chosen on Friday, February 17. Deadline for design submission is on Thursday, February 16. Prizes will be a free T-shirt and free ACM National membership, courtesy of the ACM at UIUC.

Contest submissions should be turned in to the ACM Office located in Room 201, 1204 W. Springfield Avenue, Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

—*Rich Bloch, Editor*

ACM Calendar of Events

Mon Feb 15   SIGGRAPH Meeting
8:00 pm
ACM Lounge, 1204 W. Springfield, Room 201

Tues Feb 16   SIGMICRO Meeting
7:00 pm
ACM Lounge, 1204 W. Springfield, Room 201

Wed Feb 17   Newsletter Meeting - Open to All Interested
7:00 pm
ACM Lounge, 1204 W. Springfield, Room 201

Thurs Feb 18   EOH Project Leaders' Meeting
5:00 pm

Tues Feb 23   ACM National Conference -- *bon voyage*

Wed Feb 24   Newsletter Meeting - Open to All Interested
7:00 pm
ACM Lounge, 1204 W. Springfield, Room 201

Classified Ads

Classified Ads Submissions

If you are an ACM member and would like to submit an ad, drop off your typed ad in the ACM Newsletter Mailbox in the ACM Office, 1204 W. Springfield, Room 201. Ads are free, but you must be a current ACM at UIUC member.
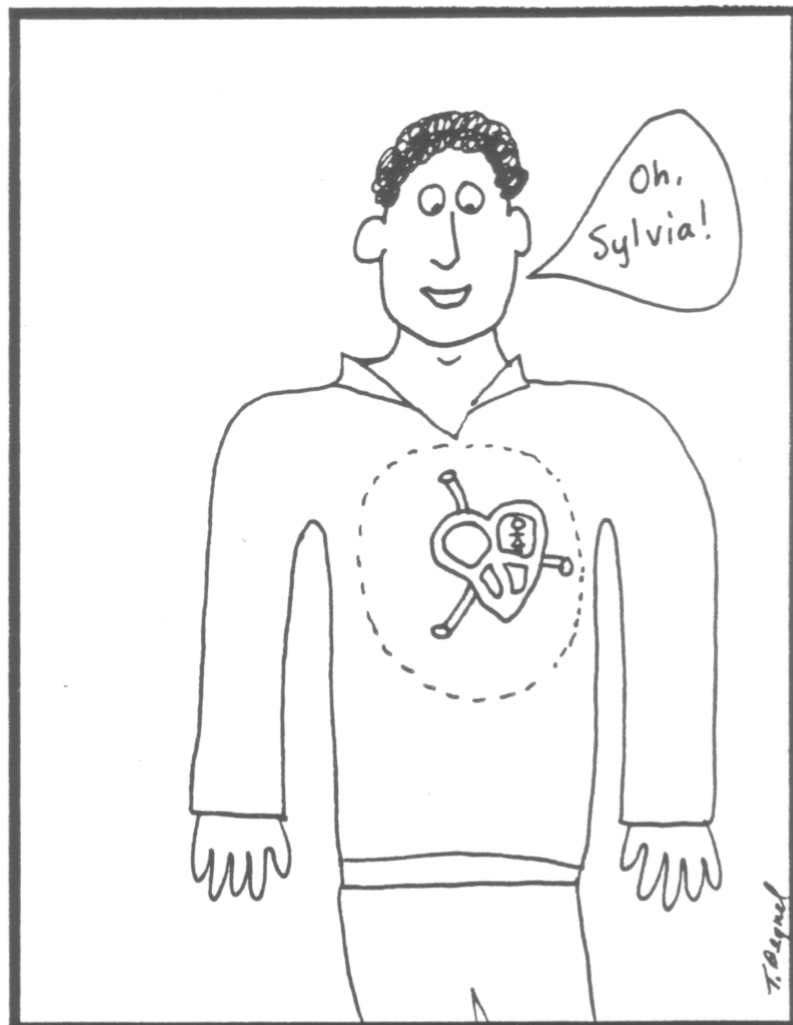
SHE HAD A SPECIAL PLACE IN HIS HEART: IN FACT IT WAS IN THE LEFT VENTRICLE.

Classified Ads

Equipment Sale and Give-Away

InterCom, Inc. is giving away and selling used hardware from their stock. Some of it is broken, but in a position to be fixed. The rest is perfectly fine and ready to be used. Listed below is the equipment, the condition that it's in, and the'price (if any).

2 IBM Computers	$950/each
Amdek Color-II monitor	
2 floppy drives	
256K	
1 IBM Computer	$700 for system ($250 to replace drives)
Amdek Color-II monitor	$240 if sold separate
no drives	
256K	
IBM keyboard	broken FREE
4 IBM drives	broken FREE
Amdek Color-II+ monitor	broken (IBM compatible) FREE
Amdek Color-I+	broken (Apple compatible) FREE
Amdek Color-II	broken (IBM compatible) FREE
Bell & Howell Apple disk drive	broken FREE
Swintec 1146C Typewriter-parallel interface	$250
Summagraphic Bit Pad	$300
Terak 8512 LSI- 11 chip	MAKE OFFER
CAD CAM Resolution Monitor	
2 drives	
Control Data drives	MAKE OFFER
IST slave	
IST master	
Control Data printers	MAKE OFFER
one works	
one broken FREE	
Viking	MAKE OFFER
monitor	
keyboard	
PLATO 4.5 plasma terminal (Carroll)	MAKE OFFER
Atari	MAKE OFFER
825 80 column printer	
850 I/O Connector	
Power Adapter	
Televideo Monitor	$100
Timplex 2400 A/I Modem - one only	MAKE OFFER
Miscellaneous computer cables,	
joystick, earphones, cards	
Pioneer LD-V1000 Laser Disc Player	MAKE OFFER