



# NewsLetter

December 1988

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All the News that Fits, We Print

William D. Smith, Editor

Sam'l Bassett, Editor Emeritus

## Final Renewal Reminder

All Members who do not renew by January 1, 1989 will be placed on an "Inactive Member List". This means they will miss future NewsLetters and be ineligible for other USUS services until they reactivate their membership.

The number in the upper-right corner of the address label on this NewsLetter is the expiration date of your Membership. If it is less than 89.01 your membership has expired!

A renewal form makes up the last page of this NewsLetter. Copy and use it if you can't find the one sent to you.

## Board of Directors Minutes (Oct. 11, 1988) by Samuel B. Bassett

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF USUS, INC., HELD VIA THE TELECONFERENCING FACILITY OF COMPU SERVE INFORMATION SERVICE ON OCTOBER 11TH, 1988.

Present at the meeting were:

User ID	Name
76703,532	Arley Dealey, Primary SysOp
76456,416	Jon Nevins, Board Member
76703,500	Eli Willner, Board Member
73007,173	William Smith, Assistant SysOp, NewsLetter Editor
76314,1364	Sam'l Bassett, Board Chaircritter
72135,2667	Harry Baya, Board Member
70260,306	A. Hays Busch, Administrator
72747,3126	Robert Clark, Treasurer

The meeting came to order about 10 PM EDT Tuesday, October 11, 1988.

Items on the Agenda were:

### Post Office Box

William Smith reported that he had paid the La Jolla P.O. for six months box rent, instructed

them to send back the check that Bob Clark had sent, and asked to be reimbursed for the amount. Bob Clark agreed.

### Policy Statements by Chaircritter

Frank Lawyer submitted a proposal that the Chaircritter (or a designate) answer policy questions in a regular column in the Newsletter.

Eli Willner asked what the sources of the questions would be, and the Chaircritter said that Frank had suggested that some of his (Frank's) questions in the August NL would be a good place to start, and continue with letters and matters raised on CompuServe.

Eli questioned whether this needed Board action, and the Chaircritter opined that it probably didn't, that he was minded to go ahead with it anyway, but thought that it might be polite to ask the Board for an opinion.

The proposal met with the unanimous approval of the Directors and Officers present.

### Board Minutes Availability (I)

Arley Dealey submitted a proposal that Minutes of on-line Board meetings be kept in the MUSUS Library for three months, then archived off-line.

There was no discussion, and the Directors and Officers present voted unanimously in the affirmative.

### Board Minutes Availability (II)

Arley Dealey also submitted a proposal that Board Minutes be kept in a publicly-accessible Library on MUSUS, rather than in the Section 8 Library, which isn't.

The Chaircritter comment that this had been his policy all along -- to upload the Minutes to Library 8, leave them there for a couple of weeks for the participants in the meeting to inspect and possibly object, then ask that they be moved to

Library #1 for general availability. He opined that it might be a good idea to make the policy official with a Board resolution.

Arley then said that official was OK, but unofficial was too -- he mainly wanted permission to do it, feeling uncomfortable about moving them without it.

The Chaircritter opined that he might have fallen down on the job a bit about requesting that they be moved to Library 1...

The Directors and Officers present voted unanimously to move the Minutes of on-line Board Meetings from Library 8 to Library 1.

### Shutting down Section 7

Arley also submitted a proposal that Section 7 on MUSUS be shut down, and that the files in Library 7 be archived off-line, since there had been no traffic on that section in an unconscionably long time.

Eli Willner asked whether any effort had been made to contact the people who had been using Section 7, Arley replied that he had tried electronically without success. The Chaircritter said that someone (whose name he couldn't remember) at the Tahoe meeting had talked to him, and promised to get back, but never had.

Hays Busch suggested that the Chaircritter and the Primary SysOp handle the matter off-line.

The Chaircritter posed the question as a policy statement: "That Section 7 should be closed if no interest is shown by the people using it when contacted by him." the Directors and Officers voted unanimously in the affirmative.

### On-line Board Meetings Open

Arley Dealey submitted a proposal that on-line Board Meetings be held in a publicly-accessible room of the MUSUS Conference facility, rather than in Room 8, which isn't.

Eli Willner objected, on the basis that open Board meetings would get unwieldy and out of hand.

Harry Baya stated that he was in favor of more user involvement, but wanted to see more discussion in Section 1, rather than Section 8. He also said that he is willing to try holding

meetings in Room 1, but that private meetings could be held if needed.

The Chaircritter said that while he had been warming the Chair, his policy had been to invite (nay, inveigle) anyone who expressed an interest in attending Board meetings to participate in them, but that the By-Laws require that personnel matters be discussed in closed session. He also opined that what happens in Board meetings would probably bore most members stiff, anyway.

Arley replied that from the beginning, open Board meetings were the official stated policy of USUS, and that continuing to hold closed meetings would require a change in policy. He would prefer that the actions match the policy, rather than that the policy be changed. He also stated that recent changes to the Conference software obviated the problem of "talking out of turn", and that it could be handled easily.

Hays Busch agreed that meetings should be held publicly, and suggested that advance notices be posted, to encourage Board members to attend with a bit more regularity.

William Smith suggested that at the time the Agenda for meetings is made up, that a decision be made as to whether items should be discussed publicly or handled in closed session.

After more discussion on the practicalities and proprieties involved, the Chaircritter moved that the discussion be tabled for the nonce, and that he be allowed to write up a Motion for a future Board Meeting which would address the issues of openness and discretion discussed here.

The motion was approved by unanimous vote of all of the Directors and Officers present

### Cease Publication of USUS Journal

Frank Lawyer had submitted a proposal that the resources that would have been devoted (when and if) to publishing the USUS Journal (the "thick, technical" one) be earmarked instead for more frequent issues of the NewsLetter (the "thin, newsy" one).

The discussion got a bit acrimonious (!), but did not, in the view of the Chaircritter, seem to be converging on any decision, so when Hays Busch suggested that the subject was too serious

for a fast discussion, and moved that the Board write a position paper and circulate it to the membership, he leaped at the chance, and recognized a motion to table the issue for more consideration at a later date. Unanimous assent was given by all present.

#### New Membership Category -- ASSOCIATE

Frank Lawyer also submitted a proposal that a new membership category be created with dues of \$10/year, to allow interested people access to public domain software, and very little else.

Jon Nevins, Hays Busch, Eli Willner, and Bob Clark immediately said NO!, William Smith opined we ought to wait until we had some PD stuff. Harry Baya left the meeting without comment.

Jon Nevins asked whether there was a second to the motion -- moving the rules -- and when the Chaircritter determined that there was none, announced that the motion failed for lack of sponsorship.

#### Paying Pecan

The matter of paying the last installment to Pecan for the clerical services which had been rendered under an agreement begun in 1985 and ended in 1987 was brought up. There had been some reluctance on the part of the Officers to make this payment, since several boxes of USUS records which had been delivered to Pecan when the USUS effects were moved from the Harvison's keeping in 1985 were still in Pecan's possession, despite repeated pleas from Hays Busch and others to send them "as-is" to Hays.

Eli Willner opined that the contents of the boxes is "essentially garbage", and declined to take the initiative to decide this "officially", or to take the time to put them in shipping condition.

Hays Busch stated that Pecan would be paid by the end of October 1988, since that was required by the note USUS had signed with Pecan.

It was devoutly hoped that Frank Lawyer might be able to get up to Brooklyn from his home in New Jersey in the near future and make arrangements for the boxes to be shipped to Hays.

#### Next Meeting

At this point, the Board ran out of items to discuss and the interest in dredging up new ones, so it was decided to adjourn the meeting, and meet again on November the 8th at the same time and place.

The Special Meeting of the Board on Compu-Serve was adjourned at 00:13:10 AM EDT Wednesday, October 12, 1988, with agreement to resume on November 8, 1988 at 7 PM PDT / 8 PM MDT / 9 PM CDT / 10 PM EDT.

Minutes submitted by:  
Samuel B. Bassett

#### **The Meeting that wasn't (Nov. 8, 1988) by Sam'l Bassett**

Present from 7:00:16 PM PST Tuesday, November 8, 1988 were:

<u>User ID</u>	<u>Name</u>
73007,173	William Smith, Assistant SysOp, NewsLetter Editor
76314,1364	Sam'l Bassett, Board Chaircritter
72747,3126	Robert Clark, Treasurer

chiming in at 7:13:37 PM PST Tuesday, November 8, 1988 was:

72135,1667 Harry Baya, Board Member

We talked tech, and agreed to meet again at 7/8/9/10 PM Nov. 22, with the following items on the Agenda:

- 1) {From William} Where, when, and how shall we hold an Annual Meeting, now that Stride Faire is gone?
- 2) {From William} Will the Board please make a public Policy statement on opening up USUS to non-UCSD implementations of our favorite languages.
- 3) {From Harry} It is okay with him to delete Library 5, as presently constituted -- all contents are downloaded and archived.

#### **Board of Directors Minutes (Nov. 22,1988) by Samuel B. Bassett**

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF USUS, INC., HELD VIA THE TELECONFERENCING FACILITY OF

COMPUSERVE INFORMATION SERVICE ON  
NOVEMBER 22ND, 1988.

Present at the meeting were:

User ID	Name
76314,1364	Sam'l Bassett, Board Chaircritter
72135,1667	Harry Baya, Board Member
76456,416	Jon Nevins, Board Member
75226,3643	Bob Spitzer, Board Member
76703,500	Eli Willner, Board Member
70260,306	A. Hays Busch, Administrator
72747,3126	Robert Clark, Treasurer
76703,532	Arley Dealey, Primary SysOp
73007,173	William Smith, Assistant SysOp, NewsLetter Editor
72401,1417	Frank Lawyer, Board Member Elect
73447,2754	Henry Baumgarten, Board Member Elect

The meeting came to order at 10:12 PM EST  
Tuesday, November 22, 1988.

Matters dealt with were:

Opening On-Line Board Meetings

Arley Dealey had brought up the propriety of having USUS Board meetings in a Conference Room on MUSUS that is not open to the general public at the last Board Meeting. The Chaircritter then asked that the matter be deferred to this meeting for lack of time.

The Chaircritter between times posted a proposed motion in Section 8, to the effect that it would be the announced policy of USUS to hold Board meetings in a publicly-accessible place (i.e. MUSUS' Conference Room 1), but that the Chaircritter or any two Board members might invoke an executive session at any time to deal with sensitive matters. In so doing, his feeling was that sometimes Board members need to yell at each other before a clear understanding of the issues can be arrived at, and that yelling "in public" is un-dignified, un-gentlemanly, and would serve to confuse and alienate members who just want to concentrate on the technical content of the Forum.

Starting the discussion at this meeting, Bob Spitzer pronounced himself in favor of open meetings, with a proviso for "emergency" private meetings when needed. Harry Baya agreed, and

said that he would also like to have Section 8 remain open to whomever requested access, as has been the policy for the last couple of years.

The Chaircritter asked if the Board wanted to move on the Resolution he had posted in Section 8, or on a motion more similar to Bob Spitzer's and Harry's comments.

Bob Spitzer then made a motion that all routine Board meetings be held in a public section, and asked that someone else make a motion laying out criteria for executive sessions. Frank Lawyer said that he wanted to require that 3 or more Board members request an executive session before moving out of "public view".

The Chaircritter asked for a second of Bob Spitzer's motion.

Ignoring the request, Bob Spitzer & Arley Dealey proceeded to discuss historical USUS policy, and the possible criteria for closing a meeting. Said criteria were agreed to be extremely vague. Harry Baya finally moved the original motion, and seconded it.

A vote was called, and the motion was passed by unanimous vote of the Directors present, and a majority of the Officers.

*Chaircritter Note: Over the past 3 or so years that I have been chairing USUS Board meetings, it has been my policy to allow anyone -- Board Member, Officer, or invited guest -- to make or second motions, ask questions, or give opinions. I have felt (rightly, I think) that this practice provides for a more open organization, and often brings better ideas to the fore than limiting discussion to only Board Members.*

*When counting votes on motions before the Board, however, only Board Members' votes count -- to comply with the provisions of the By-Laws. I note in these minutes how the Officers vote, and on a couple of occasions when the Officers present differed unanimously from the Directors present, I have re-started the discussion about a motion, feeling that the officers have to run this organization, and that they may have a better handle on the hows and the wherefores. As I remember, one time the Officers convinced us, and one time we convinced them.*

*More to the point, if everyone present has an opportunity to speak about a subject and take part in a decision, they are more likely to give whole-hearted consent and support the decision, rather than being stubborn and sabotaging it. So far the policy has worked fairly well.*

Bob Spitzer twice called for motions to establish a procedure for invoking executive sessions for the Board, but Harry Baya and Frank Lawyer wanted to discuss certifying the results of the election and seating of the newly elected Board members. The Chaircritter ruled that that issue would be taken up when the remaining items on this meeting's Agenda had been dealt with.

Bob Spitzer moved that any single member of the Board might request an executive session of the Board; that the Chair(whatever) shall then post this request to the whole Board in a convenient manner, and require a Yes-or-No answer from each Board member; and that three total Yeses so received shall allow a specific date & time to be set for an executive session of the Board.

Harry Baya Seconded the motion, Bob amended it to allow a week for replies, and The Chaircritter asked for a vote. All directors Present voted in the affirmative, as did 3 of the Officers present.

*Chaircritter Note: This means that all on-line Board meetings will be held in Conference Room 1 on MUSUS in the future. Board meetings are usually held the second Tuesday of the month at 7 PM PST / 8 PM MST / 9 PM CST / 10 PM EST. Y'all Come!*

The Chaircritter asked if there were any other Old Business to be transacted, and Bob Spitzer replied that he had made numerous attempts to contact Mark Abrams of Liaison, Inc., in regard to setting up a Liaison Account for USUS, as had been agreed on at the Tahoe meeting, and discussed in several Board meetings thereafter, but had not had any replies recently. He stated that he would keep on trying.

Turning to New Business, the Chaircritter raised:  
The MUSUS SysOp Status/Situation

Approximately a week prior to this meeting, Arley Dealey, MUSUS Primary SysOp, had submitted his resignation to the Board, saying that he felt that he could no longer be useful to the

organization because he was not moving fast enough on the MUSUS reorganization, and because he was getting so much static from particular members in Section 8 that he had little time or energy to deal with administrative matters. *Chaircritter's summary of several loooong messages.* Said resignation was contingent on the Board's accepting it, and included proposals for providing a new Primary SysOp.

The Chaircritter asked if anyone were seriously interested in accepting the resignation, and if not, what were we going to do about it?

Harry Baya opined that the new Board should be seated, and asked whether only Board votes counted on an issue like this. The Chaircritter replied that that was the case.

Arley said that he had submitted the resignation to the current Board, and opined that they should consider it. Jon Nevins came out strongly opposed to accepting the resignation.

Harry said that it would seem strange to accept a resignation, then leave the Board, and Bob Spitzer suggested that the matter occurred prior to this meeting, and would properly be "Old Business".

Frank Lawyer asked whether, in theory at least, the terms of office of the current Board had not expired last July, and the Chaircritter replied that the By-Laws state that the sitting Board shall continue in office until a new Board has been elected and seated.

Bob Spitzer made a motion that the Board not accept the Primary SysOp's resignation, and that a plan for restructuring be drawn up by Arley and that the Board draw up guidelines for the restructuring -- that the plan be submitted within 30 days, and the restructuring take 60 days or thereabouts.

Arley declined to discuss the matter of reorganization until the matter of the resignation had been settled, arguing that if wasn't SysOp, he wouldn't have anything to do with the reorganization, and that the whole matter would take at least three hours to thrash out, anyway. Harry Baya opined that he would vote to accept the resignation in order to gain some control over MUSUS.

At this point, the Chaircritter called for a Second of Bob Spitzer's motion, and, when it was not forthcoming, declared that the motion had failed for lack of a second, that the SysOp's resignation had still to be acted on, and moved the next order of business.

Harry Baya objected, and was invited to read the By-Laws in regard to who chairs meetings. A goodly number of people indicated they wanted the floor to deliver themselves of opinions, and the Chaircritter then stated that he sensed a fight building up, and said that if the group really wanted to spend the rest of the meeting fighting, rather than dealing with the important USUS business on the rest of the Agenda, he was willing, but asked that everyone think first.

Jon Nevins, Bob Spitzer, William Smith, and Hays Busch immediately indicated that they wanted to continue with business, rather than fight. Harry wanted to continue "the business we were discussing". The Chaircritter, noting that he had a working majority of the Board (3 Directors, including himself), ruled that the meeting would continue with the next item on the Agenda.

At this point, Arley Dealey withdrew his resignation. Harry Baya moved that the Board ask the SysOp to submit a plan for reorganization. The Chaircritter ruled that the motion would be discussed after all other business on the Agenda had been dealt with.

*Chaircritter note: There are complexities to this issue not discussed here, and if any member is interested, he or she may contact the Chaircritter privately for an explanation.*

The next order of business was:

#### Location of the next USUS General Meeting

The last two General Meetings were held in conjunction with Stride Faire at Lake Tahoe CA/NV, but with the demise of Stride / MicroSage, that is no longer an option.

Jon Nevins asked if there were any chance of holding the next meeting on the East Coast of the U.S., and the Chaircritter replied that he didn't see any reason why not.

Bob Spitzer asked for guesses as to the number of attendees, and opined that linking the meeting

to another organization's meeting would be better than trying to go it alone. Frank Lawyer said that he would like to see the next meeting on the East Coast, that he was willing to help, but that he could not do all of the work required alone.

Harry Baya said he would prefer an independent meeting.

The discussion continued on, with mentions of the Washington Apple Pi (an Apple Computer user group), the upcoming IEEE Neural Network meeting, and the International Neural Network Society meetings. (Frank Lawyer is a member of the first, and Bob Spitzer is a member of the latter two.

Bob Clark, the USUS Treasurer, stated that whatever arrangements were made, the meeting would have to be self-supporting, since the USUS Treasury would not support the expenses of any meeting. (Not enough money.)

It was decided (without a vote), that approaches would be made to the organizers of the various meetings (Frank will talk to the W.A.P. people, and Bob S. will talk to the neural network folks), and a proposal will be brought to the Board at the next meeting. The Chaircritter assured both parties that he would nag them about it at that time.

The next order of business was:

#### Opening up (M)USUS...

...to discussion and support of "other non-machine-specific languages and operating systems", in the words of USUS' Articles of Incorporation.

It is the opinion of the Chaircritter and a working majority of the present Board of Directors that, in order for USUS to survive as an organization over the next 3-5 years, we must open ourselves to other languages and systems; and draw membership from outside the p-System community, which shows no concrete signs of growing. We have made attempts to initiate friendly contacts with MODUS, the Modula-2 Users' Society, as well as a limited number of other Modula-2 groups. This Agenda item is an attempt to elicit a formal policy statement from the Board supporting such an effort.

Bob Spitzer moved that:

"Whereas one of the stated objectives of USUS has been to support discussion and work in the area of portability;

That we officially establish the promotion of interaction regarding various portable languages, environments, operating systems, etc., as one of the official objectives of USUS; and

That we establish means to achieve this objective, including but not limited to: special Sections on MUSUS, publications, etc., as may become convenient and necessary."

Harry Baya stated that he like the general idea, but wanted the Board to first agree to opening up USUS/MUSUS, and then work up a specific proposal for the next meeting. Eli Willner opined that since neither USUS nor MUSUS is limited to the p-System, that it would certainly be in order to discuss exactly what we want to encourage, in addition to the p-System / UCSD Pascal.

The Chaircritter opined that USUS is almost exclusively identified with the p-System, however, and that what he wanted to do was to have a general policy statement to counter that identification.

Bob Spitzer proposed a second motion that we specifically add Modula-2 to the MUSUS banner. When asked about the possibility of this, Arley Dealey replied that he was discussing the matter with the Primary SysOps of other Forums (including the Programmers' Forum), and when he had arrived at an understanding with them (*presumably that we are not trying to steal their members -- Chaircritter*), that he would approach CompuServe on the subject of changing the MUSUS banner from "Pascal" to "Pascal & Modula-2"

When asked about USUS' contacts with Prof. Kim King, the current maven of MODUS, Hays Busch and William Smith replied that he is getting copies of the USUS Newsletter, but that we have had nothing -- neither newsletters nor correspondence -- from him.

Eli Willner opined that there is not enough of a critical mass of Modula-2 users, since Modula-2 does not seem to be gaining overwhelming acceptance in the programming community. The

Chaircritter agreed, but opined that Modulans are easy to identify, and therefore easy to approach.

Harry Baya moved that the Board appoint one or more people to come up with a proposal for the next meeting concerning reaching out to other languages and the like. Eli Willner seconded the motion, and Bob Spitzer withdrew his two motions in favor of Harry's.

The motion was carried by a majority of the Directors and Officers present.

In regard to the proposal for next meeting, Bob Spitzer volunteered to contact Dr. King, and Harry Baya inveigled Arley Dealey into helping him draft the text.

There was some discussion of the details, and the Chaircritter remarked that it was past midnight, Eastern time, and that the discussion should move along . . .

The Agenda having been exhausted, the Board next took up:

#### Certifying the Election of the New Board

The Chaircritter reported that the Administrator had certified that the top five vote-getters in the recent election were:

Eli Willner	49 votes
Henry Baumgarten	43 votes
Sam'l Bassett	36 votes
Frank Lawyer	33 votes
Bob Spitzer	29 votes

After hearing no protest of the results, the Chaircritter moved that the list be accepted as official. Bob Spitzer and Bob Clark immediately seconded the motion, and Sam'l Bassett, Bob Spitzer, Jon Nevins, and Harry Baya voted in the affirmative -- Eli Willner was found to have left the meeting.

The Board next turned to:

#### Terms of Office

The Chaircritter stated that, by the terms of the resolution worked out in a prior Board meeting, that "old hands" were to take one-year terms, while newly-elected directors would have two-year terms. Since the Chaircritter had campaigned for a one-year term, he and Eli Willner certainly had one-year terms. Frank

Lawyer and Henry Baumgarten equally certainly had two-year terms, but what about Bob Spitzer?

At this point, Harry Baya left the meeting.

Bob Spitzer stated he didn't care much, and Frank Lawyer asked when the new Board would take office. the Chaircritter opined that he didn't want to make that move with only 3 directors present, and suggested that the new Board's term begin with the next Board meeting (i.e., 6-Dec-88).

William Smith suggested that the next Board meeting be held on Tuesday, December 6th, 1988, in Conference Room #1 on MUSUS, that an agenda be posted beforehand, and that as much discussion as possible be held before the meeting, to cut down on the time spent. Henry Baumgarten chimed in with a hearty AMEN to that.

Bob Spitzer introduced a supporting motion, that agenda items be accompanied by a formal motion of no more than one screen of text. Everyone liked the idea, but nobody seconded, so it was added to the agenda for the next meeting.

By this time (40 minutes after midnight, Eastern Time), the Chaircritter was getting punchy, the discussion was getting incoherent, and members were dropping off, so a motion was brought to adjourn the meeting until Dec. 6th at the usual time & place (except Room 1), and all gratefully voted yes.

The Special Meeting of the Board on CompuServe was adjourned at 00:47 AM EST on November 23, 1988.

Minutes submitted by:  
Samuel B. Bassett

### **Apple SIG Doings** by Frank Lawyer

I can just tell you are out there somewhere, finishing off that turkey or buying Christmas presents.

### **NEW MEMBERS...**

Welcome new members **Karen Hardway** and **Lewis Inglehart**. By now you have your welcome disks, so let us know if there is anything else we can help with.

### **PRAISE..**

Thanks to **Robert Platt**, who just happens to be President of Washington Apple Pi, for a nice paragraph on USUS and the Orphan Software Project in the October issue of the Pi Journal

**John Miller** submitted a UNIT for use on the Apple2 series, called SYSTEMSTUF. John also submitted an article describing the UNIT, which should be appearing elsewhere in this issue (*will appear in the next issue*). The unit will be on an Apple Library Disk. We will be listing the new disks next time.

**David Craig** has contributed several additional articles. I'm overwhelmed by the sheer volume. But I'll do my best to catch up and get them onto disks and into the NewsLetter.

### **WELCOME DISKS..**

The latest version is dated 11/01/88. The complete set of 35 USUS archive disks have been included in the sorted directory listing, so it will be relatively easy to find a file on any of the old disks. Unfortunately, the listing is so long that it takes two files to hold it, in order to stay under the 40 block limit for the standard editor.

### **LIBRARY DISKS..**

This month we will briefly review a few utility programs on the library disks. Some of you may not be aware of how these programs can help you.

My first choice is the COMPARE program on volume APP2U02. Of all the utility programs in the library which I have used so far, this one is the most valuable to me. It accurately locates differences between several versions of the same program which you have sprinkled around on your programming disks. Often I make little improvements, and may forget to keep track in a log, like we should all do faithfully. This sometimes results in having two files with the same name, but different dates. If the files are short, a quick eyeballing may suffice, but when they get long, printing them out and doing that deadly line-by-line comparison uses up your time pretty fast. When I enhance library programs, COMPARE allows me to easily see what I have added / deleted from the original, and is



indispensable. It was written by James F. Miner of the University of Minnesota.

This program compares text files, and locates the differences, then prints out the differing lines, using a pointer to show exactly where within the line the text differs. If there are more lines in one file than another, it shows these in a logical way, extra lines are labeled and the file is designated. About the only negative about this program is that it does I/O via READLN, so it is slow. You can designate output to the CONSOLE or the PRINTER. I avoid the slowness by sending the output to the printer, and having a cup of coffee. Someone may decide to improve the speed by coding BLOCKREAD / WRITE routines.

My next most day-to-day useful program is DELETE.LF, which simply deletes all those extraneous line-feed characters that drive the editor wild. If you have ever gotten into the editor, scrolled down some lines, and noticed a portion of your file seem to go away, you'll know what I mean. It is particularly bothersome when I try to edit message files I have saved from MUSUS. Through some combination of events, these files contain sneakily placed LF characters. By using DELETE.LF, I wipe out those pesky critters. It runs fast because it does BLOCKREAD / WRITE.

SWAP SHEET...

The Sept/Oct Newsletter got to people much later than I had anticipated it would, so we will have to put this off a bit. Send in your notes, and I'll see how it goes for January. This is sort of a computer oriented garage sale by mail.

GEOS...

As most of you probably know, GEOS is the new kid on the block, a Mac-like graphics operating system for the Apple2e or 2c (or 2GS in emulation mode). Berkeley Softworks has provided the Apple SIG with a free demo disk, which they encourage me to distribute to the members. So, if you would like a copy, send me a blank 5.25 or 3.5 inch disk, and I'll send you one. You'll need a 128K machine to run this. It includes an integrated word processor, spreadsheet, Paint and Spell applications. But does it run Pascal?

RENEWALS...

The end of the year is fast approaching, and anyone who hasn't renewed their USUS membership is in danger of being dropped off the roles. I would hate to lose Apple SIG members, because I have worked hard to get things moving, and because I think the Apple SIG will be better and more active as we go on. Please renew if you haven't already. Thanks.

LETTERS..

There was a question asking if, considering that the Apple SIG has standardized on Apple Pascal v1.3, were we ever going to discuss the Pecan Power System. The answer is "yes", we will. Reviews of the Power System are being worked on, but like everything else of this nature, available time is a prime factor. The Apple SIG should properly deal with all the UCSD p-Systems available, both Apple and Pecan (old SMS). So far, it appears that most people have the Apple System. Even though it now seems that V1.3 may be the last p-System we see from Apple, I would nevertheless advise someone to buy it now if they were looking for a system, because it is both cheaper and faster than the Pecan system. Pecan has not improved on the SofTech MicroSystems (SMS) version 4.1.3 which was written in 1983, at least as far as the Apple2 series up through the 2e is concerned. They are selling the identical (so far as I can see from my disks) system today. They do have 4.2.2 for the Apple2GS and the Macs, and this version contains additional features.

Rick Orsborn has a problem with transferring files between ProDOS and p-System. About two columns back, we discussed Universal File Conversion program, and that is probably the best and most flexible way, but there are other less expensive methods. There are two programs from CALL A.P.P.L.E. called HUFFIN (converts from p-System .TEXT files to DOS 3.3 text files) and PUFFIN (which does the reverse). I believe these are in the public domain. You will still need to use the ProDOS CONVERT program to exchange the file between ProDOS and DOS 3.3. There are also some file conversion programs in the USUS library, but I'll have to do some homework, since Rick says one of them doesn't appear to work correctly. Drop me a line if you want more information on this topic.

AND...

Merry Christmas to all, and Happy New Year also. Where did that year go?

Frank Lawyer, 126 Demott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873; (201) 828-3616

Q & / | A? ...

*Howard Sweet (CIS: 72740,66) sent two messages asking for help. He is using a SAGE IV operating under p-System IV.13, 7 May 1984. The first was:*

The problem I am experiencing in the MultiUser environment is that the Print Spooler grabs the operating system and no terminal other than the MASTER can use the system.

The SYSTEM.SPOOLER file is installed on a separate partition along with the word processor dictionary. All users have READ ONLY access to this partition. The file "Spooler.Code" has a copy on each BOOT partition. Have tried various combinations of EXCLUSIVE CONTROL and HANG AND WAIT with no effect on the problem.

There is very little information in the SAGE technical manuals on the print spooler. There are two short paragraphs in the Technical Manual:

- 1) "... A system using the p-System Print Spooler will Attach to the Keyboard Event (#19) and wait on the semaphore instead of issuing a read request to the BIOS. ..."
- 2) The ATTACH/EVENT Number Chart has the following: "NOTE: Since the printer spooler uses ATT\_Key, user programs should use ATT\_Ukey [Event #61] to avoid conflicts."

*The second message was for help with an ANSI gotoxy unit to handle 132 character line mode.*

I am unable to setup the "gotoxy unit" in SYSTEM.PASCAL to handle my VT102 and VT320 terminals 132 character line.

The system utility files include a SAMPLE.GOTOXY.TEXT file from which the user is supposed to be able to create a special GoToXy.Code file. The required parameters were changed In the SAMPLE.GOTOXY.TEXT file and it was compiled and installed in SYSTEM.PASCAL. It didn't work. Then

DECODE was run on the old installed ANSI.GOTOXY.CODE and then DECODE was run on the new SAMPLE.GOTO. CODE. The installed GOTOXY.CODE produced a longer listing by about 20 lines than the new code. It appears that the sample GoToXy is a different source than the source used to produce the installed version.

Perhaps some one of you out there may know where to get hold of the source text file for the ANSI goto application or know of some other solution. Any help or suggestions for either problem will be appreciated.

### MUSUS Tips

*Howard Swift was sending messages and not finding them when he issued a READ NEW command and so was resending the message. Arley Dealey (our Primary SysOp) explains what happened:*

RE: "This may duplicate a previous message which I couldn't find..."

Your earlier message is on the board. Your problem may have been caused by your forum options. There is an option to skip (not display) messages which you have left. If this is set it can make your messages seem to "disappear"!

### From the Editor

by William D. Smith

We have now reached the end of the year. USUS as an organization is still alive thanks to the help and time of a few people. With the help of more, next year will be better. At this time we proven that a NewsLetter can be published in a timely manner. The content is not up to what I would like. With your help we can change that. I want to see the NewsLetter be double the size of this one with the extra pages being about technical topics. I can't do this all by myself. I need your help with articles and code. If you have a short program, article or review of a product you like, write it up and send it to me. With your help, we can make this NewsLetter somethig to look forward to.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
See you all next year!**

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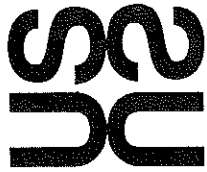
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# NewsLetter

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William D. Smith, Editor  
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## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year's to All

**Next NewsLetter coming January**  
February 89 NewsLetter articles due by January 13th, 1989

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED