# Special Interest Programs

### Programmers
12 noon   Karcher
Dr. Neil Bennett

Chairman Neil Bennett was back and led the group in another of our 'famous' round table discussions. As is usually the case, a wide number of topics were discussed during the hour. One member had discovered that IBM's Professional Debug package will NOT work if the Enhanced Graphics Adapter is the ONLY display. He installed the monochrome as a second display and everything seems to be working OK. This led to further discussion of the EGA and its problems and programs.

The new Microsoft C compiler, Version 3.0, was discussed. This new version is by Microsoft itself and is not a repackaging of the Lattice compiler. One member reported having trouble with Lattice C when an 80287 chip is installed. Seems that early information on how to test for the presence of the '287 chip was incorrect.

We had a further round of discussion on the capability of diskettes written on an HC drive with the standard 360Kb drives. Several members report good luck in reading HC produced files whenever the diskette had been FORMATTED on the 360Kb drive.

Other matters touched on included, the INTEL Object Format, the PC II, the floppy based XT's, TopView, and a 4 megabyte RAM disk. This month's meeting promises to be just as interesting and informative as the last. Join us for hot rumors and technical tips!   *Carrington*

### Beginners
9:00 am   Room 336
John Hall

### BASIC
9:00 am   Room 342
John Keohane

### Turbo Pascal
12 noon   Room 343
Chris Wilde

### Science/Engr
12 noon   Room 342
(open)

### Business
12 noon   Room 336
Burke/Fries

This month's meeting will be an open format, with no particular presentation scheduled. We will discuss various business topics, especially the use of Ashton Tate's new integrated software package, Framework. We will also discuss topics for future meetings. *-Ricky*

### Assembly
9:00 am   Room 337
John Wolley

EXPERIENCE LEVEL of great majority of those who showed up at the last meeting (including John W.) was definitely beginner. INTERESTS of the group varied greatly, in terms of specific applications; common thread was a desire to use assembly language whenever it provided the best, or fastest (or only) way to do something; people generally want to write small utilities to be linked into main programs written in higher level languages. PROBLEM FOCUS (studying complete solutions to sample problems, vs. studying different features of assembly language in a sequence) was agreed upon as the way we'll approach it; we'll start out with simple problems and get more complex as we learn; before tackling the first problems, we'll review some fundamentals (hex & binary numbers, addressing, using Debug, etc.). A SECOND MEETING each month midway between the regular NTPCUG meetings, was proposed; desire was to get in more time than one hr. per month without meeting too many hours in one day; UTD seems the most convenient location; specifics will be available next time. BOOK LIST covering books available on assembly language, complete with comments from those who have used them is being prepared by Dave Schlack. NEXT MEETING we'll start with fundamentals; getting familiar with Debug chapter in your DOS manual would be helpful. *John*

### C Language
9:00 am   Room 343
Sid Nolte

*(For a complete listing of room assignments and meeting times, see page 4. Ed.)*

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# President's Corner

John McGinty has an assembler written in BASIC. The program creates an executable file which is the assembler, and which may be saved. The assembler is for the 80C85. The listing is about 6 1/2 pages. For a copy, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to him at 2009 Walnut, Grand Prairie, TX 75050.

## New SIG's

There will be two new SIG's starting with the May meeting. A Turbo Pascal SIG will be led by Chris Wilde. Chris may be reached at (214) 980-4943 for more information. Sid Nolte will lead a SIG for the C language. Sid may be reached at (214) 233-6178. For meeting place and time, see the schedule elsewhere in this newsletter.

## Help

The User Group is still looking for a SIG coordinator. This position involves scheduling SIG's, finding/ replacing SIG leaders, and any special SIG needs. Anyone interested should contact me.

We also need someone to manage the Set-Up Team. This person will be responsible for preparing any equipment needed at the main meeting: lighting, electrical, audio-visual-computer aids, etc.

## Infomart

There is exciting news from the Dallas Computer Council! Those of you at the last meeting may remember I mentioned the formation of the Council. The purposes of the Council are still being determined, but some of them are joint meeting places, information exchange, vendors and special projects (such as a community Toys for Tots program).

The Council consists of two members from each user group in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Member groups so far: us, Apple, Atari, Commodore, DALTRUG and Epson. The Acting Chairman is John McGinty of DALTRUG. Council member groups are hardware-oriented, but software user groups won't be left out.

The exciting news is that Council member groups may be meeting at Infomart soon. Negotiations are under way now, and include vendors, the bookstore and the cafeteria. Also, Infomart tenants may open for the day. The tentative meeting schedule is the second Saturday of each month from 9 AM until 3 PM. Infomart passes will be available to all members of each Council user group. You will be kept posted on new developments as they occur. There will be discussion on the Council, its activities and Infomart at the May meeting.

Stuart

# PC Compatibles

Byte Magazine needs to benchmark various PC compatibles. Access to Multi-Mate is required. The machines to be tested are: Corona, STM-PC, Sharp PC-5000, Pronto Solution, Intertec portable, MAD Computer, Televideo Color PC, and Visual Commuter.

Anyone interested in a free one-year subscription to Byte (and with access to Multi-Mate and one of the above machines) should call John Edwards at Byte (603) 924-9281.

# SOFTWARE REPORT

A BEGINNER'S LOOK AT TOPVIEW          (continued)

Professional Editor
Script/PC
Sort
VisiCalc 1.2
Word Proof

Other programs are installed by selecting the OTHER category and providing information such as window size and location, memory requirements, etc. The distribution package includes a phone number to call to order a free copy of a booklet that provides information on running other programs under TopView.

For the initial version of what must be a very complex program, TopView works surprisingly well. The SCISSORS option that lets you cut or copy text from one program to another worked perfectly for me for transferring a screen of spreadsheet data from VISICAL to PERSONAL EDITOR. It was also used to transfer the above programs list from the ADD PROGRAM selection chart into the PC WRITE word processor being used to write this column. PC WRITE is running under a copy of COMMAND.COM loaded as a task under TopView. Once COMMAND is activated and the appropriate DOS prompt appears, the system acts very conventional.

For a concurrent processing test, a home-brew bubble sort program (compiled BASIC) was set up to sort the integers from 400 to 1 into ascending order. The data file was loaded in RAMDISK to minimize the influence of I/O bound processes. Running by itself, this program takes about 70 seconds. Then two copies were started running simultaneously. As expected, the sort time for each was slightly more than twice as long. While the sorts were proceeding, however, we could set alarms on the alarm clock, display file contents, sort directories, etc. with little more than a perceptible delay on a standard PC. The time sharing algorithm appears to do a good job of providing time slices to the foreground task so the user can proceed with reasonable speed on the immediate object of his attention.

Windows are another matter. Many programs demand the entire screen, so displaying multiple windows simultaneously is really seldom possible. This will improve as more TopView-compatible programs become available, and for well-behaved programs the windows can be sized, zoomed, moved, and hidden as desired.

One of my main interests in concurrent processing is to be able to start a communications session, request the downloading of a large file, and then shove the comm program in the background to finish receiving the file while I use the machine for doing something else. This worked in the keyboard-driven mode, but with the mouse attached to its normal COM1 port, the communications program reported that the COM2 port to which the modem is attached is not available. I suspect that the mouse driver indiscriminately takes over all COMM ports, and have dutifully reported this as a question to the dealer. Another bug lays in waiting for the mouseless set: the cursor scrolling keys do not work in PERSONAL EDITOR when TopView is used in the keyboard-driven mode. Apparently this is because TopView keeps stealing certain keyboard hits even though control should have been turned over to the executing application program.

All-in-all, TopView is an excellent way to really get an impression of a possible direction that future operating system interfaces could take. You can read about such programs all day long, but the real significance of such a program becomes obvious only when you make it do something your way for you. Version 1.0 isn't perfect, but today's TopView is quite adequate for qualitatively assessing the potential of doing useful multitasking on a PC. For some users, it can be a significant time saver and productivity tool. For those who demand significant concurrent processing power, TopView on a PC or XT will show you first hand why TopView is going to sell a lot of AT and AT clone machines.

## TRANSTOK <tm>

This user-supported program calls itself "a software tool for investors using the IBM Personal Computer and The Source Unistox/StockCheck electronic data bases". But TRANSTOK is more than a tool - it is an entire system that forms an automated bridge between stock quotes available on THE SOURCE information service and the entire field of stock market analysis tools that require data input in any of 3 standard formats.

While the program is relatively new, the quality of the 43-page documentation file makes it obvious that this program has the potential to be the heavyweight of its class. TRANSTOK does the whole job.

The initial problem in automating stocks analysis is selecting, setting up, and manipulating lists of stocks of interest. For this, TRANSTOK provides the so-called stub list for each of the major stock markets, and its included editor program can be used to easily select specific stocks or a sublist from the main lists. An ►

# Of Lotus
## and Symphony
(...or what of those multi-function packages?)
by John Keohane

Four years ago, I was program director of Dallas DPMA, and the first program director to have budget for bringing in speakers from other cities. My first outside speaker was a professor of computer science who flew in from St. Louis to speak on "Becoming a DP Entrepreneur", and who himself was making many times his salary in his entrepreneurial sideline, giving software away free, but providing support only to those who paid him for monthly maintenance. His own work was on a TRS-80. One of his first statements to us would-be entrepreneurs about our customers, referencing the hardware, was "Don't let them underconfigure".

I think of his statement now in relation to Lotus and Symphony. Lotus 1-2-3 is a fantastic spreadsheet. It is great fun to use the slash key and see all sorts of functions. One can even develop single keystroke macros. In fact, macros can be names by only one letter. A number of companies in Dallas have decided to settle on Lotus, and not to migrate to Symphony. These include companies in manufacturing, in oil and gas, and in insurance which made this decision. Perhaps they've made a mistake, in underconfiguring on the software.

It is easy to make Lotus word files, into Symphony work files. I did that in April, with a simple DOS copy of DPMA.WKS (under Lotus) to DPMA.WRK for Symphony. Work with the Lotus spreadsheet was described last month. With Symphony, I did everything I had done under Lotus, plus used the word processing function of Symphony for footnotes to my financial statements. When I do macros for this work, it will be under Symphony, which has a different and more complete macro language than Lotus. One reason for migrating to Symphony, sooner rather than later, is that although work files from Lotus easily copy over, macros do not. It might be good to get to Symphony right away, so that if/when users do develop macros, they can use them for full five functions.

Still, Symphony has it's limitations, including the limit on size of files to the 640K currently addressable by DOS. Here's where one might want to consider the advantage of paging out to hard disk, as necessary, so it's limit can be 20 megabytes or more, Alternatively, Lotus announced in April that it and Intel have developed an expansion board with which new versions of Symphony will be able to access millions of bytes. Still another choice is to network PCs, and as Lotus and Symphony are both single user software, other software may be more the choice for networks.

John

# Room Assignments
## SMU Campus
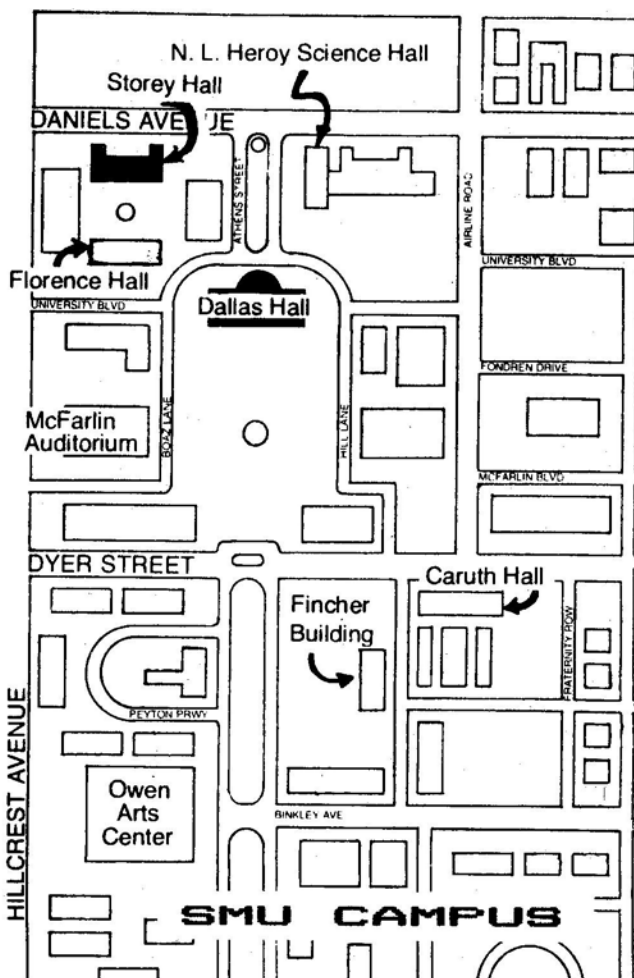
Main Meeting: Karcher Auditorium
(West side, Storey Hall)
10:00 - 12 noon

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SIGs (Breakout Rooms): Dallas Hall, Third Floor

| 9:00 AM | Room | 12 noon | Room |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beginners | 336 | Business Applic. | 336 |
| Assembly | 337 | Advanced Prog. | Karcher |
| BASIC Applic. | 342 | Science/Engr. | 342 |
| C Language | 343 | Turbo Pascal | 343 |
| Spare | 350 | Spares | 350, 337 |

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Vendors: Beneath Karcher Auditorium

# DISK OF THE MONTH

<u>PD0041</u>                    (continued)

| FILE NAME | SIZE | DESCRIPTION |
|-----------|------|-------------|
| DISKLABL.WRK | 18944 | prints out list of disk contents |
| INPUT .APP | 5120 | range input 1-2-3 add-in |
| LABELS .WRK | 10752 | name and address labels for printer |
| MCA .APP | 53248 | macro conversion 1-2-3 add-in |
| MCARI .WRK | 44800 | documentation for mca.app |
| PHNBRS .WRK | 5504 | database using find functions |
| PHONE .WRK | 1413 | phone dialer sample |
| SYSERR .APP | 2048 | dos error retry disable |
| UN1 .CCF | 1536 | unattended operation ccf file |

<u>EX0016</u>

The IBM EXCHANGE diskette #16, dated April, 1985 has not been received at press time. It should be ready at the meeting, check for it there.

## DISCLAIMER

We copy these programs as a service to the club and the members of the club. We try to test all programs, but we DO NOT WARRANT THE PROGRAMS IN ANY WAY. YOU MUST DECIDE IF A PROGRAM IS SUITABLE FOR YOUR SYSTEM. If you ask, we will tell you what we know about any program, but the final decision to buy and/or use these programs is yours. We will gladly and without question exchange an unreadable diskette for one of the same program.

## EXCHANGE

All members of the club are encouraged to contribute copies of public domain programs to the club library. For each new diskette of software contributed, you may select any diskette in the club library in exchange. The contributions will be reviewed before credit is issued at the next meeting.

## MAIL ORDERS

As long as the members use it, I will fill mail orders on the following basis. All orders must have payment enclosed and addressed to: Doug Windham, DOM Chairman, PO Box 475205, Garland, Tx, 75047. Postage and handling must be enclosed per the following: $ .50 per diskette ordered with a $2.00 MINIMUM charge, and $1.00 postage for each catalog.

## DISK DETAILS

Price: $6.00 (except 2-diskette packs $8)

Catalog Diskette (has README file from each diskette in club library): $3.00 or return catalog diskette with $

Available at the meeting, before and after the general meetings. Media: DSDD 5 1/4" diskettes formatted without DOS (320k). Public domain software only, standard full disclaimers. Call disk of the month chairman Doug Windham at 278-5321 any time (have answering machine) to contribute new programs for future Disk of the Month issues. All back issues are be available at the meeting and by mail order (see note above).

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# BASIC Development System (BDS)

This co-resident to the BASIC/BASICA editing functions by BetaTool Systems has been reviewed and highly recommended by PC World, Infoworld, PC Magazine (twice), Softalk, Personal Computer Age and this publication (Feb 85). Some of the easy-to-use features are: single key commands, scrolling keys, single step trace, variable cross-ref, "super RENUM", variable dump and compress.

All reviewers stress ease of use, flexibility and value at $125 for version 3.0. However, if at least 10 interested members can be found the program can be purchased from BetaTool for only $75 each! We already have seven. Interested? For more information contact Ken Sager at (214)351-5015 or 250-7011.

# Using LOTUS 1-2-3 for Statistics
by Marion Cutler

LOTUS is ideal for basic statistical formulas like R, T, F, or Chi Square. By assigning range names to the columns and using top rows to keep running totals, averages, or counts, it takes only a minute to run one. For example, for a quick paired t-test, insert two rows above the range names you want to compare statistically (say columns A & B), and insert two columns for x-x (say columns C & D) and two for x-x2 (say E & F). Input "@AVG (RANGENAME) at A1 and B1, and @COUNT (RANGENAME) at A2 and B2. Skip over to the x-x2 columns (E1 & F1) and input @SUM (RANGE OR RANGENAME). Input (A$1-A3) in C3, (B$1-B3) in D3 and copy this command as needed. Input (C3^2) in E3 (copy) and (D3^2) in F3 (copy). In G1 you can write the t-formula:

$$(A1-B1)/(@SQRT(E1+F1)/(A2+B2-2)).$$

Have fun!                        Marion

s w a p       PC       s h o p

Four lines free each month to members, otherwise cost is 15 cents per word. Mail ads to the Editor.

BUSINESS ANALYSIS, SYSTEM DESIGN, PROGRAMMING: John Keohane; MBA, University of Chicago; expert in IBM mainframes and PCs; Business Analysis, Systems Design, Programming. (214)690-8092

FOR SALE: IBM Basic Compiler (manual/disk) - $125. New 8087 math co-processor with 'matching' 8088 (easy to install) - $125. New,never used, Orchid Technologies LAN starter kit including two boards, cable, and version 2.49 software - $600. Call Ron Hayes at 696-4931 8-5, or 553-0686 5-10 pm.

IBM PC XT w/512K Memory and 3-COM Network Board. $3000. Call Chadd. 739-4492

FOR SALE: Hitachi Color Monitor, Color Graphics Board, Cable. Reasonable offer.
                    Frank Wolk 234-3600 days

*** DISK DRIVES ***

Half Height DSDD. New. $67 each. (214)596-8860

IBM Junior add-on disk drives with enabling soft- ware $379.   COMPUTER RESET, (214)276-8072 (voice)
*** [(214)272-7920 BBS/Data after May 15.] ***

Present scheduling indicates that the June meeting will be on the third Saturday - June 15th. 22

Infomart

Copy deadline for
JUNE PC NEWS
is June 7!

9          11-12      1-3 main mtg.

# Presentation Graphics

by Ricky Burke

North Texas Presentation Graphics Users Group

The first meeting of the North Texas Presentation Graphics Users Group will meet at Crystal's Pizza and Spaghetti Restaurant (on Inwood, just south of LBJ) at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, May 22nd. Anyone planning to attend is encouraged to arrive between 6:00 and 6:30 to eat dinner with the group in Crystal's meeting room.

The May meeting will be primarily a "kick-off" session, with no specific topic or presentation. In addition to general introductions, the goals of the group will be discussed. The group will also discuss general techniques for producing good business graphics presentations; especially those currently being used or considered by those attending the meeting. The main focus will be on the creation of business graphics, and the equipment available to display these graphics (such as hardcopies from plotters, printers, or photographic image recorders; or video "slide shows" presented on the computer monitor).

Although the group will be primarily for users creating business graphics on microcomputers, other topics may also be covered. These topics might include techniques used on mini or main-frame computers to create business graphics, or techniques used to create interactive games or educational graphics.

For further information, contact Ricky Burke at (214) 276-5003.