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1984

## The Micro Network

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Barb Florini

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QUESTIONS OF MICRO NETWORK MEMBERS OF POD

Ron Boyer

1. Have you got a piece(s) of software that you are willing to bring to the POD Conference to be part of the micro resource center? If so, list below a short description of the software and the hardware requirements for running it.

*Test ~~Survey~~ analysis program.  
See attached detailed description.*

2. Have you got any computer equipment that you are willing to bring to the POD CONFERENCE to be part of the micro resource center? Please describe below.

*No*

3. Would you be willing to spend two hours at the conference being a helpful person in the micro resource center? Beyond the needed skills of monitor/coordinator, do you have other special skills that we should know about, keep quiet, or be prepared to advertise?

*? No really able to assist others. Software developed by my staff.*

4. We are trying to list for the resource center relevant bibliography, stack of articles, lists of journals or trade publications, lists of people who have an interest in micro applications to higher education, lists of newsletter, etc., etc., and so forth. Would you be willing to write a short annotation for any biblio, journal, or book item you send us for the master list for the resource center?

5. Do you have any VHS format video tapes on micros or their use you would be willing to place in the micro resource center? Do you know of others available elsewhere? Would you be willing to make a brief 15-30 minute demo video tape, brief and clear but not necessarily a master production, which introduces a piece of software so that a participant might then go off and try the software? Here we have in mind a piece of software that takes more than reading the menu to make it go. (This item dependent on equipment availability.)

*No*

6. Do you have a contact at IBM or APPLE, or software vendors whom we or you might contact to get them to loan us their equipment, or come and demonstrate their stuff at the conference? Your commitment to make a contact or ?.

*No*

7. Other?

Please return to:

Barbara Florini  
Center for Instructional Development  
Syracuse University  
115 College Place  
Syracuse, New York 13210

# MICRO

**computer  
NETWORK  
newsletter**

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**a publication of POD  
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WELCOME to the micro computer track of the 9th Annual POD Conference. The idea for a conference track and networking among members originated at last year's conference. Several of us observed that each of us had different knowledge about micros. Further, we assumed that if we could find a process for sharing our knowledge, we could collectively know a great deal more. The micro computer, as a small free standing unit, seems ideally suited to a decentralized learner centered model for teaching and learning. Thus, the micro track is designed around a user centered concept. Beyond an opening session to introduce the track and a closing session to explore continued networking among members, conference participants are invited to visit the micro computer resource room on Friday and Saturday at their convenience to explore applications of micros to higher education, and to dialogue among members. Whenever sufficient interest exists, a special interest group (SIG'S) can be created to explore particular topics. The option of a continuing round table at breakfast and lunch exists.

COMPUTERS IN EDUCATION are not new. For over twenty years, individuals have been exploring computer assisted instruction (CAI), computer based instruction (CBI), computer assisted learning (CAL) (all of these used somewhat interchangeably), and artificial intelligence (AI). Until recently, most of this work has been done on large mainframe and intermediate size mini computers. The micro has brought costs down within the reach of a much larger audience thus expanding potential applications many fold. Opportunities for use and abuse have greatly increased. If there is potential for Artificial Intelligence, then there must be potential for "Artificial Stupidity."

#### AVAILABLE IN THE RESOURCE ROOM

**FOR BEGINNERS:** "Computer Smorgasbord," a humorous ten-minute slide/tape introduction to computers is available for you to view at your convenience. You'll come away knowing some common computer related vocabulary and having an idea as to some uses of computers.

**SOFTWARE:** Everyone can try ELIZA, a Carl Rogers type of counselor; Executive Suite, an interactive program to progress up(it depends on you-down and out is an option) the corporate ladder; and Flight Simulator, an interactive simulation to learn about flying a small aircraft.

Demo disks for Lotus 1-2-3, a financial spread sheet; Nut Shell, a file and data base manager; and a typing tutor will be available. These are examples of drill and practice type tutorials and can be tried by anyone at any level of skill. You may get bored with them pretty fast. If so, think about the students. Additional software will be available for those with varying amounts of prior experience.

**ELECTRONIC MAIL:** A growing number of colleges and universities are joining BITNET, an electronic mail system available through institutional computers. If you're tired of the "Can I leave a message asking her to return my call?" hassle when trying to reach PODers across the nation, come and help us investigate setting up a PODNET through BITNET. We'll have some information on hand. And/or, let's also consider use of electronic bulletin boards, whether they are independently operated or available through one of the large information data base services.

**INTERACTIVE VIDEO:** Anyone else working on computer/video instructional delivery systems? Are you thinking about doing something in this area? Just curious about it all? Look for a sign-up sheet in the computer room. We can chat one on one or get together around a meal if there is enough interest.

**VIDEO TAPES:** A couple of videotapes (homemade for the conference) demonstrating several types of software applications can be reviewed in whole or part to identify areas for you further exploration at the conference or later.

**REFERENCE MATERIALS:** Bibliography, journals, and articles will be available for your review.

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIG'S):** You will have the opportunity to create your own interest group. Start a sign-up sheet and recruit others to explore your mutual interests.

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THANKS to Jan and Steve for their help in arranging equipment and facilities. Preparing from a distance is not easy especially when it can at times involve a foreign tongue. Thanks also to all the others who agreed to bring software or equipment, and agreed to be available as consultants in the resource room.

**FUTURE NEWSLETTERS** We anticipate future copies of this newsletter on an irregular basis as the spirit moves us. The purposes of the newsletter include sharing ideas and sources of information regarding the application of micros to higher education. Your submissions are invited attention: Ronald K. Boyer, Psychology Department, ML 376, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio 45221 or Barbara Florini, Center for Instructional Development, Syracuse University, 115 College Place, Syracuse, New York 13210.

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**NETWORKING:** If you wish to be included in a networking process after the conference, please sign up at the micro computer resource room during the conference and/or attend the final session of the track.