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ABSTRACT
        Some on-going operational details of the Computer
Aids to Teaching Project are cited, followed by a description of how
individuals at separate locations can hold computerized conferences
by utilizing remote terminals and a time-sharing computer as
communications devices. Descriptions of two courses offered at
Northwestern University, one treating the impact of the computer upon
society and the other dealing with computers and teaching, are next
provided. Lastly, information is offered about a conference on
computer based learning/living and information exchanges, held in
November 1973 and intended for users who wish to employ the computer
to store and retrieve information about learning resources. (PB)

Computers And Teaching
An Interactive Newsletter

8

November
1973

Northwestern University - Computer Aids to Teaching project

"NEWS"

This is a short newsletter, issued primarily to keep you posted on what's happening.

An A.D.D.S. 580 CRT terminal is being purchased for use in a classroom in the School of Education. It will be hooked to a 23-inch TV monitor and will be available for use by any class which needs an in-class terminal. There are three "classrooms" available within walking distance of the workroom.

Bernie Dobrowski is currently keeping the workroom open on Saturdays. If you don't have anything to do, stop by and do your work then; the computer runs much more smoothly on Saturday.

PLATO will now make microfiche for us. 256 35mm slides can be placed on a single fiche, but it is suggested that for test purposes one should use about fifty. Slides may be on regular film such as Kodachrome or Ektachrome, but must be very clear - underexposed or overexposed slides will not work. A square format is used, so a 24mm middle section of each slide will be the only portion used. (See diagrams) And, because allignment is still a problem, whenever a slide contains important print areas, some extra space should be left around the edges.

Northwestern will have a microfiche made within the next two months - you may submit slides for any lesson you are planning. Cost per finished fiche
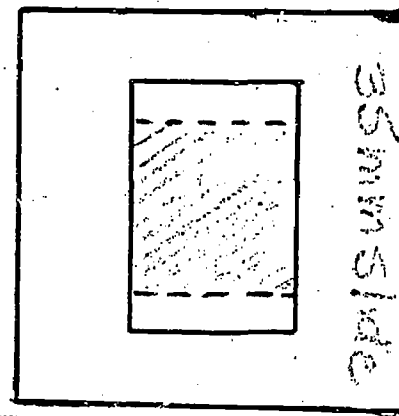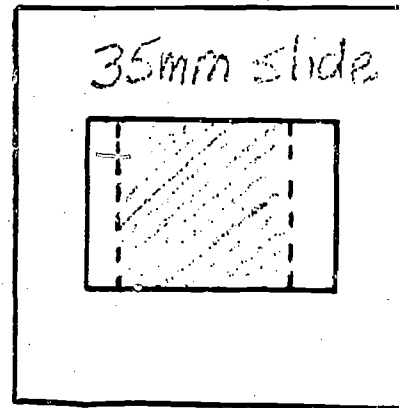
PLATO microfiche can capture the following areas of 35mm slides...

35mm slide

ERIC services are being increasingly demanded. To this time the SDC/ERIC system has been free of charge - at the moment, however, we cannot continue supporting free use, and will have to begin charging the full $32 per hour (unless you can get your department or other source to support your ERIC use). We would like to see what effect this has on users!
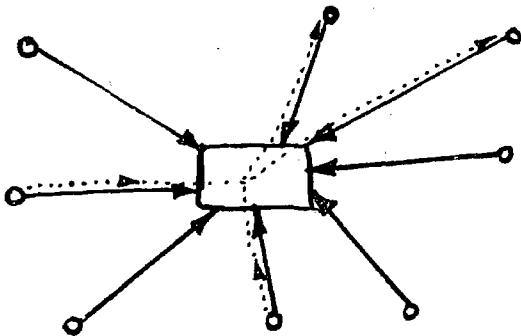
COMPUTERIZED CONFERENCE

A computerized conference is a network of people using remote terminals and a time-sharing computer as a communications device.

Interacting through a computer is very different from face-to-face interaction (as you may have guessed). Instead of "reading" the other person's face, you have only his (printed) words to read. You must compose your thoughts carefully and type on your terminal. When you have typed, the computer records your comment. If other discussion members are currently on-line, your comment is printed on their terminals.

People may enter and leave the computer conference at any time. Their comments are preserved for others to see.

There are obvious limitations on compu- terized conferences -- slow typing can be an insurmountable barrier. Some may find it difficult to express their idea in writing. Many will miss the direct personal confrontation of a physical conference. But, many people feel that the advantages are worth it -- the con- ference may continue for many days, with people participating only when they have time. The computer produces a written record, which may be distributed. It forces each person to think-out ideas and express them clearly. And when used in systems such as PLATO, where terminals are on-line 24 hours a day, it allows an extra use of the phone line for direct communications between people (there is some question about whether this is strictly legal).

The *ORACLE computerized-conferencing program will be in use during the confer- ence on learning/living exchanges at Northwestern on November 26, 1973. It will be used to present and discuss some ideas about learning exchanges, and about computerized conferencing as a communica- tions medium.

On NOVEMBER 19th an oracle-group will be opened, with some initial ideas about learning/living exchanges. We invite everyone who can afford the phone charge to participate at some time during that week (computer closes Nov. 22 only). On November 26, when the actual conference is under way, the computerized conference will be running "live" all day. Following the conference, the *ORACLE will accept com- ments and feedback for as long as they keep coming in!

ORACLE

Get a 30 character-per-second terminal, and put it by your phone. Turn on! Now, call 312 492 7110 (Evanston, Illinois). If busy, try later. When connected, press RETURN. (You'll get a nasty message - ignore it!) Then type UF2660-6766- and your initials (example, my initials are XX, so I type "UF2660-6766-XX"). Press RETURN. At end of sign-on, when asked for CONTROL CARDS, type "%$CAI" and RETURN. Give name and terminal type when asked. *ORACLE is "automatically" called for you!

Enjoy, enjoy!

Computer hours: Vogelback Computing Center, Northwestern University
10 a.m. to 2 a.m. (next day) Monday-Friday (except Nov. 22) and
10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday. 30cps line=312 492 7110 / 10 cps=7081.

C99 GROUP INDEPENDENT STUDY - COMPUTER IMPACTS ON SOCIETY

This course is a response to various groups of undergraduates who have expressed an interest in a computer "course" to deal with impacts of the computer without all of the technical content of computer-science. This "course" is offered through a number of departments, by individual faculty members in those departments. Students must sign up for an independent study with a sponsor, and attend common seminar sessions. Each student will be required to complete a term-report (a paper, video-tape, slide-show, etc.) demonstrating an accurate understanding of how computers are penetrating a specific field of endeavor. Faculty advisors will help.

Though this is not a programming course, students will learn the BASIC language, so that they will understand the limitations and difficulties inherent in the act of programming.

OUTLINE: week 1 / intro to computer capabilities, cybernetics. week 2 / BASIC programming, interactive terminals. week 3/ more BASIC: How to make the computer perform wierd and wo.derful tricks. week 4 thru end of quarter/ Single talks by experts on: artificial intelligence/ information retrieval, data banks, privacy/ learning exchanges/computers in health-care systems/the PLATO system, Computer-aided-instruction/social science research/ political science, simulations/population and "limits to growth"/computer chess and game playing.

Lots of computer time provided.

YOU MUST CONTACT ONE OF THESE SPONSORS TO ENROLL: phone
Jim Schuyler (Education, Willard Col.) 5367
Dick Walz (Col. Community Studies) 5367
Ben Mittman (Computer Science) 3682
Gus Rath (Industrial Engineering) 3668

E70 SEMINAR IN COLLEGE TEACHING - COMPUTERS AND TEACHING

E70 is offered again and again as an introduction to many of the uses of computers in education. It offers an in-depth study of the PLATO-IV system, the use of Northwestern's HYPERTUTOR system, simulations in the BASIC language, etc., and each student is required to produce a "teaching program" during the course of the quarter.
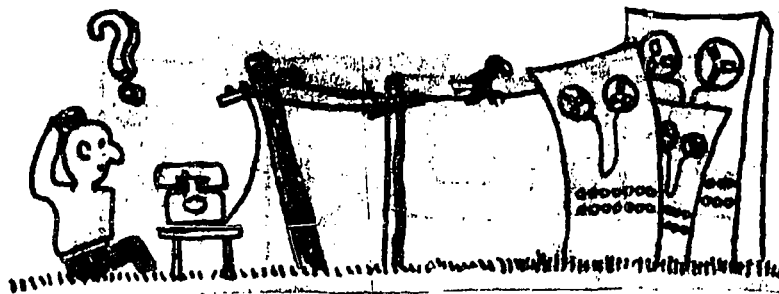
Students register for this particular section of E70 by writing "C.A.T." on their card at registration, and must notify the instruction (Jim Schuyler, 492-5367) of their intent to register.

Students may register more than once for E70 to complete large projects.

Winter quarter, 1973 E70 content:

I. Complete introduction to programming in the TUTOR-IV language (it's easy!) Those who already know TUTOR will be offered the opportunity to learn BASIC!
II. Setting objectives / flowcharting and planning a lesson. In-class practice.
III. Presentation by students of their plans for computer-aided lessons.
IV. Selected topics (simulation, information retrieval, artificial intelligence, computer-conferences, etc.).
V. Presentations by students of results of tests of their lessons.

This section of E70 will only be offered winter and spring (1973) and will probably disappear forever after that. Sign up now! Call Jim Schuyler - 492 5367.

WHAT: This conference is a get-together
to discuss needs and desires for people
who want to use the computer to store
and retrieve information about learning-
resources, beginning with Ivan Illich's
learning-web model.

WHEN: November 26, 1973
   -- 9 a.m. (room 1-303) The Learning-
      System (Ken Silber). What we're
      talking about.
   --10 a.m. The Evanston Learning Ex-
      change. What we know about phy-
      sical construction of exchanges.
      What computers can do (and can't)
   --11 a.m. Existing and planned sys-
      tems, including Marian Park. How
      can a Chicago-area system be
      built?
   --noon   Lunch. Bring brown-bag or
      visit local joints.
   -- 1 p.m. Round-table discussions and
      planning of strategy for local
      systems. Sharing of experience
      from out-of-town oragnizers of
      such systems.
   --6:30 p.m. Recapitulation for those
      who could not make daytime session
      and for E70 participants. All are
      welcome.

PARTICIPATION: The number of participants
is limited to about 50, because of facili-
ties available. Call 492-5367 for info.
Registrants are asked to buy and read Ivan
Illich's DESCHOOLING SOCIETY before the
conference, and will receive a packet of
background materials in the mail if they
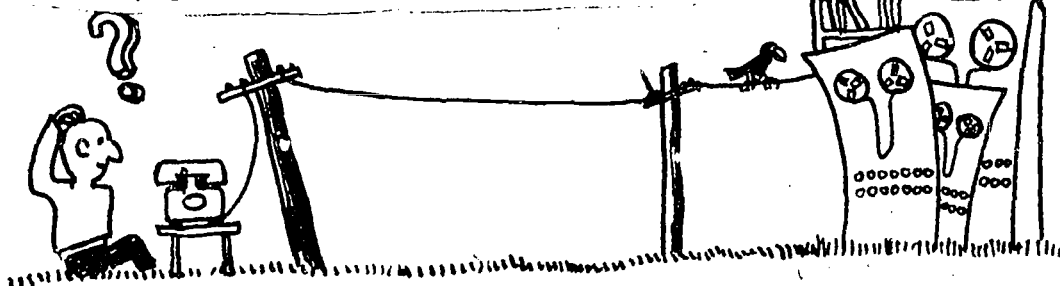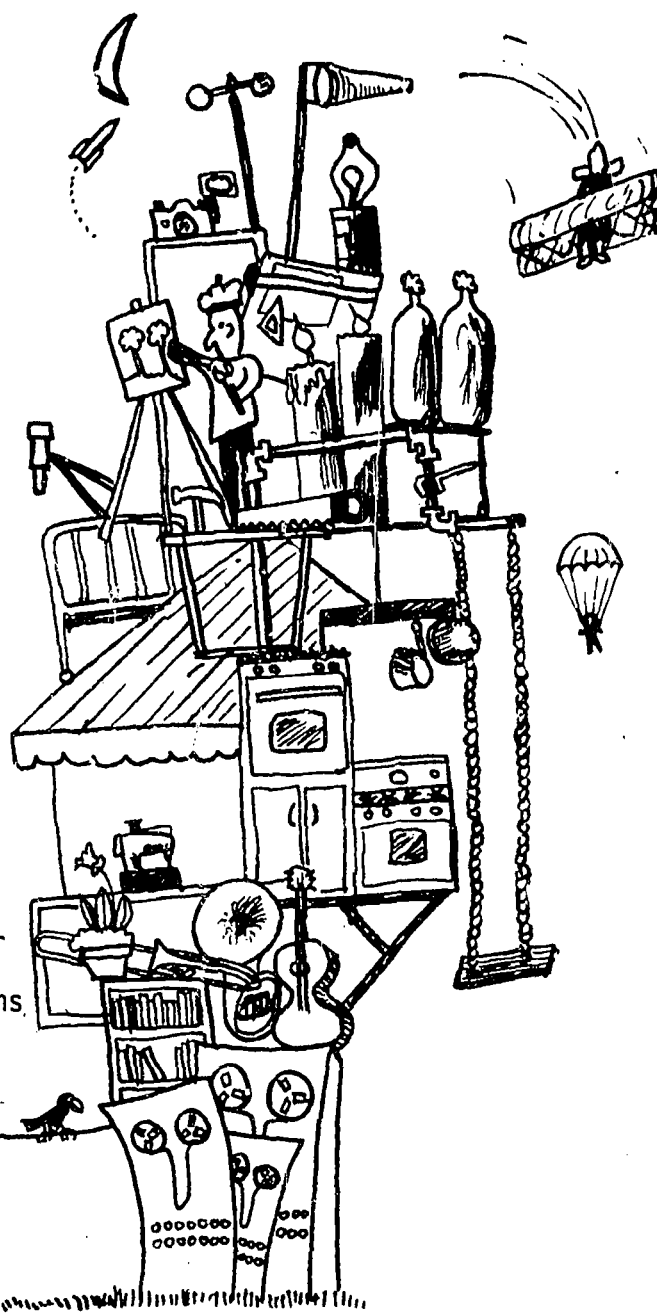call us immediately. NO CHARGE!

EXTENDED PARTICIPATION: Anyone who can af-
ford the telephone charge may participate
in the computerized-conference; instructions
are on page 2 of newsletter #8. (Nov.,'73)

CONFERENCE

On Computer-based Learning/Living
and Information Exchanges

Northwestern University, C.A:T.
School of Education
2003 Sheridan Rd., Evanston, Il 60201

November 26, 1973

From:

To: **CAT**
2003 Sheridan Rd
Evanston Il. 60201

Write your comments here and mail it back to us...

call 312 492 5367 now!

Please register me for the ☐
Conference on Computer-based
Learning/Living and Information Exchanges

| name |
| address |
| |
| phone |

Please add me to your mailing list for

☐ ideas
(general public)

☐ ideas and
technical info
on HYPERTUTOR

- -

(Fold here and mail back to us with your comments. The address is on the back.)

FROM: Computers And Teaching
      Northwestern University
      2003 Sheridan Road
      Evanston, IL 60201

(TO:)