

Computerized Inventory at Lab is PARS for Course

Two quiet revolutions have been occurring at Fermilab and they overlap in the Business Services Section where the Purchasing, Accounting, and Receiving (PARS) computerized inventory system is evidence of the increasing computerization of Fermilab and the ever-expanding use of networked personal computers (PC) for day-to-day operations.

According to Jim Finks, Head of the Business Services Section, the concept of interactively linking PC's for inventory control, as opposed to interfacing directly through mainframes, is unique to Fermilab. As we'll see in an upcoming issue of *FermiNews*, PARS and the use of PC's has enabled staffers with little or no exposure to computers to become adept users almost instantaneously. In addition, the innovative applications of the PARS system, an effort spearheaded by Chuck Gallagher, a consultant to Business Services, has opened the door to the use of bar-code technology. Receiving now applies a bar code to all incoming materials documentation, tracks delivery, and records sensitive items by reading out those bar codes into the PARS system.

In the pre-PARS days, any Lab purchase from a vendor set in motion a lengthy, time-consuming process of manual handling from purchase-requisition processing, to final delivery and inventorying. All along the trail, written records were laboriously created and maintained.

Now, in the age of PARS, the people in Business Services Section deal with the never-ending flow of record-keeping on video screens rather than on paper. When a shipment arrives at Receiving, the package is opened and checked, shipping documentation is pulled, and a member of the Receiving staff keys up that purchase order on a PC. An acknowledgement of receipt is entered, a bar code is applied to the delivery slip, the slip is attached to the package, and delivery is made. Shortly thereafter, the requestor is sent a confirming print-out, enabling both the requestor and Business Services to double-check receipt. Overnight, all PARS input from the previous day is uploaded to Fermilab's mainframes, files are sorted, corrected, and stored, and become available to the other elements of Business Services.

In addition to recording inventory, PARS has enabled Business Services to compile a database of vendors which can be easily checked for all aspects of vendor performance.

Now that PARS is off and running, the payback is immediately evident: increased efficiency, elimination of time-intensive manual record-keeping, and improved inventory control mean real savings of the dollars needed for Fermilab's research mission.



FermiNews cannot, unfortunately, be printed in color. If it were, the picture above, a reminder of spring until the real thing arrives, would be even more spectacular than it appears here. From Wilson Hall and out along the experimental areas, the trees and grass are a rich green, Casey's Pond looks invitingly blue, and our unique power poles march in a straight, bright, white line to the horizon. If, on occasion, we forget how beautiful this Laboratory can be, a unique perspective, like one that produced the picture above, may help us remember.

John Fitch, an engineer here at Fermilab, took this picture from his ultra-light aircraft. John passed away recently, as did Anthony Glowacki of Construction Engineering Services. A remembrance of John appears inside this issue, Tony's in the next.

Ballet de Montreal Eddy Toussaint Next for Fermilab Arts Series

"A fabulous original voice in the ballet world" which "explodes with a beautiful unity and superb passion" is on its way to Fermilab. The Ballet de Montreal Eddy Toussaint, a 22-member ensemble under the artistic direction of award-winning choreographer Eddy Toussaint, will appear at the Ramsey Auditorium on March 28, 1987, at 8:00 p.m.



Mr. Toussaint founded the Ballet de Montreal in 1974 with the aim of "developing dancers with strong classical training but also capable of acting and performing in modern and jazz rhythms." He is Haitian born, classically trained in the traditions of Catherine Dunham and Alvin Ailey, and his work draws on themes as diverse as folk legends, social commentary, comedy, and religion.

The Ballet de Montreal Eddy Toussaint has toured throughout Europe, South America, the United States, and Canada to rave reviews. Its accomplishments include internationally televised performances, several official theater inaugurations, international awards, and a cultural exchange residency between the United States and Canada. Toussaint has created over 60 works for the Ballet De Montreal. Among those being performed at Fermilab will be an excerpt from "New World Symphony," a ballet to the music of Dvorak's well known symphony, being premiered on this tour.

Admission to the "Toussaint troupe stupendous" is \$10.00. Tickets and further information can be obtained by calling ext. 3353 between 10:00 a.m. and noon or 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. weekdays.

- Tammy Kikta

In Memoriam

John Craig Fitch

1952 - 1987

John Fitch, an engineer with the Research Division, passed away on February 28 at the age of 35. John was a graduate of Princeton High School and the College of Wooster where he won the Compton Prize and received a Bachelor of Science degree in physics.

John joined the Fermilab staff in December of 1982. John's supervisor, David Anderson, said of John, "Brian Kross, of our group, summed John up best when he said, 'John didn't have any interests, just passions.' In losing John, our group lost 25 per cent of its people and 50 per cent of its personality. It seems very empty in the Lab now. His curiosity, enthusiasm, and contribution to the group effort will be badly missed." In addition to his dedicated intellectual pursuits, John was a devotee of aviation in its many forms, from hang-gliding through ultra-light aircraft to small planes.

John is the son of the late Elise Cunningham Fitch and Val L. Fitch, McDonnell Professor of Physics at Princeton University. In addition to his father, John is survived by his brother, Allan, his stepmother, two step sisters, and a step brother.

The family has requested that contributions be sent to the Nature Conservancy, 1800 North Kent St., Arlington, Virginia, 22209.

In The Library

The February 15, 1987, issue of *Science and Government Report* contains the article "Hard-Sell Push is on for \$6-Billion Super Collider" by Daniel S. Greenburg.

Recent Acquisitions. . .

Tradeoffs: Imperatives of Choice in a High-Tech World by Edward Wenk.

In Search of the Big Bang by John Gribbin.

The Making of the Atomic Bomb by Richard Rhodes.

The Nemesis Affair; A Story of the Death of Dinosaurs and the Ways of Science by David M. Raup.

Helium Cryogenics by Steven Van Sciver.

The Mechanical Universe; Introduction to Mechanics and Heat by Richard P. Olenick

Benefits Notes

New TIAA Dividend Rates

On February 19, 1987, TIAA declared the following interest rates on TIAA Retirement Annuities and Supplemental Retirement Annuities effective March 1, 1987, through February 29, 1988:

- 8.50% on accumulations resulting from premiums paid and additional amounts credited on or after January 1, 1987. ("Additional amounts" are amounts in excess of the contractual rate stated in the rate schedule of the contract.);
- 9.00% on accumulations resulting from premiums paid and additional amounts credited during 1986;
- 11.00% on accumulations resulting from premiums paid and additional amounts credited during 1985;
- 11.50% on accumulations resulting from premiums paid and additional amounts credited from January 1, 1982, through December 31, 1984
- 10.25% on accumulations resulting from premiums paid and additional amounts credited from January 1, 1979, through December 31, 1981;
- 9.50% on accumulations resulting from premiums paid and additional amounts credited prior to January 1, 1979;

TIAA dividends are declared for a year at a time and are credited to annuity accumulations as additional compound interest over the contractually guaranteed interest rate.

The new TIAA rates reflect a reduction in the rate of return on certain accumulations as compared to the 12-month period March 1, 1986, through February 28, 1987. The TIAA rates (1/1/86 - 2/28/87) for the pre-1987 accumulation were 10%, 11%, 11.75%, 10.50%, and 9.50% respectively.

New CREF Valuation

You received information from CREF advising you that the CREF Accumulation Unit will be re-determined as of January 1, 1987. A table showing

the new valuations as of July 1952 through January 1987 is available from the Benefits Office. You can obtain a copy by calling extensions 3395 or 4361.

CPR Classes Offered at Lab

Fermilab is once again offering the American Red Cross Certified Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Class. The class is designed to teach and provide practice in the life-saving skill of CPR. You may be able to save someone's life, as one Accelerator Division employee did in December 1986. The Fermilab employee was at a church celebration where an 18-year-old began experiencing breathing difficulties. Our employee responded to the situation by applying his Fermilab-taught CPR skills and saved the girl's life.

The class is taught by Ray Ziegner and Neil Delacero of the Fermilab Fire Department, who have experience working as members of an Ambulance Response Team. The 8-hour CPR class is intended for those employees with no previous CPR training or those whose CPR certification has expired. A 4-hour CPR refresher class is for employees who wish to renew their 1-year certification before it expires.

For enrollment in CPR classes, ask your supervisor to contact the Senior Safety Officer for your Division/Section or contact Gary Andrews on ext. 3036.

- Gary Andrews

SAFETY ALERT

Defective Pass and Seymour 5362 brown and 5362-1 ivory 20-amp, 125-volt, duplex receptacles (stock items 1110-2000 and 1110-2010) have been discovered. Please examine your stock or recently installed receptacles and assure that the outlet tests properly. A testor can be picked up at the Stockroom. Questions can be directed to either Gary Andrews (ext. 3036) or T.J. Sarlina (ext. 3299). Replacements can be obtained at the Stockroom.

Bolts of lightning that strike the United States every day: **250,000** - from *Harper's Index*

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FermiNews - Cla\$\$ified Ad\$

FOR SALE:

Vehicular Transportation

AUTOMOBILES

1986 TOYOTA COROLLA SR-5. Must sell, mint condition, 2-dr. blue/gray, 12,000 mi., \$8,150. Call John Softcheck, ext. 3572 or (815) 723-0556.

1986 CHEVROLET CAVALIER RS. 2-dr. coupe, 2.0 litre engine, 5-spd., sun roof, AM/FM stereo, power door locks, tilt wheel, rear window defroster. Call Bob Shovan, P-407 or 896-4752 evenings.

1978 MERCURY ZEPHYR. 2-dr., 4-cy., 4-spd., 82,000 mi., new tires, body in very good condition, must sell, \$650/offer. Call Bob, ext. 4040.

1969 VOLVO STATIONWAGON. New Michelin radial tires, new battery, exhaust leaks oil, \$325. Call A.T. Visser, ext. 3273 or 232-4023.

Rolling Stock

Class III trailer hitch, electric brake unit and wiring harness to fit full size Chevrolet, Buick, Pontiac, and Oldsmobile. Call Bob Shovan, P-407, or 896-4752 evenings.

Real Estate

CHOICE LOT. W/trees, blacktop pad, real close to swimming pool, and all recreational facilities at Woodsmoke Ranch, in Seneca, Illinois. Call (815) 498-2622 or (815) 498-2969.

THREE BEDROOM BRICK AND ALUMINUM-SIDED RANCH. Located 4 miles from Fermilab in a pleasant neighborhood of West Chicago, near schools, has family room w/efficient woodburning fireplace, full paneled basement, central air conditioning, all appliances, fenced back yard w/ deck, nicely landscaped, all in excellent condition, assumable 7% mortgage, \$84,900. Call 355-0299 evenings and weekends.

Miscellaneous For Sale

DOMESTIC PARPHERNALIA

Twin size mattress, box spring, and frame w/headboard, \$30 complete. Call 898-1123.

14-ft. GE upright freezer, \$100; set of Keystone Klaasic mag rims, 5-hole, \$100; homemade garden cart, \$15; "exercycle" exercise bike, \$150. Call Bob Oudt, ext. 3366.

Pecan dining room set, buffet, table w/3 leaves and custom padding, 6 cane-back chairs w/velvet seats, excellent condition, \$1000. Call Bob Oudt, ext. 3366.

Interactive Electronics

520 ST computer system, \$439; 1200 baud Smart modem, \$139; Magic Sac +, \$169 (Mac emulator cartridge for ST); 520 ST system includes keyboard/CPU (TOS in ROM, RF modulator), 1S disk drive, b/w T.V. (no sound), 25 programs; modem (Volks modem-12) includes cable, software; Magic Sac + includes MAC ROMS, battery powered clock, software. Call John, ext. 4774, leave name and number.

(OVER)

WANTED:

Quadruped Mammals

Responsible, loving owner for 2 delightful 4-month old kittens (black tortiseshell/orange tiger), must stay together, financial assistance for spaying/neutering, please no declawing. Call Maggie ext. 4855.

Aquatic Paraphernalia

6 to 10 h.p. and 80 to 85 h.p. outboard motors in good running condition. Call Ron. ext. 3011.

Bikes

Help! Desperately looking for a used bicycle. Call Kanna Rajan, ext. 4653.