

Newsletter of the Nordic University Computer Clubs

Letter from the Editor

by Jan Michael Rynning



IRST, I want to thank Jussi-Pekka Mantere and Pertti Kasanen, who organized the Hel-

sinki meeting. You did a very good job. I also want to thank everyone who contributed to NUCC News.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again in Oslo this year, and some new faces, I hope.

It has become customary to say a few words about production methods,

when using desktop publishing. NUCC News is set with TEX, using Times Roman. The originals are produced on an Apple LaserWriter, in A4 size, and reduced to A5 before printing.

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Saturday lunch for the late-comers, and some of the others.



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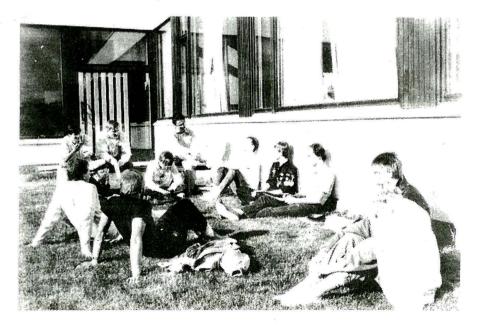
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NUCC 89 in Oslo



HE THIRD ANNUAL Nordic University Computer Clubs conference will be held at the University of Oslo during the weekend 16–18 June 1989, organized by the Oslo Dataforening.

1988 "bureaucrat meeting" on the lawn—not very bureaucratic.



NUCC 88 in Helsinki



HE SECOND Nordic University Computer Clubs conference was held at the Helsinki

University of Technology during the weekend 10–12 June 1988, organized by OtaDATA and Tietokilta.

We had learnt the lesson from last year's conference: don't organize too many activities, give the participants a chance to get to know each other, instead of listening to lectures and presentations. So, this year Sunday morning was spent on the lawn, chatting in the sun.

Saturday 13 June:

Afternoon: Presentation of the

Ota-2000 Project. Club presentations. Lunch for late-comers.

Sauna.

Evening: Banquet.

Sunday 14 June:

Morning: Breakfast.

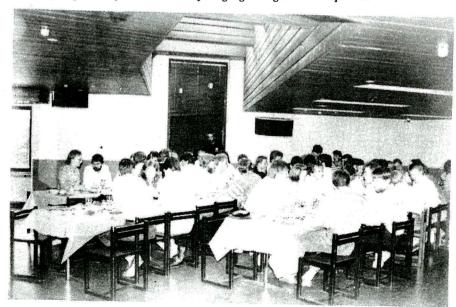
Sun-bathing.

Afternoon: Visit to the Borgbacken

amusement park, or to the

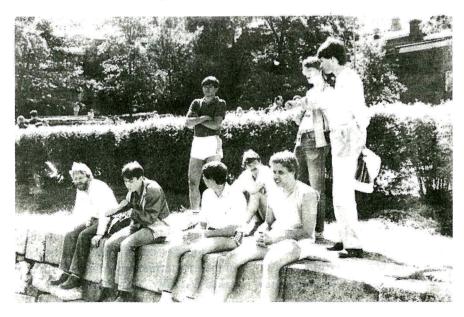
Sveaborg Castle.

Saturday night banquet with a lot of singing in a good atmosphere.





Most participants spent the night in Tietokilta's club room. Note the USSR trophy. INFÅ and STACKEN visiting the Sveaborg Castle.



TKO-äly

by Lea Viljanen



KO-ÄLY (pronounced "tekoäly", Finnish equivalence for artificial intelligence) is prob-

ably the youngest Computer Club of the Nordic Universities. It was founded here at the University of Helsinki in November 1988

Membership is open to all students who study Computer Science here at the University of Helsinki. As our club is so young, we don't have many members yet, but we'll start recruiting in January '89.

Our purpose is to be a contact forum for the staff and the students in the Department of Computer Science and the outside world. We plan to have excursions (sounds familiar?), parties and recreational activities among other

things. Our aim is also to improve the quality of studying here. We are also ready to participate in all kind of student activities

Now you know where to find us.

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Asteriski

by Mika Parjanen



STERISKI RY is an association for computer science students in the University of Turku in Finland. Asteriski Ry was founded in

1972 and today it has ca 200 members. Most of our activity takes place in the new technology center of Turku called DataCity. There we have our office which is also used as a freetime space.

Asteriski Ry makes contact with many kinds of students in Turku, in the whole of Finland and even abroad. We have evening happenings with other university students in Turku and of course with the computer science students around Finland. Asteriski Ry also gives an oppurtunity to its members to contact with the lecturers and other staff of our faculty. DataCity is famous for its purpose to connect the different kind of users of the center, for example the computer firms and students.

There are many official tasks that Asteriski Ry offers to its members. A great deal of the course material is arranged by Asteriski Ry, to mention the most important one. We also have special students, called tutors, who guide and instruct the new students each autumn to make them familiar with the study itself and the freetime activities. Asteriski publishes a booklet named file four times a year, which informs the members of all important happenings.

A lot of different freetime activities are offered to the members. To mention

some, there are culture (like theatre, opera), sports (like football, vollyball, "sähly", decathlon, ...) and entertainment evenings, Christmas celebration. The most popular are excursions to other cities in Finland and even abroad. This year we were in West Berlin and two years ago we visited Århus in Denmark. The buses going abroad shall never be empty, so interested are the students in traveling abroad, and that's no wonder. We are very interested in visiting your computer club some day, and you are always welcome to meet Asteriski, too.

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Modeemi

by Pekka Ala-Mäyry



ODEEMI RY was founded at the Tampere University of Technology in the autumn of

'77. We are open for anyone who is interested in computer hardware and software. The main purpose of our association is to widen knowledge of this field and to act as a link between persons interested in Computer Science.

Our major activities include but are not limited to:

- Publishing computer literature
- Information service
- Delivering computer stuff
- Excursions and sauna evenings
- Computer magazines and handbooks in our library
- Public Domain software distribution
- Co-operation with other computer clubs
- Sports events
- Other social activities

Examining our club room reveals the following: a fridge (with plenty of coke), a PC clone, two terminals, a printer, a coffee-maker, a colour TV, a telephone and the *sofa*.

We also have a PDP-8, a PDP-11/34 and 3 photocopiers, which are situated outside the club room.

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Blanko



LANKO is a student association for students, who are studying information process-

ing science at the Oulu University. The association was founded in 1973, and it just celebrated its 15th anniversary. Blanko has now about 230 members and this amount is increasing gradually.

The executive body, which is elected every autumn in general meeting, is running the association with meetings. The executive body consists of eleven active members, who are responsible for arranging excursions, sports events, training and other traditional activities.

Every other year some members of Blanko set up a special excursion group, which collects money for a big excursion abroad. Last time the group spent two weeks in California and visited Silicon Valley among other places. The next trip will be in the spring of 1990 and probably the group is heading to the USA again. We also make shorter excursions in Finland and once a year we meet with other computer clubs.

During the traditional sport afternoons we go bowling, skiing and playing squash—andafterwards naturally there is a sauna. During these afternoons it does not matter whether you can play these sports or not. The most important thing is to be together and have fun. The executive body also arranges a possibility to play football, tennis, badminton etc. once or twice a week

Blanko helps the students to get training places during the summer. Most of these jobs are in Helsinki. It is also possible for us to go abroad as an AIESEC trainee, though that organization is mainly for economics students. These traineeships can take place at any time of the year and can be sa long as a year and a half.

The most well-known seminar in Oulu is the Blanko Days. Blanko arranges it every autumn with three other associations. In the Blanko Days there are a series of lectures about computer science and a hardware exhibition. Last year the theme for this two-day lecture event was "The New Challenges of Success."

Blanko publishes its own newspaper, the Blanko-lehti. It is made by the excursion group or the project coordinator of the Blanko Days, depending on the time of the year. The association also produces its own teaching materials and organizes various educational events outside the degree program. Blanko cooperates with the In-

stitute of Information Processing Science by having representatives on the Board of the Institute. Another form of cooperation is tutoring, which is given to new students in small groups every autumn. The tutors are older members of Blanko, who help the new ones to get accustomed to studying—and to student life.

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TuKYdata

by Kai Kallio



UKYDATA R.Y. is a society for students studying or interested in information processing sci-

ence at the Turku School of Economics and Business Administration. The Society was founded as late as 1983, having about 70 members today.

While computer science in universities and in institutes of technology concentrates mainly on technical aspects of hardware, software, algorithms etc., the Department of Information Systems Science at TTKK (abbreviation

for Turku School of Economics ...) deals for example with management information, information management, competetive and strategic meaning of EDP, and so on. Major part of the studies consists of general business economics.

Because of the relatively small number of students and members, about 10 to 15 new students in our department per semester, much of the formal and informal action is cailed out via the student union of TTKK. But

TuKYdata also arranges action of its own: monthly sauna evenings, excursions to companies, and criticism of department's staff, for example. The current Great Project is "TuKYdata Round America '89 Expedition", which is a tour across the USA and to computer firms over there, about 3 months long.

We have also started a fruitful cooperation—partly due to our limited resources—with Asteriski r.y., the similar association at the University of Turku. Noteworthy results are the annual Synergy Day, the possibility to participate in the other association's excursions (again, thanks for the great West Berlin tour!), parties and other activities, and especially a better and broader understanding of each other's viewpoints.

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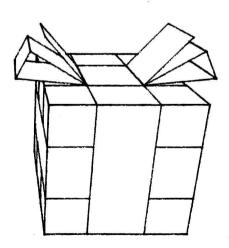
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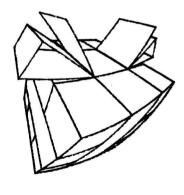
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Chalmers Datorförening

by Jacob Hallén



HALMERS DATORFÖRENING (the Chalmers Computer Society in English) was founded in

1974 and has had a mainframe computer almost from the start. Several systems have succeded each other. The first ones were from Siemens—starting with a 4004/15. This machine, which now has a home in the Industrial Museum of Göteborg was followed by an other 4 Siemens CPU's. In 1985 the club switched to an IBM 370/158. This machine has now been succeded by an IBM 4341 which runs VM and Idris.

Micro computer activity was first noted in 1977 when two parallell projects were started. One project used the Z80 processor and was quite conventional. The other utilised the TI9900 CPU and was more advanced in its nature—16-bit microprocessors were hardly known at the time. Both designs were built by 20-30 people and some of the machines are still running. In 1985 a third microcomputer project was started. A single board computer with an NS32016 CPU, Hard Disc Controller, DMA, 6 serial channels and room for 2 Mbyte of RAM was constructed. The project, called CD3200, has resulted in 20 members buying and building machines and in three machines running in the club room. Each of the latter machines has about 30 different people logging in each day.

Mini's are a late chapter in the history of the club. We have three PDP-11's running RT11 and RSX11.

The club has been housed in three different places since the start. The first place was a 30 sq metres office on the 3rd floor. When we got our second Siemens mainframe in 1978 this space was not by far enough, so we moved to 100 sq metres of computer hall and a tiny terminal room on the ground floor. In 1982 a government savings plan forced us out and into our present place in a basement. We received 80 sq metres of computer hall, 20 of terminal room and a small room for administration. Through hard work by the members we have excavated the space below an adjacent lecture hall and have turned it into storage space and a small workshop.

Our relations with the school administration are quite good. We have the support of the Headmaster and actively cooperate with several mid-level officials. An example of this is that the club has carried out a survey of all

computer equipment within Chalmers for the benefit of the administration. Chalmers Datorförening is organized within the student union. This is in line with tradition at Chalmers and has small effect on the day-to-day activities of the club. Our greatest problem right now is that we don't have room for all members who want to use the machines. We hope to get permission to turn a nearby hallway into a second terminal room for the club.

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Lysator

by Lars Aronsson



AY BACK in 1973, the students' computer club Lysator was founded at the Linkö-

ping University. Lysator is the contraction of Linköpings Y-teknologers Sektions Datorförening (Y-teknologer means students of electrical engineering). About ten years later, another club called Ctrl-C was also founded (mainly by students of mechanical engineering), so we are no longer the students'

computer club, but *the oldest* club. Actually, we think we are the oldest university computer club in Northern Europe, and we know of no such clubs outside Northern Europe...

Being founded in 1973 and considering 16 being a very even number, Lysator will celebrate its 16th anniversary during the spring of 1989. There is yet no timetable or detailed plan for the

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celebration, but it will probably include some activities where NUCC members are invited.

For a detailed review of Lysator's history, see NUCC News 1-1988. An even more detailed summary of the past years will probably be published as part of the anniversary celebrations.

Since the first NUCC meeting, which was held in Linköping, Lysator has moved from its giant computer hall (81 sq.meters) to a smaller room in the basement. Lot of work (including painting walls and installing computer floor and cooling) was needed to prepare the new room. The only computer brought from the old hall is the DATASAAB experimental Flexible CPU, which is now running a microcoded FORTH. Lysator has also acquired some "new" hardware: Elinor is a DEC-2020 with two TU45 tape stations and two RP06

disks. Obelix is a PDP-11/70 with one TU45 tape and two RP06 disks. Ingrid is an ABC 1600 (Swedish 68008-based UNIX desktop).

As part of a cooperation with Ctrl-C, Lysator is arranging a series of UNIX-related courses during 1988/89 for members of both clubs. Still in 1988, UNIX is not part of any curriculum at the Linköping University.

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