

Sorcerer Users' Group (Toronto) Newsletter
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EDITOR'S TURN

Well!!! This is my last newsletter!! Phew!! Honestly, though, I have enjoyed doing the newsletters very much but I don't have as much time these days as I had when I took the job on and I have run out of interesting things to write about. Besides, it's time for a change - time to let someone else's ideas and points of view about the club and programming and computers in general. Surely you have gotten somewhat tired of my digital pontificating over the last ten months.

I did have a definite goal in mind when I started this thing. It was becoming evident to me that the people in the club were so anxious to get big things going on their computer systems that they were not taking the time to get down to the nitty gritty of computer operation and the use of their systems programmes, generally BASIC and CP/M. Programming, I've learned is like playing a piano, you have to do the finger exercises if you want to play a Sonata, there's no way around it. As far as computer programming is concerned, it means that you have to have a basic idea of how the thing computes (how many registers does it have and how to you set a byte into it), how to get input from the console and how to get it out onto the screen, how to use the programmes that you have acquired that aid you in performing the above functions and how to actually synthesize all of this into something meaningful. Only after you have understood these things can you start to be concerned with efficiency, speed,

professional, customized input and output, etc. Having this under your belt, you can then start thinking about larger systems and ideas.

Over the last ten months I have tried to convey this idea both with programming examples and philosophical studies (not to mention a little expose of some of the more immoral businesses). I started out with some BASIC programmes and a series of articles on customizing your programmes for formatted input and output. Then I took a look at some of the systems programmes available, finally ending up with a look at some of the compilers on the market and in particular, the 'C' programming language and a set of programming rules for your consideration.

I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed reading the newsletters and that you have gained something from them, even if it was just learning what NOT to do. If anyone cares to call me up and chat about programming or software or anything at all, please feel free to do so. I'm sure we can exchange some very interesting ideas.

My successor for the newsletter will actually be a matched pair of very interesting fellows, Tony Lautenbach and Tony Bagshaw (as you can see it takes two to replace me). I know that they have a lot of good ideas and I have never

Known them not to have something extremely interesting (or at least bizarre) to talk about. I think they will do a good job for you. Please give them some feedback and let them know how they're doing. Better yet, submit some articles to them for publication.

GENERAL NEWS

THE SORCERER USER'S GROUP (Toronto) EXISTS: Yes it's true. At the last meeting we managed to railroad some very good people into carrying on. They may have looked reluctant to take it all on at the meeting but I happen to know (I have contacts you know) that they are all very anxious to get going. The new directors are:

Business:	Crais Dalbeer
Newsletter:	Tony Lautenbach
	Tony Bagshaw
Librarian:	Derek Gomes

Please give them all your support and at least your full cooperation. I do not know if they have arranged a meeting place for January's meeting yet but I'm sure they will contact you as soon as they have something concrete. If anyone has any ideas or a place please call one of them as soon as possible.

The first point of business I'm sure the new board will be concerned with is membership dues. I imagine, but not sure, that the fee will still be \$10.00 and is due now. Your dues run from January to December. Please call them to find out what the actual fee is and pay it right away. I know you wouldn't want to miss any newsletters.

Would those people who have run ads in the newsletter over the last year please pay up so that we can close the books. There are only a few of you and you can call me for the fee. We will not be sending invoices.

NEXT MEETING

If you should receive this newsletter in time, the next meeting is on Wednesday, December 10 at 7:00pm at the Settlement House, 23 Grange Rd. in Toronto. It's the same place as the last meeting. See you there.