

The CPSR Newsletter

Volume 1 No. 2

Fall 1983

CPSR at IJCAI

Alan Borning · CPSR/Seattle

CPSR had a booth in the exhibit area of the Eighth International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held August 8-12 in Karlsruhe, West Germany. Our attendance was, I think, quite successful and controversial.

After a slow start the first day, there was a good turnout, with help both from CPSR members attending the conference and from other concerned scientists. I remember coming in Wednesday morning and finding someone I didn't know busily handing out literature and talking to passers-by. CPSR members who couldn't attend the conference helped out by preparing signs and posters for the booth.

A number of people overseas joined CPSR and, more importantly, people expressed interest in starting chapters in Edinburgh, Munich, and Amsterdam. As far as I know nobody from the Eastern Bloc countries came by the booth, but someone who knows a number of Russian scientists has offered to help us establish contact.

Controversy had started at IJCAI even before the CPSR booth was set up. One of the exhibitors was Martin-Marietta Corporation, a major contractor for the the Pershing II missile. The deployment of Pershing II's and cruise missiles in West Germany this December is a topic of immense concern in Germany. The Greens, a West German political party, protested Martin-Marietta's presence by letters, handouts, and a resolution to the participants of IJCAI. IJCAI officials met before the conference, and decided that Martin-Marietta could stay, on the grounds that there had been no resolution banning participation by military contractors and that it would be difficult to decide exactly which corporations should be allowed to exhibit and which should not.

Just before the conference opened, Martin-Marietta withdrew. According to the conference organizers, the police said there was a possibility of violence. The Greens had stated that while they themselves were nonviolent, they could not guarantee the peaceful behavior of all the German people. The representative from Martin-Marietta, fearing for his safety, decided not to take part. However, according to the conference organizers, there were absolutely no actual threats of violence.

During the opening ceremonies, Jorg Siekmann, one of the local chairmen, made what I thought was a rather brave speech, in which he discussed the Martin-Marietta incident, spoke about the arms race and its consequences, and stated that he would not wish to participate in future IJCAI's in which purely military papers were presented. (There was at least one such paper at this conference.) The speech was accompanied by mixed applause, cheers, and cries of "no politics!" Later, a television interview with Siekmann on these issues was filmed in front of the CPSR booth.

A related event was a hastily-organized special session on "Social Implications of Artificial Intelligence" Wednesday evening. Even though the evening was to be free for sightseeing, the hall was packed. The panelists were John McCarthy, Nils Nilsson, Margaret Boden and myself, all participants in the conference, and Peter Brodner and a mathematics professor from the Greens. Alan Bundy was moderator. The mathematics professor talked about the the responsibilities of scientists for the social implications of their work; Brodner talked about the dangers of Pershing II deployment due to the possibility of computer error and the short time the Russians would have to evaluate the situation. I talked about the social responsibilities of scientists as well, and about the military's plans for artificial intelligence, including systems for use in "limited" nuclear wars. John McCarthy took a hawkish position, at one point giving a strong defense of the Reagan administration's foreign policy. When the subject of robot fighting vehicles came up, he said "If we're going to have tanks, they might as well be intelligent". Nilsson and Boden took more neutral positions.

Following the opening statements, there were questions and comments from the floor. The interchange was lively and controversial. Midway through the panel, a group of hunger strikers protesting the planned Pershing II deployment, who hadn't eaten in five days, silently filed in and sat down on the stage behind the panel. Some other people carried a large banner reading "No Research for Arms". Overall, this hastily organized session was not as successful as it could have been, but it certainly got people thinking and talking about the issues. Other IJCAI participants told me that if they listened to a random conversation at the conference, it was as likely to be about social issues as technical ones.

At the IJCAI business meeting the following day, a number of people expressed concern about the heavy military involvement in our field. Banning military papers from the conference did not seem like a correct action. One suggestion was to have a special session at the 1985 IJCAI in Los Angeles on "Artificial Intelligence and the Military". A significant fact-finding effort must be focused on the role of AI in weapons. Such a special session could then begin with a report on the results of this study.

The CPSR newsletter is published quarterly by:

*Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility
Mark Hall and Daniel Ingalls, editors
P.O. Box 717
Palo Alto, CA 94301.*

The purpose of the Newsletter is to keep members informed of relevant thought and activity in our organization. We welcome comments on the content and format of our publication. Most especially, we welcome contributions from other members. The deadline for our next issue is January 6, 1984. Thank you all for making CPSR what it is.

Correspondence

Since our last issue we received several letters relating to CPSR's charter and goals. This exchange is valuable, and we have reprinted the letters below. The editors encourage everyone to reflect on the direction of CPSR and to tell us what you think.

What is Our Real Focus?

To the editors:

In the last issue of the CPSR Newsletter, Mark Hall stated that "Social Responsibility implied more than mere opposition to the technology of war." Part of CPSR's General Statement states: "...redirection of our talents, resources and energies towards more socially responsible objectives. We resolve to work for a world in which science and technology are not used to produce weapons of war, but to foster a safe and just society."

It appears, however, that CPSR's energy is focused on the nuclear issue. In these times, I agree with and support that wholeheartedly. However, I know that there are other computer professionals throughout the world who are addressing other issues of social concern. I assert that they, too, would like to belong to CPSR.

Should the nuclear issue be the one issue that consumes us all? In my opinion, the statement, "when you solve the nuclear issue all other issues will be resolved" can also read: "when you solve the issues of hunger crime and other forms of conflict...the nuclear issue will be resolved." Even these two statements are limiting. I would prefer to see a statement that allows for any computer professional to pursue any and all issues concerning social responsibility.

I do not want to dilute or drain the energy or resources from CPSR by adding more activities or projects. I believe that the people who join CPSR will bring with them their own energy and resources which they can use to focus on the activities that they want to pursue.

By changing the emphasis of a few words in the CPSR charter, we could have a context that satisfies all computer professionals. The power and synergism of a large group of people (let's go for 100,000 members by Dec. 1984) far exceeds that of a thousand small groups. Perhaps the real question is: How big are we willing to get?

I can imagine a time when people will think about social issues and how computers can be used to address those issues. When they do, they will instantly think of CPSR. To get there I suggest that CPSR amend the wording of its charter to create an image of larger context.

Pete Hubbard
CPSR/San Jose

To the editors:

We are a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization with an educational charter. Our interest is to publicize the danger of unintended omnicide due to a failure of complex, automated weapons systems. While other laudable interests are to be encouraged, there are arguments in favor of continuing to adhere to the original narrow purposes.

Presently we have few members and we need to concentrate our efforts where the need is the greatest. Most of us agree that averting nuclear holocaust is the essential requirement for survival and subsequent improvement in the human condition.

There are issues which need to be made public urgently; such as the failure rates in large aggregates of computer hardware, the inherent unspicifiability of all contingencies, and the occurrences of program errors in large aggregates of software. Computer professionals are viewed by the public as objective and knowledgeable about such esoteric subjects. Our pronouncements will be taken seriously. The same cannot be said if we hold forth on other topics.

J. E. Mezei
CPSR/San Jose

To the editors:

I do not consider man's inhumanity to man or more generally the problem of the existence of evil in the world to be issues that CPSR should tackle; they are too broad. I think most of us consider these inscible problems. I believe we should avoid overly idealistic statements in our charter. It is not a matter of condemning such ideals, but simply judging how they will strike the hard-boiled realists we need to attract. In fact I personally find our present statement to be already a bit too starry-eyed, but it was thrashed out quite carefully after a good deal of debate and compromise.

Pete Hubbard's letter also seems to imply that we are too narrow in those that we admit to CPSR. But so far as I know, we have never refused anyone membership (although I suppose I could imagine us doing so). I think people have been pretty much free to work on anything they wanted to within reason. What one must be willing to do is accept criticism and if the majority of people feel something is foolish or will cast us in a poor light, one has to be able to abide by the group's judgment. By far the most serious problem has not been censorship of activities but rather getting people to put time and energy into things.

I believe this represents the viewpoint of most of us. The shaping of an organization such as CPSR is very difficult and not everyone will be entirely satisfied. Many groups founder on their inability to reach a consensus on such things. Because I feel the threat of nuclear war is so serious, I am determined to prevent such splintering. To some extent this requires a heavy hand and I worry a good deal about that. But unfortunately without pretty strong leadership, groups tend to come apart at the seams. We are fortunate to have a good deal of common ground, but that doesn't mean that there are not disagreements.

Severo M. Ornstein
CPSR Chairman

Chapter News

As space allows, we will continue to reprint brief news from all of our chapters. Chapter secretaries are encouraged to send contributions to the address on page 1.

Boston: CPSR/Boston has grown to over 30 members, and other interested non-members. We now have our own newsletter and several other active projects. On September 30th CPSR/Boston sponsored the PSR film, "The Day After Trinity", and on October 14 we sponsored a talk by US representative Frank.

East Bay: CPSR has been given a booth at the Oakland Computer Expo, November 11-12. CPSR/East Bay has organized this project and is seeking volunteers to help at the booth. Please contact CPSR/East Bay to volunteer.

Madison: In October the University of Wisconsin, the local chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, and the Wisconsin medical community will be sponsoring a symposium titled "The Medical Consequences of Nuclear War". CPSR/Madison will be presenting a workshop on "Computer Unreliability and Nuclear Weapons Systems". The speakers involved are Dr. Robin Cooper of the Linguistics Department and Dr. Larry Travis, Dan Stock, and Jim Grueul of the Computer Sciences Department. The workshop will be repeated in November.

Seattle: After a summer break, CPSR/Seattle resumes its monthly meetings with a session on computer security. In September CPSR member Ken Berkun donated booth space at the Small Systems Expo held here. Two weeks after that, Ira Kalet gave a talk on the implications of computer reliability and nuclear war at the Compu-Faire. Jon Jacky headed up a project that produced a leaflet that was distributed to moviegoers who saw "War Games".

Chapter Contacts

As an aid to internal communication, we list below the mailing addresses of our currently incorporated chapters, along with scheduled meetings.

Boston: Steve Berlin
MIT AI Lab
545 Technology Square
Cambridge, MA 02139

In place of monthly general meetings, we hold a major outreach meeting quarterly to distribute literature, hold discussions and attract new members. The next such meeting will take place at the MIT Artificial Intelligence Lab on November 2nd.

East Bay: Bruce Joffe
902 Rose Ave.
Piedmont, CA 94611

CPSR/East Bay meets regularly every other Thursday (10/13 on) at 7:30 for an agenda meeting, followed at 8:00 with a general meeting. The location is the Berkwood Hedge School at Bancroft and McKinley in Berkeley.

Madison: Jeffrey D. Myers
Dept. of Computer Sciences
University of Wisconsin - Madison
1210 West Dayton St.
Madison, WI 53706

Palo Alto: David Caulkins
437 Mundel Way
Los Altos, CA 94022

CPSR/Palo Alto meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month at the First Presbyterian Church at Cowper and Lincoln in Palo Alto.

San Jose: Jack Kroll
PO Box 53197
San Jose, CA 95153-0197

CPSR/San Jose now meets every third Monday at 5:15 in the Bay View Savings Community Room at Santa Theresa and Bernal in San Jose.

Seattle: Gloria Black
PO Box 85481
Seattle, WA 98105

CPSR/Seattle holds monthly public meetings that are open to the public.

Searching for Peace Within the Maelstrom

Mark Hall - editor

Dr. Karl Menninger, a well-known psychiatrist, recently celebrated his 90th birthday amidst great fanfare at the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, Kansas. Reporters asked the famed analyst what thoughts he had on the human condition. His response was that we are doomed. Our destiny, he believes, is to obliterate ourselves with nuclear weapons, wiping out mankind's meagre successes and destroying life on earth.

At a recent gathering of the Technology and Society Committee at Stanford University, Dr. Jack Jennings of TRW Space Systems Division despairingly told the audience that the human species was rapidly moving toward collective suicide. Nuclear annihilation awaited us, he contended, since people "have always found it necessary to use the arsenals they create."

Such negative, fatalistic perspectives exist widely today, from the disillusioned scientist in the movie "War Games", to the characters in Edward Abbey's GOOD NEWS. It can be heard in the contemporary music of The Police and The Dead Kennedys. This pervasive ideology believes that we are on a pilotless voyage inevitably scheduled to reach oblivion.

I reject that inevitability.

Joining CPSR (the first organization I have belonged to since Little League) was for me a fundamental statement of that rejection. Discovering that other individuals involved in high technology were concerned about the effects of their profession on the human condition was an optimistic sign within the maelstrom of intellectual despair.

Jean-Paul Sartre once observed that to remain apathetic was to deny one's own existence and life itself. "To exist," he said,

"is to act." Sartre believed that individuals must learn to "engage themselves with the world." CPSR members are engaged in the action to reduce the threat of nuclear war. Our actions are positive, hopeful, and provide individuals with the conviction that they are very much alive.

Belonging to CPSR, then, is the act of an optimist. Menninger, Jennings and the rest may think it futile, and I may be naive; I prefer the company of Sartre, not denying the world around me, but engaging myself with it -- and living.

When A Bomb is More than A Bomb

Greg Nelson · CPSR/Palo Alto

While Congress was engaged in the Great Debate over the cold war in the early 1950s, the world was struggling to grasp the implications of the atom bomb. Different people gave profoundly different answers to the simple question: is the atom bomb useful?

Except for pacifists, everybody agrees that weapons are useful. They are the last resort for asserting the national will. But is an atom bomb a useful weapon in this sense? Its destructive power is so great that its introduction into international affairs would seem to have only two possible consequences: catastrophe or stalemate. In neither case can it be considered a useful weapon, since in neither case does it help us assert our will.

This was George Kennan's position. In 1954 he warned that we should not "stake our world position on the power of weapons we ourselves, in the final event, might or might not find it prudent to use." He added that, "The sooner we can learn to cultivate the weapons of mass destruction solely for their deterrent value, the sooner we can get away from what is called the principle of 'first use' of such weapons, the sooner we can free ourselves from the false mathematics involved in the assumption that security is a matter of the number of people you can kill with a single weapon, the better off, in my opinion, we will be."

Robert Oppenheimer, who managed the creation of the first atom bomb, came eventually to the same position. Oppenheimer was reluctant to concede that his creation was useless, and tried hard to devise some useful role for it in national strategy. He tinkered with the idea that, though suicidal as a strategic weapon, the atom bomb might be useful on a battlefield. But eventually he gave that up.

Most of the government at the time took the view that a bomb, however big, was still a bomb. New military technology has always been resented: armored knights despised the archer; cavalry despised the machine gunner. Yet, technology has advanced in spite of those who fear it. The utility of the atom bomb had been demonstrated against Japan. If the atom bomb was more destructive and less discriminate than a conventional bomb, this was a regrettable but inevitable development in military technology.

Observing how little credence was given to the distinctive

destructiveness of nuclear weapons, Albert Einstein said concisely, "The splitting of the atom has changed everything except our way of thinking. Thus we drift towards unparalleled catastrophe."

Unlike the great public debate over the start of the cold war, the debate over the role of nuclear weapons in our armed forces seems to have been confined to the inner circles of our national security establishment. The arguments were not aired in public. In fact, the public managed 'somehow' to get the wrong impression of the outcome of the debate: many Americans received the impression that our official policy was to hold nuclear weapons only to deter a Soviet nuclear attack on us. This was mistaken. It was and is U.S. policy to regard nuclear weapons as ordinary instruments of war; as integral components of our military strength. We build nuclear land mines. We have officially claimed the right to be the first to use nuclear weapons, if it is in our national interest. Like the consensus shaped by NSC 68, the early consensus on the utility of nuclear weapons has held together to this day.

Nuclear weapons are so destructive that it is hard to imagine them used in large quantities for any rational purpose. Japan held out stubbornly against a long and terrible rain of non-nuclear bombs, but was reduced to unconditional surrender by two small nuclear ones. In 1955, the United States considered a plan to reduce the Soviet Union to a "smoking, radiating ruin" by using seven hundred atom bombs. Today our forces are carrying around some twenty thousand nuclear bombs, readied for use at a moment's notice. If seven hundred bombs will reduce the Soviet Union to a "smoking, radiating ruin", what are we going to do with the other nineteen thousand three hundred?

The CPSR Network Project

Dave Caulkins and John Larson · CPSR/Palo Alto

The Palo Alto chapter of CPSR has started a project to create a nationwide network providing electronic communication between CPSR chapters, and supporting the networking needs of other organizations working towards compatible goals. We have been operating a small, computer-conferencing system for several months now. It can be accessed by dialing (415) 948-1474 with a 300-baud modem-equipped terminal or personal computer. Our experience suggests that this form of communication is popular and useful, and the network we are proposing would expand such services substantially. Initially, one or two host machines could provide these capabilities, but we envision the network gradually growing and evolving as the various CPSR chapters and other organizations get their own host machines online. Connection would be provided through normal dial-up telephone lines. The proposed host system characteristics and services are as follows:

Hardware

68000-based workstation (such as Sun Microsystems),
RAM memory · 1 to 2 megabytes,
Hard disk · 30 to 80 megabytes,
Cartridge tape drive (for archive),
Serial ports · 4 to 8, each with a 300/1200 baud modem.

Software

We believe UNIX (Berkeley 4.2bsd or Sys 5) is desirable since everything we would need, including mail and networking, is part of the standard releases.

Electronic Mail and File Transfer

Host-to-host communication would be arranged via Unix uucp dial-up connections through 1200 baud modems. Individuals and groups with accounts on network host machines would be able to create, send and receive electronic mail, and transfer files between hosts.

Conferencing and Bulletin Boards

Participants would be able to see event notices, and join discussion groups and conferences similar to those now carried on by Usenet for the UNIX community.

On-Line Data Bases

Each network host would create and/or maintain a data base of arms control reference materials. We think this might include calendars of events; news about current governmental activities; bibliographies, films, videotapes, and organizations; on-line excerpts from reference publications like "The Effects of Nuclear Weapons"; on-line copies of topical periodicals; etc.

Archiving

As the material on a host grew to fill available space, older material would be archived to off-line storage. Indices to the archived material would be kept on-line, and a mechanism provided to retrieve requested items from the archives.

Accounting

Some preliminary calculations suggest that the operation and maintenance cost of the network could be handled by charging for connect time at the rate of about \$2/hour, which is quite inexpensive for these types of services. Accounting tools are already available in Unix. The economics of network operation are currently being worked out in greater detail.

How You Can Help

We are especially interested in anyone who can help CPSR get donations of money or equipment for host systems. All donations are tax deductible. Please write us at: 437 Mundel Way, Los Altos, CA 94022, or call (415) 494-4518 if you would like to contribute to this project in any way.

Random Bits

SANE, the Washington, D.C.-based peace group, sponsors the Arms Control Computer Network. For more information contact:

SANE
711 G Street SE
Washington, D.C. 20003
(202) 546-7100.

The WALL STREET JOURNAL in a front page article this summer claimed that 75% of the "engineers who leave defense work...have problems finding other jobs." Not only do commercial firms find the technical talents of former defense workers "overspecified", but if they left for ethical reasons the individual is often "looked at like a Judas" by employers and peers.

**Launch-On-Warning Policy:
a Red Herring?**

Severo Ornstein - CPSR Chairman

There has been a lot of discussion recently concerning the possibility that either the U.S. or the Soviet Union might adopt a launch-on-warning policy. The Soviets have threatened it as a possible response to the shortened warning time they will have when Pershing II missiles are installed in Europe and we are rumored to be considering it because of the vulnerability of the MX missile. Actually launch-on-warning is not one policy but a spectrum of policies. Taken literally, it means only that the launching of retaliatory missiles will be based on warning that an attack is under way, rather than the tradition of waiting for a "hole in the ground" to appear. The spectrum arises from the fact that the term launch-on-warning says nothing about the nature of the warning, how certain it is, nor does it say anything about who, or what, will evaluate the warning and make the ultimate decision.

The purpose of launch-on-warning is simple: to avoid having one's weapons destroyed in a pre-emptive first strike by one's opponent. Because a launch-on-warning decision must be made even faster than a decision to respond to actual damage, many people equate it with allowing computers to make all the decisions, including the final one of whether or not to launch. But that is not necessarily the case, and in fact it seems quite unlikely that top-level political figures would willingly relinquish their ultimate control of the final decision. Thus, some element of "human judgment" seems likely to remain part of the decision process for the visible future. The significance of that element is, however, questionable. For, regardless of how the final decision is made, it will inevitably be based in large part upon evidence that has been processed by computers at many levels. By the time this evidence reaches the president, it will have been evaluated by all the levels beneath him and he will have little basis for separate individual judgment.

Even with a policy not to launch on warning, it is impossible to predict what would happen, should an attack actually take place. Envision a room in which the president and his highest advisors are gathered together with top military brass. Unrelenting evidence from many independent sources has convinced all of them, whether rightly or wrongly, that large numbers of missiles are really on the way and that within minutes the holocaust will commence. It seems very likely that under these circumstances prior policy will simply go out the window and that what will happen will depend solely upon the natures of the particular participants at that moment.

Despite this argument, proclaiming a launch-on-warning policy might seem to provide a deterrent, since it gives notice that "we won't be sitting around to be wiped out" by a first strike. But with the relatively invulnerable retaliatory force represented by our submarines, it would seem foolish to state such a risky policy for the purposes of deterrence. Besides, it is our own action, installation of the MX, which is leading us in this dangerous direction. When adopted by both sides, it becomes just another escalatory step in the futile exercise of mutual intimidation. As the arms race spirals on, intimidation is

reaching levels where reaction becomes less and less rational and under these circumstances, unnecessary bravado seems extremely ill advised.

Basic Course on Computers and Nuclear War

Lucy Suchman · CPSR/Palo Alto

A short, introductory course on "Computers and Nuclear War" is in preparation by the Palo Alto chapter. The project of a bi-weekly study group of chapter members, the course will be directed at a non-technical audience. While focusing on potential problems with computer-based communications and weapons technology, it will also attempt to locate those problems within the larger context of international tensions, escalation of the race for "counterforce" nuclear weaponry, and faith in technological bases for national security.

The course will begin with the basics of strategic doctrine, and provide a brief survey of weapon systems in relation to the move from a strategy of deterrence toward plans to fight a limited or prolonged nuclear war. The materials will also describe as simply as possible what computers actually do in nuclear weapon systems (e.g. communications, guidance systems).

The core of the course will look at the relationship of computers to the danger of nuclear war, and will be organized around two questions:

Could a computer failure trigger
an accidental nuclear exchange?

What role do computers play
in plans for nuclear war-fighting?

With respect to the likelihood of an accidental nuclear exchange the course will describe the basic structure of early warning systems, and offer an assessment of the danger represented by false alarms. It will discuss the meaning and implications of launch-on-warning, focusing on the relationship between the decreasing warning times and increasing accuracy of weapons like the MX and Pershing II, and our increasing reliance on computers for information and control. With respect to plans for controlled escalation of a nuclear exchange, the course will cover simulations and war games, plans for controlling the nuclear battlefield, and the technical problems in building a communications system that could survive a nuclear war of any prolonged duration.

Finally, the course will survey the future of high-technology warfare, considering proposals for a strategic defense (e.g. laser weapons) and their implications for the survival of a policy of nuclear deterrence rather than war-fighting.

In order that the course can be completed in a single day, topics will be covered as simply and concisely as possible. Course materials will be available to educational institutions offering special programs (we have had a request for such

information from Bowdoin College in Maine, for example) and to other organizations like PSR and LANAC. We hope to distribute the course materials through CPSR chapters, where they should be useful to members as well. We will provide specific information on how to obtain materials as soon as the course package is completed.

CPSR in the news

Our fledgling library attempts to maintain a record of all articles about CPSR that occur in the public press. Please send copies of such articles, and descriptions of TV coverage, to Librarian, CPSR, P.O. Box 717, Palo Alto, CA 94301. We'll try to print a quarterly listing in each issue of the newsletter.

July 13

Larry Lasker and Walter Parkes, the two authors of the film *War Games*, talk at the CPSR/Palo Alto meeting. They attract a large attendance and produce considerable coverage in the local papers and in *InfoWorld*.

July 29

An editorial entitled "Defense Can't Depend on Computers", written by David Bradburn of CPSR/East Bay is published in the Commentary section of the *Berkeley Gazette*.

August 24

The San Jose Mercury News publishes a long interview with Brian Smith, the president of CPSR, and Severo Ornstein, the chairman. The story is entitled "High tech poses high risk".

August 25

Alan Borning, president of CPSR/Seattle, and Severo Ornstein are interviewed by Cable Network News. A story of about two minutes in length is broadcast on that night's news and reputedly reaches 20 million cable viewers.

August 25

Alan Borning gives a talk at Stanford, jointly sponsored by the Stanford Arms Control and Disarmament Forum (SACDF) and CPSR entitled "Computer Reliability and Nuclear War". A video tape is made of this excellent talk which can be borrowed by chapters on request. News of this talk is picked up by AP wire services, resulting in coverage in quite a few regional newspapers.

September 15

John Larson and David Caulkins of CPSR/Palo Alto announce the existence of the Arms Control Conference Tree they've provided to serve as a computer bulletin board about the arms race. This results in coverage in the *Stanford Daily* and the *Peninsula Times Tribune*, and two stories on local television.

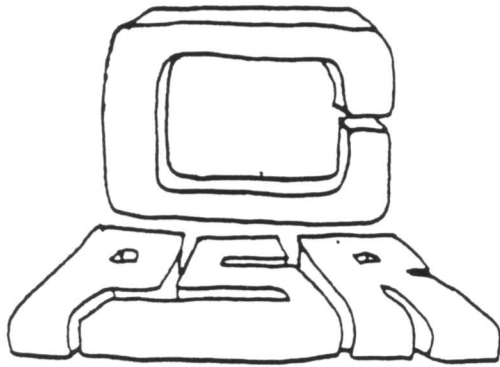
From the Secretary's desk

It is encouraging to see increasing interest in the topic of social implications of technology. Besides the panel that was hastily assembled at IJCAI (see story page 1), I would like to bring to your attention the following:

The ACM has formed a new committee entitled the ACM Ad-Hoc Committee on Computer Systems Reliability and Risks to the Public. This Committee will meet for the first time on November 14, will operate at the Presidential level and is expected to report to the ACM Council at the July 1984 Council meeting. The Committee is charged by the Council to: [Study and] "Prepare a report on the technical considerations of computer systems reliability and risks to the Public..." Jim Horning of CPSR/Palo Alto and Steve Zilles of CPSR/San Jose have been appointed to this seven-man committee.

The 1984 ACM Computer Science Conference is to be held February 14-16 in Philadelphia. At this conference, the entire last day will be devoted to the topic of "Social and Ethical Implications of Computers"; a keynote address with that title will be given by Daniel D. McCracken of CCNY.

We have received a letter from the Technology and Society Division of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) inviting us to co-sponsor with them a paper session or panel discussion on "the danger of improperly used technology such as the Nuclear Arms Race and the proliferation of nuclear weaponry". This panel or session would be presented at the 1984 Winter Annual Meeting of the Society which is usually attended by 2,000 to 3,000 people. Jon Jacky of CPSR/Seattle has offered to coordinate this project with them.



CPSR logo in workstation shape
by Perrin French



CPSR logo indicating intersection of world and
silicon wafer in caring hands
by Connie Palmer

A Logo for CPSR

We have reached a point in our organization where an effective logo would serve us in several ways. It would be useful as a letterhead in our correspondence, it would be useful to identify conference booths, and it could serve as the basis for a membership pin for those who cared to wear them.

This summer Dan Ingalls conducted a logo contest in CPSR/Palo Alto which produced the two logos shown on this page, as well as about 15 others. Those involved felt that the selection should not be undertaken too abruptly, so we are opening this matter to our membership at large.

Ideally the design should capture the orientation of our organization, but there are no rules for what makes a good logo. We prefer to steer clear of over-used or negative images. Please send us your comments on the matter in general, or these designs in particular. Better still, send us your own contribution. You needn't be an artist yourself - find a friend who can draw and try to explain what CPSR is all about.