

September 27, 1983

Triton College
Continuing Education Department

Subject: Microcomputer Courses

I would like to examine the possibilities of making the 'Introduction to Microcomputers' a prerequisite (in lieu of one's experience) for students before they attempt specifically detailed computer classes. At the same time, I would like to express some ideas I have regarding certain types of courses that could be offered along the Personal Computer Curriculum.

It has been my experience that students who have a familiarity with the basic concept of a computer, learn the aspects of the specific computer subject being taught (eg. Programming, Word Processing, etc.) more quickly than those students who must absorb both the computer's Environment and the Subject simultaneously. Because of differences in any one person's learning curve versus the others while learning a subject as part of a class, provided they all possess a common understanding of the tools utilized within the subject, time could be better spent helping the students comprehend the actual subject matter. In other words; trying to teach more than one subject at a time to a group of people increases the chances that the students will not be taught as a cohesive group.

Regarding additional classes, I have created a list of subjects that might be of interest to the Apple Computer Users within the community.

1. Disk Operating Systems Utilities - a one or two night seminar devoted to how to understand the way that data is stored on the Disk and ways to possibly recover data from a malfunctioning disk. This course would be aimed at people who have a fair understanding of the Disk Operating System (DOS).
2. Care and Protection of Data Disks - a one night class of do's and don'ts regarding Disk Backups, Transferring Files, Editing Disks and Handling Procedures. This course would probably attract business people as well as other people who need to know how to manage their Data Disks.
3. Overviews of Application Type Programs - a one or two night class on the uses of such programs as Visicalc, Word Processing, Data Base Management, Personal Financing, Business Graphics, Investment Management and Animation Graphics. This course should appeal to all persons interested in the potential of Personal Computers.

4. **Programming Languages** - a one or two night meeting describing the functions and uses of Basic, Pascal and Assembly Language type programming. This selection of subjects should interest any person wishing to learn some of the more popular languages available to program in.

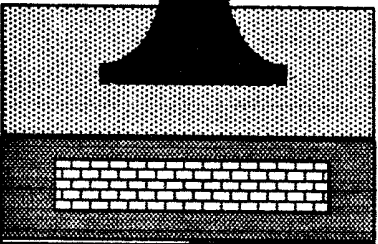
5. **Consumer Awareness in Personal Computing** - a one night lecture involving topics that a person should be wary of when planning the purchase of computer hardware and/or software.

I have discussed some of these ideas with Dr. Rodney Gualtieri and he suggested that I offer them to the Continuing Education office for review. Thank you for your time and consideration on these subjects.

Sincerely,

Donald W. Larson

Triton's
Personal
Computer
Curriculum



6502 Assembly Language

Pascal Programming

Utilities

Basic Programming

Graphics

Word Processing

Visicalc

Consumer Awareness

Introduction To Microcomputers

