Computer Speeds Election Totaling

“Tabulation of general election ballots used to take up to 100 man-hours; now it takes about a minute and a half,” said Mike Rebmann, head of computer operations at the National Junior Achievers Conference (NAJAC). The IBM 370 system Model 155, supplied by Indiana University (IU), replaces the all night “cookie labor” system which the Elections Committee had to use in the past for processing election results.

Computer operations have been expanding at NAJAC due to the increased size and scope of the Conference, says Rebmann. At present the operation not only tabulates election results but also the staff and delegate surveys conducted Saturday and Monday, respectively of the Conference week. The computer operations also grade the multiple choice and true-false exams taken by elected candidates and do side work in cross-referencing research for public relations.

Due to the availability of the computer, more research analysis has been possible, said Rebmann. The research reveals significant trends that effect the viability and credibility of the Conference and the program as a whole. Thus aiding future planning.

“Management games” were set up last year with the aid of the IBM Corporation and the IU computer facility. These games which were a big success with Achievers, allowed workshop members to experience unique situations that demand n.d. d alertness and instantaneous reactions. Achievers encountered as unusual business system by managing a game hospital, where they made decisions based on pressures from the game community.

According to Rebmann, Junior Achievement (JA) management games are being devised for future conferences and for use, (Continued on Page 4)

Charms To Burlap Bags

One again the souvenir shop is open for business. The basement of McNutt dorm is the place where each delegate can stock up on JA items to help him remember the 1972 National Junior Achievers Conference (NAJAC).

Sharon Booth is in charge this year, with Nancy Broussard assisting. Delegates help out at the busiest hours of the day.

The prices are right and there is something for everyone, and something everyone can afford. Among the offerings included this year are: burlap bags decorated with the new JA logo, laundry bags, funny postcards, gold JA charms and JA flight bags.

The souvenir shop also stocks Dennis Houlahan’s albums. “Those who enjoy Dennis’s performance here will certainly like to have his albums when they return home,” is Nancy Broussard’s feeling. A beautiful thing to take home to a person who appreciates fine glassware is one of the amber-colored goblets made from beer bottles,” she went on. “These make enchanting wine or water glasses.”

There are also JA coffee mugs on sale, available this year with both the old and new logos.

Many popular items are already sold out, the staff says, and Achievers are advised not to wait until the last minute to make their purchases. "Any time you have money to spare," Nancy recommends, "and have the urge to spend it, visit the basement of McNutt dorm and explore the souvenir shop. Try it, you’ll like it.

Resolutions Committee Conferences

The Resolutions Committee of the 1972 National Junior Achievers Conference has opened another chapter this week for Achiever discussion and evaluation of proposed resolutions.

The meetings are scheduled from 4:15 p.m. Tuesday in Woodburn 101 and 4:15 p.m. Wednesday in Woodburn 100. The final vote by the National Achievers’ Association Council on all resolutions will take place Wednesday.

Each year the Resolutions Committee reviews the policies and procedures of the JA program and suggests changes and additions. For the first time, however, the entire conference will vote directly upon the resolutions.

“All Achievers will have the chance to voice their opinions even though the NAA will have the final vote,” Susan Smith, conference vice-president stressed.

“There are several good reasons for the change,” she continued. “We wanted to eliminate the chaos experienced in previous general resolution meetings and eliminate forcing Achievers to attend who were not interested. Concentrated interest and effort should prove most successful.”

“This is the only chance for Achievers to review the resolutions before the final vote,” Susie concluded. “We would appreciate having a lot of kids come with good ideas.”

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JA Company Is Operated By Cerebral Palsy Patients

By Bette Clemens

A Junior Achievement (JA) company in Hartford, Conn. sold over $900 worth of products in aid of a weekend festival. Not unusual! True.

But, that $900 is a memorable accomplishment, as the 26 company members were all afflicted with cerebral palsy.

Created June 8 of this year, the company will merge with the regular JA program in October and continue until liquidation in May.

"It is the most cohesive company I have ever worked with," Charles Levine, staff member of the Hartford JA Area, began. "The spirit and enthusiasm is unequaled. Everyone gets along fantastically, and there is an extremely low rate of absenteeism."

The company members range in age from 13 to the mid-50s, although one lady lists her age as "58." All have various degrees of muscular disorders ranging from a distinctive walking gait to inability to articulate. The only rule for joining is that all cerebral palsy patients are in the normal range of intelligence, Lev continued. "The president of the company cannot write or talk and rides in a wheel chair, yet he has well above normal intelligence and runs the company as effectively as anyone else."

The president controls the meetings through motions, prepared speeches delivered by others and an alphabet board.

"The JA program has been instrumental in helping these Achievers gain the self-confidence they so desperately need," according to Levine. They have discovered for themselves that given the proper training and background they can handle responsibility as well or better than other people. They cherish that feeling of being needed.

The company, sponsored by the Friendly Ice Cream Shops in Connecticut, produces first-aid kits and paperweights.

"We anticipated that production would be a problem, and the first two weeks were disastrous," Levine continued. "But by finding out each person's capabilities, we now produce a quality product."

Very few modifications of the standard JA structure have been necessary in running the company. Advisers, store managers and JA officials at the American Cerebral Palsy Center have been instrumental in helping these Achievers.

"The Achievers are learning that if you can handle a fantastic amount of their own responsibilities," Levine commented, "the company is running perfectly."

Betty Clemens is the 19-year-old girl even thought of writing to Mr. Sweeney to ask him to waive the age limit for delegates to NAJAC. "I see dynamic possibilities for this program in other areas," Charles continued. Although infinitely many opportunities for these Achievers are limited, they have the same ambitions as everyone else. They are both Harvard graduates but don't pay for the tuition and academic costs either.

"I want to emphasize," Folieher concluded, "that most of these programs were developed according to suggestions from Achiever seminars and workshops during the JA Readers Digest Speakers Corps training and regional conferences."

Three New Programs Developed

(Continued from Page 1)

about private enterprise.

The third part of the overall concept is a career day program involving graduate Achievers who want to return to college. The second part of the JA conference is a convocation for senior high schools in the area and at both Harvard and Stanford Universities.

Cronin began his teaching career in Braintree, Mass., and later became a department chairman in the Palo Alto, Calif. schools. He has taught and directed programs for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Harvard Graduate School of Education. In addition, he has served as a consultant on educational finance and organization to five states.

An activist in Junior Achievement (JA) Cronin was National Junior Achievement Conference chairman in 1952. JA, he said, "Gave me a great opportunity to learn about business by becoming actively engaged in a miniatute company."
Unique NAJAC Costumes

The unusual and colorful garb worn by National Junior Achievers Conference delegates changes every year. This year, contributions range from the Puerto Rican delegation's natty white suit and green tie ensembles through the usual battery of Texan hats, blue Cincinnati jackets and untold numbers of T-shirts to Detroit's bright red sashes. Our camera, unfortunately, couldn't capture the costumes' color, but in any case, half the fun of costume-watching is in doing it yourself, as the young man at lower left seems to have discovered.
A bridge between you and me.
"Not of iron and steel, but of hopes and dreams." Sound familiar? It would if you had attended the fifth JA Reader's Digest Training Seminar (RDS) in Williamsburg, Va., November 8-11, 1971. The verse is taken from a poem jointly composed by three Achievers to describe their feelings about what they termed "one of the most exciting program events: Junior Achievement."  

The seminar was initiated five years ago by a $50,000 grant from Reader's Digest founder DeWitt Wallace. Assistant National Program Director Mary Beth Vernor states: "The seminar provides an opportunity for participants to become more aware of themselves and their peers. Although the main seminar objective is to train effective speakers to represent Achievers, seminar participants find it helps them become more aware of themselves. In short, to crystallize ideas and broaden horizons."  

Charles Levine, a 18-year-old junior at Trinity College agrees, "There is a dynamic flow of ideas," he said, "and you really have an opportunity to get to know a limited number of people really well."  

Delegates are trained through a series of formal and informal discussion and task-oriented groups. These groups deal with topics from the development of new JA programs and materials to the understanding of varying views and how best to articulate them. Meetings are interspersed with sightseeing in historic Williamsburg.  

Speaking engagements follow the training sessions. Junior Achievement Inc. receives requests each year for speakers to address service club meetings, business conventions, professional societies and JA regional conferences. Not every RDS participant is accepted right away. As Mary Beth puts it, "We try to match a particular speaker with a specific event to ensure that each Achiever will not only have an effective input but a meaningful and enjoyable experience."  

Anthony Abowd, 1971 national president of the year, spoke to a JA staff training school in New York. He was also guest speaker at a Benton Harbor, Mich. Rotary Club meeting. Special guests were invited to hear Anthony's address by members of the club's JA Steering Committee. Following his speech the committee met and immediately passed a motion to form a board of directors and bring Junior Achievement to Benton Harbor. Anthony mused, "I'm glad I went, it was a rewarding experience."  

The selection process begins at NAJAC. Contest finalists, validated candidates, and Group and Committee Chairpersons may attend a special orientation meeting to become better acquainted with the program. A careful evaluation follows NAJAC and 20 Achievers are chosen with the aim of picking a balance of boy, girl and high-school and college students; with a good geographic mix.  

A recent innovation in the RDS program is the formation of the Reader's Digest Corps. This group includes all participants from previous seminars. Each member receives a subscription to the Dateline Junior Achievement magazine and news of mutual interest. Members of the corps are also called upon occasionally to speak.  

This year an information and orientation meeting concerning the 1972 Reader's Digest Seminar will take place on Thursday, August 17, at 5 p.m., in the Fine Arts Auditorium.  

Thinking of applying? As Pat Anssworth, a University of Toledo computing science major and former public speaking contest finalist who attended RDS '71 said; "Anyone who can qualify and doesn't apply will be missing one of the biggest opportunities of his life."  

Data Processing Uses At Conference Varied  
(Continued from Page 1) at the regional level, where computer facilities are available.  

The possibility of working closely with contest people in grading objective exams is being considered, said Rebmann. This would allow the contest judges the opportunity to work more with personal interviews and essay tests.  

The computer program staff consists of Rebmann, a doctoral student in computer science at the University of Minnesota, and Bob Dannenfelter, a computer science student at George Washington University.  

The first day of contest validations held much activity for one-third of the NAJAC delegates. At left, contest hopefuls make preliminary preparations, sign up for appointments and discuss procedures with officials. At lower left, contestants toil over first-round written exams. Below, a candidate being interviewed. The mirror reflection in the background shows the interviewing judge.