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האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

COMPUTER SCIENCE LABORATORY
INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICS

August 17, 1976

Professor M. Ferentz
Physics Department
Brooklyn College of CUNY
Brooklyn, New York 11210
U.S.A.

Dear Professor Ferentz:

After a long wait we finally have a working version of Unix. That is, for almost four months now we have been working under Unix, but single user and being extremely careful, because of our little BUG, which was described in our June 14th letter. But since yesterday, when an 8k bank of memory stopped working, and was taken out for repair, with it also went our timing bug. It will be quite interesting to see what happens when the bank is again operational. At least our Dec man now knows that it was a hardware problem all along and Unix is as good as its fame.

Our lab has:

- 1 PDP 11/45 with no floating point
- 48k memory (8k MOS + 40 core)
- 1 RK05 (+ one on its way)
- 1 DLI1
- 1 DLI1
- 1 VTI1
- 1 VARIAN electrostatic printer/plotter
- 1 CDC 714 terminal

We also have a NOVA 800 with 16k, which among its peripherals there is a Diablo Hytype.

We have so far developed software for file transfer to the NOVA and the CDC Cyber (this one belonging to the Computer Center) which work on an asynchronous interface (DLI1), but are working hard to connect the CDC through a synchronous interface (DUL1). Noel Kropf is responsible for the driver of the VTI1 and most debugging of the system, and since he has left for more fertile grounds, (i.e. Columbia Univ.), we've lost a great help.

Our main fields will be graphics, communications and compilers so anybody willing to share information on these is welcomed.

Finally I want to thank David Barach at Yale Univ. for making us feel that we weren't alone in our struggle.

Sincerely

--Daniel Brant--

Malcolm Blanchard
Computer Graphics Lab
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24 August 1976

Prof. Melvin Ferentz,
Physics Department
Brooklyn College of CUNY
Brooklyn, New York 11218

Dear Mal,

I have discovered that lchack with the -s switch does not work for devices with more than 32768 blocks. The problem is in lcheck's subroutine makefree. It was treating the number of blocks as a signed number. The following is a fixed version of makefree. Be aware that the printer that produced this listing prints an underbar as '.

```

makefree()
(
  register char *i;
  register j;

  sblock.s$free = 0;
  sblock.s$inode = 0;
  sblock.s$block = 0;
  sblock.s$ilock = 0;
  sblock.s$imod = 0;
  free(0);
  for(i=sblock.s$size-1; i>=sblock.s$size-2; i--) {
    j = i;
    if ((bmap(j)>>4)&07777) & (i<<<(j&0177))&=0)
      free(i);
  }
  write(i, &sblock);
  close(i);
  sync();
  return;
)

```

Sincerely,

Malcolm Blanchard