

# The Daily Californian

The Largest Independent College Daily in the West

VOLUME I, No. 49

FRIDAY DECEMBER 10, 1971

## Financial Losses

# Computer System Cut

By RICHARD COLMAN  
Science Writer

A university computer system that cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and took years to develop is slated for termination, possibly at great financial loss to the University.

The Cal Time Sharing System (Cal TSS) which began largescale use in October after three years of development will be discontinued at the end of fall quarter because of budget difficulties.

The decision to suspend Cal TSS operations is final, according to Roger Willis, the Chancellor's faculty assistant for computing.

### Computer for Sale

The effect of the decision will result in the loss of approximately eight jobs equivalent to about five full-time positions. In addition, one of the University's main computers, the 6400 B, is scheduled to be put up for sale.

A computer the University is currently leasing from IBM will have the lease terminated June 30, 1972. The machine is the IBM 360, a computer capable of handling large volumes of data.

Cal TSS development began in 1968 with the purchase of the 6400 B computer from the Control Data Corporation. The cost of the machine was \$860,000 according to authoritative sources at the Computing Center. Most of the money came from the National Science Foundation.

### Supplemental System

A spokesman at the San Francisco office of the Control Data Corporation estimated the ex-

pensive machine might not bring more than \$200,000 on the open market, about 23 per cent of the original value.

About \$200,000 dollars in salaries have been spent on developing the TSS system.

Cal TSS was designed by the Computer Center to supplement an existing procedure for handling computer data, known as the batch operations system.

### Instant Processing

Under the batch system, a person brings his computer cards to the center for data processing. Depending on the workload at the center, the processing may take from one to 24 hours.

Time-sharing operations like Cal TSS have the advantage of instant processing. A person using Cal TSS sends his data by teletype from a remote location to the 6400 B machine. After a few seconds or minutes depending on the problem, the teletype device returns the answer.

A major drawback to this system

is that no more than about 20 people can operate remote teletype simultaneously. Thus, Cal TSS may not be capable of performing as many processing jobs as the batch system.

### Losing Money

While officials at the Computer Center are disappointed with the decision to terminate Cal TSS, they feel their efforts provided useful educational information.

"It's not a loss," one well-placed official sighed. He did not elaborate.

However, the center has been losing several hundreds of thousands of dollars a year over the last few years, according to Vance Vaughan, an assistant programmer hired to work on the Cal TSS project.

### Higher Priorities

He said in view of these deficits cutbacks at the center were inevitable.

Ward Sangren, coordinator of computing activity for all nine University campuses said Cal TSS "is one capability one would like."

But he contended the system "is not the highest priority on the list at the moment."

The University, he said, is more interested in developing versions of batch operations than time-sharing programs like Cal TSS.

He termed the loss of Cal TSS a "temporary setback."

Sangren, who believes 75 per cent of all U.C. students should have exposure to computers because of the large role the machines play in society said one of his major concerns was the establishment of a nine-campus data network.