

April 1, 1992

MEMORANDUM

To: W. David Wimberly
From: Paul W. Bixby
Subject: Status Report

Business and Administrative Strategic Information System II

This was all I ate, slept and thought about for ooooh, I don't know, maybe ten or fifteen minutes earlier in the month. Yeah, it was early in the month. I remember it was a Tuesday, no Wednesday, no Tuesday....around three in the afternoon. Man was I tired after that. Yes, it was a Tuesday. I left early I was so exhausted.

I do remember being picked up by aliens in a small white craft and being taken to their planet, Tia. They kept feeding me this stuff that tasted like a grape popsicle that had been dipped in lemonade. All I know is that when they returned me to the parking lot across from our building, it was the next day....and I had no money.

Refer to BASIS II Status memo to the BASIS Steering Committee, dated April 6, 1992. I really don't have a whole lot to add except that I want to go on the record again supporting the elevation of the "interface" issue. Our goal is to provide a information management environment within the University system that provides centralized data (and, more importantly, centralized control of data) and applications that follow some set of user interface and data manipulation standards. If we are to meet that goal, we need some hard, real indications as to what the strategy is for interfacing other systems within the University. Should we:

- Develop interfaces with current systems as an interim solution with the intent of developing (or having the departments develop) integrated, standardized applications to replace the stand-alone system?
- Develop interfaces with current systems as long-term solutions, thereby setting a precedence of allowing stand-alone departmental systems that cannot be corporately controlled (opening the door to duplicate, and potentially corrupted data)?
- Accept the current situation as the "way things will always be" and let the departments duplicate data, effort, and money to fulfill their internal requirements and the University's requirements?

Obviously we can't do everything for everybody, but we do have a glorious opportunity to look to the future and develop a strategy for interfacing with external departmental systems that will support and lend credence to our data and application development standards. Anything less will destroy the integrity of those standards.