When is a spreadsheet appropriate? When should we use another application to achieve our goals? These are questions all teachers need to ask as we integrate technology into the curriculum. Infusing technology into the curriculum should be divergent because it provides teachers with many choices. Below is a brief summary of choices teachers possess after having nearly completed Ed. TE 232.

- Using word processing in the integrated writing process
- Using word processing in combination with hypermedia
  - HyperStudio stories, reports and presentations
  - Netscape Composer presentations and reports
  - PowerPoint presentations
- Using data bases to help students organize their thinking
- Using data bases to accept or reject hypotheses
- Using data bases as the background to a simulation (The New Esa-ba-tad problem comes to mind)
- Using spreadsheets to crunch numbers (The Stock Market Game)
- Using spreadsheets in word-processed documents to present a problem or teach a chosen concept.
- Using spreadsheets to give instructions and solve a problem
- Using spreadsheets to present projects to students in a captivating manner

These are the major goals for Educational Applications of Microcomputers. The course is almost complete (there are still a few cool things up my short sleeves) yet the last two objectives above are worth exploring in this session.

The "Measure the School" project is a collaborative learning activity that involves a little math and a lot of thinking and cooperation. Students are given a spreadsheet that looks more like a web page than a workbook. They are organized into groups of two to four and taught how to use a spreadsheet,
a tape measure, a ruler, and a protractor. In many cases, students already know certain of these prerequisite concepts, but it is a good idea to review anyway. Students are then asked to measure the school (or any other appropriate or handy areas) and scale it down to a size that will fit on a large sheet of butcher paper for presentation. The end product is a map of the school complete with legend and scale.

How does this project fit the curriculum? How can the "Measure the School" project be modified slightly or significantly so that it can be used by any teacher at any grade level? Can it? Let's collaborate and find out.

The Jedi Teachers of Rio Linda meet the Young Protege

1) You are a team of Master Teachers entrusted with an eager student teacher that knows technology well. What your student teacher doesn't know is how to make that technology work well in the classroom. He/she needs "The Force".
2) Group into grade levels and examine the "Measure the School" spreadsheet. One person in your group needs to play the role of the young protege.
3) Design a project with your protégé in such a way as to teach your student how to achieve several objectives through the use of a spreadsheet application. Other new technology may certainly be used.
4) Address the grade level(s) being taught, the objective(s), and any other motivating needs the protégé needs to consider.
5) Present the project to Ed. TE 232 students in a five minute overview so that your ideas may be a further catalyst to the larger group.
6) Have fun. You will be inventing things like this for the remainder of your teaching career!