



# DYNAMIC MEMORIES

NOVEMBER 1986





## SOUTH BAY USERS GROUP

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**LOOK--PAY ATTENTION\*\***--the next SBUG meeting will be held at the Saratoga library. Time: 7:15 P.M.

The next 3 meetings will be held on November 11, December 16 and January 20.  
MORE DETAILS ON PAGE 4.

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### MEMBERSHIP

If you wish to become a member of SBUG and start receiving our newsletter "DYNAMIC MEMORIES", then send \$20 (check or money order) to the following address;

South Bay TRS-80 Users Group  
P.O. Box 60116  
Sunnyvale, Ca.94088

Or come to one of our meetings. Annual membership is \$20.00 which includes the newsletter and bulletin board privileges. If you just wish to have the use of the bulletin board and are unable or uninterested in attending meetings or receiving the newsletter, you may forward a paltry \$12.00 and the bulletin board is yours for all eternity.

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If the need arises, give anyone of us a call.

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## THE EDITOR'S BYTES AND BITES

One of my dreams is a more participatory club. In one of these dreams I open the mail box (I have a very large mailbox) and it is stuffed with contributions to DYNAMIC MEMORIES. I am so embarrassed because there simply isn't room to print it all and I'll have to apologize to the people who sweated for long hours polishing their periods and semi-colons in these superb literary contributions.

We may call this the root dream. There is a sub-dream where I open 5 large envelopes and extract from each one a glorious full color computer drawing for our cover. Each one is superior to anything ever to appear in BYTE. I'm not really sure if I'm dreaming, or suffering from Editor's disease.

Let us switch to another, less painful subject. The little work I have done on the XT, together with a little more studying from the book, shows me that MSDOS is not as unfriendly as CP/M. The hackers have been the biggest help, (when have they not been), and the various versions of MSDOS on its way from PC DOS have been improved to the point where they are tolerable. Off hand I would say that MSDOS takes a lot more study than TRSDOS 6.2, but there is no doubt that it will do a lot more. Of course that's to be expected with a hard disk and 640K ram to play around with.

## SOUTH BAY USERS GROUP

SBUG Financial Statement  
October 28, 1986

Receipts:	October	Y-T-Date	% Used	Budget
Members dues	40.00	809.00	80.90%	1000.00
SBUG BBS Dues	0.00	50.00	25.00%	200.00
Disk Library	8.00	118.00	98.33%	120.00
Load80	24.00	340.00	170.00%	200.00
Documentation	0.00	0.00	0.00%	40.00
Interest	1.99	21.40	71.33%	30.00
-----				
Total Receipts	73.99	1338.40	84.18%	1590.00
Disbursements:				
Phone	10.11	280.11	116.71%	240.00
Utilities	0.00	86.58	32.80%	264.00
Printing	38.42	589.90	163.86%	360.00
Postage	22.00	226.00	150.67%	150.00
P O Box	0.00	29.00	111.54%	26.00
Bank charges	4.00	20.00	55.56%	36.00
Disk Library	0.00	204.97	409.94%	50.00
Documentation	0.00	0.00	0.00%	80.00
SBUG BBS	0.00	0.00	0.00%	200.00
Misc. Expenses	0.00	13.00	26.00%	50.00
-----				
Total Disbursements	74.53	1449.56	99.56%	1456.00
Beginning Balance	409.00	519.62	100.00%	519.62
Net Receipts	-.54	-111.16	-82.96%	134.00
Ending Balance	408.46	408.46	62.49%	653.62

## **SOUTH BAY USERS GROUP**

### **MEETING INFORMATION AND OTHER GOODIES**

Please note that the November meeting will be held on the second Tuesday of November which cleverly falls on the 11th. The December and January meetings will be held in the Saratoga library located at 13650 Saratoga Avenue. The cross street is Fruitvale. We will continue to meet there on into the foreseeable future.

**Important note:** It will be necessary to enter by the bottom back door as the library will be closed. No one dressed in a burnoose will be allowed entry.

Nominations and elections for officers of the club will be held at the coming meeting. These will be free form elections. By this we mean that if you wish to nominate yourself for any given office an automatic second will come from one of the present officers. The elections will then take place in the usual manner. That in itself would be unusual because there hasn't been any usual manner. Anyway, they'll take place. This might be by show of hands or by secret ballot, once again according to the wishes of the membership assembled in plenum.

The following are the positions open for ambitious politicians:

Chairman  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
Newsletter Editor -- (This will be bitterly contested. A great deal of  
mudslinging may be expected)  
Librarians  
(disc)  
(docs)  
Co-editor & Public Relations Chief  
Sysop

There will be a short discussion of PC TOOLS by Chris Oman. Gary Dixon is tentatively scheduled to speak on the Norton utilities. Your editor will bring his new XT compatible system and will speak briefly on the perils and glories of same. Perhaps not briefly enough.

In following meetings we will have exhaustive discussions on hard disk management and hard disk archives. We are also hoping to have a speaker on add on boards from ORCHID.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** I'd like to see something on clock management. The bulletin board clock is still a problem. The concourse of sages that started my system up put the clock and calender right with a little hacking, but it doesn't follow the file commands and I feel I shouldn't have to hack everytime there's a time change. (Even if I could). Right now the calender is right but the clock is an hour off due to the time change. The system command replies that the clock isn't hooked up, but the hard disk comes up with the time and date the sages installed. Drive A thinks it's still 1985. Maybe that was a good year for someone.

## YOUR EDITOR GOES CLONE!!!!!!!

(LITTLE BY LITTLE)

FEATURING BERNIE THOMPSON AS THE GODFATHER

The following article is the story of my experiences, motives and realization of going clone. It would be well to say at the beginning that I really expect to get very little extra in the way of performance on my job from the clone. The work I do is word processing and data base intensive. When there's a full moon on the 31st of the month I do some spreadsheet work.

Whatever drove me to spend the money to go clone then? Some of what I will be writing here is seemingly completely personal, but certain parts of it will apply to each of you who reads; according to his peculiar circumstances.

For one thing I am a hobbyist. While it's perfectly true that I can kill all the squirrels and rabbits I need for food with my slingshot, that bow and arrow the guy in the next cave to me has, looks very intriguing. And I wonder what venison tastes like?

Hobbyists are rarely hermits. They communicate with other hobbyists, learning, teaching and passing on and receiving information. They are also interested in new frontiers. Nothing new is being done in the Model 4 world. What is there is good, a few things (very few) are being refined, but the status is essentially quo, set in concrete.

If I want to be part of what's going on, to be part of the mass experiment involving the use of computers, to talk to my peers and my superiors (and once in a long, long while my inferiors) in computers, I must join the MSDOS world.

There is also a practical side. (I tell my wife over and over again.) As an apartment manager, my hold on my job is tenuous at best. It is the nature of the business to sell properties. If William Nisbet Jr. the nineteenth buys this property he will probably put in as manager his idiot third cousin who can't get a job any place else. Which means of course that this idiot will be looking for a job.

It is truly quite amazing that microcomputers have made such a small appearance in apartment complexes and small (less than 200 rooms) hotels. Inevitably they will appear. When they do they will be, given the occasional Apple or Macintosh, MSDOS machines. Certainly there will be very few Model 4s. It behooves me therefore to familiarize myself with MSDOS as a means of keeping myself current and employable, and I might even say highly employable. Given that so many apartment complexes do not have on site computers I would have a jump on my competitors in the job market, most of whom look forward to the coming of computers with the resignation of an ox looking at a sledgehammer in the slaughter house.

I have written the article in chronological form to give it more dramatic intensity -- to keep my readership ever pendant of the action.

Sunday, October 19. I have decided that I'll go XT compatible. It will take me a lot longer to save the money to go full bore AT. It seems to me that time is of the essence here. It is also the case that somewhere down the line I could upgrade the XT to an AT with a board. These boards are currently in the thousand dollar range but will certainly lower in price in the next year. Here is the configuration I have decided on:

## SOUTH BAY USERS GROUP

- 1 8088 turbo processor, 4 layer with 8 slots and 640K on board
- 2 360K floppies
- 1 20Mb hard disk
- 1 hires RGB color monitor switch selectable to monochrome
- 1 serial and 1 parallel port
- 1 AT style keyboard

Having made this decision (which will bankrupt me, but who cares, what's good enough for the Johns Manville Corporation is good enough for me) I called Bernie Thompson. I gave him the specs quoted above and he immediately came back with the following advice. Before buying I should check the monitors thoroughly to see if I could distinguish the characters easily, and I should check the keyboards for feel. I carefully noted his suggestions.

Monday, October 20. Bernie called and gave me the address of a company, DYNA computers of 2000 Wyatt Drive, Santa Clara. Nose to the ground I took off that same afternoon in pursuit of my dream computer. I had printed my specs and I gave the salesman a copy of them. He showed me some of the machines, keyboards and monitors that were available. The monitor was a Casper. It was actually easier for me to read in color than is my Model 4 greenscreen. This in part depends on the colors used. When the background is dark and the letters are light it's better. When background and letters are both dark or both light there would be no way I could consistently read a display in color with any ease.

After some conversation he quoted me a price of \$1275. Well, well, well. A little bit this side of bankruptcy. I thanked him, and went on off. I called Bernie, and he suggested a little more checking.

Tuesday, October 21. I began with JDR microdevices. I have known this company for some time. They sell good products cheaply. They are right next door to Tandy on Bascom and they must drive Tandy up the wall. A generic device that sells at Tandy for \$70 can be purchased at JDR for \$40, either the same brand or in some cases a superior one.

JDR had been advertising an XT compatible, 256K for 575.15. That was the ad that really set me off. I had added their advertised prices and the system that I wanted totalled out to \$1400.00. I looked at their monitors and they were not quite as good as the Casper. Additionally, they were not switch selectable. It seems to me that the switch selectable option is important. It gives you (in this case) your choice of color, green, or amber. When you stare at a screen for hours, the change of screen color could very well give your eyes a rest. There's a psychological factor as well, just getting away to a new scene (screen) could give you a lift. So far, Dyna Computers was in the lead.

My next call was Zenith, also on Bascom. They seem to be high on robots, very interesting, but not what I was looking for. I like Zenith as a company, they make the best TVs on the market. A little sniffing around showed me that while I might get a very solid, well built computer here, it would be no competition price-wise for either Dyna or JDR.

My next stop was Computers and Accessories, also on Bascom. I seem to have a Bascom fixation. They had a lot of systems on display. The most interesting was the Compaq '386. It was running graphics on an EGA monitor. This was the best monitor I had seen to date. The graphics were attractive but nothing that the Atari and the Amiga don't do better. The keyboard feel was also very superior. I thought it unnecessary to ask for the price on the monitor. I was obviously a Toyota shopper in a Cadillac showroom.



Fortunately no one was unkind enough to ask what I was doing there. Wait a minute! Were they being kind or unkind to the old geezer in the 1960 model corduroy pants?

At the club meeting that night I spoke to a few of our members, and it seemed that I might as well sing "Dyna, there is nothing fyna."

Wednesday, October 22. I made an afternoon appointment with the salesman at Dyna. My wife and I waited a few minutes while he dealt with another customer and then he dealt with me. Yes, he did. It seems that I had misunderstood the \$1275 price. The price was somewhat higher, but still a very cheap one. I promised I wouldn't mention the price to anyone so I won't. However if I were to holler down a drainpipe and you were on the other side it wouldn't be my fault if you heard me. He would see if his boss would go for \$1300. When he came back from seeing his boss it was apparent that his boss had a mean streak in him. He had to sell at this price I can't tell you. So after a little hesitation, not very much, I bought it at this price I can't tell you. As compensation, he told me that Sidekick was included. Well, if you've got a sidekick you're well off in the old west.

Thursday, October 23, waiting.

Friday, October 24. A call from the salesman at Dyna to tell me the computer was ready, willing and able. Off to Dyna with my wife who thinks all computers are foolish and 2 computers are more foolish than one on a cubed geometrical progression scale that only wives understand.

I was told that they didn't have the Casper monitor, that they had a Quimax which is better. It wasn't. They had a Casper which had done some duty in the showroom. It looked and smelled new so I took it. It seemed that Sidekick had gotten lost along the way and would not be included. He probably just wasn't used to dealing with urban characters like me. *This is what I wound up with for the drain pipe price:*

#### COMPONENTS OF XT COMPATIBLE SYSTEM

- 1 8088 turbo processor, 4 layer with 8 slots and 640K on board
- 2 360K floppies
- 1 20Mb hard disk
- 1 hires RGB color monitor switch selectable to amber/green(CASPER)
- 1 metal case and power supply
- 1 clock/calender board with game port.

Assembled and burned in

I took it home and left it in the boxes. Saturday was meeting day for the steering committee and it seemed better that the unveiling be done by the experts. I'm not even an expert kibitzer.

Saturday, October 25. Loaded the system into the car and took off for Chris Oman's. Chris was a little bit late and Henry Schulze showed up. I showed him the monitor, I showed him the keyboard and I showed him the -----. I had left the box containing the processor and disk drives sitting in the carport.

I called my wife. It was still there. There were some not completely complimentary remarks concerning my mental powers. If you were Peruvian then you would know what cojudo means. You aren't and you don't and a good thing too. Then my

## SOUTH BAY USERS GROUP

wife brought the box up to Chris's. More remarks. I was too busy to reply. I was busy catching my breath which had disappeared somewhere.

After the steering committee adjourned, the assembly experts who just happened to be the same brilliant group, Henry Schulze, Bernie Thompson and Chris Oman, hooked up the system. Everything worked fine and there were some useful programs on the HD. It boots on the hard disk. The color is fine, the print very legible, easy on the eyes. It seems proper here to give thanks to the above plus Gerry McKee for their advice on the programs I should acquire including MSDOS 3.2, Word Perfect, Turbo Lightning, Edlin, Procomm and Optimize, as well as a great deal of competent advise.

Some things will always be unforeseen as you will find out below.

The concensus was that I hadn't done badly, the system was well worth the price. Of course the credit goes to Bernie, who recommended the vendors.

Sunday, October 26. Visited Gerry who showed me a little more of MSDOS. Noticed that his monitor may even be better than mine and I think mine is pretty good. Went home and hooked up the computer with the help of my wife. She says she can't see what good computers do, but it's fun hooking them up and repairing them. I can do without this last part. I did something I had never done before, I wiped out a disk. The reason I had never done it before is because I always made backups before I did any kind of work, and for whatever it's worth, I'm too unsure of myself to do backups. Unsure or not that's going to be my first priority.

I bought two books at Fry's, one on the recommendation of Chris Oman. "Making MS-DOS and PC-DOS Work for You". On my own I bought "The MS-DOS Handbook". As it turns out it was well that I had listened to Chris. The "Handbook" is very technical. Making MS-DOS etc. is clear and easy to follow. One small, unimportant thing did come up. I can't make the commands work.

Says the book, "--The first is to make the new drive you wish to use the active drive. To make drive B active, simply type 'B:'. It doesn't work. Type it thirty-one times and it still doesn't work. Yes I did. Neither will Dir B: get me the B drive directory from either drive A or C. I'll have to get some help on that. I studied PCTOOLS (worthy of capitalization). I can easily see that it's going to save me from a lot of slavery, but it won't change drives for me. Enough for today. I'll give her hell tomorrow.

Monday, October 27. After I had finished the day's work on this article yesterday, I got calls from Henry and Gerry. They thought that it might be a disk controller thing. Early this morning I called the company and after a little back and forth, they said bring it on in. At noon, Bernie called. He said it wasn't possibly a disk controller thing, else PCTOOLS could not have accessed the other drives. He suggested a bad or badly connected ROM chip.

The sages will tell you that if it looks like a duck, quacks like a duck, waddles like a duck, has feathers and swims, it must be a duck. I suggest that to be absolutely sure you must see what it reproduces. (See below)

At 1330 I carted the drive/cpu unit to Dyna. In a short period a technician appeared and connected the unit to a monitor and keyboard, booted up on the hard disk and typed a:. The drive shifted to A. He went back to C, to B, ran directories, no problem. I was flabbergasted. Is there some word stronger than flabbergasted? That too.

"Let me do it.", I said. I went to the keyboard and typed a:. Syntax screen. "That's not the colon." said the technician. I was typing a glzn bank of keys in the same location as the colon on the Model 4. The color compatible keyboard is where the + is on the Model 4, that is to say sh colon. Here I must give thanks to Dyna Computers for being prompt, col not stringing me up from the nearest colon.

So off I went, Chez Lee with my absolutely perfect computer and imperfect personal record. So far I had left the computer in a carport for an hour, had erased my only copy of a disk for the first time ever and didn't see the difference between my colon and a hole in the ground. From here on in, be progress, onward and upward, there was no down direction.

This article will continue until some afflicted body says Please stop O-O-O-O-O-O. Not now, though. See the December DYNAMIC ME dare.

Tandy's Giving Day  
by Gerald F. Mc Kee

Thank you Daddy Tandy, for keeping us in tow.  
Changing all those models, as nature sends the snow!  
When we think we're current, software made to work.  
Were it not for SBUG, we'd feel like a jerk!

Clones of (even) Tandy, help us handle all.  
MS-DOS (unhandy), mastered is a ball!  
Hang in there good buddies, with SBUG you belong.  
Sharing fears and pleasures, well above the throng.

Just be sure your system, never needs repair,  
Hat in hand you carry-in, leaving every care.  
Soon enough you get it back paired with giant bill,  
If you think its perfect, you'd drink any swill.

Even with a contract, Service is for birds.  
Wrath instead of pleasure, tags with empty words.  
Try it with new software, watch it bite the dust.  
Can not fix it anywhere, who is there to trust?

Yes, I have a stable-full, Tandy stuff, that is.  
When it works its well above anything with fizz.  
Does its thing with grace and ease, speeds thru any task.  
Had my share of heartaches, 'course you had to ask!

Would I chose another, if day one was back?  
Bet your hat I would, of course never from the Shack.  
Still, I keep on hoping, Tandy will improve,  
Before offshore invasion, already on the move!

SUPREME MAIL

From: Phil Sih  
To: All

## SOUTH BAY USERS GROUP

Subj: Worldwide Network Mail

### UUCP, BITNET, ARPA NETWORK MAIL ACCESS NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH THE PORTAL SYSTEM

Cupertino, California, October 20, 1986 -- Portal Communications Company announces network mail access to UUCP, BITNET, and ARPA is now available through The Portal System, the new online communications service for the Bay Area. Now, users wishing to communicate with those on UUCP, BITNET, or ARPA can, through the mail gateway on Portal, exchange electronic mail. This new Portal service is useful to those looking to establish a connection with users on these networks.

Portal mail has features which make network mail, especially for UUCP users, easier to use. Users no longer have to remember long and error prone paths to intended recipients. Instead, an automatic routing feature establishes the best path to the receiver using a database containing information on thousands of nodes. Another feature, called "check\_address", allows the user to determine if a given address can be automatically routed. Additionally, Portal mail can be organized into convenient "folders" for sorting and later review.

UUCP is an international electronic messaging network used mostly by engineering, educational, and research organizations using Unix-based computers. It connects people at organizations such as Digital Equipment, Sun Microsystems, the University of California at Berkeley, and Lawrence Livermore Labs. BITNET is another international network which connects users with mostly other kinds of computers. The Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, IBM, and the University of Wisconsin are among the organizations using BITNET. ARPA is the network connecting organizations associated with the Department of Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. Together these networks connect over 10,000 sites on four continents.

The Portal System is available to the public 24 hours a day and requires only a personal computer or terminal, and a modem to use. Portal is the only service providing publicly available access to these networks. Portal also provides its own private electronic mail service, online conferences including material gatewayed from Usenet, and computer meetings, a form of real-time computer party line. Portal may be reached by modem at 408/725-0561. Inquires and requests for information may be directed to Phil Sih at [sun!portal@phil.sih%cupertino.pcc](mailto:sun!portal@phil.sih%cupertino.pcc) (UUCP) or 408/973-9111. The Portal System is a service of Portal Communications Company, a California corporation.

Read Message:  
R)reply K)kill E)nter N)ext P)revious  
-)Read-Orig. +)Read-Reply Q)uit  
[11] 1 - 14 R K E N P - + Q or ? for help: n  
#12 10 31 Dec C9 16:47:36 (RECV'D)  
From: David Cooper  
To: Sysop  
Subj: MEMBERSHIP

I would like to join your bbs please mail me an application form, my address is PO box 748 San Carlos, Ca. 94070.....or you can leave me a message on my BBS 415-592-7082.....

Regards,

Dave Cooper

Read Message:

R)epl y K)ill E)nter N)ext P)revi ous

-)Read-Orig. +)Read-Reply Q)uit

[12] 1 - 14 R K E N P - + Q or ? for help: n

#13 9 31 Dec C9 16:52:39

From: David Cooper

To: All

Subj: computer for sale

TRS-80 model 4P with modem board and 128K installed, just recently completely serviced.....and with MonteZuma Micro CPM...

\$499.00

Contact me at 415-591-8532

Ask for Dave.....

Thankyou





South Bay TRS-80 Users Group  
P.O. Box 60116  
Sunnyvale, Ca 94088

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**