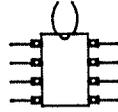


South Bay Users Group

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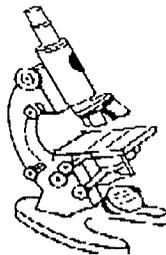


DYNAMIC MEMORIES

JULY

SS

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DYNAMIC MEMORIES

JULY 1988

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If the need arises feel free to give anyone of us a call.

THE EDITOR'S BYTES AND BITES

One of the things that keeps the computer hobbyist endlessly fascinated is the continual appearance of new things. Scanners will soon be on most desk tops. One would be on my desktop now if I had the money. 24 pin printers with their close to typeset quality and ability to do classy graphics were new just a while back. One would be on my desktop now if I had the money. Oh, I said that before, didn't I?

LANs and LAN specific software are the current gossip on the computer circuit. LANs will only serve in medium to large office surroundings. I read about them but I can't envision myself ever using them so they don't hold my interest much. Scanners on the other hand are for everybody.

In any case there's always something new, always something that you wish you had. VGA? A laser printer? 25 Mhz processor speed? A 110 Meg HD working at 18 ms? 16 Meg of memory? It's all out there. All you have to do is buy it.



SBUG Financial Statement
June 20, 1988

Receipts:	June	Y-T-Date	% Used	Budget
Members dues	20.00	80.00	10.00%	800.00
Disk Library	6.00	95.00	63.33%	150.00
Load80	0.00	40.00	13.33%	300.00
Documentation	0.00	.00	.00%	25.00
Interest	6.53	20.49 *	81.96%	25.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	60.00	30.00%	200.00

Total Receipts	32.53	295.49	19.70%	1500.00
Disbursements:				
Phone	7.71	73.13	48.75%	150.00
Utilities	0.00	.00	.00%	120.00
Printing	0.00	.00	.00%	100.00
Postage	0.00	47.00	36.15%	130.00
P O Box	39.00	39.00	134.48%	29.00
Bank charges	0.00	.00	.00%	24.00
Disk Library	0.00	.00	.00%	120.00
Documentation	0.00	.00	.00%	50.00
Load80 Subscription	0.00	.00	.00%	150.00
SBUG BBS Repairs	0.00	.00	.00%	100.00
Misc. Expenses	0.00	69.00	55.20%	125.00

Total Disbursements	46.71	228.13	20.78%	1098.00
Beginning Cash Balance	755.56	674.02	100.00%	674.02
Net Receipts	-14.18	67.36	16.76%	402.00
Ending Balance	741.38	741.38	68.90%	1076.02

*This amount includes \$2.17 received in 1987 but posted in 1988.

PICK YOUR PUNDIT

The world of OS/2 Standard Edition, OS/2 Extended Edition, Presentation Manager, and Windows in assorted editions, will soon be upon us. Fortunately we can look to the pundits for sage advice and not worry our weary heads about these complicated and abstruse matters. For example I will give you a few quotes from William F. Zachmann's article in the June PC World, entitled OS/2 EXTENDED EDITION and IBM's PS/2 STRATEGY.

Patience, son.. "--The second step in IBM's strategy was OS/2 Extended Edition. Unlike OS/2 Standard Edition, which Microsoft has the right to license to every other vendor in the world, OS/2 Extended Edition is strictly an IBM product that won't be available from any other vendor.

--In the first place, OS/2 extended Edition is going to require lots more resources than most PS/2s have got. Second, OS/2 Extended Edition really doesn't offer users much more power than the DOS systems they've been using for some time. Third, independent software vendors are clearly prepared to offer users of industry-standard AT-compatible systems all the capabilities of OS/2 Extended Edition at much lower costs and with much more modest processing, memory, and secondary storage requirements.

--The unhappy result for IBM is that OS/2 Extended Edition fails to provide a real incentive for users to buy IBM's proprietary Micro Channel Architecture machine any time soon. Worse, those who purchased an IBM PS/2 Model 50 or 60 assuming that they were climbing on the bandwagon will discover their system really hasn't got the horsepower to deliver more than they could have had at a lower cost on an AT compatible."

Take that!, IBM. On to page 102 of the June PC World and look at an article entitled 3+OPEN by Michael Goodwin, associate editor for PC World.

The heading says, "The first major OS/2 network product is about to appear. 3+Open's support for server intensive applications-- plus boosted speed and new security features should ensure that LAN's will never be the same."

--OS/2's 16MB memory space, multitasking, and multithreading capabilities will enable 3+Open to deliver features unavailable from any existing LAN." --you will notice a significant improvement in performance, thanks to OS/2's ability to handle each network connection as a separate task." Take that, IBM detractors!

WORD MOST IMPERFECT

At this moment I have consigned the entire state of Utah to that most horrifying hell designed and constructed by their prophet, Joseph Smith. The reason for this drastic decision? Word Perfect 5.0.

WP 5.0 is an improvement on WP 4.2. It has a lot of improvements as I have already found out in the little time I have worked with it. For example, the already excellent macros are better because they are just as easy but can be even more complex and are easily checked for content when one is uncertain as to a certain macro.

WP50 is graphics oriented. It will import graphics from other programs. Now comes the problem. It is printer specific. With 4.2 when I tried to be specific as to my printers it never seemed to work so I just used "standard printer" and everything worked fine.

That doesn't work with 5.0. After running through the printers that are on the disks that come with 5.0 my first disillusion began. I was most surprised and pleased to find my Daisywriter included. When I installed it, it didn't work. There is a caveat there. The plaque on my Daisywriter says 1500/2000. The installation disk says "Daisywriter 2000".

The disks also included an Epson EX-800. My Epson is the EX-1000 which is the 132 column version. WP 5.0 accepted the installation the printer worked but printed about 20% garbage. I'm sure you're getting the idea. Because it is so graphics oriented WP 5.0 is also printer specific. I mean bulls eye specific.

I installed "standard printer" and went not very merrily on my way. Standard printer won't do graphics and it won't do any of the special things that each of my printers is capable of. Imagine a typewriter (not a very modern one) operated by a computer. That's what standard printer gives you.

At least it was working and I was turning out my usual material at the same time learning some of the ins and outs of WP 5.0, when! wham-kerblam no thank you ma'am the printed material started running words together. Likethis. On both printers.

The first thing I thought of was a bad chip. I used print screen. No problem. I had taken off WP 4.2 and transferred the numerous files to 5.0 because I thought I would be using 5.0 until I got the printer disks for my

specific printers that I had requested from Word Perfect Corporation. (They offer this service gratis--they should).

Word Perfect has a view (preview) function that shows how the material is going to print out. It is quite specific because it shows how different fonts will appear as well as the graphics. When I ran my text through this view function it showed the words run together just as they were coming out on the printers. I said that's too bad and this is clumsy but I'll just have to put up with it for a little while, I'll put in an extra space wherever needed because it only happens once in a while and I'll get by. Not to be.

If I write so: Did you hear the one aboutthe three fishermen? Then I put in an extra space in aboutthe and it comes out so: Did you hear the one about the threefishermen?

I installed Electric Pencil and started using it for my daily work. No problems at all. Sometimes I write letters using WP 5.0 save them in generic word processor form, transfer them to Electric Pencil and they come out absolutely perfect--word perfect you might say. I don't have to make any changes, do any editing. It's clumsy but I have a lot of form letters and a lot of macros in Word Perfect that cut down my writing time. As I said above, Word Perfect Corporation tells the purchaser to send for disks specific for whatever printer the purchaser has.

I've done that. I have also sent them very specific information on my wordtogether problem. They also offer >free< a number of Bitstream fonts and I have sent for them. WP does have an 800 number. It is permanently busy. I long ago lost track of the number of times I have called. I'd have better luck calling Reagan. He doesn't get that many calls these days.

I have done everything I can think of to resolve this problem. I have uninstalled and re-installed both Word Perfect itself and individually the printer. The dice come up snake eyes.

When I first started it worked all right with standard printer and that is why I erased 4.2 and transferred the files. Then I did some messing around trying to get the printers to work, and that's when it started. All this was on the hard disk, so why doesn't it work when I re-install? The worst part about Word Perfect Corporation is their really lousy service. A month has gone by since I sent them the specifics, very carefully documented, of my problem. As I said, the 800 number is always busy. I don't want to go to the trouble of reinstalling 4.2 and converting files

again, it's easier to take things over to Electric Pencil in ASCII. In the case of this newsletter, I am writing it with WP 5.0 because I will then take it to First Publisher where I can easily separate the run-together words. Editor's note: I didn't have to, there are no run together words in the ASCII version.

I won't complain any more. All together it's a bummer and if I went on I would leave tear stains on your newsletter. Once I can get my problem straightened out I will have a very superior word processor. Ho-hum. it looks like a long haul.

One tiny ray of sunshine was the way First Publisher behaved. First Publisher's "Snapshot" feature is supposed to capture graphics. The advertising says it will capture "most" graphics which usually means everything but what you want. It has yet to fail me.

I wanted to capture the preview (view) screen of WP 5.0 to send in to show clearly what was happening to me. Print screen will not work. First Publisher did it with no strain. I have to give First Publisher a hearty recommendation, not only for this. If you do any kind of publishing, if you even write letters where it would be nice to incorporate graphics or use different fonts, if you wish to make letterhead(s) then First Publisher is the program for you. About \$60.00 will get it for you, street price. It's no great strain to learn, either.

There is a lot to WP 5.0 that will make any writer happy. (By writer I mean anyone capable of constructing two consecutive sentences which eliminates 50% of the population of the United States.) For example it does digraphs. Did you ever digraph? You should, they're fun. 30 clip art images are included.

Finally and possibly of more importance (if you don't digraph), 13 character sets are included, the 13th being user defined. You cannot say, no one can, when a frenzy, a fierce desire to write a letter in demotic Greek might come upon you. If it does, Word Perfect's character sets will be your salvation. Quechua and Twee are not covered but they can be handled by the Spanish and French alphabets respectively. Platt-deutsch on the other hand might give you a little trouble.

The extended search feature searches in headers, footers, footers, footnotes, endnotes, box captions and text boxes.

When, oh when will all this be mine?

REPRINTED FROM SYDNEY TRS-80 NEWSLETTER
ORIGINALLY IN "NATGUG NEWS"
NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL AMSTRAD, TANDY & GENERAL USER GROUP

FROM TRS-80 TO THE FUTURE
by John Miller

Several months ago I wrote an article describing my experiences in changing from a TRS-80 Model 4 to my first ventures into the MSDOS world. Having started computing with a TRS-80 Model 1, supplemented with an Acculab tape drive (remember them?), I progressed to disk drives, had a brief flirtation with the Model 3 before settling down to serious work with the Models 4 and 4P.

Computers are supposed to help me with my work as a scientist and University lecturer-- they certainly did that, but they also became a hobby. So I am quite sad to see that 80Micro is no longer to feature the TRS-80 computers; this feels like the end of an era. However, it is not the demise of a very good machine! The TRS-80 machines are still very good workhorses. In terms of word processing, spreadsheeting and doing other chores either domestically or for a small business, they are excellent. The software base (mainly that produced by other software houses, not Tandy), is extremely good, and can still provide a model of cost-effectiveness which much overblown, under-featured and expensive stuff out there on the MSDOS market could do well to emulate. This is not to mention the DOS programs themselves. The original TRSDOS, despite its early problems, was a revolutionary example of functional, compactness and friendliness which still has not penetrated to MSDOS, and if it and its subsequent incarnations had become industry standards and not CP/M (upon which MSDOS is sadly modeled) we should all have a truly friendly and usable DOS by now. The blame for this oversight of monumental proportions lies squarely at the feet of Tandy and its obscure marketing policies (did they ever have any).

I write this to encourage any TRS-80 users who feel themselves beleaguered by 16 bit or 32 bit enthusiasts. Quite frankly, you don't really need all this extra RAM and speed to do most of the jobs that most of us use our computers for. In the Extra-Mural Dept. of Edinburgh University, we run a Departmental Budget of over a million pounds a year using DATAWRITER on a Model 4 in 3 mode! And it is very good to see that some software and hardware manufacturers in the USA still believe in the TRS-80 and are still providing support. The XLR8er speed-up board, with its extra RAM and faster processing is proving very popular. I had one of

these in my 4P for a short time, and I was very impressed by it. Many programmers are now providing support for this board, including Roy Soltoff, writer of LS-DOS 6.3, Anitek, writers of LeScript, can now offer a version which will talk to the extra RAM on the XLRBer, if you are convinced that you need to process lots of word or several files at once. A new version of PRO-WAM (PRONTO) of old) is available with many enhancements, which will knock the socks off most of the MSDOS pop-up utilities, SideKick included (but wait for the new Sidekick).

There are also some new programs for the excellent MicroLabs Graphics board (offering a resolution not far from the EGA standard on MSDOS machines), including a very good upgrade to their DRAW program, which is now faster and has many more facilities (Pro-DRAW). They have also provided very cheaply, new versions of the GBASIC which comes with their board which works with LS-DOS 6.0(DOSPLUS 4 and TRSDOS 6.2 have always been supported). Micro-Labs have also found a way to put their graphics board and an XLRBer board together (normally the two boards would have overlapped, and sacrificed the graphics). This is excellent news! So the Models 4 and 4P are not forgotten. You can still buy Model 1 and Model 3 software from places like DiskCount Data in the States, which advertise in 80Micro and its spin-off PC-Resource.

Members might be interested to know how my MSDOS system has progressed. I began with an Elonex machine with 10Mhz at 0 wait states, 1.2 Meg floppy, 20 Meg hard disk, Hercules graphics. I note (with some chagrin) that for the same price, Elonex are now offering a 40 Meg hard disk, bundled Gem applications, BASIC and a mouse. This is superb value, as the computer is of the highest quality, with all the most up to date chips and gate arrays, and is performing flawlessly. My current setup includes a 1.5Meg RAM expansion board, a Summagraphics 1201 12 inch square digitizer tablet, an Epson LQ800 24 pin printer, a Roland 880 8 pen colour plotter, a 32Meg hard disk card (addressed as drive d:, a 360K floppy (for compatibility), a Pace Linnet autodial/autoanswer modem, Logitech Serial Mouse, a "Complete Hand Scanner", a Genoa Super EGA display controller and an NEC Multisynch Monitor. Yes, I've finally gone colour! You will realize that production of publication quality graphics is very important to me, as well as Desktop Publishing.

The Genoa display board is superb. Together with the NEC monitor, it can automatically switch into all the existing mono, Hercules, CGA and EGA (640x350) modes and a few others as well, including an incredible 800x600 pixel, 16 colour mode for which there are drivers for GEM, WINDOWS, AUTOCAD and LOTUS 123. In this mode I can see a double page

spread in GEM Desktop Publishing without the letter being "greeked", i.e. represented by gray stripes. The display is very fast and I am extremely pleased with this board and would recommend it to anyone with similar requirements.

The latest addition is a scanner from "The Complete PC, Inc., 521 Cottonwood Drive, Milpitas, CA 95035". It resembles a very fat rodent, and scans a strip 2.5 inches wide up to 10 inches long. The software supplied is superb. You simply roll the scanner over the drawing or photograph you want to capture and it scrolls onto the screen. You can crop it, rotate it or reverse it, and save it in a variety of formats, including MS WINDOWS (for input into WINDOWS PAINT or WRITE), or PC PAINTBRUSH where you can edit it at the pixel level and do anything your heart desires. The resolution is 200 dots per inch, and the quality is excellent; even photographs look good because you have a four position contrast and a brightness control on the scanner which you can experiment with to get optimum results. At only \$249.00, this hand scanner is much cheaper than one being advertised here (which costs over \$300.00 and apparently has only primitive support software). The scanner has a small interface board which takes a half slot and is very easy to install. Not only is it extremely useful and time-saving, but it is fun to use.

A brief word about some of the software I'm using. Microsoft WORD is my main WP program, and for superb output I use FANCYWORD from SoftCraft Inc., 16 N. Carrol ST. Suite 508, Madison, WI 53703. This provides a range of high quality fonts of various types and sizes which you can assign to your text within WORD. You first print your file to disk, then run FANCYWORD from the LIBRARY option of WORD. This takes your formatted file and prints it as a Hi-res Graphics image on the printer, using all the assigned fonts, and can even incorporate graphics from PC Paintbrush etc.

The output on a 24 pin (188 dpi) printer is very close to Laser standard, looking most professional, and runs only slightly slower than NLQ mode. You can get 248 dot resolution with an FX88 printer, but because only a single pin row is used to build up the image in this case printing is very slow. If you want to incorporate pictures, you really do need a Meg or so of EMS (expanded memory) to hold the graphics. If you do a lot of incorporating graphics into text, then you need a page layout program--DTP is very fashionable. Fantasy, the IBM version of Dotwriter is handy for short newsletters or handouts. Microsoft's Fleet Street Editor 2.8 is also very good, with a useful clip art library; again it is best for fairly short documents. GEM'S DTP is fine in the middle price range, particularly now with the new fast Gem 3.8 and the superb Bitstream fonts (which are

also used in FANCYWORD). Style sheets allow you to simply flow text and graphics onto a range of pages, and you could easily produce a whole book this way. Beware, though; DTP generates a lot of files, so a big hard disk is an absolute necessity.

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF COMPUTER PROSE
or
A SPELLING CHECKER DOES NOT A WRITER MAKE

DYNAMIC MEMORIES is not widely quoted from Auckland to the Zambesi. The prose therein is not deathless, it is definitely finite. The most reprinted piece that ever appeared in DYNAMIC MEMORIES was a squib from our bulletin board containing an elegant technical play on the Model 4 by Pete Fratus. Nevertheless, consider this. It is quoted from COMPUTER SHOPPER, definitely a major computer magazine.

It was written? by Barbara E. McMullen & John F. McMullen and is entitled "TANDY STRIKES TWICE!"

"--The focus on the CD product, while understandable, is, in some ways, unfair to the computer introduction for the Tandy 5000MC is significant both for Tandy and the industry and represents a departure from most of Tandy's previous computer history."

This indeed sets a standard for turgid, incomprehensible, sloppy writing. But wait! there's more! You get a complete set of quotations from Master John and Mistress Barbara McMullen.

Further on in the article we come across this. "(On another industry legal issue--one of the authors of this piece tried to illicit comment from Roach on the Apple/Microsoft/Hewlet-Packard litigation. --)" (Parentheses by the authors) I don't have a great deal to do with Radio Shack these days but it is indeed heart warming to know that they have not become illicit--even when tempted by subversive forces. Subversive of the English language that is.



John Roach--illiciting

UPDATE ON UPDATED WORD PERFECT

I finally got through on one of the two 800 numbers that Word Perfect sports. This line handles the requests for the printer specific disks that WP furnishes on request to sad updaters like me. The letter I sent with the request has been lost, so they have turned it over to "research". Isn't that a cute name for the lost letter department?

I still haven't had any luck getting through to their help facility. Using Word Perfect 5.0 for the newsletter is no problem. I save the files in generic word processor form and transfer them to FIRST PUBLISHER using QDOS. Of course my dream had been to do it all in Word Perfect with special fonts and clip art and digraphs (lots of digraphs) etcetera. Some day my dreams will come true and you will have a really dressy newsletter. Incidentally, the BITSTREAM fonts which are very highly spoken of on all sides, will not be available until the middle of July.

THE AT CLONE BUYERS
GUIDE AND HANDBOOK

A Review by Editor

The book is by Edwin Rutsch and published by Modular Information Systems of 431 Ashbury Street, San Francisco. It was a gift to me so I am not absolutely sure of the price, but it seems to me that I have seen it quoted at \$19.95.

The following information about the author is quoted from the book.

"Edwin Rutsch lives in San Francisco, California and heads a microcomputer consulting and book publishing firm. He also heads seminars on the purchasing and using of computers.

"Mr. Rutsch has been in the computer field since the inception of the clone market. He has worked with clones as a dealer, a consultant, an organizer (founding a national computer users group), and as a lecturer. He is also author of THE IBM XT CLONE BUYER'S GUIDE." (And his book on the 80386 is now on the market: Ed.)

As the name indicates this book is designed to aid the purchaser of this type of computer. It begins with a short history of microcomputers. The history is accurate enough although it ignores Tandy and calls CP/M "Control Program/Monitor". I have a feeling that Tandy will be ignored in

histories written in the future. Apple has lived on and the Tandy machines--Models 1-III, 4, their design and (DOS) have disappeared.

William Buckley I'm not, neither am I Gore Vidal. The atrocious grammar in a book written by a person whose antecedents include 'publisher' leaves a rancidity in my mind. A programmer may write this way and I don't mind, but this person presents himself as a consultant cum publisher cum semanirst. His business should be words.

Let me make plain my point of view. A painter may cut off his ear and speak atrocious French. Neither of these things effects the value of his painting, his ability to express himself in that medium. When a man presents himself as a publisher and commits errors in English that his ninth grade teacher should have ironed out, I have doubts about his integrity and his ability. I think he writes books to make money, he writes them as fast as he can in order to capture a fast moving market, and that he doesn't even bother to proof read them.

Surprisingly the evaluation of the various AT computers is accurate as I know this field. If one looks further one finds that his technical information is supplied by Jean-Pierre Chelouche, an electronics engineer with impressive academic credits.

Let us see what he has to say about the Tandy AT compatibles. "Tandy offers several 286-based computers, which use an awkward labeling system (to say the least). These computers are; the 1000 TX, the 3000 operating at 12Mhz, the 3000 HL, the 3000 HD, and the 3000 operating at 12 Mhz. All the computers except the 3000 operating at 12Mhz are very slow and are definitely not recommended. The 300/D12 os the unit discussed here.

"Pros: This computer has support from over 1100 Radio Shack computer stores. There are 9 expansion slots for add-on cards and a built-in serial and parallel port.

"Cons: The speed is a moderate 12 MHz with 1 wait state. There is no upgrade path to a 386-based computer. No LED panel is available. There are only three drive bays. The warranty period is only 3 months while the industry standard is one year. The basic systems price seems attractive but by the time you add the necessary elements for a working computer, the price is quite high."

Altogether a fair enough evaluation. Joining SBUG would help more.

FOR SALE

TRS-80 Model 4P--(Portable) Includes following software:

Visicalc, Multiplan, Dbase, Scriptsit with dictionary, Lazywriter, accounting, Cobol, Fortran Buss mailing list, Checkwriter, Series I Editor/assembly, Profile 3 plus, Grammatik, Disk course, Proof read, WordStar. All programs are accompanied by their respective manuals!

Richard Telfer
Box 521
Capitola, CA 95010

Tel. (408) 476-0420

LONELY HEART

I am a lonely bulletin board. No one rings my bell anymore. If you are lonely too, call me at (408) 249-8259. I'll be waiting by the modem.

South Bay TRS-80 Users Group
P.O. Box 60116
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