TPUG Newsletter

Views and News of Toronto Pet Users Group, Inc.

P.O. Box 48565, 3605 Lakeshore Blvd. W., Etobicoke, Ontario, M8W 4Y6 (416) 253-9637

Volume 5, Number 8 **Fall 1997**

From the President -

Seasonal Change

Another school year has begun and so have TPUG meetings. To start this year off, we had our Annual General Meeting, in August at our westside meeting location, where a new President was chosen. George Turek with remain as Treasurer, Ian McIntosh as Secretary, John Easton as Vice President, Ernie Chorny has stepped down to Second Vice President, and myself, Tom Luff, as your new President. The remainder of the Board of Directors are Dug Rodger, Tom Haslehurst, John Buller, Joe Palumbo, and new to the board this year is Gord Johnston.

With a new line up, means new ideas, new ideas mean changes, the first of which you have likely spotted. In an attempt to cut cost, we are making changes to the newsletter. By using a full page format we have in effect accomplished three things,

1) reduced cost,

2) the print has become larger, thus is easier to read, and

3) easier storage, the newsletter can now be stored in standard 3-ring binders.

Page style or design may be altered in future issues.

Also in future issues we will be doing an 'ASK THE B.O.D' column, where members can ask can ask the Board of Directors questions about their computers, programs, and where to find things. Chances are if we don't know, we likely know where to find out. We will be gathering your questions from your letters, phone calls, e-mail, and our website. 'E-MAIL ?', 'WEBSITE ?', 'TPUG ?'. Yes, TPUG finally has an operational e-mail address (tpug@icomm.ca) and website (http://www.icomm.ca/tpug), Ian McIntosh will have more on this.

In closing, we as your Board of Directors will do the best we can to make this a good year and a great club. But remember you only get out what you put in. I'm not talking about money (although it does help, A LOT). What I mean to say is as volunteers ourselves we need your help to man (or woman) the shows, to make presentations (demo) at the meetings, and to be available to help new members with their needs. Help us to help you.

Tom Luff

For users of all Commodore Computers :

* PET/CBM
* SuperPet
  * B-128
* VIC 20
* Commodore 64
  * PLUS-4
  * C-16
* Commodore C 128
* AMIGA
  PC/MS-DOS

* Registered products of Commodore Business Machines, International and/or their assignees.

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Member Information

Voice Info (416) 253-9637
Please leave a message

e-mail : tpug@icomm.ca

Membership Rates

Canada $25
USA ..... US $25
International ..... US $25

Board of Directors

President .....Tom Luff
Vice President .....John Easton
Vice President .....Ernie Chorny
Secretary .....Ian McIntosh
Treasurer ..... George Turek
Director ..... John Buller
Director .....Tom Haslehurst
Director .....Gord Johnston
Director ..... Joe Palumbo
Director .....Dug Rodger

Librarians

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Amiga ..... John Buller
C128 .....Tom Luff
CP/M .....Ernie Chorny
GEOS ..... Joe Palumbo
C64 ..... Joe Palumbo
C64 Education .. Bill Cumberland
Comal .....Ernie Chorny
Plus/4 .....Ernie Chorny
Vic 20 .....Ernie Chorny
PET/CBM/SuperPET John Easton
PET&C64 Education . John Easton
MS-DOS .....John Easton

Support

Mail .....Tom Luff
Telephone .....John Easton
Disk Orders ..... Librarians
Member Records ...Ian McIntosh
Meetings .....Tom Luff
..... and Ernie Chorny
Shows . Tom Luff & Ernie Chorny
BBS SysOp .....Sylvia Gallus
Webmaster .....Ian McIntosh

Newsletter

Editor John Easton (416) 251-1511
.....jeaston@idirect.com

Meeting Schedule

Amiga Central: Second Tuesday of the month.
Contact - George Cripps (416) 255-1436
C-64/128: Fourth Tuesday of the month.
Contact - Ernie Chorny (905) 279-2730
The above meetings commence at 7:30 p.m. in the York Public Library, 1745 Eglinton Ave. W. (just east of Dufferin), in the Auditorium or Story Hour Room.

Westside and Amiga West: Third Thursday of the month at Alderwood United Church, 44 Delma Drive. Delma Drive is just west of and parallel to Browns Line, south of the Queen Elizabeth Highway, north of Horner Avenue. From the west, exit QEW at Evans Avenue, east on Evans to 2nd stoplight, south on Gair to Delma Drive. From the north or east, follow signs from QEW or Hwy. 427 to Browns Line, exit right to Evans Avenue, turn south on Gair (first stoplight) to Delma.
Contact - Ernie Chorny - (905) 279-2730
or George Cripps (416) 255-1436

TPUG BBS — PunterNet Node 2

(905) 273-6300 14.400 (8N1)
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Internet

http://www.icomm.ca/tpug
***e-mail:** tpug@icomm.ca*

TPUG's new web site helps let people who would otherwise not have heard of us find out what we can do for them. Two important sections are *Why Join TPUG?* and *How Do I Join TPUG?*. A second advantage is to make information more readily available to our members, and to the world. Everything will still be available on paper, but having some on the net will reduce our copying and postage costs and our volunteer effort, while providing quicker service.

One thing that has become clear is just **how much** Commodore information is available both out there and within TPUG, and how important it is to make more of it accessible to our members. Last issue, Tom Haslehurst explained how to use the Internet using a C64, and a future article will describe Amiga web browsers. We'll also be publishing more of what's available in TPUG Newsletter.

By the way, there's another reason for all this - it's fun!

Ian McIntosh

TPUG Newsletter is published somewhat quarterly by the Toronto Pet Users Group Inc. (TPUG). TPUG is a volunteer non-profit corporation dedicated to the service and support of owners and users of Commodore computers.
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Articles, letters, tips, questions, art, etc. are welcome. Send hardcopy or disks "Attn: TPUG Newsletter", or use our BBS's, or Internet.
Advertisements *are also welcome. Member's small ads are free. Commercial ads are $100 per page with a $10 minimum.*

Notice to new owners of SuperPet and CBM 8296 machines

TPUG has copies of the Waterloo LANGUAGE DISKS (3 in 4040 format) as supplied with the SuperPet on original purchase.
TPUG has the EXECUDESK disk (8050 format) as supplied with the CBM 8296 on original purchase.
These disks are an integral part of the operating systems of the above machines and since Commodore insisted on referring owners of these machines to TPUG for service, we have added these somewhat proprietory (and also virtually unobtainable) disks to our library - all part of the TPUG mandate of service to our members.
We also will attempt to search out copies of original program disks to replace corrupted disks.
In this category you will find such programs as VISICALC, WordPro, and PaperClip.

Classified

Another member-service!
For Sale:

2 - C64s, 2 - 1541 disk drives, colour monitors, joysticks, printers, and printer interfaces.
Call Tom Luff (416)503-0753.

Miscellaneous Commodore Hardware and Software is available from :
D.L. Johansen
Box 912, Troy, MT, 59935

COMMODORE GAZETTE
Magazine-on-Disk
Christopher Ryan
5296 Devonshire Rd.
Detroit, MI, 48224-3233
(313) 882-0811 (4thru 10 PM EST)
chris.ryan@metro-1.station-1.com
$25.00 for a one-year subscription.

TPUG News

C64 and C128 Meeting Line-up
Note - the November 11 Central Amiga meeting will be held at Videolink, 53 Lucy Avenue, just southeast of Victoria Park and Danforth Avenues.

MONTH	CENTRAL MEETING	WESTSIDE MEETING
November	Joystick Port Interfacing	Same
December	Cancelled due to Christmas	Same
January	Stories about Commodore Guest Ron Anderson	Disk Copy Night-From TPUG's Library
February	User Port Interfacing	Same

March, April, May, June To Be Announced

In January Ron Anderson will be delighting us with tales about Commodore, there will be prizes to win and history to see. See you there.

August 14, 1997 Annual Meeting Report

[This is an unofficial summary of the minutes and of the 29 pages of reports presented at the meeting. The complete '1997 Annual General Meeting Minutes', or previous year's minutes, may be ordered for $3 each.]

There were 8 members present, and 1 proxy. President Ernie Chorny was away on business, and Vice-President was unable to attend, so Tom Luff chaired the meeting.

The President's Report included a brief overview of some of the year's changes like the new mailbox and the increasing surplus of donated PETs, thanked the volunteers, and reminded us that there are projects waiting for more volunteers.

Treasurer George Turek presented Financial Reports for July 95 to June 96 and July 96 to June 97, and pointed out that a few more members wouldn't hurt. Simplified reports are provided below.

Secretary Ian McIntosh presented the Membership Report. At the end of June, we had 68 Regular members (27 in Toronto and Mississauga), 9 Complimentary, and 10 Directors. A year earlier it was 70 Regular, 11 Complimentary, and 10 Directors. These are down from June 95 (86 Regular) but up from the May 96 AGM (54 Regular). TPUG also exchanges with or mails newsletters to 44 other clubs and 28 businesses.

Tom Luff presented the Shows Report. In the 15 months since the last AGM, TPUG had booths at 17 shows on 37 days for 301 hours, totalling over 900 hours of volunteer time, plus moveins, moveouts, preparation, etc.

Ernie Chorny's Chapter Meetings Report described one result of Ontario government cutbacks - TPUG has combined the Central 64 and 128 meetings to reduce rent. Meeting attendance is down except for special events.

Head Librarian Ian McIntosh presented the Disk Library Report. The new C64 and GEOS Librarian is Joe Palumbo, who should soon produce around a dozen new disks. The new Amiga Librarian, John Buller, presented the Amiga Library Report. With the tremendous number of Amiga programs available, both on CD-ROMs and

the Internet, he plans to produce an electronic catalog (on disk, BBS, etc) of what TPUG can obtain, and deliver programs on demand, either on disk or for downloading. TPUG has several CD-ROMs already and plans to add a CD-ROM drive to the BBS.

The Inventory Reports from Tom Luff and George Turek listed hardware (eg 1581s), software and accessories TPUG has for sale.

Ernie Chorny's BBS/Telecommunications Report discussed our BBSs and the Internet. BBS 1, run by Sylvia Gallus, has been quite stable and the 14400 modem works well. The former BBS 2, run by George Skinner, has not been resurrected. TPUG once again has an Internet email address, tpug@icomm.ca, and a World Wide Web site being prepared. Ian McIntosh presented WWW plans and a draft of the TPUG page. [This went online at http://www.icomm.ca/tpug in early September.] Eventually most catalogs, newsletters, etc will be included.

Tom Luff presented the Project Phoenix Report. TPUG now provides backup disks or cassettes as replacements for damaged originals from Commodore. Donations of originals are welcome.

The number of nominees exactly matched the number of vacancies on the Board of Directors, so John Buller, John Easton, George Turek, Ernie Chorny, and Gord Johnston were acclaimed to the Board.

The Officers are elected by the Board members. The new President is Tom Luff. John Easton remains Vice President, with Ernie Chorny the second Vice President. George Turek continues as Treasurer and Ian McIntosh as Secretary.

Ian McIntosh, Secretary

Financial Reports

[Reformatted slightly from AGM reports]

Revenue & Expenses	July 95 - June 96		July 96 - June 97	
Revenue:				
Memberships:				
Canadian	1327.00		1051.00	
USA	130.61		385.70	
Total		1457.61		1436.70
Sales:				
Disks	474.14		560.14	
Drives	1084.81		716.30	
Other	836.90		479.84	
Total		2395.85		1756.28
Shipping/Handling		20.50		36.27
PST		154.10		85.52
Total Revenue		4028.06		3314.77
Expenses:				
Operating Expenses:				
416-253-9737	637.07		417.33	
905-273-6300	596.32		473.39	
Shows	484.45		460.00	
Mailbox Rental	274.24		69.55	
Meeting Refresh	234.92		164.27	
Ship/Handling	65.20		23.63	
PST	100.45		51.88	
Storage Locker 1	889.81		889.78	
Storage Locker 2	82.20		374.87	
York Library Rent			428.00	
Copying			224.71	
Mailing			326.08	
Printing			419.75	
Sundries			217.72	
Cash Box Float			75.00	
Total		3364.66		4615.96
Material Purchases:				
Disks	487.67			
Modem	74.74			
Total		526.41		
Previous Liabilities				
Late PST 1993-95			357.00	
McIntosh ac/c 1993-96			1000.00	
Total				1357.00
Bank Charges:				
Scotia Bank	119.43		113.47	
Bank of Montreal	54.00		67.61	
Total		173.43		181.08
Total Expenses		4064.50		6154.04
Profit/(Loss)		(37.44)		(2839.27)

Assets & Liabilities	July 95 - June 96		July 96 - June 97	
Current Assets:				
Scotia Bank	2450.85		2217.21	
Bank of Montreal	4983.59		2450.28	
Inventory	2653.02		1948.70	
Prepaid Storage 1	593.21		593.21	
Prepaid Storage 2	31.03		33.17	
Prepaid 9052539637	40.88		36.71	
Cash Box Float			69.00	
D. Rodgers			21.20	
Total		10842.58		7369.48
Fixed Assets:				
Software/Libraries	1.00		1.00	
Electrical Equipmt	1.00		1.00	
Office Equipment	1.00		1.00	
Total		3.00		3.00
Total Assets		10845.58		7372.48
Liabilities:				
PST	17.57		11.21	
I. McIntosh 1992-96			1169.06	
Total Liabilities		17.57		1180.27
Equity:		10828.01		6192.21

Tom's World

Tom Luff

Those of you who know me and/or have attended the C64/C128 meetings have heard me praise the bubble jet printer that I use with my graphic software. In the past couple of years we have demo-ed 'COMPUTER EYES', 'PRINTSHOP', 'PRINT MASTER', and 'FUN GRAPHICS MACHINE', all of which I been able to print out on my CANON BJ-100 bubble jet printer.

The BJ-100 is a parallel interface printer, therefore it needs an interface cable to connect to a C64 or C128. I use Xetec's Super Graphic Jr. interface cable.

The interface cable and the printer are both set up as EPSON emulation via their own dip switches. Super Graphic Jr is also set to transparent mode for most programs. Line feed can be controlled by the program, the interface cable, and/or the printer. The remaining options are device number and font styles, which rarely need to be changed.

The advantages of a bubble jet (or ink jet) printer are:
1) a quieter machine,
2) more even printing, no grey tones as a ribbon wears out,
3) bolder, black print,
4) less problems with graphic printing, i.e. photo copying dot matrix impact printer printouts usually separate the dots, bubble jet printouts photo copy better because the dots are larger and closer together.
The BJ-100 allows heavier stock paper and envelopes to be used because the paper is wrapped around no more then 1/8 of the circumference of the printer's roller. Most printers wrap the paper about half way around the roller. Needless to say the BJ-100 is great for doing business cards, greeting cards, and invitations. Other features of the BJ-100 are, 360 x 360 dots per inch, 140 characters per second hi-speed mode, 124 cps in high quality mode, built-in automatic sheet feeder holding up to 100 sheets.

In June I was at the 'COMPUTER FLEA MARKET' at the Lions Club Centre in Etobicoke. I happened upon a man selling portable ink jet printers. These are small about 11" long, by 7" wide and 2" tall, ideal for your briefcase. Parallel interface, handles single sheets and fan folded paper, and fonts which include draft, NLQ, Quality, and Condensed, are selectable from the front panel.

When I decided to buy one, he only had one left, it was without the ink cartridge and power pack. He had sold several during the day for about $60, but he had miss-counted his supplies that day, so he sold this unit to me for $15. I figured I cannot go too far wrong. Recently I got around to doing something with it. Went to Office Place for the cartridge, that cost another $16. He had given me specs on the power pack which I found a substitute for and all I had to do was change the connector.

After plugging the power pack in and turning the printer on, nothing happened, no LEDs lite up, and the head didn't move. It turns out the 5 nicad batteries were too low for the power pack to run the printer. After two days of recharging the batteries, they were still too weak to use. So a trip to Radio Shack to purchase a better charger and a day later, for charging. I placed the nicads back in the roller where they were before, and turned on the printer. The ink cartridge not in place (after all I could still return it for a refund if the printer didn't work) but the head moved to it's start position. Wanting to know if this was just a fluke or was it working, I shut it down and did a self test. Sure enough the head travelled back and forth.

Later, with the cartridge in place and paper loaded, I used the Xetec cable and the settings used with the bubble jet and got a great printout. So for about $50 and a great adventure, I ended up with a great printer, the KODAK Diconix 150 Plus.

J.P. PBM Products by Mail is the NEW Manufacturer of Super Snapshot Cartridge V5.22 - NOW SHIPPING

We are pleased to offer this cartridge regularly $89.95. For a limited time SAVE $15 WITH THIS AD. UNTIL DECEMBER 31/97.
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DOWNSVIEW, ONTARIO
CANADA M3L 1B0

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SSv5.22 Cartridge		$89.95
save $15 now		- $15.00
		$74.95
* TPUG Members (-$5)		-$_____
* 32K RAM add $19		+$_____
subtotal		$_____
+7.5% Freight		$_____
Subtotal		$_____
Ontario Res add	8% PST	+$_____
Canada Res add	7% GST	+$_____
(CDN FUNDS)	TOTAL	$_____

WICO Trackball

Tom Haslehurst

As Commodore 64/128 users we have very little use for input devices, but have all had the need for them at times. We have all needed the joystick on the 64 when using a drawing program or one game or another. Those of us with the 128 find more uses for the mouse than the joystick, as most of the 128 programs utilize this device.

Well I have been given the assignment of doing a review for the Wico trackball. This is a device that uses a large ball and fire button to emulate a joystick. Now try and imagine a device that is approximately the size of a mousepad, but taller. The trackball is 6 inches wide X 5 inches long and 2 inches high. Now you have the ball that sits in the centre of this platform and sticks up another 1/2 inch and is about 2 inches around. Then you have the fire button which is in the top left corner of the platform, and is a full 21/2 inch reach from the ball. If this sounds large and obtrusive to you 'it is'!! If you plan on using one you will have to ensure that you have a large free space on your desk (yea right) or you can sit it in your lap to use it.

Being left handed gave me a bit of an advantage when using the trackball because I could roll the ball with my thumb and click the fire button with my middle finger. Take note though, a real game aficionado would have some problems with this but for Geos it worked OK. For those individuals who were born right-handed you will literally have to remove your hand from the ball or use your left-hand to hit the fire button. It would have been a stroke of genius if they had put a button on both sides of the platform.

I loaded up Geos and set my input device to joystick, as there is no driver for the trackball, at least not on my listing for input devices. The driver worked the trackball without causing any problems. One thing I did notice was that one trackball I was using seemed to be a bit unstable and the ball would move without causing the pointer to move. This created a lot of spinning of the ball to move around the geowrite page. Luckily I had access to a second trackball and this particular one did not appear to be quite so bad but still needed a lot of ball manipulation to move the pointer. Therefore I would associate the problem with a problem with the contacts, either dirt or wear.

With using the trackball within the Geos or Gateway desktops the pointer can be controlled with a certain level of accuracy. As well transferring icons around the desktop or to the REU works quite smoothly. On the other hand using the trackball with Geopaint was a little frustrating. The trackball could put the boxes and circles in alright and also place the pointer to do a fill and when working in pixel edit the ball could make the minimal movements necessary for this type of work without to much difficulty. Trying to draw freehand it was almost impossible. If the trackball were to more closely emulate the 1351 mouse, then I think it would have been a more efficient tool to use with Geos. But due to the fact that it emulates the joystick, you will become frustrated with Geos just as quickly (or more) when using the trackball as when trying to use a joystick.

Gaming with the trackball was another trial for the trackball. I tried it with 3 older games for the 64, that should have made the trackball shine. Unfortunately it even had trouble with the games. I was running Kickman (remember balloons falling from the sky) and all you have to do is race the clown back and forth across the screen. It had taken me 3 tries to acquire a score of 2800 with the trackball. For a comparison I put in my Epyx 500 joystick and received a score of 2800 on the first try.(OK so I am not a very good gamer considering the minute score.)

Also when trying the trackball with Wizard of War and Vidpuzzles, the joystick always came out on top of the time test. The trackball always had slower movement and action timing.

To conclude: would I purchase a Wico trackball? Well that is a bit of a loaded question, due to the fact that they are no longer produced. The question is moot. As a Commodore 8-bit user and hobbyist, as most of us have become I would say YES I would purchase one. Would I spend a lot of money to get it, NO. What it would become is another addition to my collection, or as my wife likes to call it - another dust collector. As a useable tool or accessory it is not, but I would classify it as a novelty item to show off to your wintel friends when they come over, to show their new Pentium laptop with the nice neat accessory attached called a trackball. I do feel sorry for the people back in 1984 who went out and bought the trackball for approx. $45.00 Cdn.($37.95 from 1984 U.S. mag ad.). What a disappointment it must have been for them when they got home with their new toy found its very limited capabilities.

Tom H.
Email--tomhas@concentric.net

Using Zip Drives on the Amiga

John Buller

I suppose that most of you Amigans who have Workbench 2.1 or higher already use CrossDOS to move data between Micros**t systems and the Amiga. I have been doing it for some time, because my only Internet access is via the (shudder! gasp!) PC-compatible machines. "Why?" you may ask, but it won't do you any good, because that's another article.

When I started downloading Amiga files from the Aminet a few months ago, I quickly ran into a problem. Many of the files I really wanted, in particular the Web browsers and other Internet stuff, were too long. I don't have a high-density Amiga floppy drive. This means that I have to format the floppies at double density, which limits the length of the files I can transfer to 720K. Most of the Aminet files are compressed in the lha format, but even so a lot of them reach one megabyte and beyond.

I have recently solved this problem by getting an iomega zip drive. They cost around $200, and use removable disks that are just slightly larger than a 3-1/2 inch floppy disk. Each disk holds 100 megabytes. I didn't make a mistake there. Each disk holds more data than the hard drive on my A3000. Disk access is a bit slower than on a hard drive, but at $20 a disk, you can't complain.

I bought the SCSI version, which is the one you should get. There is also a parallel port version, which does *not* work on the Amiga. Don't buy the parallel port model. The parallel port on the Amiga is different from the one on the PC.

The SCSI model also requires a SCSI controller card that plugs into the PC. If you don't have a SCSI card on your PC, you will have to buy one. I got an Adaptec AHA-1520B for about $100. You may have hardware compatibility problems on the PC end. I certainly did, and I haven't completely solved them yet. The Amiga end was no problem. My A3000 has a built-in SCSI controller, but the zip drive will work with any Amiga-compatible SCSI controller. If your Amiga has a hard drive, chances are that you already have a SCSI controller.

The zip drive is a good-looking little blue plastic unit about the size of a portable CD player. It comes with a SCSI cable that fits the SCSI connector on the back of the A3000. It has no power switch. It runs on a wall wart adapter that you plug in to turn the drive on.

There are two switches in the back of the drive. One turns the SCSI termination on or off. All you have to know about termination is that if the drive is at the end of the line, termination should be on. If you have two or more SCSI devices daisy-chained together, all devices except the one at the end should have the termination off.

The other switch sets the SCSI device number. Each device on a SCSI bus should have a different number. SCSI device numbers range from 0 through 7, but the zip drive can only be set to number 5 or number 6. This is usually OK. The controller is normally number 7, and if you have SCSI disk drives, they are probably set to 0 and 1.

The zip drive also comes with a special zip disk. It has installation software for the PC and the Mac. Use this disk for installation on your PC or your Mac and keep it in a safe place. Buy a couple of extra disks for the Amiga.

The good thing about the Amiga is that it can read disks in Mac format and in PC format. I bought two PC-formatted disks and reformatted one of them on the Amiga with the fast file system (FFS). I use the PC-formatted disk as a transfer medium, because I can copy really long files from my PC, and read them with the Amiga.

A word of warning here. Many compressed files expand into entire directory structures containing many files. Because the Amiga allows long file names, it is almost inevitable that some of the expanded file names will start the same way. A file called myproject.lha could expand into a dozen files, among them myproject_history.text, myproject_tutorial.text, myproject1, myproject2, and so on.

The poor PC file system just can't deal with this. All the above file names look the same to it. If you try to run LhA on a compressed file that's stored on the PC formatted disk, it will work, at least up to a point. You will get a bunch of messages that say something like 'The file 'myproject' already exists. Replace it?' Instead of doing this, copy the file to RAM: and expand it there, then store it on your hard drive until you can boot up with the Amiga-formatted zip disk in the drive.

In the next issue I'll talk about how to MOUNT the zip drive so the Amiga OS can read it. I have already had some success in doing this. Maybe by the next issue I'll actually understand what it is I'm doing!

Software Engineering Glossary

or

Defining Computer Terms From A 'Marketing' Point Of View

ALL NEW -- The software is not compatible with previous versions.

ADVANCED DESIGN -- Upper management doesn't understand it.

BREAKTHROUGH -- It nearly booted on the first try.

NEW -- It comes in different colors from the previous version.

DESIGN SIMPLICITY -- It was developed on a shoe-string budget.

EXCLUSIVE -- We're the only ones who have the documentation.

FIELD TESTED -- Manufacturing doesn't have a test system.

FOOLPROOF OPERATION -- All parameters are hard coded.

FUTURISTIC -- It only runs on the next-generation supercomputer.

HIGH ACCURACY -- All the directories compare.

IT'S HERE AT LAST -- We've released a 26-week project in 48 weeks.

MAINTENANCE FREE -- It's impossible to fix.

MEETS QUALITY STANDARDS -- It compiles without errors.

PERFORMANCE PROVEN -- It works through beta test.

REVOLUTIONARY -- The disk drives go round and round.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED -- We'll send you another copy if it fails.

STOCK ITEM -- We shipped it once before, and we can do it again, probably.

UNMATCHED -- It's almost as good as the competition.

UNPRECEDENTED PERFORMANCE -- Nothing ever ran this slow before.

* Computers also eliminate spare time *

Have You Ever Wondered...

Why call them 'Apartments' since they're all together?

If a parsley farmer is sued, can they 'garnish' his wages?

Would a fly without wings be called a walk?

If a stealth bomber crashes in a forest, will it make a sound?

When it rains, why don't sheep shrink?

If the cops arrest a mime, do they tell her she has the right to talk?

Do cemetery workers prefer the graveyard shift?

What do you do when you discover an endangered animal that eats only endangered plants?

Is it possible to be totally partial?

What's another word for thesaurus?

When companies ship styrofoam, what do they pack it in?

Why are there flotation devices under plane seats instead of parachutes?

Do you need a silencer if you are going to shoot a mime?

Have you ever imagined a world with no hypothetical situations?

How does the guy who drives the snowplow get to work in the mornings?

If 7-11 is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, why are there locks on the doors?

If a cow laughed, would milk come out her nose?

If nothing ever sticks to TEFLON, how do they make TEFLON stick to the pan?

If you tied buttered toast to the back of a cat and dropped it from a height, what would happen?

If you're in a vehicle going the speed of light, what happens when you turn on the headlights?

Why do they put Braille dots on the keypad of the drive-up ATM?

Why do we drive on parkways and park on driveways?

Why do we put 'shipments' in rail cars and 'cargo' in ships?

How to Install Software

Subject: For all you computer whizes out there

I hope you like these easy to understand, and follow Installation instructions.

'How To Install Software -- A 12-Step Program' by Dave Barry from his new book 'Dave Barry In Cyberspace')

1. Examine the software packaging until you find a little printed box that explains what kind of computer system you need to run the software.

It should look something like this:

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS
2386 PROCESSOR OR HIGHER
628.8 MEGAHERTZ MODEM
719.7 MB FREE DISK SPACE
3546 MB RAM
432323 MB ROM
05948737 MB RPM
ANTILOCK BRAKING SYSTEM
2 TURTLE DOVES
NOTE: This software will not work on your computer.

2. Open the software packaging and remove the manual. This will contain detailed instructions on installing, operating, and troubleshooting the software. Throw it away.

3. Find the actual software, which should be in the form of either a 3.5-inch floppy diskette or a CD-ROM, located inside a sealed envelope that says:

LICENSING AGREEMENT:

By breaking this seal, the user hereinafter agrees to abide by all the terms and conditions of the following agreement that nobody ever reads, as well as the Geneva Convention and the U.N. Charter and the Secred Membership Oath of the Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks and such other terms and conditions, real and imaginary, as the Software Company shall deem necessary and appropriate, including the right to come to the user's home and examine the user's hard drive, as well as the user's underwear drawer if we feel like it, take it or leave it, until death do us part, one nation indivisible, by the dawn's early light, ... finders keepers, losers weepers, thanks you've been a great crowd, and don't forget to tip your servers.

4. Hand the software to a child aged 3 through 12 and say, "(Name of child), please install this on my computer."

5. If you have no child age 3 through 12, insert the software in the appropriate drive, type 'SETUP' and press the Enter key.

6. Turn the computer on, you idiot.

7. Once again type "SETUP" and press the Enter key.

8. You will hear grinding and whirring noises for a while, after which the following message should appear on your screen:

The Installation Program will now examine your system to see what would be the best way to render it inoperable. Is it OK with you? Choose one, and be honest:

```
+-------+   +--------+
| YES |     | SURE |
+-------+   +--------+
```

9. After you make your selection, you will hear grinding and whirring for a very long time while the installation program does God knows what in there. Some installation programs can actually alter molecular structures, so that when they're done, your computer has been transformed into an entirely new device, such as a food processor.

At the very least, the installation program will create many new directories, sub-directories, sub-sub-directories on your hard drive and fill them with thousands of mysterious files with names like 'puree.exe,' 'fester.dat,' and 'doo.wha.'

10. When the installation program is finished, your screen should display the following message:

CONGRATULATIONS

The installation program cannot think of anything else to do to your computer and has grown bored. You may now attempt to run your software. If you experience any problems, electrical shocks, insomnia, shortness of breath, nasal discharge, or intestinal parasites, you should immediately *!@!$)$%@&*^)$*!#$_$*^&

11. At this point your computer system should become less functional than the federal government, refusing to respond even when struck with furniture.

12. Call the toll-free Technical Support Hotline number listed on the package and wait on the line for a representative, who will explain to you, in a clear, step-by-step manner, how to adopt a child aged 3 through 12.

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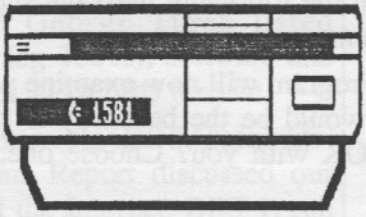

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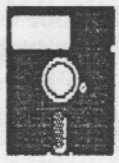

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