



## ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS

The Richmond Chapter of the CCC had its first workshop meeting on April 4th at McNair School. The evening was well attended as 40 registered members and 20 or more guests dropped in to take a look. Many said they were pleased to see a meeting closer to home and they plan on being out again next month. Some members brought their equipment and presented programs of interest.

Niels Hansen-Trip gave a short talk and recommended that more members get involved in the workshops, i.e. help with

organizing, offer their knowledge to beginners, do demonstrations of programs and equipment, etc. I was very pleased with the turnout and hope to see the same next month. Anyone interested in helping in any way, please contact me at 274-2709. Help is always needed to set up the desks, check off members as they arrive, offer assistance to newcomers, and finally replace desks after the evening is over. So please give me a call. I will appreciate your help. Also thanks to those who helped at our first meeting.

-- Elmer Roy

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Batteries Included, the Toronto manufacturer of the word processing program Paperclip, have an ad in the May issue of Compute's Gazette that offers a couple of interesting new items. They will have available a spelling checker for Paperclip called SpellPack. Even more interesting is an 80 column card for the Commodore 64 which will generate a true 80 column display with a monochrome monitor. The card will be compatible with Paperclip, allowing text to be entered and edited in 80 columns. The grapevine says that the display will be excellent. As an added bonus, the 80 column card will give Basic 4.0 commands to simplify disk access (no more wedge !). No information is available currently on when these items will appear locally, or on their prices.

The long awaited Flight Simulator II for the Commodore 64 from subLogic is going into production in April. This will finally offer Commodore owners a crack at the simulation that has been a best seller for the IBM PC. Programs may be in short supply for some while, and at least one local dealer is taking advance orders and deposits for those that have to be first on their block to fly in their basements.

-- Bruce Dunn

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The Pacific Coast Computer Fair Association is holding a mini-computer fair on Saturday, June 12th from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. This is for members of clubs who are affiliated with the association, and it is not open to the general public. At press time, details of location were unconfirmed, so attend the club's next "lecture" meeting on Tuesday, May 15 at King Edward Campus (7:00 p.m.) for info. (Several interesting speakers are planned for this meeting, by the way.) News about the event may also be placed on the club's 24-hour information phone: 738-3311.

Among the highlights of this mini-fair will be a prize for best club exhibit.

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Help has been forthcoming to handle the VIC-20 library, which -- like the 64 library -- is still in dire need of original submissions.

See the middle pages of this issue for a removable section containing an updated listing of both libraries.

## INSIDE THE 1541: 2

By LARRY PHILLIPS

In the last issue, we looked at the functions of the disk drive and controller. Now we'll see how the commands you give your computer are translated into data stored on a diskette.

Most of us have laughed at the story of the poor guy that issued a 'NEW' command every time he put a diskette into his drive, and wondered where all his programs had gone. Well, it was a new diskette! The story would be much funnier if the documentation provided with the drive wasn't so ambiguous. Just what happens when you NEW a diskette?

The first thing you do, of course is to OPEN a FILE to the command channel (15). This does two things. It tells your computer that you want to send or receive something on the serial bus. The operating system in the computer does not know or care what sort of device this will be. It is up to the user or programmer to send or receive the proper data for whatever device he is working with. At the other end of the serial bus, the CONTROLLER receives a series of signals that tell it what to do. Notice that the disk drive itself does not yet come into the picture.

In the case of a NEW command, the controller is told to perform the necessary operations to prepare a diskette for use in storing data. This process starts with the controller telling the drive to position its head on track number 1. This is done by causing the head to seek or move in reverse a sufficient number of times to ensure that the head will be as far back as it can go. This is known colloquially as a 'BUMP'. It is responsible for the fairly loud chattering noise at

the beginning of a 'NEW'.

At this time the controller will cause the drive to start writing. The first thing written will be a sector header, consisting of some special patterns called 'SYNC BYTES', a pattern to identify this as a header, followed by the track and sector numbers, a disk ID, and a 'CHECKSUM'. The track number in this case will be 1, and the sector number will be 0. The disk ID will be the ID specified after the comma in the NEW command. A checksum is determined by a series of calculations performed on the data written. When the data is read at a later time, the identical calculations are performed to generate another checksum, which is then compared with the checksum read from the diskette. If they match, it means that there were no errors in reading or decoding the data.

After this, the controller continues writing, but now writes a data block after the sector header. What is written at this time is not important, because its only purpose is to leave a fixed amount of space on the track. The next sector header is then written, another data block, and so on, until the required number of sectors have been written on the track. During this operation the controller has been instructing the drive to read back what it has written to ensure that everything has gone as planned.

So far, the controller has told the drive to seek to track 1, write on that track, and read from that track. If you recall the last article, you will notice that the drive, within a very short time has performed the only three functions it is capable

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# USER FRIENDLIES

By LARRY PHILLIPS

One of the most important parts of a user friendly program is the presentation of instructions. Are they easy to understand? Do they explain all the options? Are you able to review them easily?

Unfortunately, many useful programs have instructions that are hopelessly inadequate. The program presented here is an attempt to make the writing of instructions a relatively simple process. It is designed to be used as a subroutine, preferably at the end of your program (for reasons of speed). The routine itself is quite elementary without detracting from its versatility. More about that aspect later.

The routine will take the text of your instructions from DATA statements and print them on the screen. They will be centered horizontally, which not only provides a pleasing effect, but allows you to merely type in your text with little regard for formatting. The one restriction is that you must break up your text into lines of 40 columns or less. If you go over 40 columns, you will get an 'ILLEGAL QUANTITY ERROR' in line 50090. Any cursor control, 'CTRL' or shifted characters must be enclosed in "quotes". To leave a blank line between two lines, just separate the lines with two commas.

The program may be modified to work on the VIC or the 80 column CBM's by changing the TAB value to match the number of columns on your machine.

Let's look at the program. Line 50000 sets the DATA pointer to the first DATA element. Line 50010 searches for the string "inst". This allows you to put your instructions anywhere within any other DATA statements your program may require.

Lines 50020-50090 take care of the actual PRINTing and controlling of the instructions. Within this section we will look for various 'code words'.

ENDINST - end of instructions

PAUSE - wait for a key to be pressed

U/G - set upper case/graphics

L/G - set lower case/graphics

TIME - continue after a timed pause

Lines 50100-50120 perform the 'Any key to continue' function by simply PRINTing the message and waiting for a key.

Lines 50130-50150 contain my favourite delay routine. This is much preferable to the FOR - NEXT type of 'wheel spinning' because it can be called with a value that means something. In this case it is called when the main routine encounters the word 'time'. The next DATA element must be a number that represent the required delay in seconds.

Getting back to versatility, if the routine is called by a

GOSUB 50010 instead of a GOSUB 50000, the DATA pointer will not be reset. This will allow you to put any other DATA statements required before the instructions. Or perhaps you will want to present a screenful of instructions, read some more data, and then present more instructions.

The 'code words' can be changed to anything you want them to be. Remember, the 'code words' must be by themselves to be recognized as such. They will act as text if they are included in a sentence.

You may call this routine at any time during your program, should the user wish to review

the instructions. Just be careful not to use the variables A\$ or T elsewhere in your program unless you don't care about preserving their values.

The subroutine may be used as a 'HELP' routine by changing line 50010 to:

```
50010 READ A$: IF A$(>H$ THEN
50010
```

You would then call the routine with H\$ equal to the name of the subject required, and the appropriate text in the DATA statements starting with the same word.

Play with it, customize it, use it whenever you want to

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## • USENET NEWS •

*Editor's Note: The following info comes to us courtesy of club member Keith Mosher, who obtained it from USENET. It is reprinted here for your interest only -- we cannot vouch for the accuracy or reliability of any of the "tips" suggested.*

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To best understand how you find out about the deep, dark secrets of the Commodore operating system, simply look at Commodore's previous designs (i.e., the PET).

The PET has been around since 1977 and the 64 is just a spin-off of the PET theme. The operating system is almost identical. And there is a tremendous amount of info available for the PET. Prior to 1980, however, this was not the case. But Commodore got wise and in a book published by Commodore in England called *The PET Revealed* they told all -- or at least started to tell all.

A book published by *Compute!* called *Programming the PET/CBM* is a literal encyclopedia of info on the kernal. Another book written by Jim Strasma (of Midnite/PAPER fame) is the third edition of the PET users guide, which has excellent memory map cross reference between original PETs, upgrade PETs, 4.0 BASIC PETs, 80 column CBMS, and Fat 40's. It's the same operating system -- just located in a different place in memory (minor adjustments for the most part). This same operating system is used in the VIC and 64.

Jeff Porter

Indiana

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In my opinion, the term waste goes together excellently with MAE's "Software Development System." It is truly a waste of money.

I bought MAE about 8 months ago, as it was the only macro assembler available at the time.

the documentation is poor even by Commodore standards. Several examples do not work, and in some cases are totally wrong. The macro-assembler itself has a few problems all its own. It does not allow expansion of macros with labels inside of other macros. It does not have a way of accessing low and high bytes of labels (i.e., #<label and #>label). Their so-called customer support is non-existent. I wrote them twice and got no reply.

What to do? for some time I searched for a macro-assembler that had all the features I wanted. Merlin-64 more than met my needs.

MERLIN is probably the second best assembler available for a 65XX micro (ORCA/M is only available for the Apple). It has the best documentation I have ever seen for the C-64.

Among its features:

1) The assembler / editor resides behind basic memory allowing huge amounts of source to be in the editor simultaneously.

2) It allows insertion of external files during assembly to allow assembly of files too large for the editor.

3) It has the option of assembling to memory or directly to disk.

4) The editor has 80 column capability with or without the 80 column card (but cuts down on max source size).

5) Comes with the Sourceror, which enables you to form source code from object code (with labels!!!).

6) Comes with a few utilities to aid in converting old assembly routines to the Merlin format.

7) Comes with a nice macro library and a few examples.

8) Complaints: the monitor which comes with the assembler could use some work, and uses some old Apple conventions but is adequate.

(Author unknown)



# VIC LIBRARY

## VIC-20 DISKS

VIC tapes and disks require a \$5.00 deposit while you borrow them.  
VIC library people are Mike Quigley and Mike Buckley.

"VIC VIC TAPE 01" 01 2A  
12 "DIRECTORY" PRG 10  
6 "BISTOL PETE" G PRG 11  
7 "RAC" PRG 4  
8 "PRG CLASS VIC" X PRG 10  
9 "BASICIDE READ" U PRG 6  
10 "BASICIDE SEND" U PRG 10  
11 "BIG LETTERS" PRG 8  
4 "CHECK DISK" U PRG 4  
4 "DIRECTORY" U PRG 1  
11 "DISAS" PRG 10  
14 "DISPLAY TAB" U PRG 8  
8 "DISI" A PRG 7  
4 "HISTORAM" PRG 14  
4 "HISTORAM TEST" U PRG 14  
7 "PROBML CHARS" PRG 3  
13 "RANDOM INST" U PRG 6  
3 "SEQUENTIAL FILE" PRG 8  
8 "TINYMON FIB" A PRG 11  
3 "TINYMON 1" A PRG 8  
3 "TINYMON 2" A PRG 4  
389BLOCKS FREE.

"VIC VIC TAPE 02" 02 2A  
12 "DIRECTORY" PRG 24  
8 "VIC DT" PRG 2  
8 "SECTIONS" PRG 10  
8 "PRG CLASS VIC" X PRG 10  
8 "VIC FINANCE" B PRG 13  
3 "LC PASS FILTER" E PRG 9  
3 "NEXT INDETER" U PRG 10  
11 "COPY-ALL DISK" U PRG 7  
18 "TERM SER-1" C PRG 4  
4 "SER-2" C PRG 4  
4 "KEYBORT" PRG 10  
3 "SORT DEMO-1" U PRG 4  
3 "SORT DEMO-2" U PRG 4  
4 "VIC VIC" PRG 4  
7 "TINY/TABIC AID" U PRG 2  
3 "STRINGS THING" U PRG 18  
24 "22 TAK ONTARIO" PRG 1  
3 "JOYSTICK DEMO" PRG 1  
3 "SK HI-RES" PRG 1  
376BLOCKs FREE.

"VIC VIC TAPE 03" 03 2A  
12 "DIRECTORY" PRG 12  
7 "PRG CLASS VIC" X PRG 13  
9 "CALENDAR" PRG 5  
2 "LOTTO 449" PRG 13  
8 "MONITOR" A PRG 11  
3 "CHECKBOOK" B PRG 11  
5 "RAI LIST TAPE" PRG 18  
4 "NUMERIC PAD" U PRG 14  
7 "FILE CLERK TAPES" PRG 7  
4 "SCROLL" U PRG 10  
4 "RINGER EOL" U PRG 13  
2 "PAUSE" U PRG 11  
4 "MEMORY SNAPSHOT" PRG 8  
5 "TRACE" U PRG 12  
7 "COPY DISK FILES" PRG 8  
2 "SHELL SORT" PRG 8  
2 "BUBBLE SORT" PRG 8  
2 "SORT C" PRG 7  
2 "SORT D" PRG 10  
374BLOCKs FREE.

"VIC VIC TAPE 04" 04 2A  
12 "DIRECTORY" PRG 9  
10 "VIC DT" PRG 4  
7 "PRG CLASS VIC" X PRG 6  
9 "CALIBER LINE" PRG 11  
1 "S-X SPIRALMAP" PRG 3  
1 "S-X TRI-CIRCLE" PRG 3  
1 "S-X FAN-TABIC" PRG 2  
4 "S-X ANDR DEMO" PRG 2  
4 "S-X DATA DEMO2" PRG 6  
4 "FUEL CHASE" G PRG 12  
3 "ROCKET CHASER" PRG 17  
1 "UFO LANDINGS" M PRG 10  
2 "COUNTER" PRG 10  
3 "MEMORY HUBIC" PRG 8  
3 "SPACE SHIPS" PRG 8  
7 "UFO-TANK WAR" G PRG 10  
8 "SOLD 2B ORAM" G PRG 12  
6 "JAPPER" G PRG 10  
4 "TANK WAR P1(7)" G PRG 11  
9 "TANK WAR P2" G PRG 11  
9 "SHE ON DNE" G PRG 11  
365BLOCKs FREE.

"VIC VIC TAPE 05" 05 2A  
12 "DIRECTORY" PRG 11  
7 "PRG CLASS VIC" X PRG 10  
12 "BIRDS DEMO" PRG 10  
11 "BUBBLE SEE" PRG 3  
1 "COLOUR PRACT" PRG 8  
5 "ORASON" PRG 13  
3 "FRERE JACOBS" PRG 11  
3 "GRAPHIC DEMO" PRG 12  
11 "GRAPHICSDO-1" PRG 9  
3 "GRAPHICSDO-2" PRG 9  
5 "KALEIDOSCOPE-1" PRG 10  
5 "KALEIDOSCOPE-2" PRG 10  
3 "VIC MROM" PRG 7  
6 "SOUND KEYBOARD" PRG 10  
6 "ROBOTS" PRG 10  
369BLOCKs FREE.

"VIC VIC TAPE 06" 06 2A  
12 "DIRECTORY" PRG 6  
7 "PRG CLASS VIC" X PRG 14  
21 "SATELLITE FINDR" PRG 10  
6 "RUBBY" PRG 10  
4 "JIM IN COLOUR" PRG 4  
2 "LOTTO 449" PRG 13  
7 "FILE CLERK TAPES" PRG 7  
4 "RINGER EOL" U PRG 13  
2 "PAUSE" U PRG 11  
4 "MEMORY SNAPSHOT" PRG 8  
5 "TRACE" U PRG 12  
7 "COPY DISK FILES" PRG 8  
2 "SHELL SORT" PRG 8  
2 "BUBBLE SORT" PRG 8  
2 "SORT C" PRG 7  
2 "SORT D" PRG 10  
376BLOCKs FREE.

"VIC VIC TAPE 07" 07 2A  
12 "DIRECTORY" PRG 7  
10 "VIC DT" PRG 5  
7 "PRG CLASS VIC" X PRG 10  
9 "ROCKET COMMAND" G PRG 13  
6 "RUBBY" PRG 10  
9 "SAMU" G PRG 11  
9 "STAR CHASER" G PRG 11  
1 "STATION GRAPH" G PRG 10  
12 "TRAP" G PRG 10  
11 "SHAKE" G PRG 14  
6 "JUMPING JACK" G PRG 10  
4 "S-X STRING ART" G PRG 10  
3 "S-X GRAPHIC" PRG 13  
9 "S-X KEYB GRAPH" PRG 13  
9 "RUBIC #1201" M PRG 11  
9 "7 TROMBONES" M PRG 1  
9 "ENTERTRAINER" M PRG 1  
367BLOCKs FREE.

"VIC VIC TAPE 08" 08 2A  
12 "DIRECTORY" PRG 8  
10 "VIC DT" PRG 12  
7 "PRG CLASS VIC" X PRG 10  
9 "FLIP INST" G PRG 13  
12 "FLIP" G PRG 4  
8 "BRAIN WARP" G PRG 10  
4 "BRICK" G PRG 13  
9 "SLOT MACHINE" G PRG 7  
9 "REVERSE" G PRG 14  
13 "HIDDEN MAZE" G PRG 20  
11 "SEARCH" G PRG 5  
13 "BUSINESS DEMO" PRG 10  
10 "MAKING CHANGE" E PRG 2  
2 "PRIME NUMBERS" E PRG 9  
14 "BASEBALL" G PRG 4  
12 "FOUR IN A ROW" G PRG 12  
358BLOCKs FREE.

"VIC VIC TAPE 09" 09 2A  
12 "DIRECTORY" PRG 4  
4 "PDMS" G PRG 2  
3 "S-X BOUNCER" PRG 2  
7 "HARMONIZER" M PRG 11  
9 "STEAL MONEY" E PRG 2  
3 "KALIDOSCOPE-3" G PRG 5  
4 "VIC MAIL" B PRG 5  
9 "FUEL CL" B PRG 12  
7 "HIDDEN MAZE" G PRG 8  
7 "ASTEROIDS" G PRG 6  
4 "WALL" G PRG 6  
3 "BUDGET-1" B PRG 5  
2 "FRANFERT" G PRG 10  
10 "RUBB N ROULETTES" PRG 10  
12 "MAIL LIST V/44" U PRG 15  
454BLOCKs FREE.

"VIC VIC TAPE 10" 10 2A  
12 "DIRECTORY" U PRG 15  
7 "PRG CLASS VIC" U PRG 1  
5 "S-X KINATIC" PRG 5  
4 "S-X PAR SPIRAL" PRG 5  
4 "S-X PATTERNS" PRG 3  
8 "AIR DEFENSE" G PRG 2  
2 "RELOCATE SCRN" U PRG 12  
12 "HANSMAN" G PRG 12  
7 "HIDDEN DRAGON" G PRG 4  
3 "PTOLES JB" G PRG 3  
18 "P2" G PRG 11  
17 "CAVES OF ICE SK" G PRG 6  
3 "SXB 2.1 (JB)" G PRG 3  
11 "MYSTERY SPALL" G PRG 6  
13 "DOTS" G PRG 6  
18 "MORON STAR" G PRG 6  
3 "DEMONSTRATER" PRG 4  
2 "PRINT HEX/DEC" A PRG 10  
4 "RAN TEST" G PRG 9  
454BLOCKs FREE.

"VIC VIC TAPE 11" 11 2A  
7 "PRG CLASS VIC" U PRG 15  
3 "S-X BORT" PRG 12  
4 "SOUND GENERATOR" PRG 4  
1 "CYLON IAP SK" G PRG 6  
15 "DIAMOND" G PRG 12  
28 "C3" G PRG 10  
13 "SKEW ESCAPE" G PRG 12  
8 "KEYBOARD" M PRG 4  
4 "WIPER" G PRG 12  
10 "VIC COPY-ALL" U PRG 5  
4 "POLARGRAPH SK" PRG 12  
4 "CHECKBOOK" PRG 11  
1 "PILOT SK" L PRG 7  
21 "P1" PRG 11  
4 "S-X TINNER" A PRG 6  
8 "TINYDOR W/DAT" U PRG 10  
370BLOCKs FREE.

"VIC VIC TAPE 12" 12 2A  
62 "ATTY-8/8 16K" PRG 9  
28 "ATTY BK" PRG 3  
491BLOCKs FREE.  
12 "DIRECTORY" PRG 12  
11 "PRG CLASS VIC" U PRG 10  
14 "MINIFIELD BJK3" G PRG 10  
11 "ELECTRO FLASH" E PRG 12  
7 "SMB/DBIRIS" G PRG 12  
4 "BIG 2-COL DIR" U PRG 3  
4 "COLORBOT (JB)" PRG 11  
12 "UNUSUAL ENDING" X PRG 10  
12 "WH-PRINT 10 SK" PRG 7  
13 "WH-PRINT 20 SK" PRG 2  
3 "ANTON CRUISER" G PRG 2  
11 "C2" PRG 1  
9 "FEEDSCRIPT SK" G PRG 4  
3 "SMARTED SK" G PRG 10  
23 "H2" PRG 10  
466BLOCKs FREE.

"VIC VIC TAPE 13" 13 2A  
12 "DIRECTORY" PRG 12  
7 "PRG CLASS VIC" U PRG 10  
11 "ELECTRO FLASH" E PRG 12  
7 "SMB/DBIRIS" G PRG 12  
4 "BIG 2-COL DIR" U PRG 3  
4 "COLORBOT (JB)" PRG 11  
12 "UNUSUAL ENDING" X PRG 10  
12 "WH-PRINT 10 SK" PRG 7  
13 "WH-PRINT 20 SK" PRG 2  
3 "ANTON CRUISER" G PRG 2  
11 "C2" PRG 1  
9 "FEEDSCRIPT SK" G PRG 4  
3 "SMARTED SK" G PRG 10  
23 "H2" PRG 10  
466BLOCKs FREE.

"VIC VIC TAPE 14" 14 2A  
12 "DIRECTORY" PRG 9  
7 "PRG CLASS VIC" U PRG 10  
9 "BLAM!" E PRG 6  
9 "TETRACYSTALS" E PRG 6  
11 "SUPER FIGHT" PRG 11  
2 "BRAIN BENDER 1" G PRG 11  
2 "BRAIN BENDER 2" G PRG 11  
2 "BRAIN BENDER 3" G PRG 11  
7 "CITY BOMBER" G PRG 6  
8 "CHICKEN LITTLE" G PRG 5  
10 "CHICK2" PRG 5  
12 "CLOUDED JOB" G PRG 1  
8 "DEFLECTION" G PRG 1  
11 "BALL CLOCK" PRG 1  
8 "WORDPELL" E PRG 5  
6 "SUN FIRST SH" G PRG 1  
13 "WINDMATH" E PRG 5  
13 "JUMPING JACK" G PRG 5  
3 "SPIND RESCUE" G PRG 5  
365BLOCKs FREE.

"VIC VIC TAPE 15" 15 2A  
12 "DIRECTORY" PRG 4  
7 "PRG CLASS VIC" U PRG 10  
9 "STOCK MARKET" G PRG 4  
7 "SKINING" G PRG 10  
15 "CUTOFF" G PRG 10  
5 "NUMERIC KEYPAD" U PRG 8  
6 "SUN CAL SK" PRG 6  
15 "SEM YR. CAL SK" PRG 9  
6 "SEM APPT. CAL" PRG 9  
3 "TARGETSHOOT JS" PRG 31  
482BLOCKs FREE.

"VIC VIC TAPE 16" 16 2A  
12 "DIRECTORY" PRG 12  
10 "VIC DT" PRG 12  
7 "PRG CLASS VIC" X PRG 10  
9 "FLIP INST" G PRG 13  
12 "FLIP" G PRG 4  
8 "BRAIN WARP" G PRG 10  
4 "BRICK" G PRG 13  
9 "SLOT MACHINE" G PRG 7  
9 "REVERSE" G PRG 14  
13 "HIDDEN MAZE" G PRG 20  
11 "SEARCH" G PRG 5  
13 "BUSINESS DEMO" PRG 10  
10 "MAKING CHANGE" E PRG 2  
2 "PRIME NUMBERS" E PRG 9  
14 "BASEBALL" G PRG 4  
12 "FOUR IN A ROW" G PRG 12  
358BLOCKs FREE.

"VIC VIC TAPE 17" 17 2A  
6 "BASIC NIGHTMARE" PRG 12  
7 "MORE SOUND + M" PRG 2  
7 "COLOUR EATER" PRG 2  
3 "CRITTER" PRG 3  
11 "S-X CALCULATOR" PRG 4  
2 "S-X POLYDONS" PRG 2  
5 "S-X AMORTGRAPH" PRG 4  
12 "BUTTERFLY" B PRG 8  
9 "HIDDEN DRAGON" G PRG 4  
8 "PRG LOCATOR" U PRG 8  
6 "VICMOR" U PRG 4  
9 "CHAR SEN 2.6" PRG 2  
2 "JOYSTICK TESTER" PRG 10  
10 "VIC INVADERS" G PRG 10  
10 "VIC DT" PRG 10  
17BLOCKs FREE.

"VIC VIC TAPE 18" 18 2A  
4 "VIC WEDGE" U PRG 10  
7 "BASICIDE SEND" U PRG 10  
3 "BIG LETTERS" PRG 7  
4 "CHECKBOOK" PRG 14  
4 "DIRECTORY" U PRG 3  
11 "DISAB" A PRG 3  
14 "DISPLAY TAB" U PRG 8  
8 "DISI" A PRG 8  
4 "HISTORAM" PRG 11  
9 "PERFORM TEST" U PRG 8  
3 "REL WRITE" U PRG 10  
13 "RANDOM FILE" U PRG 8  
3 "SEQUENTIAL FILE" U PRG 8  
5 "TINYMON INBT" A PRG 11  
5 "VIC DIS-1" A PRG 11  
5 "VIC DIS-2" A PRG 11  
14 "VIC DIS-3" A PRG 11  
4 "VICLOAD-1" A PRG 4  
4 "VICLOAD-2" A PRG 4  
4 "VICLOAD-3" A PRG 4  
7 "PRG CLASS VIC" U PRG 6  
4 "SEARCHER" U PRG 3  
4 "RELOCATE SCRN" U PRG 4  
4 "VIC WEDGE" U PRG 10  
369BLOCKs FREE.

"VIC VIC TAPE 19" 19 2A  
4 "VIC WEDGE" U PRG 10  
9 "VIC WEDGE FINDR" PRG 9  
13 "BILLBOARD" PRG 9  
6 "JIM IN COLOUR" PRG 7  
2 "STARFIGHT" PRG 2  
7 "PRG CHARACTERS" PRG 2  
14 "ADDITION PRACT" PRG 13  
14 "MULTIPLY PRACT" PRG 13  
3 "SUBTRACT PRACT" PRG 11  
5 "UXB-1" G PRG 11  
6 "UXB-2" G PRG 10  
27 "BACKMANN" PRG 10  
19 "PUZZLE TURTLE" L PRG 14  
10 "ZAP" G PRG 10  
4 "FREE-FALL" G PRG 12  
2 "VISIBLE VIC" PRG 13  
9 "CALENDAR" PRG 8  
9 "PRIME FACTORS" PRG 7  
14 "GOBBLE" G PRG 9  
10 "SPACEWAR-1" G PRG 8  
10 "SPACEWAR-2" G PRG 8  
13 "JASPER" PRG 13  
6 "S-X COLOUR ROOP" PRG 8  
4 "S-X POOKY" PRG 9  
15 "S-X GARFIELD" PRG 2  
2 "S-X HI DEMO" PRG 11  
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# WORD PROCESSING

By MICHAEL QUIGLEY

The Quick Brown Fox, a word processor for the VIC-20 and Commodore 64, is marketed in a somewhat unusual way -- its cartridge comes enclosed in a sealed envelope. The purchaser is encouraged to first read the manuals, and if what meets the eye is not acceptable for his or her needs, the whole package may be returned for a refund (depending further, of course, on the whims of the individual retailer).

This is in many ways a laudable concept; however, there are several features not discussed in the manuals which will not be discovered until the sealed envelope has been opened, thus disqualifying the customer from any financial recourse. More about these later.

The manual is visually impressive, coming in a three-ring vinyl-covered binder. One discovers, however, that the manual is written not just for the VIC and 64 (this review is based on the VIC version, by the way, which is essentially the same as that for the 64 aside from obvious differences like the screen layout). It is also intended for two other computer systems. The result of this is that various features described in the manual have no relation to Commodore products.

There is an attempt to rectify this situation with an accompanying set of "Pocket Notes" and further updates which do refer to the VIC and 64. They are quite extensive in all but two fields: Sending and Receiving data with modems, one of the more interesting features of QBF. The instructions here are full of modem-related mumbo-jumbo which assumes that the user is already familiar with such terms as baud rate, handshaking, parity, etc.

Inserting the cartridge into the computer (followed on the VIC by a SYS command) results in the main menu. The reverse arrow in the upper left hand corner of the VIC and 64 keyboard is used as an "Escape Key" to return to this menu.

Text is entered by selecting the Type mode, which gives a figure to indicate the amount of memory left. One doesn't have to type very long to discover one of QBF's big shortcomings: this is a line editor, not a full screen editor, a situation which produces real problems on the unexpanded VIC, since the word wrap cut-off limit is 10 characters from the left margin. Any words started after this limit will be placed on the next line down. The result is only 2 or 3 words of text per line.

Furthermore, when you discover an error in the line which you just typed above, in order to correct it you must enter the Line Edit mode (by pushing the

Escape Key once), move up to the line, make the correction and then return to the Type Mode. On the unexpanded VIC, reverse scrolling to lines above with the up cursor key produces more problems with the word wrap -- words at the end of the lines often disappear. This apparently has something to do with the fact that the text is now indented 1 space from the left margin. When scrolling down with the down cursor key, the text is flush against the left margin, and the words appear as they should. These peculiarities are apparently unique to the VIC's 22-column screen.

Within the limitations of the Line Edit mode, quite a variety of corrections can be made. Text can be Replaced a single character at a time or Inserted for any length up to the total number of bytes remaining. It can be Deleted, removing characters, words, sentences, or paragraphs.

Another editing feature of QBF, the one which most impressed me, was its Global Edit, which allows you to make a single change repeatedly throughout the text. For example, let's say after you use the name "John Smith" several times, you discover the name should be "Joe Smyth". With Global Edit, making this change is a snap, and you have the option of not replacing, in case there was someone named John Smith. QBF also includes the ability to move blocks of text -- this requires you to know both the beginning and end of the block which you wish to move, however, something which is not always easy.

One QBF feature which is not so successful is the View mode. This supposedly allows one to see the copy as it would be printed, with indents, paragraphs, blank lines, and so forth, assuming you are printing the copy over a width of 80-columns or less. The screen limitations of the VIC (and, I would assume, the 64) were no advantage here, since the top line of copy was sometimes missing, or else the top lines scrolled up out of sight.

QBF works with both tape and disk, and storage and retrieval features are accessed from a secondary Clerk menu. Tape storage is possible, but sounds somewhat haphazard, done in the normal manner of saving one program after another. (RTC's Vic-Script saves to tape in a more intelligent manner, synchronizing all files to the beginning of the tape.)

Disk storage is easily accomplished, with an option for changing drive numbers. QBF does not seem to have much faith in the 1541 disk drive, saying it "may not always create new disks as it's supposed to". There is a non-destructive directory, which allows you to view the directory

without destroying the program in memory. If the directory is longer than the screen size will accommodate, use of the CONTROL key is essential to keep it from scrolling up out of sight at rapid speed.

The name of the file being worked on is retained by the Clerk directory, and replacing an old text with an updated one is done internally by QBF with the SAVE "@0:FILE NAME" procedure, which has its detractors, among them the authors of the 1540 disk drive manual. There is no Verify command for either tape or disk with QBF.

(Continued on page 7)

## VIC LIBRARY

(Continued from previous page)

"CCC VIC AF	" AF 2A	3	"RAM TEST	U	PRG
4	"DIRECTORY	U	"EDITYPE	B	PRG
12	"DIR TAPE-10"	U	"FILL THE SCREEN"	P	PRG
4	"VIC WEDGE	U	"DIRK MENU	U	PRG
7	"PRG CLASS VIC	U	"NARQUEE	P	PRG
5	"B-X KINETIC	P	"GEMINI SAILBOAT"	P	PRG
10	"B-X SPIRAL	P	"GEMINI FACE	P	PRG
4	"B-X PATTERNS	P	"WALT/PADDLES	P	PRG
8	"AIR DEFENSE	P	"SKY RIVER	G	PRG
5	"ITE	P	"WIZARD IN MAZE G	PRG	
2	"RELOCATE SCRIN	U	"FIGHTER ACES BKG	G	PRG
12	"HANGMAN	G	"NAME PLAY	G	PRG
11	"HUNGRY DRAGON	G	"INDUCE FACE	G	PRG
3	"POTHOLES/DISC	G	"SEES	G	PRG
10	"P2"	P	"HAMMOCK	G	PRG
8	"COVES OF ICE BKS"	G	"HAWK-2"	G	PRG
6	"UXB 2.1	G	"GOBLIN	G	PRG
11	"MYSTERY SPECK	G	"SKIER	G	PRG
13	"DOTS	G	"SELECTIONS"	PRG	
18	"DORON STAR	G	"D"	PRG	
4	"TINY DIRECTORY	U	"VIC DT"	PRG	
2	"PRINT HEX/DEC	A			
30	16LOCKS FREE.				

"CCC AS	" AS 2A	4	"TENDR W/DATE	U	PRG
4	"VIC WEDGE	U	"PI0	G	PRG
4	"DIRECTORY	U	"ULTRASORT	P	PRG
7	"PRG CLASS VIC	U	"BORT GENERATOR	P	PRG
5	"THE BOMB	G	"DIAMOND DROP	G	PRG
3	"NAR PLAY	G	"DIAM2"	P	PRG
5	"BUS RACE	G	"DRAGON DARK ATTACKS"	P	PRG
1	"CYLONS	G	"DRAGON DATA"	PRG	
14	"CYLONS 2	G	"DRAGON GENERATOR"	PRG	
20	"CYLONS 3	G	"GEMINI PRINTALL"	P	PRG
13	"BNAKE ESCAPE	P	"MORD MARCH	G	PRG
8	"REBOARD	M	"STAR WARS SONG	M	PRG
10	"VIPER	G	"SLEEVES IN MAZE	G	PRG
18	"VIC COPY-ALL	U	"OIL TYCOON	G	PRG
4	"POLARGRAPH SK	P	"O1"	PRG	
6	"CHECKOUT CLIBER	B	"VIC DT"	PRG	
1	"PILOT SK	L			
21	"P1"	P			
4	"UP TIMER	A			
37	16LOCKS FREE.				

"CCC VIC AH	" AH 2A	2	"UNNEW MAKER	U	PRG
4	"VIC WEDGE"	U	"UNNEW"	P	PRG
4	"DIRECTORY	U	"LEFT JB TESTER	D	PRG
7	"PRG CLASS VIC	U	"JB 1&2 TESTER	D	PRG
14	"MINEFIELD BKS2	G	"GEMINI LOT-449	P	PRG
11	"ELECTRO FLASH	E	"SCALES	M	PRG
12	"REACT	G	"BACH-1 EMI	M	PRG
4	"BIE 2-COL DIR	U	"BACH-2 EMI	M	PRG
4	"COLLABOT (2B"	G	"THE NOTE GAME	M	PRG
11	"COL1"	G	"VIC MOZART	M	PRG
2	"UNUSUAL ENDING X"	P	"PADDLE NOISES	D	PRG
13	"MM-PRINT 10 BK	P	"US-BOAT	M	PRG
15	"MM-PRINT 20 BK	P	"FRENCH	E	PRG
4	"CANYON CLIBER	G	"F"	P	PRG
19	"SPEEDSCRIPT BK B"	P	"GFB CHANSEUR	U	PRG
11	"C2"	P	"THINKING	G	PRG
1	"MOUNTSHOUSEBK	G	"VIC DT"	PRG	
23	"H2"	P	"SBL DRV COPY	U	PRG
12	"HARDHAT CLINER	G			
13	"DINK-DINK	U			
34	16LOCKS FREE.				

"CCC VIC AI	" NI 2A	5	"SPIDER RESCUE	G	PRG
4	"VIC WEDGE"	U	"SP12"	P	PRG
4	"DIRECTORY	U	"BACER SHOOTER S"	PRG	
7	"PRG CLASS VIC	U	"SHERIFF	P	PRG
11	"BLAM!	E	"ALPHABLABT	E	PRG
7	"TETRACYSTALS	G	"US-BOAT	G	PRG
14	"CRYS"	PRG	"U2"	PRG	
7	"CUTOFF/00A3	G	"TETRADATAMAKER"	PRG	
11	"SUPER FIGHT	P	"SPACE DUEL	G	PRG
2	"BEMOHT CAL P2S2"	P	"TANK TUTOR	P	PRG
2	"BRAIN BENDER 1	G	"PATHWAY	G	PRG
2	"BRAIN BENDER 2	G	"ALPHA-SHOOT	E	PRG
7	"COMPUTER PRFRDR	U	"CROSS-HAUNT P"	PRG	
7	"DRAGON POWER	P	"EXP DEMO 1"	PRG	
7	"CITY BOMBER	G	"EXP DEMO 2"	PRG	
7	"CHICKEN LITTLE	G	"EXP DEMO 3"	PRG	
18	"CHICK2"	G	"EXP DEMO 4"	PRG	
12	"CLOSETD JB	G	"EXP DEMO 4"	PRG	
9	"DEFLECTION	G	"DEMO 4"	PRG	
4	"COMPUTE PRFRDR	U	"DEMO 4"	PRG	
8	"WORDSPELL	E	"SBL DRV COPY"	PRG	
5	"FIRST HATH	E	"R2"	PRG	
13	"MUNCHWATH	E			
15	"JUMPING JACK	G			
31	16LOCKS FREE.				

"CCC VIC AJ	" NJ 2A	4	"BAR GRAPH	D	PRG
4	"VIC WEDGE"	U	"EX-GOB FIGHT	G	PRG
4	"DIRECTORY"	U	"VIC MOZART	M	PRG
9	"STOCK MARKET	G	"ROCKS	G	PRG
7	"BKING	G	"RAIN WALKER	G	PRG
15	"CUTOFF	G	"TYPING TUTOR	G	PRG
5	"NUMERIC KEYPAD	P	"GOTCHA: JB	G	PRG
44	"SER NO. CAL BK P"	P	"CROSS-HAUNT P"	PRG	
15	"SER VR. CAL BK P"	P	"BUDGETING BK B"	PRG	
8	"SER NO. CAL BK P"	P	"CIRCUS JB	G	PRG
7	"TARGETSHOOT JB	G	"DISCOS-CHARIT P"	PRG	
4	"COMPUTE PRFRDR	U	"BAJA 1999	G	PRG
32	"DISKMASTER 14K	U	"BA2"	G	PRG
6	"FUBUS	M	"NEVETS JB	G	PRG
4	"VIC PIANO	N	"TANK MANTA 238	G	PRG
11	"RODERS BK	G	"TH2"	G	PRG
19	"L2"	P	"VIC-PET CONV.	U	PRG
16	"MONTHS BK	P	"TANKMAN RUN JB	G	PRG
9	"MONKICK BK B"	P	"SBL DRV COPY"	PRG	
9	"MEMORY UTILITY	U	"VIC AJ"	PRG	
5	"ADDITION DRILL	E			
16	16LOCKS FREE.				

# THE WHOLE 64 LIBRARY

Disks (double-sided) cost \$5.00 to buy or require a \$10.00 deposit while you borrow them. 64 librarian is Glenn Hazlewood -- see him at any of the club's Vancouver meetings.

**"CCC LIBRARY DISK" A1 2A**

- 1 "BOB MESS" PRG 23 "HANGMAN" PRG 3
- 24 "BLACKJACK" PRG 20 "BOLITAINE" PRG 2
- 14 "TARGET PONS" PRG 27 "BOBMAIN" PRG 1
- 32 "ANDROID NIM 64" PRG 28 "DUTSBER" PRG 2
- 38 "ATARI I.C.2" PRG 42 "PERSONALITY TEST" PRG 3
- 25 "ENTERTAINER" PRG 43 "ARTILLERY.C2" PRG 3
- 37 "LABYRINTH" PRG 3 "ADD 2" PRG 3
- 13 "WARRIOR" PRG 7 "TIME GUESSER" PRG 3
- 24 "DISK DOCTOR" PRG 12 "1 BIN" PRG 3
- 17 "PETALB/ROBE" PRG 9 "AFRICAN ADVENTUR" PRG 3
- 14 "CARPAC ADVENTURE" PRG 4 "DOB 5.1" PRG 3
- 18 "MAKIT" PRG 3
- 57 BLOCKS FREE.

**"CCC LIBRARY DISK" E1 2A**

- 5 "CONT.LDR.ML" PRG 32 "EVEB" PRG 1
- 9 "HI RES LOADER" PRG 32 "FRIENDS" PRG 1
- 1 "SCREEN" PRG 32 "BINCO2" PRG 1
- 7 "CONT.LDR.PAL" PRG 32 "SATELLITE" PRG 1
- 32 "SQUEEZE" PRG 32 "DONALD.DUCK" PRG 1
- 32 "TEX" PRG 32 "VR.THINGS" PRG 1
- 32 "HOPALONG" PRG 32 "REBAR.87" PRG 1
- 32 "GUY" PRG 32 "NUDE.REI" PRG 1
- 32 "F101" PRG 32 "VIS.ROBETTE" PRG 1
- 32 "F102" PRG 32 "VIS.GIA" PRG 1
- 32 "F103" PRG 32 "DRAG.CHRD.1" PRG 1
- 32 "HOUNDZ" PRG 32 "4HILLS" PRG 1
- 2 BLOCKS FREE.

**"CCC LIBRARY DISK" E2 2A**

- 1 "L.I.T.HE COI.L" PRG 32 "DES.1" PRG 1
- 5 "CONT.LDR.ML" PRG 32 "7-SHILL" PRG 1
- 8 "HI RES LOADER" PRG 32 "HUBIC" PRG 1
- 1 "SCREEN" PRG 32 "MAP" PRG 1
- 6 "CONT.LDR.PAL" PRG 32 "DIANE" PRG 1
- 32 "SPIRAL.1" PRG 32 "MILLY" PRG 1
- 32 "KAREN" PRG 32 "KID CONN" PRG 1
- 32 "BNOOPY" PRG 32 "MATCH" PRG 1
- 32 "DOLLAR" PRG 32 "WINSTON" PRG 1
- 32 "DIP" PRG 32 "MIDWINTER" PRG 1
- 32 "SNAIL" PRG 32 "NUDE" PRG 1
- 3 BLOCKS FREE.

**"CCC LIBRARY DISK" H2 2A**

- 2 "USER.PAGE 46.1" PRG 7 "DIR-LIST.44.C" PRG 1
- 1 "USER.PAGE 47.1" PRG 14 "DOKI STAR.C" PRG 1
- 1 "USER.PAGE 49.1" PRG 23 "MANKEN" PRG 1
- 1 "USER.PAGE 51.1" PRG 20 "FOBBANK.C" PRG 1
- 1 "USER.PAGE 55.1" PRG 3 "LINK.ASTR.C" PRG 1
- 1 "USER.PAGE 55.1" PRG 19 "RELOCATOR 5.2.C" PRG 1
- 2 "USER.PAGE 71.1" PRG 12 "PAINT.C" PRG 1
- 2 "USER.PAGE 74.1" PRG 9 "THE KANON.C" PRG 1
- 7 "HEADS OR TAILS.C" PRG 1
- 1 "USER.PAGE 80.1" PRG 34 "MOON BUSBY.C" PRG 1
- 1 "USER.PAGE 81.1" PRG 14 "TERMINAL.64.C" PRG 1
- 1 "USER.PAGE 85.1" PRG 7 "4TER.64.C" PRG 1
- 1 "USER.PAGE 86.1" PRG 41 "TOLL BRIDGES.P" PRG 1
- 1 "USER.PAGE 87.1" PRG 24 "MUSICRATER" PRG 1
- 1 "USER.PAGE 90.1" PRG 19 "MACH DUET.C" PRG 1
- 1 "USER.PAGE 90.2" PRG 30 "LIGHT CYCLES 441" PRG 1
- 1 "USER.PAGE 96.1" PRG 35 "NIGHTMARE PARK.C" PRG 1
- 1 "USER.PAGE 110.1" PRG 34 "MAGEL FORTUNE.C" PRG 1
- 1 "USER.PAGE 111.1" PRG 14 "SUBMARINES.C" PRG 1
- 7 "USER.PAGE 145.1" PRG 16 "64 TINKPICE" PRG 1
- 9 "GOLFIN" PRG 7 "DISK NAME CHANGE" PRG 1
- 9 "BOBLINZ" PRG 4 "OLD ENB.BOOT" PRG 1
- 13 "DOB-AID.64.C" PRG 9 "OLD ENLISH(27)" PRG 1
- 1 BLOCKS FREE.

**"CCC LIBRARY DISK" A2 2A**

- 1 "C-64 WEDGE" PRG 11 "DOS IN BASIC" PRG 1
- 4 "HIRES VIEW 2" PRG 89 "MUSIC MAKER" PRG 1
- 2 "HIRES VIEW 2.HAC" PRG 28 "GRUNNY TOMBS" PRG 1
- 32 "DOLLAR" PRG 8 "SUPERDOGS27000" PRG 1
- 32 "3-MAP" PRG 9 "SPRITE BOOT" PRG 1
- 32 "3-DL BESSBL" PRG 43 "SPRITE EDITOR" PRG 1
- 32 "4-KAREN" PRG 5 "SCROLL.DATA" PRG 1
- 32 "3-DIP" PRG 3 "SAMPLE SPITES" PRG 1
- 28 "FRENCH 44" PRG 32 "SPRITE INSTR." PRG 1
- 9 "STANDARD.SET" PRG 32 "CHAR EDITR." PRG 1
- 28 "CARPAC BACKUP" PRG 3 "CHAR EDITR." PRG 1
- 5 "HOUSE" PRG 32 "ROTATE.DATA" PRG 1
- 9 "SPRNOH.SV851201" PRG 1
- 72 BLOCKS FREE.

**"CCC LIBRARY DISK" E1 2A**

- 12 "US PRESIDENT QUI" PRG 12
- 12 "WORLD CAPITAL GU" PRG 12
- 6 "TYPING DRILL" PRG 6
- 18 "VOCALIZ 64" PRG 18
- 13 "ANIMAL" PRG 13
- 27 "READER" PRG 27
- 13 "MATH QUIZ" PRG 13
- 10 "ANIMAL.DATA" PRG 10
- 11 "NOT.SO.EASY" PRG 11
- 13 "SPELLING.TEST" PRG 13
- 10 "SLOPE" PRG 10
- 23 "DISPLAY" PRG 23
- 4 "HISTOGRAM" PRG 4
- 27 "EDU-TILITIES" PRG 27
- 10 "EUROPEAN CAPITOL" PRG 10
- 28 "PIBERRY" PRG 28
- 9 "FLASH CARDS" PRG 9
- 10 "FRENCH" PRG 10
- 6 "GLOBAL" PRG 6
- 23 "ICE CREAM PAR" PRG 23
- 9 "WORLD CLACK" PRG 9
- 27 "HANGMAN 2" PRG 27
- 24 "JUMBO JET" PRG 24
- 28 "SINGLE BACKUP" PRG 28

**"CCC LIBRARY DISK" E2 2A**

- 52 "DISKVIEW-64" PRG 52
- 5 "MINIMORPPO.64" PRG 5
- 28 "LIST" PRG 28
- 1 "DOB 5.1.44" PRG 1
- 2 "DOB. INST. 44" PRG 2
- 37 "PILOT INST.44" PRG 37
- 11 "PILOT TRANSL.64" PRG 11
- 11 "COPY/ALL" PRG 11
- 5 "HOM PART TWO" PRG 5
- 1 "C-64 WEDGE" PRG 1
- 4 "DOB 5.1" PRG 4
- 9 "FINTER TEST" PRG 9
- 6 "VIEW BAM" PRG 6
- 4 "CHECK DISK" PRG 4
- 14 "DISPLAY TAB" PRG 14
- 9 "PERFORMANCE TEST" PRG 9
- 5 "SEQUENTIAL FILE" PRG 5
- 1 BLOCKS FREE.

**"CCC LIBRARY DISK" I1 2A**

- 12 "POTHE" PRG 12
- 13 "DOTS" PRG 13
- 18 "RE-BEEP" PRG 18
- 4 "4 TINKPICE" PRG 4
- 5 "COLOR BARS" PRG 5
- 14 "HL ENTRY NON-3" PRG 14
- 4 "SPRITE INST." PRG 4
- 18 "SPICE" PRG 18
- 13 "SUPERBASIC" PRG 13
- 3 "MOIRE PATTERN" PRG 3
- 4 "STAR DANCE" PRG 4
- 7 "FALLING SHARROCK" PRG 7
- 8 "HERRY INAS" PRG 8
- 4 "4 REVERSE INST" PRG 4
- 9 "TEST DRIVE 9" PRG 9
- 9 "TEST DRIVE 9" PRG 9
- 5 "SPRITE BASIC" PRG 5
- 5 "BUT BEEP" PRG 5
- 5 "TIE FIGHTER" PRG 5
- 26 "CANYONS OF ZELAZ" PRG 26
- 13 "SEA BATTLE" PRG 13
- 5 "INDEX HARDCOPY 5" PRG 5
- 1 "S41 FINGER" PRG 1
- 19 "SPEEDSCRIPT" PRG 19
- 2 "SPEEDSCRIPT.INST" PRG 2
- 19 BLOCKS FREE.

**"CCC LIBRARY DISK" B1 2A**

- 28 "AFRICA 4 ABIA" PRG 12
- 12 "EASY ADD & SUBTR" PRG 12
- 15 "20 QUESTIONS" PRG 15
- 6 "LOTION GAME" PRG 6
- 2 "ASK" PRG 2
- 1 "BIG MATH 1.1" PRG 1
- 9 "CASH REGISTER" PRG 9
- 5 "CRYPTOGRAM" PRG 5
- 8 "DONUTS" PRG 8
- 24 "ELIZA" PRG 24
- 10 "SLOPE" PRG 10
- 6 "FRACTIONS" PRG 6
- 11 "FRENCH VERBS" PRG 11
- 5 "KARMA" PRG 5
- 13 "MAIKU 5" PRG 13
- 11 "HANGMAN" PRG 11
- 28 "HANGMAN.INST" PRG 28
- 7 "MATH DICE" PRG 7
- 13 "MATH NUMBER" PRG 13
- 7 "HISING TUTOR" PRG 7
- 9 "WORLD CLACK" PRG 9
- 15 "PETE" PRG 15
- 19 "SPELLING SEE+FIL" PRG 19
- 11 "STARTRK-7ALS" PRG 11
- 19 BLOCKS FREE.

**"CCC LIBRARY DISK" F1 2A**

- 47 "BITS AND BYTES" PRG 47
- 5 "BYTSPRITES" PRG 5
- 1 "DOB BOOT.44" PRG 1
- 1 "DOB 5.1.44" PRG 1
- 2 "DOB. INST. 44" PRG 2
- 37 "PILOT INST.44" PRG 37
- 11 "PILOT TRANSL.64" PRG 11
- 11 "COPY/ALL" PRG 11
- 5 "HOM PART TWO" PRG 5
- 1 "C-64 WEDGE" PRG 1
- 4 "DOB 5.1" PRG 4
- 9 "FINTER TEST" PRG 9
- 6 "VIEW BAM" PRG 6
- 4 "CHECK DISK" PRG 4
- 14 "DISPLAY TAB" PRG 14
- 9 "PERFORMANCE TEST" PRG 9
- 5 "SEQUENTIAL FILE" PRG 5
- 1 BLOCKS FREE.

**"CCC LIBRARY DISK" F2 2A**

- 58 "QUIET AFTERNOON" PRG 58
- 9 "BACK CHALLENGE" PRG 9
- 8 "QUESS A GRAPH" PRG 8
- 8 "SAFE CRACK" PRG 8
- 1 "SLOTTED" PRG 1
- 53 "3DMAIL" PRG 53
- 15 "1000 MILES/INST" PRG 15
- 25 "1000 MILES" PRG 25
- 7 "BIN" PRG 7
- 79 "STAR TRK-C64" PRG 79
- 23 "DRAM POKER" PRG 23
- 23 "CARD SHUFF" PRG 23
- 17 "SPACE NIM" PRG 17
- 14 "DUCKSHOOT" PRG 14
- 1 BLOCKS FREE.

**"CCC LIBRARY DISK" J2 2A**

- 16 "ROGERS" PRG 16
- 32 "40 RADIUS" PRG 32
- 32 "60 RADIUS" PRG 32
- 32 "80 RADIUS" PRG 32
- 32 "10 DEGREES" PRG 32
- 32 "20 DEGREES" PRG 32
- 32 "30 DEGREES" PRG 32
- 32 "45 DEGREES" PRG 32
- 32 "60 DEGREES" PRG 32
- 32 "70 DEGREES" PRG 32
- 32 "80 DEGREES" PRG 32
- 32 "90 DEGREES" PRG 32
- 32 "120 RADIUS" PRG 32
- 32 "150 RADIUS" PRG 32
- 17 BLOCKS FREE.

**"CCC LIBRARY DISK" B2 2A**

- 42 "SPACE PILOT" PRG 12
- 42 "SHAKES" PRG 12
- 14 "PLOTTING DEM" PRG 14
- 10 "SPRITE DEMO" PRG 10
- 3 "3-D DEMO" PRG 3
- 4 "DRAM DEMO" PRG 4
- 65 "STAR TRK IV-A" PRG 65
- 38 "SPRITE MAKER" PRG 38
- 28 "ATARI" PRG 28
- 44 "PAPER KIND" PRG 44
- 2 "PETB" PRG 2
- 12 "TRACK & SECTOR" PRG 12
- 8 "HEM" PRG 8
- 3 "DIRECTORY" PRG 3
- 19 BLOCKS FREE.

**"CCC LIBRARY DISK" F1 2A**

- 18 "DISK MANAGER" PRG 18
- 12 "XNOM4.C" PRG 12
- 12 "XNOM4.C(150125)" PRG 12
- 14 "XNOM4.C(29940)" PRG 14
- 12 "XNOM4.T(30003)" PRG 12
- 18 "SHOOT" PRG 18
- 5 "SEQUENTIAL FILE" PRG 5
- 13 "RANDOM FILE" PRG 13
- 38 "DISASSEMBLER.DIB" PRG 38
- 16 "DISK CHECKER" PRG 16
- 16 "DISK VIEWER" PRG 16
- 9 "DISK LOGGER" PRG 9
- 6 "SECTOR PRINT" PRG 6
- 7 "OSK VIEW/CHANGER" PRG 7

**"CCC LIBRARY DISK" F2 2A**

- 4 "CHRISTMAS" PRG 4
- 14 "CHRISTMASBASIC" PRG 14
- 17 "CHRISTMASCODE" PRG 17
- 2 "CHRISTMASBOOT" PRG 2
- 12 "ML" PRG 12
- 4 "UNMEM" PRG 4
- 8 "HERRY CHRISTMAS" PRG 8
- 12 "MORD HUNT 18/18" PRG 12
- 13 "MORD HUNT 20/30" PRG 13
- 12 "MORD HUNT 19/15" PRG 12
- 2 "MINT LIT 20 44" PRG 2
- 2 "SLOT BOOT" PRG 2
- 4 "SLOT.A" PRG 4
- 18 "MORPHIC.C" PRG 18
- 3 "KEYPRINT.INST" PRG 3
- 1 "KEYPRINT.8C00P" PRG 1
- 7 "KEYPRINT.P" PRG 7
- 3 BLOCKS FREE.

**"CCC LIBRARY DISK" J1 2A**

- 7 "CARBON LOCK" PRG 7
- 8 "INTERFACE TEST" PRG 8
- 4 "DEMONS INSTR" PRG 4
- 4 "DEMONS INSTRIB" PRG 4
- 19 "CANYON CRUIZER" PRG 19
- 9 "PRACTICAL JOCK" PRG 9
- 18 "HARDWARE CLIBSEN" PRG 18
- 7 "GRAPH PLOTTER" PRG 7
- 4 "ABTRD-PANIC.INST" PRG 4
- 4 "ABTRD-FUNCTIONAL" PRG 4
- 2 "MUNCHAZE.INST" PRG 2
- 7 "MUNCHAZE" PRG 7
- 15 "RED BARON.INST" PRG 15
- 22 "ULTRAFONT.INST" PRG 22
- 12 "ULTRAFONT" PRG 12
- 1 "INTHE LINE" PRG 1
- 17 "1541 B-UP" PRG 17
- 24 "POKER" PRG 24
- 4 "4-KEY" PRG 4
- 48 "CHARACTER EDITOR" PRG 48
- 21 "TEST CHR" PRG 21
- 18 "SILENT NIGHT" PRG 18
- 1 "DOTS" PRG 1
- 4 "WES" PRG 4
- 10 "BARRIER BATTLE" PRG 10
- 18 "TILTRASTER 44" PRG 18
- 18 "CATALOGS.INST" PRG 18
- 18 "REACT" PRG 18
- 4 "CATALOG" PRG 4
- 13 "15-181" PRG 13
- 1 "PLOTTER STUFF" PRG 1
- 37 BLOCKS FREE.

**"CCC LIBRARY DISK" C1 2A**

- 78 "PONZO TUTOR 1.64" PRG 78
- 67 "PONZO TUTOR 2.64" PRG 67
- 78 "PONZO TUTOR 3.64" PRG 78
- 64 "PONZO TUTOR 4.64" PRG 64
- 64 "PONZO TUTOR 5.64" PRG 64
- 61 "PONZO TUTOR 6.64" PRG 61
- 60 "PONZO TUTOR 7.64" PRG 60
- 12 "LISTER.V4" PRG 12
- 1 "WORLD CLACK" PRG 1
- 4 "TIME VIEW INST" PRG 4
- 1 "TIM VEW SET LPT" PRG 1
- 18 "CARPAC ADVENTURE" PRG 18
- 5 BLOCKS FREE.

**"CCC LIBRARY DISK" F1 2A**

- 4 "SAVE FILE(S) PRG" PRG 4
- 28 "SINGLE BACKUP" PRG 28
- 32 "SPRITE INSTR." PRG 32
- 5 "COMMANDS" PRG 5
- 16 "INDEX HARDCOPY" PRG 16
- 3 "INDEX HARDCOPY 2" PRG 3
- 3 "INDEX HARDCOPY 3" PRG 3
- 19 "MORD CLACK" PRG 19
- 11 "SUPER CHARGE" PRG 11
- 25 "STARTREK" PRG 25

**"CCC LIBRARY DISK" B2 2A**

- 143 "MU.C64 MUSIC" PRG 143
- 28 "MU.MACHINE OBJ" PRG 28
- 2 "REF.PAGE 139.1" PRG 2
- 48 "TR-INSTRUCT 1" PRG 48
- 48 "TR-INSTRUCT 2" PRG 48
- 8 "TR-INSTRUCT 3" PRG 8
- 8 "TR-INSTRUCT 4" PRG 8
- 18 "GRAPHICS OBJ" PRG 18
- 18 "GRAPHICS OBJ" PRG 18
- 33 "AN.ELLIPSE" PRG 33
- 18 "AN.WIBBLE" PRG 18
- 18 "AN.ANIMATION PAL" PRG 18
- 4 "AN.ANIMATION OBJ" PRG 4
- 18 "AN.ANIMATION DEM" PRG 18
- 18 "64 TEST" PRG 18

**"CCC LIBRARY DISK" J2 2A**

- 11 "LIST-NB FIRST" PRG 11
- 131 "CORALB.CAN" PRG 131
- 1 "EASY EDIT.C" PRG 1
- 14 "TYPEWRITER.C" PRG 14
- 4 "TYPEWRITER" PRG 4
- 4 "TYPEWRITER" PRG 4
- 13 "MINIMORPPO.C" PRG 13
- 8 "FOOD PRICES.C" PRG 8
- 3 "CREATING COB.L" PRG 3
- 7 "MONEY EXCHANGE.C" PRG 7
- 22 "PROPERTY EVAL.C" PRG 22
- 15 "SPRITE WATCHER.C" PRG 15
- 1 "PLOTTER STUFF" PRG 1
- 37 BLOCKS FREE.

**"CCC LIBRARY DISK" C2 2A**

- 3 "LIBRARY NOTES" PRG 4
- 4 "ADV 3" PRG 4
- 4 "ADV 4" PRG 4
- 8 "ADV 5" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 6" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 7" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 8" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 9" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 10" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 11" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 12" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 13" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 14" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 15" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 16" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 17" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 18" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 19" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 20" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 21" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 22" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 23" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 24" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 25" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 26" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 27" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 28" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 29" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 30" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 31" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 32" PRG 8
- 8 "ADV 33" PRG 8
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# A COMPLETE GUIDE TO MACHINE LANGUAGE PROGRAMMING ON THE PET

By HAROLD BROCHMANN

## INTRODUCTION (6-1)

So far we have used the built-in machine language monitor to examine and alter the contents of certain memory locations.

In order to write a ML program it was necessary to first write out the assembler coding for what we wanted to do and then determine the corresponding machine code for each mnemonic, making sure that we picked the correct code depending on the addressing mode. Calculating relative addresses for conditional branching was particularly awkward. Finally, each machine code was entered into memory using MLM.

The experience and understanding gained by going through these exercises was invaluable. But having endured all this we will make use of a very special MLM to make the whole process easier.

An ASSEMBLER is a program that allows the user to enter the mnemonic assembler code for a ML program. The program then translates this to machine code. It even calculates the correct relative addresses for conditional branching! The machine code is placed in the correct location as you go along.

A DISASSEMBLER does the opposite of an assembler. If you indicate the address at which a ML program starts, it will convert the machine code back into mnemonic assembler code.

There are several different assemblers and disassemblers available for the PET. Recently, a really useful program came along. MICROMON is a sort of super machine language monitor - assembler - disassembler - lots of other things! We will introduce some of MICROMON's bag of tricks, one at a time, as part of the process of learning ML programming.

MICROMON is the culmination of many similar programs created by many different people. This final version has been "placed in the public domain" which means that it is not copyrighted and may be used and passed on as you please.

It should be possible for you to obtain a copy of MICROMON from your Commodore Dealer. Many dealers have stopped distributing programs like this because of the uncertainty over whether or not they can charge for them. If your dealer can't get you a copy, contact your local users group.

Other assembler/disassemblers work in essentially the same way and may be used instead.

The most commonly available versions of MICROMON only work on 32K machines, but it is possible to relocate it so that 16K and 8K machines can be used.

LOAD the MICROMON cassette tape or disk in the usual manner. Enter NEW. The command SYS 24768 or SYS 744096 activates MICROMON on 32K PETs.

.M,8000,8010

will provide the familiar display of the addresses.

We will now enter the last program we wrote in the last chapter, using MICROMON.

This is what the program looked like:

```
033A A2 00 LDX #000
033C A9 05 LDA #005
033E 9D 00 80 STA $8000,X
0341 E8 INX
0342 D0 FA BNE #033E
0344 60 RTS
```

Enter this line at the decimal point:

```
.A 033A LDX#000
```

When RETURN is pressed this line becomes:

```
.A 033A A2 00 LDX #000
```

```
.A 033C
```

and the cursor rests on the next line ready for:

```
.A 033C LDA#005
```

When you have entered the rest of the program, move the cursor to the bottom of the screen and enter the following:

```
D033A
```

Press down cursor a few times.

Voila! Your machine code has been disassembled for you. By entering D and a starting address, you can examine the entire memory, disassembling the machine code at various locations as you go.

To exit MICROMON always enter .K (RETURN), followed by .X (RETURN).

## ASSIGNMENT 6-1

Use MICROMON to examine and disassemble various parts of PET's ROMs which are located from \$D000 and up to \$FFFF. You will discover a variety of assembler instructions, most of which we have not yet discussed. Make a note of them for future reference.

## HOW DOES PET CLEAR THE SCREEN? (6-2)

When the PET encounters the Clear Screen symbol in BASIC, the operating system makes use of the machine language routine that starts at \$E229, or decimal 57897 for BASIC 3 and \$57434 for BASIC 4.

This routine can be called from ML.

Use MICROMON to assemble the following program at \$033A:

```
033A 20 29 E2 JSR $E229
```

```
($E04B for BASIC 4)
```

```
033D 60 RTS
```

This is done by entering the following line:

```
.A 033A JSR$E229 ($E04B)
```

When RETURN is pressed, you get:

```
.A 033A 20 29 E2 JSR $E229
```

```
.A 033D
```

Don't forget to enter the RTS instruction as well. Exit MICROMON and:

```
SYS 826
```

Hopefully all went well and you are back in BASIC with a PARTLY clear screen.

This experiment should give you an important hint about machine language programming. You don't have to do EVERYTHING yourself. All sorts of ML procedures are already available in PET ROM and can be made use of by the ML programmer.

The assembler instruction JSR means exactly the same as GOSUB in BASIC.

Use MICROMON to disassemble \$E229 and on. (\$E05A for BASIC 4). The first bit won't make a great deal of sense, neither will the part from \$E257 to

\$E284 where we finally encounter RTS; but the part from \$E246 to \$E255 can be analyzed. Here it is:

```
.. E246 A9 20 LDA #20
.. E248 9D 00 80 STA $8000,X
.. E24B 9D 00 81 STA $8100,X
.. E24E 9D 00 82 STA $8200,X
.. E251 9D 00 83 STA $8300,X
.. E254 CA DEX
.. E255 D0 F1 BNE E248
```

Although it doesn't show here, the X register actually contains \$00 when the PET calls the clear screen routine. The first instruction is to load the accumulator with \$20 which is the screen code for blank space. This blank space is now placed in \$8000+X, \$8100+X etc.

The X register is now decremented (DEX) so that it contains \$FF. Because the decrementing process did not result in zero, the BNE (BRANCH IF NOT ZERO) sends us back to \$E248. Finally X gets to zero, and execution continues past \$E255, eventually encountering RTS further down.

It would be instructive to write a BASIC program which accomplishes exactly the same thing. This will give us a better appreciation for what is happening in the clear screen routine.

```
10 X=255
20 A=2
30 POKE 32768+0*256+X,A
40 POKE 32768+1*256+X,A
50 POKE 32768+2*256+X,A
60 POKE 32768+3*256+X,A
70 X=X-1
80 IF X<>0 THEN 30
```

You will notice that we poked the various screen locations with 2 rather than 32. This is only to make it more obvious what is happening. Replace line 20 with A=32 to clear, as opposed to fill, the screen, and run this BASIC program again.

List the program, NEW, and PRINT FRE(0). Now place the cursor on line 10 and re-enter each line.

PRINT FRE(0) again. This little exercise will tell you that this BASIC program needs 133 bytes of memory the way it is written. The ML routine we are looking at requires far fewer bytes for the same job ... and it is VERY much faster!

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## INSIDE THE 1541

(Continued from page 1)

of.

Now that the track has been 'FORMATTED', it is time to go on to track number 2, where the same process is carried out, except that the track numbers will now be 2 instead of 1. This will continue until all 35 tracks have been formatted. The diskette is not yet ready to receive data, however. One more operation must take place.

There is one very special track on the diskette. Track 18 is the one that contains the important information. On this track, the BAM (block availability map), disk name and ID, and the name and location of programs and files are stored. During a NEW, the name and ID of the disk are obtained from the NEW command. The BAM is set to show that all blocks (except

track 18 sector 0) are available. This information is stored in track 18 sector 0. The directory itself starts in track 18 sector 1, and is left blank at this time, as no programs or files have yet been written. Now the NEW is complete. The red LED on the drive goes out (it is turned on and off by the controller), and the disk is ready to accept data.

This description is by no means complete. There are a lot of things going on in the controller that we don't need to examine in order to understand what is happening. The important thing to remember is that the controller did most of the work. The CPU only knew that a file was OPENed and that data was sent on the serial bus. The drive only moved its head, wrote and read back data under instruction from the controller. The Commodore peripherals are known as

'intelligent', or 'smart' peripherals due to the technique of having a controller perform the appropriate actions. In contrast, some computers, like the Apple or TRS 80, have peripherals that must be controlled by the CPU in a more direct manner. They must be told by the operating system in the computer exactly where to move the head and read or write data. The advantages of the Commodore system are:

Ease of use from programs.

Saves CPU memory.

Saves CPU time.

No need for special software for each type of device.

The disadvantages are:

A certain lack of flexibility in peripheral control.

Reduced speed (from using a common I/O bus).

Now we have a diskette ready to accept data. In the next installment we'll put something out there.

## USER FRIENDLIES

(Continued from page 2)

include instructions. However, if you want people to hate you and your programs, don't even bother including instructions.

### INSTRUCTION PRINT SUBROUTINE

```
50000 RESTORE
50010 READA$: IF A$<>"INST" THEN
50010
50020 READA$: IF A$="ENDINST" THEN
RETURN
50030 IF A$="PAUSE" THEN GOSUB 50100:
GOTO 50020
50040 IF A$="U/L" THEN PRINT
CHR$(14);: GOTO 50020
50050 IF A$="U/G" THEN PRINT
CHR$(14);: GOTO 50020
50060 IF A$="TIME" THEN READ A$:
GOSUB 50130: GOTO 50020
50090 PRINT TAB((40-LEN(A$))/2);A$:
GOTO 50020
50100 PRINT"[8 SPACES]ANY KEY[SPACE]
TO CONTINUE...."
50110 GET A$:IF A$="" THEN 50110
50120 RETURN
50130 T=T+1
50140 IF (T-T)/60<VAL(A$) THEN 50140
50150 RETURN
```

## WORD PROCESSING

(Continued from page 4)

Most people who buy a word processor expect to use it with a printer, and this is where I found problems with QBF not covered in any of its documentation. The Print mode, accessed from the main menu, allows control over page prefix and number, lines per page, number of copies, stopping the printer at the end of each page, and Associated Press style, where each page starts with a new paragraph. Unfortunately, each time one wants to print, various inputs have to be entered, unless one uses standard parameters, in which case pressing the space bar is sufficient.

Using the QBF with a Gemini 10 printer connected to the VIC with a Cardco interface, printer output was very slow after the printer buffer was full. This is because the copy is formatted -- on the screen -- before it is sent to the printer, a feature which it isn't possible to disable. The resulting speed is comparable to, if not slower than, BASIC word processors.

Another negative feature of QBF was its inability to produce more than 99 columns, like when using the Gemini's most condensed (17 CPI) print. The right margin with QBF is produced by typing the "embedded command" #Rnnn in the text, where "nnn" is a 3-digit number such as "080". Since there is provision for 3 digits here, one would assume that 3 digits could be entered, but any number over 99 produced strange results.

Interestingly, I achieved a text width of 129 with the 17 CPI type size by inputting #R488 during a succession of random guesses. By adding 359 to "nnn" over 100, a correct right margin could be obtained which worked not only with the #R command, but with others as well.

The arbitrary limit of 99 also applied to another command, #Nnnn, which sends any ASCII character directly to the

printer. As a result, it was not possible to take advantage of some of the unusual ASCII characters on the Gemini for producing accented letters, etc.

When I complained about this problem with input numbers over 99 to QBF, they sent me a short BASIC program to run before SYSing the word processor itself. This program was supposed to make it possible to "redefine" certain characters so they would be accepted by QBF. Unfortunately, after considerable experimentation with this program, I failed to make it work correctly.

I also discovered more inequities with other QBF features like underlining, which is produced by the embedded command #U, making the broken dash underline style. The Gemini's continuous underline produced by CHR\$(27) plus CHR\$(45)CHR\$(1) -- or #N027#N045#N001 on the QBF -- caused the printer to act strangely when making justified copy (with parallel margins), something I've encountered with other word processors under similar circumstances.

To sum up, although Quick Brown Fox has several features which are worth considering, such as the Global Edit, Send and Receive, and numerous "embedded commands" which are useful if you are using an expensive daisy-wheel printer, it is hard to recommend it highly because of the line editing limitations and general slowness in printer output which I experienced. It is miles ahead of some other word processors for the VIC and 64, such as HesWriter and TOTL TEXT, which seem to be written by people who have very limited knowledge of what "word processing" really means. As far as the VIC is concerned, in fact, QBF is one of the better word processors. Commodore-64 owners, with the availability of many sophisticated programs such as Word Pro and Paper Clip, just to name two of the most popular, would probably best be advised to look elsewhere.

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Club meetings are normally held: *Workshops*: first Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., Thompson Secondary School cafeteria, 1755 E. 55th Ave. (near Victoria Drive); *Business*: third Tuesday of the month -- 7:00 p.m., King Edward Campus, 1155 East Broadway, 2nd floor auditorium. These dates and locations are subject to change. For up-to-date information on any changes, please call the club's 24-hour answer phone:

PET-3311 (738-3311)

Club Executive: President -- Jim Bauerle; Vice-President -- Sigmond Steiner; Secretary -- Marvin Steinway; Treasurer -- Hu Reijne; Directors -- Robert de Boer, Guenter Hake, Jim Jorgenson, Terry Jouti, Murray Kopit, Mike Quigley, Elmer Roy, Philip Seligman, Nick Shevchenko, Gerry Sinclair, Tony Smith, Arthur Tamer, Al Townsend, Jim Wilcox.



# WE GET LETTERS . . .

Thank you for the newsletters that you sent our users group.

Our group was formed a year ago for Commodore 64 owners. Our membership stands at 260 families. We have a disk of the month, and a newsletter. Our newsletter can't compete with yours, but I am enclosing one, all the same.

We were all very impressed with your club newspaper. We found the latest issue especially relevant, since many of us have trouble with the 1541 disk drives, and quite a few members own Gemini 10X printers with a Card?/+G interface.

Susan Timar, President  
Sarnia C-64 Users Group  
1122 Wilson Dr.  
Sarnia, Ont. N7S 3J6

\*\*\*

Many thanks for the copy of your club newsletter. We found it both interesting and informative and are looking forward to receiving further copies.

Our group met for the first

time on October 20, 1983 and we are still in the process of getting organized. We have been meeting once a month since then and our membership is still small but growing.

At present we are beginning to organize a small newsletter for members only and also are starting to put a library together, but nothing is established yet.

If you could offer us any advice or information to make the task of organization easier or more beneficial we would be very appreciative.

Carol Scheniman  
Durham C64 Club  
c/o 1322 Naples Street  
Oshawa, Ontario L1K 1J6

\*\*\*

I've just recently seen a copy of the letter which you sent to the Sarnia C64 Users Group of which I am a former member. Presently I am actively associated with the Windsor and area Pet Educators Group (PEG).

PEG was formed about 2 years ago with primarily a handful of Windsor Board of Education employees. After about a year, the club invited the general public to join and now boasts a membership of 550 plus. We are holding a spring conference (Micro Mania '84) featuring Jim Butterfield. This is our first major event and would appreciate any comments or suggestions from any related experiences your club may have had. The planning of this conference has been immensely rewarding (a real learning experience) and we hope to hear from you to have an idea exchange.

Anna Ward,  
Chairman  
Conference Committee  
Pet Educators Group  
P.O. Box 454, Stn. A  
Windsor, Ont. N9A 6L7

\*\*\*

I would like you to think about a Canadian Information Exchange! I wonder if all our groups could exchange newsletters, etc. I don't really know how we could set up such an idea but it's food for thought.

Owen McGowan  
(Sarnia C-64 Users' Group)

## VIEW FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD

By LAURENCE URDANG  
(from *Verbatim* magazine)

Considering the recent encroachments by computers into the sphere of publishing, chiefly through word processing, it is a great pity that those who prepare the programs and who write the manuals are not more literate and more careful in their exposition.

It is rapidly becoming apparent to many (though it was quite obvious to me more than 20 years ago) that programming is better done by idiot savants (or twelve-year-olds): their minds are relatively unencumbered by a predisposition to the distracted, creative thinking, born of intelligence and experience, that characterizes the reasoning adult. However good the programs may be, using them is quite another matter: since the manual is usually written by the programmer, more often than not it omits important information because it is so "obvious" to the writer.

One manual accompanying a microcomputer that was introduced in 1982 had no index. Thus, though I was aware that the program could perform a particular function because I recalled having seen it when reading the manual, I had to reread the manual to discover the proper command, as there was no way to look it up in an index.

Happily, that shortcoming was rectified in a more recent edition (which, curiously, has Appendix Q following Appendix R, an arrangement I have still been

unable to fathom).

Like most machines, computers do very well those things they are suited for, and it is silly to use them inappropriately. One would scarcely use a jumbo jet to go crosstown or, for that matter, take any kind of airplane to travel a distance covered by a car in an hour or so: it takes that long just to get to the airport.

For those who fear or despise computers, there may be no answer, for they were born into the wrong century. I wonder if they still write on vellum using a quill they have plucked from a passing goose.

Learning to use a micro-computer is no more difficult than changing from a mechanical typewriter to an electric or from a stick shift to an automatic transmission. The "hands-on" sensation is somewhat mitigated, but then consider the number of times you have retyped a page because you wished (or had) to change one word.

It must also be said that one must change ingrained attitudes toward information and how it has been processed traditionally. One favorable advantage of old-fashioned methods, that of browsing, is sacrificed to a certain extent.

But against that loss must be weighed the benefit of time and energy saved by being able to key a short command to a micro-computer word-processing program that will, in a matter of seconds, find every instance of a given character or word in a long, machine-readable document.

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