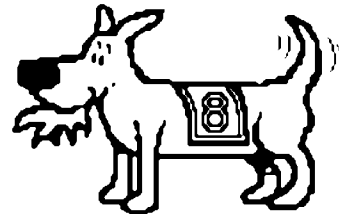


The Zero Page

The newsletter of the Commodore Users of Wichita
For the sharing, learning, and love of Commodore computers"



Eight-bit keeps takin' a byte
out of Commodore computing

Number 23, September 1995



Jerry's Corner

by Jerry Shook

Murphy's Laws on GEOS

Not so long ago, I took a couple of computer courses through Boeing. No they were not on the Commodore

computers, but with a little editing I have changed some handouts to apply to GEOS and Commodores in general. First off, I give Murphy's top 14 Laws on GEOS.

- ⇒ Always exit GEOS before you turn off the power to your computer.
- ⇒ Don't turn the power off and back on Quickly.
- ⇒ Don't ignore error messages.
- ⇒ Always do backups.
- ⇒ Keep your mouse ball spic-and-span.
- ⇒ Nothing is as easy as it looks.
- ⇒ Perfect documents will develop errors on their way to the printer.
- ⇒ Its a mistake to allow anything mechanical to know you're in a hurry.
- ⇒ For every vision, there is an equal and opposite revision.
- ⇒ When you don't know what you're doing, do it neatly.
- ⇒ Programs expand to fill all available memory.
- ⇒ If you're wondering weather you deleted the wrong file, you did.
- ⇒ Teamwork is essential. It allows you to blame someone else.
- ⇒ Keep a nerd on retainer.

On that last word to the wise, I will now tell you how properly care for and feed a nerd or...

How to Bribe a Nerd

Nerds thrive on caffeinated beverages. So have a fresh cup of coffee or a favorite soda waiting when your nerd comes to call. Not only will the bribe be appreciated for itself, but the thoughtfulness will be noted.

Junk food is excellent. Nothing pleases like a nice, high-calorie, low nutrition treat. And remember that serious problems call for serious treats. When you are really desperate, go beyond the simple Twinkie to serious chocolate sin.

Do backups. Absolutely nothing will make your nerd more willing to help you than the knowledge that you have a recent backup.

Reciprocate. Nerds are somewhat limited and usually have areas that they don't do well at. Like life. So offer your expertise in an

area the nerd may be weak in.

Try to be specific about the nature of the problem. Write down the exact wording of the error message you got. Or the exact sequence of events that preceded the crash. Nerds respect precision.

Be honest. If the problem is caused by something you did, fess up. It makes the nerd's job much easier if he/she doesn't have to guess about what you did.

Praise, especially public praise, works wonders. Nerds will positively preen if you start telling your friends about the miraculous rescue of your data.

Don't be afraid to overbribe. you will build up a balance sheet in your favor, and when you are really desperate, your nerd will pull out all the stops. Grown men tremble at the sight of a nerd in full attack mode.

So sorry, I had a definition of nerd, but I seem to have misplaced it. Oh well, I guess that it can wait for another time. Most of this was written with tongue in cheek, but there is a lot of truth in it also.



What with all the hullabaloo over the recent release of Windows '95, I thought it would be fun to reprint this article by John Dvorak which originally appeared in Microtimes -- Ed.

**Bill Gates And No Sympathy For The Devil
or
An Interview With Mr. B. L. Zeebub**

by John C. Dvorak
25-May-92 -- Microtimes

On April 15, 1992, I was granted an exclusive interview with the master of darkness, Mr. B. L. Zeebub, head honcho of the underworld, sometimes known as "Satan" or "the devil". Since I avoid association with his clan, he contacted me by MCI Mail to set up a meeting. He had learned that I was looking into various industry moguls who are believed to have made a deal with the devil, and that I had become something of an expert on the subject.

Because of an unusual deal he made with Bill Gates, Mr. Zeebub thought it would be good to have a meeting. We chose a neutral spot, the lobby of the San Francisco Marriott, to meet. The conversation was taped, and the following is an edited transcript.

DVORAK: So, exactly why did you call for this meeting? I find this unusual.

ZEEBUB: It's quite out of the ordinary for me, too, but I have done quite a few deals with many of the richest men in high technology, and I want to go public with the information.

DVORAK: Why? What difference does it make?

ZEEBUB: Not wanting to name names, I did a deal with Bill Gates, and it's causing some confusion and consternation with some of the other fellows.

DVORAK: Bill Gates? Don't tell me he sold his soul to become a billionaire?

ZEEBUB: Well, that's what we thought at first. The deal was pretty straightforward. He's one of the richest men in the world and can have anything he wants. This is, of course, thanks to me. After he's dead I'm supposed to have certain rights that supersede normal procedure. Now we've discovered that this will never happen.

DVORAK: So he sold his soul to be rich?

ZEEBUB: It's not that simple. Gates is too smart for that kind of a deal. He's a tough negotiator. I think the contract is a bit unusual.

DVORAK: For example?

ZEEBUB: Well, his attorneys did a great job -- and I admit this -- making sure that he's protected from those notorious tricks you've heard so much about. Gates' people made sure none of that kind of nonsense was allowable. We actually may have been premature when we signed it. He seems to have a lot of clauses my people didn't understand. We were so concerned with his soul that we didn't pay enough attention to his attorneys. The guy just doesn't look that threatening.

DVORAK: Uh, let me get this straight. You did a

deal with Gates and the deal favored him?

ZEEBUB: Well, it actually may be worse than that. I'm not sure what to do about about it. Gate's deal has some interesting performance clauses and some fallback language that they slipped by us. Gates requires that his net worth increase \$10 billion by the end of 1992 and then double each year for the next five years. It was written in such a way that we didn't see how the numbers were going to increase so fast. My people are having a hell of a time, pardon my French, maintaining his wealth curve. We got him up to eight billion or so and can probably meet this year's requirements, but to double it again is going to be tough.

DVORAK: So throw in the towel. What's the big deal?

ZEEBUB: It turns out that if we don't perform, Gates gets gets my business.

DVORAK: What do you mean, "gets your business"?

ZEEBUB: Takes over the business. You know, like, owns it. He gets all those contracts from me. Can you imagine what will happen when those guys who signed up with me from Sun Microsystems, for example, find out that Gates gets their souls!?!?

DVORAK: You mean he'd get their souls? Like for eternity? That kind of thing? What would he do with them. What about when he grows old and...

ZEEBUB: Oh, he's already immortal. That was another deal he did with an associate long ago. Bill Gates is 208 years old! If I had known about it I wouldn't have done this deal in the first place. Anyhow, I have no idea what he'd do with their souls. Auction them, I suppose. It's not them I'm worried about.

DVORAK: Who are you worried about?

ZEEBUB: Me. My counselors *now* tell me that if I go into default he will actually own *my* soul.

DVORAK: Wow. First the business, then the soul. How could such a thing happen? What would it mean to the scheme of things?

ZEEBUB: That's what we're trying to figure out. My long-term obligations to the universe and the good-evil continuum are in jeopardy. There's a rumor going around that Gates wants to parcel hell, put in a fake beach and sell condos. It's not that I care that much about the property. It's the principle of the thing.

DVORAK: So what's the point of this meeting?

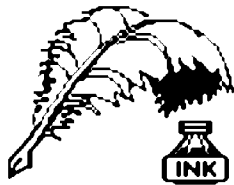
ZEEBUB: Do you know any good lawyers?

DVORAK: I thought you had them all in hell.

ZEEBUB: They don't keep up with current cases.

Shortly thereafter I left Mr. Zeebub in the Marriott lobby. He looked depressed. I agreed to publish this interview as a plea for an attorney for the devil. I'm told that attorneys know how to get in touch with him.

Copyright 1992 by John C. Dvorak



Don's Digest

by Don McManamey

Some people have no hobbies, though most have at least one or two. I have too many! Among my many hobbies is photography. Both of my sons enjoy

taking pictures, though it is my youngest that recently worked with the photographers at *Miss Teen USA*. What a rough job. Having to take pictures of girls in two piece swim suits and evening gowns. We have strayed from where I was going though, so back to the point.

I have taken several good photographs over the years. I have been encouraged to seek publication but two things have stopped me, the fear of having my work stolen and not knowing how to prevent it. In this country we have copyright laws to protect us if we know how to take advantage of those laws. While I am no expert, I do know enough to know that the average person does not know how this is done. Do you have something worth protecting? The types of things you can protect with a copyright include: photographs, music, poems, stories, movies, videos, and computer programs. It is not as easy as simply declaring your material under copyright. Neither do you need a copyright lawyer unless someone is being sued.

My sister has a friend who writes music. One day my sister told her friend that she should copyright her stuff before it is stolen. Neither of them had the foggiest idea how it was done. My sister started calling around and getting the run-around. Finally her persistence paid off. The other day my youngest son was looking through a photographic magazine and found an article which confirmed what my sister had learned. Here is the good and bad news.

- 1) There is a cost for this service. Not so many years ago it was free. Just a couple years ago it was only two dollars. Currently the cost is \$20.00!
- 2) For your twenty dollars you can copyright a whole video tape, a full computer disk, a book full of poems and so on.

To obtain the necessary forms and information on how to obtain a copyright, write to:

Information and Publications Section
 Copyright Office
 Library of Congress
 Washington D.C. 20559

There is also a book:

The Copyright Book, by William Strong (Cambridge, MA; MIT Press)

My thanks to *Popular Photography* for verification of what I thought I knew, the address to write to, and the book info. Until next time, be sure to write protect and right protect;)

geoSIG News

by Dwayne Howard



Hello, SIG people. This is my first letter to Dale on a disk so he won't have to retype all of it.

At our last SIG meeting at 200 S. Walnut, we 7 in attendance thought that it would be a good idea to have all SIG people meet after the regular meeting demo for an hour. I would like all of our members to give me their input on what they want out of GEOS or other programs. This is your club and I will try to help you get the most out of what you want. That is what SIG stands for: Special Interest Group.

I will try to recap in the newsletter, each month, something we did and how we did it. If you are interested, bring your GEOS and blank disk and we will see how many we can get involved in this. I don't want to take up a lot of space, so I'll sign off for now.

Yours truly, Dwayne

Have you picked up your
Disk O'Quarter?

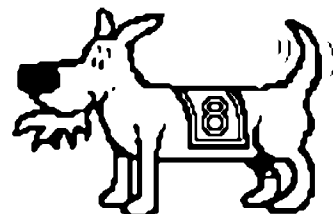


The Zero Page is a monthly publication of the Commodore Users of Wichita. The opinions expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the CUW. Unless otherwise stated, articles in this newsletter may be reprinted without permission provided that the author and the CUW are given proper credit.

Meetings of the CUW are scheduled for the second Saturday of each month. The deadline for articles is 14 days prior to the meeting day. Submissions are accepted on 1541, 1571, or 1581 formatted floppy disks. geoWrite, ASCII, or PETASCII files are preferred. In a pinch, paper hard copy will work. Call Dale at 721-0835 or mail your articles to:

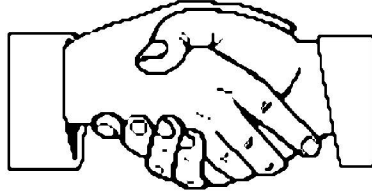
Commodore Users of Wichita
 c/o Dale Lutes
 11102 W. 17th Street
 Wichita, KS 67212-1187

In case you are interested, *The Zero Page* is produced using a Commodore 128 and geoPublish. geoPubLaser is used to print the final copy on a PostScript laser printer.



The Helping Hand

This page lists those users willing to share their experiences and knowledge with other members of the club.



Music

Robert Bales Nate Dannenberg

Telecommunications

Robert Bales Nate Dannenberg

Programming

Nate Dannenberg Dale Lutes

Astrology, Biorhythm

Marie Both

Printing in Color

Don McManamey Jerry Shook

Labels

Jerry Shook

Titling Home Videos

Sue Harber

Cards, Posters & Signs

Fred Earley

Word Processing & Desktop Publishing

Fred Earley Don McManamey
Jerry Shook Dale Lutes

GEOS

Nate Dannenberg Fred Earley
Dale Lutes

Family Roots

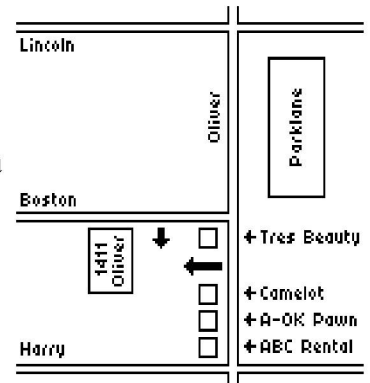
Maxine Ulrich

Helping Hand Volunteers

Robert Bales	744-2580
Marie Both	262-2338
Nate Dannenberg	777-0363
Fred Earley	722-4044
Sue Harber	942-4884
Dale Lutes	721-0835
Don McManamey	265-2560
Jerry Shook	776-2683
Maxine Ulrich	838-8606

Let us know if we may include your name in future Helping Hand listings. If we don't have a category for you already, we'll add one!

The Commodore Users of Wichita is a club dedicated to "the sharing, learning, and love of Commodore computers." Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month from 1-5pm. Anyone who owns or uses a Commodore computer system is welcome to attend. Family memberships cost \$15 per year. Members receive a monthly newsletter, a quarterly disk publication, access to an extensive library of public-domain software, and the right to vote on matters of club policy. A newsletter-only membership is available for \$5 per year. Contact any of the officers (listed elsewhere in this newsletter) for more information. We are looking forward to seeing **you** at our next meeting!



You may join or renew your membership by mail.
Complete this form and mail with a check payable to:

Marie Both
Commodore Users of Wichita
351 E Marion CT, #2
Wichita, KS 67216

What Commodore systems do you use? (please check all that apply)
 VIC-20 C-64 C-128 C-16 Plus/4 Other

Type of membership: Family (\$15) Newsletter-only (\$5)

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____

List additional family members who are interested in participating:

