

CURSOR

NEWSLETTER of the COMMODORE COMPUTER USERS GROUP (QLD) INC.

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CLUB ROOMS: Bardon Prof. Devel. Cnt. 390 Simpsons Rd. / Carwoola St. Bardon

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| Diary For July | 2 |
| Regional Meetings | 2 |
| Notices | 3 |
| Editorial | 5 |
| Five Years Young | 6 |
| Notes & Gossip | 7 |
| Price List | 11 |
| Education and the Feedback Loop | 12 |
| New Meeting Rooms | 13 |
| GEOS for the C-64 | 14 |
| Annual General Meeting | 17 |
| Nomination & Proxy Forms | 18 |
| Looking at your Systems | 19 |
| Super Pascal or not Super Pascal | 23 |
| Stop Press! | 23 |
| Some Thoughts on Amiga Software Pricing | 24 |
| C-128 Column | 25 |
| Bytes (Member's Adverts) | 26 |
| A Very Special Request to All Members | 26 |
| Stinger's Page | 27 |
| Wife in Strife | 28 |
| Public Domain Disk 'UH' | 29 |
| Librarian's Report | 29 |
| Directory | 31 |

DIARY FOR JULY

Group meeting on Tuesday, 1st July 1986, at 7.00 pm in our NEW Club Rooms in the Bardon Professional Development Centre, 390 Simpsons Road Bardon. Enter through the car park in Carwoola Street, and follow the lights.

Demonstration of the GEOS Operating System for the C-64

(for further details see Page 14)

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Workshop meeting on Sunday, 13th July 1986, from 1pm till 5pm in the Guidance Officers Training Centre, Bayswater Street, Milton. Bring your programming- or hardware problems, as well as your own computer equipment! SPECIAL SESSION: PRINTER & INTERFACE PROBLEMS! Opportunity to copy the group's Public Domain Disks. Contact Norm Chambers for further details.

PLEASE NOTE: Workshop Meetings are for MEMBERS ONLY!

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REGIONAL MEETINGS

Cannon Hill meets on the 4th Saturday of the month (7.30pm) in the Cannon Hill State School.

Contacts: Barry Wilson - Ph.399 6204 a.h. / Aug Norman - Ph.399 2080 a.h.

Pine Rivers meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month (1pm - 5pm) in the Strathpine High School (rear entrance).

Contact: Hugh Gane - Ph.205 1196 a.h.

Redcliffe Peninsula meets on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month (7pm) in the Clontarf High School.

Contact: Paul Janek - Ph.283 1663 a.h.

Sherwood meets on the 2nd Friday of the month (7.30pm) in the Graceville State School. See also notice on page 3!

Contact: Leigh Winsor - Ph.379 2405 a.h. / Philip Parkin - Ph.378 5383 a.h.

The Gap meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (7.30pm) in The Gap State School.

Contact: Julianne Fallen - Ph.300 2982 a.h.

Wavell Heights meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month (7.30pm) in the Wavell Heights High School (library), Brae St.

Contact: Robert Adamson - Ph.266 8353 a.h.

Maryborough/Hervey Bay meets on the 4th Monday of the month (7-10pm) in the Sunbury School in Alice St.

Contact: Terry Baade (16 Mouquet Lane, M'borough, 4650) at 21 2271 (w) or 21 5059 a.h.

If you would like to start a sub-group in your suburb or district contact Terry Steer, Sub-Group coordinator for the C.C.U.G. (Q.) INC. for further details and advice.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

AMIGA Sub-Group meets in the Guidance Officers Training Centre - Bayswater Rd. - Milton on the LAST Sunday of the month.

Contacts: Steve McNamee - Ph. 262 1127 - Doug Roche - Ph. '44 2142
Darryl Godfrey - Ph. 205 1983 (All these are a.h. numbers)

Primary Education Sub-Group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month (7.30pm) in the Aspley State School.

Contact: Bill Weeks - Ph. 208 8620 (work) or 341 2823, a.h.

Programming Sub-Group meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month, (during main meeting - in our club rooms).

Contact: Jim Vick - Ph. 282 1377, or Tom Kelly - Ph. 277 9900

Superbase Support Group:

Coordinator: Stan Seymour - Ph. 263 7210, a.h.
Programming Advisor: Hank Deucker - Ph. (075) 66 1317, a.h.

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NOTICES

Sherwood Sub-Group has provisionally decided to hold an additional meeting on the 4th Friday of the month (7.30pm) in the Graceville State School where the emphasis will be on Programming Techniques and Program Demonstrations. If sufficient interest is shown in this type of meeting it may well become a permanent feature.

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YOUR 1986 - 1987 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Our treasurer Lester Bennett has undertaken an analysis of anticipated receipts and expenditures for the coming financial year. His findings are that, balancing expected receipts from all sources e.g. membership dues (taking into account retention and membership growth), sales of goods etc. against an estimated expenditure of appr. \$9200, there is an unwanted shortfall of about \$2000.

Apart from factors of effect of inflation on costs, insurances, repairs and maintenance etc., there is the matter of considerably higher postage costs to come into effect during this coming financial year which will have a substantial impact on the total cost of producing the newsletter.

As you may be aware our Group has not had a rise in dues since formation in July 1981 - a feat that really and truly defies the experience of our own finances.

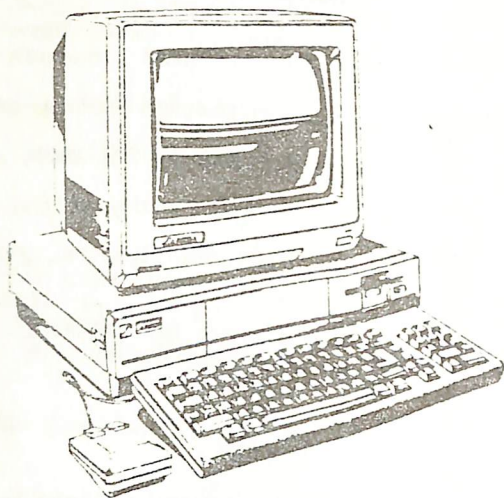
To ensure that we stay viable the following Membership Fee Schedule will come into effect as from 1st July 1986:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Joining Fee | \$10.00 |
| plus Annual Subscription: | |
| Ordinary Membership | \$25.00 |
| Student or Pensioner Membership | \$15.00 |
| Family or Business Membership | \$35.00 |
| Country or Associate Membership | \$15.00 |

The Management Committee

SOFTWARE:

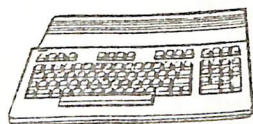
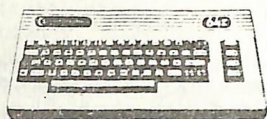
GAMES
EDUCATION
BUSINESS



ACCESSORIES:

DISKS
PAPER
FORMS
PRINTERS
FURNITURE
ETC.

AMIGA



 **Sundown Computer Centre**

744 GYMPIE ROAD
CHERMSIDE 4032

TELEPHONE (07) 350 3344

Contact Les Van Tavier or Phil Stafford

REMEMBER — WE ARE COMPUTER SPECIALISTS!

EDITORIAL

An Appreciation

With our current membership in excess of 600, administrative problems have increased at every level. To keep track of members' names, addresses, equipment, membership dues etc. we use a computer database program, written by our president Greg Perry for the C-64 in conjunction with a 1541 drive. This program has served us very well over the last couple of years, but now it finally has come to the end of its useful life, because we have outgrown the capacity of the 1541 disk format. New information is required by our secretary and other committee members, so an alternative had to be considered.

After due deliberation it has been decided to purchase for use by the group a C-128D computer and monitor. Its primary function will be to support a new updated membership database program, as the use of double-sided disks in this machine will allow us to maintain all information in a manageable form.

Its secondary function is to have this computer available at our main meetings, as our members have shown a certain reluctance in bringing equipment to these meetings! Thus with one computer we can cater for both C-64 and C-128 demonstrations.

One fine Thursday in May your secretary and the undersigned visited Greg Perry with some concrete suggestions on what type of features the new database should contain. Two days later (yes I mean two days, not two weeks) Norm and I got a call to see the version of the new database program, which to all intents and purposes was ready to go!

I am not in the habit of showering people with praise, but this is truly a remarkable effort on Greg's part, and he deserves every member's gratitude for a very good job, well done, in record time!

By means of a series of menus we are able to generate complete membership lists in different formats. Thus we can have a list of just names, addresses and phone numbers, or a listing complete with membership status, equipment owned etc, or a special listing in postcode order for use by the treasurer when membership fees are due (very important this!), as well as the printing of labels in postcode order for the newsletter. We can even get listings of members by the type of equipment they own. This information is invaluable for forward planning and statistics.

This should prove once and for all that Greg Perry doesn't only talk - he can write good programs as well!

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It is also time that we offer some special words of praise to another committee member who has done an incredibly good job over the last few months. I am referring here of course to our librarian Maury Hawkyard. Despite ill health, Maury (and his band of willing helpers) are doing a terrific job in the reorganization of our libraries.

On behalf of all members, many thanks Maurice!

Ralph De Vries

FIVE YEARS YOUNG

by Ralph De Vries

Yes, the C.C.U.G.(Q) is celebrating its fifth anniversary this month, and what an interesting five years they have been. Our most senior members (in terms of years of membership - not age!) are Peter Reeve and Lex Hinckley who joined at either the first or second meeting. Our current President, Greg Perry and myself joined the group in October 1981, so we have seen the growth of the group practically from the beginning.

We started with some twenty odd members, all owners of various models PET computers. Most of these PET's had either 8K or 16K memory, although there were a few 32K machines around. Most of us could only afford a Datasette (they were \$96.00 each!), as our computers cost us over \$1000.00 each - my 4016 PET, which was called a 'Fat Forty' because it had a built-in 12" green screen monitor instead of the original 9" screen, cost me \$1100.00 and came without a users guide!

The only Commodore dealer in Brisbane at that time was C.W. Electronics of Stones Corner. Commercial software was virtually non-existent, with the exception of some Commodore supplied material of rather inferior quality. The only Commodore book available at this time was the 'PET/CBM Computer Guide' by Adam Osborne, later to become famous as the designer of the Osborne portable computer.

In magazines we had a choice between 'Microcomputer Printout' from the UK, and if you were lucky you might even find a copy of 'Compute!' from the USA. That was the sum total of Commodore literature!

In 1982 Commodore released the VIC-20 in Australia, a design disaster if there ever was one, but a huge success commercially, because of its low pricing. The VIC made home computing truly popular, and commercial software started to be manufactured in huge quantities.

In 1983 came the Australian release of the C-64 which, as we all know, has become an even greater success than the VIC-20.

With the arrival of the VIC-20 our membership, which hovered around thirty, started to grow. In February 1983 we published our first newsletter, and at that time we had approximately 100 members. From that period onwards (release of the C-64) growth has been steady and substantial, so that by now, with a membership in excess of 600, we can proudly claim to be one of the largest user groups in the country.

As many other Commodore user groups have gone into a decline, the question arises why we are so successful. The answer to that probably lies in the fact that we are fortunate in having a very stable management committee, an equally dedicated bunch of committee members, as well as some first rate sub-group coordinators. Without these people we would have gone the same way as other groups, and thus they deserve every member's thanks.

And now we are on the brink of a new era with the arrival on the scene of the Amiga and similar machines. I will not gaze in my crystal ball too much (it has not proved terribly reliable lately), but the next five years promise to be very interesting indeed!

Happy anniversary, C.C.U.G. (Q) Inc.!

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NOTES & GOSSIP

JUNE MEETING

This, the last meeting for the 1985-86 financial year, as well as being the last meeting at the Love Street club premises, was again quite well attended. Seating has been at a premium lately, as all latecomers can testify, because there was standing room only for them!. Fortunately this problem should not arise in our new meeting rooms. After the president and secretary gave members the facts of life (painful because of membership fee increases and pleasant because of our new club rooms), there was a demonstration of the RITEMAN C+ printer, which had been kindly loaned by the distributors Anitech Pty. Ltd. Gradually the majority opinion seems to swing in favour of the Riteman C+ printer versus the Commodore MPS 1000 printer, because of its ability to handle graphics programs in the Epson mode, whereas the MPS 1000 can only produce graphics in the Commodore mode. The meeting closed at 10 pm.

IT WASN'T FRIDAY 13TH

Black Friday did not fall on the 13th of May 1986. It was Friday the 16th May when Commodore announced that the doors of their Brisbane and Perth offices were to be closed for good. Apparently this move is part of a world wide belt tightening by Commodore to assist in repaying huge bank loans. (For more details see 'The Australian' of 27th May 1986).

Under the re-organization some of the Brisbane staff members have been offered jobs in Sydney, others have become redundant.

Fortunately for us the new service network is now in place with Don's Computer Repair Centre taking care of most Commodore repairs. Let's only hope that Commodore's head office keeps him supplied with plenty of spare parts.

The Management Committee would like to express their personal thanks to Tony May. Tony, during his tenure in the Brisbane office of Commodore, has always been a great help, both to individual members as well as to the Group as a whole.

We wish him well in his new position in Commodore's head office.

AND NOW FOR THE GOOD NEWS

The Commodore premises at 991 Stanley Street in East B'ne have not been empty for long. UNITED COMPUTERS are the new occupants - a joint venture conducted by Computer View and Scarborough Fair Computer Centre. Their phone no. is still 393 0300. More details in next month's issue of Cursor.

AMIGA SUB-GROUP

The first meeting of this newly formed sub-group was held on Sunday 25th May in the Guidance Officers Training Centre, at which some twenty existing and future Amiga owners were present. Also on hand were John Jewell of Scarborough Fair Computer Centre and Royce Jones of Computer View, who had previously notified their existing Amiga clients about this meeting - many thanks gentlemen!

It became abundantly clear that an Amiga group is very much overdue, as many new owners are in need of up-to-date information on every aspect of this new machine. Problems of access to overseas information were discussed, as well as availability of public domain software, 'bugs' in Amiga Basic etc.

Ralph Down of Cockroach Software fame, and himself an Amiga owner, was able

to assist some of his fellow Amiga owners with Public Domain software - a fact very much appreciated. We noticed a substantial exchange of names and phone numbers; one of the signs that things are really ticking over. Greg Perry gave a short outline of the aims and organization of our group, after which three of the new Amiga owners agreed to act as coordinators. Their names can be found on page three of this newsletter. Provisionally it has been decided to hold the Amiga meetings on the LAST Sunday of the month at the Guidance Officers Training Centre, till such times this new sub-group outgrows these premises.

CP/M SUB-GROUP

The management committee is trying to gauge if there is sufficient interest in forming a CP/M sub-group. We are particularly looking for members who have previous experience in the CP/M operating system. If a sufficient number of members do show an interest in such a sub-group a separate meeting could probably be organized. Intending members should contact in the first instance Regan Russell - Ph. 848 1353 (a.h.), who is prepared to act as coordinator for this group.

LIBRARY RULES

There have been some rumblings of discontent with the running of our lending libraries. Currently the librarians are trying to implement new card systems, which will take a few months to set up. However, it is felt that all members will benefit in the long run from these new systems. With well over a 1000 items in our library a systematic approach is an absolute necessity. For these reasons our librarians have every right to expect our members to stick to the few simple rules for borrowing library material. It helps the borrowers, the librarians, and the group.

MADE IN JAPAN?

Recent purchasers of 1571 disk drives have noticed that the cartons bear the legend "Made in Japan", yet the disk drive is marked "Made in West Germany"! The drive's users guide is printed in Japan, so we can only conclude that 'Made in Japan' either refers to the users guide or the cardboard box itself!

FOR EASYSRIPT USERS

Users of Easyscript and Commodore printers should be aware of the Enhancement feature of this combination which is accessed by pressing F1, followed by the Left square bracket to turn it on and F1, followed by the Right square bracket to turn it off.

What they may not know is that the text to be enhanced (enlarged) can be further enhanced by repeating the previous instructions - this causes the text in question to be doubly enhanced. However it does not stop here! You can have as many as four enhancements in front of a word or sentence, which may be too much of a good thing! Try it out, but make sure that your enhanced text still fits on the line or centres on the line. This feature should also work with Superscript and Commodore printers. [This tip supplied by Bill Smith.]

GEOS FOR THE 128?

Elsewhere in this issue appears an article on the GEOS operating system for the C-64 - a program that more than any other will make the C-64 viable for

years to come. Rumour has it that the designers of GEOS are working on a C-128 version as well. If this is true there is less reason than ever before to change to Amigas and similar machines for the average home computer user.

MICRO DRIVES FOR THE 128?

Rumours keep on persisting that Commodore are to release later this year a 3,5 inch micro drive for the C-128 and maybe even one for the C-64. These would be similar to the drives for the Amiga, the ones that hold 880K of data. Sorry, but we are unable to confirm these rumours. It is a fact though that several independent American manufacturers are producing hard disk drives for the C-64 and the C-128. Will we ever see them in Australia?

NEWSLETTERS FROM OVERSEAS

For some time now we have been receiving newsletters from Commodore in New Zealand. The latest to arrive is 'Connection' from the Christchurch C.U.G., and a very nice newsletter it is too. Do you know what all these newsletters have in common? All editors are complaining of a lack of articles from members! And we thought that particular complaint only applied to the C.C.U.G.(Q)! If our members complain about high prices they should take a look at NZ prices. The Seikosha SP-1000VC printer and the Gemini 10-C printer (both Commodore interfaced) sell for NZ \$795.00 compared with our price of about \$500. Disk boxes are still advertised at \$45.00 and \$57.95, the sort of prices we used to pay two years ago!

From expensive New Zealand to cheap America. We have just received some copies of the Greater Oklahoma Commodore Club Newsletter. This group appears to be of a rather similar structure to our own, consisting of six chapters (sub-groups) which make up the main group. Their newsletter is a dream and makes "CURSOR" look rather cheap and nasty! They have a newsletter staff of 12 (yes, twelve!). They use the Easyscript wordprocessor, and all articles are supplied on disk or via the modem. The editor forwards the final collection of news files to the typesetter who transmits the files to a typesetting computer for layout and the creation of the master, ready for printing. As they are capable of handling half tone illustrations such as photos the overall appearance of their newsletter is first rate.

We found an advert in the Jan '86 issue for a C-128, 1571 drive, and 1902 RGB monitor for \$875.00. Our price would be about \$1500.00 - oh well, you can't win them all!

C-128 ARTICLE

Your editor's dislike of a certain Australian Commodore magazine is well known. However our unpaid correspondent from the ACT, better known as Paul Blair, has recently started to write for this unmentionable magazine. Shame on you Paul! You should limit your literary contributions to the TPUG magazine, after all you do get free subscriptions as a reward for your labours!

Seriously, C-128 users should read Paul's article, entitled 'The First 100 Days', which appears in the May issue of Australian Commodore Review. In this article Paul documents the bugs and other 'peculiarities' that he has been able to discover in his first few months of 128 ownership. This article is worth at least \$2.50 and as the magazine costs \$3.00 you could consider the remaining 50 cents well spent on the adverts!

C O M P U T E R G R A P H I C S

TUTORIAL

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE EXCITING WORLD OF COMPUTER GRAPHICS

The Tutorial is your introduction to a dynamic new industry.

'Computer Graphics' usually conjures up images of very high resolution animation costing millions to produce. But there is another side to computer graphics which involves your very own home computer.

Much computer graphic design work in the future will be concerned with screen design for the software industry and information presentation for the fast growing videotex industry.

Designers who once worked only in the print media will have to learn how to design on and for the microcomputer screen. Courses in electronic screen design are now being introduced into secondary schools.

Produced primarily to support the Queensland secondary school syllabus, the Tutorial will help anyone who feels they should be getting involved in computer graphics but is not sure exactly where to start.

Non programmers can begin to design 'from day one' using the graphics editor 'SCREEN COPY'. (TEACHERS, this utility may be copied on tape or disk for students to use on their Commodores at home.)

The TUTORIAL contains:

- Teacher notes
- Instruction leaflet for SCREEN COPY
- 6 tutorial worksheets (copyable)
- Interactive disk of 26 graphics programs and demonstrations.

NOW AVAILABLE: \$85.00 (\$5.00 discount to club members)

MOONBASE software.

P.O. Box 650 Sunnybank Qld. 4109. (07) 800 3279

MOONBASE
SOFTWARE

For the Commodore 64, Commodore 128 & 128D

PRICE LIST [Members Only]

PUBLIC DOMAIN DISKS - \$ 6.00 ea (Postage Paid)
PUBLIC DOMAIN TAPES - \$ 2.00 ea (+ \$1.00 Postage Per Order)
BLANK DISKS - \$20.00 per box of 10 (+ \$2.00 Postage)
COLOURED DISKS (Red, Blue, Green, a.o.) - \$3.00 ea (+\$1.00 Postage)
DISK BOXES (hold 90 disks) - \$20.00 ea (+ \$5.00 Postage)
DISK NOTCHER - \$8.00 (+ \$1.00 Postage)
"PUBLIC DOMAIN BOOK" - \$5.00 ea (+\$1.00 Postage)
"STARTING WITH DISK DRIVES" - \$2.00 (+\$1.00 Postage)
TURBO-ROM for C-64 or C-128: Members price - \$40.00
Customised version (your choice of screen start-up colours + your name on the start-up screen): \$45.00
USER PORT PLUG (with Key Way) - \$8.00 (+\$1.00 postage)
USER PORT PLUG BACK SHELL - \$3.00 (+\$1.00 postage)
COMPUTER DESKS (2 shelves - steel frame) - \$60.00

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Address all orders to P.O. Box 274 - Springwood - QLD - 4127
Cheques to be made out to: C.C.U.G. (Q) Inc.

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UPGRADE CHARACTER EPROM for 801/1525 Printers.
(Gives Descenders on p,q,g,y, and j. Also requires exchange of a ROM chip)
Price (supplied & fitted) \$30.00
UPGRADE EPROM to convert 1526 Printer to 802 Printer - \$20.00

For further information on the above contact Lester Bennett on 800 1243 before 8 pm on week days.

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AVAILABLE FOR HIRE TO MEMBERS ONLY: 1526 COMMODORE PRINTER

For details contact Roger Haigh on 399 8037 (after hours).

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EQUIPMENT MODIFICATIONS performed by Anthony Thyssen and Terry Arnott during main (Milton) workshop- and Graceville Sub-Group meetings.
For further details contact Anthony Thyssen on 870 1862 (a.h.).

SERVICES OFFERED:

| | | | |
|---|----------|---|--------|
| RESET SWITCHES: Plug in | \$6.00 | RESET RESTORER: Plug In | \$4.00 |
| | Built in | Built In | \$6.00 |
| [On some 64's the plug in reset switch does not work. In this case you may return switch for a full refund or swap it for a built in switch.] | | [Tap reset switch while pushing this button. This will reset any protected memory program.] | |
| DEVICE NUMBER CHANGE: Printer/Plotter 4-6 | \$6.00 | - Disk Drive 8-9 | \$6.00 |
| TURBO ROM INSTALLED: Computer with Socket | \$5.00 | - Socket required | \$7.00 |
| DISK DRIVE ALIGNED, CLEANED, and OILED | \$6.00 | | |
| [If time permits a free alignment check will be performed] | | | |
| SERIAL SWITCHING BOX (Order Only) | \$14.00 | | |
| SERIAL PORT DOUBLER (Order Only) | \$14.00 | | |

Education and The Feedback Loop

by Jim Butterfield

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It's always seemed to me that good teaching is good feedback. Whether we are trying to teach ourselves or someone else, the key to the whole business is how the feedback is paced to the job. Some tasks require fast, tight feedback: an instant message that the learner is right or wrong. Others call for a long slow loop back to the student.

Let me try to explain myself. Many years ago, I wrote a program called *What Goes?* to illustrate my point. The program contrasts poor feedback with better feedback. But it also illustrates in a simple fashion the difference between tight and loose feedback. Both have their uses.

Bad feedback goes along these lines: ask a question, receive the response, and respond: right or wrong. The student finds this sort of thing tedious. Worse, attempts to 'enrich' the answer ('Great! You got it!', or 'Not quite, let's try again.') quickly become fatuous, especially after the student has seen such a response a dozen times or more. The same is true of sound or visual effects: they lose their novelty very quickly.

Computers are quite flexible things, if you want them to be. Allow a student more interaction and learning is enriched. We'll come back to this theme in a moment.

The theme of program *What Goes?* was to show the manner in which a student could react to questions such as 'What goes moo?', 'What goes oink?' and 'What goes meow?' Most of us know the answers to these simple questions; write to the editor if you're not sure. But there are various ways to ask, and varying styles of program to receive the answer.

Beginners — especially keyboard beginners — need instant gratification to help build their self-confidence. I would argue that, for them, feedback should be on each character typed. Thus, if the correct answer to a question is 'cat', the user should perceive a response to each key that is touched. Assuming that our program has already asked the question, here's how we might handle the user's attempt to answer:

```
100 r$="cat":rem the answer
110 c=:1:rem check first
    character
120 get x$:if x$="" goto120
    :rem get a key
130 if x$<>mid$(r$,c,1)goto
    120:rem wrong key!
140 print x$:rem right key
150 c=c+1:if c<=len(r$)goto
    120
160 print
```

Here's what happens: if you press the correct key, the corresponding letter will appear on the screen. If you press the wrong key, nothing happens — that's valid feedback, too. The reward — a character on the screen — is instant. The penalty is not noticeable except that the student has wasted time and effort on the wrong key.

Are there variations to this feedback scheme? Yes: one of the best is to print the correct character (say, in reverse font) even when the wrong key is pressed. Now the computer not only recognizes a wrong key, but offers the student a correction or a hint. The above program might be modified so that line 130 reads:

```
130 printchr$(146);:if x$<>
    mid$(r$,c,1)thenprintchr
    r$(10);:x$=mid$(r$,c,1)
```

The **chr\$(146)** clears the screen reverse mode (in case the previous character was shown reversed). Then, if the character has been typed incorrectly, the screen is set back into reverse mode with **chr\$(18)** and the input character is changed to the correct one. Don't forget that both **print** statements must be followed by both a semicolon and a colon.

Other combinations? Correct keys could be rewarded with a bell-like tone; alternatively, wrong keys could get the buzzer. Such audible feedback could be useful to a supervising classroom teacher who could detect problem areas by sound... at least until hearing impairment set in.

It seems inadvisable to have the computer draw explicit attention to high error rates ('You made 4 mistakes in spelling CAT!'). The computer can be a laid-back friend to the student. If desired, it can repeat a question later that was wrongly answered.

As our skills become less mechanical in nature, the feedback loop must be loosened. The student must be allowed to

type words, phrases, sentences or perhaps even paragraphs before the computer comes back with advice. More discretion can be allowed in the way an answer is composed: it may be typed and then revised before **return** is pressed. Hints and other support mechanisms can be provided. For example:

```
100 r$="cat":rem the answer
110 t=:0:rem count the tries
120 t=t+1:input
    "your answer";x$
130 if x$=r$ then print
    "right!":goto 180
150 if t=2 then print
    "answer ";r$:goto 180
160 print"the answer begins
    with: ";left$(r$,1)
170 goto 120
180 print
```

In the above coding, the student is given two tries. If the first is wrong, a hint is offered. Two mistakes, and the correct answer is given. The feedback loop is slower, as befits a more advanced student. The learning path calls for more effort from the student.

My original *What Goes?* explored other areas. More sophisticated hints could be provided. Further along the instruction set, the program used its data base to enrich the answer (or wrong answer) with more information. The sequence: 'What goes meow? Response: PIG', would be followed by, 'No — a pig goes oink.'

More features can and should be added to increase the students' options. A student should be furnished with commands such as: Help, Give me an example, I give up, Explain <word>, Too easy, Try that last one again. The commands could be on function keys or menus, or even presented in icon (pictorial) form.

It's best to feel that you are in control of a computer, rather than a 'victim'. A student — or a user — with more control options can set his or her pace, and will learn more effectively.

I often think that the most powerful educational programs are those that don't look educational. I've learned a great deal about flight from *Flight Simulator II* (Sublogic). I've learned quite a bit about the heavens with *Sky Traveller* (Commodore/Deltron). Yet neither of these programs has ever presented me with a quiz, or awarded me a score. □

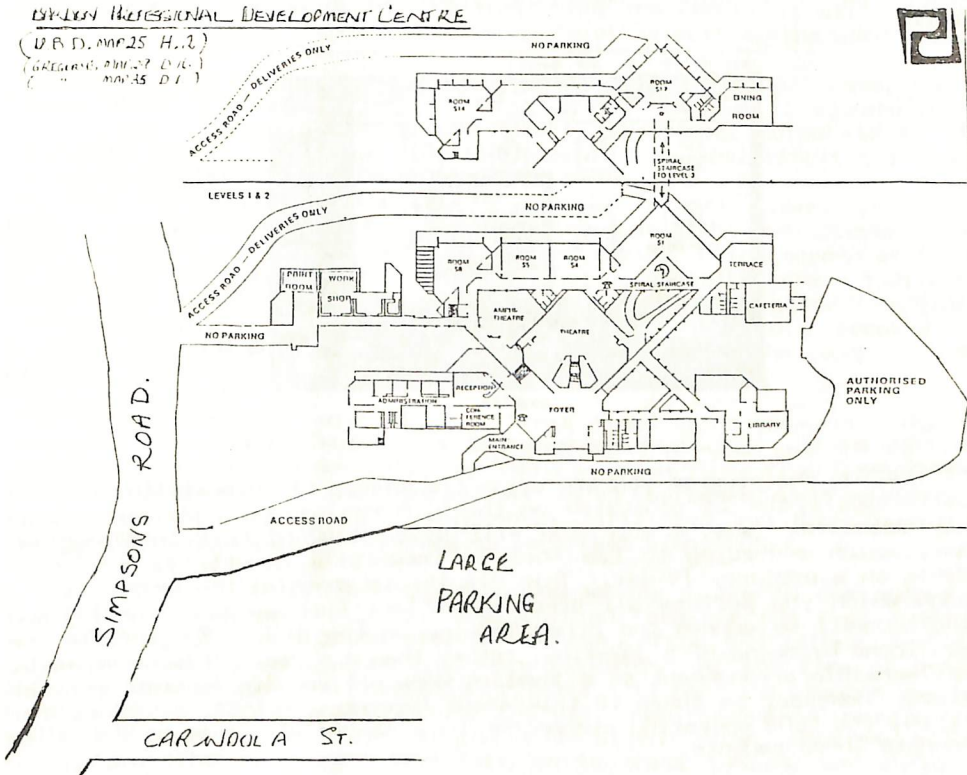
NEW MEETING ROOMS

At long last the Management Committee has succeeded in obtaining a new venue for our monthly meetings. It is the Bardon Professional Development Centre, officially located at 390 Simpsons Road, Bardon. Please note however that the entrance is via Carwoola Street where you will find (approximately 50 metres on your left) the Centre's car park. From the car park a path with a series of steps and ramps (it is lit up at night) leads to the Centre itself.

Our first meeting will be in the Lecture Theatre (see map below) at 7pm, finishing at 10pm sharp.

Members who are physically incapacitated and have difficulty climbing steps should contact our secretary Norm Chambers to make alternative parking arrangements.

If you are unfamiliar with the Bardon district and you use a street guide, look for Carwoola Street, as you will find at least several listings of Simpson Road and you may well end up getting lost! If you rely on public transport the bus from The Grange to Bardon (Line 144) terminates at Carwoola Street near the car park.



GEOS FOR THE C-64

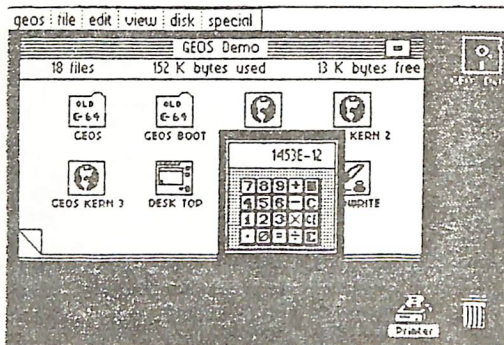
by Ralph De Vries

C-64 owners, I've got news for you! The C-64 is not dead yet, in fact it is likely to be more alive than ever in the near future!

The reason for this optimistic statement is the little word "GEOS". Some of you may already have read about GEOS, which stands for Graphic Environment Operating System, but recently more information has appeared in US magazines, and I am rushing into print to give you more details about the system.

Basically GEOS is a disk based operating system that totally changes the way in which your C-64 operates. For those amongst you who are acquainted with the Macintosh or the Amiga this new operating system will seem extremely familiar, as it appears to offer a lot of their features and than some!

After booting the GEOS disk, which takes about 25 seconds for 34K of programs, you have aquired a totally new disk operating system that works five to seven times faster than the standard 1541 system, both loading and saving. As an example Speedscript loads in 4 seconds instead of 21 seconds.



After loading the program you are presented with a picture similar to this illustration, which is generated on the high-res graphics screen, and is highly detailed. What's more you will have standard text in 80 column format, which according to Lee Noel in Compute!'s Gazette is perfectly readable on a ordinary TV set. This display is known as the GEOS deskTOP, through which you perform all other operations such as file loading and saving as well as access the other modules on the disk. You operate the screen icons by means of a joystick, rather than a mouse. This seems to be a very sensible arrangement as a joystick does not require as much space as a mouse. However, as there is talk about Commodore releasing a mouse for the C-64, the GEOS operating system can be expanded with a mouse driver to accomodate these rodents.

I won't try to describe the operation of the joystick and icons. This always makes it appear a lot more complicated than it really is. Suffice it to say that when you have moved your pointer with the joystick to the

option you require it is usually simply a matter of pressing the firebutton once or twice to access the particular application which you want to obtain.

The second major accessory is called the Preferences Manager. You can access this through the deskTOP and now you can do all sorts of nice things that you can also do with the Amiga. For a start you can set date and time. This should be done at every session, because the system date-stamps your files! This in effect means that you have never got to worry again which the last version was that you saved to disk. This is an option that is available on CP/M and MS DOS, but up till now has never been offered to Commodore users. You can also change background and text colours, the shape of the screen pointer, as well as adjust the degree of sensitivity of the joystick. Once you have decided on the options which you prefer you save them to disk and they become automatically available when you reload the program.

Other options include a built-in Calculator, which can be used with either joystick or keyboard and is usable with all other applications on disk. Then there is the Notepad, for making notes which can quickly be stored to disk, as well as the Alarm Clock, which you can set to remind you when to put on the dinner!

All this is very nice indeed, but that's not the end of it all! You also have on the disk the graphics program geoPaint as well as the wordprocessor geoWrite.

GeoPaint is very much like existing 64 art application programs, such as Koalapainter, Doodle etc. but is rather unusual in that it appears in only two colours. This is done because almost all printer output is in black and white and as such gives a better idea of the final result (similar to Printshop and Newsroom in fact.)

The real beauty lies in the fact that a lot of interchange is possible between geoPaint and geoWrite, the wordprocessor. This wordprocessor is a fully featured one, of course with text appearing on the screen as it does on the printer (What You See Is What You Get!), and also offers 5 different fonts in several styles and point sizes. It is thus quite feasible to incorporate pictures created with geoPaint in documents created with geoWrite, which means that you have most if not more of the capabilities of programs such as Newsroom.

This however is only an outline of this fascinating program. Berkeley Software, the company which has designed this program and is currently marketing it by mail order only, has had the green light from Commodore for future development of the system, and other software manufacturers can easily tap into the system. Apparently Activision and Bank Street are going to convert existing programs to interface with GEOS.

It also appears likely that the rumoured memory expansion cartridges for the C-128 may become available in a modified form for the C-64. Many of the GEOS applications could then be accessed from RAM rather than from disk, thus making the system even more flexible. At the time of writing there is no word about an Australian release - in fact the program may well have to be modified for use outside the USA. For those C-64 users who may have looked with envious eyes at the C-128 or the Amiga, this may well be the program that will make them hang on to their system, and I for one cannot blame them. Long live the C-64!

--ooOoo--



Thanks, but I've got all the memory I need.

From 'Computer Crazy' by Daniel Le Noury - A Sybex Publication

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held in our Clubrooms at the
Bardon Professional Development Centre, 390 Simpsons Road, Bardon
on Tuesday 5th August 1986 at 7.30 pm.

Following are some excerpts from the Articles of Association:

The business to be transacted at every Annual General Meeting shall be:

- (a) the receiving of the Management Committee report and the statement of income and expenditure, assets and liabilities and mortgages, charges and securities affecting the property of the Association for the preceding financial year;
- (b) the receiving of the auditor's report upon the books and accounts for the preceding financial year;
- (c) the election of members of the Management Committee; and
- (d) the appointment of an auditor..

MEMBERSHIP/OF/MANAGEMENT/COMMITTEE

(1) The Management Committee of the Association shall consist of a President, Secretary, Treasurer, all of whom shall be members of the Association, and such number of other members as the members of the Association at any general meeting may from time to time elect or appoint.

(2) At the annual general meeting of the Association, all the members of the Management Committee for the time being shall retire from office, but shall be eligible upon nomination for re-election.

(3) The election of officers and other members of the Management Committee shall take place in the following manner:-

(a) Any two members of the Association shall be at liberty to nominate any other member to serve as an officer or other member of the Management Committee;

(b) The nomination, which shall be in writing and signed by the member and his proposer and seconder, shall be lodged with the secretary at least fourteen days before the annual general meeting at which the election is to take place;.

VOTING

(4) (a) every ordinary, country, student, pensioner, or life member present shall be entitled to one vote.

(b) every family member present shall be entitled to a maximum of two votes.

(c) every business member present shall be entitled to a maximum of two votes.

(d) associate and honorary members shall not be entitled to a vote.

(5) voting shall be by a show of hands or a division of members.

(6) a member may vote in person or by proxy or attorney..

This is an extract of the official articles of association, but for the benefit of our members here is a precis of the above in plain English:

After the reading of the President's- and Treasurer's reports there will be an election of officers for positions on the Management Committee.

These positions are:

President - Secretary - Treasurer - Technical Coordinator

Sub-Group Coordinator - Chief Librarian - Newsletter Editor

On the reverse side of this page you will find a nomination form, to be signed by the member and his proposer and seconder (all to be financial members). This form has to be in the possession of the secretary no later than Monday 21st July 1986.

You will also find on the same page a proxy form to be used by members who are unable to attend but still would like to make their vote count at the Annual General Meeting.

COMMODORE COMPUTER USERS GROUP (QLD) INC.
P.O.Box 274 - Springwood - Q'ld - 4127

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 5th AUGUST 1986
Election of Management Committee Members for 1986 - 1987

NOMINATION FORM

POSITIONS PRESIDENT - SECRETARY - TREASURER.
VACANT: TECHNICAL COORDINATOR - SUB-GROUP COORDINATOR.
CHIEF LIBRARIAN - NEWSLETTER EDITOR.

I hereby nominate

for the position of

Proposed by:

Seconded by:

Signature of Nominee:

This form to be in the possession of the Secretary no later than Monday
21st July 1986.

=====
Separate Here > < Separate Here
=====

PROXY FORM

COMMODORE COMPUTER USERS GROUP (QLD) INC.:

I, of,
being a member of the above named association,
hereby appoint of,
or failing him, of
as my proxy to vote on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the
Association, to be held on 5th day of August 1986, and at any adjournment
thereof.

Signed this day of 1986

Signature:

This form is to be used *in favour of / *against the resolution.

*Strike out whichever is not desired.
(Unless otherwise instructed, the proxy may vote as he thinks fit.)

LOOKING AT YOUR SYSTEMS

By Graham Robinson.

MATCH THE SYSTEM TO THE JOB.

Traditionally systems analysis has concentrated on the job to be done, and then designing a system to do it. For small systems, however, the emphasis has now changed to one of selecting the right software package, and putting it on a suitable micro. This has led to a lot of new thinking in systems analysis, and also in software evaluation.

There are many different points of view which have to be taken into account when looking at computerisation of a system, and some of the questions which arise are:-

1. How is the computer system supposed to further the aims of the organisation? (This is the question that management is interested in, but they often have trouble with the answers as either they don't understand the jargon, or think that the answers contain more sales talk than answers).
2. How can it be fitted into the working lives of the people who will be using it? (This is the one that the Unions are interested in, and it is important that management give attention to it).
3. How can the staff best relate to the machine, to operate it, and get information out of it? (The subject of "man-machine" interface has been the subject of research for many years, and some of the "user friendly" developments, such as the "mouse" have resulted from this research).
4. What information processing functions are to be performed? (There are any number of books available on computer hardware and programs, and an increasing number about techniques for information modelling - defining the flow of information, and the way the information has to be processed).
5. What are the specifications of a system which will come nearest to doing what is wanted in answer to the previous four questions?

OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

What does the organisation hope to gain from its investment in information technology? For example is it trying to cut down on paperwork, speed up information flow, enable more informed decision making? The objectives should be clearly stated.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES?

Is it the intention to:-

- 1 Save money by the more efficient processing of the same work?
- 2 Get better access to information?
- 3 Provide an improved service?
- 4 Improve control over activities?
- 5 Keep accurate, and therefore better information?
- 6 Improve the jobs of staff?

- 7 Be able to take on new kinds of work?
- 8 Handle increased volume of work with the same staff?
- 9 Replace the present system before it collapses
- 10 Try out new technology?

These are some of the objectives that people claim they are trying to achieve by installing a computer system. The most popular one is to cut costs, closely followed by improved processing and or reporting. Of course people do want to try out new technology, but unless it is part of a "familiarisation" training scheme, a system should not be computerised for this reason alone.

The computer user who does his own systems analysis without knowing a great deal about the technicalities of computing could easily be seen as a "naive analyst". But the term could equally describe a computer person doing a systems analysis without knowing much about the organisation in which the system is to operate.

Well, what do we "naive analysts" need to look at?

HUMAN ACTIVITY SYSTEM.

The "Human activity system" covers, in a very general way, the organisation in which the system is to be installed. There may be one person, working on his own in an "off line" job, or a group of people in a Branch or Section. The activity may be administrative, scientific, commercial, or academic. There are so many permutations that it is very important to be quite sure which people are engaged in what activities. This can be quite simple in a small organisation, but it becomes more complicated in a large organisation. How many systems are duplicated simply because all of the information needed is not readily available from one effective and up to date central system?

A technique which is used to analyse human activity systems is an "Activities Picture". In practice it is a fairly straight forward technique to use.

THE ACTIVITIES PICTURE.

An "Activities Picture" is developed by putting the part of the organisation we are concerned with into a blob in the centre of a page, and sketching in other blobs for the people and things we deal with.

Use arrows to show the relationships, and crosses show up potential conflicts. Eyes can also be drawn in to indicate who is watching us and looking at our performance in the job.

This is really only another way of looking at our role in the organisation, and in fact the activities picture and a Role Specification are two different ways of looking at the same thing.

This picture, once completed, should be self explanatory, and it is worth any number of words when trying to explain what our organisation is all about.

Obviously, it is much easier to understand than to draw but, apart from spacing the blobs out nicely on the page, the real difficulties lie in sorting out who and what are really important to the organisation, and what are the important relationships.

Quite a lot of interesting discoveries can be made whilst drawing this apparently simple picture. For a start the cartoon characters don't get confused with real people so it is much easier to be objective. It also

forces us to decide what is really important, and avoid being distracted by side issues. Additionally, like Role Specification, it gives us the chance to try to visualise what we are doing, and discuss it together with others in our work area.

The picture can be used to define what aspects of the organisation can be assisted by the installation of an information system. It helps to sort out the fundamentals of the situation and to clarify our thinking and decision making.

The simplicity of the drawing is only achieved by asking the right questions in the first place, and then ruthlessly pruning the answers until everybody agrees that the picture really does represent the significant people, activities and issues. Such agreement is not achieved without some heart searching.

If we look back at the objectives, we will find that one or more of these objectives is likely to be in the thought bubble in the middle of the Activities Picture.

THE INFORMATION MODEL

There are now two complementary activities to be looked at: the abstract analysis of information flow, and the work of the people involved.

Obviously, we have to start with the people side of things because we cannot analyse information flow without studying the activities of the people processing and using the information. Also people are not inclined to be very helpful if they think that the new system will disrupt, or even dispense with their jobs. These personal problems can usually be aired face to face as they arise to reduce the "people" side of the analysis to a more detailed level of sorting out day to day work patterns.

The "Activities Picture" already provides us with some of the information that is needed to create an "Information Model", because we can re-draw it to show the major information flows, and from this we can assess what information flow should be computerised.

It is easy for this picture to become just as confused as real life, with arrows flying in all directions as people pass on information, ask questions etc. This can be an advantage as it forces us to decide which information flows are the important ones.

THE FUNCTION CHART

The next step is to create a "Function Chart". Start with a large sheet of paper and draw a small box at the top centre. Put in it the name of what you want to analyse. In our case it could be that the general term of "Services" would cover all the activities of the staff.

This area has to be broken down into its major components, and these are put into as many boxes as necessary on the next line down. In other words the top two lines of boxes on our diagram can be read as: The function of the staff is to provide services. These services can be broken down into "X" number of major areas (e.g. Services to the Public, Services to the Branch or Division, Administrative duties etc.). There is no need to list these in any order of priority.

We then carry on in the same way, breaking down each function into its major components until we arrive at something we are content to describe as individual activities.

The "Function Chart" may also show up the odd bottleneck, i.e. too many small decisions waiting for the Director, or too many assistants waiting to use the same equipment or data etc.

It also may indicate roundabout routes for information passing. In a small office information handling tends to be very informal as everyone sees what

is happening. However, as work diversifies and the unit gets bigger, so information flow is based around the more experienced staff who become walking Databases. This can be very disruptive to an office when they lose this one person who knows everything.

From the function chart it is easy to see whether the range of jobs to be done is reflected in the organisation and training of the staff who have to do them. Is one function being split between several different people? Is one person being split between several conflicting jobs?

There are two extreme types of organisation: the production line where a job is split down into tiny sub-functions and one person is assigned to each, and the craft shop where staff must be prepared to tackle any part of the job that is being done. Most organisations, of course, lie somewhere in between, and many factors must be taken into account when matching functions to staff, their capabilities and aspirations, the demands of different aspects of the organisation, and the need for management to keep control of what is going on.

Quite a few of these areas could change when a computer is introduced, so it is a good idea to use the information model as a tool for thinking about how functions should be organised. You can ask, for instance, which functions could be linked together, or which may be handled more efficiently were they to be kept separate.

SYSTEM DESIGN

It is every manager's dream to phone up a dealer and say "I want a machine on which to computerise my records" and have a black box arrive and start to work immediately, accepting data and churning out answers.

Anything short of this is a hassle, and this is the hassle we will have to deal with for each of the "Applications" we will be dealing with in our jobs. As I said in the beginning, the emphasis has changed to one of selecting the right software package, and putting it on a suitable Micro. There are many useful programs which we can use effectively in our work such as:-

Word Processing - Spread Sheets - Data Bases.

I will be dealing with applications for each of these programs in later articles in this series.

CONCLUSIONS.

There must be some objective to install a computer system, and ideally it should not duplicate another system within the same organisation.

The system should save time and effort, not create more work without any real gain being achieved.

It should do all that you want, and give you the answers that you want without a lot of unnecessary or additional work.

--ooOoo--

Out of the blue arrived this very thought provoking article from Graham Robinson. It always amazes me how much hidden talent there is amongst our many members, and I for one am grateful to be able to publish something which is so different from the normal run of articles that we receive. We would dearly like to receive some comments from members who have similar interests to Graham Robinson.

Editor

SUPER PASCAL OR NOT SUPER PASCAL - THAT IS THE QUESTION!

by Simon Haigh

Is your BASIC code losing a little of its original glamour, and you don't really want to understand the difficulties of programming in Assembler or Machine Code? Then you should turn to another language.

The Group itself has some languages in its library but with very few people actually being interested in the different languages, the demand and/or usage of the various language packages has been limited.

There are several reasons for this lack of interest but the major reason is that the language packages themselves are too difficult for an absolute beginner to use.

The latest addition to the group library, Super Pascal, is no exception to this rule. There are, in my view, three reasons why Super Pascal falls short of being a reasonable Pascal package.

The first of these is the instruction manual that accompanies the package. Although I don't expect the manual to teach anybody Pascal programming, I do expect the manual to be easy to read and not full of technical terms. It is the use of these technical terms that hinders the understanding of the manual and thus renders it almost useless.

The second reason is that the package itself is not totally concerned with Pascal but also concerns itself with assembler (unless I've misinterpreted the manual). This is a good idea for those who are interested in both Pascal and Assembler but for those not interested in Assembler it constitutes a waste of funds.

The third reason is that compiler, editor, save, load, etc are all driven from a central menu. This is a great idea for those who are not to sure about the finer points of Pascal programming. It would be a better idea if the main menu was understandable and readable.

Although Super Pascal has certain good points (e.g. menu driven), I feel that overall the package itself is not suitable for beginners and even experts should consider twice before buying the package.

--ooOoo--

STOP PRESS!

From the July issue of COMPUTE!:

The C-64 is to be re-released as the '64C' in a case similar to C-128, but minus the numeric keypad. The 1541 will also get a sleek new case.

The GEOS Operating System (see page 14) to be supplied by Commodore as a standard package.

Memory expansion cartridges up to 128K and up to 512K to become available for both 64 and 128!

A 3,5 inch disk drive for both versions of the 64 to be released as well.

We'll keep you informed about further developments as they come to hand.

--ooOoo--

SOME THOUGHTS ON AMIGA SOFTWARE PRICING

by Ralph De Vries

Considering the sad plight of the Australian dollar, I think that Commodore has done remarkably well by pricing the Amiga at \$2495.00, which includes the colour monitor and 256K memory expansion.

A very glowing review of the Amiga appeared in the 'Australian' of 22nd April 1986, by David Ives. Mention was made in this article of program availability- and price, and at this stage my blood started to boil again. After having ranted and raved recently about magazine prices I'll have to do the same now about Amiga software pricing.

As an example, Electronic Arts' "De Luxe Paint", a high class graphics program which is reviewed very favourably in the April '86 issue of "Compute!", has an Australian retail price of \$245.00! In the US the retail price is \$99.95, although in discount outlets you can buy it for as little as \$60.00!

However, somebody (I don't know who is to blame, Commodore or one or more independent software distributors) has decided in their infinite wisdom that, seeing Apple and IBM users are prepared to pay through the nose for their software, it is now the turn of the Amiga users to be ripped off.

Of course it will be only a matter of time before the Amiga hackers will learn the secrets of making copies of copy-protected disks, and photo copiers will take care of the program documentation.

Naturally, if this happens, these self-same software importers and distributors will be the first to run into print to cry about illegal copying of software!

Well gentlemen, don't expect any sympathy from this particular quarter. In fact, with this type of pricing policy you actively encourage illegal copying of software, and I'll rest my case.

--000--

In the USA on the Compuserve network there is a special section devoted to Commodore, which is being operated by the Toronto Pet Users Group. Lately a lot of attention has been focussed on the pro's and con's of software protection of Amiga software.

The following message from Michael Reichmann of 'Batteries Included' is worth quoting:

"B.I. adopted a policy quite a few months ago of not copy protecting any of our products in future. In fact we have started to remove the copy protection on some of our existing products!

We feel that any form of copy protection is counterproductive to the needs of the user, creates a 'game' for hackers in breaking the protection and should be regarded as part of this industry's past, not its future.

The solution to piracy is to make software as inexpensive as possible, put it in an attractive-useful package, produce a good user manual with decent customer support to registered owners and remove the "game" of breaking protection."

Please take particular note of the last paragraph, Australian Amiga Software Distributors - there's a lesson here for you to be learnt!

C-128 COLUMN

by Ralph De Vries

TWO SINGLE DRIVES < > ONE DUAL DRIVE

Long long ago, in the days of the PET, users had the choice between buying a single disk drive (model 2031) or a dual drive (model 4040). The single drive was never very popular but, relatively speaking, the 4040 was quite popular and rightly so. Commodore supplied a couple of commands in Basic 4 which were quite useful when used in conjunction with the dual drive - they are 'Backup' and 'Copy'.

In a dual drive configuration both drives are Device Number 8 (or better still 'Unit Number 8'), but one has to specify which Drive Number is in use, namely 0 or 1. Thus the command to backup a disk from drive 0 to drive 1 is 'BACKUP D0 TO D1'. Similarly the COPY command will allow you to copy files from drive 0 to drive 1 or vice-versa. This command will also work with a single unit, but you have to change the file name to copy it on the same disk.

When Commodore announced the arrival of the C-128 they also told us about the new 1571 single drive and the dual drive, the 1572. Early this year though it appeared that Commodore scrapped the idea of the 1572 drive, so now we have a couple of nice Basic commands which are rather useless!

When I purchased my C-128 it was my intention to buy the Dual Drive, and I know of several other business users who had similar intentions. When this didn't materialize I settled for the 1571 unit, and have now expanded this with a second 1571 unit (thanks to Commodore's cash-back offer this unit was considerably cheaper than the first unit) which is set up as Unit 9, thus facilitating the making of fast backups - well, that's the theory anyway.

Commodore supply on the 1571 demo disk a program called 'DOS-SHELL'. This allows amongst other things backing up and file copying. One has the choice of using a single unit, dual units, or two single units (my configuration). Now, all these configurations work quite well, but they have one thing in common; they are SLOW! The only advantage of copying with two drives is that you can make yourself a cup of coffee while waiting for the backup to finish.

As an example, to back up a disk on a 4040 drive takes only two minutes - to do the same on two 1571 drives takes approximately fifteen minutes! That certainly does not seem to take advantage of the 'FAST' or 'BURST' modes!

(As an aside I would like to mention that the BACKUP command from within "Superscript 128" does the whole job in about five minutes, but you do have to specify the name and ID number for the backup disk.)

Now it is obvious that Commodore is not going to supply any solutions for the fast backup problem, so hopefully an independent software company will come up with an answer. The program 'Fast Hack'em - Version 3' already includes the ability to backup a 1571 disk in single drive configuration, but a dual unit version has not surfaced yet. For the business user a fast backup facility is an absolute must.

--oo0oo--

BYTES

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FOR SALE

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300 BAUD MODEM, Auto Dial & Auto Answer - Ideal for Bulletin Board
Direct Connect incl. Software - \$125.00 (+\$5.00 for Postage)

1200 BAUD MODEM - Full Duplex - Auto Dial - Auto Answer
\$350.00 (+\$5.00 for Postage)

RS232 INTERFACE - Commodore User Port to True RS232
\$35.00 (+\$2.00 for Postage)

Contact Lester Bennett on 800 1243 before 8 pm, or
write to P.O.Box 460 - Sunnybank - Q'ld - 4109

1526 COMMODORE PRINTER fitted with 802 ROM chip - New Print Head
Supplied with spare ribbon - Good Condition - \$225.00

Contact Roger Haigh on 399 8037 (a.h.)

801 COMMODORE PRINTER fitted with upgraded Character ROM chip (descenders
on p,q,y,j,g) - Suitable for printing Graphics programs - VGC - \$175.00

Contact Ralph De Vries on 300 3477

C-64 Computer c/w Turbo Rom - Reset Button - Reset Restorer, plus

1541 Disk Drive in top condition, OR

1570 Disk Drive with Device Change & Write Light. - \$700 o.n.o.

Contact A. Thyssen at Milton or Graceville Work Shop, or
Phone Terry Arnott at 369 1390 after 6pm.

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MEMBERS: If you want to buy or sell computer hardware, software, books,
magazines etc., this column is for you. These little adverts are free to
members - the only condition is that you submit them to the editor IN
WRITING before the first Tuesday of the month to ensure publication in that
month's issue of the news letter.

--oo0oo--

A VERY SPECIAL REQUEST TO ALL MEMBERS

Included with this issue of 'Cursor' you will find a kindly worded request
from our treasurer regarding your 1986 - 1987 membership dues. Included
with this request are the details of your personal group data base record.

As in previous years we do look forward to your continuing membership, and
also like to make use of this opportunity to update your data base record.
Please do fill out all details about your current address, phone number,
membership status etc, if these are not correct. Equally important are
details of your current equipment. Please make sure these details are
correct - it assists your committee with forward planning.

If at all possible would you please pay your dues BY MAIL. Last year we
had very long queues which took almost all night to clear - they could be
worse this year. Your cooperation will be very much appreciated

The Management Committee

STINGER'S PAGE

Surprise, surprise! First the editor prints my letter and now he offers me a regular column as well!

Here's my potted biography: Have been a member for about three years. Started out with a VIC, got sick of adding bits and pieces to it, gave it away and bought a C-64 which was a big improvement. Recently traded it in on a 128D machine which I am still learning to drive. Sorry, can't afford one of them Amiga's!

That's enough about myself; here goes my first blast!!!

Do we really have to have all those Canadian TPUG disks in the library? I have copied a bunch of them and found that half the material appears on more than one disk. There is some good stuff but also a lot of junk (sorry Mr. Editor, but that's my opinion). Why don't we cut that library in half and keep only the good stuff?

What happened to the articles of Greg Perry? Mind you, most of them were far too technical for me, but it would be nice to see the old 'pres' in print sometimes!

Why don't we publish a list of hardware prices for the benefit of country members? I've been told that in some places they pay through the nose for Commodore equipment. Country members would lap up this sort of advice.

That will do for a start. Well, how about it Mr. Editor?

--000--

Stinger, you are an ungrateful so-and-so! At long last we have a good range of public domain software, properly catalogued, available for copying at workshop meetings or by mail order and now you want to reduce the range! To some extent I can agree with you because there is an awful lot of duplication. Our library staff has spent months organizing the library (they are still at it) and now you want them to do more work. How about offering your services? They can do with more assistance you know! In the meantime do what others are doing. Copy the disks, scratch what you don't want, and re-save the remainder on your own disks. There are enough fast copy programs around to make this job a breeze.

So, you want to know why Greg Perry is not writing any articles at present? Well, for one thing he has got to earn a living as well, you know! If you read this month's editorial you will find one of the reasons why Greg has not been writing any articles. Rest assured that he will return into print in the near future.

Your suggestion for printing hardware prices is definitely not on! Apart from the fact that prices fluctuate, there are also intangibles like service, backup, local availability etc, on which you cannot put a price. Also many a small country dealer is unable to take advantage of bulk buys at reduced prices and thus is unable to compete on price with large city dealers. If, for whatever reason, our country members are unhappy with local pricing or service, there's nothing to stop them from ringing the dealers in this newsletter. In fact only recently we heard from one of our central Q'ld members who ordered some hardware from one of our advertisers and saved \$150.00 on local prices.

Editor

WIFE IN STRIFE

What d'ya think a computer is for
Said that funny man next door.
When I inadvertently listened in
To the verbal Ding a Ling.

Mutter Mutter went the wife.
Wading through the paper strife.
Innocent, She had her say.
I didn't mean to spoil your day.
It all happened really sudden
When I pressed that little button.

Never touch it do you hear.
Or I'll give you a thick ear.
Silence. I stood up and listened.
Wondering if his wife felt chastened.

Suddenly a terrible din
From their house there came within.
Funny things flew through the air.
Curly wires, someones chair.

Then a howl of rage let out.
How they fought and could they shout.
Silence. Was it really over?
Had she gone home to her mother?

Familiar noises sounded then.
Clattering pots and words like MEN!
Down below his sweetest sounds.
Computer purring, Out of bounds.

By Maureen Barrow.

--ooOoo--

Another poetic masterpiece, donated by a member who wishes to remain anonymous. Your editor is in a real bind here. Obviously I couldn't refuse this poem supplied by 'ANON', particularly as this time around we have been supplied with the name of the authoress of the poem. Who in heavens name is Maureen Barrow? I have scoured our database and she is definitely not listed as a member of this group. It could well be a pseudonym of course.

The question arises if ANON has illegally copied this piece of literature. Well, if the group gets sued for breach of copyright we'll send the bill to Barry W.!!!

Editor

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| PAINT | Calculate Painting costs. From member Mark Cantle |
| BOUNCE | Sprite Demo of what the AMIGA can do. |
| LEXITRON | An exciting word game with some twists. |
| KICKER.BOOT | Soccer game loader |
| KICKER | Main prg. loaded by above. |
| IMAGES | Used with BOUNCE |
| SPROT.OBJ. | " " |
| SPEEDCALC | Spreadsheet used with Speedscript. |
| INTEGRATOR | Used to integrate Speedcalc sheets into Speedscript |
| FONTMAKER BOOT | Used to boot up Speedscript |
| FONTMAKER | 3 Fonts for Speedscript |
| SPEED.SET | Used with Speedscript |
| FORMAT PRINTOUT | Prints Program listings in more readable form. |
| SPEEDSCRIPT 3.0 | Yet another latest version.Word processor. |
| SUNNYBROOK FARM | Manage your eggs (Game) From Compute's Gazette. |
| SPRITE DEMO PRGM | From member Clarence Stock. |
| VERIFIZIER | Proofreader for Transactor Listings |
| LOTTO TICKET PRG | Random Lotto numbers. From member Nev Shelley. |
| 64 PERFECT TYPIST | Program checker for RUN Magaazine Listings |
| MILEAGE | Calculate Petrol costs. From member Mark Cantle |
| SURVIVOR 1 | Fast Action Game (Loader) |
| SURVIVOR 2 | Main prg, loaded with above. |
| HOME LIBRARY | Data Base to keep your books organised. |

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT - 5th June 1986

by Maurie Hawkyard

By far the worst facet of trying to coordinate the Group's libraries is the monthly problem of chasing up those people who do not bother to return their borrowed items by the following meeting night. Even one day past that cutoff point means that they must go into the overdue file thus creating additional work far in excess of that allowed for within the normal system. Library membership has increased substantially in recent months as has the amount of material available to be lent, but the system will only function properly if members adhere to the rules. Please fellow members, return your borrowings at or BEFORE the meeting after you have borrowed.

For the Vic-20 users, we have acquired a substantial number of new programs mainly on tape. I am currently sorting them out (there seems to be over fifty different titles, games, utilities and educational) and hope to have most of them catalogued for the next meeting - check the lists.

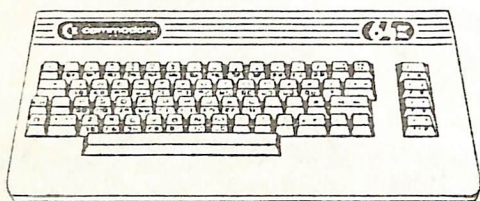
In public domain disk section, apart from the new disk which Bill Bohlen has organised from further new material he has received, there are four new TPUG disks to be added into the Gratisware section. These are TPUGs disks for Jan, Feb, Mar & April of 1986, with the April disk being composed of material for the 128. No doubt Bill will allocate the appropriate catalogue numbers to assist in identification.

Elsewhere in this issue there is mention of the new meeting venue from next month. Although we have to work out how to set up the libraries there, at least we will have much more space and will be physically removed from the main meeting area. See you there.

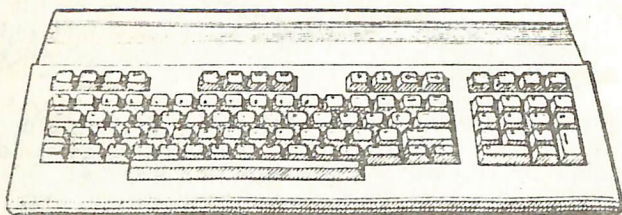
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| Secretary: | NORM CHAMBERS | Ph.341 5651 |
| Treasurer: | LESTER BENNETT | Ph.800 1243 |
| Technical Coordinator: | ROGER HAIGH | Ph.399 8037 |
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| Chief Librarian: | MAURICE HAWKYARD | Ph.343 5717 |
| Newsletter Editor: | RALPH DE VRIES | Ph.300 3477 |

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| Sysop: | RAY KING | Ph.208 1409 |
| BBS (Group's Bulletin Board): | | Ph.808 2125 |
| Lending Library - Main Meeting Only: | MAURICE HAWKYARD | Ph.343 5717 |
| [This covers Books - Magazines -] | | |
| [and Commercial Software for all] | | |
| [Computer Models - Except Amiga!] | | |
| Library Sales - P.D. Disks (C-64): | BILL BOHLEN | Ph.208 3729 |
| : | MAX BEAN | Ph.208 1225 |
| Library Sales - P.D. Tapes & Books: | TERRY STEER | Ph.808 2424 |

Please Note: The above phone numbers are private numbers, and most of our committee members can only be contacted after hours!
Greg Perry can be reached only between 10 am and 4 pm, and Maurice Hawkyard can be contacted between 9 am and 5 pm.

Address for newsletter mail only: P.O. Box 384 - Ashgrove - QLD - 4060.
Deadline for any particular month is the First Tuesday of that Month.
All other mail to: P.O.Box 274 - Springwood - Qld - 4127.

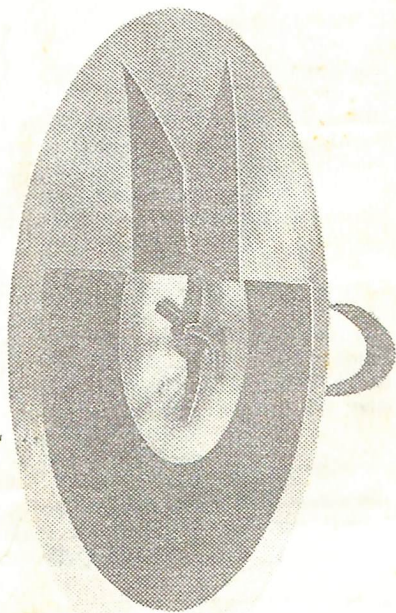
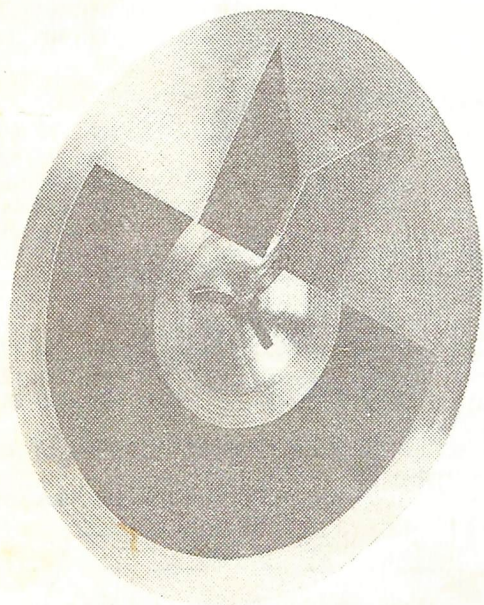
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