DYNAMIC MEMORIES™

AUGUST

Stevens Creek

Rodrigues

De Anza (S'vale-Stga Rd.)

Torre

Town

Center Ln.

■

Cupertino
Library

Pacifica

N

wh

SOUTH BAY TRS-80 USERS GROUP

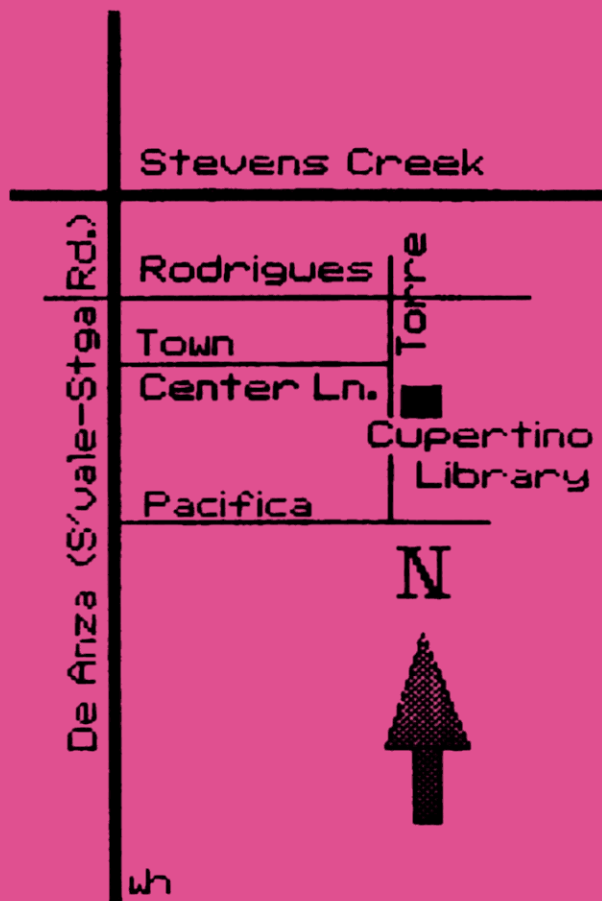PAGE---CONTENTS

LOOK--PAY ATTENTION**--The next meeting will be as always at the Cupertino library, 10400 Torres Ave.

Time: 7:15 - 9:30 PM

August 20, September 17, October 21.

The editor will resume his conferencing for his peers, the semi-educated. Don Rhodes will speak on bulletin boards, probably joined by Eric Brewer.
●●

LOOK!OJO!REGARDEZ!::Owing to the loss of the Dysan auditorium, we are still trying to revitalize the SIGS. Specifically, we wish to have a model 100 group, a CP/M group, and a MSDOS group. Gather your brethren around you and **do your thing to get these going.

●●

MEMBERSHIP

If you wish to become a member of SBUG and start receiving our newsletter "DYNAMIC MEMORIES", then send $18 (check or money order) to the following address;

South Bay TRS-80 Users Group
P.O. Box 60116
Sunnyvale, Ca.94088

or come to one of our meetings. If you also wish to communicate with our bulletin board system (SBUG-80) then include an additional $25 (a one time fee) for an account on the system. You must be a member of SBUG to have an account on the system. Please include your address and phone number.

¶¶
¶¶¶¶¶

YOUR STEERING COMMITTEE

MEMBER	SBUG-80 USERNAME	PHONE
Discussion Leader:		
Wright Huntley	(HUNTLEY)	(408) 248-5905
Treasurer		
Don Rhodes	(DON)	(408) 996-1008
Secretary		
Eric Brewer	(BREWER)	(408) 996-3791
Newsletter Editor		
Joel Lee	(EDITOR)	(408) 926-3999
Librarians:		
(disc) Bernie Thompson	(BERNIE)	(408) 867-7455
(tape) Gary Dixon	(GDIXON)	(408) 262-6937
(docs) Pete Fratus	(FRATUS)	(408) 258-8389
SBUG-80 Sysop:		
Eric Brewer	(SYSOP)	(408) 996-3791
Don Rhodes	(SYSOP)	(408-253-6293

OTHER KEY INDIVIDUALS

Cover Artist:
      Wright Huntley
      Roger Anderson
Host Computers:
      SBUG-80   (EVERYONE)   (408) 252-0247
      SBUG JUNIOR   (ALL)   (408) 253-6293

If the need arises, feel free to give any one of us a call.

THE EDITOR'S BYTES AND BITES

Please note the proliferation of talent in SBUG. Peruse the the lines above with the care they deserve, and you will see that we have TWO cover artists. We also have TWO bulletin boards. Don Rhodes' board is to alleviate any problems that may occur when the official bulletin board is not available. All of this was caused of course by the burglary of the previous SYSOP's house. Certainly we owe thanks to a number of people.

   to Eric Brewer for working to reestablish the board with updated software.

   to Don Rhodes for supplying us with an alternate board to be used until such time as Eric has caught all the bugs in his net.

   to Sam and Bob Brown for providing us with software for the alternative board and supplying the expertise to make it run properly.

   to Ian Webb for pointing out to the membership that their editor suffers from sesquipedalian senescence.

South Bay TRS-80 Users Group

Financial Statement

July 20, 1985

	July	Y-T-D	% Used	Budgeted
CASH RECEIPTS:				
Dues: Sbug	18.00	1,252.00	69	1,800.00
Interest Earned	0.00	14.53	36	40.00
Disk Library	0.00	105.00	87	120.00
Dues: Sbug-80	0.00	125.00	20	600.00
Documentation	0.00	0.00	0	264.00
Tape Library	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
80 Micro	0.00	88.00		0.00
Receipts Total	18.00	1,583.53	55	2,829.00

ADMINISTRATIVE DISBURSEMENTS:

	July	Y-T-D	% Used	Budgeted
Documentation Library	0.00	0.00	0	80.00
Telephone	38.88	58.19	29	200.00
Electricity	0.00	80.00	33	240.00
Disk Library	199.97	214.97	71	300.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0	100.00
Postage	88.00*	140.00	28	500.00
Print / Copy	56.39	717.66	71	1,000.00
Bank charges	0.00	8.00	26	30.00
Post office box	0.00	26.00	50	52.00
Sbug80 Repairs	0.00	0.00	0	200.00
Disbursements Total	383.24	1,244.82	46	2,702.00
Receipts over (under) Disbursements	365.24-	338.71	266	127.00
Beginning Cash balance		911.66	343.68	229.27
Ending Cash balance		546.42	546.42	

THE NEW (TEMPORARY?) BULLETIN BOARD or
ON THE RHODES AGAIN

July 20, 1985

Well, here it is! The new temporary SBUG80 BBS is up and running. The new phone number is (408) 253-6293.

The temporary Sysop is Don Rhodes and may be reached by calling me at the phone number listed in the front of this newsletter for Steering Committee members.

This is a different BBS software program and behaves differently than our regular SBUG-80 BBS. This new temporary does not yet have the old list of members on it, therefore all members must log in their name, City/State, phone number and password the first time calling the BBS.

You may find this new BBS software not as simple as the regular BBS we have had. It will take a bit of explaining to clarify a few points. If you have called other club BBS's in the past, you know that each one is a bit different, this one is no exception.

When first logging on, it will ask for if you have an account number. If this is your first time you will answer ===> N. If you have logged in before answer yes and then type in your account number given you the first time you logged in. The next prompt is for your password (if you have an account) otherwise it will ask for your name, city,state and phone number. The MAIN Menu will then be displayed. At this time, if it is your first time to log on, press ====> Z for assigning your own password to the system. The next prompt after 'Z' will ask for your verification to assign a password and then if you respond with a 'Y', it will ask you to type in a password with a character length of 7-14. Then you will be taken back to the MAIN Menu.

Once you have established an account, password and the Sysop has later upgraded your access level, you will be permitted to access the File Transfer Module. The first time on you will be permitted to read the general Message Board and leave a message.

There are three Message Boards and each of the three have three sections to them:

Message Board	Section	Function
1 Open Board	Bulletin	General Messages
	Discussion	Subjects grouped
	Elec Mail	Message to another member
2 Up / Down Load	Bulletin	General Messages about files and open forum
	Discussion	Each Subject is a file name or group of files
	Elec Mail	Private message to

			another member about a file.
3	Steering Committee	Bulletin	General messages for all Steering committee members only. Access Level is required
		Discussion	Subjects are grouped and anyone can add to the same subject.
		Elect Mail	To address a message to another S. C. member to read

Other Boards can be established for S.I.G.s or other purposes with different levels of access to each. The Steering Committee has a high enough level for the Steering Committee Board, but the general membership does not have the access level to gain access to the Steering Committee Board.

New, first time callers will have an access level to only the Open Board and not to any of the other Boards.

The BBS system functions are selected by the provided prompts: Commands (C,E,F,G,H,I,M,N,S,U,X,*,?) ===>

To learn what these commands are press the ? key for the full blown menu which briefly describes each one.

The A command will generally abort any current operation and return the caller to the last menu prompt. Do not use Control characters as they will not be recognized and may even cause the system to restart.

The * command for BASIC will actually take the caller into the System at the BASIC level and from there into NEWDOS80. A password is required to access BASIC and the user will be prompted for the password. The password for BASIC access is available to those that have the need.

It was a pleasure for me to watch the BBS system being installed by two professional individuals that Thursday night. My thanks to Bob and Sam Brown, two of our long standing members, for their contributions and excellent installation. The system was up and running within an hour after they had installed the software, configured the drive system, rewired the modem cable and reset the modem's switches.

The next morning when someone called in at 1200 baud, logged in and then dialed back a second time to access the File transfer module, the system crashed. I called Sam Brown and he was able to rewrite the drive spec from drive :1 to drive :3 over the modem from his home.

The hardware configuration is a Model III, with the drives configured as follows:

:1 = Double sided forty, :2 = double sided forty :3 = Double sided 80 and drive :2 not being used.

FROM THE EDITOR'S CLUTTERED DESK

I subscribe to Bruce Tonkin's newsletter. It is well worth the price of $10 for 8 issues. A good bit of the newsletter is dedicated to his programs which he sells at very low prices. He has a thing going with Apple. He sees them as going steadily down hill, and he may just be right. In the current newsletter, he has an article about software protection laws, and I will quote it here, because of its importance to all of us.

from TNT SOFTWARE USER'S NEWSLETTER

by Bruce Tonkin

LICENCE AGREEMENTS

The Illinois Senate is considering passing a law which would legalize all shrink-wrap software licenses. It would also make it illegal for users to patch software, to disassemble any code, or to attempt to determine how a program worked.

No rights are granted to the user at all. No guarantees, no warranties, no return privileges. Even rights granted users by U.S. Copyright Law are specifically mentioned and are voided.

The bill was pushed through the legislature by a legal firm retained by some large software vendors (unnamed). I testified before an Illinois Bar Association subcommittee against the proposed law, and that subcommittee and another one (some of whose members heard me speak) voted unanimously to recommend against passage of the law.

The legal firm pushing for the passage of the proposed law has not been exactly forthcoming about whose interests are being served, or who they're representing. Instead, they've managed to imply that they're trying to serve the public interest!

Let's suppose you bought a copy of an expensive program which will not work on your hardware configuration. Let's suppose there are changes you could make to the program that would make it compatible with your hardware.

Under the proposed law, you could not examine the program to determine how to make those changes. You could not apply the changes, even if someone else had done the looking. You could not return the program for a refund, even if it didn't't work. You could not even run the program and use any ideas you got from watching it run in order to develop your own program. That last provision is specifically mentioned.

-6-

If this sounds like an attempt at thought control to you, you've got company.

You can't even back up the program, even though U.S. Copyright law specifically allows you to copy any copyrighted material "solely for archival purposes". THE PROPOSED LAW SAYS YOU MAY NOT MAKE ANY COPIES.

You can't open the package-even if you're a store owner-to demonstrate or inspect the programs. Anyone who opens the package has purchased it and agrees to abide by the terms of the license agreement. Store owners must then buy a copy of each program they want to carry. The (hoped for?) result of this provision will be that store owners must carry less software.

Guess who will benefit?

Some people have told me to ignore the law, that it won't accomplish anything. So many people will disobey the law that it will have no real effect, so why get concerned?

The reasons to get concerned are rather simple. Let's suppose you're a small software developer, and you come out with a program that will make Lotus 1-2-3 look sick.

Lotus won't like that very much. So, suppose Lotus claims that your program uses ideas from 1-2-3 to accomplish its tasks. Lotus can sue you to stop your program from being distributed; they might even win.

It all becomes a matter of who has more money: you, or Lotus. Guess who will be put out of business, no matter which way the suit is settled? Guess who won't be able to sell their program until legal action is concluded?

In a related matter, Vault Corporation is suing the maker of Copywrite, a disk copying program, in the State of Louisiana. The grounds: Copywrite will copy software protected by Vault's Prolok, which leads users to violate the terms of Vault's user's license agreements.

Louisiana's law is similar to the one proposed for Illinois.

In another matter, Lotus is suing a book publisher to prevent that publisher from selling instructions for the use of Lotus 1-2-3. It seems that Lotus feels such a book is used as a Lotus manual by people who have pirated copies of Lotus 1-2-3. Such a book is dangerous--to Lotus.

Who has more money - Lotus, or the publisher. Who is likely to be hurt most by the suit? Am I the only one disturbed by the implications of these actions, or does it disturb you, too?

These are good questions I think. One thing is clear, at least to me: don't ever underestimate the outright greed of the big software companies. I haven't seen any apparent limits to their rapaciousness.

-7-

I'd like to organize a tar-and-feather party for Mitch Kapor, everyone at Vault, and for everyone connected with this proposed new law. Any one else want to join?

Comment from DYNAMIC MEMORIES (Via the editor)

Part of the above is the general climate in government which is totally unfavorable to consumers' rights. New consumer protection is put off, old laws are gutted or their enforcement disregarded. If you don't enforce the rules in the game preserve, people are going to shoot the animals no matter what the posted signs say.

Even so, the Illinois and Louisiana laws are absurd, will not stand up in court, and would not be enforceable even if they did. In World War II, the Japanese had an outfit called Thought Police. I would volunteer for a similar job in Illinois, because I do a lot of thinking. Use a thief to catch a thief?

There is a class of lawyer who will propose the most outrageous laws and/or suits. There is a class of legislator (most of them) who will pass any law to curry favor with the big contributors to his campaign, even though he knows that the law will not stand up in court, given its unconstitutionality. Apparently, Louisiana and Illinois are rife with these people. And they criticize us Californians for eating pink tofu!!

THE NEAR FUTURE

By Editor

How near is the near future. Let's say 1987-July--August, give or take a couple of months. This period should see the advent of 32 bit machines with 16 megabytes of memory, running at 10 Megahertz. Price? Not for us in 1987. Maybe in 1990. There is no doubt that these machines will be on sale by the above date(s). The question is, what will they mean to the hacker, to the hobbyist/enthusiast?

These machines are meant for business, to run larger versions of Lotus 1-2-3. Of course there will be new things, as yet unknown to most of us, sparks in someone's eye, glimmers in someone's mind at this moment. Yet -- never underestimate the hobbyist. Many of the advances in automobile manufacturing were dreamed up by kids building drag racers and hot shot cars in vacant lots and empty garages. Modern basketball wasn't't invented by high priced coaches, it is a product of the black kids playing after school on the playgrounds and in the parks. They didn't't know enough to follow the rules. They just did it better.

The machines of '87 appear daunting to us now, but we'll get a handle on them once they come into our price range.

SOUTH BAY TRS-80 USERS GROUP

SOME COMPUTER CAPERS

The following are taken from SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN (this August's issue)

From an Exxon ad: Computer simulation of grain growth in metals

An ad for the Hayes TRANSET 1000: "As fast as your computer can send it, Transet 1000 receives and stores more than 75 pages of text. Then it feeds that data to your printer or modem at the speed at which the peripheral can accept it. At the same time you can be using your computer for an entirely different job."

From a column called "Computer Recreations". "A computer microscope zooms in for a look at the most complex object in mathematics. --- The Mandelbrot set broods in silent complexity at the center of a vast two-dimensional sheet of numbers called the complex plane." If you don't know what the Mandelbrot set is, don't expect me to explain it to you.

From a Texas Instruments ad--"Artificial Intelligence: the vision is becoming reality--at Texas Instruments." Further on in the 6 page ad it says "Discover new dimensions in computing with the Explorer symbolic processing system." They juxtapose symbolic processing to arithmetic processing--a reasonable comparison if we remember that many scientific advances were made intuitively before the proof was available.

AT & T advertises its 20 gigabit multiplexer. If astronomical distances bother you, think about 20 gigabits for a minute. (Holding your breath meanwhile)

From McDonnell Douglas--"Breakthrough: computer graphics that create model patients for surgeons. We're using computers to give reconstructive surgeons a startling new perspective on their work-- three dimensional images that depict the patient's face and skull from any angle, inside or out."

Seen on TV: Computer analysis of dancer's movements.

Altogether it appears that computers are good for more than automobile braking systems.

****
ADIOS MUCHACHO(A)S (No sexist I)

Your editor will be taking off for Europe on vacation at the end of August. For those of you who are curious as to details, we are going by way of Beirut, and carrying a picnic lunch of Kern county watermelon and Mexican softcheese (called queso fresco if you wish to order some).

PETE FRATUS CONSUMES "CONSUMER REPORTS"

1755 Orlando Drive
San Jose, CA 95122

July 27, 1985

Editor
CONSUMER REPORTS
P. O. Box 1111
Mount Vernon, NY 10551

Dear Editor:

I have read and trusted CONSUMER REPORTS for many years, but I was so enraged by CU's inept report in the August issue on computers that I have begun to doubt the expertise CU has to offer the consumer. It appears that the study was prepared by someone who knows less about computers than the average computer buyer.

The report not only gave conflicting information and comparisons, it presented incorrect data about the TRS-80 Model 4P. The recommendations are a mess of mixed up advantages and disadvantages that few readers will be able to use. I have included a list of discrepancies about the report.

As a result of CU's report, I reread other reports looking for the same kind of possibilities. Now that I know what to look for they aren't hard to pick out. CU owes the consumer better work than the August computer report represents. I would like to the an explanation of how this report was done and why such low quality reporting was put into print.

Sincerely,

Pete Fratus

Discrepancies in the August 1985 Consumer Reports article:

Small Business Computers

The report is filled with inaccurate statements and unfair comparisons regarding the TRS-80 Model 4P.

User Memory

The report states that getting the extra 64K for a total of 128K is "probably a good investment." Considering the price of memory today, buying all the memory one can afford is the best rule of thumb. It's a rule that CU ought to know and pass on.

The latest add-on for the Model 4 allows 1 megabyte of main memory! TRSDOS 6 has always been able to support more than the 128K hardware maximum.

Software

The statement 'TRSDOS 6 limits you to Radio Shack software' is wrong. Radio Shack software is that which is sold by Radio Shack Stores. The stores carry only a small percentage of the software available for TRS-80's. (The word processing program report in March had the same mistake.) There are many major suppliers who advertise heavily in 80micro magazine. They sell programs for TRSDOS and CP/M. The report said "our local Radio Shack store doesn't stock CP/M programs." The only CP/M program Radio Shack sells is CBASIC for CP/M Plus. No Radio Shack company store sells or stocks any other CP/M programs.

The CP/M Plus CU purchased is a bad choice. Montezuma Micro CP/M is the best available for the TRS-80.

I agree that SuperScripsit is satisfactory, but there are 6 other non-Radio Shack word processors such as Electric Pencil, Allwrite, and LeSript. There are 5 other spreadsheets besides Visicalc and 6 major data management products besides pfs:file. It also runs dBase II just like the Kaypro.

Concerning the troubles running software and getting answers, Radio Shack stores are no different than other stores in this area. Some sales people can help, others can't. TRS-80 users have long since learned that the Radio Shack store is the place to buy hardware, but not to get software or answers. The best software source for TRS-80's is mail order. Good answers can usually be found at the district support centers.

When comparing Apple software to Radio Shack software, why can Apple users prefer Multiplan but TRS-80 users have to be satisfied with Visicalc; the TRS-80 runs Multiplan, too.

CU had trouble getting Wordstar to run. Reading the instructions for Wordstar would have helped. The manual says it is supported on CP/M 2.2, not CP/M Plus.

Display

The comparison of displays was completely unfair to both the TRS-80 and Kaypro. First CU matches two portables against a desk-top, then complains about the small screens? If the desk-top Model 4 had been chosen, the comparison to the Apple IIe would have been fair. The Model 4 has a 12 inch display.

Ports

The TRS-80 does not use a non-standard connector for the parallel printer. It is a standard connector available at any electronics or computer store. There is nothing special about the Radio Shack cable. It is simply a ribbon cable with an IDE- 34 card-edge connector and a Centronics connector. The cable can be purchased for a little as $11.00 elsewhere.

Documentation

The TRSDOS 6 operating system of the TRS-80 is far better than CP/M. It uses logical English words for commands such as FORMAT, BACKUP and COPY. For many users, this is better than DUP and PIP. Montezuma Micro CP/M on the TRS-80, however, has a well thought out and implemented program for formatting and backup which is menu driven with every choice available at a keystroke.

Recommendations

CU chose the Kaypro IIx because of ample disk space, and it "comes so much software" which is then described as "far from the best." The TRS-80 running CP/M will run nearly all of the software the Kaypro will run and other software just for the TRS- 80.

Regarding price, even if CU had made the better choice of the Model 4 instead of the 4P, the cost is between $950 and $1300 depending on where it is purchased from. For the extra $200, the TRS-80 can be outfitted with 800K of disk space equal to the Kaypro.

CU points out that CP/M is a Kaypro drawback then says the Apple user may want to get the Z-80 card to use CP/M.

Finally, CU gives the TRS-80 Model 4P credit for the $650 price (before it was discontinued). Well, it IS discontinued and there aren't any left. Where would a consumer go to get one? While he's looking for the 4P, he might also look for a Franklin or a Pierce-Arrow, both excellent cars.

MAIL

For Sale Items:
1) Tandy 1000, Color, Graphics, 384k ram, keyboard
   needs drives and monitor to be complete..$650.00
   Can get ds dd 40 track drives for $80.00 each.
   controller is in system already. Contact DON RHODES

Comments by SYSOP, 07/23/85 03:36:42

Peripheral Land has new type thermal printer for sale.
It is a very small 80 column portable, light weight.
The speed is 80cps and priced at $159.00

Comments by IAN WEBB, 07/23/85 14:02:12

I see several sources of complete (monitor, 2 drives, etc.)

IBM clone systems for prices ranging from $995 to $1295. Be
sure to read the magazines and ads before buying one locally
and paying sales tax. There seem to be numerous local
sources springing up. With prices coming down so fast, can
IBM keep their prices where they are very long?

Editors note on above: This is a pregnant situation. Joe Blow from
Kokomo couldn't build a mainframe, and couldn't have sold it if he did.
But Joe is building competition for IBM (and everybody else) on micros.
So much the better for us, the hackers and hobbyists. As Woolcot Gibbs
once said, where it will all end knows God.

Comments by IAN WEBB, 07/21/85 10:00:18

Is there life left in the Club? Should it become more
general and allow other computer users "equal access" or
perhaps more emphasis on IBM compatible Tandy and "other"
manufacturers? What should be done for the users of Models
I, III and 4 machines? How can we keep things going?

Your comments?

Since the Model 4 uses CP/M, should we also become a more
general CP/M - MSDOS support club?
(IAN WEBB again)

Pesky editor again: I'm not pessimistic about the club. The burglary and
the subsequent bulletin board problems have made things a little hazy. I
still feel that we can (and are) working our way out of it. I have always
been in favor of making this a general purpose club with some healthy
SIGS's. That is the way the Boston Computer Society is organized, and
they are certainly healthy. At the same time, it is true that a number of
computer clubs have died. I owe too much to the club to quit. Not even if
I were the last member. How could I quit myself?
                    N-O-R-M-A-L M-A-I-L (Relatively)

Message #:   7
Subject: MESSAGES
From: SYSOP
Date Time: 07/21/85 12:53:41
Any message left on the board can be deleted. If you have
left a message that you want deleted, leave a message with
the SYSOP to delete message #----. There is a special
command function "J" which will load a program called
"PACKER/BAS" which provides data base management. The
"J" function is only available, at present to one of the
Local or remote SYSOPs.

Message #:   8
Subject: NEWS
From: SYSOP
Date Time: 07/26/85 17:50:35
Computer Swap America, Inc. is holding a swap meet
Sept 14, 1985 10am-6pm at S.C. County Fair Grounds

-13-

for information, call 415-366-9162 (Woodside). De Anza College Computer Market, Sat August 10th from 9am-3pm. For info call 408-996-4756 (9am-1pm Mon-Fri). Bay Area Computer Swap Sat. Sep 7, 1985 10am-5pm at San Mateo County Fai Grounds. for info call 415-340-0104 Burlingame. Look at the RS/Tandy ad in today's paper. I think the Model 4 as we know it must have 4 months or so left. I predict a sale at $599 just before the end!!!! What do you think??? Replaced by a hard-drive 2 processor machine? Does anyone have a modem which they could loan to Don Rhodes while his modem is tied up on this BBS as a "temporary" system? The club owns a modem...or at least did before the robbery...which would eventually be on the "permanent" system that is established. In the meantime, I don't think it is right that we are tying up Don's modem on this system!!!

FIRST CLASS MAIL