South Bay Users Group

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DYNAMIC MEMORIES

JANUARY

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THE 80386 APPEARS IN SBUG

REVIEWS

PC-DESK 80F2R

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LOOK PAY ATTENTION ** The next SBUG meeting will be held at the Saratoga library. The meeting dates will be as follows: January 12th, February 9th and March 8th.

The time of our meetings is constant // 19:15, otherwise known as seven fifteen P.M.

COMING EVENTS: The meeting will feature the editor's 80386 machine with details on the horrors and joys of its ownership. There will also be a demonstration of TURBOTAX-- its devotees say they paid less taxes last year. Does that grab your attention?

****

MEMBERSHIP

If you wish to become a member of SBUG and start receiving our newsletter DYNAMIC MEMORIES then send a $20 check or money order to the following address:

SOUTH BAY USERS' GROUP
P.O. BOX 60116
Sunnyvale, CA 94088

Or come to one of our meetings. We also perpetrate a bulletin board to which you will have access as a member of SBUG.

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If the need arises feel free to give anyone of us a call.

THE EDITOR'S BYTES AND BITES

I have recently been on a graphics binge. I will not say that I will never touch graphics again, but I do promise to be more restrained. Oh, yes, I know they say we can never quit. Well I can. I can handle it.

In this edition for example I will show you the difference between dot matrix printing with NICEPRINT and with normal NLQ dot matrix printing. I intend to print page one with my daisy wheel. I will also print a graphics figure with normal dot matrix printing and with quad density.

THAT'S restraint. No borders. No igloos. Everything in the staid, decorous Boston Times publishing tradition. Almost everything.

It's really true that the cheapie (relatively) programs I have at my command will permit me to do everything the $495 up desk publishing programs will do except the quality of type that laser printers give. It just takes me longer and makes me stretch my imagination a little more. As Bernie Thompson remarked, the only difference is in the tools. The results can be the same.

I would appreciate some feed back. Boos will be listened (and cringed) to. Applause is not necessarily food to the soul of the performer. Attention is. If you are noticing I'd like to know.

SBUG Financial Statement
December 24, 1987

Receipts:	December	Y-T-Date	% Used	Budget
Members dues	100.00	630.00	63.00%	1000.00
Disk Library	4.00	58.00	38.67%	150.00
Load80	42.00	451.00	150.33%	300.00
Documentation	0.00	.00	.00%	24.00
Interest	2.82	21.12	211.20%	10.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	319.80	159.90%	200.00
Total Receipts	148.82	1479.92	87.88%	1684.00
Disbursements:				
Phone	9.04	96.11	94.23%	102.00
Utilities	0.00	90.00	50.00%	180.00
Printing	0.00	231.69	42.91%	540.00
Postage	22.00	110.00	76.39%	144.00
P O Box	0.00	29.00	111.54%	26.00
Bank charges	0.00	38.00	158.33%	24.00
Disk Library	60.95	60.95	50.79%	120.00
Documentation	0.00	10.00	20.00%	50.00
Load80 Subscription	0.00	149.95	74.98%	200.00
SBUG BBS Repairs	0.00	.00	.00%	100.00
Misc. Expenses	0.00	150.12	120.10%	125.00
Total Disbursements	91.99	965.82	59.95%	1611.00
Beginning Cash Balance	771.58	314.31	100.00%	314.31
Net Receipts	56.83	514.10	704.25%	73.00
Ending Balance	828.41	828.41	213.89%	387.31

FASTEST GUN IN EAST SAN JOSE
(CORNER OF 33rd ST. AND MARBURG WAY)

So your editor now has an 80386 processor working away in the bowels of Xavier Tarragon. Xavier was once a staid and quiet type, but of course no one could keep quiet when his bowels are speeded up that much. How much?

It depends on whom you ask. The ad said 16Mhz. Sysinfo says 16.2 or 16.8 and sometimes 20. SPEED which claims to be more reliable than Sysinfo because it is not based on an algorithm says 20Mhz. It's fast.

The ad also said that Hd i/o would be speeded up. True. That may be the result of installing a 16 bit controller which was not included in the original package. Everything seems to run all right but one of the major reasons I went in for this is still beyond my grasp.

I have four excellent, memory resident programs that I want to keep on line all the time. They are:

PC-DESK
NICEPRINT
GOFER
POPALARM

PC-DESK is a very sophisticated variation of SIDEKICK. I will review PC-DESK and GOFER later on in this newsletter. For the time being I will give you some information on the joys and tribulations of being the fastest gun in East San Jose.

The speed is there, even though the programs I run don't show it off at it's best. For that you need a 200 cell spreadsheet. I did want the extra memory for the memory resident programs but alas! it isn't doing me much good. In effect, using my 640K I can run any one of the above programs with WORD PERFECT or REFLEX, the programs I use most. If I try to keep any two of the memory resident programs on line together with a word processor or data base there just isn't enough memory in 640 K.

There are several things I had just not anticipated. I have a 2 meg memory setup. I had anticipated having a full meg for working. Not so. Dos only addresses the first 640K. The other 360K is not available. I have the second meg on a ramdisk but still haven't figured out a way for it to be useful.

When I worked with the Model 4 the ramdisk was a big help, it really speeded things up. I'm not going to get much more speed out of a ramdisk now than I already have with the speeded up hard disk. There are only two ways to go to really get the most out of what I've got. One is to go for 4 meg memory (I can't afford it after buying the '386 board) so that I can load the programs I need to use onto a ramdisk. The other is to wait until they write a Dos that can address the multi-meg memory.

According to our teknik, Frank Vanslager, the current issue of OS/2 (which Frys expects to have by the 15th of December) won't do it. That will have to wait until >possibly< June when an updated OS/2 is supposed to come out. That one, Frank says, will probably do it. In the meantime, I may be the fastest gun in East San Jose (corner of Marburg and 33rd St) but I'm shooting little, tiny bullets.

Some how, it seems to me, there must be a software solution. If there is, someone will write it. Nature abhors a vacuum and this is a certified vacuum. This is the first time in computer history that the hardware has completely gone ahead of the software. The '386 has been out for so long that the clone makers are already into the act and there's still no way to handle it.

What do the guys who buy a 20 Mhz. Compaq with 8 Kb. memory do with it? If you haven't got a DOS that will address the memory, what you have is a Ferari whose speed doesn't do you much good driving down El Camino Real at five P. M. The guy alongside you in a Honda is getting by just as well.

It's not very practical at present, but it is fun. It would be fun to drive a Ferari down El Camino Real, too.

Keep in touch and I will let you know all about the adventures of the John Wesley Hardin of Marburg Way.

LATER

The last few days have added considerably to my knowledge of the '386 and its ways and byways. First I discovered that I do not have expanded memory. I have extended memory. What's the difference? The names explain it if one thinks a little. Extended memory is memory added on to the existing memory. Expanded memory is memory >grafted< on to the existing memory so that the proper software will make it seamless. In other words addressable for all purposes in its entirety.

There are two software programs available to do that and probably one thousand more will soon appear. Currently WINDOWS386 and a program by QUARTERDESK (called DESQVIEW) will utilize memory up to 8 megabytes in windows (opening up to 64 windows!!!!!) and will export freely from one window to another. They will also do multitasking and will exploit the 86 mode of the 80386. This simply means that while in the 86 (protected) mode, no other program can harass the currently running program.

This will mean the end of memory resident programs. What do you need a memory resident program for if you can pop open a window and concurrently run any program you wish with the application program you are actually running?

The best information I have at present inclines to the QUARTERDESK program as the best solution. There is also a DOS substitute called MOS (for Modular Operating System). I would be afraid to try it. All DOSes are buggy when they first come out and MOS is a DOS by another name.

As you might expect several someones have come up with a solution to my problem. These programs make extended memory emulate expanded memory. The one I am on the trail of is from Maryland and has the virtue of addressing 768K in MSDOS mode as well as setting the rest of my extended memory to emulate expanded memory. I'll let you know more as I know more.

MORE

I spoke to the people at PROSOFT. If you don't know them, they are very solid professionals. They have a version of FONTASY that is written to run with expanded memory. I asked if (idle curiosity because I don't need it) --if this would run with extended memory emulating expanded memory. They say they don't recommend it. Of course all of this is so new that even the pros are a little out of touch. I certainly wouldn't go against their recommendation.

I did order a program from QUALITAS of Maryland that makes the extended memory emulate expanded memory. They say that one meg will be available for memory resident programs (plus the application program on line at the moment). This is adequate for my needs. They also say that the second meg will <u>not</u> be seamless. The order will probably arrive sometime next week and you will have to wait until February for news on that.

PC-DESK
by Editor

PC-DESK is one of the many spawn of SIDEKICK. SIDEKICK has never been a sidekick of mine. It is nicely organized (as is everything from Borland) but I could never use the word processor, and it gets in the way of every program I own. Any time I saved was lost rebooting.

PC-DESK is not flawless. So far I have had no problems with it running into other programs, but if you forget to follow the instructions of PC-DESK itself you will find yourself rebooting.

PC-DESK is entitled "Personal Office & Mail Management System" It is menu driven. The opening menu reads as follows:

```
[Current date]          [Current time]


          1. Enter Addresses
          2. Display Addresses
          3. Sort, Select Addresses
          4. Search Menu
          5. Print Menu
          6. Word Processor
          7. Calender/Reminder
          8. Calculator
          9. Timekeeper

         Alt-Esc for Desk #2
   <Roster>              <F>iles Menu
    <E>xit Program  <N>ew File
```

I bought PC-DESK principally for the Calendar/Reminder and the Calculator. Browsing through the 52 page manual reveals that the program is a little bit schizoid. It can be used as a memory resident program (192K bytes). I have it in memory now as I write this with WORD PERFECT. It can also be used as a stand alone. It has some very powerful features which I have not to date put to use. It remains to be seen whether I will ever use them or whether they will go the route of TORNADO NOTES which causes a tornado in my wavery brain. Every time I try TORNADO NOTES I begin chewing on my thumb and have to turn off the program before I am arrested for cannibalism. (Is it against the law to cannibalize ones self?)

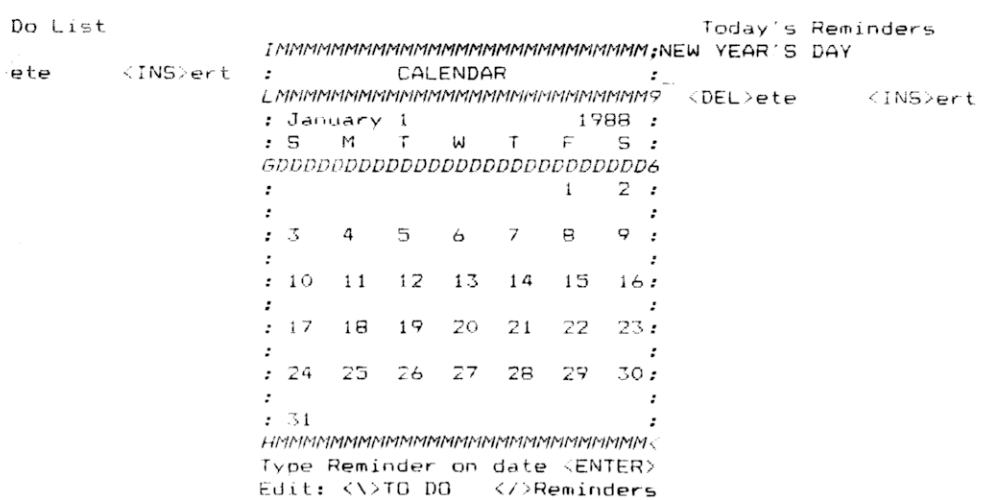
You may ask (yes, go ahead) why I should lay out these good

shillings for PC-DESK if I already have SIDEKICK. SIDEKICK'S calender and calculator are all right, but once again, SIDEKICK is very nasty with other programs. PC-DESK isn't.

I dislike SIDEKICK's word processor which uses WORDSTAR like commands. WORDSTAR gives me hiccups. I haven't actually used PC-DESK's word processor but I've looked at it and it seems to be easy.

Another feature of DESK (I'll be familiar) is that you may retain it or retire it from memory. When you finish with whatever you are doing with it if you press >Alt-Esc< it stays in memory. If you press >E< (for exit) it is <u>not</u> retained in memory. To get back in you just go to the sub-directory that DESK is in and type desk. Quite handy.

PC-DESK's calender/reminder is set up very nicely as you can see by the following:



I have just finished testing DESK's auto-dialer. Works as advertised. I believe I'll transfer all my telephone operations to DESK. That's a compliment. As you would expect, apartment managing involves a lot of telephone work. It will be very handy to be able to do all that from the computer. Sudden thought! When I begin to really exploit all the possibilities of the 80386 will I be able to simultaneously make a telephone call and typing the information I am receiving into a database? Now that would be something.

Below you will find the address and telephone setup for DESK. As indicated this may be used to dial, to put addresses on envelopes or to pass to the word processor for a letter. (The "Dear" in the salutation is automatically supplied. I'm not sure that everyone is dear, but that's the way it goes.

NUMBER: 1

First Name and Initial:BERNIE

Last Name:THOMPSON Salutation:BERNIE

Title:SUPPORTER Telephone:861-7455
Telephone:738-2888 X5887

Company:IDONO

Street Address:TAMPOCO

City, State:CUPERTINO

Zip Code:95166 Record Type:SBU Sub-Record Type:

Variable:NO VARIANCE Expiration Date:12-16-87

Notes:

<C>all <M>ail a Letter <P>rint an Envelope <D>elete
o Edit
<R>eplicate this Record in another File ALT+<C>alculator
<ESC>ape to Main Menu <+>Forward <->Backward <W>ord Processor

Altogether I may say that I have found a good one. I can only speak well of this program. You may retreat from all the submenus by pressing ESC. On the original menu you must press ALT-ESC if you wish DESK to remain in memory. If you press ESC there the program hangs up and you must reboot.

This program is ideal for keeping a phone directory (it will also time and make a record of your phone calls for billing purposes) and for writing short letters. I am addicted to WORD PERFECT but I may begin writing some quickies using DESK.

The name is: PC-DESK+
SOFTWARE STUDIOS
8516 Sugarbush, Suite 104
Annandale, VA 22003
1-800-A-PC-DESK

The list price is $125.00. I bought it direct for $79.00 plus $5.00 S&H.

GOFER

Since I began working with a hard disk I began misplacing files. (I used to do it sometimes when I had only floppies but they were easy to find). There are a number of programs available to search for words and/or phrases in ASCII. I first bought one called RETRIEVE. It had a fatal flaw. The files had to be indexed and you could easily run out of memory. I did, several times. Then I saw the ad for GOfer, which specified that no indexing was necessary. I have it now, have tried it, and think it is the ultimate program of this type. I will quote the introduction here and think you will be convinced.

"GOfer is a very friendly critter, always ready to work for you. He loves to find text, any text, and put it exactly where you want it (he can read and copy from any ASCII or EBCDIC file). Once he's found it, he'll print it, create a new file with it, drop it into the file that's active in your current program (even while you're composing electronic mail on-line), or let you just browse through the files on your disk. He'll even compress your files to as little as half their normal size, so they can be stored in less space and still be searched, browsed and copied from, without being decompressed. He's fast and he's powerful.

"And GOfer is easy to work with. He'll let you know what information he needs each step of the way. As GOfer presents each window, you tell him what to look for, where to look (drive and subdirectory), and what to do with what he's found; he'll do the rest. Just point GOfer in the right direction, even a clue will do.

"GOfer is also a very logical critter, Boolean Logic that is. By using AND/OR/NOT or NEARBY, he can find all the correspondence to Joe Smith, only those documents that also refer to the Acme Project, or all documents that mention either Joe Smith or Frank Jones and don't mention the Acme Project. GOfer lets you fine tune your search to find exactly what you want.

"GOfer stays out of your way and pretends he isn't even there until you need him. That's because he operates as a RAM Resident Program (also called Terminate and Stay Resident or TSR)). GOfer's always ready for action, without quitting your current application. He'll pop up with a keystroke, while you're working on a document or an application. He'll search, display, print, paste, or save the results, and return you directly to your document whenever you wish. GOfer may also be used as a stand-alone, non RAM- resident application you can load from DOS."

It's all true. As I said before, there are is a plethora of similar programs but GOfer is in a class by itself.

GOfer
from Microlytics
300 Main St.
East Rochester, NY 14445
Tel. 716-377-0130
$59.95

FOR SALE
COMPLETE/UNUSUAL COMPUTER PACKAGE SET

1. TRS-80 Model III
2. 2 built in floppies, 80 tracks double density, dual side Tandon MD #TM 100-40.
3. Automatic dial modem, 1200 bps, Racal-Vadic MD VA212
4. Optical/visual mouse #MS-3. Baud rate 4800. Mouse systems.
5. Lots of software. Tandy, Newdos 80, Dosplus, Superscripsit, books and manuals. Will even include the full size desk with side drawers for storage space

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EDITORS SIDE COMMENT

It just occurred to me that my enthusiasm for some of the programs I encounter may make me sound like one of these people, we all know and avoid them, who never makes a mistake and all of

whose goods and possessions are incomparable. I have been lucky, but not always. Before I bought GOfer I bought RETRIEVER which is not really bad but not really good. I remember buying a data base program called Little Brother for the Model 4. Brother-r-r-r. It was one of those programs that tasks the ingenuity of a good programmer to set up.

When I sold my Model III, I sold it at the top of the market. On the other hand I recently bought an Epson EX-1000. What's wrong with it? Nothing, it's a good printer, but 24 pin printers have come down so much in price that I could now buy one of them for very little more than the EX-1000 cost me, thus giving me true letter quality and the graphics I bought the Epson for.

Which leads me to my latest enthusiasm. It's called 386Max-- "a memory manager for 386 systems." I'll just let you suffer on that one. I will show it off at the January meeting, and I will write a complete report on it for the February meeting. I had promised to work out a little with WORD PERFECT Library and here it is.

MORE ON WORD PERFECT

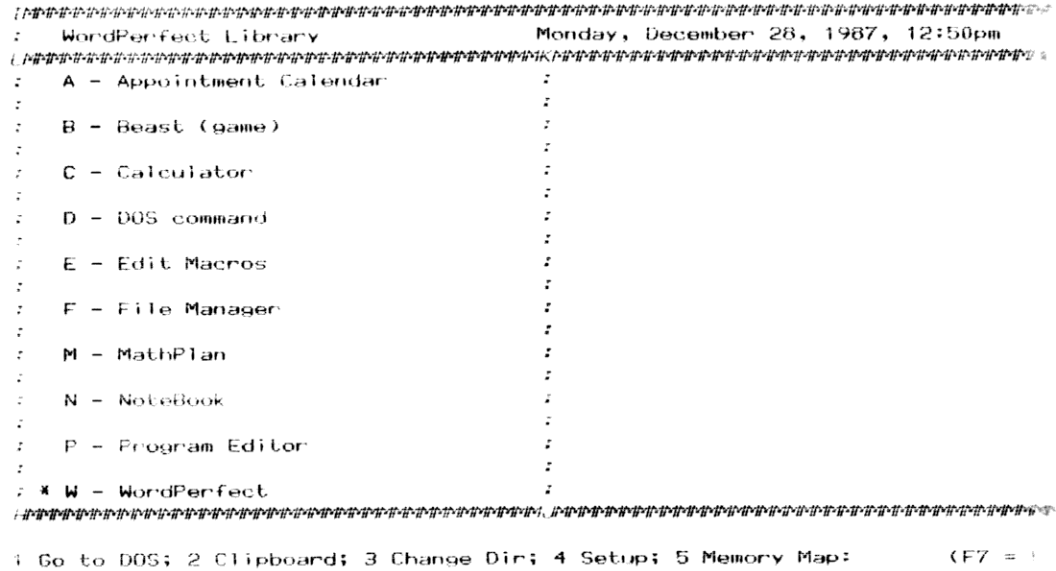
I recently had to fill out some testy forms for small claims cases. As might be expected WP has a typewriter set up. I have seen a dozen of these, but WP has the best. It is also to the point to mention that you're not going to be able to do this with a dot matrix printer, but my Daisywriter complements the WP typewriter mode to perfection.

On to Library. WORD PERFECT Library has a number of features made familiar to us by SIDEKICK and others of the genre. We may start with the omnipresent calender. WP does everything in the plushest way. Here we have; date search, word search, appointments, to-do list, clipboard (for moving information from the calender to other parts of WP), auto-alarm and unique priorities.

The more I see of WP the more I am convinced that they are determined to put out a product so superior to others that they will acquire a near monopoly.

According to the grapevine WP will have an upgrade out in March. This upgrade is supposed to do graphics amongst other things. The version that I am working with (4.2) will, is, using expanded memory. At this moment I have 4 TSR's in the lower megabyte and WP.EXE is resident in expanded memory.

Before I go on, here is the shell menu:



The key word here is shell. I'm having trouble understanding just how the shell works and I have most of my WP files in duplicate taking up a lot of room on the HD. In the next month I'll do enough studying on the shell so that I can understand it and use it. Once I understand it I'll let you know. Here again you see that a really complex word processor, WORDSTAR, MICROSOFT WORD or WORD PERFECT, takes a considerable amount of study to become really proficient. For this reason we see so many people working with outmoded systems. They've just put in too many hours learning "WORD PULVERIZER" to abandon it. In many cases they've learned to get around its deficiencies and have become so adept that they're convinced that there's nothing better.

Nothing has yet beaten ALLWRITE for ease of learning, ease of use and power. Certainly WP is more powerful but that kind of power is seldom needed by most people. The typical secretary or professional writer would not be likely to need a facility not present in ALLWRITE in an entire career.

But on with WORD PERFECT. Herewith the calculator. I'll run down the index to give you an idea how complete it is.

Using the calculator

- Basic calculations lesson
- Displaying numbers
- Memory register
- Tape

- Functions

  - Financial functions

    - Annuities
    - Interest
    - Profit Margin
    - Ordinary Annuities Lesson
    - Annuities Due Lesson
    - Simple Interest Lesson
    - Compound Interest Lesson
    - Profit Margin Lesson

  - Programming Functions

    - Complement
    - Shift and Rotate
    - Two-variable
    - Lesson

  - Scientific Functions

    - General
    - Logarithmic and Exponential
    - Surface area lesson
    - Velocity Lesson

  - Statistical Functions

    - Statistics
    - Standard Deviation
    - Variance
    - Final Exams Lesson

It does seem that this would handle most of your mathematical needs unless you're into heavy engineering of some kind.

We now come to the F word-- File Manager. It does just what its name says, it lists, renames, marks, deletes, locks, (so that

certain files may be read only by the anointed), copies, looks (so that you may glance at the content of a file), selects(which sorts also) by date, and will search for an individual word in a file name.

Notebook is really a mini-database. It may be organized as follows:

NAME HOME PHONE WORK PHONE ADDRESS

or as your fancy dictates.

The introduction explains it best:

"The notebook is a list manager that helps you organize information such as names, addresses and phone numbers for easy access. Information is first entered on individual records that appear much like index cards. Important details such as names and phone numbers from each record can then be displayed on a separate alphabetized list that also serves as an index to each record. If you have a modem the notebook also automatically dials telephone numbers for you."

Individual notebooks may be kept, ie SBUG MEMBERS, GARDEN SOCIETY MEMBERS. The records may be searched by string or by pattern and they may be sorted. They can call it a notebook, I call it a mini-database.

Beast is a game for people who like games. Pass. The only games I like are games I win money at and there aren't any of those. Are there?

The DOS command permits carrying out DOS commands without leaving the shell. If you type >CD±UTIL< for example you do not leave the shell. Any DOS command that does not involve leaving the shell may be performed.

As I have been writing this I have been using the shell for various functions. It's easily learned and as I get used to it, it's going to be very handy. The disadvantage of course is that it's only available when WORD PERFECT is on line. As I said earlier, I don't have it properly installed and I'm certain that the nice people in Orem, Utah would not approve of my patchwork quilt of many colors. Many colors but not many splendored.

MathPlan is not available. This is sold separately and is mostly used by those who can do quadratic equations in their heads.

The Memory Map is fascinating as you will see next month.

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Sunnyvale, Ca 94088

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