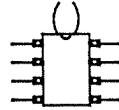


South Bay Users Group

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DYNAMIC MEMORIES

SS

JUNE

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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: June 14th, July 12th and August 9th..

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

COMING EVENTS: A demo of JAVELIN by Chris Oman PLUS a demo of SMART by Henry Schulze. Stunning expositions of two very useful programs.

Please read the editor's bytes for a special announcement.

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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SBUG STEERING COMMITTEE

| TITLE | NAME | USERNAME | PHONE |
|------------|------------------|----------|----------------|
| Chairman: | Chris Oman | OMAN | (408) 985-9460 |
| Treasurer: | Henry Schulze | HENRY | (408) 866-5731 |
| Editor | Joel Lee | EDITOR | (408) 926-3999 |
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| Sysops: | Wright Huntley | WRIGHT | |
| | Jim Gonsalves | | (408) 241-9347 |
| Technik: | Frank Vanslager | | (408) 257-3647 |

OTHER KEY INDIVIDUALS Cover designer: Wright Huntley

Host computer: SBUG ALL (408) 249-8259

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

THE EDITOR'S BYTES AND BITES

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH YOUR COMPUTER?

During the months of June, July and August SBUG will be holding workshops on its regular meeting days. If you have any problem with your hardware bring the offending iron to any of these meetings and the sages of SBUG will put their accumulated years of experience together to resolve your thorny contretemps.

If you have a software problem, a different group of sages will give it the benefits of their most delicate effleurance. Be of good cheer, everything has its resolution.

We will have present for these miraculous ministrations a Model 4 and an MSDOS machine. If your software doesn't run on either of these, please bring your computer.



SBUG Financial Statement
May 20, 1988

| Receipts: | May | Y-T-Date | % Used | Budget |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Members dues | 20.00 | 60.00 | 7.50% | 800.00 |
| Disk Library | 0.00 | 89.00 | 59.33% | 150.00 |
| Load80 | 0.00 | 40.00 | 13.33% | 300.00 |
| Documentation | 0.00 | .00 | .00% | 25.00 |
| Interest | 0.00 | 10.70 * | 42.80% | 25.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 0.00 | 60.00 | 30.00% | 200.00 |
| Total Receipts | 20.00 | 259.70 | 17.31% | 1500.00 |

Disbursements:

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Phone | 7.71 | 65.42 | 43.61% | 150.00 |
| Utilities | 0.00 | .00 | .00% | 120.00 |
| Printing | 0.00 | .00 | .00% | 100.00 |
| Postage | 0.00 | 47.00 | 36.15% | 130.00 |
| P O Box | 0.00 | .00 | .00% | 29.00 |
| Bank charges | 0.00 | .00 | .00% | 24.00 |
| Disk Library | 0.00 | .00 | .00% | 120.00 |
| Documentation | 0.00 | .00 | .00% | 50.00 |
| Load80 Subscription | 0.00 | .00 | .00% | 150.00 |
| SBUG BBS Repairs | 0.00 | .00 | .00% | 100.00 |
| Misc. Expenses | 0.00 | 69.00 | 55.20% | 125.00 |
| Total Disbursements | 7.71 | 181.42 | 16.52% | 1098.00 |
| Beginning Cash Balance | 894.40 | 828.41 | 100.00% | 828.41 |
| Net Receipts | 12.29 | 78.28 | 19.47% | 402.00 |
| Ending Balance | 906.69 | 906.69 | 73.69% | 1230.41 |

*This amount includes \$2.17 received in 1987 but posted in 1988.

COMPUTERS FOR SALE:

TRS80 Model 4 Green Screen with documentation and RS-232
\$300. Contact Geo Olson at 415-785-2162

TRS80 Model 3 Standard (no RS-232) Bargain \$55.
Contact Bernie Thompson at (408) 867-7455. Manual included.

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IT'S NOT COMPLETELY BUTTONED UP

May 10, 1988

Joel R. Lee
1585 Marburg Way #B 4
San Jose, CA 95133

Jim Button
BottonWare, Inc.
P.O. Box 5786
Bellevue, WA 98006

Dear Jim

I recently received a letter advising me of an update to my current PC-FILE+ version 1.0. In the past I have purchased your upgrades and certainly the version I now work with is a considerable improvement on previous versions. Nevertheless I did not wish to purchase the new upgrade for a very specific reason.

I work with two databases, yours and Borland's REFLEX. REFLEX is very fast and powerful. It's also a bit testy to set up, especially for the report function. I do my quick and dirty stuff with PC-FILE+ because there is no need to leaf through the manual as there is with REFLEX; trying to remember functions that I use every 3 months, give or take a month or two.

Recently I ran into a problem with PC-FILE+. I was keeping track of hours for occasional workers. It was the simplest sort of thing, no complications at all. However, what I wanted to do was to erase the data for each pay period, conserving only the names of the employees and the data base format. It just didn't work. Apparently there is some kind of hook that remains after the data files are erased, because when I ran the report using the old names they would pick up the old >erased< data.

Specifically, what I wished to do to save input time was to erase the DTA file and if necessary the HDR file, conserving the INX file. I tried it both ways.

Your utilities function deletes them all leaving no option but to start the data base all over instead of being able to enter new information using the INX file. With REFLEX and other databases I have used, that was not the case. I tried erasing the DTA and HDR files with DOS and with a utility, but to no avail

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The information I put into the new DTA files was either corrupted or I got the information from the old DTA files.

I am enclosing a SASE for your reply which I would very much appreciate.

Sincerely

Joel R. Lee

Enc. 1
Cc DYNAMIC MEMORIES (user group newsletter)
cc files



WORD PERFECTING

I did (I did indeed) send in my \$60.00 via Visa card so that WORD PERFECT would send me the 5.0 update. I'll start with a major gripe. It is a federal law that credit card orders may not be charged to the card until the merchandise has been dispatched.

WORD PERFECT has collected my money but they haven't even said "Thank you." Zilch. On other occasions when this has happened I have promptly notified the bank and have not paid. In this case I have attempted to call WP on the 800 number they supplied on the postcard notifying me that my update was being sent out. Another resounding Z-I-L-C-H. Busier than a bird dog in a hen house. The trouble with me is that I WANT the update. Well, my great grandmother warned me not to get into computing. And her husband warned me not to buy mail order.

I have read a number of reviews of the WP update besides watching an exhibition at the faire. The best review I have seen so far is in PC WORLD. It is entitled "WORD PERFECT DESKTOP PUBLISHER" and is written by Ralph Blodgett. Blodgett is the

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author of 2 books on WP and gives the best synthesis of the changes I have seen yet. Below you will find some quotes from his article.

"Word Perfect 5.0 is no Pagemaker, but the new release of the popular word processor crosses the line between word processing and desktop publishing."

"If you've been hoping for better graphics support, you're in luck. Version 5.0 imports images created in PC PAINT, PUBLISHER'S PAINTBRUSH, DR. HALO II, and WINDOWS PAINT, as well as CGM metafiles, HPGL plotter files. 1-2-3's and SYMPHONY.PIC files, GEM files and TIFF scanner files.

"Imported images can be resized horizontally or vertically, cropped and even rotated--a capability missing from high-end desktop publishing programs such as VENTURA PUBLISHER and PAGEMAKER."

"As in VENTURA PUBLISHER, text flows around images automatically. You will be able to specify that a given section of text and graphics remain together; if you later decide to modify the layout, the text and graphics unit will still be linked.

"When it's time to take a look at your document, you will be able to preview images and fonts on a single page or on two facing pages, either full-size or magnified 200 percent.--"

"Word Perfect boosts font support dramatically. In addition to bold, italic, outline and shadow, superscript, subscript, small caps, redline, strikeout and single- and double-underline font styles, version 5.0 provides six automatically formatting fonts; fine, small, regular, large very large, and extra large.--"

"Desktop publishing tools are not Word Perfect's only improvements. The menus will let you select many items by using mnemonics such as G for GRAPHIC. With version 5.0 you will be able to use up to 1500 different characters compared to the old ASCII limit of 256. Several new character sets are now supported, including Greek, Hebrew, math and Symbol."

I spend a good part of my waking hours wiping the saliva off my generous chin. Can we hope that your July newsletter will be turned out by WP 5.0? Presently I write the newsletter in WP 4.2. soell check it. save it in ASCII then use QDOS to take it

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over to FIRST PUBLISHER. It's an awkward and time consuming process and sometimes in the transition I make mistakes I wouldn't make if there weren't a transition. Maybe I wouldn't.

There are a couple of points not mentioned above. Fonts are awkward to access in 4.2 but easy in 5.0 as I saw at the faire. In addition the reviews say that WP is including extra fonts from BITSTREAM. My Epson is limited to Roman and Sans Serif in elite, pica and compressed mode. Using my NICEPRINT program I have access to more but NICEPRINT is not always that easy. Under 5.0 I will be able to use macros mnemonically written and wow! Pardon me while I get a clean handkerchief, the other one's soaked.

REQUIEM FOR A LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT

We all received the news at the same time. BOMICRO is dead. The signs of approaching departure were there for all to see, but it still comes as a shock. Even though I was planning to drop my subscription which ends in March 1989, it still comes as a shock.

BOMICRO was a good and faithful friend and companion to many of us for many years. One question lingers, why couldn't they make the turn into the MSDOS era? Up until the last there were good articles although their departments had weakened. One of the things they lacked was a controversial writer of the style of Dvorak. Dvorak writes a lot of piffle but even his piffle is interesting. Perhaps they should have hired me. I can write piffle with the best of them. But that's another story.

Ciao, BOMICRO. I don't know where the good magazines go when they die but wherever it is you are surely there. I'll leave a crumpled page from DYNAMIC MEMORIES on your tomb next March.

And that's a sobering thought. DYNAMIC MEMORIES has lasted longer than BOMICRO. Undoubtedly due to the brilliance of its editors.

SIDEKICK KICKS IN

I have in hand a brochure from Borland touting the latest version of SIDEKICK. SIDEKICK was a revolutionary application. I think only VISICALC had a greater influence on microcomputers. Surely ten thousand programs have followed the TSR (Terminate and Stay Resident) path blazed by SIDEKICK. Even though it is balky and interfered with with other programs it was, is one of the biggest sellers of all time. I can't use it. It doesn't matter if I load it first, load it last or load it

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sideways, it gets in the way of other programs, sometimes hangs up the computer and is thoroughly guaranteed to infuriate me.

Presenting >>SIDEKICK PLUS<<, The Professional Desktop Manager. Some quotes (with my comments attached) from the very slick brochure.

"You don't think about just one thing at a time. Your mind races from one project to another and from one concept to another." [Every time my mind starts racing it falls on its misconception.]

"It's a powerful new professional desktop manager with seven super-charged productivity tools that work together to help focus your creativity..

"While you work on the Great American Business Plan, it does your calculations, lets you incorporate data from your notepad, and can even move files back and forth between applications, all without leaving the application you're working on!

"You can set up SideKick Plus to stand by quietly in the background or you can live in it, using all your applications in the SideKick Plus environment, it's all up to you. Set up your own menu system, function keys, and shortcuts with three or four simple keystrokes. Use SideKicks Plus as either a DOS or RAM resident application. You won't outgrow it because it changes right along with your needs..

"Add computer power to your telephone
The Phonebook

"Stretching your productivity can shorten your day
The Time Planner

"Think up nine brilliant ideas at once, then pin them down
The Notepad

"Dissolve the boundaries between files and applications
The Clipboard

"Focus your creativity
Outlook: The Outline Processor

"Add it up four ways
The Calculator
The Business Calculator

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The Scientific Calculator
The Programmer Calculator
The Formula Calculator

"Make your operating system friendly
The File Manager

Find symbols fast
The ASCII Table

"Serious organization for just [hold your breath kids, the roller coaster's starting down hill. Ed \$195.00."

I am a sucker for applications and programs that will cook the chili-con-carne and clean the toilet bowl. Later on in this newsletter I will prove that (if you had any lingering doubts.) But \$195.00 for a new SIDEKICK? So it's the ultimate in TSR's. I don't care if it's got muscles in its ASCII, they aren't going to get \$195.00 out of me.

There's one little, teensy point the brochure ignores. Does it still want to be king of the hill and jam up all kinds of other applications? Does it still make you wear out the reboot keys before their time? You can bet it does. If they had changed that part the brochure would have said so. It doesn't.

One of the reasons I was so interested in the 386 and later DESQview was the possibility (naively, I thought certainly) of running such badly behaved programs as SIDEKICK without interruption. With 2 Meg of memory shouldn't they be able to live in harmony? Uh-uh. I know that SIDEKICK uses an interrupt to be called up, an interrupt that other programs need as well, and that SIDEKICK takes possession of it and won't let it go. Such being the case you can have 32 Meg of memory and if other programs need the same interrupt you've got the same problem.

I just loaded SIDEKICK then went to DESQview. SIDEKICK wouldn't work while I was in DESQview. I left DESQview and SIDEKICK wouldn't come up. Not only that, between the two of them they had done something to the caps key, it wouldn't toggle. I had to do a warm reboot to make it toggle. To avoid all this it is necessary to run the SIDEKICK installation program, SKINST.COM and change the primary activate key sequence from Ctrl-Alt to (for example) Left-shift/Right-shift. It turns out that I have SIDEKICK version 1.11A and DV works only with SK version 1.5 up. I haven't found any way to change the activate key sequence in this version.

DESQview's manual tells you to load memory resident programs via DESQview and

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run them in a screen-sized window. I tried SIDEKICK again from DESQview and it worked fine from a DV window, but what do you gain with that? The bliss of using SIDEKICK is pressing Ctrl-Alt and looking at the calendar or the ASCII table or whatever. Here are the keystrokes:

Tap Alt-- DESQview gives a list of loadable programs

Hit Page down --The menu lands on SIDEKICK

Hit Enter--SIDEKICK is loaded

Tap Alt--The DV menu is loaded

Type Z (for Zoom)--SIDEKICK becomes full screen

Type whatever function key brings up your desired SIDEKICK utility--Calendar, Calculator, etc. And there you are! Ain't it wonderful?! Of course anything that is brought up in SIDEKICK may be captured and taken to any other program.

Now let's go back

Esc

Tap Alt

Type C (for close window)

DV asks you YES?

Enter

You're back!

They say that in 1901 it was quicker to go from 111th street to the Battery (we're talking about New York City) by horse and buggy than it is today by automobile. If you've made that trip you can believe it. The comparison is apt. Don't use SIDEKICK and DESQview, walk over to the desk calendar or take your calculator out of your pocket.

The other day I did try capturing material from REFLEX and taking it over to WORD PERFECT with DESQview. I found it easy. If that's the case it must be easy.

SOME THINGS I WISH I COULD DO AND CAN'T

I have two programs languishing on my hard disk (languishing on a hard disk, that may be a first) that I badly want to use and can't. MONEY COUNTS is a bookkeeping system for small businesses and personal accounting that sells for \$16.00. I've put in some hours on it and am convinced it is worth a lot more time which is what I need to do to learn it. I don't see anyway that a competent bookkeeping program can be simple, not if you want to keep track of all your checks and maintain separate accounts, split checks and the sort of organization of expenditures and earnings that one expects of this sort of program. In other words, there's nothing wrong with MONEY COUNTS that I can't cure with study. An accountant would probably master it in a couple of hours. I shudder to think how long it's going to

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take me..

From MONEY COUNTS to CCS DESIGNER--COMPLETE PC CAD SYSTEM. Here I have some reservations. I have an uneasy feeling that this is not a very good CAD system. For one thing the manual is sketchy. As the designer and inventor of the 3 manual approach to learning programs I expect manuals to be at least 2 inches thick. Anything under that is deficient, not up to standard. The manual for CCS DESIGNER is less than 1/2 an inch thick. Frightening.

I've played with it a little bit and most of it is easy enough. What I want to do would be easy for a civil engineer. I am occasionally civil, I don't qualify for the rest. I want to draw plans, similar to a blue print, of the various courtyards that comprise this apartment complex, indicating fire extinguishers, gas shut off lines, hose bibs, fire hydrants and all the erceteras. All this is simple enough and there is no doubt that the CCS can do it. Can I do it? With the aid of the symbol libraries I probably will be able to do it eventually, once again after a good many hours of study. There is one aspect that I know is going to give me some gargantuan headaches.

Let us presume that a triangle is drawn. Let us say that the hypotenuese of the triangle is not visible on the screen because it is too large for the screen. It is in memory however, and will print out on paper. It is going to take some calculations of a kind I'm not used to, to figure out just how the drawings I do are going to fit on the paper and what the relation between screen and paper is.

Mouse. E-e-eek. My mouse was installed for me by Henry Schulze. I have been trying to use it on FIRST PUBLISHER. I have had a notable lack of success. I can click on the top icons but when I try to move the mouse I lose the icons from the screen. It would help if I read the manuals. FIRST PUBLISHER and CCS DESIGNER are specifically written to work with a mouse and I have references to the effect that terrifically rapid and precise work can be done with these two programs using a mouse. I will have to get together with the Maestro of Mice, Henry Schulze so that he can put me at ease with the animal kingdom.

PERFECT SHAME ON YOU



May 16, 1988

Joel R. Lee

1585 Marburg Way #B 4

San Jose, CA 95133

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JUNE

Word Perfect Corporation
1555 North Technology Way
Orem, UT 84057

UPDATE #543.1552033 88

Dear Persons

I requested my update some time ago. You have made the charge to my credit card and have sent me nothing, which as you are well aware is a no-no. I have nothing to show for my \$60.00 and I am getting to the point where I am about to do something about it. I have made numerous attempts to speak with the telephone number given on the postcard dated the 20th of April, which acknowledged my order. I get nothing but a busy signal.

I do expect something to be done about this and I do expect an answer to this letter.

Not very cordially

Joel R. Lee

cc files

STILL IN THE CLOSET

I was just looking through the abandoned software programs on my shelves, trying to figure out what went wrong, why DID I abandon these programs once so full of glossy promise, of powerful aids to my progress in computing? The answers are as varied as the programs.

ABLE-ONE an integrated program. It just never seemed to offer much. I used the spreadsheet a couple of times and never went back it.

TORNADO NOTES. This one puzzles me. It is a random note taker, ram resident. All the reviewers agree that it is easy, powerful and handy. I tried it a few times and just couldn't get the hang of it. When I read the ads it seemed like something I had always wanted. Once I got it I just didn't seem to generate as many random thoughts as I thought I did. I might go at it again sometime. Randomly.

The Basic Cookbook, 2nd Edition. It didn't cost much and I bought it on impulse. All of us have written an occasional quick and dirty basic program for something odd we were doing. (If you never do odd things just skip this) I thought that having it

on my bookshelf would save me time looking up things for my long forgotten Basic.

PROGRAMMING EXAMPLE

(from The Basic Cookbook)

```
10 REM THIS PROGRAM DEMONSTRATES
20 REM THE RND FUNCTION
30 PRINT "THIS PROGRAM ROLLS DICE"
40 LET J=INT(6*RND)+1
50 LET K=INT(6*RND)+1
60 "THE DICE ARE ";J;" AND ";K"
70 END
```

You might have some fun with that if you were really desperate and lonely. Aside from this quote from The Basic Cookbook, 2nd Edition, I've never used it.

INTUIT is an integrated program that dances to a different fifer. It offers: Spreadsheet, mail merge, database manager, directory and file manager, forms and reports generator, word processor and line graphics generator. Some day, some day soon, (I keep saying), I'll get to work with this. It has no resemblance to other integrated programs, nevertheless I want the experience of working with such. They've never really attracted my attention but they're out there and I am remiss in not working with one, at least for the experience.

386MAX. This I must bring back from the closet. I just noticed that it is advertised to work with DESQview 2.01. Somehow I have always felt that 386MAX is better than QUARTERDECK EMM386. I'll let you know about this one.

PC-DESK. I took this off my hard disk rather reluctantly. I had it set up so that my autoexec took me directly to the reminder every day when I first booted up the computer. PC-DESK is really a very well organized environment. It includes: name and address database, calendar/reminder system, auto dialer, mail merge, clock/alarm, client billing log, telephone usage log, Rolodex card printer, automatic file and retrieve, DOS functions, full featured word processor, printing calculator, personal address and phone book, security encryption/decription, to do list, expense log, label & envelope printer and sort/select/search. it is memory resident and fully integrated.

As I said, it is really an environment. You could disappear into this and never come out. Does one wish to? For it to really be useful one would have to transfer most records to PC-DESK. Even though I tried several of its functions and they worked easily and well I am not going to give up WORD PERFECT or REFLEX. When used as a

memory resident utility it swallows up all remaining memory none is left for other programs.

Sudden thought. Could I use it from DESQview? That would let me pop into and out of PC-DESK easily, taking advantage of its speed and integration. I'll try it. Soon. Soon.

GOFER. This was another program that I was sure I would be using all the time. I had purchased another, similar program called RETRIEVER which ran out of memory when I got a little careless. GOFER doesn't do that.

At that time I was always misplacing files. You know the kind of thing, did I send a letter to Mr. Goniff on the fifth of May or did I send a postcard to Mr. May on the fifth of Goniff? Who was it I wrote to about posthumous, subcutaneous exsanguination? GOFER will take care of that kind of thing. It is a very competent, quick, search program. Since I got GOFER I don't seem to lose files and phrases any more. Gofer is in the closet.

WHAT'S NEW AND COMING ON STRONG

At least according to the computer magazines. CD-ROM has to be the most interesting thing. APPLE it seems is already out with a CD-ROM drive. The price: \$1199.00.

CD-ROM's importance cannot be exaggerated. One disk will hold up to 600 megabytes the equivalent of 1500 floppies or a quarter million pages of text. CD-ROM cuts across boundaries. Can you imagine an encyclopedia on a disk with appropriate sounds and illustrations? A pronouncing (really) dictionary? Wouldn't you like to hand the tax auditor a disk and let him go through your last seven tax years all by himself. (Well, maybe you would and maybe you wouldn't). All those little scraps of paper you used to chase around the house looking for would be facsimilied onto the CD-ROM.

Small businesses, big businesses, government, science all will benefit from this mega-expansion of recording knowledge and keeping records. It is a true quantum leap. As always what we can imagine will only be part of the benefits. Someone(s) always comes up with new approaches, new ways to take advantage of such an advance. If the starting price is \$1199.00 then you know that there is a CD-ROM in your future.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL