

README.DOC

A monthly newsletter of the Orange Coast IBM PC User Group \$2.00

OCIPUG General Meeting: August 27, 1988

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 AST, Grafx, and Zenographics demonstrate
 the State of the Art

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GENERAL INFORMATION

README.DOC is published monthly by the ORANGE COAST IBM PC USER GROUP, P. O. Box 6100-211, Costa Mesa, CA 92628. The group's recorded message phone number is (714) 898-7998.

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Articles may be submitted via modem to the OCIPUG BBS, on paper or on an IBM format diskette (5-1/4" 360kB format preferred). We will accept them in any of several formats, although we strongly prefer "pure ASCII" files. Other acceptable formats include DCA-RFT, Microsoft Word, Multimate, WordPerfect and Wordstar. Submissions on paper should be double-spaced and typed. All items submitted for publication are subject to editing.

DEADLINE

Articles and advertising must be received by the twentieth (20th) of the month prior to publication.

ADVERTISING

All advertisements must be camera ready and prepaid; rates and deadlines for commercial advertisements are available on request.

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Members are allowed to place an advertisement for personal items in the *README.DOC* newsletter at no cost. There will be a limit to the amount of advertising placed in the newsletter. All submissions will be placed on a first come, first served basis.

Commercial advertisements, from members and others, is also welcomed. For information concerning advertising rates and requirements, contact:

Steven Dela (714) 775-8373 or write to Advertising Manager, OCIPUG, P. O. Box 6100-211, Costa Mesa, CA 92628.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the ORANGE COAST IBM PC USER GROUP is to provide a forum for members to share information and experiences that will help other members obtain maximum benefit and enjoyment from the use of their IBM PC and compatible personal computers.

TRADEMARKS

The mention of the names of various products in this publication without indication of Trademark or Registered Trade Mark status does not imply that these products are not so protected by law.

OCIPUG General Meeting: August 27, 1988

Video Display Hardware and Software

AST, Grafx, and Zenographics demonstrate the State of the Art

Dan Likins, Program Organizer

A.S.T. Research will demonstrate their recently announced VGA-Plus controller card. Roger Andelin, a product specialist with the company in charge of graphic display products, was at our January meeting where he presented AST's Bank Switched Memory products. That program was very well received and we expect the August meeting to be equally entertaining and informative.

Assisting him in the presentation will be Doug Zeffer, one of the partners in a 2 yr. old company in San Juan Capistrano called the Grafx Group. Its senior partner, Doug Wolfram, may be known to some of you as the author of PC Paint and GRASP. The latter product, which is now marketed by the Paul Mace company, will be demonstrated by Doug Zeffer. Mr. Zeffer is 29 yrs. old and has been in this area for 8 years. He has worked for the Navy, Ford Aerospace, and is now a Graphic Consultant as well as a cartoonist. The Grafx Group does computer based art and animation for such well known

AST's Roger
Andelin talks about
VGA-Plus &
Grafx's Doug
Zeffer and
Zenographics'
Marcela Widrig
show GRASP and
PIXIE.

companies as AST, Toshiba, Ashton-Tate, Video-7, Seiko, Western Digital, and Hercules.

After the break, Marcela Widrig of Zenographics will demonstrate a product called *Pixie*. Corporate level Presentation Graphics is the target market for this package and it is used by many Fortune 500 companies.

Zenographics was founded in 1981 by its current president, Bob Romney. The first product, named *Mirage*, was shipped in 1984. In 1988, at NCGA, they introduced *Pixie*. It creates BAR, PIE, LINE and other popular styles of graphs and charts and competes with well known packages such as those from Harvard Graphics. *Pixie* runs on the IBM PC and compatibles and soon will run on the Macintosh, too.

Look for an extra special meeting this month! Don't forget that the general meeting is a great place to pick up a new program for your collection from the club library. If you have the library list, you may order a selection directly from Bonnie Ulanovsky, our librarian at (714) 646-5230. Be sure to give her a few days to prepare your order.

Finally, for your entertainment and enrichment, don't miss the grand raffle and drawing. We can expect that this month, as in the past, those companies making presentations will have prizes for our RAFFLE. You must be present in order to qualify. Come early for best seat selection.

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Westminster (714) 841-4994

The Orange Coast IBM PC User Group thanks these companies
for their sponsorship. Their support enables us to serve you better.
If you would like more information on this program, please call Steven Dela at 775-8373.

Editorials

*John M. Goodman, Ph.D.
Editor*

There is something wonderful about working with a group like OCIPUG and I would like to share it with you.

What I find most rewarding is finding several others who work along side me. Dan Likins put it very well in his article last month when he said, "The Best Way to Get is Through Giving."

There are never enough volunteers to make all the work easy, but there are plenty to make me feel hopeful about our club and happy to be one of your officers.

In this issue you will see the handiwork of our two newest newsletter staff members. John Lunsford gave yoeman service, assisting me in editing and designing this issue. Kevin Knoepp shared generously, not only of his knowledge of Ventura Publisher, but also of his time in helping us create the page layouts you are reading. In future months I expect that both of them will play even more central roles in this journal's production.

This month, as in each previous month, many of our articles carry familiar bylines, but we also are pleased to welcome some new authors. This month we have pieces by new-comers William Bonneycastle and Max Lockie. Welcome and keep it up, please.

It is harrowing in the extreme to publish a newsletter if you don't have a considerable supply of articles held in reserve. We started the year without *any*. Slowly we are building up a stock. From this supply you will be seeing several more new bylines in the months to come.

I invite you to join us. You don't have to be a polished writer. We have other volunteers (primarily our Copy Editor and the Associate Editors) who will work their magic on your text, helping show off your ideas in the best possible light.

Enough about the newsletter for now.

If I may be permitted in this space to slip on my Vice-President's hat for a moment, I would like to welcome two of our staunchest supporters and hardest workers to official membership on the Board of Directors. Bonnie Ulanovsky and Dan Likins were

appointed by Stan Sabin and the appointments enthusiastically endorsed by the rest of the Board at its last meeting. Both Dan and Bonnie have for some time been unofficial members in that they have been attending the Board meetings regularly, Bonnie for a very long time in her capacity as our club's Librarian, and Dan for a shorter time simply as a concerned member.

Some of you look at us who work so hard and ask yourselves why. We, knowing the rewards we get from our work, wonder why you do not join us.



I hope you will.

Tim Smith Memorial Fund

The Board of Directors has voted to establish a permanent scholarship fund in honor of Timothy William Smith, our late Program Chairman.

Tim believed in education and we think we can create no finer memorial for him than this.

The funds we receive will be accounted for separately from the rest of OCIPUG's money. A permanent record will be kept listing all the donors. It is our intention to use only a portion of the earnings from this fund for the scholarship each year, reserving a portion to help the fund grow in size. Only in that way can we be sure it will, in fact, be a permanent fund. Also, this will allow the fund to grow in

size and importance with each passing year.

The scholarship will be awarded to a deserving student pursuing studies in computer science, most likely at Orange Coast College.

Donations to this fund, we are assured, will be tax-deductible under current federal law.

The establishment of this fund was announced at the July General Meeting and contributions solicited. If you wish to contribute, you may do so by mailing a check payable to the "OCIPUG Tim Smith Memorial Fund" to our P. O. Box (see back cover or inside front cover).

Tim's gifts to us of his time and talent were great. We intend to do no less for others in remembrance of him.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Stan H. Sabin
President, OCIPUG*

I would like to thank all the members of the club who have been so kind in helping out this past month. With the untimely passing on of our dear friend Tim Smith there has been even more extra work for the members of the Program committee and the Executive Board. Also due to some vacations, etc. some more extra duties have had to be undertaken by other members of the club.

When I started to list the names of those who had filled extra assignments this past month I suddenly realized that I would be listing the entire Executive Board. Everyone helped! Please remember to thank them the next time you see one of them.

Didn't John Goodman do a great job as Editor of *README.DOC* for the July issue? He stepped in on short notice and despite his other responsibilities as Vice President and Co-Sysop with Richard Sabin of our Bulletin Board, he filled in on a moment's notice and supervised the production of the July newsletter.

We would like to thank Mike Brinda of New Horizons for allowing us to meet at his facility for many of our SIG meetings. They will be moving into new quarters soon and with that move conditions make it impossible after August 31st for us to continue holding meetings there. I want everyone to know that Mike has been very cooperative in allowing us to share the use of his facility as a public service and that we wish him well in his new undertaking. He is expanding his operation and will need more flexibility in scheduling his new classes, etc. Good Luck Mike and thanks from all of us!

Obviously, we will need to locate new places for our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) that have been meeting at New Horizons. We have for some time had a desire to find a "place of our own" where most of our SIGs would be able to meet regularly, a place where we could store our equipment and which would be available whenever we wanted to have a meeting. In that context we have had several members of the Executive Board and other club members looking for a favorable site that we could afford, with adequate parking, reasonable geographical location, appropriate physical characteristics, etc. The club has been growing so fast we knew that soon, with all the new SIGs we have been adding, we would need a permanent site. We have a couple of locations under consideration, but want to try to explore all the various positive and negative aspects of each location. Hopefully we will shortly solidify the situation.

This will not happen overnight. If we decided on a place today there would still be leases to negotiate, many physical modifications to be made, equipment to locate, and many other things to do. In the meantime we still need to locate temporary meeting sites. Unfortunately these may not be as suitable as we would desire, but we hope that you all will help and bear with us till we can get in to a more permanent location. For a few months we may have to meet in private homes, community centers, vendor meeting rooms, or wherever we can. It may not be the same place each month during the interim period.

We have been fortunate enough to secure at least temporary use of a classroom at Val Com Professional Systems for those SIGs that were meeting at New Horizons. This is a computer center next to Advanced Computer Products on Edinger in Santa Ana. Thank you ACP and thank you Tom Freeman.

During this transition phase it will be



**Stan H. Sabin
OCIPUG President**

critical that you all call either the message center answering machine or the Bulletin Board for the latest word on time and location of the SIGs you want to attend.

I know that this further complicates things but we have decided to add two new SIGs that many of you have been requesting: a Microsoft WORD sig and a WINDOWS/Pagemaker SIG. By the time you read this they may already be in operation. We are trying to add as many SIGs as you the members want and will attend and support.

We will be selecting nominees for the coming OCIPUG elections this month so if you haven't already, let me know that you would like to serve as an officer or director for next year. Please let me know as soon as possible. Or if you would just like to serve on one of the committees let me know. We do not want this to be a closed "clique," but want everyone to participate for the benefit of all. So jump in, help and learn. Happy computing!!



Here's OCI!

John Goodman

Back in January of this year some of us on the *README.DOC* staff were brainstorming, trying to find a suitable means of indicating the end of articles in the newsletter. Someone proposed a small black square; someone else suggested that we make it an image of a diskette.

Sitting quietly on the fringe of this conversation was Don Taylor. I don't recall that he said much at all, but a few days later he shared with us some cartoons he had drawn. One of them was of "OCI," the pug.

You may have noticed him before. He has shown up at the end of many, if not all, of our articles since our February issue.

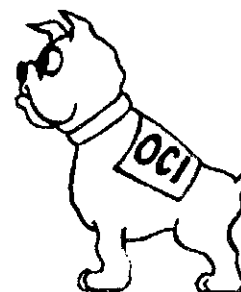
We discussed introducing him versus just letting you get to know him as you might a neighborhood dog. "Surely everyone will understand what and who he is," someone said, "after all, you can see he is a pug and his blanket says OCI." "Oh yeah?" another retorted, "I don't know one kind of dog from another and I bet a lot of our members don't either."

I finally decided it was time to break the silence.

Here's OCI!

His primary job is helping you know when you have reached the end of an article. Beyond that I hope he will bring a small smile to your lips.

Thank you, Don.



General Meeting Report

July topic: Intuit's Quicken

Bill Bonnycastle

President Stan Sabin opened the meeting at 9:08 with a welcome to new members. His comments were followed by a number of announcements.

- Steve Dela asked members interested in working on the club newsletter to speak with him; he was particularly interested in copy editing, advertising and publicity.
- Paul Curtis announced there would be a group photograph taken at the September meeting, probably in Le Bard Stadium. The photograph will be offered to Microsoft and others for use in their publicity. Paul expressed the hope that all members who could possibly make it would be there.

- Stan Sabin announced that with our increasing membership there is a need for a larger place for our general meeting as well as more space for our Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings. He said further there would be two new SIGs, one for Microsoft's Windows and one for Word.

- Dave Lorenzini announced that the Steering committee was looking for members interested in being on the board or serving as officers in the club as new elections are coming up in October.

A touching tribute was given to Tim Smith, who passed away suddenly last month. His picture was projected on the front wall while Paul Curtis read a memorial tribute, after which he announced the formation of a perpetual scholarship fund in Tim's honor. Later, in a short ceremony Tim's wife Penny was given a life badge to the club, a t-shirt Tim had ordered, (one of

the first three ordered) and a copy of the July *README.DOC* as memorial tokens of Tim's many valuable contributions to the club and its members. Information about contributions

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to the scholarship fund is in another article.

Bonnie Ulanovsky next gave her report on various new disks and versions she has available for us in the library.

The main program was introduced by Richard Sabin; the subject was Quicken, the

Thirteen Winners in Thirteen Minutes

Dan Likins

Our raffles have been getting better and better. July's was no exception. From 11:55 to 12:08 (just thirteen minutes) we gave away 13 prizes from 6 different sources. Our winners started with member number 0004 (Bonnie Ulanovsky, who happens to be our club's librarian) and included Fred Strauch who had joined OCIPUG that day as member number 1180.

I'm sure we would all like to thank our raffle sponsors for their generous donations.

INTUIT donated three copies of their program QUICKEN (which was the subject of our main presentation for the day). These were won by Bonnie Ulanovsky (#0004), Gary Rawlings (#0526) and Victor Camfield (#0574).

EGGHEAD Software, on Bristol St. in Santa Ana, donated two T-Shirts. They were won by Richard Villa

(#0150), Desktop Publishing SIG coordinator, and Thurman Wade (#0012). EGGHEAD also donated two computer games. Marco Giammarinaro (#1064) won a Baseball Game and Katherine Thomson (#0364), past coordinator of the WordPerfect SIG, won an Ice Hockey game.

Toshiba computer products division has donated some very nice "Executive Folders," the kind of thing that leaves a very business-like impression with clients. Two of these were raffled off this month and two more will be raffled each month until we run out. The winners this month were Tony Zannini (#0763) and Richard Wells (#1004).

A.S.T. Research donated a collectors item: a T-Shirt announcing the introduction of their 386 based System and the coincident drop in the price of IBM stock by 30% (back on "Black Monday" in October, 1987). This coveted prize went to club member Robert Elder (#0273). Be sure to attend the August general meeting, where A.S.T. will be one of the featured speakers, and see what great prizes they bring along.

Steve Gibson (Gibson Research) sweetened the pot with a couple of copies of his now famous SpinRite program. These were taken home by Max Lockie (#0750)

and Joseph Farber (#0011). Steve has offered to assist us, through his industry contacts, in acquiring prizes for future raffles. When Steve Gibson speaks, people listen. THANKS Steve.

Finally, Dave Lorenzini donated a copy of AUTOSKETCH - the beginners version of AUTOCAD. Dave is an AUTOCAD dealer and the Designated Guru for this club's CAD SIG. New member Fred Strauch (#1180) won this prize. Not bad for your first day as a club member, was it Fred?

As members of OCIPUG we need to show our thanks, in a tangible way, to those that supply our raffle prizes. Make a point of saying thanks next time you are in their store or talking to a customer service rep. The more visible our club the more likely we are to have really nice prizes. Oh, and be sure to be at the general meeting with your dues paid, the next winner could be you!



number one seller on personal finance in the U.S. The program was explained and demonstrated by dapper and quick-witted engineer Carl Reese from Intuit Software, the producers of Quicken.

He explained how Intuit Software

Recently Steve Gibson received DOS 4.0. He summed his reaction to it by noting that it took another 10KB, but didn't give much in return. DOS 4.0 is incompatible with Compaq DOS 3.31's method of handling large disk partitions and it may well cause a problem with TSR's, so he suggested we will probably stay with DOS 3.3 for awhile.

surveyed the market and found that the 43 financial programs then on the market had a lot of features most people didn't use but did not do well the one thing that almost everyone does, write checks to pay bills. This, said Mr. Reese, is the thing that Quicken does very well. It does not have, as he said, a lot of "bells and whistles", but he said it will write one's checks in half the time any other program takes and it will, as he demonstrated, make much of the task of paying regular bills almost automatic.

After going over the main features of Quicken, Carl answered questions until Stan had to cut off discussion as we were running out of time.

After the break, Dave Carroll went over the SIG schedule and asked that contributors to README.DOC get their articles in as soon as possible but no later than the 20th of the month, which is the deadline for contributions.

The main speaker in the second half of

The one thing that Quicken does very well and which most other financial packages do not do is write checks to pay bills.

the program was Steve Gibson, well known not only as a writer for *InfoWorld* and creator of SpinRite and as an amusing speaker as well. Among other interesting and varied topics, Steve passed around a keyboard which in his judgment had just the right feel and sound (similar to one available through Northgate). Here is a selective summary of Steve's comments.

Recently he received DOS 4.0, and summed it up by noting that it took another

10K but didn't give much in return. Apparently 4.0 is incompatible with Compaq DOS 3.31's method of handling large disk partitions and it may well cause a problem with TSR's, so he suggested we will probably stay with DOS 3.3 for awhile.

Steve talked at some length about Expanded and Extended memory and how some programs are using some of the memory area above 640K, which is partially reserved for video, controllers, etc. He had a lot of interesting things to say about a new Microsoft driver, XMS, as well as other varied and sundry items about memory and ways it is being expanded by the latest hardware and software.

A description was given of Steve's Dream Machine and what it would consist of, including video board, display, main board, etc.

The last part of the program, excluding the raffle, was Random Access during which questions were answered by Paul Curtis and Steve Gibson.

All in all it was an instructive and amusing meeting; you missed something worthwhile if you weren't there.



Make the Scene and Be Seen

At the September General Meeting we will be taking a photo of all who are in attendance. Microsoft has given us a book on DOS, a copy of which will be given to each person in the photo.

The picture will be given to Microsoft and it will be used by the club in other ways to promote our organization. Only good things can come of it for all of us. We hope to be able to send each member his or her own personal copy of the photo. The details for this are still being arranged.

Help us help ourselves. Be a famous personage. Be there.



Library Corner

LIBRARY NOTES

Bonnie Ulanovsky, Librarian

The shareware segment of the August 27 General Meeting will be devoted to a demonstration of AUTOMENU, a very popular and professional shareware menuing program written by Marshall Magee. Mr. Magee wrote AUTOMENU while still an undergraduate. His program became a star immediately, alongside Jim Button's PC-FILE and Bob Wallace's PC-WRITE. Marshall Magee is now president of the Association of Shareware Professionals (ASP), and heads his own company, Magee Enterprises, located in Norcross, Georgia. Many of us have seen ads for AUTOMENU and were impressed; now we will see how the program works.

Dave Lorenzini will be our presenter. Dave has been a longtime user and supporter of AUTOMENU, recommending it to his clients and to anyone who is involved in setting up a user friendly interface for others or for themselves. Be on time, friends, the presentation will begin just a few minutes after 9:00 am.

Now for some information about a few other programs that will be available at the August General Meeting.

FORMGEN, Version 3.0 by R. MacLean, is a form generating program that can be used at home or in business. It provides features necessary to create custom forms, such as graphics characters to give a professional appearance to your designs. FORMGEN does not have a manual on disk, as most shareware programs do. Normally, I avoid distribution of any program that does

Normally, I avoid distribution of any program that does not have documentation on the disk, but in FORMGEN's case the help screens are very informative and sample quick reference forms can be printed out.

not have documentation included on the distribution disk, but in FORMGEN'S case, the help screens are very informative and sample quick reference forms can be printed out.

Several sample forms are provided to demonstrate the program, such as a credit application, map, message, work order and expense report. These samples may be edited to meet your specific requirements or you may create your own forms.

DIR SCANNER Version 3.10, written by Nat Martino, is a hard disk manager. It is as agile as it is easy to learn. The root directory is listed on the left side of the screen, with the currently active sub-directory highlighted, the sub-directory files are displayed in three columns to the right at the same time. Disk and file stats are displayed at the bottom of the screen. Function keys permit swift navigation between directories. I've looked at the various versions of DIR SCANNER in the past and can honestly say that the program is getting the kind of support from its author that assures the user of getting the best. Users are invited to send comments and recommendations for additional features.

DIR SCANNER offers users a clear and convenient manual on disk, comprehensive context sensitive help, macros, and a one key command, C, which activates the DOS command processor.

DIR SCANNER lets you add, move, delete, copy, backup, restore and print files quickly. Directory and file attributes may be displayed and changed. There is an expanded 43/50 line toggle for EGA and VGA displays that will toggle back to 25 lines automatically when leaving DOS. The FIND option will locate any file on the default drive in twinkling. Colors are user selectable for color displays.

You can use a lister of your choice, so users of Vern Bueg's LIST program, which is possibly the best to be found anywhere, won't have to sacrifice memory to support an extra file lister. In addition, you may select your own editor, which I consider a plus. Most of the commercial programs have a 64K limit on their editors, but with DIR SCANNER you can select any of a number of editors, such as QEDIT, that are limited only by the amount of RAM available.

Drivers for MS-MOUSE and LOGITECH MOUSE are available on the disk. The MS mouse driver is actually a separate program written by Cyrus Phillips. The Logitech Mouse Device Driver was created by Tom LaChe'.

Hats off to DIR SCANNER, and Commander Martino, USN for a very good program. Try it, register it, (registration is only \$15.00) you'll be glad you did.

PC-DESKTEAM has been a great favorite of OCIPUG members from year one of our 3 1/2 year existence. It has recently been updated to version 1.05. To those who have never seen this program, let me say it gave



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Bring this advertisement to the store. Only one drive at this price per member.
Offer expires September 30th. Availability subject to stock on hand.

Also, mark your calendar. Save these dates for ACP swap meets:
Sundays, September 25th and November 27th.
On Edinger just west of Grand Avenue,
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the original SIDEKICK from Borland a run for its money.

The DESKTEAM does many of those tasks usually accomplished by things that tend to clutter our desks. With 65K of RAM, DESKTEAM replaces an alarm clock, a calendar, a Calculator, a notepad, a typewriter (yes you type right through to your printer), some printer controls, and provides an automatic phone dialer. If you choose, DESKTEAM may be installed as a

Disk Manager, a hard disk manager, is as agile as it is easy to learn.

resident program either from an autoexec file or by the use of the /M parameter to evoke the program when you want it to be resident. In addition, DESKTEAM will execute commonly used PC-DOS commands while running other programs.

PC-DESKTEAM is menu driven. It has a 60 page manual on disk, and help screens to assist in all of it many functions. I like its calculator that displays the "tape" on the monitor and I particularly like the way it displays in the upper left hand corner the clock, without which it is so easy to lose track of time while working at the computer.

NEWKEY written by Frank Bell has been updated to version 4.06. It is a keyboard enhancer similar to PROKEY that simplifies the entry of common keystroke sequences by allowing these sequences to be assigned to any key desired. Once assigned to a particular key, whenever that key is struck, the predefined sequence of keystrokes will be returned in place of the struck key. For example, the Alt-C key might be defined as COPY and whenever Alt-E is struck the string COPY will be returned.

NEWKEY allows customization of software packages, ready creation of boiler plate passages, and keyboard redefinition. A key definition file is included to redefine the keyboard under Dvorak layout. What's Dvorak layout, you ask. I'm only too glad to tell you. The Dvorak keyboard, named for its designer, was conceived to permit rapid typing, with logical placement of keys so that frequently used letters are positioned to be the easiest to strike. The standard QWERTY keyboard, named for the six keys on the third row, was deliberately designed to be awkward, thus making us slow down so as not to overtax mechanical keyboards. Now mechanical keyboards are pretty much a thing of the past, but we're still stuck with QWERTY. Unless, of course, your want to use NEWKEY to change your keyboard.

There are also files for use with

WORDSTAR and LOTUS 123. NEWKEY has numerous features, too many to cite here, but a list of features will be posted on a display board in the lobby at the general meeting. If you enjoy computing, but would like to

NEWKEY written by Frank Bell has been updated to version 4.06. It is a keyboard enhancer similar to ProKey that simplifies the entry of common keystroke sequences by allowing these sequences to be assigned to any key desired.

avoid typing long commands over and over again, please look at NEWKEY. It provides many benefits that you will surely appreciate.

Again, as a reminder, be on time for the general meeting, August 27. You won't want to miss any of it.

Support Your Shareware Authors



OCIPUG Golf Shirts

The club shirts are now available through Dave Lorenzini. These are good looking, quality golf shirts with the OCIPUG logo embroidered just above the pocket. To get yours, copy the order form to the right, fill it out, and send it to Dave with your check.

Order yours now and support OCIPUG by wearing it for the club picture to be taken at the September General Meeting.

Yes, I want ___ logo golf shirts.

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Our Members Speak Out

What can we do about Software Viruses?

Steve Gibson

In the last two TechTalk columns we've explored some aspects of the threat presented to our industry by the new phenomenon known as software viruses. These fascinating and potentially harmful "mini-programs" are carried parasitically on or within unsuspecting applications and are able to literally "clone themselves" onto other programs within a computer system. They are thus spreading today much like living viral agents. Variations include programs which are introduced into the system by "trojan horse" carriers for the sole purpose of infecting the operating system itself, while others are designed to search out only a specific target program as host, then take up invisible parasitic residence within that program.

Whatever their means or intent, these viruses spread within an organization or

community of computers by riding along whenever a program is uploaded, downloaded, borrowed, exchanged, shared, or demoed... even if it's only run once for ten seconds. I know how eagerly I try new shareware or public-domain goodies which promise to provide a needed benefit, and I've sold many copies of my own commercial programs to people who admit to having first "borrowed" a copy from a friend to try out. That's today's reality, and I don't fight it. In fact it's software's ability to be easily uploaded, downloaded, copied, and transported which so enriches the personal computing experience.

Now I know many people feel the attention given to the whole topic by the popular press is completely overblown. I want to tell you right now that they are completely wrong.

As I had hoped, the attention drawn by the first column in this series has placed me into contact with several groups of people who REALLY know what's going on... and it's terrifying. Based upon some additional theory which we'll examine now, and MANY specifics which I'm still uncovering

to share next week, I'm going to make a solid prediction which you can sadly depend upon:

In the not too distant future there's going to be a **MAJOR SCALE CORPORATE-WIDE INFORMATION SYSTEM DISASTER** which will be caused by a system-wide viral attack. The questions are where is it going to hit, what can be done to prevent it, and how will our industry be changed as a consequence. Mark my words, I am utterly certain that we REALLY have a problem developing.

I'm committed to doing whatever is possible, through the vehicle of this column and *InfoWorld*, to try to avert this disaster. But I fear that it's NOT going to be enough. By combining theory with specifics I hope to make you individually aware of the reality of the danger to you... perhaps enough to avert your own small scale personal disaster... and perhaps for your companies. So what about preventative measures? What about inoculations, antidotes, and sugar cubes?

The bottom line on virus prevention is good news for the virus and NOT good news



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for US. To illustrate, let's examine a pair of useful parallels: The discovery of the many secrets which led to the development of resident pop-up TSR's, and the copy protection wars of the last five years.

As you know, Microsoft has always actively refused to tell anyone how to create resident TSR pop-ups under DOS. It is completely impossible to do so using just their documentation. They could have made things a LOT EASIER on everyone by documenting many of their "secrets"... but they kept saying "NO!" Did that stop the industry's sharp software developers? No way. We simply sat down with our debuggers and tore their "secret" code apart to figure out exactly what it did and how it

worked. And before you knew it, *voila*, Pop-Ups!

Then we have the tireless merry-go-round tournament formed on one side by companies who desire to protect their software from being illegally copied versus those whose very purpose in life seems to be the defeat of the latest copy protection schemes. By applying the same "reverse engineering" which allowed us to develop TSR's, the protection busters mirrored every move made by the protectors... and held them in check.

The overall result was escalation. Both teams ended up developing Olympian-level skills... but the war never ended. It couldn't end until one side or the other gave up. The

final result, as anyone who has dipped into the typical bulletin board system knows, is that copy protection busting utilities are one of the hottest downloading categories today.

So today we have a new battleground... with the same players wearing different hats. Anything any anti-virus solution can do to prevent infection and viral spread the next viral strain will defeat. Not good news.

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How to Stump a Computer Salesperson Part 2: The Company

Kevin Knoepp

After deciding where to do business, the hard part of buying computer equipment begins. There are some things that you should know about the company that makes the product you are interested in.

What about support?

Since most of us buy from discounters who cannot give a lot of deep support, how well manufacturers support their product is very important.

Decide how much support you will need. If the program is a complex one, expect to pay for long-term support. However, there is a wide range in the quality of support you get from the software and hardware companies, so it is best to find someone who has dealt with them before you decide.

Does the company have an 800 number and/or a bulletin board? Toll-free numbers can save you a fortune in phone bills and say a lot about the company's support philosophy. People will spend hours plowing through a manual getting more and more frustrated with the package when a simple phone call to the company may have cleared up the problem in 20 minutes.

Bulletin boards can be another great source of information, allowing one to acquire patches, seek help and enjoy an exchange of applications and techniques with other users.

Does the company charge for minor upgrades and do they give a good discount for major upgrades?

Since most good companies periodically update their products, you should find out what they have done in the past about fix disks, updates and new releases.

As a rule, if a product costs under fifty dollars, don't count on any type of upgrade. Above one hundred dollars the manufacturer should have a good upgrade policy. A fix or patch disk should not cost you anything because the manufacturer is usually fixing a bug in the product. On a minor upgrade to a product you purchased recently you should only have to pay for shipping and the cost of

any new manuals (up to about \$35.00 is fair). For a major upgrade, new version or an upgrade to a product that you have had for a long time, the manufacturers will do as they please. However, unless it is an entirely new product, you should not have to pay full price for a new version.

In my next article I will discuss questions you should ask about the products themselves - that is where the choices get difficult.





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DAVE CARROLL

Linda F. Leydekkers

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are what this special person is all about. Without the time and efforts of Dave Carroll our club would not, without a doubt, have as many well planned and conveniently located SIG groups. Dave is the SIG coordinator and director for OCIPUG. This means he attends two to three meetings per week. He opens and closes most of the SIG meetings and helps SIG coordinators when needed. Dave also uses Pagemaker to put together the calendar you find each month in the pull-out section of your *README.DOC*.

A member for three years, Dave joined out of a desire not only to keep up to date on the computer industry but to participate in an organization that would help other people with computers. He located OCIPUG from a brochure while visiting Computer Baron on Harbor Blvd. This, by the way, is another good way you can help your club. Ask any board member about flyers to leave with the

Dave joined three years ago out of a desire not only to keep up to date on the computer industry, but to participate in an organization that would help other people with computers.

vendors you visit and talk to other people about the club. Conscientious members such as Dave Carroll are proof that it is a very worth while effort.

Born in Darby, Pennsylvania, Dave is a graduate of University High School in Irvine, California. He has an AA degree from Orange Coast College in Photography and has taken courses from UCI. Dave and Debbie Carroll have two children: Amanda, who is four years old, and Andrew who is one. Both children are well on their way to computer literacy, Amanda through educational software and Andrew with his own IBM keyboard with an audible click that keeps him entertained while Dave is at work at the computer.

Dave has a Compaq Deskpro 286 for home-office use and a IBM PS/2 Model 50 he uses on the job with Glasgal Communications, Inc. Glasgal is a data communication equipment company where Dave works in sales of high end modem and multiplex systems. Like many knowledgeable club members, Dave also does computer consulting for individuals.

A computer career started for Dave about fifteen years ago. He took some accounting in college and was hired by a travel agency to do computer accounting. Ten years in the travel industry followed including American Airlines where he installed computers and

I asked Dave to compare Ventura Publisher to Pagemaker. He explained that Ventura is more complex but it has nicer features. This also means it has a longer learning curve.

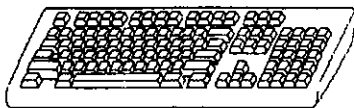
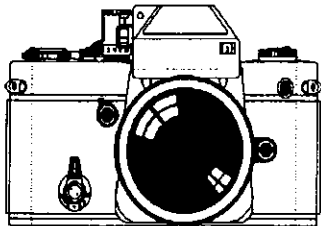
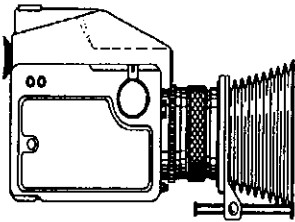
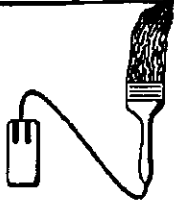
helped maintain AA's 75,000 devices. Price Waterhouse hired Dave as their micro computer coordinator handling a mere 500 devices! Needless to say, such a computer orientated career gave Dave a very strong background in hardware as well as software. He uses Microsoft Word, Pagemaker, Ventura, Lotus 1-2-3 (creates templates), dBase I-III, R:BASE, and Q & A. Dave is also highly versed in DOS. He created a menuing system of his own that is very impressive. Batch files are second nature to him.

I asked Dave to compare Ventura Publisher to Pagemaker. He explained that Ventura is more complex but it has nicer features. This also means it has a longer learning curve. It is geared to longer documents (30 to 40 pages) than Pagemaker (4 to 5 pages), but Pagemaker meets Dave's needs more than Ventura. It has more graphics capabilities, so you can be more creative with it.

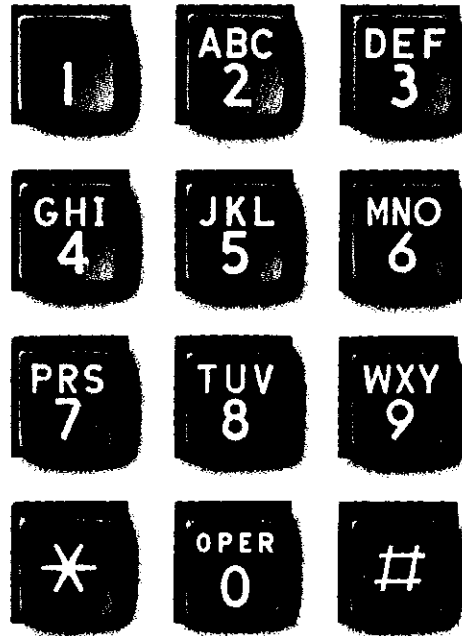
Dave was kind enough to give his opinion of the IBM PS/2 Model 50 he uses at work. His has been in the shop three times for three different problems, so he is not as pleased with it as his Deskpro. Dave said the price is high, not only for the initial computer, but for any boards or other add-ons. It is definitely a fast machine, but software available does not yet use its specialness.



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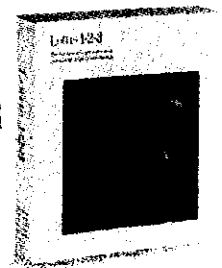
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SIG Reports

DOS & Languages

Steven Pierce

The Dos and Language SIG met on Wednesday 13 July in the community room of the Ebb Tide Trailer Park at 1560 Placentia in Newport Beach. There were 20 people there to hear John Lunsford speak about PC Tools.

John began by explaining what a DOS Shell is. First he said that there are a lot of them on the market. For example XTREE, Norton Commander, Pathminder and many others. Shells can make executing DOS commands much quicker and simpler. They also have functions that DOS does not, such as tagging a large number of files to be manipulated (copied, deleted, moved etc) as a group rather than one at a time. Some even have sophisticated Help features built in to get you out of common problems.

John then began talking about how PC Tools replaces the DIR command with a graphic view of your hard disk directory structure and the advantages that it gives a power user. He discussed hidden files, which you do not see when you do a directory. This is to keep someone from erasing files that should not be erased.

Next he said that there are some nice features in DOS shells that will make life easier. They help most as an interface between the Disk Operating System and you. Most shells are menu driven and this makes them user friendly. The shell in PC Tools even allows you to back-up your hard disk which is a nice feature (if you need it).

The meeting was then turned over to John Goodman and we did a little random access. John answered many questions on topics such as programs that set your system clock and hard drive problems related to directory structure.

The meeting was over at 10:00 pm. The next meeting will be on 10 August and Steve Shiro will be speaking about some of the programs by Borland. Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Hardware

Max Lockie

On Thursday July 28, the Hardware

speakers. Anyone who attended could not help but learn a lot about new advances in disk drive technology.

Louis started the evening by talking about how disk drives have changed to keep up with the newer and faster PCs hitting the market. He explained how new data encoding techniques have enabled disks to hold more data and transfer it to the processor in much less time. We covered the

evolution of controllers from the ST506 and RLL to the more recent EDSI configuration and Small Computer System Interface.

Oran talked about the disk controller and its role in formatting the hard disk and floppies. He also explained many technical points about controllers in a way that was very easy to understand.

He also noted that the "Biggest enemy of hard disk drives is shock" and stressed that one should always park the heads when moving the machine even if only across your desk. It was noted that disk drives with self parking capability should not be subjected to park programs as they can cause damage to the drives.

Other areas discussed were ganged arrays, optical disk drives, High Sierra optical disk protocol, audio on digital disks, and erasable optical disks.

Mr. Lockie contributed a significantly more detailed report that we hope to run as a Tech Corner feature article in a future issue.

Investors

Ralph Minarich

Once again a large crowd (29 members) was on hand to listen to our guests, speak on "SINGLE-PREMIUM VARIABLE LIFE". Mrs. Marilyn Wayne and Mrs. Val Glaviano of Western Capitol were kind enough to drive down from Century City in order to fill us in on the many advantages and TAX implications of this type of MUTUAL FUND investing.

What is a SIG and why should I care?

John Lunsford

SIG stands for Special Interest Group. What's so special about it? SIGs are where *most* of the real activities of OCIPUG happen. The General Meetings represent three hours of presentations per month. Our SIG meetings collectively go on for nearly 60 hours each month. A General Meeting is directed toward several broad interest topics, but a SIG meeting is by design specifically focused on one area. General Meetings are attended by hundreds of people, the typical SIG meeting by ten to thirty.

Most importantly, a SIG meeting gives our members the opportunity to talk directly to others who are active in their main interest areas.

If you are new to computing, we have two SIGs you will particularly value. The New Users SIG is a three month series of presentations on what the neophyte needs to know about getting started in the world of PC computing. Plenty of good basic information is presented. You also will find ample opportunities to get your questions answered. The DOS SIG is for those who want to find out more about how the Disk Operating System works. Since DOS is the one program that we all use every time we turn on our computers, the DOS SIG is the logical next step from the New Users SIG. It may also be a place you will choose to attend over and over again from then on.

Whatever your interest in computing there is an OCIPUG SIG that is focused on giving you useful information. If you find a topic you are interested in for which we do not yet have a SIG, simply gather a group of people who are interested in the same aspect that you are and start your own SIG. That is where all of the others came from: Members who wanted to know badly enough to ask for help and others willing to give it.

That brings up a key point. If you are already an expert in some area please consider attending the SIG on that topic, not because you will learn a lot, but because they need *you* to share what you know. OCIPUG is an all-volunteer operation. Folks who need to learn depend on those of us willing to teach. Besides, it's fun!

Special Interest Group met at New Horizons Learning Center and had about two dozen people in attendance as usual. Louis Columbus, Product Manager for Toshiba located in Irvine discussed hard disk designs while Oran Marksbury, Senior Principal Engineer from Western Digital discussed disk controller designs. Both men were highly knowledgeable and very entertaining

There are many programs that fall into S.P.V.L., but the most popular are those which are backed by the full faith & credit of U.S. Government. Switching Mutual Funds is done at NO CHARGE within these programs; plus there are provisions for BENEFICIARIES with NO TAX LIABILITIES to the heirs! Many of the more popular Mutual Funds are approved for these plans. We were all very impressed with our guests' vast knowledge of the tax implications of these programs as well as the programs themselves.

On June 15th, Western Capitol received approval from the Securities & Exchange Commission on their GENERATION PLUS PROGRAM, which was also outlined. Feel free to inquire at 1-800-423-4891.

Greg Cimmarrusti reviewed and demonstrated a just-released program for trading the S & P 100 (OEX). This is the same company that gave OCIPUG permission to copy their \$7.00 program for free, largely due to the efforts of Greg & Mr. Howard Young, V.P. of WALL STREET MICRO.

The Buy & Sell Signals are generated much like a Relative Strength Index System, buys at 10/20% and Sells at 70/80%; but there are many bells & whistles within the program to FINE-TUNE these signals with ALERTS to guard against losses, as well as to seize advantages of undervalued positions. The graphics are really quite sharp and scaling is also available for maximizing detail.

Our August Guest is Mr. John Ryan of 1600 AM Radio. John has a Daily Show, M-F from 12:30 to 1:00 PM. He has an extensive background in Technical Analysis and utilizes many of the popular commercial software programs available. That's August 17th at New Horizons. Come by for a look at what else is out there.

PLEASE NOTE: We would like to review the Equalizer Program from Schwab...If anyone has it, please contact either Greg or Gordon, for the September Investor SIG meeting.

P-CAD

Dan Likins

The second meeting of the Orange County P-CAD users group (on July 26th) drew 24 people. It was convened in the conference room of OLEC Inc. in Irvine and was hosted by Burt Ohlig, who is the Executive Vice President of the company. Attendance was from as far away as Camarillo and the room was barely large enough to accommodate everyone.



The group decided to draft a joint letter to be sent to Personal Cad Systems stating our concern about software bugs that we, the users, consider to be of critical importance, and requesting that they be addressed first, before the fixes on top of the list supplied by P-CAD. We also found that all those present did not look forward to P-CAD's upcoming release 4.0 to be run under IBM's OS/2. Our main objection was the added cost to upgrade to this new operating system. Of almost equal concern was the necessity of learning to use a new operating system, especially by those that don't use their computer for anything but running P-CAD. Some were also concerned that the overhead of this new operating system would make P-CAD run more slowly.

Standards were discussed. Bob Pauley distributed copies of a document which he had generated, outlining the most straightforward way of creating a schematic, starting with the selection of PAGE SIZE

and continuing through to WIRE LIST generation, including NAMING CONVENTIONS and dealing with POWER and GROUND wires. We also received copies of a proposed standard for the LAYERS structure, a PHOTO APERTURE table, and a PCDRILL table.

Just before break, we voted on affiliating with OCIPUG. The proposal to affiliate passed with a majority in favor and no votes against. From the comments about the proposal it was clear that the group looks to OCIPUG to provide several benefits of particular interest to them. Among these are this Newsletter, the use of a local Bulletin Board System and the use of larger MEETING QUARTERS as the need arises. Membership applications will be sent in the mail to each of the individuals attending this meeting.

During the break we were given a tour of the facilities at OLEC. The company manufactures lighting systems for

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photographic processing, Bert tells us that care must be taken as one could get a *bad sunburn* in about 3 seconds of exposure to these lights. The engineering department uses P-CAD to design the various printed boards found in the products sold by OLEC. The tour was concluded with refreshments and a lot of conversation between group members.

The next meeting will be held in about six weeks, on the 13th of September. Watch the newsletter for time and location details.

PC Networks

Jim Mansfield

The July 21st, PC Networking SIG met at the BusinessLand center in Irvine to learn about Local Area Networks from 3COM. Mike Shanley of BusinessLand made special arrangements for the showroom to be open after hours; additionally, Mike arranged for Paul Roland of BusinessLand's technical department and Ralph Larson, 3COM Account Representative, to be on hand.

Following introductions by Mike, Paul gave the SIG a comprehensive overview of EtherNet and Token Ring cabling technology and an introduction to 3COM's 3+ network (which shares about 75% of the LAN market with IBM and Novell).

We learned that 3COM emphasizes the use of standards in the design of their products: 3+ includes a full implementation of the NETBIOS protocol, the XNS protocol, and the MS-Net redirector. Additionally, 3COM specializes in providing complete systems including high-performance 80386-based file servers, EtherLink network interface cards with up to 512K bytes of on-board memory, and a new Ethernet topology which uses standard twisted-pair telephone cable.

Following Paul's presentation, Ralph Larson gave us an introduction to 3+OPEN, the exciting new 3COM LAN based on OS/2

and the OS/2 LAN Manager. Ralph indicated that 3COM has worked very closely with Microsoft in developing 3+OPEN. It is currently in beta test at about 40 sites, worldwide; full release is expected in the fourth quarter.

Ralph indicated that 3+OPEN will offer a quantum leap in LAN technology. He mentioned that printer management, security, and resource sharing will be the equal of large computer systems and that, in fact, 3+OPEN is specifically targeted at problems previously solved by minicomputers.

Mike and Ralph passed out a number of useful 3COM brochures and LAN tutorials including an extensive written comparison of 3COM, Novell, and IBM products that Mike and Paul had prepared especially for the SIG meeting. Thanks again to Mike, Paul, Ralph, and the BusinessLand organization for their time and hospitality.

Future meetings will continue to be held on the third Thursday of each month, either at the Mesa Verde Learning Center or at convenient vendor demonstration centers. We would welcome your attendance.

Real Estate

Stan H. Sabin

A special program written as an "overlay" program to work in coordination with the latest release of Q & A (version 3.0) was demonstrated to the Real Estate Special Interest Group at the June 28th meeting and was enthusiastically received. The program offered by REALTY SYSTEMS is called the "Real Estate Application Set for Q & A". The demonstration was made by Mark Burrell who showed us all the many things that can be used by a Realtor by utilizing the Word Processor and Database portions of Q & A along with the applications, such as Farm File, Listings File, Escrow File, REO File, Daytimer, Address Book, Income/Expense Records, Built-in Reports,


Macros, etc. Q & A's Intelligent Assistant allows you to search your files using plain English instead of the usual complicated code words usually associated with databases.

A capacity group attended the July Real Estate SIG Tuesday morning, July 26th, at the Huntington Beach—Fountain Valley Board of Realtors Boardroom. The program was the long awaited presentation on Property Management. One of the most requested programs since the inception of the Real Estate SIG has been one on property management. The problem has been that there are so many different types of property management. Some people are interested in just managing a few single family homes and some fourplexes, etc. while others are interested in a program that will handle hundreds of units in multiple projects with different types of ownership, etc. The problem was to try to find a program that would help the most people. Finally a decision was made to demonstrate several different types of programs interspersed with other programs over about six months time. Since one of the more popular programs among California Realtors has been the YARDI software, an arrangement was made to show that program as the first in the series.


Arrangements were made with YARDI to have Bill Hoffman of Hoffman Computer Systems in Huntington Beach make the demonstration. Since it was believed that most people would be interested in the Basic YARDI program, that one was chosen for the presentation. About half way through the program it became obvious that many of those present were more interested in the more advanced program so Mr. Hoffman was kind enough to switch his demonstration to also show that program. Quite a few of those present are engaged in management of commercial properties and/or condominium projects and the larger program seemed to be better suited for these uses. The group members present had many questions and it appeared to be a very productive meeting.


The next two meetings (August and September) will also be held at the HB-FV Board building despite what the August Meeting Calendar shows. Repeat, the meetings will not be held at the Newport Harbor-Costa Mesa Board until October. The August 23rd meeting from 8 AM until 10 AM will be presented by Mary Tharp and she will present a demonstration of HOWARD & FRIENDS, a computer program written by Realtors for Realtors. Be sure and plan on attending the next meeting!





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OCIPUG On Line (BBS)

Reflections on some BBS messages

Terry Currier

After reviewing the messages on the OCIPUG BBS, I think it worthwhile to discuss a few of the problems users have brought up. One problem has been making both the mouse and the modem work. This difficulty appears most frequently when you have an external modem, and there is only one COM port. Two devices can work off the same COM port, but not at the same time. I have an external modem, and before I bought an AB switch, I used to switch connections depending on which device (mouse or modem) I was using. Now my switch box connects to the COM port by a cable and allows me to select the device I want the COM port to work with: "A" for the mouse and "B" for the modem. Usually internal modems do not present this problem, as they most often come set on COM2, in which case the modem software is set to work from this port, allowing the use of COM1 for the mouse. Thus there is no port conflict.

Another user had trouble getting his non-Microsoft mouse to work with Microsoft's Windows (I am all too familiar with this one). The problem is the MOUSE.SYS, Microsoft's driver, is different from the driver supplied with the mouse he uses. When he used the install batch to set it up, the system copied over his original mouse driver. As a result his mouse didn't know how to use the Microsoft driver. To get it to work he needs to copy the original mouse driver back over the one supplied with Windows.

One message from the BBS asked if it is possible to get the STACK command-line utility demonstrated at the last general meeting put on the BBS for downloading. This query suggests the need to point out some facts about the BBS and our disk library. For one, the BBS does not have everything Bonnie (our disk librarian) has; nor, conversely, does Bonnie have all that is available on the BBS. For another, there is simply not enough room on the BBS for everything in our library as there is a tremendous amount of material on disk. If the program is a long one, considering the time involved and the possible problem of

line noise interfering, may I suggest that it would probably be easier to buy the program at the club. The cost is only \$3 and a portion of the sale goes to the club.

On the subject of BBS space, one user commented that he had a number of files he wanted to upload but there was not enough room on the BBS available. The problem is that there are so many uploads that the available space fills up fast, and it takes the operators considerable time to sift through the files and take off older versions of files the Sysops feel are no longer of interest to BBS users.

Incidentally, let me respond to complaints about the BBS. We should keep in mind that Sysops Richard Sabin and John Goodman are volunteer operators and work full-time at other jobs. Not everyone is aware of it, but the BBS operation is far from automatic and takes many hours, hours put in after the the Sysops regular jobs. Maybe the operation could be improved if we had unlimited time and resources, but all things considered, I think Richard and John do excellent work for us.

Finally the BBS has just installed Version 1.6 of the RBBS software (each time they install a new version they have a mountain of documentation to read). The new version is quite sharp if you have never seen it, and I especially like the way the messages are displayed for viewing.

When you enter the Files area you can get a list of the files available to you for downloading. You can see them all in one list or, and this is much easier, you can see only those files in some one area at a time. The list of possible areas we have is shown in the adjoining table.

Next month I will review some of the differences between Procomm Plus and GT PowerComm.



ADS	Advertisements	MATH	Mathematics
ARTICLE	Articles & Reviews	MENU	Menu Programs
Communications:		MUSIC	Music
PRO	Procomm, etc.	REAL	Real Estate
BBS	BBS programs	SPREAD	Spreadsheet Programs
DBASE	Database Programs	UNPROT	Unprotectors
DEMO	Demos, Education & Tutorials	Utilities:	
EDIT	Editors & Word Processors	ARC	Archivers & Squeezers, etc.
FINAN	Financial & Investment	BATCH	Batch files
GAME	Games	DOS	Device Drivers & DOS Extnsns.
GRAPH	Graphics	DIAG	Disk Maintenance & Diagnostics
Languages:		FILE	File management
ASSEM	Assembly	KEY	Keyboard Enhancers
BASIC	BASIC	PATCH	Patches
CPROG	C	PRINT	Printer
PASCAL	Pascal	SCREEN	Screen
PRG	Other Prog. Languages	UNCLASS	Unclassified (Can't decide)

The benefits of using the club BBS

Terry Currier and Kevin Knoepp

Do you wonder just what the advantages of using our on-line bulletin board are? In case you have I will try to explain by showing how you can learn a great deal from

the messages that collected on the OCIPUG BBS.

They show how calling in with a question can be a way of getting several people's input and a wide variety of responses. Just reading them you can get an education by itself. The first thing I do is use the Scan command (S) to get a brief description of what's new. Shown is an example of the messages you will see in the main section of

the BBS. The S tells the BBS that you want to scan through the messages, then enter the number that you want to start looking at. I always start with the last message and put a minus sign behind it (-) telling the BBS to go backward from there.

See the table on the following page for an example.

The (R) in the subject column means that

the message is restricted so that only the receiver can read it. Make a note of the ones you want to read and when you are returned to the command line press (R) to read messages. The BBS will ask you which message you want to read and you can then type in the number of any interesting messages. Here is a thread of messages that I thought was interesting;

Msg # 6997 Dated 04-30-88 17:52:30
From: LIONEL DYCK
To: ALL
Re: MULTI-TASKING

What is a good, inexpensive multi-tasking driver for DOS....? I want to be able to do multiple things at the same time. Like upload/download files and mail while working in MS-Word, or ??

Msg # 7015 Dated 05-01-88 15:13:23
From: JOHN GOODMAN
To: LIONEL DYCK
Re: (R)MULTI-TASKING

I was impressed with DESQview, especially in the hands of an expert, as we all saw at our February general meeting. It can make any PC, from the lowliest up to a 386 really perform near miracles. It is best, of course, on a 386, though. Still, even on a PC, it can do a lot. You should get an EEMS card (e.g., one from AST) to get the most out of DESQview or really any multi-tasking system since all of them need somewhere to store all the

MAIN command <?,A,B,C,E,F,H,I,J,K,O,P,Q,R,S,T,U,V,W,X>? S
Message base MAIN
Msg # 7379 to 8021 (H)elp, S)ince last, M)ine, or text) ([ENTER] quits)? 8021-

Msg # Date To From Subject

8010	07-26-88	ALL	WINSTON JEWSON	WORD 4.0 PRINT DRIVERS
8001	07-25-88	ALL	JORGE SCHULZ	PC COBOL
7999	07-25-88	ALL	BOARD MEMBERS	STAN SABIN MESSAGE
7997	07-25-88	JIM SAMUELSON	JORGE SCHULZ	BASICA
7992	07-25-88	LIONEL DYCK	JOHN GOODMAN	(R)SPEED UP YOUR DISK
7991	07-25-88	JIM SAMUELSON	JOHN GOODMAN	(R)BASIC DIFFERENCES
7987	07-24-88	SCOTTWHITNEY	SI LIFF	(R)HELP
7985	07-24-88	RICK HALBARDIER	JOE REEDNICK	(R)DIF FILES
7984	07-24-88	ALL	LIONEL DYCK	SPEED UP YOUR DISK
7983	07-24-88	JIM SAMUELSON	LIONEL DYCK	(R)SPRINT
7981	07-24-88	ALL	JIM SAMUELSON	BASIC DIFFERENCES
7980	07-24-88	LIONEL DYCK	JIM SAMUELSON	(R)SPRINT

programs that you ask them to run at once and place where they can get them back most quickly is best.

Msg # 7023 Dated 05-01-88 21:45:06
From: LIONEL DYCK
To: JOHN GOODMAN
Re: (R)MULTI-TASKING

Thanks, I will check into DESQview. I have a 286 (8 MHz) with 1 Meg. With the price of memory still rather high, is that adequate for DESQview..? A friend suggested Windows. He does not have it, just had read about it. Can it do the job...? I don't want to spend a lot

of money for my box as it is at home and really a hobby.

Msg # 7034 Dated 05-02-88 14:59:09
From: MARK BURRELL
To: LIONEL DYCK
Re: (R)MULTI-TASKING

Windows is very easy to use and install, however, you can only run applications within it that were specifically written to run under Windows. There are many programs that fall into this category, however, the ones you use may or may not be. DesQview will run almost any program including Windows itself. If I

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were you, and you do not want to add extra memory to your computer, I would try Windows first. I have both Desqview and Windows and can tell you that: 1. Windows is easier to install.

2. Desqview needs 2 M RAM (Expanded memory) to be effective. This from the Desqview people themselves. However, it is really dependent upon which programs you use and wish to multitask.)

3. Windows is more fun (We must consider that aspect shouldn't we.)

Msg # 7044 Dated 05-03-88 06:22:28

From: JOHN GOODMAN

To: LIONEL DYCK

Re: (R)MULTI-TASKING

DESQview can do multitasking very well indeed on the machine you describe. It could do it even better if the memory you have were mostly on an EEMS card, but even if it is "merely" extended memory (beyond the 640kB system RAM) it can do a good job.

Windows also can work on such a machine pretty well. It may appear a bit more sluggish, I am not sure. A few applications are particularly suited for Windows. All work fine in DESQview, so far as I know.

I will leave your message around for awhile to see if anyone else has a better answer. (I think the partisans of Windows or DESQview

Start putting in your two-cents worth today. [We] are anxious to gain from your experiences.

tend to be a bit like religious partisans - sometimes a bit overzealous in defense of "their" system, so take what you get with some largish grains of salt.)

Msg # 7443 Dated 06-03-88 22:23:35

From: SCOTT WHITNEY

To: JOHN GOODMAN

Re: (R)MULTI-TASKING

Although not truly multitasking, I would recommend Software Carousel by SoftLogic Solutions. (I'm using it right now). I have found some compatibility problems with DESQview and a few programs I've tried. DESQview is also RAM demanding. Carousel uses about 32K of RAM.

This is just one series of messages that show how one innocent question can start a whole firestorm of responses from many members of the club. The problem is that it is often the same people who do most of the responding because few others do. So fire up your modem, dial the BBS and start putting in your two-cents worth today. All the regulars on the club bulletin board are anxious to gain from your experiences.



Oops! A warning about PKARC, Version 3.6

John M. Goodman

A short time ago Bob Kelly, the system operator (SYSOP) of a local bulletin board, called the OCIPUG BBS and left a message alerting us to a problem with the latest version of Phil Katz's very popular archiving program, PKARC.

Bob said he had experienced problems with it and that he had heard that other had also. I asked him to tell me more. What he did was to send me several messages on the subject from a number of different sources.

Here are those messages:

**From the ACOM I BBS
HOUSTON, TX 7-14-88**

Msg # 2339 Dated 07-08-88 01:07:49

Security: 0

From: PAT FORBES

To: ALL

Re: WARNING !!! PKARC V3.6

Last read at 18:59:36 on 07/08/88

WARNING !!! There is something fishy going on with PKARC Version 3.6. It is doing some weird things in memory that it should not be... BBS-Chess also plays in memory... vectors... interrupts... etc and it will flat abort if it sees something weird... it does whenever PKARC version 3.6 is run. Previous versions of PKARC are ok... its just 3.6 that goes places in memory it should not be...

We are calling the authors on 7-8-88 to confirm that there is such a version. This may be more than just an "unarcner". It may be an honest mistake... a bug... but be safe... not sorry!!! Remove it and use the older version until we can get in touch with the author.

This "messin in memory" was confirmed by a sysop in Georgia and another in Southern California... both discovered the same thing. PKARC 3.6 is Going places in memory, and leaving things in memory that it should not be ...

**Also from the ACOM I BBS --
HOUSTON, TX 7-14-88**

Msg # 2344 Dated 07-08-88 16:41:09

Security: 0

From: PAT FORBES

To: SARA JONES

Re: (R)THANKS

Last read at 19:01:15 on 07/08/88

I talked to the author of PKARC today. It is confirmed... he is doing some weird things in memory to.... "keep people from seeing his code". He said he did not think it was necessary to put everything back to normal when the code exited.... he now sees the error of his ways... A lesson here.... mess with DOS all you want but.... put EVERYTHING back to normal (the way it was) when you are done...

Expect a new release very shortly but for the time.... DO NOT USE version 3.6 unless you don't mind an occasional reboot or system lockup. Use version 3.5 or less...

From compuserve ibmsw forum:

#: 200313 S3/Gen. Utilities (S)

24-Jul-88 20:48:53

Sb: #200181-pkware

Fm: Don Gloistein 76010,474

To: taine gilliam 72047,473

Taine,

I know for a fact it must play with some of the Dos areas. It grabs the INT 3 vector and doesn't give it back to the original. I know this because I have a TSR that uses that vector. And it gets corrupted every time I use pk. I have been told that Phil did some fancy things with the program because some hackers were playing with his code and distributing source for his program. I am not sure about this though.

Unfortunately, I did not keep version 3.5 with the patch, so I can't go backwards right now.

Don

From the pkware bbs - 414-352-7176

Message #850 "E-mail" (PRIVATE)

Date: 24-Jul-88 16:27

From: Phil Katz

To: Taine Gilliam

Subj: Re: bug in 3.6

Taine,

Well, there is a bug in PK 3.6 that can conflict with some other programs. The bug isn't dangerous and can NOT cause any loss of data or corruption of files or anything like that. I will be releasing a 3.61 upgrade to fix the bug however.

Phil

We have both PKX35A35.EXE and PKX36.EXE on the OCIPUG BBS. You may download whichever you wish (or both of them) and use them, but as always, you do so at your own risk. If we are to believe all that we read above, I would judge the risk for ordinary users to be minimal; it seems those who operate BBSes are suffering the most, although others might also choose to avoid any potential problems by sticking to the earlier version.

Late-Breaking newsflash: We now have PK361.EXE on the BBS as well. This is the promised upgrade, but it is actually much more. It includes a news release with some information on the recent legal battle between Phil Katz and Systems Enhancement Associates, Inc. (makers of the original ARC program). One outcome of that affair is that Phil has renamed his programs to avoid using the word ARC in them. Check it out. Let us know what you think.



Technical Corner

DOS Internal Commands

Paul Curtis

As we mentioned last month, there are 29 internal commands in DOS Version 3.3. If we keep in mind that each new version of DOS is an enhancement of the previous version (at least where internal commands are concerned) we will recognize that earlier versions had fewer commands and that all of those commands are included in the later versions.

In the table below the number in the first column is the version of DOS in which that command was introduced. I have included this information so that those of you who are using the earlier versions will be able to recognize which commands are available to you. As you will see, most of the internal commands came into being at DOS version 2.0. This is the version that first allowed for the use of fixed disk drives and was published in March 1983.

(2.0)	BREAK
(3.3)	CHCP
(2.0)	CHDIR or CD
(2.0)	CLS
(1.0)	COPY
(2.0)	CTTY
(1.0)	DATE

Most of the internal commands came into being at DOS version 2.0. This is the version that first allowed for the use of fixed disk drives and was published in March 1983.

(1.0)	DEL or ERASE
(1.0)	DIR
(2.0) (Batch)	ECHO
(2.0)	EXIT
(2.0) (Batch)	FOR
(2.0) (Batch)	GOTO
(2.0) (Batch)	IF
(2.0)	MKDIR or MD
(2.0)	PATH
(2.0) (Batch)	PAUSE

(2.0)	PROMPT
(1.0) (Batch)	REM
(1.0)	REN or RENAME
(2.0)	RMDIR or RD
(2.0)	SET
(2.0) (Batch)	SHIFT
(1.0)	TIME
(1.0)	TYPE
(2.0)	VER
(2.0)	VERIFY
(2.0)	VOL

Where (Batch) appears to the left of the internal command, this indicates that the command is intended to be used in a batch file rather than as a single command at the prompt. A good example might be the PAUSE command. If you are at the system prompt and you type in PAUSE and hit the return or enter key you will get a message that says "Strike a key when ready ...". Since you are already paused at the prompt it would make no sense to use the PAUSE command because you are already paused and also because when you "strike a key" all you get back is the prompt which you had in the first place.

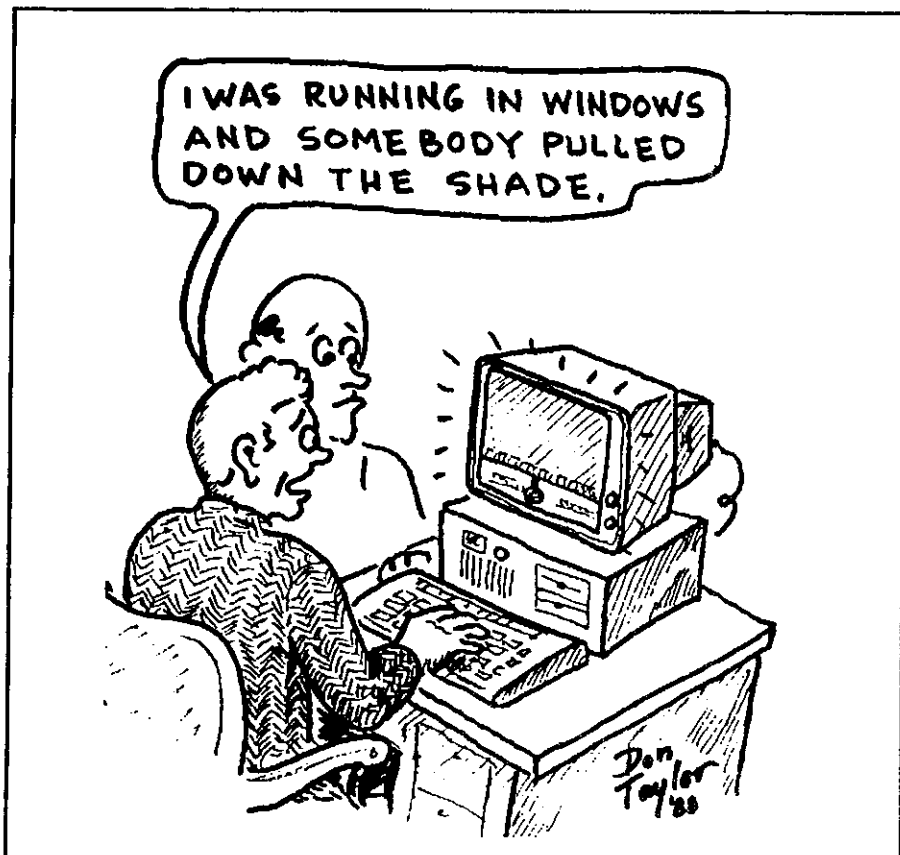
As with almost any rule, there are exceptions. If you use the ECHO command alone at the prompt it will give you a message that tells you the current condition of echo such as "ECHO is on." Here again, if ECHO is off you would know that because you would not get any screen activity until ECHO is turned back on.

Now, on with the internal commands. For ease of reference, they will appear in alphabetical order and we will cover as many of them each time as space permits.

BATCH (1.0)

A batch file is an ASCII (American Standard Code for Interchange of Information) text file which contains internal or external commands listed one line at a time for any number of lines. Each line may be up to 128 characters and may contain variables or parameters which may be passed to other programs for their use. Batch files must have the file name extension .BAT in order to be recognized by the batch file processor contained in the COMMAND.COM file.

Batch files may be generated using EDLIN (the DOS line editor), a word processor (in non-document mode) or a screen editor capable of generating pure ASCII text. You may also use a feature of



DOS known as Copy Con in this fashion:

```
C:>COPY CON AUTOEXEC.BAT
```

When you strike the return (or enter) key the cursor will be moved to the next line on the screen and the system will be ready to accept command pretty much as you would type them at the prompt. You must enter them one line at a time and must have no more than one command on each line. When you are finished entering commands you can use Control-Z (hold the Control (Ctrl) key down while you press the letter Z) or the F6 (Function key number 6) key. This will terminate the creation of a batch file and save that file in the default directory. The file will be named AUTOEXEC.BAT because that is the name we specified immediately after COPY CON.

You may use any name you like up to eight characters in length with the exception of the . \ / [] : | < > + = ; , and any ASCII characters less than 21H (hex). You may not use a blank space in the file name and the file name extension .BAT must be used.

```
CALL (3.3) (BATCH)
```

This command is used to call a batch file from within another batch file without terminating the execution of the first batch file. CALL may be used in place of the earlier system of writing COMMAND /C which would go out and create a subsequent copy of the command processor before executing the second batch file. Once the second batch file had been executed the command processor would eliminate itself from memory and the system would return to the next command line in the previous batch file.

An example of how we use the call command from within a batch file is as follows:

```
CALL WORDSTAR.BAT
```

For versions of DOS prior to 3.3 the command would have to be written as follows:

```
COMMAND /C WORDSTAR.BAT
```

In our next column we will discuss more internal commands. These columns will be written in such a fashion that if you save them all you will have a fairly extensive explanation of all of the internal commands and how to use them. If there is enough interest we may extend this process to include external commands as well. Please let the README.DOC Editor know how you feel about that.



Random Access

Paul Curtis

The following are questions and answers from the Random Access (Question and Answer) Session held during the August 1988 General Meeting.

"My computer does not have a reset button or ready-to-use header where I could attach one on the system board. Is the "Power Good" line from the power supply a safe point to use for reset?" Michael Springer (Member #944)

Dan Likins, our hardware SIG Coordinator confirms that the "Power Good" line is a safe point to use for reset.

Steve Davis (#1127) announced: "I am trying to learn assembly language programming and I could use some help. Anyone with some experience can contact him at (714) 894-5494 (home) or (714) 371-3390 (work)."

Max Locki (#750) asks "Where can I buy labels for audio cassettes that have tractor feed?"

According to Jimie Lowe of Jimie's Mobil Music in Yorba Linda these labels can be purchased at CVC Audio Supply Company, Inc., 646 S. State College Blvd., Fullerton, CA. Their telephone number is (714) 871-1419 and Frank Childs is the manager.

Ali Tehrani (#995) wanted to know "Among the Basic compilers or interpreters which offer the best features?"

John Goodman admitted that he may have more different versions of BASIC than any other OCIPUG member. He went on to comment that there seem to be two broad groups of users of PC language products: Those that swear by the Borland Turbo products and those that prefer the Microsoft Quick products. (Of course there are others who prefer some other company's products altogether, but Borland and Microsoft seem to be slugging it out in the "center ring.") Mostly it seems to be a matter of the "look and feel" of the products. Both Turbo Basic and Quick BASIC are very good. Interpreted BASIC (BASIC, BASICA or GWBASIC) has only two really strong advantages: It comes with DOS for free and it is a bit easier to use for truly tiny programs.

"What is the procedure to set up one physical 3.5" drive as two logical 3.5" drives (E: & F: for example) so that the same physical drive can serve as both

source and target for 3.5" diskette copying?" Dick Mercer (#1098)

The procedure for this exercise is the same as it is for any other size diskette drive. Type the following command at the prompt (assuming you have DISKCOPY.EXE (or .COM) in the path or default directory/drive):

```
C:>>DISKCOPY d: d: (where d: is your drive designation)
```

You will then be asked to insert the SOURCE diskette in the drive and "Press any key when ready ...". Upon doing so, the system will copy as many tracks of information as you have room in memory for. It will then stop and ask you to place the TARGET diskette in the drive and "Press any key when ready ...". Upon doing so, the system will copy the information from memory to the target diskette. When all of the information has been copied to the target diskette it will stop and you will be asked to insert the SOURCE diskette in the drive again and "Press any key when ready ...". This process will continue until all of the information has been copied from one diskette to the other at which time you will get the system prompt back and the drives will stop operating.

Win Jewson (#316) announced that Microsoft Word 4.0 revised print drivers for HP Laserjet and Laserjet Plus are available free upon application to Microsoft for using legal size paper tray to print landscape orientation, etc. There are 27 files on this revised driver diskette.



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OCIPUG MEMBER

<p>We welcome the following new members this month:</p> <p>Charles Atilano Jay Bineau Joseph Bollinger</p>	<p>Lydia Brandes Doris Brukner Donna Burns Tom Campbell Kathy Conway Paul Crafton Kathy Dixon Dennis Donnelson Jack Douglas</p>	<p>Marcia Drew Farrell Eagle Christopher Fearn Kenneth Gordon Eddie Hunter Ron Jenner Lana Johnson Robert Johnson Reg Jones</p>	<p>Michael Krieger Mark Kruse Rudy Kundig Elizabeth Laul Dennis Layton Paul Lin Charles Mansur Toni McCann John Morey</p>	<p>Bill O'Connor Mike Pittenger Dean Reinemann Rex Rexanne Mario Riley Walter Sebring Paul Smetan Eric Sorensen Chris Strauch</p>	<p>Fred Strauch Floyd Thompson Gene Wall Jeffrey Wilcox</p>
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<p>The following persons' memberships expire this month (August):</p> <p>Nancy Adkins Nedra Allmond Bruce Alvarez</p>	<p>Kim Betterley Roy Boorman Jerry Brown Tony Cassidy Gene Colditz Jean Collins John JC Coon Chip Dever Forrest Donkin Warren Freeman</p>	<p>John Glascock Therese Gorman Steve Hammett Frank Harris-Smith Jim Hornack Paul Hurt Nila Johnson Ralph King Kevin Knoepp Jean Lazar</p>	<p>Jim LeDoux Darrell Lemons Paul Lindsay Vera Logan Bill Lowell Howard Luetzow Peggy Macadudin Laird Mc Hattie Douglas McCracken Robert McGrath</p>	<p>Ralph Morgan Kathy Rainville Daryl Reed William Reinhardt Ralph Rhodes Don Rose Phil Ross Ted Ryan Peter Scott Gary Seliner</p>	<p>Clyde Slay Rodger Slininger Diane Stelley Lenn Travis James Ventress Terri Lee Whittaker David Ziemkiewicz</p>
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<p>The following persons' memberships expire next month (September):</p> <p>James Anderson Tom Arnold Mark Artesan</p>	<p>John Bennett Betsy Bonetti James Chester Dewey Coursey William Craig Thomas Cripps John Donovan Dennis Dyer Franklin Eastman Sophie Edberg</p>	<p>Walter Flewelling Mary Gonser Jim Gorum Harry Griffin Jim Hall Peter Hass Robert Hawkins John Johnson Wayne Johnson Gary Jones</p>	<p>Nick Joy Conrad Kimes Barbara Kincade David LaGier Jim Mansfield Bill Mc Grath Jim Michalsky Tim Montan Anne Perrah James Pieratt</p>	<p>Claude Prettyman Joseph Provost David Raber Donald Roynance David Salcido Sherry Shea Robert Siegenthaler Bill Singleton Cathy Spadoni Daniel Sprenger</p>	<p>Jill Stevens Carl Sufall Mariin Tellefsen William Williams Dave Wyatt Jim Young Annemarie Zihlmann</p>
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OCIPUG Financial Report

Walt Drew, Treasurer

OCIPUG JULY, 1988 CHANGES IN CASH

Cash Balance, June 30, 1988 \$ 4,437.44

Cash Receipts

Membership Dues	\$ 5,276.00	
Advertising	670.00	
Interest	17.90	
Library Fees	248.00	6,211.90

Cash Disbursements

Printing	\$ 962.50	
Meeting Expenses	453.79	
Postage	165.00	
Telephone	227.88	
Supplies	57.19	1,866.36

Cash Balance, July 31, 1988 \$ 8,782.98

Notes:

OCIPUG's cash balance increased by \$ 4,349.00 during the month of July. The primary cause for the increase is the advance payment of dues by a large number of members seeking to avail themselves of the current renewal rate before the scheduled increase becomes effective. These prepaid dues will be held in reserve to help cover the group's operating expenses over the coming year.

Through July 31, 1988, \$ 824.00 has been received in contributions for the Tim Smith Memorial Scholarship. These funds, along with future contributions, will be accounted for separately from OCIPUG's general funds.

Important Announcement

The Officers and Board of Directors of OCIPUG have elected to increase the basic membership dues to \$36.00 per year effective September 1, 1988. This is the first increase since the club was founded over three years ago. In order to continue to provide the current level of services and provide for future growth this action is necessary.

As part of this plan, it was also voted to allow current members the opportunity to extend their memberships for up to one year at the old rate of \$20.00. To take advantage of this plan you must renew by September 1st. Renewal forms will be available at the General Meeting and all SIG meetings.

Remember, your last chance to pay the lower rate in person will be at the August General Meeting.

Thank you for making OCIPUG one of the best computer user groups in the country.

1987-88 OCIPUG Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President	Stan Sabin	968-7307
Vice President	John Goodman	895-3195
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Paul Curtis	1989	774-1827
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Richard Sabin	1988	968-3539
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Bonnie Ulanovsky	1988	646-5230

Newsletter Staff

Publisher	Steven Dela	775-8373
Editor	John Goodman, Ph.D.	895-3195
Associate Editor	John Lunsford	995-0947
Associate Editor	Dave Lorenzini	852-8663

People and Numbers to Know

Programs	Dave Lorenzini	852-8663
Membership	Tom Sutro	850-0474
SIG Coordinator	Dave Carroll	775-3130
Librarian	Bonnie Ulanovsky	646-5230
Bulletin Board	Richard Sabin	968-3539

OCIPUG Information & Message Line 898-7998

Remote Electronic Bulletin Boards

ORANGE COAST IBM PC USER GROUP	
OCIPUG BBS Public Line (1200/2400)	964-2034
OCIPUG BBS Members only (1200/2400)	962-6216
STANTON BBS (300/1200/2400)	894-2246
SOFTWARE EXCHANGE (300/1200/2400)	552-3515
THE END OF THE LINE (300/1200/2400)	645-6581

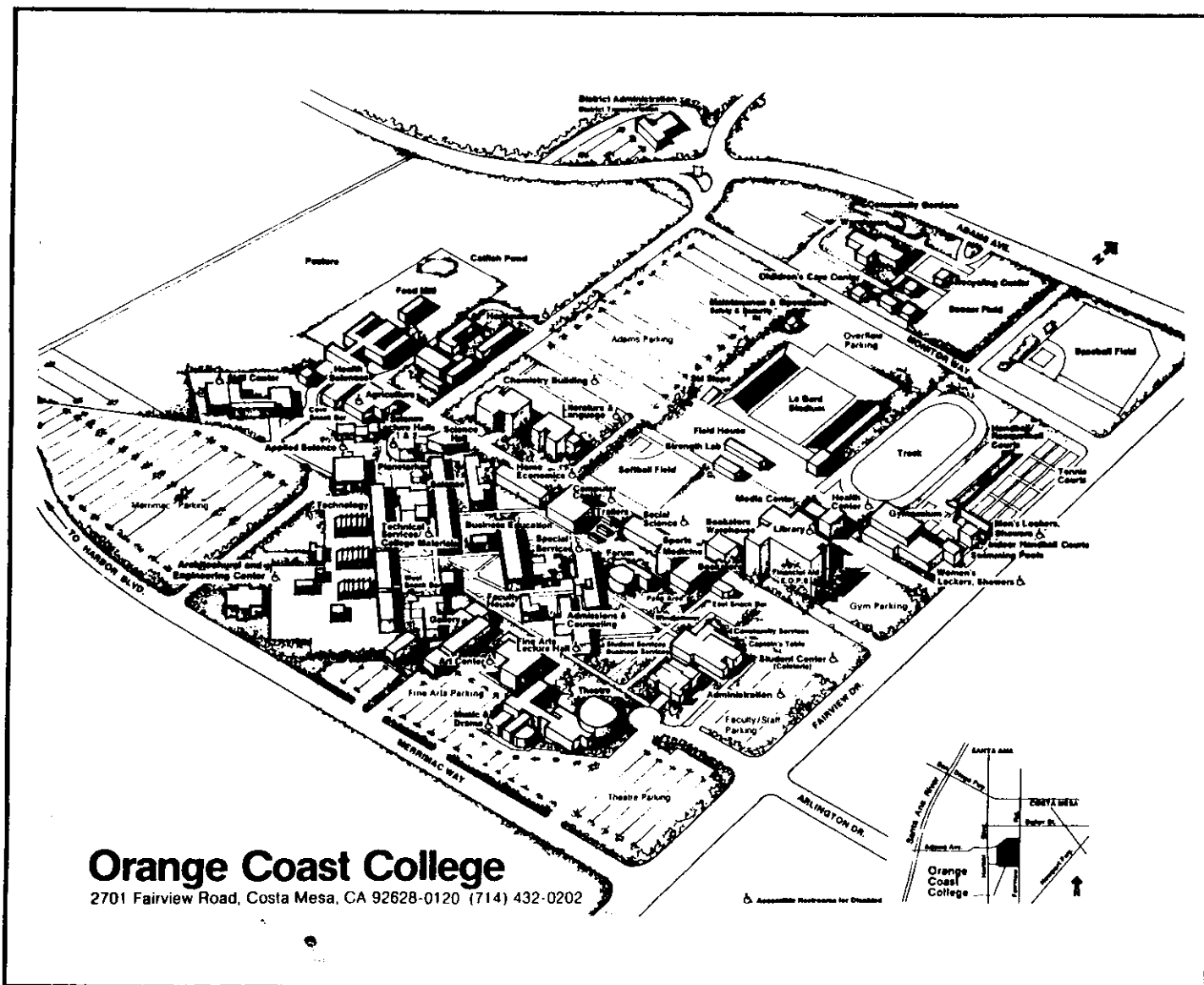
We welcome new OCIPUG Directors

Dan Likins and Bonnie Ulanovsky

Future OCIPUG General Meeting Dates (1988-89)

Our General Meetings are held on the last Saturday of each month except when there is a conflict with a major holiday (asterisked months in list below).

September 24	October 29	November 19 *
December 17 *	January 28	February 25
March 25	April 29	May 20 *
June 24	July 29	August 26



Orange Coast College

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