

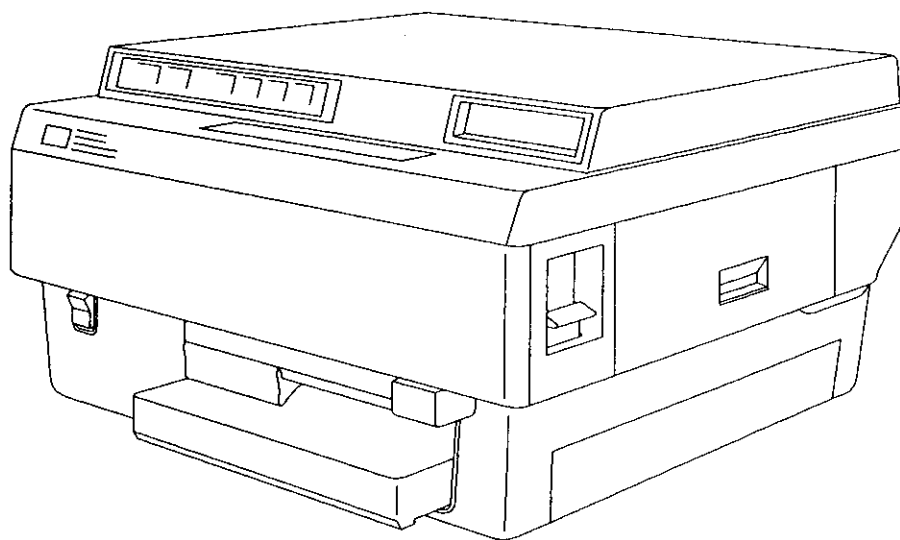
README.DOC

FEBRUARY 1990

JOURNAL OF THE ORANGE COAST IBM PC USER GROUP

VOL 6 NO. 2

A SNEAK PREVIEW from QUME



**General Meeting February 27, 1990
9:00 AM
Orange Coast College Science Hall**

IN THIS ISSUE

February Meeting	1
President's Message	2
January Meeting	3
Gibson's Corner	4
Member Spotlight	5
CAD/DESKTOP SIG	6
SIG Reports	7
Real Estate SIG	8
RANDOM ACCESS	9
The Family PC	10
Nasty Words	11
Rac Hark	12
OS/2-What's New?	13
Board Minutes	14
Book Bytes	15

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Send all submissions to the Editor, on or before the deadline listed below, using one of the following formats:

1. **UPLOAD** to the Bulletin Board indicating the format by extension, such as: ASCII.TXT, MSWord.WRD, WordPerfect.WP.

2. **5 1/4" DISK** mailed to the Editor in time to meet the deadline.

3. **HARD COPY** is acceptable only if typed and double-spaced.

DEADLINE FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS WILL ALWAYS BE

All items submitted for publication are subject to editing. We reserve the right to refuse any material submitted for publication.

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ADVERTISING POLICY

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, are also welcome. For information concerning advertising rates and requirements, contact:

Harv Haight, Advertising Manager,
OCIPUG, P. O. Box 1589, 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.

February Meeting

PDL, PostScript, and Font Wars

The featured speaker at our February General Meeting will be Michael K. Harris, Product Manager for the CrystalPrint Publisher line of printers, at the Qume Corporation. Mr. Harris will describe what a "page description language" is, with emphasis on the PostScript language. He will tell us what we, as users, need to know about the "real" PostScript interpreters and their clones. Also he will describe for us the "font war" that has recently broken out between Adobe, Apple, and Microsoft, and what that is likely to mean to all of us in the coming years. **FINALLY, HE WILL DEMONSTRATE A SO-FAR UNANNOUNCED NEW PRODUCT FROM HIS COMPANY (HEY, IT IS "MAJOR STUDIO SNEAK PREVIEW" TIME!).**

More RANDOM ACCESS

Many of you have asked us for more Random Access in our meetings. We plan to have Steve Gibson host the formal Random Access time (in which he will answer questions submitted by you in writing, plus whatever ones he can take from the floor) at each general meeting, and we will try to insure that he gets ample time to do so.

Thanks to a suggestion from one of your Directors, Richard Villa, we have come up with another way to answer even more of your questions.

The half hour before each meeting is usually a hectic one as we work with our speakers getting equipment set up, etc. Still, we could open a microphone during that time and hold a mini-session of Random Access, dealing with questions taken orally from the floor.

Come early and, with the help of your fellow members' sharing, we may just get you the answers you want and need.

REMINDER

DEADLINE FOR README.DOC SUBMISSIONS IS THE SATURDAY FOLLOWING THE GENERAL MEETING.

We are often asked by members to accept submissions after the deadline has come and gone. This puts an unnecessary burden on the newsletter staff because it effects the whole publishing process. We have tried to accommodate these late-comers in the past, but found ourselves lacking the necessary time it takes to do our job effectively. Therefore, in the future we will have to hold fast to our deadline; the one exception being, news of a **VERY** timely nature.

Jean Stevens, Editor
Stephen Burnside, Publisher

January Raffle Winners

Intel Corporation donated

Sidekick Plus
retail value \$199.95

760 Charles Pease
704 Marilyn Grimbly
350 Albert Mace
917 Barry Baxter
1634 Dale Woolley
1635 Steve
Silverwood
670 Bill Keller
428 Joe Falcon

**Intel Above Board
Microchannel
version**
retail value \$400.00

525 Robert Olea

**Intel Above Board
SIA version**
retail value \$500.00

1465 Arnold
Montgomery

**Intel Math
Coprocesor**
retail valule
\$900.00

1016 George
Fowles
1337 John Valero

**Mark Burrell
of
Computer Smarts
donated**

WPerfect Executive
retail value \$249.00

743 Fred Haney

*

President's Message

YOUR TURN!

John M. Goodman

Have you ever sat in one of our General Meetings and said to yourself, "I could have made a better presentation than that!?"

If you have, now is your opportunity.

Last fall as I sought your Presidency, one of my campaign pledges was to increase the amount of member-to-member sharing at our meetings.

Outside speakers, while often wonderful, equally often are not clear about just who you are, and what kinds of things you want to hear. We will be working with the speakers we have invited, to try and help them understand what we need from them, but sometimes nothing beats having one of our own members speak to us.

Therefore, we are planning to schedule fewer speakers from outside organizations this year than last. The time this opens up in our programs, we will make available to you—if only you will volunteer to fill it.

I have in mind several kinds of presentation that you might wish to give. Let me list them:

1) Perhaps you have become an expert in some aspect of personal computing, either as a part of your hobby activities or at work. If you would like to teach the rest of us about that area, you could get up to an hour to do so.

2) Maybe you don't think of yourself as an expert, but you have found some program that you really enjoy, which you could demonstrate for us. You too could get a good-sized slot on one of our programs, to do just that.

3) Have you found the solution to some nagging problem in per-

sonal computing? Maybe your fellow members would appreciate hearing briefly, about what it was and how you solved it. This could take as little as 10 minutes or as much as half an hour.

4) You may not be up to giving us a lengthy presentation, but if you have some small and nifty utility, game, or other program you have downloaded from a bulletin board or purchased from our library, etc., you might give us a quicky demonstration, say about 5 minutes worth.

5) Finally, you may simply want to have an opportunity to say something to your fellow members. It might be to state a problem for which you would like to have help. Or you may have a concern, a gripe, or a compliment to share. In any case, you want just a minute or so of microphone time.

If you fall into any of these categories, please contact our Program Committee Chairman, Dave Carroll so he can fit you into the schedule.

On another matter, I wish to remind you that it is important that OCIPUG speak to outsiders with a clear, single voice. Last year some of you were appointed as Ambassador or Liaison to one or another vendor, or other outside organization.

I think I have a pretty good list of who you are, but I would appreciate it, if you have been so appointed, if you would please call me so I can be sure you are on my list. Also, if you would like to continue in that post, I can share with you some ideas I have on how you might make this service for us even more effective. Thank you.

January General Meeting

Harv Haight

To a full house, President John Goodman opened the 59th General Meeting at 9:05 AM on January 27th. After a welcome to newcomers, he spoke of corrected RBBS phone numbers: private, 843-9248 and public, 843-0388. He directed newcomers to fill out an information form, available in the lobby, for access to the private line. Although he thanked suppliers of computer newspapers, free at entrances to the auditorium, John warned that pamphlets and announcements were not endorsed by OCIPUG.

In regard to the previous README.DOC announcement of Peter Norton's talk scheduled for April 28th: the North Orange County Computer Club was unable to locate suitable facilities for a joint meeting; therefore, Dr. Norton will speak directly to OCIPUG at that General Meeting.

Vice President Dave Carroll introduced Cliff Purkaiser, Intel's Corporate Development Manager, who talked of how Intel was founded in 1986, and listed products Intel supplied then, and those it supplies now.

Cliff's poll of the OCIPUG audience showed a fair spread of users of 8086, 8088, 80286, and 80386 machines, but no users of 80486 machines. Intel no longer has interest in 8086 or 8088 chips, and would like also to abandon the 80286: Silicon Valley billboards show number 286, with a large superimposed X. To replace the 80286 chip, Intel now emphasizes the 80386SX, with 32-bit internal architecture (like the standard 80386DX), but with only a 16-bit I/O bus. The 80386DX can work at 30 Megahertz or higher; the 80386SX runs at 16-20 Megahertz. 80386SX

prices are falling; OEM buyers generally have passed cost savings on to the final user.

Cliff said such software as AUTOCAD 386, NETWARE 386, and PARADOX 386 are faster than versions for the 80286, by a factor of two to three. He cautioned that not all new software will run on 80286 systems. With 1.2 million transistors (the 80386 has 275 thousand), embodying an on-chip numeric co-processor and a large built-in cache, the Intel 80486 runs 2 to 4 times faster than the 30836, at the same clock frequency. He said a 80486 floating point error, publicized last October, did not affect general use, but has now been corrected. Finally, Cliff painted a picture of "Micro 2000," the Intel chip for the new century, with 10 million transistors. Some club members raised eyebrows at his assumption of doubling capability every 18 months, but all applauded Intel's approach.

Before the break, Librarian Bonnie Ulanovsky praised a new Shareware extended LIST program. README.DOC Publisher, Steve Burnside, introduced Editor, Jean Stevens, asked for help in labeling, and spoke of new VENTURA PUBLISHER and COREL DRAW SIGs. Michael Springer showed corrections to his batch command sequence given in README.DOC. SYSOP and Modem SIG Leader, Bob Ottke, said that Hayes would tell all at the next meeting. Database SIG Leader, Bob Schmiedeke, promised to discuss macros at the next meeting.

After the break, David R. Taylor, Product Manager at Intel's Personal Computer Enhancement Operation (PECO), gave a lively presentation of PECO's products, which include

retail co-processors, add-in boards to upgrade older machines to the 80386, ABOVE boards to add expanded or extended memory, FAX boards with plug-in modems optional, and complete modems. Dave discussed in detail how the LIM EMS 4.0 specification for expanded memory evolved, and how an ABOVE board can supplement standard 640K RAM. He commented that a major part of his production still goes to 80286 machines.

In answer to questions from the floor, Dave described how an ABOVE board could be used to meet the 2-Megabyte and up, RAM requirement of many new programs. He also spoke of a program to make different sounds, to show when standard memory or extended memory was in use (this program will be, ultimately, transferred to the OCIPUG BBS). Dave said the ABOVE board could act concurrently as both expanded and extended memory, with the ratio set by the user. For more detailed answers, Dave suggested Intel's 1-800-538-3373 number.

Programmer and InfoWorld columnist, Steve Gibson, presided over a random access that bombarded him with questions about SPINRITE II, his new program to keep hard drives going. Steve ran out of time, but John Goodman said he'd try to get full coverage of member input and answers for publication in README.DOC.

The meeting closed with the usual raffle, noteworthy for the large number of Borland SIDEKICK PLUS programs donated to OCIPUG by Intel; our winners (listed elsewhere) and OCIPUG thank all our donors.

OS/2 ...A Reflection

Last week I joined a hand picked group of about 30 other members of the technical press at Microsoft's spacious corporate campus in Belview Washington. We had been invited to participate in a highly technical presentation on the next release of OS/2. Microsoft wished to create a foundation of understanding in the press about their forthcoming full 32-bit operating system. While we think this next OS/2 will be called OS/2 2.0, Microsoft is still being coy about its name. In any event, Microsoft felt that educating us would be a great place to start, so we gathered to see what they had to say. I had been placed under a confidential non-disclosure agreement beforehand, so I started out with somewhat mixed emotions, however I was delighted when Microsoft decided to lift all such constraints. Happily, over the next few weeks I plan to tell you what I learned about the future of OS/2 and about the feelings I took away.

Since even the topic of OS/2 adoption is controversial, let's first come to terms with the complexion of the PC marketplace of the 90's. It's indeed a complex and his-

tory-laden environment into which any new operating system must insinuate itself.

There's probably no more looming unknown before us than the "uptake rate" which our newer technologies will be experiencing in the future. One aspect which dramatically retards new technology adoption is the amazing degree of inertia which our industry continues to manifest. Just examine the franchise of love and devotion which Lotus and Ashton-Tate acquired. It's quite significant that 123 and dBase have continued to sell long after far superior products were made available. Or consider how many 286-based systems are still being sold today, long after the 286 was defamed as the dead end technology it clearly is. What's more, this morning many millions of 4.77 megahertz 8088 floppy-based PC's booted DOS 2.10 from the A: drive to run WordStar 3.3 on a monochrome monitor, generating correspondence on a daisy-wheel printer. This indeed is the complexion of the world we live in. But why?

The evidence can be boiled down to a demonstration of a single overriding principle of surprising strength: We repeat today what worked for us yesterday even in the presence of better and less expensive ways to do what we're doing. This principle is so significant that I'm tempted to coin a new law for the occasion, but Jerry Pournelle likes naming laws after himself so much that I wouldn't want to beat Jerry to the punch, so we'll have to wait for "Pournelle's law of computer industry new-solutions adoption inertia." Until then, you have the general idea.

It's certainly true that to varying degrees we experience new-solution adoption inertia throughout our lives, but the level of potentially scary "unknown technology"

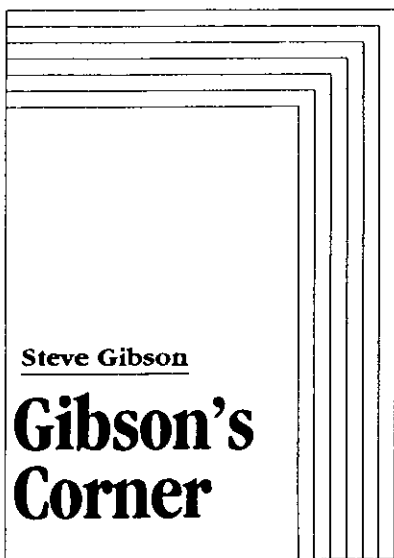
which always seems to be mysteriously lurking behind the screens of each new generation of computer technology is quite easy to avoid. If we know that Lotus 123 is a spreadsheet that works, why should we even step out into the unknown realm of Quattro or Excel? If we know that dBase III is able to do a job, isn't that better than risking the investment in a supposedly superior product like Paradox?

I remember when I was championing high-resolution monochrome technology over "grainy" color screens. This was long after just about everyone else was snuggling down in front of multi-colored CRT's. Was I crazy? No. Was I wrong? Yes. I'm just human, and technology is moving forward so quickly in our industry that a larger than normal "adoption gap" has been created. I'm sure that each of us can point to instances where comfortable technological ruts erroneously protected us from changes we should have made earlier. When a frontier is expanding with dizzying speed, it's just human for us to hesitate while we reestablish our bearings.

So what happens when OS/2 greets humanity? Several years after OS/2 2.0 (or whatever it's called) has been in place, many millions of 4.77 megahertz 8088's will still be booting DOS 2.10 to run Wordstar 3.3 on a monochrome monitor. That's a fact. OS/2's technology and requirements will continue to widen a market stratification which began when DOS 3.10 was introduced to replace trusty old DOS 2.10.

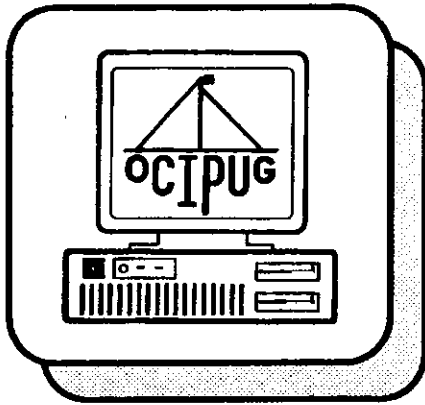
New technologies must offer substantial benefits in order for the adoption-gap to be crossed in large numbers. Next week we'll begin examining the next release of OS/2 2.0 to see just what promises it has in store. In any future, we should not judge the success of OS/2 2.0 by the number of 4.77 megahertz machines which get upgraded. Daisy-wheels still work.

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Steve Gibson

**Gibson's
Corner**



The Orange Coast IBM PC User Group SIG GUIDE

*A Calendar of Meetings & Events
published by Richard Villa*

For more information on membership, write to OCIPUG at PO Box 6100-211,
Costa Mesa, CA 92628. Call Voice - 714/843-2048 or BBS - 714/843-0388

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
FEB	Trees & Batch Files #4 1 - 4PM 25	MS Word OCIPUG Board Meeting 6:30 PM @ St. Andrew's 26	Real Estate <u>8 AM</u> Personal Finance 27	Q & A 28	Modem 1	2	New Users <u>9 AM</u> DOS 1 PM 3
	Trees & Batch Files #5 1 - 4PM 4	5	Spreadsheet 6	Desktop Pub./ Windows 7	CAD/ Graphics 8	9	Shareware <u>10 AM</u> OS/2 1:15 PM 10
MARCH	Trees & Batch Files #6 1 - 4PM 11	WordPerfect 12	Database 13	Small Business 14	15	16	17
	18	19	BBS 20	Ventura/ Corel Draw 21	Hardware 22	23	24
	25	MS Word 26	Real Estate <u>8 AM</u> Personal Finance 27	Q & A 28	29	30	9AM - OCIPUG General Meeting O.C.C. Science Hall 31

All Special Interest Groups (SIG's) are held from 7 PM to 10 PM
at our SIG SPACE, located at 17632 Metzler Lane, Suite 211,
Huntington Beach unless otherwise listed.

BBS**3RD TUE**

SIG Leader: Bob Ottkie 714/759-1515

The topic for March will be to continue to work on our BBS, including welcome screens. Meet in office area of SIG SPACE.

CAD/GRAPHICS**2ND THU**

SIG Leader: David Carroll 714/775-3130
Designated Guru: Dave Lorenzini 714/751-9262

This SIG covers hardware and software products in both computer aided design and graphics. At the March meeting we will discuss **ColorIX VGA Paint**, a high-resolution paint program.

DATABASE**2ND TUE**

SIG Leader: Bob Schmiedeke 714/536-1178

This SIG discusses various database programs, specializing in **dBASE**. Topic at the March meeting will be file recovery on **dBase III Plus & dBase IV**.

DESKTOP PUB./WINDOWS**1ST WED**

SIG Leader: Richard Villa 714/841-6991
Asst. SIG Leader: Steve Burnside 714/758-8957

This SIG covers general desktop publishing related topics during the first half, and specializes in **PageMaker**, **Microsoft Windows** and other advanced topics in the last half. Topic for the March meeting will be a general discussion of **PageMaker** and **Windows Applications**. Please come with your questions.

DOS and LANGUAGES**1ST SAT**

SIG Leader needed. Call Thurman at 846-6067 if interested.
Designated Guru: John Goodman 714/895-3195

Come to this group to learn more about how your PC works and how to get it to do what you want. Come to the March meeting with your questions.

HARDWARE**4TH THU.**

SIG Leader needed. Call Thurman at 846-6067 if interested.
This SIG is one of the most popular, judging by the strong attendance. Come to the March meeting with your questions.

MODEM**1ST THU**

SIG Leader: Rich Sabin 714/968-3539

Reach out and access the whole world of information through telecommunications. Check the **HOT LINE** for topic for March. Come and random access with us.

NEW USER/NEW MEMBER**1ST SAT**

SIG Leader: John Lunsford 714/995-0947

This is the best SIG to attend first. The meetings run on a 4-month cycle and this month is number **THREE** in the cycle.

OS/2**2ND SAT**

SIG Leader: Dave Lorenzini 714/751-9262

Come learn about what OS/2 is all about and what this new operating system can do for you. The topic for March will be how to load OS/2, including other OS/2 applications like **PageMaker for OS/2**.

PERSONAL FINANCE**4TH TUE**

SIG Leader: Max Lockie 714/644-0103

This SIG discusses the various financial packages for the PC. Please come with your questions. At our March meeting we will continue discussing **Andrew Tobias Managing Your Money 6.0**, reviewing setting-up accounts and talk about reports.

Q & A**4TH WED**

SIG Leader: Terry Currier 714/774-2018

Come and learn about this popular database and word processing program. The topic for the March meeting will be **Q&A programming**.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Public Bulletin Board (BBS) - 714/843-0388

HOT-LINE - FOR LATEST INFORMATION ON
MEETINGS AND EVENTS - 714/843-2048

REAL ESTATE

LAST TUE

Contact Person: Kent Pierce 714/536-0271
Contact Person: Tom Sutro 714/850-0474

Jointly sponsored by OCIPUG and several local Boards of Realtors, this is one of our largest SIG's. Check the HOT-LINE for the topic of the month. (Coffee at 7:30 AM)

Newport Harbor - Costa Mesa Board of Realtors Boardatorium, 401 North Newport Blvd., Newport Beach.

SHAREWARE

2ND SAT

SIG Leader: Bonnie Ulanovsky 714/646-5230

Various shareware programs will be demonstrated, and random access will answer your questions about which programs are best for you. **The topic for March will be Hypertext and PC-Browse, presented by Arthur Boughey.** Library disks will be available for purchase from Bonnie. Member prices \$3.00 per disk. (Call Bonnie prior to meeting to order specific titles.)

SMALL BUSINESS

2ND WED

SIG Leader: Richard Sinar 714/645-7608

This SIG covers how to manage your small business with your computer. **Monthly topics generally include discussion on various business software.**

SPREADSHEET

1ST TUE

SIG Leader: John Alesi 714/770-1130
Designated Guru: Neil Carman 714/964-1901

This group covers *Lotus 123* and other popular spreadsheet programs, including shareware products, for both beginners and advanced users. **The topic for March will be spreadsheet macros & writing and debugging macros.**

VENTURA/COREL DRAW

3RD WED

SIG Leader: Steve Burnside 714/757-8957

New SIG. This SIG will cover intermediate and advanced topics relating to both *Ventura Publisher* and *Corel DRAW!* **At the March meeting we will our first meeting.** Please come with your questions.

WORD

4TH MON

SIG Leader: Winston Jewson 714/544-4330
Microsoft Contact: Dave Lorenzini 714/751-9262

Microsoft Word 5.0 and *Word for Windows* are powerful and popular word processing packages. **At the March meeting we will cover: Beginners & Intermediate - Random access for any use of Word. Advanced - How to use/do style sheets (II) and macros (I). Word for Windows lab.**

WORDPERFECT

2ND MON

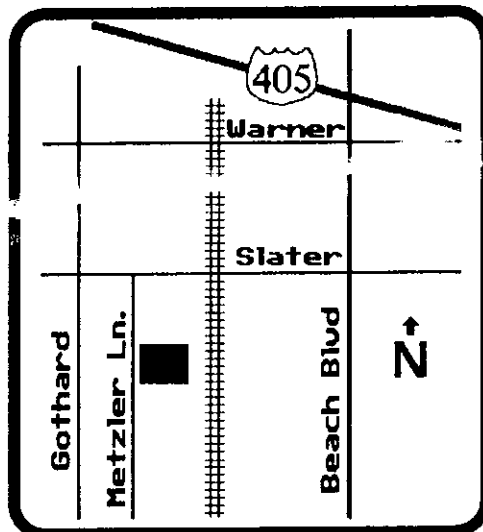
SIG Leader: Jim Pieratt 714/969-4782
SIG Leader: Taoward Lee 714/646-5557

WordPerfect is a very popular word processing program. This SIG covers topics for intermediate and advanced users. **Bring your questions about WordPerfect 5.0 or 5.1 to the March meeting.**

NOTICE

The Board of Directors Meeting on February 26th will be held at St. Andrew's Presyterian Church at 600 St. Andrews Road, Newport Beach. Take 73 Fwy. to Irvine Ave. South., Left on 15th Street. One block to church.

SIG SPACE



17632 Metzler Lane, Suite 211
Huntington Beach

GENERAL MEETING

February 24th 1989 - 9:00 AM

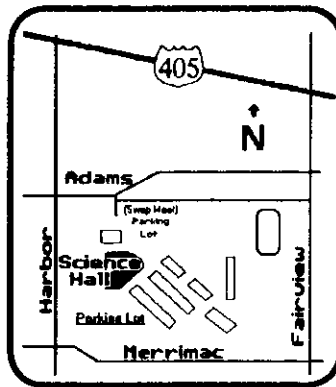
Page Description Languages & PostScript

**Michael K. Harris, Product Manager, Gume Corp.
A major sneak preview from Gume Corp.**

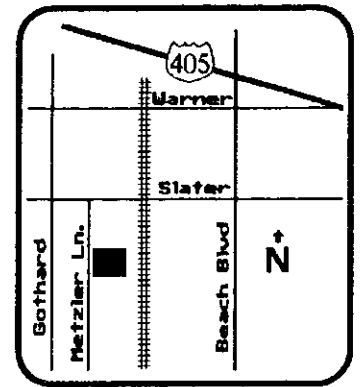
MORE random access from Steve Gibson!

MEETING LOCATIONS

Orange Coast College
Costa Mesa
2701 Fairview Rd.
General Meeting:
Science Hall (next to Chemistry Bldg.)
Parking in campus lots available off Adams or Merrimac.



SIG Space
Huntington Beach
17632 Metzler Lane, Suite 211
SIG Meetings:
Take elevator to 2nd floor.
Parking in lot or on street



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group (OCIPUG) was formed in 1985, and has become one of the largest and most respected User Groups in the country.

OCIPUG, a non-profit corporation, is an all-volunteer organization which provides PC enthusiasts with an opportunity to gain knowledge and gives assistance to those who need it.

Membership includes:

- ✓ subscription to README.DOC, the monthly newsletter published by OCIPUG
- ✓ discounts on Public Domain, Shareware and User Supported software
- ✓ access to the OCIPUG RBBS private telephone line
- ✓ eligibility for monthly raffle at General Meeting
- ✓ free copies of software and publications

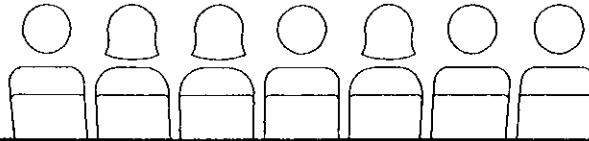
If you would like to become an OCIPUG member please call 714/843-2048 and request an application for membership, or write: **OCIPUG, PO Box 6100-211, Costa Mesa, CA 92628-6100.**

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SIG Committee Chairman: Thurman Wade - 714/846-6067

Keeper of the Calendar: Richard Villa - 714/841-6991

Member Spotlight on Sunny Lockie



Viette Lockie, known to us as "Sunny", became member #751 in August 1987. Nicknamed for her sunny disposition by college classmates, she was recently elected as a Director of OCIPUG. Sunny has been married for twenty-seven years to Max Lockie, OCIPUG's very own Personal Finance SIG Leader, and they have two children, 20-year old Greg and 18-year old Elizabeth.

Born in Beaver Falls, N.Y., Sunny attended Becker College in Worcester, Mass., majoring in Medical Technology. After college she worked in the Exceptional Children's Center of Syracuse University, where she met Max. They headed for California in 1960, where Sunny took a job as Executive Secretary at Ford Aero-Neutronic Division. She remained at Ford for six years, after which, she elected to stay at home while her children were growing up. Not being satisfied with doing just one job at a time, Sunny started her own business at home, as a dress designer. Her company known as SUNNY FASHIONS, was very successful. She still designs dresses, but her talent now extends only to herself and her family.

Sunny plays piano, the result of 17-years of Classical music lessons. Her interests don't end there, though. She admits to being enthusiastic and interested in just about everything, and when something peaks her interest, it's full steam ahead. That's how it was with computers.

About five years ago, the Church she works for, had two computers, but no one who knew how to run them. Never having touched a computer in her life, guess who

volunteered to learn ALL about computers?? Since then, she has gone from one who thought computers were dumb and unnecessary (since we had electric typewriters), to one who is now in charge of fifteen systems. She, personally, does all the buying, upgrading, and repairing, which sometimes means tearing a system down and putting it back together again. She reads a lot about computers, but readily admits that most of her knowledge of computers has come from OCIPUG members, attending many SIGs, listening to our resident "experts" and asking questions, questions and more questions, when she runs into a problem.

At home she works with WORDSTAR, dBASE III, LOTUS, and HARVARD GRAPHICS. All the family uses the computer for wordprocessing and various games. At work she uses Ventura to publish all printed material put out by her Church.

If there was a prototype of an ideal OCIPUG member, that our founding fathers had in mind, it must have been someone like Sunny. She volunteers her time as a Director, she attends the General Meetings, she goes to as many SIGs as possible, she questions our "experts" when she runs into problems, and she helps other members when she can. She is indeed a good example of what members can do for each other.

When asked what our club has meant to her, Sunny said, without hesitation, "I couldn't exist without OCIPUG" (and she really means it)!

SIG Reports

CAD/GRAPHICS- DESKTOP PUBLISHING Combined SIG meeting

T. G. Wade

You should have been there! However, you would have had to have brought your own chair, because all of those at the center were filled.

As one who has seen many presentations since the early days of the organization, and maybe because of my training background, I have been critical of some of the presentations, but, at this meeting, I got my coupance. This was a combination of an excellent product being presented by one who made use of the product look easy.

The product was COREL DRAW! and the presenter was Fiona Rochester. COREL DRAW is a graphics package, and Fiona is a Senior Product Specialist at Corel.

COREL DRAW runs under, and requires, Windows and a mouse. A color monitor is very important. Caution: either a 5 1/4 in. high density (1.2mb) or a 3 1/2 drive is needed. Other formats such as 360K disks are not available.

Included in the package is a manual, a 2-hr instructional videotape, a program disk, 2 fonts disks, and 10 clipart disks.

The COREL DRAW screen consists of: Windows Border, Title Bar, Menu Bar, Horizontal/Vertical Scroll Bars, Editing Window, Toolbox, Preview Window (Optional), Status Line, and Rulers (Optional).

The toolbox contains: The Pick Tool, The Shape Tool, The Zoom Tool, The Pencil Tool, The Rec-

tangle Tool, The Ellipse Tool, The Text Tool, The Outline Tool, and The Fill Tool.

Fiona started her demonstration using the Text Tool, which can move, rotate, mirror, stretch, and scale text strings. COREL DRAW contains 102 type faces which can be



manipulated, kerned and customized, as in making logos.

The Pick Tool is used to select the objects to be manipulated. After an object has been selected with the Pick Tool, it can be used to move, stretch, scale, rotate and skew objects.

The Zoom Tool is used to enlarge or reduce the size of objects.

The Pencil Tool is used to click to draw straight lines, and to drag to draw curves, which enables the user to quickly create shapes which consist of both curves and straight lines.

The rectangle tool is used to draw rectangles of various shapes and sizes, and to position them in drawings.

The Ellipse Tool draws ellipses within imaginary rectangles, and positions them where they are

needed. Holding down the (Ctrl) key while drawing an ellipse causes it to be circular.

The Outline Tool is used to outline objects, and has varying thicknesses and colors. The Outline Tool also options whether the outline is drawn in front of or behind a fill. By use of proper thicknesses, calligraphic effects can be made.

The Fill Tool is used to fill inner areas with patterns, colors, shades, halftones or textures. The colors used are determined by the Pantone color numbers, and colors can be processed for color separations.

COREL DRAW requires DOS 3.0 or later, MICROSOFT WINDOWS, 640K RAM and a mouse or tablet. It has drivers for printers and plotters, and supports slidemaker cameras.

TIFF, PCX, PIC, GDF/PIF, CGM, and EPS files can be imported. COREL DRAW exports TIFF, PCX, EPS, GDF/PIF, CGM, and SCODL files.

The members present were sufficiently impressed to vote to establish a COREL DRAW SIG!

The day following this presentation, my current copy of PC Magazine arrived. As part of the cover story feature on technical excellence for 1989 (GRAPHICS) was this: "COREL DRAW is a tool for artists. This Microsoft Windows-based package achieves that elusive quality sought by all software transparency. It implements its tools the way artists expect them to be implemented. COREL DRAW, with 50 precision fonts and over 43 expandable custom PostScript patterns, is also a spectacular tool for manipulating type. Packed with powerful, flexible drawing tools, it's a professional tool for professionals."



DOS SIG REPORT

Steve Schiffman

The meeting this month was lead by OCIPUG President John Goodman. John announced that DOS SIG Leader, Bill Phillips, is recovering from a recent illness and will be unable to lead the SIG for a while. A temporary SIG Leader is needed. It was pointed out that the SIG Leader need not be an expert with DOS. He or she just needs to arrange the program topic for the meeting and be able to attend each meeting. Any Volunteers?

The meeting got started shortly after 1:00 pm, but only after a volunteer agreed to write up the minutes of the meeting. This is one of Goodman's criteria for participation in a SIG meeting. After a couple of minutes of silence, and the meeting not proceeding, yours truly dutifully took on the challenge of taking notes and writing these minutes.

The meeting started off with a Question and Answer session. One member who has a Vendex Headstart system was having difficulties executing some programs. One possible explanation was that the member had not included in the PATH statement, the subdirectory where the program to be executed was located. The bootup of a PC was explained, in an attempt to clarify when the PATH statement could first be set. The PATH command can first be issued in the AUTOEXEC.BAT file, which gets executed as the last function in the normal PC bootup process. Prior to setting a path in the AUTOEXEC.BAT file, all file references must provide the complete path information to allow DOS to locate the file. The full path name is also required for files referenced in the CONFIG.SYS file, that is used during the initialization of the DOS system environment.

A detailed description of the bootup of a PC can be found on page 327 in the Feb 13th 1990 issue of PC Magazine. It was explained that in using the command "PATH=path_data_info" a space can be substituted for the equal sign.

To help our member, it was recommended that the AUTO-

EXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS files be examined, and that one statement at a time be removed and the results be checked, in order to determine when the problem with the application goes away.

We then cleared up a misunderstanding about the APPEND command. It is not the same as the PATH command. The PATH command must be used first to create a series of directories, that DOS will examine, to locate .COM, .EXE and .BAT files for execution. The APPEND command is used to add search capability for files other than .COM, .EXE and .BAT.

TIP: Whenever new software is purchased, ALWAYS "write-protect" the original diskette and make a diskcopy copy of the original for program installation or daily working use.

A member then requested assistance in running XTREE. It would not run correctly. As the group discussed the ins and outs of running XTREE, another member recalled that there is a machine specific version of XTREE for EPSON systems. The user's system was not an EPSON, but was attempting to use the EPSON version of XTREE borrowed from an EPSON system at work. The member was advised to purchase a legal copy of XTREE or XTREE PRO which would solve the difficulties encountered.

John Goodman then presented the story of "Charles Dickens and the Teamsters". Using the overhead projector, John presented an analogy of the development of the Intel 8088 microprocessor, the IBM PC & AT architecture, expanded and extended memory, and DOS. At the end of the presentation, the group discussed 80386 configurations and the software that takes advantage of the 386 architecture. Memory management software, Quarterdeck's QEMM and Qualitias' 386-to-the-MAX and multi-tasking software DESQview, TASK SWITCHER and WINDOWS/386 were discussed.

The analogy was found useful in understanding the workings of the PC, expanded and extended memory, and DOS.

The Q&A session resumed for the remainder of the meeting. The topic of the ENVIRONMENT was discussed again. This seems to be a continuing question. This time though, the question was about how much environment space was available when a secondary command processor was loaded. The answer is 32 bytes more than the environment size before the secondary command processor is loaded. A technique of padding the environment by using dummy environmental variables was the suggested solution. This makes the environment area bigger. When the secondary command processor is loaded, the dummy variables can be deleted, freeing up the space they held for other environmental variables to be set or expanded.

Environmental variables is just one of the topics to be covered in the "TREES and BATCH FILES" Seminar

TREES AND BATS

Michael Springer

The TREES and BATS Seminar Series began Feb. 4th with an almost full house at the SIG space. John Lunsford discussed disk terms, such as, platters, heads, tracks, logical drives and formats, to provide a basic understanding of disks and disk drives. Building on John's foundation, I discussed the properties of the root directory and subdirectories and ways to take advantage of their power. By the time this issue of README.DOC is in your hands, three sessions of the proposed six sessions will be over. We will have covered rules for creating batch files, planning batch files, and simple batch file examples. In the remaining sessions, we will cover batch files that can 1) make decisions, 2) accept input from the keyboard, both when called and while running, and 3) run other batch files.

It's too early to know if there will be sufficient interest to conduct either follow-on seminars, or this seminar series again. If you missed this series, plan to attend the DOS SIG meetings for help with batch files.

REAL ESTATE SIG

Tom Sutro

The main topic of the January 30th meeting was accessing the REALTOR'S bulletin board provided by the CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS. The name of the "RBBS" is CARNET and is available to all C.A.R. members who have access to a computer with the capacity to talk to other computers. CARNET provides members with immediate access to many services such as:

- * Most commonly asked legal questions and the answers to those questions provided by the Member Legal Services Division
- * Legislative Information
- * Public Domain and user supported Shareware Software Products
- * Housing Market Statistics

As a CARNET user you will also have the capability to send and receive public or private messages.

Telephone numbers to access CARNET are:

- * (800) 729-2277
- * (213) 739-8389

Prior to connecting with CARNET please make sure your communications software settings are:

Baud Rate	300/1200/2400
Data Bits	8
Stop Bits	1
Parity	None
Duplex	Full
Echo	Off

You will need the following information to register on CARNET:

- * The name of your Board or Association
- * Your Six Digit C.A.R. MEMBERSHIP NUMBER (found on your CRE Magazine Label)
- * Width of your SCREEN:
(# of characters across your screen)
80 (IBM/Comp)

- * Height of your SCREEN
(# of lines top to bottom) 23 (Optimal)

When using CARNET for the first time, access is limited to viewing CARNET menus, only until your CAR membership can be verified. This process normally takes 24 hours.

Should you have any questions or can't get on line you may call the CARNET HOTLINE at (213) 739-8345 or (213) 739-8356.

Try CARNET, use it REGULARLY and TELL OTHERS ABOUT IT!

The next meeting of the REAL ESTATE COMPUTER USER GROUP will be Tuesday, February 27, 1990, 8am until 10am and the presentation will be THE REAL ESTATE SPECIALIST, a program written by RICK HIBBS.

The REAL ESTATE SPECIALIST will assist you with:

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- * SHOWING LESS AND SELLING MORE
- * TIME MANAGEMENT
- * TARGET MARKETING
- * FARMING
- * MAIL-MERGE CARDS, LETTERS, LABELS, & ENVELOPES
- * AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

If you don't have THE REAL ESTATE SPECIALIST it may be the program you want to consider using. If you already have it, this is your opportunity to discuss features of the program you are not using, or are having problems with.

The meeting will be:

Tuesday, February 27, 1990
8am - 10am

Newport Mesa Association of REALTORS,
401 N. Newport Blvd., Newport Beach.

For more information please call me at
(714) 650-1121.

The following is a correction of TREES AND BATS TEASER which appeared in last month's README.DOC

WRONG	ECHO	%0 360 (360K, bootable)
CORRECT	ECHO	%0 360 S (360K, bootable)
WRONG	ECHO	%0 1.2 (1.2M, bootable)
CORRECT	ECHO	%0 1.2 S (1.2M, bootable)
WRONG	END	
CORRECT	:END	

Random Access

John Lunsford

One of the problems with setting the agenda for the General Meeting is that things don't always follow the schedule that you set. An example of this is the fact that the Random Access session of the last General Meeting was about half as long as intended. This article is an attempt to rectify that short fall.

What follows is a written discussion of some of the Random Access questions from that meeting so that, 1) more of them can be answered, and 2) the membership can get the answers in written form. I have directly answered the questions that I could, consulted with John Goodman on the ones in which I needed more input, and called in outside help on the ones that stumped both of us. Any questions that I could not get answers for prior to press time, will be pursued for the next issue.

QUESTION #1 from

R. L. Rexanne:

"Can any one show me how to use 4-Way with Lotus?"

Your best plan is to attend the Spreadsheet SIG. The OCIPUG Spreadsheet SIG is largely composed of Lotus 1-2-3 users and at least one of them should be able to answer your question in detail.

QUESTION #2 from

Richard Jespersen:

"Are all versions of BASIC (such as MBASIC, Quick BASIC, and GW-BASIC) compatible with each other (programming commands, etc...)?"

No. Most all of the BASIC compilers (Quick BASIC, Turbo BASIC and the like) will accept programs written for interpretive BASIC (BASICA, GW-BASIC, etc...). However, the reverse is not true. Many of the compilers offer options that are meaningless to the interpreters. For instance, in Quick BASIC it is not necessary to give each program statement a line number. In GW-

BASIC an unnumbered statement is a syntax error.

QUESTION #3 from

David Salcido:

"What hardware is required to use the French phonetic symbols which are not included in the English character set?"

The use of alternate language character sets is supported by both your printer (Epson FX) and your version of DOS (3.3). Your DOS User's Manual explains this subject in detail so I will cover only what you need to do to shift into the French or USA characters sets.

To tell your computer to use the French characters:

Add the following two lines to your config.sys file:

```
country=033
device=display.sys
con=(cga,850,0)
```

The second line assumes that you have a CGA or Color Graphics Adapter in your system. Other display adapters require codes available in your DOS manual. Add the following lines to your autoexec.bat file:

```
nlsfunc
chcp 850
keyb fr
```

You will have to reboot your computer for these instructions to take effect.

To tell your printer to use the French characters:

Add the following to your autoexec.bat file:

```
echo ABC lpt1
where...
```

A = Esc HEX 1B Decimal 27

B = R HEX 52 Decimal 82

C = 1 HEX 01 Decimal 01

The easy way to enter these characters is to hold the Alt key down and enter the first Decimal number (27) from the keypad on the right side of your keyboard; then release the Alt key. An arrow pointing left will appear on your screen. Next just simply type an upper case

'R'. Then repeat the first process entering just the number one from the keypad. A "happy face" will appear. These three "characters" must be together without spaces between them and must be preceded with and followed by a space.

Again this instruction will take effect when you reboot your computer.

To return to using the United States character set:

Change the two new lines in your config.sys file to:

```
country=001
device=display.sys
con=(cga,437,0)
```

Change the new lines in your autoexec.bat file to read:

```
nlsfunc
chcp 437
keyb us
```

And change the 'C' portion of your printer command to Decimal 0.

Again reboot to effect the changes.

QUESTION #4 from

R. L. Rexanne:

"Will Flicker Free ever be upgraded to work with the ANSISYS driver?"

According to Steve Gibson, the author, no.

QUESTION #5 from

Richard Sinor:

"I'm going to upgrade my 286 to a 25Mhz 386. Should I buy a motherboard with a 64K cache or just a regular 386-25 and spend more for 4 Mb of extra memory that can be accessed by a program like PC-Kwik?"

Richard, there are actually two different kinds of cache memory that you seem to be talking about here. The 64K cache found on some 386 mother boards is static RAM used to hold information for ready access that would normally be stored in slower dynamic RAM. The use of Expanded Memory by a program such as PC-Kwik is to cache information that would normally be resident on the hard disk. Both uses are intended to speed data access but they are quite independent of each other and use very different memory configurations.

continued page 10 RANDOM

THE FAMILY PC

Frank Harris-Smith

QUESTION #6 from Roc Burrell:

"After installing a VGA card and loading its software, my DIR command locks up my computer requiring me to reboot. Why?"

This one is difficult to troubleshoot from an armchair, but one thing to look at is your CMOS RAM where your AT's configuration is stored. Look to see if you have the correct display adapter specified in your setup.

QUESTION #7 from Rudy Wolf:

"A CRC error surfaced on my Impulse hard disk (Plus HardCard). SpinRite and the Norton Utilities don't work on this disk. Short of reformatting the disk, what can I do to mark the new bad sector?"

Nothing. The Plus HardCard is an excellent piece of equipment but, alas, it is unsupported by anyone's disk doctoring software.

QUESTION #8 from Ruben Yago:

"Why doesn't SpinRite II work with ESDI hard drive controllers for the Micro Channel Architecture bus (IBM PS2)?"

It does as long as the controller is not using sector translation.

QUESTION #9 from Hal Schaeffgen:

[Addressing Steve Gibson] "In a 1989 issue of README.DOC, you recommended the Paradise 8 bit VGA+ card, but the explanation was never published. Do you still recommend it and, if so, why?"

At the time, there was no software that took advantage of the capabilities of the 16 bit VGA card. Therefore there was no particular reason to pay a higher price for one. Now Microsoft Windows version 3.0 does have a driver for the 16 bit Paradise card so that you can now reap the advantages of its wider data path.

That's all for now. Let us know if you like this feature and we will continue it in future README.DOC issues.

A few years ago I joined the ranks of those who have a computer at home. Since then our PC has become an almost indispensable tool. Yet, I have heard that this state of harmony is, alas, lacking in other PC households. Is the PC at fault? Is your system inadequate? Would a 386 machine be more interesting to the family members? Perhaps a Laser printer? Maybe a PC really is "just an expensive toy," that few find useful. The simple truth is, that a PC needs to be fit into the family, not the other way around. The accomplished user can "tame" the home PC and make it fit in with the family.

Appearances count; your PC needs to fit into the look of your home. Ever wonder why your wife insists that the PC be kept out of sight in the far reaches of your house? My wife felt that way. The solution was a paint job. Literally a paint job. When IBM picked the color for the PC, they picked Navaho white - a color that does not go with any decor. Navaho white is commonly used to paint apartments, since it will cover anything in one coat. I painted my PC a semi-gloss white. My wife's happy and our PC is in the living room. The outside of the computer is not the only place where appearances are important, though.

The appearance of the surroundings are also important. I've been over at fellow users homes only to find that the "computer room" is by far the messiest in the house. When you have to be shown were the computer is in the room, that's messy. If the family has to wade through mounds of computer books, hardware assemblies, floppies, and printouts of assorted vintage, they may not be too interested in using the computer. By creating the mess around the computer you may be saying "my area" without realizing it. Clean it up and share the computer with the rest of the family.

An untamed PC is intimidating to a novice user. Turning on the PC

and encountering a DOS prompt can give even the brightest of family members the willies. If a family member has to study DOS for months just to use the computer occasionally, they may decide it's just not worth the effort. Batch files, menu programs, and a little creativity on your part can transform that beast into a ready and willing servant. My wife appreciates my creative menus on our system and it gives me an opportunity to show off my PC expertise.

The hardest area to tame is what software to run. Software makes the machine, so careful consideration is really needed. However, selecting the right software has more to do with human factors than with performance factors. Word Perfect is, in my opinion, one of the best of all the word processors, and I need all the power and flexibility that it gives me. Yet, Word Perfect may not be "perfect" for the user who sporadically wants to write a brief letter to a friend. PC Write is much easier to use and far less expensive. Sometimes less can be better. A willingness to evaluate family member's needs and try different ideas can really go a long way toward encouraging family use.

Perhaps this could be summed up as a simple matter of perspective. Most often you hear of home computers discussed in terms of hardware and software. I have found that making our PC fit into our family has little to do with either hardware or software. By concerning myself with the human needs, our having a PC in the family works well. I'm sure that if the concerned user "tames" the PC, all members of the family will find it indispensable. The people that are potential users of the PC are the real issue, and just thinking in terms of people, instead of hardware and software, will make a big difference. There is one problem with the PC being so popular, though, we could use a second system.

NASTY WORDS

Harv Haight

When a programmer writes his own documents, normal English is often his "second" language. What he also finds, to his dismay, is that he has to use this second language in his menus or error messages. Beware - he may strike back!

Just imagine how the error message, "FATAL: Internal Stack Failure, System Halted" can cause a beginner anxious moments! This message results from a fast sequence of repeated hardware interrupts (for some versions of PC-DOS and IBM keyboards); it takes something like 10 quick strokes of the PAUSE key to cause it, but when it happens, your system needs a power-down reset. (You extend this to 25 strokes by adding to your CONFIG.SYS file the line "STACKS=32,256".)

Less alarming, but more puzzling, is the error message, "File

Creation Error," that can pop up as you try to transfer a file. This can happen when a destination file with a read-only attribute already exists. (You can change its attribute easily with the DOS 3.0+ command "ATTRIB," or by use of PC-TOOLS or XTREE.) It can also happen if the diskette or directory is too full.

"But," you might think, "my file is only 10K long, and there's room for 100K more on my floppy." What you've overlooked is that only so many files can be placed in the root directory of a floppy disk or hard drive. For the double-sided double-density 5-1/4" floppy, this figure is 112 files; for the double-sided quad-density 5-1/4" floppy, it's 224 files. For most hard drives, self-booting, 512 files can be placed in the ROOT directory, with files 510 and 511 the

hidden system files, and file 512 the hidden volume label.

The DOS handbooks all preach limited number of files in a hard drive ROOT directory. A subdirectory is a special kind of file to keep track of other files and counts as one entry in the root directory. We all accept the need for subdirectories for a hard drive, but most of us overlook how useful a single subdirectory can be on a floppy. Just key-in MD FILE (or any other short name), then CD\FILE, and you have eliminated this source of the "File Creation Error" message.



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RAC HARK BIO

staff writer

In response to the flood of requests, we are presenting a short biography of our new cartoonist, Rac Hark.

Rac has been an intellectual cartoonist for less than a year, and a student of human misbehavior for three of his five lives. (The other two lives were spent as a flea on the back of a cougar and a flowerpot in New Jersey). Rac can proudly say that he has lived in every one of the 50 states, but he claims that home is now, and always will be, Horse Springs, New Mexico. His second great love (his first is Angel, his wife of 12 years) is a 109-year-old schooner, which he has spent the last six years restoring to perfection. He now lives aboard the yacht with his wife and seven children (3 boys and 3 girls).

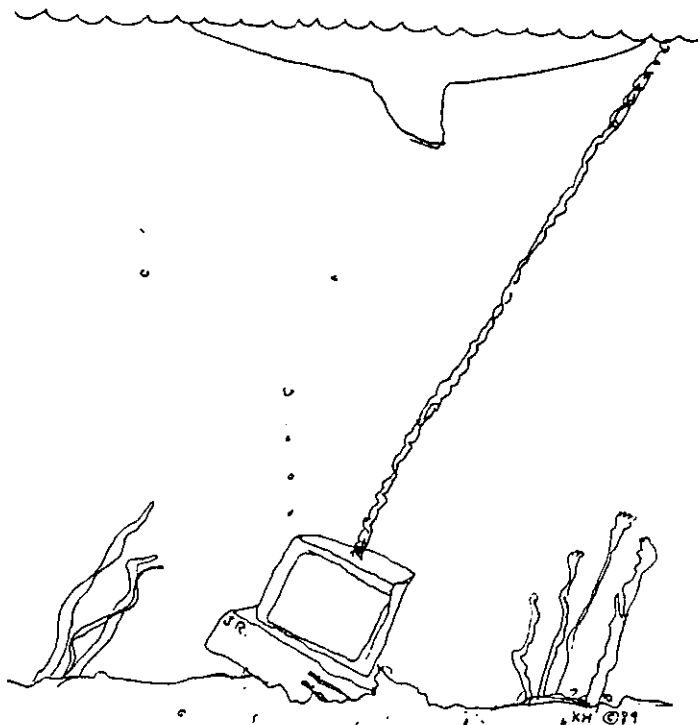
Rac has been, at various times, a lumberjack, an accountant, a used car salesman, retired, and a rock violinist. In addition to cartooning, Rac writes radio scripts for the BBC and cultivates rice. His radio scripts have won awards around the world, and his rice is quite tasty with either chicken or fish.

New to computers last year, Rac caught on to the beasts quickly. He uses a 77-megahertz 80486 PC to write his radio scripts, and keep his database of valuable comic books and great racing schooners of the 19th century. He has been threatening to learn to program in C, but for now, Rac says it's easier just to hire his seven-year-old daughter to write his custom programs for him.

Rac's new series of computer cartoons flow naturally from his newfound love of computers, and all the strange things they make us do for them.



COMPUTIMES by Rac Hark



"But honey, when the article said it was a boat anchor, that's not what they meant!"



Stan H. Sabin



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What's New with OS/2

Dave Lorenzini

On the second Saturday in January, a small group interested in learning more about OS/2, met at the OCIPUG SIG space. The guest speaker was Margaret Johnson, Systems Engineer with Microsoft Corporation. Margaret had also presented OS/2 at the OCIPUG general meeting in September 1989.

Mrs. Johnson led a question and answer session and the group learned many interesting facets of this new operating system.

OS/2 is produced jointly by Microsoft and IBM Corporation. Each edition of the software is sent to IBM approximately 6 months before being released to any other OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer). Each manufacturer must tune the software to the special hardware features of its products. Disk and memory caching are usually taken advantage of in this way.

Currently, the computer industry is working with OS/2 Standard Edition (SE) Version 1.1 with Presentation Manager (PM) built into the operating system. (Presentation Manager is the graphics interface that replaces DOS's C prompt. IBM, however, has already released OS/2 Version 1.2. It also has several new features, two of which are 3-D buttons and a new High Performance File System (HPFS). There is also an Extended Edition (EE) which includes database and communications services built into the operating system.

OS/2 was described as a multi-tasking operating system for business users. There are not enough software applications, as yet, for the general computing public to worry about upgrading to OS/2 from DOS. Although IBM has published an applications guide of OS/2 programs, which is almost 2 inches thick, most of them are for specific businesses. Some of the more recognizable program names are Excel for OS/2, Pagemaker for

OS/2, and AutoCAD OS/2. Soon to join them will be Corel Draw! for OS/2. Many programs now running under Windows, are likely prospects for conversion to OS/2 applications. It was reported recently that Microsoft acquired special technology from Micrografx Inc. which eases the transfer from Windows applications to the Presentation Manager interface.

The group learned that Presentation Manager and Windows have the same appearance and general operation. Both rely on the mouse and pull down menus for ease of use. However, Windows is limited, since it runs as an application on top of DOS, whereas Presentation Manager is actually a part of OS/2, and achieves much better performance. OS/2 uses the protected mode of the 80286 micro-processor chip. Therefore, OS/2 doesn't run on the 8088 or 8086 chips. The other mode, real mode, is limited to 1 MB addressable memory and is where normal DOS programs run. Protected mode allows OS/2 to address memory up to 16 MB. At this time the 80386 does not offer any special advantages other than more speed. Eventually, a 386-specific version of OS/2 would offer additional multi-tasking features, such as multiple compatibility boxes to run 8088-specific software (i.e., current DOS programs). Running in a 32-bit environment, the 386 version could address 4 gigabytes of RAM! OS/2 has been slow to gain popularity also, because it requires a more powerful system to operate properly. The operating system takes several megabytes of hard disk storage and needs at least 4 megabytes of RAM to operate. To appreciate the Presentation Manager graphics, a minimum resolution of 640 x 480, such as a standard VGA display system, should be installed.

For hard core DOS users, Margaret explained that a dual-boot capability is part of version 1.2 of

IBM OS/2, although Compaq has already incorporated it into its 1.1 version. This feature allows users to maintain both operating environments on their hard disks and select which one they want to use at boot up time.

Other areas where OS/2 outperforms DOS by a large measure is LANS and SQL servers. However, these applications are more frequently found in larger companies.

The group decided to meet again on Saturday, February 10, 1990 at 1:15pm to continue to share experiences and become more knowledgeable in OS/2. OCIPUG member Thurman Wade agreed to bring his new IBM Model 70 with 8 MB RAM, 215 MB hard disk, and 8514/8514A display system, to demonstrate how OS/2 is installed. Bill Phillips, OCIPUG's unofficial OS/2 guru, will lend his expertise and keep the group on track. Bill will also give an overview of the current OS/2 best seller book list.

Future topics will include hardware drivers, setting up the CONFIG file, and getting a better understanding of such OS/2 features as threads, dynamic linking, and named pipes.

To close the meeting, coordinator Dave Lorenzini raffled off three copies of Inside OS/2 donated by Microsoft's Margaret Johnson. The lucky winners were Win Jewson, Steve Shiffman, and Thurman Wade. (No one went home empty-handed.) The book, authored by Gordon Letwin, head of the OS/2 joint-development team, and published by Microsoft Press (\$19.95), provides an excellent and readable explanation of OS/2. Since Mr. Letwin reveals why each feature was selected, Microsoft's vision for the operating system of the future makes a lot of sense.

For an exploratory meeting, a lot was accomplished. OCIPUG thanks Margaret Johnson for taking time out of her Saturday afternoon to make the meeting a real success. Next month we have a beautiful OS/2 key chain and a lapel pin donated by Terry Currier to raffle off.

SUMMARY DRAFT OF MINUTES OF JANUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

AS SUBMITTED BY NEIL CARMAN, SEC'Y.

The regular monthly meeting of the OCIPUG Board of Directors was held on 1/29/90 at the OCIPUG SIG space. The President presided, Sunny Lockie kept the minutes until the Secretary arrived.

The board convened at 6:44 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

John Goodman, Pres.	Richard Villa
Dave Carroll	Jim Petit
Neil Carman	Sunny Lockie
Stephen Burnside	Harv Haight
Robin Clark	Terry Currier

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Bonnie Ulanovsky	Toni Massoth
Paul Curtis	

MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Joe Farber
Richard Herman
Robert Ottke
Richard Sabin
Jean Stevens
Tom Stolp
Tom Sutro

The minutes from the 12/18/89 board meeting were distributed. A discussion followed regarding the format of the minutes. Four corrections to the minutes were offered. Richard Villa moved that the board defer approval of the minutes until the next meeting.

Passed by voice vote with dissension.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report was deferred due to the absence of the Treasurer.

Dave Carroll moved that the board approve the Presidential appointment of Thurman Wade as SIG Committee Chairman.

Passed unanimously by voice vote.

The President continued Dave Lorenzini's Presidential appointment as Ambassador to Microsoft. The President removed all other ambassadors subject to reappointment later on.

NEW BUSINESS

Robin Clark moved that we meet at St. Andrew's Church on all dates in which there is a conflict with SIG meetings.

Passed unanimously by voice vote.

Richard Villa moved that he be reimbursed up to \$40.00 per board meeting for food and beverages.

Passed unanimously by voice vote.

Harv Haight moved that we appropriate up to \$250.00 to add two phone lines to the SIG space. Jim Petit moved to amend the amount to \$500.00 and to include a remote monitoring system in the appropriation.

The amendment passed unanimously by voice vote.

The main motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Dave Carroll moved to adopt "Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised" (1990 edition) as the official rules of order for the board.

Passed unanimously by voice vote.

It was moved that the board adjourn to a committee of the whole to discuss alternatives to our SIG space if the general membership does not approve renewing the lease.

Passed unanimously by voice vote.

The board adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

(Editor's note: The above minutes do not become official or certified until adopted by the Board at their next Board Meeting.)

BOOK BYTES

WRITE BETTER WITH A PC

Mike Murach, 1989; \$19.95 list,
Mike Murach & Associates,
4697 West Jacquelyn, Fresno, CA 92722

Harv Haight

Mike Murach majored in English at the University of Wisconsin in the early sixties. He worked for IBM before his start as a staff writer for an educational publisher in 1967. His development of techniques, presented in this book, led him to write free-lance and to found a small company, in 1972, to offer computer textbooks. By 1980 his company started using word processing on a minicomputer to write books, ads, and direct mail. By 1983 his writers turned to PCs; today all ten writers and editors use PCs. Since 1986, his group has used desktop publishing for five books.

In this book he teaches you how to write better for business and technical readers, and how to get help from PC software. He gives a planned approach to result in faster and better output. He divides his text into four sections:

1. How to get the most from your PC.
2. 12 easy steps to better writing with a PC.
3. Essential language skills for business and technical writers.
4. Practical presentation skills for PC users.

Mike first lists PC software, essential to a writer. He likes WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, and PFS: Professional Write. He prefers built-in spell checkers to those that "pop-up." He uses a packaged thesaurus, but recommends, as better, a college-level dictionary. To check grammar, Mike uses RightWriter or Grammatik III, but says after you improve you'll use only the "readability index." He uses a spreadsheet such as Lotus 1-2-3 to organize and analyze data, and Harvard Graphics for visual aids.

Mike finds outline processors useful to organize thoughts. He says most writers don't use (and shouldn't use) presentation software. Ventura Publisher or Pagemaker can complicate text writing.

Mike recommends (1) that you learn to type, (2) that you use your PC whenever it is appropriate (a pencil and pad can be faster and cheaper at times), and (3) that you yourself use the computer.

Mike divides a 12-step writing procedure into four phases: analysis, planning, writing, and revision. He uses this for each unit (or each unit of a multi-unit) document. Mike dislikes use of traditional outlines to plan what to write, and instead creates a "paragraph plan." His twelve steps are: define the job, get needed

information, select content, plan topics, plan headings, plan visual aids, develop visual aids, write text, analyze and improve first draft structure, edit and revise first draft, and proofread and correct the second draft.

In his third section, Mike teaches you basic language skills to let you put together what you want to say in good, solid sentences and paragraphs. He shows how to stack these for text, to keep a reader interested. He does it differently from the traditional approach: he starts with paragraphs, and then moves on to sentences, words, and punctuation. As examples: One idea per paragraph, developed fully, starting with a topic or transitional sentence; three to seven sentences per paragraph. One thought per sentence, expressed simply in active voice. Fewer adjectives or adverbs. "That" instead of "which."

In *"The Art of Plain Talk (1946)"*, and later Rudolph Flesch, said "make sentences shorter and words simpler," so a text is easier to read and to understand. He originated the "Flesch Readability Formula," which rates text readability from 0 to 100 (best). A later technique, the "Gunning Fog Index," rates a text in terms of a grade level in school. Mike explains these techniques in clear language with good examples.

" . . . the content and quality of your writing is far more important than any appearance you can create with desktop publishing."

RightWriter and Grammatik III use the "Flesch-Kincaid" formula to score a text in terms of "reading grade level (RGL)." The Department of Defense uses this formula to judge how effective a service manual is. Mike finds from his past that even good readers have problems with text that scores more than 10th grade RGL (but the RGLs of best sellers for business run from 11th to 15th grade). My Grammatik IV rates the review you're reading as 9th grade RGL.

Mike ends with expert and useful comments on desktop publishing. He emphasizes high one-time expense, and shows how to figure actual production costs for a desktop published document. He notes, however, the finished product has an improved appearance, is more easily read, and costs less for copying or printing.

Two quotes are memorable: (1) Page 108, "In fact, the problem with much business and technical writing is that the writers don't know enough about their subjects." and (2) Page 371, ". . . the content and quality of your writing is far more important than any appearance you can create with desktop publishing."

Welcome New Members!

Ray Bock
Gordon Emerson
Pamela Greene
Katherine Harkins
Kurt Keller
Joseph Lambert

Xuan-An Le
Dick Lewis
Thomas Mahon
Ruby Martin
Barbara Meguro
Martin Neely

Pierce Porter
James Richard
Alan Roberts
Steve Silverwood
Jack Simonson
Ron Spruell

Jim Stolp
Milo Surbat
Patricia Talji
David Weil
Terah Woodcock
Dale Woolley

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Victor Caron
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Allison Dean
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Anant Gajjar
Arthur Gill
Gerry Goodman
Jere Greene
Trevor Guest
Gene Hales
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Vic Jashinski
Orlan Jennings
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Harv Haight

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714-843-2048

Future OCIPUG General Meeting Dates 1990

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).

February 24

June 30

October 27

March 31

July 28

November 17

April 28

August 25

May 19

September 29

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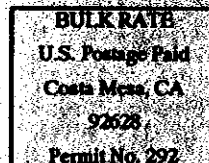
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