🏯 The Computer Rag 🏯

newsletter of the Yokosuka computer club

News, Gossip & Innuendo from the Western Pacific

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🏯 Local Gossip 🏯

December Meeting: the final YCC meeting for 1986, and possibly the final meeting ever, will be held on Wed., Dec. 10, at 6 p.m. in the General Practice Clinic Conference Room at the hospital. The major topic of the meeting: dissolution of the club. As it stands, the current club officers have either left the country, or are preparing to leave the country, or are tired and want to spend their evenings watching someone else.

Since the Yokosuka Computer Club is a recognized base organization, there are two options: 1) new officers can come in and do... whatever; 2) YCC can shut down and donate its assets to a worthy charity or two. Among the leading charities proposed: 1) donate the YCC library to the base library or 2) to the computer room at A-33; 3) donate the YCC treasury to Navy Relief or 4) the officer's bank accounts. Discussion on all matters, as well as volunteers, new officers, new members, etc., is wide open.

For those who may not be aware of it, 1987 is the Year of the Hare. Playboy Enterprises of Japan is rumored to be working on a machine in honor of the year. Designed to take the place of simple terminals used with mainframes, it will be called the Dumb Bunny.

Notice: if you need an external 400K or 800K drive for your Macintosh, or you'd like to buy a used Apple II, contact the newsletter editor (see address above). Several people have items for sale.

Charles Heller reports that Apple Scribe printer users can save money by using thermal paper. A Scribe ribbon doesn't last very long, working out to something like $0.18 per page, while 100 sheets of Sharp A4 thermal paper (no ribbon required) are just ¥700. A stationery shop behind Walk department store carries the paper.

Bulletin board phone numbers: all these are 8 bit, no parity, 1 stop bit. Mac Stuff, 03-704-2422, INN (Yokohama), 045-671-9727, Kanto Central, 0473-79-0098, Mac Event, 0473-97-0922, Pinejuice, 03-875-6502. John Boyd, who writes "Computer Corner" for **Japan Times**, can be reached on INN at Box 172.

Rejoice! Tokyo now has Skywalker, a true discount computer shop, located at 1-55-14-405 Yoyogi, Shibuya, Tokyo, tel. 03-379-8753. Though there are no first-hand reports yet, the store has an American staff, and sells discounted IBM and Apple II software and hardware, plus whatever else you talk them into carrying.

🖱 Non-Local Gossip

Mountain Computer, a major Apple and IBM peripherals manufacturer, will be building Bernoulli Box "hard floppy disks" under license from Iomega. These units are also made by Tandy, but only for sale by Radio Shack stores.
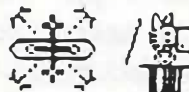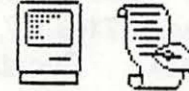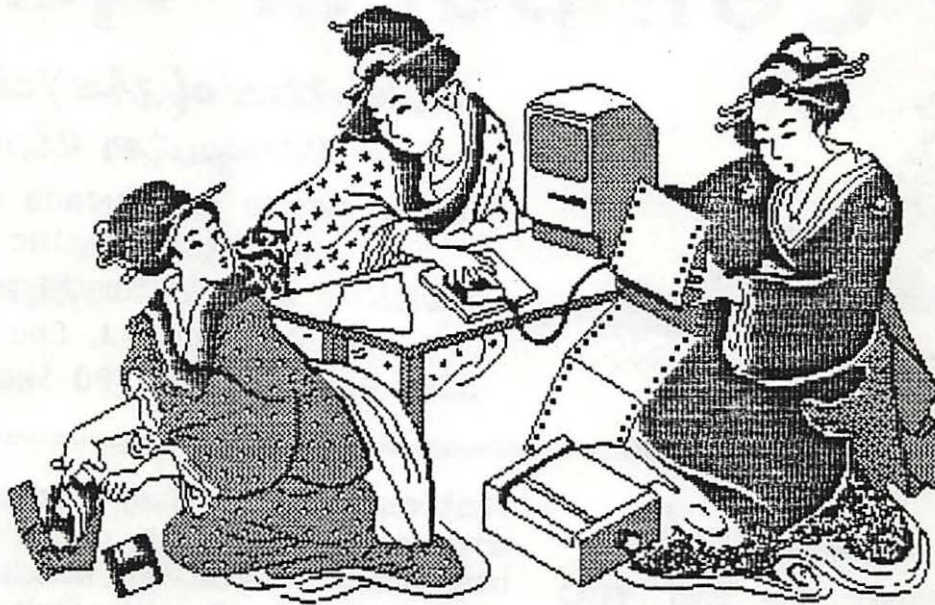
For centuries scholars have wondered how Lady Murasaki, a minor noble woman, wrote the world's first novel, the **Tale of Genji**, back in the 10th century. In a recent arch-eological dig near Ofurobashi, an unsusual screen dump, shown at left, reveals the answer.

Mountain hasn't indicated a price or market for the drives, but a good bet would be the Apple II/Macintosh market.

Apple has finally released an SCSI version of its 20 megabyte hard disk, called the Hard Disk 20SC, priced at $1,299. This is expected to be a big seller as an add-on to the Mac and IIGS.

Jack Tramiel has "done good" with Atari, according to a report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. In the six months ending June 30, Atari made $12.4 million on $105.6 million in sales, and is planning a public stock offering. Even after the sale, the Tramiel family will hold 53 percent of the company, but stock sales are expected to be brisk. Atari has done astonishingly well with its 520ST and 1040ST series of computers, has cleared out the old "pre-Tramiel" inventory of video game machines, and is working hard on a new low-cost 32-bit machine. According to their prospectus, "within the next twelve months, the company intends to introduce... products offering additional internal memory capacity and substantially enhanced color resolution and spectrum capacity; a dedicated graphics coprocessor that will generate graphics up to five times current speeds;

and a Unix-based multiuser, multitasking microcomputer system."

Phoenix Technologies, which makes IBM-compatible control programs for clone manufacturers, has developed a software emulator which allows 68000-based machines (like the Macintosh, Amiga, and Atari ST series) to run IBM PC software – and do so as fast as an IBM XT.

China Comp. Development Corp. is gearing up to sell The Great Wall 0530 PC-AT compatible for $1300, not including disk drives. Expected soon is a cleverly disguised card which automatically transmits secret messages to Chinese intelligence agents.

Micropro will release WordStar Version 4.0 in early 1987. Combining features of both WordStar 3.31 and New Word, Ver. 4.0 will have an undo command, support for subdirectories, line-drawing commands, extended character support, and a new spelling checker. First reports indicate 4.0 will only be available in PC-DOS and MS-DOS versions; CP/M has been ignored.

Grace Hopper, recently retired from the Navy at 79 years of age,

immediately joined Digital Equipment Corporation as a senior consultant. She has also been named as the Orange Bowl parade queen.

Preppies: for those who have everything, AT&T now offers Private Pay Phones. Built-in programming allows the owner to specify all kinds of details such as rates for calls, aided by visual and computer-synthesized instructions. The phone also automatically tabulates use and revenue, has "a sturdy 50 pound case," and runs on normal household current. Price is just $1875, but if you want a booth, that's extra.

Lacking the operating integration of the Macintosh, IBM programmers have had a tough time converting information from one program to another. Take heart: Wiley has just introduced "File Formats for Popular PC Software," by Jeffrey Walden, $24.95. It covers Lotus 1-2-3, SuperCalc,

WordStar, dBASE II and III, etc. The book won't transfer files for you, but you may gain insight into how you could program such a transfer.

Lotus has released Manuscript, a $495 scientific and technical word processor for the IBM series. It can handle up to 800 pages, combines text and graphics, and has a built-in outliner. On the screen, it looks something like a cross between a Wangwriter and Microsoft Word.

Compaq has a new version of the DeskPro 386, the Model 70. Priced at a modest $7,299, it has a 70 meg. drive, 1.2 meg floppy, 1 meg RAM, five slots, and a 16 MHz 80386 CPU. Flight Simulator is a real challenge.

Not yet: an IBM version of Excel may be delayed until mid-1987. The 8088 processor used in the PC doesn't have the horsepower to do the job, and even the 80286 used in the PC-AT may not be enough. To give it graphics similar to Excel on the Mac, plus the ease of use of the Mac, Microsoft needs to use Windows, which isn't up to the task. Microsoft also wants to release a PC Excel with full Lotus 1-2-3 compatibility, which may take a while.

Lotus apparently has some references to the Biblical Beast and random Satanic messages buried in (cont. on page 5)
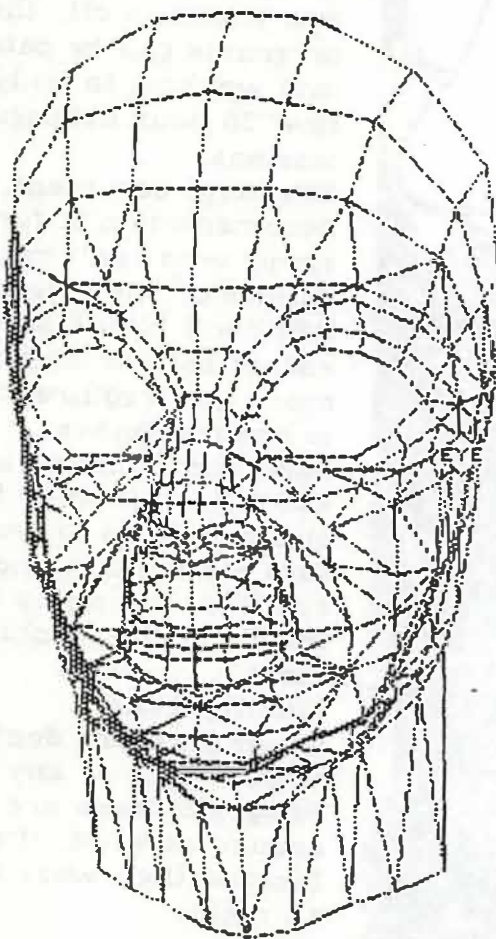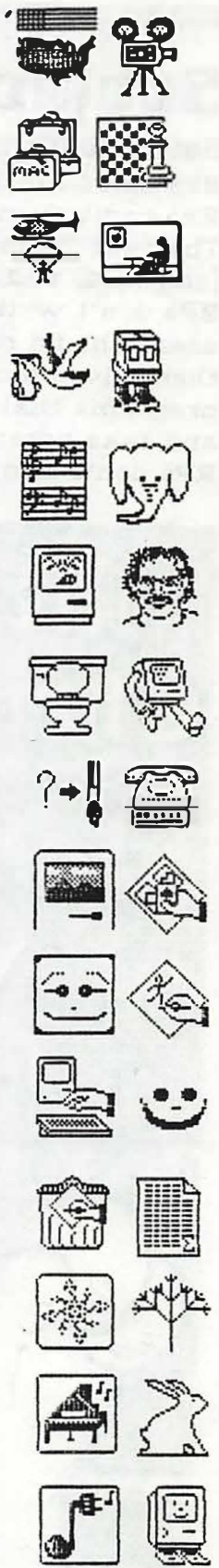
Shown on the left is a sample from **Phoenix 3D** Level One Ver. 1.0, a three dimensional drafting package from Dreams of the Phoenix. Priced at just $39.95, the program allows wire-frame modeling, solid modeling, object-oriented drawing, and other nice goodies on a 512K Macintosh without any extra equipment. Because the drawings are stored as objects, they also take up little room. The "EYE" shown at the edge is at the center of this particular perspective, and can be moved at will.

Subject:

Real Programmers [RPs].

RPs don't eat quiche. In fact, RPs can't even spell quiche. They eat Twinkies, Szechwan [sic] food, and drink Pabst. RPs don't write specs -- users should consider themselves lucky to get any programs that work at all -- and take what they get. RPs don't comment their code. If it was hard to write, it should be hard to understand.

RPs don't write application programs; they program right down on the bare metal. Application programming is for accounting feebs who can't do systems programming.

RPs don't write COBOL. COBOL is for wimpy application programmers.

RPs don't write FORTRAN. FORTRAN is for pipe stress freaks and cyrstallography weenies.

RPs don't write in BASIC. Actually, no programmers write in BASIC after the age of 12.

RPs don't write in PL/1. PL/1 is for those twinks who can't decide whether to write in FORTRAN or COBOL.

RPs don't write in PASCAL, or BLISS, or ADA, or C, or any of those pinko computer science languages. Strong typing is for people with weak memories.

RPs' programs never work right the first time. But if RPs can get their supervisor to throw them on the machine and everyone else off, their programs can be patched into working in 'only a few' 30 hour debugging sessions.

RPs don't document. Documentation is for simps who can't read the listings or the object deck.

RPs don't play tennis, or racket ball, or any other sport that requires them to change clothes. Mountain climbing is OK, and RPs will wear their climbing boots to work in case a mountain should suddenly spring up in the middle of the machine room.

Finally, **Real Programmers** don't work 9 to 5. If any **Real Programmers** are around at 9 AM, it's because they were there all night.

Merry Christmas
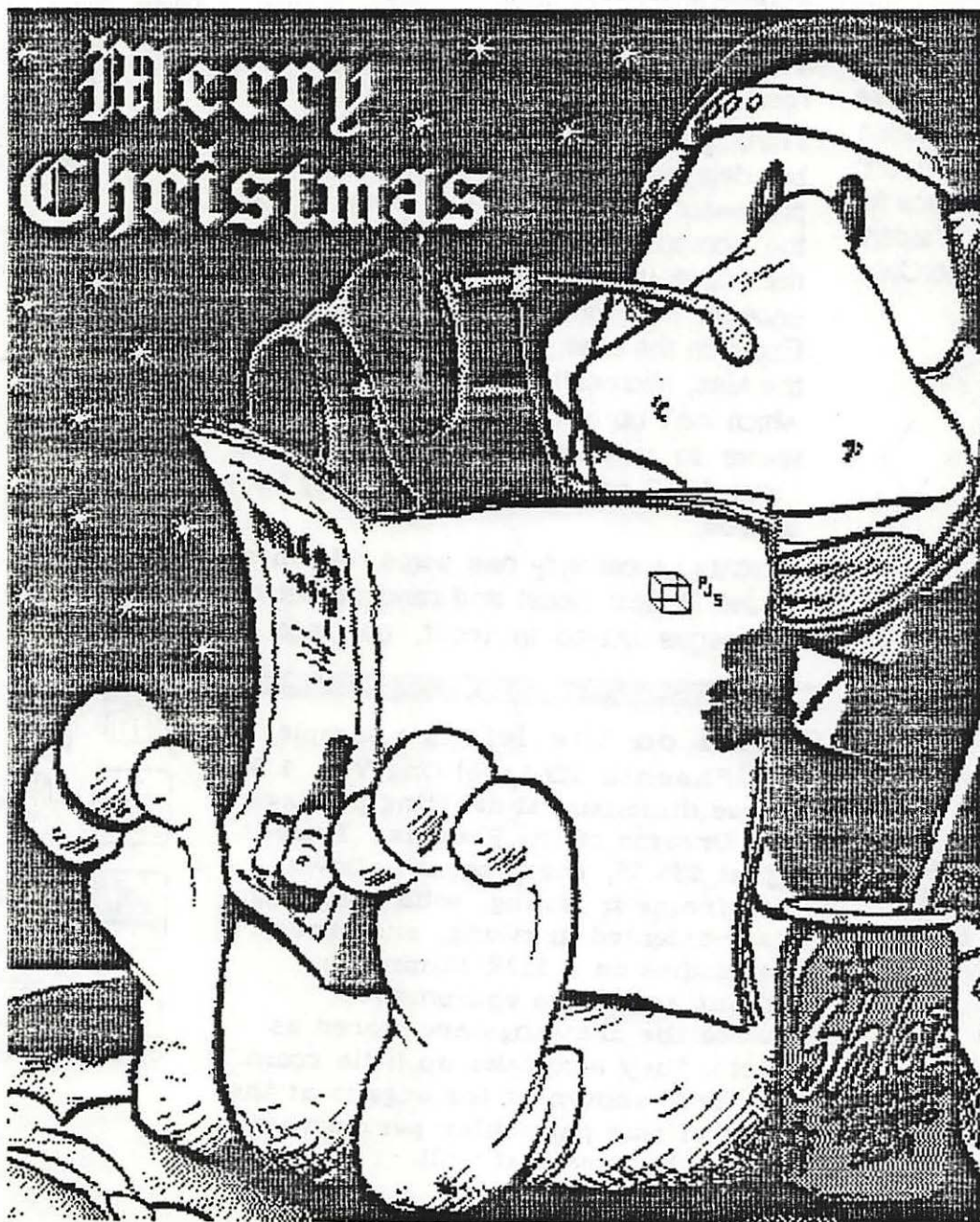
Shown here for the first time, an actual unretouched photograph of one of the new F/A-18 Hornet strike fighters in the midst of undergoing night carrier landing qualifications aboard USS Midway (CV-41). The first military aircraft ever to employ "fly by wire" technology, the Hornet uses computers to send pilot instructions to the aircraft rather than hydraulic or mechanical links.
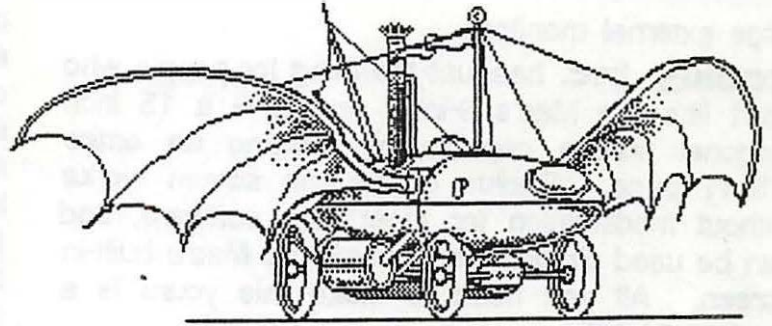
Lotus 1-2-3. Some users, indignant, returned their copies to Lotus, and one "born again" distributor refused to pay for a shipment.

Lotus claims it is innocent as the messages are actually part of the Softguard copy protection scheme. (Does this mean your computer will be damned if you use a pirated copy??) Softguard apologized profusely and, as one source put it, promised a "religion-free" copy protection scheme in the future. Someone at Lotus is reported to have said, "We think it is a devilish prank, and we pray that Softguard has exorcised the problem."

Unable to sell originals as fast as other people sell clones, IBM has announced its intention to purchase specially designed chips from Intel for future machines. This suggests that future IBM PC's will be difficult to clone, since IBM could maintain a monopoly on the custom chips.

How bad is the clone problem? In recent months, Tandy/Radio Shack has sold more IBM PC style machines than IBM. Apple, which has a monopoly on the Macintosh market, has beat IBM every month since March. As a result, IBM was forced in Oct. to admit they won't make as much money as they first thought, and their stock price dropped like a rock.

For those looking for the address of the Macintosh FeiMa Chinese word processor (just $95) mentioned in the last issue, here it is:

UniSource Software Corp.
23 East St.
Cambridge, MA 02141

Microsoft has announced Word 3.0 for the Mac. It offers Page Preview, DCA (Document Content Architecture, for sharing documents on IBM mainframes), an integrated outliner, thesaurus and spelling checker, style sheets, index and table of contents generation. Current Word owners can upgrade for $99.

Colby Systems has won a contract by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and U.S. Army Training Technology Agency for portable Macs. Weighing 16 pounds, the Macs have a 12 in. plasma display, Mac Plus CPU board, 1 Meg RAM, one 800K floppy, 20 Meg hard disk. Price: $5,000 to $7,000. Apple has agreed to help Colby with the contract.

Microsoft will drop copy protection on all Mac business applications (Works, Word, File, Multiplan, Chart). Microsoft has also released a new version of Excel, 1.03, which supports the MC68881 floating point math chip, and fully uses
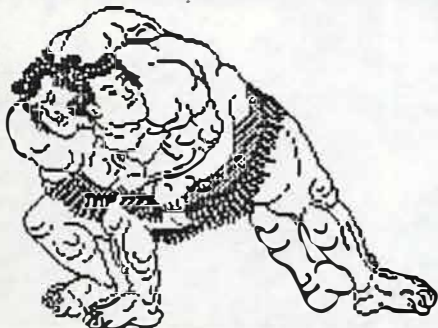
Futahaguro (formerly known as Kitao) is the first sumo star to employ computer technology to the sport. A self-taught programmer, the Yokozuna (grand champion) is currently ranked No. 2, just after Yokozuna Chiyonofuji. Futahaguro uses an NEC 9801 series machine to enter all his matches, his opponents, techniques used, etc. Long dismissed as "too tall" to succeed, Futahaguro has yet to revolutionize the sport, but this year, at least, he's done a lot better than Tom Landry's computer.

large external monitors.

Radlus, Inc. has just the thing for people who don't like the Mac's 9-inch screen — a 15 inch diagonal screen capable of showing an entire 8.5x11 page. Radius claims the screen works without modification for most Mac software, and can be used simultaneously with the Mac's built-in screen. All you need to make this yours is a modest $1,995.

Abaton Technology is now selling C-Scan, a sheet-fed scanner which can suck up virtually any flat image and turn it into 300 dots-per-inch halftones (photographs) for reproduction on a LaserWriter printer. A steal at $2,495.

Zenith Data Systems has released the Z-386 in two models. The Model 40 has a 40 megabyte hard disk, one 1.2 megabyte floppy, 1 megabyte RAM, MS-DOS 3.2, Microsoft Windows, and six expansion slots, for $6,499. The Model 80 is essentially the same, but with an 80 megabyte drive and a $7,499 price tag. All expansion slots can use either PC or PC-AT cards. Zenith will announce "soon" an optional cache memory controller, using 35-nanosecond RAM, which should make the machine blindingly fast. Zenith also has trademarked its "Slushware RAM," a 64K block of fast RAM holding a copy of the BIOS code. By keeping the input-output routines in RAM rather than slower ROM, video response, among other things, is "significantly improved."

Fearless predictions for 1987: after suffering months of losses, IBM will announce it is leaving the computer field. Meanwhile, foreign correspondents will report the surprise sale of the entire nation of Switzerland.

Apple, unable to overcome a "fear of fruit" by some conservative businessmen, will announce a change in the company's name. Overnight, Woz Wonder Machines captures 98% of the market, and Steve Jobs becomes a monk.

Atari will end months of tense speculation and buy Commodore. Also UniSys (formerly Burroughs), Xerox, Wang, CDC, Joe's Fast Pizza and Mayflower Van Lines.

IBM Reference Chart

Though few people realize it, IBM has a consistent set of machine language instructions which can be used from their mainframe computers down to the late, unlamented PCjr. Here is a list of these mnemonic codes and their meanings.

CODE	INSTRUCTION
AAC	Alter All Commands
AAR	Alter at Random
AB	Add Backwards
AFVC	Add Finagle's Variable Constant
AIB	Attack Innocent Bystander
AWTT	Assemble with Tinker Toys
BAC	Branch to Alpha Centauri
BAF	Blow all Fuses
BAFL	Branch and Flush
BBIL	Branch on Burned-Out Indicator Light
BBT	Branch on Binary Tree
BBW	Branch Both Ways
BCIL	Branch Creating Infinite Loop
BDC	Break Down and Cry
BDT	Burn Data Tree
BEW	Branch Either Way
BF	Belch Fire
BH	Branch and Hang
BMR	Branch Multiple Registers
BOB	Branch on Bug
BOD	Beat on the Disk
BOI	Byte Operator Immediately
BPDI	Be Polite, Don't Interrupt
BPO	Branch on Power Off
BRSS	Branch on Sunspot
BST	Backspace and Stretch Tape
BW	Branch on Whim
CBNC	Close, but no Cigar
CDC	Close Disk Cover
CDOZ	Calm Down, It's Only Ones and Zeroes
CEMU	Close Eyes and Monkey With User Space
CH	Create Havoc
CLBR	Clobber Register
CLBRI	Clobber Register Immediately
CM	Circulate Memory
CMD	Compare Meaningless Data
CML	Compute Meaning of Life
CNB	Cause Nervous Breakdown
COLB	Crash for Operator's Lunch Break
CPPR	Crumple Printer Paper and Rip
CRASH	Continue Running After Stop or Halt
CRB	Crash and Burn
CRN	Convert to Roman Numerals
CS	Crash System
CSL	Curse and Swear Loudly
CU	Convert to Unary
CVG	Convert to Garbage
CWOM	Complement Write-only Memory

CZZC	Convert Zone to Zip Code
DBTP	Drop Back Ten and Punt
DBZ	Divide by Zero
DC	Divide and Conquer
DDC	Daily During Calculations
DLN	Don't Look Now...
DMNS	Do What I Mean, Not What I Say
DMPE	Decide to Major in Phys. Ed.
DMPK	Destroy Memory Protect Key
DNPG	Do Not Pass Go
DO	Divide and Overflow
DOC	Drive Operator Crazy
DPMI	Declare Programmer Mentally Incompetent
DPR	Destroy Program
DTC	Destroy This Command
DTE	Decrement Telephone Extension
DTVFL	Destroy Third Variable From Left
DW	Destroy World
EBB	Edit and Blank Buffer
ECO	Electrocute Computer Operator
EFD	Emulate Frisbee Using Disk Pack
EIAO	Execute In Any Order
EIOC	Execute Invalid Op-code
EMPC	Emulate Pocket Calculator
EMSE	Edit and Mark Something Else
ENF	Emit Noxious Fumes
EP	Execute Programmer
EPI	Execute Programmer Immediately
EROS	Erase Read-only Storage
EXOP	Execute Operator
EXPP	Execute Political Prisoner
FLI	Flash Lights Impressively
FSM	Fold, Spindle and Mutilate
FSRA	Forms Skip and Run Away
GCAR	Get Correct Answer Regardless
GDP	Grin Defiantly at Programmer
GFD	Go Forth and Divide
GFM	Go Forth and Multiply
HCF	Halt and Catch Fire
HCP	Hide Central Processor
IAE	Ignore All Exceptions
IBP	Insert Bug and Proceed
IIB	Ignore Inquiry and Branch
ISC	Insert Sarcastic Comments
JTZ	Jump to Twilight Zone
LAP	Laugh At Programmer
LCC	Load and Clear Core
LPA	Lead Programmer Astray
MAZ	Multiply Answer by Zero
MBR	Multiply and be Fruitful
MLR	Move and Lose Record
MW	Malfunction Whenever
MWAG	Make Wild-Assed Guess
MWT	Malfunction Without Telling
OML	Obey Murphy's Laws
PD	Play Dead
PDSK	Punch Disk
PEHC	Punch Extra Holes in Cards
PFD	Punt on Fourth Down
PI	Punch Invalid
PNRP	Print Nasty Replies to Programmer
POCL	Punch Out Console Lights
POPI	Punch Operator Immediately

PVLC	Punch Variable Length Card
RA	Randomize Answer
RASC	Read and Shred Card
RCB	Read Command Backwards
RD	Reverse Directions
RDA	Refuse to Disclose Answer
RDB	Run Disk Backwards
RDS	Read Sideways
RIRG	Read Inter-record Gap
RLI	Rotate Left Indefinitely
ROC	Randomize Op Codes
ROO	Rub Out Operator
RPB	Read Print and Blush
RPM	Read Programmer's Mind
RSD	On Read Error Self-Destruct
RSTOM	Read From Store-only Memory
RTS	Return To Sender
RWCR	Rewind Card Reader
SAI	Skip All Instructions
SAS	Sit And Spin
SCCA	Short Circuit on Correct Answer
SFH	Set Flags to Half-mast
SFT	Stall For Time
SHAB	Shift a Bit
SHABM	Shift a Bit More
SLP	Sharpen Light Pen
SMR	Skip on Meaningless Result
SOS	Sign off, Stupid
SOT	Sit on a Tack
SPS	Set Panel Switches
SPSW	Scramble Program Status Word
SQPC	Sit Quietly and Play With Your Crayons
SRDR	Shift Right Double Ridiculous
SRSD	Seek Record and Scar Disk
SRZ	Subtract and Reset to Zero
SSJ	Select Stacker and Jam
STA	Store Anywhere
STROM	Store in Read-only Memory
TARC	Take Arithmetic Review Course
TDB	Transfer and Drop Bits
TLO	Turn Indicator Lights Off
TN	Take a Nap
TPDI	Tell Programmer to Do it Him/Herself
TPF	Turn Power Off
TPN	Turn Power On
TTA	Try, Try Again
UCB	Uncouple CPU and Branch
UER	Update and Erase Record
ULDA	Unload Accumulator
UP	Understand Program
UPCI	Update Card In Place
WBT	Water Binary Tree
WEMG	Write Eighteen Minute Gap
WF	Wait Forever
WHFO	Wait Until Hell Freezes Over
WI	Write Illegibly
WPM	Write Programmer's Mind
WWLR	Write Wrong-Length Record
WSWW	Work in Strange and Wondrous Ways
XSP	Execute Systems Programmer
ZAR	Zero Any Register