🏯 Local Gossip 🏯

April meetings

All meetings will be held in the YCC offices, Rm. 229 in the MWR building. The general meeting will be Wed., Apr. 8 at 6 p.m., with a demonstration of the spiffy Panasonic portable machines used by the University of Maryland in their computer classes.

Special Interest Groups: the Amiga SIG will meet the second Tues., Apr. 14 (POC: Charlie Neumeister, 234-7288), and the MSDOS SIG will meet the first and third Tues., Apr. 7 and 21 (POC: Dave Lydon, 234-7546). Austin Williams (65-5196) will chair the Commodore SIG, but please call Paul Poland (234-3163) if you need the

Open House

Celebrate the opening of our new home on Sat., April 11, from noon to 2 p.m., in Room 229, MWR Bldg.
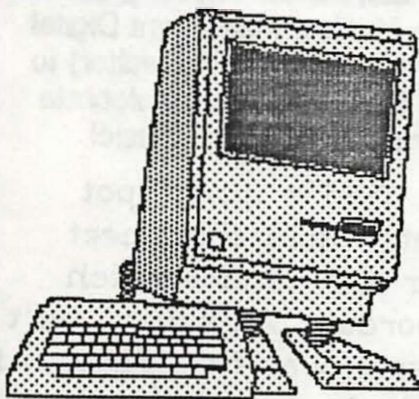
Bring your friends, computers, and favorite software packages, and help show Yokosuka what the club is all about.

library. At present, the club is still looking for people to organize an Apple II SIG, so volunteer yourself or someone else. Jane Burch (234-7303 or 24-3916) has volunteered to help set up a Macintosh SIG, but this group still needs formal members and a chairman.

April Open House

To celebrate the opening of the club's office in the MWR building, an Open House will be held Sat., Apr. 11, starting at noon and continuing until 2 p.m., or whenever we get tired. Please bring in your machines, software, funky peripherals, etc., to show the general public the wonders of silicon intelligence. You can show off, too.

Newsletter Translation Service!

Have trouble understanding **The Computer Rag**? YCC has two solutions: 1) the founder and editor of the newsletter is being sent into exile in San Diego, where he will spend his winters on the beach, thinking of his friends in Yokosuka, and 2) YCC will start offering classes (computer literacy classes, how to buy a computer classes, programming classes, etc.) starting in May. If you want a particular kind of class, or want to teach, don't be shy -- come to the meeting and present your case.

Basic information

Please note: if you've been looking for current information about computers, don't forget the base library. The CFAY library has subscriptions to many of the big computer magazines, and is willing to add more if there is a demand. The librarian has also made an effort to

collect a decent selection of hardware and software books covering a wide range of tastes, from computer novice to expert.

Graphics goodie

Art Murphy discovered a public domain goodie on the Kanto Central bulletin board: a utility, called READMAC2, which can download MacPaint pictures (from a bulletin board, for example) and display them on IBM PC-compatible machines. Since there are probably more MacPaint pictures floating around than all other types combined, this is worth investigating if you have an IBM or good imitation.

Computer music

If you'd like to make music with your computer, look into MIDI interfaces and software, and Casio keyboards. The CZ-101 is an inexpensive battery-operated keyboard which can play up to four instrument sounds simultaneously. The CZ-1000 is essentially a CZ-101, but it has full-size keys. The CZ-3000 is essentially two CZ-1000's stuck together, and can play up to eight instrument sounds at a time. The CZ-5000 is a 3000 with a sequencer (not needed if you have a computer), so ignore it. At the top is the CZ-1, which has 64 built-in instruments, a full size keyboard, can play 8 instruments simultaneously, and has velocity-sensitive keys (sounds are louder if you hit the keys rapidly, like a regular

piano). All these instruments can be ordered from the Special Order desk at A-33.
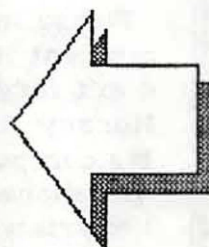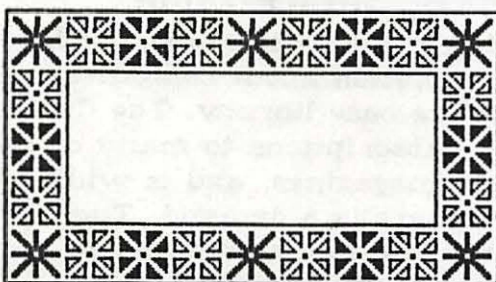
Since many of you probably wonder about the quality of MIDI-produced music, this month we have a treat: electronically inscribed on this sheet is a sample MIDI selection. Hold your ear up to the box, scratch the paper and -- presto! Amazing, isn't it? (This offer void after April.)

And now, a word from our President

Setting up a bulletin board seems to be the primary interest these days. This has already begun to take place. We should have a room and a telephone line by April. We still have to purchase a computer, monitor, and modem. Ron Black has donated a 10 megabyte hard disk for an IBM type computer for use with the bulletin board. We couldn't get it to work at first but have discovered that it needs a new controller card. This card will cost about $125.00. Kanto II computers (Art Murphy and myself) has proposed selling the club a computer at cost. The computer is an IBM compatible with 640k, 2 disk drives, and graphics card. The computer club's cost for computer and modem would be approximately $1000.00. We are still looking for a monitor. If anyone has a composite monitor they would like to donate to the computer club please contact

Amazing MIDI Demo

Many people are interested in computer music but, because they don't know anything about either computers or music, never develop this interest. But now, the Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) system allows a complete musical barbarian (such as the newsletter editor) to play beautiful music -- by having the computer send signals to MIDI instruments. To celebrate YCC's April 1 move into new quarters, we offer: the world's first "scratch and listen" music!

Directions: find a quiet spot (like a closet). Hold this sheet against your ear, and scratch inside the border. Amazing, isn't it?!? This piece was first recorded by P.D.Q. Bach, long before either home computers or MIDI.

me. Art Murphy has volunteered to lend the computer club part of the money to establish a BBS. We would then repay him after our upcoming fund-raiser. Our total cost for BBS equipment would be about $1125.00. If the club votes to put up the money we would have a BBS up about April 15.

We are also looking for input regarding the running of our BBS. There seem to be two basic philosophies in running a Club BBS. The first is to have an open board. This involves giving open access to the BBS and our club library. Both members and non-members are given equal access to all levels. This has the advantage of encouraging participation. The disadvantages are that it would be harder to log on to the board (because more people are using it) and it gives many of our club assets out to non-club members. This may lessen the attraction of joining the club.

The second is to have two areas on the board. The general area would be open to everyone as in the above example, but the club would have a private area open only to club members. Club assets such as the club library would be stored in this private area. This has the advantage of attracting club membership and giving club members first priority on the board. The disadvantage is that it may discourage participation of non-club members.

Fund-raising is becoming a major topic these days. Now that we have a permanent room to meet in, several projects are being discussed, most of which take money. Our present plan is to run a booth at upcoming on-base events such as Independence Day. We need help in this area and would appreciate volunteers for a fund-raising committee to work with our treasurer, Jerry Curtis.

Computer classes will be starting soon. We have agreed to start teaching computer classes to the public. This is part of our agreement with MWR. Anyone interested in teaching classes

please contact me. Our first class will be a computer literacy class sometime in May. Sign up will be at the Community Center in April.

——————————— Roger Delozier

Maybe you'd like to know ——

how Roger's message got into the newsletter. Roger typed it up on his IBM PC "compatible," and his machine then called the editor's Tandy 600 "portable" and sent the following:

Roger insisted this didn't look quite right, and suggested our modems were having a diplomatic fight, arguing about protocol and such, so we tried again, with better luck. The second message was then dumped into the editor's Macintosh "original" for layout and printing.

[You may ask: wouldn't it have been easier just to hand the editor a copy and let him retype it? And the answer is: no. The editor hates retyping —— that's why he has computers —— and he also lives several miles away from Roger.]

With the bulletin board up and running, such contributions should be fast, easy —— and routine, so start thinking about what you want to say. In fact, the newsletter could be "published" entirely on the board, greatly speeding distribution (though you'd lose the pretty pictures).

For sale

Osborne-1 portable computer with two double density drives, switchable 52, 80, 120 column monitor, external monitor, fan, computer desk, dot matrix printer, CP/M 2.2 operating system, Wordstar 3.3 word processor, Grammatik grammar checker, dBASE II database, SuperCalc 2 spreadsheet, Calendar/1 (automatic calendar maker), file transfer utility (for moving programs back and forth from

MSDOS, CP/M, and TRSDOS disks), and lots of other stuff (all originals), for $995. Contact Kathleen Charters at 234-5191 or 234-4326.

Non-Local Gossip

Apple Cray

Apple set several records when they purchased their Cray-1 supercomputer. Usually it takes a minimum of nine months to get a Cray, but Apple discovered NASA's nearby Mountain View research center was asking for a delay in delivery of a Cray. Overnight, Apple cut an order for $15 million — cash — and had the computer in three weeks.

Seymour Cray, when informed Apple was buying the Cray, asked why they wanted it. When told they would use it for designing the next Apple, Cray said, "That's interesting. I'm designing the next Cray on my Apple."

Improved TV

Commodore is now selling the Genlock 1300 for $195. It allows an Amiga to swipe video signals from a VCR, camera, or video disc source, and overlay the picture with Amiga text and graphics. All movie and TV companies, plus all photographers who have ever lived, are planning a massive suit claiming Genlock violates the "look and feel" of reality.

European edition

Commodore has released, at a West German trade show, the Amiga 500 and 2000 in the European market. Both have the same 7.18 MHz 68000 CPU, custom graphics and sound chips, etc., as the current Amiga 1000, but also include more of the operating system in ROM. Commodore hinted they may NOT release the machines in the U.S. if European sales are disappointing.

Also announced was one of the first internal expansion cards for the Amiga 2000, the Janus board. It has an 80286 coprocessor and other goodies which will bring IBM PC-AT compatibility to the Amiga.

One Commodore magazine, citing "confidential inside sources," said before the introduction that

Exclusive! Sample screen dump from the new Macintosh II!
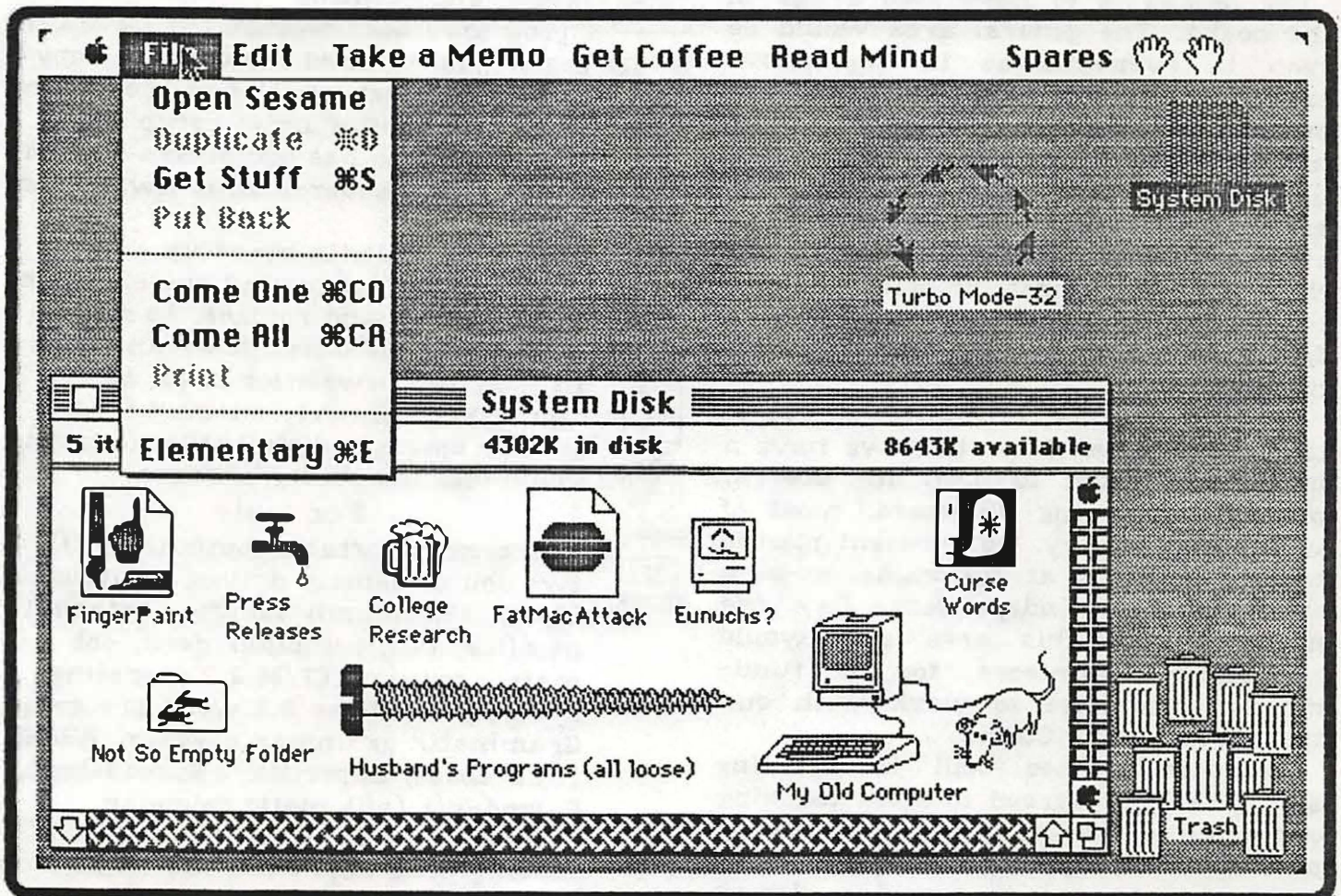
the Amiga 2000 would have a 68020 CPU and 68881 math coprocessor — which it does not. When asked if this misinformation would hurt the magazine's reputation, one editor said, "It was a minor error." [It was actually a cover story.]

Take one box

Byte by Byte (9442 Capital of Texas Hwy North, Suite 150, Austin, TX 78759) has a 2.5 in. high unit that sits on top of the Amiga and costs $1495. Sound exciting? No? Well, it holds 1 Mbyte of RAM (expandable to 8 Mbytes), and a 20 Mbyte hard disk. Sound exciting now?

Super boat

Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water: the 12-meter yachts **Stars & Stripes** and **USA** were both designed on a Cray X-MP/48 supercomputer by a team of naval architects, computer scientists, and NASA consultants. After all this, all they came up with was a 65,000 pound aluminum boat and an ugly 132 year old trophy, and the boat can't even fly.

Laser books

Microsoft, trying to show it is serious about compact laser disc storage, has introduced a $295 general reference CD-ROM disk. It includes the **American Heritage Dictionary**, **Roget's Thesaurus**, U.S. ZIP code directory, **1987 World Almanac**, spelling checker, **Chicago Manual of Style**, **Bartlett's Quotations**, and other such goodies. For $1095, the disc is packaged with the Amdek Laserdrive 1 and MSDOS CD-ROM extensions, a controller card, and software to run the disk from within 14 different MSDOS word processors. Using all this requires a 640K PC compatible and MSDOS 3.1 or better. The Amdek drive, incidentally, includes headphone and stereo jacks for playing standard CD audio discs. Microsoft was unsuccessful in getting Miss Marple, your 8th grade English teacher, converted to CD-ROM format.

My attorney will contact you

It's news! Micropro and Word Perfect are NOT thinking about suing Borland over Sprint! Sprint is a new MSDOS word processor that emulates WordStar and Word Perfect commands.

Strange endorsement

Lotus loses: immediately after Lotus filed lawsuits against VP Planner and The Twin, claiming they violated 1-2-3 "look and feel"

copyrights, sales of both packages boomed. American National Red Cross purchased 1,500 copies of VP Planner, and The Twin sales have climbed 26%.

Lotus depetaled

Lotus loses again: the U.S. Copyright Office has denied Lotus a "visual copyright" for 1-2-3. According to the court, their "visual interface" is mostly a grid of columns and numbers, and Lotus doesn't own either the Hindu-Arabic numbering system or the Roman alphabet. Since Lotus is suing everyone in the world for 1-2-3 "work-alikes," this decision probably will not result in boosting Lotus stock prices.

Philip Kahn, Pres. of Borland Intl., claims "if there were any grounds to 'look and feel,' Las Vegas would sue Atlantic City and own it."

Next: 24 bits?

Intel is developing 16-bit versions of its 32-bit 80386 chip to fit in sockets used by the 80286 in the IBM PC-AT and clones (including the Zenith Z-248). While this would offer only a slight increase in speed, it would open up AT-style machines to software written for the 80386. So far, there isn't any to speak of, but this is a mere detail.

Buy a Xerox

For those interested in news of the Ada language, DOD's new "super language," International Resource Development (6 Prowitt St., Norwalk, CT 06855) is still offering the "Ada Data" monthly newsletter for $260. As most issues are only 4-8 pages, this works out to more than a dollar a page. If someone could get hold of their mailing list, **The Computer Rag** could make some real money!

Perfection isn't cheap

Word Perfect, the popular IBM PC word processor, is now available on the Micro VAX (only $5000) and VAX 8978 (only $29,000). Less expensive versions ($2000? $12.95?) will be announced in the next three months for the Macintosh, Amiga and Atari ST.

No batteries

If you are looking to an alternative to Apple's new Macintosh computers, pluck down $3,999 and get the ultimate PC-AT clone, the Compaq Portable III. It weighs 18 lbs., has a 12 MHz 80286 processor, comes with 640K RAM, a wicked 640 by 400 pixel

gas plasma display, and a single 1.2 Mbyte 5.25 in. floppy drive. You can add up to 6.6 Mbytes of RAM on the main board, and an internal 20 Mbyte or 40 Mbyte hard disk. In its advertising, Compaq justifies the fact that it won't run on batteries by saying the machine "is so busy in the office it doesn't get out much."

Thanks, we needed that

IBM has announced official support of Microsoft Windows and Adobe Systems Postscript language for desktop publishing. Maybe someday they'll endorse ASCII, too.

Deflowered ROM

Panasonic's Business Partner 286, an IBM PC clone, has been blocked from entering the U.S. by Customs. They claim the machine violates IBM's BIOS routines, and as we all know there is little worse in life than a violated routine.

Don't buy a Xerox

Xerox announced in late Feb. that it has discontinued selling personal computers. This was a huge surprise; many people were unaware Xerox even made PC's.

Speed extra

Renaissance GRX, Inc., founded by former Microsoft employees, has developed Rendition I, a $1195 board that greatly speeds up Microsoft Windows. In EGA mode, speed improvements range from 23 to 91 times normal, which means you may finish writing a memo before you retire.

Robotic print routine

IBM is innovative, sometimes. In Charlotte, NC, IBM has an automated plant which produces 4,000 ProPrinters a day, with virtually no human supervision. This translates into 1.5 million printers a year -- and the neighbors are complaining, since the growing pile of printers is blocking out the sun.

Two new Macs

Apple introduced two new models of the Macintosh in March, the same month Mac sales broke the million mark. As with the original, these are definitely the machines "for the rest of us," especially the rest of us with the required money.

New Mac #1

Macintosh SE -- it looks much like current Macs except it has some new vents, is platinum colored, and has two Apple

Desktop Bus Ports [wonderful, just what the world needs, a new kind of port] for keyboards, mice, and graphics tablets. Inside, it has the same ingredients as a Mac Plus, except there are both internal and external high-speed SCSI ports, plus one expansion slot -- and (a major scandal) a fan! Because of several design changes, the SE is supposed to be 20 percent faster than a Mac Plus. Current Macs cannot be upgraded to an SE.

Prices: with two internal drives and keyboard, $2899; with one floppy and 20 Mbyte internal drive, $3699. Options: large screen adapters, memory boards, 68020 processor cards, $299 internal 800K floppy, $999 internal 20 Mbyte hard disk, $129 Apple IIGS-type keyboard, $229 IBM RT-type keyboard, $399 IBM-type drive (connects to $129 board for transferring MSDOS files back and forth).

AST Research has already announced the Mac 86, an 8086 coprocessor and disk controller board which includes MSDOS 3.2 and file conversion software. With it, MSDOS can run in a Mac window at IBM PC-AT speeds, with free cut and past between the Mac and MSDOS.

Macintosh II -- radically different from the current Macs, the Mac II has no built-in screen, but does have a big, blocky system box about the size of an IBM PC-AT. (To those who complained that the Mac looked too small to be powerful, may tiny elves with sharp teeth nibble on your toes at night. You'll never get this monster on a shipboard fold-down desk!) Standard features are a 15.7 MHz 68020 main processor, 1 Mbyte RAM (expandable to 8 Mbytes on motherboard and 2 gigabytes -- two billion bytes -- total), 68881 math coprocessor, and six Nubus expansion cards. No display or keyboard is included in the basic system.

Prices: with one 800K disk and keyboard (no display), $3899; with 40 Mbyte internal hard disk, $5499. Options: $499 display adapter which shows 640 by 480 pixels in 16 colors or, with $149 option, up to 256 colors from palette of 16.8 million; $399 12 in. black & white display; $999 13 in. RGB color display; $999 20 Mbyte internal hard disk; $1599 40 Mbyte internal hard disk; $2699 80 Mbyte internal hard disk; $1499 40 Mbyte external streaming tape backup drive; $499 Motorola 68851 page memory management chip for running Unix. Note: when Apple says the Mac II will run Unix (Apple calls it

A/UX), they mean a full Unix System V Release 3.0 operating system, certified by Bell Labs.

AST has already announced the Mac 286 for the Mac II. It has an 80286 coprocessor and disk controller, and runs MSDOS at fast PC-AT speeds in a window on the Mac -- while the Mac II is doing something else.

Several add-on monitors for the new Macs have already been shown, including a monochrome display which can show two full-size 8½ by 11 pages and a 1024 by 768 pixel color display.

Remember the AF's C-5A?

Lotus will replace Jazz, an underwhelming Mac integrated package, with Galaxy. Unlike Jazz, Galaxy can read Symphony, 1-2-3, and Microsoft SYLK-format files, and has a command language. It probably won't hurt sales of Microsoft Excel or Works, however, since Lotus says it won't run on most Macs. This is the most ingenious form of copy protection yet!

Died at the start

Generic Software, Inc., will have a Mac version of First CADD, its best-selling IBM PC package, in June for $49.95. Generic states it will use the IBM PC interface instead of the Mac's, since it can be converted faster. Keeping the interface will probably also keep First CADD from becoming a Mac bestseller.

Budget wonder

Cheap stuff: Jasmine (555 De Haro St., San Francisco, CA 94107) has two highly-acclaimed hard disks, the Direct Drive 20 (20 Mbytes, $606.67 by VISA) and Direct Drive 80 (80 Mbytes, $1421.40 by VISA). In spite of their low cost, these drives have always been ranked among the top three in about a dozen magazine tests, and are particularly well known for their speed and careful design. Each drive includes, as a bonus, around 6-8 Mbytes of public domain software.

Because these drives use an SCSI interface, they will work only with a Mac Plus. However, if you have a 512K Mac (particularly the "Mac Enhanced"), Jasmine will sell you an "install it yourself" interface for $101.97, charged to your VISA card.

The answer is . . .

Last month's mystery question: the SE in the new "Macintosh SE" is supposed to mean System Expansion, but some claim it

means "Slightly Enhanced."

Final page

The last page of this newsletter was composed entirely in Microsoft Word 3.0 for the Macintosh. It can probably do anything you'd ever want to do with a word processor but -- unlike most Mac word processors -- you'll have to read the instructions to figure out what you're doing. Also, unless you have an 800K internal and external drive, you'll probably find it overwhelming. In other words, buy the Word 1.05 on sale at A-33, and upgrade only if you feel a need. Word 1.05 will satisfy the word processing needs of most small countries.

There is also a Word 3.0 for IBM PC's and close relatives. It also can do all kinds of wonderous things, but don't even think of getting it unless you have lots of memory and at least 10 Mbytes of disk storage.

Oh, yeah. The last page also has a form. You might find it useful the next time someone calls you in the shower to find an answer they could have read in the manual.

Now it can be told

Yes, this is Lykara Charters, the unseen assistant editor of **The Computer Rag**. Without her help, each issue would be done much sooner. I figured it was time she got the credit she deserves and, besides, I had some space to fill.

_____ lawrence

Microsoft Word 3.0 for the Macintosh

Now available on a computer near you, Word 3.0 is the ultimate word processor. The main program is 340K, which does not include glossary files, spelling dictionaries, and other goodies, so don't expect a CP/M version. It does all the normal Mac stuff, including unlimited numbers of typestyles and mixed graphics and text, plus some other, highly unusual things.
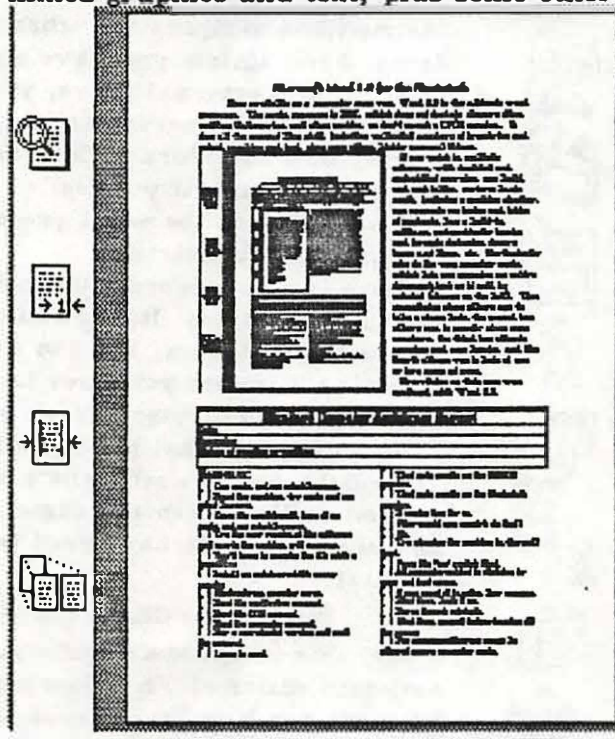
It can print in multiple columns, with justified and unjustified margins, can build and sort tables, perform basic math, includes a spelling checker, can generate an index and table of contents, has a built-in outliner, automatically tracks and formats footnotes, draws boxes and lines, etc. Particularly nice is the page preview mode, which lets you examine an entire document just as it will be printed (shown on the left). The magnifying glass allows you to take a closer look, the second box allows you to exactly place page numbers, the third box adjusts margins and page breaks, and the fourth allows you to look at one or two pages at once.

Everything on this page was produced with Word 3.0.

Standard Computer Assistance Request

Date:

Requester:

Nature of question or problem:

Response:
[ ] Try again and see what happens.
[ ] Reset the machine, try again and see what happens.
[ ] Turn the machine off, turn it on again and see what happens.
[ ] Try the new version of the software and maybe the problem will go away.
[ ] You'll have to exorcise the file with a hex editor.
[ ] Install an uninterruptible power supply.
[ ] Obviously an operator error.
[ ] Read the application manual.
[ ] Read the DOS manual.
[ ] Read the computer manual.
[ ] Buy a non-pirated version and read the manual.
[ ] Learn to read.

[ ] That only works on the MSDOS version.
[ ] That only works on the Macintosh version.
[ ] It works fine for us.
[ ] Why would you want to do that?
[ ] No.
[ ] Try plugging the machine in the wall first.
[ ] Press the "on" switch first.
[ ] All computers object to division by zero, not just yours.
[ ] If you want it in color, buy crayons.
[ ] Next time, back it up.
[ ] Never format originals.
[ ] Next time, save it before turning off the power.
[ ] I'm recommending you never be allowed near a computer again.