

CONNIPTION

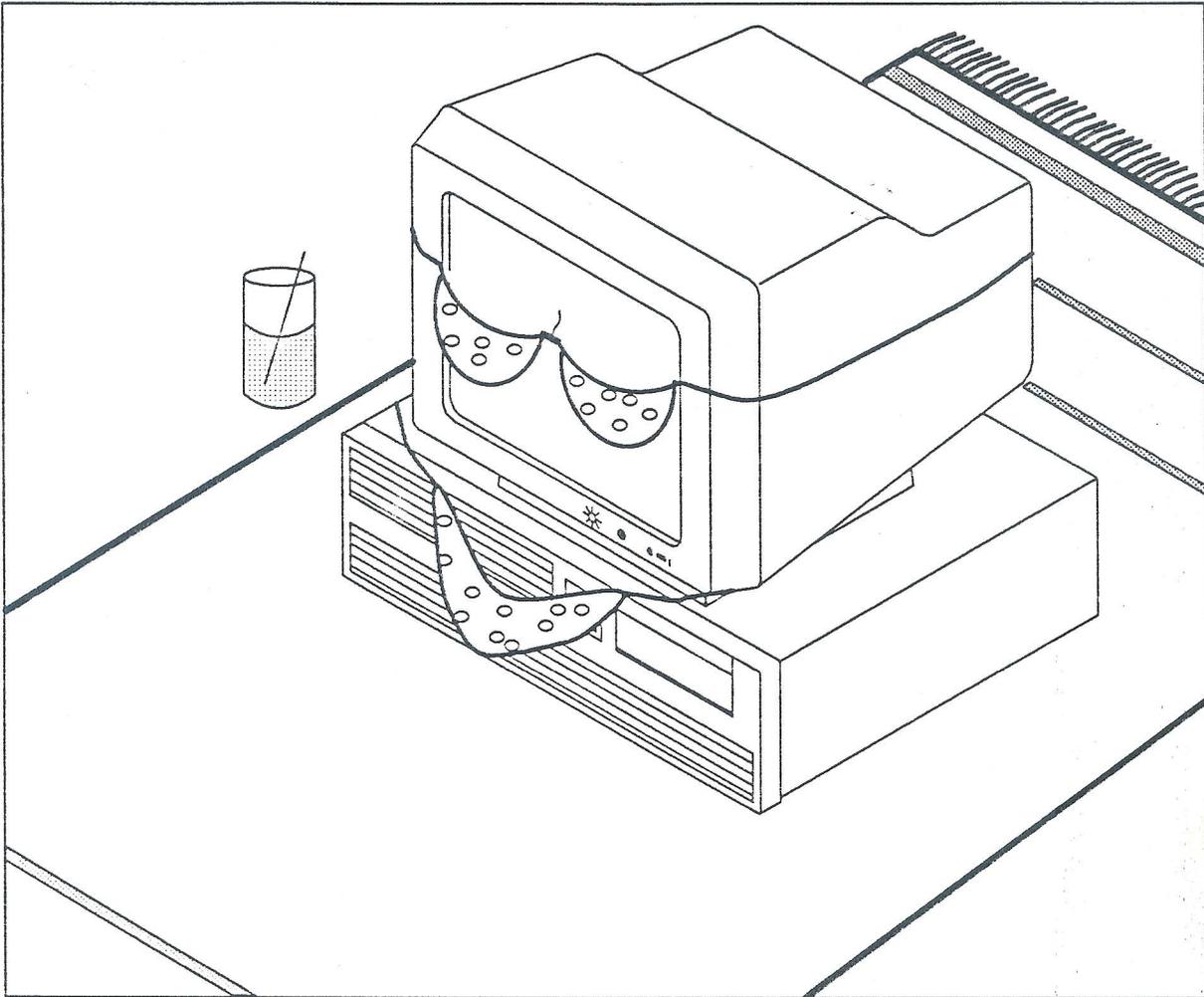
Volume 3 Number 1

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1988 Swimsuit Issue

See what all the nodes will be wearing on the nation's beaches this summer!!!!

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Tinsel Town Tattler

by Shecky DeBullion

Editor's Note: Connoption feature writer, Sharky DeBullion has been out sick since Black Monday. He asked his Hollywood-based brother, Shecky, to pinch hit.

Michael Cimino, director of Mega-Flop *Heaven's Gate*, has just announced completion of his latest project: a remake of *High Noon* starring Pee Wee Herman in the Gary Cooper role...Dan Rather and George Bush will square off in a preliminary card of the next *Wrestlemania*...Is Paul Newman spaghetti sauce as deep blue in person as it is on the big screen?...Marilyn Brando will play the title role in an upcoming remake of *Hawaii*...The Man With One Red Shoe, Three Men and a Baby, The Lady in Red -- what do they all have in common? They're all American remakes of popular French films. Now, George Lucas is producing *Space Warriors in 3-D*, an American remake of the French epics *Jean de Florette* and *Manon of the Spring*. Explains Lucas...

"We're going to use one of Jim Henson's adorable puppet creations to play the Yves Montand role." Robin Williams and Terri Garr will costar...Ronald Reagan will play himself in "48 Minutes," said to be a realistic portrayal of the president's working day...Bert Reynolds' toupee signed a three-picture deal with Universal...Shecky wishes that "Circus of the Stars" could be presented without nets...Movies are your best entertainment value!

Apollo Computer Target of Takeover Bid

(Wall Street) — There was a flurry of activity on the Street this week following rumors that the computer industry's leading workstation vendor, Apollo Computer Inc. was being targeted for an unfriendly takeover bid. Company spokesmen denied that representatives of Struan's, Ltd. (Hong Kong) had approached shareholders in a buyout attempt, but independent analysts contend that no other action could account for Apollo's recent stock price surge. Although

many shareholders would no doubt be tempted by Struans' \$3.00/share offer, Apollo financial boss Stocks N. Bonds urged caution and restraint. "We will fight any attempt to gain control of the Company with whatever means we have," he pledged. "Employees and stockholders may rest easy on that. Of course, if the current board of directors can be assured of job security under new management, that changes everything."

In Hong Kong, Mr. Ian Dunross, Tai-pan of Struan's, explained the motivation behind the buyout attempt. "Shipping, of course, is of critical importance to the Noble House. We have been led to understand, actually, that Apollo's inventory of DN400s represents the largest gross tonnage of scrap in the workstation industry. This would be absolutely invaluable for ballast in our international fleet." When prompted for information about Struan's own internal usage of workstations for financial data control, Dunross responded, "Well, of course, computers ... yes, indeed. Care for a sip of champagne, perhaps?"

TV Talk... TV Talk... TV Talk...

Sweeps Week TV Lineup

Well, it's that slow time of year again, when the long nights and cold days conspire to keep us home and glued to the television. The major networks are battling it out to capture market share among the viewing public, and there's no better barometer of culture than the sweeps week lineup. Let's see what the boys in Television City have in store for us this week.

The Cosby Spinoff - Father Bill's youngest TV daughter Rudy gets her chance for solo stardom when she transfers to a preppy preschool that only 0.01% of America's families could ever dream of affording. (Produced by Bill Cosby Productions, in association with William H. Cosby, Ed.D. and Jello Pudding Enterprises Ltd.)

Family Tie-ups - Alex and Jennifer decide that happiness really can be found on a collective farm in Idaho, and Mallory enters Princeton in pursuit of that elusive MBA. Mom and Dad just thank their lucky stars pray that Andrew runs out of twine before he reaches their upper torsos.

MacGeiger - A rugged, handsome hero from Minnesota gets caught in an unfortunate nuclear-waste accident, causing him to fix broken high-tech appliances with paper clips and duct tape and to glow perceptibly even in the daytime.

My Two Duds - Kathy, a spunky adolescent, discovers that life with two foster fathers can be boring as well as illegal.

Dumb Guy - Stephen J. Cannell's answer to late night action drama. Black limos ... net stockings ... automatic weapons blazing in the boardroom ... long, sultry, passionate glances from people who clearly need help getting dressed in the morning.

Lost in Space: The Next Generation - "Danger! Danger! That does not compute! Unidentified sequel approaching! Danger, Will Robinson!"

Expensive Exploding Robots of Zor - Animated adventure accompanied by a complete line of action figures (available in stores everywhere; each item sold separately). Children learn that total annihilation of the enemy can prove to be effective foreign policy for problems of 30-minute duration or less.

Captain Conscience and the Legions of Doom - A rocket-propelled superhero is torn between a humanistic approach to existence and a harsh realization of the nihilistic nature of the cosmos (from the Children's Television Workshop, on PBS).

Babes in Boyland - Timely entertainment for the family of the '80s. Three gorgeous swimwear designers explore the true meaning of casual relationships in exotic locales. Parental discretion is advised; some material may not be suitable for viewers over 40.

Disgraced Network Evangelist Loses Job, Benefits

(Baton Rouge, LA) - In a sobbing, tear-choked statement delivered during this weekend's regular coast-to-coast broadcast, yet another prominent network evangelist confessed to moral improprieties and stepped down from his position of leadership. Officials of the Assemblies of Sun offered no comment today on Jimmy Zandert's stunning revelation of a "lapse of judgment" regarding unfaithfulness to

to his employer of several months. According to media sources, elders of the Assemblies have received photographs of Zandert entering and leaving a corporate condominium in the company of a headhunter on repeated occasions. Rather than contest the charge, Zandert apparently decided to confess publicly and throw himself upon the mercy of the board of directors.

"I have sinned against you, my company," Zandert wept during his emotional resignation. He went on to assert that he had not actually engaged in discussions with the headhunter, but had watched her review resumes with the curtains drawn.

Prophet McScott III, leader of the church, was noncommittal in his response to reporters' inquiries about Zandert's future with the Assemblies of Sun. "Our first concern, of course, is to maintain our commitment to standards," the pontiff intoned. "Without standards, the entire social fabric is threatened. Next thing you know, there will be rioting in the streets, panic in the financial markets, dogs and cats sleeping together ..."

Zandert's confession took many in his congregation by surprise. "Jimmy has always preached total devotion to family and company," one weeping parishioner said.

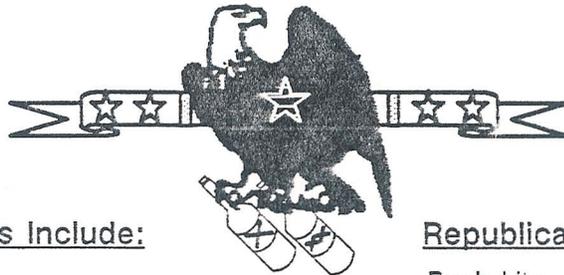
"How could he do this to us? I mean, even to lust after another company in his heart, much less actually consort with a headhunter! Is nothing sacred?"

According to Assemblies of Sun disciplinary procedures, Zandert will be barred from appearing at trade shows for two years, lose the use of the company Jaguar, and be obligated to seek counseling for fraternal fidelity. Zandert would not return repeated requests for comment, and a spokesman today denied reports that he will be joining the seminar circuit, speaking on the topic "Loyalty is Dead."

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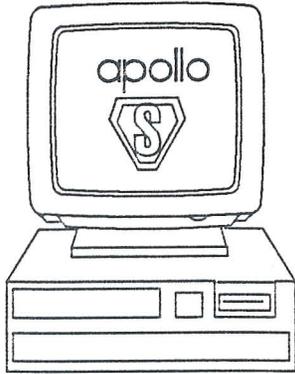
Democratic Flavors Include:

Dukakis Retsina
 Gephardt Grape
 Simon Soda Fountain
 Jackson Rainbow
 Gore Sour Mash
 Hart Blushing Rose (no longer available)
 Welsh Babbit (no longer available)

Republican Flavors Include:

Bush Lite
 Doie Pineapple
 Robertson Blue Nun
 Kemp Tax-Free
 (no deposit, no return)
 duPont Disodium Monophosphate
 (no longer available)
 Haig & Haig Agent Orange-ade
 (no longer available)

Apollo Debuts Superman Series



Amid hoopla usually reserved for Presidential inaugurations and WGBH Pledge Nights, Apollo recently rolled out its DN10000, brashly dubbed the *Superman Series*.

"Hey, we had to call it that. This thing is faster than a speeding bullet and a whole heck of a lot more powerful than a locomotive. We're talking wicked fast," said Bar Harbour, VP in charge of Fun Stuff. "Every time we turn around, it's finished up another 90 gazillion instructions or so...give or take a gazillion," he finished modestly.

Indeed, the *Superman's* breakneck speed has caused a few unexpected problems in the labs. "Some of the simulation tests we tried sent the bits careening around so fast that they made the jump to hyperspace," confided one engineer. "I tell you, it was hell trying to get 'em back. Inexperienced users definitely should *not* try these maneuvers in their own offices."

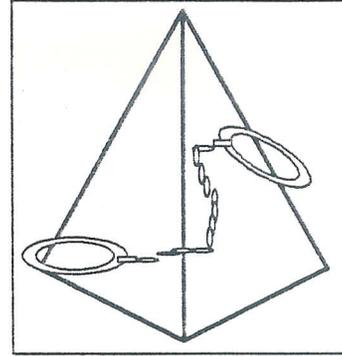
There have been other challenges. "The tough part's been to keep the engine from overheating. I mean, we've got so many horses under the hood that we probably should relocate to Churchill Downs," Harbour said. "We're using up Prestone II Coolant faster than Fenway Park uses up beer in the seventh inning."

The team has also had to add special kryptonite-detection routines to the base software. "We found that the node starts to nod off if there's even a trace of green kryptonite emissions," one designer said. "And red kryptonite makes the flaky bug rate go through the roof." The new routines help customers decide whether they need to buy one of the DN10000's accessories: the all-lead Domain/Shield.*

Apollo Board Big Guy Tom (The Slice) Vanderslice shed his usual reserve for the big announcement to the press. "Oh boy, oh boy, oh boy," he crowed, and then sent a message to the president of a solar-powered competitor: "Eat my dust, McNealy!" There were reports that The Slice turned a few cartwheels after he left the podium.

** The Domain/Shield and a host of other Domain/Doo-Dads are available through Betty Ann's Olde Node Gyftte Shoppe. Send today for a brochure.*

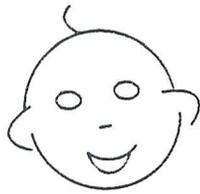
Apollo Also Announces New PRISON Architecture



Jail Wardens and Parole Officers from around the world, along with the computer industry's most influential ex-convicts, gathered at Boston's Charles Street Jail early this month for a very special event - the introduction of Apollo's *PRISON* based Series 10 to 20 Personal Supercomputer.

Apollo's CEO (Chief Escape Organizer), Mack "The Knife" Vanderslice kicked off the introduction with a detailed description of his last prison break.

This latest Apollo coup is expected to revolutionize computer crime throughout the world. One of the more significant changes will be that unreported Income tax on International Sales will go completely undetected - "a real relief," says Angel "The Stash" Godoggo, Apollo's Prisoner of Sales.



Authorities Uncover Baby Pyramid Scam

Chelmsford, MA Police here claim to have discovered a secret pyramid scam being operated at Apollo Computer. Employees are having babies in order to amass great quantities of money and/or gifts at office baby showers.

"It's a pretty simple operation," said Officer Arlo Gunfish of the Chelmsford Police. "When one person's expecting, the coworkers pitch in money and throw a baby shower. Then all the coworkers decide to have kids, too, so that they'll have showers thrown for them. They keep investing in these baby showers, figuring that, when their turn comes, they'll get a huge return on their investment in the form of gifts."

But, like all pyramid scams, only a few people at the top of the pyramid reap significant profits. The late-comers to the pyramid invest the most and receive the least. "You can just imagine how it goes," said Officer Gunfish. "The first five or so folks to have baby showers get heaps of goodies, due to the novelty

factor. Then, as the novelty wears off and employees start to feel the constant drain of the weekly baby shower payment, the gifts get less lavish. Factor in the attrition rate as pregnant women take maternity leaves, and you've got these poor suckers at the bottom of the pyramid getting firm handshakes and used baby clothes."

Office Gunfish said that the police became suspicious when the birthrate at Apollo started to climb dramatically. Adoption applications by Apollo employees followed the trend in pregnancies. "When we noticed one woman in an Apollo parking lot stuffing a pillow under her coat before she went into the building, we knew something big was up." An investigation was launched shortly thereafter.

Authorities have made no arrests yet, although employee records have been seized and a number of employees have been brought in for questioning. "We're looking for is the mastermind behind this devilish plot," said Officer Gunfish.

"We're following the trail of baby showers back to its source. The scam's a couple of years old, so the culprits could be long gone by now and setting up similar scams at other companies.

However, we do have one hot lead that we're investigating about some woman who dressed up as a baby fairy one Halloween."

New User Friendly Copier Codes Developed

In an effort to make xeroxing more user friendly, the Copying Industry has developed new International Copier Symbols. We are pleased to be the first to publish them.



GIVE UP! Give the office key to someone else, tell them to lock up after they figure out what's wrong.



If a man in overalls shows up, you're in big trouble



GIVE UP! - go bowling



GIVE UP! - go see an old Bogart movie



GIVE UP! - go bowling, with the BIG balls!

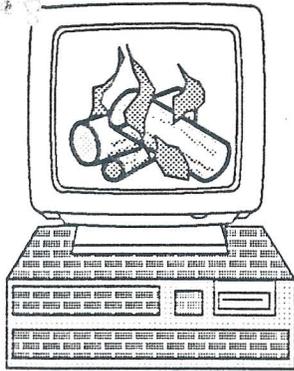


Balance 6 bowling balls (small ones) on your head and pray for the goddess Xerox to forgive you for what you have done to the machine!



Its time to invest in new scissors

Domain/Hearth™ Promises to Open New Markets



(Chelmsford) – Apollo Computer Inc., the Chelmsford-based computer manufacturer, today announced the new Domain/Hearth™ series of workstation overlays for its highly successful DN3000 and DN4000 lines of personal workstations.

Code-named “Hell’s Bells (and Whistles)” within R&D, these new coverings for the AT bus-based machines emulate several different types of popular fireplaces complete with realistic log animation and “cracklin”® sound effects. Work is already under way on the second generation of products, which will add ray-traced graphics to the real-time flames.

Initially, the overlays will only be available with a traditional brick surface. The company plans to extend the line to offer a variety of treatments,

including a choice of glass doors or screen covering. Pricing is expected to be competitive with currently available artificial fireplaces.

Future offerings of this product will also include a more robust and efficient woodstove version, the pedestal “ski lodge” version, and a deluxe version in simulated pink marble targeted mainly at the gentrified condominium market.

A spokesman for Moon Microsystems, not to be outdone said, “Our machines generate in excess of one ... uh ... hundred ... uh ... thousand degrees fahrenheit! Yea, that’s it! That’s the ticket!” As Moon traditionally reports best-case numbers when stating performance results, it should be remembered that their measurements took place much closer to the sun than did Apollo’s. Further, they intend to promote their current line as an industry standard: Network Heating System (NHS).

Industry analysts have hailed this new announcement as a positive development in the computer industry. An anonymous worker at some place very prestigious on Wall Street said, “No longer will everyone be speaking entirely of speed and price. ‘Cute’ will be the new criteria.”

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Dewey, Cheatham, & Howe

(specializing in Software Malpractice)

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(Paid for by The Law Offices of Dewey, Cheatham, and Howe, specializing in the areas of Software Malpractice and Workman’s Compensation.)

R&D 1988 Holiday Party Planning In the Works

(Chelmsford) — Apollo Computer Inc. and Interactive Systems today jointly announced an agreement whereby Interactive would assume responsibility for all future Apollo R&D Holiday Parties, beginning with CP1988. "We're very pleased to have this opportunity to work with Apollo", said Phil Sunoco, Interactive's vice-president in charge of Christmas Party sales. "We look forward to a long and productive relationship, possibly expanding into other Apollo parties like OS Group Chili Parties and Going-Away Parties for Key Marketing Executives."

Apollo originally had a strong proprietary Holiday Party program, but their leadership has been challenged in recent years by competition from companies like Sun Microsystems, which recently introduced a 1987 Holiday Party lineup featuring the singing group, The Temptations. When industry rumors that Apollo's 1987 R&D Holiday Party offering would be late to market proved true, Apollo decided to make the change. "We think this will refute the claims that Apollo can't get its R&D Holiday Party act together" said Apollo Chief Party Officer Rolling Papers.

"Interactive has a strong Holiday Party background, and I'm counting on them to whip our R&D party situation into shape. There's no reason why Apollo R&D's Holiday Parties shouldn't be every bit as well-respected in the industry as its UNIX products ..."

DN3040 Passes DoD Survivability Suite

(Washington) — The United States Department of Defense (DoD) today released the list of major workstation vendors whose products meet DOD-MIL-98345.5673-BHSSX.0000 1 (Battlefield Hazard Survivability Suite) for both monochrome and color platforms. Apollo's "ruggedized" Domain Series 3040 workstation was the sole survivor of the brutal test procedure.

Lt. Col. Armand Plating was effusive in his praise for the Apollo equipment. "Damnation! This is the damnedest fine piece of floating point hardware that me and my boys have ever seen! Hell's bells, it must of taken 20 rounds of mortar fire without so much as a bleepin' parity error! A couple of bursts from an M-16 will flat stop a Sun 4, but not this baby! The sucker

even made it through the Bradley Fighting Vehicle Internal Fireball procedure! Damn nice piece of work!"

Wayne John, Apollo's Military-Industrial Complex Market Segment Manager, echoed Plating's praises. "The Series 3040 was designed from the outset to meet the demands of technical professionals in a combat environment. You can see this not only in our attention to standards such as the Geneva Monitor Conventions, but also in the attractive camouflaged housing, rubber keyboard with titanium contacts, special storage option that accepts a clip of six cartridges [tapes], and the optional Stealth screen with invisible windows. We challenge any other vendor to field a system that can match it!"

In a related event, the Department of the Army announced that it has placed an order for 100,000 Series 3040 workstations for use in its "next-generation" M-2 Battlefield Tank. The workstations will provide vehicle navigation personnel with satellite-supported cartographic data, environmental analysis (wind direction and velocity, temperature, and relative humidity), and access to the latest versions of "BZone" and "tanks!" recreational software.
