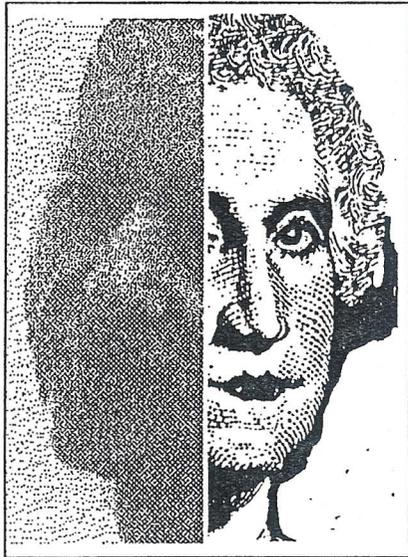


the Connption

Volume 4 Number 1 April 1, 1989

Drug Testing to Start at Apollo



Tom Vanderslice and Barbara Bush join forces

In a satellite hookup from Washington to Chelmsford to New York, Apollo CEO Tom Vanderslice and First Lady Barbara Bush mapped out the plans they have developed to push the Drug Campaign to a new high.

"We wanted to be on the leading edge of this issue in the workstation industry, and when the First Lady approached me, I thought - boy she DOES look like George Washington."

"Babs and I decided that what this country needs is a somewhat different approach from the last administration. I mean this Just Say No stuff was so, like negative."

In an unprecedented move, Vanderslice announced yesterday the appointment of I.N.I. Ganjaman as the Apollo Drug Czar, responsible for the new Drug Testing Campaign

at Apollo. Vanderslice went on to say that Ganjaman will be responsible for testing all drugs.

In his first public address since his appointment Ganjaman revealed a comprehensive 5 step plan.

1. Elimination of Non Smoking Areas.
2. The Apollo Fitness Center will play Reggae from 7am to 7pm every day.

3. Musical Jam sessions will be encouraged during working hours.

4. Drugs will be tested for their affect on an increase and/or decrease in productivity - and the only drugs that will be dispensed are those that induce a Don't Worry, Be Happy atmosphere.

5. Ganjaman did not recall step #5.

Contents

	Page
Who -----	1
What -----	2
Where -----	3
Why -----	4
Why Not -----	5
Who Cares -----	6...

Connip-tion Staff Holds Third Anniversary Celebration

(Chelmsford) — Spotlights lit the night as celebrities from around the Fourth Estate gathered to pay tribute to the staff of the *Connip-tion* on the eve of their third anniversary publication. It's hard to believe that April 1, 1986 marked the birth of what is now universally regarded as the best underground newsletter in the galaxy. This reporter was simply gaga at the fashions, the features, and the sheer *fun* of the event. Most Notable Attire had to go to Mr. Sharkey DeBullion, financial columnist and Wall Street *wunderkind*, whose leather-and-gold Takeover Tuxedo stunned the crowd. Mr. Smedley Luce was also shining. Although better known for his erudite treatises on modern mannerisms (such as his dazzling *The Machine in the Garden: Eschatological Formalisms in Post-Modern Programming*) than for his after-dinner dress, Luce caught many an eye with his velvet smoking jacket. Sports Ace Hildy Hogan (showing a bit too much of her ample

endowments for this reporter's taste) arrived on the arm of prominent UNIX guru C. Lex Awkman, who favored the assemblage by wearing footgear and a recently-laundered Twisted Sister T-shirt. Master wordsmith and spelling chacker Ms. Ed showed up with a red pen and proceeded to correct everyone's handwritten invitations. That dynamic duo, Lois and Clark (formerly with *The Daily Planet*) were notable by their absence ... rumor has it that Niagara Falls is busy this time of year! And finally, His Excellency, Edgar ("Ed") N. Chief, brought tears to many an eye with his impassioned keynote plea for continued devotion to the high calling of newsletter publishing. "What greater honor can we, the keepers of the flame of truth, attain to, than the heartfelt thanks of an enraptured readership?" he asked crowd seated silently, with worshipful upturned eyes. "Let us never forget that compliments come easy, but a bonus is something that you can take to the bank."

Wall Street Week

by Sharky DeBullion

Corporate pirate T. Boone Pickens accidentally took over himself. "I felt I was ripe for acquisition," explained a blushing Pickens...Massachusetts State Lottery now gives Megabucks semi-weekly winners a choice: multimillion dollar jackpot or one month's free mortgage payment...I'll be there, will you? Financial community bigwigs will be hosting a thousand-dollar-a-plate dinner for God to thank him for making George Bush president...Ted Turner has announced plans to make a special black-and-white version of *Star Wars*...The French government announced new T.G.V. Atlantique service which will whisk passengers from Paris to Lyon at speeds up to 240 M.P.H.

Said a spokesman: "We could have made ze train go much faster you know, but zere would not be enough time for the passengers to enjoy a simple lunch."...Yours truly was offered an all-expense paid trip to a beautiful but remote south Pacific island, but I had to turn it down cause I couldn't stand the thought of going three weeks without seeing a Frank Perdue commercial...Eastern Airlines head Frank Lorenzo announced new air fares. "Only five bucks from Boston to Gotham! We'll supply the paper, but you have to do your own folding."...Heard on the street: Julio Iglesias to sing next duet with Tommy Carvel...

Ayatolla Calls for Death of Prominent Author

(Teheran) — Ayatolla Ruhollah Khomeini earlier this week sentenced literary luminary Sharkey de Rushdie and the entire editorial staff of the *Conniption* to death in the growing international uproar over the publication of Rushdie's controversial novel, *The Satanic Nurses*. Khomeini charged Sharkey with "utter desecration of holy stuff and crimes against His mom," and called on devout believers everywhere to "hunt down Sharkey and trample him under foot, run him over several times with large bus-like vehicles, and bomb airports, bookstores, and especially those annoying convenience stores where things are always so overpriced." Ali Khamenei, President of the Iranian Parliament, echoed the aging leader's call to arms, saying, "and they sell those disgusting magazines behind the counter, too!" On Tuesday, thousands of cheering youths wearing "Death to Sharkey!" T-shirts stormed the gates of the Apollo embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan in response to the Ayatolla's order. Late-night television personality David Letterman has also been targeted for execution for having "bad teeth."

Apollo President Tom Vanderslice responded quickly to threats against the lives of the *Conniption* staff, warning the Teheran government that "state-sponsored terrorism has no place within the international market arena. Violence against Apollo facilities and personnel will be met with swift and sure retaliation." He called on all workstation vendors to impose an immediate embargo on Iranian hardware shipments, and to ship software without release notes and then to refuse to answer the 1-800 line for service calls originating from Iran. The stiff trade response would not be rescinded until the Teheran-based regime agreed to "pay cash in advance, in which case they will of course be entitled to our standard 31% preferred-customer discount on all purchases."

[In related news, Apollo Security Supreme Commander Wayne John late yesterday issued a "travel advisory" for any Apollo employees planning business or personal travel in the troubled region. According to John, "There's no telling what these yahoos are

likely to do. I'd steer clear of Teheran and try Beirut for a change. I hear there's lots of vacancies and favorable corporate pricing in the downtown hotels there."]



De Rushdie on his last visit to Teheran

Sharkey de Rushdie has been in hiding since the initial publication of *The Satanic Nurses*, which some reviewers have said casts aspersions on essential tenets of a popular Middle Eastern faith. In one particularly controversial episode, the prophet Mohammed finds himself being examined by dozens of white-frosted females and becomes confused by the sensations

which this experience arouses. Conservative believers assert that Mohammed never went near a hospital, much less a nursing school, and are shocked by the implications of such an event. Although Sharkey has repeatedly stated that his novel is "a worthless piece of fictional trash meant only for the New York *Times* best-seller list," fundamentalists remain outraged at the suggestive passages.

In a stirring show of professional support, world-renowned writers (including Smedley Luce, literary critic for the *Conniption* and lifestyles columnist for the *Topeka Plain Dealer*) have been quick to note, "We never knew the guy. Please keep buying our books and inviting us to your talk shows." Quill and Pot, the international writers' guild, has begun a legal defense fund for Sharkey. To date, receipts total over \$12.35 earmarked for "a nice quiet plot with a view of the mountains." Contributions may be forwarded by email to 'conniption'.

Barstow & Jaynes Rumored as Takeover Target



(Wall Street) — Market watchdogs reacted in alarm today as institutional traders triggered a massive buying frenzy for Barstow & Jaynes Inc. (NASDAQ—BNJCO). Over one million shares of the winemaker's common stock changed hands before the four o'clock bell on rumors that French industrial giant Bull HN was initiating a hostile takeover bid. Analysts speculate that Bull HN (formerly Honeywell-Bull) is seeking to expand its interests into the lucrative wine cooler market, which is expected to exceed three and a half billion dollars worldwide by the end of 1990. A major player in semiconductors and Chardonnay, Bull foundered on several abortive forays into the popular-beverage marketplace in the early 1980's (including the disastrous "Bull-Schlitz" beer). Company-watchers now agree that Bull must be pinning its expansion hopes on buying out successful smaller firms which have carved out solid niches in regional and international markets.

Frank Jaynes, co-President of the spunky company which pioneered

the wine cooler industry, declined to comment specifically on the buyout rumors, preferring instead to thank the stockholders who refused to sell for their support during difficult times. Ed Barstow, present throughout the interview, refused to say anything at all.

Heard in the Hallways

by *The Apollo Ear*

Apollo Marketing VP, John Millionaire, announced an aggressive new marketing strategy, the merchandising of our products a la Hollywood. "Picture this—pajamas covered with DN3500s, GPR coloring books, *PRISM* kaleidosopes, miniaturized nodes for Ken and Barbie accessory kits, with a ruggedized version for GI Joe, and DSEE yoyos. We'll see Apollo products and the Apollo logo everywhere—in school yards, playgrounds, shopping malls, why, even at McD's. The Apollo name will be impossible to miss; you'll see it everywhere you go, and will we profit from all that free advertising.

Look what the digital watch did for DEC and what sunscreen, suntan lotion, and sundials, did for that other workstation vendor. With Apollo's broad product line, we can out-merchandise anyone."

....President Bush expands role of FDA to include monitoring software development and standardization. The new agency name will be Food, Drugs, and Bugs Administration....Barney Googol, VP Workstations, announces Apollo's new DN10¹⁰⁰ Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious Workstation....Apollo will implement immediately the 5th revision (Rev. E) of the I/O standard just released by the IEEE, according to Olaf MacDonald. The official designation of the new standard is E-IEEE-I/O....Tired of running the Tower of Hanoi? Upgrade to the Tower of Zelda with the new Nintendo Compatibility Kit (NCK), available now from an Apollo solutions supplier near you...We welcome to our fold new Apollo Solution Supplier, WriteStuff Workstationery, whose product line includes node paper, rubberizing bands, and window envelopes.

Languages and Tools Introduces Innovative Location Technique

The Languages and Tools group, whose offices are on the first floor of Building 15, recently introduced a new employee location technique: each employee's photo appears underneath his or her name plate outside the office door.

"We were having a lot of trouble with people wandering around, not knowing where their offices were," explained a member of the group's administrative staff.

"Even though we have name plates outside our office doors, our people just seemed to have difficulty. You simply can't count on engineers to be able to remember their own names."

The group's administrator explained that this is only the first phase of L&T's new employee location program. In Phase Two, mirrors will be installed next to the employee pictures, to allow people to match their reflections to their pictures.

Tech Doc's Brat Pack Doc Packs

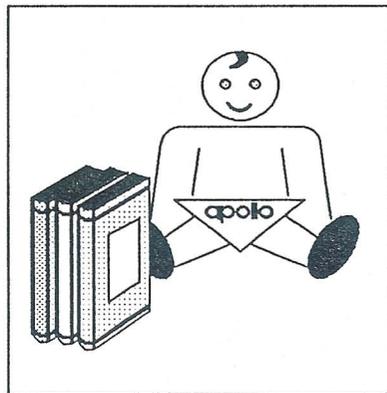
Tech Pubs head honcho, Fred Bricks, unveiled a new revenue enhancing plan for his organization. "Computer manuals, who needs 'em? Baby books—that's where the money is at." Indeed, statistics reveal that the average hi-tech yuppie parent spends approximately \$300 on pre-natal and early childhood manuals. Ricks adds, "We're going to use our existing writing staff and go after the yuppie publishing market in a big way." Here's a brief list of the new volumes:

Site Planning Guide -- Where should the Aprica stroller go? Do you need both a snugly and a backpack? What kind of adapter will you need to run a Swingomatic in Europe? These and other questions are answered in a simple, nonconfrontational style for expectant Domain Baby customers.

Unpacking and Installing Your Domain Baby -- Unpacking your Domain Baby need not be an unpleasant experience. In fact, with

this handy guide and a good metric monkey-wrench, the expectant customer should be able to fully unpack in under 12 hours.

Analyzing Your Domain Baby's Performance -- Naturally your yuppie baby will be above normal on all metrics, but just how far above normal? This manual provides reams of graphs and statistics that will make other parents green with envy. After reading this manual you'll be able to tell your friends that "Little Johnny is in the 97th percentile for spitting."



Domain Baby Language Reference -- Domain Baby Language can be confusing to the naive end-user parent. That's why this handy volume is a must be to all Domain Baby parents. In addition to discussing Domain Baby language format, this manual describes all Domain Baby language dadatypes.

Domain Baby System Command Reference -- Your Domain Baby will provide a never ending stream of commands. Will you understand them? With this book you will. Relax, anyone who can understand UNIX can easily make sense out of a baby's commands.

Debugging Your Domain Baby -- Occasionally, your Domain Baby will not respond to your gentle programming techniques. For example, what would you do if little Johnny announced that he wants to "work for Sun Microsystems when he grows up"? This volume explains how to trap significant personality defects early.

Human Resources Seeks Candidates



Apollo's Human Resources department is now accepting applications from individuals in mid- and upper-level management who wish to participate in the new Apollo-Bull Executive Exchange Program. The program, initiated by former Apollo Big Guy Rolling Papers, is designed to foster intercompany communications and understanding by swapping top executives. "They send us one of theirs, and we send them one of ours," explained one HR staffer. "You really can't relate to someone else's problems until you've walked a mile in his wingtips. We're making a killing on the stock option swap, too."

Persons willing to host a visiting executive in their homes or condominiums are also being sought. The exchange program is open to any qualified middle-aged white male of good breeding. Send a brief 5-page biography, color photograph, and recent credit history to CHD-02-PV by April 15.

THE WORLD SPINS SO FAST IT MAKES ME DSEE

by A. Satisfied Customer (Or Else)

D3MBASIA, TYRAN -- Ayernogud Allholla Doitmyway of the DSEEmic Unpublic of Tyran today announced this year's list of persona non grata. "Any infidel found guilty of blasphemy will be hung by his Aggregates to dry." Blasphemy, as defined by the D3mBasian Elite Religious Council includes:

- **Bug Reports.** "There are no bugs in Tyran," maintains the Minister of Non-existent Entomology, Noflaizonmi Tudeigh. "Reports of giant cockroaches ordering you to reformat your library house or it will burn your house down are plots by the Great Satan to discredit our Unpublic which is bugfree by DEFINITION."
- **Complaints.** "Any evildoer caught complaining about anything in the D3Mbasian way of life will be hung up by his toes, forced to eat the

entire documentation package backwards, asked to recite the 36,540,003 rules of model syntax politely, and required to weave a hair shirt out of correct build threads," the Tyranian Minister of Home Economics and Personalized Execution repeated for the press at a public entombment today in D3Mbasia. "Everything we do is right, because we say it is, and if you don't agree, you are obviously stupid and deserve to die."



*Ayernogud Allholla
Doitmyway*

- **Design Memos.** "All design memos come directly from the Great Satan, even if they are written by us. That is why we cannot permit others to read them. They might not get the right idea."
- **Jokes.** "We're not sure what they are, but we know we don't like them."

A public celebration followed today's press announcement. Since today is a Tyranian Religious Holiday, all citizens of the capital paraded before the Ayernogud screaming "We have had communications problems with remote nodes and have exited," while they whipped themselves with chains. Many expired in the course of a four-hour shoutathon of the latest slogans, including "It's better than SCCS," "I feel so powerful," "More, more, give me more SPM Control," and

"Well, that element wouldn't build on this node, guess I'll try another element, since the whole build is going to fail anyway." Those who refused participation were lunch for those who did not.

Possibly the highest point of today's celebration was a public stoning by randomly chosen onlookers of Ohmygod Didiever Maykabigmistak, who was accused of explaining the internals of DSEEm to a user without prior authorization from the High Council.

The Ayernogud and his Cabinet later expressed satisfaction with the ritual atonement, repeating, "Thanks to the great correctness of our people we are in total control of everything THEY do, and they, in their ignorance, where we scrupulously keep them for their own good, have nothing but praise for what WE do -- or we trash their database! Moved any monitors lately?"

An Interview with the New Vice President for Penny Pinching and Bean Counting



Mr. Preebuckle Gopholustus, newly hired Vice President for Penny Pinching and Bean Counting, discussed cost containment measures from his office in the Building 330 elevator. Mr. Gopholustus describes his job as "finding those areas where a wise application of carefully crafted bogus but sound-looking financial analysis can save Apollo Computer pennies, or even, on occasion, dimes."

Mr. Gopholustus is justifiably proud of his first cost-cutting measure: the restroom renovations at 15 Elizabeth Drive. "By stretching out the painting and refurbishing of those lavatories—work that would normally take only two weeks—to three months, we've been able to cut down the number of physical comfort breaks that employees take by..." a pause while he looks into the air to pluck a figure from it

"... 34.57%. Employees just don't go as much when they know that they'll have to hunt the entire building for the one working bathroom."

His next measure will be to remove those costly walls. "It takes a lot of maintenance to keep walls vertical; we must spend ..." another pause, "... \$4,231.98 a year on it. If we remove the walls, we can not only save this significant expense, but it will cut down on phone costs, since you can often just shout out a question rather than making the effort to pick up the phone, look up the number, punch it out, wait for an answer, and then, when you're done, hanging it up. Our calculations show that this extra overhead of asking a question, takes ...15.7 extra seconds per question. At a fully burdened salary of \$100,000 per year, and a

measured question count of ... 298 question asked by each engineer per year, that comes to ... \$61.48 per engineer. Just remove the walls, and that's how much we'll save!"

Asked about other plans, Mr. Gopholustus would only demur. "First we have to demonstrate that we can make things happen."

When we've stripped R&D of its walls, and people can see how much more efficient it is, we'll have people beating down our door." He did hint, however, that he was considering some action "about that E-mail stuff."

"I just don't see why engineers should be spending their time typing notes to each other when they could be pounding sand, er,

code." Admitting that some of it could be considered work related, he pointed out that "much of it concerns bugs, which we shouldn't have in the first place, and besides, it takes ... 6.313 days to answer a bug, which is just oodles of money compared to how much time it takes for an engineer to *not* fix a bug. We estimate the savings here alone would be (when you deduct for time spent reading the bug report before ignoring it) ... \$2,351.37 per engineer per year."

The *Connption* would like to welcome V.P. Gopholustus on board, and we look forward to changing the paper in his cage often with the freshest issues of our newsletter.

L&T Handles Loops — and Hoops

Rumor has it that basketball hoops are going up in key offices of the Languages and Tools group, as managers are looking to fill empty slots with people who can handle a fast break as well as a fast build.

The story goes that Group Head Coach Dave Tallman (6-6) wants to build an all-star basketball team within the group. Then, when customers complain about compiler performance, the team

can go out on a good-will tour. The team reportedly will be called *The No-ops*.

In order to achieve his goal, Tallman brought manager/center Rudy "Sky Hook" Bazelmans (6-4), manager/forward Scott McBasketballCourt (6-5), and engineer/guard Jim Scoremorek (6-4). Tallman also has been scouting opposing teams to bring in new talent. He just completed negotiations with a 6-5

power forward who was left unprotected in the recent Prime draft.

The change in required skills has been tough for some of the old-timers, according to one insider. "You know Nancy Most? Tallman originally thought she'd be perfect in the Spud Webb role. After all, she is only 4-11. But basketball just wasn't her game, so she ended up signing on with UE."

On the Move or "How Can I Miss You, if You Won't Go Away"

The setting: one of the area's most sophisticated eateries, The Dead Bull. The event: a farewell tribute to departing Apollo Poo-Bah of Sales, Angel GoDogGo.

The wallpaper had been freshly brushed, the formica spit shined, new 40-watt light bulbs had replaced the typical, bleary 25-watt bulbs. Even the juke box had been plugged in. All in all, a Gala setting for a Gala event commemorating a Gala Guy!

Angel, a man's kind of man, was obviously moved by the testimonial. As many know, GoDogGo is no stranger to ceremonious tribute. In 1986, he was awarded the James Watts Foot in Mouth Award in recognition of the stewardess jokes he told at the DN3000 Kick-off.

GoDogGo made a passing reference to that Red Letter Day in his farewell speech. "Hey, we all make

mistakes," he shrugged. "The important thing is to learn from them. The experience taught me that you should never say 'stewardess' when what you really mean is 'flight attendant'."

Angel's minions responded to this sentiment with exasperated...um, exuberant applause.

[advertisement]

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

"I'm so confused. Is it OBJ, or is it COFF? Will it run on my DN10000 or not? Do I need SR9.7, or SR10, or SR10.1, or SR10.1.p, or SR10.2? DM or X-11? And why can't I seem to get the sucker to install correctly? I've got a Ph.D in Computer Science from Carnegie Mellon, but it's not enough! Am I just stupid, or what?"

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.....

What Fits Has the Next Connption Got in Store for You?

Our next Connption will feature:

✓ *"Why is Hardware Soft?"* -- a response by software engineers to the recent turmoil over schedule slippages and bugs in code.

✓ *"A Healthy Diet for the 90's"* -- our investigative reporters uncover the shocking revelation that the only foods without pesticides, cyanide and hormones are twinkies, General Gau's Chicken, and Coke.

✓ *"Tech Pub's 'Master' Plan"* -- Apollo Tech Pubs has the literary world abuzz over its plan to rewrite popular manuals in the styles of history's master writers, such as Shakespeare, Hemingway, and e.e. cummings.

✓ *"Virus Strikes Underground Newsletter"* -- Txe Corrip-torn is wtruck by a cimpatur viwus. Wull it survive?

DON'T MIXX OUR NEXT
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We would like to thank all who contributed to this anniversary issue. If you have something that you would like to submit, please email it to connption