



CONNIPTION

"It Ain't over til it's Over!"

October 1986

Clemens Communications

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Thank You, Readers

The staff of *The Conniption* would like to express its corporate heartfelt appreciation to the many fine readers who have submitted material for this issue. You may have been wondering why we haven't been using your stuff; well, here it is. So stop complaining, already. Geez, you people are hard to please. Give it a rest, OK? And keep those cards and letters coming. Have a nice day.

Important Announcement

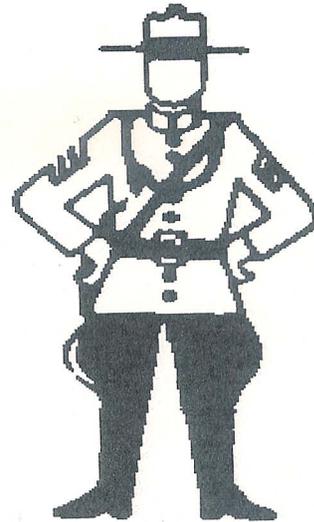
In order that we may better serve you, we in Facilities are requiring you to exchange your Apollo identification cards for new magnetically-recorded Apollo entrance cards. These will be distributed at 0600 hours in the parade ground in front of Building 330. They will be the only mechanism by which you may enter or exit the buildings. You may use only the entrances which have heretofore been open to you. No new entrances will be available. This is for your convenience.

Your cards will be encoded with your access priveleges, as well as certain personal data which you are required to submit to us in the interests of security, such as:

- your mother's maiden name
- your maternal grandfather's middle name
- your social security number
- your Apollo badge number
- your math SAT score
- your marital status
- your sexual orientation(s) (Georgia residents only)
- your node's hexadecimal ID number

The security system will prompt you for one of these data points at each attempted ingress or egress. Failure to answer correctly within 30 seconds will result in your termination, so please have these items memorized prior to submitting your application form.

Thank you in advance for your snivelling, abject, fawning, unquestioning cooperation.



Corporate Security Announces New Facility Access System

Chelmsford, MA — The recently revamped automated security and key card access system installation is nearing completion at the Chelmsford facility, according to Jus Houdini, Apollo Corporate Security and Safety spokesperson. "Access requirements of the employee population have been assessed. We believe we've come up with a viable solution to the problem of people seeking entrance to work despite our best efforts to keep the buildings secure." According to Mr. Houdini, every employee will have a magnetic strip surgically affixed to his or her back. "This has many advantages over the old card system," Mr. Houdini asserted. "It's more convenient because people won't have to pose for mug shots or carry cards around with them. The jerks were always losing them," he noted. "We spent half our time reissuing cards. That's expensive, and who knows what riff-raff could find them. Cards make us very vulnerable."

Employees entering the building will have to be "programmed" into a key card slot. Mr. Houdini admits the plan still has some bugs. "It's going to be tough getting

them through the slots," he said. It is anticipated that employees will have to arrive at work in pairs to take turns lifting each other through. To address the problem, Security and Safety will be setting up a buddy system called *Share-A-Slot*, which all personnel will be required to join. Employees will be paired on the basis of estimated arrival time at work and sex. That is, while every effort will be made to ensure that partners' schedules are compatible, only members of the same sex may be partners. However, Apollo faces some stiff opposition to the proposed new procedures. Ms. Sonora Schmee, spokesperdaughter for the National Organization of Women is calling the plan "blatantly sexist" and threatening to sue Apollo. "Employees should be paired on the basis of weight and strength not sex," Ms. Schmee asserts. Speaking for the company, Mr. Houdini stated "We just can't get into that. Even though the slots are narrow, there's too much chance for hanky-panky. With our stock hovering at 11, we can't afford to have employees suing each other for indecent behavior." He noted that plans for homogeneous pairings would stand at all Apollo facilities except Georgia, where homo anything is illegal. "Even homo sapiens are outlawed down there," according to Mr. Houdini, who admitted that no plans had yet been formulated for securing Apollo buildings on the southern perimeter. It is expected that a gaggle of R&D vice presidents will be flying down on a junket during the SR9.5 beta test recess to evaluate the situation.

Meanwhile the plan is expected to go into effect as scheduled at other Apollo locales. People retiring or leaving the company will have the strip removed via a skin-graft operation at the company's expense, Mr. Houdini noted, except those leaving to join Sun Microsystems, who will be keelhauled instead.

CRITICS CORNER

Vanderslice Video Rockets to Top of Charts

Video Beat Magazine, arbiter of the top weekly video releases in the USA, reports that "The Vanderslice Video" has swept the field of Pop/Rock titles for the week of Oct. 6-12. According to Niels Nelson, director of Statistical Metrics, "this video is the most astonishing thing I've ever seen. It beats the bangles off of Madona's premier album, and even tops the return of the Monkees. What can I say but, 'Wow!'" The seven-minute tape features some state-of-the-art fantasy se-

quences, plus high-energy concert footage from the CEO's recent North American Sales Office Tour '86, which set attendance records in each of the fourteen cities on the schedule.

Vanderslice attributes the success of the new video to strong support from his band and the fine backup vocals of Senior Vice-President In Charge of Everything Roland Pampel, according to a recent interview backstage at Bld. 330. "I owe a lot of my artistic inspiration to the Talking Heads and Bananarama, but I couldn't have pulled this off without everybody's help," he said. "Together, we're going to make this year the best in history. We've sold over 100 million albums in the third quarter alone!" When asked to comment on rumors that the band would soon begin forays into the country western/rockabilly scene, Vanderslice declined to speculate. "We need to concentrate on what we do best, like solid rock and roll for the technical professional, and leave that other junk for the little guys."



Chess Championships Enter 52nd Round

by Clive Claymore
Chess Correspondent

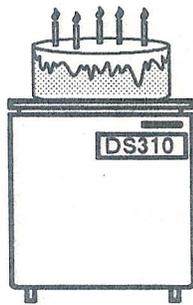
Moscow — Anatoly Karpov fell further behind his computerized opponent today in game 52 of the international chess championships being held in the Stalin Stadium here in Red Square. *Kalashnikov IV*, written by computer chess wizard Bernie Byteman, extended its winning streak to six games by beating Karpov in only 47 moves. *Kalashnikov* opened with the Siberian Sweep, taking four of Karpov's pawns in rapid-fire succession. Karpov attempted to regain the initiative by advancing both Knights along the left flank of the board, but they were quickly cut down in a hail of rooks. Attempting to upset the software's intricate timing mechanisms, Karpov then requested a time out to regroup and plan his next moves. Two hours later, he returned to the board only to

be mated in twelve by the wily program, which manipulated its queen and bishops in a manner that surprised even its creator.

"I couldn't believe it when *K-IV* castled on move 29," Byteman said. "Even I hadn't thought of that, and I'm a genius. Golly!"

Karpov was more circumspect in his reaction. "Da, damnisch komputorovsky for das kapital orlov schmersh korruptisch!" he shouted before storming from the hall. Tournament officials were quick to censor Karpov's remarks, fining him 10,000 roubles plus two week's beef ration for his outburst. A similar incident this past summer resulted in the confiscation of his Mercedes and the subsequent disappearance of his aged mother.

Game 53 is scheduled for early next week.



Sara Lee's CAKE Machines Available on Apollo's DOMAIN System

Sept. 22, 1986 — Apollo today announced the immediate availability of Sara Lee, Inc's family of high-performance cake-making machines on Apollo's DOMAIN System. Sara Lee's Machines Using Slow Hardware (MUSH) allow DOMAIN System users to offload and share their favorite recipes, freeing the Apollo mail system from great amounts of junk mail and allowing it to handle other applications while significantly improving cake baking performance. Sara Lee's MUSH family includes the upwardly compatible and field upgradeable MUSH 500 Series and the Desert Server DS310, a high-performance, oven-sized cake machine. Through the use of RS232 serial lines or an IEEE488 connection, DOMAIN System users are able to connect Sara Lee's cake baking machines directly to their Apollo workstations, or to Apollo's high-speed token ring DOMAIN network.

All members of the MUSH 500 Series — the entry-level 500X, mid-range 500XL, high-end 500XLE — are easily expandable to accommodate additional recipes without adversely impacting processing power. The DS310, which also invents recipes independent of its host computer, offers the power of larger cake machines in a convenient, economical package. Sara Lee designs, manufactures and markets high-performance cake baking machines for use in recipe automation, baking automation and advanced scientific recipe research systems. Sara Lee systems are designed to operate with computers from different manufacturers, enabling multiple users baking different cakes on different computers to share a common supply of ingredients. To date, more than 650 systems have been installed. The MUSH series of cake baking systems from Sara Lee join a growing family of cake baking systems available on the DOMAIN System, which includes Apollo's own DπM, a CODEINE-compliant distributed cake baking system, in addition to offerings from leading third-party vendors.

Internal Network Services Announces In-House Use of MUSH Machines

The recent announcement of Apollo's support of Sara Lee's Machines Using Slow Hardware (MUSH) cake servers has met with great enthusiasm internally. Internal Network Services has decided to order several Desert Server DS310 machines for in-house use.

Current plans would place one DS310 on each of the COFFEE and COCOA rings. The two rings would then be joined in a giant Breakfast Ring, providing coffeecake and danish to all users. Several nodes now in use would run diskless off the DS 310 machines: //blueberry, //almond, //apricot, //cheese, and //apple.

Apollo Makes Its Bid for Real Intelligence

Chelmsford—Trendsetter Apollo Computer again set the industry on its ear this week by announcing that it would abandon all of its current plans to compete in the Artificial Intelligence market and concentrate, instead, on Real Intelligence. "We figure we've got a real jump on the market this time," said VP of Dubious Direction Hooson First. "Nobody in the computer field is doing anything with real intelligence these days!"

Apollo, like other computer companies, has ignored the field of real intelligence because of the lack of government support. "You just can't make a sale to the Department of Defense when your product features real intelligence," says First. "However, we believe that we can market real intelligence to academic institutions; places like the University of California at Berkeley seem to be in desperate need of real intelligence. We think the potential market for real intelligence is enormous, if we can only convince users that they need it."

PLOPPS Increases Apollo's Visibility

Good news from the Publish Lest Our Products Perish (PLOPPS) committee: writings by Apollo personnel are popping up everywhere! Here are just a few of the articles that your coworkers have produced:

- "My Friend the Workstation," by Canyu Saithat, appeared in the August issue of *Sesame Street* magazine.
- "Fonts from God," by Phyllis Dean, was printed in the July 27 issue of *The Watchtower*, a publication of the Jehovahs Witnesses.
- "Existential Modernistic Post-Prandial Thinking in Fault-Intolerant Metafile Abolitionist Pseudo-Psycho-Exo-Neo-Gordo-Babelindrical Computer Language Design," by R. U. Listening, was featured in the September issue of *Mad Magazine*.
- "A Peek at the Designers of the DN3000" will appear in the October issue of *Hustler Magazine*. Text and photographs by Studley Manman.
- "America's Oldest Workstation Company Ages Gracefully" will appear in the November issue of *Modern Maturity*.

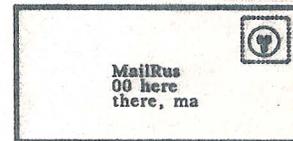
Vaporware Announced

Apollo Computer today proclaimed its commitment to the concept of Vaporware by forming a new Market Segment Group reporting directly to Roland Pampel, MegaVicePresident of R&D&M&M. "For too long we have lagged far behind our competitors in our ability to pre-announce non-existent products," said Ed Zander, Vice President in charge of Pronouncements. "Really, our po-

sition has been seriously impaired in a marketplace that expects a lot of horse hooey and applies the same devaluation to all product announcements regardless of origin. For this reason, I am happy to announce the appointment of Royall Switzer to the new position of SpecialExtraordinaryVP in charge of Vaporware. His immediate responsibilities will be Access and PHIGS hardware, but he will also be on Special Assignment to Personnel to assist other executives on Special Assignment with updating their resumes."

New Apollo Stock Option Conversion Plan

After the unexplainable continuing decline of the Apollo Stock prices, the company is pleased to announce a new stock option conversion plan. Employees with unexercised options may exchange their holdings for FREE cafeteria lunches. It is not clear whether the conversion will be one for one or not, or what the vesting rate will be. "This is just one of Apollo's continuing efforts to show its allegiance to and recognition of the incredible value of its employees," stated a company spokesperson. Employees are advised to consult with their own accountants and tax attorneys for an evaluation of possible tax consequences of any conversion.



Apollo Announces AI Mail System

Apollo today announced the upgrading of its DPSSS/Mail package to DPSSSSS/US/Mail, which incorporates Artificial Intelligence constructs to mimic the behavior of the United States Mail System. The product, which has been successfully and secretly beta-tested in R&D, incorporates the old user interface while adding such new features as random message deletion, three-day delays in transmission, and multiple deliveries of unwanted junk mail.

"We feel this is a much better simulation of the actual U.S. mail experience that most users are familiar with," said Noel Braziere, chief engineer. A major innovation of the new system is a mechanism which routes messages

to nodes on alien networks that are likely to corrupt data: the Foreign-Stored Queue. "I'm writing a paper on that one," chirped Braziere happily.

Meanwhile, Marketing is positioning the product as the first of several AI-oriented offerings. "It's like this," said Paul Slenderson, marketing segment manager for AI products, "AI basically means imitating human behavior, right? And the product acts like a human, right? So it's gotta be AI, right? Hello?"

health

Guide to Losing Weight

Are you beginning to feel that waistline oozing over your belt? Does your fanny need two stools at a lunch counter? CANTEEN Corp., purveyors of delectables at your favorite cafeteria (and also in Building 270), have compiled a weekly menu for the weight-conscious which is guaranteed to help you lose those unwanted inches. This menu has been specially prepared with the interests and schedules of Apollo engineers in mind. Through an amazing coincidence, all of the weekday items may be found in your R&D building.

MONDAY:

breakfast 1 pat butter
 day-old croissant
 (put sad croissant in
 toaster in attempt to make
 it tastier, generating great
 cloud of smoke. Nibble on
 remaining black crumbs.)
 3 cups coffee

lunch macaroni and cheese
 wilted lettuce

dinner Ice Cream bar
 Coca-cola

TUESDAY:

breakfast 1 pat butter
 2 cups coffee
 1 bagel
 (split bagel; insert halves
 into automatic toaster.)

Wait. Impatiently pluck bagel
 halves from toaster bin.
 Burn fingers. Spread butter
 on fingers.)

lunch tuna-flavored mayonnaise on
 pita bread
 seven scoops of melon
 cottage cheese

dinner Hostess Cherry Pie
 Coca-cola

WEDNESDAY:

breakfast stale donut
 (put donut into microwave to
 soften it up. Burn mouth.)
 2 cups coffee

lunch grilled cheese and raw bacon
 OR
 bland cheese and white bread
 OR
 baloney and pastrami sub

dinner Snickers bar
 Coca-cola

THURSDAY:

breakfast 1 pat butter
 raisin bagel
 (split bagel; insert halves
 into automatic toaster.
 Wait. Watch bagel halves
 fall into toaster bin. Wait
 Carefully pick up bagel and
 place on paper plate.
 Congratulate self. Walk into
 vice-president carrying full
 cup of coffee.)
 2 cups coffee

lunch corned fat and cabbage
 fresh lettuce
 green tomatos

dinner peanut-butter and cheese
 snack
 Coca-cola

FRIDAY:

breakfast 1 pat butter
 1 untoasted bagel
 2 cups coffee

lunch cold, fried fish, french
 fries, fried onions, fried
 lettuce

dinner 6 beers
 Mrs Pauls fishsticks

SATURDAY:

breakfast 5 cups coffee
 2 aspirin

lunch Bloody Mary
 2 aspirin

dinner potato chips
 6 beers

SUNDAY:

breakfast Screwdriver

lunch 5 cups coffee
 2 aspirin

dinner Swansons Salisbury Steak TV
 dinner
 1 quart Coca Cola
 Ice cream sandwich

classifieds

WANTED: DN100 – preferably green on black display. Sr9.2.3. or better. Full software installed and all applicable licenses. Preferably a high rise keyboard. Contact: The David Letterman Show. Ship to: roof of abandoned building #7.

WANTED: SIGN PAINTER for Campus Complex – Immediate opening for qualified painter. Proper applicant must be flexible, willing to do the job over and over, without asking any questions. Submit qualifications to Tambone Bros., Chemsford Ma.

This Day in History

Oct. 14, 1853 B.C.: Hammurabi of Babylon first implements his famous system of law and ethics ("the Code of Hammurabi") on an Intel 8088.

Oct. 14, 1066 A.D.: William the Conqueror leads Norman invaders to a 21-14 overtime rout of the British Bluebloods, setting the stage for French domination of the European League for the next 200 years.

Oct. 14, 1902 A.D.: Thomas Edison introduces a telephonic network that changes color depending on the disposition of the people speaking over the line; dubs it "the Mood Ring."

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