



DYNAMIC MEMORIES™

DECEMBER 1986



SOUTH BAY USERS GROUP

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LOOK--PAY ATTENTION** - the next SBUG meeting will be held at the Saratoga library. Time: 7:15 P.M.

The next 3 meetings will be held on December 16, January 20 and February 17th.

MAP ON PAGE 4, DETAILS ON PAGE 5.

The following events are scheduled for the December meeting*

Jim Gonsalves will speak on data compression. Chris Oman will speak on PC Tools. The editor will show off his new XT. His new XT will show up the editor.

**

MEMBERSHIP

If you wish to become a member of SBUG and start receiving our newsletter "DYNAMIC MEMORIES", then send \$20 (check or money order) to the following address;

South Bay TRS-80 Users Group
P.O. Box 60116
Sunnyvale, Ca. 94088

Or come to one of our meetings. Annual membership is \$20.00 which includes the newsletter and bulletin board privileges. If you just wish to have the use of the bulletin board and are unable or uninterested in attending meetings or receiving the newsletter, you may forward a paltry \$12.00 and the bulletin board is yours for all eternity.

!!

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SBUG STEERING COMMITTEE

TITLE		USERNAME	PHONE
Chairman:			
	Chris Oman	OMAN	(408) 985-9460
Treasurer:	Henry Schulze	HENRY	(408) 866-5731
Secretary:			
	Jim Gonsalves	MANGR	(408) 241-9347
Newsletter Editor			
	Joel Lee	EDITOR	(408) 926-3999
Librarians:			
(disc)	Bernie Thompson	BERNIE	(408) 867-7455
(docs)	Gary Dixon	GDIXON	(408) 262-6937
Coeditor & Public Relations Chief:			
	Gerry McKee	GERRY	(408) 752-3207 (office) (408) 943-9489 (home)
Sysop:			
	Jim Gonsalves	MANGR	(408) 241-9347

OTHER KEY INDIVIDUALS

Cover designer:

Wright Huntley

This month's cover by: G. McKee

Host Computer:

SBUG
SBUG(ALL)
ALTERNATE(408) 249-8259
(408) 943-9729

If the need arises, give anyone of us a call.

THE EDITOR'S BYTES AND BITES

The ram grows ever bigger horns and proceeds at an ever swifter pace. There is an AT compatible operating at 12Mhz. It is common to offer 1 Mhz on board. This is not even news.

The news is the multitasking powers of the '386, The descriptions leave no doubt that it is an awe inspiring machine that will do things that were only dreams, ideas, before its appearance.

That's not all the new news. If you read widely you will become convinced that such incompatible machines as the '386 and the Mac will soon be talking to each other. Within certain limits they will be running each other's programs.

There is no doubt that inventive minds within the corporations will do a great deal with the '386. The real jump will come when the hackers get hold of it, as they will. All kinds of unexpected, unknown bizarerie will come pouring out of the cornucopia. Here's to it. And here's to the hackers who have made the micro revolution.

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SBUG Financial Statement
November 28, 1986

Receipts:	November Y-T-Date		% Used	Budget
Members dues	0.00	809.00	80.90%	1000.00
SBUG BBS Dues	0.00	50.00	25.00%	200.00
Disk Library	4.00	122.00	101.67%	120.00
Load80	24.00	364.00	182.00%	200.00
Documentation	0.00	.00	.00%	40.00
Interest	0.00	21.40	71.33%	30.00
Total Receipts	28.00	1366.40	85.94%	1590.00
Disbursements:				
Phone	8.42	288.53	120.22%	240.00
Utilities	45.00	131.58	49.84%	264.00
Printing	58.42	648.32	180.09%	360.00
Postage	0.00	226.00	150.67%	150.00
P O Box	0.00	29.00	111.54%	26.00
Bank charges	4.00	24.00	66.67%	36.00
Disk Library	0.00	204.97	409.94%	50.00
Documentation	0.00	.00	.00%	80.00
SBUG BBS	0.00	.00	.00%	200.00
Misc. Expenses	0.00	13.00	26.00%	50.00
Total Disbursements	115.84	1565.40	107.24%	1456.00
Beginning Cash Balance	408.46	519.62	100.00%	519.62
Net Receipts	-87.84	-199.00	-148.51%	134.00
Ending Balance	320.62	320.62	49.05%	653.62

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Below is a map. Due diligence and astute study will reveal to you the location of our next meeting place, yes! the Saratoga Library. (In Saratoga). This map comes to us courtesy of the Gerald McKee cartography and ice cream company. Gerry makes maps in the winter and in the summer he's into icecream.



ABOUT STAGGERED MEETINGS

No, dummy, this does not mean you are to come stag. It means that we will hold the December meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of said month

We will hold the January meeting on the second Tuesday of January.

We will hold the February meeting on the first Tuesday of February.

All these meetings will be held in the Saratoga library and no where else. See map on page 4.

LETTER FROM THE FAR BEYOND (LOS ANGELES)

October 20, 1986

Joel Lee, Editor In Chief
Dynamic Memories
C/O South Bay Users Group
P O Box 60116
Sunnyvale, CA 94088

I had been worried lately. The concern is gone now, thanks to you.

It was just yesterday that I was fretting that the October Issue of Dynamic Memories would not reach my door step. But today it came and the birds sing again. Thanks to you my life is put back together as I cherish each and every word contained within Dynamic Memories.

EDITOR'S NOTE: About those birdies. Are you sure you didn't get a sound knock on the noggin?

I see that Henry has finally figured out how to get both columns of the financial statement (Current & Y-T-D) to agree with each other - congratulations Henry. (Editor's note: Creative bookkeeping is IN) Too bad the editor had to glitch up the format. (Joel, let me know if that is a REAL word: glitch. I know another word to use, but not in public.)

EDITOR'S NOTE: It's a real word. It's spelled botch, though.

In reading your article "The Perils of Purchasing", I appreciate the information, but for us that have decided long ago to avoid having credit cards (due to excessive finance charges), what do we do??? I hesitate to send a check in with my mail order then worry if the product will ever ship, or if it does, will it work as advertised. Do you suppose that SBUG could keep a list of mail order houses to buy from and those that we should not? Let's start the list by asking the membership at the next meeting which vendors they would buy or not buy from. On second thought, let's not - It would be libelous for SBUG to make such commentaries.

I purchased my IBM XT clone from a local dealer about two years ago and have enjoyed it tremendously ever since. I have made tens of thousands of dollars with it writing software. The machine has paid for itself many times over without a break down... well, I did have to replace a few memory chips a couple of times.

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I have settled down to using Ms-Dos 3.1 and have learned to live with the problems. The problems are:

1. Trying to load memory resident programs that gobble up the 640k ram (like Side-kick, PcTools, DoubleDos, etc.) and not being able to run an application program (like MicroSoft WORD) due to insufficient memory. (I know - I should get a memory expansion board.)

2. I have overcome the problem of running different applications such as ProComm, Lotus 1-2-3, MultiMate, Fido, and others by setting up batch files which choose the subdirectory, run the program and return me to the root directory, ready for the next application. A batch file will typically look like this:

PR.BAT...

```
D:
CD ±MODEM
PROCOMM
CD ±
C:
```

I have even written a BASIC program that will run all applications from a basic Main menu then automatically return to the basic Main Menu. The AUTOEXEC.BAT file contains: BASIC APPL which automatically loads basic and the Main Menu.

3. I have overcome the problem of trying to find other less commonly used programs on subdirectories by setting the PATH command:

```
PATH C:±;C:±UTIL;C:±Lotus;C:±Pascal;D:±;D:±Fido;
D:±Word;D:±MM;D:±MODEM
```

This makes the Dos look in all these places for any program name I type in before it says File Not Found.

A computer is like a woman, (Editor's note: A computer programmer and an expert on women -- rarest of combinations even in the renaissance world) I tell it what I want and it decides if that is what I get. I can't live without one and I have my problems having one. My wife asked me if she had been replaced by a computer, I told her NOT YET!

Thanks for the newsletters, Joel. Keep up the good work.

Best regards,

Don Rhodes

Editor's final note: If you pay your credit card debt promptly each month you pay no interest only the annual fee which is worth the guarantee you get when buying by mail by credit card.

A REVIEW OF XPORT FROM SOFTRENDS

Softrends is the company that owns AIDS the very excellent database program that I use to keep apartment house records on and to make reports with. To begin with, I hope for their sake that XPORT doesn't turn out later to be a disease.

XPORT's purpose is to transfer files from Tandy Model 1s and Model 111s to MSDOS. It will not do 6.2 files. I started on it the day I got it, and so far have had no problems. It does what it is advertised to do.

For your better understanding I will quote three paragraphs directly from the manual.

"XPORT is a utility for transferring files on disk between TRS-80 and PC compatible microcomputers. As many as 40 files containing more than 204,000 bytes (characters) can be transported on a single diskette. Files can be moved between any combination of Model-1 (with double-density), Model 111, Model 4 (in Model 111 mode) and PC compatible computers equipped with at least one 40 track, double density disk drive. All popular DOS versions are supported. Complex or repetitive transfers can be automated using CHAIN (/JCL) or BATCH (.BAT) files. Additional features include a built in HELP facility, automatic conversion of standard DOS text files (when transferring between different machines) and comprehensive error detection and file verification.

XPORT is not a communications program. It does not use the RS-232 port or modems (null or otherwise). It will not work with single density disk drives. It will not work with single density DOSs. XPORT will not work in a Model 1 unless the computer is equipped with a 'doubler' board (double density disk controller). It can only be used in Model 111 mode on a Model 4. XPORT cannot be used with TRSDOS 6.x systems. It does not convert BASIC programs to run on different computers, nor does it convert SCRIPSIT files for use with PC word processors. XPORT will run on an MSDOS computer only if the computer is PC compatible. (the Tandy 2000 is an example of an MSDOS computer that is not compatible with the IBM PC.

The problem in transporting a file between a TRS-80 and a PC compatible microcomputer is that each system uses a different disk layout. This is also somewhat true of the various TRS-80 DOS. Although a TRS-80 can be made to read a PC diskette, a PC cannot reliably read all types of TRS-80 disks. Therefore, what is needed is a common format that can be read by all machines. The XPORT system uses a special diskette, called a transport disk, to transfer files from one machine to another. This transfer process is quite simple. Files are copied onto the transport disk in the first machine. The diskette is removed and inserted in the second machine. The files are then copied from the transport disk. The process is the same whether you are transporting files from a TRS-80 to a PC, from a PC to a TRS-80, or from one TRS-80 to another TRS-80."

The program comes with 3 disks, one which runs on the TRS-80, one which runs on the compatible and the transport disk plus a 15 page manual. The disks may be copied except the transport disk which can be made up by the compatible. The files I have copied (only a few) have gone easily. The program goes like a bomb on the XT. If you were concerned as I was about copying years of files from your TRS-80 I think this will solve your problem. If you pay attention to the ads for TRSCROSS you will notice that they mention that you "lose a few sectors sometimes" when copying from NEWDOS. That's not an acceptable program for me.

ABOUT MAGAZINES

I presently subscribe to CODEWORKS, COMPUTER SHOPPER, BYTE, INFOWORLD and 80-MICRO. In view of my acquisition of an XT (compatible-- in the future as legal jargon might have it, it will be considered, understood and given, that the letters "XT" will substitute for "XT compatible" at the same time stipulating that no copyright infringement is intended or effected); to continue-- in view of my change of status I am reassessing my subscription list.

Most certainly I should subscribe to one of the magazines that is MSDOS specific. Which? I'll have to buy a few copies of the several contestants-- PC WORLD comes to mind-- at the news stands and evaluate as well as asking for input from fellow SBUG members now conversant with these esoteric matters.

This is how I feel about the magazines I currently subscribe to.

CODEWORKS is dedicated to BASIC. It publishes BASIC programs which it places in public domain asking only for accreditation in the case of publication. Most of the programs are excellent and there is an occasional little gem that becomes part of my permanent library. There is an ongoing attitude of disrespect for BASIC in the microcomputer community, but we all use it for our diverse purposes from time to time. As a Peruvian general once said when he was asked his opinion of civilians, "They are sometimes useful for some things." BASIC too.

COMPUTER SHOPPER. Its format of 355 pages, mostly ads, tends to divert the attention from its excellent editorial policy and the solid worth of the large number of articles they publish each month on machines, programs and the general microcomputer scene. On going coverage of orphan machines is an example of the services they render. Stan Veit the publisher and editor-in-chief has been with micros from the beginning. As I said above, the articles are solidly written and cover the whole field of micros.

What is most amazing in a magazine dedicated to ads is that they do not hesitate to be critical of their advertisers. Their reviews do not hesitate to indicate failures on the part of manufacturers of hardware or producers of software. If I could only subscribe to one magazine this would be it. The ads alone keep you informed as to what is going on in the microworld.

BYTE. A lot of BYTE, well, most of it, is over my head. However, I glean enough to make it worth my money and worth my time. I would hate to have to do without it.

INFOWORLD. They recently defined themselves as a magazine for the business microcomputer specialist-- that's an approximation of what they said. That's not me. After their definition of the magazine I began to read it with a more critical eye. There are pages and pages that are simply out of my ken and interest. I'm still weighing INFOWORLD.

80-MICRO. I have left this for the last because it is the most complex issue in my mind. I have subscribed to it for quite a while, not as long as many of you. It is certainly a good magazine. It has an obligation to the many Model I, Model III and 4 owners who have supported it over the years.

There just isn't much new to write about these models. Will there be enough written about MSDOS machines to make it worth my while? Here again I will be weighing what I am getting until the end of my subscription and make a decision.

NOTES FROM A NEW XT (COMPATIBLE) OWNER

The first thing the novice XT/AT computerist (me) is struck with is the keyboard. I mean struck. Like by lightning. All those keys. It looks like one of those highly specialized business machines presided over by a gnome who spent six years learning the board and will do nothing else for the rest of his life but manipulate it.

Well, anyway, let's take a look at it. We're stuck now. ESC. That's easy. Stands for escalator and makes things go up and down. Figured that one out without any help. PRT SCR. PRT is obviously private. Private Sean Charles Riley? Are the Irish big in computers? NUM LOCK. Yes, I'm a little numb. Nice of them to abbreviate it. SCROLL LOCK. It doesn't. Not when I try it anyway. SYS. REQ. I'll probably find the explanation for that on page 549 (footnote) of the manual. Perhaps I'd better stop until I know more. This could get silly after a while. There's one called END which should mean end but is probably an acronym--Enophiles Never Die--. Computers Are Simple Enough. (CASE)

Owning an MSDOS computer has given me a new incentive to learn-- and there's lots to learn. The number of programs both commercial and public domain is simply overwhelming. The same may be said for add on boards and other peripherals. The Macintosh continues to be the king of graphics, though.

Speaking of boards, the price of an AT emulator runs from \$384.00 to a little over a thousand. More and more it appears that the idea of buying an XT compatible and later on upgrading it to an AT was a good idea. Another score for Bernie Thompson.

There are always a few (and they are few) authorities writing on computers that can always be counted on for correct information. One of these is Steve Gibson, the inventor of the light pen and author of FLICKERFREE (reviewed in the December 80MICRO). In his column in the November 3rd issue of INFOWORLD he writes about memory resident programs as follows:

"Remember that well-behaved software always keeps its hands off the computer's hardware. If, for example, such software needs to send a string of characters to the system's display screen, it calls upon software functions that have been built into the computer to perform this service. It would never write the string directly into the display's memory itself. Direct Screen Writing is a classic and often repeated software faux pas.

"Ben Rosen and his bright boys at Compaq Computer understood very early that misbehaving programs were the rule rather than the exception. Ben's friend Mitch Kapor over at Lotus had made that very clear with the misbehaving success of 1-2-3. So Compaq created a machine that not only had a fully compatible BIOS, but which also mimicked the original IBM PC hardware down to the tiniest detail. This hardware-level compatibility catered to the wealth of popular misbehaving software (like Lotus 1-2-3 and Sidekick) and was key to the early and continuing success of the Compaq computer. The term '100 percent compatible' has since arisen to characterize the current flock of hardware-level-compatible computers."

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Gibson goes on to say that this will not always be the case, that "well behaved" programs will win out in the long run. If you read Hardin Brothers review of FLICKERFREE it is apparent that Gibson has followed his own dictums. Obviously he is right about the way these memory resident programs should be written. How nice it would be to have a SIDEKICK like program written by Steve Gibson.

Handy programs I have discovered:

DISKTEST (which also checks the files if you wish)
ZZ a printer check
SYSINFO tells you what you are working with

Things I have to learn (or understand better)

How to write an autoexec file. I have to write a new one for the bootup on my hard disk.
What does Dos.App do?
How to use the Keyboard.exe program. I can guess it redefines keys and that makes it dangerous for a stupid (make that uninformed) person like me.
What does Access.com do?

When I get (as I not infrequently do) "Incorrect Dos Version" it seems to me that I am hearing the pitty pat of half forgotten DOS feet -- little TRSDOS 1.3, NEWDOS, DOUBLEDOS and etc. What incompatible little rascals they were. Now we have the MSDOS brothers, 2.0, 2.1, 3.1 et al. behaving in the same unfraternal manner.

XT (I have decided to use his initials instead of his rather lengthy full name which is Xavier Tarragon); as I say XT has just informed me that Sat 11-15-86 is an invalid date. I've always been a little shaky about the time continuum so I didn't press the matter more than once. How do I know that Xavier isn't right and that there never was and never will be a Saturday the fifteenth of November nineteen-eightysix? Did any of you notice as we went past that date?

I presently have on order ELECTRIC PENCIL for the PC. It comes with a spelling checker and sells for \$49.99. I spoke to the tech where I ordered it. It doesn't have page centering (vertical centering). That is a must for anyone who writes the number of letters that I do. I suggested to the tech that they ought to add that feature and that both SCRIPSIT and ALLWRITE have it.

I have also ordered 5 public domain programs including a database program. Most of my work is in the database or wordprocessor area. Edlin gives me a bad time. I used it to rewrite the autoexec.bat file, plagiarizing the existing file. The good book says that A will append lines, C will copy lines, M will move lines, R will replace characters. Maybe on your Edlin, but not on mine. I will insert lines, L will list lines, D will delete lines, E will end edit session, Q will quit edit and W will write lines, just as the book says. I don't know about P, S or T.

I have a ramdisk program which tells me "Invalid Ramdisk Specified". That's a lie but I want to be circumspect with Xavier until we get used to working with one another. A lot of my word processing work would go like a bomb on a ramdisk. I used to do it to an extent on the Model 4 but 64K is a little limiting.

MODEL 4 CORNER

by Editor

Now that I am leaving (very gradually) the Model 4 world, there seems to be some movement there. A number of companies have offered memory expansion up to 2 megabytes for some time now. A couple of these companies have appeared and disappeared. Seatronics, a Dutch company has been advertising an 8Mhz speed up, a Ramdisk and a one megabyte memory board in 80MICRO for over a year. Their prices have shrunk during this year. They advertise compatibility with TRSDOS 1.3 and NEWDOS.

Now comes a full page ad from H.I. Tech, Inc for a plug in board with 256K memory, useable as ram or ramdisk running at a speed of 8Mhz. All this for \$269.00. If I hadn't gone clone I would have tried this one.

More signs of movement on the 4 front. Check the articles in the December 80MICRO. Previously most of the articles were about the III. Now they seem to be giving equal time to the 4. COMPUTER SHOPPER which comes as close as possible to being all things to all computerists has had a hard time lately finding things to publish in their TANDY section. In their November edition they have a program for a full screen editor for 6.2 and an article entitled "Teach Your TRS-80 to Program Itself". It sounds fascinating. It also sounds like more work than I would ever be willing to go to.

And there you have it. Model 4 lives.

MERRY CHRISTMAS SBUG 86

by Gerald F. Mc Kee

'Twas the night before SBUG, and all through the net,
 Not a byte was stirring, on that you can bet!
 Election was over, new Steercom on board,
 The projects all screwed-up, we've shoved them toward.
 The future looks bright, if employment holds out,
 The next generation (of Clones) with new clout.
 We look back, with wonder, at Mod I & Mod III.
 Without their Influence, just where would we be?
 The IV wasn't bad, nor the four P as well.
 (Not nearly the curses, nor Dang-Its-to-Tell!)
 The Thousand, and so on, gave 'Big Blue' a hard time.
 (With Hard Disk and system, to use it, sublime.)
 The Clones are 'OK', but price is their feature.
 With patience, and study, you master the creature.
 Now looking beyond, we see the New Year
 with promise and challenge, the new crew to bare.
 We settle our brains, as is custom to do,
 with back-up completed, (You did, DIDN'T you?)
 The systems all down, except BBS,
 Sysop is foggy, he'd be quick to confess!
 From the board, there came Bells, Five I believe!
 Flash Message arriving, could the system retrieve?
 The Signon said 'SANTA, CLAUS; the 'NORTH POLE'

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Could this be the 'real thing? well bless now my soul.
His message was short, and straight from the heart.
My gift is for all, so savour each part!
To get the most, from computer, so new,
Make the effort worthwhile, whatever you do.
Use SBUGs meetings as forums to share,
triumphs and problems, with friends who care.
Put that MODEM to use, for wider access.
your limits are broken, a fact, I confess!
The Bulletin boards, by the hundreds exist,
The mind is expanded, you should not resist!
We ALL need each other, understanding to spread.
Share the questions & answers, everything said.
Resolve to be active, being passive's naive.
Free rides are not worth it, you better believe.
Enjoy to the fullest, pull for SBUG, do great.
Help us nurse the new guy, he'll come early, stay late.
Until next year, my children, I wish you good will,
and to all

'MERRY CHRISTMAS'
Compute to your fill!

ABOUT CP/M ON THE PC OR CLONES

by Henry Schulze

As the owner of a Model IV and a PC clone I am very much interested in the ability to use some or all of my CP/M programs, which I use on my Model IV, also on my clone. To accomplish this, I started to ask around and to read up on this problem.

Someone at Wolf Computers in Los Gatos told me that a plug-in card called Baby Blue would be able to do this. However, after calling around the area and looking for ads in the trade press I realized that apparently the company had either gone out of business or had given up making these cards. So, end of the line?

Then I saw an ad for a CP/M emulator program called ZPEMulator that supposedly would let one use CP/M on an IBM or compatible. The price seemed right at \$59.95. So naturally I ordered one. However, it didn't take long to find out that this would only work for programs written in BASIC. Any programs that made calls on the Z80 chip (like Supercalc or Checks & Balances) made things come to a screeching halt. Needless to say, I returned the program and got my money back.

The next attempt followed after I asked around some more and was told that the NEC chip V20 had a subset of instructions for the Z80 and therefore could be used (with an emulator program) to run some CP/M programs. So, to Fry's I went to buy my V20. After installing it, by replacing the existing 8088 chip, I was ready for its first trial.

I must add at this point, that in order to run any CP/M programs on an MS-DOS machine the programs have to be first transferred to an MS-DOS format disk. To accomplish this, from a Model IV for example, you need either the program SUPERCROSS or HYPERCROSS. This gives you the capability to format disks in several of the MS-DOS formats right on your Model IV, besides of course the 70 or

more different CP/M formats. Programs or data files can be transferred in either direction and to either format. That means one can cross from MS-DOS to TRSDOS or any of the 70 CP/M formats or vice versa.

After I had transferred some of my programs over to the MS-DOS disk and changed the file extension .COM to .CMD I was ready to invoke the emulator program V20-80. I discovered, that my dBase II and Checks & Balances would run, albeit very slowly. Supercalc, however, still would not work. But at least some progress had been made.

Still, being somewhat of a purist or perfectionist by nature, I was not totally satisfied. So one day, while reading my copy of MICROTIMES, I saw a full-page ad: "Run CP/M software on your IBM-PC". Naturally, I had to investigate this.

The company's name is DECMATION and they are offering two boards to be plugged into one's PC. One card is called "BLUE LIGHTNING", the other one "BLUE THUNDER". List prices: \$595.00 and \$199.50, respectively. The main difference is in the speed of the clocks. 9.25 MHz vs. 5 MHz for the cheaper -- or should I say less expensive -- board. Another difference is the amount of memory -- 128K vs. 64K and also some additional software that is included in the higher priced version. However, the Blue Thunder card has everything one has to have, in essence, a full-fledged Z80 coprocessor in your PC. It closely emulates a Kaypro CP/M computer, and the software has to be in this format. The CP/M emulation software, included with the board will then convert the program to allow it to be run on the MS-DOS machine.

To play it safe, I waited to see if this was just a one-time shot, or if the ad would appear in future issues. Well, in fact, it did appear two more times, before I contacted the company to buy a Blue Thunder card. By that time they had lowered their price to \$149.50 and I decided to purchase one.

The installation was fairly simple -- just plug it in like any other board into an available slot in your PC. As I mentioned, the program has to be in a Kaypro CP/M format saved onto an MS-DOS disk. The file extension has to be changed from .COM to .CPM in order for the emulation program to run the CP/M software.

Well, what can I say -- it works! Happiness! What price . . . satisfaction? All my CP/M programs will now work on my PC clone. Supposedly, the board can also be used in an AT or clone. So, unless something happens to the board, I will be able to transfer it into a future AT clone -- when and if the time comes.

By the way, as of 10/28/86, the company is still in business. If anyone is interested in this board he can get in touch with them directly:

DECMATION
2065 Martin Ave., Suite 110
Santa Clara, CA 95050
408/980-1678

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The latest quote I got from them for the "Blue Thunder" board was \$199.50, to be increased to \$249.50 after the first of November.

Happy computing!

THINGS YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW

BERNIE THOMPSON ANNOUNCES that in the program library he now has available for your avid perusal (under the strictest supervision) "Notebook II". This is a freeform database and a few other things which things will be revealed to you upon your perusal. It is also expected that TRSDOS 6.3 which will be known as LDOS 6.3 will soon be here under the same terms.

My question is: If I don't get a copy, will it forever be 1986 in my life? I have previously made clear my shaky sense of where in time I am.

Addendum: 11/25/86 (I think that's right) Got a message from Bernie today about software being sold at bargain terms (under \$50.00) at ACE located at 911 George St. in Santa Clara. I returned with \$65.00 (plus tax) worth of programs. They consist of Personal Pearl a ???????? program. I know that Personal Pearl produced the whole kit and caboodle of programs. Is this the data base, the word processor or the spreadsheet. I'll let you know next issue.

I also got the Leading Edge word processor. They had two distinct versions. Which was the latest? I asked. They didn't know. So I took the thickest. I figured maybe as they learned more they wrote more, or maybe they had two versions and this was the most complete one. If I picked my women the same way I wouldn't be married to the one I've got.

Finally, Advanced DBMaster from Stoneware. I know that they wrote a version for Apple as well so they must have put some work into it.

It might be worth your while to drop by. They have a 40 foot table full of the stuff. They will guarantee that the disks run, that is to say that they are not magnetically impaired. Period. Try and figure out the DOS version as well. I noticed some running PC DOS 1.1. The latest version of SYMPHONY at \$35.55 is not available there.

South Bay TRS-80 Users Group
P.O. Box 60116
Sunnyvale, Ca 94088

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