



PRinT SCreen

**The Newsletter for the
Stanford/Palo Alto
PC Users' Group**

March 1988

Volume 6, Number 3

We the People of the User's
Group of Stanford/Palo Alto, in order to form a more
perfect operating system, provide for the novice, promote
random access, secure the blessings of data integrity for
others, do ordain and establish that the PC will forever
be supported in the greater community of the Stanford
campus and its neighboring communities...

Elections
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CLUB NEWS

Disk of the Month

Two directory-listing utilities will be on the Disk of the Month: SDIR50 and SDIRX. Each of these programs offers something unique. SDIR50 shines at showing hidden files, attributes, sub-directories, providing a pause for each screen full, and can even change file attributes. Unfortunately, the directory listing cannot be redirected to a file.

SDIRX gives a nice compact six-column directory listing which can be redirected to a file. It can also sort according to date, size, etc. More detailed description would steal thunder from the demonstration planned for the next meeting. A text file will also be included which compares the gamut of such directory listers (excluding commercial programs).

Copies of Disk of the Month will be available at the back of the room for \$1.

Bulletin Board

The club's bulletin board, nicknamed SPARC, is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The number is 723-7995. Use the following communication settings: 300, 1200, or 2400 baud; no parity; 8 bits; and 1 stop bit.

For your own security, phone numbers will no longer be operative as passwords. If you have not changed your password from your phone number, please call one of the SysOps to do so. The System Operators are Ralph Muraca, Turley Angle, Beverly Altman, and Mark Woodward. Their phone numbers are listed on the SPAUG Resource Center list.

March-April Calendar

March 30	Group Meeting	8:00
April 11	Microsoft Word SIG	7:30
April 12	Novice SIG	7:00
April 13	Planning Meeting	8:00
April 27	Group Meeting	8:00

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All members are welcome to attend the monthly planning meeting, where we make decisions on the future of the group. Call Beverly Altman, 329-8252, for the location of the next meeting.

Next Meeting

Date:	Wednesday, March 30
Time:	8:00 p.m.
Place:	Polya Hall, Turing Aud. (Rm. 111), Stanford

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At press time, final arrangements for a speaker were still underway. We are hoping to have Michael Miller, the Executive Editor of Info World, share with us his outspoken and often controversial views of the MS-DOS community.

Elections

Take part in the club's future by choosing its leaders. See the Election Special, beginning on page 6. If you can't be present for Election Night, send in the absentee ballot printed on page 8.

Library Additions

by Turley Angle, Librarian

The following programs have been added to the library since February, 1988. Copies may be obtained from Les Weil.

FILENAME	DISK	DESCRIPTION
1040.ARC	128	1987 Federal Tax program.
INSTCALC	126	Spreadsheet accessed by hot key.
CONTROL1	134	Complete business tracking system.
CONTROL2	135	See disk 134.
IMP80	129	Font for L/Q w/9 pin printer. Other samples.
MR-LABEL	12A	Prints labels in w/p and db programs.
ORG-L123	12A	File organizer for LOTUS 123 ver 2.x

PCCALC-1	130	Buttonware PC-CALC disk 1 of 3
PCCALC-2	131	Buttonware PC-CALC disk 2 of 3
PCCALC-3	132	Buttonware PC-CALC disk 3 of 3
ALMANAC	12B	Astronomy calculations, sun, moon, planets, etc.
EDICOM	12C	DOS Command processor/manager [use w/color monitor]
PCFILE-1	12D	Buttonware PCFILE+ Ver 2.0 disk 1 of 3
PCFILE-2	12E	Buttonware PCFILE+ Ver2.0 disk 2 of 2
PCFILE-3	12F	Buttonware PCFILE+ Ver2.0 disk 3 of 3
TUTOR	133	Minicourse in computer terminology, DOS basics.

See Page 14

THE VIEW FROM THE TOP

Editor: *What are you going to write about this month, Corwin?*

Writer: I thought I'd write about a new microchip I'm working on, the 80486.

What does it do?

It senses when you're about to wake up and automatically makes coffee for you.

How about wishing the candidates good luck?

Yeah, ~~they'll need it~~ that's a good idea.

Maybe you can offer them some advise.

Unlist your phone number, take a course in delegating authority and be ready to take the credit for anything good that happens...

News From The Sigs

The Novice SIG

"When all else fails, click left on HELP"

— Updated American proverb

Report on meeting of 3/8: One conclusion on the topic "commercial behemoths vs. groups of public domain software" was that maybe personal inclinations rule. This writer's suspicions contend that we are brainwashed by the magazines. Look how we pay \$400 for version 1.0 of *Premier-DeluxeWare*, then pay \$90 (mandatory, lest we lose our registered status) for version 1.1 replete with band-aids three months later, then again ad infinitum. Cheers are even heard, when the program finally approaches the performance it should have had back at version 1.0. It's a hook system Madison Avenue must be proud of.

Mine is a minority view so I won't press it, except to say that shareware silently goes forth with great thoughtful packages unburdened with memory-oppressing slow-down graphics and prohibitive costs. The image orientation of businesses will perpetuate their opting for glitz, and this will sustain the brand-names regardless how deficient and unwieldy.

The central topic for next time will be on how to use your computer

at home to make or save money. We still need someone to take over Novice Sig. (Also, it might stem this tendency to soap-box).

NEXT NOVICE SIG GROUP MEETING - April 12 (2nd Tuesday of the month). 7 p.m., refreshments, and again offering 5 minutes of Fred Astaire that you likely have never seen, at 3785 Farm Hill Blvd. Redwood City (on south side of street with Emerald Hill as closest cross street). Watch for blue & red light. (415) 365- 6822 (If coming, a call or message on answering machine would be appreciated, though not mandatory).

— Don Baird

Microsoft Word SIG

Manny Melliza, a representative from Microsoft, attended the last meeting and provided us with a disk of sample style sheets and additional information about Word. He intends to come to all the SIG meetings to serve as an interface between Word users and Microsoft. We feel quite fortunate to have this resource.

The Microsoft Word SIG meets the second Monday of every month. The next meeting will be Monday, April 11th at 7:30 p.m. For details on the meetings call Jeanie Treichel at home (851-0100) or work (326-7438).

Elections

A Membership

Awaits

The elections for club officers will be held at the April 27th meeting. We will be voting for three offices: President, Vice- President, and Treasurer/Student Rep. Nominations are still open, and as of press time, the candidates who have accepted nominations are: **Ralph Muraca** and **Richard Orser** for President, **Ed Sheffield** for Vice-President and **Jared Nedzel** for Treasurer/Student Rep.

If you are unable to attend the April 27th meeting, you can vote by absentee ballot, included in this and next month's PRinT SScreen (see page 10). The deadline for absentee ballots is the Wednesday before Election Night, April 20.

The two candidates for president have written a short piece about themselves and their presidential goals:

The Candidates

Ralph Muraca

"I'm thankful past officers and a host of volunteer workers overcame many barriers and made SPAUG one of the best clubs in the Bay Area. Theirs is a hard act to follow, but because their efforts paved the way, it is now appropriate to consider certain programs in support of SPAUG's general objectives.

We recognize SPAUG as an interface between the University and Palo Alto residents and businesses. I want to implement a number of programs to bring us closer to students and the University family:

1) Establish new Special Interest Groups (SIG) that are responsive to student needs and which should meet on campus. As examples: A Student Novice SIG; A DOS SIG; Some special ones on FORTRAN, BASIC, "C," word processing, and theses by computers.

2) Make a Disk Library and the BBS more widely available to a larger fraction of the University.

3) Involve more of the University staff and students as speakers, SIG leaders, etc.

For the general membership, I intend to explore the feasibility of special meetings besides the monthly general meeting. The informational levels of the special meetings will be somewhat higher than for general meetings. Indeed, some may be very technical sessions of particular interest only to "power users" and, I hope, to a number of students.

Also, for the general membership, I'll be particularly interested in increasing the number of SIGs so as to promote exchange of views. As to improving the composition of the general meetings, a number of minor changes need to be made, but special emphasis will be placed on getting speakers who can address a variety of broad topics succinctly, for example, business and financial systems.

I'd like to say more, but this is certainly not the place to air all my plans; just enough to let you know the trend of my intentions. Although the current groups of volunteers will help implement these plans, many more are needed; please let us know what you want to do to help.

I hope you'll express confidence in my goals by casting a vote for me.

Richard Orser

" I would like to begin by telling you a little bit about myself, and then I'll discuss my plans for the group if I were elected president.

My first introduction to computing was in 1968 as a Stanford graduate student in psychology when I learned the PL1 computer language in a course designed for students of the social sciences. I've been hooked ever since.

My interest in computing is as a hobby, not a profession. I enjoy exploring new hardware and experimenting with new software. Like most of you, I use a computer to facilitate my work, but I enjoy it most when I'm just tinkering. I am an avid "telecommunicator" and frequently spend late nights on CompuServe and the local BBSs (computer Bulletin Board Services). My favorite computer rags are PC Magazine and InfoWorld.

Perhaps one of my best assets as club president would be that my computer knowledge falls somewhere between the novice and the whiz-bang, macho, power user. This enables me to be tuned to the needs and interests of more of the members, especially when it comes time to assist with topic and speaker planning and to make sure that speakers' techno-talk gets translated. I'm eager to arrange for programs that would explore the possibilities for expanding our uses of our computers beyond the normal spreadsheet, database, word processor applications. Not just fun and financial uses, but real life, practical uses.

I would be pleased to be your next president. ¶

See next page for absentee ballot

Absentee Ballot

For President, I cast my vote for:

☐ Ralph Muraca

☐ Richard Orser

☐ _____

For Vice-President, I cast my vote for:

☐ Ed Sheffield

☐ _____

For Treasurer/Student Rep, I cast a vote for:

☐ Jared Nedzel

☐ _____

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Send ballot to: *SPAUG Elections*, 1670 Oak
Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

DISCOVERIES

Symphony 2.0

by Rebecca Bridges

Most people would agree that Symphony's weakest area is its word processing. No on-screen page breaks or page numbering. Manual paragraph formatting. Awkward print attributes. No spelling checker.

Symphony's database has been the second focal point of complaints. Modifying a database – namely, adding and deleting fields – was such a cumbersome process and frustrating experience, that it was sometimes easier to scrap the database and start over.

Until Symphony Release 2.

Symphony Release 2 includes a number of additions and enhancements to all the environments (except graphics). Those who upgrade to this version will appreciate the many different improvements to the program, including the removal of copy protection.

Word Processing

The word processing environment is the main benefactor of the Release 2

changes. Some of the most important improvements are:

- You can now see page breaks and page numbering on screen.
- Paragraphs automatically reformat after editing changes.
- You can undelete text.
- Print attributes (e.g., underlining) are easier to enter.
- Print attribute codes do not display in your text; the attributed text stands out on your screen.

- Short-cut, or "accelerator," keys are offered for most commands.

In addition, two add-in programs are included for use with the DOC environment: a spelling checker and a text outliner. These add-ins were formerly sold as separate products.

Those who upgrade to Symphony 2.0 will appreciate the many improvements, including the removal of copy protection.

Database

It used to be a nightmare to add or delete fields in a Symphony database. So many database ranges are affected by field insertions and deletions, that it was easy to forget to change one of the ranges.

See next page

Discoveries:

Symphony 2.0

From preceding page

If you did, you would get the dreaded "range mismatch" message. Unless you really understood what you were doing and knew how to fix this error, your database could be rendered useless.

These disasters and hassles are minimized in Release 2. The **Field** command on the **FORM** menu provides options for moving, inserting, and deleting fields in the data entry form (see figure 3).

Spreadsheet

Because the spreadsheet is Symphony's strongest environment, it's not surprising that Release 2 offers only a few enhancements to this area. Three new commands are available which are useful in the **SHEET** environment.

The new **SHEET Settings Zero** command will "hide" the contents of all cells with a value of zero. Just like in 1-2-3, this command is a temporary setting; you must reset **Zero** to **Yes** after each time you retrieve the file.

With the **SERVICES Configuration Other International Negative** command you can choose how negative numbers will display – in parentheses or with a leading minus sign. This configuration setting only applies to negative numbers in the **Currency** and **Punctuated** formats.

Another recalculation method is offered in Release 2: **Optimal**. This method turns on minimal recalculation so that

Symphony only recalculates the cells which are affected by changes. This method is faster than any of the methods formerly offered because it doesn't recalculate the entire worksheet – only the formulas affected by changes.

Communications

Because setting up a configuration file can be the most difficult part of communications, Symphony 2.0 includes five configuration files for connecting with popular information services. You can use the files as they are given to you, or you can modify them as needed. The CCF files included are **ADP**, **COMPUSRV**, **DOWJONES**, **MCI**, and **SOURCE**.

In addition, an application add-in for DEC VT 100 terminal emulation is included. When the VT100 application add-in is attached, a new menu option appears (**COMM Settings Terminal VT100**), and a new settings sheet appears under the standard communications settings sheet.

How it Rates

Is Symphony Release 2.0 worth the upgrade cost of \$150? The word processing add-ins (**Spelling Checker** and **Text Outliner**) alone could make it worth your while to upgrade, since these products formerly sold for \$150 a piece. I personal-

ly have grown "attached" to the Text Outliner, and don't write anything without outlining it first.

If you have been avoiding Symphony's word processing because of its antiquity, I think the new features and improvements will entice you to do more of your letter, memo, and report writing in DOC mode. And if you are already a faithful user of Symphony's word processor, you'll be thrilled with the enhancements. However, I must mention that these enhancements are nothing innovative in the word processing world and are simply Lotus' way of catching Symphony up to other word processors.

Database designers will certainly welcome the new database Field commands as they will save many hours of hair-pulling during database modification.

And everyone will appreciate the hassles eliminated by the removal of copy protection. You can now use disk optimizer and backup programs without worry, and if your hard disk crashes, you don't need to call Lotus to send you a replacement disk. ¶

Rebecca Bridges, a long-time Symphony user, recently co-authored a training book on Symphony for Que Corporation. Watch for it in your favorite bookstore...

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Club News

— From page 3

Membership renewals

For the two months preceding the expiration of your membership you will find a renewal envelope enclosed in your newsletter. Use this envelope to promptly send in your \$25 check (\$10 for students) so that you won't miss an issue of the monthly newsletter. A current membership card will then be sent to you in the next PRinT Sc.

Goodie Coupons

Remember, the "Goodie Coupon" attached to your membership card is presently good for one free disk: the library catalog, Disk of the Month, or a blank disk. Trade in your coupon for a disk at a future meeting.

Floppy disks for sale

Xidex Precision disks are available for \$6/box. High density floppies are 4 disks for \$5. The catalog and the Disk of the Month will be offered for \$1 a disk. If you wish to purchase disks at the meetings, you will need to present your membership card.

Classified Ads

Diablo 630 letter quality printer, dual-bin sheet feeders, and sound cover. Best offer. Call Becky Bridges at 326-8605.

(Don't forget that as a member you are entitled to free classified ads in PRinT S-Creen. If you have old/unused hardware or software, place an ad here. Members have reported good responses to their ads.)

Become a Writer

Please contact Becky Bridges (326-8605) if you are interested in writing for PRinT S-Creen.

It does not matter what your level of computer experience is; each of you has some information, knowledge or opinion that would be of interest to your fellow members. Review your latest software or hardware purchase. Tell us how you use the PC in your work and play. Help others avoid or solve problems.

Please submit the articles:

- WordStar or ASCII format.
- Single-spaced.
- Double-spaced between paragraphs.
- Any right margin.
- No centering or tabs.

Wanted: Ad Salespeople

Please contact Becky Bridges if you would be interested in selling ads for PRinT S-Creen. The job would entail contacting local computer stores, repair shops, etc. to see if they would be interested in advertising on a regular, periodic, or one-time basis. Call Becky Bridges at 326-8605 if you are interested.



Club Information

Mailing Address	P.O. Box 3738 Stanford, CA 94305
Membership	Louise Greer Bolitho 322-3850 \$25/year fee (\$10 for students)
Bulletin Board	723-7995
Newsletter	Becky Bridges 326-8605 P.O Box 982 Palo Alto CA 94302

Advertising

If you are interested in advertising in *PRinT SCreen* send camera-ready art or copy to P.O Box 3738 Stanford CA 94302 before the 8th of the month. All ads are payable by check in advance. Rates per issue are:

Full Page (4 3/4 x 7 1/4)	\$45
Half Page (4 3/4 x 3 1/2)	\$30
Quarter Page (2 1/4 x 3 1/2)	\$15

Classified ads are free to paying members.

The SPAUG

Club Officers

President	Corwin Nichols	494-8640
Vice President	Kathy Carroll	325-0824
Treasurer/ASSU Rep	Mark Woodward	493-9150

Managers

Financial Manager	Beverly Altman	329-8252
Newsletter Editor	Becky Bridges	326-8605
Production Manager	Rick Altman	581-7563
Speakers' Bureau	Jim Wampler	323-7365

Library

Public Domain Software	Les Weil	321-5541
Soft Copy	Ralph Muraca	365-1659
	Turley Angle	369-1981

Software

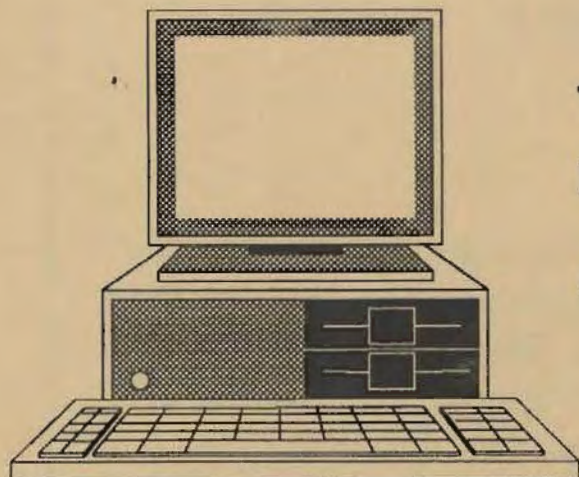
Desktop Publishing	Rick Altman	581-7563
EZ Business Systems	Larry Mehl	326-6037
Framework	Jim Caldwell	692-7181
Lotus 1-2-3	Bruce Coddling	367-8642
	Arthur Naman	408-879-9900
Microsoft Word	Jeanie Treichel	851-0100

Resource Center

	Hunter Jackson	408-446-4097
Q & A	Elaine Meyer	325-8057
Rbase System V	Jack Kahoun	349-4696
	Tony Pabon	408-866-4815
	Larry Mehl	326-6037
Symphony	Sally See	941-1378

Languages/Operating Systems

BASIC	Ralph Muraca	365-1659
C	Corwin Nichols	494-8640
DOS 3.x	Rick Altman	581-7563
Fortran, Pascal	John Watson	325-7632
Hard Disks	Jim Caldwell	692-7181
Toshiba Printers	Paul Berry	494-2043
Epson Printers	Jim Caldwell	692-7181
Panasonic Printers	Van Maulis	966-1306
XT/AT Systems	Van Maulis	966-1306



The Stanford / Palo Alto PC User's Group

P.O. Box 3738, Stanford, CA 94309