NOPC

The Motherboard

New Orleans Personal Computer Club Inc.

Users Helping Users

Monthly Meeting

Wednesday
December 3, 1997
6:30 - 9:00 pm

J. D. Meisler School
Cleary At 17th Street — Metairie

Plenty of free parking
Bring a guest!
free parking

Soft drinks
Hot dogs & Chili
Christmas goodies

Quicken 98

with Quicken Evangalist
Richard Katz
(yeah, he finally got here!)

Learn how seamless web
integration and new features
enable users to save more,
invest smarter and prepare
for emergencies!

Annual Christmas
Party!

(See page 7)

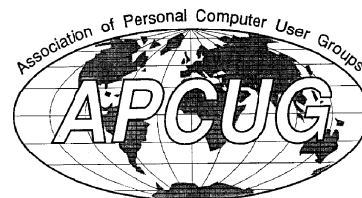Email your contributions to carole@word-catering.com, or mail (hard copy and floppy) to:

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e-mail: gshurman@software-stuff.com

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phd.pc@mail.sstar.com

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Ed Jatho — 834-4386

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CLUB RESOURCES

Club Hotline — 454-6166
BBS Bulletin Board (4 lines, rollover) — 486-7261
NOPC Web Site: http://www.nopc.org

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS:

Comm SIG
Marc W. Lewis — 837-7272
FoxPro
Gary Shurman — 838-9999
Genealogy
Dan Moody — 255-4796/1-641-4558
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Ray Paternostro
Paradox
Greer Duncan — 833-6823
Pro Bono
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SmartSuite
Elaine Kolp — 861-2470
Spreadsheet
Corrine Lacey — 887-1672
Braum Cook — 737-7244
Windows Applications Developers
Manny Dennis — 835-7656

Friends of NOPC
(Individuals & companies who have donated a
significant amount of goods or services to NOPC)

McCann's Electronic
Office Depot
New Horizons
Software & Stuff
Computer Emergency Room
Word Catering, Ltd.
Williams, Inc.
Southern Star BBS

members have Internet address:
your.name@nopc.org

THE OLD RAMBLER

Frank Masingill

Whooee!! Every year when the trees begin to shed multi-colored leaves, Jack-O-Lanterns shine into the darkness, Thanksgiving baskets begin to be gathered for the less fortunate and visions of sugar plums begin to dance in the heads of the kiddies we have ourselves an "elecshun" and this year was no exception.

Along with the presentation of a program by Microsoft on Internet Explorer 4.0 and a lively Q&A session led by the Prez, we whizzed our way frantically through the balloting to choose members of next year's Board of Directors, tearing pages of paper into makeshift ballots, distributing them to members eager to exercise their democratic prerogatives, collecting and counting all in record time thanks to the volunteer help of **Martha Wickett** who ended up doing most of the work. Hey, (grin) we're a computer club — shouldn't we be doing such as this on *computers*? Maybe we just prefer the warm, fuzzy, human touch! Condolences, chuckle) to the winners. We understand that not only has Gary imported an old buggy whip from somewhere but it is rumored that the new gavel is large enough to be frightening!!

As usual, the evening was climaxed with Jatho and his famous traveling auction show! Even the OR lost his composure and yelled out a bid (which was promptly trumped!!).

But, before all of that gets underway we gonna have ourselves one bangup Christmas party when maybe new members can get better acquainted with more recent joiners. Notice how the OR tactfully avoid calling them "old members!"

The OR is grateful for the vacation donated to him last month when **Donald McCune** so graciously extended to him by writing an informative guest column focusing on the strengths of the club's ongoing programs. Many thanks, Donald. We *did* enjoy the absence of pressure.

But we stacked up, during the interval, some information gathered from interesting members among us.

Meet **Gene (Eugene) Gonzales** who keeps his keyboard at breakneck speed on a variety of tasks. Gene is a retired electrical engineer who is also among the retired Army Reserve Officers. He uses such programs as Windows and AmiPro to keep records for a number of organizations in the realm of credit unions to which he belongs and to help his wife who belongs to an auxiliary for one of these organizations.

Gene is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the ASI Federal Credit Union and is either an officer or member of the board of other credit union bodies. He and his wife also appreciate the computer for its ability to keep in touch via Email with family and friends. If you want to put a lighter step in Gene's walk and a brighter gleam in his eye just mention credit unions and the OR, as a member of one, himself, fully understands such enthusiasm. We hope the club continues to be a help to you, Gene, in your endeavors. You surely allow no grass to grow under *your* feet in retirement and that is as it should be. Here's wishing you and the wife even more satisfaction in your future with your activities. And thanks for sharing your interests with the other members by talking with the OR.

Another very busy gentleman who has been a member of our club for about same length of time as the OR also allowed us to get better acquainted with him at the last meeting is **Ashton C. Mouton, Jr**. When Ashton wrote his Email address for me on a beautiful little card bearing the names of Ashton and Anna and containing a lovely poem celebrating life-long pledge of lovers he could not have known that the OR was, at that very hour celebrating a 55th anniversary with Mrs. OR. The poem was shared with the wife as soon as we left the meeting to return home. Ashton is a Certified Professional in Human Resources and a Human Resources and Management Consultant with an MS degree in Management. He is active in two Carnival Krewes (Bards of Bohemia and Pegasus), and holds membership in Toastmasters International, National Black MBA Association, Inc., New Orleans Chapter, National Society of Human Resource Management and American Management Association. He is a skilled computer operator who serves as Webmaster of the NBMBAA [http://www.gnofn.org/~nonbmbaa/.

Heartfelt thanks for the lovely poem on such a timely occasion, Ashton, and for a long association with NOPC. Ashton is a lifelong resident of New Orleans and a valued member of our club. Sorry it took us so long to get acquainted personally, Ashton and the best of everything in your active career.

And last but not least by any means, the OR presents one of our brand new members who, it turns out, was an unknown neighbor not so very long ago, **Greg Clement** who, for some unaccountable reason, the OR (known to be in his dotage) insisted on referring to as "Clement Stone" until corrected an embarrassing number of times. Greg

The Old Rambler

is a retired public school teacher who joined us in October. He is a computer enthusiast who has been using some kind of computing machine since the 1980s. He is also a well-published author and with Sharon, his wife, loves to travel to interesting places about which he usually writes using his computer and WordPerfect. His current project is almost ready for publication he tells me and will be titled *38 Pictures of Boats on the Wall*. This, he tells me, is the number of boats he has owned. Greg continues to pursue graduate studies at UNO and looks forward to improving his computer skills with help from fellow club members. He's also thinking in terms of a laptop to accompany him as he and Sharon continue to enjoy their motor home travels.

We should take this opportunity of expressing appreciation to the "movers and shakers" who during 1997 brought in presentations of software and related information for the benefit of the membership, supplied us with cold drinks during the meeting, faithfully manned the membership and treasury tables, produced the club newsletter, kept the NOPC BBS available and serviceable for the members and attended both formal and informal Board meetings to plan strategies for maintaining the various services of the club to its membership. You all warrant our thanks and our applause for tasks well done and often beyond the call of duty.

And from the Old Rambler whose privilege it has been to greet you in this column throughout the year a very Happy Holiday Season and a most fulfilling and prosperous New Year!

60-Second Window™
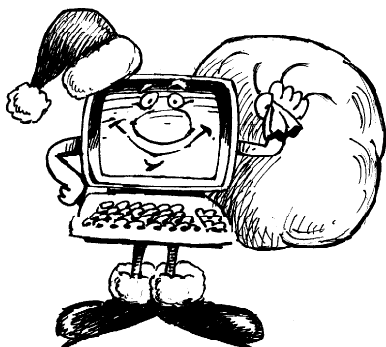
#44 An attendee in my Mineapolis workshop asks: What is a computer virus? Some people don't realize...

- A computer virus is anything that modifies your system or system folder that you do not know about, or do not approve of.

- A computer virus is any new software introduced into your system that erases any other file without your prior knowledge, or approval.

- A computer virus is any new software introduced into your system that causes undesirable effects without your prior knowledge, or approval.

- A computer virus is any new software or program that causes other files currently on your system and in use to be removed or modified in a way that causes other programs to cease functioning.

- A computer virus is any program that installs a second system or duplicate fonts, extensions, toolboxes, CDevs or Chooser documents into your computer or hard drive space.

- A computer virus is any program that requests that you remove virus protection, and then commits any of the above.

...and don't you forget it!

Fred Showker   showker@user-groups.com
Fred Showker is director of The Design & Publishing Center on the web at http://www.graphic-design.com, and is a co-founder of both The User Group Forum on America Online, and The User Group Network at http://www.user-groups.com. He has been a user group activist and supporter since 1984.

Luddites in Congress

According to a recent article in *Time* magazine, the Senate tradition does not yet acknowledge the 21st century.

Senator Mike Enzi (R., Wyo) learned this sad fact when his request to bring a computer to the floor for notetaking was soundly rejected by the Rules Committee.

"We didn't start out with laptops," observed chairman John Warner (R., Va.), "and I don't think we'll see the day."

Editor's Note: I'm not sure I understand what they started out with.

This is for Richard Katz. If you see him, please make sure he gets it!

Upgrade? Maybe Not...

By Steve Bass, PIBMUG

Pop quiz: What's "Now! With Basil!" on Hamburger Helper's box really saying? It means the product's manufacturer must have used the word "new" at least six months ago. The FTC stopped companies from using "new" to describe everything from a different color on the box to a decrease in the product's weight. So the marketing geniuses found a work-around. The magic word is "now!"

Okay, I have an idea. I want the FTC to look at software upgrades.

Zowie, its Big, Big Business

It's obvious software upgrades are an essential ingredient for companies to survive. Look at Microsoft: a recent press release claims that there are "60 million Office application users," and "more than 8 million Office 97 licenses" have been sold to date. If only half of them upgraded, Uncle Bill would be a rich guy.

But upgrading your existing software is not only big business, it's tricky business. Upgrading to Office 97 is a prime example.

I use WinWord for almost all my writing (and no, that's not an endorsement). There are things I like about the new version: The Binder's a handy tool, managing many Office documents. I like the Document Map for navigating through long files.

The other nice feature is the grammar checker. While it's not perfect, it's solid enough to catch mistakes I'd usually miss. Enough so that my columns are just a little sharper. Or at least don't have too many dumb mistakes. For example, the checker notices when I use "it's" instead of "its," and "you're" when I should use "your." (The checker still needs human intervention. It flagged "grammar checker" as a subject-verb agreement error. It's not.)

The problem with upgrading, though, is not always so obvious. Besides the

cost of the upgrade, there are seemingly dozens of things that chip away at your day's productivity. And it sometimes only becomes apparent after the company's maintenance upgrade (in Microsoft's case, the Service Pack) is released.

Take My File. Please...

One of my Office 97 struggles — and it's a big one — is sending WinWord files to colleagues using Word 6.0/95. Without the details (it'll be tackled at the meeting), either the person needs software to translate my file. Or I have to save the document as a Rich Text Format (RTF) file. The bottom line is there's extra work — keystrokes — for someone. I'm also very displeased that many of my hard earned macros no longer working. I have one that does unique word counts, another to strip hard carriage returns from a document, and one to import data into a document and quickly format the page.

Here's something interesting: Microsoft's recent press release goes on to say they're "responding to customer feedback about migration challenges . . . hard at work on a release that will address those needs."

They go on with their spin, explaining how "providing solutions to help customers move to Office 97 is our No. 1 priority," and that they're "now hearing feedback from them about migration challenges." Just now? I guess Office 97 users haven't been yelling loud enough. But don't fret. Microsoft's still unreleased Service Release "will address migration challenges such as backward file compatibility and coexistence with previous versions." In the meantime, kindly stop by Microsoft's Migration Web site, a spot with "important resources for migrating to Office 97." (www.microsoft.com/office/migration/)

My sense is that everything in the Service Pack should have been in the upgrade. Which is a very good reason for you to wait before upgrading.

By the way, anyone have the number for the FTC? §

Steve Bass is a contributing editor with PC World and president of the Pasadena IBM Users Group. He's currently working on a program that relates phrenology to computer speed. It's been a bumpy road.

Editor's Note: *The Service Release 1 for Office 97 is now available at www.micro-soft.com. For a small shipping fee, you can also order it on CD if you don't wish to download online, as it is of considerable size.*

User Group Specials

From the Deals Guy, Bob Click, Greater Orlando Computer UG

How about a Computer Bug!

No, not the kind of bug you are all familiar with. This is a bug you stick on the side of your computer or monitor and it appears to have burst out from inside. The special adhesive won't leave a mark and you can even reposition him?/her? (or it; if you prefer)

A CD-ROM is shrink-wrapped to the top of a lab beaker container. The CD has over 20 screen-savers, animations, and wallpapers that allow you to see inside your monitor where the Computer Bug lives. You'll find his goofy antics entertaining as he eats computer chips, knocks on your screen, talks to you, and schemes to eat your mouse. He even plays racquetball against the glass. Also fun birthday and holiday screensavers. Oh yes, the lab beaker doubles as a piggy-bank. My piggy-bank is broken already; and so am I.

This is a new Company and I didn't get much of a deal, but I thought the item was cute and a good gift. Street price is $14.95 and the special price is $12.95 by calling 1-888- FUNBUG8. Requires Windows 95 Pentium-based computer. I've seen a couple of favorable reviews on this item.

President's Column

By Gary Shurman

Here it is the Holiday season again. With the multitude of under $1,000.00 PCs that will be available this year, sales should soar. This would be a great time for you to tell someone who is purchasing a new PC about our club. How about giving someone a gift membership in NOPC?

The focus of our club has changed from what it was back in 1981. PCs were new and expensive. Just to add 64KB of memory was a major expenditure. The early years were filled with "Group Purchases" to save substantial money on memory chips (yes, memory came in single chips – nine to a row) and floppy diskettes. We also had a substantial collection of "Freeware and Shareware" software in a library the was constantly being duplicated and brought to every meeting (Walter Killeen was our last software librarian). This was all before the big mail order companies, office supply stores and computer supper stores existed. The "freeware" and "shareware" software is available for our BBS and all over the Internet. Yes, we still have a BBS. Lanny Goldfinch, our SYSOP for many years, has kept it up and running and hopefully will continue to do so for as long as you keep using it.

In the beginning, the speakers at our meetings were club members or the club officers who would put on informal presentations. Eventually we were large enough to attract speakers form the hardware and software companies who were eager to reach computer users. Now many of the hardware and software companies no longer send speakers. Also, since some companies have so many products, but will only send a speaker once a year, we are not always able to get someone to speak on the latest and greatest products. David Freedman has done a fantastic job for many years making sure that we have a speaker for every monthly meeting.

Membership rolls were non-existent for NOPC's first few years. I wrote the first membership program in dBase III. Rick Demers enhanced and refined the program using Clipper. This old Clipper program served us for many years. Walter Killeen rewrote Rick's program and added a multitude of features. By the way, the original membership numbers were assigned by loading about 70 members into the database as we found out who the were, and using the record number as their membership number. We also used to have everyone in the club with a dues expiration date of December 31st. Those members joining during the year had their dues prorated.

The treasury was kept in a little metal box and the bookkeeping was pretty simple. This year our Treasurer, Paul d'Anna, used Quicken to keep our books and had a financial statement for the board every month. Paul also made good use of our Visa/Master Card terminal to keep up with your charges. I know that some of you were frustrated by not getting your membership processed or a charge credited and for that we all apologize to you. There are several volunteers who play some part in the process. First the membership/renewal forms must either get e-mailed or picked up from our Post Office Box. Then they have to be processed by both the Treasurer and the Membership Chairman. Since we received very few complaints this year I know that Walter Killeen, Paul d'Anna and Lanny Goldfinch did one heck of a good job

processing the hundreds of transactions that went without a hitch.

The newsletter started out mainly to announce the meetings. Then along came Carole Rike. Carole has been doing the *MotherBoard* every month since at least October of 1987 (that's the earliest issue that I have). We all know how popular the *MotheroBard* is. At those times that we have moved the meeting locations and members couldn't find us, I got fewer calls than when someone misses their *MotherBoard.* Carole does almost everything that it takes to get the *MotherBoard* out to you each month — composition, layout, production, printing, collating, folding, labeling, sorting, preparing Post Office forms and dragging everything to the main Post Office downtown. As if the *MotherBoard* wasn't enough, Carole was NOPC's Secretary this year.

The auction was something that just seemed to start when we were meeting at St. Rita School, uptown. I did the original auctions until Ed Jatho (Past President, Vice President and a bunch of other offices) found his true niche at the meetings. Ed's auctions just keep getting better. Besides everyone having fun with Ed, he puts money in our Treasury. And speaking of putting money in the Treasury, Charlie "Zeke" Zimmerman is our pro. From selling soft drinks and stuff at the meetings to the half and half raffles Zeke always finds a way to help out a raise a few more dollars for us. Zeke is also our Hot Dog and Chili chef. After his great performance at the June Flea Market, he will do a repeat performance at the December party. While I'm talking about Volunteers, Rick Demers is always everywhere helping out. Then there is Tom Horn. He has been the guy setting up and taking down the meeting room. Now he's gone and won the Treasurer's job in the last election. I think we need a new volunteer to do the meeting room.

Our new guy on the block, Manny Dennis — Webmaster, is doing magic with our Web Site. If you haven't pointed your browser there in a while,

President's Message

do so. Manny has added a ton of new content. Just go down the choices on the left hand side of the screen and explore. You will even find the first copy of the *Mother-Board* on the Web as well as all of the "Old Rambler" columns.

With Personal Computing changing so rapidly NOPC will have to make more changes in 1998 and beyond to keep up. It this point we know for sure that 1998 will bring us Windows 98, Windows NT 5.0, Hydra (dumb terminals and NCs under Windows NT), even lower cost computers. We still need more of you to volunteer to help. Just go up to one of our workers and ask if you can help them with something.

HOLIDAY PARTY

Plan to spend some extra time with us at the end of the December meeting to enjoy a little NOPC Holiday celebration. We will have Hot Dogs and Chili, chips and soft drinks. We will also have games and as many give-a-ways as we can get.

NOPC will foot the bill for the party. If you bring a guest, we will have a jug next to the food table for donations to help cover the cost of your guests. Also, I am sure that Zeke would appreciate volunteers to help with the food preparation, serving and cleanup. We would also be happy to have any of you bring desserts or your famous holiday dish to share.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

WAD SIG

Upcoming WADSIG topics that may interest developers:

Home Automation
George Rae
December 2, 1997
New Horizons Training Center

Programming Discussion Unknown,
December 18, 1997
New Horizons Training Center

All meetings begin at 6:30 with the speaker going on at 7:00. New Horizons is located on the N. I-10 Service Rd. In the Favrot and Shane Building, Suite 117.

One Member's Opinion

The changes to the club's Charter and By-laws voted in at the last general meeting were ill advised, in this member's opinion. I tried to state that opinion before the vote was taken, but was denied that right.

Changes were indeed needed to eliminate discrepancies in the documents. However, the ones proposed fell short of that goal and did so in a manner which bloats the Board of Directors to 25 members, only 10 of whom are elected by the general membership.

A better set of proposals will be presented for your vote this month. They fix the Board of Directors at 7 members, all elected by the general membership. They also resolve the conflicts regarding terms of office.

I encourage you to vote in favor of these proposals at the upcoming meeting. They will streamline the Board and make it more representative of the general membership. The exact proposals appear elsewhere in this issue.

John Souvestre

The following are proposed ammendments to the Charter of the NEW ORLEANS PERSONAL COMPUTER CLUB, INC.

ARTICLE 6

Old:
Section 2. The term of office for all officers is one year, commencing January 1.

New:
Section 2. The term of office for all officers is one year, commencing December 1.

ARTICLE 7:

Old:
Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the following individuals:
a. All officers of the NOPC Club,
b. Chairmen of the Special Interest Groups as defined in the NOPC Club Bylaws,
c. Other persons as designated by the Board of Directors.

New:
Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the following:
a. All officers of the NOPC Club,
d. Three (3) "at large" elected from the club's membership.

ARTICLE 7:

Old:
(blank)

New:
Section 3. The term of office for the Board of Directors is one year, commencing December 1.

Christmas on the Web

Santa Land
Some will remember when Christmas was more than electronic games. Jeff Guide hopes to recreate those days on the web, with all sorts of holiday content. SantaLand sports cooking tips, recipes for scores of holiday items, plant care tips for indoor holiday plants, holiday cut flower tips, and information on holiday shows on television or in the theatres. There will be a special Holiday events area just for kids with music, games, traditions, books and more. This year, Santa will be taking messages online in the Santa Land Message Base and on Christmas Eve will be tracking Santa's sleigh as he leaves the North Pole on his trek to the USA and Canada. Http://www.santa-land. com/ jguide@pw-online.com

Here comes Santa
Of course each year dozens of Santa sites pop up, and this year, a great place for surfers with young kids who are starting to get excited aboutChristmas. Http://www.claus. com/

The Holiday Bulge
Visit the Holiday Cooking Club forum for Christmas and other holiday recipes and requests. Watch your girth expand as you marvel over everything The Kitchen Link has to offer, including more than 7,000 food and cooking Web sites. It's been called "The Yahoo of Food." Http://www. kitchenlink.com/

Holiday Lectures launched
Howard Hughes Medical Institute has announced their Holiday Lectures on Science. "Senses and Sensitivity: Neuronal Alliances for Sight and Sound" to be presented live on December 8-9, 1997. These lectures will be conducted free, online, by Dr. A. James Hudspeth of The Rockefeller University and Dr. Jeremy H. Nathans of The Johns Hopkins University. They can be viewed free of charge, live via satellite anywhere in the United States or Canada, or from anywhere in the world via Webcast on the HHMI Holiday Lectures on Science Web site at http://www. hhmi.org/lectures. For more information, call 800-219-7874, or send an e-mail to granth1@hhmi.org.

The following are proposed ammendments to the Bylaws of the NEW ORLEANS PERSONAL COMPUTER CLUB, INC.

ARTICLE III, Section 3, b

Old:
3. Manage the activities of the Special Interest Groups to include monitoring their status within the NOPC Club. (See Article 5.)

New:
(blank)

ARTICLE IV

Old:
Section 5. Board of Directors shall consist of 7 members, said Directors being members in good standing of NOPC Club and elected by by general membership at the annual election.

New:
(blank)

ARTICLE IV

Old:
Section 6. The outgoing President of NOPC Club shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors for the twelve month period following his succession.

New:
(blank)

ARTICLE VI.

Old:
DIRECTORS

Section 1. Subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors, the President shall appoint the following to the Board of Directors:
      a. Newsletter Editor
      b. Membership Secretary
      c. Software Librarian
      d. Group Purchases Coordinator
      e. RBBS System Operator
      f. Educational Coordinator
      g. Program Coordinator
      h. Public Relations Coordinator
Section 2. The President may appoint additional directors for particular tasks subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Appointed directors serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Duties and responsibilities of the directors shall be defined by the Board of Directors.

New:
(blank)

Basic Physics For The Holidays

(Thanks to Gerri McCann)

As we all know, it takes 1 calorie to heat 1 gram of water 1 degree centigrade. Translated into meaningful terms, this means that if you eat a very cold dessert (generally consisting of water in large part), the natural processes which raise the consumed dessert to body temperature during the digestive cycle literally sucks the calories out of the only available source, your body fat.

For example, a dessert served and eaten at near 0 degrees C (32.2 deg.F) will in a short time be raised to the normal body temperature of 37 degrees C (98.6 deg. F). For each gram of dessert eaten, that process takes approximately 37 calories as stated above. The average dessert portion is 6 oz, or 168 grams. Therefore, by operation of thermodynamic law, 6,216 calories (1 cal./gm/deg. x 37 deg. x 168 gms) are extracted from body fat as the dessert's temperature is normalized.

Allowing for the 1,200 latent calories in the dessert, the net calorie loss is approximately 5,000 calories.

Obviously, the more cold dessert you eat, the better off you are and the faster you will lose weight, if that is your goal.

This process works equally well when drinking very cold beer in frosted glasses. Each ounce of beer contains 16 latent calories, but extracts 1,036 calories (6,216 cal. per 6 oz. portion) in the temperature normalizing process. Thus the net calorie loss per ounce of beer is 1,020 calories.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to calculate that 12,240 calories (12 oz. x 1,020 cal./oz.) are extracted from the body in the process of drinking a can of beer.

Frozen desserts, e.g., ice cream, are even more beneficial, since it takes 83 cal./gm to melt them (i.e., raise them to 0 deg. C) and an additional 37 cal./gm to further raise them to body temperature. The results here are really remarkable, and it beats running hands down.

Unfortunately, for those who eat pizza as an excuse to drink beer, pizza (loaded with latent calories and served above body temperature) induces an opposite effect. But, thankfully, as the astute reader should have already reasoned, the obvious solution is to drink a lot of beer with pizza and follow up immediately with large bowls of ice cream.

We should all be thin very soon if we adhere religiously to this pizza, beer, and ice cream diet.

Happy eating.

Falling in love again . . .

Carole Rike

For those of us whose work with computers is an integral part of our livelihood, when was the last time you became really excited about a product that you use every day? Did Windows 95 excite you? Or was it perhaps — as for me — overcast with concerns about conflicts, bugs, if it would really do what it was touted to do, and the hefty cost of conversion of virtually all one's programs . . . . another upgrade cycle, which brings its own inherent problems. Does your heart race a little faster with each new version of Microsoft Office? Are you barely able to contain yourself until you get your hands on the latest Quicken upgrade? Does Lotus 123's newest version make you feel powerful?

For that matter, does your computer still excite you or is it just another dependent not necessarily deductible on your tax return of life?

Don't you sometimes feel that upgrade has become a way of life? That it is never-ending? That each incremental advance in technology garners only a little more power, additional cost, complete with a *new* set of bugs?

As long as I have served as Editor of this publication, I have yet to write a product review — only occasional editorial columns. This will not be a review in the normal sense, but is about a product I've learned to love: Ventura Publisher 7. All things *do* come to those who wait!

I have a long history with Ventura. I began using Version 1.0 when it was owned by Xerox and had a GEM interface. It was then spun off into a separate division, Ventura Software, and languished there for several years, with a reputation for a mean learning curve. Due to tardy and flaky updates, it was easily eclipsed by PageMaker from Adobe and the perpetual favorite of Mac users, QuarkExpress. The Windows 3.0 version was introduced in 1989, but was problematic. Finally acquired by Corel Corporation in 1994,

Has ever a piece of software been so ill-treated by its various owners?

its introduction was as a part of the bundled CorelDraw software. Next it was sent out on its own as an entirely separate product. Ventura skipped 6.0 entirely (after a lengthy beta period) in order to synchronize with Version 7 of the other Corel applications.

Ventura 7.0 is *finally* a full and robust 32-bit application, fully capable of taking on its competitors. It is possible to *like* Ventura 7.0, rather than continue to use it because you dislike its alternatives. Modeless operation makes it easy to select frames, text, tables and graphics without having to change tools. The interface has changed extensively with each upgrade, until this version is the most feature laden and easy to use yet. Virtually every part of the software can be configured to one's personal preferences.

I was told at Spring Comdex in Atlanta that the company spent $11 million on the rewrite of Version 7.0. Sadly, the thrust of Corel's marketing efforts are devoted to WordPerfect and CorelDraw, its flagship products. (It's stock is also down from $12 where I bought it to $2.50, last time I checked.) On the Corel website, finding Ventura is a challenge. Their company magazine usually features a new release and then forgets it. I know a Version 8 is in the works because Osborne has announced a new textbook in the Spring of 98, but I'll be darned if I can find anything in the Corel literature about the new release. Is Ventura an $11 million stepchild?

I own a desktop publishing and printing company and in that capacity often work with Mac designers or advertising agencies who are still totally wedded to Macs or service bureaus who cater almost exclusively to Macs. Ventura not ever having been a Mac application is a definite drawback.

The "professional" reaction is invariably *you do desktop publishing on a PC????* Dare if you will to confess that you use Ventura. Your image will drop dramatically.

Due to compatability needs with clients, I also own and use PageMaker, Framemaker and Quark Xpress. I keep low-end DTP programs like Microsoft Publisher around because I do have clients who think that is the snazzy way to produce newsletters or ads, but I don't use it for my own compositions. I recently executed a rather large and complex layout job in Quark because it was going to a Mac service bureau to be run it on a digital press — not because it did a better job with my layout.

PageMaker is a fine desktop publishing program. It has caught up with Ventura in the area of style sheets but lacks the elegant feel of Ventura 7. Its Import-Export options are superior to Quark, but its strong affiliation with Adobe Postscript has at times made problems for me, as I use a LaserMaster 1800 dpi printer for much of my final output, and it is a Postscript simulator. Ventura uses the Windows Postscript driver; it is not necessary to install a printer driver for each printer, as both Quark and PageMaker require.

What makes or breaks any program for me is its Import-Export filters and none of the programs are 100% in this area. Corel has issued updates on those in Version 7. Quark is the worst. As I write this. a new version of Quark is being released and will contain updated filters. If unable to bring a Word 97 file into Quark, then it is often necessary to do all sorts of conversions and saving in various formats in order to use a file. If you can't read a current Adobe Illustrator file, you're back

to exporting and saving in different formats; I have used as many as five different graphics programs to arrive at a usable graphics format to import into a desktop publishing application. Unfortunately, a TIFF or an EPS file in PhotoShop 4.0 is not the same as a TIFF or EPS file in Corel PhotoPaint – or the DTP programs don't seem to think so!

In the real world, one does what works. If it works to paste up hard-copy for a newsletter or stand on one's head on Tuesday, that's what we do. If it works to use software not considered "professional," we do that as well. Take a class in desktop design and you'll learn about white space and typography and perhaps the use of color. But nowhere do they discuss the nifty gritty of trying to get work out with programs that do not interact well with one another and even one's hardware!

But I came here to tell you about Ventura 7.0.

What Comes In The Box
- Corel Ventura 7.0
  Page composition and layout software

- Corel Photo-Paint 6
  Paint and photo-editing tools with more than seventy filters and the ability to share PhotoShop plugins.

- Corel DEPTH
  3-D program for text and graphics.

- Corel Capture
  Allows users to isolate and save images from the application window for use in other documents.

- Corel DataBase Publisher
  Transform a database into a visually appealing catalog, report or Web document.

- Visual DTD editor
  The graphical interface allows for computer-aided design and visual inspection and editing of DTDs.

- Incontext Editor
 Automatic tagging and verification features

- SGML Import Wizards

- Corel SCRIPT Editor
  An OLE 2.0 enabled scripting application allowing you to automate complex and repetitive tasks. The sample scripts provided with Ventura can be used as is or modified. Scripts can be launched from a menu or from a button on the toolbar.

- Corel CD Creator 2
  Makes it easy to store and distribute documents on CD-ROM in a variety of formats.

- Corel Versions
  Facilitates file management by providing greater control over the archiving.

- Corel MultiMedia Manager
  Multimedia files can be organized and managed on the desktop with this visual file management utility. Graphics files are displayed as thumbnail images.

- Envoy 7
  A portable document technology that allows users to publish files to an electronic format independent of the program that created the file

- ATM 4.0 lite used to install Type 1 (Postscript fonts)

- 1,000 fonts and 20,000 clipart images

- Twain-0compliant scanner support

- Color Manager Wizard

- SGML Import Wizard and Utilities.

Surprise: better have a big hard disk with about 90MB free for a minimum installation.

The Navigataor

A day at the desktop performing desk-top publishing often includes scrolling around to view graphics, pages of text, organizing a table of contents and various other duties involved in publication management. The Navigator is a new tool with built-in controls. It offers many of the features found in File Manager or Explorer, displaying contents of any open publication in a multi-level tree structure. The user can expand and compress the tree structure with a double-click on the icon.
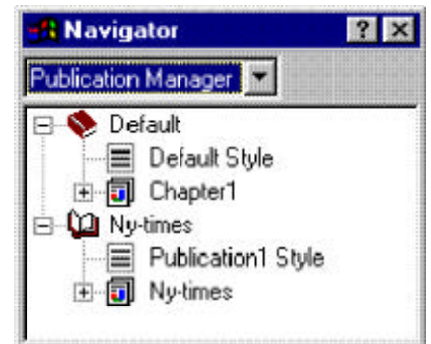
You can also access a full range of functions by right-clicking. Navigator has built-in context-sensitivity that provides a different set of menu commands, depending on the option selected. As an example, by choosing Publication Manager, you have access to all the commands relating to your publication. You are able to rearrange chapters, edit text, apply a style sheet, change access rights, etc.

The Inspector

Ever feel your toolbars are taking up all your desktop real estate? Ventura has a new feature, Inspector, to rescue you from too-many-toolbars. It is a multifaceted, intuitive toolbar providing you with the information and tools you need as you switch from task to task. You are also able to fully customize the Inspector.

The Ventura Library

The Ventura Library is just like the one in your neighborhood: you can use it to access and borrow any of the components of any document you or anyone else has ever created.

These can be graphics, tags or master pages. Just drag the element and drop it into your open publication!
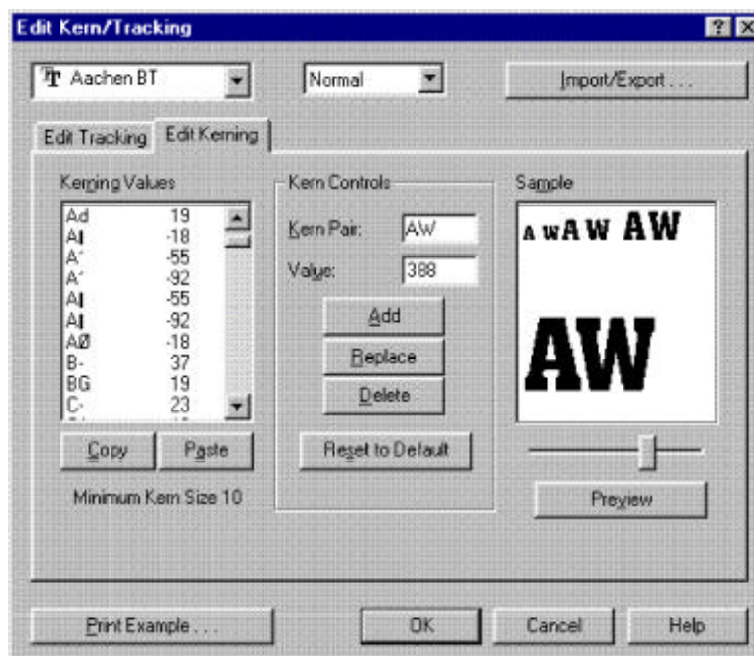
Version Control

No matter how many versions or types of files you need to archive, Corel Versions will assist you in that task. You may archive up to fifteen versions of a text file and four of a graphics file. Those versions can be annotated for later reference.

Typographic Control

Ventura has always been superior, in my experience, in its text control. It allows you to customize your document down to the nth degree. And little things still mean a lot: how nice to be able to highlight text, change the tracking and view it on screen with the application window still open. If you still feel it needs a little tweaking, you don't have to call up that text-tracking window again! You can even keep it open and go completely through a document. And new to Ventura 7 is Character Tags, as well as Frame and Paragraph Tags.

Master Pages

A major improvement in Corel 7 is the introduction of Master Pages. Headers and footers and page layout are defined on the Master Page and then applied to any given page (or all) in your document. Due to this feature, one can now have a landscape page 6, a portrait page 7 and 8, and 8 columns on page 9 in the same document! Imagine you have completed a 50 page document with ½ inch margins all around and at the last minute the specs are changed to a 1" margins. Ventura will handle that as simply as altering the Master Page, as changes are immediately reflected in the entire publication. Each Master Page has a

right and a left side, so you are able to fully control your design and layout.

File Management

Previous versions of Ventura were great because one could even use it for file conversion on the fly; you could take a Word file into Ventura and then save it as a WordPerfect file. You could tag and edit on screen to your heart's content and then at a later date give the file to a secretary to make text changes, as one's original file was still there. (Not true in PageMaker or Quark) With Version 7 comes the advent of External and Internal files. One is able to choose if the file is being embedded into the publication, and will then only be accessible via Ventura. Files can also be exported to a separate text file, which can then be loaded into a word processing program. The file, after modifications, can then be imported into Ventura. This same feature allows one to remove Ventura codes from a text file for use in other text editors.

An external file remains in the original location, can be accessed through Windows Explorer, File Manager and other programs. If an external file is changed in another program, that file will change within Ventura. Take your pick. Because graphics files tend to be large in nature, Ventura will

automatically prompt to ask if you wish this file to remain external.

Web Ties

Want to publish your application for the world? Ventura 7 will output to HTML, Adobe Acrobat and Corel Envoy, and Corel Barista, a Java-based technology that maintains the original look and formatting of the document when it is published to the web.

Workgroup Publishing

Files can be password protected, as well as stylesheets and chapters. Documents can be made read-only. Ventura allows you to track access to files and do version comparisons.

Tables

A new table editor works like a charm. Spreadsheet functions can be added to cells, sorted rows and columns and an Excel file will import with no problems. Even the tables done in Microsoft Word come through like champions.

Equations

This has always been a strong feature of Ventura which was vital to me, as I continue to do the layout for my

Corel 7 *(continued)*

husband's petroleum training organization. Versions prior to Corel's purchase of Ventura offered varied methods to enter equations either in Ventura directly or in a word processing program. With Corel's first release, the equation editor was re-written. It was acceptable, but when Version 5 came along, it was rewritten again to use Windows' OLE functions. It was *supposed* to be the case that equations would migrate from old versions, but they didn't. If one had large equation files — and I did — it was necessary to reinput the equations to modify them in Version 5. One hates to do them the first time, not to mention again. The equation editor in Version 5 was overall an unmitigated disaster.

I haunted every Corel presentation for at least two years crying about this and was finally assured that Version 7 would accept all previous versions of equations. Guess what? It does. In the meantime, I wonder if software companies like Corel have any appreciation of how much lost time is involved in such user problems.

That's why I call it love . . . again. Only a woman in love could live with such a tempermental creature. And then one day, a life change takes place and Ventura really is the loving companion one has always wanted. Let's hope no more major life changes alter that!

Pricing

You are entitled to purchase the upgrade version of Corel VENTURA™7 if you own any of the following software products:

Any version of Corel VENTURA
Any version of QuarkXPress™
Adobe FrameMaker™
Adobe PageMaker™
Any version of Corel® WordPerfect® or WordPerfect

Product	U.S. Dollars
Full CD-ROM Version	$ 895.00
Competitive Upgrade (CD-ROM Version)	$ 249.00

It's Official!

(Thanks to Gerri McCann)

REDMOND, Wash. - Oct. 21, 1997 — In direct response to accusations made by the Department of Justice, the Microsoft Corp. announced today that it will be acquiring the federal government of the United States of America for an undisclosed sum. "It's actually a logical extension of our planned growth", said Microsoft chairman Bill Gates, "It really is going to be a positive arrangement for everyone".

Microsoft representatives held a briefing in the oval office of the White House with U.S. President Bill Clinton, and assured members of the press that changes will be "minimal". The United States will be managed as a wholly owned division of Microsoft. An initial public offering is planned for July of next year, and the federal government is expected to be profitable by "Q4 1999 at latest", according to Microsoft president Steve Ballmer.

In a related announcement, Bill Clinton stated that he had "willingly and enthusiastically" accepted a position as a vice president with Microsoft, and will continue to manage the United States government, reporting directly to Bill Gates. When asked how it felt to give up the mantle of executive authority to Gates, Clinton smiled and referred to it as "a relief". He went on to say that Gates has a "proven track record", and that U.S. citizens should offer Gates their "full support and confidence". Clinton will reportedly be earning several times the $200,000 annually he has earned as U.S. president, in his new role at Microsoft.

Gates dismissed a suggestion that the U.S. Capitol be moved to Redmond as "silly", though did say that he would make executive decisions for the U.S. government from his existing office at Microsoft headquarters.

Gates went on to say that the House and Senate would "of course" be abolished. "Microsoft isn't a democracy", he observed, "and look how well we're doing". When asked if the rumored attendant acquisition of Canada was proceeding, Gates said, "We don't deny that discussions are taking place".

Microsoft representatives closed the conference by stating that United States citizens will be able to expect lower taxes, increases in government services and discounts on all Microsoft products.

About Microsoft

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (NASDAQ "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software for personal computers, and democratic government. The company offers a wide range of products and services for public, business and personal use, each designed with the mission of making it easier and more enjoyable for people to take advantage of the full power of personal computing and free society every day.

About the United States

Founded in 1789, the United States of America is the most successful nation in the history of the world, and has been a beacon of democracy and opportunity for over 200 years. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the United States is a wholly owned subsidiary of Microsoft Corporation.

"The United States of America" and "Microsoft" are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation.

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☐ New Member ☐ Renewal   Membership No.:_____ Date:_____
☐ No change
☐ Address Correction

Please list your name as well as your membership number in order for this form to be processed!

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Address: _____

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Business Phone: _____ Extension: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Occupation: _____

Company: _____

I am interested in helping with the following Club Committees:

☐ Auction   ☐ SIG Groups   ☐ Web Site
☐ BBS   ☐ Newsletter   ☐ Other: _____
☐ Publicity   ☐ Meeting Facilities
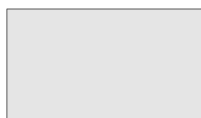☐ Membership   ☐ Hospitality

Dues:

☐ Regular Member $ 40.00
☐ Family Membership $ 60.00
☐ Student Membership $ 20.00

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Account Number

New Orleans Personal Computer Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 8364
Metairie, LA 70011

NEW ORLEANS PERSONAL COMPUTER CLUB

WHY NOPC?
Founded in 1981 and a Louisiana non-profit organization, NOPC is composed of individual personal computer users who help each other learn more about their personal computers and its wide variety of applications.

WHO SHOULD BE A NOPC MEMBER?
If you own, use, or are considering the purchase of a personal computer, you will find the NOPC learning experience and the opportunity to exchange information invaluable.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP?
Monthly meetings highlight topics of current interest and the latest developments in the micro-computer industry, focusing on how new technology will affect you. Members discuss common problems and participate in a beneficial exchange of information. Meetings are preceded by informal discussion and pointers for new users and tech talk sessions.

A monthly newsletter (*The MotherBoard*) contains helpful hints, new product reviews, and miscellaneous articles of interest written by our Club members or extracted from other personal computer publications and newsletters.

As a member of the American Association of PC User Groups (APCUG) and the User Group Exchange, NOPC has access to a large database of vendors and industry involvement.

Occasional Flea Markets provide a place to sell or trade those extra bits of hardware and software you may have accumulated.

Vendor displays allow you to see what is available from our local vendors, often at a discount to members.

Monthly, members bring software and hardware to the meeting for the general auction. This may be the only place to find an old DOS manual or other equipment no longer readily available at retail outlets.

NOPC operates a general interest Bulletin Board 24-hours a day for members. The board has many shareware programs, FidoNet, information about meetings and Special Interest Groups. The Bulletin Board also serves as the NOPC message center and provides Internet access. NOPC also maintains its own website at http://www.nopc.org.

NOPC provides a forum for smaller groups with special interests to meet in an informal setting. Several SIG groups meet monthly.

WHERE AND WHEN:
The Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at J. D. Meisler School, Cleary at 17th, off Veterans Highway. The meeting begins at 6:30 P.M.

HOW TO JOIN:
Come to a meeting and fill out a Membership Form. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a current membership application.

P. O. Box 8364
Metairie, LA 70011