LETTERS

Alpha-Sort

To the Editor:

How do I use the "Alpha-Sort" routine (listed in the May/June 1985 Letters) in my own programs?

Beverly Lorne
Poughkeepsie, New York

To use the "Alpha-Sort" routine, you must first initialize, define, and dimension the arrays you are going to use. The program is written to sort three arrays based on the information in the first array (arrays of title (A$), author (B$), and volume (C) are sorted by the title). By adding the following lines, the program will allow you to input the arrays directly, thereby making the routine an independent program (as long as you omit line 8070, also).

```
6900 INPUT "ENTER THE
     NUMBER OF ELEMENTS PER
     ARRAY";T
6910 DIM A$(T), B$(T), C(T)
6920 FOR X = 1 TO T:PRINT
     "A$(";X;")= ";:INPUT A$(X)
6930 PRINT
     "B$(";X;")= ";:INPUT B$(X)
6940 PRINT "C(";X;")= ";:INPUT
     C(X)
6950 PRINT:NEXT X
```

If you want to use this routine to sort only one array rather than three, simply enter "0" for the elements of arrays B$ and C.

Programming Tip

To the Editor:

Teaching students to write structured BASIC programs would be much easier if the computer would allow multiple spaces for indentions after a line number, or line numbers followed by no text.

This *is* possible on the Commodore 64—the line number can be followed by [COMMODORE J]. The remainder of the line can be left blank or any number of spaces left before the first keyword for indentions. The graphic symbol which appears the first time this is done does not show up on LIST, which makes the program look quite nice. *But,* the extra spaces disappear if the line is edited after listing (unless COMMODORE J is inserted again).

Somehow, this simple procedure does not sink in on many students.

However, an even simpler technique does: Following a line number with a colon (:) has exactly the same effect as [COMMODORE J]. The colon *does* show up when the program is listed, but editing the line *does not* eliminate the extra spaces.

Jack Ryan
El Dorado, Arkansas

Actually, the line may begin with just about any shifted or Commodore-Key characters (including a shifted space) for the same results as a Commodore J.

Amiga

To the Editor:

I am among a growing number of Amiga-philes who, out of common admiration for your revolutionary computer, have banded together to form local and regional users groups (Amare Amiga). We hope in this way to express our great interest in the Amiga as a tool for both creativity and productivity.

Members of our Amiga users groups (Amugs) are drawn from many different vocations (small businesses, health professionals and artists), but a majority are of students and professors from major state universities such as the University of Arizona, Arizona State, and University of Texas, El Paso. We applaud your daring innovation, and wish to become part of the bright Amiga future now.

As of September 3rd, local Amugs began bimonthly meetings at specified University locations. Regional meetings will be held every two months at the University of Arizona. Local and regional newsletters containing Amiga happenings, as well as hardware and software reviews, will be published monthly.

Ivan Lesnik, President
Amare Amiga
211 W. Roger #29
Tucson, AZ 85705
(602) 887-4117

Easy Script

To the Editor:

Your magazine has been of great interest and support to me ever since I bought my 64 over two years ago.

I read with interest the *User Hotline*

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