

LETTERS

Electronic Cottage Controversy

Reading your article, "The Electronic Cottage Controversy," in the September/October 1985 *Commodore Microcomputers* sparked quite a bit of anger. I myself operate a home-based mail-order business—licensed and registered—which was my *only* reason for purchasing a home computer. Most people buy computers with business in mind, not video games, and for the AFL-CIO to say they are *protecting* us [by seeking a ban on computer work at home] is an absolute joke!

Here on Long Island, there are many minimum-wage companies who practice incredible methods of bureaucracy, abuse and non-benefits against their employees. Most of these companies fire you if you attempt to bring in a union. What is the AFL-CIO doing to protect *these* people?

If you read between the "Syntax Errors," you will see that the AFL-CIO obviously has something to hide, and this ban is being imposed to prevent us programmers from digging into their computers to find out!

Michael Cedeno
Brentwood, New York

1541 Electrical Interference

My son's *Winnie the Pooh in the Hundred Acre Woods* program was having difficulty loading some of the screen files and would sometimes provide an error message indicating a problem with the 1541 disk drive. This led me to believe that the drive might be out of alignment.

So I checked with the "Check/Adjust Alignment" function of the *1541 Disk Drive Alignment Program* from CSM Software. This function determines the time to access every seventh section of every fourth track of a Calibration Disk supplied with the program. Proper alignment is indicated if the program reports a "timing number" of about 100. The program was indicating timing numbers of 110 to 113, and the blinking red light on the drive indicated that there was difficulty in accessing sector eight of tracks five and one.

The disk drive and TV normally sit on the top shelf of a cart which I roll up to a side arm on the desk where

my Commodore 64 is set for use. Because there is not enough room on the cart to disassemble and adjust the drive, I moved it to my desk top. I then rechecked my timing number and found that it was 101 to 102—well within the acceptable range—and there was practically no trouble accessing the disk. However, upon returning the drive to the cart, the timing number returned to 110 or greater.

A little investigation showed that if the disk drive was to the left of my TV (or my Commodore 1701 monitor), there was trouble accessing the drive. When the drive was to the right, there was little or no trouble.

In conclusion, setting the disk drive to the left of a TV or monitor can produce symptoms which mimic alignment problems. Readers might want to check for this type of interference before going to the trouble of having a drive realigned.

Jack Ryan
El Dorado, Arkansas

As a general rule, disk drives and disks should never be stored anywhere near sources of electromagnetic fields—one of which is the transformer in your TV or monitor—to the right, left, or otherwise. In this case, however, placing the drive a little farther away from the 1701's transformer made a big difference. Nevertheless the left-right "rule" is not necessarily applicable to all TVs and monitors, whose transformers may be located in a different place.

Work Station Improvements

In the September/October 1985 *Commodore Microcomputers*, there was an article by Tom Benford called "Build This Economical Ergonomic Work Station." The work station can be improved with a few minor changes.

I plan to cut a hole in the desk where the back portion of the disk drive is to be placed. This will improve cooling ventilation. I also plan to put the printer on a lower level so it will not be necessary to stand up to see what is being printed. And lastly, I plan to add a small cantilevered shelf below the desktop to hold the power supply. This will keep it off the floor (where it can be kicked) and off the main desktop to reduce clutter and heat.

Incidentally, it is a no-no around

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By

TRI MICRO



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