

Opinions

Purchase is cure for computer fever

By Lucien Coleman
 After teetering on the brink of the personal computer age for more than four years, I finally took the plunge. Two days ago, I became the proud owner of a new word-processing system.
 Well, actually, I'm not sure whether I own it or it owns me. There's a good possibility that this machine knows more than I do. Its talents are mind-boggling. It draws graphs, calculates, files, retrieves information, locates my spelling errors, and has a memory like an elephant. When I get into a jam, the electronic genie will patiently tell me where I went wrong.
 I held off for a long time before replacing my trusty old typewriter with this new-fangled contraption.
 For one thing, I practically had to take out a second mortgage on my home to finance it. Also, I wasn't quite sure I could learn to use fancy hardware like this. But, finally, the urge became irresistible.
 While I was still reading books and magazine articles on the subject, thinking that I might get me a computer some day, I suddenly found myself surrounded by friends, fellow writers, and even students who already owned computer systems. Graduate students were cranking out theses on word-processors.

Things That Matter

One theological school in Dallas had started requiring every student to buy a personal computer as an admission requirement.
 Then a public school administrator made the startling prediction that computer literacy would be second in importance only to reading in elementary school curriculums within five years. I began to feel very obsolete.
 So, I checked my credit rating, summoned up my courage, and went down to the computer store. Fortunately, I found a salesman who speaks English, rather than pure "computerese."
 After just one demonstration, I knew I had it. Computer fever. And the only known cure for that malady is to buy one.
 And what a beautiful hunk of electronic wizardry it is. Absolutely fascinating.
 The only problem is, with a son who keeps wanting to write letters and a wife who wants to file recipes and balance her checkbook, it looks like we'll have to start scheduling computer time pretty tightly. It's a bit like having a large family and only one bathroom.



'Listen, you can talk about religion or politics... but for gosh sakes, don't bring up the weather!'

... Letters continued

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:
 I have an idea for big city bankers, the metropolitan multi-billion-dollar ones. A lot of them are in trouble.
 According to an article I read Monday night during the half, those bankers, along with some in other Western countries, have made some bad loans to foreign countries, such as Poland, the Latin American nations, etc.
 The total comes to 275 billion dollars, 96 billion having been loaned by U.S. bankers.
 Those loans weren't charitable loans; the U.S. government is in

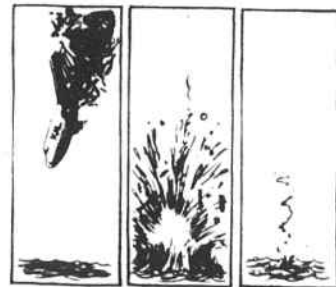
charge of that department. The banks sent some of their loan officers out to solicit the business. The interest rate is a little higher there than at home.
 It now turns out that the loans have gone sour. Those countries can't re-pay. Can't even pay the interest.
 So what do the bankers do? They "re-schedule" the loans. They extend the due date by 10 more years, then lend those countries some more money to pay the past due interest.
 The debtor countries snap this up, saying it's a good idea because if they repudiate the loans it might ruin their credit rating and they might not get any future loans.
 You need to back off and ex-

amine that sentence to see if it makes any sense, from a financial standpoint.
 In fact, those big city banks have employed such an odd way of handling their depositors' money, lending it right and left to shaky foreign countries, that they obviously need help.
 Here's where my idea comes in. They ought to give their loan officers a leave of absence and require them to work six months in a small town bank, say like in Raeford, to learn how a bank ought to be run.
 Yours faithfully
 J.A.

Hefner joins pact against Russians

Congressman Bill Hefner (D-NC) on September 14, joined in the unanimous vote in the House condemning the Soviet Union for its brutal and unprovoked attack on a civilian airlines jet on which 269 people lost their lives.
 In addressing the House of Representatives, Congressman Hefner stated, "the Soviets were quite aware that Flight 007 was a commercial flight carrying innocent people who had every right to expect they would arrive at their destinations safely without being shot out of the sky."

The resolution, which expressed outrage over the downing of the plane and accused Soviet officials at the highest level of lying in an attempt to justify the act, calls for a full and frank explanation of the incident with an apology and compensation to be made to the families of the victims.
 Further, the resolution calls for an international investigation by the International Civil Aviation Organization with a demand that the Soviet Union modify its air defense procedures and practices to assure safe passage of commercial flights.



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NOTICE

The North Carolina Competency Test will be administered at Hoke County High School October 4 and 5.

Any former student who did not pass the competency test in his senior year may be retested.

Please contact Marilyn Semones, Test Coordinator-Hoke County Board of Education 875-4106 or Dot Nelson, Guidance Counselor-Hoke County High School 875-2156.

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