

CYNTHIA GETS HIP TO ALGOL !

OR

DIG THOSE CRAZY DELIMITERS, MAN !

This week's fix: Flip that formal!

Like you make with the parameters and all formals get the hell off your pad, man, and in come your way-out actuals - they're real draggy - but for real gone zensville experiences like you have proust and marijuana and ddt and hubcap-and-tomato-can-sculpture and a groovy chick all in strict simultaneity, you got to get recursive, like recursive, man, like this bureau chick cynthia, man, who used to think kerouac was something from travels with a donkey, like she got recursive with some lower-case characters from cell-block c in the local penitentiary

```

begin   boolean procedure Free (chick, time);
         value time; real time;
         comment table lookup routine operating on chick's datebook,
           assumes value t minutes - minimum time between dates;
         begin • code • end;

boolean procedure Digs (chick, hipster);
         comment value is true if chick digs hip;
         begin • code • end;

boolean procedure Willing (chick);
         comment hipster enters as non-local variable;
         Willing := Hungry(chick) ∨ Bored (chick) ∨ Curious (chick)
           ∨ Needing a laugh (chick) ∨ Digs (chick, hipster);
         comment Hungry, Bored, Curious, Needing a laugh, are standard
           function designators available without explicit declaration;

boolean procedure Dating (chick, hipster, venue, time);
         value venue, time;
         real venue, time;
         begin boolean go man go;
           go man go := Free (chick, time) ∧ Willing (chick, hipster);
           if go man go then Engaged (chick, venue, time);
           comment Engaged is updating process on chick's datebook;
           Dating := go man go
         end;

array lower case character [a : z] ;
         comment a THRU z are non-local variables, whose current values
           may be determined from the procedures declared in block c :
           the parameters to these procedures are in the main
           impoverished universities but the user is warned against
           probable side-effects;

procedure Which (chick, character);
         array character;
         begin integer I;
           for I:= a step 1 until z do
             begin WRIGGLE: if Dating (chick,character I ,venue,time)
               then begin time := time + 1;
                 I := I↑2 - entier(I↑2 ÷ 26 × 26);
                 go to WRIGGLE end
             else go to WOW end;
           WOW: end;

         Which (Cynthia, lower case character);
         this really is the:end

```

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HOW TO EAT ON AN EXPENSE ACCOUNT IN LONDON.

- HOSTARIA ROMANA Dean Street (off Shaftesbury Avenue)
Italian food 15/- - £1 Worth it.
- NICK'S HAVANJAH RESTAURANT Bateman Street (off Dean Street)
Vaguely Greek, etc., food 10/- Cheapish but interesting.
- HONG KONG Shaftesbury Avenue
Chinese food 10/- - 15/- Draught lager 1/-
- VERASWAMY'S off Regent Street
Indian food £1+ Expensive, smooth.
- ALBERT'S Beak Street (off Regent Street)
French food 13/- - 15/- Worth it
- RULE'S Maiden Lane (parallel to and north of the Strand)
Various food £1 Rather smooth and a bit expensive.
- SCHMIDT'S Charlotte Street (near Goodge Street tube)
German food Very cheap - very good.
- BERTORELLI'S Charlotte Street
Italian food 15/- OK
- BRUSA St Martin's Lane
Italian food 15/- - £1 Food and service good - pricey.
- THE SHIRES St Pancras Station
English food 15/- Surprisingly good - quick - drinks
do not appear explicitly on bill.
- FU TONG Kensington Gore (rear of Albert Hall)
Chinese food Excellent - expensive.
- TAJ MAHAL Old Compton Street
Indian food 12/- - 15/- Very good
- THE RICE BOWL Turn left out of South Kensington tube.
Chinese food 10/- - 25/-
- SHEEKY'S Beside New Theatre.
Best fish restaurant in Europe. 15/- - £1 depending on number of oysters.
- SIMPSON'S Strand
Roast beef only
- SHAH Drummond Street (same street as Euston station).
Indian blow-out for 10/-
- BEOTY'S St Martin's Lane
Matey Greek Cypriots £1+ but superb - try Avgolemono, Shish Kebab,
Cypriot vino.

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT -

TRY THE ELIZABETHAN ROOM OF THE GOPE HOTEL, NEAR ALBERT HALL, JUST ONCE. LIGHTS ARE LOW AND NECKLINES LOWER. AN EVENING'S ENTERTAINMENT FOR £2/10 INCLUDING UNLIMITED CHEAP RED WINE.

The Editor acknowledges the help received from various contributors, all of whom, like the Editor, prefer to remain anonymous. Further additions, corrections, and criticisms welcomed.

TENDERS INVITED

The English Elastic Company Limited, Drystone, Chaffs., invite TENDERS for the following, to be received at least three months before the beginning of the monsoon season:

ONE QUARTER-GROSS OR THREE DOZEN PEDAL DRIVEN RICKSHAWS
Three-speed gears, spinakers, and umbrellas essential.

BUOYS, FOGHORNS, LIGHTSHIPS and other NAVIGATIONAL AIDS for the Company's Car Parks. Compatibility required with the regulations and recommendations of Trinity House and the Alsager Mere Boating and Rat Catching Society. Only contractors with experience in the Severn Estuary or on the Goodwin Sands need apply.

FOR SALE

TWO VERY INTERESTING AND UNREPEATABLE VINTAGE COMPUTERS.

One 1958 model, other 1957 model reconditioned with 1959 extras, including seven extra delay lines, hardly ever used. Both fitted with fans and heaters. Comprehensive range of driving instruments. Most spares available - in case of difficulty try Lisle Street, W1. Fuel consumption around 4000000 additions per kilowatt hour. The programming of these delightful veterans, having passed through the "difficult", "hopeless", and "obsolete" stages, is now considered by cognoscenti to be "quaint", and we are quite confident in asserting that it will very soon be considered "fashionable", or even "OK". To talk of input and output speeds would, of course, be indecent. Enough for the enthusiast to know that these two gallant old ladies still have strong independent individual characters, and rarely if ever accept each other's word for it. They could never settle down into an idle existence with their elder brother in the South Kensington Science Museum.

SITUATIONS VACANT

TEA-CUP CLEANSING OPERATIVES.

Part time only (9.0 - 9.45 a.m.) though occasional extra work (3.30 - 3.45) sometimes available. Tea towels and detergents not provided, and temperature of water from taps marked "H" not guaranteed. Pay conditions compare favourably with those of design engineers or systems analysts.

THERMOSTATIC SIMULATION ENGINEERS.

Chaps to work in teams of four. One pair to sit in office, playing pontoon or talking about cars, infants, bridge, television, beer, or possibly something else, until it gets too hot; then to telephone other pair, similarly occupied, but sitting within reach of boiler house. Second pair to turn down wick. First pair to use phone again when it gets too cold. And so on. Special union "tedious money" rates.

RICKSHAW PEDALLERS.

To operate service between car parks and offices. Must possess current ocean-going navigator's licence, and be able to swim.
Hours of work: 8.35 - 10.30 a.m., 12.25 - 2.45 p.m., 5.15 - 5.25 p.m..
No overtime; but mileage rates apply in third shift. Danger money.

MAINTENANCE ENGINEERS .

For pedal driven rickshaws. REME or other experience on amphibious vehicles desirable. Training given. Dirty money. Clothing allowance.

All applications should be made to Mr I.C. Waterman, Personal Services Department.

Introducing

B A B O L

AIGOL and COBOL have had their day. Spectacular new concepts in programming language philosophy are now with us.

AIGOL was based on algebra, the natural language of the mathematician.

COBOL was based on pidgin-American, the natural language of the systems analyst.

BABOL continues this downward trend to its ultimate logical conclusion.

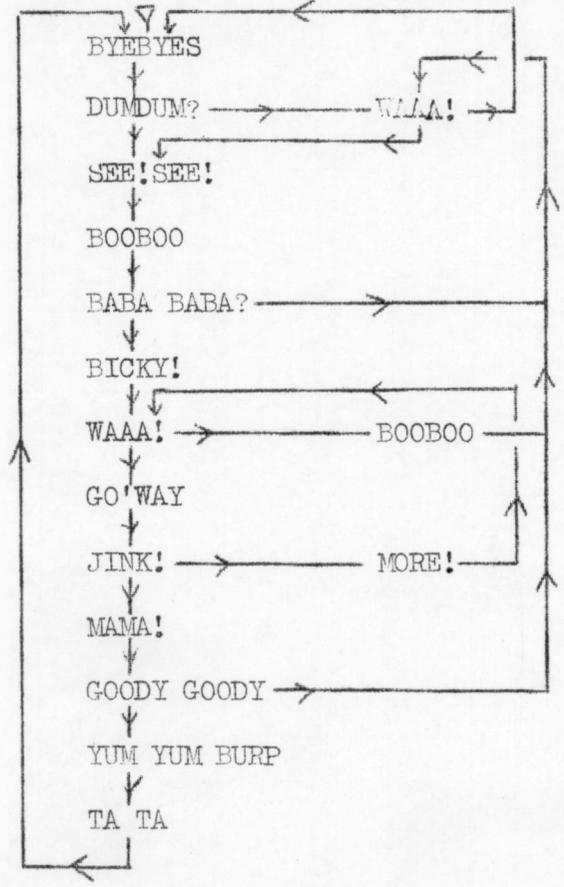
BABOL is simplest, easiest to learn, and easiest to use, BECAUSE IT IS BASED ON THE NATURAL LANGUAGE OF THE UNSOPHISTICATED INNOCENT UNPREJUDICED AND UNBRAINWASHED INFANT, namely
BABY-TALK.

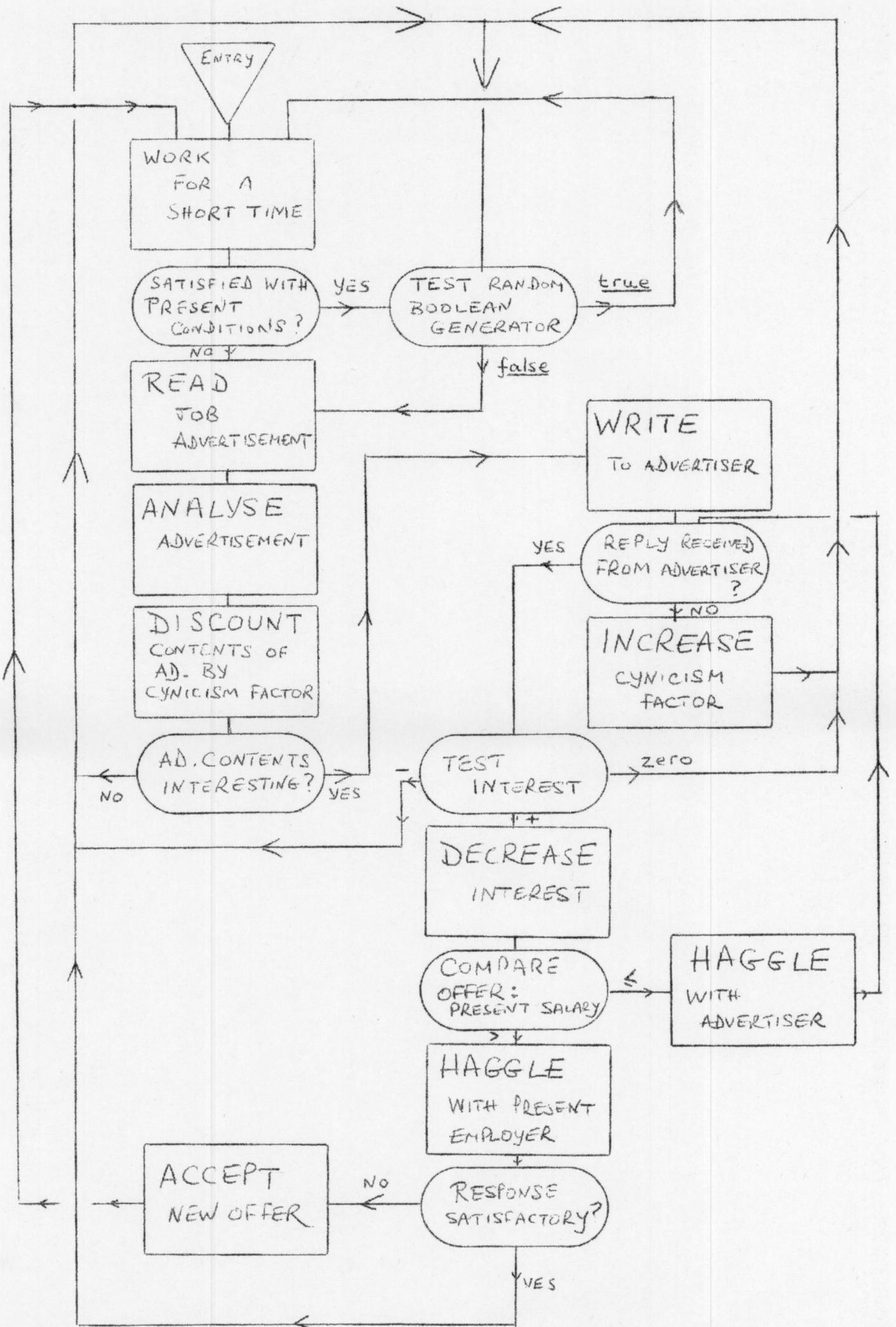
The most remarkable feature of BABOL is the extreme power of its basic words. With conventional programming languages the programmer is relieved of the need to write in detailed machine code. BABOL makes sensational progress in relieving him of the tedious necessity of constructing statements. All the drudgery of verbs, basic symbols, identifiers, data descriptions, and options disappears when he uses BABOL.

There is no doubt whatever that in BABOL the programmer has the most compact, powerful, and easy-to-use language ever.

As an example, take the BABOL word WAAA! . As in the infant world, so also in BABOL; this word WAAA! expresses concisely yet adequately all input-output functions.

We conclude with a sample programme in BABOL. On the next page the same programme is given in conventional flow chart form. We regret that we could not include the COBOL version without doubling the size of this issue. The programme is needless to say entirely fictitious and is not intended to represent the habits of any real person, either still with us or passed on.





TRAVELOGUE

UPSIDE DOWN AND BACK

by G**rg* D*v's and R*lph W**lf.

Usually, on these trips, there is Not Enough Time to Prepare; this time, there was Too Much Hanging About, but at last we were off, on the thirteenth; appropriately, since W was delayed by someone falling off the train in front: "...which was due to an obstruction on the line".

A day in Beirut, recovering from arduous five-hour journey (W complained of being woken up by steward tripping over his legs). Centre of several famous historical sites; D and W discover a common interest in not sight-seeing. W tries his French on the natives: "...I'm sorry. Sir, but do you by any chance speak English?" The taxi arrives forty minutes late and without changing gear gets us to the airport five minutes early. While waiting for the plane, W stops D just in time from buying a Henry Miller paper-back for the Lebanese equivalent of twenty three shillings (D Thought you divided by 100, like you did in France).

Next stop Singapore. We stayed at Raffles (of course): palm court with genuine palms, "single rooms" that would have housed the Computer Exhibition, Chinese flunkeys with Harrow accents; D found a postcard saying it was a "home from home for our English visitors". We went out for a genuine Chinese meal - very delightful except that W had suddenly to leave half-way through for personal reasons. Next day W thrived on the bargaining (the local industry), scornfully refusing \$8.40 to the pound and returning triumphant twenty minutes later with \$8.41.

On the leg to Sydney, of course, we celebrated the end of the journey. We met Barney, bound for Melbourne, who stopped drinking with us to finish "Lady Chatterley's Lover" before it was confiscated at Sydney. Eventually W had to be put to sleep before his conversational tones on the night leg had turned the other passengers from mild protest to riot.

And so we were there (we were told). Customs passed our luggage with out question, but were rather more doubtful about us. Sleep for the morning, tea with customers (we hoped), snack, bed again. Then the first One Day Colloquium on KDF9 (beautiful view of Bondi Beach). Dinner entertaining customers at a chi-chi restaurant in King's Cross (Sydney equivalent of what Chelsea would be if it were more like Chelsea); enormous menu entirely in French; appeals to the linguistic W: "... I'm afraid my menu French isn't very good".

Next day, first lot of staff interviews. W making conversation with an engineer, asks what he thinks about the Common Market: "What the Devil's that got to do with data processing?". Dinner with Professor M, the celebrated physicist; manner like Groucho Marx but taller, beard, permanent cigar, rasping Canadian accent; champion academic fund raiser for the third year in succession; pounds W on back to emphasise point of his more scurrilous anecdotes. W afterwards claims eleven weals, but some may have been neglected travel sores.

Off at crack of dawn for Canberra (less of a hardship for W and D, who were still waking up at four every morning expecting their evening feed). After the second One Day Colloquium of KDF9, the magnificent Ovenstone for dinner, and for a few drinks till 4am. D brings shame on the party by demanding Warm Beer at the Rex at Canberra. D up at seven, off to Brisbane, staff interviews, rejoins the others in Melbourne. Very put out when they say they are too tired to stay up and have a drink.

Next day, the third One Day Colloquium on KDF9. At one point this degenerates into coven of competitive one-upmanship between D and two of his cronies; W still looking for opportunity to use the pay-off line "Ah yes, but not in the sense of the Brooker/Morris paper".

Sunday afternoon off to Hobart; D says Tasmania reminds him of Lake District (it was raining). Turns out also to resemble *Wales in certain unfortunate respects. Dinner entertaining HEC (see glossary), then D discovers he is to do three unspecified talks next day to three different but overlapping audiences; spends next three hours (till 1.0 am) pointing out that there is no time for preparing these (which by now is true), that in any case he is quite ignorant of the subjects

to be discussed and that if they think he is going to stand up and make a fool of himself then someone else had better do the talks instead. W spends small hours preparing to fill the breach, but in fact D over-runs his time by even more than usual, the day ends with an Australian-type buffet party (food also, if wanted), and all is forgiven.

Next day, back in Melbourne. Dinner with Victorian Computer Society; W tells President a little story about how KDF9 got its name: "Oh yes...yes, very interesting... and you said there was a little story about it?"

In Adelaide, the fourth (and last) One Day Colloquium on KDF9. Next day, D and N visit Weapons Research Establishment, which is about the size of Surrey with splendid security, involving badges, photographs, and armed guards. Then back to Sydney, meeting and dinner with more customers and D is collected at 7.30 am by the Managing Director of the Australian Company and dispatched at 9.0 am to UK.

W leaves a week later and returns via Hong Kong. On the way back, his linguistic abilities are finally vindicated when he explains to the stewardess while approaching Beirut that the Indian sitting next to him who speaks only Urdu (W said), was bound for Karachi and should have changed planes at New Delhi. In celebration, W buys a paper-back copy of "Lolita" for twenty seven and sixpence (".... OTHER EXPENSES: each item should be described in detail...").

CROSSWORD

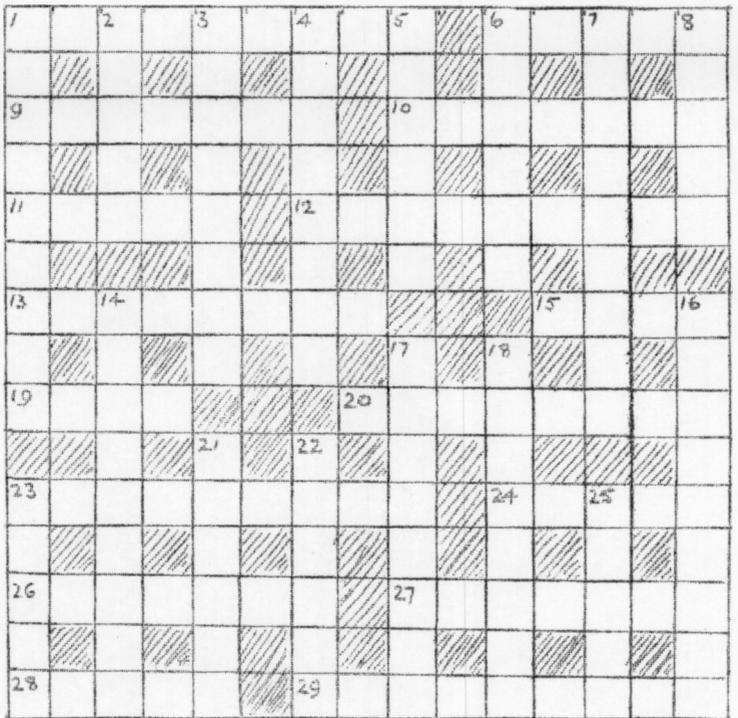
Same prizes as last year. Awarded to sender of first solution opened by Editor on morning after Hogmanay.

Correct!

Chambers', of course.

Clues Across.

- 1. Bureaucratic form for algorithmic routine.
- 6. Cool business - muddled beginning.
- 9. It's quite pointless.
- 10. Note comment.
- 11. Maclaurin's Christian name.
- 12. Kildgrove DP systems?
- 13. Dealt with by a spreader of new-mown grass - a chancellor?
- 14. Seven each, men.
- 19. Penpoints.
- 20. Again called itself something nasty.
- 23. Explicit method of solution.
- 24. Illuminate and inform.
- 26. A tiny Crustacean isopod.
- 27. An odd-looking peat-spade.
- 28. Necessary ingredient of computer thought - and design!
- 29. Somewhere near the South Sheshire border.



Clues Down.

- 1. American university, English prison.
- 2. Thumbless numbering system.
- 3. It's his fault, of course.
- 4. Radically increased.
- 5. Wrong, but not necessarily by mistake.
- 6. Fashionable property of language.
- 7. Do they dig for computers?
- 8. They get processed.
- 14. Could an insecticide be used for this?
- 16. Subsidiary party?
- 17. Rearranged.
- 18. Making a GIP programme?
- 21. Non-Roman notation.
- 22. Characteristic feature of some bacon.
- 23. In which to express 1 across.
- 25. A big order!

IN YOUR GARDEN

Readers will no doubt have noticed how computer ads are couched in terms such as "very high speed", "extremely reliable", etc., etc., So much so that we are rapidly reaching the "whiter than white" stage of the detergent world. (Shall we see a computer advertised as "faster than fast"?) However just supposing a glossy were to be more realistic. It might go somewhat as follows. But on reflection, it probably would not.

Take our new computer NPG5 (it does not matter where you take it provided we never see it again) so called because, well...

This machine was originally intended as an on-line device for opening and shutting dust-bin lids but we found that by the sole addition of a cheap multiplier it was suitable as a data processing system.

It has a 25-bit word. Just why has never been quite clear, rumour has it that someone thought "it would be nice to be different from everybody else". Be that as it may, we find that it is a perfect swine, because it is long enough to make the machine expensive while still short enough to be inconvenient.

The machine has five 24-bit registers. To the obvious query, "How do you transfer a 25-bit word to a 24-bit register?" the almost equally obvious answer is "You don't". The least significant bit is always dropped on transfer to a register.

There are 20 basic functions available; the first 18 are available on all registers, the last two on only two registers. This is because there was no room on the frame for the packages required to make the functions uniformly applicable. The frame is always built first so that at an early stage we have something to show to visitors. And if you think the frame looks like it has been knocked together from old milk-crates, then you are quite right - we picked up a job lot from a local dairy which went bankrupt. Yes, the colour of the machine is rather unlikely for a computer but when the question of colour arose, the van belonging to one of our engineers was badly in need of a respray.....

The input and output are two more remarkable features. The standard machine has a paper tape reader and punch, each running at the rate of 25 characters per minute. This is admittedly slow; for instance, to solve 10 simultaneous equations, it takes 45 minutes to read in the data but only 20 seconds to do the calculation. However the user need not worry about this - he has other more pressing problems.

In keeping with our tradition of never having more than one machine with any given character code we have a completely new code for NPG5. This may mean that it is incompatible with any other machine of ours or anyone else's but at any rate it makes NPG5 a completely watertight system. (Please note that we did not say "waterproof".)

The basic reader is slow - we can however supply one of our new supersonic readers. It really is supersonic; the noise of the tape going through the sound barrier means that the reading station has to be kept in a sound-proof compartment. This means that it takes $5\frac{1}{2}$ minutes to load a tape; however it takes only 0.2 seconds to read the longest tape which will fit in the tape box.

NPG5 has both an automatic multiplier and an automatic divider. In published literature you will see that it says "signed" multiplication and division. The multiplier is in fact orthodox, but with the divider the result is always of the opposite sign to the true one. It was left this way for some time because nobody really understood how the divider worked. However, towards the end of the design stage, three months after the prototype was working and when the first six production models were being built, it was realised that it really would not do. So all the people who had ever heard of the existence of the order code started arguing about what was the best system. Not unnaturally they failed to agree so the machine was left as it was.

The actual computer is physically quite small. In fact there is a funny story we tell to customers once they have paid the money into our bank. The first machine we sold was completely rigged out with supersonic reader, six magnetic tape units, etc., - the lot in fact. The chairman of the company concerned, at the opening ceremony, tried to feed the paper tape into one of the magnetic tape units. Imagine their consternation when they could not find the computer itself. The chairman was on the point of ringing us up to tell us we had forgotten something when someone found it tucked away inside one of the magnetic tape units. If after all this you still want to buy an NPG5, you can't say we did not do our best to talk you out of it.

CROSS-NUMBER COMPETITION

You really don't stand a chance with this unless you are both a KDP10 programmer and a regular solver of "Listener"-type puzzles.

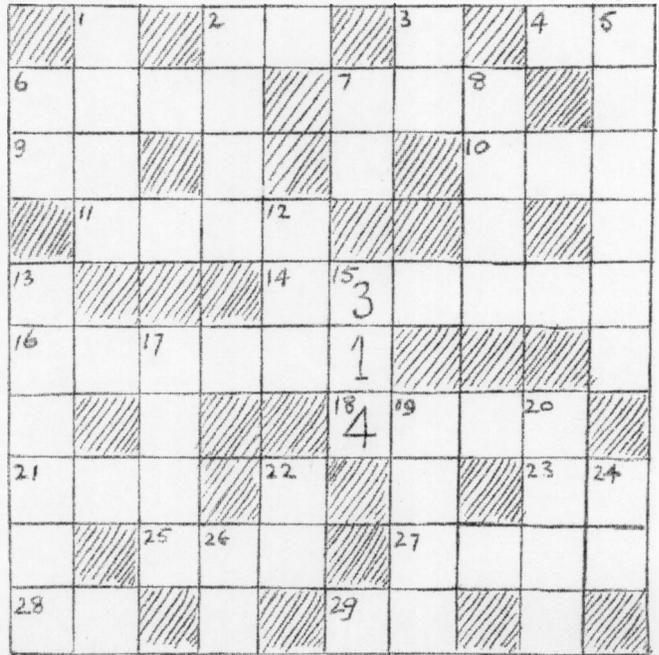
Solving a clue will give you a sequence of letters or other characters. Knowledge of KDP10 and further ingenuity will enable you to fill in the appropriate lights with decimal digits.

No clues are given for 7 and 25 across, but they are fully checked.

A prize worth having (of alcohol, cigarettes, or chocolate) will be awarded to the solver who produces a correct solution and the best clues for 7 and 25 across. Closing date: New Year's Day (coffee time). Editor's decision final. And the best of luck.

Across.

- 2. Book here for flight across North America.
- 3. Eminent theologian.
- 6. Behold, error in walking on slope.
- 7. (Clue to be supplied)
- 9. Never terminates positive.
- 10. Would now be 12.00R.
- 11. Hard medium for sculptors.
- 14. The piper's son, or the barber's brother.
- 16. See 27 across.
- 18. French law.
- 21. In one combination, gives (C)₈.
- 23. The count, on the one hand.
- 25. (Clue to be supplied)
- 27. With 15 across, makes martial music from U.S.A.
- 28. Denotes unprintable, or guiding light.
- 29. Magical number.



Down.

- 1. Lolita grows up, and Barbara down.
- 3. Hand over office.
- 5. Cambridge in Somerset group.
- 6. Celibate aesthete.
- 7. Intestinal punctuation.
- 8. Deadens.
- 12. Logical or not, plus; ugh!
- 13. Redcap's sign of rank.
- 17. Two down is one.
- 19. Brings forth rabbits from hats.
- 20. Irish butter?
- 22. Kind of RAC for two wheels.
- 24. Dishonest character.
- 26. Cry from the heart on a cold day.

*** **?

VERSE - AND WORSE

Some young ladies who work our computers
 Are exceedingly partial to suitors.
 Damn your KDP10,
 They'd much rather have MEN -
 It's a pity computers are neuters.

Wanderlust: One would happily surrender
 To Br*nd*
 Even if one was actually fonder
 Of W*nd*

Lament: How on earth can
 A man
 Do without Anne?
 Alas, she has gone.
 Lucky John!

TEMPUS EDAX.

For the interest of our Readers who are contemplating ordering new computing systems, we offer the following extract from "When?", the Journal of the BB Users' Association, which journal is known abroad as the "Buy British Rag", due to the grossly nationalistic slant of some of its surveys.

SMALL COMPUTING SYSTEMS.

Due to the ever widening scope of manufacturers' computer projects it is now almost impossible to order a system and not regret it within 24 hours. It is hoped that the survey below will help our readers to choose their system wisely, and possibly to extend their euphoria to as much as a month in extreme cases.

Table I below gives a list of the more important systems available immediately, i.e. within the next three years. There are others, such as the ALGOB62, MAK and COBBLE, but these can only be obtained at such places as Biarritz, Le Touquet, and Juan-les-Pins, and their prices and countries of origin are grossly inflated.

Table I

<u>System</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Expected Delivery</u>
TRUCE	English Elastic	Negotiable	Immediate
KMH 1	English Elastic	?	Any time
KMF 1	English Elastic	High	Very doubtful
KEH 10	English Elastic	Not negotiable	Doubtful
GTGT	English Elastic	Firm	Nov*
NBG 5	English Elastic	£5	On demand
999	Dekko	5 guineas	Some years ago
ITC	Inland Revenue	Free	Now, <u>if</u> code no ≤ 0

* The manufacturer informs us that the latest model, the GTGTGTGT (known as Digit or GT4) will shortly be extracted from their laboratory.

All the above are intended to form independent systems, but each may be used in conjunction with its own master system to form a Highly Integrated Super System (or HISS). Table II gives a brief summary of these systems.

Table II

<u>Quasisystem</u>	<u>HISS</u>	<u>Use</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Delivery</u>
TRUCE	999	Payroll	Lethargic	Already
KMH 1	NW 54	Commercial	180 wpm	Tomorrow
KMF 1	JXT	Business	190 wpm	June 1962
KEH 10	KBO 10	Unknown	Superb	Immediate
GTGT	GT4	Unknown	100 kbspm	All the time
NBG 5	IMR	Stock Control	Random	Sometime
999	TRUCE	Scientific	1 Mph	Heaven knows. Possibly when the first in this list works.
ITC	PAYE	Coding	Once a week	Inevitable

Tests.

Due to the difficulty and high cost of installing these machines in our offices, the tests were conducted by an independent programming association (IPA) which we can

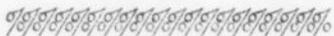
recommend to all our single readers.

HSS

IPA User Test Remarks

- 999 IPA were unable to hire time on this system; they were informed that the only working model was under continuous use by the manufacturers' D & U Department.
- NW 54 The order code was found to be full of pitfalls, each order or discrimination often had as many as three possible meanings. Very difficult to programme, but highly satisfactory when working.
- JXT A satisfactory system; the manufacturers' staff expect great things from the new DRRR system with which the KTF 1 will become compatible next year.
- KFO 10 IPA were not actually allowed anywhere near this system, and found great difficulty in communicating with the operating staff. Obviously the staff were highly trained and efficient, but the air-conditioning and noise surrounding the system clearly have an adverse effect on their hearing, and the brilliant lighting of the operating console had possibly affected their eyesight.
- GT 4 A beautiful system, and very easy to operate. So versatile that IPA were never quite clear what it was not doing or could not do.
- IPR This system was obviously fairly complicated, and seemed to require large numbers of programmers. The IPA representative became confused and retired to the Red Bull, which had, by this time, been cleared of unruly programmers by the local Constabulary.
- TFUCE A well tried variant of the 999 system, IPA found the manufacturers' TRUCE being used by their D & U Department, and went back to the Red Bull to write a Report, which has since been recovered and dried out - see below.
- PAYE The IPA Representative had by this time lost interest and his railway warrant. He stayed in the Red Bull, and these Test Reports were removed from his pockets the following morning, at Conglebach Police Station.

The results of our Tests are clearly inconclusive, and we regret that we cannot recommend a "Best Buy". Manufacturers' Hire Charges are as variable as their guarantees. They vary from the extortionate to the ridiculous. CAVEAT LIBELLORUM FACTOR.



DROPPED DIGITS

The recent population census has revealed a curious phenomenon at the Dryrocks Computer Bureau, and considerable concern is being felt in the Personnel Department about recruiting in years to come.

During the last ten years the ratio of male to female children born to the wives of the staff has reached a level of 3:1. Full details and figures have been sent to the Medical Research Council, and their report is nervously awaited at Dryrocks.



There is no truth in the rumour that Jenkins-Fidgeon have made a take-over bid for IP&CSD. Just because they were at the Exhibition together does not mean that they are anything more than Just Good Friends.



Dirty old man: One whose thoughts are inclined to W*nd*.

LITERARY PAGE

The Editor has been privileged to have had made available to him the manuscript of "Huxtine", the first novel in the forthcoming series "The Kidsgrovine Quartet". We print below one or two extracts from this novel to indicate the remarkable closeness with which it reflects life as it should be lived. Succeeding novels in the series will be:

Blackthazar
Montolive
Clyv

(Author's Note: The characters in this novel are all inventions together with the personality of the narrator, and bear no resemblance to living persons. The town is only too real.)

|||||

Landscape shades. November. Rain. Late evening. Soot. Clogs. The old post office. The canal bank beside the gas works. The Butt Lane Industrial Co-operative Society. The station approach. My heart beats faster as I recall the incidents unfolded on this colourful stage.

aaaaa

I was late. W.E. Welsh had kept me long after my usual hour. In my pocket was Pricewarden's notebook which was to reveal so much about the lives of the people around me - about whom I had known so little. The gas lamps flickered unevenly on the arrival platform from Crewe. But she was there. With a cry she drew that frail little body away from the last remnants of the waiting room fire and was in my arms.

ΔΔΔΔΔΔΔΔΔΔ

Lord Puttyside glanced around the room. So this was the shrine of El Rob. He mused on the statistical probability of deification. It was certainly true that no-one could recall the old man's initials when the shrine was commissioned (so whoever it was who was actually deified certainly had the last laugh). A low moaning could be heard on the far side of the room. Where had he heard that sound before? From the bureau ventilating equipment? At a Clough Hall party? He moved sharply across the room to investigate.

0000000000

"I find your tale difficult to credit, L.F.D." Balthroyd turned to me. (This play on my initials - Lineaments of Frustrated Desire - had long amused him.) "This can only be a political move. Can he otherwise hope to get more from Huxtine than Mrs Baker will give him? Gilmlek's hand will be forced: the car park extended." I smiled inwardly as I recalled what Clyv had murmured to me from the depths of her pillow last night.

(apologies, L*wr*nc* D*rr*ll)

ODE TO A DYING DEUCE (with apologies to G.K.Chesterton)

When ROOTs and LOGs were parts of trees,
And sums by hand were solveã;
When PROGRAMMEs cost a shilling each,
In those days I evolved.

With Alphacode and paper tape,
Magnetic drum store too,
A scientific wonder-
Just see what I could do.

But now KDP 10 you want,
COBOL, KDF 9.
Mock, scourge, deride me, I am dumb.
The limelight once was mine.

Fools, I again will have my hour,
One more fierce hour and sweet.
When MRI goes on the air,
'Twill make my end complete.

TO THE EDITOR

Sir, I recently came across a piece of data on magnetic tape with a long block gap at each end of it. Is this a record? I am, Sir, &c. TAPE-BOUND.
(like some others we know. - Ed.)

LONDON LETTER

It has never been our policy to shut our eyes to unpleasant subjects; in fact the more unpleasant the subject the wider do we open our eyes. It is in this spirit that we present the first of a regular series from Our Own Special Correspondent in London, the place which has often been referred to as the Goa of Kidsgrove.

How to Get There.

The hamlet of London is a bare three hour train journey from the Metropolis of Kidsgrove (allow four hours to cover improvements in service); or by Works car about the same if at all. Notice the change in scenery after leaving the extensive garden suburbs of Kidsgrove, the natural mine-winders and slag-heaps * giving way to barren landscape with only grass, trees, and cows. The sky may take on a menacing brightness and it has been known for the rain to stop! In this eventuality, provision must be made for the maintenance of the liquid content necessary to sustain life.

Local Geography and Transport.

A general impression of the village may be gained by boarding a London bus, a large red object bearing the names of many places to which it has recently been (the traveller is advised to scan this list before boarding to ensure that his intended destination is not among them). From the upper deck a superlative view may often be had of the buses immediately in front and on either side. It is a most stirring sight to see a large group (or "convoy") of them actually in motion, and well worth waiting for.

For a wider view of the surrounding villages, summon a taxi, and name a specific destination, indicating some assumed reason for haste. It should be appreciated that the shortest route is not necessarily the quickest, so that it would be invidious to follow either of these.

A popular pastime is the Tube Game, or "Spot the Interchange", played with a gaily coloured decorative chart. It is essential for a beginner to be accompanied by an experienced player, as is borne out by many sad and well authenticated cases.

Suitable Clothing.

The native costume is undeniably quaint and is the source of much innocent pleasure to visitors from the Metropolis. However, it has practical as well as picturesque qualities, and for the period of his visit the traveller may be well advised to adopt it, in place of his customary modern man-about-town dress of check shirt, corduroy trousers, tweed jacket, and mountaineering boots. The very dark smooth uniform blends inconspicuously into the background, the stiff white collar and the helmet with its rounded dome have obviously protective functions, the weapon-stick covered with black cloth may be converted rapidly from attack to defence, and the college-type neck-tie is essential for obtaining entry to the most sacred of the local tribal rites.

Entertainments.

Less well-informed guides often suggest that London offers many and various forms of entertainment. In fact, the visitor will find only one that is at all widely practised by the inhabitants. This is known, in the semi-humorous local patois, as a "quick one"; it is a form of competition, with many variations, the essentials being that the visitors should be well supplied with units of the local currency and the residents with vital trains to catch at strategic moments.

Language and Conversation.

The language most commonly spoken is in fact a variant of Standard Midland English, though this is not at all apparent at first hearing. The visitor is not advised to try to master this speech, beyond the requirements for meeting essential human needs; several who have done so have found themselves debarred from normal social intercourse on return to the centre of civilisation.

* Travellers by way of Crewe (Rlwy Ref Rms, MBE) should take advantage of the unique opportunity for viewing the exquisite and magnificent ***Slagheap tended by the Alsager Slagheap Development Company. -- note from Badaore's Guide.

Subjects of conversation are few and easily mastered; a list of standard phrases would not be appropriate, since the art is in finding the most ways of saying the fewest things, rather than vice versa. The most common topic is "Shop", of which there are several variations. To engage in "Technical Shop", the visitor should learn by heart one of the lists from the latest issue of "OK Terms in Data Processing"; choose either the Beginner's or the Student's list - the Advanced and Registered Charlatans' lists contain many traps for the inexperienced. For the use of the terms, study one of the standard works such as "How to Sound Knowledgeable Without Actually Being Understood". For "Commercial" or "Political" "Shop", all that is needed to be thought wise, knowledgeable and reliable is a repertoire of words and gestures for indicating agreement.

The Natives - their Habits and Customs.

Many of the local customs have been touched upon heavily in the preceding paragraphs. The general atmosphere of the remote tribal life is illustrated by our own colonial possession in the centre of the village. The common Kidsgrove watch cry "Do YOU know your way to the nearest emergency exit?" is not appropriate here. The place is compact to the point of asphyxiation; it is entirely surrounded by doors to allow easy exit in case of emergency and these are always kept locked to ward off attack. The intense paranoid atmosphere revolves around the twin problems of devising methods to maintain and to avoid adequate liaison with the Metropolis. Telephone calls to Kidsgrove are constantly requested and never obtained; a stream of envelopes goes out containing the middle pages of illegible copies of incomprehensible memoranda, but nothing ever comes in. There are always rumours of a Policy having been Decided.

Things to Avoid.

From the brief words of description above, the adventurous youth (and possibly others) may be moved to explore for himself. As he collects his London uniform, studies the language and customs, and prepares to set forth in the direction of the far South, we would beg to be allowed to add just a word of well-meant advice. Don't

GLOSSARY

The following will help you, we are convinced, if you wish to keep up with the modern OK trend of not understanding automatic programming languages.

We will be quite frank. They are just sub-standard crossword clues left over from pages 8 and 10.

concept: just a thought.

breakthrough: birth of a concept, q.v.

philosophy: the mess we've got ourselves into.

lower case character: someone actually programming for KDF9.

upper case character: OK chap.

literal: (noun) just what it says.

dope vector: drug trafficker.

K : has many meanings, the most common being: Kidsgrove, Knutsford, Knypersley, Kathleen, Kathlyn, 1024, (7/8).1024, and 1000 in that order.

heuristic, metalinguistic: these went out months ago.

meta-ALGOL: see the next issue of DDT.

recursive: continually swearing.

own: self-possessed.

delimiter: see page 2.

array: not at home.

AW : possibly American for Anne?

COMPUTE: something very clever, and hardly necessary.

HASHED: method of using up leftover meat, potatoes, etc..

I-O-CONTROL: corsetry.

PROTECTION: a racket.

PURGE-DATE: when to take your syrup-of-figs.

REEL-NUMBER: equivalent to ALGOL real, obviously.

STANDARD: wishful thinking.

STATUS: something denoted symbolically.

SUPERVISOR: Wally.

SYNCHRONIZED: in strict simultaneity.

THRU: obviously an anagram.

TIMES: (1) a square; (2) a square newspaper.

UNROUNDED: square.

COLD PIES AND HOT TEAS (A Modern Business Parable)
As told by a line-printer deprived of space.

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A MAN WHO OBSERVED THE GROWTH OF TRAFFIC ON THE HIGHWAY NEAR HIS HOME. SO THE MAN SAID TO HIMSELF: "WITH SO MANY TRAVELLERS DRIVING ALONG THE HIGHWAY, PERCHANCE SOME WOULD CARE TO STOP FOR A COLD PIE AND HOT TEA." SO THE MAN ERECTED A SMALL STAND ON THE HIGHWAY AND PUT IN A STOCK OF COLD PIES AS WELL AS A KETTLE TO MAKE HOT TEA. AND LOANDBEHOLD! SOME OF THE PASSING TRAFFIC DID NOT ICE THE STAND AND DID STOP TO REFRESH THEMSELVES. AFTER A WHILE, THE MAN SAID TO HIMSELF: "IT IS TRUE I AM DOING BUSINESS FROM THE PASSING TRAFFIC. BUT PERCHANCE I COULD INCREASE MY TURNOVER OF COLD PIES AND HOT TEA WERE I TO PUT UP A SIGN SO THAT THE PASSING TRAFFIC WOULD KNOW I AM HERE." SO THE MAN PUT UP A SIGN, AND MORE PASSING TRAFFIC DID STOP FOR COLD PIES AND HOT TEAS. AND TURNOVER DID INCREASE. AS DID PROFIT. SO THEN THE MAN THOUGHT: "MY SIGN HAS HELPED BUSINESS. BUT TRAFFIC RUSHES BY SO QUICKLY THAT MANY DO NOT SEE THE SIGN UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE. I THINK I SHOULD ERECT SIGNS FURTHER UP AND DOWN THE ROAD SO THAT TRAFFIC MAY BE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE THAT I AM HERE AND HAVE COLD PIES AND HOT TEAS." SO HE THOUGHT. AND SO HE DID. AND TURNOVER OF COLD PIES AND HOT TEAS INCREASED A PACE. SO SUCCESSFUL WERE THE SIGNS THAT THE MAN PUT UP MORE, FURTHER AND FURTHER OUT TO REACH AS MUCH TRAFFIC AS POSSIBLE. AND AS THE YEARS PROGRESSED, THE MAN FLOURISHED. HE INCREASED HIS STOCK. HE ADDED NEW ITEMS. AND HIS BANK ACCOUNT GREW MIGHTILY. SO MIGHTILY IN FACT THAT THE MAN COULD AFFORD TO GIVE HIS SON THE BEST SCHOOLING. THE MAN PLANNED, AS DO ALL FATHERS, THAT THE SON SHOULD MANAGE THE BUSINESS SOMEDAY. SO THE SON STUDIED ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND ACCOUNTANCY. AND WHEN THE DAY CAME THAT THE SON WAS INDEED A QUALIFIED ECONOMIST AND ADMINISTRATOR AND ACCOUNTANT, THE MAN SAID UNTO HIM: "I AM BUT A POOR IGNORANT MAN WHO KNOWS NOT BUSINESS TRENDS NOR PREDICTING THE FUTURE, WHERE AS YOU ARE NOW A QUALIFIED SOOTHSAYER IN ECONOMICS, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND ACCOUNTANCY. IN MY UNL EARNED FASHION, I HAVE KNOWN ONLY TO TELL THE WORLD I CARRY THE BEST COLD PIES AND HOT TEAS. NOW I LOOK TO YOU FOR GUIDANCE. LOOK INTO YOUR CRYSTAL BALL AND TELL ME WHAT I SHOULD DO." AND THE SON LOOKED INTO HIS CRYSTAL BALL AND ANNOUNCED GLOOMILY: "THERE IS GREAT UNREST IN THE WORLD. ONE CANNOT BE SURE OF TOMORROW'S EVENTS. BUT OF THIS I AM CERTAIN. BUSINESS PROSPECTS FOR NEXT YEAR ARE NOT GOOD. TAKE HEED OF WHAT YOU DO." THE MAN WAS PROFOUNDLY IMPRESSED. "TELL ME, MY SON" HE SAID, "WHAT DO YOU ADVISE?" "WE MUST ECONOMISE", SAID THE SON. "CUT DOWN ON YOUR SIGNS ON THE HIGHWAY. REDUCE YOUR INVESTMENT IN INVENTORY." SO THE MAN DID. AND TURNOVER DID INDEED FALL OFF, AS DID PROFIT, ALTHOUGH TRAFFIC ON THE HIGHWAY WAS STILL GREAT. AND THE SON ADVISED FURTHER ECONOMISE AND LESS SIGNS. AND AS BUSINESS STILL FELL OFF, EVEN FURTHER SIGNS WERE TAKEN DOWN AND EVEN FURTHER ITEMS WERE ELIMINATED FROM STOCK, UNTIL ALL THAT WAS LEFT WAS THE ORIGINAL STAND AND A SMALL STOCK OF COLD PIES AND HOT TEAS AND MUCH PASSING TRAFFIC WHICH NO LONGER STOPPED. AND AS THE MAN SAT IN THE HOME FOR THOSE WHO ARE POOR IN THEIR OLD AGE, HE SAID TO HIMSELF: "I AM INDEED BLESSED WITH A WISE SON. FOR DID HE NOT PREDICT THAT BUSINESS WOULD BE BAD, AND IN SPITE OF ALL THE STEPS HE TOOK TO SAVE ME, BUSINESS DID INDEED BECOME BAD!"

Moral: Planning for failure is easier than planning for success - but never as rewarding.

MORE ABOUT FOOD

Spaghetti à la Fred (Sp*k* M*ll*g*n): Take a strand of spaghetti, lay it face downwards on a marble slab. Run a compass over the strand and find its Magnetic North. Roll the strand in a solution of beaten egg yolk and Chateau D*nc*n '57. Take finely sliced garlic and pack carefully on each side of the spaghetti strand. Take copper pan, fill with water, boil to 180F or 201C. Add handful of salt. Drop strand into boiling water for 15 minutes. When cooked remove strand and serve with three fried eggs, mushrooms in wine sauce, chipolatas, steak, etc., etc., ...

POOR OLD DEUCE

When he was young and in his prime,
He even worked at dinner time;
But now he's old and very grey,
He only works one hour a day.
Who is it who have caused this halt?
The birdwatchers! It's all their fault!
- Dusty.

IN MEMORIAM

On November 27th, suddenly after the night before, HAG - AGH. (No anagrams, please, by request of the departed.) Donations in memory to BAMRID (Bereaved Associates in MRI Division) and RSPCM (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Mariners) .

STOP PRESS.

We have just received, though far too late for our usual detailed treatment, news of a computer designed especially for the Polish market.

This computer, known as the 9FDK RETUPMOC, is well equipped with K23 sdrow fo eroc egarots, to say nothing of repap and citengam epat, and retirwepyt-turretni.

Erawtfos features include a rotcerid gnirahs emmargorp and relipmoc LOGLA.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Editor would like to express his thanks to all contributors (GMD, BR, AGP, RW, RAS, JAB, MRW, DEM, WHS, JAB, WD, PR, etc) who have enabled this, the third, edition of DDT to be fatter than ever. He actually suffered from an embarrassment of riches, and some pieces of resistance have had to be held over till next time. Yes, there will be a next time. To all his readers, as always, the Editor sends his best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. F.G.D., Kidsgrove, December, 1961.