

THE NEW AMIGO COMPUTER



Commodore Business Machines, Inc., has finally readied its new Amigo computer for shipment. You can expect to see the new Amigo in selected computer stores and Mexican restaurants by late October.

the VIC-20 claimed to be "The Friendly Computer," but the Amigo is your friend. "Hey mon, I am your frien," it says through its built-in speech synthesizer, which features Mexican, Puerto Rican, and NorteAmericano accents. The Amigo's other features include outstanding color graphics and 512K RAM. A demo program, *Mariachi Music*, is included with the Amigo to demonstrate its superior sound.

But the real power of the Amigo is its software. Artificial intelligence programs enable the Amigo to function as your pal, mentor, or loved one. Commodore introduced the programs *Brucie*, *Ronnie and Nancy*, and *Rosie the Riveter* at launch. Third-party software is already on the market and includes *Bully!* by MicroSoft and *Airsick Simulator II* by SubLogic Corporation. Electronic Arts enthusiastically supports the Amigo, and has plans to introduce *The Jimmy Connors Tantrum Construction Set* and *Oy! (Your Jewish Mother)*.

Each of these programs will imbue your Amigo with a different personality. Here's an example of the message *Oy! (Your Jewish Mother)* by Electronic Arts puts on the screen at power-up:

Oy! You're looking pale!
You should be sure to put on your hat
and coat before you go outside.
Here, have some nice chicken soup.

It remains to be seen if the American computer-using public will flock to buy a computer which, upon power-up, might declare "I'm not in the mood!" or "You make me sick!" "Let's face it, the personality that will sell the Amigo hasn't been written yet," say Commodore representatives.

Other computer companies are developing their own Amigo-like software. Atari Corporation is reportedly rushing to get their ST 520 computer to market before the Amigo. Apparently, there are some problems with *Jack!*, the built-in personality of the 520. IBM's offering is under close wraps, and is said to be called either *Charlie* or *The Great Dictator*.

InfoWorld reports that Apple Corporation will announce *Macbeth!* and *Lady Macbeth* some time within the next month. Kaypro reportedly will bundle *Danny Kaypro* will all of their computers. Only Tandy Corporation has not jumped on the bandwagon. "At this time, we have dropped all plans for a personality emulator for our computers," said the synthesized voice of *Sandy Tandy*, running on the TRS-80 Model 4 computer.

Star SG10C Printer . . . Chuck Anderson

I recently had a chance to try out the new Star SG10C computer. The printer is similar to the SG10; however, it is designed to plug into the C-64 computer without an interface. The SG10 designation implies (at least to me) that the computer is the SG10 with a built-in C-64 interface, but this is not the case. Apparently, all dual and quadruple density bit-mapped graphics modes have been removed, since my airfoil plot program won't run on the SG10C. A brief examination of the manual didn't turn up any mention of bit-mapped graphics, and it appears that the graphics capabilities are the same as Commodore's. The printer looks good for text and low-res graphics, but it will not run the plot program. The SG10C also costs more than the SG10, and the difference will go a long way towards paying for an interface. I feel that the SG10 with a good interface is a better buy, even though it costs a few dollars more. Incidentally, the plot program runs fine with the standard SG10 printer. At least it did after I got the Dip switches set correctly . . .