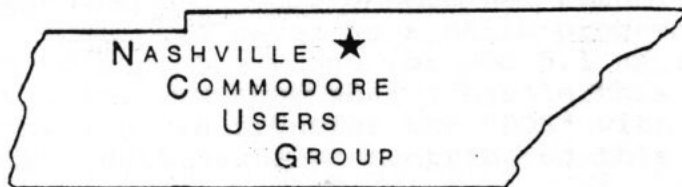


N.C.U.G. Magazine

Nashville Commodore Users Group



Merry Christmas



We are Friendly People

A COMMODORE CHRISTMAS?
by Ronnie Ramloose

Editor's note: The departure of Reggie Ramloose for East Tennessee has left us at NCUG desparate for humor. His brother Ronnie, perhaps feeling sorry for us, has sent the following story. Ronnie is Eastern Seabord correspondent for a major computer newsweekly.

King of Prussia, PA, Dec. 1-- Commodore officials today announced their newest computer, expected to be out in time for Christmas. The machine is Commodore's answer to the IBM Peanut, and is to be called the Commodore Potato Chip (or PC). Commodore head Jack Trample is reportedly incensed over the attention lavished on IBM's newest (non)entry into the home computer market, and over IBM's use of the Commodore marketing device of selling nonexistent products. Trample has reportedly admonished his staff to "get out there and make one of our own."

The new machine, expected to sell for only \$125, will have 400K of RAM memory and will run software compatible with the Apple, IBM, Atari, and CP/M (though not, unfortunately, the VIC or 64). The Potato Chip sports a full-size keyboard in a cream-colored plastic case, with four special function keys. Trample denies rumors that the new Potato Chips are surplus VIC's that have been plundered for parts. He admits, however, that the unit sports a video display of 23 lines and 22 columns. In addition, there is a cassette interface built in so that programs and data can be stored on cassette tapes.

To cut costs, the familiar serial bus for for connecting a disk drive has been omitted. Trample apparently feels that the average user will not want to bear the added expense of a disk drive. Besides, he adds, "we still can't get our 1541's to work." Rumors abound that Commodore is engaged in major negotiations with Micropro to place Wordstar on cassette tape for the Potato Chip. Queried about whether the Potato Chip would really be ready in time for Christmas, a Commodore spokesperson gave assurances that shipping would begin "very soon."

Industry insiders doubt that the product will actually appear by Christmas, but suggest that Commodore will try for a second time the highly effective sales strategy it pioneered with the 1541 disk drive, in which Commodore ships a specified number of "rain checks" to major chain stores to be given to customers in lieu of the actual product. One pundit has referred to this technique as selling "Potato Chip futures." Commodore, undaunted, is in the process of changing its slogan from "the friendly computer" to "the Cruncher" in honor of the PC. It looks like another Commodore Christmas.