

A Letter from the Publisher

Perhaps the most traditional aspect of TIME—the categorization of news into clearly defined sections—has over the years required the most careful and regular review. Responding to changes in society and to the inventions and perceptions that shape such changes, the editors periodically drop or merge old departments and start new ones. Last year two new sections were added, Design and Video. This week marks the introduction of TIME's newest department, Computers.

No section is ever christened without deliberate second-guessing and parent-like worry. But the decision this time seemed both easy and logical. Simply put, a Computers section added up. As TIME said in its 1978 cover story "The Computer Society," the new microtechnology is akin in significance to the moment prehistoric man first wrapped his fingers around a rock, thereupon enormously improving his competitive advantage against nature by becoming a user of tools. Computers constitute yet another quantum leap in the ability to cope with the world. This week's cover, "The Computer Generation," is in part the story of young minds wrapping themselves around their computer consoles every bit as enthusiastically and hopefully as the primitive clutching that rock. The very act of engagement, and continued involvement, changes the dimen-

sions and character of a person's thinking about himself and his environment. Our new department is therefore not only about hardware but also about the softest software of all: the human mind.

To launch this new journalistic undertaking, the editors of TIME will use a kind of interdisciplinary approach. The section will have the services of its own writer and reporter-researcher and of Senior Editor Thomas Plate—depicted, for the purpose of demonstrating the technology's growing capabilities, by Time Inc. technicians using a Norpak IPS 2 Telidon graphics-creation terminal. The section will also draw on the talents of writers in other departments. This week's cover story, for example, was the work of Senior Writer Fred Golden, who as TIME's science editor has observed the metamorphosis of computer technology from the days of the transistor to today's microchip.

The effect of computers—from complex telecommunications systems to pocket calculators—and their use by both giant corporations and the smallest retail businesses have hit our society with the velocity of a true technological revolution. Lifestyles, as well as thought processes, are subject to the impact of the microchip. To keep readers abreast of this fast-developing scene, TIME is pleased to unveil its Computers department.



Computer-assisted portrait of Senior Editor Plate

John A. Meyers

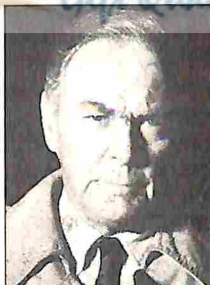
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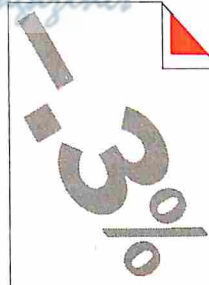
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Cover: With an ease and enthusiasm few adults can fathom, a new breed of youngsters, some no more than toddlers, is mastering a machine that is sparking a revolution in the classroom and the world. See COMPUTERS.



10

Nation: Friends and foes are asking: Does the Reagan Administration have a foreign policy, or a set of reflex attitudes? ▶ An interview with Haig. ▶ A pro's pro at the CIA resigns. ▶ Sober talk of nuclear war in Ground Zero Week.



44

Inflation: A sharp drop in the March Consumer Price Index breaks a 17-year upward spiral in the U.S. cost of living and gives embattled Reaganomics its first important victory. See ECONOMY & BUSINESS.

26
World

Amid negotiations, British troops land on South Georgia Island in a drive to recapture it from occupying Argentine forces. ▶ Israel evicts settlers and protesters from the Sinai and returns the area to Egypt on schedule. ▶ Helmut Schmidt defeats his left wing. ▶ A victory for El Salvador's right.

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American Scene

Pursuing the arcane joys of a fast-growing hobby, U.S. amateur radio operators put an uninhabited Caribbean island on the air.

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Dance

The Paul Taylor Company reshapes the vocabulary of modern dance with kinetic wit, clarity and astonishing force.

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Economy & Business

Stubbornly high interest rates befuddle the experts. ▶ Crocker National Bank becomes a financial supermarket.

71

Design

Knoxville unveils a well-planned World's Fair, which despite architectural lapses exudes an air of friendly intimacy.

58

Essay

Besides the amazing tricks computers can perform, they may eventually provide the world with intellectual humility.

79

Press

Praise gives way to second thoughts about Jonathan Schell's *The Fate of the Earth*, bible of the antinuclear movement.

60
Law

The Supreme Court's special advocate takes on the school tax mess. ▶ Rulings on Moonies, dock workers, tampons.

80

Sport

The Atlanta Braves streak into the record books in a season when every team in baseball seems to be streaking somewhere.

66
Religion

It was 14 years in the making but doubtless worth the effort: the first authoritative census of all the world's faiths.

5 Letters

49 People

65 Theater

73 Cinema

74 Books

78 Milestones

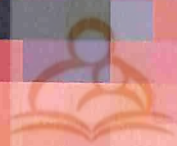
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TIME

COMPUTER GENERATION

A New Breed of Whiz Kids



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