

Dear AC,

I think it's time the Bandito started spreading roomers under the name of a different employer. Computer magazines are to inform users, to make them more efficient, more knowledgeable, more profitable and thus to be proud of their system. The space that is given to this column would be more beneficial to me and the Amiga community if it were used in a more productive manner. Don't tell me about failure, tell me about success. The Amiga market needs reviews and criticism that are constructive not destructive. This is a crucial time to keep Amiga support alive and healthy.

Ask me about Amiga and its software applications and I'll tell you how cool it is. As a music sequencer, it can give a plethora of tracks and midi channels with multiple, individually addressable midi outs to drive your Korg, Roland, Kurzweil and Yamaha gear. It can digitize multiple tracks of analog audio-voice, acoustic instrument, or sample CDs or any other enjoyable noise at DAT quality 48Hz and synchronize your light and video show to exact notes of music. Cool. And your broadcast quality videos can be prerecorded and or live combined with lifelike graphics, animations, special effects, 2 and 3 dimensional extravaganzas. Can you say blow people away. I can and I will. How about you Bandito? It tells you a lot about Amiga technology when you attend an SGI party at Sigraph and the musical guests aren't using Indigos. They are using Amigas with Video Toasters to enthrall the audience with a live multimedia performance!

Sincerely,
Joseph Simons
Kingston, PA

PS Hey NewTek, why do you market Video Toasters with stickers to cover up the name of the computer system? Let it be seen and heard. Long live the Amiga!

Dear AC,

I have never written a letter to any publication before. This is a first and hopefully not the last. I am typing this letter on a Hertz (any "Johnny comes lately" company can produce a PC clone) Pentium 60Mhz PC using (you guessed it) Word Perfect. You see I work in a New York city hospital in their data processing center. Yes, as you would guess surrounded by IBM PCs and clones. Not only in our department but throughout the institution so I am forced to use them when I am at work. However, it does not mean that I like them. Though I am highly proficient in using and repairing them. I find them a Bore. Their uses are limited to just Word processing (without graphics since graphic and sound cards cost extra) and spreadsheets (yawn!).

I remember when my brother and I first saw the Amiga. It was in a little Amiga dealer's computer store, which went out of business like many other. When Commodore, led by that %**&^ Mr. Medi and %\$\$#@ Gould, would not heed their cries or their users. The A500 was side by side with the old IBM clones and immediately everyone was taken in by the overwhelming mismatch. There stood, in all her glorious 4096 colors, displaying a picture of David Bowie in the movie Dark Crystal the Amiga 500 at \$589.95. The pathetic

IBM clone stood at \$1999.98. Clearly if the price difference alone did not convince you the sheer power and beauty of the Amiga did. If you needed more power and expansion why next to the A500 stood her Mighty sister the A2000. There was excitement in the air it burst with energy as both owed with amazement as the dealer displayed the machines showing off their power with such applications as Deluxe Paint and Digi-View and games like Dragon's Lair, TV sport football, Rocket Ranger etc... Vendors like Gold Disk, GVP, Saxon, New Horizons and countless others were producing professional business applications with superior graphic capabilities. Making these business applications such as Professional Page, Page Setter, ProWrite etc. Much more attractive than their counterparts on either black and white Macs and eight color PC clones. Yes, Commodore, well they were on top, on top of a revolution that handled right would have made them leaders in a new computer era. That did not happen. Mr Medi instead of following what all his corporate advisers and most importantly, the users were saying \$%#@* things up! Instead of an Amiga 3000, with a higher range of colors, (256 plus Ham8 mode) and sound (16-bit sound) Mr. Medi opted to recede into the past.

Mr. Medi instead pushes the company back by trying to recreate the glory days of the C64. He stupidly launches that piece of \$%#@ CDTV giving Apple and all the clone makers time to catch up and even surpass the abilities of the Amiga. Instead of concentrating on the Amiga line like users requested and his staff of engineers urged. He went back into the past because he is a man of no vision. Instead of making CDTV an add-on, CD ROM drive for the Amiga line he made it a stand alone product. The same applies to the CD32. Instead of creating it as a CD ROM drive for the late attempted revival of the product line, the A4000 and her "triple A" chip set. (That should have been in the A3000 in the first place while CBM still had a chance to run away with the market again.) Well we all saw it coming, Mr. Medi's stupidity turned a billion-dollar company into nothing. He alone is to blame for this hardship. Because Mr. Medi's lack of leadership and vision, CBM is no more. The Amiga is still in a strong position to leap ahead again. To do so the new owners must listen to us the users (after all there are about five million of us). The Amiga is quickly becoming a cult classic just like Star Trek and Harley Davidson. The Amiga is (as Captain Kirk would say in jerky speech tones) a programmer's dream. A graphic, 3D design, artist heaven, since all PC games are now being designed on it so it will be here a long time.

Pierre Narcisse
Flushing, NY

Dear AC

This is a story of a small shop called AMDG located in a small town called Friends Town. AMDG was selling milk and dairy products to the people of Friends Town. AMDG called their milk The Milk Department. To many people in this small but vibrant town, The Milk Department was not just like any other milk, it was more, it was their main diet. They saw many other dairy products come and go. Some products stayed and even became more popular than The Milk Department, but it was always The Milk Department that they used when they wanted to stay healthy and efficient. AMDG was selling The Milk Department with powerful ingredient set that makes the body healthier and

more flexible. This powerful ingredient is called ARX_Set. In fact, the people of Friends Town knew that ARX was what made their small town almost unique. AMDG was good to the people of Friends Town, and the people were good to AMDG. Even the mayor, who was unpopular with the people of Friends Town, and now dying, recognized the contribution of AMDG to the town and awarded AMDG with The Friends Town Distinction Award. Then one day, a man called Mr Big with a gold plated chain and a Rolex watch that was made in Hong Kong entered AMDG shop. Mr Big told AMDG owner Mr.Wary that AMDG dairy products are too good to be sold to a small town. 'You have to think BIG' said Mr Big, 'Repackage your products, rename your features, change the name into something more hip and catchy, something Big city people can associate with'> 'Call it something like Plastic Reality, and maybe you just have to forget about Friends Town and its people for the moment' Mr. Big said. Mr Wary repackaged his products according to what Mr. Big recommended and went to the Big city. Plastic Reality became a big hit among the city boys. In fact, it became so big that AMDG decided to call itself after its product, Plastic Reality, Inc. The people of Friends Town wanted to know if they would be able to use Plastic Reality's new product, just like the city boys. They were told that for the time being they have to change their kitchenware and maybe their homes, or even move to the Big city to use their new products from Plastic Reality. The people of Friends Town refused to change their kitchenware, homes or even move to the big city. They like where they live and know that if they hold hands together their small town will survive and live happily. Fortunately for them there is a new shop that sells a better milk product, called Milk FX.

Sincerely,
Ahmed Balfakih
Malaysia

Dear Winning Bidder of Commodore,

Congratulations and a hearty THANK YOU from all proud Amiga owners !!!!! I congratulate your unbelievable patience in all this massive, messed-up situation, and extend my most sincere wishes for a profitable, successful, and (hopefully) FUN time producing Amigas for many years to come!

Since you may wish to know something about what Amiga fans would like to see happen, let me offer my humble preferences. I am absolutely in love with the video-computer marriage made possible by the Amiga and such cards as the Toaster and OpalVision. Working with the Toaster has changed my life. However, one problem with Commodore was that they built the Amiga 4000 to be incompatible with the previous Toaster card and they built it with inadequate slots and power and RAM to properly deal with such a complex application.

So. my humble request is to try and produce Amigas as soon as possible with capabilities similar to what the Tower was supposed to have, along with accelerated versions and greater RAM capacities (both chip and fast RAM). An Amiga with a 68060 processor (or at least a 68040 at 50 Mhz), with a 4 MEG of chip RAM and 32 MEG of fast RAM, WITH AT LEAST TWO VIDEO SLOTS for such wonders as the Video Toaster and OpalVision cards, and with FAST SCSI controllers would at least begin to make the Amiga competitive with the IBM

and Apple computers of power and speed. (We already know the Amiga towers above the other platforms in video and graphics capabilities.)

Lastly, please consider working very closely with developers BEFORE you announce completion of some major new computer or device. Previously, Commodore caught everyone by surprise (especially NewTek) with the announcement of their 4000 machine. In my opinion, that one move was a major factor in Commodore's demise. Instead of embracing NewTek and working with them to insure compatibility, Commodore worked entirely without them and made a product incompatible with the Toaster. From a business and success standpoint, such "decisions" border on the preposterous !!! To ignore a company which brought the Amiga such new-found success is worse than absurd. All Amiga-based companies should be viewed as allies, not as enemies or flies to be ignored.

Thank you for hanging-in there over so many difficult months, and rest assured that -- if you operate things in an intelligent and positive manner -- you will have the most devoted and loyal users around. Best of luck, and congratulations again !!

Most Sincerely,
Steven L Thomassin
Ventura, CA

Dear AC,

I have been a reader/ subscriber of Amazing Computing since purchasing my first Amiga. I am the former owner of several Commodore 64/128's, but have been an Amigan (or is it Amigo?) for over two years now. I enjoy your magazine very much, and read it cover to cover, referring to back issues often. I also read "that other" Amiga magazine, but only because of the advertisements. It is the only feature that can be considered "better" than your publication. I get the feeling that their staff only uses Amigas because they have to, not because they like to. This is the opposite of the feeling I get from your authors.

There are several things I would like to say about recent events, and as I am isolated here (with no BBS access) I have no one to say them to but you!

1. Commodore is history, and so what. Their record speaks for itself. Great hardware and software, horrible business practices.
2. My Amigas did not stop working on the day Commodore died. In fact, I believe that my Amiga 2000(T) actually breathed a sigh of relief!
3. I plan on several upgrades to my Amigas in the next year, to include a Retina board, a couple of new (larger) hard drives, and maybe (if the price is right) a new accelerator. This is in addition to my normal expenditures on new software, software upgrades, books and magazines, and CD-ROMs. Commodore's protracted agony and death have no effect on my plans. Vendors, Publishers, Developers, please note!

4. I love my Amigas, as much as I loved my 1967 Lotus Europa. I didn't care if Lotus was in business or not, I loved that car. It combined form, function, and utility, fitted a niche market (ME), and was rare. I can say exactly the same thing about my Amigas. I just hope spare parts don't become as rare for my Amigas as the Lotus parts were.

5. The Amiga will be hard to replace. I use IBM machines and clones at work daily. I have used Mac's. They do not compare. My old 2000 with a Supra Turbo is as powerful as the brand new Zenith 486 I use at work. I am not talking about benchmarks, I am talking about productivity. Put a speedup board in an old 286 or a Mac SE and tell me the same. I don't think so.

6. Unless some firm takes over and continues development/production of the Amiga, someday I will have to change. The only possibilities I see on the horizon are NEXTstep and the PowerPCs. I would love to see AmigaDOS ported to the PowerPC platform. Now that is technology I would "power up" to!

7. The other platforms are steadily looking more and more like Amigas. As they develop "Multimedia" (which is, basically a marriage of television and computer technology) they will become "Amigas". They have no choice.

8. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. The Amiga started life with a color, multitasking GUI that could exchange information between programs. Now, almost ten years later, Microsoft has the same, although it is far from bug free. Macintosh, the computer for the rest of them, is slowly developing into something that could be worthwhile. However, I personally am put off by the assumption of Mac authors/magazines that Mac users are all some kind of "politically correct" aging hippies. There is no way to turn me off quicker on a commercial product than to attach some sort of political statement to its ownership or use. I buy and use a computer for fun and knowledge, not to make a statement. The only statement ownership of the Amiga makes is that the owner knows how to evaluate cost vs value.

Enough soapbox. Thank you for supporting the Amiga community, especially in these final days of Commodore. You have upheld the "home Hobbyist" tradition of computer publications as others have evolved into something less endearing. Come what may, thank you for that.

I remain,
SSG Patrick J Greene
APO, AA

Dear AC,

A constant theme in these magazines is why aren't people buying Amigas? It would make much more sense to ask why people would buy an Amiga. I own one of these lovely things and I love using it. I used to program and tried to keep up with the new languages which become harder and harder to learn and use. The ordinary person has to struggle with Basic. For the ordinary applications most people use, C is an abomination. (I programmed some of the older machines in Assembler, but large programs being written now are a lifetime task.) Let's face it. A well equipped Amiga is more powerful than the

old mainframes. "Ordinary people" are not interested in editing animation tapes and people like myself draw with great difficulty. If you look around you, it is becoming evident that most of the IBM clones have been dying. We bought Commodore 64s to play games and our successors paid a bloody fortune to play the same games on their IBMs. Several years ago, my boss came to me and said: Pete, the corporation is buying machines for our executives. We have to select a computer. (He was the Apple guru. I was the C64 guru.) He went on. It has to be an Apple or an IBM. I said: "Rats! We'll have to buy IBMs." "Why?" "Because the IBM is old technology which means it is reliable. If the executives have a bad experience with avant-garde machines, they'll want nothing more to do with them. Further, these things have 640K of memory. They can run a large spreadsheet." Notice that it was a software selling the hardware." Further, we have beneath us a whole lot of IBM personnel keeping the mainframes running. They can keep the small computers running also." Why did the public rush out and buy IBM clones after that. Simple! They could write off the cost of their machines as a tax deduction (business expense) and they could swap disks with the machines at work. Those who had C64s wanted Amigas but couldn't afford 2 machines. If you ask an ordinary person whether he wants an Amiga, he'll tell you his priority is a video camera. If he wants to play games, he buys a game machine (unless he has become an IBM clone fanatic.) When I'm not with the gal I love I love the gal I'm near! The future of the Amiga depends upon the sale of the CD32 game machine! If you sell the game machines, the spreadsheets will come!

Sincerely,
Pete Williams
East Longmeadow, MA

P.S. For the US, the game machine should use the AAA technology!