VOLUME 7

THE VIRTUE MACHINE

COMPUTER COMICS

presents

THE CONFUSER RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

NOVEMBER, 1971

BY JIM SIMMONS
TO RECAP... IN OUR PREVIOUS EPISODES, THE COMPUTERLAND STAFF ESCAPED TO THE SUBTERRANEAN CavernS JUST BEFORE THE SYSTEM CRASH DECIMATED ALL OF COMPUTERLAND ABOVE GROUND...

...AND THEY REBUILT COMPUTERLAND IN THE CAVERNS, WITH THE AID OF LI'L ABNER MIMS...

HORRAY FOR LI'L ABNER MIMS!

MR. WIZARD'S SOLUTION FOR COMPUTERLAND'S PROBLEMS PRODUCED PREDICTABLE RESULTS...

BLAM!

...AND THE PROFESSOR'S SOLUTION ENDED UP AFFECTING SOME PEOPLE NEGATIVELY...

DAILY NEWS PRESIDENT YEAST JAILED FOR FRAUD!

SUPERFRANK BROUGHT A BRAND NEW UNIQUE SOLUTION FOR COMPUTERLAND’S PROBLEMS...

I WILL NOW PRESS THE BUTTON WHICH WILL BEGIN OPERATION OF MTS RIGHT HERE IN COMPUTERLAND! DOWN WITH THE WARP SYSTEM! UP WITH MTS!

...BUT FLASH MACK FOUND THE GOING A BIT DIFFICULT AT TIMES...

GOOD GRIEF!

THE CRISIES CONTINUE...
KING FRANK IS CONFERRING WITH HIS PRINCES...

WELL, GENTLEMEN, NOW THAT MTS HAS TAKEN COMPUTERLAND BY STORM, WE MUST IMPLEMENT SOME EXTENSIONS!

RIGHT, KING FRANK! OTHERWISE WE MIGHT START A DEPRESSION IN OUR SOFTWARE DEPARTMENT!

RIGHT, KING FRANK! OUR USERS ARE CLAMORING FOR EXTENSIONS!

...AND WITH HIS STARING COMMITTEE...

RIGHT, KING FRANK! US CHEMISTRY TYPES WILL KEEP CRUNCHING THOSE NUMBERS!

RIGHT, KING FRANK! US ENGINEERING TYPES WILL KEEP STEALING EACH OTHER'S SIGNONS!

RIGHT, KING FRANK! US EDUCATION TYPES WILL KEEP SENDING THEIR DOCTORAL STUDENTS HERE TO LEARN STATISTICS!

WHO CARES ABOUT MTS! I WANT MY STUDENT RECORDS RUN!

I THINK I'VE GOT IT! LET'S BUILD A VIRTUE MACHINE (VERY INTEGRATED, RIGHTHEOUS, TOTALLY UNIVERSAL, AND ESOTERIC)! OUR USERS WILL THINK THEY'RE RUNNING MTS ON AN ICM 360/67 IN COMPUTERLAND, BUT ACTUALLY THEY'LL BE RUNNING CDC 6500 IN NEVADA!

CERTAINLY SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT IDEA TO ME!

RIGHT AGAIN, KING FRANK! MY CONFUSER RELATIONS DEPARTMENT WILL NEED TO KNOW THAT! I'LL MAKE A MENTAL NOTE OF IT!

FILED IN THE DATA CELL...
BARBARA LIB CONDUCTS A SEMINAR ON THE VIRTUE MACHINE...

THE COMPETING AND DOLLAR PURSUING CENTER WILL BE INTRODUCING THE VIRTUE MACHINE! NOW, WE DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION FROM SOFT-WHERE-SYSTEMS ON WHAT IT IS, WE DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION FROM ADS ON WHEN IT WILL TAKE EFFECT, AND WE IN CONFUSER RELATIONS DON'T HAVE ANY WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION ON IT, BUT WE'RE GONNA TELL YOU HOW TO USE IT ANYWAY...

RED, WHITE AND BLUE

MRS. MARY'S LIBERTY

WONDER WOLFE?

STEVE FUZZYBINDER TAKES OVER...

NOW ALL YOU STUDENTS IN THE CROWD CAN IDENTIFY WITH US HIPPIES, RIGHT? (WONDER WHAT THAT VIRTUE MACHINE IS ALL ABOUT, ANYWAY?)

FRESHLY TRIMMED (TWO YEARS AGO)

TILTED FEET

HELP ME GET A new TOUGHER CLOTHES

GOLF, ANYONE?

OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO LIGHT MY CANDELABRA?

I RIGHT GOOD

GUESS I'LL GO VISIT MY OFFICE FOR A CHANGE! SEE IF I CAN FIND MY DESK THIS TIME!

LEE CRASHMEYER

HAVE WE SET THE TONE FOR YOU?

...AND DAVE TINKERER...

THOUGHT YOU PEOPLE WOULD ALL WANT TO SEE MY OFFICE DOOR, SO I BROUGHT IT ALONG!

(VIRTUE MACHINE—HMM...)

DANGER HIGH VOLTAGE

PHYSICS ARE GOOD FOR YOU

ALMOST MAKES YOU WANT TO PASS RIGHT ON BY...

...AND TWO MORE OF YOUR FAVORITES...

HELP SEND THIS BOY TO CAMP...

...
...AH... PARDON ME... I'M FROM THE COLLEGE OF EDJAKASHUN—I'M JUST A NOVICE IN COMPUTERS, BUT I... AH... WANT TO USE THE VIRTUE MACHINE!

WHY, DON'T BE BASHFUL! JUST LET ME LOOK AT YOUR CODING! I WON'T LAUGH... I PROMISE!

HEW, WELL LOOK AT THIS--- YOU STARTED OUT WITH THE --- OH - HOO--- AND THEN YOU --- OH WOW!

HAW! HAW! OH THIS IS THE WORST ONE I'VE SEEN YET!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!... ANOTHER FRIEND WON...
ANOTHER USER ARRIVES AT CONFUSER RELATIONS...

I BOUGHT ALL THE LATEST COMPUTER MANUALS AT THE BOOKSTORE! THEY SOLD ME A WARP MANUAL, OG, TSS, NVT, 7070 AND 1401, CONSTAT AND SCHMONSTAT, SPSS, TSTAR AND SGNOP TSTAR, MTS VOL. 1, 2, 3, I, II, 4, 5, AND XXXIV! I SPENT $112.57, BUT I STILL DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THE VIRTUE MACHINE!

OH HA, HA — THAT'S TERRIBLE — HO, HO, HA — MAKES ME VERY SAD — HAR, HAR— I'LL CALL PEGGY PUBLICATION!

VERA (HOT PANTS) KOOTCHIE

OH THOSE CREEPS AT THE BOOKSTORE! THEY SOLD YOU ALL THE WRONG MANUALS! THEY'RE JUST CREEPS, DO YOU HEAR ME— CREEPS, CREEPS, CREEPS!

$112.57! SOB...

I'LL GO AND TRY TO GET MY MONEY BACK!

WATCH OUT FOR CRASHMEYER!

GUESS I'LL GO PUBLISH ANOTHER ISSUE OF SPILLOVER! THAT SHOULD BE EASY SINCE THE BRINX DOES ALL MY WRITING FOR ME... UNBORN LINOLEUM

NICE TO HAVE A GHOSTWRITER...

OUR TENDER TALE CONTINUES ON THE SECOND PAGE FOLLOWING.
COMMENTS FROM THE READERS ON COMPUTER COMICS NO. 6

THE MCCARTY DE SADE SAID:

IT JUST WASN'T VICIOUS ENOUGH!

BIG DADDY HARLAN SAID:

IT JUST WASN'T VICIOUS ENOUGH!

DUG-LESS ACKLEY
RAZOR-SHARP RIMS

HAIR LOSS FROM FRIGHT
HOBB-NAILED BOOTS
ALEX WASTERMAN

SUPERFRANK SAID:

IT JUST WASN'T VICIOUS ENOUGH!

AND FLASH MACK SAID:

Well, you see, the problem is that it portrayed my misdirected irrelevant ways and the indifference of my staff in a subtle fashion rather than portraying my misdirected irrelevant ways and the indifference of my staff in a realistic way...

NOW YOU TELL ME IT'S A FLAKY IDEA!

VISITING PROFESSOR FROM UCLA

SO FOR ALL YOU SADIST FREAKS, THE BLOOD AND GORE CONTINUES...
STILL ANOTHER USER (READ "LAMB FOR THE SLAUGHTER") COMES TO CONFUSER RELATIONS—HE SEES PEGGY PUBLICATION...

I'VE GOTTA GET A MANUAL ON THE VIRTUE MACHINE! WHAT HAVE YOU GOT?

I'M SORRY, WE HAVEN'T GOT A THING, YOU CREEP! YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO TALK TO THE BRINX!

HMM! LET'S SEE IF THIS BILLING OUTPUT IS OK! WELL, IT WEIGHS ABOUT THE RIGHT AMOUNT, SO I GUESS IT'S ALRIGHT...

LIBRARIAN BUN

ANYBODY KNOW A GOOD PLACE TO HIDE?...

OUR TREMBLING USER MOUNTS THE LONG STAIRWAY TO THE BRINX'S LONELY RETREAT IN THE IVORY TOWER...

COLD SWEAT

SHIVERING SHOULDERS

KNOCKING KNEES

I C-C-CAME TO SEE THE B-B-B-BRINX!

I C-C-CAME TO SEE THE B-B-B-BRINX!

VERY WELL! ENTER IF YOU DARE, YOU DOG OF AN INFIDEL!

FIRST DYNASTY

OH, ALMIGHTY B-B-BRINX, KEEPER OF ALL KNOWLEDGE, PLEASE TELL US POOR UNWORTHY USERS ABOUT THE VIRTUE MACHINE!

HMM... PITY... BACK IN THE FOURTH MILLENNIUM B.C., EVEN THE SLAVES USED TO BOW BETTER THAN THIS CHAP... I DON'T KNOW WHY HE SEEMS TO BE AFRAID OF ME THOUGH—DOESN'T HE REALIZE THAT I WAS NAMED HEAD OF CONFUSER RELATIONS BECAUSE OF MY OUTGOING, EBUILLIENT PERSONALITY THAT IMMEDIATELY PUTS PEOPLE AT EASE...

COFFEE COLD

PILLS

PEOPLE AT EASE...

TYPE CASTING?...
WELL, THE VIRTUE MACHINE WILL BEGIN OPERATION TONIGHT, SO I WILL TRANSMIT THE SPECIFICATIONS TO MY CONFUSER RELATIONS STAFF BY MENTAL TELEPATHY AS I ALWAYS DO SO WELL...

AS USUAL, THE BRINK HASN'T TOLD US HOW THE VIRTUE MACHINE WORKS! YES, I'M JUST NOT GETTING ANY MESSAGES! (SIGH)—WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WRITE IT UP ANYWAY!

SOME TIME LATER... THEY'RE FINALLY READY! ALL THE COPIES OF VOLUME 7 ON THE VIRTUE MACHINE! ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS STAPLE THE PAGES TOGETHER...

WELL, SOPHIA, THIS SURE IS A DANDY OUTFIT YOU WHIPPED UP FOR ME OUT OF THE LIVING ROOM CURTAINS!

OOPS, SORRY...

HEY—THAT FELT GOOD!

A TITILLATING EXPERIENCE?...
NEXT MORNING, AFTER THE USERS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO USE THE VIRTUE MACHINE...

**MORE-A! WHAT IS THIS?**

**THEY ALL WANT REFUNDS! AND JIM SIMIAN ISN'T IN YET!**

FINALLY JIM SIMIAN ARRIVES...

V

**I DUNNO! HE'S ALWAYS SO GLOOMY!...**

**I WONDER WHAT HE'S GOING TO SAY!...**

**H'LO.**

...HE SEES THE UGLY CROWD AND...

LOOK—HE'S SMILING!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT...

WHY ARE YOU SMILING!

THIS IS THE GREATEST THING SINCE THE JOHNSTOWN FLOOD,

THE DESTRUCTION OF POMPEII,

AND THE BOMBING OF HIROSHIMA!

NOT TO MENTION THE SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE AND THE BUBONIC PLAGUE...

I SMILED AT ALL THOSE THINGS!

AND SO OUR TREPIDATED TRIO SLOWLY FADES AWAY INTO THE SUNSET...

GLOOM!

IMAGINE THAT! DEFILED BY THE VIRTUE MACHINE!

THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR BEING A LIBERATED WOMAN...

J.S. YOURS FOR TASTEFUL ENTERTAINMENT...

THE END
FAN POSTER OF THE MONTH

THE BRINX RELAXING AT HOME

SUITABLE FOR FRAMING OR SLICING INTO BOOKMARKS