

# ELECTRONICS COMICS



*"I think I liked it better when  
he worked late at the office!"*

## Preface

The philosopher, comedian, disk jockey, and barracks lawyer, at one time or another, have asked the question, "What is humor?"

I've heard the answers while listening to the TV interviews, barroom discussions, coffee klatches, and the like. You know what? I still don't savvy what humor is except that I have a tendency to laugh when I see and hear funny things.

What makes my job even more enjoyable is that I purchase cartoons submitted to the editor. I see the best and not so best. My purchases appeared to have been mostly good because my colleagues and readers agreed with my selections by voicing their approval. So, when I was asked to come up with a mini-publication, **Electronics Comics** was born.

I went as far back as 1987 to select the best of cartoons that appeared in **Popular Electronics** magazine and hope that my selection pleases you as much as it does me. Don't try to analyze the contents of **Electronics Comics**, just turn the pages slowly and enjoy the cartoons.

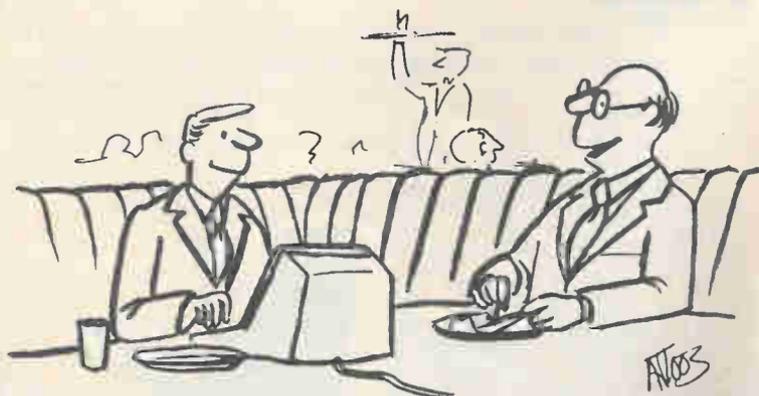
The world goes around each day with us on it. Let's take the trip with smiles on our faces.

Juliam S. Martin, Humor Editor



# COMPUTERS

*(That's the Life!)*



*"Okay, Andy, what's on the menu for today?"*



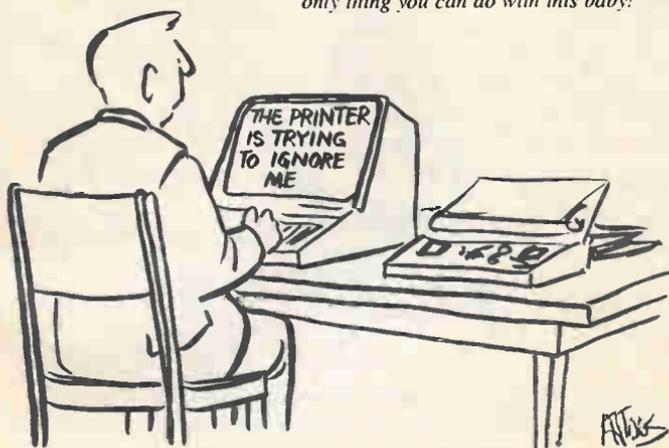
*"Oh, Mark? He lost an entire document in the computer this morning."*



*"They sure make these computer games realistic, Dad! That's the 'Evil Dragon'.."*

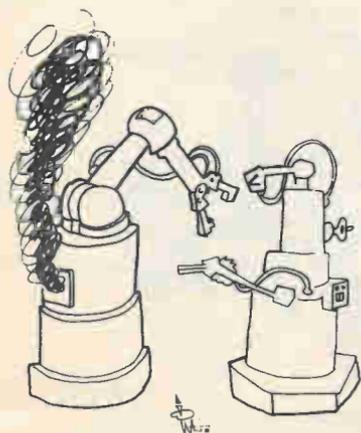


*"Of course, Julian, playing 'Hangman' isn't the only thing you can do with this baby!"*

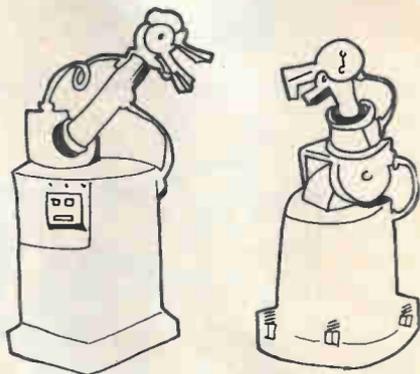


# MACHINE TALK

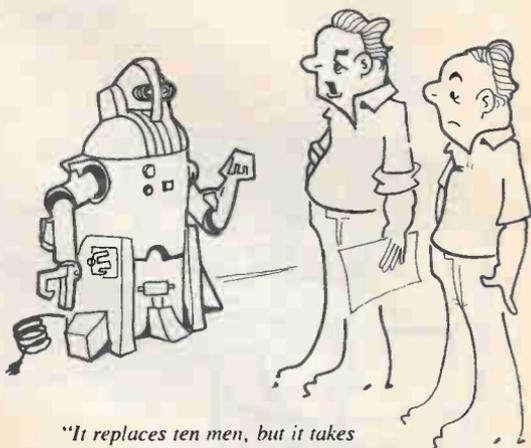
Can you hear it?



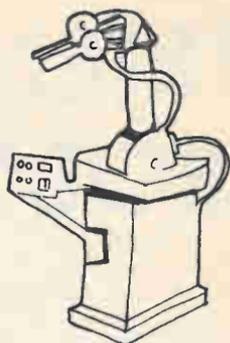
*"I only smoke when I'm angry!"*



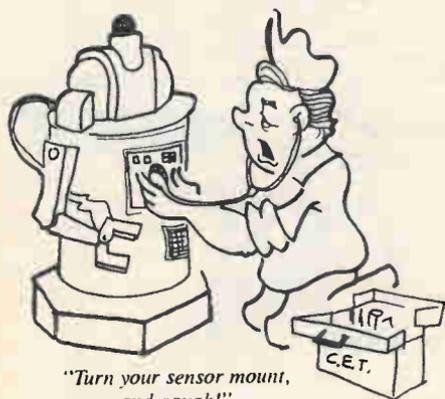
*"Isn't it amazing, SoxItGrip, what we can do with only one arm!"*



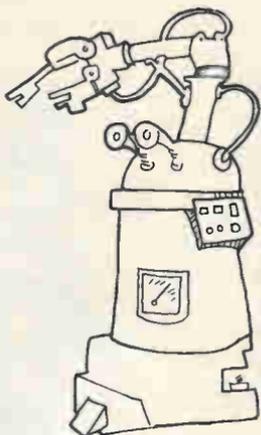
*"It replaces ten men, but it takes twenty technicians to keep it going!"*



*"I don't know about you, 5-50  
but I'm ready for a hot-lube recess."*



*"Turn your sensor mount,  
and cough!"*

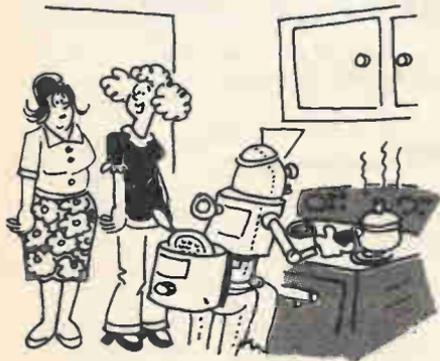


*"It started out as a pocket calculator,  
and then it sort of got out of hand."*

# FRIENDLY ROBOTS



*"When I said, 'We'll have breakfast in bed,' I meant my husband and me!"*



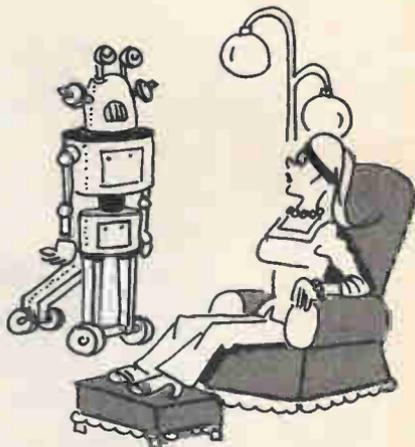
*"Here's Kelly. Her culinary specialty is anything that's deep fried."*



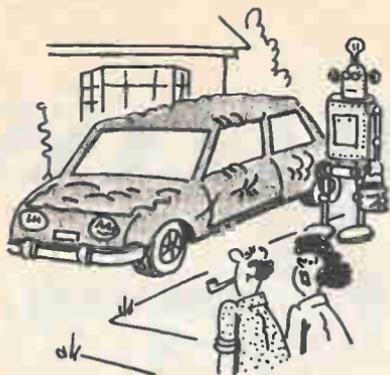
*"Hold it, Officer, Xyman is okay! It's my wife that ran amok."*



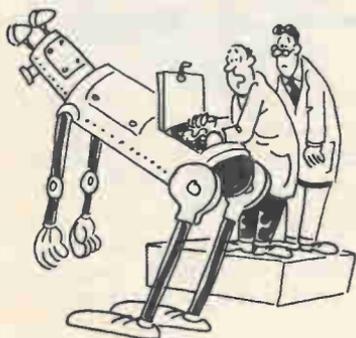
*"Besides serving drinks, DOIT-4X4 has an attachment to cut grass."*



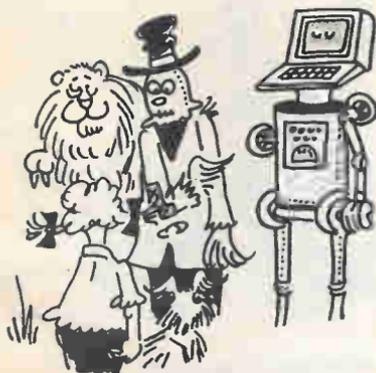
*"Beep . . . I cannot answer the door, madam. It does not speak . . . Beep!"*



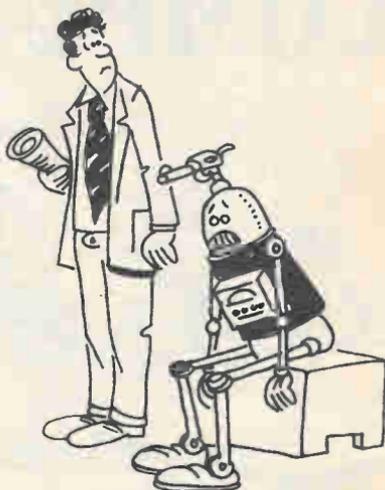
*"It was you, Brian, who told Robbo to wash the car and use a bucket!"*



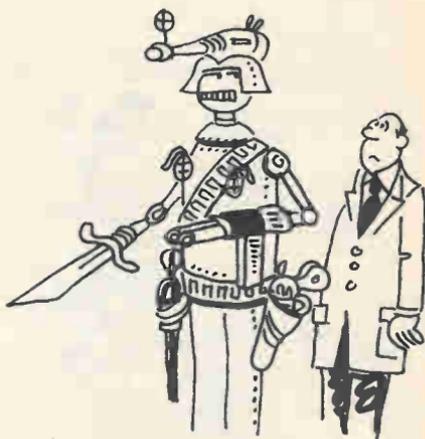
*"There's the problem, Doctor Shapiro. Right here! In the lower lumbar region."*



*"We think you better ask the Tin Man, Dotty. He's the smart one!"*

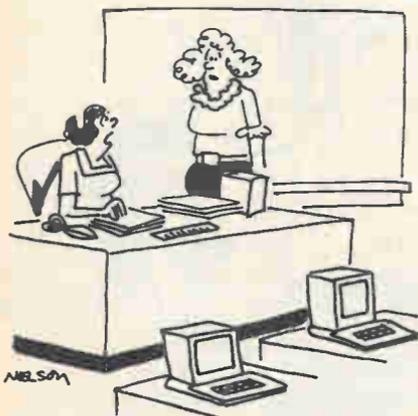


*"I'm so depressed. My artificial intelligence is the only thing about me that's real."*



*"But, Andy, I'm a pacifist."*

# Inside the COMPUTER CLASS



*"The trend is that more white-collar crime will be done by computer. I'm educating a bunch of criminals."*



*"Today, students, we will discuss stock market analysis software. I realize that for some of you it's too late!"*



*"Until I find out otherwise, I'll assume that one of you has access to the florist's computer network."*



*"It was after the stock-market crash, Dean Wels, that I got a very heavy enrollment of middle-age businessmen."*



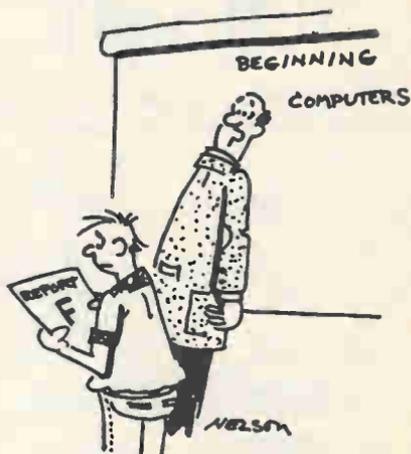
"Good golly, Mrs. Nerdill, I think it is very unfair to have our computer evaluate our classroom progress."



"Like I told you over the phone, Mr. Rolland, your daughter, Kathy, decided to major in computer games."



"I'm afraid I must insist, Ms. Estrada! The university's super computer is not to be used to evaluate your boyfriends."



"Now, now, Nicholas, you know that the real computer error happened when it placed you in this class."

# From the Women's Side



*"When you said you were assembling a clone I thought you were talking about a computer."*



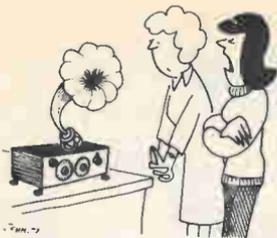
*"We're in luck, Mark, I managed to buy the last 12 boxes of fuses."*



*"Yeah, I know. Roger's computer-controlled pancake flipper still has a few bugs in it."*



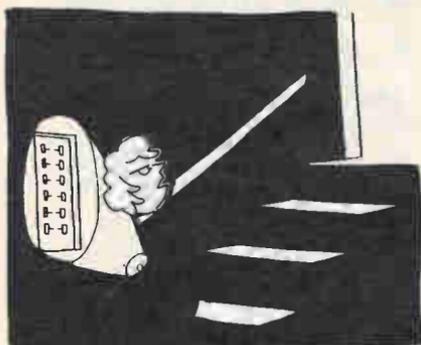
*"I asked my Mom to get me some wire and alligator clips . . . So she gets me jumper cables."*



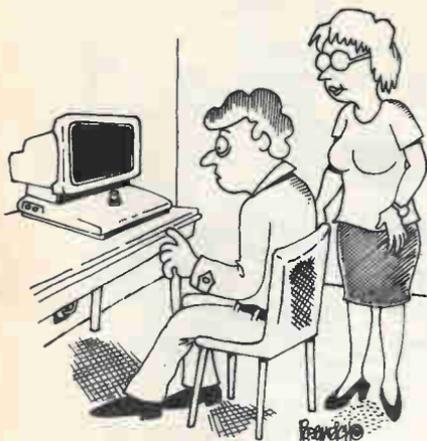
"It's not really an antique . . . it's a kit that took him 43 years to finish."



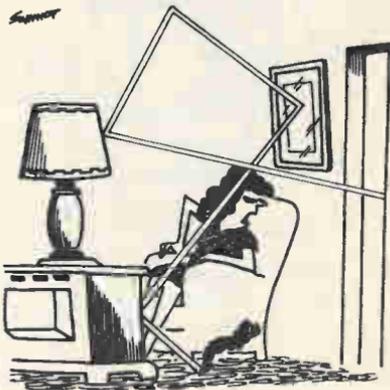
"Just listen to that, Karen, now I know our line is tapped!"



"You better re-program that remote control. It turned everything on at once and tripped all the circuit breakers."



"I'll say one thing for this computer, John, it sure seems simple to use."



"I'm not going to warn you again, Carl, watch where you're pointing that stupid laser!"

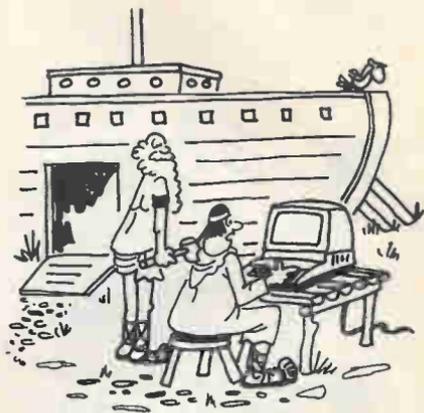
# How Technology Could Have Changed History



*"My Lord Richard, I can't pick up a thing on my headphone in here!"*



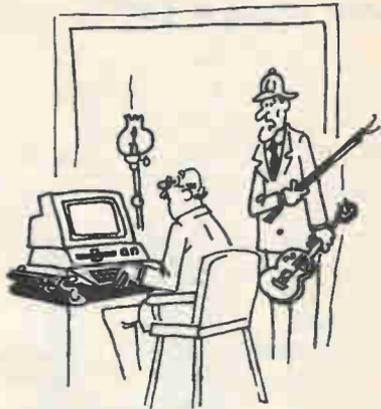
*"Our data base says the odds on a Custer massacre are 7 to 5 in our favor."*



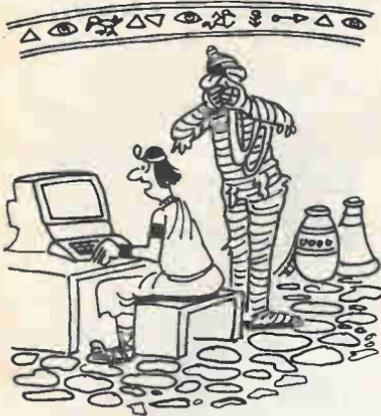
*"Sorry! According to the specs, the hull is two cubits too small."*



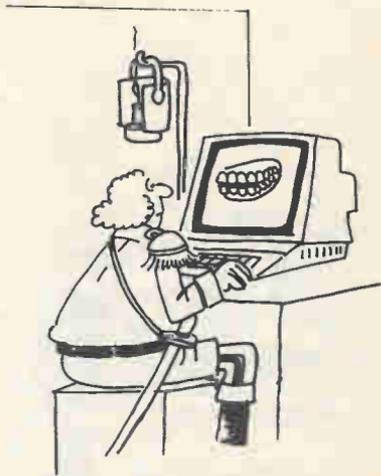
*"Sire, our graphics program suggests that a round table isn't a practical shape."*



*"All the clues point to Sir Malcolm? Pity, they executed Lord Hallbrook yesterday."*

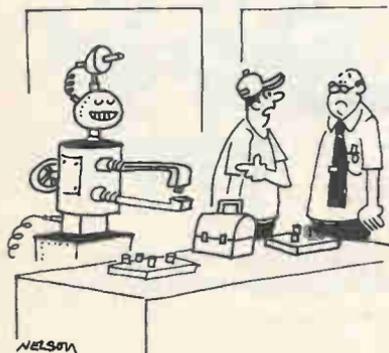


*"There's the trouble, Xerxies, we've been using only six tanna leaves!"*

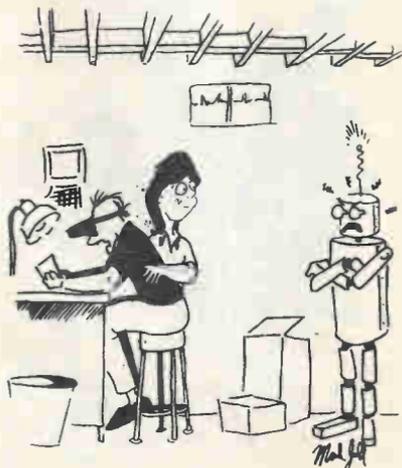


*"Strength of material report indicates that the material wood is inappropriate."*

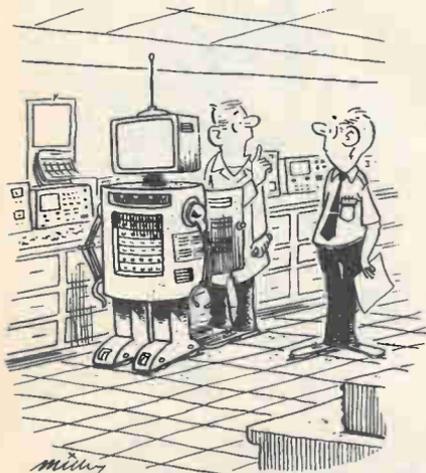
# The Robot Works (or does it?)



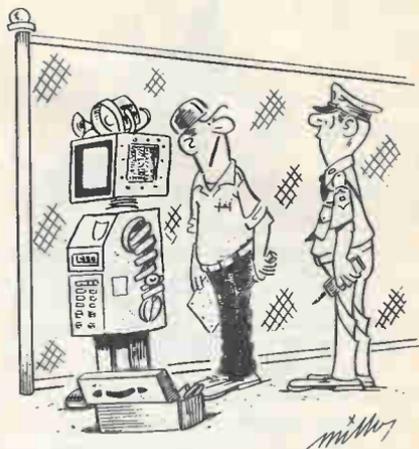
"Every time I turn my back it welds my lunch box to the workbench!"



"He's just mad because I won't give him a belly button."

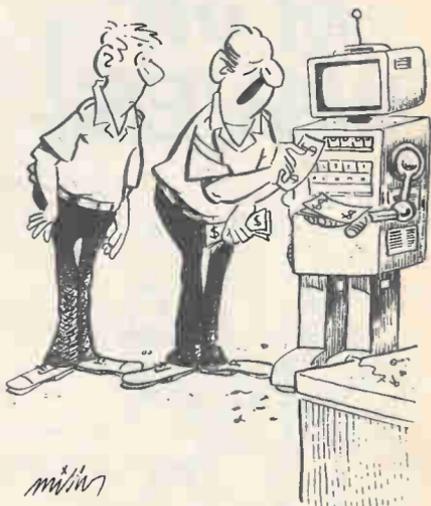
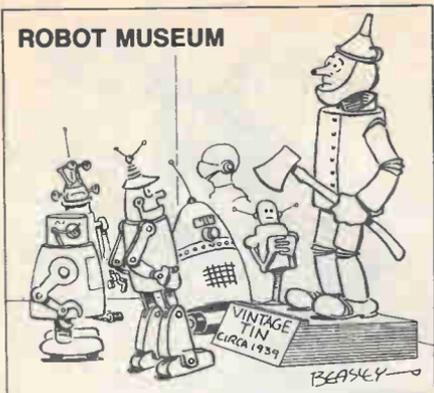


"Shh, Bob, not in front of you know who!"



"Well, of course, Larry, ZEEBEE4 occasionally makes a mistake or two. After all, it's only human!"

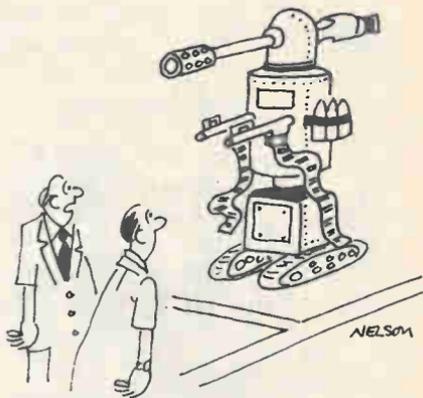
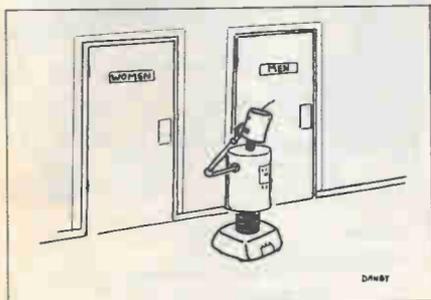
ROBOT MUSEUM



"I made it almost human . . .  
Unfortunately."

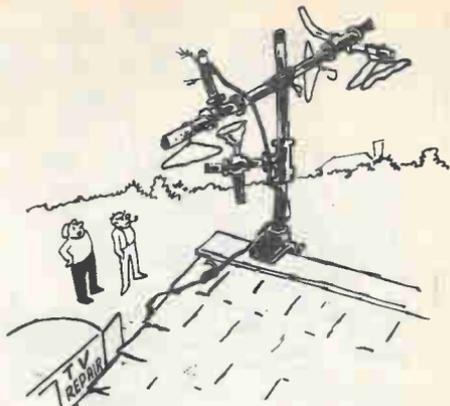


"Ajax, the computer brought you."

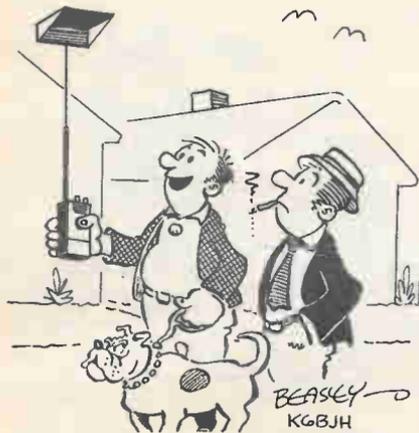
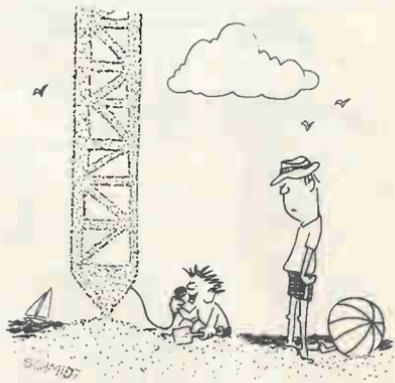
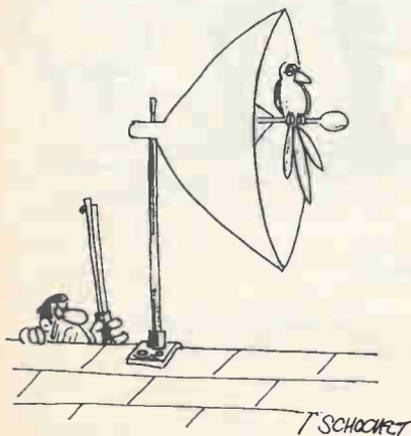


"It was developed for the Army, but they  
couldn't use it—it actually works."

# The Way of all WAVES



"I don't think the problem is in your set."



"It's my own idea, a  $\frac{3}{8}$ -wave with a top-hat. Upside down it's a pooper scooper."

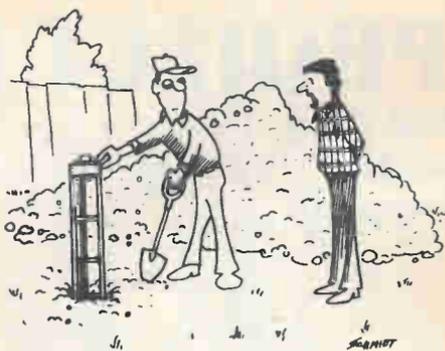


"It work's fine now, but it melts in the spring."

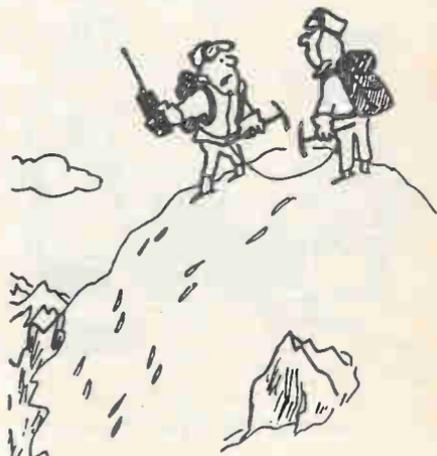


BEASLEY —  
K6BJH

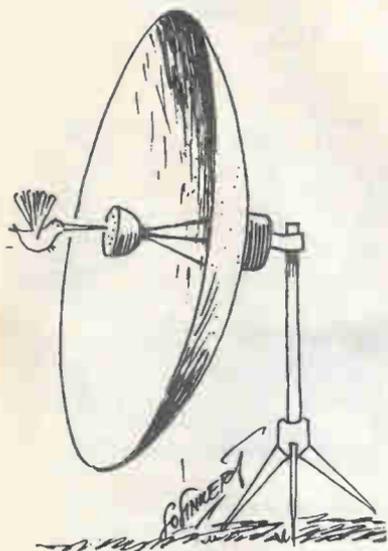
"What high-pitched sound, KA2GUN?  
Your signal sounds fine to me."



"How deep did you make that hole?"



"No, I didn't bring extra batteries.  
These are rechargeable types!"



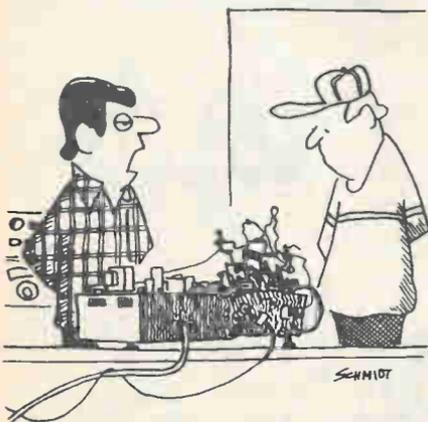
RADIO  
DOCTOR



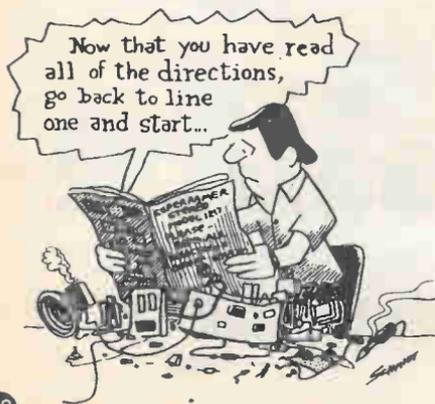
"I've done all I can do, Mr. Slater.  
It's time to pull the plug."

# PROJECT PROFILES

Did they  
really  
happen?



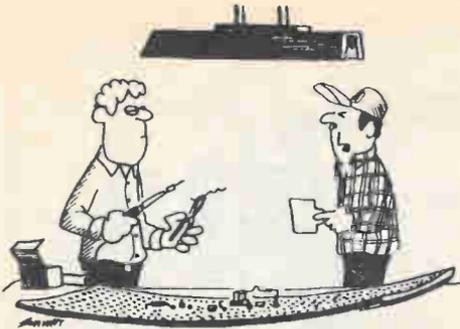
*"If you must know, Albert, I lost  
the last two pages of the plans.."*



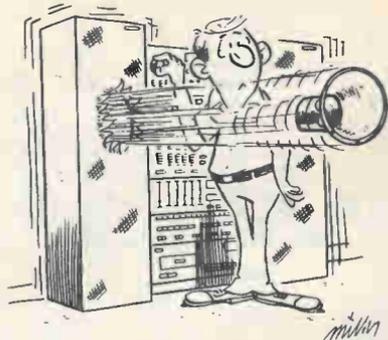
*"Hey, Morris, it's the project plans  
you ordered from Japan.."*



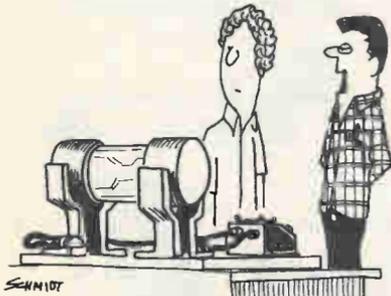
*"Now, Melvin, don't you think that you  
should stick to electronic projects  
and buy yourself a workbench?"*



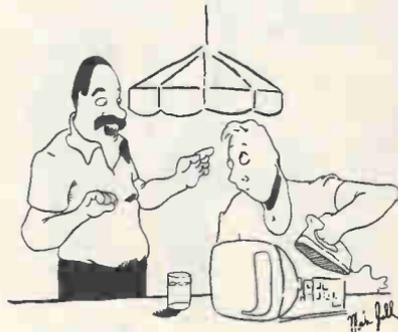
"Andy, when they said, 'two-by-four perboard,'  
I'm sure they meant inches."



"Why test! Just throw the power . . ."



"I just couldn't find the short  
so I went for a bigger fuse!"



"Just a thought, Mitch, try a soldering iron."

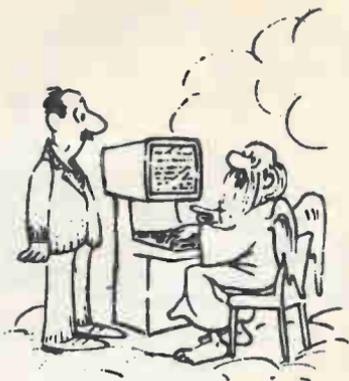


"There's your trouble. You're going to  
laugh when you see all the mistakes  
you made assembling that unit."



"Brian, when did you start this project?"

# Way Out



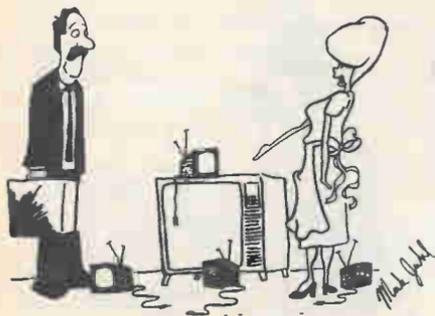
"Social Security number, please."



"Now I remember—first you put the safety on, then you plug the unit in!"

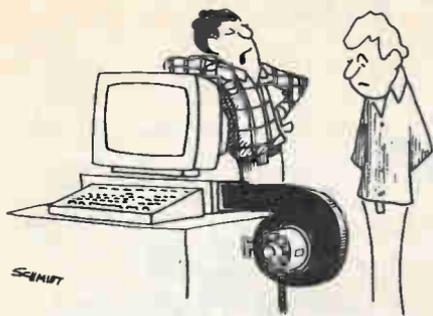


"Meow!"

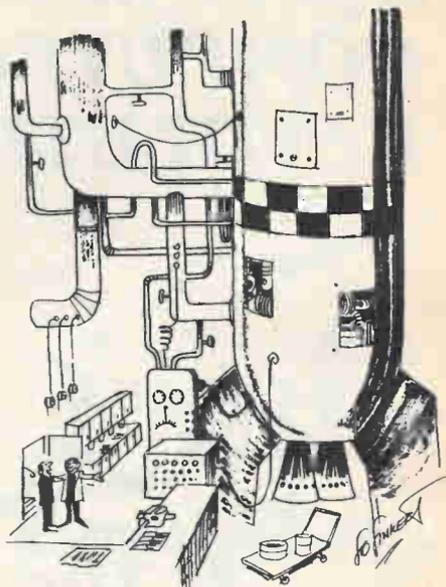


"Harrold, I thought you said the television set was fixed?"

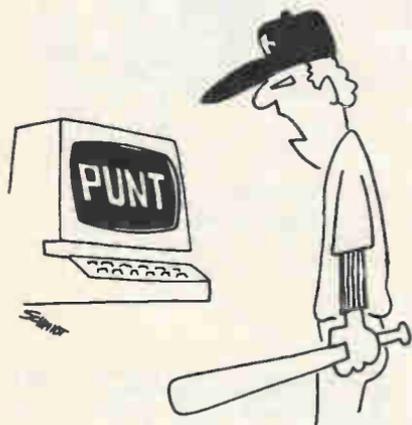




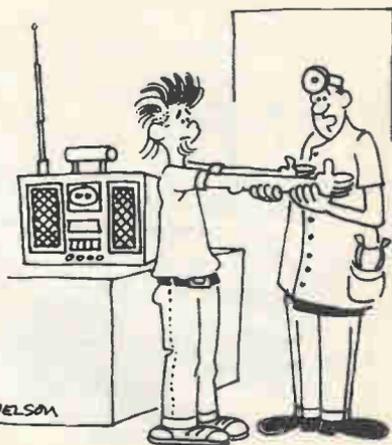
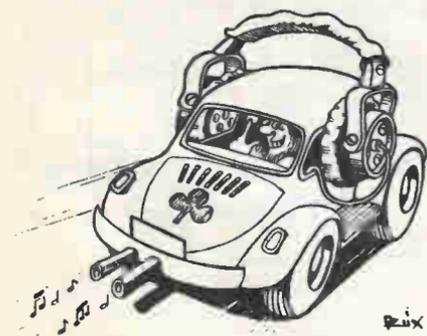
"It was overheating."



"Bob, you have a lovely hobby-room!"



"... Wrong season!"



"I suggest you either switch arms more often or try carrying two radios."

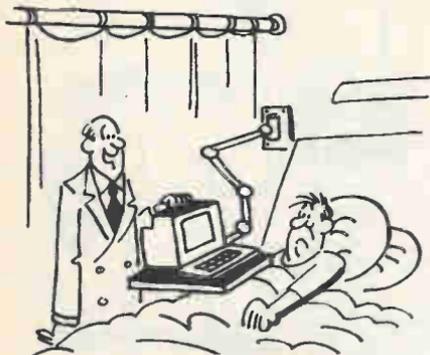
# A peek inside the **COMPUTER REVOLUTION**



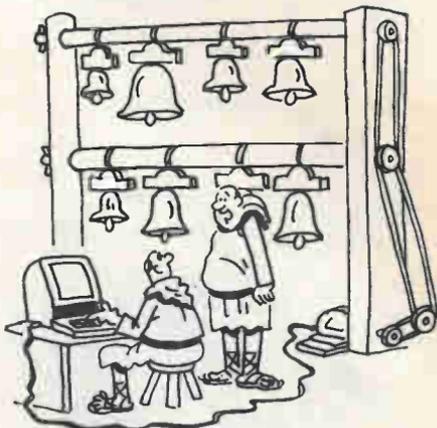
*"You've got a bad power supply, but the tread mill looks okay."*



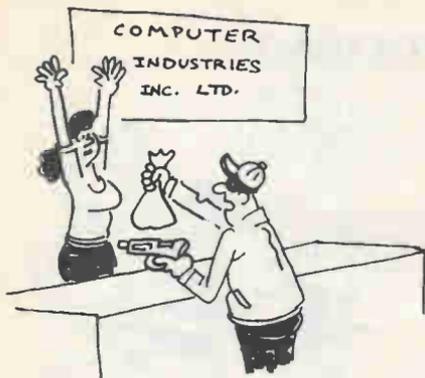
*"Julian can't spell and he is completely lacking in logic. He's perfect for devising access codes."*



*"Don't worry, Duzant, we'll have your computer on line and you can be back at work before lunch."*



*"Sure, it's a great improvement, but who'll retrain Quasimoto?"*



*"Forget about the money! Just fill this bag with 486 chips."*



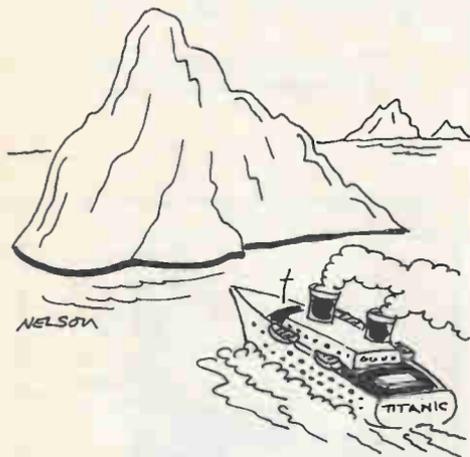
NELSON

*"I know that you are a genius, Master, but the computer printout says Melvin shouldn't have eleven toes."*



NELSON

*"Every time you dial your mother's phone number, Denise, you erase last month's inventory."*



NELSON

*"According to our computer, Captain, we should be able to smash right through that hunk of ice!"*



NELSON

*"If you are so worried about computer security, why don't you try using a password other than 'Open Sesame'!"*

# History

## Out of the Word Processor



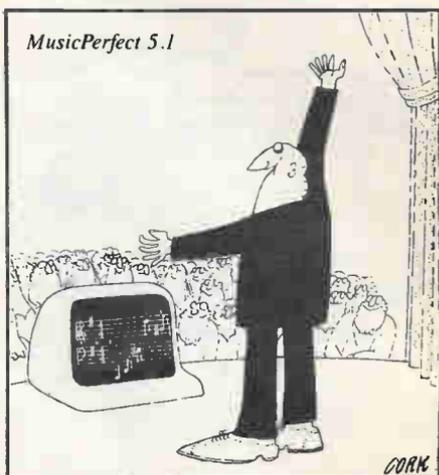
*"Don't worry, all of our pirated software came with a money-back guarantee."*



*"He was looking for the Fountain of Youth and only discovered silicon chips."*



*"Quoth the black raven, 'Word processor, word processor, word processor!' 3"*

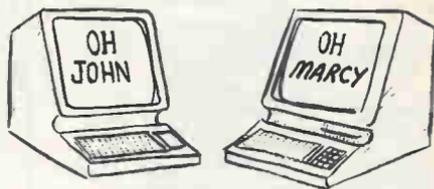




*"Watson, that confounded disk drive whirring destroys my concentration!"*



*"In my day a writer used a sharpened quill dipped in a mixture of soot and oil."*

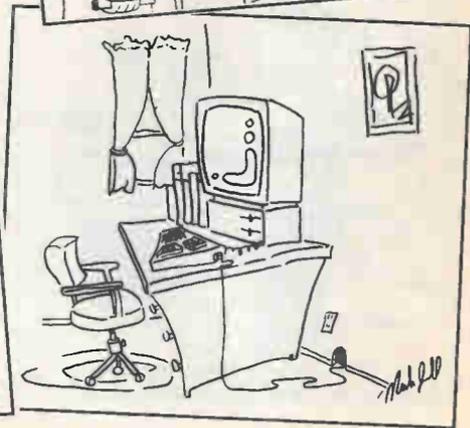
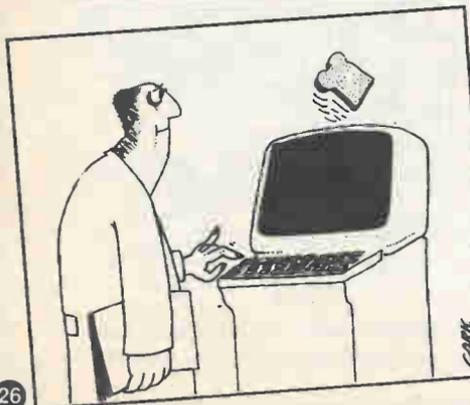
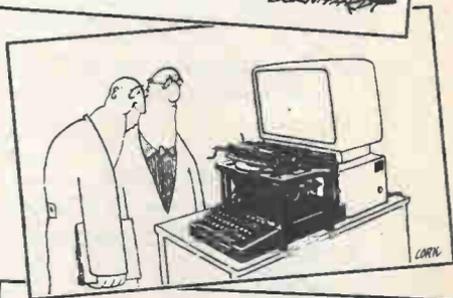
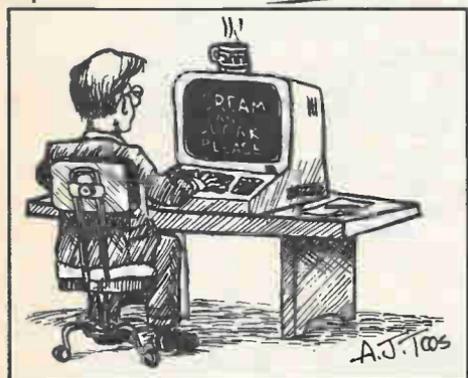


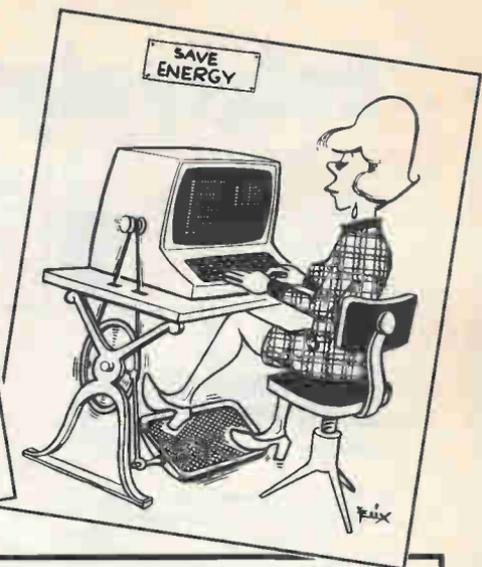
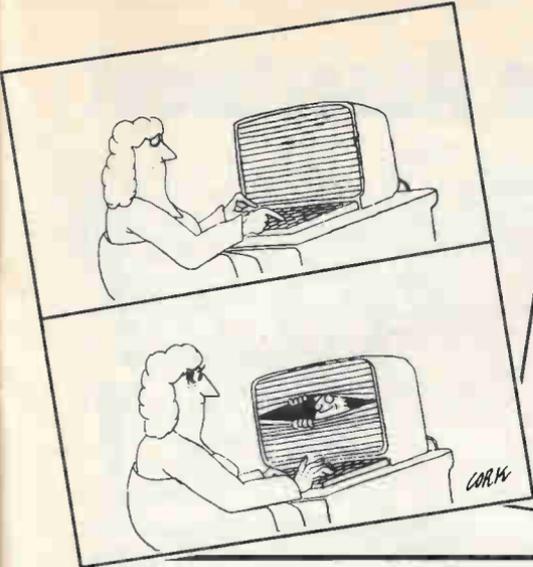
*"No, I don't want any more stats on how many times the crew's been seasick!"*



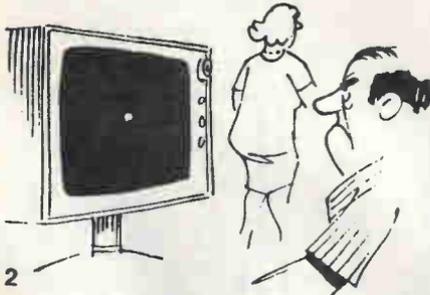
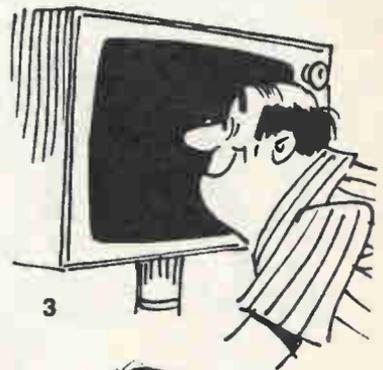
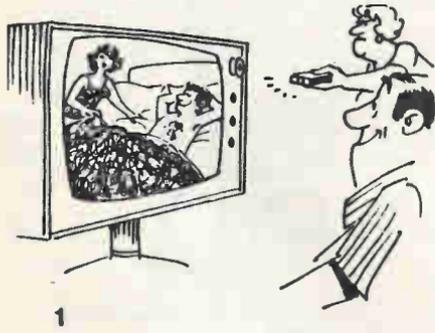
*"Our hero, to be sure, was a handsome, one-legged pirate called Long John."*

# QUIET QUIPS





**Mr. Peepers...**



**...peeps back!**

# Hodgepodge Assortment



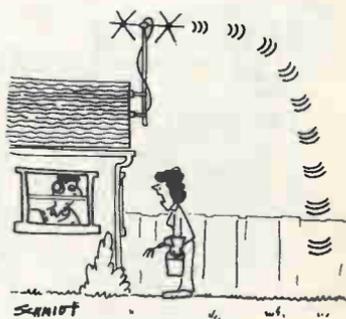
"Brian, the computer company sent the retrofit instructions on a floppy disk."



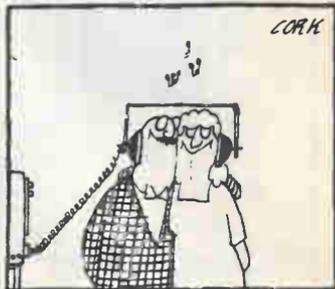
"When I said that we were dealing with 'limited memory,' I wasn't talking about the computer, I was talking about you!"



"Melvin, is it true you bought an exercise bike for your robot?"



"Oh, Mr. Communicator, I don't think you're putting out enough power!"





CORRY



MITCHELL

"The problem is its 1300-mile range:  
650 miles straight up and  
650 miles straight down!"



MELSON

"Every time they simplify the software  
they complicate my life!"



MALFORD

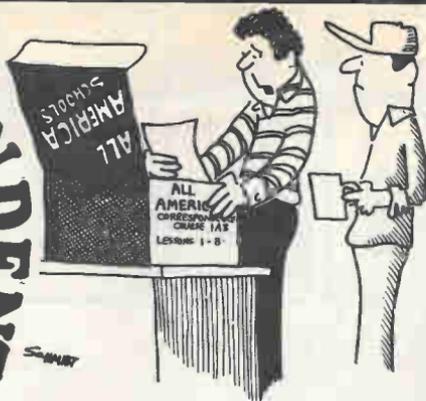
"I hate these older radar guns!"



SCHMIDT

"That was the only way  
I could get it to scroll!"

# CORRESPONDENT SCHOOLS



*"It's my TV course from 'All America School.' The parts are Korean; the computer, Japanese; and the manual, French!"*



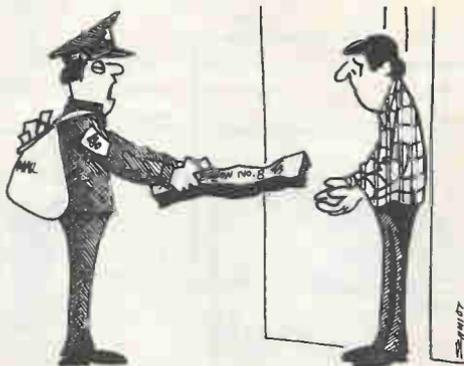
*"That plain brown wrapper better be your electronics correspondence course!"*



*"When the school said they'd mail it, I thought it would be in a box!"*

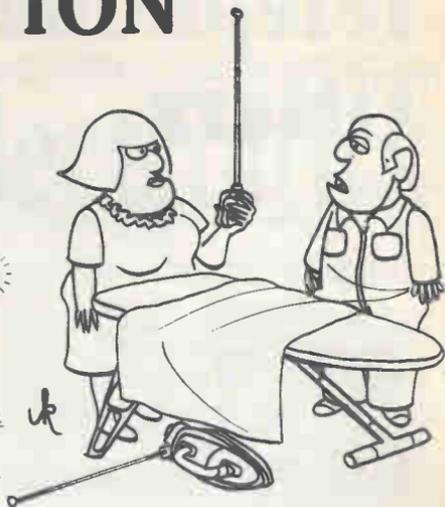
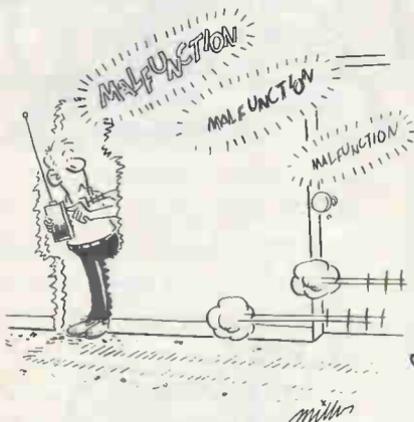


*"What do you think, Marvin, does that void the warranty?"*



*"It's not a pizza. One of our trucks backed over your TV-repair lesson."*

# PUSHBUTTON PANIC



"The way I see it, Kathy, you need a lot more practice!"



# Telephone Titters



"That's the radio . . . this is the phone!"



"Sorry, I can't play now, Larry . . .  
I've got to stay in and show my Dad  
how to use our new computer."



"Gads, a fly was in the transmitter  
during the last teleconference  
with our New York Office!"



"No, I don't have a cordless phone,  
and to tell you the truth, right  
now I'm glad I don't."



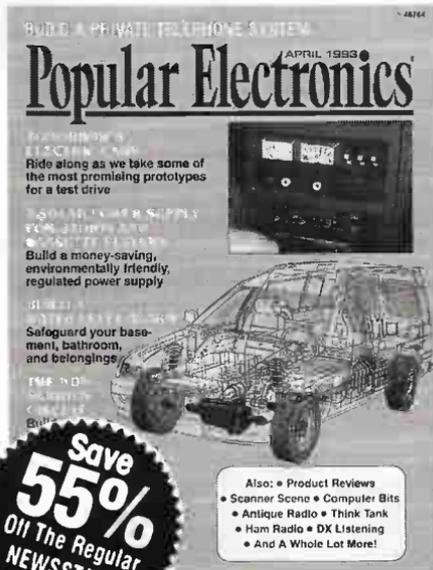
"Herb and I couldn't possibly correct  
the overheating problem 'till after lunch!"

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