



By MARGARET MORABITO

*This month  
The Resource Center  
answers an assortment  
of reader questions.*

While hundreds of readers have written to me relating their interests and experiences in using Commodore computers for education, many have also written with questions. This month, I'll share some of these questions with you.

**Q.** How can I, as a parent, obtain information and programs that will coincide with the subjects my children are studying in school? I'd appreciate some sort of curriculum guide listing subjects, grades and corresponding software to assist in their education. —**Roderick T. Bell, Jr., Lusby, MD.**

**A.** That's a good question. You should first contact your child's teachers to find out what specific material is being taught. Next, you can start writing away for educational software catalogs. In March, I listed eight sources to contact for educational software and reviews. For even more sources, see Table 1 in this article.

Educational catalogs usually list the grade or age level the software is intended for, so you can match your child's curriculum to the appropriate products. My column in last July's issue listed 44 programs with recommended age levels.

**Q.** Our Physics Department at New Mexico State University has established a Commodore Corner in its computational physics laboratory. The Corner will be open to students of NMSU, campus faculty and staff and teachers throughout the state who teach science in grades 7-12.

We're on a limited budget for the initial procurement of hardware and would like to find a source of ser-

viceable equipment at reduced cost. Is there a way we can get help in procuring hardware for the project through Commodore Business Machines? —**Hal Cottrell, Physics Support Specialist, New Mexico State University.**

**A.** In the past, Commodore did have a matching grant program for hardware purchases, but that has ended. Commodore does have over 100 authorized education dealers that can provide school discounts on hardware. See my column in last June's issue for a list of these dealers.

Beyond this, you should contact your state board of education for guidelines on grants for computer equipment. Many of the teachers I've heard from have taken this approach to getting their equipment.

An even easier route is to shop around for discounted equipment. You'll find good deals at some of the mail order houses and liquidators.

**Q.** I teach English composition and literature at a local community college and am deeply involved in a remedial program for adult learners, many of whom are ESL (English as a Second Language) students.

I'd like to start using computers with my students. The commercial software I've previewed is too elementary in content for adult learners, so I need to find software I can person-

ally convert to a more adult level—programs that will let me incorporate my students' own sentences, and then lead them through corrective exercises. —**Meredith Wilson, Vacaville, CA.**

**A.** Your question hits home. I was a college English composition and ESL instructor, and we, too, had a writing skills lab that could have benefited from computerization.

Your options for obtaining software that you can modify include nationally available public domain programs and teacher- or student-written programs coming directly out of individual schools.

For public domain software, try contacting the following groups: Toronto Pet User Group, 1912-A Avenue Road, Suite #1, Toronto, Ontario M5M 4A1; 64 Gold, 3219 Folsom St., San Francisco, CA 94110; National Public Domain Software Rental Center, 1533 Avohill Drive, Vista, CA 92084.

I do know that many school districts have written their own programs, but trying to make contact with these schools is difficult because of poor communication among school districts. The Resource Center helps.

I was recently contacted by Jerry Caron, Computer Coordinator at the H. T. Healy School (726 Hicks St., Fall River, MA 02724), who said that his school has a library of about 300 public domain educational programs, 90 percent of which were acquired in trades with other schools or are teacher-written or revised public domain programs. He would be happy to trade and share them.

Another option is to get a lesson-

authoring system and write your own computerized lessons. I'm aware of three of these for the C-64. One is a 1984 release—Dialog, from Code-Writer Corporation, 7847 North Caldwell Ave., Niles, IL 60648. Another is a brand new product that two teachers in West Virginia have just finished developing. It's called Lesson Master and is available from Courseware Authoring System, 150 Chapman Drive, Wellsburg, WV 26070; 304-737-2891. A third authoring system for the C-64 is CLAS, from Touch Technologies, 609 S. Escondido Blvd., Escondido, CA 92025. CLAS was reviewed in the May 1985 issue of *RUN*.

**Q.** Are there any programs available for recording grades and computing averages for high school classes?  
—James Badeaux, Covington, LA.

**A.** Smoky Mountain Software, PO Box 1710, Brevard, NC 28712, puts out a C-64 gradebook program called Grade Manager III. Several teachers have recommended this as a good grade management system. For the C-128, there is Gradebook 128, which is available on the Productivity Pak II ReRUN disk.

**Q.** I have access to VIC-20 computers for my classroom teaching and would like to use them for students to do

writing on. My problem is that I don't have a word processor for the VIC. I've written to Commodore about this, but I get no answer from them.  
—Stephen Staples, St. Johns, MI.

**A.** It's hard to get VIC-20 software nowadays, but it is around. I'd try contacting some of your local user groups. The Toronto Pet User Group has a VIC-20 library of disks, and they do have a word processor for that computer. See the address above.

**Q.** I'm a graduate student in the Doctorate of Adult Education program at the University of Georgia. Due to the increasing illiteracy rate in the U.S., I'd like to plan my dissertation around the use of the computer in teaching illiterates to read. As part of the project, I would develop a computer program using a speech synthesizer to familiarize the adult student with the phonetics of the English language, and I'd like to use the C-64 for this. Is there a C-64 speech synthesizer capable of normal speech, and do you know of any phonics programs?  
—Jerry Cockrev, Grovetown, GA.

**A.** I've had quite a few requests from educators who want speech synthesizers for the C-64. Four now on the market are Votalker and the Personal Speech System (from Votrax), Voice-master (from Covox) and Hearsay 1000 (from Hearsay, Inc.). See the article on speech systems for the C-64 elsewhere in this issue for details on these products. ■

*If you're using Commodore computers for educational purposes (at home or in school) and would like to share your experiences through The Resource Center, write me a letter detailing the equipment you're using, subject areas being taught, grade level or age of your students, software that you're using and any other information you feel like including.*

*Also, if you'd like to donate public domain educational programs to The Resource Center for sharing with other educators and parents, please send along a disk with a brief description of the programs. Send correspondence and disks to:*

Margaret Morabito  
The Resource Center  
c/o RUN Editorial  
80 Elm St.  
Peterborough, NH 03458

*You can also leave mail in my on-line mailboxes: CompuServe (70616,714) and QuantumLink (MARGM).*

**Table 1.** Sources to contact for Commodore educational software.

**Soft-Kat**  
*Educational Software Catalog*  
16130 Stagg St.  
Van Nuys, CA 91406  
800-641-1057

**Science Software**  
7952 W. Quarto Drive  
Littleton, CO 80123  
303-972-4020

**AC3L Software**  
PO Box 7  
New Derry, PA 15671

**Blue Chip Software**  
6744 Eton Ave.  
Canoga Park, CA 91303  
-818-346-0730

**Weekly Reader Family Software**  
4343 Equity Drive  
Columbus, OH 43216

**Learning Technologies**  
4255 LBJ Freeway, Suite 131  
Dallas, TX 75244  
800-238-4277

**Springboard Software**  
7807 Creekridge Circle  
Minneapolis, MN 55435  
612-944-3915

**Scholastic**  
*Educational Software Report*  
(biweekly software-review newsletter)  
730 Broadway  
New York, NY 10003  
212-505-3000

**Simon & Schuster Software**  
Gulf + Western Building  
1 Gulf + Western Plaza  
New York, NY 10023  
212-333-5800

**Grolier Electronic Publishing**  
*Across the Curriculum* (curriculum guide)  
Sherman Turnpike  
Danbury, CT 06816  
800-858-8858

**DLM Educational Software**  
One DLM Park  
PO Box 4000  
Allen, TX 75002  
800-527-4747

**Fisher-Price Learning Software**  
PO Box 1327  
Cambridge, MA 02238  
617-494-1222

**Mindscape**  
3444 Dundee Road  
Northbrook, IL 60062  
312-480-7667

**Educational Activities**  
PO Box 392  
Freeport, NY 11520

**Microcomputer Workshops Courseware**  
225 Westchester Ave.  
Port Chester, NY 10573  
914-937-5440

**Gamco Industries**  
Teaching Materials  
Box 310P5  
Big Springs, TX 79721  
800-351-1404

**Educational Software Buyer's Guide**  
*MENU*  
1520 South College Ave.  
Fort Collins, CO 80524  
303-482-5000

**Educational Products Information Exchange**  
*Institute*  
PO Box 839  
Water Mill, NY 11976

**CBS Interactive Learning Catalog**  
One Fawcett Place  
Greenwich, CT 06836  
203-622-2771

**GCS Software**  
Music Education  
PO Box 193  
4100 S. Parker Road  
Aurora, CO 80014