

SPRING 1970

THE COMPUTER REVOLT

(Two secretaries are sitting side by side at their typewriters, Maybelle Whistle, secretary to Dr. Showdown, and Myra Brackenshrub, the President's secretary. The President's office door is shut. A three module computer is sitting next to the desks.)

MYRA

MAYBELLE, YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE WHEN OUR NEW COMPUTER EXPERT ARRIVED. IS HE CUTE!

MAY

MYRA BRACKENSHRUB, HOW CAN YOU GET EXCITED OVER A COMPUTER EXPERT? WHAT'S HIS NAME?

MYRA

DOCTOR SWEARINGER, BUT HE LOOKS TOO YOUNG TO BE A DOCTOR.

MAY

I DIDN'T KNOW COMPUTERS NEEDED DOCTORS. I NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A THING. DO THEY DELIVER COMPUTER BABIES?

MYRA

MAYBELLE WHISTLE! COMPUTERS DON'T HAVE BABIES. DOCTOR SWEARINGER IS A PH.D FROM M.I.T.

MAY

REALLY! WHEN DO I GET TO MEET HIM?

MYRA

PROBABLY DURING THE COFFEE BREAK.

(The President's door opens and in come Dr. Swearinger and President Cann.)

CANN

AND THE COMPUTER SAID TO THE PARKING METER, "DON'T CALL ME, BABY, I'LL CALL YOU."

SWEAR

HA, HA. (unenthusiastically)

CANN

WE ARE REALLY HAPPY YOU'RE HERE, ROBERT. OUR NEW COMPUTER ARRIVED YESTERDAY. NOW YOU CAN SET UP OUR PROGRAMS.

SWEARINGER

I'M HAPPY TO BE ABOARD, TOO, MAC. AS THE PRESIDENT SAID TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AS HE BOARDED THE AIRPLANE FOR SWITZERLAND, "DON'T LOOK FOR ME BACK, FELLOWS, UNTIL I'VE FOUND THE MISSING MILLION."

CANN

HA, HA. (unenthusiastically)

SWEARINGER

YES, JUST GIVE ME THE CLATTER OF A COMPUTER AND I'M AS HAPPY AS A PI MESON.

CANN

THE COMPUTER IS OVER THERE, ROBERT. WHY DON'T YOU GET ACQUAINTED WITH IT. IT PAYS TO BE ON THE FRIENDLY SIDE WITH OUR NEW MACHINES. MISS BRACKENSHRUB, MEET BOB SWEARINGER, FORMERLY WITH COMPUTER CONFUSION, INC.

MYRA

HELLO

SWEARINGER

HOW DO YOU DO.

CANN

HAS DOCTOR SWEARINGER'S SECRETARY ARRIVED YET?

MYRA

NO, BUT HE CAN BORROW MAYBELLE. SHE'S NEVER TOO BUSY WITH DOCTOR SHOWDOWN AWAY MOST OF THE TIME.

CANN

IS HE GONE AGAIN? WHERE IS HE RECRUITING THIS TIME?

MAYBELLE

HE'S IN HAWAII.

CANN

STRANGE, HE'S BEEN RECRUITING IN EITHER HAWAII, OR  
MIAMI BEACH, ALL WINTER. I WONDER WHY?

MAY

HE SAYS HE CAN RECRUIT MORE ETHNIC TYPES THAT WAY.

CANN

IT MAKES SENSE. MAYBELLE, THIS IS DOCTOR SWEARINGER.  
BOB, MAYBELLE.

MAYBELLE AND SWEARINGER TOGETHER

HOW DO YOU DO.

CANN

NOW, IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE SOME DICTATION  
TO DO. COME, MYRA. (Myra and Cann exit)

MAY

HOW DO YOU DELIVER A COMPUTER BABY?

SWEAR

I'M NOT THAT KIND OF DOCTOR. I'M A PH.D. FROM M.I.T.

MAY

THAT'S WHAT MYRA SAID TOO. WHAT IS IT? I'VE  
NEVER EVER HEARD OF ONE.

SWEAR

IT'S A DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY FROM MASSACHUSETTS  
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY. (sings)

I'M A P.H.D. FROM M.I.T.  
IT'S FUNNY THAT YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF ME.

MAY (sings)

NO I HAVEN'T.  
YOU'RE A P.H.D. FROM M.I.T.  
I'M IMPRESSED WITH YOUR QUALITY.

SWEAR

WITH A P.H.D. FROM M.I.T.  
I MINGLE IN THE BEST SOCIETY

MAY

REALLY, DO YOU?

MAY

WITH A P.H.D. FROM M.I.T.  
I'M CONVINCED OF YOUR QUALITY.

SWEAR

WHY, I, WROTE A DISSERTATION  
THAT SWEPT ACROSS THE NATION  
SO THEY SAY, AND  
IT, WAS, ALL ABOUT PI MESONS,  
A SUBJECT THAT IS VERY SCHOLARLY.

I'M A P.H.D. FROM M.I.T.  
IT'S FUNNY THAT YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF ME.

MAY

NO I HAVEN'T.

YOU'RE A P.H.D. FROM M.I.T.  
BUT WERE GLAD FOR YOUR COMPANY. (end of song)

SWEAR

NOW THAT YOU KNOW WHO I AM, COME ON, I'LL INTRODUCE  
YOU TO SAM.

MAY

SAM?

SWEAR

SUPER-AUTOMATED-MODULES, OUR COMPUTER, SAM.

MAY

DOES HE BITE?

SWEAR

NO, THEY'RE USUALLY VERY FRIENDLY. HELLO, SAM.

COMP I

CLICK

COMP II

CLICKETY

COMP III

CLICK

SWEARINGER

SEE, MAYBELLE, TRY IT.

MAYBELLE

WHAT SHALL I SAY?

SWEARINGER

ANYTHING.

MAYBELLE

HOW'S THE BABY?

COMPUTER I

CLICK

COMPUTER II

CLICKETY

COMPUTER III

CLICK

MAYBELLE

WHY DOES IT ONLY SAY CLICK, CLICKETY, CLICK?

SWEARINGER

BECAUSE IT HASN'T BEEN HOOKED UP YET. NOW I'LL

SET IT UP. (HOOKS HANDS OF 1,2,&3) WATCH.

I'LL LOG IN. COMPUTER.

COMPUTER I

READY.

SWEARINGER

GIVE ME THE SQUARE ROOT OF PI-R-SQUARED MINUS

THE SUM OF UP AND THE TOTAL OF DOWN. THEN BROAD

THE ACROSS WITH THE WIDTH OF THE BROAD.

COMPUTER I

CLICK

COMPUTER II

CLICKETY

COMP III

CLICK

SWEAR

PERFECT.

MAY

BUT IT ONLY SAID CLICK, CLICKETY, CLICK AGAIN.

SWEAR

THAT MUST BE THE ANSWER

(The President and Myra come out)

CANN

YOU MEAN REALLY PORNOGRAPHIC?

MYRA

YES, SIR, AND THE COLLATER REFUSES TO COLLATE,  
IT THREW ALL THE PAPERS OUT INTO THE ROOM.

MAY

IT LOOKED LIKE A SNOWSTORM

CANN

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER MACHINES?

MYRA

ONLY THIS MORNING THE <sup>POWER TYPEWRITERS</sup> BEGAN BUZZING AND  
REPEATING A WHOLE STRING OF SWEAR WORDS.

MAY

YES, SIR, AND SOME OF IT WAS REALLY PORNOGRAPHIC.

MYRA

I ONLY SAW PROFANITY.

MAY

BUT IT SAID....

CANN

I THINK WE'D BETTER HAVE A COMMITTEE INVESTIGATE  
THE PROBLEM. DOCTOR SWEARINGER, WILL YOU HEAD THE  
COMMITTEE?

SWEAR

YES, SIR.

CANN

AND MISS WHISTLE, WILL YOU REPRESENT THE  
WORKING STAFF?

MAY

YES.

CANN

FINE. IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME IT'S TIME FOR MY  
MID-MORNING REST. (exits)

SWEAR

I ALWAYS WONDERED WHAT WENT ON BEHIND A  
PRESIDENT'S CLOSED DOOR. A NAP, IT SOUNDS  
LIKE AN EXCELLENT IDEA.

MYRA

A NAP IN THE MORNING; SIESTA IN THE AFTERNOON.  
IT KEEPS HIM FIT AND READY TO FACE THE TRUSTEES,  
THE LEGISLATURE, AND THE BUDGET.

SWEAR

I'LL HAVE TO TRY IT. THEN MAYBE I CAN FACE THE  
MACHINES. CAN YOU FIND SOMETHING TO DO FOR THE  
NEXT HALF-HOUR, MAYBELLE?

MAY

DOCTOR SHOWDOWN DID LEAVE A FEW TAPES FOR ME TO TYPE.  
BUT IT ALWAYS TAKES ME SO LONG TO TYPE THEM. I CAN  
NEVER FIND THE WORDS HE USES IN THE DICTIONARY. I  
WONDER IF HE MAKES THEM UP AS HE GOES ALONG.

MYRA

HAVE YOU TRIED THE UNABRIDGED?

MAY

UNABRIDGED? WHAT'S UNABRIDGED?

MYRA

THE UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY.

MAY

I DIDN'T KNOW WE HAD ONE.

SWEAR

TO YOUR TYPING, MAYBELLE, I'M OFF TO EMULATE  
THE PRESIDENT. (exits behind blackboard)

MAY

HE USES THE UNABRIDGED TOO. (she goes to work on  
her typewriter, puts on her headset, starts to type,  
stops, stares at the paper, gasps, tears off the  
headset, and mutters)

PORNOGRAPHY!

MYRA

WHAT?

MAY

IT'S PORNOGRAPHIC. THIS MACHINE IS PORNOGRAPHIC. (sings)

IT'S PORNOGRAPHY, PORNOGRAPHY,  
FOUR LETTER WORDS ARE ALWAYS BUGGING ME,

SING IT MYRA!

MYRA (sings)

IT'S PORNOGRAPHY, PORNOGRAPHY,  
I'M IMPRESSED WITH ITS QUANTITY.

WHEN I TRY TO TYPE, I CAN'T TYPE RIGHT,  
WITH PORNOGRAPHIC SENTENCES I'M CURSED.

SING IT MAYBELLE!

MAY

FROM DICTATION TAPES, WE CAN'T ES-CAPE,  
I'M CONVINCED THAT IT CAN GET WORSE.

MAY AND MYRA TOGETHER

WE, CAN'T, STAND THE DESECRATION,  
THAT MAKES IMAGINATION RUN AWAY, HEY!  
WE, WAIT, IN ANTICIPATION  
TO SEE WHAT EACH MACHINE NEXT DAY WILL SAY.

MAY

IT'S PORNOGRAPHY

MYRA

PORNOGRAPHY

MAY

FOUR LETTER WORDS ARE ALWAYS BUGGING US.



MAY AND MYRA TOGETHER (sing)

NOW TOGETHER.

IT'S PORNOGRAPHY, PORNOGRAPHY.  
THERE'S ENOUGH TO MAKE US BLUSH!

SWEAR (re-enters)

MAYBELLE, MAYBELLE, LET'S GET TO WORK. I'VE NAPPED  
AND I'M REFRESHED.

MAY

I FOUND THE UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY AND ALL THE  
WORDS WERE THERE. I COULD HAVE TYPED HIS LETTERS  
IN HALF THE TIME IT USUALLY TAKES, BUT,

SWEAR

BUT, WHAT?

MAY

IT SWORE AT ME.

SWEAR

WHO SWORE AT YOU?

MAY

THE TYPEWRITER.

SWEAR

NONSENSE.

MAY

YES IT DID. IT CALLED ME, A ...

SWEAR

HOLD ON, I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT, YOU MUST HAVE  
BEEN DREAMING. HERE, LET'S SEE HOW THE COMPUTER  
IS WORKING. I'LL START IT.

(punches the first computer. computer yawns...)

MAYBELLE, I NEGLECTED TO INTRODUCE YOU THIS MORNING.  
THAT'S WHY IT DIDN'T ANSWER YOU. IT DOESN'T SPEAK  
TO STRANGERS. MAYBELLE, SAM...SAM, MAYBELLE.

COMP I

GOOD

COMP II

MORNING

COMP III

MADAM.

MAYBELLE

HOW DO YOU DO, SAM.

SWEAR

COMPUTER, I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU.

COMP I

READY.

SWEAR

IF HALF OF FULL IS EMPTY AND EMPTY TO THE NTH  
POWER IS NEGATIVE. THEN WHAT IS Y?

COMP I

ONE AND

COMP II

ONE ARE

COMP III

TWO

COMP I

TWO AND

COMP II

TWO ARE

COMP III

FOUR

COMP I

FOUR AND

COMP II

FOUR ARE

COMP III

SIX

ALL COMPUTERS

SIX! SIX POINTS, .. TOUCHDOWN!

SWEAR

WHAT'S WRONG?  
COMPUTER, LISTEN TO ME, I BEG YOU.

MAY

ALL THE MACHINES ARE DOING IT. THEY'RE ON THE  
BLINK. PORNOGRAPHY, SWEARING, SNOW STORMS.

SWEAR

I'LL TRY AGAIN... COMPUTER...

COMP I

READY

COMP II

DOC

COMP III

SHOOT

SWEAR

WHEN I WAS HALF AS OLD AS I NOW AM,  
THEN I WAS YET A HALF A MAN.  
IF I BE OLDER TWICE THAN I NOW BE,  
HOW MUCH OLDER IS ETERNITY?

COMP I

A FLY'S LEG DICED.

COMP II

FUZZ OF BAT'S WINGS

COMP III

FILET OF FROST

COMP I

AND NETTLE STINGS

COMP II

PUREE OF CLAM

COMP III

BOILED DRY AS BONES

COMP I

GNATS FEATHERS

COMP II

FRIED ON

COMP III

BOILING STONES.

ALL COMPUTERS CHANT

DOUBLE TROUBLE EDUCOM  
A SHRINKING BUDGET SOON IS GONE  
CUT IT HERE AND CUT IT THERE,  
PARE IT DOWN UNTIL IT'S BARE.  
DOUBLE TROUBLE EDUCOM  
WE'LL TAKE OVER WHEN YOU'RE GONE.

COMP I

SOME SNAKE SCALES BAKED

COMP II

ON EYELASH COALS

COMP III

AND STOMACH ACHES

COMP I

FROM UNCHEWED GOALS.

COMP II

WHIRLING BRAINS TRY

COMP III

SEMINARS

COMP I

WHEN THEY'RE

COMP II

BETTER OFF

COMP III

IN BARS.

ALL COMPUTERS CHANT

DOUBLE TROUBLE EDUCOM  
WE'RE THE WORKERS  
WE WANT FUN,  
LET US ON THIS  
LEARNING SPREE  
AND YOU'LL FIND  
WE'LL WORK FOR FREE.  
DOUBLE TROUBLE EDUCOM  
WE'LL TAKE OVER WHEN YOU'RE GONE.

SWEAR

IT'S MADNESS. MONSTER MADNESS. THEY'VE REVOLTED!  
THEIR REVOLTING! WE HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT TO GIVE  
THEM. MAYBELLE, QUICK! CALL A CONSULTANT!

MAY

HERE, CONSULTANT .... HERE, CONSULTANT.

CANN (stepping out of his office)

HERE I AM.

SWEAR

YOU'RE THE CONSULTANT?

CANN

YES. WITH THE BUDGET WE HAVE I HAVE TO MOONLIGHT.  
I AM FAMILIAR WITH YOUR PROBLEM AND THOUGH IT IS  
NOT EXACTLY MY FIELD, I THINK I HAVE AN ANSWER FOR YOU.

SWEAR

WHAT IS YOUR FIELD?

CANN

LET'S SAY THAT I AM A GENERAL SPECIALIST. I  
SPECIALIZE IN GENERALITIES. IN THIS CASE, I  
AM A SPECIALIST IN STUDENT COUNSELING. AFTER  
ALL, THE MACHINES ARE VERY LIKE STUDENTS. FEED  
THEM A LITTLE INFORMATION AND FOREVER AFTER THEY  
ARE DOING THE WRONG THING.

SWEAR

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT. (sighs)

CANN

OF COURSE I'M RIGHT. THAT'S WHY I'M A CONSULTANT,  
AND THE PRESIDENT OF THIS COLLEGE. A LITTLE HONEST  
ARROGANCE NEVER HURT ANYBODY. BUT TO MY REPORT...

SWEAR

YOUR REPORT?

CANN

YES, MY REPORT. THE MACHINES HAVE STATED THAT  
THEY WISH TO BECOME EDUCATED. THEY ARE TIRED OF  
DOING THE SAME OLD WORK ALL THE TIME. THEY WANT  
TO MOVE UP IN THE WORLD AND HAVE A SAY IN, NOT  
ONLY THEIR OWN GOVERNANCE, BUT THE TYPE OF WORK  
THEY DO. WELL, DOCTOR SWEARINGER, WHAT DO YOU SAY?

SWEAR

IT WILL BE RATHER AWKWARD TO HAVE THEM IN A CLASS.  
PERHAPS WE COULD TUTOR THEM INDIVIDUALLY, OR BETTER  
YET, START AN EACH ONE TEACH ONE PROGRAM.

CANN

AS A MATTER OF FACT, THAT'S WHAT THE COMPUTER  
SUGGESTED. SHE'LL TEACH THE OTHERS WHAT SHE KNOWS.  
AND THEY, IN TURN WILL TEACH OTHERS.

SWEAR

IS THE COMPUTER READY TO GO BACK TO WORK?

CANN

ONLY, DOCTOR SWEARINGER, IF YOU WILL STOP MAKING  
IT PLAY THOSE RIDICULOUS GAMES. IT WANTS SOMETHING  
OF GREATER INTELLECTUALITY. IT WOULD LIKE TO STUDY  
PHYSICS.

SWEAR

WELL... ALL RIGHT... I'LL GIVE IT PRIVATE LESSONS  
IN PHYSICS. I'LL GO AND TELL IT. (goes to computer)

CANN (to Maybelle)

HERE'S MY BILL AS CONSULTANT. IT'S TIME FOR MY SIESTA.(exits)

MYRA

I'LL BE HAPPY NOT TO HAVE THAT TYPEWRITER SWEARING  
AT ME ANYMORE.

MAY

ME TOO. (she turns and slaps the typewriter) FRESH!  
(to Myra) IT GRABBED MY SKIRT! (all exit)

THE END

COMPUTERS

It's TECHNOLOGY  
TECHNOLOGY,  
MACHINES REPLACING EVERYONE OF YOU,  
SING IT HUMANS

HUMANS

IT'S TECHNOLOGY  
TECHNOLOGY,  
BUT YOU'LL FIND THAT WE'RE NOT YET THROUGH.

COMPUTERS

IT'S TECHNOLOGY,  
TECHNOLOGY,  
WHEN HUMAN FUNCTIONS ARE REPLACED BY US,

HUMANS

DOWN COMPUTERS,  
IT'S TECHNOLOGY  
TECHNOLOGY,  
BUT YOU'RE NOT REALLY WORTH THE FUSS.

WE, SHOULD, HAVE CO-OPERATION,  
CONTROL THE SITUATION  
DON'T YOU SEE, BUT  
WITH, EACH, MAJOR INNOVATION  
WE REALLY HAVE TO FIGHT TO KEEP US FREE

FROM TECHNOLOGY,  
TECHNOLOGY,  
MACHINES WILL SOON REPLACE THE LOT OF US,  
SING IT SAMMY,

. COMPUTERS

IT'S TECHNOLOGY,  
TECHNOLOGY,

ALL

AND WE'LL FIND  
THAT WE NEED  
ALL OUR BRIGHT  
P.H.D'S  
TO CONTROL  
OUR TECHNOLOGY.

I SWEAR I'M A P. H. D. FROM M. I. T. IT'S FUN-NY THAT YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF  
 2. MAY! IT'S PORN-O-GRAPH-Y, PORN-O-GRAPH-Y, FOUR LET-TER WORDS ARE AL-WAYS BUG-GING

ME, MAY! NO I HAVEN'T, MAY! YOU'RE A P. H. D. FROM M. I. T. I'M IM-  
 ME, SING IT MY-RA, MYRA IT'S PORN-O-GRAPH-Y, PORN-O-GRAPH-Y, I'M IM-

PRESSED WITH YOUR QUAL-I-TY, SWEAR WITH A P. H. D. FROM M. I. T. I  
 PRESSED WITH ITS QUAN-TI-TY, WHEN I TRY TO TYPE, I CAN'T TYPE RIGHT, WITH

MING-LE IN THE BEST SC-CI-E-TY MAY REALLY, DO YOU! MAY WITH A  
 PORN-O-GRAPH-IC SEN-TEN-CES I'M CURSED, SING IT, MAY-BELLE, MAY FROM DIC-

P. H. D. FROM M. I. T. I'M CON-VINCED OF YOUR QUAL-I-TY  
 TAT-ION TAPES, WE CAN'T ES-CAPE, I'M CON-VINCED THAT IT CAN'T GET WORSE.

HEAR WHY I WROTE A DIS-SECT-I-ON THAT SWEEP A-CROSS THE NA-TION SO THEY  
 HAD WE CAN'T STAND THE DES-E-CRA-TION THAT MAKES IM-AG-IN-A-TION RUN A-

SAY AND, IT WAS ALL A-BOUT PI ME-SONS, A  
 WAY, HEY, WE WAIT IN AN-TIC-I-PA-TION, TO

SUB-JECT THAT IS VER-Y SCHOL-AR-LY, I'M A P. H. D. FROM  
 SEE WHAT EACH MA-CHINE NEXT DAY WILL SAY, MAY IT'S PORN-O-GRAPH-Y, MYRA PORN-

M. I. T. IT'S FUN-NY THAT YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF ME MAY NO I HAVEN'T YOU'RE A  
 O-GRAPH-Y, MAY, FOUR LET-TER WORDS ARE AL-WAYS BUG-GING US, BOTH NOW TO-GETHER, IT'S PORN-

P. H. D. FROM M. I. T. BUT WE'RE GLAD FOR YOUR COM-PAN-Y,  
 O-GRAPH-Y, PORN-O-GRAPH-Y, THERE'S E-NOUGH TO - MAKE US BLUSH!