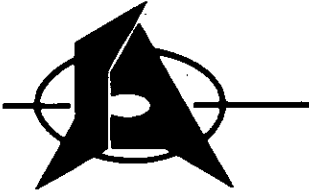


The Gospel According To

St. Pong



Next Deadline:

AUGUST 15th

All Entries
Are Welcome

Founded In Service to the Atari Family MCMLXXIII ©

Vol. 1 No. 3

ATARI INC 14600 WINCHESTER BOULEVARD, LOS GATOS, CALIFORNIA

August 8, 1973

TELEVISION REPAIR CLASS - OPEN TO ALL

A few people have inquired about having a class in television repair. West Valley College is offering such a class this fall. It's called Electronics 57, Commercial Repair. The WVC catalogue gives the following description of the class:

"Troubleshooting techniques and methods of repair of television receivers, radios, phonographs and other electronic devices found in home and industry."

This fall the class is being offered on Monday and Wednesday nights, from 7 to 10 p.m. (PLEASE NOTE: That is Monday AND Wednesday, not Monday OR Wednesday.)

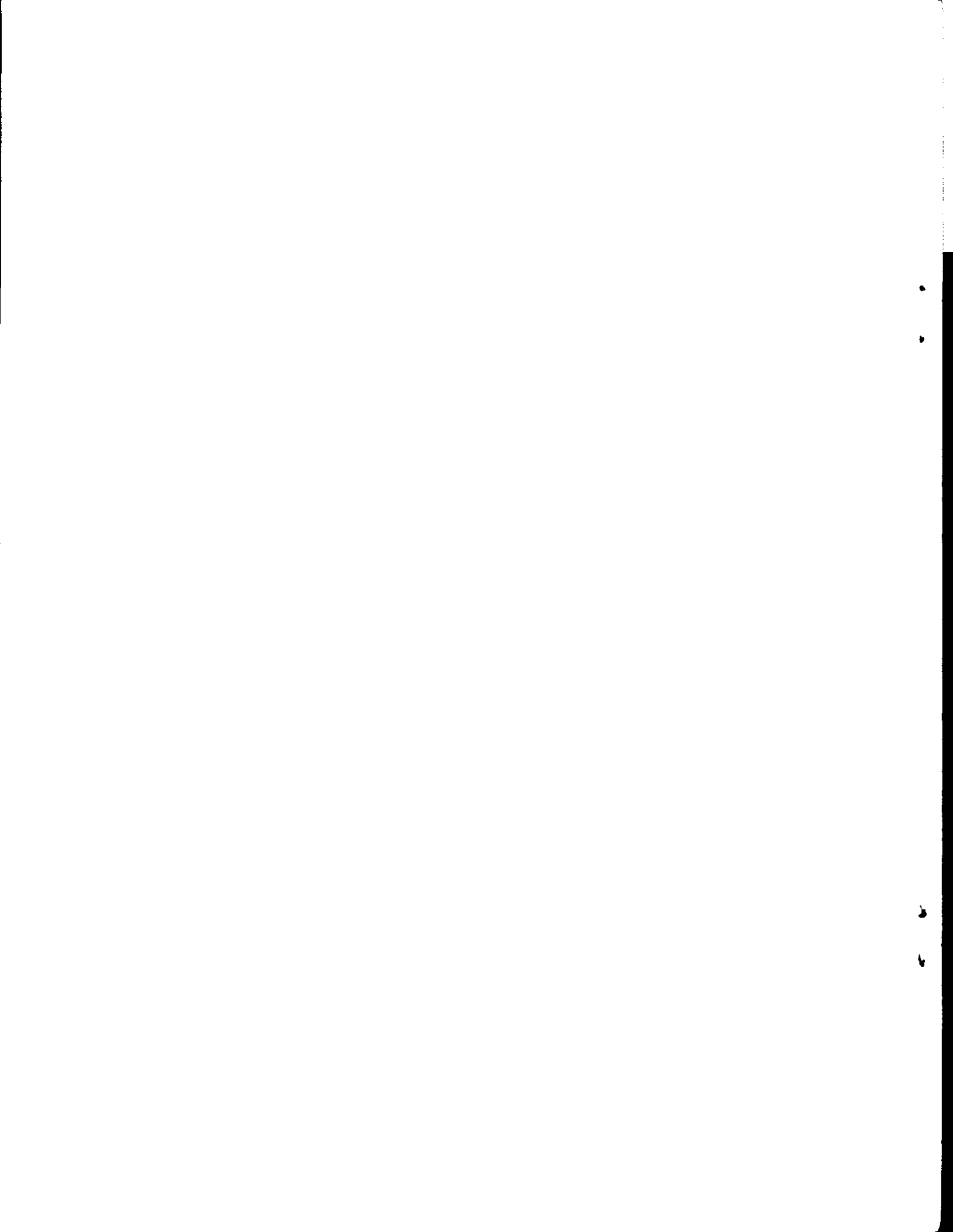
Fall semester at WVC runs from September 11 to January 24. The deadline for applications for evening students is August 10th. Please also note that you must apply IN PERSON at the Admissions Office at the Saratoga Campus.

The fee for enrolling in evening classes at West Valley is \$6.25, whether you take one, two, or forty classes. ATARI will pick up the tab for that \$6.25 fee if you take Electronics 57, and then you can take another class or two for free.

If you require any additional information, please see Carolyn Armanini in the Production Office. She has the WVC Catalogue and Schedule of Classes.

ANOTHER HOLIDAY!

Effective immediately, all employees will get 1/2 a day off to celebrate their birthday. If you have a birthday coming up soon, please see Penny Chapler so that you can take the afternoon off.



THE ATARIAN PHILOSOPHY

There has been much talk about the Atari philosophy. It has been, up till now, the nebulous feeling that we want to make Atari a different, exciting and dynamic corporation that dares to be different. A corporation that can make us all feel proud that we helped build it.

I will attempt to define what I want Atari to be. Remember, however, that a corporation is only a composite of what each one of us wants it to be. I hope this forum will give substance to a unified philosophy that we all help to generate.

A corporation is people (employees) organized to provide a service to people (our customers). We all must work to satisfy several basic needs. The first need is the biological need of food and shelter. The other needs are more for the maintenance of the spirit than the body. The need to learn and progress. The need to make a contribution to an object of worth. The need to be treated with dignity by his fellow man.

We will fill these needs by:

- 1) Paying a fair salary for the jobs performed and by sharing the corporate successes with its employees.
- 2) Giving as much vertical movement within the corporation as is possible, so that each of us can obtain our maximum potential.
- 3) Building products which will not kill, maim, or degrade society. Products of which we can all be proud.
- 4) Treating all employees with love, dignity and respect independent of job classification.

This is the first installment of the forum. I will try to jot my thoughts down whenever possible. The main thing that we all must remember is pride in our work. Getting the maximum number of products out the door will give us the vehicle by which we can make this a fantastic corporation.

We must, in the final analysis, make a profit in order to survive and grow, and that ultimately depends on each one of us doing our job to our best capacity. I am proud of our products and to be an Atarian. If we can all feel proud, we can have the greatest company possible.

Nolan



EDITORIAL

Just wondering why the company can spend anywhere between \$500 and \$1000 per month for company cars. (I know that is a wide spread, but as you know, facts are very difficult to obtain around here.) Now, the thing that I cannot understand is why we can't spend another \$125 per month to lease a truck for manufacturing. This way we could get our parts and supplies when we need them.

A certain case in mind: About two weeks ago we ran out of "D" rings for the television mount strap. Our present truck was and is not capable of constantly making 100-mile round trips. Frankly, it's not capable, nor is it SAFE, for much of anything at all. Consequently the "D" rings were delivered three days later.

If I had to do it my way, I would spend my money making sure that my product was going out the back door, rather than spending it on fancy cars and "experts". Company expenses are especially hard to understand in light of the fact that the people working in Final Assembly are not really making enough money to exist in this world today. It is your responsibility to support the people who put the butter on your bread - not to fight them every inch of the way. The people are getting tired of trying to do the job asked of them, only to find that they don't have the parts and/or the tools to do the job correctly.

I think the priorities of this company should be examined and reorganized. If the assorted V.P.'s and the other one and two-man departments would really do their own job of supporting manufacturing, instead of wandering around the production area making constant changes in procedure on the spot (and without proper documentation), I think it would relieve some of the friction and confusion.

I say, if you give someone a job, by God let him do it. Then, if he can't handle it, you know where the problem is. As the system exists now, you cannot honestly say whether or not someone is doing his job - with everyone else in there trying to do it for him.

IF ALL THINGS WERE....
THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY TIME FOR WASN'T.

Lee Coplea
Supervisor, Final Assembly
& T.V. Mod.

REMINDER OF THE DAY

Let's not forget about Swing Shift!!!

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

P. C. Line

Welcome back Kathy and welcome Terry and Margarite.

Today as I was soldering on my Pong, singing a song, the news came of a new game.

Here comes George, asking our pace, breaking the news that we would have solder Space Race.

From all departments we give our thanks and cheers to Nolan K. Bushnell, our President for our picnic dollars for our wine and beers.

P.J.

Touch Up

BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, SPECIAL BULLETIN FROM TOUCH UP!
WOW! Guess what? Robin worked on 50 boards. That means Touch Up and Drill..and Modify. Keep up the good work, Robin. Jakie followed her with 49. Good Work, Jakie.

Lead Lady,
Elia Garcia

Special congrats from the Supervisor! It just goes to prove that if you wanta, ya can.

Test Department

On Monday, July 16th, the Test Department acquired two new technicians, John Borg and Mike Leach (brother to Mark Leach). Both John and Mike were trained on days for a week, then as of the 22nd, both of them moved to work on Swing Shift. We all wish them good luck at Atari.

This week Rework officially started their people rotation system. The purpose of this is to have a back-up crew in case one or more of them are absent. This week Rework is training Melanie Allison, who...by the way...is a very beautiful and most welcome addition. Melanie came to Rework from P.C. and she is also fairly new to the Atari family. Good luck, Melanie.

On July 28th Dave Dean starts his well deserved one week vacation. Dave and his brother-in-law plan to go to Idaho. Dave says he is bringing his Montesa to do some hardcore dirt biking. He also plans to do some fishing during the relaxing hours of the day.

A couple of days before Dave gets back Dan Corona will make his escape from the reality of Atari and the world of Pong and Space Race to join his family for a week of heavy water skiing in some unknown place called San Antone.

MAINTENANCE

REFERENCE: PLANT TRASH PROBLEM

HELP!!! The rec-lounge, bathrooms and outside area have been over-run by trash and cigarette butts. These areas are a reflection upon all of us. Please put the barbage in the provided trash cans, not on the floor! Its just as easy to put your cigarette butt in the ashtray as on the floor.

I have a lot I would like to get done, and having to pick up so much slows me down. If you help me, I'll have more time to help you! Thank you for your consideration and cooperation.

Tim Templeton, Maintenance

Editor's note: I'm sure we all agree that Tim is doing a really great job and we welcome him as a worthy member of the Atarian family. As soon as we get him a little help, he will really be able to keep things ship-shape.)

SALES DEPARTMENT

We might be settling down to some routines...hopefully...since we have been re-re-located. We may not be a big department in numbers, but I'll bet you we love Atari just as much as everyone, and we appreciate the cooperation of the many departments and individuals in the course of our everyday activities. Lets keep on working together and supplying games, parts, and service to our distributors.

Pat Karns will be back from his big jaunt Thursday.

We welcome Dianne into our corner of the Atarian world. She has already been such an asset. Keep smiling.....

Pat, Patty, Jo-Nell & Dianne

We know the Art Department is busy creating our Main Entrance, Purchasing is busy buying, Accounting is busy paying, and Engineering is busy changing designs, but we would really like to hear from them.

WANTED: A NICE LOVING HOME FOR A NICE LOVING DOG.

CHARLIE BROWN needs a home. We have had him for eight years and are not allowed to have pets where we now live. He is part terrier, part Chihuahua and part jack-rabbit, from appearances. He is just a nice little long-eared dog that loves people. He does not bite, does not chew on toys or get in the way. He is completely house-broken. If anyone wants to give him a loving home, contact Jo-Nell or Paul Jay. I'll even pitch in with some doggie food often, just because I love him...but he needs a home where he won't be kicked out. PLEASE.....

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION
OF
ATARI EMPLOYEE COUNCIL

I. Structure

- A. One vote for each representative from each section
 - 1. One employee from each department
 - 2. Four representatives from the group of lead people
 - 3. Two representatives from the group of supervisors
- B. Two votes TOTAL from four areas
 - 1. Personnel
 - 2. Accounting
 - 3. Engineering
 - 4. Purchasing

II. Elections and Impeachments

- A. Representatives are elected from one-third of the departments every month. Departments are picked in alphabetical order. Representatives will serve three-month terms.
- B. Two lead people are replaced every two months. Each lead person will serve a four-month term.
- C. Supervisors will be chosen among themselves as required.
- D. Elections will not be required for the representatives from Personnel, Accounting, Engineering, and Purchasing.
- E. Impeachment grounds
 - 1. Absence totaling 30% of the meetings
 - 2. Two-thirds vote of the department involved
- F. The impeached representative is replaced by the person having the second highest number of votes in the last election (if still in the employ of Atari)

III. Powers

- A. No one shall be fired against his/her will without the explicit consent of two-thirds of the council.
- B. No one shall be transferred out of their department against their will without the explicit consent of two-thirds of the council
- C. No company policies directly affecting the employee environment shall be passed without two-thirds consent of the council
- D. These powers of the council cannot be expanded, limited, or changed in any way without the following
 - 1. Two-thirds vote of the council
 - 2. Two-thirds vote of the plant

IV. Violations

- A. Violations of council policies shall be treated as the council determines
- B. Any action policies determined by the council that violates previous policies still in effect are void

V. Committees

- A. The council has the power to form any committee for research, fund raising, etc., as it sees fit
- B. Committees act only as advisory bodies and have no other authority

VI. Interaction with the office of the President

- A. The President of the company has veto power over any policy, action, or amendment passed by the council.
- B. The council, by three-fourths majority, may override a presidential veto after an appropriate discussion between the council and the President.

VII. Immunity of the council members

- A. Council representatives are free from any punitive action involving their performance of a council-approved function, vote choice, council attendance, or anything said during attendance of a council meeting.
- B. No council member or perspective council member shall be blocked or in any way interfered with while running for office.
- C. No one shall in any way interfere with a council election

VIII. Council officers

- A. Council shall elect a chairman and a secretary once every three months, based on a two-thirds majority
- B. Council officers may be impeached at any time by a two-thirds majority
- C. The chairman shall have no special authority except to keep order
- D. The secretary shall have no special authority except to document council actions and vote tally, and to record each representative's vote if a roll call vote is called for by any member
- E. General election results will be counted by the secretary in the presence of the council, and will be seen or tampered with by no one beforehand

from WALDEN - Henry David Thoreau

You can't kill time without damaging eternity.

Who would wear a patch, or two extra seams only, over the knee? Most behave as if they believed that their prospects for life would be ruined if they should do it....But if my jacket and trousers, my hat and shoes are fit to worship God in, they will do.

The morning wind forever blows, the poem of creation is uninterrupted; but few are the ears that hear it.

EMPLOYEE COUNCIL MEETING

August 1, 1973

Representatives:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Accounting - Suzie Stevens | Test (Days) - Mike Sieler |
| Sales - JoNell McCullough | Test (Swing) - Joe Alig |
| P.C. - Marilyn Barajas | Lead - Marcus Leach |
| Shipping - Kim BJORQUIST | Lead - Betsy Coplea |
| Harness - Carol James | Touch-up - Rosa Lowe |
| Q.C. - Rod Petersen | Stock - Debbie Shirley |
| Final Assembly - Alex Gutierrez | Engineering - Steve Bristow |
| Supervisor - Lee Coplea | T.V. Mod - Chris Newall |

- I. Two-thirds vote of the Council will rule
- II. Chairman & Secretary elected
 - A. Chairman - Lee Coplea
 - B. Secretary - Betsy Coplea
- III. Catering Truck Problem
 - A. Petition presented to Ted Olson to keep the catering truck
 - B. Ted Olson led a discussion regarding vending machines
 1. 10% of the gross earnings of the vending machines would go to the employee party fund
 2. Vending machine company would install new machines with hamburgers, hot dogs, eggs, juices, fruit salads, and anything else that is available from the catering truck
 3. Atari will install a micro-wave oven, stove, refrigerator, and condiment stand in the employee lounge area
 4. These will be maintained daily
 5. Vending machines would be cheaper than the catering truck
 6. The quality of the food available would be about the same as the quality of the catering truck items
 7. If we are not satisfied with the vending machine service, we can cancel the contract with 60 days notice
 8. The vending machine service will begin Monday, August 6
 9. Council asked that the service provide canned soft drinks in place of cups
 - C. Council will set up a credit system for money for lunch for the employees
 1. \$100.00 given to the Council for such a credit system
 2. The Council will be responsible for collecting money given out on credit
 3. Each employee will be limited to \$2.00 credit
 4. Payment of 100% of credit will be due on Monday of the following week
 5. Debts on the credit system will be published
 6. Committee set up for handling the credit system
 - a. Suzie Stevens - Accounting
 - b. Mike Sieler - Test
 7. Credit system will have a 60-day trial period, after which the Council will review its effectiveness

- IV. Council reviewed the proposed organizational plan
 - A. One vote for each representative
 1. One employee from each department
 2. Two representatives from lead people
 3. Two representatives from supervisors
 - B. Council will be constituted from temporary representatives listed above for an organizational period of one month
 - C. Each department will decide the terms of their representatives
 - D. Any new representative will sit-in on two meetings with the representative they will be replacing
 1. They will share the one vote allotted
 2. Old representative will be replaced by the new rep after these two meetings
- V. An account number will be assigned for the Council

EMPLOYEE COUNCIL MEETING

August 2, 1973

Representatives:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Purchasing - Linda Rognier | Test (Days) - Mike Sieler |
| Accounting - Suzie Stevens | Test (Swing) - Joe Alig |
| Sales - JoNell McCullough | Lead - Marcus Leach |
| P.C. - Marilyn Barajas | Lead - Betsy Coplea |
| Shipping - Bob Reyburn | Touch-up - Rosa Lowe |
| Harness - Carol James | Stock - Debbie Shirley |
| Q.C. - Rod Petersen | Engineering - Steve Bristow |
| Final Assembly - Alex Gutierrez | T.V. Mod. - Chris Newall |
| Supervisor - Lee Coplea | Model Shop - Steve Shirley |
| | Production Control - Frank Haber |

- I. Roll taken
- II. Continuation of review of proposed organizational plan
 - A. Impeachment
 1. Absence
 - a. Excessive absence of representative from Council meetings will be reviewed by the Council and with 2/3 vote the Council will take appropriate action.
 - b. Department heads may not refuse to allow a representative to attend a Council meeting. Attendance will take precedence over normal business.
 2. Dismissal
 - a. The Council, with 2/3 vote, may dismiss any representative with due cause
 - b. The representative has the right of appeal
 - c. The impeached representative's alternate will replace him.
 - B. Powers of the Council
 1. Firing & Transfer
 - a. The Council assumes full power, with Nolan Bushnell having the final say
 - b. The employee in question must request a hearing
 - c. The representative and the alternate will make a thorough investigation and present it to the Council

- d. The employee and his supervisor must be present
- e. The employee in question may get another person to represent him
- f. Appropriate records must be open to investigation so facts may be gathered
- g. The Council will come to a conclusion about the case that meeting
- h. If a supervisor or employee discriminates against a representative who is presenting a case before the Council, the Council will take appropriate action.
- i. Any grievances should be taken to the appropriate representative.

III. Party Fund

- A. The employee party fund of \$270.04 has been turned over to the Council.
 - 1. It will be deposited into a savings account
 - 2. Every three months the money from the vending machines will be deposited.
 - 3. Money received from the sale of scrap materials will be deposited into this account.
- B. Suzie Stevens has been elected Treasurer

IV. Scrap materials

- A. Council has suggested better control of scrap material
 - 1. A committee was appointed to investigate the scrap situation
 - a. Stock - Debbie Shirley
 - b. Shipping - Bob Reyburn
 - c. Accounting - Suzie Stevens
 - 2. This committee will find out what can be recycled, who will accept it, and how much it is worth
- B. A memo will be written to the employees on 8-3-73, asking that all scrap cardboard should be taken to the parking lot and flattened to be bundled and sold, proceeds going to the party fund.

- V. The account number for the Council is the same as that for Nolan.

ATARIAN COUNCIL MEETING

August 7, 1973

- 1. Roll taken
 - A. Absences
 - 1. JoNell McCullough - Sales
 - 2. Steve Bristow - Engineering
 - B. Add Frank Haber (Production Control) to list of representatives
- II. Termination of Walter Pini has been protested
 - A. Walter Pini stated his feelings concerning his termination
 - B. Betty Perez (supervisor) gave her reasons for his termination
 - C. The Council discussed the case and voted not to reinstate him
- III: Discipline Report
 - A. Council requests from personnel a definitive report on discipline and firing
 - B. At the next meeting (8/14) personnel will present the Council with a company policy regarding hiring and firing
 - C. If this report is not given the Council will formulate such a policy.

IV. Breaks and Lunch

- A. The company policy should be to return to work as soon as the bell is sounded
- B. The bell should be sounded on time - it has been suggested that there be an alarm clock to guarantee that the receptionist will sound the bell on time
- C. Clocks should be visible from anywhere in the plant

V. Wages and Salaries

- A. The Council voted that the starting pay should be \$2.40
 1. Raise to \$2.50 after 30 days
 2. Within 60 days of initial hiring date there should be a merit raise of \$0.25 per hour
 - B. Council voted that the Company should make a quarterly review of all salaries and hourly wages at the supervisor level and below to reflect cost of living increases on the national level.
-

I MEANT TO DO MY WORK TODAY

I meant to do my work today
But a brown bird sang in the apple tree,
And a butterfly flitted across the field,
And all the leaves were calling me.

And the wind went sighing over the land,
Tossing the grasses to and fro,
And a rainbow held out its' shining hand...
So, what could I do but laugh and go?

Richard Le Gallienne

LOVE STORY

Great-grandfather is very old,
Nearly a hundred years, I'm told.

Once, when nobody else was there,
I tiptoed up to the old man's chair.
He was whispering, sad and low,
:Mary....dear Mary....I loved you so."

I left as quickly as I came,
Mary wasn't great-grandmother's name.

Mildred Goff

The Los Gatos-Saratoga Observation Nursery School has a few openings for the Fall program. Parents participate in the school by observing their child. Classes begin in September - OUTDOORS (!) at Saratoga Springs.

For more information call PAULA BUSHNELL - 248-3826.

THE ATARI LUNCH HOUR - WHERE TO EAT

FEATURING

THE BROKEN EGG

340 North Santa Cruz Ave. 354-2554
Also in Santa Cruz: 605 Front Street

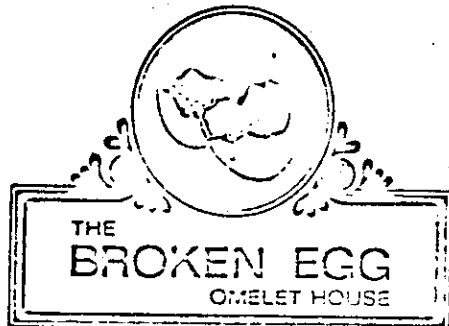
If you are an omelet lover, the Broken Egg is your place in Los Gatos. Aside from the omelets on the menu, you can create your own combinations, for a moderate extra charge. Most every omelet they have is good, however, you might find yourself tiring of the sauced omelets before too long. Then, try another - filled or mixed.

Aside from their omelets, they have a great fresh fruit bowl, and their fruit shakes are fantastic.

One extra nice feature is that they are open seven days a week, and also their hours are from 7 a.m. until midnight. This provides a nice alternative to the Sambo's route for late eaters.

The decor is simple and pleasant. The waitresses are not really the friendliest people in town, but they do get the job done. The service is not super-fast, but you should be able to be in and out within the allotted lunch period.

All in all, it's not as good as Sir Toby's - We give it three stars. But it sure is a lot better than the garbage truck.



340 NORTH SANTA CRUZ AVE., LOS GATOS

(IN THE LITTLE HILLS)
SANTA CRUZ 605 FRONT STREET

7 DAYS 7 A.M. - 12 MIDNITE 354-2554 © 1972 The Broken Egg Omelet House

| FROM THE OMELET PAN | | | |
|--|--------------------------|----------------|------|
| OMELET BUFFS - CREATE YOUR OWN. | | | |
| CHEESE 15¢ EXTRA; OTHER ADDITIONS 25¢ EXTRA. | | | |
| FILLED | MIXED | SAUCED | |
| MIXED FRUITS 1.35 | SALAMI 1.35 | CRAB 1.60 | |
| TOMATO 1.35 | HAM 1.35 | OYSTER 1.50 | |
| CURRENT JELLY 1.25 | HOT PEPPER 1.25 | SHRIMP 1.50 | |
| CHEESE | BELL PEPPER 1.25 | SPANISH 1.50 | |
| AMERICAN 1.25 | HERBS 1.25 | FRESH | |
| CHEDDAR 1.25 | GREEN ONION 1.25 | MUSHROOM 1.50 | |
| SWISS 1.25 | CHOPPED OLIVE 1.25 | VEGETABLE 1.50 | |
| JACK 1.25 | | | |
| FRESH FRUIT | SANDWICHES | | |
| FRUIT BOWL .55 | DEVILED EGG .95 | | |
| FRUIT WITH YOGURT .95 | CREAMED CHEESE, CHOPPED | | |
| OR COTTAGE CHEESE .45 | BACON, PAINLEY & OLIVE | | 1.10 |
| FRUIT CUP .45 | SALAMI, CHOICE OF CHEESE | | 1.25 |
| | HAM | | 1.35 |

NEW MORNING BREADS: BUCKET, SWEDISH RYE, 100% WHEAT, APPLE

| ON THE SIDE | FRUIT SHAKES |
|--------------------|--|
| TOAST .30 | #1 - APPLE JUICE, BANANA, HONEY, ICE CREAM .75 |
| GRANOLA CEREAL .50 | #2 - MILK, BANANA, HONEY, ICE CREAM .75 |
| WITH FRUIT .55 | #3 - FRESH FRUIT, ICE CREAM, HONEY .75 |
| FRENCH TOAST .45 | #4 - YOGURT, FRESH FRUIT, HONEY .75 |
| DANISH ROLLS .25 | #5 - COTTAGE CHEESE, FRESH FRUIT, HONEY .95 |
| YOGURT .25 | |
| COTTAGE CHEESE .15 | DESSERTS |
| CRISP GREENS .75 | ALA MODE .40 |
| | CHEESE CAKE .65 |
| | ICE CREAM .25 |
| | WITH FRUIT BOWL .95 |
| | UNBROKEN HARD BOILED EGG .15 |
| | UNBROKEN APPLE .15 |
| | BARBELED KOSHER PICKLE .15 |

Everything Prepared To Take Out Not Responsible For Lost Articles
ICE CREAM FROM MARIANNE'S

CARROT CAKE

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| 3 cups flour | 1-1/3 cups salad oil |
| 2 cups sugar | 4 eggs |
| 2 tsp. baking soda | 2 cups finely shredded carrot (about 5 lg. carrots) |
| 2 tsp. baking powder | 1 cup crushed pineapple with syrup |
| 2 tsp. cinnamon | 2 tsp. vanilla |
| 1 tsp. salt | 1 cup puffed raisins |

Sift dry ingredients together. Add remaining items. Mix until blended. Beat for two minutes with an electric mixer - or by hand until you begin to wonder if your arm is going to fall off. Bake in a greased and floured 13x9x2" pan at 350 degrees for approximately 50 minutes.

CREAM CHEESE FROSTING

6 ounces cream cheese - softened
1 TB. butter
1 tsp. vanilla
2½ to 4 cups powdered sugar (to taste)
1 cup chopped nuts.

Combine cream cheese, butter and vanilla. Beat until fluffy. Gradually beat in the sugar. (The original recipe called for 4 cups of powdered sugar, but that makes the frosting terrifically sweet. 2½ or 3 cups is plenty.) Mix in ½ cup of the nuts into the frosting, and sprinkle the other ½ cup on top of the frosted cake.

NOTE: Rumor has it that this cake is the way to the heart of Paul McCullough.

JELLO CAKE

1 package Cake Mix
1 package Dream Whip
4 eggs
1 cup Cold Water

Mix all ingredients together at high speed using portable mixer for approximately 8 minutes. Bake cake in sheet pan. 350° for 30-35 minutes. Remove cake from oven. and use 1 box jello, 3/4 cup hot water. Stir until jello dissolves. Add 1 cup ice cubes + water. When cake has cooled, use swivel stick to make holes in cake, drizzel jello over cake. Save ¼ cup jello and mix with one package cool whip plus 3/4 cup cold water for icing.

To make cake really scrumptous, use Lime jello and substitute ¼ cup Creme de menthe in place of water.

Charlotte

MY JOURNEY

- Debra Shirley

My feet are beginning to get chilly while the small, swift creek gets colder due to the orange sun going down. This is a most perfect setting to do what I have set out to do, mainly that of crossing the creek before it gets dark. Once the glowing ball of sun sinks below the hill, it would be impossible to cross without completely losing my footing and slipping into the moss-covered rocks - then I would get so cold, and today my body doesn't need any more shocks.

I still want to trudge further, before making my bed amongst the pine needles and ants. If I could travel merely a quarter-mile to the crest of these sticky hills, I'll be happy. Almost finished, hiking along this raging creek at times, and trickling lazily beforehand, my journey will end.

It would be so encouraging to prepare my bed now, before mosquitoes suck my blood, and to sleep. I have traveled the full length of this creek, from Fourth Street to eighteenth street - good old San Jose.

The broken bottle necks and rusty beer cans rest on the bottom of all the moss, slowly too being covered with polluted slime. The mosquitoes are thick, human blood does not pass this way often - mostly mangy rats, lost mongrels and wild cats. I guess that explains why my arm looks like acne hit it last week.

I have surely accomplished a tremendous task: to follow the creek as far as I could go. The San Jose Steel Company has made its barbed mark, along the rest of the creek's destined path. So much sewage piles on these banks, mostly because no one cares. The fresh-smelling pine needles and foothills covered with grass is just part of my imagination. The clustered banks full of rotted rubber, cans, paper are all too real. Sometimes it frightens me. These few blocks took me nearly three hours, climbing over obstacles and slithering along fences - all preventing my arrival here sooner.

But what am I doing this for? The diseases I could encounter with all the wretched filth! I guess I need just to be away. There is no longer anywhere to go. I have jived in the hippest places - it got me nowhere. I have been to the hills to clear my mind. But never before have I spent time in a place that my brothers and sisters, and myself, have created. A totally smelly, rank slough. The pit of evil, our survival has destroyed our Eden. Before it ever had a chance.

WOMEN AND RAPE

- Marilyn Barajas

Recently a young woman was raped and brutally murdered by a man who two years ago had been acquitted for another rape attack. This is one example of our corrupt legal system in which the woman is made to defend herself and prove that she was actually raped. Many rape attacks go unreported because the male-dominated society is sympathetic to the man, while the woman is put in a position of extreme anxiety and humiliation. Some people still believe the false assumption that women secretly want to be raped, thus the woman is blamed for the attack. Until all people realize how outdated and unjust our system is towards women, we will continue to have no legal action against the rapist.

WHY DON'T WE?

Have an article in the paper outlining the company's plans as far as building improvements are concerned, as well as some of the benefits the company is planning.

Why don't we get better tasting donuts and more of a variety? 'Mapleleaf Donuts' on Saratoga might be a better place to buy them.

Establish a Discount Employee Auto Insurance program?

Put cans of pop in the machines instead of 20¢ cups?

Set up a spot outside the building for bike racks?

Ask the machine vendors to supply a can crusher, so the metal can be recycled?

Pick up our own litter and keep Atari environment as pollution free as possible?

Decorate the Lounge?

Put tampon dispensers in the ladies' rest rooms?

Put more tables and chairs in the dining area?

CLOSED EYES

I close my eyes
And hope and pray
That while they're closed
the world will go away.
Sadly I realize
If I open my eyes
The world will still be
With all the pain and agony.
I only hope that I may do
Something to help at least a few.
Contemplating the world today...
contrary to what some say...
It's impossible to close your eyes.

Tom Ward

They say we acquire
by means of
genes, and such,
The characteristics of
Great Aunt Jane
and our conceiving
parents...
But I wonder sometimes -
Is it just genes
and such...or
much, much more
That makes us smile
just so, and
think just so,
and fear the unknown.
I wonder, like now,
if I have lived before...
In another person,
in another place
and another time...

- Patty Haber

MEDITATION

(Exerpts from KUNG FU MEDITATIONS by Ellen Kei Hua, Published June, 1973, by The Farout Press)

The aim of meditation is to achieve peace of mind and quiet spirit.

Meditation is not generally connected with any physical exercise or activity but meditation can help you in your studies by putting your mind in a receptive state.

HOW TO BEGIN MEDITATION

To begin meditation, you must first find a quiet place where you can block out as much noise as possible. An outdoor area, for instance, if you have access to the country. Or, if your choices are limited, choose the quietest place you can at home.

The lotus position is not recommended for beginners as your limbs would feel the strain and perhaps deter you from your meditation. Start with a cross-legged Indian position with your back straight and your hands resting lightly palm up or palm down on your knees. You should be in a level area: if you are outdoors, the grass or dirt will make a comfortable blanket; if you are indoors you should sit on the floor, on a rug or mat.

When beginning meditation exercises, you must try to rid your mind of any thoughts and concentrate solely on the particular meditation aid you have chosen. At first you may find this difficult, as your mind will start to wander into a multitude of worldly thoughts such as, ""What am I going to have for dinner?", "I wonder if it is going to rain", "Did I lock my car?" Do not feel frustrated during your first attempts at meditation, as this is contrary to the practice itself. Each time you find yourself wandering from your meditation, note where your thoughts are going and return to the practice itself.

Read the meditation exercise. Repeat the words to yourself slowly several times. (You should be in the meditation position.) Close your eyes and meditate upon the meaning of the words. Try to meditate and remain in that state for several minutes at the beginning, increasing the time span as you feel you are able. You will find that the more you meditate, the easier it becomes.

You have no doubt heard of enlightened Eastern masters who spend most of their lives in caves in deep meditation without uttering a word to anyone. This way of being is not available to nor perhaps desirable for most of you and it takes many years to reach this high state of meditation. You must not feel that you will receive instant illumination by meditation, but daily meditation practice can help anyone to achieve peace of mind. This in turn will aid you in ridding yourself of negative thoughts and the frustration of daily life, because things cease to be frustrating and annoying when your mind

is peaceful. The aim of any meditational practice is to help the student gain peace of mind and self-knowledge and whichever method helps the individual to attain that goal is right for that person.

Some beginning and effective meditation practices are: concentration on a single sound, such as the ring of a bell, or enunciation of a sound such as OM (or "aum": the mystic equivalent for the name of God, also symbolizing the triple constitution of the cosmos; the absolute, the relative, and the relation between them. It has been adopted by modern occultists to denote absolute goodness and spiritual truth.) OM can either be pronounced aloud or thought silently and is universally used in meditation practice.

When employing the sound of a bell, ring the bell once and meditate on the sound it makes, following the sound into infinity. When using OM, think or say the word to yourself, drawing out the syllable, and follow and meditate on this sound. You can meditate on anything that keeps other thoughts out of your head; the sound of rain, the sound of wind, the song of a bird. The idea of these aids is that after awhile the meditation on these sounds will rid your mind of thoughts and you will not need the sound but will remain in a peaceful no-mind state.

No-Mind

The concept of no-mind is difficult for a Westerner to comprehend because we have been conditioned to think that we must always have thoughts in our minds. No-mind means that you are free of worldly thoughts and that your mind and spirit are free floating and are one with the Universal Consciousness. No-mind is universally accepted throughout the East and many individuals - businessmen, professionals and working people - spend time daily in meditational no-mind practice.

The Kung Fu meditations contain many references to the "Tao", (pronounced Dow). The "tao" means the Way. All meditation and spiritual exercise leads to the Way. The Way does not refer to peace only during meditational practice; it applies to peace in your general outlook when dealing with daily life. When you have found the Way you can find peace in all things. Violence and hostility shall disappear from your being, to be replaced by love for all things.

The teachings of the tao are to be found in the Tao Te Ching by Lao Tze (an older Chinese contemporary of Confucius) and in the book of Chuang-Tse, as well as the works of many lesser known sages.

For those of you unfamiliar with Chinese sayings and philosophy, some of them may seem difficult to understand; so do not try to understand them; meditate on them. Much of the vagueness in the Chinese phrases is due to the difficulty of turning the vagueness of Chinese literature into the definiteness of English thought. At best, language can never be more than an imperfect method of transmitting thoughts to the brains of others. And in the Chinese language, one character can stand for several different things and can be used interchangeably as a noun, verb and adjective. Therefore, several different meanings can be inferred from each phrase and it is left to the translator's discretion to convey the value and meaning of the phrase.

So, read the thoughts and meditate upon them. Read them over and over and the words will flow effortlessly through your head. The meanings will be unveiled to you when you are ready to receive them; probably when you least expect it.

The Way is to find meditation and peace in everything you do, be it mowing the lawn, playing an instrument, washing the dishes, looking at the stars, building a house. As long as you find yourself doing that particular thing, you might as well enjoy it. Do not think of what you could be doing. Think of what you are doing and find peace within yourself. This is the aim of all meditational practice.

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

There's a lady who's sure
All that glitters is gold
And she's buying a stairway to heaven.
When she gets there she knows
If the stores are all closed
With a word she can get what she came for.

There's a sign on the wall
But she wants to be sure
'Cause you know sometimes words have two meanings
In a tree by the brook
There's a songbird who sings
Sometimes all of our thoughts are misgiven.

There's a feeling I get
When I look to the West
And my spirit is crying for leaving.
In my thoughts I have seen
Rings of smoke through the trees
And the voices of those who stand looking.

And to whispered that soon
If we call the tune
Then the piper will lead us to reason.
And a new day will dawn
For those who stand long
And the forests will echo with laughter.

And it makes me wonder.

If there's a bustle in your hedgerow
Don't be alarmed now
It's just a spring clean for the May queen.
Yes there are two paths you can go by
But in the long run
There's still time to change the road you're on.

Your head is humming and it won't go
in case you don't know.
The piper's calling you to join him.
Dear lady can you hear the wind blow
And did you know
Your stairway lies on the whispering wind.

And as we wind on down the road
Our shadows taller than our souls
There walks a lady we all know
Who shines white light and wants to show
How everything still turns to gold.
And if you listen very hard
The tune will come to you at last,
When all are one and one is all
To be a rock and not to roll.

And she's buying a stairway to heaven.

I hate arguments...
Shouting, yelling, screaming.
Avoid the issue
Change the subject
Avoid the reality...

I detest violence...
Killing, raping, striking
Avoid the eyes
Ignore the soul
Avoid compassion...

I loath rationalization...
Excuses, reasons, lies
Avoid the truth
Sooth the guilt
Avoid responsibility.....

Avoid the truth,
it hurts!
Avoid peace,
it's dull!
Avoid discussions,
they accomplish!

Live the lie...
Avoid!

- Patty Haber



Atari Expands Worldwide!

ATARI, the company that revolutionized the amusement game industry in America, is now offering its ever-growing line of video computer games to distributors and manufacturing partners throughout the world.

It all began when we harnessed digital computers and video technology to the amusement game field with PONG. That was just the beginning. Our engineers have been working on laser technology utilizing holography film techniques. And, we now have a full half-dozen exciting and challenging computer skill games ready for the world market.

Technology the Key. While PONG was being copied by six or eight other firms,

we have been busy engineering other products. Designing and engineering an original computer logic game board, and copying one, are two different worlds. We're pioneers. And we'll always be on the market first with the best, while others are still watching or copying.

We know ATARI has something quite unique and innovative to offer. Now, we hope to match our new concepts and products with equally imaginative sales and production companies.

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