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# STRAIGHTTALK

## I WAS JUST THINKING. . . .

What do you mean when you say, "Just think. . . .?"

"Paris in May? Just think what fun it'll be. . . ."

"Just think what it would be like if everyone had a computer. . . ."

"You can't make such an important decision so quickly. Just think a minute."

"Some of the top math students in this country would have trouble passing math in Japan. Just think what that means."

Sometimes you mean just about the same as "what if," except that it's a what-if about concepts rather than numbers. But not usually. Usually, "just think" means *consider, think of all the ramifications, go to the root of the matter, look for causes and possible solutions, or check your premises.*

In *Softalk* it means all those things: It's the name of a new feature, *Softalk's* first step toward a bit wider scope. It's a from-time-to-time series of articles about almost anything that makes a difference in the quality of our lives, written by people who have good reason to know and just plain good *reason*—outstanding thinkers, in our industry or out.

In upcoming issues, you'll learn what Doug Carlston thinks about the state of education in the United States, how Steve Wozniak feels about piracy and computer crime, what conclusions Jock Root has derived about the common links between computer aficionados and science fiction buffs, and lots more.

Senior editor David Hunter kicks off Just Think in this issue with the story of the most definitive work done to date in the search for proof of Albert Einstein's Grand Unification Theory. While it might not make much difference to most of us whether everything is one in terms of physics and mathematics, the implications of such a theory being true call into question our ideas about the very nature of man, about free will, about the values and premises by which we guide our lives.

The microcomputer world is changing, embracing more and more people with wide-ranging interests, from multifarious occupations and lifestyles. Still, especially in the Apple world, we are a mixture of pioneers and, lately, of the avant garde—settlers of new territory. We're not a tiny community anymore, and in only a few years we will be a hundredfold, or a thousandfold.

And because we were here first—every one of us who's chosen to use a microcomputer up to now and for a handful of months hence—all those folds will look to us as leaders. It's a magnificent opportunity to affect the quality of life for the better; but we must know where we lead. We must look outward, and deep within as well.

That's why *Softalk* is broadening its scope; and that's what Just Think is all about.

We hope you enjoy it and that you will just think with us.

MCT