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CONTEST: "I WAS A TEENAGE APPLE"

There once was a computer company in Cupertino, California, that had lots of Apples lying around in its offices. There were all kinds—IIs, IIIs, Lisas, yet-unnamed computers, and an old Apple I used as a dart board with Peter McWilliams's picture on it.

One day, when Steve Jobs was shaving his pet gerbil ("If you shave a gerbil, will it get a tan?" was Jobs's Zen question of the month), Jobs's electric razor caused a power overload, which resulted in some of the fuse boxes catching fire and burning up several offices. (Sure, it's improbable, but this is just a contest.)

Well, one of the rooms that burned down was the Apple Computer Relics room where lived an Apple II, a II Plus, a IIe, a III, and a Lisa. All five computers were totally destroyed: crispy critters.

During their lives, each computer wrote programs in either assembly language, Cobol, Basic, Fortran, or Pascal. No computer could write in more than one language, but they all could run programs written in any language.

Each was used for only one function: database management, adventure games, arcade games, fantasy games, or word processing. None of the Apples was used for more than one application. In other words, the Apple that played adventure games did nothing else but play *Zork*, *Wizard and the Princess*, *Mask of the Sun*, and so on.

Through some strange turn of events, each one of the computers was reincarnated and became either a doctor, disc jockey, samurai warrior, lawyer, or stand-up comic, and was either single, engaged, happily married, happily divorced, or twice divorced.

One spring weekend, they all happened to meet by chance at the Legal Aspects of One-Liner Radio Personalities Impersonating Ear-Nose-and-Throat Japanese Soldiers Convention at the Motel Six in Cheeseburg, Ohio.

They really hadn't changed that much, even though they were now human and no longer computers. Naturally, they immediately recognized each other and hit it off great. Unfortunately, they couldn't remember completely which computers they were, or what their lives were like. But they did know the following:

1. The Lisa played a lot of *Wizardry*, *Ultima II*, and dungeon games.
2. The one that used to program in Cobol was divorced.
3. The one that had been a II Plus would have to leave the convention early because he had a hot date with his fiancée back home.
4. One of them bored the rest of the group about how he spent weeks trying to get SOS commands to execute from assembly language.
5. The IIe spoke Cobol.
6. The former II's second wife divorced him because he wallpapered the bedroom with disks full of saved games in progress, all of which he

was in the process of solving.

7. The single man didn't speak a high-level language.

8. The one who used to write in Pascal did a lot of word processing.

9. The samurai warrior was a more sophisticated model Apple, and the lawyer an earlier model, than the stand-up comic.

10. In his previous life, the disc jockey tried to combine his interests by writing *Ultima XII* with all goto and print statements, and a whole bunch of for-next loops.

11. The doctor fell asleep listening to another guest reminiscing about taking inventory, collecting axes, and parsing f-words.

12. The stand-up comic's jokes mostly ended with punch lines such as "How many fields to sort?" and "By last name?"

These poor bozos couldn't figure out who was who, but we bet you can. In fact, we'll give away \$100 worth of *Softalk* advertisers' products to the one who can correctly match all five humans with the computers they used to be, the language each spoke, the applications each was used for, and their current marital status.

All you have to do is write down the occupation, marital status, model of Apple that person used to be, computer language, and its application, and send it in with a facsimile of the coupon below. That's it!

In case of a tie, a winner will be dragged screaming from within the ruthless random number generator.

Mail in your entry with the following information, postmarked by October 10, 1983, to Softalk Reincarnation, Box 60, North Hollywood, CA 91603. Go!

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, state, zip: _____
Phone number: _____
My computer dealer: _____
Here's what I wanna win: _____
Signature: _____

CONTEST WINNERS

What a mess. The June Final Exam contest sent readers scrambling to libraries, writing letters to Apple, and looking up Wozniak's phone number in the directory. Needless to say, it probably disrupted a lot of innocent people's lives. The carnage of contests, oh, the carnage.

It really wasn't that hard. As we said in the rules, all information was at one time or another publicly available if you knew where to look.

He Looked, He Wrote, He Entered, He Won. Brian Fleming (Los Altos, CA) knew where to look. Fleming's research skills helped him answer all but two questions correctly, which won him all of \$100 in prizes. He says