Printer error

I PURCHASED from Green's within Debenhams The Vic 1520 Colour Printer for £99.99, which is a very reasonable price for what is a very clever machine.

Taking it home I spent the whole evening trying to get it to work. I took it back to Greens because the computer kept coming up with an error message, "no device present".

The fault turns out to be the manual, which tells you to open channel 4, when it should be channel 6.

I telephoned Commodore and got a very "couldn't care less" attitude; yes, they knew about the error, but they were still sending the machines out. A revised manual would be printed at some time.
D A Welford
Ongar
Essex

Minefield modified

CONGRATULATIONS on a first class magazine for Commodore users. I read your first edition from end to end and look forward to the next edition.

I thought your readers might be interested in some modifications I have done to the program 'Minefield' by Pete Gerrard for the Vic 20. I have 16K expansion fitted and so to save reconfiguring I altered line 20 as follows:

```
20 L = L + 1: J = 441:
SC = 4096
```

Lines 56, 1020, 1420, 1620, 3009, 3015, where POKE7680 occurs, substitute POKE SC.

This program now runs on 16K expansion which also gives scope for some sound to make the program more realistic.

Lines 70, 75, 80, 85 after . . . THEN . . . add GOSUB6000;GOTO . . . Line 3000 is now (after "explosion")

```
3000 PRINT
"EXPLOSION": GOSUB
6050
```

Add new line 5003

```
5003 GOSUB 7000
```

Sub-routines for sound

```
6000 REM PIP SOUND
6002 POKE36878,15:POKE
36874,245
6005 FOR XX = 1 TO 50:
NEXT
6010 POKE36878,0:POKE
36874,0
6015 RETURN
6050 REM EXPLOSION
6052 POKE36877,220; FOR
XX = 15 TO 0 STEP-1
6055 POKE36878,XX: FOR
ZZ = 1 TO 250:
NEXTZZ,YY
6060 POKE36877,0:
RETURN
7000 REM VICTORY
WARBLE
7002 POKE36878,15:FOR X?
= 1 TO 100
7005 POKE36876,INT
(RND(1)*128) + 128
7010 FOR YY = 1 TO 10:
NEXT YY,ZZ
7015 POKE36878,0:
POKE36876,0
7020 RETURN
```

More elaboration could be made to these listings as the total number of bytes used is now only 2383, and this can easily be run on the unexpanded Vic-20.
B R P Wedge
Folkestone
Kent

Vic modem ahead?

IN YOUR Dec 83/Jan 84 issue, on the Answer Back page, you printed a letter from Andrew Lewis, and said that the feeling was that the Vic-20 was going to be discontinued, and that there were no plans for a Vic modem.

I am pleased to say that Commodore has informed me that modems for the Vic will be available early in 1984. They also said that they do not envisage phasing out the Vic-20.
D J Welch
New Malden
Surrey

Users in Ireland

IT IS good to see the introduction of your new publication *Commodore Horizons*.

We at the Commodore Users' Group Ireland endorse your proposed campaign to put pressure on software houses to produce material suitable for the Commodore range of computers.

Also, we would like to establish links with similar user groups throughout the world, so it would be appreciated if you would include our name and address in the next available edition of your publication.
Commodore Users' Group
Ireland
c/o William John Murphy
3 Woodlands Drive
Stillorgan
Blackrock
County Dublin
Ireland

Listing problems

SINCE ALL your program listings are straight copies from printers they can be terribly difficult to read. I realise that it would be costly to type them out in full, but think of all the trouble you'd save us committed programmers! If you decide that this is not viable, I would like to see at least a note before all programs suggesting that all the symbols are tried out within a single PRINT statement before attempting to type in the program.

I'd also like to see a series on animation, as this is one thing I am totally hopeless at.
Allan Morris
Bristol
Avon

Just some ideas

FIRSTLY, could you standardise your program print size. That used for Apple Fall is ideal, but Bomber Run is far too small, and it's sometimes impossible to sort out the graphics.

Secondly, how about a series on "programming for beginners"? Something on using reversed graphics and control characters would be useful.

Finally, I hope you will be able to find space for listings for programs on accounts, indexes, and so on, and some musical programmes.
Bob Smith
Chelmsford
Essex

Bits

Correction
Membership of ICPUG costs £10 a year in the UK and Ireland — and £15 upwards overseas.

"No, its not my contact lens — I've dropped my miniaturized calculator!"

STOWELL