

MAGAZINE

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THE PLAIN DEALER

OHIO'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER CLEVELAND, SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 1985

60¢

Jet's smoking section a lifesaver

'The plane . . . came apart, and our part wasn't in flames.'

FROM WIRE REPORTS

DALLAS — When Christopher Johnny Meier checked in at the Fort Lauderdale airport, he found that he had been assigned to the non-smoking section of Delta Flight 191 — and he was having no part of it.

"I told the ticket counter I smoke and I wanted to be in the smoking

area near a window," he said yesterday.

That's where he was Friday evening — seat 41J, a right-side window seat two rows into the smoking section, the only part of the huge L-1011 airliner not destroyed in the final seconds of the flight.

To Meier, 35, a troubleshooter for a Temple, Texas, convenience-store

sundries distributor, those last seconds seemed bumpy but normal as the plane groped through a violent thunderstorm toward Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. He had seen thunderclouds around the jetliner as it circled the airport, but he was not perturbed.

Suddenly, he said, "it felt like somebody stepped on us."

"The plane kind of rocked, and people began screaming and yelling," he said. To his amazement, Meier saw the ground so close "you could reach out and touch it."

In an instant, he asked God's protection.

In the next instant came a thump, and a huge explosion shattered the cabin in the middle of the plane.

"There was fire on the left," and a weird bolt of fire like lightning "raced See SURVIVORS, PAGE 10-A

A list of the dead and survivors. Page 10-A

High cost has kept airports from installing radar that can detect wind shear, possibly the cause of the Texas plane crash. Page 12-A.



Jay Slusher
'You never think it will happen.'



Dr. Demento, a confessed computer software pirate.

PO/TIMOTHY C. BARMAN

Computer pirates keyed for risks

By MARY ELLEN CROWLEY

STAFF WRITER

In many ways, "Dr. Demento," "Hawkeye Smith" and "The Dark Knight" are a modern version of the Three Musketeers, with each as willing to take risks for his friends as for himself.

Unlike Alexander Dumas' famous heroes, however, these shadowy characters with the swaggers and the swashbuckling names share a bond of mischief rather than honor, and their common goal is to avoid the sheriff.

"Everyone does it," they chant

when boastfully describing their skill at copying computer entertainment software.

An innocent game? Perhaps, considering it is being played by thousands of teen-agers and even older computer whizzes across the country, but Demento, 16, Smith, 15, and Knight, 14, are less than innocent, saying they know what they are doing is against the law.

"This is really illegal because the companies lose money on it," said Smith, who has about 1,000 games, although he purchased only about a dozen. "They'd love to bust us, but we don't give them enough information. They obviously don't want us to take their business away. There are so many pirates out there, the companies don't stand a chance."

The large number of pirates does make it difficult for software manufacturers to identify them and to press charges. The Washington-based Copyright Tribunal, a federal agency, regards computer programs as literary work and provides for fines of \$250 to \$10,000 for each copyright infringement. Criminal statutes apply only when the bootlegger has sold the copied programs for profit.

A 1982 Ohio law makes software piracy theft and provides for prosecution as a criminal offense, but a spokesman for the Cleveland prosecutor's office said no such cases had been tried here.

Computer piracy is, nevertheless, rampant here, according to Smith and friends. They and 15 others last spring formed a local piracy group called Atari Pirates Inc., API for short, which is committed to begging, borrowing and stealing.

See COMPUTER, PAGE 2-A

"General Motors has again found

Ohio to be a good place to do business ... and we are thrilled," said a spokesman for Gov. Richard F. Celeste, whose department of development was deeply involved in the negotiations.

The decision is expected to be announced officially Aug. 13 by Celeste and officials from GM and the United Auto Workers at a news conference at the Parma plant.

GM spokesman Donald A. Weber said the Parma plant employed about 4,300 workers who stamp body panels and make transmissions for light-duty trucks and vans. Weber said GM officials could not immediately say how many worked at each operation.

The stamping plant has been competing with other GM stamping plants nationwide for modernization funds.

See GM, PAGE 16-A

Parma gets nod for costly GM modernization

By CHRISTOPHER JENSEN

AUTO WRITER

General Motors Corp. has decided to go ahead with the modernization of its Chevrolet stamping plant in Parma.

GM could spend as much as \$400 million there, which would guarantee jobs for years.

Some Parma officials feared that without the modernization, the plant could be closed or moved. The Chevrolet Parma Plant provides more than 30% of Parma's operating revenue and is the city's largest employer, a city official said recently.

The decision to modernize the Parma plant could bring to almost \$1 billion the amount GM is spending to upgrade two of its Northern Ohio plants. Recently, GM said it would spend about \$600 million on its Mansfield stamping plant.

The stamping plant has been competing with other GM stamping plants nationwide for modernization funds.

See GM, PAGE 16-A

Real Presser trial is in White House

By JOSEPH D. RICE

STAFF WRITER

A few days after the Justice Department decided not to prosecute him for alleged payroll padding at a Cleveland Teamster union local, Teamster President Jackie Presser of Cleveland was rubbing elbows with some of the top people from the White House at a union meeting in Detroit.

The decision not to prosecute — reportedly because Presser was an FBI informant and committed the allegedly illegal acts with the knowledge of the FBI — has partially dissipated the political cloud that has been hanging over Presser since the Labor Department probe of Teamster Local 507 began 32 months ago.

ANALYSIS

How the reports that Presser has been an FBI informant for years will affect internal Teamster politics is uncertain. Presser is up for election next year.

Presser's only comment on the decision was a statement issued by his Washington office that said, "Thank God that's over. I'm happy with the outcome."

Presser's status as a power in Washington now depends to a great extent on two things, according to current and former members of the Reagan administration. Capitol Hill sources

See PRESSER, PAGE 8-A

Tiffin's 1-man Satan squad draws fire

"We have all types of perversion going on, and it's affecting America."

— Tiffin Police Capt. Dale W. Griffis

By W. STEVENS RICKS

STAFF WRITER

TIFFIN — The heavy metal rock band Motley Crue might appear to be a poorly dressed bunch of guys with a spelling problem, but to Dale W. Griffis they're the epitome of evil.

Griffis worries that youths preoccupied with Satan and the occult find sanctuary in such music. Griffis, you see, knows all the signs. He says he can immediately spot the psychological indications of someone ripe for seduction by the cults.

His boss, the mayor of Tiffin, says he wishes Griffis, the city's senior police captain, would spend more time thinking about things such as protecting downtown merchants and easing traffic problems.

Griffis, 47, admits that his thoughts often wander from conventional police work; he is more concerned with the effect of groups such as the "Garbage Eaters," the wandering cult led by Brother Evangelist, and the tools that can be used to fight them.

"All I want to do is help people," he said.

Police from all over the country call Griffis each day to ask about ominous references to cloven-hoofed animals and pentagrams left at crime scenes. He has amassed volumes of research on the occult, and he has tried to impart method and reason to seemingly senseless acts of violence with satanic overtones.

To some reporters and the law enforcement community, he is an intelligent analyst of an increasing source of criminal activities. To others, he is an obsessive gatherer of useless information.

He is sometimes remembered by Tiffin residents as the guy who got shot in the derriere during a police training exercise or for the time he blasted a hole in the roof of his police cruiser while fiddling with a shotgun.

While cultivating an image as one of the country's few experts on occult-related crime, Griffis has alienated those in his own community who believe his first duty is to manage the 32-member Tiffin Police Department.

Although he is second in command, Griffis has been detached from the department's daily events, according to other officers. His working day is largely spent dealing with occult crime-related inquiries from other cities, they said.

Sometimes it's difficult to distinguish between Griffis' duties with the police force and the things he does as part of his private consulting business,

Police Chief David A. Martien said. Griffis has been repeatedly warned about his large phone bill, run up talking about cults with other police agencies.

And the state auditor's office and the Seneca County prosecutor are investigating the alleged misuse by Griffis of thousands of dollars in funds supposedly destined for Tiffin's Foundation of Justice Fund. Foundation money solicited by Griffis ended up financing computer equipment and other materials for his outside work.

Twelve members of the police force have sued the city to void Griffis' January appointment to the newly created rank of deputy chief, a change made without a competitive exam.

City officials complain that Griffis has become a full-time expert of occult crime in a town that has little See SATAN, PAGE 9-A



Capt. Dale W. Griffis
— His appearance at an investigation scene may prompt media hype and professional animosity.

Computer

FROM PAGE 1-A

rowing and stealing as much software as possible for use on Atari computers.

THE LIFE OF A PIRATE

Of course, copying a piece of software does not necessarily constitute stealing it. Some software companies recommend copying a program in case the original is somehow damaged or destroyed. Piracy usually describes people who copy and use software they have not purchased, but for the most part they do not sell what they copy. Pirates who sell what they steal face considerably higher legal penalties. Public domain software, which often can be obtained from computer user groups, can be used and copied by anyone.

Demento, Smith and Knight, as they call themselves when communicating with fellow computer buffs, seem as proud of their organizational skill as of their computer skill. At a meeting in a shopping center near their suburban homes, they talked freely to a reporter but they declined to disclose their real names. Later, they demonstrated how they copy software.

To them, stealing software is childishly simple, as easy as photocopying. They said they constantly request presents of computer accessories from relatives. They collect blank floppy disks onto which they transfer the illegally attained programs. They also collect disk drives, the hardware that does the actual reading.

Through electronic bulletin board systems (BBSs) and modems, computer buffs can communicate with each other, usually under their pseudonyms. Like their operators, area Atari-bulletin boards have colorful names such as Stop-N-Swap, API Central and Haunted Mansion.

BBSs can serve legitimate purposes, providing technical and other information for members as well as communication.

Because the problem of computer piracy is widespread, software manufacturers have begun to incorporate into the programs protective measures making them more difficult to copy.

The local pirates say they regard cracking the protection as only one more challenge in the contest between them and the software makers.

"You can always use what's called a 'happy disk' to copy a protected pro-

gram," Demento said. "There are ways of getting any program."

Demento, Smith and Knight agreed that acquiring programs has become more a challenge of numbers than of computer skill. Smith, for example, admits that he has more games than he has time to play.

"It is a heavy obsession, pirating," he said. "You've got to have as many games as possible. We rarely play them, we just get them. See, if I have 1,000 games I have power over someone with 500 because they want mine."

PIRATES' VICTIMS

Nevertheless, considering that among them they have more than \$100,000 worth of programs, their hobby has serious implications for computer users.

Experts at leading software manufacturers say widespread piracy is eroding the industry and may eventually dry it up, thus hurting those computer users who buy all their software. Although there is no way to determine exactly how much software is pirated each year, they estimate that bootlegging annually leads to millions of dollars of lost revenue.

"If we can't sell our products because they are being gained illegally, we won't be around anymore," said R.L. Smith McKeithen, vice president and general counsel of Activision Inc., a leading company in software manufacturing, especially for Atari computers. "The flow of good products into the market will dry up."

"We try to alert people that copying a program is equivalent to copying a book like 'For Whom the Bell Tolls,'" McKeithen added. "A good piece of software takes a top-level designer anywhere from six to 18 months to design. It's a complex art that only a few people do well."

"You have to have the idea and then develop a story line, do the animation and create the music, and then get it on the disk. You've got to be a top-notch programmer to make those little chips dance. If we don't support the people who are making these programs, they'll find other ways to spend their time."

Indeed, Smith, Demento and Knight agreed that they would not pursue careers in computers. "We don't want to program; too many people copy your work," Demento said.

WHERE ARE THEY?

"I'm sure if the parents of little Johnny knew he was stealing from a store they wouldn't condone it, but they don't realize that pirating software is the same thing and means the same thing in lost revenue and lost jobs for real men and women," Goheen said. "They have to realize that siphoning off revenue from this business is probably stealing in the purest sense of the word."

McKeithen agreed that a big part of

the problem was ignorance of laws aimed at computer pirates. "Lots of people don't think there's a problem because they don't know there are laws against it," he said.

Demento's mother is one of these people; she said she was not aware of laws against copying software.

"I don't even understand what's going on," she said. "I know they buy, trade and copy things, but I don't keep track. Maybe I probably should do more, but I know I don't see him on

the street getting into trouble, I see him in his room."

Demento, Smith and Knight say in their adolescent world they are not plagued with concerns about fines and imprisonment as much as with worries closer to home.

"I had to take down my board because of grades," said the Dark Knight. "They (his parents) were going to take my computer away, but instead they just made me take the board down."

Smith said sharing a phone with his

older sister caused problems because he often had his modem hooked up to it. "That's what we always fight about," he said. "When I'm on the phone with older people sometimes she starts telling me to get off the phone, so I tell her off and she tells me off and we fight and my mom says neither one of us can use the phone."

"In fact, whenever I get punished, taking away my modem or my computer always happens to be part of the punishment. Computers aren't my life, but they're a big part of it."

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