

# Computer Savvy

By Scott Cummins, 15

Hall 9000 in the movies *2001* and *2010* and Ira in the "Wonder Woman" television series are computers — computers created by someone's imagination. These computers "listen" to someone talk and then reply using computerized voices. They are fictional, but "talking" to computers and having them respond has become a reality.

Making a computer "talk" is simple. It is done in two ways: synthesizing or digitizing. When you synthesize, you use a program that has already been put together. The program asks you what you want to say, then it deciphers your words by comparing them to the sounds in the program. The program's sounds were electronically created by information fed into the computer. The results are sometimes hard to understand because the computer does not always pronounce the sounds exactly as you would.

Digitization is probably the most effective and best sounding form of computer "talk." However, this process takes expensive equipment, more computer memory and more time. To digitize you need a special microphone that plugs into your computer and the software that comes with your microphone. When you talk into the microphone, the computer will digitally (numerically) store your exact sounds on the disk. This takes up lots of space, but the results are worth it.

Today you can hear voices in kids' computer games and in educational software. The computerized voices actually "talk" and tell you if you got an answer wrong or right. They also tell you the correct answer.

If you have a question about computers, send it to: Scott, c/o *Young American*, P.O. Box 12409, Portland, OR, 97212. It may appear in an upcoming issue of *Young American*.

# Constitutional Calendar

Events leading to the September 17, 1787, signing of the U.S. Constitution.

**August 4, 1787**

The Committee of Detail of the Constitutional Convention had given a draft of the Constitution to the printer.

**August 6, 1787**

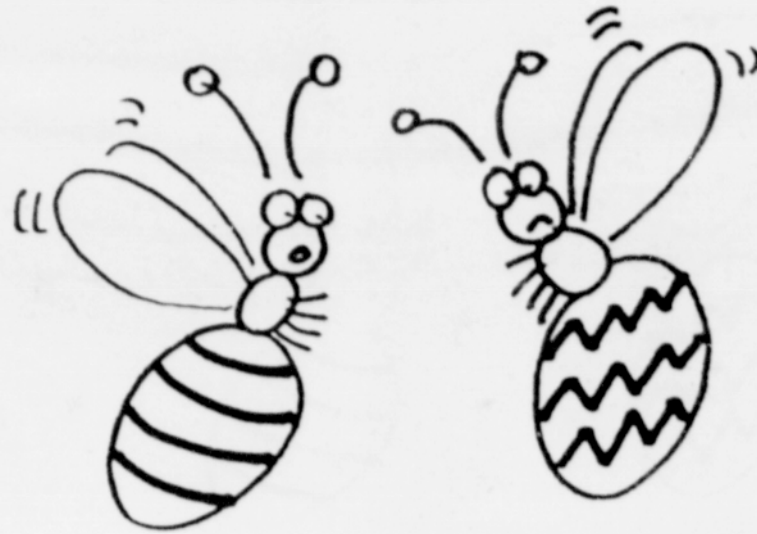
John Rutledge, chairman of the Committee of Detail, gave the delegates the printed draft of the Constitution.

**August 7, 1787**

The delegates went through the draft and debated about each item in it.

**August 8, 1787**

The minimum citizenship requirement for state representatives was changed from three years to seven years.



GWISS

"Try adjusting your antennas..."

# DESERTS



Find out in *Young American* on August 26 — how kangaroo rats can live in the desert without drinking any water. Check out lots more desert facts in the next issue of *Young American*.

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