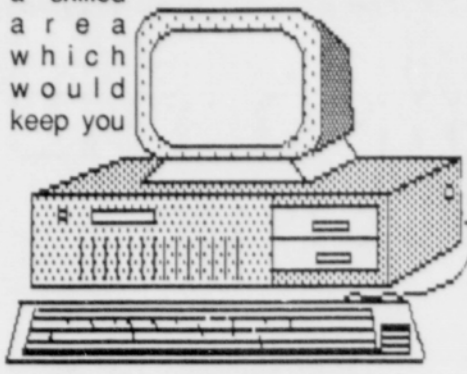


Computers & You!

by T. West, Computer Consultant

Are you an African American Male between the ages of 18 and 27? Chances are you're looking for a skilled area which would keep you



employed and earning good wages. There are white collar skills in demand paying reasonable wages. These jobs require good typing skills (45 wpm, 60 wpm preferred). Personal computers have become a revolution in large and small businesses. I'm sure you've heard of IBM PCs, Apple Macintosh, Apple II Es, Compaq, Commodore, and other personal computers. IBM and compatibles, and Macintosh are on the desktops of millions of businesses in America. Obviously someone must understand how to operate this equipment and the software which is used to perform business tasks. Facts are there's a shortage of persons with the skills and knowledge to operate personal computers, to be referred to as PCs. Often businesses purchase these systems and cannot find qualified persons to operate them. To make things even more complicated, new software is being developed every day and business users must be trained in how to use the newer software.

So, you are that male earlier referred to and you need a good promising job or the skills to acquire such a job, what do you do? First acquire a typing skill. Now all of the "Macho" fellahs are probably saying "Typing is for the ladies", however, you would be limiting yourself. More than a decade ago I recall sitting in a typing class with 20 females and one other male. You know the story of the tortoise and the hare. Needless to say me and the other guy were the tortoises. We stayed in there and at the end of the quarter we were the hares. Now typing at 90+ wpm it is safe in saying the task was accomplished.

How will this typing skill help you? Most input on computers is yet

done through the keyboard (typing). People who have traditionally performed input were known as secretaries, word processing operators, data entry persons, and keypunch operators. Times have changed and will continue to change. People who input now along with some of those traditional people are: lawyers, doctors, police, CEOs (Corporate Executive Officers), construction workers, engineers, and many more. In effect, typing skills add to whatever career you're in, but that's only part of it.

Computer skills are required in many administrative white collar jobs as well as non-administrative jobs. Blue collar jobs (digging ditches, building factories, producing steel, harvesting crops, building ships, making automobiles and other items) are disappearing in America. However, the business aspects of blue collar work must be processed in America, even the though much of the blue collar work is performed in other countries. Computers are the machines by which large and small firms are processing their paperwork. Therefore, some of the following personnel must be hired: Word Processing Operators (person who types letters, reports, and other correspondence), Typesetters, Programmers, Computer Service Technician, Computer Department

Supervisors and Managers, Computer Network Administrators, Telex and Fax Operators, Computer Software Trainers, and others. These positions pay rather well. Good word processing operators can start out earning \$8 an hour, certainly beats minimum wage.

Many of your fathers adjusted by moving to the cities in the 1950s to pursue industrial blue collar jobs in the factories and other industries. You should adjust to acquire white collar jobs. Your female counterparts adjusted many drive heavy rigs, log timber, build highways and bridges, and building office buildings. As young African American males you must adjust by acquiring white collar skills and knowledge. You should enroll in business courses which will assist you in getting jobs as tellers, word processing operators, programmers, and computer specialists.

Be looking forward to other high tech information in your community newspaper.

(NOTE: In this issue POIC is advertising a free 15 week course which can start you down the road toward better jobs, better pay, and moving in step with the job market in America)

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