



Well, finally we got in. Then the real problem started. Beings we forgot a ball of string to leave a trail, or a compass, we decided to always go left. That's what my wife says when we go to the mall, "Just keep going left. You'll find me." It works for her, not for me, too many juxtaposed stores. But, the mall does have some symbolism of order, not the chaos of COMDEX.

Anyways, everywhere you went there were 10-story loudspeakers with hot-shot hawkers wired to 100 pound microphones,. Dancing ladies and singing parrots, or what ever else bizarre was apropos. Game shows on TV are sadly behind the curve of those jokers who touted their stuff. And most of it wasn't new, that is if you stay up to snuff. Tha's me!?

The big guy companies were the worst. Entire cities crammed into three for four story displays that even housed a brothel... I think. What else could they be? And all of 'em gave out more stuff, each try'n to out give the last with bigger and better tote bags and worthless junk, stuff.

We ended up with a back pack on too, and two huge shopper bags that hooked over your shoulder and hung under your arm, almost dragging the ground. I weighed 500 pounds more when they closed the doors that evening. How many trees do you reckon it took to make the paper products they gave out? We even got a free 10 foot umbrella from Word Perfect. I guess they think giving away a world-class umbrella will help take back the number one slot.

Meanwhile technoweenie, Bill gates and his all-American gee-whiz guys at Micro Soft were plying the professional hackers and cyberpunks by their own brand of hallelujah show biz. I mean you'd a thunk a ball game was on every corner. Each barker whipped up the crowd to a fevered pitch. If you didn't yell loud enough they threatened you with not giving out any more goodies... tough huh?

And cheesecake, scantily covered gals paraded hawking XXX-rated CD-ROMs of everything; Penthouse and Playboy are rather churchy compared to them. How do I know... just a wild guess.

Next time COMDEX plans to get organized, they're gonna ban nudity and sexually explicit stuff. It was distracting to say the least. Most of us info-Gru

computer giants ignored 'em, well almost.

The big things were: the Micro Soft and Timex technowonks partnered up to produce a wonder watch that works with their scheduler program... I wonder if it has a compass?

There's a new 16 meg single chip BIOS — it plugs in existing slots, no tell'n how much RAM we can get now. Multimedia was a big attraction, CD-ROM Jukeboxes to play 18 CDs, 3-D displays, 160 meg PCMCIA plug-in cards, Mouses of all sorts including a rock-around-type J-Mouse that uses the J-key — you just rock it in the direction you want to go.

There were Subliminal Persuasion programs to flash special slogans to that part of your mind you ain't usin'. Who knows what you'd really be putt'n on the screen though, probably, "Run to the nearest knowledge-mine gizmo store and spend all the money you've got on MICRO SOFT stuff."

COMDEX vendors also displayed Technotainment CDs, Edutainment CDs, anything and everything you don't want or need, even a credit card that makes an alarm go off in your wallet if you left the card somewhere, all manor of voice programs that understand your cuss words, and Virtual Reality Programs that decapitate and threaten

XXX-rated gals with rape and mayhem... I swear it's all true.

The highlight, to me though, was ScanFX, a color-scanner-fax-copier machine. They pack 10-pounds of hightech grung in a five-pond bag. Looks good?

To top it all off a price war apparently looms over the horizon. If you plan on buying a laptop, stick to the giants. Still, remember how TI dropped several models a few millenniums ago. When that happens, might as well throw it away, can't get parts. Desk tops? That's a different story, most plug into eachgether. Look for great deals that get better as the years ends. Top-o-the-lines, complete systems, 100MHz or better, will sell for under \$2000.

So what's next?