In 1981, Technology came to TSS in the form of cutting edge computers. The boy’s response to their new cyber world was somewhat prophetic.

A computer can do everything except think – think about striking, more pay or longer oil breaks. It’s happy with 240 volts.

D. Cameron

Any new method of taking over your job has always been regarded with certain uncharitable thoughts.

Un-named

Leisure time, something that everyone wants, will soon become a case of what to do with it. Even now as people are pushing for a 35 hour week what will it be in the future? It could even reach the stage where people are pushing for a longer working week as work becomes a craft and not a chore for many.

R. Prove

The computer can

Computers can

Computers can

worthwhile. Skills in

rebirth of all arts will

be used for hobbies

result in people being

stressed as many are
COMPUTER REVOLUTION

To keep pace with the computer revolution, the school has purchased seven Challenger Computers—six IP's and one SP. The major purpose of these computers is that they be utilized in the school subject, "Computer Studies". Popularity of the computers has grown tremendously, and now, over 140 students are members of the Computer Club. Through the club, the computers are open to every student's use, but major emphasis is placed on those boys who take "Computer Studies" as their school subject. The interest shown in computers this year has been so great, "The Southportonian" decided to seek comments from Mr. McGovern, computer studies master on the more serious and technical aspects of computers, and on a more informal basis, comments from computer students.

Southportonian: When you came to T.S.S., did you have any definite plans on establishing computer studies?

Mr. McGovern: No, I had no definite plan. Just my interest in computers.

Student: To what extent will the experience gained by students help them in the future?

Mr. McGovern: Obviously a couple of years' experience is not much, but hopefully it will help people to see the limitations and strengths of these machines, and in their organization, and give them an awareness of the technology that exists.

Student: What are the capabilities and features of the computers we have?

Mr. McGovern: The IP's do almost anything you want, but they do have limited memory and limited user programming skills. The SP is a standard model with a much extended memory which can be used in an office situation and has small business capabilities. The only limitations are what you can think to program into it.

Student: What type of subject matter is being taught in the Grade 11 class?

Mr. McGovern: It's a general introduction to computers— their users, social impacts, and of course basic programming.

Student: Are the computers useful to any of the staff?

Mr. McGovern: Yes. The SP is being used to process overdue library books. It sorts the names by houses and forms, and updates automatically. Apart from this I don't envisage any other clerical or office work being done by the computers for a while yet, it takes time to get things up and running.

SOME STUDENT COMMENTS ON COMPUTER STUDIES

Computer Studies. Good or bad?

A short introduction into our future life. Anon.

T.S.S. has entered a revolution. What was only a vision yesterday is now reality for Mr. McGovern. Glen Richards

William Sherwood was one of two people who enjoyed the course. The other was Mr. McGovern. Anon.

Good if you were born with a memory disc in your mouth. Michael Brown

A wide range of skills including typing and gardening. Anon.

Working with Computers.

A key to the future. Stuart Camp

is the beginning of a nightmare. Richard Smith

a battle with an invisible genius. Anon.

One must have great self-control. Every time "2 N ERROR" appears on the screen, one has a great urge to engulf one's feet in its glaring face. Glen Richards

It's fun typing in programs that never work. An Unsuccessful Student

They don't argue, but they never do what you tell them. Anon.

Computers are human too.

They definitely pick on some people. Duncan Cameron

If programmed properly they can be superhuman. Robert Veveres

They wear desert boots and say "Righty O then people". Anon.

a breakthrough in computer technology: the first walking, talking computer wearing desert boots, short pants, a bull frog in his throat, and this amazing cybernaut drives a panel van. Anon.

My oath they are. Last week one flogged a program I'd been working on for days. Anon.

Computers in the Workforce

a source of abundant, mechanical slaves. Anon.

put a lot of people out of work. Robert Veveres

Computers have a great future. Michael Brown

what work? Damien Wood
Leisure could cause a lot of boredom because people will have too much time on their hands and not enough money to spend on leisure. This could cause violence.

D. Wood

Man needs challenge, be it only one or a whole list, in daily life especially at work. Humans need a goal to strive for. And gradually, through the continual use of, and reliance on, cybernetic machines will Man lose his desire for challenge? . . . if he becomes too reliant on machines to do all his work and lets them take over his mind . . .

M. Hurzeler

The problem will be how to cope with the human problem. The problems of individuality, ambition and status . . .

A. Johnson

Interaction between people and human contact are an integral part of today’s lifestyle, but this could be eliminated . . .

D. Ham

Computers may bring about a decentralised population distribution. In a cybernetic society, the use of terminals linked up with a central system means that a consumer living far away can order food with the terminal . . . our social life will be spent with a TV screen and keyboard instead of communicating with people.

D. Chen

The role of a human in a society like this is a very serious question. In fact, this is what many unions are fighting over . . . It is very humiliating for a man or woman to be replaced by machines. He or she has no social status, no economic status but plenty of leisure time.

R. Veivers

The computer lacks the common sense of human.

D. Chen

A computer can do everything except think – think about striking, more pay or longer oil breaks. It’s happy with 240 volts.

D. Cameron

The advanced countries are already taking off in a technology boom in the form of computer games . . .

almost anyone can afford a good computer or terminal as costs drop.

W. Sherwood

Areas of impact include Health, Space Exploration, Industry, Technology, Education and Transport . . . the benefits of computers have far outweighed the costs.

– unsign

We are looking at a very sensitive situation here. There are two sides to the coin: will computers destroy or improve us? Will the effects be devastatingly positive or negative? The fact is that we are quite capable of doing almost anything with the aid of computers, so where will it end and where will we find a turning point? The coin is up in the air. We know that, but what we don’t know is which way it is going to land. Heads or tails?

D. Walker

Student: Finally, how serious is the threat of computers taking away jobs – teaching for example.

Mr. McGovern: A very real threat indeed – but not in all areas.

Can you imagine students taking notice of a computer? At times, people need to be screamed at to get organised. It must be realised that computers are an aid, and not an end in themselves.

THE SOUTHPORT SCHOOL

SCIENCE CONTEST

This year the Junior School had their own selection competition and the best dozen science displays were sent up to the T.S.S. science contest. Once again the entries from the Junior School were of a very high standard and Mr. Christianson and his boys are congratulated on their efforts.

Over 100 boys entered the contest yet the small number in the Senior Section (12) was disappointing.

Many businesses show their interest in the school by their support of the contest. Sponsors who donated prize money this year were:


Several boys entered their science displays in the Queensland Science Contest. Boys from the Junior School were quite successful and the following won prizes: N. Agnew, M. Ball, R. Biddle, G. McWilliam, J. Hillier, C. Perau, R. Wallis.

Boys who wish to display their scientific ability in 1982 should start their projects early next year and complete by the end of May.

The 1982 T.S.S. contest will be held in early June.