creative computing

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Computer Games:
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A 16-Bit Computer in Your Future?

Murphy's Laws and Computers

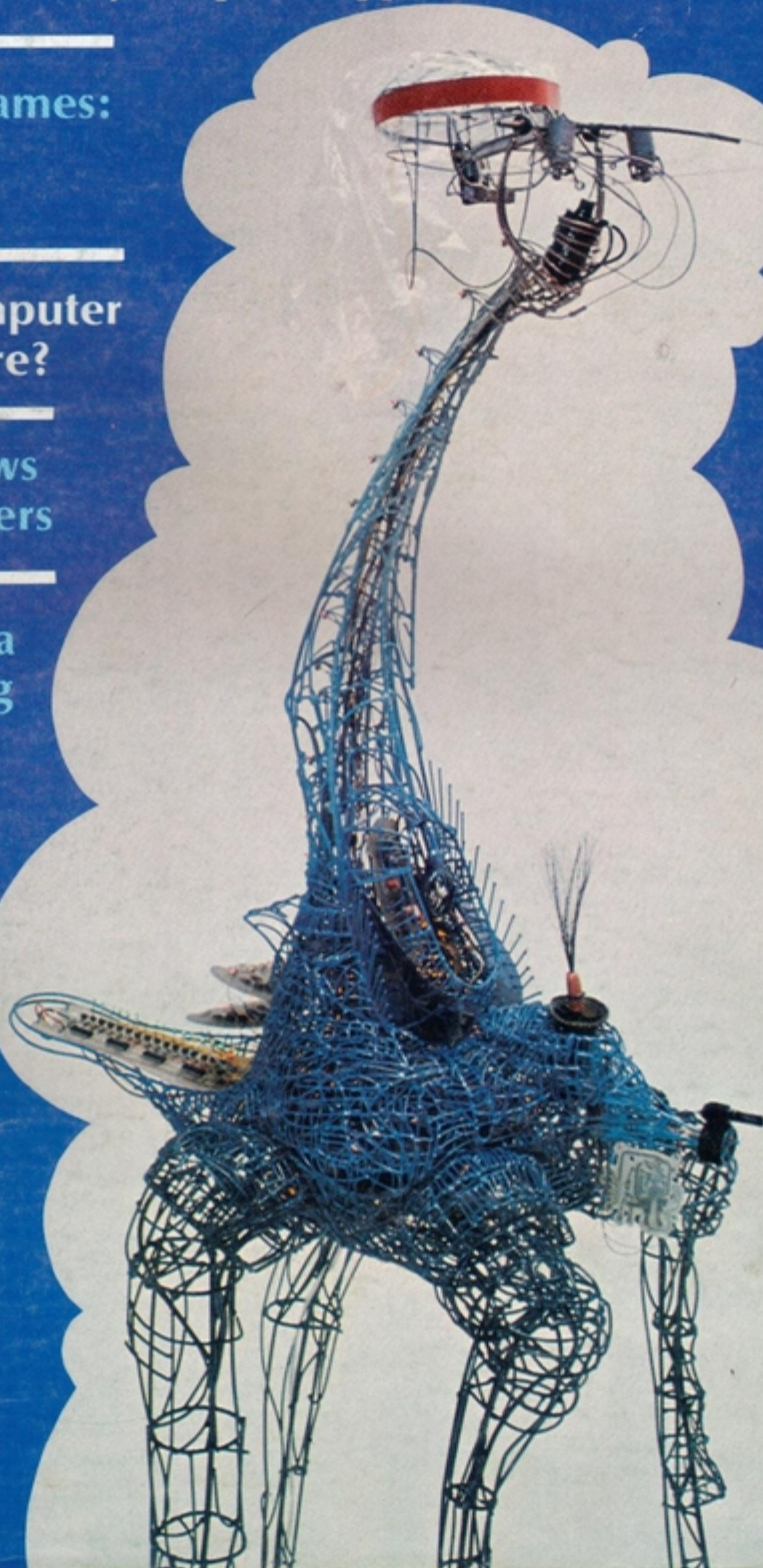## Grammar as a Programming Language

Robot-Drawing Contest

How to Write a Computer Simulation

Biorhythm in BASIC and APL

Program for a World Population Model
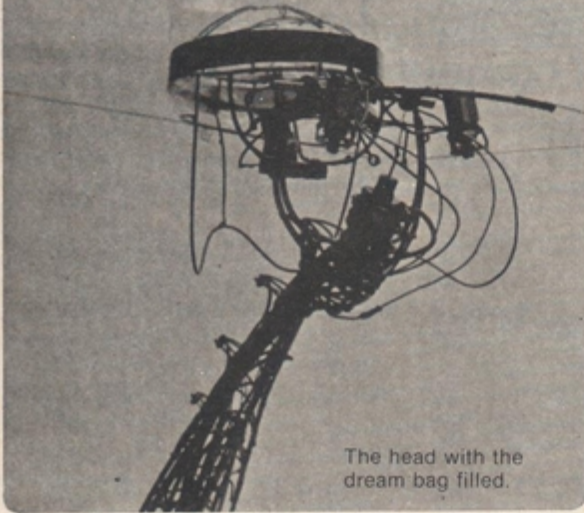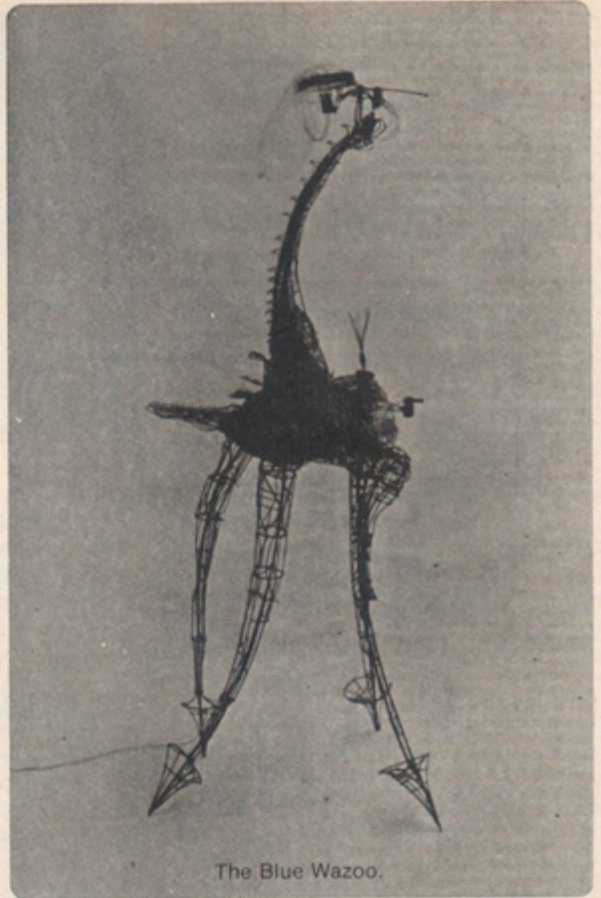
A New Fast Sorting Algorithm

Blue Wazoo
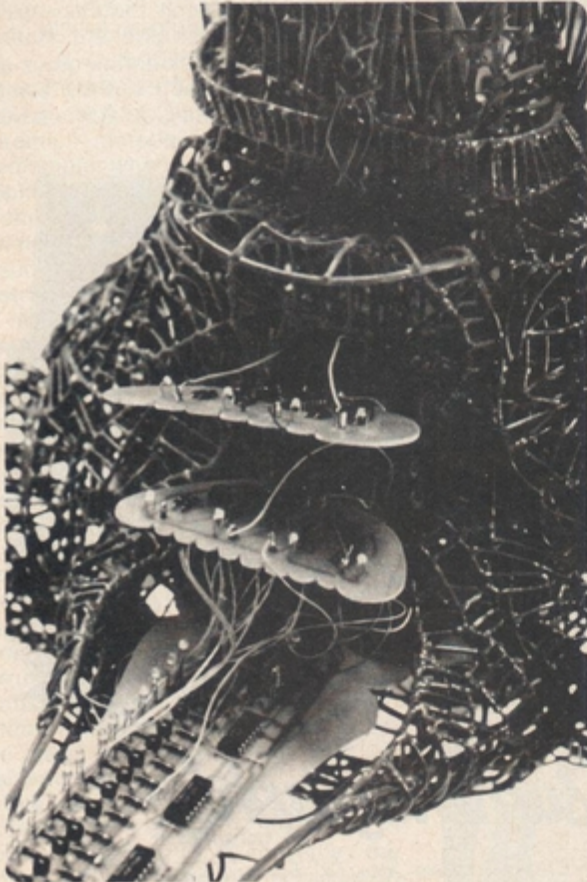
Blue Wazoo

Jim Pallas

The head with the dream bag filled.

The Blue Wazoo.

Continuity markers and stimulus spacers.

Necessity rings (center) and the eye (bottom).

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BLUE WAZOO

THE BEAD OF CONSCIOUSNESS
SUSPENDS CONTINUITY MARKING,
SPACED STIMULI.
BUDDAH-NATURE WAVERS TWITCH.
THE DREAM BAG FILLS.
POSSIBILITY TENDRILS
AND NECESSITY RINGS
POP UP.

BEAD DESCENDS.
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The Blue Wazoo is primarily a welded steel structure covered with several coats of acrylic lacquer. The structure contains plastic shapes, ciruitry, wires, light-emitting diodes, solenoids, a motor, cloth, horsehair, a feather and a bead. The Blue Wazoo senses light and sound and responds with a behavioral repertoire of various LED patterns, movements, inflations, deflations, whirrs, clicks and jiggles. It is six feet high and weighs about 25 pounds.

Ambient light falling on the photocell (in the small velcro-mounted "gun" at the front of the body) increases the clock frequency (average: 2 hertz), of the 16 bit serial-in serial-out shift register. Data for the shift is generated by a microphone (at the front base of the neck). An 8-bit binary counter counts the output of the shift. Four nand gates are made conditional on data from various outputs of the shift and counters. Each nand gate controls an activity of the Blue Wazoo.

Visitors sense that the Blue Wazoo is reacting to something they are doing but they don't know exactly what. This often leads to superstitious behavior on their part. The artist is particularly interested in this cybernetic aspect of the work and feels that the dynamic interaction between viewer and artwork is one of the more exciting potentials in the use of the new technology in art.

The internal workings of a circuit and the resultant activities take on symbolic content as indicated by the individual names given to various parts of the sculpture.

The Blue Wazoo was made by Jim Pallas in 1975-76 and is in the collection of the Allan Stone Gallery, NYC.
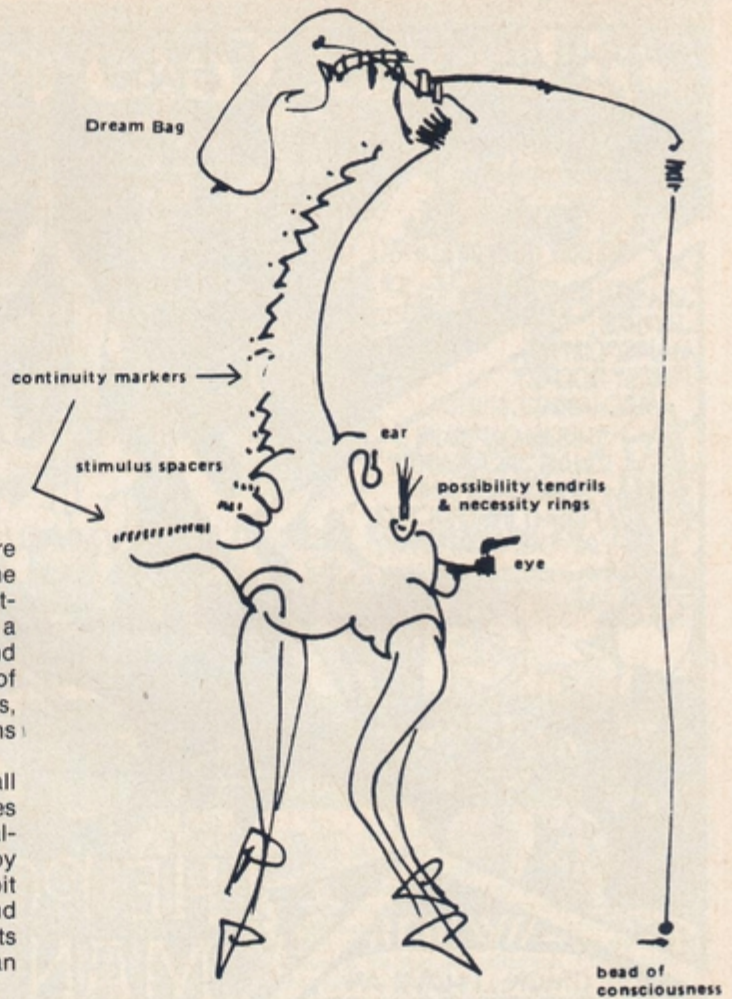
This article is appearing simultaneously in *Page*, the publication of The Computer Arts Society.

The artist, Jim Pallas is co-ordinator of the Detroit Art Works (they have a really fabulous T-Shirt with one of Jim's works on the front and Detroit Art Works emblem on the back. Black shirt, adult sizes $7.00 postpaid. Well worth it — DHA). Jim is also on the faculty of Macomb County Community College. He can be reached at 1311 Bishop, Grosse Point Park, Michigan 48230. ∎

BLOCK DIAGRAM OF BLUE WAZOO'S LOGIC