

GRAFIX™ ACCOMPANIES BALLY COMPUTER INTRO

A custom computer programming language featuring words, symbols, music, and graphics, was introduced at the Winter Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, by Bally Consumer Products division. Called Grafix™, the new programming language was developed by Bally for use in its new Bally Computer System.

A decade in development, the new language is the offspring of Bally Basic and Grass, the graphics language used to create the special computer effects in the movie, "Star Wars."

Grafix is described by Bally as the first graphics computer language designed specifically for consumers. Utilizing the 256-color capability of the Bally Computer System, the language offers home programmers many unique features:

- **The language is self-teaching. Programming commands describe themselves to users upon request, with the simple instruction "help!"**
- **The language is extensible, i.e., user-expandable. Although the language contains instructions in common with Basic, it also contains a vocabulary of graphics commands that are unique. And, an indefinite number of new commands can be added by the home programmer.**
- **The language permits multi-level programming. This feature allows users to write one program while running another, thus allowing a number of independent programs to operate on the screen simultaneously.**

According to a Bally spokesman, commercial art, computer movies, flight simulation, and classroom instruction are but a few of the software possibilities for Grafix.

Grafix was developed by a Chicago-based team of programming engineers: Dr. Tom DeFanti, Professor of Computer Sciences at the University of Illinois; Nola Donato, a University of Illinois programming consultant; and Jay Fenton, Senior Programming Engineer of Dave Nutting & Associates, a Bally subsidiary.