

# K.C. 99'er CONNECTION



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## SENDING A 'SMILEY'

The smiley faces of 1960's pop culture are making a comeback. But this time, instead of on little yellow buttons, the faces are appearing in electronic-mail messages viewed on computer screens. These faces, fondly referred to as "Smileys" are read by tilting your head to the left. Here's a look at some of the more popular Smileys:

SMILEY MESSAGES	FAMOUS CARICATURES
:-) Happy	Si-) ELVIS
:-( Sad	:-)B Dolly Parton
%-( Confused	:-0 Mick Jagger
: '-( Crying	) Cheshire Cat
8-0 Amazed	:-.) Madonna
: -   Angry	:\$) Donald Trump
> ) A little devil	B-) Batman
%&) Very drunk	>>-0-> General Custer
%&:-( So hung over my head hurts	->=:)X Zippy the Pinhead

## PRESIDENTIAL SMILEYS

:-)= Abe Lincoln	\ =// George Bush
(=) Jimmy Carter	=i0J Bill Clinton
7i^J Ronald Reagan	:') Richard Nixon

Source: "Smileys, a dictionary of more than 650 symbols" KC Star

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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#### ICONS LET COMPUTERS PUT ON A HAPPY FACE

FEELING GLAD, mad  
or even blue? There's  
a symbol just for you.

"It takes a little imagination. Sometimes they are ..... other times you are left wondering what they are. But that's part of the fun."

By ROBERT A. CRONKLETON David Sanderson, author of Smileys dictionary  
Staff Writer. <C Star

;-) looks like a mistake, doesn't it? Actually, it's a new form of punctuation. But don't look for this odd mark or one of its more than 650 variants in doctoral theses or fine literature. Computer users are sprinkling these characters throughout messages sent over electronic-mail systems. They are meant to convey feelings, emotions and intentions.

And while ;/) may look like a typo, take a second look. This time, tilt your head to the left. The string of characters become a face with a colon for eyes, a hyphen for a nose and, in case you haven't got it yet, a parenthesis for a smile.

Welcome to the world of "Smileys," so called because the string of characters is reminiscent of the happy faces of pop culture. But instead of being on little yellow buttons and stickers, the faces are appearing on computer screens.

"When I first came across them I did not know what they were," said David Richter, president and owner of Electronic Vault Inc. in Overland Park. In Smiley language, Richter's amazement would have been expressed as B-U. Richter, who is an avid E-mail user, said he uses Smileys whenever possible and appropriate, including in business notes. "I use them to add emphasis to what I am saying or just to show that I was just kidding," he said.

Smileys bring the ordinarily static text of E-mail alive by letting computer users :-O) yell, :-( frown, :-| drool, >:-) flirt, :-P stick out their tongues, and even :-K kiss. Smiley experts refer to these little faces as emoticons, short for emotional icons. Not all Smileys reflect emotions. Some show professions such as a baseball player :-B) or a football player :-H) or famous people such as Abraham Lincoln (see graphic at start of this article). Still others send a message such as oo for "Your lights are on." That symbol doesn't need to be viewed by tilting your head.

"The main reasons the Smileys are catching on are because one, they are fun, and two, they are a useful form of communicating," said David Sanderson, author of "Smileys", a dictionary of more than 650 symbols. Sanderson, a programmer at the Space Science and Engineering Center at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, said it helps people who think that communicating by computers is a little impersonal. "It is not a full substitution for the warmth of the human voice, but it is making up

sending a Smiley (continued)

for the lack of it," he said.

Some say Smileys started popping up on computer screens more than a decade ago. Their true origin isn't known for sure. But Smiley experts point to Scott Fahlman, who, while a computer scientist at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, is thought to have sent the first one in 1980. Fahlman later wrote: "I wish I had saved the original post or at least recorded the date for posterity, but I had no idea that I was starting something that would soon pollute the world's communication channels."

Nowadays it is difficult to maneuver around a computer bulletin board without coming across Smileys. It is uncertain how widespread their use is in the Kansas City corporate community. In fact, many companies contacted needed an explanation of what a Smiley was before they were able to say they hadn't seen any in their E-mail. But that may change as people become more adept at using computers and E-mail and become more aware of these icons.

Steve Hein, program manager for Prodigy, one of the nation's largest computer bulletin board services, said he thinks the first Smileys were used to ease confusion from written communications. "I suppose that if people were very precise in writing their letters, then their written work would convey in words and sentences their true feelings," he said. "But maybe with the speed at which we do things, people no longer can take the time to do that."

Smileys have evolved from the time they were first used. In fact, some versions of Smileys aren't faces at all. Debra Young, corporate communications specialist for CompuServe, one of the nation's largest computer bulletin boards services, said people use all capital letters for words they wanted to stress or shout in E-mail messages. Others set off these words by asterisks. Common emoticons used on CompuServe are <q for "grin," <VBG for "very big grin" and BTW for "by the way." Of course, some common punctuation still has its place. "I found the best way to express my emotions was to use several exclamation points," she said.

Both Prodigy and CompuServe said the growth in popularity of Smileys is fueled by the increasing number of people using computers to communicate. Hein said Prodigy was expecting more than 60 million messages to be posted on its bulletin boards this year. That is an average of 175,000 notes posted daily, covering more than 400 topics. Prodigy, started three years ago, has more than 2 billion subscribers. Young said CompuServe has more than 1.2 million subscribers from 120 countries. They access more than 1,700 data bases and 350 forums, where users chat electronically with others.

But even though Smileys are designed to help people communicate better, Sanderson admitted they can add confusion. "It takes a little imagination," he said. "Sometimes they are clear what they mean, other times you are left wondering what they are. But that's part of the fun."

## THE BLOODBANK

by

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1 REM SAVE DSK2.HE
100 CALL CLEAR
105 PRINT TAB(14);"HE";;;TAB(4);"Lyric by RICHARD MULLAN"
110 PRINT ;TAB(4);"Music by JACK RICHARDS";;;
115 PRINT ;TAB(6);"T199/4A translation";;;TAB(6);"by WALTER H. BLOOD";;;
111
200 DIM A(161),B(161),C(161),D(161)
210 FOR K=1 TO 161
220 READ A(K),B(K),C(K),D(K)
230 NEXT K
240 T=40
245 V=5
250 CALL CLEAR
255 PRINT TAB(11);"HE";;; "HE can turn the tides"; "and calm the angry sea
a."
260 PRINT "HE alone decides"; "who writes a symphony.";;; "HE lights every
star that"
265 PRINT "makes our darkness bright."; "HE keeps watch all through"
270 PRINT "each long and lonely night.";;; "HE still finds the time to"
275 PRINT "hear a child's first prayer."; "Saint or sinner call"
280 PRINT "and always find him there.";;; "Though it makes him sad"
285 PRINT "to see the way we live."; "He'll always say";;;TAB(3);""I FORG
IVE.""";
300 K=1
310 GOSUB 950
320 FOR K=2 TO 6
330 GOSUB 900
340 NEXT K
350 GOSUB 950
360 FOR K=8 TO 12
370 GOSUB 900
380 NEXT K
390 GOSUB 950
400 FOR K=14 TO 19
405 V=V-2*(K=18)-(K=19)
410 GOSUB 900
415 NEXT K
420 FOR I=1 TO 2
422 V=7
424 I=30

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425 K=1
430 GOSUB 950
440 FOR K=2 TO 6
450 GOSUB 900
460 NEXT K
470 GOSUB 950
480 FOR K=8 TO 12
490 GOSUB 900
500 NEXT K
510 GOSUB 950
520 FOR K=14 TO 15
525 GOSUB 900
530 NEXT K
531 K=20
532 GOSUB 900
533 K=21
535 GOSUB 950
540 FOR K=22 TO 26
545 GOSUB 900
550 NEXT K
555 GOSUB 950
560 FOR K=28 TO 38
565 GOSUB 900
570 NEXT K
575 GOSUB 950
580 FOR K=40 TO 42
585 GOSUB 900
590 NEXT K
595 GOSUB 950
600 FOR K=44 TO 45
605 GOSUB 900
610 NEXT K
615 FOR K=46 TO 47
620 GOSUB 950
625 NEXT K
630 FOR K=48 TO 51
635 GOSUB 900
640 NEXT K
645 GOSUB 950
650 FOR K=53 TO 56
655 GOSUB 900
660 NEXT K
665 GOSUB 950
670 FOR K=58 TO 70
672 V=V+(K=61)+(K=63)-(K=64)+(K=65)
675 GOSUB 900
680 NEXT K
685 GOSUB 950
690 FOR K=72 TO 122
692 V=V+(K=79)+(K=80)+(K=81)+(K=82)+(K=83)
695 GOSUB 900
700 NEXT K
705 FOR K=123 TO 125

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710 GOSUB 950
715 NEXT K
720 FOR K=126 TO 138
725 GOSUB 900
730 NEXT K
735 UN 1 GOSUB 750,770
740 NEXT I
742 CALL CLEAR
745 STOP
750 FOR K=139 TO 142
755 GOSUB 900
760 NEXT K
765 GOTO 810
770 FOR K=143 TO 146
775 GOSUB 900
780 NEXT K
785 GOSUB 950
790 FOR K=148 TO 161
795 GOSUB 900
800 NEXT K
805 RETURN
810 CALL CLEAR
815 PRINT TAB(11);"HE";;; "HE can grant a wish"; "or make a dream come tr
ue."
820 PRINT "HE can paint the clouds"; "and turn the gray to blue.";;; "HE al
one knows where"
825 PRINT "to find the rainbow's end.";"HE alone can see"
830 PRINT "what lies beyond the bend.";;; "HE can touch a tree"
835 PRINT "and turn the leaves to gold.";"HE knows ev'ry lie"
840 PRINT "that you and I have told.";;; "Though it sakes him sad"
845 PRINT "to see the way we live,";"He'll always say";;; ""I FORGIVE.""
. ""I FORGIVE.""";
850 RETURN
900 CALL SOUND(T%A(K),B(K),V,C(K),V,D(K),V)
910 RETURN
950 CALL SOUND(T%A(K),B(K),V,C(K),V,D(K),30,-4,V)
960 RETURN
1000 DATA 10,587,370,1109,10,587,370,110,10,587,370,185,10,587,440,185
1010 DATA 10,659,554,185,10,740,587,185,10,554,440,1397,10,554,440,139
1020 DATA 10,554,440,220,10,554,440,220,10,587,494,220,10,659,554,220
1030 DATA 10,494,392,1480,10,494,392,147,20,494,392,247,20,494,294,247
1040 DATA 20,440,294,220,25,440,277,220,35,440,277,110
1050 DATA 20,494,392,147,10,440,370,1109,10,440,370,110,10,440,370,185
1060 DATA 10,440,370,147,10,440,370,110,10,440,370,147,10,392,330,1245
1070 DATA 10,392,330,123,10,392,330,196,10,392,330,196,10,440,370,196
1080 DATA 10,494,392,196,10,370,294,123,10,370,294,185,10,370,294,247
1090 DATA 10,370,294,247,10,392,330,247,10,440,370,247,10,330,9000,1480
1100 DATA 10,330,9000,165,20,330,9000,247,20,370,9000,247
1110 DATA 10,330,9000,1397,10,330,9000,139,20,330,9000,233
1120 DATA 20,330,9000,1397,20,294,247,1480,10,294,247,147
1130 DATA 10,294,9000,147,10,330,9000,247,10,370,9000,247
1140 DATA 20,294,233,1480,10,294,233,147,10,294,9000,147,10,330,9000,233
1150 DATA 10,294,9000,233,10,370,294,1109,10,370,294,110,20,370,294,185

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1160 DATA 20,440,370,139,10,587,494,123,10,587,494,185,20,587,494,294
1170 DATA 20,554,494,247,10,554,349,139,10,554,349,208,10,554,349,247
1180 DATA 10,415,349,247,10,440,370,247,10,494,392,247,10,440,370,1397
1190 DATA 10,440,370,139,10,440,370,220,10,494,415,220,10,554,440,185
1200 DATA 10,554,494,185,20,659,494,165,20,659,494,247,20,659,494,294
1210 DATA 20,659,440,277,20,659,392,165,20,659,392,110,20,740,587,147
1220 DATA 10,740,587,220,10,740,587,220,10,659,554,370,10,587,494,370
1230 DATA 20,740,587,123,10,740,587,185,10,740,587,185,10,659,554,294
1240 DATA 10,587,494,294,20,740,587,165,20,740,587,247,20,494,392,294
1250 DATA 20,659,554,110,20,659,554,165,20,659,554,220,20,659,392,294
1260 DATA 10,659,392,247,10,659,392,247,10,587,392,165,10,554,392,165
1270 DATA 20,659,554,110,10,659,554,165,10,659,554,165,10,587,494,220
1280 DATA 10,554,494,220,20,659,554,147,20,659,554,220,20,440,370,294
1290 DATA 20,587,440,147,20,587,440,185,20,587,440,185,20,587,415,233
1300 DATA 10,587,415,117,10,587,415,117,10,523,415,117,10,466,415,117
1310 DATA 20,587,415,233,10,587,415,117,10,587,415,117,10,659,466,1480
1320 DATA 10,587,466,1480,20,740,587,1397,20,740,587,110,20,587,440,147
1330 DATA 20,440,277,185,10,440,277,220,10,494,277,247,10,554,440,277
1340 DATA 10,587,440,294,20,659,494,330,20,659,494,247,20,659,494,294
1351 DATA 20,740,494,277,20,740,494,277,20,740,466,277,60,587,440,294
1361 DATA 20,587,294,220,25,440,277,220
1370 DATA 35,440,277,110,20,587,440,294,23,587,494,196,25,587,392,165
1380 DATA 12,587,440,147,12,587,440,1109,12,587,440,110,12,587,440,147
1390 DATA 12,587,440,185,12,587,440,220,30,784,587,247,30,784,587,294
1400 DATA 35,659,587,330,12,740,587,294,12,740,587,147,12,740,587,220
1410 DATA 12,740,587,294,12,740,587,370,12,740,587,440,45,740,587,880

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## COMPUTER SYNDROME

(Reprinted from 10/88 Readers Digest)

Warning to computer freaks: excessive preoccupation with your machine can reveal a dormant psychosis, report doctors in Denmark's "Weekly Journal for Doctors."

One Danish 18-year-old was so absorbed that he neglected his friends and spent 12 to 16 hours a day at his home computer. "He merged with it," say psychiatrists Eva Jensen and Erik Simonsen and psychologist Bent Brok. He began to think in computer-programming language, suffered from insomnia and anxiety and finally was unable to distinguish between his programs and the real world. He had to be hospitalized and treated for psychotic illness.

The computer trade itself recognizes the problem. Lars Knudsen, director of a high-technology information agency, estimates there are 5000 computer freaks in Denmark. Typically, they are between ages 12 and 18, and 95 percent of them are boys. They sleep in the afternoon and then sit in front of the screen until four in the morning. As their preoccupation grows, the always rational computer becomes a substitute for human contact.

---Julian Isherwood in "Daily Telegraph" (London)