

THE ROBOT COMPANION

Newsletter of the Dallas Personal Robotics Group

We had our regular meeting 3/21/87 @ the Heath/Zenith store in Garland. It was called to order by Walter at 3:30PM

Stan reported that there was no update on the library.

We are looking into acquiring a p.a. system for our demos.

The door prize was a casio tv-21, portable television. Danny won it.

Roger has repaired the Hero Jr. mentioned last issue, so that externally it appears undamaged. The manuals are ordered. Danny offered a program that lets the jr. sense motion toward it, then runs away. This will at least offer it some protection from future vandals!

Bev and Walter are buying their robot a refrigerator, so that he can prepare dinner. It will have a gravity fed can dispenser, and Bev is working on a queueing scheme so that the robot will remember the order of placement of cans in the dispenser.

No word yet on the availability of a floppy disk drive for the Hero 2000.

Just before the break, Walter had the store's Hero 2000 demonstrate the program that he presented at the Science Place last year. The best part is when the robot does an impression of, what else, the robot from Lost in Space. "DANGER DANGER - WARNING WARNING - ALIENS APPROACHING!!!"

A new member, Brian, talked about the robot he built in college. He designed his own "standard bus", and it contains (or soon will) sonar, speech, and bidirectional 300 baud communications. The single drive wheel is similar to the hero 1's. He said that he would bring it to the next meeting.

It seems good that we are getting some members that are actually building their own homebrews. A member of the Apple Corps Robotics Sig came and challenged us to a "Robot Rodeo."

Mike, another new visitor, from Arlington, brought his entire company and talked about their plans for an autonomous mobile platform. They are designing a general purpose robotic base that will have optional plug-in prosthetics, such as arms, sprayers, et

We wish to welcome visitors and new members:

Reba Watson, David Allen, Mike Posey, Camille Knight, Jeff Williams, and Roger Arrick.

Next meeting is at 3:33, April 18, at the Heath/Zenith store in Garland. Hope to see you there. We will be showing the tape we were going to show last month, barring more technical difficulties. (The store was robbed, and there wasn't a VCR available!)