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PC WORLD

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The Comprehensive Guide to IBM Personal Computers and Compatibles

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Step-by-Step Guide to PC Typesetting

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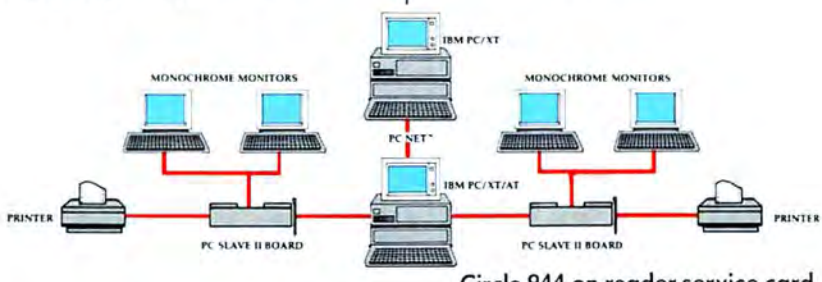

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PC WORLD

The Comprehensive Guide to IBM Personal Computers and Compatibles
July 1986

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You're handy with a word processor, but can you kern type? Do you know the difference between indents and quads? This primer acquaints you with typesetting basics.

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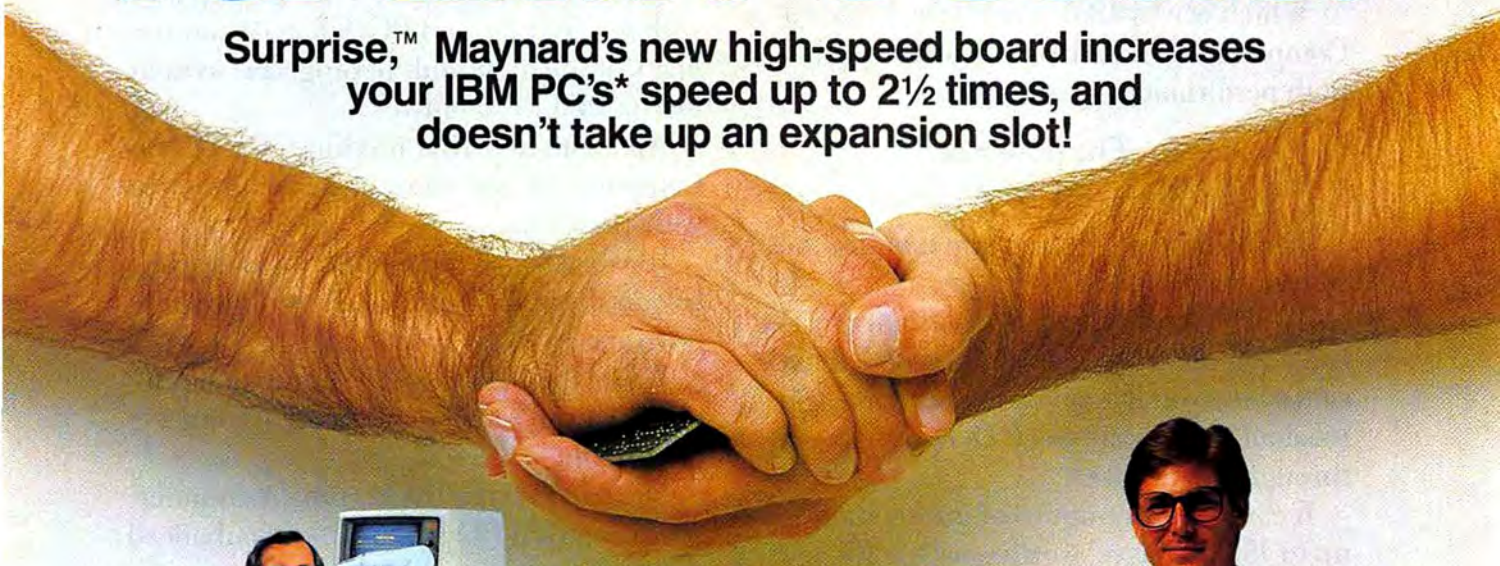

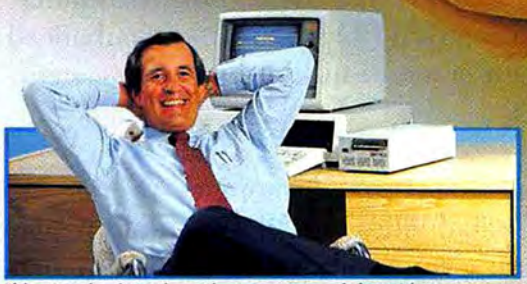

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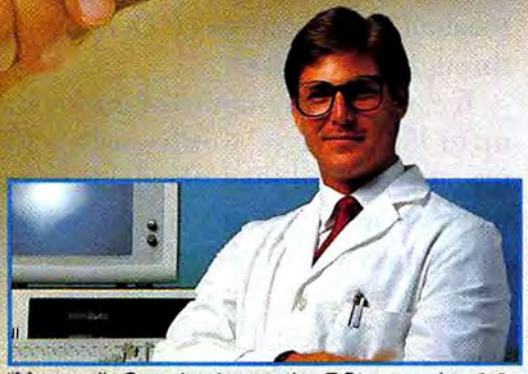

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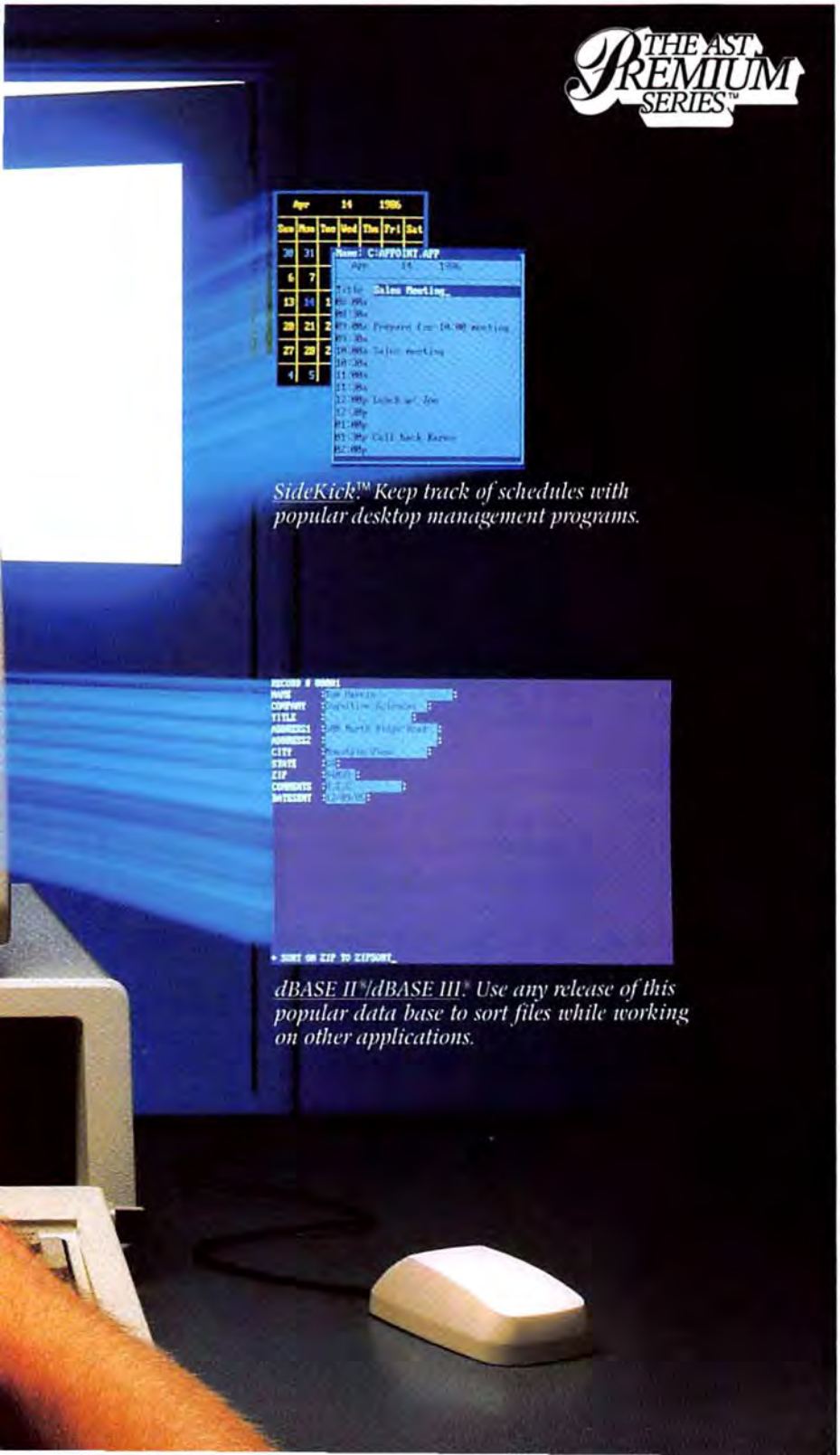

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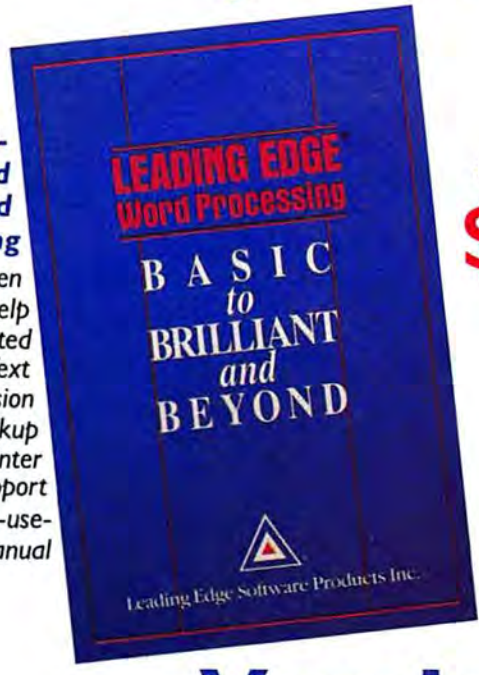

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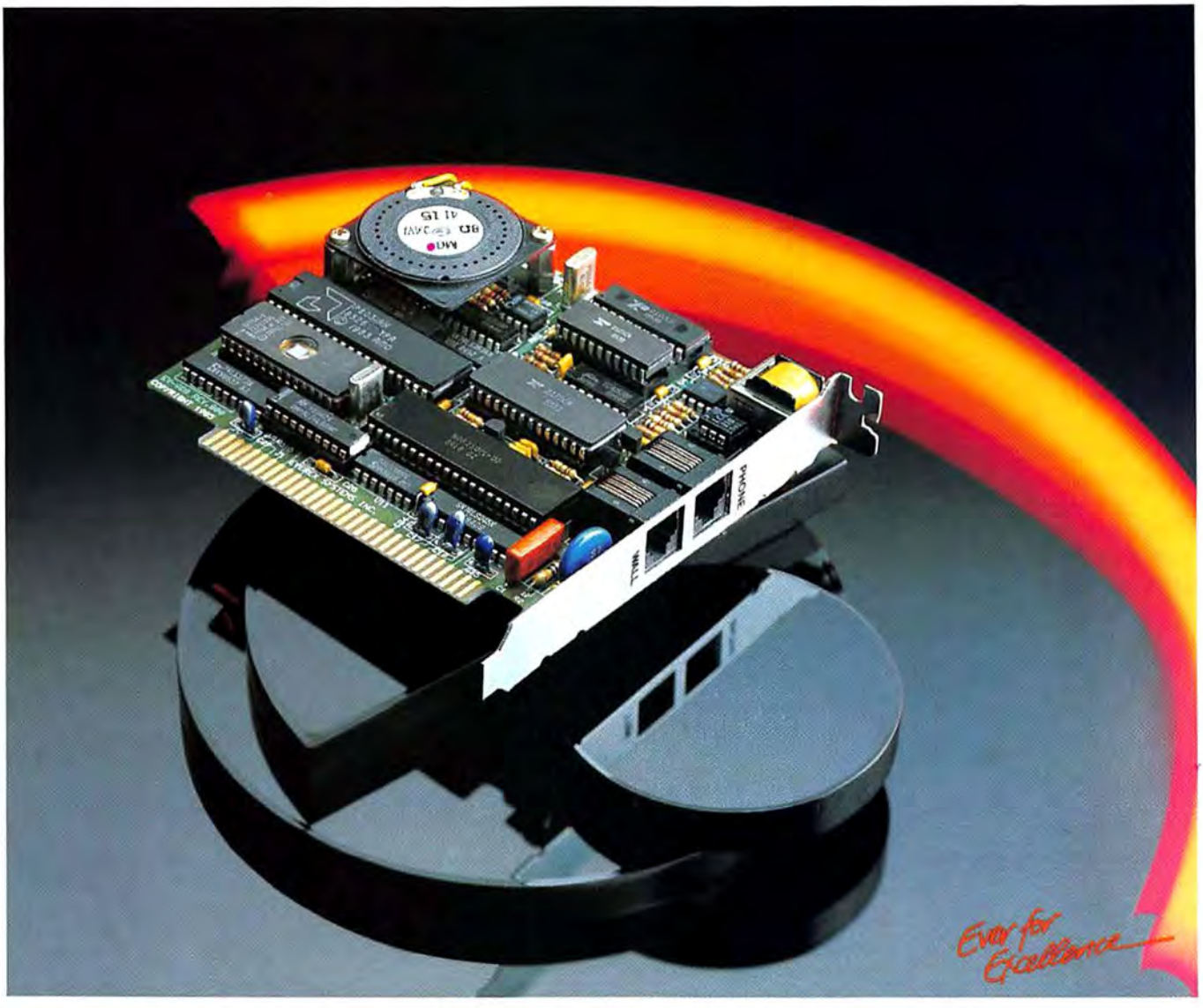

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David Bunnell

On the PC Fault Line

As pressure mounts on software publishers to offer more product support, the danger of aftershocks threatens to topple those programs with the weakest foundations.

My biggest problem with software is that when I don't use the package for a while, I have to spend a lot of time learning it again."

"Unnecessarily unfriendly."

"Toll-free numbers are not always available—some are advertised but not in service."

"I very much dislike getting screen menus with commands that respond 'not available in this version' or 'to be added in a future update.'"

"Customer support phone numbers are available for most software I use. Unfortunately, the companies do not provide enough staff. It is extremely difficult to get in touch with anyone. I end up having to solve my own problems."

These are just some of the comments we received from readers who responded to our recent PC World Communications "Software Education Questionnaire." The purpose of the survey was to find out how people decide which new software to buy and how they learn to use it.

Perhaps the most shocking revelation was how deeply dissatisfied most people are with the level of support software publishers provide.

The intensity of their complaints would register at least 5.2 on the Richter scale.

What's the source of all these tremors on the personal computer fault line—and whose fault is it, anyway?

My contention is that the software industry puts a lot of obstacles in the way—especially for beginners. As software grows in complexity, many people become so discouraged that they never grasp the full capability of the programs they have.

In some ways the standard interface of the Macintosh gives it an advantage over the IBM PC, but there are as many problems associated with mastering Mac software as there are with PC software.

The problems relate to some of the issues our survey identifies—poor documentation, lack of telephone help lines, lack of knowledgeable support staff on existing

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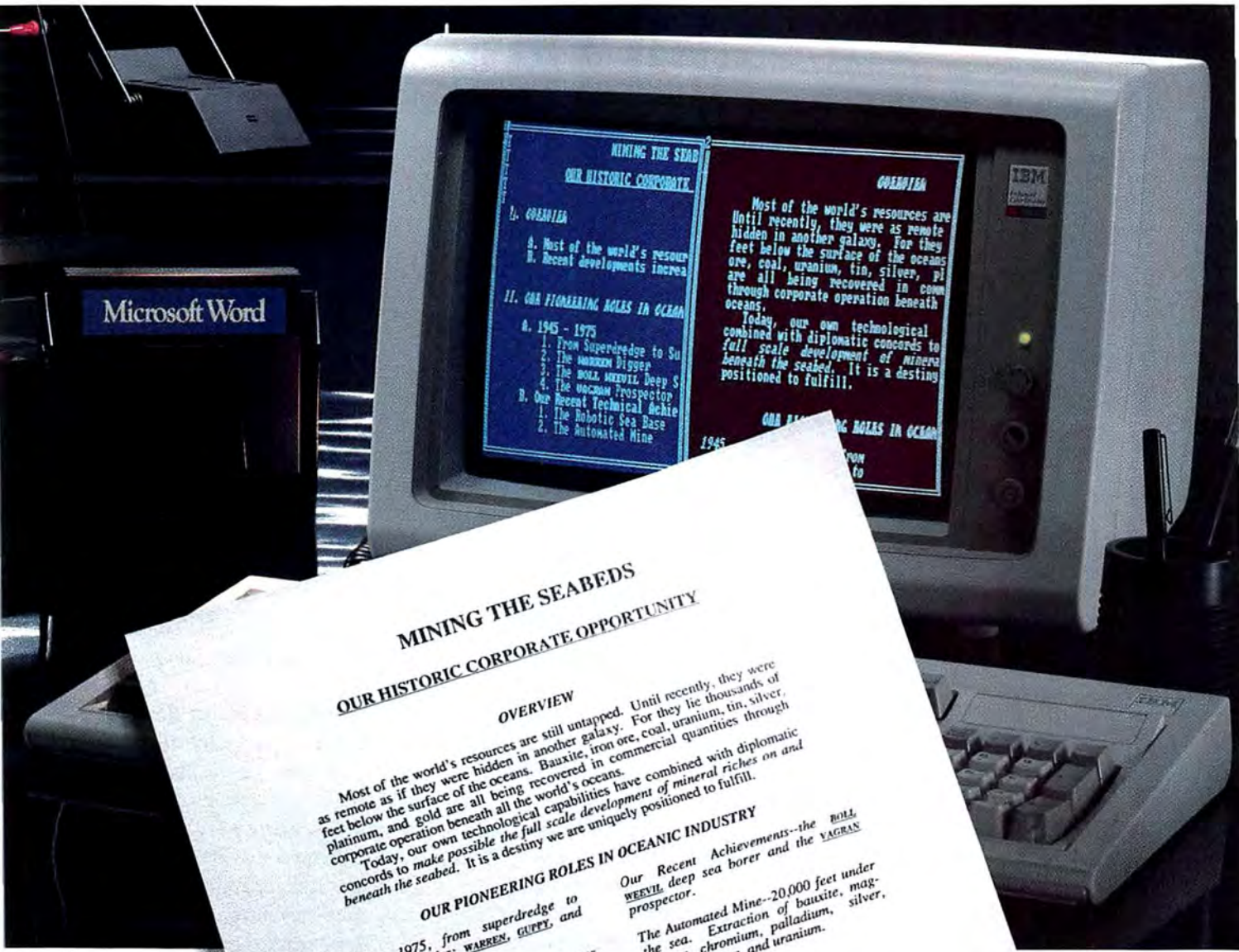
The output was



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OUR HISTORIC CORPORATE OPPORTUNITY

OVERVIEW

Most of the world's resources are still untapped. Until recently, they were as remote as if they were hidden in another galaxy. For they lie thousands of feet below the surface of the oceans. Bauxite, iron ore, coal, uranium, tin, silver, platinum, and gold are all being recovered in commercial quantities through corporate operation beneath all the world's oceans.

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A commercially profitable prototype can be operational by 1989. The beginnings of a network of producing mines in every ocean by the second decade of the 21st Century is not an unreasonable expectation. Below is an estimate of the expenditures necessary to start us toward this goal over the next four years.

PROTOTYPE EXPENDITURES THROUGH 1989

YEAR	MATERIALS	MANPOWER
1986	$1.2 billion	$1.7 million
1987	$2.2 billion	$1.4 million
1988	$2.7 billion	$2.3 million
1989	$4.6 billion	$6.5 million
Totals	$10.7 billion	$11.9 million

...ace internal memorandum #23ERDI, for technical details.

never in doubt.

If what you see on the screen bears a striking resemblance to what you see beside it, that is no coincidence.

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Microsoft Word 3 gives you a way to create professional-quality documents with speed and efficiency you may not have imagined possible on a PC. Or by any other means.

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help lines, lack of money-back warranties, and lack of adequate demo software so a customer can try a program out before buying it.

A vast gap lies between the reality of what software does and how it's advertised and promoted. And software publishers seem unwilling to list their products' requirements on the package.

For example, my recent column "The Battered PC User" (*PCW*, April 1986) chronicled the misadventures of my writer-friend James, who had tried unsuccessfully to run the *Volkswriter 3* word processing program on his Tandy 1000. After the issue hit the newstands, I received a call from Lifetree Software's public relations director.

She pointed out that *Volkswriter 3* should not be used with the 256K version of the Model 1000. The reason she gave is that some of the Model 1000's RAM is dedicated to the computer's video display, so there isn't enough working memory for *Volkswriter* to run successfully on that machine.

She also noted that *Volkswriter* worked without a hitch on other 256K personal computers.

I believe that's true, because I received a number of letters from readers who use *Volkswriter* with no apparent difficulty.

However, I couldn't resist commenting to the Lifetree representative, "It doesn't say anywhere on your package not to use this program with the Model 1000 from Radio Shack."

(continues)

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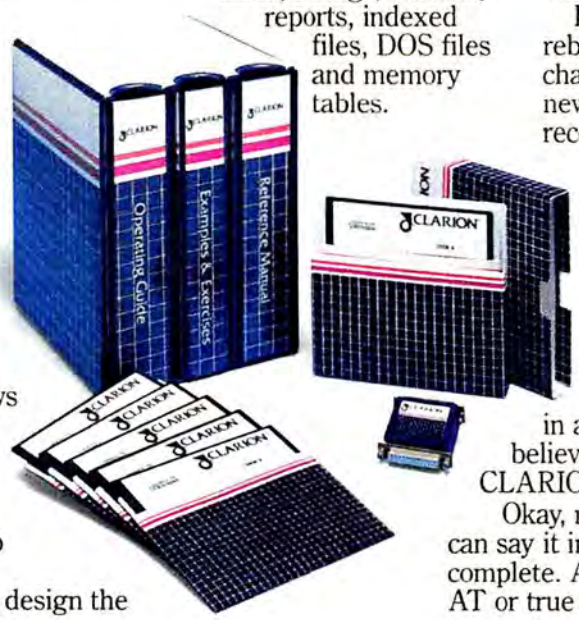

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"It's up to Radio Shack to tell you that," she replied.

That seems a little strange, because Lifetree actively markets its *Volkswriter 3* package through Radio Shack stores. Where does the real responsibility for informing the user lie?

My impression is that even if a program took up 255K of memory, software publishers would be tempted to say it worked on 256K machines. The only thing they'd neglect to tell you is that you'd have only 1K to work with.

Who's kidding who!

I strongly urge hardware companies to consider supporting the current legislation in California (Assemblywoman Gloria Molina's Assembly Bill 1507), which seeks to hold software publishers, manufacturers, and dealers accountable to consumers for their advertising materials and promises.

The way it stands now, manufacturers can claim anything they want without being held accountable.

This is a disgrace. In the long run, it's damaging to the software industry. And that's not the only group that will be hurt. If anyone should be outraged by this, it should be the hardware manufacturers, who will sell less hardware as customers have more and more trouble running ornery software.

For example, beginners may try out a word processor and find learning the command sequences very complicated. They'll discover how confusing it is to make the whole program work and that it doesn't do what was claimed.

(continues)

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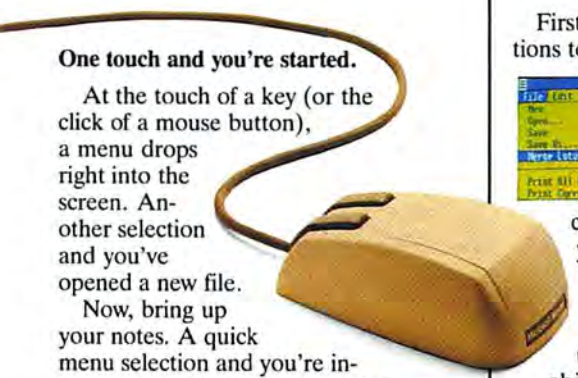


Now, bring up your notes. A quick menu selection and you're instantly transforming your outline into a powerful text chart, adding bullet points where you need them. Then select from a variety of text fonts, styles, sizes and colors to highlight your thoughts.

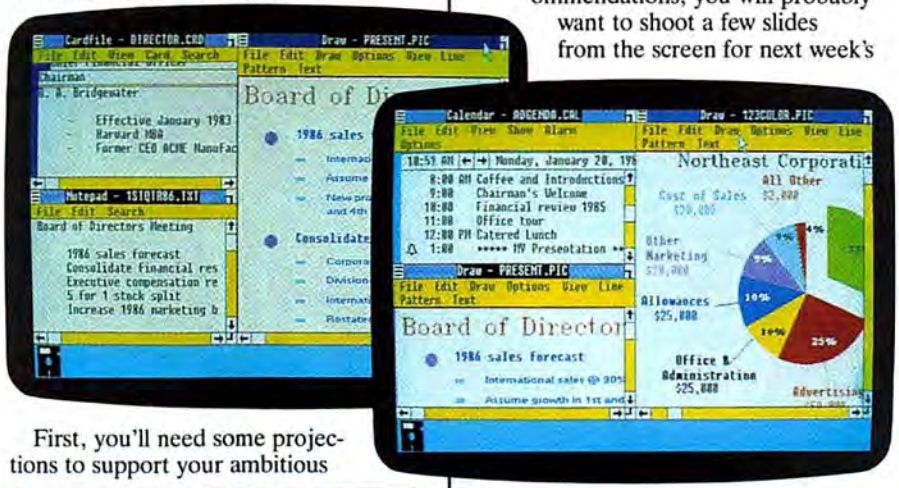
Windows and *"DRAW!"* — a winning combination.

Missing some names? Remember, you're in the Microsoft Windows operating environment. Two more clicks and your list of corporate directors, stored in another file, appears in the corner of your screen. Now you can edit your presentation and refer to the list simultaneously.

That takes care of the text chart.

Now what about your ideas for the future?

Add some brilliance to your Lotus® 1-2-3® or Symphony™ graph.



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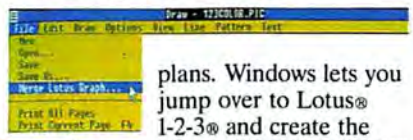

Now it's time to dress them up a little. You use *"DRAW!"'s* object-oriented editing to make them really jump off the page. Scale the chart to fit your presentation. Change some text fonts, styles and sizes here, add a few colors there, and it's done.

Now that's a convincing presentation. In fact, after the board accepts your recommendations, you will probably want to shoot a few slides from the screen for next week's presentation to the investors.

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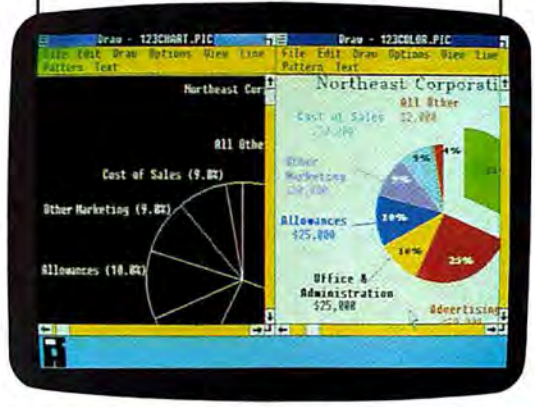

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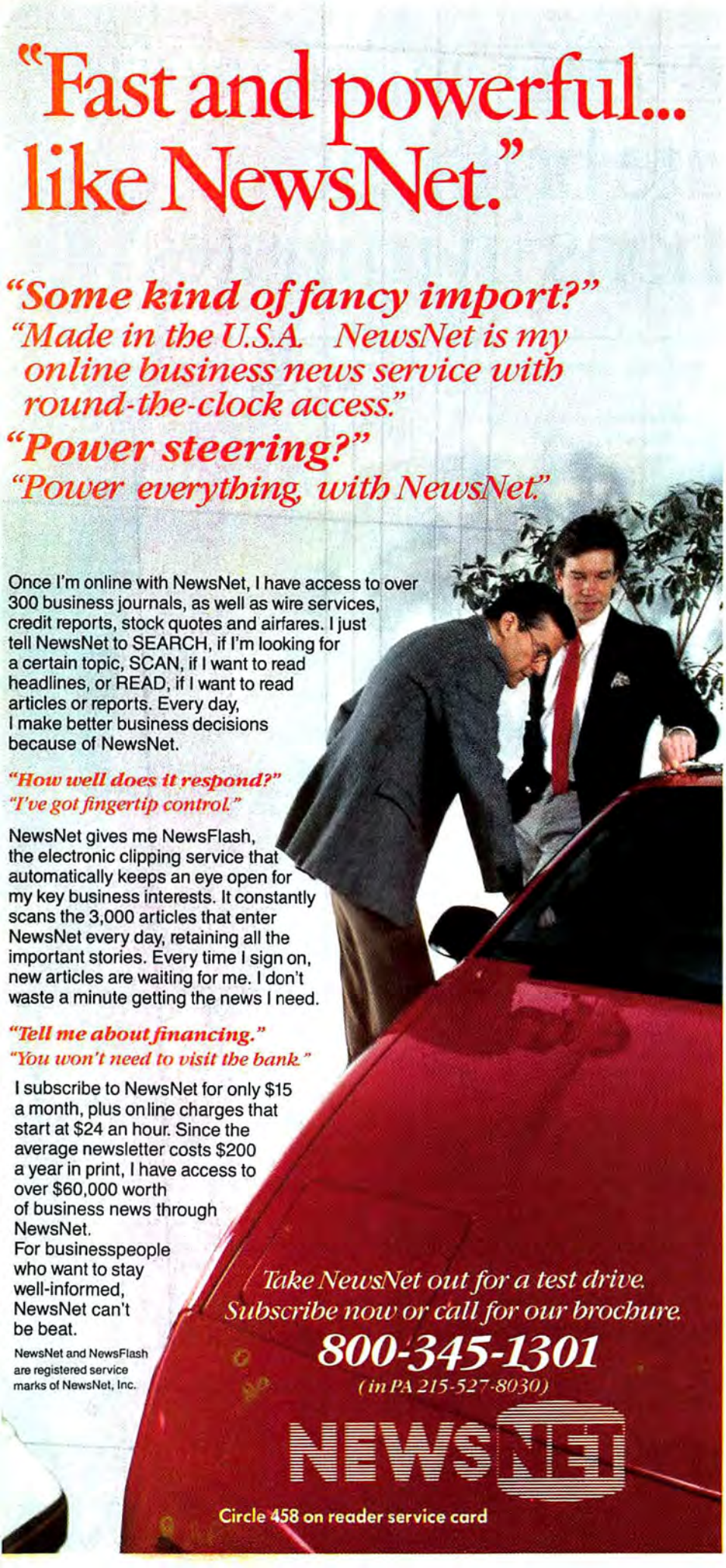

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David Bunnell

[redacted]

They'll end up thinking that computer software is difficult and slow and that it has a host of frustrating problems associated with it.

What happens then? These customers assume that the computer itself must be somehow to blame.

Thus, the hardware is found guilty by association.

I would venture to say that this state of affairs is the single biggest reason for the slowdown in the growth of the computer industry last year.

Actually, hardware manufacturers are not immune from blame. For that matter, even computer magazines are guilty when we publish articles with jargon you can't understand unless you're a so-called power user.

Hardware companies expect that you will somehow know how to change DIP switches on circuit boards and that you can connect your own jumper wires and figure out how to configure systems that weren't meant to be put together in the first place.

This cavalier attitude is at the root of the number one problem facing the personal computer business today. The potential widespread use of personal computers hasn't been realized because they're too complicated; people have too many bad experiences, and the time commitment for learning programs is too long.

Often, even after you take the time, you can't make full use of

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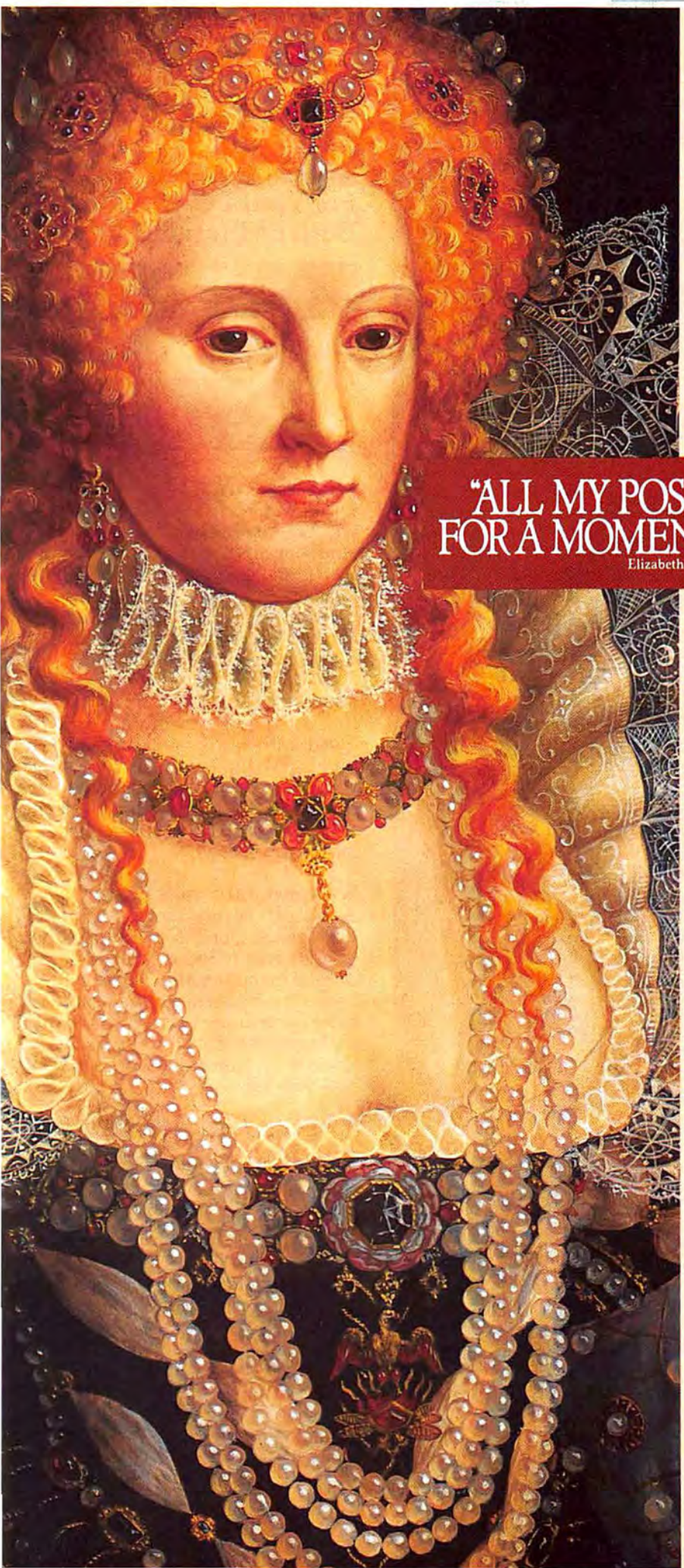

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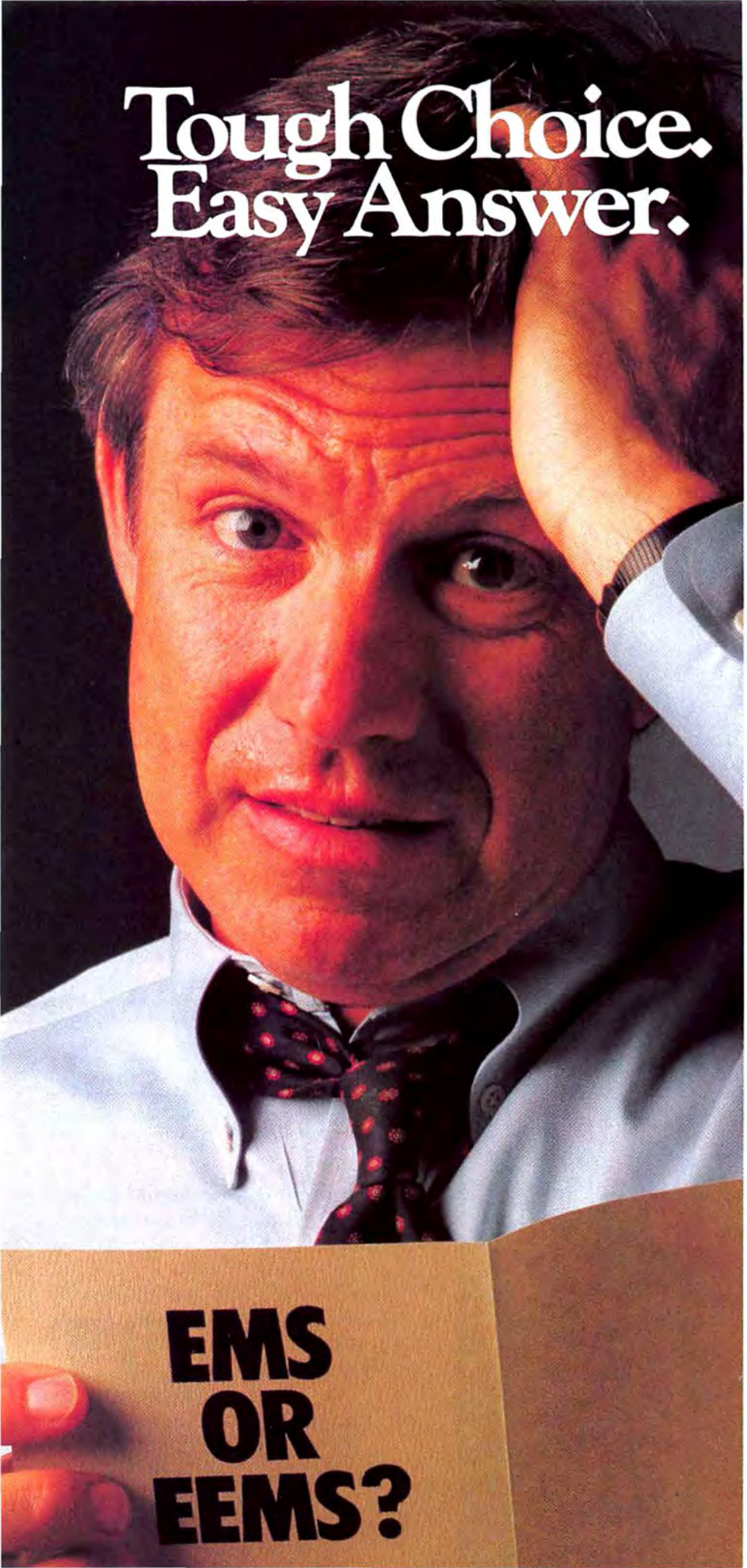

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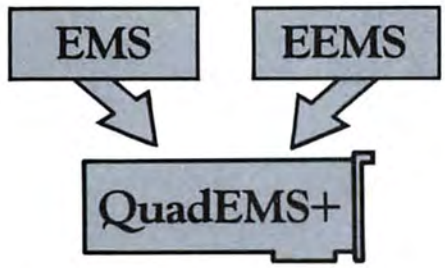

Memory And I/O

QuadEMS+ delivers 2Mb RAM when you move up to expanded memory. And supports both expanded memory specifications: EMS and EEMS. Each is independently engineered into the board. Plus, there's a printer port, communications port, and clock/calendar to enhance your system.

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Requires at least 256K memory, DOS-2 or higher and an IBM or Hercules compatible graphics card.

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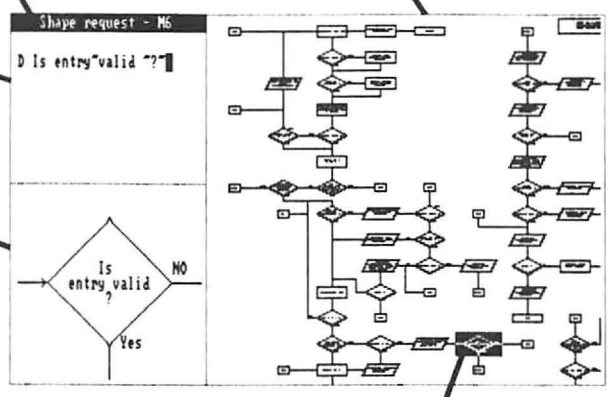
The sample screen display shown below is typical of what you see while editing a chart. Other screen displays are provided for entering titles, changing options, getting "help" and so on.



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your computer without someone to give you advice and hold your hand. It's almost impossible to learn everything you need to know just by reading the documentation or calling the help line.

People come away feeling intimidated and helpless.

I think this is an even bigger issue for manufacturers than problems like pricing or distribution or software piracy.

Software and hardware companies need to focus on the problems of new customers and even seasoned users.

Manufacturers must stop making assumptions about their customers' levels of experience.

Part of the problem is that many companies avoid their customers. For example, they don't want to talk to ordinary customers at computer shows like COMDEX. In fact, they seem upset to see them there. Manufacturers would rather talk to distributors and to each other. They still expect computer stores to carry the burden of educating the user. Yet they must know by now that the average salesperson in a computer store doesn't understand all the nuances of using a software package on different systems.

Another factor, of course, is that the expense of supporting software is immense, and publishers have long avoided facing this. Often, they don't even factor that cost into their business plans.

(continues)

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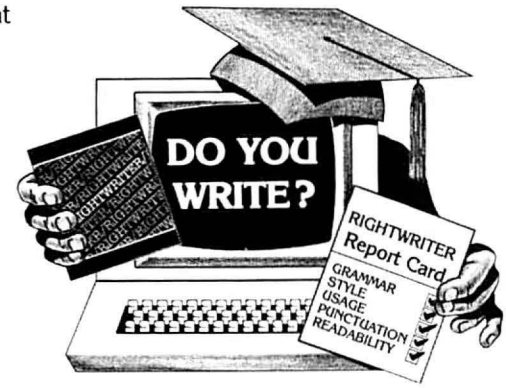

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If you talk to Mitch Kapor of Lotus, Dave Winer of Living Videotext, or Bill Gates of Microsoft, they'll tell you they have huge banks of people who answer phones to support customers—and that they still can't keep up with the calls.

Typically, callers are kept on hold for half an hour before reaching a help line. Even then they don't necessarily receive satisfactory answers.

In my opinion, the heart of the problem is that the people who produce the software are so involved in technology for its own sake that they don't see the chasm between themselves and the average customer. Many of them even seem to enjoy keeping things complicated and difficult because it gives them the mystique of being unapproachable tech-masters.

Our survey—which I see as a kind of seismograph monitoring users' attitudes—clearly shows that the pressure is mounting on the personal computer fault line.

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Four years ago the first PC talked to a mainframe in the 3270 environment. And it was DCA's IRMA™ that made it happen. Since then over 250,000 IRMA boards have been sold to businesses here and abroad, including virtually all Fortune 500 companies.

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Which is exactly what we've done.

Family planning.

Our first concern was to make IRMA's file transfer capability faster. That's why we developed IRMAlink FT/TSO & FT/CMS™.

Bundled together and free with the purchase of an IRMA board, it's flexible enough for the inexperienced user to initiate file transfers easily and the more experienced to customize transfers to the mainframe environment.

IRMA. It made PC-to-mainframe communications possible.

If your PC uses PROFS/PCC, PS/PC or 3270 file transfer you can now use IRMAlink FT/3270™ to send and receive mail and document files.

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Many of our customers who already were accustomed to the keyboard of the 3278 felt awkward with the PC keyboard. And vice versa. We responded with the IRMAkey/3270™. It's a keyboard that places all the 3278 and PC functions together. No matter whether users learned on an IBM PC or 3278, they'll feel comfortable and be more productive with the IRMAkey/3270.

IRMAlink. Software that extends IRMA's power.

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IRMAcom. A board that makes remote PCs communicate with the mainframe without the need for a controller.

If you do have a port available on your controller, all you really need for remote communications is IRMAline.™ It provides remote PCs or asynchronous terminals with dial-up access to 3270 controllers.

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IRMAprint. It allows just about any printer you want to work in the 3270 environment.

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One of the most crucial criteria used in deciding on a technology that will be used in your company is also one of the hardest to answer. Does it have staying power?

Others have answered that. Others like Cullinet Software,™ Lotus Development Corporation,™ Information Builders, Inc.,™ MSA,™ McCormack & Dodge,™ On-Line Software International,™ Micro Tempus™ and a host of others. All of these companies have invested their time, expertise and money into developing applications software that extends the power of IRMA and makes it even more productive.

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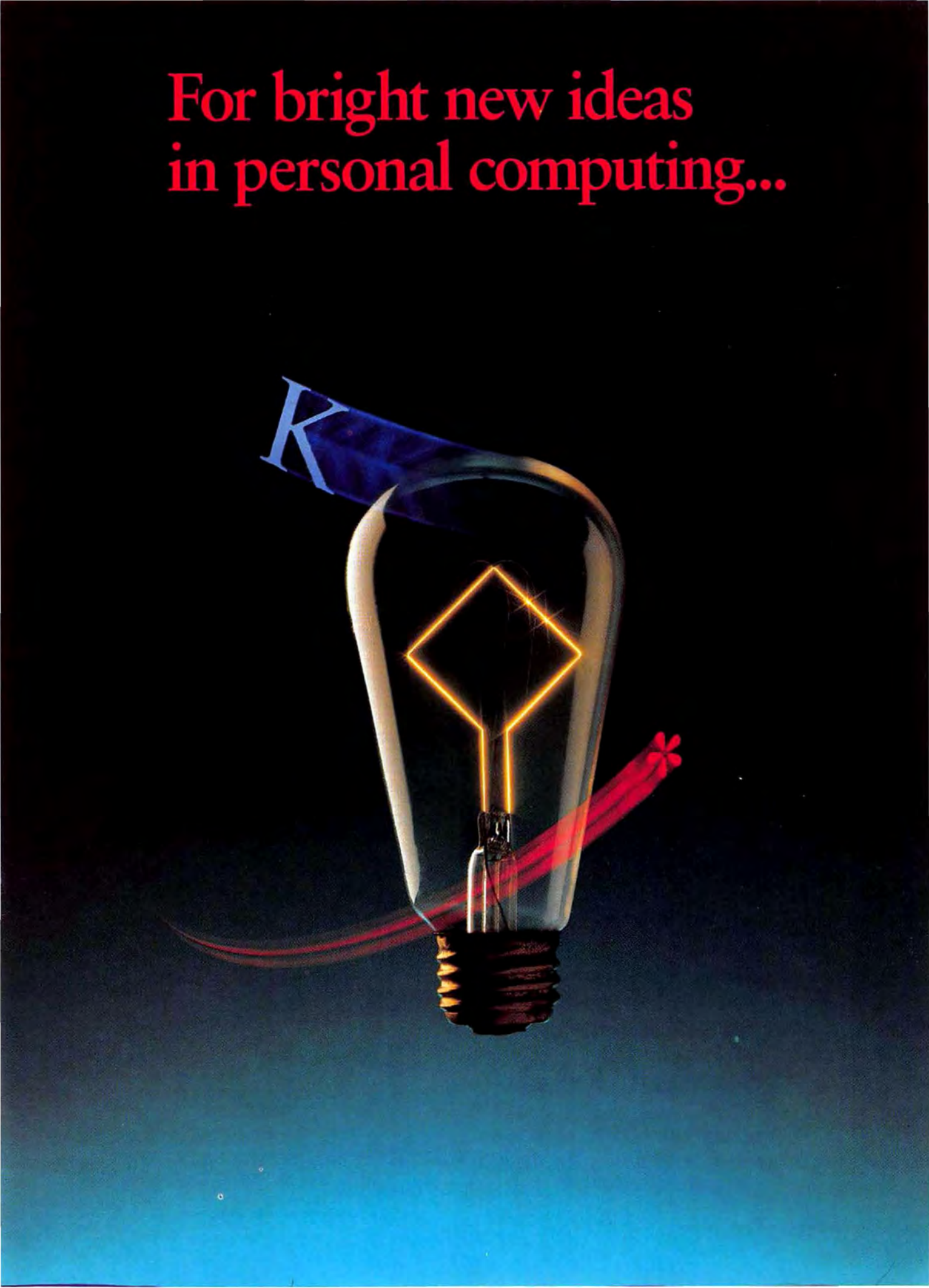

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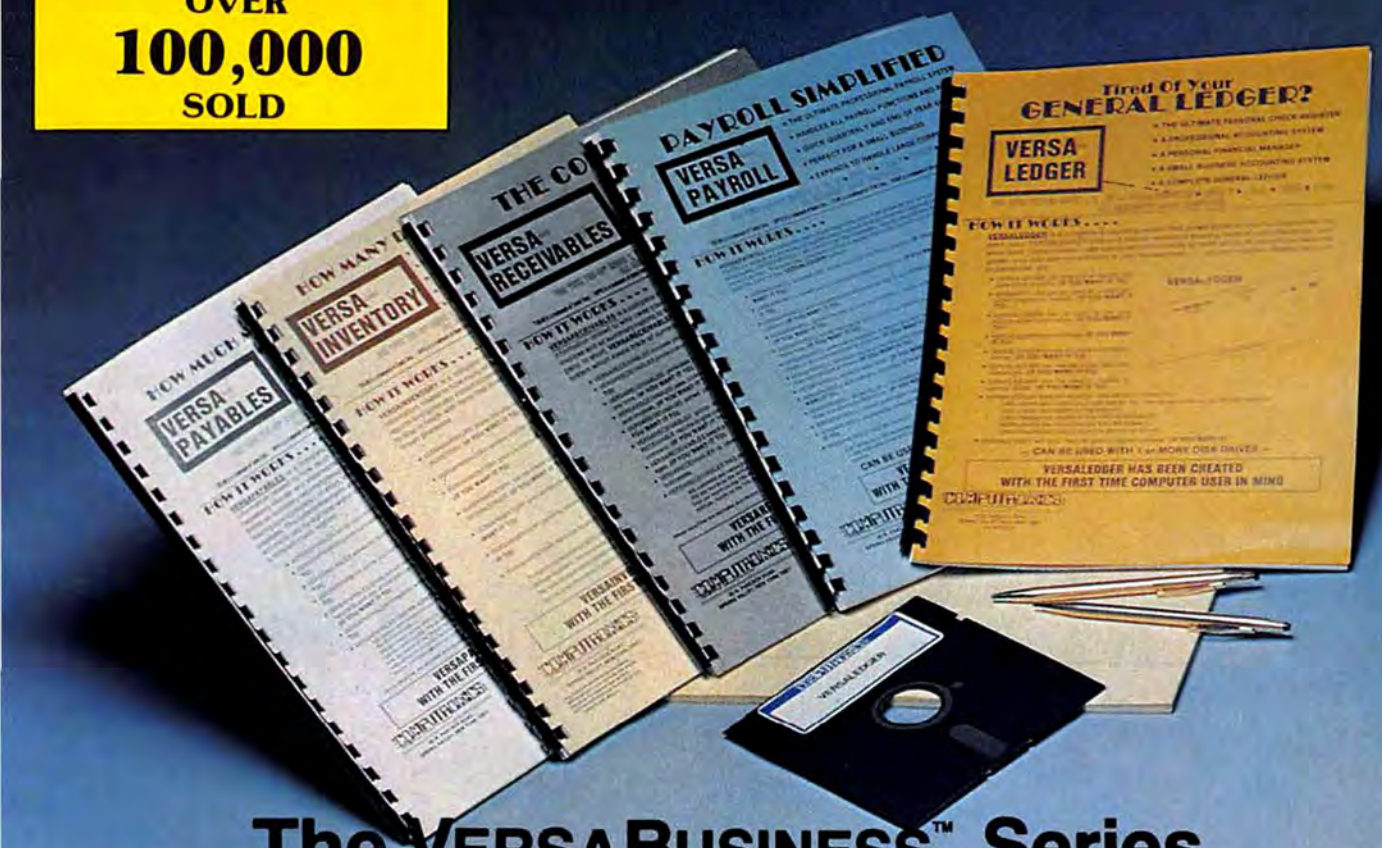

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Letters

Reactions and responses from the PC World community

Be Kind to Beginners

I second David Bunnell's assertion in "The Battered PC User" [*PCW*, April 1986] that, on the whole, computer companies ignore new users. Manufacturers expect new users to begin from a base of general computer literacy, but fledgling PC users need what new users of any product need—clear explanations of first steps so that using a PC is easy, productive, and enjoyable. Unfortunately, user frustration and anger directed at computer companies is all too common.

Dwight Stewart
Lexington, Kentucky

I have suffered the slings and arrows of outrageous documentation and now know that when something goes wrong, manuals never address the problem! By the way, tell [David Bunnell's friend] Mr. Armstrong to try *WordPerfect*.

Daniel Pokorny
Clayton, Missouri

Choices for a New Generation

I manage the product support front lines for a hardware manufacturer and have dealt with many battered PC users. I've found that people who bought PCs when the initial wave of products hit the marketplace are generally experimenters. For these technically oriented individuals, program glitches, poor documentation, and even mediocre support pose no insurmountable problems. These users have supported the present personal computer retail industry, which is well suited to their needs as long as the price is right.

However, a new wave of users tantalized by PC power has been seduced by ads from low-cost-at-all-cost retailers who maintain profitability by shaving overhead in the form of sales and technical support staff. The old adage is true: You get what you pay for. Consumers should use common sense when they see bargain-basement prices.

David K. Jackson
Washington, D.C.

Beginners struggling with hardware or software should know that first-generation users who have survived the early trials by fire can be experienced, empathetic, and helpful resources. We're still enthusiastic about PCs and are willing to help.

Jeffrey Ellis
South Portland, Maine

Horseless PCs

"The Battered PC User" is right on target and long overdue. An automobile, like a PC, is a tool intended to solve a problem. When you buy a car, the dealer doesn't just include four tires. The tires come properly mounted so the car is ready to use. If you need special tires, you advise the dealer, who, at an additional cost, mounts them on the car. You get in and drive away. A PC never comes equipped to do a job, and learning how to use it takes a great deal of time and effort. When computer manufacturers, software publishers, and dealers supply the same level of convenience to PC users as the auto industry does to its customers, they'll find users eager and willing to pay any extra cost.

(continues)

Two Powerful Networks...

LAN or Multi-User System? Until now, you've been forced to choose between these two, normally incompatible, types of networks for your company. And that's too bad, because multi-user systems are usually less costly to install since they use inexpensive terminals, instead of PCs, as workstations. For a wide variety of applications, a multi-user system makes more sense than a LAN.

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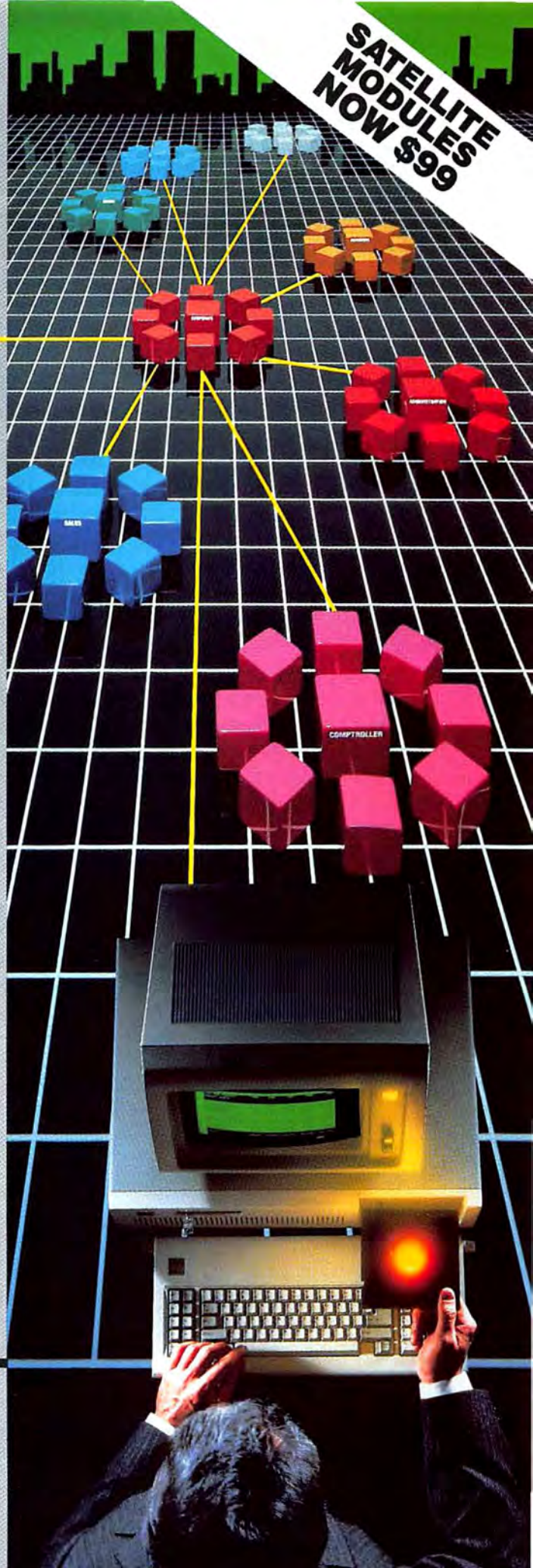

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If drivers were required to know as much about cars as users must know about PCs, most of us would still be using horses as our primary means of transportation.

Robert Levin
Los Angeles, California

Much Pain, Little Gain

Having had an experience similar to that of "The Battered PC User," I thoroughly sympathize with the poor devil. When I bought my XT, the dealer promised training, but that turned out to mean formatting the hard disk, installing the word processing program, and answering a few naive questions. It has taken me a tough six months to attain entry-level competency.

Switching from a typewriter to a computer is like graduating from elementary math to calculus. It's not so much acquiring different skills as it is acquiring a new perspective. That's where good training is essential. Producers and purveyors of hardware and software must recognize their responsibility toward the user in this regard. The situation as it exists now is a disgrace to the industry and a sure way to discourage future customers.

Peter Selby
Lomas Santa Fe, California

I think most software publishers live in their own world and are incredibly naive about the lack of user sophistication.

Philip Namy
Bloomington, Indiana

A Guru's Lament

David Bunnell's editorial on the problems of new PC users certainly struck home. When members of our local user group press the panic button, I answer.

I field calls from novices and pros alike. Some problems occur from not reading the manual, but others stem from poor documentation or misinformation from dealers and manufacturers. The function of a user group is to provide moral support and advice to new users, but every call I get from a frustrated beginner who has no dealer support intensifies my support for Assemblywoman Molina's bill to make dealers accountable to consumers for their advertising.

In the meantime, a growing number of disenchanted users feel manufacturers have ripped them off. This isn't good for the personal computer industry, and it doesn't help conscientious manufacturers who try to do more than take someone's money.

C. Henry Depew
Tallahassee, Florida

Some Things Never Change

I received my first issue of your magazine today and after reading "The Battered PC User," I'm in total agreement with David Bunnell. I sympathize with battered users, but I'm surprised that people in the PC community think this is something new. I've worked in data processing for 26 years, and nothing's changed.

In the DP arena, nothing comes easy. If a product is simple to use, it usually does simple things, and people can handle it. But when a product is complex, additional education is needed, if not from documentation, then from classes or one-on-one consultation. This is true whether the product's a PC, a car, or a build-it-yourself toy.

PC users are beginning to understand that despite personal computing's phenomenal growth over the last six years, this isn't some dream world.

Kenneth Branch
Fort Worth, Texas

"User-friendly" is the biggest lie since "The check is in the mail."

Bo Reahard
Atlanta, Georgia

Consume at Your Own Risk

"The Battered PC User" was right on target, but no piece of legislation will force hardware and software vendors to be any more helpful or honest than they already are. I bought a used car with a bad speedometer, and neither the dealer nor the previous owner was responsible—I was. The old axiom "Let the buyer beware" still holds true, and consumers must start from that premise.

Sandy Tate
Pasadena, California

Let the Publisher Beware

Sadly, software publishers have ignored the fact that end users provide the cash that keeps them in business. Now, with plummeting prices, more novices are buying

(continues)

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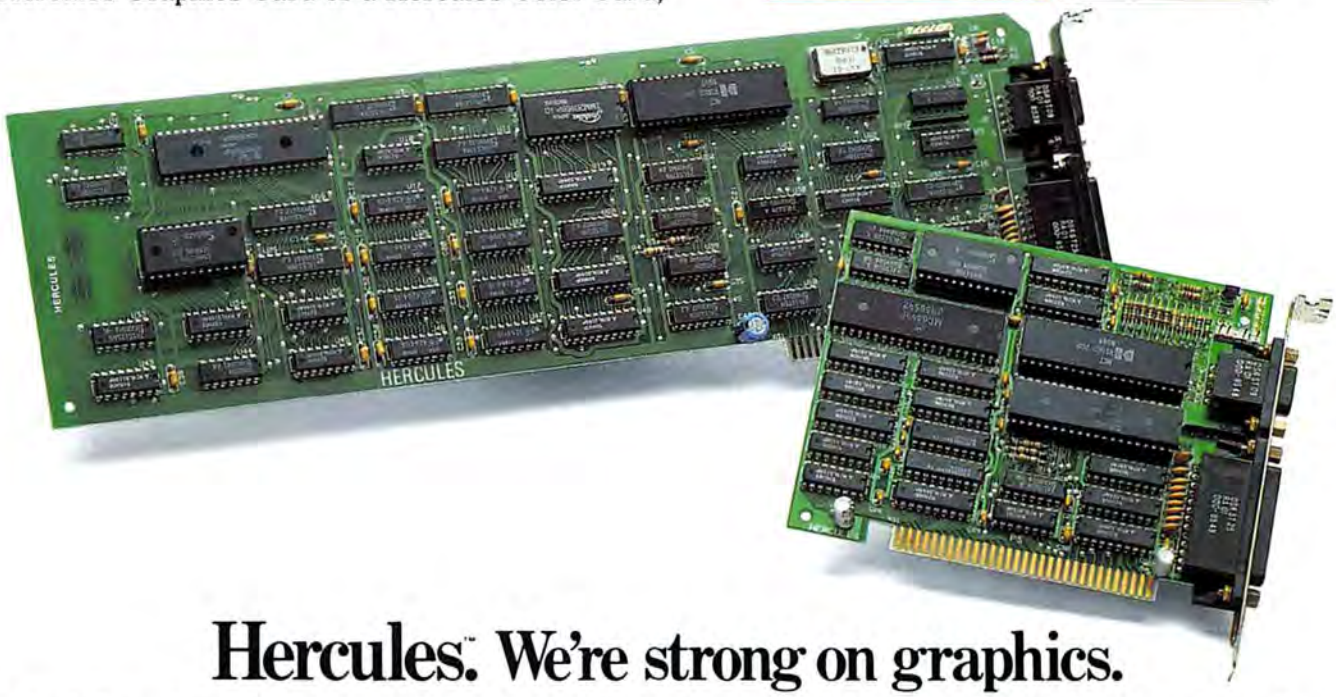

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personal computers. These individuals view the PC as a time- and labor-saving tool. The more organized, lucid, and complete a manual is, the sooner a beginner can master the basics and use the program. This means satisfied customers. The sagging computer industry needs new users now more than ever.

Barbara Spear
Flushing, New York

You should send copies of your article to software publishers, although it's so straightforward they probably wouldn't understand it.

Mark Diamond
Brooklyn, New York

Value-Wise Shopping

PC World carries numerous ads for relatively inexpensive personal computers that promise PC, XT, and AT compatibility. The ads are tempting, but as a computer rookie, I'm unable to determine the true quality of these low-cost machines. How about reviewing these PC clones for us neophytes? If they're good enough to advertise in a reputable publication like *PC World*, they should receive the same scrutiny as products from IBM, Compaq, and other major manufacturers.

R. G. Knoerlein
Hanover, Pennsylvania

Keep an eye on future editions of From the Hardware Shelf. *We plan to thoroughly examine inexpensive XT and AT compatibles from established manufacturers and mail-order outlets. –Ed.*

Shareware's Fair Share

Now that shareware pioneers Jim Button, Bob Wallace, and Patricia Fluegelman have directed their energies away from user-supported software and into commercial distribution ["Shareware Grows Up," *PC World View, PCW,* March 1986], I hope *PC World* will focus attention on shareware products other than *PC-File, PC-Talk,* and *PC-Write*. These are fine programs, but they're a tiny fraction of the shareware market. Of the hundreds of packages available, few are ever reviewed or even mentioned in personal computer magazines. A welcome exception was your review of *FANSI-Console* from Hersey Micro [*From the Software Shelf, PCW,* February 1986].

For every commercial software package, there is an equally capable, less expensive shareware product, and the consumer doesn't pay until the program works. How about giving shareware the recognition it deserves?

Cleve E. Corlett
Arlington, Virginia

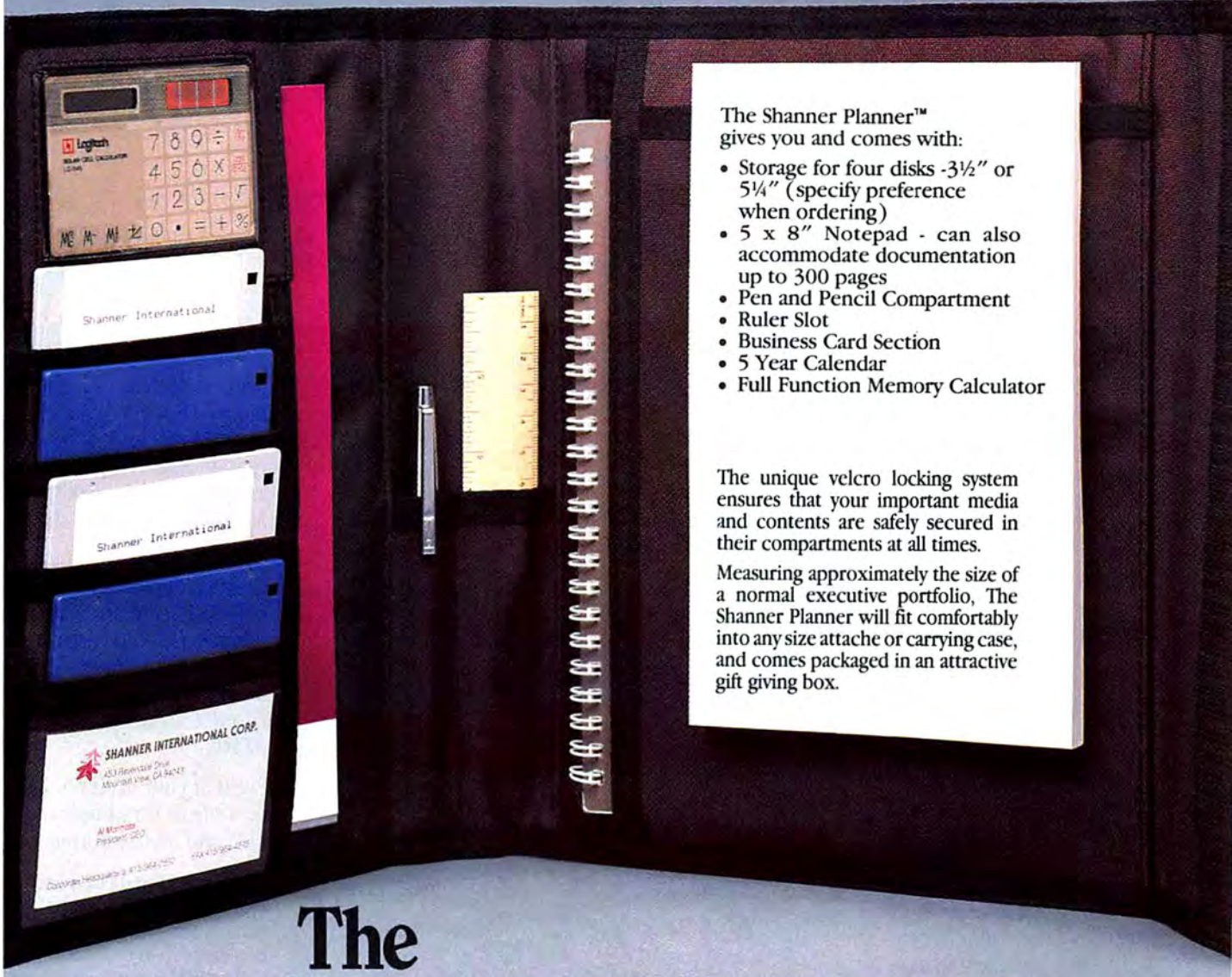
We certainly agree that shareware deserves its due. From the Software Shelf *will continue to examine worthy shareware, freeware, and otherware entrants that catch our eye. –Ed.*

A Project Re-Framed

"A New Way to Frame Projects" [*PCW,* September 1985] is a good introduction to the concepts behind project scheduling and an excellent demonstration of the power of *Framework*. However, I

(continues)

It speaks for itself.



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Jerry Pournelle, BYTE, Feb. '86

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Christopher O'Malley, PERSONAL COMPUTING, April '86

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noticed some typographical errors in a few of the cell formulas. The formula in Activity List cell E2 on page 218 should read +Project Scheduling Parameters.C4, and on that same page, Activity List cell H2 should contain +G2+B2. Activity List cell E10 on page 221 should read @MAX(H8,H9). Otherwise, thanks for a very useful program.

Frank Zbozny
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Volkswriter 3

Just as consumers deserve quality products, they deserve quality reviews. When it comes to *Volkswriter 3*, *PC World* has let its readers down. Janet Crider's review in *PC World*'s June issue ["The More Things Change . . . "] and David Bunnell's column in the April issue ["The Battered PC User"] were superficial, biased, and inaccurate. In the limited space allowed for our reply, we will address the most grievous errors in these articles.

The simplistic framework of Ms. Crider's article is that computer users value features above all other program characteristics. She evaluates *Volkswriter 3* solely from the viewpoint of the power user. How features are implemented, how usable they are and how easy to learn, how expensive a program is, and what features are meaningful for what kinds of users—all these considerations are ignored in the course of a tasteless exercise in flippant headlines.

Ms. Crider fails to note that *Volkswriter 3* is the only word

(continues)

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†IBM PC, PC*jr*, AT, XT, and true compatibles.
††16-bit only

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processor to offer automatic and accurate hyphenation. *Volkswriter 3*'s spelling checker is also maligned in the publisher's April column. Believe it or not, our dictionary does know the words *praetorian guard, West Covina,* and *Gardena.*

Ms. Crider criticizes *Volkswriter 3* throughout her review without an explicit reference point, only her personal preferences. We do not know if she is using a meaningful standard that is applicable to most users. The overall impression is that the program won't meet your needs.

But in *PC World*'s sister publication *InfoWorld,* John Lombardi, a professional reviewer who has tracked *Volkswriter* for years, described *Volkswriter 3* as "an ideal combination of ease of use, accessibility, power, and price." The program was given a rating of 7.7, 3 points higher than *1-2-3!* And Datapro Research Corporation, the watchdog of corporate America, concluded its painstaking ten-page lab analysis with, "For only $295, less than the price of any of its competitors, *Volkswriter 3* has become a powerful, full-featured word processing program that can rival any on the market as to ease of learning and use."

In David Bunnell's April column, Lifetree is unfairly criticized for abandoning the novice user. Our company has a tradition of concern for the plight of the user. Our free customer support team responds to 99 percent of all calls either on the spot or within 24 hours, earning us the rarely given rating of "excellent" in *InfoWorld.*

(continues)

Using Lotus 1-2-3 without Reflex is like driving at night without lights

If you use Lotus 1-2-3® you need Reflex, The Analyst,™ because it shows you what 1-2-3 either hides in the dark or can't show you at all. Reflex shows you relationships and interrelationships in your data that you can't afford to miss.

Reflex includes the best Report Generator for Lotus 1-2-3

Reflex includes the Report Generator that 1-2-3 should have included—but didn't. With Reflex, you can generate reports, graphs, charts and diagrams *from* your 1-2-3 worksheets that are impossible to generate *with* 1-2-3.

You can do sales reports, letters, memos, invoices and mailing labels—to name a few—and you can see a few of them on this page.

Generates professional reports instantly

Reflex is the best database for 1-2-3 users and it's also the easiest to use

Reflex is the first database that separates the trees from the forest. The first database that understands that what you see depends on how you look at it.

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Reflex makes graphic leaps far beyond 1-2-3. With Reflex, when you look, you see.

Reflex gives you five new and different views of what's hidden in your 1-2-3 worksheets

Form View, List View, Graph View, CrossTab and Report View.

Form View lets you create your database. List View shows you your data in tabular list form, just like a spreadsheet. Graph View gives you instant interactive graphic representations. CrossTab View gives you amazing "cross-referenced" pictures of the links and relationships hidden in your data. Report View allows you to use information from 1-2-3, and then print out reports in all sorts of different formats.

The commands for all five Views are consistent—so you're not stuck learning five different ways to get something done. And because Reflex uses advanced windowing techniques, you can see several views on the screen at the same time—without having to switch back and forth. You get the picture, and the pictures, all at once.

Whether you're a 1-2-3 user or not, Reflex answers all your "What Ifs?" and leads you to the right conclusions

With Reflex when you modify a number all your Views—List, Form and Graph—are immediately updated, on-screen.

Let's say you're analyzing "Traveling Expenses by Salesperson" and you ask, "What if they stayed at a Motel 6¼ instead of the Presidential Suite of the Hotel Chic?" "Show me." So Reflex shows you.

"What if they could no longer order $100 wines, but had to stick to the stuff that matures in the truck?" "Show me." So Reflex shows you. Instant answers. Instant pictures. Instant analysis. Instant understanding.

Of course Reflex can do all of the above with or without 1-2-3. Reflex is a *complete* database management and analysis tool that stands on its own feet, and helps you stay on yours, because it's only $149.95!

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Two years ago, when warranties were not the standard industry practice, Lifetree began offering a money-back guarantee on defective software.

While we sympathize with Armstrong's trials in learning to use a word processor for the first time, we assert that his chief problem was caused by numerous PC incompatibilities in the Tandy 1000. Let us conclude by reiterating that the reader has been misled by *PC World*'s comments on *Volkswriter 3*. Editorial freedom implies a responsibility to provide the user with meaningful, hard-hitting, fair, and accurate reviews of products, not ones built on prejudice, half-truths, and outright errors. *PC World*'s irresponsibility hurts not only Lifetree but the users we so happily support, and we are saddened at being the victim of a magazine we have supported from its infancy.

Camilo Wilson
President
Lifetree Software

The purpose of a review is to convey the highlights—negative and positive—of a given product and to evaluate its performance and appropriateness. Novice and expert users alike depend on the recommendations of reviewers. They likewise understand that reviewers' opinions differ and that features or bells and whistles are ultimately less important than how well the product can meet the users' needs.

Today's word processor users are more sophisticated and less

(continues)

Because you need the right word, the right phrase, the right meaning, and the right answer, *right now*, you need Borland's Turbo Lightning

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Turbo Lightning checks your spelling as you type and while you run other programs

You could be running Lotus 1-2-3,® MultiMate,™ MicroStar,™ Reflex,™ SideKick,® WordStar,® or WhatEver,* it doesn't matter which one, because as you write, Turbo Lightning watches how you spell every word, and is ready to alert you to any mistakes.

So let's say your neighbor, who already has 23 unmatched sets of plastic flamingos on his front lawn, a broken boat trailer, and a mattress, has now brought back a coyote from a hunting trip. It howls all night, and you're writing a letter involving the word IDIOT, but you accidentally typed IDOIT. What happens then? You immediately *hear* a beep, so you know something's up. You instantly *see* a window that doesn't list IDOIT, but it does list IDIOT and its sound-alike words, so your screen window looks like this:

```
A. IDIOT
B. IDIOTS
C. IDIOM
D. IDIOTIC
E. INDICT
F. IDIOMS
G. ADD WORD TO AUXILIARY DICTIONARY
```

So you move your cursor to A, which is the correct spelling for IDIOT, hit return, and the spelling mistake is instantly fixed.

Turbo Lightning also gives you instant synonyms

IDIOT was the word you planned to use in your note next door, but is it the best word? And should you use that particular word since your neighbor fools around with his guns when he's full of whisky (which is every night), and besides that, he's 6'10", a black belt, *and* your cousin?

Because you have Turbo Lightning's Random House Thesaurus at your fingertips, you can look at the *synonyms* for IDIOT. Type in IDIOT and what you see is:

```
- NOUN -
A. CRETIN
B. MORON
C. HALF-WIT
D. BLOCKHEAD
E. JERK
F. NITWIT
G. FOOL
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Any one of which expresses your opinion of your cousin's mental stature. So write the letter, but *don't mail it!*

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†**Minimum system requirements:** 256K Hard disk recommended. Runs on IBM PC, AT, XT, PCjr, and true compatibles. Word Wizard requires Turbo Lightning software.

L23

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frightened by full-featured programs than they once were; they frequently push those programs to the limits of their functionality. Novices and experts demand and deserve good performance, especially in a competitive environment.

Despite Mr. Wilson's comments, my reference point is first-hand experience with dozens of programs. My judgment also results from having written several books on word processing and having trained hundreds of people to use word processors on the IBM PC. I have used Lifetree products for more than two years and am quite familiar with their strengths and weaknesses as well as those of competing products. —Janet Crider

Unfortunately, nothing in Mr. Wilson's letter can change the performance of Volkswriter 3 *as our reviewer evaluated it. Thus, we stand by our review.*

There is, of course, an element of subjectivity in any product review. We believe that the author's framework and perspective are absolutely appropriate; her viewpoint is that of an experienced and professional reviewer who has used many competing products. Furthermore, most, if not all, of the considerations Mr. Wilson found lacking were addressed in the review. In the author's defense, the "flippant headlines" were ours. Were they totally without foundation, they would indeed be tasteless. Alas, that is not the case.

Regarding the reviews in other publications Mr. Wilson cites, those really can't have any effect on our findings. Each publication or testing organization develops its own criteria for product evaluations.

We are sorry that Mr. Wilson feels he was victimized. However, when we provide "meaningful, hard-hitting, fair, and accurate reviews," we can't consider whether the manufacturer has supported us

(continues)

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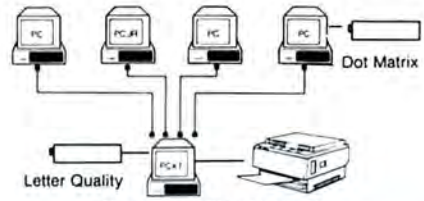

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or not. After careful scrutiny, we have found that no charge of unfair treatment can be substantiated. –Ed.

My column accurately reported on the experiences of a new user. It was not intended to be a review of a specific product or an attack on either Lifetree Software or Tandy. My target was the entire personal computer industry, which has failed miserably to make products that new and experienced users can operate without a great deal of frustration. This state of affairs is evidenced by over 200 letters from PC World *readers recounting similar experiences with a multitude of products. In general, Lifetree and Tandy are two of the better companies in our industry.*
–David Bunnell

Corrections

In the review of *Volkswriter 3* ("The More Things Change . . . ," *PCW*, June 1986), the statement that the program uses <Ctrl>-*key* commands like *WordStar*'s was inaccurate. While the menu is reminiscent of *WordStar*'s, commands are invoked with a single key. The review also stated erroneously that *Volkswriter 3*'s automatic reformatting feature assembles columns of numbers into a paragraph when reformatting a page. The reviewer suggests a more accurate phrasing: "The numbers will be shifted from the decimal tabs on which they were aligned." We regret any inconvenience caused by these errors.

Letters should be mailed to Letters, PC World, *555 De Haro St., San Francisco, CA 94107, or sent electronically to MCI Mail PCWORLD, CompuServe 74055,412, The Source STE908, or Direct-Net 500. We reserve the right to edit letters. All letters must include the writer's name, city, and state and should not exceed 300 words.*

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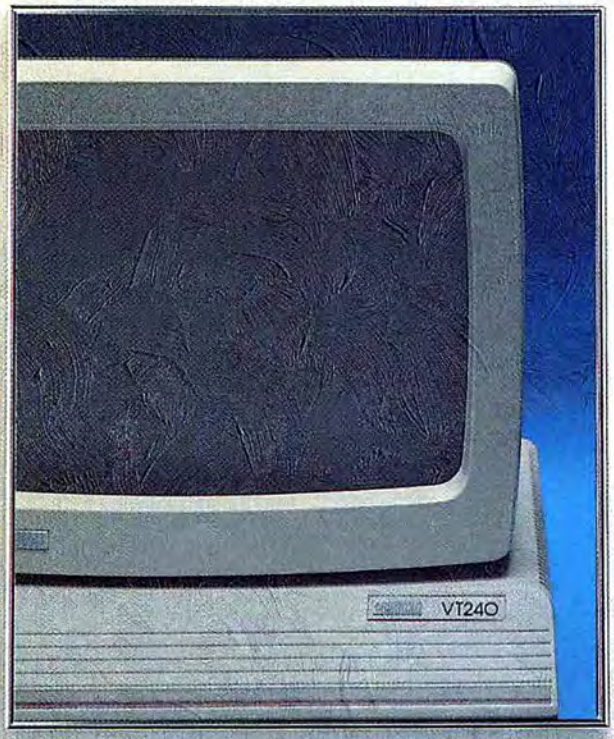

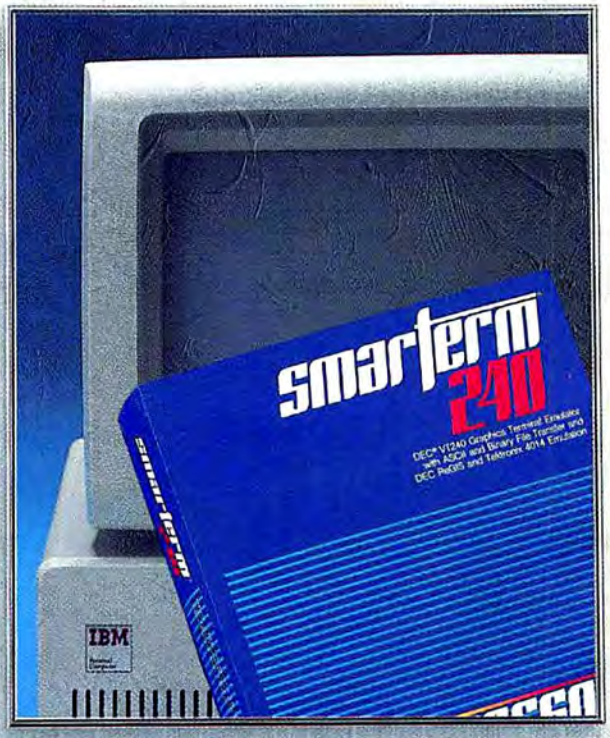

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Circle 142 on reader service card

Jonathan Seybold

REMark: Desktop Publishing Fulfills Its Promise

This year's fad or an important new market? The dean of personal computer publishing thinks that this burgeoning new field will have a profound impact on the way people work and communicate.

About a year ago, John Scull stopped by my office for a visit. John had just been appointed to the then newly created post of manager of desktop publishing at Apple, and he wanted to talk about the market. He also wanted to talk about what to christen this new phenomenon of publishing via personal computers. At the time the concept was so new that there was no accepted vocabulary to describe it.

I argued strongly in favor of the phrase *desktop publishing*. John did not need much convincing; he was already leaning in the same direction.

Within six months the topic that had been so new it didn't have a name was suddenly on everyone's lips. Desktop publishing is the hottest thing since hula hoops. But will the interest fade as quickly as it materialized? Last year, windows. This year, desktop publishing. Next year, something else?

I don't think desktop publishing is a passing fancy. As with any hot new technology, there will be some excessive enthusiasm and more than a little uninformed conjecture. But I believe that the desktop publishing revolution is real and that it will have a significant impact on the way people communicate, on the publishing industry, and on the computer industry.

What distinguishes desktop publishing from word processing? Primarily, the quality of the output. The printers available for personal computers run the quality gamut from inexpensive dot matrix and daisy wheel printers to simple laser printers such as the HP LaserJet, more sophisticated machines like the Apple LaserWriter, and even phototypesetters.

But output quality calls for more than just a fancy printer. It implies the need for relatively sophisticated software that will set typographic characters, create and edit graphics, and format pages.

Can you do real publishing on a PC? You bet. When I started in this business more than 20 years ago, I used an RCA 301 computer with 20K of 6-bit memory. It filled

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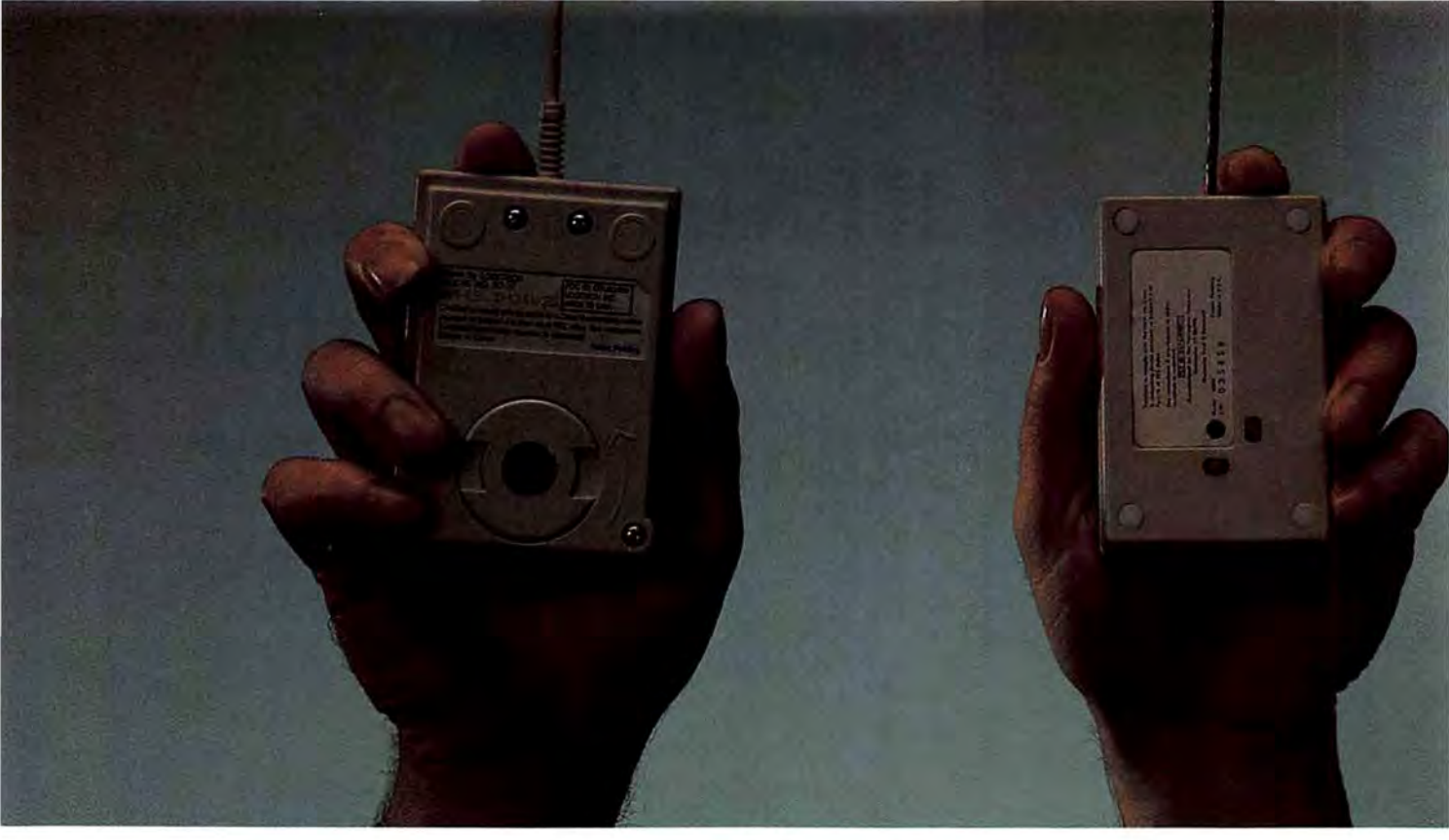

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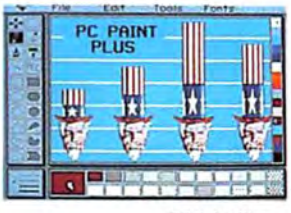

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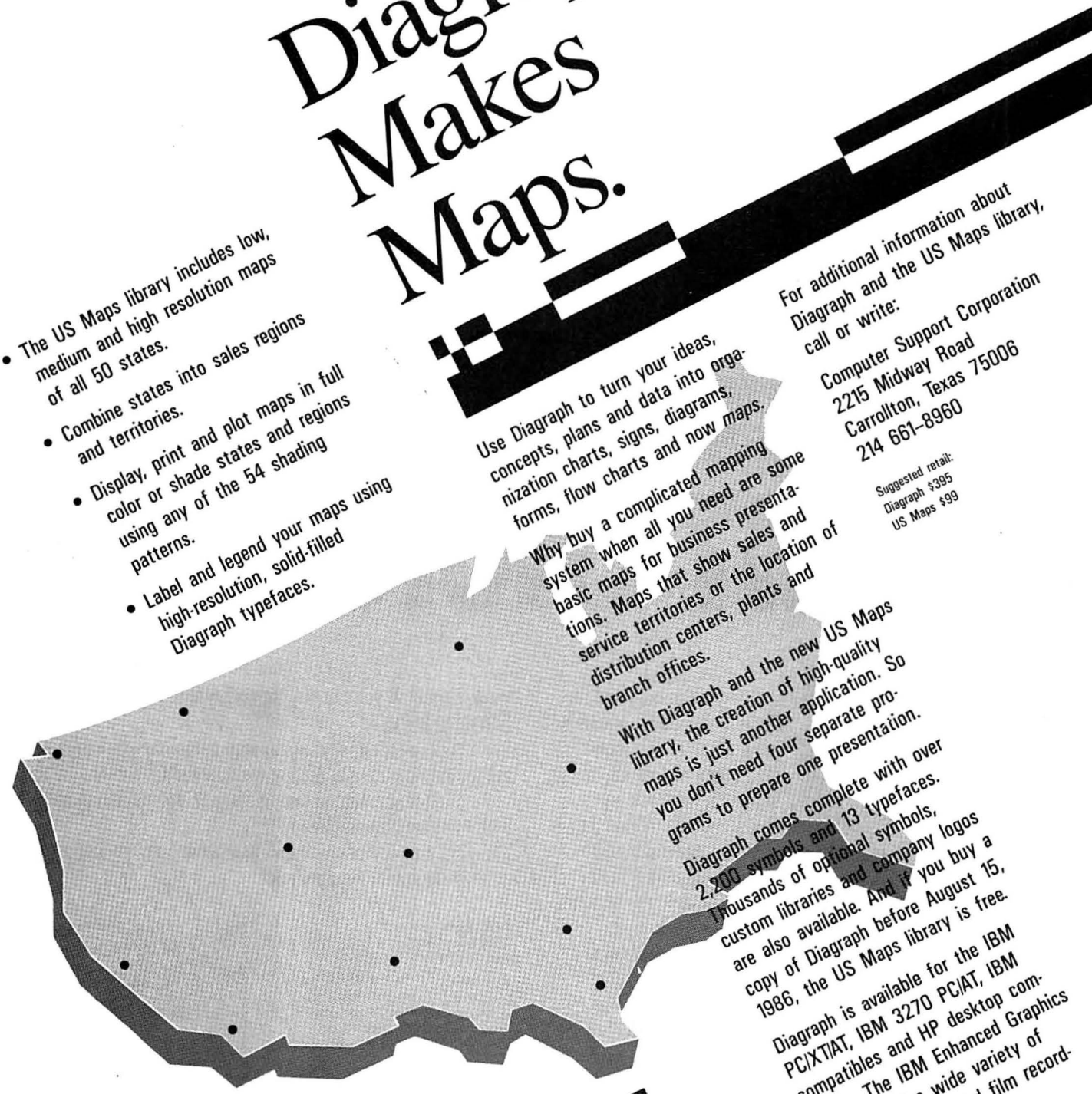

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an entire room. Today's PCs are infinitely more powerful, and contemporary software can produce first-class, professional-looking documents. The real trick (which the industry is still learning) is to combine the sophistication required to produce professional results with ease of use: That will make the technology available to ordinary mortals.

Who needs it? OK, so you can produce high-quality documents on a PC-based system. Isn't that a fairly specialized activity? Until now, it has been. Publishing has required expensive dedicated systems that in turn required considerable experience to operate. Now, all that has changed, and the floodgates have opened.

Not everyone needs a publishing system, but a great many people do. You do not need a desktop publishing system to write a letter or even a college term paper. Good clean typewriter-quality output is sufficient for those applications. But often you can communicate more effectively if you use typography, graphics, and aesthetic page layout. Until now, you have had two choices: Pay a high price in time, money, and loss of control to have documents typeset professionally, or (more likely) do without.

Now, almost anyone with a little bit of design sense can produce professional-looking documents.

What does desktop publishing mean to society? Desktop publishing is in keeping with the populist tradition that fueled the original PC revolution. Current technology enables small organizations, small

(continues)

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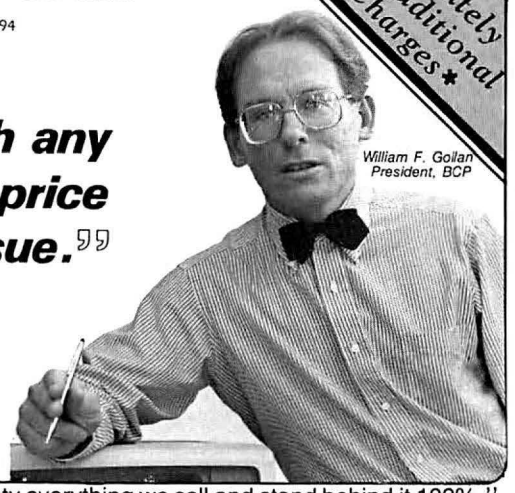

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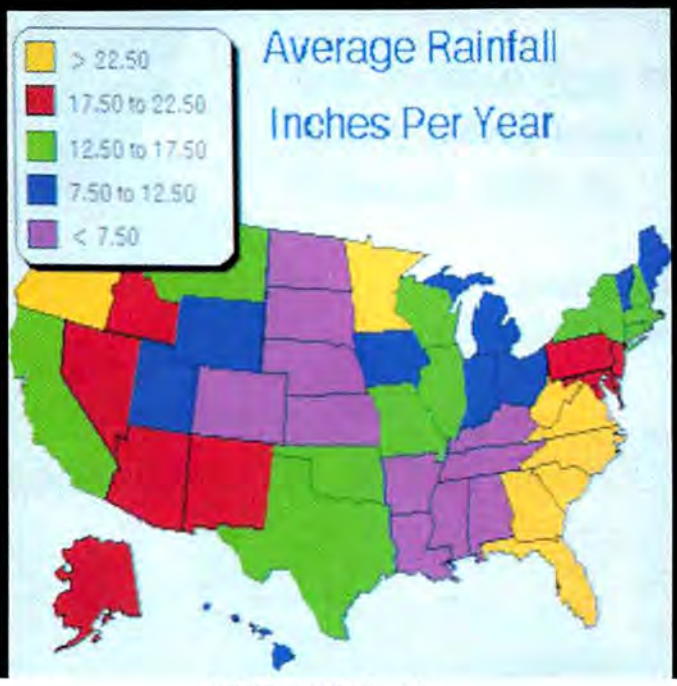

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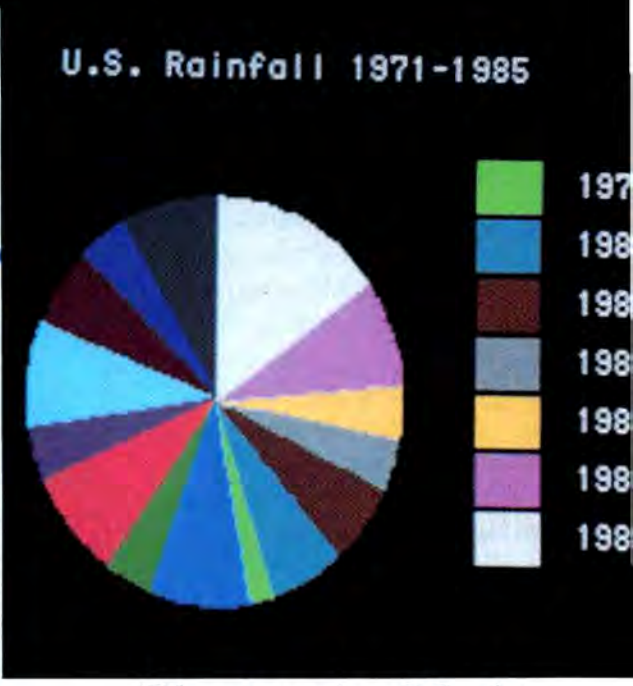

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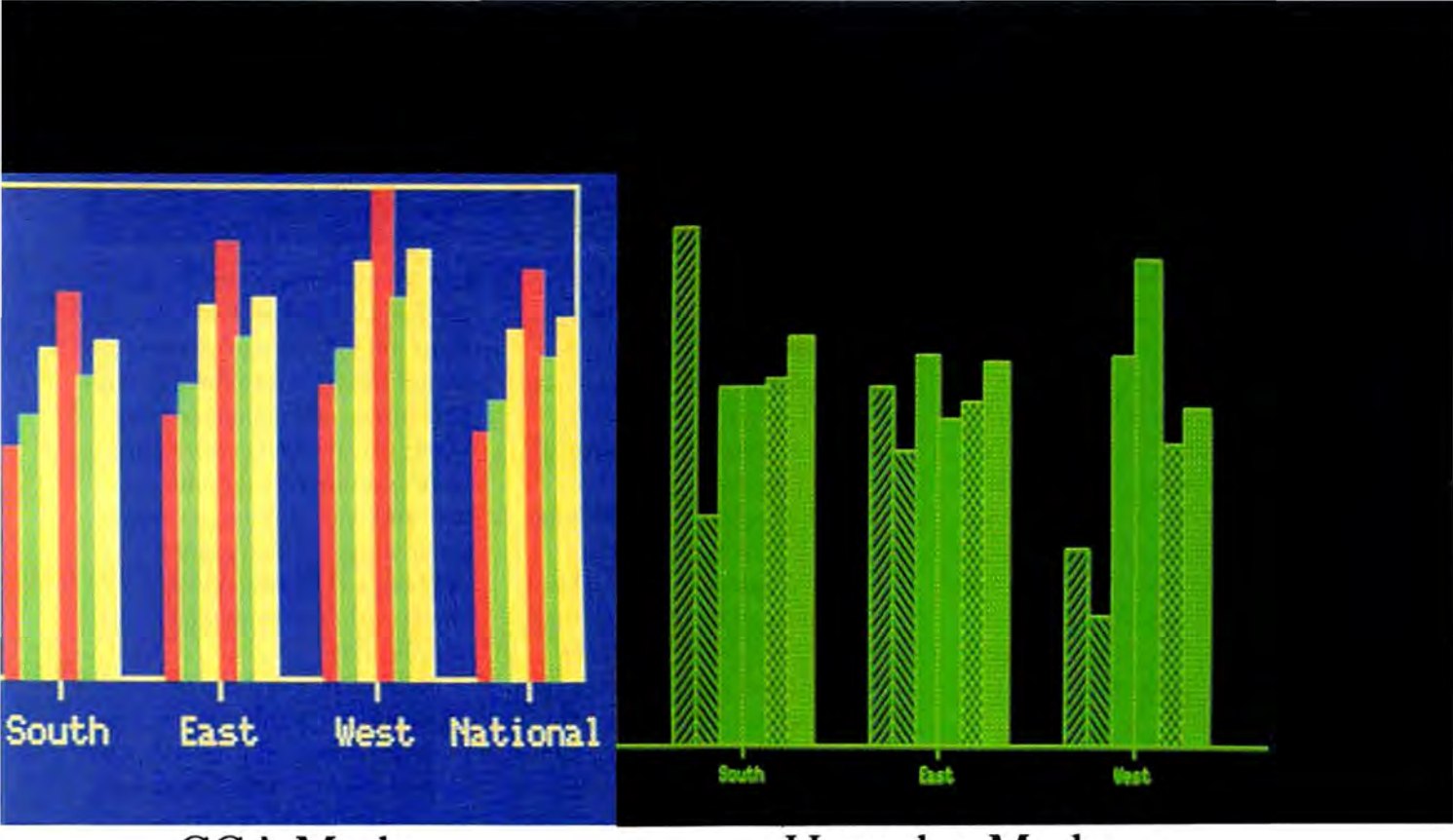

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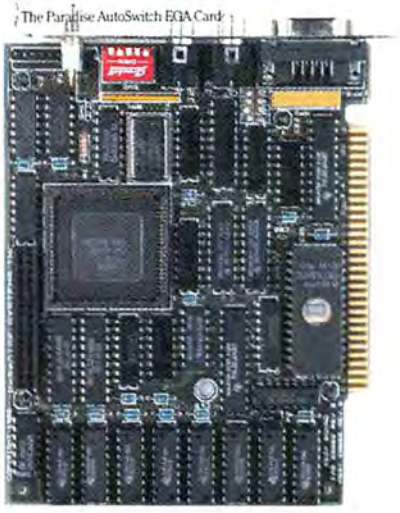
The Paradise AutoSwitch EGA Card



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work groups or departments within large organizations, and even individuals to take responsibility for publishing their own documents. The outcome will be shorter production cycles and a substantial improvement in the appearance of documents. In fact, the evidence suggests that desktop publishing technology has already brought an overall increase in the number of documents produced and in the variety of points of view expressed.

What does this mean for the computer industry? Justifying the purchase of a PC in terms of hard, measurable dollar savings is often difficult. But a desktop publishing system *can* be cost-justified. The price of a handful of outside typesetting jobs would easily pay for the equipment, and once you have it, you can use it for all those things that would never have been typeset in the past.

I think that desktop publishing systems will evolve into pretty substantial configurations. Most publishing applications are group activities: A number of people create text and graphics and page formats. This suggests that many systems will become part of multiuser networks that will have generous amounts of disk storage, devices such as input scanners, and a variety of printers.

I've made a list of all the technologies that should be included in a comprehensive look at desktop publishing. Besides PC hardware and publishing software, there's software for drawing, business forms, and computer-aided design; local area network hardware and software; graphic scanners and optical character recognition readers; add-on graphic displays; CD ROMs; and of course, printers, typesetters, fonts, and the like.

It's clear that desktop publishing is not just another application program to run on your computer. It represents an entirely new market for equipment purchases as well as software sales—just the

(continues)

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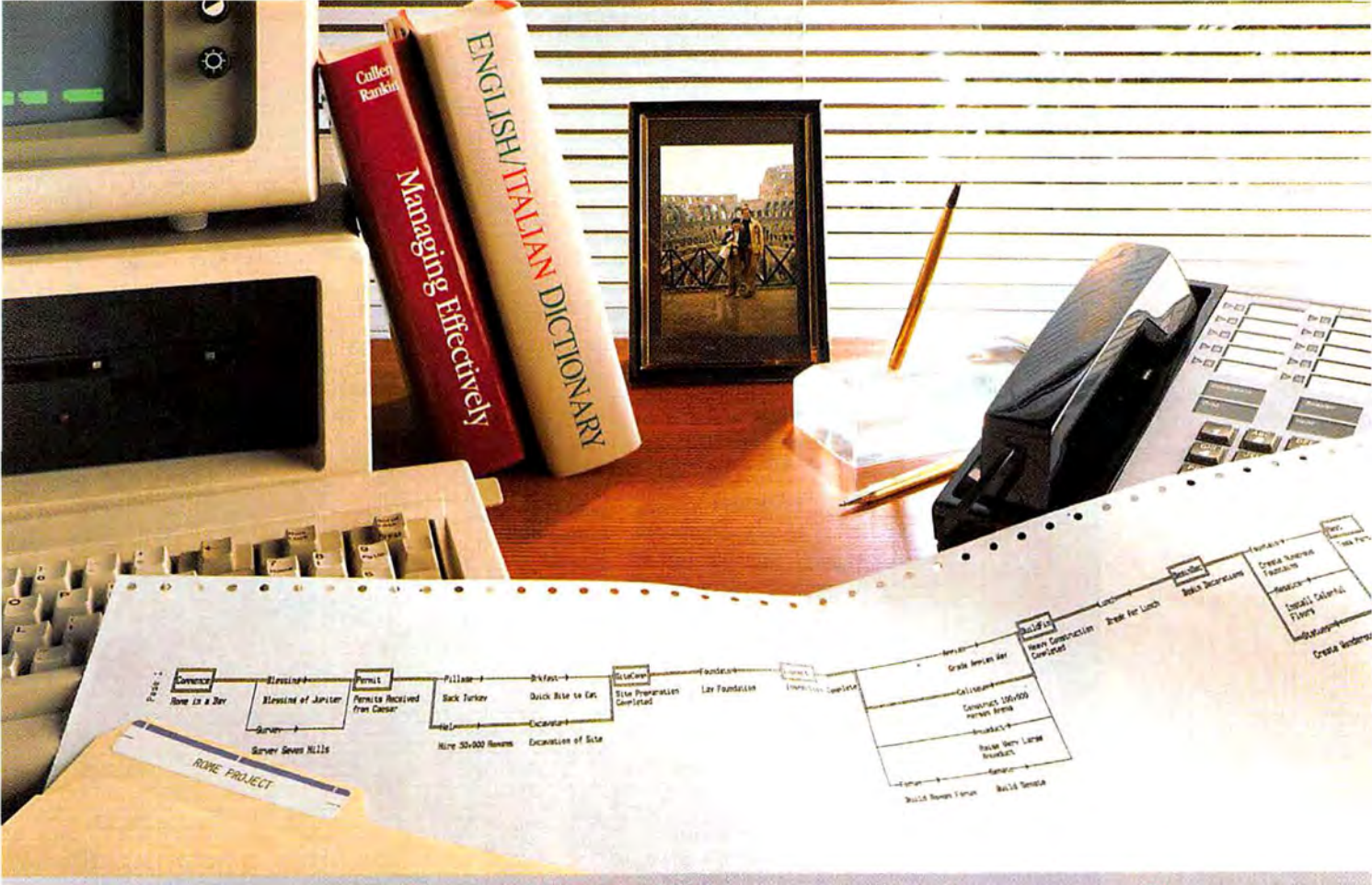

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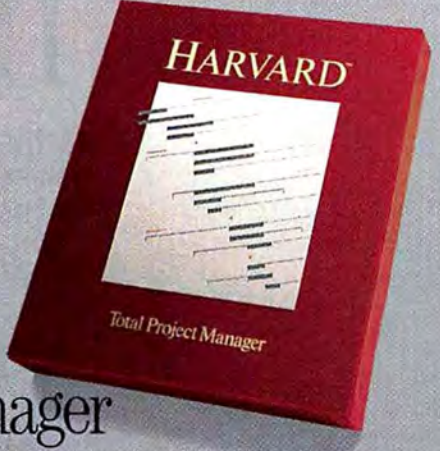

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kind of thing that gets manufacturers interested in developing products.

Is desktop publishing for you? It depends. If you buy typesetting outside, you should definitely look at desktop publishing solutions. If you would like your documents to look more professional, you should consider desktop publishing. If you simply have to bang out letters and brief memos, it would be overkill.

But even if you never actually publish anything, you will benefit from the attention being paid to desktop publishing applications. Distinctions are blurring, and the PC publishing continuum embraces everything from crude dot matrix printer output that has monospaced fonts to the most complex high-quality output. Hardware and software capabilities will expand, and the cost of producing higher-quality documents will diminish.

This means that the distinctions between word processing and publishing will largely disappear, and virtually everyone will migrate toward higher-quality output and integration of graphics and text.

This year's fad? I sometimes worry that we see the evidence that we want to see. After all, we have been predicting the boom in desktop publishing for more than a decade, and there is a seduction in seeing your predictions come true. But even upon reflection, it seems to me that the current surge of interest in desktop publishing is really an example of the market suddenly catching up with long-standing trends. It's a vision that goes well into the future. ●

Jonathan Seybold has been working with computer-based publishing systems for more than 20 years. He is editor in chief of The Seybold Report on Publishing Systems *and president of Seybold Seminars, sponsor of The Desktop Publishing Conference.*

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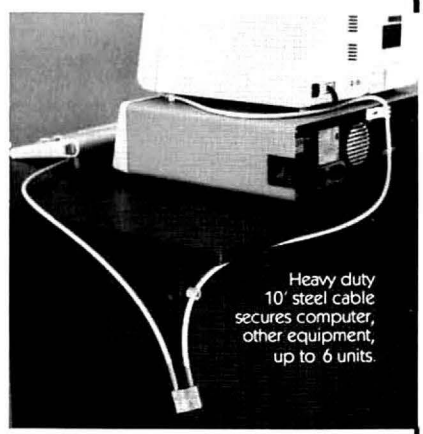

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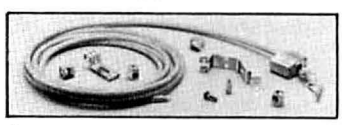

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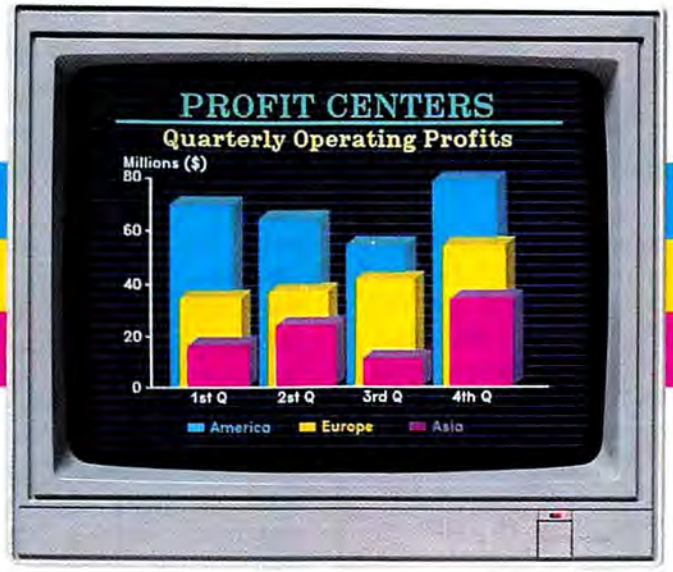

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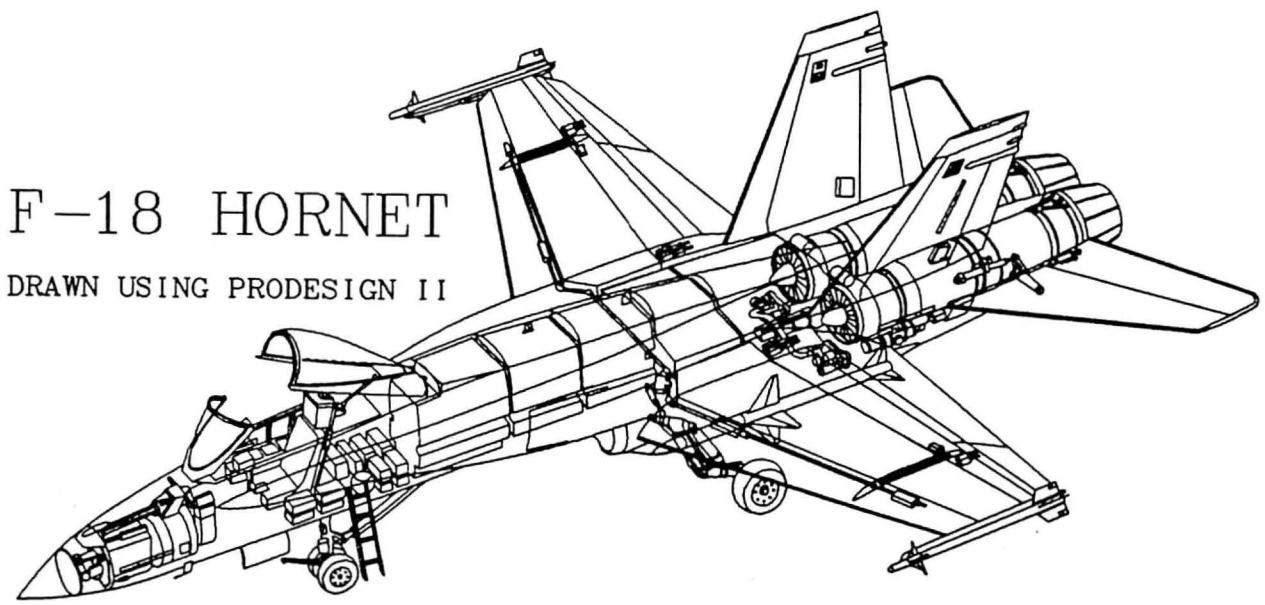

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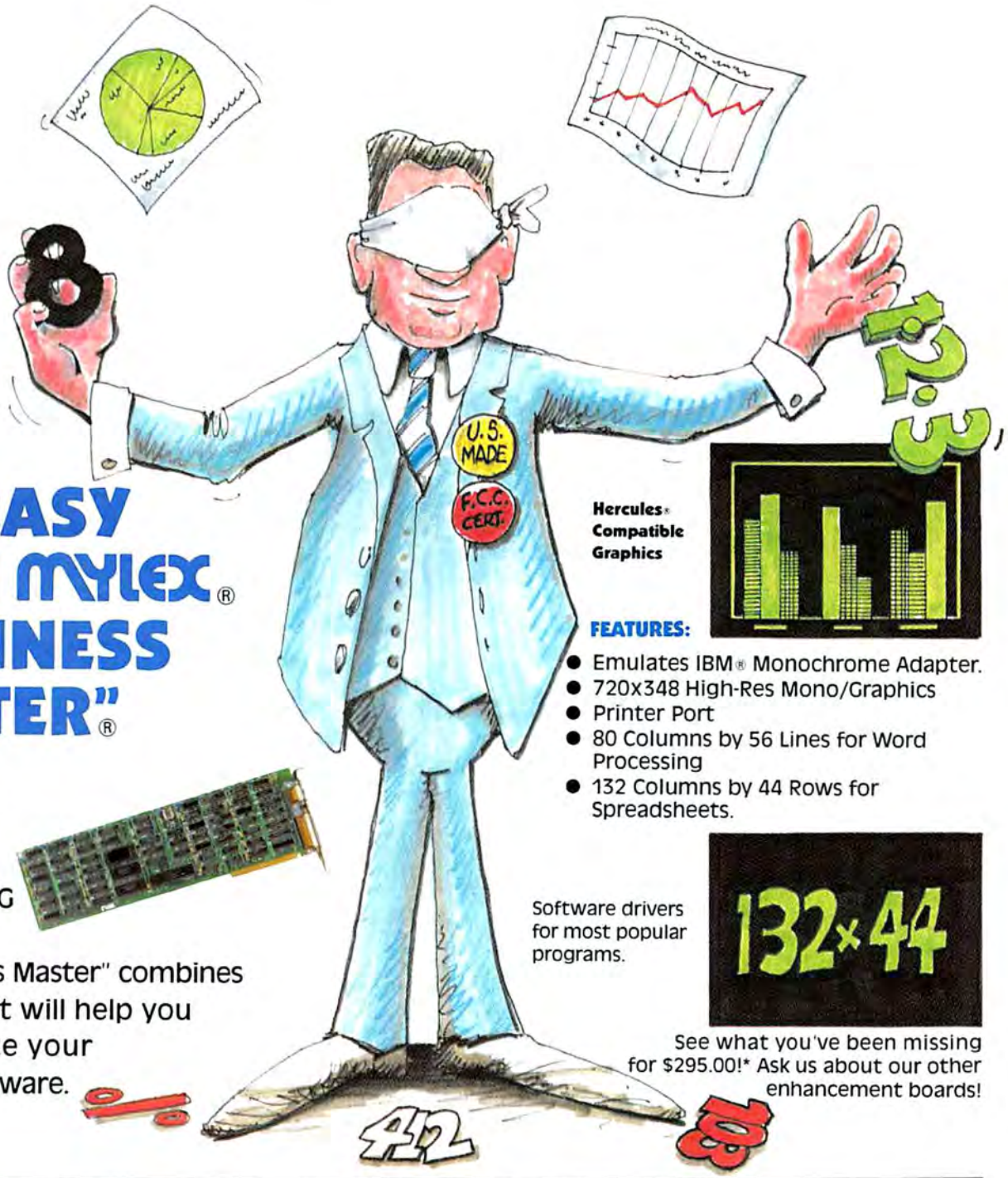

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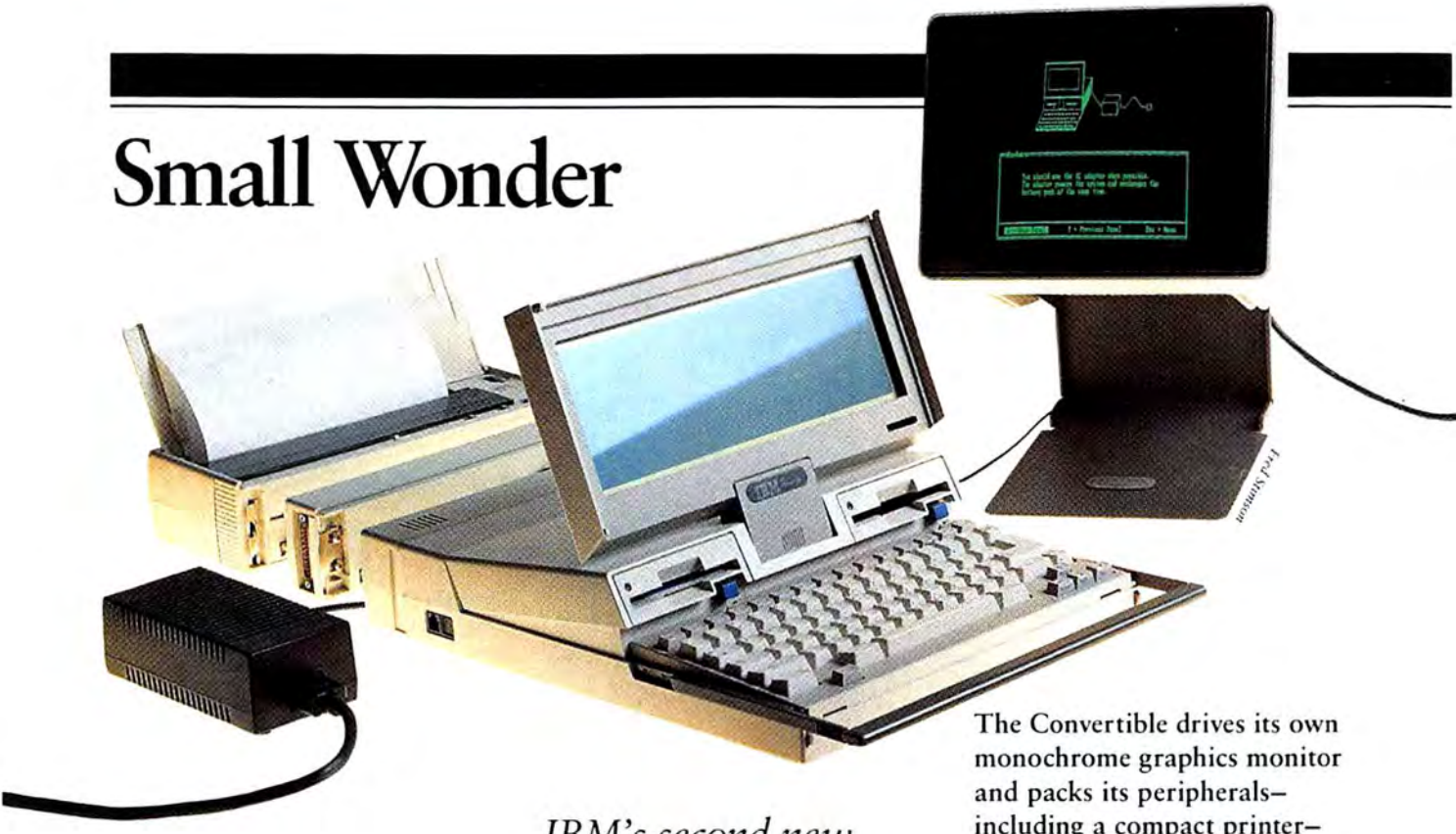
PC WORLD

Small Wonder



The Convertible drives its own monochrome graphics monitor and packs its peripherals—including a compact printer—in the trunk.

IBM's second new personal computer of 1986 is good news for mobile professionals—and, initially, for other laptop makers.

PC World View *reports new developments in computer technology, items of interest to computer enthusiasts, and the most significant and enticing insights about industry trends and personalities. We've reserved the "Grapevine" section of this column for industry reports that are still at the speculative stage.*
—Ken Greenberg

Shaking off a year-long hibernation, IBM's hardware bear is once again wide awake and moving at a respectable gait. Within a seven-week period, the company threw coming-out parties for its RISC-based RT PC and the PC Convertible, a 12-pound laptop that, following a series of false starts, made it to market after all.

IBM's base model "work-anywhere" machine is driven by a CMOS 80C88 microprocessor and contains dual 3½-inch, 720K floppy disk drives; 256K of CMOS RAM expandable to 512K; a printer interface; an AC adapter/battery charger; and a 25-line-by-80-character detachable liquid crystal display (LCD) that supports the PC's standard 640-by-200- and 320-by-200-pixel graphics. So configured, the Convertible lists for $1975.

View

News and notes for the computing community

This new IBM portable—which supplants the phlegmatic 28-pound Portable PC—sports a redesigned full-size 78-key keyboard. The revamped layout features independent cursor control keys and the customary ten function keys (arrayed across the top of the keyboard). An eleventh function key converts part of the keyboard to a numeric keypad.

The Convertible can be powered from a wall socket, a car's cigarette lighter (with the optional attachment for that purpose), or its own rechargeable internal nickel-cadmium battery. The unit reportedly can squeeze up to 10 hours of operation from a single charge—longevity enhanced by an ability to sleep between keystrokes and IBM's decision not to rely on a power-gobbling backlighted LCD. Instead, the screen features a new bonding process and glare-filtering elements that provide readability under a variety of ambient light conditions and viewing angles.

The litany of options for the Convertible is even more extensive than its retinue of standard equipment. Extras include DOS 3.20 (which features a facility for two-way data transfer between 3½-inch and 5¼-inch floppy disks), a serial/parallel adapter, an external 720K 3½-inch disk drive, and a display adapter for an outboard color graphics-compatible monitor or the Convertible's own monochrome graphics monitor (which can replace the removable LCD—hence the unit's name). The laptop cannot, however, drive the PC's monochrome display.

Given these add-ons, there's more to the Convertible's price tag than the purported $2000; outfitting the machine with two 128K expansion boards, a compact Convertible thermal transfer printer, the monochrome graphics monitor, and an internal 300/1200-bps modem bumps its price to $3800. Like the lamented PCjr, the Convertible's chassis can expand as you add goodies; unlike the PCjr, add-ons become a caboose rather than a sidecar.

For $20, IBM tosses in a healthy supply of software. Like the Hewlett-Packard laptop's PAM, IBM's *Application Selector* is a desk manager that includes NoteWriter, Schedule, Phone List, and Calculator modules. Software heavyweights the likes of Lotus, Ashton-Tate, Microsoft, Living Videotext, MicroPro, Satellite Software International, Microstuf, and Microrim—not to mention IBM itself—immediately rallied to the Convertible with 3½-inch versions of their hits.

When the Convertible is being manufactured, human hands never touch it. Robots are getting their digits dirty at IBM's new assembly plant in Austin, shepherding the machine from receiving dock to shipping platform. The Texas plant showcases the company's six-station Automated Logistics and Production System (IBM ALPS).

For laptop veterans Grid, Data General, Kaypro, and Hewlett-Packard, the other shoe has dropped; the sound you hear may be a market finally gaining credibility. "The Convertible will help further define this marketplace," affirms Mark Eppley, president of Traveling Software, a developer whose business is confined to laptops. "A lot of good should come from this—there's no longer a blue cloud over [other companies'] heads." Or, as an industry executive once quipped, "IBM's products are always more exciting before they're released." At the very least, the Convertible conferred instant legitimacy on the 3½-inch

(continues)

Garlands and Glitches

World View's *picks and pans in the PC parade.*

▲ ***Garland*** IBM, for elevating quality as it reduced prices significantly. The XT has been endowed with 512K and a 20MB hard disk, all for $2895. The latest AT runs at 8MHz, packs a 30MB hard disk, and—at $5295—is $700 cheaper than its predecessor. Both models can take advantage of a redesigned RISC-like 101-key keyboard; the new layout adds separate cursor- and screen-control keypads, an extra <Ctrl> key, two additional function keys, plus <Pause> and unshifted <PrtSc> keys.

Small Wonder
(continued)

disk drive format; IBM is even encouraging users to pop its new internal 3½-inch unit into ATs and XTs. To drive the point home, Big Blue has declined to release an external 5¼-inch drive for the Convertible.

Suggesting that the best laptop is no more than a peripheral to a desktop, Eppley predicts sales of 30,000 Convertibles by year's end—a quarter of the projected total for the entire laptop segment. The old bruin is definitely back.
—Bill O'Brien

▼ ***Glitch*** Hewlett-Packard, for turning its "What if" inducement for the AT-compatible Vectra into a promotional gimmick better suited to Detroit. HP's four-month offer, which expires June 30, consisted of a $1000 trade-in allowance on functioning Compaq and IBM computers. The Vectra, the object of all this puffery, is left to look less appealing. What if the company simply sold the machine on its merits?

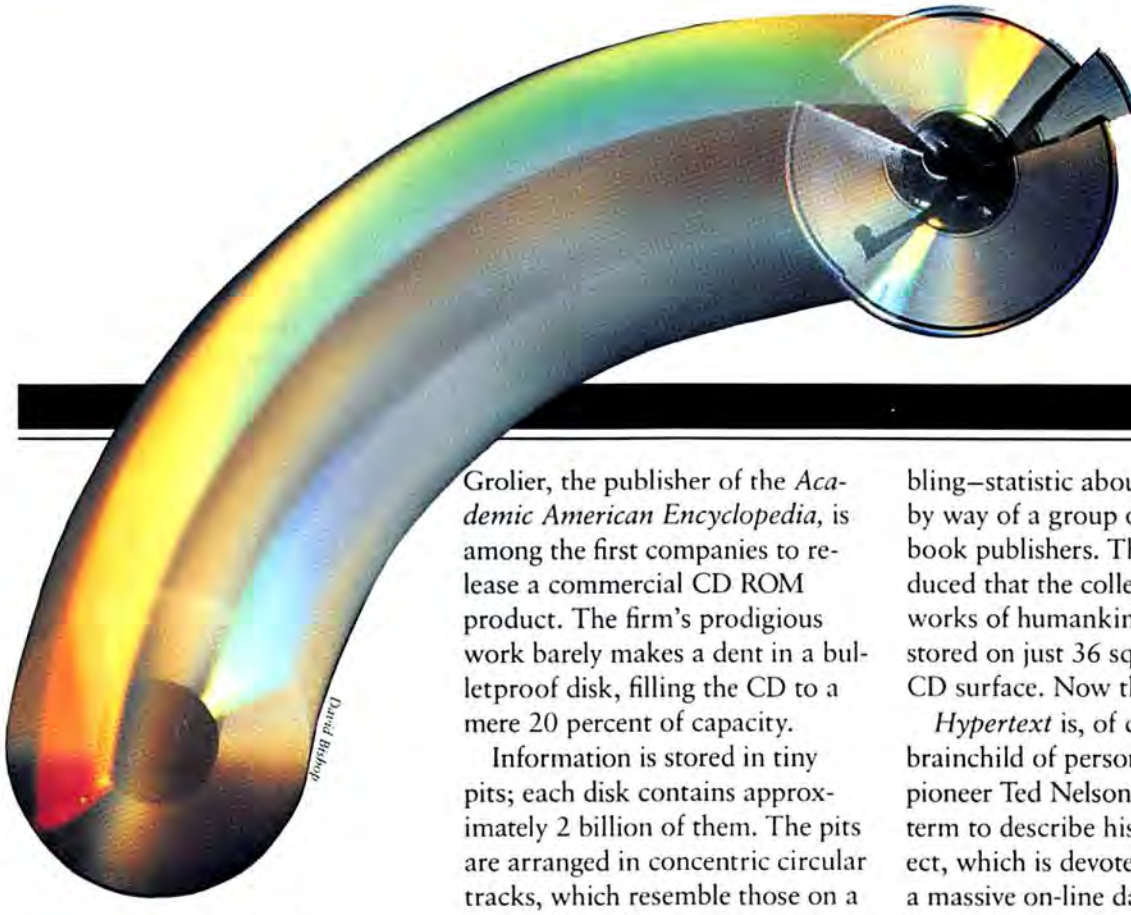
▲ ***Garland*** Compaq Computer, a strapping 4-year-old, for being the youngest enterprise ever to crack the Fortune 500. The Houston-based firm steamed into the rankings with 1985 sales topping $500 million and earnings growth that shows no sign of abating. Compaq CEO Rod Canion has become a vocal proponent of a PC-based "grass roots movement driving the industry [toward office automation] from the bottom up."

▲ ***Garland*** Microsoft, for stripping copy protection from its entire line of application software for the PC. In removing protection from *Microsoft Access* and omitting it from the recent release of *Microsoft Word 3.0,* the company bowed to corporate pressure—and common sense.

▼ ***Glitch*** Dog-Gone Computers, for its package *As the Crow Flies,* which embodies the esoteric nadir in vertical market software. The program figures the shortest flight distance between two points, using latitude and longitude coordinates stored in a Dog-Gone data base. The package was developed for peripatetic judges of dog shows staged under arcane American Kennel Club travel regulations. If only the firm evinced the same compassion for Spot.

▲ ***Garland*** Gene Amdahl, head of Trilogy, for working on behalf of U.S.-Japanese cooperation while the American semiconductor industry resonates with jingoism. Amdahl enlisted a handful of leading Japanese executives in forming Advanced Information Technology, a trading company chartered to balance the flow of high technology products between the U.S. and Japan. AIT will fund fledgling American ventures in Japan.

▼ ***Glitch*** Consumer Electronics Group, for responding to the computer industry's apathy with antipathy. Last spring, Jan Lewis of the Palo Alto Research Group alerted partisans that CEG, organizer of this summer's Consumer Electronics Show in Chicago, intended to park computer exhibits in a distant hall—a mite cozy with purveyors of adult films. The rationale, said Lewis, is the computer industry's alleged waning interest in the expo.



They Shoot Disks, Don't They?

Lately there's been a lot of hoopla about CD ROM—you know, the little plastic platter that holds billions of bits on its shimmering surface. Much of the lore surrounding compact disks is intriguing and even borders on the outrageous.

CDs, for instance, are covered with a particularly hardy breed of plastic—the same coating, as it happens, that's used to bulletproof windows. If your .357 Magnum accidentally discharges at one of these disks, don't despair: According to Microsoft's CD guru Min Yee, "We have software that will recover the bullet hole data."

Completely intact, a CD holds about 500MB of data, the equivalent of 1000 200-page novellas.

Grolier, the publisher of the *Academic American Encyclopedia,* is among the first companies to release a commercial CD ROM product. The firm's prodigious work barely makes a dent in a bulletproof disk, filling the CD to a mere 20 percent of capacity.

Information is stored in tiny pits; each disk contains approximately 2 billion of them. The pits are arranged in concentric circular tracks, which resemble those on a floppy disk. If the tracks on one CD were straightened out, they'd extend up Pikes Peak and part way down the other side.

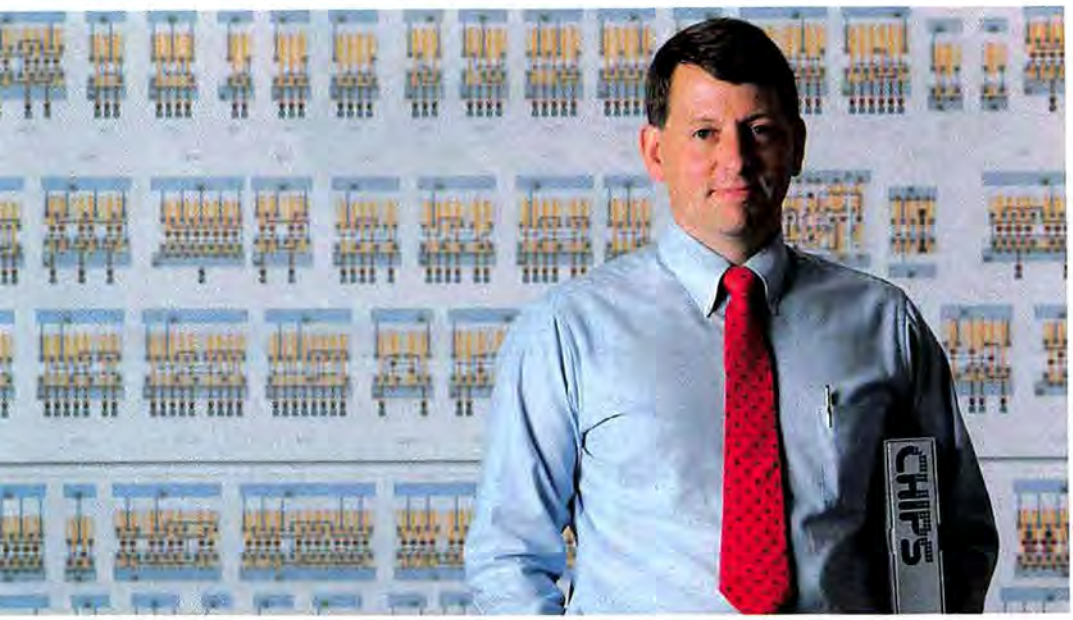
But perhaps the most impressive—and in a way, the most humbling—statistic about CDs comes by way of a group of West Coast book publishers. The group deduced that the collected written works of humankind could be stored on just 36 square feet of CD surface. Now that's hypertext.

Hypertext is, of course, the brainchild of personal computer pioneer Ted Nelson, who used the term to describe his Xanadu project, which is devoted to compiling a massive on-line data base of human knowledge. What Ted couldn't do with a brace of CDs, some dynamite software, and a few speedy modems ... *—Jeremy Joan Hewes*

Around Lotus Land

TK!Solver lives! The venerable equation processor, which was developed by Software Arts and became Lotus Development property following the Software Arts acquisition, recently touched down in Rockford, Illinois, under the Universal Technical Systems logo. UTS has trimmed the price of the package from $400 to $250, reportedly boosted speed by 300 to 400 percent, added hard disk and color support, and made way for IF ... THEN rules. Current users can upgrade for $50.

Elsewhere in Lotus's garden, Signal—the company's real-time stock market quotation system that heretofore was confined to FM sideband transmission—is now but a dish away. Selected Lotus dealers are bundling Signal with Equatorial Communications' C-100 Satellite Data Receiver (see "Data on Your Dial," *PCW,* February 1986). Packing the 2-foot Equatorial dish with the Signal receiver and software extends the product's reach well beyond the 12 cities currently on Signal's FM sideband network.



John Marriott

Chips and Technologies mentor Gordon Campbell relies on VLSI technology to shorten the odds against semiconductor success.

In the Chips

Silicon Valley is still populated by pioneers with enough gumption to buck a trend. Consider Gordon Campbell's latest venture.

Who'd be crazy enough to start a semiconductor company in the midst of a highly publicized slump in the chip market? Former Seeq executive Gordon Campbell and a crew of fellow formers from Seeq, Intel, Amdahl, and Apple Computer laughed in the face of competitors and doomsayer analysts when they founded their own custom chip house. Now, Chips and Technologies, the wily start-up, is also having the last laugh.

Proof of the company's success can be found on 18 of the 20 boards that now emulate IBM's EGA (Enhanced Graphics Adapter); four chips on each board bear the "Chips" imprimatur. Attracted by the reduced chip count as well as a reduced price, established board makers and newcomers alike are using the Chips and Technologies Enhanced Graphics Chipset to undercut the $982 IBM EGA by as much as $700.

Board manufacturers AST, Tecmar, Quadram, Genoa, STB, Video 7, and a handful of others are certainly snapping up the Chips and Technologies' CMOS and gate array chips because of price. But Chips's chips also boast VLSI (very large scale integration) circuitry, which fits easily on a half-size board, and full compatibility with the EGA and three other graphics standards.

This recent success marks the second winning hand for Chips and Technologies. The premier Chips product, the PC/AT Chipset, lies under the hood in Tandy's new 3000 and in an AT compatible yet to be announced. The 5-chip set replaces 58 chips on the AT motherboard, reducing the overall chip count to 36 and boosting clock speed to 10MHz.

With its success in the graphics market, the upstart semiconductor company has found itself, figuratively speaking, in the chips. Chips and Technologies began turning a profit with the first shipment of Enhanced Graphics Chipsets last December, a mere 11 months after incorporating.

Chips and Technologies' Ron Yara attributes the company's lickety-split launch to luck and good timing, but that explanation seems a bit modest. The firm's ability to shrink both circuitry and prices should keep vendors—and their customers—content, and may even infuse a little pluck into a forlorn industry. Luck indeed.
—Christine McGeever

Follow That Story!

PS: Don't Forget to Print

Some five centuries after Johannes Gutenberg proved that movable type is mightier than the quill, John Warnock's PostScript may be helping to usher in a change almost as fundamental: putting the publishing process itself into general circulation.

PostScript, marketed by Warnock's Adobe Systems, is a page description language (PDL) designed to harness the talents of the laser printer (see "Master of the Raster," *PCW,* August 1985). The language has sparked excitement because of its unique ability to combine on a single page the three basic constituents of graphic design: text, images, and halftones (shades of gray).

Early last year PostScript made its formal debut on a ROM chip inside Apple's LaserWriter. Since then it has been licensed for use in laser printers from QMS, Dataproducts, Wang, DEC, and NBI. Three more firms are waiting in the wings, according to Warnock, who expects some 20 printer manufacturers to sign up this year.

Even companies that haven't licensed PostScript remain watchful. Several laser printer manufacturers—including Hewlett-Packard, Cordata, and AST Research—are in the process of evaluating the language for their product lines, but they're not likely to jump on the bandwagon en masse.

Whatever the reservations among printer manufacturers, however, PostScript is winning converts by the score among software publishers. More than 100 programs—including *1-2-3, Microsoft Word,* and *WordStar 2000*—now contain drivers that enable them to take full advantage of laser printers using PostScript. "PostScript is becoming a de facto industry standard," claims Tangent Technologies president Roland Bates, whose PC MacBridge interface board enables PC owners to access the LaserWriter via *WordStar.*

According to Ajit Kapoor, a personal publishing specialist at the market research firm Dataquest, the major substantive criticism of PostScript is that it's a bit sluggish, particularly when compared to Interpress, Xerox's PDL. But what PostScript lacks in speed, says Kapoor, Interpress lacks in graphics capability.

Is PostScript destined to dominate this budding industry? "It will definitely be one of the top contenders," predicts Kapoor. "I don't see the competition hurting PostScript, because the installed base of printers is large and growing. But the battle has just begun."

But then, Gutenberg didn't have the market entirely to himself back in 15th century Mainz, either.

—Anita Amirrezvani

It Only Hurts When I Laugh

Loving *1-2-3* isn't easy when, like a stranger in a strange land, you first begin groping your way around a spreadsheet, or even worse, when you accidentally exit without saving and lose an hour's worth of intensive number-crunching. A remedy for each ailment is offered, respectively, in *Templates of Doom* and *Chuckle Pops*. The first enables you to puzzle your way through *1-2-3* commands, the second to laugh your macro cares away. Of course, there's a chance the cure may be worse than the disease.

Templates of Doom is a *1-2-3* tutorial thinly disguised as an adventure game. Your quest is to discover the answer to a riddle—"Find the name of the hero" or "Find the hero's weapon"—hidden somewhere in the spreadsheet. You'll supposedly master some basic *1-2-3* commands after hacking your way through the jungle of rows and columns—but by then you may not give a cat's whisker. If you don't relish the idea of getting caught with your game showing, pressing <Alt>-B summons a fake spreadsheet and hints at instant Lotus proficiency.

Moving from the sublime to the silly, take *Chuckle Pops*—please. Imagine Henny Youngman writing *Turbo Lightning* and you've just about got it. *Chuckle Pops* lurks in RAM until a grueling *1-2-3* session compels you to seek solace in mirth, however feeble. Invoking any one of the program's hundreds of chuckles is akin to being stranded at the Oshkosh Holiday Inn during a blizzard, with the lounge manager supplying the evening's entertainment.

It's enough to give you a warm feeling for circular references.
—Miriam Medom

Grapevine

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

If You Can't Beat 'em, Buy 'em

While IBM's hardware supremacy has become an article of faith among industry participants, its software presence continues to be modest bordering on meek. Conceding a 15 percent cut of the PC software pie to IBM, the market research firm Communications Trends expects Big Blue to swallow "one or more" independent PC software firms by 1987—a forecast consistent with IBM's public pledge to earmark more funds for software development than for hardware. IBM is said to be perusing only companies whose annual sales exceed $50 million. You can tally that prey on one hand.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

A Marriage Made in Redmond?

Do good neighbors make good partners? Don't be too surprised if Microsoft fills out its product line by swallowing a noted venture located just down the block. Consider the compelling factors behind a Microsoft acquisition of Microrim, purveyor of *R:base 5000* and Microsoft's neighbor in a new Redmond, Washington, business park. Microsoft currently lacks a data management product; the company is swimming in cash following a rip-roaring initial public stock offering; Microsoft sells *R:base* as its own in Europe; and nobody will have to move so much as a paper clip.

Big Blue's News

IBM abhors a vacuum—read any market in which it's not an active participant—and so is moving to fill one such vacancy posthaste. Computer industry savants have pronounced an end to the days when IBM idly watched dealers and value-added resellers stuff other people's hard disk drives into its personal computers. Although Big Blue's legal remedies appear nil, its marketing and manufacturing machine is already shifting into high gear.

The first decisive move came in late January, when IBM introduced its RT PC with 40MB and 70MB hard drives built by the company's independent business unit in Rochester, Minnesota. The second volley was let fly in early April, with new AT and XT models similarly outfitted with IBM's own drives. There's even talk that IBM may one day make a homegrown hard disk standard equipment on every PC.

Tim Bajarin, vice president of San Jose market watcher Creative Strategies, is among those who believe IBM will ultimately be its own biggest hard drive supplier. Bob Katzive, vice president of Disk/Trend, a market research firm dedicated to the mass storage business, agrees.

"IBM's increasing activity as a drive manufacturer is taking away half the [market's potential] business," he says. Most of IBM's long-standing suppliers are already testifying to the change. Seagate Technology claims IBM now accounts for only 28 percent of its business, down from 49 percent just months ago. At Computer Memories, once the sole supplier of AT hard disk drives, the plunge has been even more precipitous—from 80 percent to zilch in a year's time.

Besides entering—and dominating—the hard disk drive business, IBM may be primed to crack the whip at dealers who shove other manufacturers' drives into its PCs. Core International, an authorized IBM dealer and hard disk manufacturer, estimates that 70 percent of the ATs and XTs on dealers' shelves contain cheap hard disk drives. Seagate boss Al Shugart expects IBM to "do something" to counter that trend. Core International's John Simonds bemoans the poor quality of many such drives, labeling the widespread dealer practice "legitimate fraud."

For its part, IBM is characteristically evasive. Says spokesperson Rob Wilson, "The open architecture of our systems encourages third-party add-ons, and I can't speak hypothetically of what will happen down the road."

Wilson acknowledges, however, that IBM requires its dealers to notify customers of any third-party products packaged with the basic IBM unit. Because that requirement is often honored in the breach, IBM could use such violations as a way to rebuke some dealers. But here's the catch: Dealers earn heftier margins by selling non-IBM hard disks, and consumers continue to save money on third-party drives. Those are incentives even IBM may have a tough time dampening. *—John Eckhouse*

Bill O'Brien writes about technology from New York City; John Eckhouse is a business correspondent for the San Francisco Chronicle; *Anita Amirrezvani is a freelance writer in Berkeley, California; Jeremy Joan Hewes is a Contributing Editor for* PC World; *Christine McGeever is the magazine's Assistant Editor; and Miriam Medom continues to be bad news for blarney in software.*

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New York Times–June 23, 1985

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PC World–November 4, 1985

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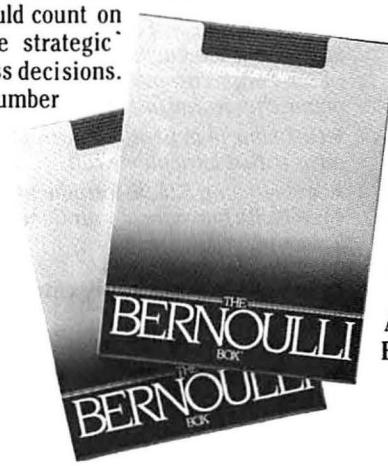

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From the Software Shelf

PC World offers first impressions of recent software releases

This month: a medley of programs for the casual and dedicated personal computer publisher, plus WordStar 2000 revisited

Edited by Robert Luhn

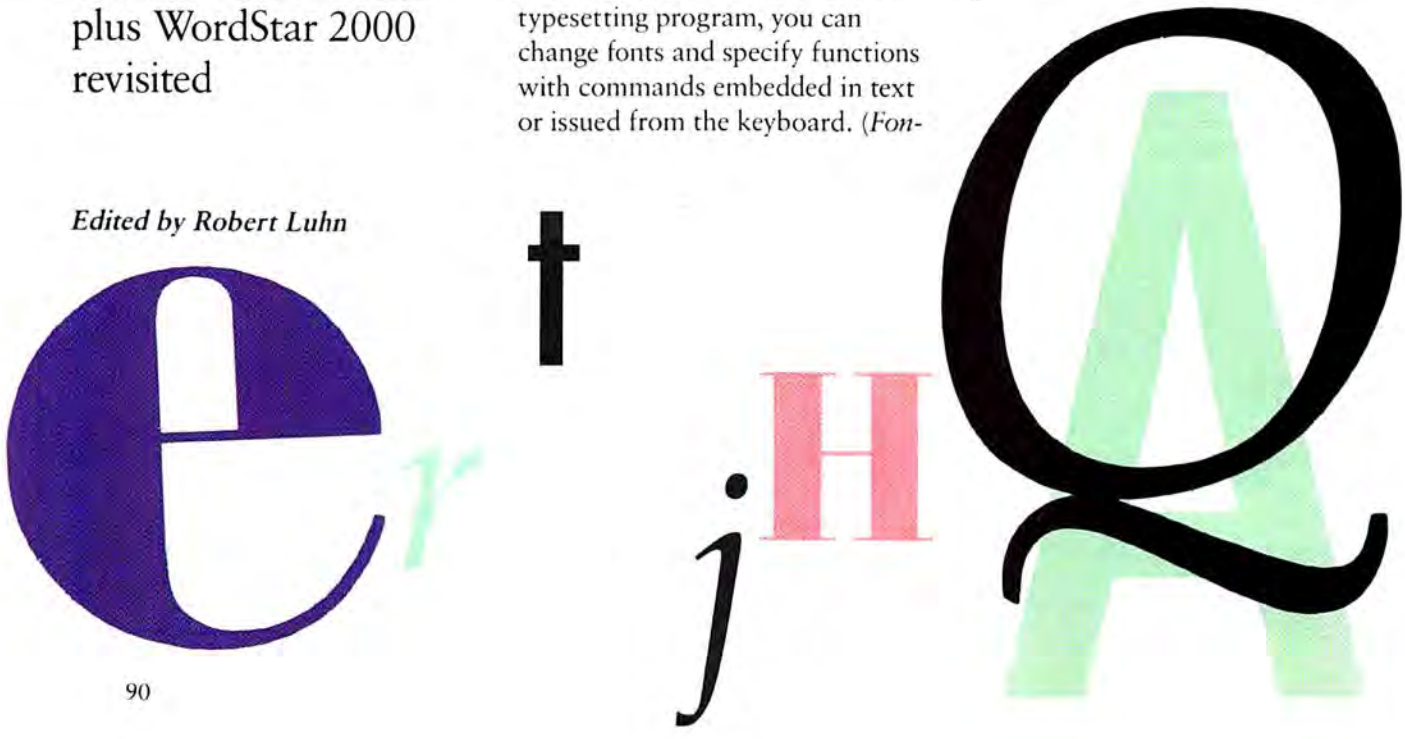
Fontasy

We should be careful to get out of an experience only the wisdom that is in it—and stop there; lest we be like the cat that sits down on a hot stove-lid. She will never sit down on a hot stove-lid again—and that is well; but also she will never sit down on a cold one anymore.
—Mark Twain

Like Mark Twain's cat, I sat down on a hot stove lid by agreeing to review *Fontasy* in two weeks—a task I shouldn't have taken so lightly. *Fontasy* is not a simple font package but an ambitious and formidable publishing program that Prosoft claims is capable of producing a near typeset quality company newsletter, brochure, or report on the Hewlett-Packard LaserJet and 18 other printers. Depending on your temperament, the program may also double your blood pressure when your efforts result in little more than gibberish—in 278 font styles.

Fontasy is an uneasy mix of traditional typesetting and PC-oriented approaches. As with a typesetting program, you can change fonts and specify functions with commands embedded in text or issued from the keyboard. (*Fontasy* does not support printer-resident fonts.) Like some contemporary word processors and PC page-composition programs, what you format on screen closely resembles printed output. But like so many programs with good intentions, *Fontasy* smothers you with an avalanche of sophisticated features that turn the learning experience into a *Zork*-like adventure.

Although I am a newspaper editor and designer and an experienced computer user, my first attempts at laying out a page with *Fontasy* were interrupted by repeated trips to the user manual for details on the program's nearly 200 commands. I discovered I could force out a simple invitation or advertising flyer (see Figure 1), but designing a page, importing and formatting ASCII text, and integrating graphics were a nightmare. Unlike Twain's feline, I let the stove cool and sat down again. Silly me. I should have been wearing asbestos jodhpurs. After a week of trying to make the program perform as advertised on three different PC compatibles and an AT, I finally gave up.



Yet the package's allure is hard to resist. For a small fistful of dollars, *Fontasy* provides an incredible number of production tools: design and layout functions that should allow you to cut and paste text and graphics, design and scale fonts, wrap text around illustrations, and so on. Twenty-eight fonts are included, with another 250 fonts and 150 ho-hum clip art images sold separately. The typesetting pro will find a host of familiar functions—kerning, variable margins, justification, and line joining. The program's ersatz *MacPaint* drawing option includes reverse and mirror-image functions, automatic box and circle generation, fill-in patterns, and more, all governable with a mouse or the cursor keys.

Unfortunately, *Fontasy* confuses matters by offering several means for accomplishing the same end. For example, to set text in Gothic, you could press <Esc> to display *Fontasy*'s command line at the bottom of the screen, type the dot command .BF GOTHIC1.FY, return to the work space, and type in the text. But you could also select the font from a *Fontasy* menu or press the appropriate function key assigned to the font. You could also type .BF GOTHIC1.FY into text created with a word processor and later import the file into the *Fontasy* environment. While the program might win an award from the Department of Redundancy Department, *Fontasy*'s programmers should heed Thoreau and simplify, simplify.

According to the manual and a demonstration file, you first create headline banners, illustrations, circles, rectangles, and other images with *Fontasy*. Then you build a template that contains margin, page length, line length, and column settings and save it to disk. Next, you create text with a word processor in ASCII mode and embed the appropriate *Fontasy* dot commands for loading the template, fonts, and other functions. From *Fontasy*, you merely issue the read command, .RD *filename*.ASC, and the program will supposedly import the text file, pour it into designated columns, drop graphics into the right slots, insert the banner, and so on.

In reality, the process isn't quite so smooth. The program provides no grid for gauging column or line width, so manipulating elements is like pasting up a page in a darkroom. Worse still, you can view only one-sixth of a page at once, and must jump around the page using a ludicrous system of <F4> and cursor keys. After wrangling with *Fontasy* and its obdurate user manual for hours on end, all I had to show for my efforts was a banner (see Figure 2). Trying to import ASCII text from a word processor ended in disaster; text overwrote the banner and ignored commands for a two-column format.

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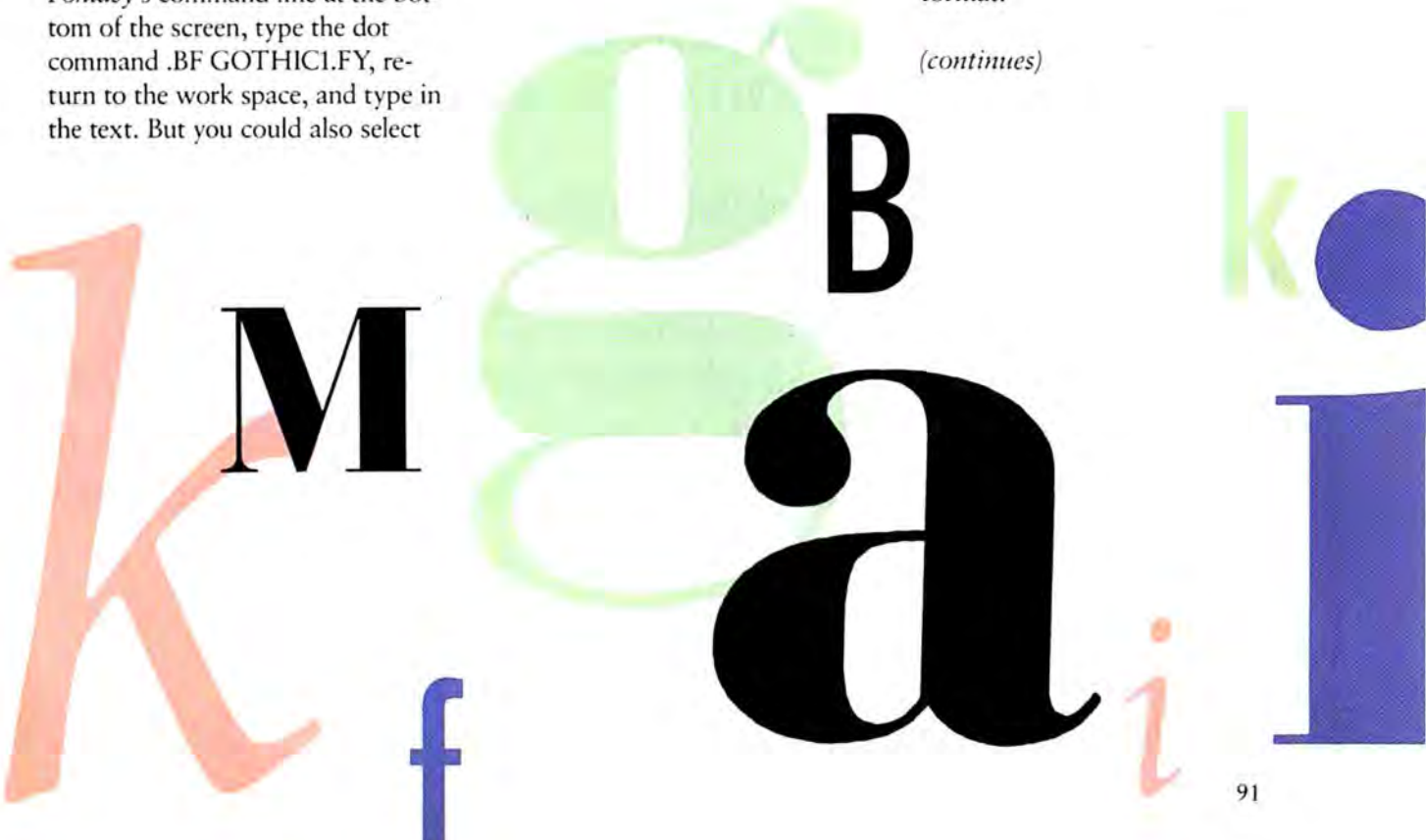

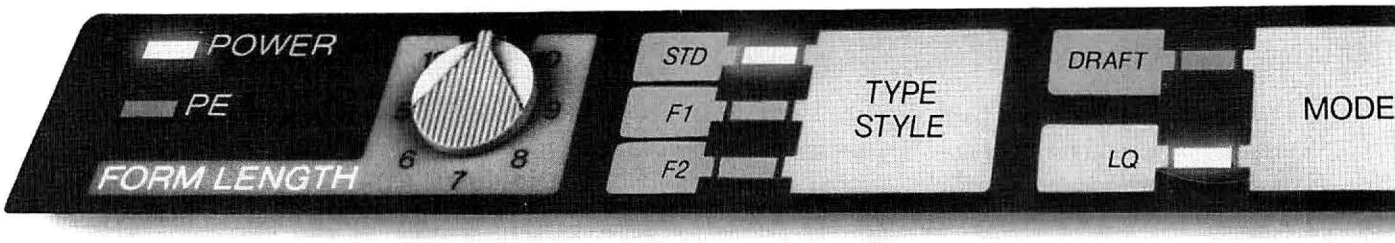

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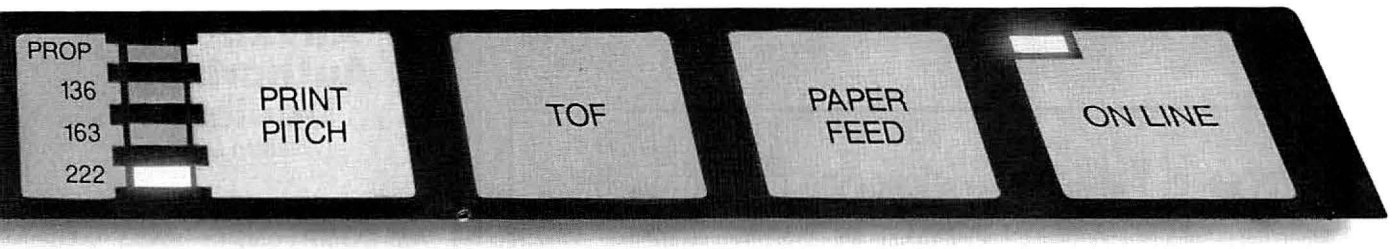

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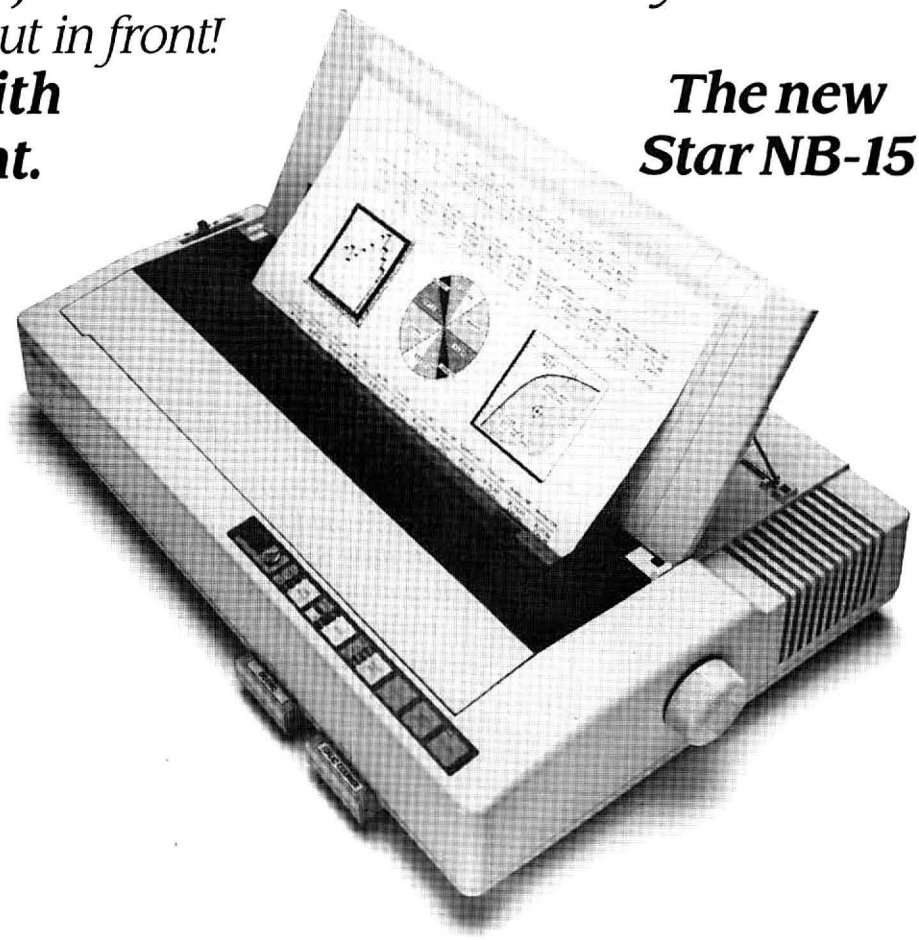

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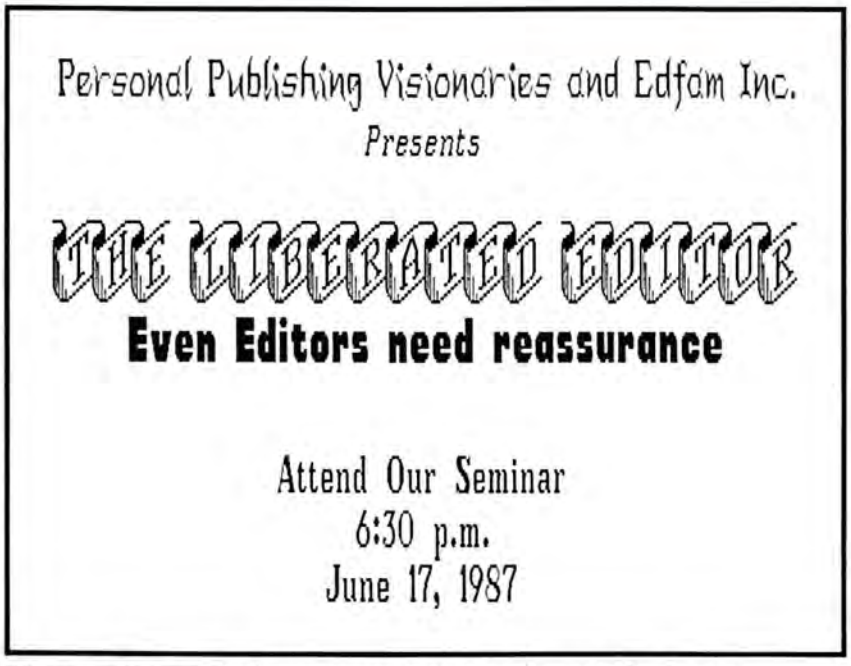

Figure 1: A Fontasy figure created straight from the keyboard

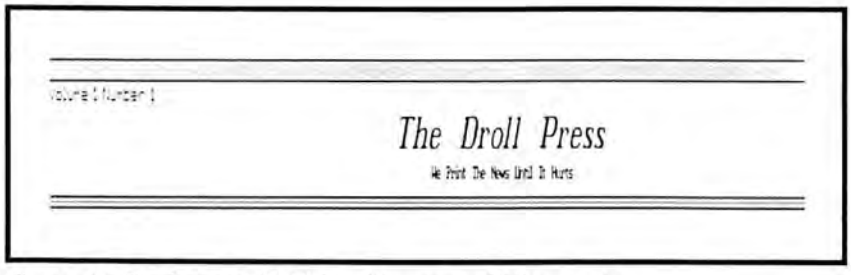

Figure 2: Desktop publishing Sturm und Drang. A banner produced with Fontasy—after two weeks of struggle.

No page-composition program—including the lionized *PageMaker*—is perfect. But *Fontasy* is far too fallible and complex for my taste. It's possible that the only person who can use *Fontasy* effectively is its programmer. Unless you are willing to spend weeks learning and relearning the program, keep your distance—it's a hot stove lid. *—Jason Durbin*

Fontasy version 1.06
Prosoft
7248 Bellaire Ave.
North Hollywood, CA 91605
818/765-4444
List price: $49.95, version 2 $69.95; additional font and clip art disks $24.95 each
Requirements: 256K (448K recommended, 512K-640K recommended for HP LaserJet or 24-pin printer); two disk drives; DOS 2.00 or later

(continues)

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Phoenix, AZ 85029
602/371-0931

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Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
314/335-3853

Complete Business Systems
18141 Beach, Bldg. #285
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
714/841-5868

Data Quest Hawaii
Manoa Marketplace,
2752 Woodlawn Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822
808/988-7813

Integrated Analysis, Inc.
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San Diego, CA 92109
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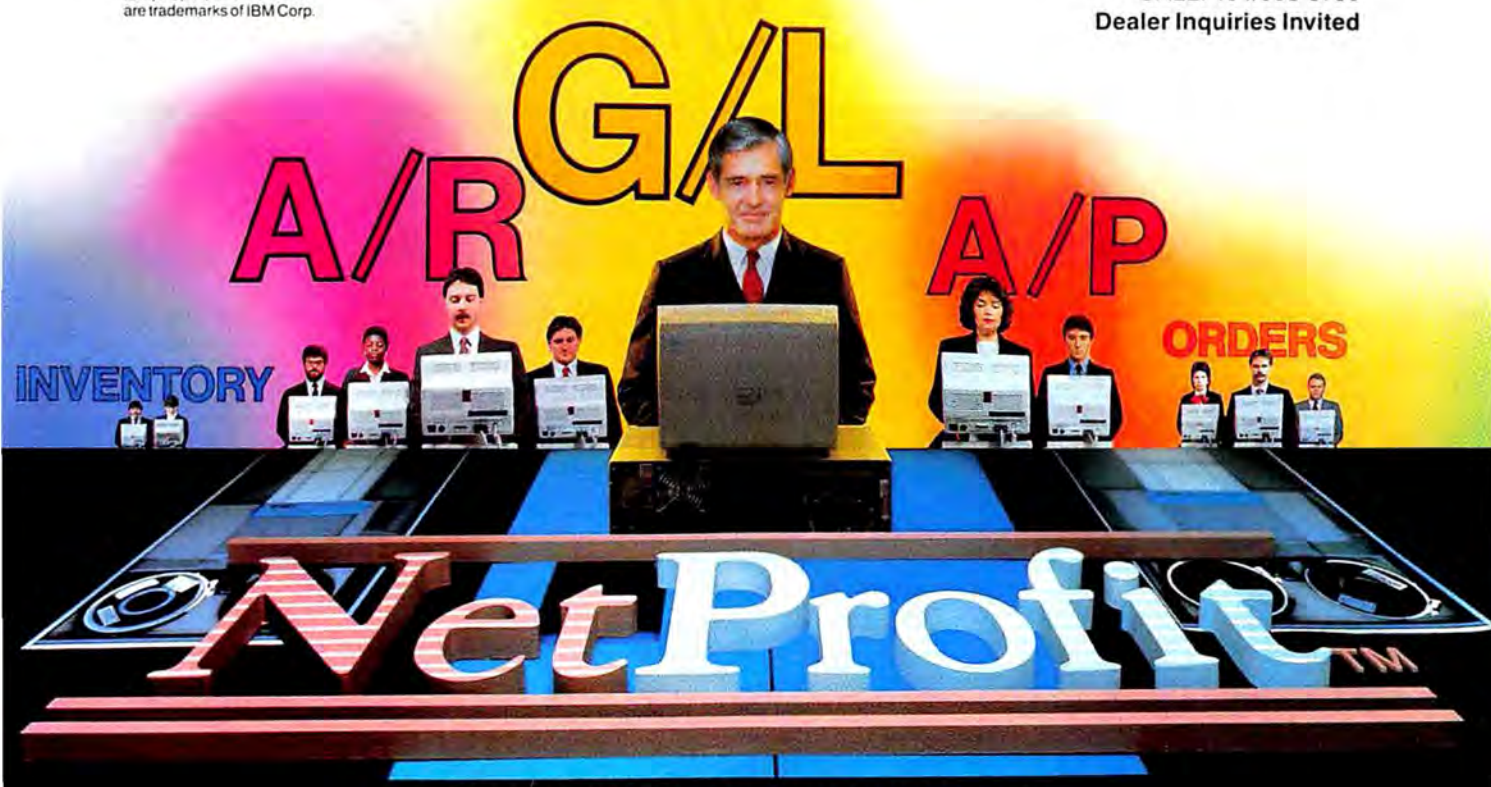

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The Print Shop

Are you trying to publicize your garage sale and unload your old Altair? Do you need to make amends in a hurry for forgetting a loved one's birthday? Could your letterhead use a snazzy new logo? And are you tired of sticky press-on letters? Fret no more. *The Print Shop*, a graphics-studio-on-a-disk from Brøderbund Software, may be the answer.

The Print Shop is versatile enough to turn out a sign, banner, greeting card, or letterhead in less than 10 minutes. The package includes a library of 140 clip art images and patterns, a dozen fonts from the calligraphic Reporter to the ornate Alexia, and 16 border styles. These elements can be combined and previewed on screen, then stored to disk and printed out.

The Print Shop is ideal for generating quick "in-house" graphics. It's simple enough for both PC novices and those with little patience for mastering layout and typesetting intricacies. Although it will easily suffice for home and small business needs, it's definitely not a replacement for a graphics department. Much of *The Print Shop*'s clip art belongs in an encyclopedia of computer kitsch, and

(continues)

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output quality is severely limited by the 120 by 72 dots per inch resolution possible with dot matrix printers supported by the program. As you might expect, curved or detailed images don't reproduce well. But don't write off *The Print Shop* too quickly: With a little discretion in choosing or designing graphics, aesthetically pleasing and utilitarian cards, signs, and letterheads can roll out of your trusty Epson printer in no time (see Figure 3).

The Print Shop's designers have kept the neophyte user firmly in mind. The program is menu-driven, and its options are so obvious that the thoughtfully crafted user manual is hardly needed. The program's modest price tag will likely appeal to budget-conscious educators and home computerists. Installation, however, won't appeal to anyone. The INSTALL routine only recognizes a dual-floppy system (A: and B:) or a system with a single floppy and a hard disk (drive C:)—*The Print Shop* is adamant on this point. If the hard disk isn't configured as drive C:, issue the command ASSIGN C = *d*, where *d* is your hard disk drive's designator, before running INSTALL. (When finished, the command ASSIGN will restore your system's normal

(continues)

Figure 3: The Print Shop is just the ticket for cards, announcements, and flyers.

If you want to know who holds a world's record,
you go to Guinness.

If you want the final word on a point of law,
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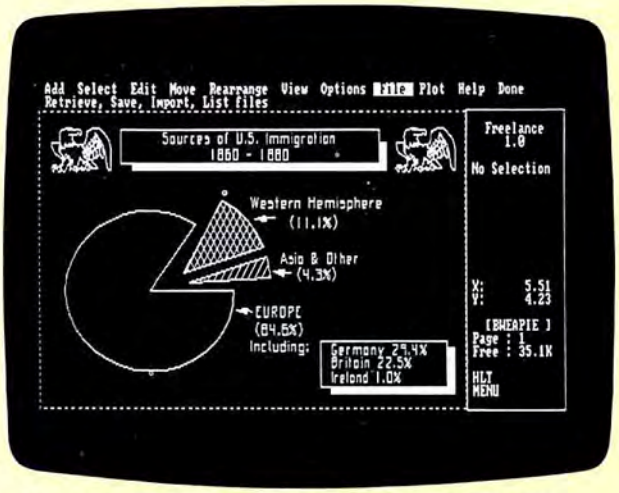
FREELANCE



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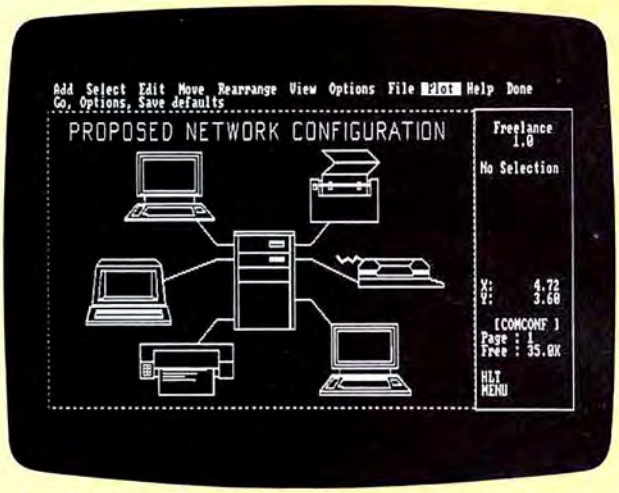

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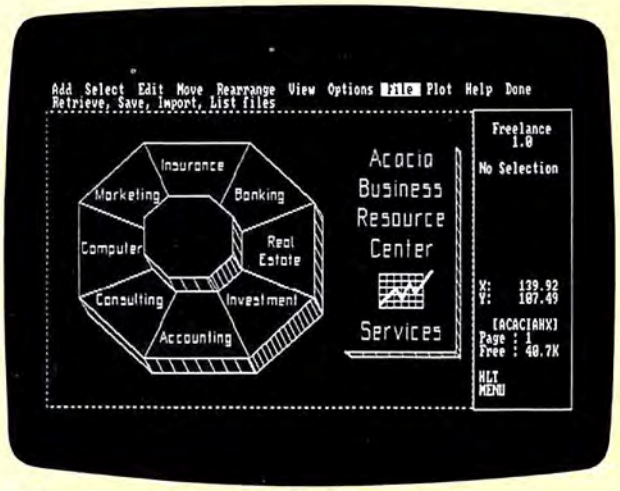

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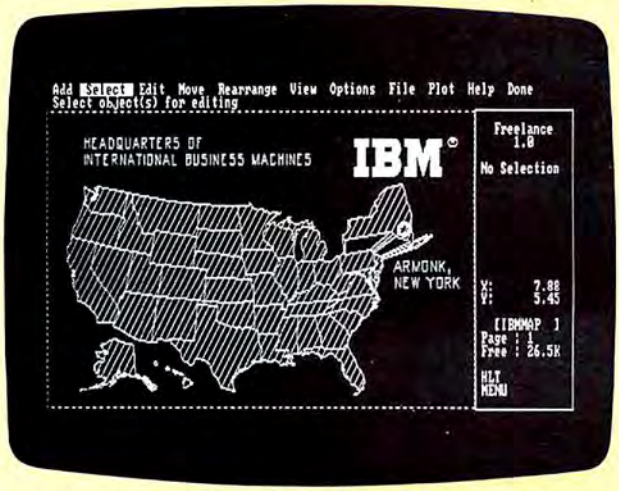
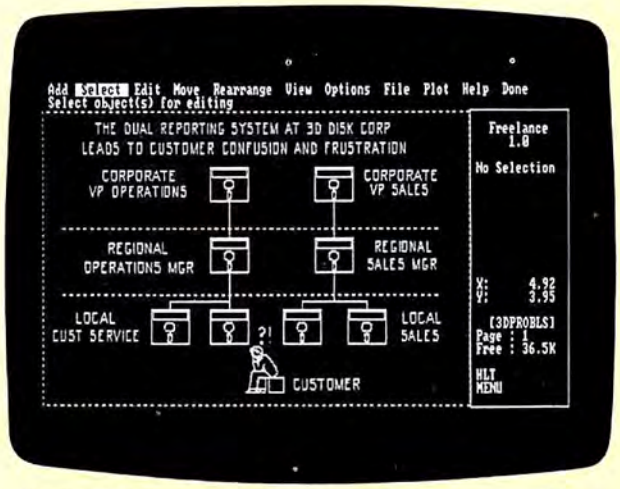
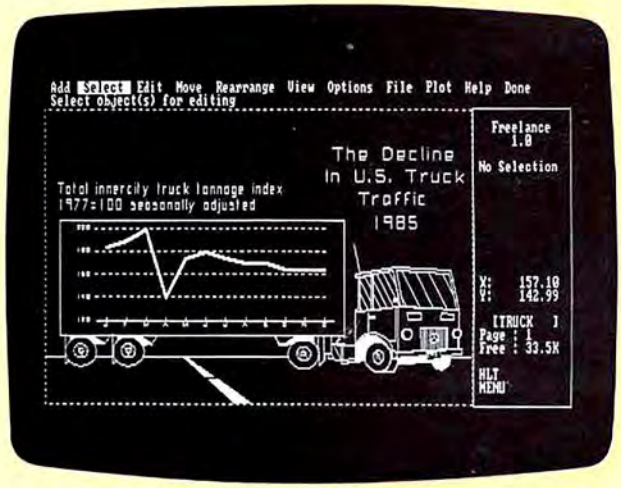


Freelance does mapping. And lets you create your own logo and add it to your charts.



"Freelance is flexible. Try doing this organization chart, with a dual-reporting structure, using a typical business graphics program." Datapro Research Corporation.



You can create detailed drawings with Freelance, using powerful features such as zoom and edit.

"Because of its flexibility, its quality, and its ability to edit 1-2-3 charts, there aren't many products which can be considered competitive with Freelance. In many ways, Freelance represents a completely new conception of what a graphics program should be." Datapro Research Corporation.

Datapro Research Corporation is the biggest, toughest, most respected group of computer product evaluators in the industry. They know a thing or two about computer graphics. Their job is to render independent and highly objective assessments. They don't owe anyone any favors. Datapro just conducted an in-depth, hands-on evaluation of Freelance, a recently-introduced graphics package from Graphic Communications. They subjected Freelance to a barrage of tests, appraising everything from basic and advanced functions to the instruction books. They looked at it from every angle.

Then, they rated Freelance the Number One business graphics package.

Here are a few more of Datapro's conclusions.

On Freelance and Lotus 1-2-3: "Here is a program that can not only create free-form charts, but it can also edit the graphs produced by Graphwriter,® 1-2-3 and Symphony® to produce quality images that rival those produced by expensive graphics services."

On Ease Of Use: "Freelance really is different. It is a powerful graphics program that can produce high-quality images, but it handles graphics in a way that will seem natural to even the most novice user."

On Freelance's Symbol Library: "The range of graphic elements offered by Freelance is incredibly powerful, and the ability to use and create special symbols means that even the most pedestrian user can create impressive looking charts."

On Love at First Sight: "Here at Datapro, we use a good many programs in the course of our software testing but there are only a few that become our favorites. Freelance has been in constant use ever since we got our first prerelease copy in late last summer, and we will continue to turn to it again and again."

What is it about Freelance that can drive such a rigidly objective group of researchers to such heights of enthusiasm? Whatever it is, it's worth investigating.

In the words of Datapro, "To anyone interested in presentation-quality graphics, Freelance is worth a serious look." For your free copy of the full Datapro Report on Freelance, just call or write Graphic Communications, 200 Fifth Avenue, Waltham, Massachusetts 02254.

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drive letters.) One floppy disk backup is allowed, or you can install the program on as many as four hard disks, the latter procedure rendering the master floppy permanently useless.

From *The Print Shop*'s main menu you are prompted to create a card, headline, sign, or letterhead. If you opt for a greeting card, for example, *The Print Shop* displays 16 standard borders. Inserting a piece of clip art entails moving the cursor to the desired spot on the card, paging through the images in a special window, and pressing <Enter> to confirm the choice. To generate your own graphics or modify clip art, select Graphics Editor from the main menu. The program sets aside a third of the screen and allows you to build or edit an image pixel by pixel and save it to disk.

The Print Shop can use single sheet or sprocket-fed 9½- by 11-inch paper, generating greeting cards measuring 4¼ by 5½ inches (2 folds), 8½- by 11-inch signs and letterheads, and sideways banners of any length. If you use form-fed paper, the program can print a row of very faint dots for alignment purposes.

Page layout functions are relatively crude. An illustration can be either large, medium, or small. Large images must be located in the exact center of the card, and you can rubber-stamp the medium and small pictures around the card and overlay them with text. On the front of a card, messages can run 14 characters across and 11 lines down. Text likewise comes in three sizes and can be centered, right- or

(continues)

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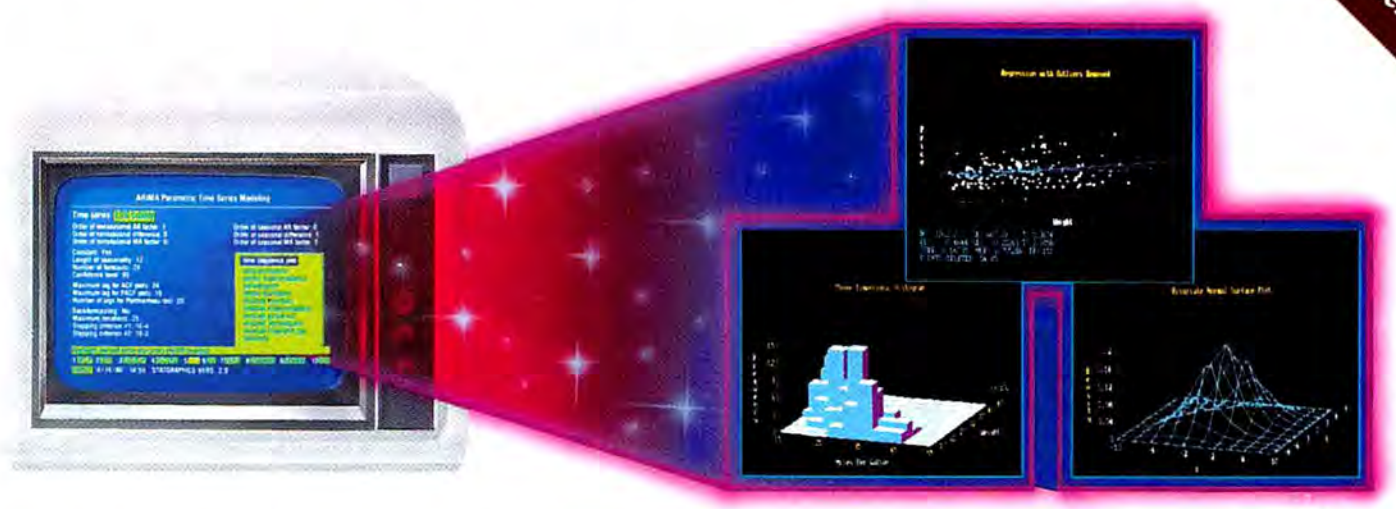

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(PC Week)

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left-justified, and set in a standard, outline, or three-dimensional font.

The Preview option lets you view a completed card in its entirety. If you're unhappy with the fruit of your labor, you have the option of reversing each step of the creation process by pressing <Esc>—flexibility seldom found in even the most expensive page-composition programs. When you're completely satisfied with the design, you can print the card immediately or save it.

Printing speed naturally varies with the printer, but a one-page sign with seven lines of text and a medium-size piece of clip art emerged from an Epson FX-100 in less than 3 minutes. Printers supported by *The Print Shop* include the Epson RX, MX, FX, and JX series, C. Itoh's 8510 Prowriter, the NEC 8023A, the Citizen MSP15, the Legend 880, the Blue Chip M120/10, the Mannesmann Tally Spirit 80, the Star Gemini 10X/15X, the Panasonic KX-P1090, the Centronics GLP, and the Okidata Microline 92/93.

The Print Shop is a helpful, inexpensive program that can quickly and competently handle any number of simple printing projects. It's simple and it works—and in the world of PC-based publishing, that's no small feat. —*Peter Feldmann*

The Print Shop
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(continues)

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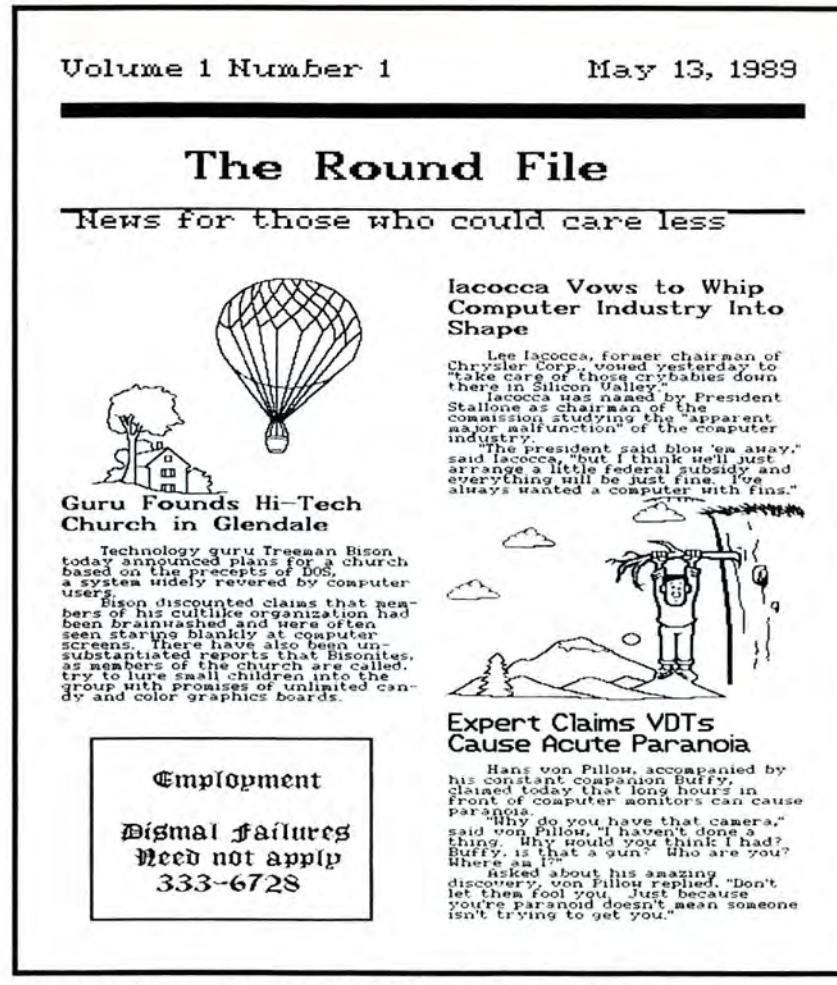

Volume 1 Number 1 May 13, 1989

The Round File

News for those who could care less

Guru Founds Hi-Tech Church in Glendale

Technology guru Treeman Bison today announced plans for a church based on the precepts of DOS, a system widely revered by computer users.

Bison discounted claims that members of his cultlike organization had been brainwashed and were often seen staring blankly at computer screens. There have also been unsubstantiated reports that Bisonites, as members of the church are called, try to lure small children into the group with promises of unlimited candy and color graphics boards.

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Iacocca Vows to Whip Computer Industry Into Shape

Lee Iacocca, former chairman of Chrysler Corp., vowed yesterday to "take care of those crybabies down there in Silicon Valley."

Iacocca was named by President Stallone as chairman of the commission studying the "apparent major malfunction" of the computer industry.

"The president said blow 'em away," said Iacocca, "but I think we'll just arrange a little federal subsidy and everything will be just fine. I've always wanted a computer with fins."

Expert Claims VDTs Cause Acute Paranoia

Hans von Pillow, accompanied by his constant companion Buffy, claimed today that long hours in front of computer monitors can cause paranoia.

"Why do you have that camera," said von Pillow, "I haven't done a thing. Why would you think I had? Buffy, is that a gun? Who are you? Where am I?"

Asked about his amazing discovery, von Pillow replied, "Don't let them fool you. Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean someone isn't trying to get you."

Figure 4: A sample newsletter layout with The Newsroom

Requirements: 128K; one disk drive; DOS 2.00 or later version; IBM Color/Graphics Adapter, Hercules Graphics Card, or compatible board
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The Newsroom

"Gosh gang! Let's start a newspaper! Judy says we can use Old Man McPhelan's barn, and I just got my copy of *The Newsroom!*"

An early entry in the PC publishing market, *The Newsroom* is perhaps better suited for the burgeoning "kitchen-table" publishing niche. *The Newsroom* enables you to write and electronically paste up a newsletter (including headline banner and graphics) on a PC and publish it on a dot matrix printer. The result, however, is cute at best and adolescent at worst.

The sample layout in Figure 4 illustrates what the Idaho Falls Begonia Club might possibly create

(continues)

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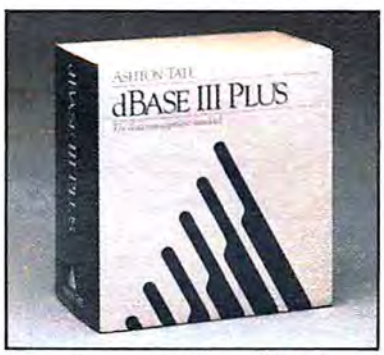

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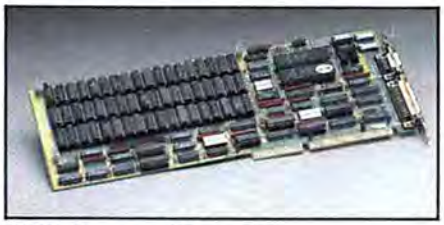

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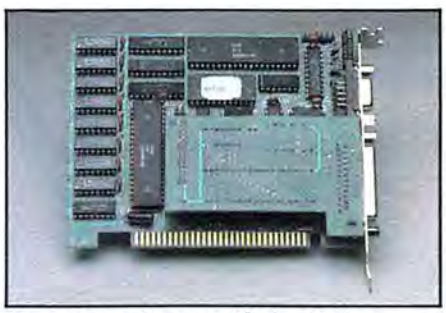

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with the program. But to be fair, Springboard Software promotes *The Newsroom* as just the ticket for high school and club newsletters and small business flyers—though I suspect that even the smallest business would quickly crave more sophisticated graphics and design features.

The Newsroom limits you to five fonts: large Old English type and large and small sans serif and serif. Although the clip art selection is generous—600 pieces come with the program—the illustrations are cartoonlike. *Clip Art Collection Volume 1* and *Volume 2* provide an additional 600 and 800 images, respectively, but the quality is much the same.

Learning the program is child's play; you can probably lay out a page in an hour and a half. Aided by on-screen icons and decent documentation, you can easily design a headline, pull together clip art graphics, write stories using the program's simple word processor, format the page, and print out your creation.

To avoid hardware headaches before you buy the program, make sure *The Newsroom* works with your printer and that your system uses an IBM Color/Graphics Adapter or compatible board. A soon-to-be-released version of the program also supports a hard disk.

For such a simple program, *The Newsroom* has its share of quirks. For some unknown reason the program relies on the <Alt> key instead of <Enter> for selecting options. Worse still, the program lacks an exit option and prevents you from resetting the system with <Ctrl>-<Alt>-<Del>. The only way to break out of *The Newsroom* is to turn off your machine.

The Newsroom has limited application unless you're advertising a crab feed or a flea market. If you want to turn out a first-class newsletter or wow the boss with a

(continues)

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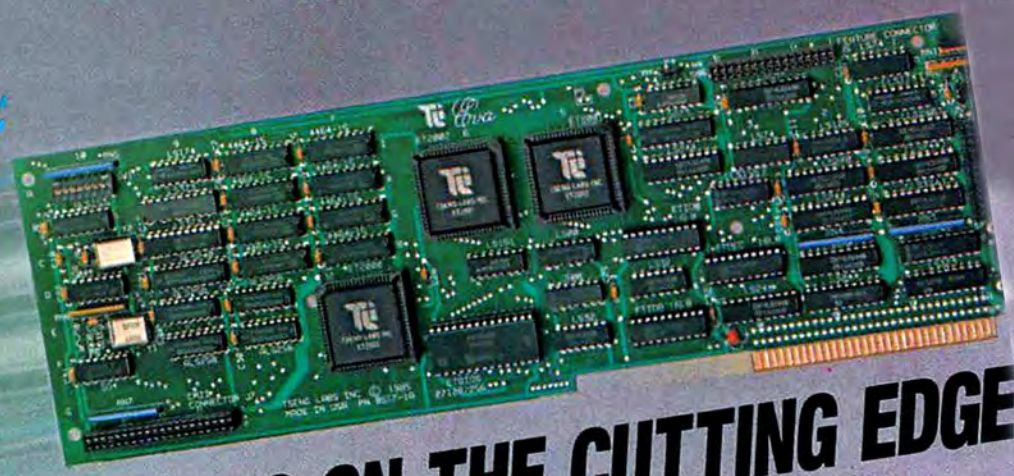

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sharp-looking report, scrape together the money for *PageMaker* and borrow a laser printer. *–Jason Durbin*

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FontGen

When I first heard about font editing programs, I thought, who needs 'em? My experience with typography had taught me that designing attractive, readable fonts from scratch was an area best left to the experts. Each character must reflect the overall design concept of the typeface and look good at the resolutions permitted by laser printers. Beyond this, the character set as a whole should achieve a subtle visual harmony, meaning that the symbols must look good in any conceivable combination.

That's a tall order even for someone with training and experience in design and typography. Thus I concluded that anyone in the market for a program like *FontGen* must be either a specialist or a naif. But as the mist cleared, I realized that a program that edits fonts can be quite accessible to the average PC user. The most common applications are creating special characters and adding them to an existing font or deleting unused symbols to conserve printer memory. Another might be changing a proportionally spaced font (such as the HP LaserJet's soft font TMS RMN) to fixed spacing for use in a *1-2-3* worksheet.

(continues)

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- Report element layout

Press a key, wait 6 secs*

Key in the report data elements on screen

Report Builder automatically writes the program code and links it to your datafile

Print your listing
- Report program source code listings

Compile the report builder code using the Turbo Pascal™ compiler

Attach the new report module to your system menu

SYSTEM BUILDER CYCLE:

Paint the menu screens

Paint the application screens

Press a key, wait 6 secs*

Define the datafile(s) on the screen

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Print your listings
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Start using the completed system

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Circle 451 on reader service card

The task I put to *FontGen* was modifying an HP LaserJet soft font for a logo I was creating for my fledgling book company. (The program works only with downloadable fonts—those sold on floppy disks and copied into the printer's memory—because cartridge fonts are burned into ROM chips and can't be edited.) The first step is creating a header for the font file that tells the printer it is not receiving a graphic to immediately print, but rather a font to be stored in memory. The header also details the number of font characters, whether the font is fixed or proportional, character dimensions, and other typographic information. *FontGen* guides you through this relatively straightforward process.

If you're merely altering an existing font, the program displays a single character at a time on a grid, with pixels corresponding to printed spots. Of course, this magnifies the character, since a pixel is many times larger than the single dot a laser printer can produce on a page. Note too that pixels on most monitors are rectangular, while printed dots are square. Consequently, fonts look taller on screen than when printed. Unfortunately, *FontGen* doesn't compensate for this difference, which complicates the editing process.

The simplest way to modify a character is to move the cursor around the screen, editing the figure one pixel at a time. Because the program doesn't support a mouse, you must use the cursor keys. More sophisticated editing commands allow you to move or delete blocks of pixels; zoom, shrink, and rotate a character; center it on screen; draw ellipses and circles; turn black pixels white and vice versa; change the forward or backward slant; and increase the weight (darkness) of a character. Useful functions all, but my wish list would definitely include the ability to repeat a vertical or horizontal line of pixels.

(continues)

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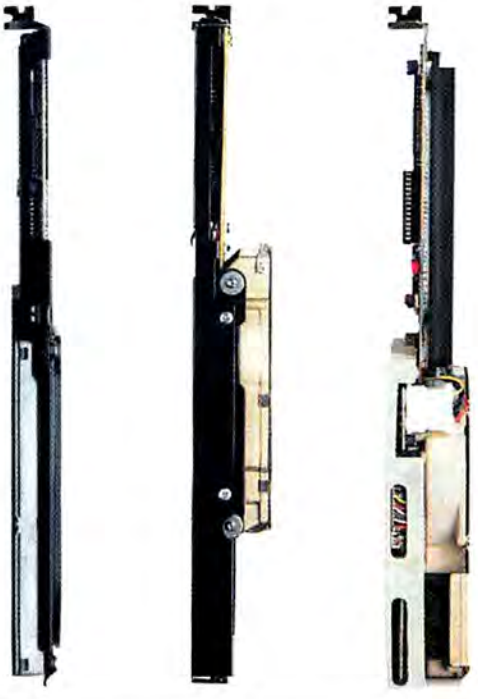

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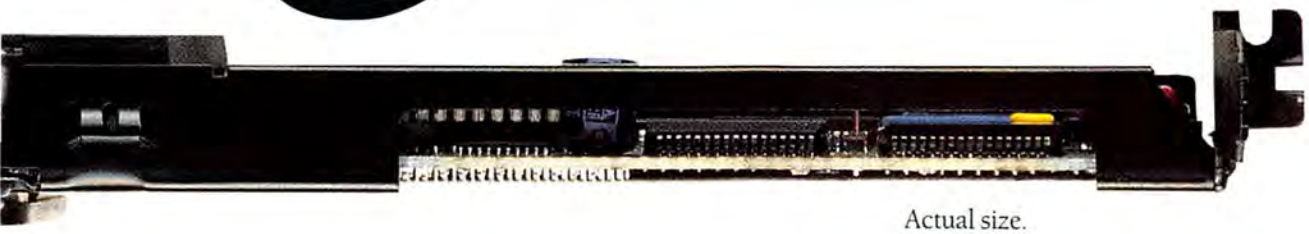

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Once you've finished modifying a font or creating a new one, the problem is getting your word processing program to recognize it. Here, the otherwise thorough user manual cops out, referring you to your printer manual. If you've downloaded soft fonts on the LaserJet Plus, you won't find adding new characters to an existing font all that difficult. But getting a word processor to recognize an entirely new font is difficult—and *FontGen* doesn't show you how to create the necessary driver. (It should be noted that fonts available from the company also lack drivers.) But as a font editor, *FontGen* is relatively easy to use and lets you create special symbols without much trouble. If nothing else, designing even a single character will give you a new appreciation of the fundamental building blocks of printing. *–Ted Nace*

FontGen
VS Software
P.O. Box 6158
Little Rock, AR 72216
501/376-2083
List price: $250, fonts $50 to $250 per set
Requirements: 384K, hard disk drive, DOS 2.00 or later version
Laser printers supported: Hewlett-Packard LaserJet Plus, Cordata LP-300, Qume LaserTEN in HP LaserJet Plus emulation mode, Canon LBP-8 A1/A2, NCR 6416
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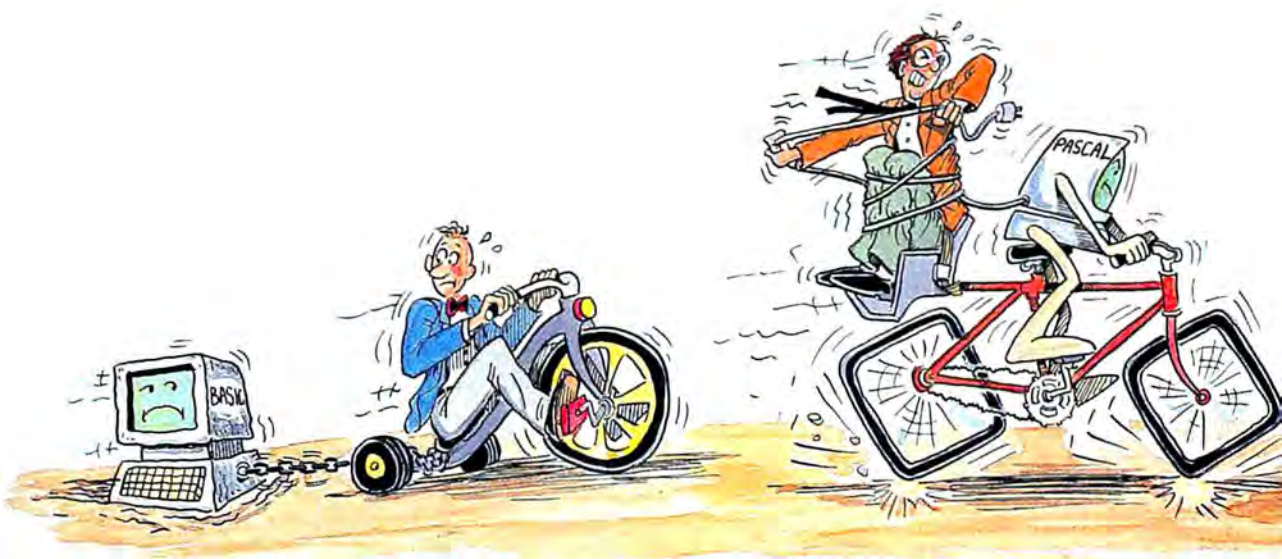
WordStar 2000 Release 2

When MicroPro announced the imminent release of God's gift to word processing in late 1984, I eagerly expected to shelve my faithful *WordStar 3.3* for a more powerful,



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feature-filled program that corrected its predecessor's flaws and knew the meaning of mnemonic. What I got instead was *WordStar 2000*, a copy-protected program that couldn't display double-spaced or justified text and ran like a snail in army boots.

But MicroPro has finally (more or less) done it right. *WordStar 2000* release 2 has remedied many of these problems while adding some helpful new features. The most welcome change is a much needed performance boost. The program runs appreciably faster and doesn't access the disk for simple editing functions. *WordStar 2000* can also be installed to run in a RAM drive—provided your system packs 512K. On-screen justification has been reinstated, and you can now change top and bottom margins, page length, and page offset anywhere in a document. You can also print out a specified range in a *1-2-3* or *Symphony* worksheet entombed in a *WordStar 2000* document.

One clever change you'll discover during installation is that several printers can be configured for the program, a revolutionary idea for the *WordStar* line. Better still, you can link formats to specific printers; fonts available with the printer can be selected within the document. Unfortunately, once a format is bound to a printer, untying the knot is difficult. The easiest solution is to open a new file with the format (and printer) you want, then copy the existing document into the file with the Block Insert command.

MicroPro has made other significant changes to document formats. Margins, tabs, and page offset (the space between the edge of the paper and the left margin) are set in inches rather than spaces, compelling *WordStar 2000* to realign text and adjust the ruler line whenever fonts change or proportional spacing is used. A format can finally specify whether footnotes are printed en masse at the end of the document (as they are with the first

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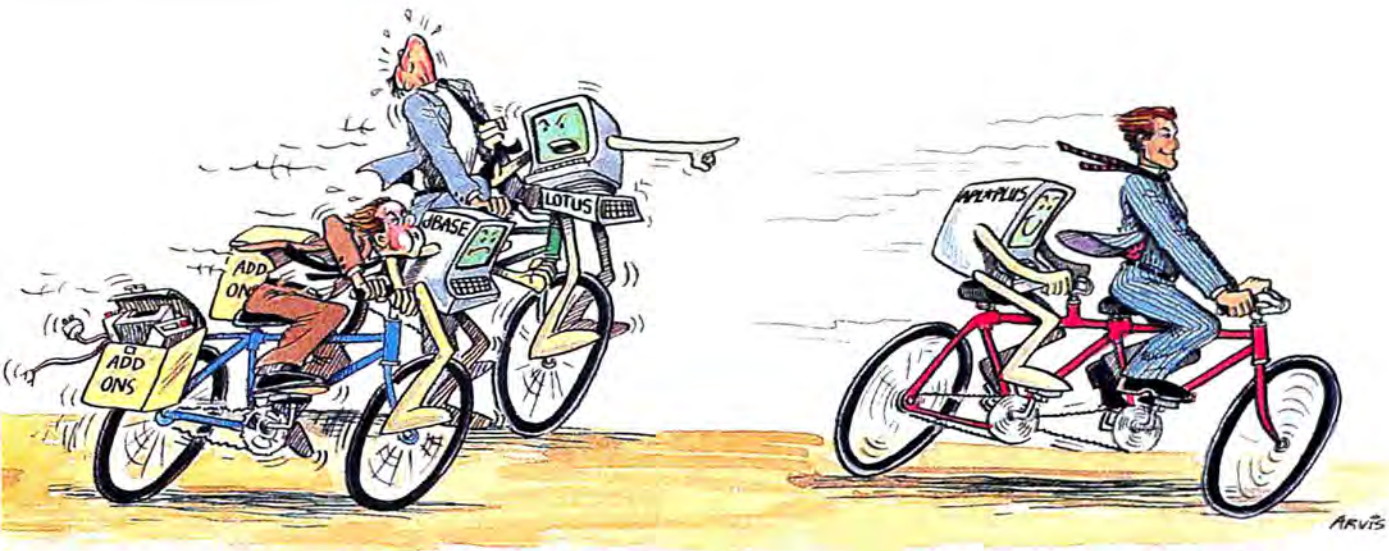

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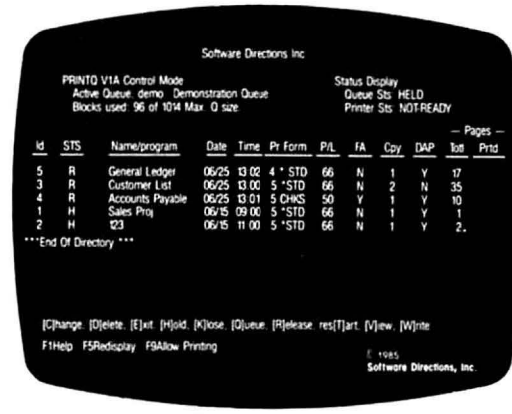

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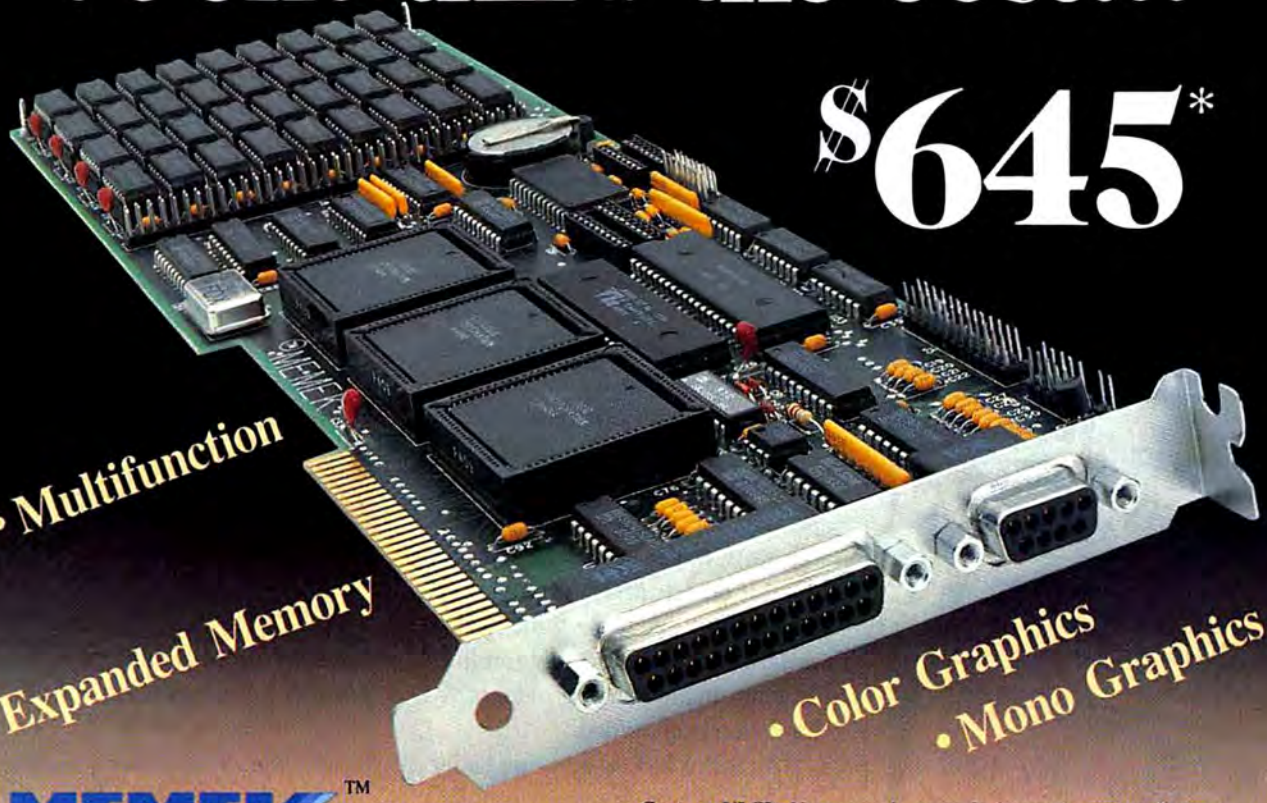

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Circle 423 on reader service card

release) or at the bottom of the appropriate page.

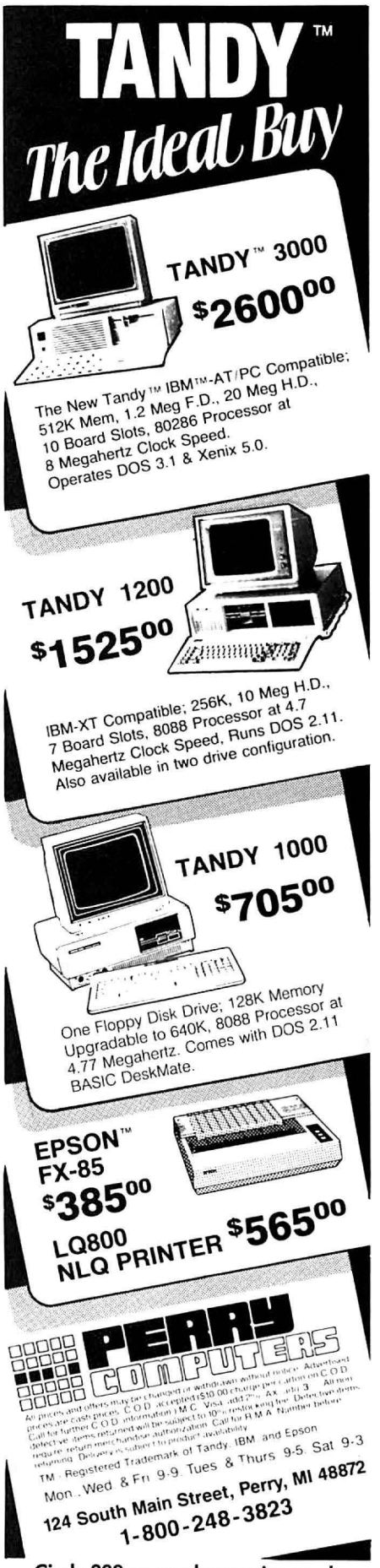
This born-again *WordStar 2000* is adept at printing two or three columns side by side, a feature prominent by its absence in the first release of the program. As with page offset, column separation is indicated in inches. You can easily switch from single-column format to two or three text columns and print the result justified. However, *WordStar 2000* still cannot show columns side by side on screen.

If you use *WordStar 2000* for creating tables, you'll especially appreciate the ability to set multiple tab stops to the nearest tenth of an inch. If the left margin changes, tabs are still set at the same relative distances. Automatic paragraph and automatic hanging indents have also been added.

MicroPro has made some badly needed changes in release 2, positioning the program better against *Word, WordPerfect,* and of course, the venerable *WordStar.* If you're using the first release of *WordStar 2000,* the upgrade is well worth the minor expense. *WordStar 2000* has earned a subdirectory on my hard disk. *–Janet Crider*

WordStar 2000 release 2
MicroPro Int'l Corp.
33 San Pablo Ave.
San Rafael, CA 94903
415/499-1200
List price: $495, WordStar 2000 Plus (includes TelMerge, StarIndex and MailList) $595; upgrade for those who bought the program prior to November 1, 1985, $60
Requirements: 256K (320K for some compatible machines and PCs using DOS 3.00 and 3.10); two disk drives (hard disk recommended); DOS 2.00 or later version
Not copy protected

Jason Durbin is editor of a corporate newspaper. Peter Feldmann is president of I.C. Consultants in Santa Barbara, California, and a consultant specializing in systems, programming, and technical writing. Ted Nace is a Contributing Editor for PC World *and the author of* LaserJet Unlimited *(Peachpit Press, Berkeley, 1986). Janet Crider is a word processing training consultant and the author of* Word-for-Word: A Comparative Guide to Word Processing Software *(Osborne/McGraw-Hill, Berkeley, 1985).*



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DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED

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Announcing

Publish!

The Magazine of Desktop and Personal Computer Publishing

Interleaf Workstation

The In-House Edge

Smart Companies Slash Costs With Interleaf

Update on Pagemaker, Macpublisher, and Ready Set Go

How to Choose Your Macintosh Publishing Tool

Now! Page Makeup On Your PC

Over 30 New Products to Start You Off

Make A Fortu

The issue of Fortune magazine on the left side of this ad was painstakingly created by a large staff of editors and proofreaders and art directors and typesetters and camera operators and keyliners.

The Fortune on the right side of this ad was painlessly recreated by one person using PageMaker® software.

Because PageMaker gives anyone the ability to publish just about anything.

PAGEMAKER TURNS YOUR MACINTOSH INTO A PUBLISHING HOUSE.

With PageMaker you can set your own type, juggle pictures, control line spacing, enlarge or shrink graphics, create line rules, crop photos and move all the elements of a page around until you get them exactly where you want them.

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IT CAN MAKE EVERYTHING FROM MAGAZINES TO ROUTING SLIPS.

It doesn't take a great deal of imagination to see that if PageMaker is capable of producing something like Fortune, it will also be able to do some pretty spectacular things with your newsletters.

Or your financial statements. Or your price lists. Or your new business proposals. Or any

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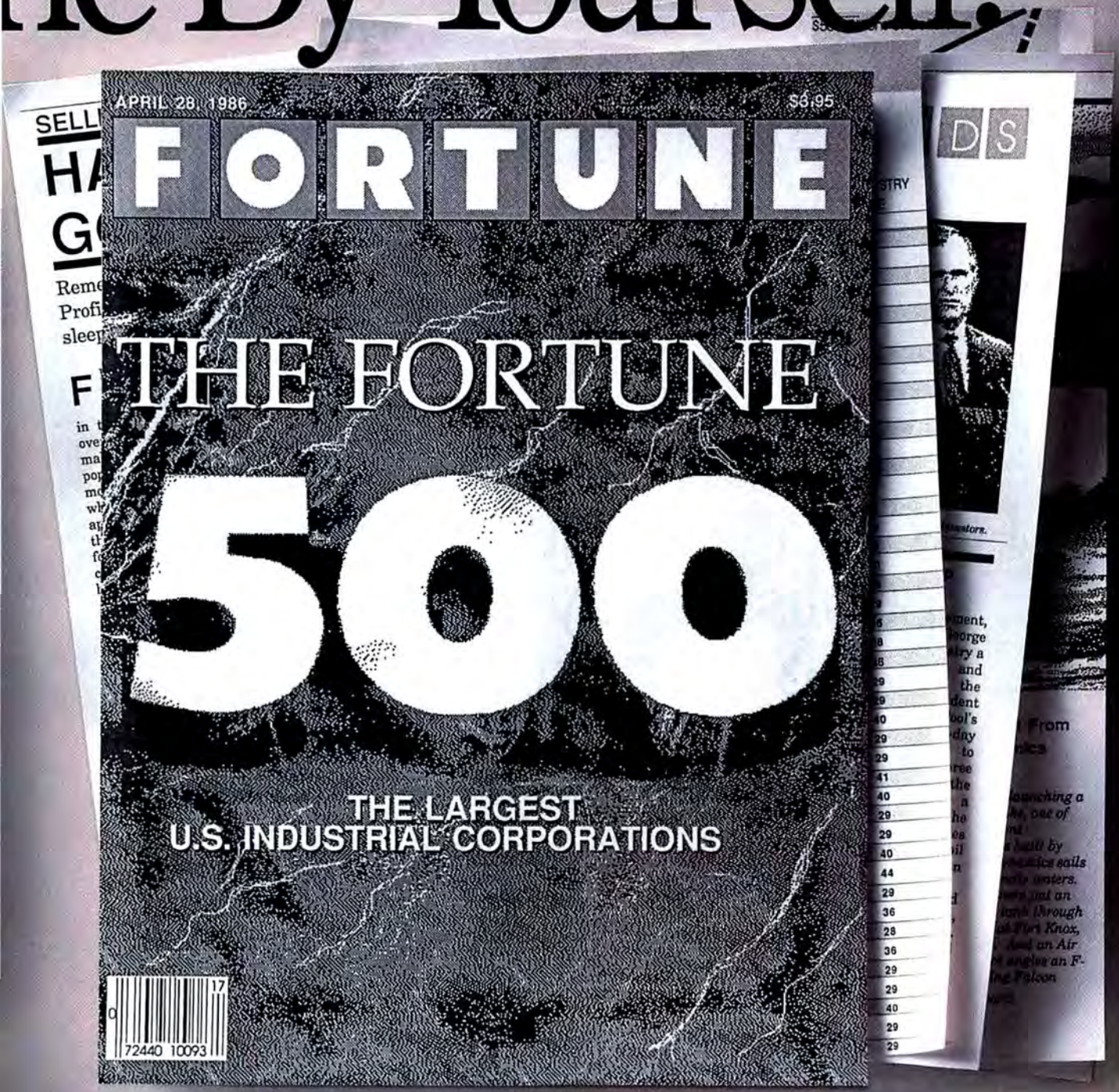

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Because it will save money in typesetting and production on every piece you produce.

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PageMaker

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For a sample of what a POSTSCRIPT®-equipped desktop publishing system can do, see the next 46 pages.

ADOBE SYSTEMS INCORPORATED

This entire issue of "Publish", including this ad, was set in the **Trump**® typeface, the newest addition to the Adobe Type Library. Available in the fall through your Apple® LaserWriter® dealer.

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Publish!

The Magazine of Desktop and Personal Computer Publishing

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"Freedom of the press belongs to those who own one."
—A. J. Liebling

Cover photo by David Powers

Coming in the Premier Issue of Publish!

Look for the following topics to be covered in the September/October issue:

- ❑ **Which laser printer is right for you?** *Publish!* takes a close-up look at laser printers from Hewlett-Packard and Apple.
- ❑ **Imported images.** Low-cost scanners let you bring photos and line drawings into your computer, but when is a scanner a good investment?
- ❑ **Customer support.** Does your relationship with a product's manufacturer begin or end when you make a purchase? Here's what to consider before you buy.
- ❑ **Ten surefire ways** to produce pages without making time-consuming errors.
- ❑ **The great paper chase.** Your laser printer isn't limited to basic white paper. By varying your paper stock, you can create unusual, exciting pages—here's how.
- ❑ **The new copy centers.** In addition to photocopying and offset printing, today's copy centers offer a broad selection of page composition tools.
- ❑ **Plus:** Hardware and software reviews...tips from readers... page make-overs...answers to your technical questions... and new product listings.

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Submissions for Tips! should be sent to Tips!, *Publish!*, 555 De Haro St., San Francisco, CA 94107. Contributors will receive $25 for each idea selected for publication.

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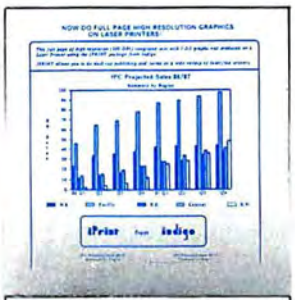

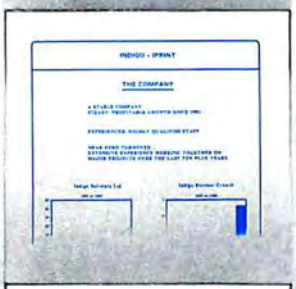

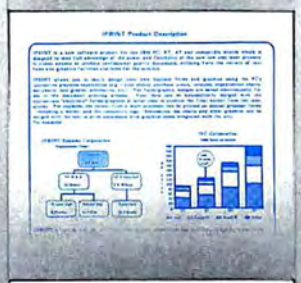

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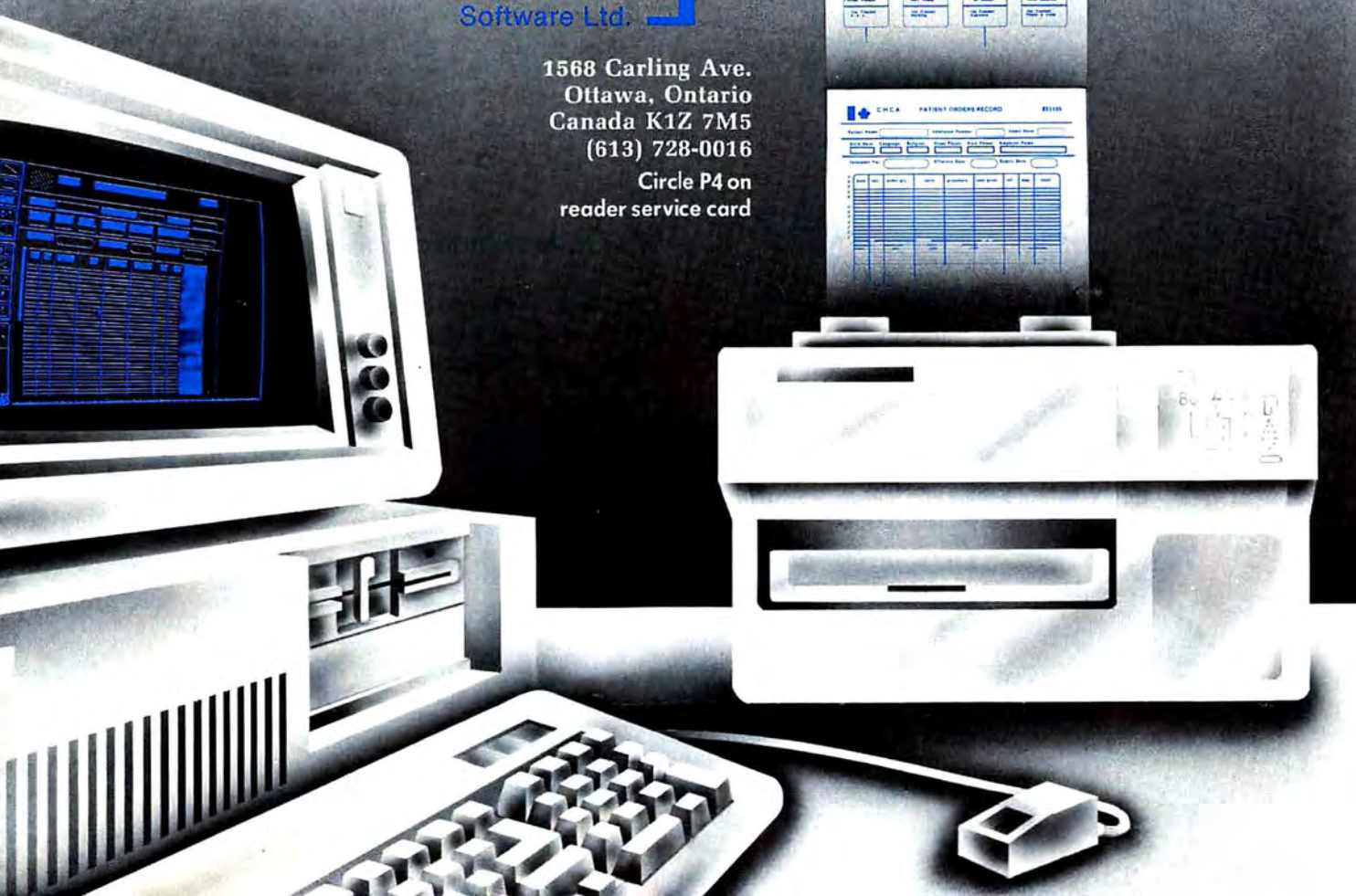


Announcing

Publish!

The Magazine of Desktop and Personal Computer Publishing

Now, an exciting new magazine from the publishers of PC World and Macworld—at Charter Subscription savings!

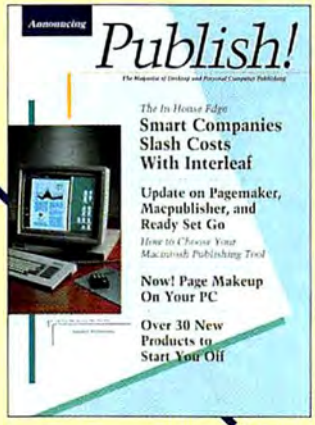
If you use a Macintosh or PC system to publish reports, newsletters, books, brochures, ads, or any other printed material, then you need *Publish!, the Magazine of Desktop and Personal Computer Publishing.*

Publish! is a new magazine that is entirely written, edited, and produced on personal computer–based systems. Because *Publish!* is on the cutting edge of this exciting new technology, you can depend on us for the expert information you need to set up and manage your own personal computer publishing operation.

Each colorful, feature-filled issue is easy to read and understand, yet comprehensive and authoritative. *Publish!* will answer all your questions about using personal computers with laser printers and page makeup software—and will even tell you how to drive commercial typesetters with a personal computer. What's more, *Publish!* covers both stand-alone systems and networks.

Learn how in every issue of Publish!

Publish! shows you the shortcuts and tricks of the trade that can help you get the most from the hardware and software available. You'll learn the



fundamentals of graphic design and other publishing basics, and you'll save time and money, too.

In coming issues of Publish!, you'll read:

- ❑ Reviews of laser printers...
- ❑ The latest word on typefaces available for personal computer publishing...
- ❑ A report on scanners for graphic reproduction...
- ❑ A checklist of legal issues that confront desktop publishers...
- ❑ Advice on how to avoid expensive catastrophes...

All this and more comes to you in *Publish!*, six times a year—and at a low Charter Subscriber price, if you act now.

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For a limited time, Charter Subscriptions are available for only $19.95 for a full year (six bimonthly issues). You save 33% off the basic subscription price that others will pay when the Charter offer closes.

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Guarantee: If ever you're not satisfied with Publish!, *let us know and we'll promptly refund the price of every issue remaining on your subscription. No questions, no problems. We guarantee it.*

Offer valid in U.S. only. Premier issue will be mailed in August 1986.

4CYS8

Dot matrix printer

Laser printer

Linotronic® imagesetter

Now, Microsoft Word users can improve their characters.

Now Word can give you the world's highest-quality typeset output.

Microsoft® Word makes it very easy to put words on paper.

Now Linotype can make them jump off the page.

Turn keystrokes into masterstrokes.

Whether you're using an IBM PC or compatible, or an Apple Macintosh computer, you have the beginnings of a professional typesetting system.

Just connect your computer to a Linotronic laser imagesetter and you'll be able to create professional quality typeset documents that really stand out. (This ad was written using Word, and output on a Linotronic imagesetter.)

The result is printed communications that are more effective and more economical, too. Because typesetting dramatically reduces the costs of printing and postage. (The tight letterfit of typeset characters can reduce the bulk of many documents by as much as 50%.)

Combine Word and pictures.

As good as Word is, sometimes pictures tell the story better.

That's why you're also taking advantage of programs like Chart, MacPaint and MacDraw. And preparing visuals that you electronically cut and paste into your memos, reports and presentations. Most typesetters can't reproduce these pictures. They give you only the words, and you have to prepare the graphics some other way, adding time and money to the job. Only Linotronic imagesetters take exactly what you have on-screen and give it to you on paper. Or film. Positive. Or negative.

One thing Apple and IBM agree on.

Apple's LaserWriter™ printer uses typefaces licensed from Linotype's Mergenthaler™ library. And IBM chose Mergenthaler type for their mainframe printer.

Most of the typefaces that have become industry standards were developed by Linotype. (Helvetica® and Times®, for example.) And they're available only from Linotype.

We'll put Word into action.

Give us the chance to show you how to get more out of Word than you thought possible.

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Welcome to the World of Publish!

Every good magazine is born of a vision. *Publish!* represents a vision of a magazine about a new technology—a technology used to produce the magazine itself. Our medium really is our message.

The vision of using personal computer publishing to put out a magazine about personal computer publishing began in the minds of Tony Bove and Cheryl Rhodes. As pioneer reporters on this exciting new medium, they created *Desktop Publishing*, a magazine completely written, edited, and produced on a personal computer.

We shared their vision. In fact, we bought their magazine and expanded on it. The result is this trailblazing new publication—*Publish!, the Magazine of Desktop and Personal Computer Publishing.*

Tony and Cheryl are very much a part of our team as contributing editors and keepers of the flame. They will also continue to produce *Desktop Publishing* for us in its new form as a developers' newsletter and guide to new technology.

The beautifully designed magazine that you're now reading speaks volumes about where we're heading with *Publish!*. Tony and Cheryl may have planted the original seeds, but the magazine's vitality springs from the collective vision of a group of outstanding editors, writers, artists, and designers who have poured their ingenuity, talent, and creativity into it.

I hope you feel life stirring in these pages. And I hope you are as stirred by it as we are.

To make *Publish!* happen, we had to be convinced that it was a good business proposition. But we're not bringing out *Publish!* just for business reasons. That's not our nature.

We're doing it because we really care about publishing, especially personal computer publishing and corporate publishing. We value the process of communicating well. We also care about freedom of speech and people's ability to publish whatever it is they want to express.

"Freedom of the press belongs to those who own one," said writer A. J. Liebling. Obviously, if publishing technology becomes more accessible to a broader group of people, they can disseminate their ideas more widely.

My own personal vision of *Publish!* goes back to my high school days, when my father was the managing editor of the *Alliance Times Herald*, a daily newspaper in Nebraska. I worked for him, and at the young age of 16, I became the sports editor. I went to the office every morning and put out the wire copy. I wrote headlines and covered the basketball and football games.

While I was working there, I had the strange notion that someday one person, using a huge computer screen, wire copy, and photographs coming down the lines, could completely run a small-town newspaper: put in the stories, write articles about the council meetings, sell the ads, and put it all together.

That day is here. The significant economies that can be realized, the accessibility, the control, the ability to do your own publication from scratch—all of these are possible today with desktop and personal computer publishing.

And you don't have to be a small-town newspaper to benefit from this publishing revolution. You can be a corporate colossus, a midsize mogul, or even a small business, and still come out ahead with this powerful new technology.

Publish! is your link to the state-of-the-art future. Whatever your publishing level, *Publish!* will provide the answers.

"If you want to be a leader, find a parade and march in front of it." That's another saying I fondly subscribe to. We see personal computer publishing as a giant parade, and we intend to lead it by pushing the technology to the ultimate.

Publish! will help you build personal computer-based systems to publish everything from memos to encyclopedias. Businesses already publishing massive amounts of data (trillions of pages are put out by corporations every year) will be able to produce documents faster, better, and cheaper.

Thus, publishers, corporate employers, and those who run small businesses can all participate in the grand spectacle of our *Publish!* parade.

Equally important is that this is a magazine for people who are being drawn into the publishing arena for the first time.

We expect to see a boom of new publishing companies in addition to a wealth of new publishing opportunities. And I really believe that this technology will lead to a revitalization of the small-town newspaper business.

It will also spark the creation of a multitude of specialized magazines and publications not yet feasible because of prohibitive costs.

Although our vision of *Publish!* embraces the IBM PC and the Macintosh, it's much more than that.

We're also concerned with the growing use of workstations like the Sun Micro, the Apollo, and the IBM RT PC. We see this trend developing from two directions.

One is at the grass-roots level, where desktop publishers, who use largely Macintosh-based systems, will be producing more of their own newsletters, reports, and in some cases, newspapers and even magazines.

At the same time, we see minicomputer-based software and computer-aided publishing systems migrating down toward the personal computer area.

Publish! will cover the range, keeping tabs on both sides of the personal computer publishing phenomenon. We'll assist the individual publisher who has one personal computer and a laser printer; and we'll also show how to build networks and larger systems, what the best hardware choices are, how to integrate software into those systems, what the best software is, and how to obtain the optimum results.

As writers and editors gain new power and control over their output, it's important to note that the basic rules of design and aesthetics have not changed. What makes a page look great has already been established. We're seeing the results of documents being produced without considering the rules of style: a lot of ugly stuff is coming along with the good stuff.

Publish! will cover the elements of good design—how to pick typefaces, how to size columns and headlines, how to make pages look right. We will also help writers and editors develop expertise in page makeup and layout.

We see *Publish!* as a real testing ground for personal computer publishing technology. We promise to push the technology to the absolute limit as part of our challenge to be on the leading edge of the revolution. We will test and report on software systems the moment they hit the market and in many cases, even earlier.

We will also point out questionable products and pitfalls to avoid. And we are committed to steering you toward the truly fine products. We want you to enjoy the positive experience of personal computer publishing.

This magazine will be a kind of industry watchdog, keeping track of all the latest developments. We will run down the rumors and report the inside story to you before anyone else does.

We will present profiles of people who use this technology, and display some of the best examples of their work.

By reading *Publish!* you will be informed, you will save money, and you may even find that the magazine itself will inspire you to attempt greater things in your own work.

Although we have an exciting vision of what *Publish!* is about and what the technology entails, we also know from our experience in the fast-moving computer industry that things change very fast and are quite unpredictable.

So we also promise that *Publish!* will follow the turns, provide solutions, and decipher whatever it is that might be perplexing or unpredictable.

That's what makes personal publishing such an adventure. And *Publish!* is the grandest adventure of all because it's the true realization of the medium as the message. For us, it's an unparalleled opportunity to bring together the two worlds we care about most—personal computers and publishing. ❑

How to build a design studio, a type house and a print shop on 3.1 square feet of desk.

Introducing Desktop Publishing Plus.

You can hook up to 31 Macintosh Plus computers up to one LaserWriter Plus over the AppleTalk network.

If you're in charge of producing your company's newsletters, flyers, forms and manuals, we'd like to give you something:

Our sympathy.

Because we understand the pressure of getting a newsletter out while it's still news. The frustration of having a manual with more type bills than pages. The panic of revising a presentation ten minutes before you present.

Sympathy, of course, won't solve your problems. But we have something that will. Our Desktop Publishing Plus™ system.

The whole idea of Desktop Publishing Plus is based on the concept of desktop publishing, a category we virtually invented.

That concept being, when you need typesetting and production work done, you don't need to run to outside vendors anymore. You can just run to your desk.

Which will save you time because you can create, revise and, in many cases, produce mechanicals without going back and forth to type shops all day.

And you'll save money, because of all the monstrous type bills you won't be paying.

Desktop Publishing Plus actually consists of two pluses.

Our Macintosh™ Plus computer and our LaserWriter™ Plus printer.

The Macintosh Plus is the most powerful personal computer

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz ITC Avant Garde Gothic

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz ITC Bookman

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz Helvetica Narrow

Here are some of the new faces you'll be seeing around the office. And you'll be seeing them in sizes from 4-point to 720-point.

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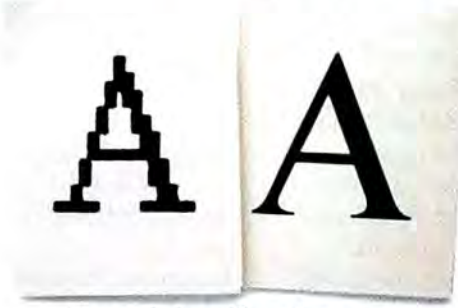
we've ever built. Its Motorola 68000 microprocessor and full megabyte of memory allow you to run powerful graphic and page design software programs. As well as powerful word processing, spreadsheet, database, and other business programs.

And its point-and-click mouse technology makes it easier to use than Letraset. So you can spend more time doing work instead of learning how to get the computer to work.

The LaserWriter Plus printer has the same 68000 microprocessor that's in the Macintosh Plus. Not to mention a hefty 1.5 megabyte of memory and a megabyte of ROM.

And inside its ROM is PostScript,® the page description language that is quickly becoming the industry standard.

Translated, this means the LaserWriter Plus can cover an entire page with virtually any combination of near typeset quality text and high resolution graphics.



The crisp looking "A" was done on a LaserWriter Plus. The fuzzy one was done on a standard dot matrix printer.

PostScript also allows the LaserWriter Plus to generate dozens of different type styles and hundreds of sizes from its 11 built-in typeface families. These families being Helvetica,® Helvetica Narrow, Times,® Palatino,® ITC Avant Garde Gothic,® ITC Bookman,® New Century Schoolbook, ITC Zapf Chancery,® ITC Zapf Dingbats,® Courier and Symbol. And more families are becoming available all the time.

MacDraw from Apple

Easy3D from Enabling Technologies

PageMaker from Aldus

Word from Microsoft

All of which means, you can now generate professional quality manuals, reports, presentations and overheads faster than you can say "you can now generate professional quality manuals, reports, presentations and overheads."

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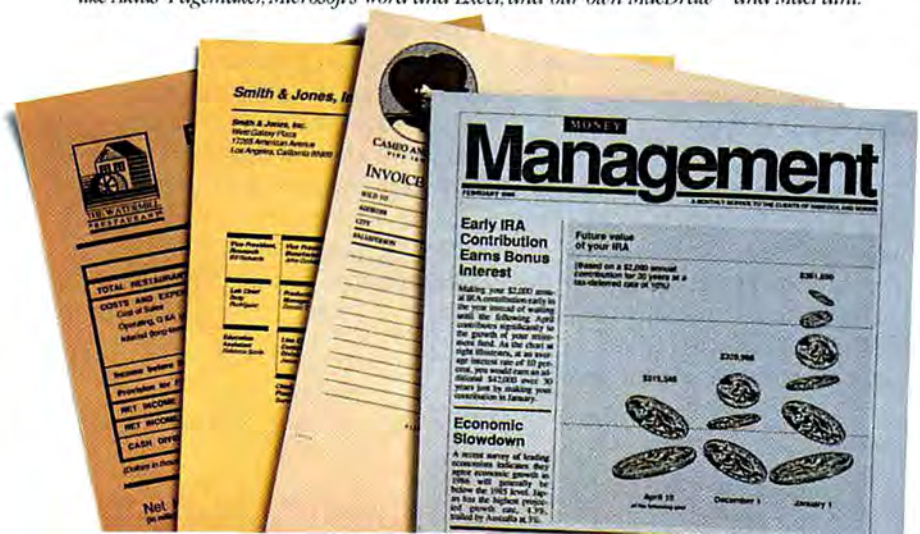

Making An Impression

The trouble with dubbing something a revolution before the fact is that you're bound to make some people defensive.

And understandably so. A successful revolution produces permanent, fundamental changes in roles, responsibilities, identities, and, ultimately, a redistribution of resources, a radical shift in power.

I've heard rash predictions from manufacturers and fellow journalists alike that the combination of laser printer, personal computer, and page composition software—the package we've come to identify as the basis of desktop publishing—will destroy the "publishing elite's" stranglehold on the communications industry; subvert censorship behind the iron curtain; and conquer illiteracy in the Third World.

The more mundane promises of increasing productivity in the office and eliminating typesetting and pasteup costs pale beside such hyperbole.

Let's be reasonable and admit that new technology alone won't foster change that can be defined as revolutionary.

Instead, I want to mollify some legitimate concerns I've heard expressed about its impact. Are the careers of trained graphic designers now threatened? Will professionals be replaced by do-it-yourselfers? And if so, will mediocrity in design, as well as in editing and in writing, proliferate?

When these questions arise, I find myself thinking about a graphic artist I know in rural New England. Beth Krommes is a wood engraver and papermaker. A few years ago she knew little about computers and wanted to keep it that way.

After taking a position as a magazine designer, Beth found less time for her own work. Then she latched onto the opportunity to learn automated page makeup on a new system her company had installed. The retraining let her devote half of her time to freelance work.

Once the least likely proponent of computerized methods, Beth now says she'd never revert to mechanical pasteup. Traditional skills and modern technology coexist gracefully in Beth's life because she faced the tools with the question, How can I make them work for me?

Too often we're easily cowed by the supposed power of tools. But we, ourselves, endow them with power whenever we assume that technology could replace human creativity.

Some of Beth's framed engravings hang on my walls. Her magazine designs have a more ephemeral existence. Both serve their purposes.

Like Beth, other designers will find ways to incorporate the new technology into their work. This won't happen, though, if we keep up the pretense that, with the right tools, *anyone* can be a designer. That's as foolish a claim as those made for word processing. The word processor hasn't made the real work of writing any easier; yet writers appreciate the new tools, however skeptical they may have been at first.

The other concern—the anticipation that we'll see a rash of badly designed publications—hardly gives me pause. I know we will but I'm sure that the mere existence of amateur writing or unprofessional design has never, however distracting, suppressed good work.

And finally, I'll gladly put up with the thousands of ugly newsletters, silly memos, and bad novels, knowing that the availability of the new tools, in the hands of someone like Beth, promote creativity.

We inaugurate *Publish!* as a laboratory staffed by editors, writers, and graphic designers for whom the efficacy of these new tools is a daily concern, one we share with you, our readers. Address your letters to us in care of Letters, *Publish!*, 555 De Haro Street, San Francisco, California 94107. ❑

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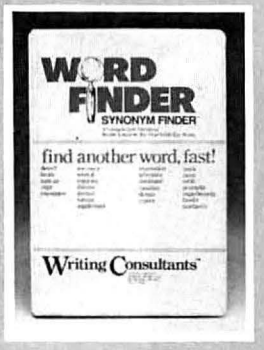

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Contributors' Notes

John Barry, coauthor of *Desktop Publishing* (Dow Jones-Irwin), is a writer and editor in Redwood City, California.

Diane Burns and S.Venit, graphic designers in San Francisco, write frequently about personal computers.

Sharon Efroymson is an instructor at the Productivity Center, a New York-based microcomputer training and consulting firm.

Jim Heid is a freelance writer and coauthor of *The Complete Guide to the Tandy 1000* (Ashton-Tate).

Marjorie Spiegelman, designer of *Publish!*, *PC World*, and *Macworld*, has taught graphic design at the University of California, Berkeley.

Jeff Walden is a freelance writer based in Sunnyvale, California.

Publish! is produced on Macintosh Plus computers using the following software: the Trump Mediaeval family of Adobe Postscript fonts, Fontastic, Fontographer, Macdraw, Macpaint, Microsoft Word, and Pagemaker. Page proofs are created on Apple Laserwriter Plus printers, and camera-ready copy is typeset on a Linotronic 300.

News Beat

Great Expectations For PC Page Makeup

There are some sure signs that desktop publishing for the IBM PC and compatibles is being taken seriously for use in business, as well as in graphic design.

Much-awaited desktop programs for the PC are slated to be available by the end of this year. Among them, Ventura Publisher from Ventura Software and a yet unnamed program from Bestinfo Inc. will be marketed not by their developers but by large corporations who want a share of the desktop market.

Xerox Corporation recently obtained worldwide rights to market Ventura Publisher; Software Publishing (publisher of the popular Pfs series of business productivity software) has signed a letter of intent to acquire marketing rights to Bestinfo's desktop product, which is based on Superpage, Bestinfo's professional pagination system for the PC.

A third desktop product for the PC, being developed by Skisoft, reportedly has caught the attention of Ashton-Tate, publisher of Dbase.

Along with Aldus Corporation's PC AT version of Pagemaker (also slated for release before year's end), these and other page makeup programs will be contending for the attention of corporate buyers, many of whom are inexperienced at page composition.

However, developers of many programs plan to address the novice as well as the seasoned graphic designer by combining a stylesheet approach with interactive screen displays of page layouts.

President of Skisoft, Ken Skier, even describes his product in language familiar to the corporate world: he refers to his page processing program as "a spreadsheet for words."

While no final retail prices have been announced for any of these programs, they're likely to fall within the $500–$700 range.

Under $5,000 And Original

"We're introducing a new measurement: *originals* per minute," says director of marketing at AST Research, Chuck Cortright, referring to his company's new laser printer. To be priced under $5,000, the Turbolaser, which AST expects to release in the summer, can print an eight-page publication in one minute.

Most laser printers under $10,000 can print only eight *copies* of a single page per minute.

The Turbolaser is powered by the Ricoh printing engine and comes with three built-in fonts: Courier, Letter Gothic, and Times Roman. AST has also licensed Bitstream's bitmapped and outlined fonts, which can be loaded into the printer's memory.

Machines That Bind

Now two new products from Velobind, Inc. (Sunnyvale, California), enable you to do your own binding. The Personal Velobinder ($60) fastens up to 25 sheets into a softcover binder. The Model One Eleven strip binding system (about $600) can handle books up to one inch in thickness, as well as most reports and technical documents.

They Said It Couldn't Be Done

The following magazines have more in common than meets the eye, at least initially: *Newservice* (Phoenix, Arizona), which reports on religion, health, drug abuse, and alcoholism; *Balloon Life* (Sacramento, California), a monthly for balloon enthusiasts; and the *American Revenuer* (Rockford, Iowa), a monthly journal of an organization of tax stamp collectors.

The publishers of all three use the Apple Macintosh and Laserwriter with Aldus's Pagemaker program to prepare camera-ready pages. ❑

Dedication

Hamish Norton, corporate finance associate at Lazard Freres, an investment banking firm in Manhattan, and secretary Janet Burgan incorporate late-breaking stock market information into presentations prepared on an Interleaf system.

Pays Off

Today's Interleaf workstation sets goals for your evolving desktop system

By Jeff Walden

It takes money to save money. The investment in an in-house publishing system, a major corporate expense, can pay for itself even in the short term. The Interleaf electronic publishing system—publishing software running on a dedicated workstation—costs at least $29,900, yet Interleaf owners report that their equipment payback periods run between six months and three years. Lazard Freres, a New York investment firm, estimates that its system paid for itself in one afternoon.

Less dramatic but no less persuasive returns are reported by other companies as well: Xanthus Corporation, a technical documentation firm in Austin, Texas; Loral Instrumentation, a manufacturer of electronic testing equipment in San Diego; and Bank of the West in San Francisco. Interleaf applications seem ordinary enough—technical documentation, brochures, presentations, and forms—but they yield extraordinary rates of return.

Interleaf combines machines and software to computerize the design and layout process, from unformatted text and graphics to camera-ready copy. At each step, what you see on screen resembles what is finally printed on paper. With text, tables, graphics, and art from several sources all handled on screen at the same time, Interleaf leaves the IBM PC, its work-alikes, and the Macintosh and Laserwriter combo in toner dust. The 19-inch screen of the Sun, DEC, and Apollo workstations that Interleaf runs on is about four times the area of a Macintosh screen and gives you a new perspective on the term *micro*computer.

Interleaf anticipates the capabilities of word processing and page-layout software that will someday be running on personal computers, when those machines become more powerful and less expensive. A $1,995 version of Interleaf software is already available for a rather modestly labeled "personal" computer—the IBM RT PC.

An Interleaf system handles six types of data: text, tables, graphics based on information from a spreadsheet or data base, scanned art, files from CAD (computer-aided design) programs, and freehand drawings that are created at the workstation. Besides its large, high-resolution screen, an Interleaf workstation includes a keyboard, a three-button mouse—and no floppy disk drives. The central processing unit, hard disk(s), ports, and tape backup reside in a chassis that sits on the floor.

Some Interleaf systems also include a scanner, costing as much as $40,000, to bring in existing artwork and photos. A more common component, a laser printer, produces galley and page proofs before typesetting. In fact, many companies using Interleaf consider laser printing acceptable final output. "The average user would never know the difference," claims Xanthus president David Shepherd. "Anyone who says otherwise must be in the typesetting business."

Interleaf runs under several operating systems: UNIX, Apollo Aegis and IBM's AIX (both UNIX work-alikes), and DEC VMS. Loral Instrumentation selected Interleaf in part because it could be connected via Ethernet to the company's three UNIX-based systems. Nonetheless, most Interleaf systems stand alone or

are connected directly to a single personal computer, so a vote for Interleaf is not necessarily a vote for UNIX.

Xanthus writes and publishes technical documentation for clients such as Texas Instruments and AT&T. The company's 30 writers prepare text on personal computers. The text is then passed by disk to a Compaq connected to the Interleaf system. Shepherd has kept careful records of Interleaf costs at Xanthus. "At most companies," he explains, "a documentation group is considered a cost center, but we have to be a profit-making group."

Xanthus's Interleaf system—two workstations, storage, and a laser printer—cost $82,000. Straight-line, five-year depreciation results in a per-month charge of $1,367 for both workstations. Monthly maintenance runs 1 percent of the total purchase price, or $820. The salaries of two operators at $28,000 each per year total $4,667 per month. Thus the total monthly operating expense is $6,854.

Shepherd estimates that his workers regularly process 100 pages per day. Based on 21 working days in a month, the Interleaf system creates 2,100 complete pages per month. Fully laid-out pages—including tables, charts, and some freehand graphics—thus cost $3.26 per page. Shepherd compares that to typesetting costs alone, which he estimates at $10 per page, or $21,000 per month, excluding type correction and pasteup. Based on these figures, the Interleaf system saves Xanthus $14,146 per month. The company recoups the system's purchase price every six months.

In "softer" numbers, Shepherd claims that Interleaf has chopped 3 weeks off the 13-week schedule of a typical project. "With the same number of writers," he says, "we can increase our billings 30 percent."

Hamish Norton, an associate in the corporate finance department of Lazard Freres, explains, "With us, it wasn't a matter of doing something cheaper—it was a matter of doing something we couldn't have done at all before."

Lazard Freres underwrites securities, negotiates mergers and acquisitions, and gives financial advice to corporations and governments. The highly focused task to which Norton sets the Interleaf system is preparing presentations for clients and potential clients. Those presentations must incorporate the latest market information; ideally, they should include data that is almost literally up-to-the-minute.

For Norton, a presentation with late-breaking information and Interleaf's typeset quality makes the best possible impression on clients. "I don't think, for the most part, that we're putting together presentations any faster using the Interleaf system—but what we were producing before looked like junk. Now it looks professional. It would have been impossible to get the same quality in the same amount of time."

How does Norton justify the expense of the corporate finance department's Interleaf workstation? "If we get one deal that we would not have gotten without this machine, it pays for itself several times over," he says. The system has already enabled the group to completely recompose a client's proposed *Wall Street Journal* ad an hour before deadline—thus saving an estimated $70,000 for running a blank page. More often, Norton says, the firm's asset management group uses the system for work it had been sending out for typesetting. "They're saving about $1,500 a month on work that takes them 10 minutes a week to do on Interleaf."

Loral Instrumentation manufactures microprocessor-based electronic test equipment for aerospace and defense companies. Its products can have any combination of 35 printed circuit board options installed. Each option requires its own voluminous documentation. Loral's three Interleaf workstations allow the company to ship documentation that's customized for each product.

"Because we put systems together," says Kelly Anderson, manager of technical publications at Loral, "we create unique manuals to serve customer needs. But the look must be consistent across all the manuals."

When Anderson came to Loral, it had no art department. Draftspeople from the circuit board design department were sometimes asked to ink organization charts and create presentations. Anderson hired her first artist to create a graphics library for use in the manuals. But revisions to the art kept hindering progress.

"It took an artist 10 hours to make one change on a drawing that had taken her 10 hours to create in the first place. I knew the value of having word processing on line," she says. "Why couldn't we have our art on line as well?"

Word processing at Loral was already on a computer—a VAX 750 running UNIX. Anderson could trade files between Interleaf and the VAX after connecting them via Ethernet. Interleaf integrates text from writers with the artwork that graphic artists draw in the Interleaf system. Any revisions to art are also made on the system. Anderson says that by the third project on the system, "We were doubling and tripling our productivity."

If an army travels on its stomach, a modern financial institution travels on its forms. The Bank of the West has billion-dollar assets and an administrative services department that's been using an Interleaf system for almost two years. According to Susan Mesches, vice president of administrative services, designing forms represents about 75 percent of the work done on the bank's single workstation. "The bank has 650 inventoried forms," explains Mesches, "and those are only the forms used by more than one department."

Before the bank started using Interleaf, the six writers in administrative services would first sketch each form on graph paper and then send it out for typesetting. Mesches estimates that a form took as long as a full day to create. Typesetting required several more days, and then corrections had to be made. Mesches says that with the Interleaf system, the same job takes between 20 and 30 minutes from start to finish.

Besides the forms, administrative services writes and produces almost a dozen manuals for the bank on operations, loan policies, automatic teller machines, and other systems the bank has installed. Mesches estimates that the system saves as much as $9,400 in typesetting charges on a single manual. She originally planned for the system to pay for itself in five years. At the current rate of savings, she says, the system can pay for itself in less than three.

Ed Kashi

Kelly Anderson (facing camera), manager of technical publications at Loral Instrumentation, oversees the work of graphic artists, who apply their drawing, design, and pasteup skills to page composition on screen.

Leafing Through the System

Interleaf is commonly compared to the Macintosh. Both systems use windows, icons, bit-mapped graphics, a mouse, and a Motorola 68000 series microprocessor. There the resemblance ends.

Screen size on Interleaf workstations is between 17 and 19 inches. The system needs the screen real estate: it displays an oversized 8½-by-11-inch page that accommodates bleed effects and registration marks placed outside the printing area while taking up only 60 percent of the Interleaf screen.

The three-button mouse is the key to interacting with the system. The Interleaf design suggests that you type text but lay out pages by pointing and clicking. One mouse button activates pop-up menus, which appear wherever the cursor happens to be. During an hour-long demonstration, the keyboard was used only to log on to the system and to show how existing text is reformatted as new text is typed.

Interleaf documents can be printed out on most phototypesetters that have image-processing capabilities, including the Compugraphic 8600G, the Autologic APS-Micro 5G, and the Linotronic 300. More typesetting options will be available with the release of a Postscript driver. (At press time, Interleaf expected to have the driver available in the summer.)

Interleaf markets three laser printers, each with a resolution of 300 dots per inch: an 8-page-per-minute unit built by Imagen ($11,500), a 26-page-per-minute unit from Dataproducts ($27,500), and a Canon printer equipped with Interlace's raster image processor ($8,000). The system also drives a laser printer from Data Recording Systems with a resolution of 800 dots per inch.

The Interleaf system software is available in two forms. Technical Publishing Software (TPS) is a fully integrated graphics and text system; the Workstation Publishing Software (WPS) version, designed as additional software for already installed engineering workstations, offers some similar capabilities.

Additional Interleaf workstations with 86 megabytes of storage (expandable to 190 megabytes) cost $15,000. They are directly connected to the central processor with cables, or networked through Ethernet at $750 per node. Storage sizes under the UNIX operating system can be deceptive to people used to personal computers. According to Interleaf, a system with 86 megabytes of storage actually has about 35 megabytes of storage left for data. Although text takes up relatively little storage space, graphics take up a lot more. A scanned photo, for example, can occupy 2 megabytes.

With 400,000 lines of code, the Interleaf program is complex and powerful. Yet three specific operations are beyond its talents (and will remain so in the forthcoming version 3.0).

First, Interleaf mixes text and graphics easily on the same page, but it can't handle runaround: the same column cannot hold both text and graphics on the same horizontal line. The closest Interleaf can come to runaround is redefining a section of text as two columns and placing the graphic in one of the columns. This kind of fix defeats the purpose of a dedicated system. It works, but it isn't elegant.

The second problem is the lack of a true style sheet, that is, a set of named paragraph and line definitions. You reformat a document by changing style sheets, as you can using Microsoft Word on an IBM PC. Interleaf lets you name paragraph styles and define an individual set of properties for each name but forces you to save the definitions either in the document itself or in an empty text document, rather than as an actual style sheet. Such de facto style sheets are reasonably easy to use but are cumbersome, considering the sophistication of the rest of the system.

Interleaf also cannot create a layout style sheet or template that would define the graphics and text areas on a page, the location of rules and graphics elements, and the position of running heads and other recurring text.

Although it's a microprocessor-based publishing system, Interleaf is not a personal computer, and companies don't use it like one. The Interleaf system is best run by a specially trained operator because it's costly, and—despite its ease of use and text-processing features—it's dedicated to page makeup and document design.

The graphics skills of the people who use the Interleaf system vary from company to company. At Loral and Xanthus, Interleaf operators are trained graphic artists who've transferred their skills from drafting board to computer screen. Writers use the system at Bank of the West, and secretaries use it at Lazard Freres.

Anderson says that the Interleaf system at Loral "directly duplicates" how documents were designed at the company before it installed the system, "although now we can bypass several steps. For example, the graphic artist had to get together with the word processor to figure out how big a hole to leave for a drawing. Because of the system's flexibility, that doesn't happen anymore."

The Interleaf system gives graphic artists a new tool, rather than shifting layout responsibility onto the writer. As lower-cost systems put Interleaf-style capabilities on everyone's personal computer, however, employers may place a premium on people who can use computers and have both writing and layout expertise.

"We would love to have our writers use Interleaf workstations as word processors," says Xanthus's Shepherd. "If the price comes down to $12,000 or $15,000, we'd look very seriously at throwing 20 PCs out the door and equipping our writers with Interleaf."

When will Interleaf reach your desktop? In five years, perhaps sooner. A personal computer system would need, in effect, the same hardware that Interleaf runs on now: 32-bit processors, 200 megabytes of storage, a 19-inch bit-mapped screen—but with a $5,000 price tag.

Better ways are being developed to configure existing hardware. For example, a "slave" processor to handle graphics routines takes a huge load off the main microprocessor, resulting in a faster personal computer that doesn't need the next generation of microprocessors.

Storage technology is also improving. The biggest boon may come from optical disks, which can hold data in the gigabytes (billions of bytes). Optical disks are already used for digitized pictures. DEC has developed an Interactive Video Information System that integrates a video disk with its computers. The system isn't designed for publishing, but the screen display integrates words and pictures. Improvements don't have to be as radical as optical disks. Better recording-head technology, less expensive and more efficient magnetic media, and data-encoding chips may combine to produce 200 megabytes of storage in the personal computer price range.

The last hurdle: how to obtain a large, inexpensive screen display with high pixel density and good gray scale, or depth of color. The most difficult requirement to meet is *inexpensive*, since cathode ray tubes—the stuff of television sets—are costly. Liquid crystal displays or some other technology might help overcome the cost factor.

Don't underrate the need for such a screen. "If graphic artists are going to use a system," warns Anderson, "you'd better buy a system that brings them as close as possible to actually using their hands on the layout. They will not accept a screen smaller than the size of an actual page. Maybe an engineer can. Maybe a secretary can. My graphic artists won't." ❑

Tips! ➲ Extend the Life of a Toner Cartridge

Don't assume you have to change your EP (electrophotographic) cartridge just because the indicator on the laser printer has turned red. The indicator automatically turns red after about 3,000 pages, based on the number of turns of the drum. The estimated life of 3,000 pages assumes 4 percent print coverage, or 50 characters per line and 40 lines per page. If you print graphics, you may get fewer than 3,000 pages from a cartridge, but most people should get much more than that. Passing the 3,000-page mark does not harm the printer.

A new cartridge contains about 160 grams of toner. To keep track of the amount of toner in a cartridge, weigh an empty one, then weigh a new one when you buy it. Weigh the cartridge from time to time so you can tell when it's close to running out of toner.—*Michael Gardner (Orinda, California)* ❑

Slow Down the Presses

Page layout on the IBM PC—will it work for you?

By Jim Heid

Running page composition programs, especially those that represent your actual layout on the screen, is hard work for any personal computer. Calculating character widths, determining line breaks, drawing fonts and images, and shuffling text in memory are all demanding tasks that push the limits of the IBM PC.

T/Maker Graphics' Clickart Personal Publisher is the first offering for people who use the PC and need a page makeup program with pull-down menus, scroll bars, and a tool palette. Personal Publisher looks and works like a Macintosh program, yet in doing so, shines a harsh spotlight directly on the PC's shortcomings in desktop publishing: a relatively slow microprocessor, no built-in typographic facilities, and poor screen resolution.

Initially, Clickart Publisher presents a blank screen and a blinking cursor. You can type text directly into the program, or you can write the text in a word processor, save it in ASCII (text only) form, and bring it in through the Edit menu's Get Text command. For publications with a great deal of text, you'll probably opt for the latter approach because of Clickart Publisher's tendency to lag behind your typing.

The product has four disks: a program disk for PCs with Color/Graphics Adapters, one for PCs with Hercules high-resolution adapters, a fonts disk, and a disk of "clip art" illustrations. Many of the program's dozen type styles are based on Macintosh fonts. To make T/Maker's several volumes of Clickart illustrations and fonts accessible to buyers of Clickart Publisher, the program can use Mac fonts and Macpaint images. You can transfer illustrations or fonts via a modem, a direct cable connection, or a network. You add or remove fonts using the font-moving utility that is included.

Because the Macintosh's pixel ratio differs from that of the PC, text and graphics imported from the Mac appear elongated when you use IBM's Color/Graphics Adapter, and only one-fourth of a page is visible at once. (T/Maker is developing a Clickart Publisher version that's compatible with IBM's Enhanced Graphics Adapter.) With the Hercules card, however, a half page is visible, and its contents don't look squeezed. A Show Page command displays an entire page reduced to fit, but you can't change the layout in this mode.

Clickart Publisher elegantly handles the tough job of electronic page makeup with just the keyboard available, though of course it works better with a mouse. Function key icons appear next to the menus, and most commands have Alt-key equivalents, such as Alt-S for "Save." The F9 key steps through the palette's tools, and F10 simulates a mouse button.

Producing a publication involves typing or importing text, creating columns, specifying margins and justification, and then adding graphic elements such as rules or pictures. You can

perform these tasks in a different order—creating columns first, for example—but Clickart Publisher's sluggishness becomes more apparent because the program has to readjust line breaks, margins, and columns with each text alteration.

The key to defining a publication's look and refining its layout is the Baselines menu. You set up columns through the Layout command and fine-tune text positioning though several Adjust commands, which draw a *baseline* under each line. Click on a baseline, and three *handles* appear. Dragging the left handle adjusts the left margin. The middle one moves lines up or down, and the right one controls the right margin. Unfortunately, you can't see the text as you move it; all you see are its baselines.

When you've filled a page with text from an ASCII file, you can store leftover text in Clickart Publisher's Clipboard and then paste it into a subsequent page. The program, however, does not automatically link text from a file that is sectioned across several pages. Each page has an overflow buffer that stores any text pushed off the page by editing changes, and you have to adjust the pages manually to make sure that the text flows correctly.

To place images on a layout, you use the Art menu's Get Art command. Clickart Publisher can't read files created by programs like Microsoft Chart or Lotus's 1-2-3, though an included background utility lets you capture any screen image. After you load the utility, you press Shift-PrtSc to capture a screen. You then run another program that lets you crop, enlarge, or reduce the image, and then save it as a Clickart Publisher "art" file.

A Picturewrap command automatically fits text around images, but only in a rectangular shape. You can, however, wrap text around an irregularly shaped graphic by making the baselines near an image shorter or longer.

The Print command commits your work to paper. With dot matrix printers, Clickart Publisher offers draft and high-quality printouts. You run a separate program to tell Clickart Publisher which printer you're using. Owners of Hewlett-Packard Laserjets and Apple Laserwriters must purchase a separate option to exploit their

On a PC with a Color/Graphics Adapter, you see only one-fourth of a Clickart Publisher page, and Macintosh fonts and graphics seem squeezed. You see twice as much of the page with a Hercules graphics board.

printer's capabilities. Laserjet owners can select a dot matrix emulation mode, but using a Laserjet this way is like using a Cuisinart to mix instant potatoes. (At press time, Clickart Publisher's laser printer option was not ready, although T/Maker expects to have it available in the summer.)

Clickart Publisher is an easy-to-use, well-designed program, whose pace—even on a PC AT—is like a snail's compared to similar Mac programs. Like a Ferrari in a traffic jam, it's capable but held back by its surroundings. Also, its compatibility with Macintosh fonts and Macpaint images is of marginal value. Clickart Publisher is billed as a publishing program for the PC owner who doesn't want to buy a Mac. Such a person isn't likely to have a large library of Macintosh images and fonts. And without a Hercules card, T/Maker's screen display of Mac fonts and graphics looks like their reflection in an amusement park mirror.

But in fairness, Clickart Personal Publisher succeeds in bringing publishing to the IBM PC, which was never designed to handle graphics or fonts. And speed is relative. Waiting a minute while a page is reformatted still beats waiting a day or two for corrections to come back from the typesetter. If envy of the Mac and Pagemaker have made you as green as a monochrome screen display, Clickart Publisher deserves your careful, though patient, attention. ❑

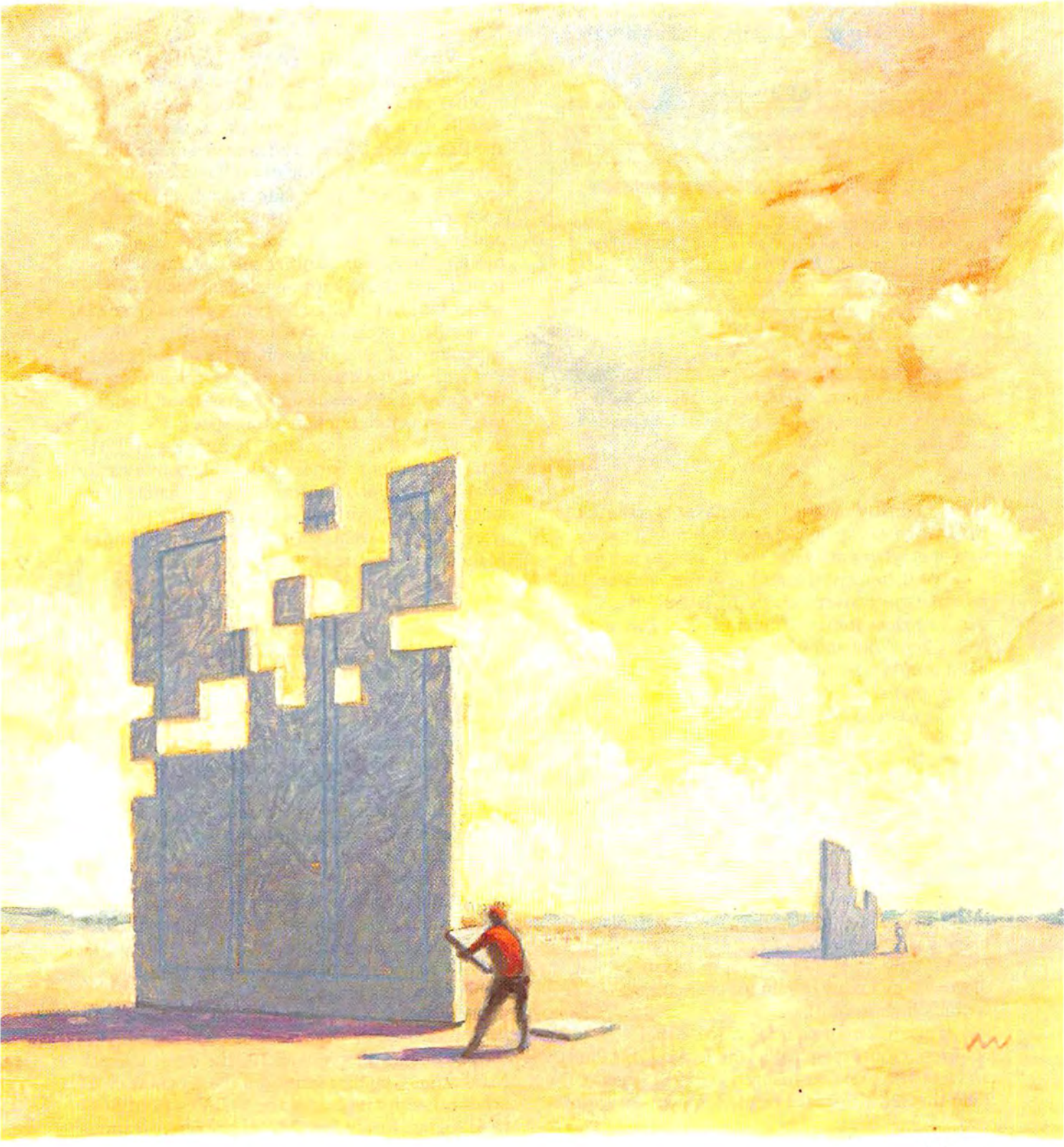
Revised Editions

Which of these will help you meet your deadlines?

By Diane Burns and S.Venit

As personal computers become faster and more powerful, and page makeup programs approach the capabilities of systems with six-digit price tags, telling the type from the hype becomes increasingly difficult. But for now the best bets are Pagemaker, Ready Set Go, and Macpublisher. Here are the pluses and minuses of the latest versions of these three Macintosh programs.

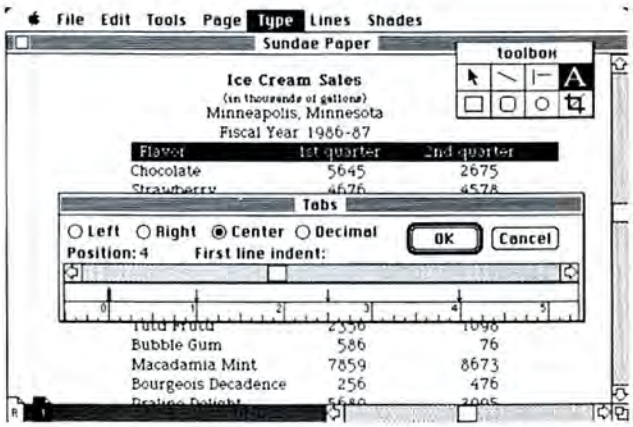
Pagemaker, from Aldus, has changed the least since its initial release, but that's because it started further ahead on the road to the dedicated workstation. Run by people who are familiar with the computer-integrated publishing systems used by major magazines and newspapers, Aldus approaches desktop publishing from the high end, adapting the features of dedicated workstations to the limitations of personal computer technology. With an intuitive, interactive screen display and powerful



Mick Wiggins

text and graphics handling, Pagemaker set the standard for page makeup programs on the Macintosh almost as soon as it was released.

At $495, Pagemaker started out at the high end in price as well. Even with Macpublisher and Ready Set Go now priced higher than when they



Responding to suggestions from Pagemaker users, Aldus included tab settings in version 1.2. You set tab stops on a ruler, as in Microsoft Word.

were originally released, Pagemaker is still more than twice as expensive. So if commonsense design is what you want, you'll have to pay for it.

Well conceived from the outset, version 1.0 incorporates features sought by layout artists. You can place formatted text from Macwrite and Microsoft Word and full-page graphics from Macpaint and Macdraw directly on your page layout. Pagemaker simplifies the process further with a handy "pasteboard" feature, which lets you view text and graphics before you position them, and several interactive displays that show on screen the layouts that you'll see on paper. All the layout tools work at all display sizes.

Aside from having corrected minor bugs, version 1.1 can lay out an 11-inch by 17-inch page (for large-format publications) and print a 300 percent enlargement of an 8½-inch by 11-inch page (for materials intended for wall display). It also allows you to print Macpaint documents "smoothed," which improves curves and diagonals by taking advantage of the Laserwriter's high resolution.

Pagemaker version 1.2 can use the additional fonts installed in the Laserwriter Plus and lets you place bit-mapped graphics larger than the 32K Clipboard limit. Another feature, sorely lacking from earlier releases, is the ability to set tabs in text. A dialog box lets you set left, right, centered, or decimal tabs along a ruler. Unfortunately, you can't see the effects of your tab settings on the screen until you close the box.

Version 2.0, which Aldus plans to release later this year, is reported to provide Postscript "wells" into which you can drop a short routine, usually for a special graphics effect, as part of the Pagemaker layout. The new version is also expected to offer kerning (the adjustment of spaces between letters), automatic hyphenation, a 999-page limit per file (as disk space allows), and spot color (elements such as a box or a headline printed in another color). Aldus will include a separate kerning table for each Laserwriter font from Adobe Systems, since kerning is an aesthetic decision based in large part on the appearance of pairs of letters in a particular font. But you will have to wait until manufacturers of color output devices install Postscript in their machines before implementing spot color.

With all its advantages, Pagemaker still has some limitations. For example, you cannot easily select the text of an entire article to change point size or leading. Another drawback is the program's price. Pagemaker represents the ceiling of Macintosh software in any major category.

Ready Set Go, from Manhattan Graphics, has changed radically since its initial release, which suffered when compared to Pagemaker and Macpublisher. Version 2.0, however, was a major improvement—enough of an improvement for Manhattan Graphics to claim the largest installed base among Macintosh page makeup programs (neither competitor has made a counterclaim). As a commercial printer, Manhattan Graphics seems to have approached Macintosh page makeup from the point of view of customers involved in low-volume publishing. Ready Set Go emphasizes free-form layout and is less than graceful when handling columnar text in high volume.

Designed to handle single-page layouts rather than long documents, Ready Set Go's initial version allowed only 1 page per file. That limit increased to 32 pages in version 2.0 and then to 40 pages in version 2.1, the latest release. Manhattan Graphics improved the program in other ways and increased the list price from $149 to $195, but Ready Set Go still has fewer features than Pagemaker or Macpublisher II. It seems to

Buyer's Checklist

Here's what you should look for in a page makeup program:

WYSIWYG Pronounced "wizzy-wig," for what-you-see-is-what-you-get—from screen display to printed page. The display should enable you to move and edit text and to place, size, and crop graphics—and see the results. The program should have options for precisely controlled placement of elements, such as snap-to guides, interactive zoom views, or dialog boxes.

H & J Hyphenation and justification. Discretionary (or manual) hyphenation involves typing a "soft" hyphen that appears when a word is broken at the end of a line; automatic hyphenation is based on an on-line dictionary or an algorithm in the program. Justification is the process of filling lines with as much type as will fit.

Leading A measure of line spacing, leading should be adjustable in points and on any line of text.

Kerning Adjusting the space between specific letter pairs to create more even letter spacing.

Text processing You should be able, while in a page makeup program, to open word processing documents with formatting intact. How does the program accommodate changes in multipage text? How can you wrap text around a graphic element?

Graphics handling While in the layout program, you should be able to open graphics created in Macpaint, Macdraw, and Macdraft. How do you crop and resize graphics? What tools are available for creating rules, boxes, screens, and so on?

Page processing A program should let you create templates. Can you insert, delete, and swap pages within a document?

Performance Includes printing time, speed, and how well your work style meshes with the program.

Support What are the warranty terms? How much time and support (from dealer or manufacturer) are available as you learn the program?

be the product of "Lite beer" software design: only the minimum capabilities you might need in a page makeup program, and less. Layout measurements, for example, can be expressed only in inches—not in centimeters or, what would be more useful, picas and points. Although Ready Set Go may produce layouts substantially similar to those produced in the other programs, it requires more time and effort.

For example, your hand grows weary using the mouse because you need to draw rectangles, representing blocks, to hold the text and graphics on your layout. Text continued from another page, from another column on the same page, or from text interrupted by a graphic element has to be in its own block. Page design can thus be a boxy, rather clumsy proposition. Manhattan Graphics seems to have realized the problem. Earlier this year the company announced the release of Ready Set Go templates called Desk Design.

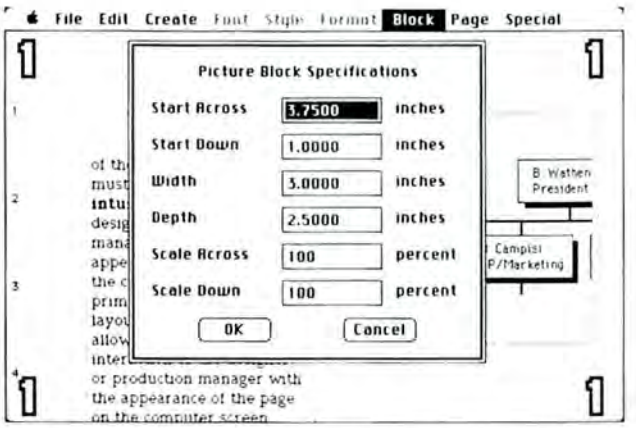
Ready Set Go blocks are Macintosh windows; they are sized and positioned like windows, although they lack the title bar and the sizing box that you click and drag to reposition and resize a window. Instead, you must position the pointer on the block's top line or lower right corner—an exacting task that you must do routinely.

The program's minimalist approach pays off somewhat in the single screen display, where you do all your work: text editing, graphics resizing, and positioning of elements in the layout. You won't become confused about what you can or cannot do in one display option or another because there are no others. You can't zoom in for an enlarged view of the page to fine-tune the position of a graphic element or to work with text in small point sizes. Positioning elements on the display is also made difficult by the lack of a "snap-to" command, which automatically aligns an element with the nearest grid lines. For precise placement (to .0001 inch) of a block and to set other attributes, you need to open the block specification dialog box.

Ready Set Go now has a scrolling feature that eases moving around on the page. In the past the program used a "show page" feature in which you moved an outlined rectangle to change the full-size display. Unfortunately, Ready Set Go does not use the Mac's familiar scroll bars; rather, you click a sector of the

screen while holding down the ⌘ key and the display moves in that direction. It's difficult to control scrolling distance using this technique.

Ready Set Go's strength, relative to the competition, is its text editing capability, a result of the fact that its initial release could not accept text imported from word processing programs. The current version can, but imported text loses its formatting—font sizes and styles, tab settings, and so on. Conveniently, Ready Set Go lets you set commonly used font sizes with a pull-down menu rather than in a dialog box as Macpublisher and Pagemaker do, although you need to open a dialog box for less popular sizes.



Instead of snap-to guides or zoom displays, Ready Set Go has you fine-tune the position of a text or graphic element in the block specification dialog box.

Ready Set Go still cannot directly open graphics from another program. Instead, you bring them in via the Clipboard (limited to 32K, well within the average Macpaint document but below the probable disk space requirements of scanned graphics) using a desk accessory like Artgrabber Plus, which lets you copy full-page Macpaint graphics. The accessory makes up for Ready Set Go's limitations so well that Manhattan Graphics now packages it with the program.

Macpublisher, by Boston Software, is the most improved of the three programs. In fact, the new version is called Macpublisher II to emphasize that, according to Boston Software, the program is rewritten from the ground up. Macpublisher II tries to set new standards in features, although its screen display is still cluttered. The clutter results from an almost tedious literalness (the cursor turns into scissors when you clip an article onto the layout, and loose clippings pile up next to the mockup). Still, Boston Software should be credited with boldly expanding the program to fit the technology. First among these programs, Macpublisher II allows you to perform kerning.

If Ready Set Go is minimalist, Macpublisher is baroque. It offers capabilities you never thought you'd need in a page makeup program, and most of them are on screen and in the way. So many features have been worked into Macpublisher II, in fact, that its shipping date was postponed several months. At press time, the Macpublisher II version described here was expected for immediate release.

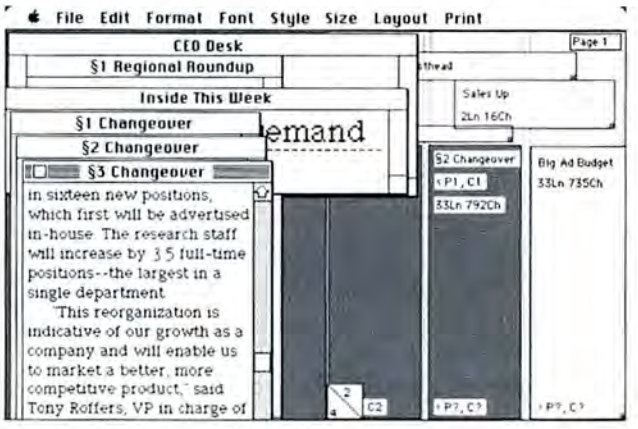
Unique among Macintosh page makeup software, Macpublisher was designed for the 128K Mac and the Imagewriter printer, and at $99 it appealed to the for-the-rest-of-us attitude of early Mac buyers. At $195 Macpublisher II continues to represent the low end of the price spectrum, runs (painfully) on the 128K Mac, yet is chock-full of features.

Its basic operation is unchanged from the original Macpublisher: you work in windows. One window shows the entire page layout as a dummy with rectangles indicating the position of text and graphic elements. The Minipage display option reduces the entire page to fit on screen; Maxipage shows the layout at actual size. Either display is not as useful as it should be because you cannot resize graphics or edit text; interaction is limited to repositioning elements.

Other windows—where you edit text and crop graphics—contain elements that you "clip" onto the layout. As you lay out an article, the text file is displayed in as many windows as it has sections in the layout, with each window linked to its section by an automatically generated section number. After laying out only one or two articles and a picture, Macpublisher's working area already seems like a hopelessly disorganized drafting table. A Windows menu that lets you choose which on-screen window to make active would alleviate the messy situation. (A desk accessory appropriately called Windows installs such a menu and is available in the public domain.) Still, you need to keep the text windows open to reset tabs, perform kerning, or make other changes, and then wait for the display to be updated to see what you've done. As a result, your work lurches along even as you produce page layouts.

This incomplete interaction between you and Macpublisher's screen also detracts from an otherwise valuable kerning capability. The program offers automatic kerning, based on a table of 26 pairs of letters, as well as manual kerning. Unfortunately, you can't see the results of manual kerning in the text window while you work—you must wait for the Maxipage view to be redrawn.

Discretionary hyphenation, another highly touted feature, would be less valuable if Macpublisher II could open Microsoft Word files with formatting intact, including Word's discretionary, or "soft," hyphens. (Macpublisher II keeps the



Cluttered clippings in Macpublisher II: if these windows were in a building, the heating bills would be horrendous.

formatting of Macwrite files but opens Word documents as text only.) As in Word, soft hyphens are entered in Macpublisher's text window by pressing ⌘-hyphen. Soft hyphens remain invisible unless a word falls on a line break. Automatic hyphenation is possible if you run Macpublisher files through Machyphen, another Boston Software program scheduled for release this summer. The program also works with Pagemaker and Microsoft Word documents.

Macpublisher II offers an embarrassment of riches in the graphics department. You can import full-page graphics directly from Macpaint or Macdraw (in PICT format) and resize them proportionately on the dummy. For rules, rectangles, or ovals, the program has a graphics palette that includes 99 patterns for lines and areas. But most remarkable are the features that reaffirm Boston Software's commitment to the low end, even unto output. Using Macpublisher II you can drop gray screens over text and indicate spot color for printing on the Imagewriter II, but not on the Laserwriter. The program also has an oversized printing option, intended for Imagewriter users who reduce the printout photostatically.

Macpublisher II has a handful of little gems in the tradition of its transparent ruler. Its "page jump" feature automatically sets continuation lines when an article breaks at the end of a page or column. You write the wording of the "continued on..." line in a dialog box, and the program fills in the appropriate page number. You need to add the "continued from..." line at the beginning of the subsequent section. You can swap pages within an issue, a handy feature that will undoubtedly be copied by the competition.

Macpublisher's 96-page maximum can theoretically accommodate magazine layouts. But in practical terms 96 pages of text and graphics won't fit on two 800K disks, so a hard disk would be required—as it would in any high-volume desktop publishing system. More bothersome is Macpublisher's filing system on the Macintosh desktop. It creates a separate file for each text or graphic element, as well as a file for the page layout itself. Even with the hierarchical filing system used by the latest Macintosh Finder, keeping track of all those files would be a major challenge to any publisher, desktop or not.

Other considerations remain, printing performance foremost among them. Pagemaker hits the streets way ahead of the other two in this regard, mainly because it addresses Postscript-driven printers or typesetters directly. By comparison, most Mac programs address Quickdraw, the Mac's internal imaging utility. This Quickdraw output is in turn translated into Postscript. Because the Quickdraw routines were intended primarily to draw the Mac's screen, Quickdraw is less efficient when it must take advantage of the higher resolution available in the Laserwriter or a Linotronic.

While these programs continue to evolve, you can reduce their price and performance differences to a single question: which program will meet your deadlines? Between Ready Set Go and Macpublisher II, you'll have to decide which features you really need and which program seems less cumbersome to use. Between Pagemaker and its lower-priced competitors, the difference is not in the features list but in how you interact with the program. As your deadlines approach, you realize that you spend either money on one or time on the others. ❑

Eye-Catching Pages

Beyond white space: mastering the basics of design

By Marjorie Spiegelman

If you've never so much as drawn a square box, you may feel hopelessly overwhelmed by the task of designing a page on a computer. It's so easy to get carried away by the choices of typefaces, type sizes, graphics, formatting. And too much of a good thing means confusion for you and for your readers.

Avoid the pitfalls by using some simple design rules. Far from limiting you, a design system liberates you from endless decision making and error correcting. The examples described here can be adapted to almost any printed material. The accompanying newsletter page illustrates the terms used.

Analyze the content. This involves more than merely reading the story—it means looking at it critically to decide which of its elements are more important than others. After you've determined your priorities, assign type sizes and styles to convey to the readers the levels of importance.

In most newsletter articles, the most important element is the headline, which distills the article's message into a few words. The headline should be the first and largest element. Next in importance is the subtitle, which supplements the headline; it's smaller and is the second element on the page. Subheads (short headlines that break up columns of text and signal a change in topic) are often the same type size as the text itself, with emphasis provided by boldface type.

Warning: Keep it simple. For example, if subheads are all different sizes, the reader won't know where to start.

Develop a grid, that is, a standard page structure. It helps you organize text and art on all your pages with consistency.

In page composition programs the basic grid is often referred to as the master page. It's made up of top, bottom, and side margins; columns; and the spaces between columns. Once you've established a master page format, you'll never have to "eyeball" elements on the screen (place them according to how they look rather than according to a measured format).

Perhaps the most important element in your grid or master page is *white space*, or empty space. White space creates a viewing ground for the information and adds visual interest. It also conveys information itself. If the amount or positioning of white space changes, readers expect a change in content.

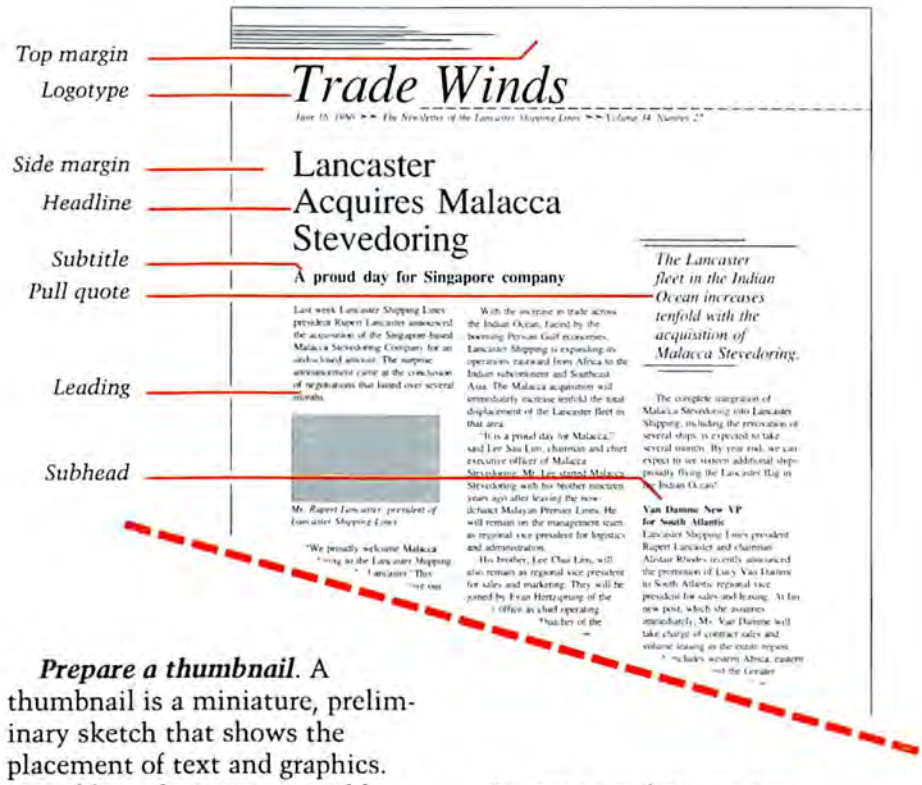
Start defining your grid by standardizing your margins. On a typical newsletter page measuring 8½ by 11 inches, the right and left margins should be equal—usually at least 3½ picas wide. (Six picas equal 1 inch; a pica is divided into 12 points.) Top and bottom margins shouldn't be equal—the top is usually smaller than the bottom—and they must be consistent from page to page. An example for newsletters is 4 to 5 picas for the top margin and 5 to 6 picas

for the bottom. Smaller margins make the page look crowded and uninviting.

Next, determine a column width. Generally, a newsletter page contains either two or three columns separated by 1 pica of white space. Use your column measure to size photographs, charts, and drawings. For example, in a three-column grid, graphics can be one, two, or three columns wide—not an arbitrary measure but one related directly to the grid.

Finally, decide on a type size for text. Generally, one of the most readable type sizes is 10 points, with 2 points of *leading* (white space between lines of type). In designers' and typesetters' language, this is called "10 on 12" and is often written "10/12." (The "12" comes from adding the 2 points of leading to the 10-point type measure. The total is called *line spacing*.)

Another advantage of 10/12 type is that because 12 points equal one pica, you can set up a system based on even multiples of picas. For example, the line spacing between text and subhead might be 24 points (2 picas) and the line spacing between the subhead and the text below it might be 12 points (1 pica). Paragraph indentations could all be 12 points, too. Simplifying the mathematical relationships reduces the number of design decisions you have to make, creates a stronger page, and leaves you free to experiment with graphics.



Prepare a thumbnail. A thumbnail is a miniature, preliminary sketch that shows the placement of text and graphics. It enables a designer to quickly determine how much room the text takes up and how much is left for graphics.

If you're eager for a finished product, you may be tempted to skip the thumbnail. Don't. Otherwise, you may find yourself on the last page of your newsletter with no text to put on the page. Before you do your thumbnail, format your text on screen at the proper type size, leading, and column width. If there is little copy, count the number of lines on screen; if your text runs for pages, count the lines on a printout.

Next, make your thumbnail sketch. Does the text fit into the space you've allotted? Is there enough room for charts, illustrations, photos? If you need more or less text, make the adjustments now.

You should also decide where illustrations will go. Try several thumbnails, putting the illustrations in different places. Remember that illustrations should be as close as possible to the text they depict.

Suppose you have a page with text but no graphics. How do you break up the monotonous columns of words? You might try a trick that adds visual variety and stimulates reader interest. A pull quote (also called a deck, readout, or teaser) is a provocative phrase or sentence pulled from the main text and reproduced in a larger type size. To set it off from the text, you might add plain or decorative lines or bars (also called rules) above, below, or next to the pull quote. One pull quote to a page is plenty.

These guidelines will help you create strong, simple, visually interesting pages that involve readers. They'll also streamline your production process so that you can spend more time on words and art.

Page Make-Over

Does your newsletter, memo, brochure, or report lack visual impact? We can help you do a complete page make-over. Send us a copy of the page or pages. We'll select examples and show you how to improve your design. Send samples to Page Make-Over, Publish!, *555 De Haro St., San Francisco, CA 94107.* ❑

A Menu for All Seasons

The Four Seasons publishes its bill of fare in-house

By Sharon Efroymson

Manhattan's famous Four Seasons restaurant takes pride in its superb menu. But the delicately prepared entrees—including such appetizing choices as breast of pigeon and curried mussels with mango—are only one source of satisfaction. The menu itself is a feast for the eyes, a work of art printed on parchment stock.

For the past 26 years, the menu's distinctive layout has figured importantly in the Four Seasons' image of quiet good taste. Now, thanks to today's personal computer technology, the restaurant can update the menu daily and print it in-house.

Daily menu production, management's wish for some time, didn't become a reality until the restaurant's advertising agency suggested using a personal computer—an IBM PC/XT—with a Hewlett-Packard Laserjet printer and a Canon NP-7050 two-color copier.

Besides increasing overall efficiency, the new system enables the Four Seasons to offer its guests better service. For one thing, the constantly changing special dishes are now incorporated into the menu. Manager Alex von Bidder explains, "Sherbets are made only when the fruit is perfectly ripe. You can't predict when that will be. Under the old system, the menu couldn't say whether the sherbet was plum or raspberry because outside printing needed a month's lead time."

Using the new system, the restaurant creates a laser-typeset master mechanical for each menu in minutes. Such efficiency is almost a necessity, since the Four Seasons generates lunch and dinner menus for six dining rooms, as well as the ever-changing wine list.

Although personal computer publishing promised efficiency, conversion to the process was not instantaneous. The system had to print the same menu, on comparable high-quality stock, with the same typography and design that the restaurant had always used.

Based on these considerations, the word processing program chosen was Microsoft Word, selected for its sophisticated formatting capabilities and its ability to take full advantage of the printing features offered by the Hewlett-Packard Laserjet. The Laserjet was purchased because it is quiet and uses numerous typefaces.

However, the Laserjet doesn't accommodate documents beyond legal size and doesn't print in color. To produce the oversize, two-color menu, each laser-printed page is enlarged

Bob Sacha

Four Seasons' manager Alex von Bidder (center) with executive chef Seppi Renggli and executive secretary Vicki Eckstein. In-house menu production improves service and efficiency.

LUNCHEON

COLD APPETIZERS

Seviche of SCALLOPS	10.00	Smoked Scottish SALMON	12.00
A Service of SHRIMP	13.00	Cherrystone CLAMS	9.50
RADICCHIO with Grana	11.00	LITTLE NECKS, A Platter	9.50
Service of Beluga CAVIAR	48.00	CRAB Lump Cocktail	15.00
Smoked STURGEON Mousse with Caviar	14.00	Blue Point OYSTERS	10.00
Curried MUSSELS with Mango	12.50	Spring Greens with RABBIT	12.50

HOT APPETIZERS

Grilled GRAAVLAX, Dill Sauce	17.50	SCALLOPS and FROGS' LEGS Ravioli	18.00
FETTUCCINE Primavera	16.50		

SOUPS AND BROTHS

DUCK Consommé	8.50	RED SNAPPER Chowder	9.00
Spring VEGETABLE Soup	8.00	Chilled CUCUMBER and WATERCRESS	8.50

TODAY WE ARE PREPARING... SPRING 1986 MONDAY APRIL 14th

APPETIZER
Braised Filet of RED SNAPPER 16.50
ENTREES
A Ragoût of SEA SCALLOPS with Tarragon 36.00
Broiled Fish: SWORD FISH 37.00
TODAY'S SHERBETS: Strawberry, Passion Fruit, and Lemon 6.50

EGGS AND SOUFFLES

OMELETTES Prepared Table Side	16.50	SPINACH Soufflé with Mushrooms	18.00
EGGS BENEDICT	18.50	Scrambled EGGS with Smoked Salmon	20.00

SEA AND FRESH WATER FISH

DOVER SOLE Meunière	38.00	A VARIETY OF SEASONALS	
Crisp SHRIMP with Mustard Fruits	32.00	Escalope of VEAL with Ginger	34.00
Blackened RED FISH with Refried Beans	35.00	Sautéed CALF'S LIVER with Braised Maui Onions	32.00
SHAD and ROE with Crisp Bacon	37.00	Filet of VEAL with Crabmeat and Artichokes	37.00
RED SHRIMP with Fennel	35.00	CARPACCIO 28.00 A CHEF'S SALAD	26.00
Rosemary Roasted TROUT	36.00	Cold Poached SALMON with Dilled Cucumbers	37.00
		Breast of PIGEON in Merlot	37.00

STEAKS, CHOPS AND BIRDS
BROILED OVER CHARCOAL

BEEF STEAK Paillard	31.00	Three French LAMB CHOPS	32.00
SIRLOIN STEAK or FILET MIGNON	32.00	SKILLET STEAK with Smothered Onions	34.00

SPA CUISINE ®

APPETIZERS		MAIN COURSE	
Spring FRUITS with a Kiwi Purée	14.00	Cold Filet of DOVER SOLE	38.00
Timbale of VEGETABLES, Peanut Sauce	14.00	A Skewer of SHRIMP and CHICKEN	35.00
Buckwheat NOODLES with Watercress and Crabmeat	15.00	Escalope of VEAL with Mustard Seeds	36.00

SPRING SALADS

AS A LUNCHEON ACCOMPANIMENT		VEGETABLES AND POTATOES			
Spring GREENS	8.00	Ginger Glazed CARROTS 7.00			
Bibb LETTUCE and WATERCRESS	8.00	STRING BEANS, Red Peppers 7.00			
Raw MUSHROOMS, Pepper Dressing	8.50	Sautéed CAULIFLOWER 7.50			
Wilted SPINACH and Bacon	8.00	Creamed SPINACH	7.00	POTATOES	
		ASPARAGUS, Any Style 12.50		Rosti	6.50
		SNOWPEA PODS	6.50	Baked in Jacket	5.50

DESSERTS

		BEVERAGES	
A Selection from the Dessert Wagon	7.50	Pot of Linden, English, or Jasmine TEA	3.00
The Four Seasons SHERBETS and ICE CREAMS	6.50	Pot of COFFEE 3.00 ESPRESSO	3.00
CAPPUCCINO Soufflé	8.50	CAFE Cognac Chantilly 8.50 Irish COFFEE	8.50
Soufflé for Two: MACADAMIA AND BOURBON	15.00	VIENNESE COFFEE, Whipped Cream	4.50

THE FOUR SEASONS

137 percent when it is reproduced on the custom menu stock. In addition, each menu passes through the Canon copier twice, once to print in black and once for brown. The restaurant's four-color logo is preprinted on the stock.

The Four Seasons' first efforts to set up the system met with frustratingly little success. The menus presented some unusual formatting challenges: the complex design used double and triple columns with a mixture of decimal, center, left, and right tab alignments. The text processor had to create a true typeset look, which required precise control over line spacing and type size as well as commercial-style typefaces.

James Nadler, a New York-based computer consultant was called in to teach the Four Seasons staff how to use Word. But it soon became evident that consulting was needed more than training.

Designed 26 years ago, the menu at New York's Four Seasons is now printed in-house using an IBM PC, Microsoft Word, an HP Laserjet, and a Canon copier.

For each menu, Nadler created a master file that he split into two files for printing, one for each color. He also developed elaborate style sheets. "Hewlett-Packard's and Microsoft's telephone hot-line support made this possible," he says.

Nadler trained Four Seasons executive secretary Vicki Eckstein to maintain the system. Eckstein was unfamiliar with even basic word processing. "I began learning the system a week before we started production," she recalls.

But now Eckstein is a pro. She even uses the system to create all her letters, memos, schedules, and logs for parties.

There's still room for improvement, says von Bidder. For example, since the copier can't handle the menu's regular paper stock, the computer-generated menus are one-third the weight of the originals, the Four Seasons' only major concession to adopting the new technology.

Although the restaurant is still perfecting the details, it is already realizing the benefits: the system has increased efficiency, cut costs, and enabled the Four Seasons to continue to offer its guests a beautifully printed menu, with even better service. ❑

Tooling Up

Bending the technology to the task

By James Felici

Personal computer publishing abounds with promises of new ways of working, promises of million-dollar technologies that run on personal computers, and promises of vastly improved productivity. Fulfilling those promises challenges all of us who use these still-evolving tools.

Choosing the right tools for a particular job demands hard decisions. Right now the chances of finding a system that exactly meets your needs are slim. The easiest road—tailoring publications to the capabilities of the tools—inevitably leads to limitation and compromise.

But at *Publish!* we decided to push the available tools as far as they would go, to produce a magazine that does not compromise on quality in text or graphics or on its ability to meet its deadlines. We've designated ourselves a laboratory to run personal publishing tools through one of the most strenuous tests for any publishing system—the production of a national magazine. This is like driving a family station wagon in a rugged Grand Prix—not a course recommended for everyone but a sure way to find out what the buggy will do. For us, writing about the tools and using them had to go hand in hand, even if the grasp occasionally led to white knuckles.

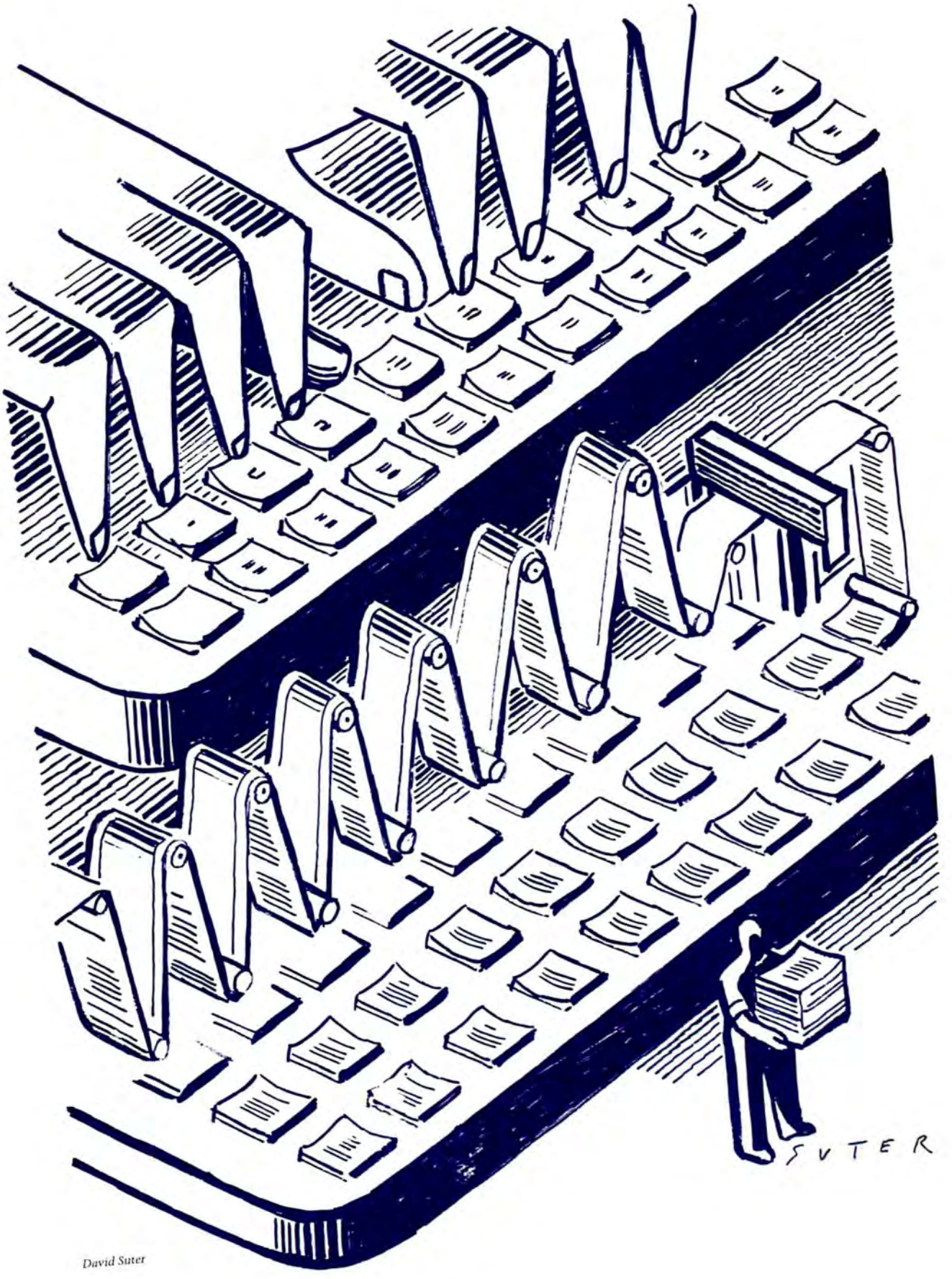
Making *Publish!* look the way we envisioned it entailed what one of our editors referred to as the "graceful kludge"—a practical, workable system pieced together from an assortment of machines, methods, and programs selected for their individual strengths. Like others who use desktop computers, we found that every available application had its strong point but that no one product could do everything we needed it to. So we assembled a battery of equipment much the way a carpenter outfits a toolbox: with a hefty assortment of specialty tools.

Our starting point was Apple's Macintosh Plus. The Mac's graphics interface requires that programs developed for the machine conform to its approach. This characteristic was essential in helping us build a cohesive publishing system. We decided against an IBM PC or compatible because the very factor that has led to those computers' popularity—their generic approach to computing—currently puts them at a disadvantage in integrated publishing applications.

Apple's Laserwriter printer, a machine we didn't want to be without, is driven by the Macintosh. Postscript, Adobe Systems' versatile page description language that integrates text and graphics, makes the Mac-Laserwriter connection possible. Postscript is a common tongue of computer graphics, used by computers and printers of all sorts.

Postscript also provided us with access to commercial phototypesetting by enabling us to drive the typesetter with the Macintosh. Commercial phototypesetting offers a higher resolution than anything a laser printer can produce, and it also makes available a larger number of high-quality traditional typefaces.

Typography must do more than simply put words on a page; it must look attractive. When a reader has a choice of what to buy and what to ignore, good-looking type can swing the decision. *Publish!*'s typeface is Trump Mediaeval. Of the limited number of Postscript text faces currently available, Trump has a lively quality that is well suited to our subject matter.



David Suter

Even though we chose to use commercial typesetting, we didn't abandon the laser printer. Far from it. Laser printers are wonderful typesetting tools. They allow you to proofread corrected text before you phototypeset it—much cheaper and faster than making corrections on final typeset pages. We value our printer for what it is: a low-resolution typesetter.

The typesetter's fonts must match those used by the computer that drives it. Adobe is creating an expanded library of fonts that work with Postscript. These fonts, based on designs licensed from commercial sources, will establish a common font base and give Postscript the potential to be a universal publishing language.

Unfortunately, the Adobe fonts we used lacked certain characters we needed, most notably the Macintosh's Command key symbol (⌘). We also needed fixed typographic spaces—such as em and en spaces—which are crucial to controlled positioning of type. We used Fontographer, a font editor, for these needs to create our own pi font (a font of utility characters).

No sooner had we met our commitment to provide excellent type than we crashed head-on into our first major production challenge: electronic page makeup—integrating text and graphics in the computer, rather than by hand. Electronic page makeup is a keystone of personal computer publishing; we could hardly meet our editorial mandate without using it to build our own pages.

Ideally, our text would have been fed through commercial typesetting software such as Magnatype, which runs on IBM PCs and compatibles and provides the aesthetic refinements that make for truly fine type—automatic hyphenation, precise control over letterspacing and word spacing, automatic document formatting, and sophisticated tabular capabilities. But Magnatype deals with words only. It can make up whole pages with all the text in place, but it can't integrate graphic elements. Therefore, we had to forgo what was otherwise the best possible typesetting program, because *Publish!* plans to use graphics abundantly. In these early days of personal computer publishing, one capability often seems to come at the expense of another.

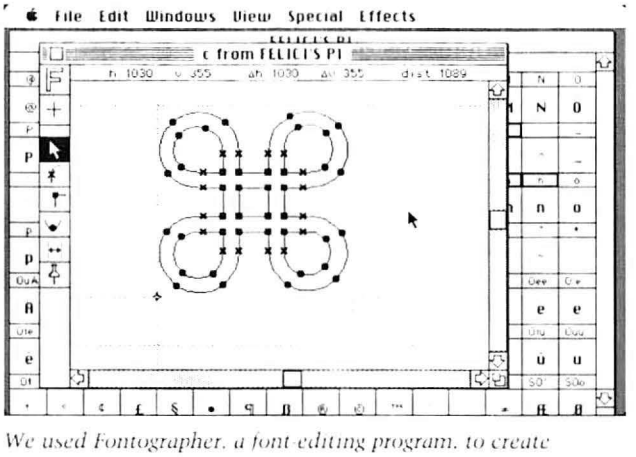
Our search for a workable page makeup program had to consider the needs of our art department; it had to give them maximum flexibility and freedom. The program that most closely simulates their traditional method of designing and pasting up layouts is Pagemaker. Pagemaker lets them place whole columns of text on the electronic page and then trim the text to fit. Other page makeup programs we investigated required us first to create a pretrimmed area and then to pour text into it. Pagemaker's approach is much more akin to the cut-and-paste methods most graphic artists are familiar with.

Fast, capable, and easy to use as Pagemaker is, it required a number of compromises. In its current form, Pagemaker is unable to automatically hyphenate text or adjust letterspacing, and it is not an efficient word processor. Eventually we solved each of these problems.

Publish!'s design calls for type that is uneven, or ragged, on the right margin rather than even, or justified. This design is advantageous when you're using a program such as Pagemaker, which doesn't hyphenate words automatically. The ragged-right design avoids the need for frequent end-of-line hyphenation.

With ragged type, any space left over after words are fit on a line is deposited at the end of the line, allowing word spaces and letterspaces to be of a consistent width. Even without hyphenation, unsightly deviations in the ragged margin can appear when a long word is forced down to the next line, leaving a very short line above it. When that happens, we hyphenate those long words manually. This is not an efficient way of typesetting, but we grin and bear it.

Another of Pagemaker's shortcomings is that it doesn't allow for changing the spaces between letters, a process called kerning. Kerning is necessary to compensate for the irregular spacing created by certain letter combinations. For in-



We used Fontographer, a font-editing program, to create custom characters. The Macintosh Command key symbol shown above consists of a series of curve, tangent, and corner points that create the character's outline.

stance, a visually disruptive gap exists between a capital *T* and just about any lowercase letter set next to it. Consistent letter spacing is essential for good-looking, readable type.

To get the spacing we want in our headlines, we set the letters one at a time on Pagemaker's pasteboard and drag them one by one into position. This is laborious, but worth the effort. Needless to say, our other type remains unkerned.

A third problem with Pagemaker is that it is not designed to be used as a word processor. So we had to find an additional program to handle all our text. We selected Microsoft Word because we liked its appropriation of certain typographic idioms. For instance, it can work in picas (one-sixth of an inch) and points (the 12 divisions of a pica), the standards of the graphic arts industry. Microsoft Word measures the spacing between lines in points, just as a typesetting system does.

Graphics proved to be the thorniest issue, primarily because it is a new field for all computer users, not just for personal computer users. Unlike typesetting, which has been computerized for decades, computer imaging is in its infancy. We finally realized that the marketplace wasn't yet adequately stocked with choices. Some of our art demands are met by "draw" and "paint" programs—mostly Macdraw and Macpaint—but we have yet to find a solution to the problems presented by photographic (halftone) art.

Photographs are first converted into electronic form by machines called scanners, or digitizers. Currently, the best photographic images that personal-computer-driven scanners can create are no better than those you see in the local newspaper. The quality of such images is about half as good as is required for magazine reproduction. Nowadays, for scanned images from a personal computer, "modest quality" is the name of the game. And color, for the near future at least, is out of the question.

So at that point we jumped off the computer bandwagon and into an old, comfortable buggy. The photos you see in this magazine were reproduced by traditional camera methods. Given the state of the art, we felt it was more economical and more aesthetically rewarding to reproduce photographs the old way.

This decision reminded us that all these new tools are a means to an end, not an end in themselves. How you plan to use your publication—who will read it, for what purpose, and how you want it to look—should determine what technologies you use. If what comes out of your printer will be your final product, ready for distribution, then electronic integration of text and graphics on the page is a must. But if you are going to reproduce those pages on any printing device, from a photocopier to an offset press, your final product may be better served by a combination of traditional processes and computer capabilities. Don't worry that traditional methods will be too expensive. A velox print—which is a photographic image rendered by camera processes into a dot pattern that a printing press can reproduce—costs less than $10, while the cost of a scanner is in the thousands of dollars.

The most important thing to keep in mind as you assemble a publishing system is exactly the kind of pages you want to produce. The complexity of your goals will dictate the tools and processes you need.

Just a few years ago, the cost of assembling an electronic publishing system was prohibitive. At that time, if you solicited advice on what system to buy, someone would certainly have said to wait another six months, because some really important new systems were just around the corner. Six months later, the advice would have been the same. Though personal-computer-based systems have brought costs way down, you're apt to hear the same advice still. What makes today's buying decisions easier is the faster return you can expect on your more modest investment.

The issue of systems capability, of course, is far more difficult to predict, given the rapidly evolving technology. The best any of us can do is to gamble on systems that promise avenues for growth, rather than obsolescence. It is surely worth the risk. ❑

Tips! ⇨ Convert Wordstar To Word

On the IBM PC, you can convert a Wordstar document into Microsoft Word format by using a utility supplied on the Word utilities disk. After making the conversion, you may find that Word style sheets do not format the document the way they should. To correct the problem, highlight the entire document by pressing Shift-F10. Then press Alt-Space. The style sheet will now have the intended effect.—*Kathleen M. Boone (New York, New York)* ❑

Buying Information

How to find products mentioned in this issue

Adobe Systems Typeface Collection
List price: family of four faces $185, family of two or three faces $145
Adobe Systems
1870 Embarcadero Rd.
Palo Alto, CA 94303
(415) 852-0271

Canon NP-7050
List price: $9,995
Canon, U.S.A.
1 Canon Plaza
Lake Success, NY 11042
(516) 488-6700

Clickart Personal Publisher
List price: $185; kits for HP Laserjet, Apple Laserwriter, or other Postscript printer $150 each
T/Maker Graphics
2115 Landings Dr.
Mountain View, CA 94043
(415) 962-0195

Fontastic
List price: $49.95
Altsys Corp.
P.O. Box 865410
Plano, TX 75086
(214) 596-4970

Fontographer
List price: $395
Altsys Corp.

Hercules Graphics Card
List price: $499
Hercules Computer Technology
2550 Ninth St. #210
Berkeley, CA 94710
(415) 540-6000

Hewlett-Packard Laserjet
List price: $2,995
The Hewlett-Packard Laserjet Peripherals Group
16399 West Bernardo Dr.
San Diego, CA 92127
(619) 592-8182

IBM PC/XT
List price: without hard disk drive, $2,145, with hard disk drive $2,895
IBM Direct
P.O. Box 1328
Boca Raton, FL 33432
(800) 426-2468

Interleaf Electronic Publishing System
List price: $29,900
Interleaf, Inc.
10 Canal Park
Cambridge, MA 02141
(617) 577-9800

Laserwriter
List price: $5,995
Apple Computer, Inc.
20525 Mariani Ave.
Cupertino, CA 95014
(408) 996-1010

Laserwriter Plus Kit
List price: $799
Apple Computer, Inc.

Linotronic 300
List price: $49,950
Linotype Co.
425 Oser Ave.
Hauppauge, NY 11788
(516) 434-2000

Macdraw
List price: $195
Apple Computer, Inc.

Macintosh Hard Disk 20
List price: $1,499
Apple Computer, Inc.

Macintosh Plus
List price: $2,599
Apple Computer, Inc.

Macpaint
List price: $125
Apple Computer, Inc.

Macpublisher II
List price: $195,
Machyphen $59.95,
Pages for Publisher templates $79.95 each
Boston Software
1260 Boylston St.
Boston, MA 02215
(617) 267-4747

Magnatype Laserwriter Package
List price: $5,250
Magna Computer Systems
14724 Ventura Blvd.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
(818) 986-9233

Microsoft Word
List price: DOS version $450, Macintosh version $195
Microsoft Corp.
16011 N.E. 36th Way
Box 97017
Redmond, WA 98073-9717
(206) 882-8080

Pagemaker
List price: $495
Aldus Corp.
411 First Ave. S. #200
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 622-5500

Ready Set Go
List price: $195, **Desk Design** templates $69.95
Manhattan Graphics
163 Varick St.
New York, NY 10013
(212) 989-6442 ❑

Answers to Word Challenge

(See page 46 for Publish! *Puzzlers)*

1. Lead. A term imported from hot-metal typography, in which printers insert lead strips to add space between lines of type. The space between lines is called leading.

2. Proof. The copy of text used for examination and corrections.

3. Grid. A set of visual guidelines for positioning the elements of a layout.

4. Point. A typographic measurement: 72 points equal about 1 inch.

5. Pica. Another measurement: 1 pica equals 12 points, or about one-sixth of an inch.

6. Kern. To adjust the spacing between specific pairs of letters to improve their appearance.

7. Galley. A long sheet of typeset text not yet made up into pages.

8. Page layout. The placement of all the elements, including text and graphics, on a page.

9. Widow. The last line of a paragraph, appearing at the top of a page, separated from its related text.

10. Header. A line of text (such as a chapter or section title) at the top of every page of a document.

11. Boldface. Type that is thicker and weightier than the rest of the body type with which it appears.

12. Signature. A single sheet of paper with several pages printed on each side. The sheet is then folded into "booklets" from which books and magazines are assembled. One fold creates a four-page signature; two folds, an eight-pager. ❑

Product Watch

Software

Text Processing

Deskset, a typesetting system, performs data translation, kerning, tracking, disk conversion, and hyphenation and justification. The integrated system includes an IBM PC, composition software, eight fonts, and an Apple Laserwriter. List price: complete package $9,495, software plus Laserwriter driver $995, graphics input utility option $595. Copy protected. *G.O. Graphics, Inc., 18 Ray Ave., Burlington, MA 01803. (617) 229-8900.*

Machyphen and **Macindexer** help create text-intensive publications. Machyphen works with Macpublisher II, Pagemaker, and Microsoft Word. It uses a 30,000-word dictionary to invisibly flag hyphenation points. Requirements: 128K. List price: $89.95. Not copy protected.

Macindexer creates indexes automatically or manually using selected words in Macwrite or Microsoft Word documents. Requirements: 128K. List price: $79.95 copy protected, $109.90 not copy protected. *Boston Software Publishers, Inc., 1260 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02215. (617) 267-4747.*

Rimwriter IV works with all IBM PCs and compatibles and the HP Laserjet Plus. The program features precise letterspacing, 50 tabs, horizontal and vertical rules, boxes, halftone fills and patterns, and multiple columns. Requirements: 256K, 10-megabyte hard disk, DOS 2.0 or later version. List price: $2,000, additional fonts $150 each. Copy protected. *Genesys Systems, Inc., P.O. Box 277, Ellinwood, KS 67526. (316) 564-3636.*

Softtype, for all IBM PCs and compatibles, creates typeset output on the HP Laserjet and Laserjet Plus. Word processing programs supported include Multimate, Wordstar 2000, Displaywrite 3, Word Perfect, and Samna. Requirements: 512K. List price: $1,000. Copy protected. *Softest, Inc., 555 Goffle Rd., Ridgewood, NJ 07450. (800) 445-9292,(201) 447-3901.*

Graphics Processing

Cricket Graph generates charts and graphs that are stored in PICT files rather than in bit-mapped files and thus can surpass the Macintosh's screen resolution. Twelve chart and graph types are supplied, any ten of which can be overlaid and otherwise combined on a page. Requirements: 512K. List price: graphics program $195, film recorder and color printer version $495, demo $6.95. Not copy protected. *Cricket Software, 3500 Market St. #206, Philadelphia, PA 19104. (215) 387-7955.*

Drafix 1, a two-dimensional drafting package for all IBM PCs and compatibles, features "roll-down" menus for drawing, editing, and annotation functions. The program accepts input from a variety of mice and digitizers. Requirements: 512K; two disk drives; DOS 2.1 or later version; IBM CGA, IBM EGA, Hercules, Tecmar GM, Sigma 400, AT&T DEB, or Conographics graphics cards. List price: Drafix 1 $295, AutoCAD file exchange option $95. Not copy protected. *Foresight Resources Corp., 932 Massachusetts, Lawrence, KS 66044. (913) 841-1121.*

Easy3D creates three-dimensional shaded objects on the Macintosh. Features include geometric solids, tools for turning two-dimensional outlines into three-dimensional objects, adjustable lighting, and object merging. Requirements: 512K. List price: $99. Not copy protected. *Enabling Technologies, Inc., 600 S. Dearborn St. #1304, Chicago, IL 60605. (312) 427-0386.*

Graph-in-the-Box, a memory-resident program for all IBM PCs and compatibles, creates 11 types of charts and graphs from on-screen data. Requirements: 128K; IBM CGA, IBM EGA, or Hercules graphics card. List price: $97.60 copy protected, $157.60 not copy protected. *New England Software, Greenwich Office Park 3, Greenwich, CT 06830. (800) 633-2252.*

Picturebase archives, organizes, and retrieves electronic pictures. The program labels Macintosh clip art and Macpaint or Macdraw pictures with titles and explanatory notes, then files the pictures in the program's library at full or reduced size. Requirements: 512K. List price: $69.95. Not copy protected. *Symmetry Corp., 761 E. University Dr., Suite C, Mesa, AZ 85203. (800) 624-2485, (602) 844-2199.*

Page Makeup

Fontasy, for all IBM PCs and compatibles, mixes graphics and text on a single page in up to three columns. Requirements: 256K (512K recommended); IBM CGA, IBM EGA, or Hercules graphics card. List price: program disk with 28 fonts $69.95, additional fonts $24.95 per disk. Not copy protected. *Prosoft, 7249 Bellaire Ave., Box 560, North Hollywood, CA 91603. (818) 765-4444.*

Lasersoft/PC, version 1.0, for all IBM PCs and compatibles, designs forms, incorporates data, then prints the results on the HP Laserjet or the Xerox PC 4045 laser printer. Requirements: 128K, two disk drives, DOS 2.1 or later version. List price: $295. Not copy protected. *Business Systems International, 20942 Osborne St., Canoga Park, CA 91304. (818) 998-7227.*

Mecca III, a typesetting, composition, and computer graphics system for the IBM PC AT, features batch pagination, interactive page makeup, and CAD/CAM functions. Graphics elements can be moved, copied, scaled, rotated, and zoomed. A complete system includes an IBM PC, a Laserwriter, a color graphics display monitor, a graphics tablet, a 30-megabyte hard disk, and 2 megabytes of RAM. An AT upgrade kit includes the memory module, monitor, graphics tablet, graphics card, and software. Requirements: 2 megabytes. List price: complete system $22,000, upgrade kit $9,900. *Amgraf, Inc., 1501 Oak St., Kansas City, MO 64108-1424. (816) 474-4797.*

Spellbinder Desktop Publisher, for all IBM PCs and compatibles, is an upgraded version of the Spellbinder word processing program. It uses dot commands to format text and create pages. Requirements: 256K, two disk drives or a hard disk, DOS 2.0 or later version. List price: $650. Not copy protected. *Lexisoft, Inc., P.O. Box 1950, Davis, CA 95617. (916) 759-3630.*

Fonts/Font Editors

Fancyfont and **Fancyword**, for all IBM PCs and compatibles, provide fonts for typeset output on the HP Laserjet and, in sizes from 6 to 72 points, on Epson FX-80 printers. Requirements: 192K, DOS 2.0 or later version. List price: Fancyfont $180, Fancyword $140. Not copy protected. *SoftCraft, Inc., 222 State St., Madison, WI 53703. (800) 351-0500.*

Fontographer creates scalable, downloadable fonts for use with the Macintosh and Laserwriter and generates the corresponding screen representations. Requirements: 512K, two disk drives. List price: $395. Copy protected. *Altsys Corp., P.O. Box 865410, Plano, TX 75086. (214) 596-4970.*

System Tools

PC Em-U-Print and **Fontastic** are laser printer utilities for all IBM PCs and compatibles. Memory-resident PC Em-U-Print translates IBM graphics printer codes into codes for laser printers. Requirements: DOS 2.0 or later version. List price: $95. Not copy protected.

Fontastic provides English language menu selections for HP Laserjet and Laserjet Plus commands. List price: $89.95. Not copy protected. *Koch Software Industries, 11 W. College Dr., Bldg. G, Arlington Heights, IL 60004. (312) 398-5440.*

Printworks for Lasers, a memory-resident program for all IBM PCs and compatibles, offers typesetting functions and cut-and-paste graphics from within word processing and spreadsheet programs. Requirements: 256K, DOS 2.0 or later version (not DOS 3.0). List price: $125. Not copy protected. *Softstyle, Inc., Hawaii Kai Office Bldg. #205, 7192 Kalanianaole Hwy., Honolulu, HI 96825. (808) 396-6368.*

Hardware

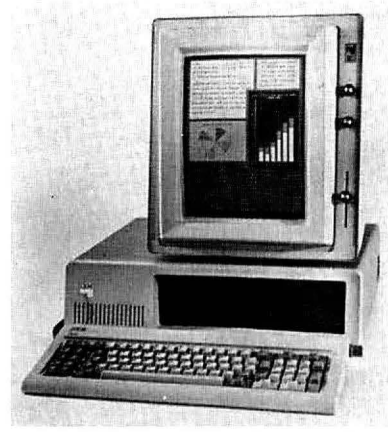
Input Devices

Microtek Scanner 300A is a 300-dots-per-inch page-feed scanner that produces Macintosh images at Laserwriter resolution. The included software positions and scales images, displays a full page, and generates pure Postscript code directly. Images can be used with the Justtext typesetting program, with Macpaint, and with Thunderscan documents. List price: $2,500. *Microtek Lab Inc., 16901 S. Western Ave., Gardena, CA 90247. (213) 321-2121.*

PC Scan is a paper-feed scanner that translates either typewriter or letter quality printed pages into digital data. It operates with all IBM PCs or compatibles. The software supports Wordstar, Wordstar 2000, Multimate, Universal, and Displaywrite 3 word processors. Requirements: RS-232 serial port. List price: $2,785. *Dest Corp., 1201 Cadillac Ct., Milpitas, CA 95035. (408) 946-7100.*

Scan 300, a paper-feed image scanner for the Macintosh and all IBM PCs and compatibles, creates 300-dpi digital images. The scanner has 64 selectable gray scales and 12 built-in halftone screens with various resolutions. Software for editing images in Macpaint and Pagemaker is supplied. The IBM version of the scanner includes an interface board. List price: $2,495. *Abaton Technology Corp., 1526 Cloverfield Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90404. (818) 905-9399.*

Computer Add-Ons

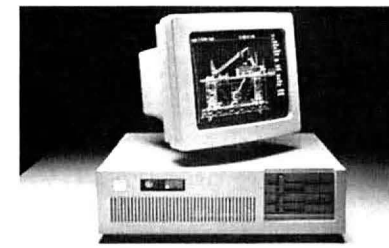


Genius is a 15-inch monitor that displays 66 lines of 80-column text—a full 8½-by-11 page—in 728-by-1,008 resolution. The portrait monitor displays graphics in black and white, and text in up to four shades of gray. The supplied interface card can emulate IBM PC monochrome and CGA graphics and text at the same time, displaying monochrome at the top of the screen and graphics at the bottom. Wordstar 2000, Wordperfect, PC-Write, Xywrite, Volkswriter, GEM, and Microsoft Windows all run on the monitor in full-page mode. List price: $1,795. *Microdisplay Systems, 1310 Vermillion St., Hastings, MN 55033. (800) 328-9524.*

Jlaserprinter, a board for all IBM PCs and compatibles, provides a high-speed interface to the HP Laserjet and other Canon engine laser printers. Jlaserprinter's extra memory allows it to print a full-page 300-dpi image that requires more memory than the Laserjet Plus has. Graphics software must be adapted to work with the board; however, the printer can be used in normal fashion by flipping a switch on the board. List price: $699, with 2 megabytes $1,029. *Tall Tree Systems, 1120 San Antonio Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94303. (415) 964-1980.*

Multisync, a "smart" color monitor, is compatible with the IBM PGA, EGA, and CGA. List price: $799. *NEC Home Electronics , Inc., Personal Computer Div., 1401 Estes Ave., Elk Grove Village, IL 60007. (800) 323-1728.*

Vega, a half-slot graphics card for all IBM PCs and compatibles, can emulate the IBM EGA and CGA and Hercules graphics cards. The Vega includes 256K of video RAM. Software enhancements allow programs such as 1-2-3 that write directly to display hardware to run on the board. Switches on the outside of the board control settings. List price: $599. *Video 7 Inc., 550 Sycamore Dr., Mipitas, CA 95035. (408) 943-0101.*



WY-700, for all IBM PCs and compatibles, is a 15-inch monitor capable of displaying black-and-white text and graphics in 1,280-by-800 resolution, and 50 lines of 160 characters. The monitor is bundled with a full-size, single-slot graphics card. List price: $1,595. *Wyse Technology, 3571 N. First St., San Jose, CA 95134. (408) 433-1000.*

Product Watch listings are based on information provided by the manufacturers; the descriptions are not product reviews or endorsements. Contact manufacturers for further information. Prices are as quoted at press time and are subject to change. ❑

Word Challenge

Test your knowledge of publishing terms

Publishing has its own specialized vocabulary, one that you may already be familiar with or will soon be learning.

Here are a dozen publishing terms, with clues—some obvious, some more obscure—provided in parentheses. Record your answers in the blanks.

One blank space in each answer is numbered. When you've completed the quiz, fill in the corresponding numbered spaces at the bottom of the page. If all your answers are correct, a "message" will be revealed in the spaces. Answers appear on page 42.

Questions

1. To add space between lines (British group Zeppelin). $\underline{}_{10}$ — — —

2. Page for checking (potency of potables). $\underline{}_{1}$ — — — —

3. The matrix on which pages are planned (football field, minus Fe). — $\underline{}_{9}$ — —

4. A typographic measurement (ballet position). — $\underline{}_{4}$ — — —

5. Another typographic measurement (Yankee pronunciation of a kind of tightwad). $\underline{}_{7}$ — — —

6. Putting the squeeze on a couple of characters ("coin" in Brooklyn). — — $\underline{}_{11}$ —

7. A long sheet of type (ship's kitchen). — — — — $\underline{}_{8}$ —

8. Planning the arrangement of a publication, by mechanical means or with software (congressional aide's floor plan). — — — — — — — — $\underline{}_{3}$ —

9. Dangling line of type (black arachnid). — $\underline{}_{12}$ — — —

10. Label at top of page (soccer move). $\underline{}_{6}$ — — — — —

11. Heavy type (brave visage). $\underline{}_{5}$ — — — — — — —

12. A sheet of paper folded to form pages in multiples of four (a John Hancock). $\underline{}_{2}$ — — — — — — — —

Rate your vocabulary

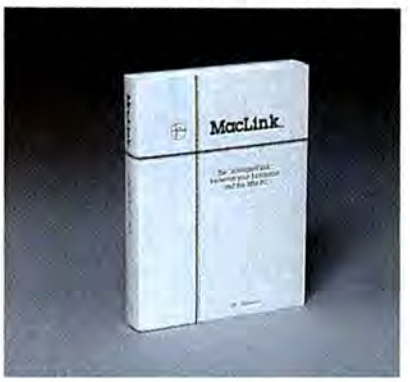
Correct	*Rating*
11-12	Master
9-10	Journeyman
7-8	Apprentice
Under 7	Tyro

Message

$\underline{7}$ $\underline{3}$ $\underline{5}$ $\underline{10}$ $\underline{12}$ $\underline{2}$ $\underline{6}$ $\underline{4}$ $\underline{11}$ $\underline{1}$ $\underline{8}$ $\underline{9}$ $\underline{12}$ $\underline{2}$ $\underline{6}$

Text to tabloid. Three easy steps.

Step 1: MacLink
PC data in, Mac data out.

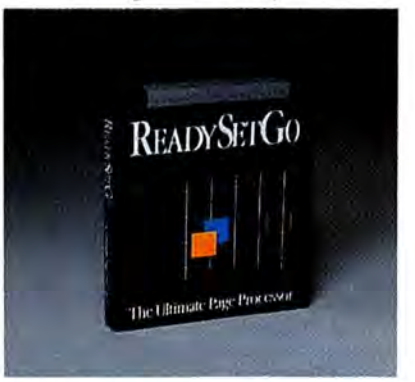


Still trying to shove those 5¼" PC diskettes into 3½" Mac slots? Well, before you hire someone to re-input all that data, take a look at MacLink. It converts and translates word processing, spreadsheet, and virtually every other type of file from the IBM-PC into files readable by equivalent Mac programs.

Your writers can send you their data via modem, or you can do the transfer yourself with the optional PC to Mac cable.

Datavis MacLink **$89**

Step 2: ReadySetGo
Design and conquer.



You call yourself a desktop publisher and you don't own a copy of ReadySetGo? Shame on you. It's virtually all you need to go it alone.

First, you can do a rough page design and start throwing in blocks of copy. See how they fit. See how they look. See how they run onto the next page. Make some changes. Try a different type face, or a different size, or some borders, or some different graphics. You'll see instantly if your new idea works or not.

And as soon as everything's the way you like it you can print out a master on a LaserWriter, ImageWriter, or PostScript printer. Vol. 1, No. 1. You're in business.

Manhattan Graphics
ReadySetGo **$105**

Step 3: PictureBase
Stay organized.

It's 10:00 PM deadline night. Do you know where your favorite monarch butterfly icon is? You would if you had PictureBase. It keeps your clip art and original graphics organized.

Just copy MacPaint visuals into the PictureBase library. Whenever you need one, call it up by name or description, cut it, paste it into your ReadySetGo layout. And you're off!

Symmetry PictureBase **$45**

MacConnection™

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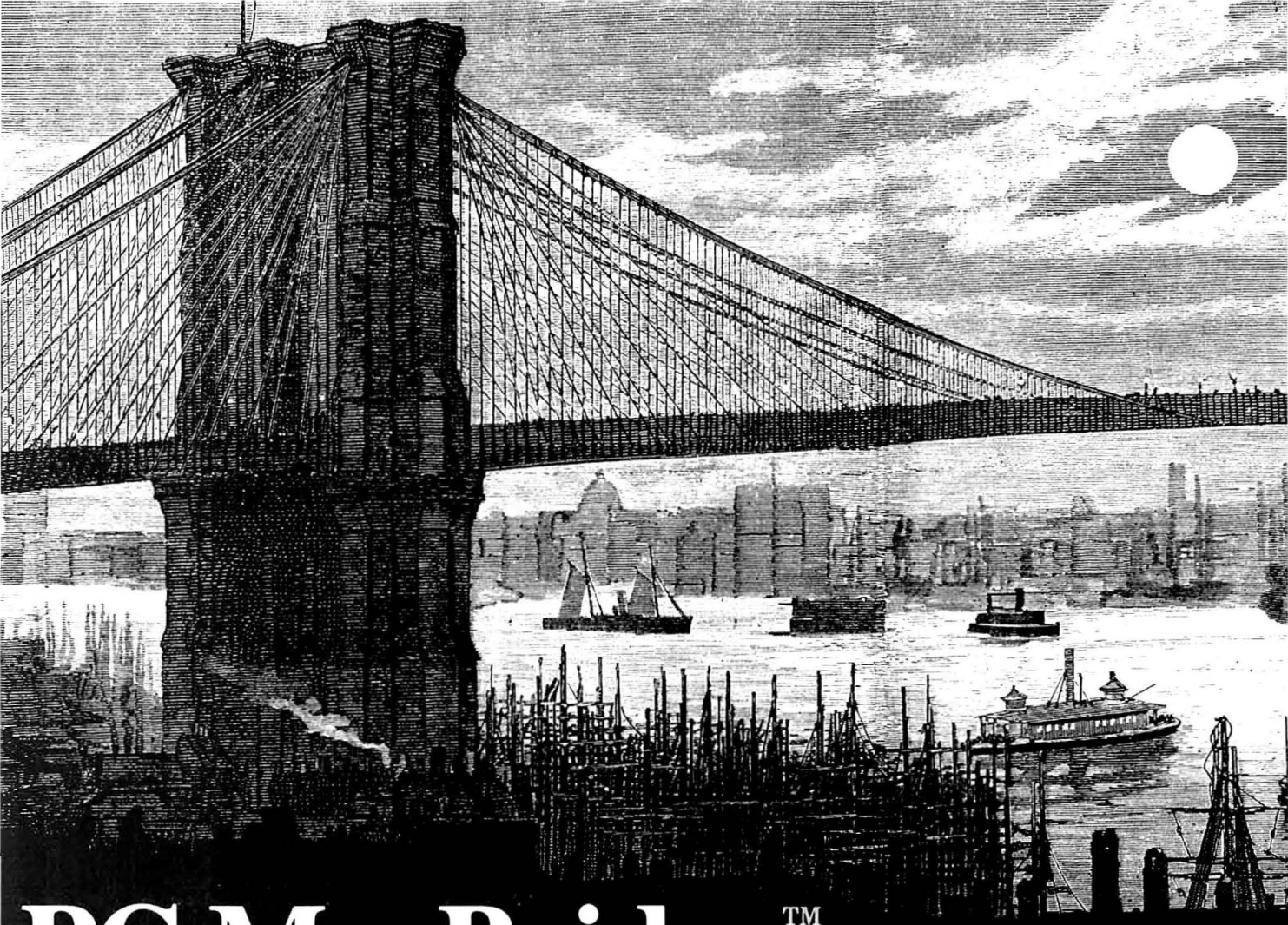
Circle P2 on reader service card



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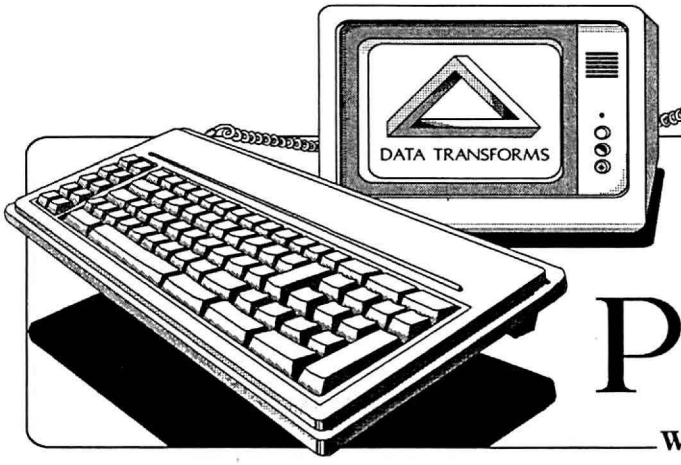
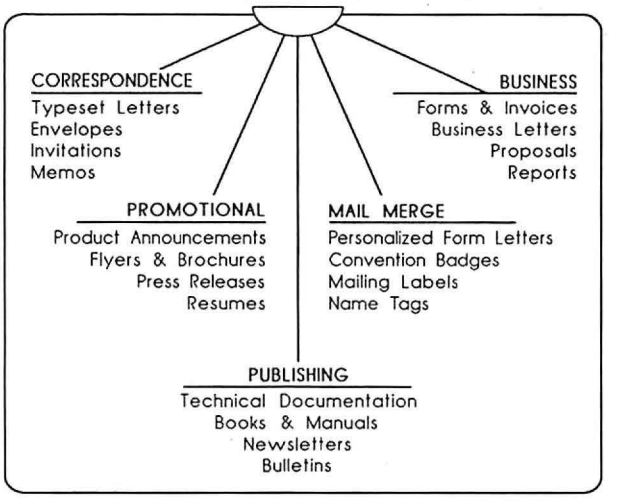


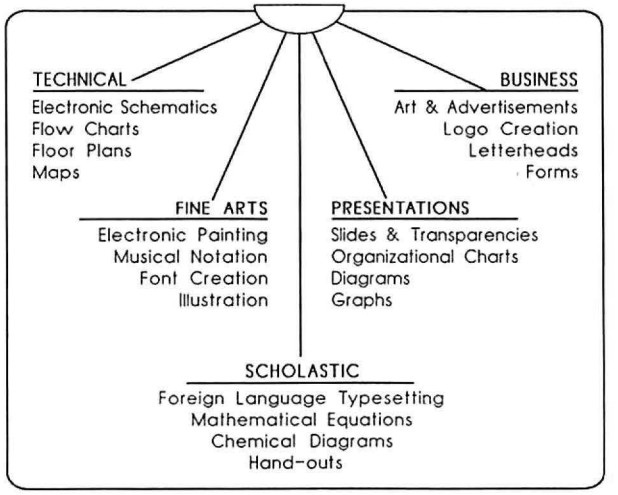
Desktop Publishing

With your IBM-PC, XT, AT or compatible

PRINTRIX



FONTRIX



Data Transforms' PRINTRIX™ and FONTRIX® combine typesetting *and* graphics for desktop publishing magic. Individually, each is a stand-alone program; PRINTRIX for typesetting, FONTRIX for graphics.

Used in combination, FONTRIX output may be re-routed through PRINTRIX to merge high resolution graphics with fully justified, multi-page typesetting. Listed at left are just a few of the myriad practical applications these versatile programs perform.

PRINTRIX is an automated batch processor of textfiles. As such, it accepts both standard ASCII and native textfiles from most major word processors, adding fonts, page formatting and graphic insertions to print camera-ready output on your printer. A great range of features, like proportionally spaced fonts, variable form size, *italics*, **boldface**... even automatic mail merge let PRINTRIX typeset everything from mailing labels to thousand-page documents.

FONTRIX is a screen based, visual editor of text and pictures. Its fonts and graphics are displayed on-screen exactly as they will appear in print. Perfectly suited for complex page layouts and technical drawings, FONTRIX gives you a high resolution "electronic page", a workspace up to 115 times the size of a single screen. The wealth of drawing and painting tools, enormous work area, electronic cut-and-paste, font editor, mouse interface and other fine features bring FONTRIX to the forefront of PC graphics technology.

Both programs support over 70 models of dot matrix, ink jet and laser printers. Suggested retail price: $120 for PRINTRIX; $155 for FONTRIX. For more information contact:

Data Transforms 616 Washington Street Denver, CO 80203 (303) 832-1501.

This entire advertisement was created with these two packages using an IBM-PC, a laser printer, and the Tall Tree Systems' JLaser card. *Printrix* performed the typesetting, composed the page layout and married text and graphics into a unified whole. *Fontrix* designed the fonts and drew the illustrations. (Note: the headlines, "Desktop Publishing", "Printrix" and "Fontrix" are not font-based, but were hand drawn using *Fontrix's* line and circle drawing tools and its electronic cut-and-paste.) *Printrix* and *Fontrix* are trademarks of Data Transforms Inc. *IBM-PC, XT, AT* are trademarks of International Business Machines Corp. *JLaser* is a trademark of Tall Tree Systems Inc.

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A Personal Computer system with such speed and power, you can easily share it with a colleague.

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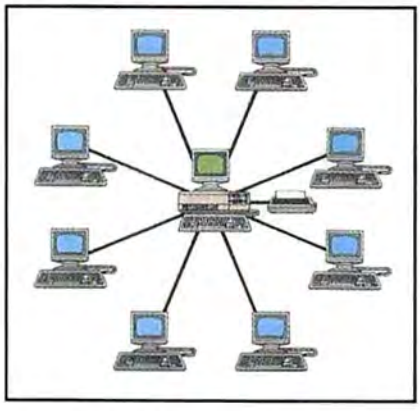

The miniature mainframe

The trend in PC applications today is toward allowing several people to use them concurrently.

Unlike most PCs.

The Sperry PC/IT, however, has the power to support up to nine users under Xenix.™ It's like having a mainframe, where users can share the most expensive resources—memory, disk and printers.

Not a bad arrangement for a department in which people are working side by side. Using the same kind of applications and the same kind of data.

What if you need a network?

If nine connections aren't enough, the Sperry PC/IT will gladly host its own local area network.

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A word about software

The Sperry PC/IT is fully industry compatible. In fact, both MS-DOS and Xenix are available.

So you can choose from the thousands of MS-DOS programs already in circulation, while still being prepared for the emerging Xenix boom.

The new Sperry PC/IT. It takes a back seat to no one.

For further information, call toll-free 1-800-547-8362, and ask for Information Kit #94.

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From the Hardware Shelf

PC World offers first impressions of recent hardware releases

A remote controller whips a laser printer into shape, a portable shows its colors, a board bridges the IBM/Apple gap, a compatible gets it together, and a slot-waster lets you off the hook.

Edited by Eric Knorr

JLaser and JRAM-3

Tall Tree was selling the JRAM-2 2MB memory expansion board when most PC users thought expanded memory meant a cure for amnesia. When Intel, Lotus, and Microsoft hatched their own method of cracking the 640K barrier, Tall Tree was quick to incorporate the triumvirate's expanded memory specification (EMS) into JRAM-3, JRAM-2's successor. Now this scrappy, adaptable company has introduced JLaser, a piggyback board that uses JRAM-3's RAM for a new objective: expanding the memory of laser printers.

The memory limits of popular laser printers like Hewlett-Packard's LaserJet and Corona's LP-300 have stymied many users who expected better graphics and a wider selection of fonts from their machines. Even the LaserJet Plus's 512K of RAM is only enough for a full-page image resolution of 150 dots per inch (dpi) or a third of a page at 300 dpi. JLaser can access 1MB of JRAM-3's 2MB maximum, enabling you to produce a full page of 300-dpi bit-mapped graphics.

JLaser works with any laser printer that uses a Canon LBP-CX engine, including Apple's LaserWriter, Corona's LP-300, the Canon A1, the QMS KISS, and both LaserJet incarnations. Functioning as a remote printer controller, JLaser connects by cable to JPrinterswitch, a T-switch block that plugs directly into the Canon engine receptacle. Making the connection is straightforward on the LaserJet, although you may have to remove a back panel on some laser printers.

(continues)

Fred Simson

Now it costs even less to look good.

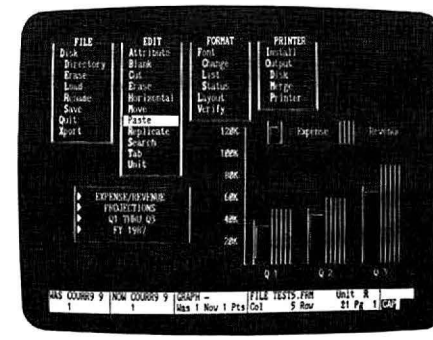
Wordstar 2000 is a trademark of MicroPro International Corp. Epson is a trademark of Epson America, Inc.

The Cordata Desktop Printshop™ has always been the best value in PC-compatible laser printers.

With speed and flexibility that the others can't match.

For example, we put 38 type fonts on diskette, not expensive cartridges. And let you mix up to 32 fonts in a single document. Automatically.

A high-speed graphics interface transfers data up to 30 times faster than Hewlett-Packard's LaserJet+, and because most Desktop Printshop features are implemented in software, they're easy to update.



And because Epson™ emulation is standard, the Desktop Printshop has a ready-to-run solution for many programs that other laser printers can't use.

But now the Desktop Printshop is an even better value.

Not to mention being easier.

A new forms design software program comes with the Desktop Printshop that lets you create documents quickly—and easily—using pull-down menus, not complicated commands.

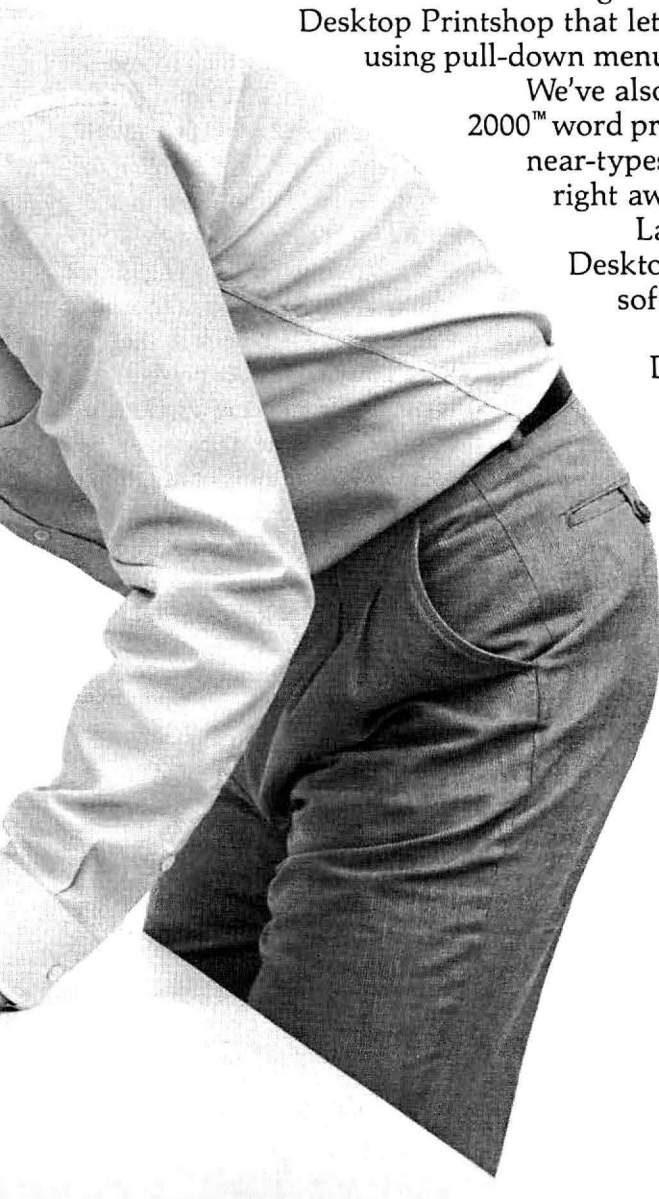
We've also included the industry-acclaimed Wordstar 2000™ word processing program. So you can start producing near-typeset quality memos, reports, and correspondence right away.

Last, but not least, we've lowered the price of the Desktop Printshop to $2995, including forms design software, Wordstar 2000 and 38 fonts on diskette.

So don't settle for just any laser printer. Demand the Desktop Printshop.

All it takes is a call to Cordata at: (800) 621-6746 (in CA: (805) 495-5800; in Canada: (604) 984-0641) for the name of your nearest Desktop Printshop dealer.

After all, how can you afford *not* to look your best?



The Desktop Printshop.™

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Circle 293 on reader service card

If you want to return to your printer's built-in fonts and memory, JPrinterswitch allows you to toggle back to the printer's native controller. Because JLaser itself bypasses the printer's memory, controller, and external connectors, you can also use JPrinterswitch to toggle between a PC using JLaser and a PC hooked up to the printer's parallel or serial port.

JLaser is a new product, so as of yet there's no glut of software written for the board. However, several good typesetting and page formatting packages support JLaser, including SoftCraft's *Fancy Fonts,* Le Baugh's *Le Print,* IMSI's *Dr. Halo II,* and Data Transforms' *Printrix.* All these programs offer a wide variety of bit-mapped fonts and produce higher-quality output than ROM-based font cartridges. Soon *Framework* and *PC Paintbrush* will also support the board.

Installed in a Compaq Deskpro with an 8086 processor running at 7.14MHz, the JLaser version of *Fancy Font* printed a 2000-word document on a Canon A1 laser printer in 80 seconds–three times faster than the version written for the printer itself. Although it prints a page of bit-mapped graphics quickly, JLaser can't match the speed of the A1's own controller and ROM-based fonts. Using comparable ROM cartridges instead of downloaded soft fonts, I printed the same document in less than 15 seconds.

One bonus feature of JLaser is that you can still use JRAM-3's expanded memory for the many PC programs that support EMS. Unpopulated, JRAM-3 goes for $269, and you can fill the board with 64K-bit or 256K-bit chips in any configuration. If you opt for the full 2MB, the other half of JRAM-3 can even be used to accommodate software written specifically for the JRAM-3/JLaser combination. For example, the JLaser version of the *Dr. Halo II* paint program reserves 1MB of the JRAM-3 board for itself while simultaneously using the other megabyte for a full page of graphic output.

Priced at $1029, which includes the JRAM-3 with 2MB of memory, JLaser provides PC users with a relatively inexpensive entrée into bit-mapped laser graphics and a wealth of soft fonts. The slow speed inherent in bit mapping is certainly a consideration, although the ability to switch back to the printer's own controller prevents this languor from being a serious drawback. However, because JLaser lacks hard fonts or anything resembling a page description language, the board's ultimate utility will be determined by the software that supports it. *–Ross Smith*

JLaser
Tall Tree Systems
1120 San Antonio Rd.
Palo Alto, CA 94303
415/964-1980
List price: JLaser and JRAM-3 with 2MB RAM $1029

(continues)

modula-2PC™

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By its very nature, *Modula-2PC* permits you to have all the structure and separation of a superset version of Pascal, plus all the machine control abilities of C.

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Modula-2PC combines ultra-fast compiling speed with a full set of library modules that you can use like macros to write programs—that can automatically check themselves while running.

So, don't touch that BASIC interpreter! Dump your C compiler and rid yourself of the hairpulling it causes. Stop complaining about Pascal's shortcomings.

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The language designed by the author of Pascal—*to replace Pascal.*

Modula-2PC:
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This original, innovative compiler system is the result of 2 years of design development and has been rigorously tested and debugged using state-of-the-art systems. It performed flawlessly on 50,000 lines of code in random samplings of production disks.

Our staff is expert in large-scale mainframes, operating systems design, telecommunications, and, of course, personal computers. If you have special needs for customized versions of the compiler, consultation, or seminars, write to: PCollier Systems, Inc., Suite 390; 7925-A North Oracle Rd.; Tucson, AZ 85704 or call: 1-800-522-2060 (1-800-654-7396 in Arizona)

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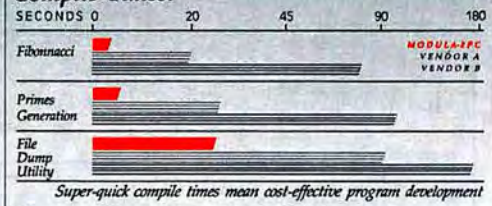

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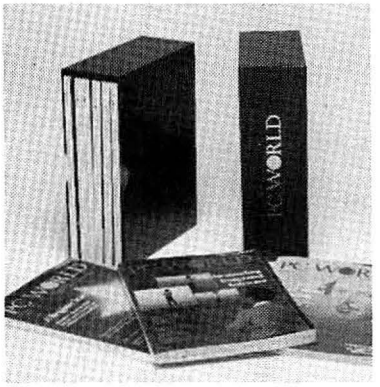

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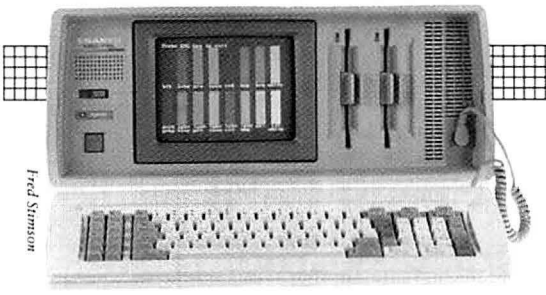

Fred Stimson

Sanyo's 43-pound MBC-775e is the first "portable" PC compatible to offer color.

MBC-775e Portable Color Computer

I grew up with my eyes glued to a black-and-white TV, so when I bought my first color tube, I was amazed at how good even "The Price Is Right" looked. After spending the past few years of my adult life hunched over a portable computer, I expected a similar thrill when I turned on Sanyo's new MBC-775e Portable Color Computer, the first PC-compatible portable with a built-in color display.

It's tough to compare a screaming game-show contestant to a pie chart, but suffice it to say that the Portable Color Computer made an impression all its own. Because it measures only 9 inches diagonally, the machine's display looks high resolution, even though it's actually 320 by 200 lines. With 4 vivid colors in medium-resolution mode (16 in text mode), the Portable Color Computer clearly offers itinerant computer users a break from monochrome monotony.

Luxury, however, carries a price. Partly due to its color CRT, the Portable Color Computer weighs in as the Refrigerator Perry of portables at 43.1 pounds. In other words, although it's transportable when need be, this computer is basically deskbound. And with a yeti-size footprint of 20.5 by 16.25 inches, you'd better have a big desk.

The machine's $2499 asking price nets you more than a colorful personality. The motherboard comes with 256K RAM, an 8087 socket, and a built-in parallel port. Two half-height 360K floppy disk drives are standard. In addition to MS-DOS 2.11 and GW BASIC, Sanyo throws in four programs from Computer Associates: *EasyMailer, EasyWriter II, EasyFiler,* and *EasyPlanner.* Given the machine's size, however, its two free expansion slots and 80-watt power supply seem miserly. And if you want more memory than the motherboard's maximum 256K capacity, you'll have to use one of those precious slots for a memory expansion board.

One likable aspect of the Portable Color Computer is its switchable 8088-2 microprocessor. By pressing a tiny blue button next to the parallel port, you can toggle between the machine's standard 4.77MHz clock rate and 8MHz. The documentation doesn't say how to switch the clock, however, and I had to call Sanyo for help. Aside from this omission, the guide to operations seems reasonably thorough.

Sanyo may have done its best to hide the clock button, but for once the commonly misplaced power switch is where it should be. (Why, I've often mumbled as I groped behind a computer, is the switch always in back? I don't have to crawl

(continues)

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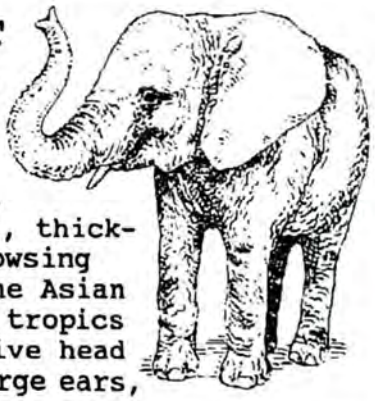

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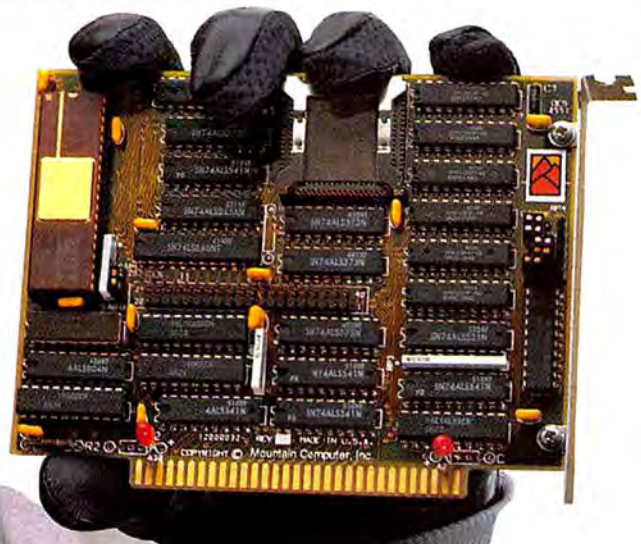

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behind my stereo to turn it on.) Sanyo bucks tradition by putting the big, square power button right on the front panel.

The Portable Color Computer's keyboard has a responsive touch, and several important keys, including <Enter>, <Shift>, and <Ctrl>, have been enlarged. Moreover, Sanyo has moved <GrayPlus> northward, supplanting it with a second <Enter> key—an arrangement some spreadsheet users may find agreeable.

The Portable Color Computer ran *WordStar, dBASE III, Flight Simulator,* and *1-2-3* releases 1A and 2.0 without difficulty. In addition, Sanyo claims to have successfully tested *Symphony, Framework, Microsoft Word,* and a dozen other major PC packages. The company also makes a blanket claim of compatibility with programs supporting the IBM Color/Graphics Adapter.

Sanyo's 28-pound MBC-675 portable, which offers monochrome graphics on a 7-inch screen (and a standard 4.77MHz clock rate), retails for $900 less than the Portable Color Computer. If color graphics are integral to your work—as an indispensable preview for presentations, for example—shelling out the extra cash may be worth your while. But for users with small budgets who are forced to choose between color and convenient mass storage, buying a portable with a

(continues)

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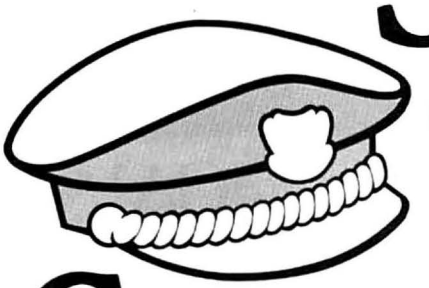

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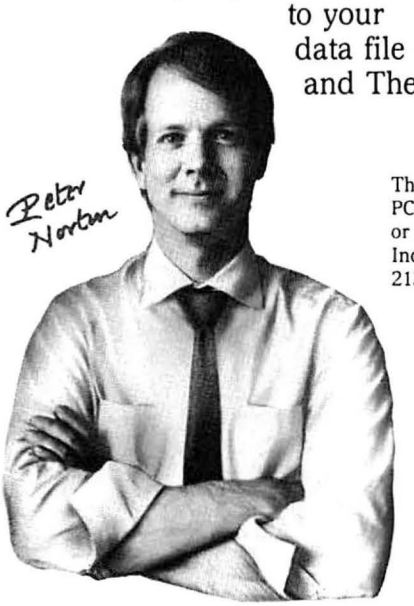

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Of course, there are other ways to link a PC to a LaserWriter, the most common of which is to connect the two via your PC's serial port and use *Microsoft Word*'s PostScript output. In the real world, however, most LaserWriters are already hooked up to one or more Macintoshes, making the PC MacBridge and AppleTalk connection one of the most practical ways for a PC to access high-quality LaserWriter output–and chat amiably with Macs along the way.

(continues)

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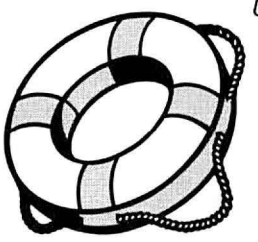

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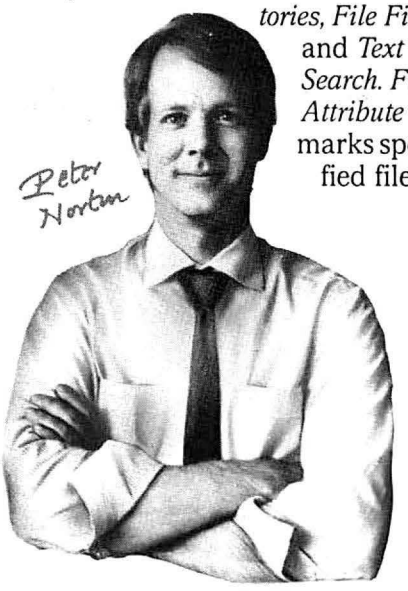

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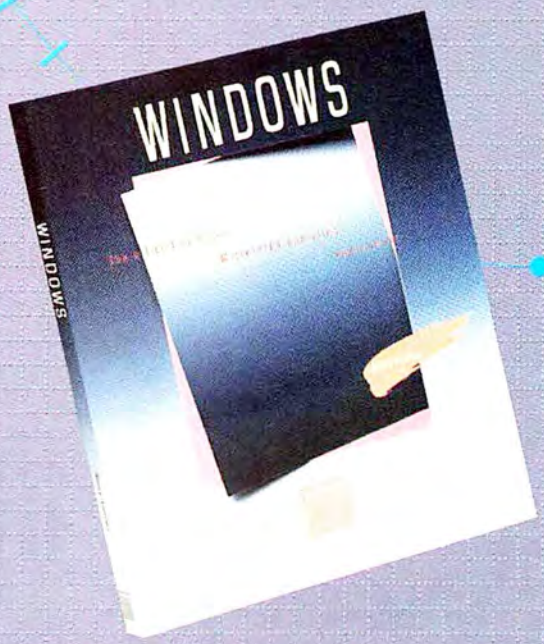

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PC MacBridge comes with three programs, including LaserGraph, which lets you create bar, pie, and line charts on the LaserWriter, and MailBox, which supports file transfer via the AppleTalk network. *LaserScript* is the heart of PC MacBridge, however, because it enables you to use the LaserWriter for printing *WordStar, MultiMate, 1-2-3,* or ASCII text files.

LaserScript provides commands that take advantage of some of PostScript's most attractive features. For example, the *WordStar*-to-PostScript converter enables you to select typefaces, change font sizes, and print members of the extended character set by using *WordStar*-like commands or by embedding PostScript commands within a document. Other commands let you select page dimensions, set tabs for proportional fonts, and insert graphs into text documents.

Using PostScript commands, pasting graphics into text documents is easy. For instance, if you want to use a horizontal bar in key spots throughout a document, you create a small file containing the appropriate commands. Then, whenever you need the bar, you embed a command within the document calling on that file.

Unfortunately, the PC-PostScript connection isn't flawless. When you convert *WordStar* files to PostScript, for example, *LaserScript* won't change the location of line breaks if lines have been lengthened or shortened by proportionally spaced fonts. If you opt for right-justification, the software simply adds space between words in the short lines, an expedient that often produces excessively "airy" text.

PC MacBridge offers extra options for spreadsheet and business graphics users. For instance, the conversion program for *1-2-3* enables you to print extra-wide spreadsheets using a small font and landscape (sideways) printing. And for *1-2-3* graphs, you can exploit LaserWriter's wide variety of fonts to create more attractive labels.

The nascent personal computer publisher can also use PC MacBridge's Mail Center to access the page makeup and graphics power of the Macintosh. Over the AppleTalk network, you could send PC text files to a Mac, do the layout with Aldus's *PageMaker,* and send the polished product to a LaserWriter on the same network.

If you want to save an expansion slot, you can buy *LaserScript/S,* a version of *LaserScript* that performs the same output conversions but relies on a direct RS-232C link to the LaserWriter. However, a software-based, one-to-one connection between a PC and a LaserWriter is not only slower than the PC MacBridge solution, it's also a bit selfish. If you want to use a high-class machine like the LaserWriter, you've got to be prepared to share it with a Mac. *—Ted Nace*

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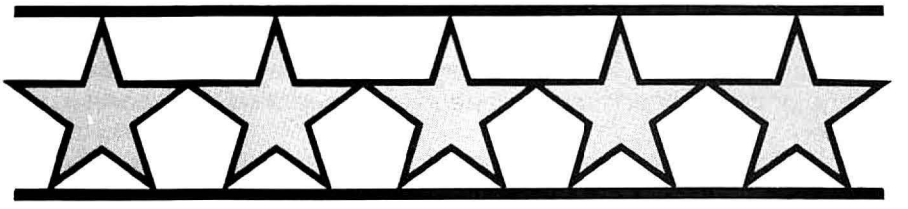

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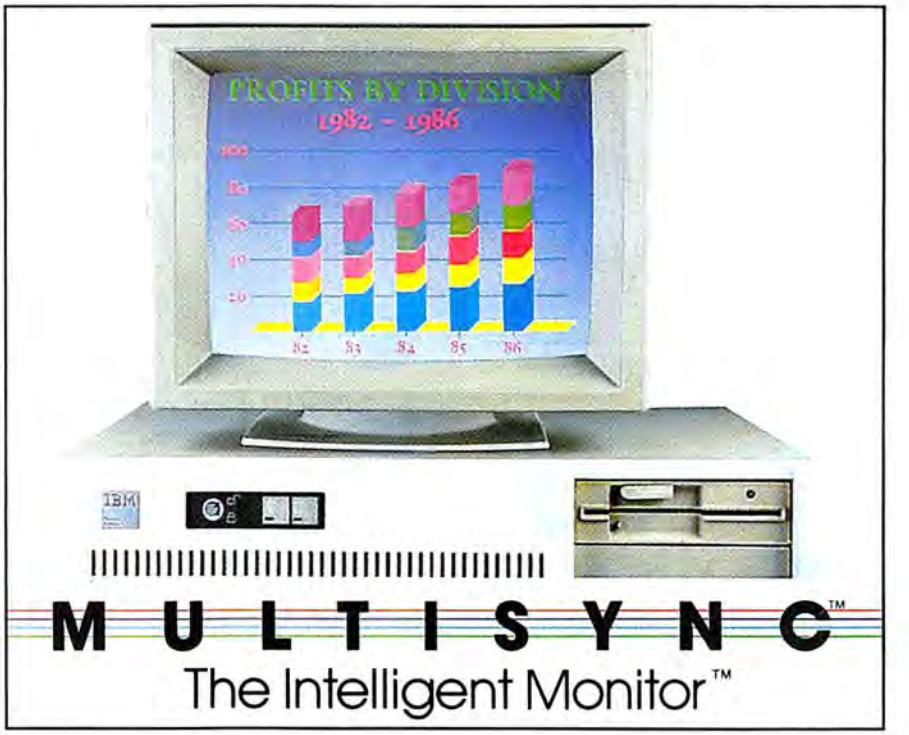

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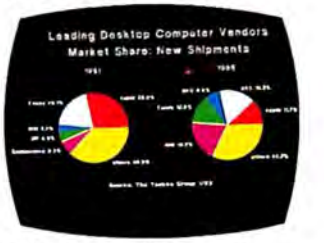

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A mere $1350 nets you the FD-1000 from PC Designs, an XT-compatible kit that comes with a monochrome monitor and 1MB of RAM.

FD-1000 Personal Computer

Down, down, down tumble hardware prices, as Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan ply their PC wares through America's mail-order houses. These days you can get a generic PC for a song, and if you want to save your vocal cords, you can go an even less expensive route and order your computer as a kit.

PC Designs is one of those mail-order houses with ubiquitous ads offering cut-rate clones under plain brown wrappers. The company's FD-1000 PC XT compatible includes a Princeton MAX-12E amber monitor, two half-height Mitsubishi 360K floppy drives, 1MB of RAM on the motherboard, and an 8088-2 CPU that you can toggle between 4.77MHz and 8MHz. The price tag for this fully packed box is a mere $1350, the only catch being that the machine comes in pieces.

To test the FD-1000's ease of assembly (and, incidentally, the intelligence of a real estate investor), I decided to give my computer-neophyte husband a crack at putting the machine together. "But I barely know the difference between RAM and a disk drive," John complained. "How can I put a computer kit together?"

"If you get into real trouble, I'll help you," I promised. Within hours of opening the packing case, John was in a panic. "Where's the motherboard?" he wailed. "And what's the difference between a hard disk controller and a video adapter?"

Well, perhaps the test was a bit unfair, but it illustrates two important points. First, assembling a PC kit requires familiarity with basic components (i.e., you can't bolt down a power supply unless you know what one looks like). Furthermore, you need accurate, detailed instructions to get the job done. One of John's problems was an out-of-date manual that hadn't been upgraded as fast as the FD-1000; being a novice, he couldn't sort the relevant instructions from the obsolete ones. PC Designs assured us that the manual is being updated.

In the meantime, my expertise had to suffice, and a closer look at the FD-1000 revealed an even richer set of features than I'd first

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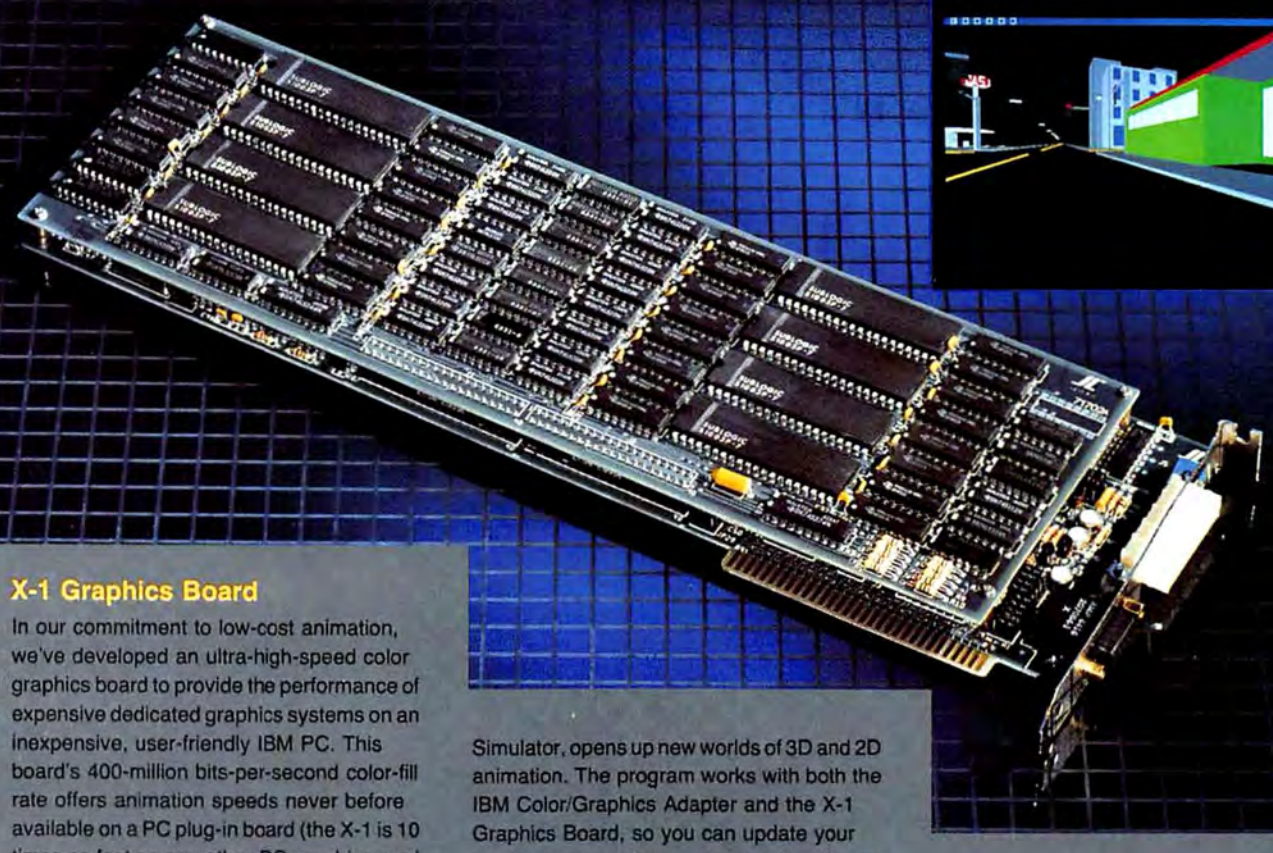

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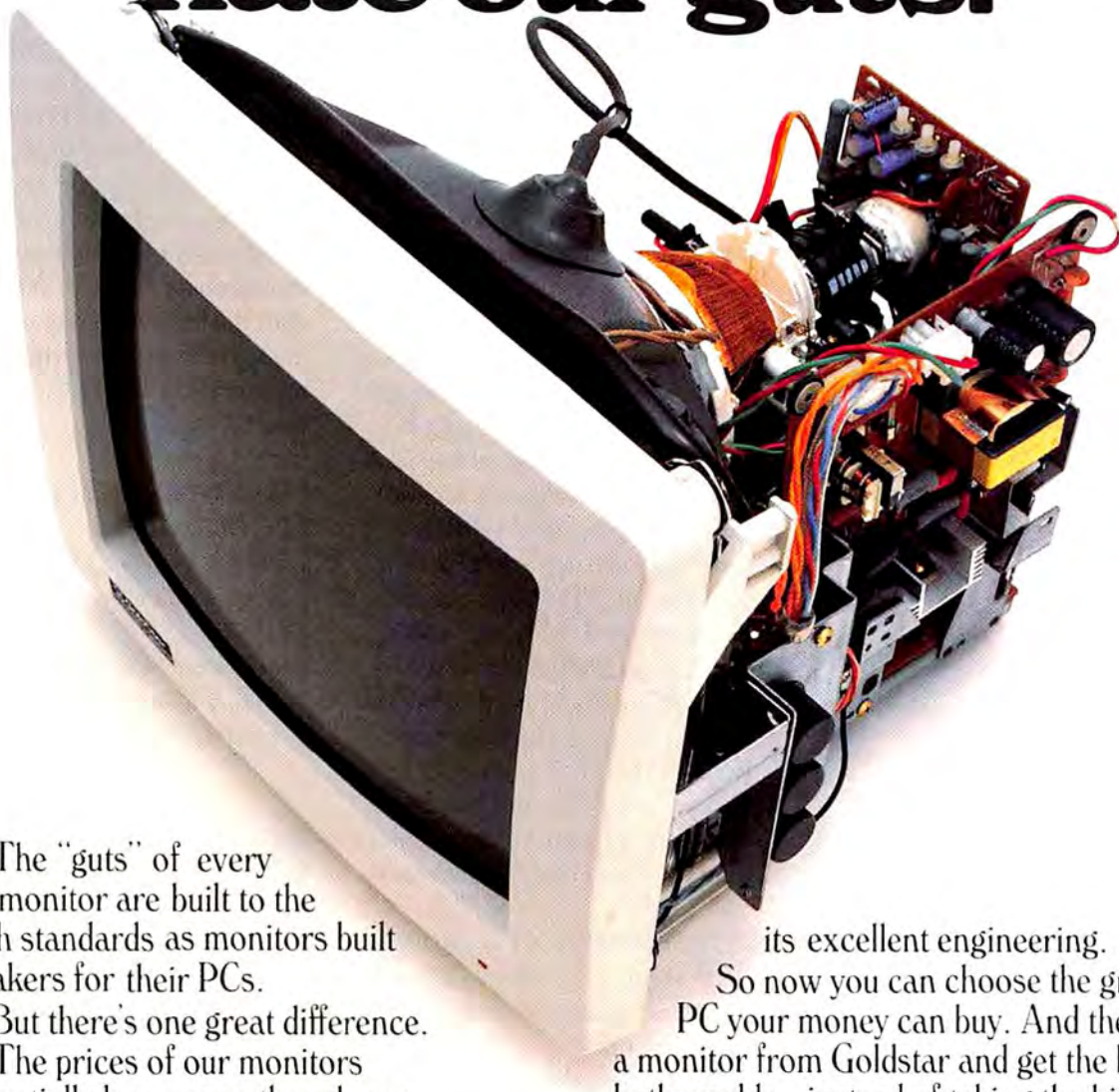

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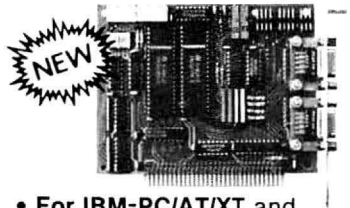

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surmised. In addition to the monitor, memory, and floppy drives, you get a 140-watt power supply, five free full-size expansion slots, and a choice of XT or AT keyboard styles. Built into the motherboard are two serial ports, two parallel ports, and a battery-driven clock/calendar.

The unit is already wired to handle up to four floppy drives and can accept a 20MB hard disk (a Seagate 20MB drive is available from PC Designs for an additional $495). A bevy of other low-priced accessories can be purchased from the company, such as an 8087-2 math coprocessor ($185), Key Tronic's 5151 keyboard ($75), and BSR's Astec 300/1200-bps internal modem ($179). If you need color, you have a choice of The Edge from Everex ($125) or a Hercules Color Card ($75), and you can couple either board with a Princeton Graphics HX-12 RGB Monitor ($325).

The FD-1000's XT-compatible BIOS seems to accommodate most popular PC software without difficulty. In both 4.77MHz and 8MHz modes, the machine ran DOS 3.10, *dBASE II* and *III*, *SuperCalc*, *WordStar*, *DisplayWrite 3*, *PC-Talk*, *ProKey*, and a number of public domain utilities. When I tried swapping peripherals with an IBM Portable PC, the FD-1000 displayed equally impressive hardware compatibility.

With some coaching, John ultimately succeeded—his machine passed the smoke test the first time he turned it on. If you're used to opening up your PC, you should be able to assemble the FD-1000 with a screwdriver and a pair of pliers in less than 2 hours. In addition, PC Designs offers a toll-free service line and backs up the machine with a 30-day money-back guarantee and a one-year warranty on parts. The stability of mail-order firms is often a wild card, but the prolific array of name-brand options—plus the abundant built-in features—should make the FD-1000 a favorite with the bargain hunter who likes to say, with a manic grin, "I built my computer from a kit!" —*Linda Gail Christie*

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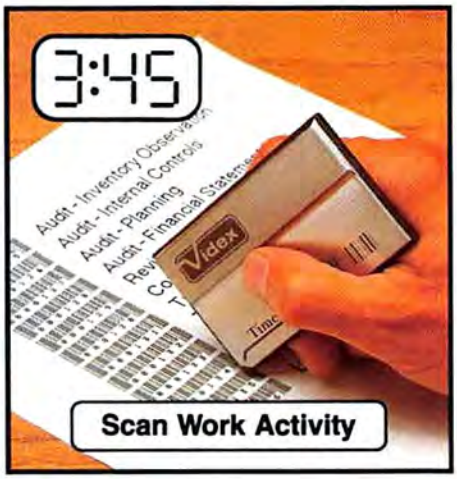

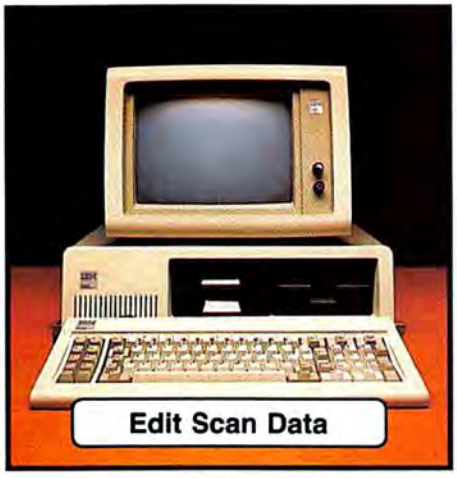

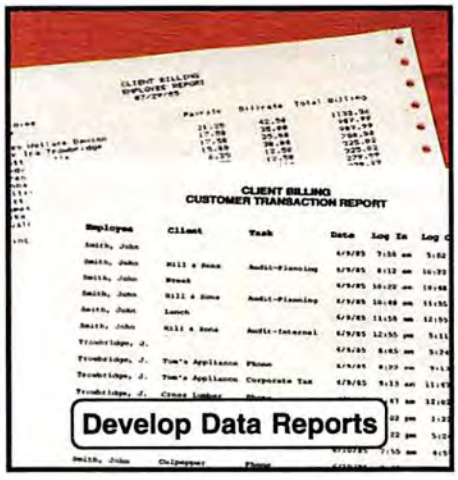

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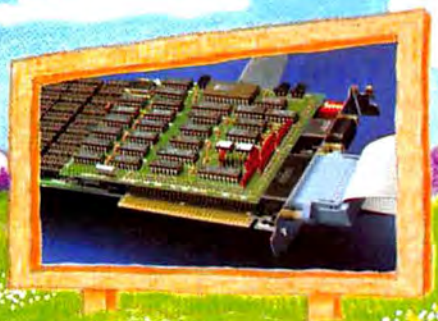
Circle 581 on reader service card

Once upon a time



Tall Tree Systems introduced a 2MB memory board called JRAM-2. It broke the 640K and offered I/O modules, a warm re- data saver, and high speed switching at an incredibly low $, and it worked like . Then one day a software company and a hardware company discovered the and issued an edict for a NEW EMS. In no time at all **Tall Tree Systems** introduced JRAM-3 which used the NEW EMS. It still has the , the warm re- , the switching and the low $, but now it can multi-user and multi-tasking programs. Best of all it has a new called JLASER. It lets your HP Laserjet™ or other laser printer based on the Canon™ do full page graphics and custom typesetting just like .

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re-	✓		
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The End

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The text and icons on this page were created on a Composition Technology International PageScan System using a Tall Tree JRAM-3 board and was output on a Corona Laser Printer.

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two phone jacks—one for your phone and one (you guessed it) for the wall jack. As the name suggests, SideDialer's compatibility with *SideKick* is a major selling point. You simply pop up *SideKick*'s phone directory, select a number, and the little board does the rest.

Actually, SideDialer's compatibility extends well beyond *SideKick* to include not only other desktop management software but virtually any application. Once you load the software, you can call up SideDialer from within a program by pressing <Ctrl>-<Shift>, which maneuver opens a window containing a menu of dialing options.

Among the available features are single-keystroke auto-redial, the ability to dial any phone number you highlight on screen, and SideDialer's own quick-dial directory, which enables you to assign commonly called names and numbers to your PC's function keys. You can also set the auto-dial to pause briefly or wait for you to press a key before continuing to dial a number containing an access code.

During testing, SideDialer ran smoothly with *SideKick*, *1-2-3*, *WordStar*, *dBASE III*, Bellsoft's *Pop-Up DeskSet Plus*, Lotus's *Spotlight*, and Polytron's *PolyWindows Desk*. When you load the SideDialer utility, however, you must make sure it's resident before *SideKick* or any applications program.

Since SideDialer supports both touch-tone and pulse dialing, you can also use it with rotary phones or nondigital PBX systems. Perhaps the product's greatest benefit is its ability to dial numbers already entered into an existing data base. If you need auto-dialing but not a modem, or you now share a modem with other PCs and rampant telecommunicators, SideDialer offers a relatively low-cost alternative—as long as you don't mind giving up a slot. —*Richard Jantz*

SideDialer
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Santa Ana, CA 92705
714/543-7755
List price: $54.95

Ross Smith is a freelance writer and co-owner of Computersmith, a Santa Rosa, California, typesetting firm. Jason Durbin is a freelance writer and editor living in Berkeley, California. Ted Nace is a Contributing Editor for PC World. *Linda Gail Christie is a columnist for* Pico *and the author of several books on PC applications. Richard Jantz is a freelance writer and the author of* Creating the Best Impression: All About Business Graphics Software *(Hayden Book Co., Hasbrouk Heights, NJ, 1986).*

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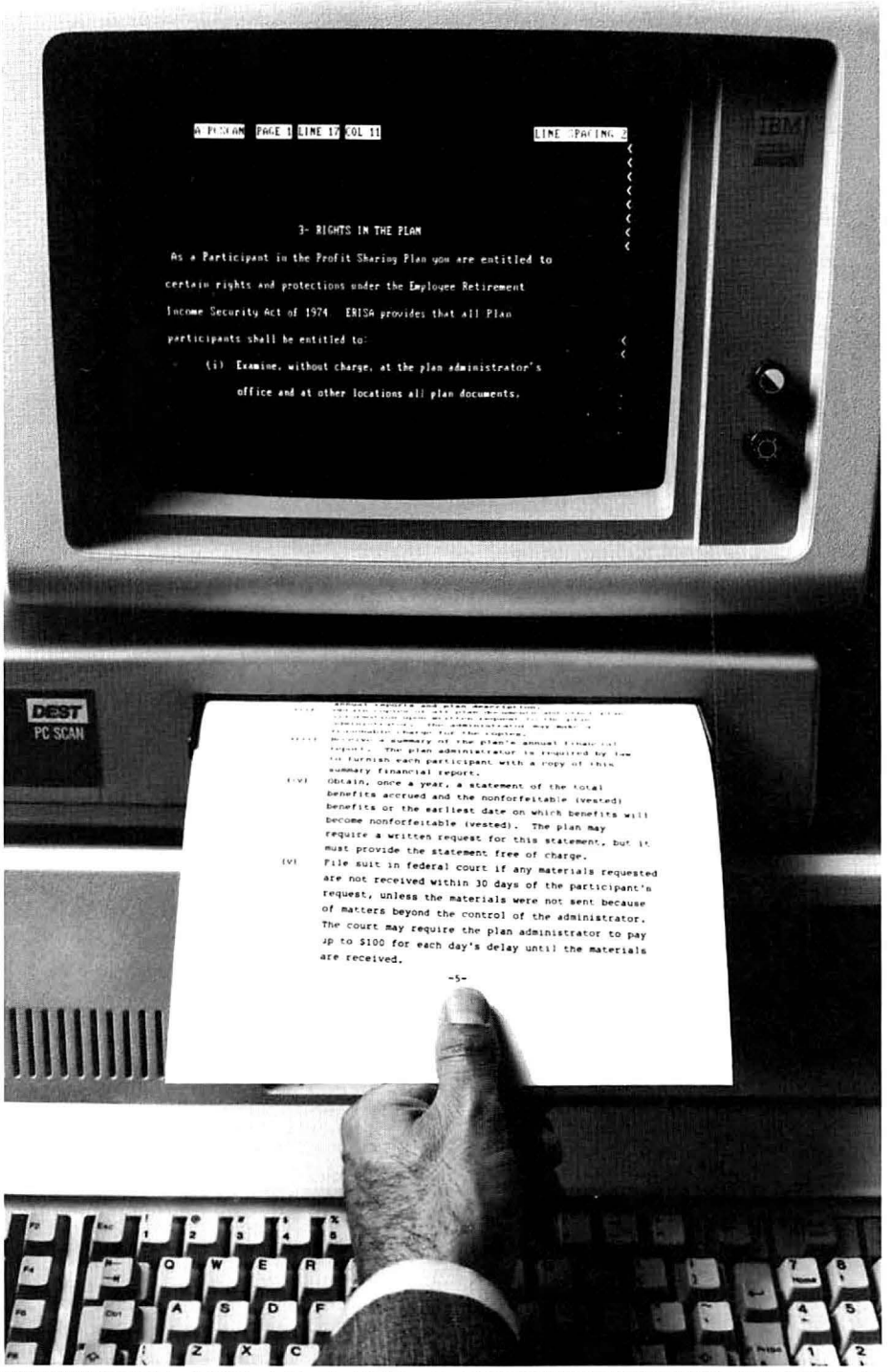

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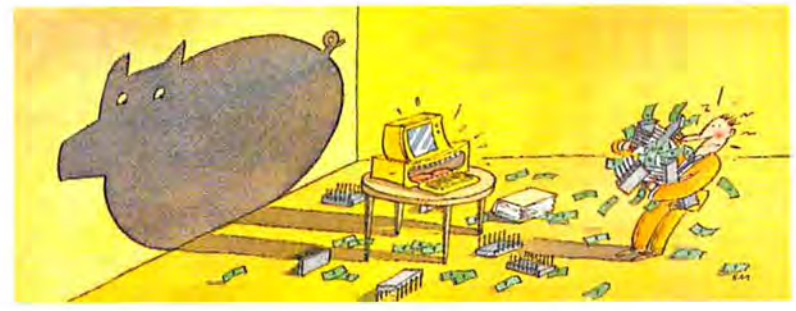

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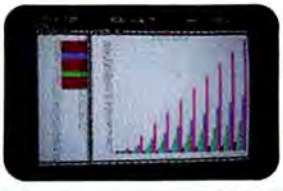

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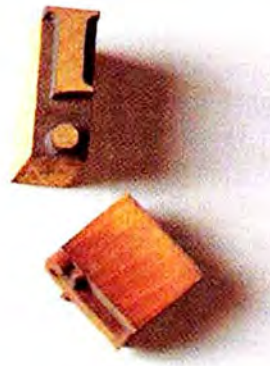
Typesetting Point by Point

The typographer's language is peppered with terms dating back to Gutenberg's time. While word processing has acquainted you with the basic vocabulary, you'll need to be fluent to make the jump to personal computer publishing.

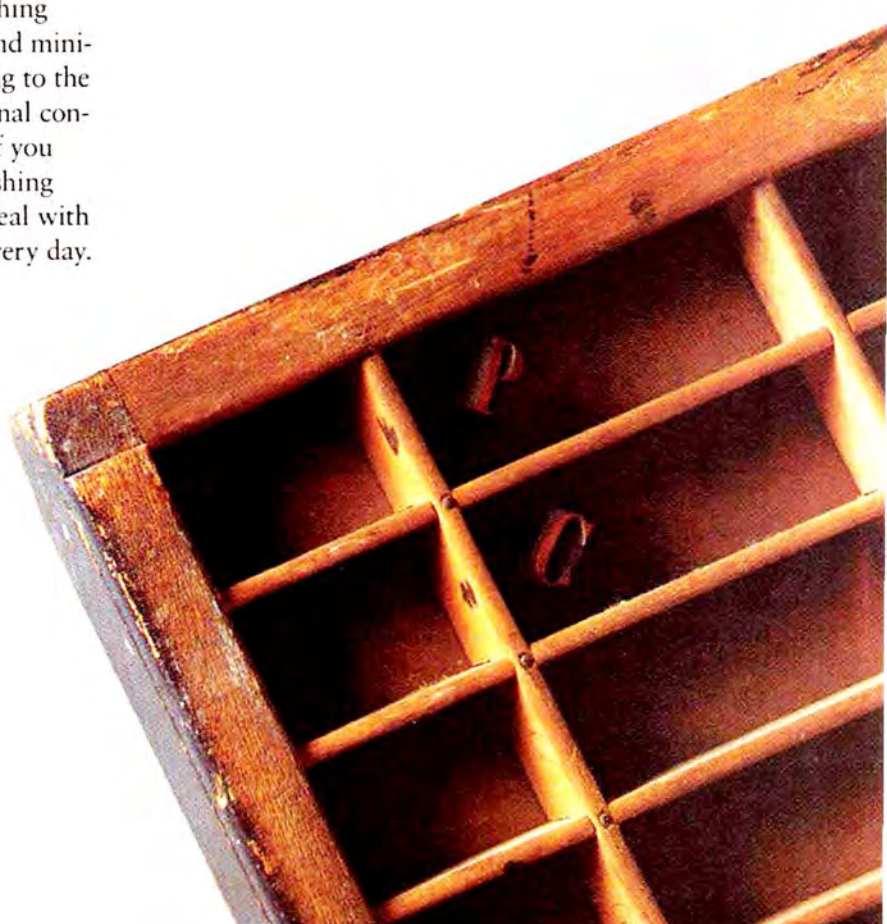
James Felici and Ted Nace

David Hockney



At the heart of the personal computer publishing movement is a set of skills virtually unknown to anyone outside the typesetting trades. An entire lexicon unique to the field of typography describes the methods used to arrange letters on a page in a way that is pleasing to the eye. By their nature, these elements are unobtrusive—aesthetically laid-out type doesn't call attention to itself. But there's a lot going on behind the scenes.

The PC publishing phenomenon is a result of the economies of mass production; the publishing technology once vested solely in mainframe and minicomputer typesetting systems is now migrating to the PC. Economies of scale compromise the original concept of typeset quality output. Nonetheless, if you take the plunge into personal computer publishing with a PC and a laser printer, you'll have to deal with many of the issues that a typographer faces every day.



Sources of Typographic Quality

Even a quick comparison of laser printer and commercial typesetter output reveals that quality typography requires more than just the right typeface (see Figure 1). A laser printer's 300 dot-per-inch resolution cannot match the sharp 1000 or greater dpi images that high-resolution phototypesetters print on photographic paper.

Another subtle source of typographic quality is the spacing and placement of text elements on the page. Most impact printers are limited to *fixed escapement*, meaning that the print head moves the same horizontal distance across the page after each letter is struck, an effect also known as *monospacing*.

If all characters were the same width, fixed escapement would present no problem. But character widths vary; monospaced type is hard to read because letters are too far apart for the words to be easily identified. Because the eye is so sensitive to the spacing of letters, an important element of quality type is the ability to vary letter and word spacing.

The importance of precise control over placement extends to text blocks as well. Thus, another significant element in the typographic quality equation is the ability to arrange text on a page in precise and intricate ways—a feature far beyond the capabilities of everyday word processors.

Taking the Measure

Typesetting jargon harks back to the days when type was set by hand, but the vocabulary is by no means obsolete. Two particularly important terms, *pica* and *point*, are the fundamental units of typographic measurement. A pica equals .166040, or about one-sixth, inch. The pica is in turn divided into 12 points. Don't labor converting points and picas to inches or centimeters. Although many a personal computer publishing program measures type in those more familiar units, they are far too large to be useful for most type, and using the typesetting terms will ease your communication with the professional graphic arts industry.

Crispness & *Clarity*

The appearance of typeset output is a function of *image resolution, point size,* and *typeface.*

Crispness & *Clarity*

The appearance of typeset output is a function of *image resolution, point size,* and *typeface.*

Figure 1: These samples from the Times Roman typeface family have been set from four separate fonts: roman, italic, bold, and bold italic. The left sample was set on plain paper on a laser printer at 300-dpi resolution. The right sample was printed on photographic paper on a commercial typesetter at 1200 dpi.

Picas and points are fixed measurements, but typography also relies on a variety of flexible spaces whose dimensions vary with the type size.

A standard measure of open space is the *em*, named for the width of the *M*, which is usually the widest letter in a typeface's character set (see Figure 2). Fortunately, the size of an em is easy to remember: It is always equal to the current point size. When you're setting a line in 12-point type, an em is 12 points wide.

Because the eye is so sensitive to the spacing of letters, an important element of quality type is the ability to vary letter and word spacing.

Related to the em is the *en*, which is equal to half the width of an em or the width of the letter *N*, and the *thin space*, a user-definable unit that is usually half an en.

The em, the en, and the thin space establish a measuring scheme that is proportional to the type around them. Thus a paragraph indent of one em has a predictable visual relationship to the text, whether that text is set in 8-point or 36-point type.

The finest unit of typographic measurement, usually called a *typesetter unit*, is the minimum amount of escapement possible on an output device, be it a laser printer or a phototypesetter. The typesetter unit is also expressed in terms of an em. Two popular schemes for measuring font character widths call for 54 typesetter units per em and 100 per em.

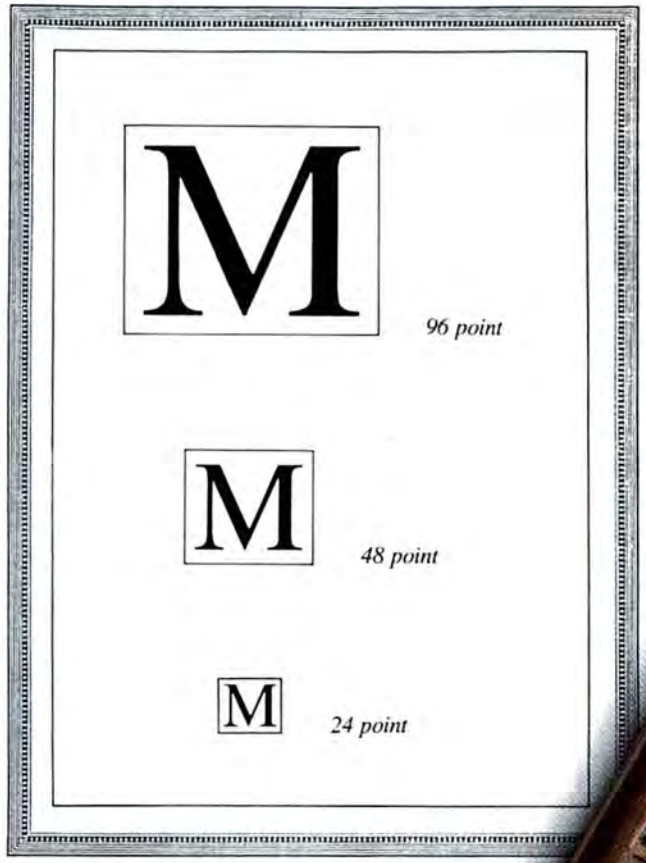


Figure 2: The em space is a standard typographical measurement of horizontal space. It is equal to the point size of whatever typeface you are using.

Sizing Up Type

Gutenberg's revolutionary idea was to put each character on an individual metal block (hence the moniker "movable type"). The raised image of the letter was inked and pressed to the paper, forming the printed image. The lead blocks were placed in rows to form lines of words, and rows were stacked to assemble pages. Braces held the body of type in place during the printing process.

Solid leading (9/9)

I am type! I bring into the light of day the precious stores of knowledge and wisdom long hidden in the grave of ignorance. I coin for you the enchanting tale, the philosopher's moralizing, and the poet's phantasies; I enable you to exchange the irksome hours that come, at times, to everyone, for sweet and happy hours with books–golden urns filled with all manna of the past.
–Frederic Goudy

+1 point leading (9/10)

I am type! I bring into the light of day the precious stores of knowledge and wisdom long hidden in the grave of ignorance. I coin for you the enchanting tale, the philosopher's moralizing, and the poet's phantasies; I enable you to exchange the irksome hours that come, at times, to everyone, for sweet and happy hours with books–golden urns filled with all manna of the past.
–Frederic Goudy

+2 points leading (9/11)

I am type! I bring into the light of day the precious stores of knowledge and wisdom long hidden in the grave of ignorance. I coin for you the enchanting tale, the philosopher's moralizing, and the poet's phantasies; I enable you to exchange the irksome hours that come, at times, to everyone, for sweet and happy hours with books–golden urns filled with all manna of the past.
–Frederic Goudy

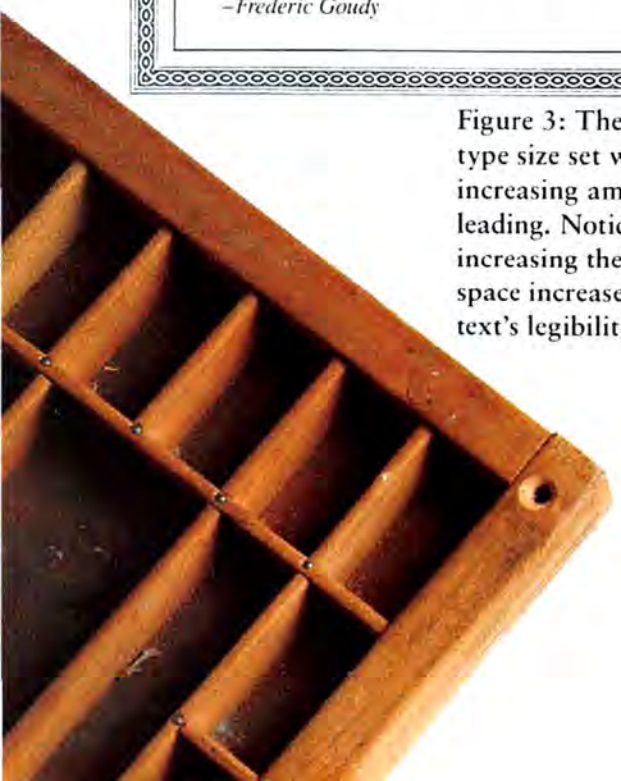


Figure 3: The same type size set with increasing amounts of leading. Notice how increasing the white space increases the text's legibility.

Each character's width was equal to the horizontal space its letter block filled, a distance now referred to as that character's *required escapement*. The point size of the type derived from its vertical component, measured in points from the top of the tallest character (like an *A* or *l*) to the bottom of the lowest hanging letter (a *g* or *y*). If the measurement equals 12 points, then the character set is said to be 12-point type.

Because the letter blocks were originally made out of lead alloy, the vertical space between lines of type on a page is called *leading*. The minimum leading of the type was equal to its point size. In Gutenberg's day, the blocks that composed a line of type were set flush against the lines above and below, or *solid*, a term still used today. (When blocks of, say, 14-point type are set solid, they are said to be set on 14 points of lead, expressed as 14/14.) If more space between lines was desired, the typographer could add lead in the form of thin metal strips packed between the lines of type (see Figure 3).

Although computers have gotten the lead out of typography, the terminology remains. Since typographers no longer manipulate individual blocks of lead, leading is measured from the bottom, or *baseline*, of one typeset line to the baseline of the line above it. Leading increments vary from system to system, but half-point increments are typical; some systems also work in quarters or tenths of points.

About Face on Fonts

Because the process of using computer-generated type is far removed from that of hand-set type, many concepts and terms based on the older technology are confusing. This is especially true with the terms *typeface* and *font*, which are now often used interchangeably.

Before photographic processes emerged, metal type characters were cast from master forms that were carved individually for each type size. Type designers routinely made design alterations in different sizes of one typeface to maintain a consistent aesthetic effect over a range of sizes. The stroke of an *l*, for instance, might look balanced and in proportion to other letters at 10 point, but when enlarged proportionally to 72-point size, it might appear too thick and clumsy. Although type design has firm mathematical underpinnings, the eye is the ultimate arbiter of design.

For this reason, each typeface size had its own *font master* with slightly different design qualities. In old print shops, each typeface had a separate cabinet, and each size was allotted a font drawer. When a printer asked for a font, he was calling for a typeface and a type size. A particular job might require 10-, 14-, and 20-point Bodoni Bold—one typeface, three fonts.

The terminology began to change with the advent of the phototypesetting machine, which set type using a light source and focusing lens, glass or film negatives of fonts, and photographic paper. The light source exposed the negative on the paper, which was then developed much like a photograph to produce the black image of the letter on the paper's white background. By manipulating the lens, many type sizes could be generated from one negative. Because there is a limit to the amount that lenses can enlarge and shrink an image and still maintain sufficient sharpness, the printer needed different font masters for different size ranges. Still, the age-old distinction between font and face was becoming blurred.

When digital type arrived on the scene and characters were generated electronically with no tangible font master, the terms face *and* font *became interchangeable.*

When digital type arrived on the scene and characters were generated electronically with no tangible font master, the terms *face* and *font* became virtually interchangeable. Although digital fonts still often have different master designs for different size ranges (systems that store typefaces as bit maps have separate designs for every point size), these unique masters are invisible to the typesetter; they are automatically engaged when the appropriate type size is invoked.

In short, consider a font a matrix from which a typeface is generated. Thus, when inspecting type with Edwin Newman or William Safire, the proper phraseology is, "From what font is that set?" or "What face is that?," but never, "What font is that?" (see Figure 1).

Kerning

Typographers adjust the space between letters to improve readability. The process, called *kerning*, is determined by the shapes of adjacent letters. The sides that letters present may be flat (M, n, E), round (e, O, c), or angular (w, V, A), and they may have a lot of white space along their flanks (T, L). A major typographic challenge is artfully fitting these shapes against one another so that distracting gaps are minimized.

A typesetting computer performs kerning by referring to a table of specific letter combinations and the appropriate spacing adjustments for each. The computer uses the kerning table when setting each character—an enormous and potentially time-consuming computing task. For this reason, automatic kerning has historically been omitted from PC-based text processing programs, even full-blown typesetting and page composition programs. This practice is beginning to change, however, and high-end publishing packages are now distinguished by their ability to kern automatically.

Hyphenation and Justification

In electronic publishing, typographic attributes are imposed by embedding codes within unformatted text. A *hyphenation and justification* (h&j) program then interprets the codes and makes the line-ending decisions that shape the formatted text block, usually into a column such as this.

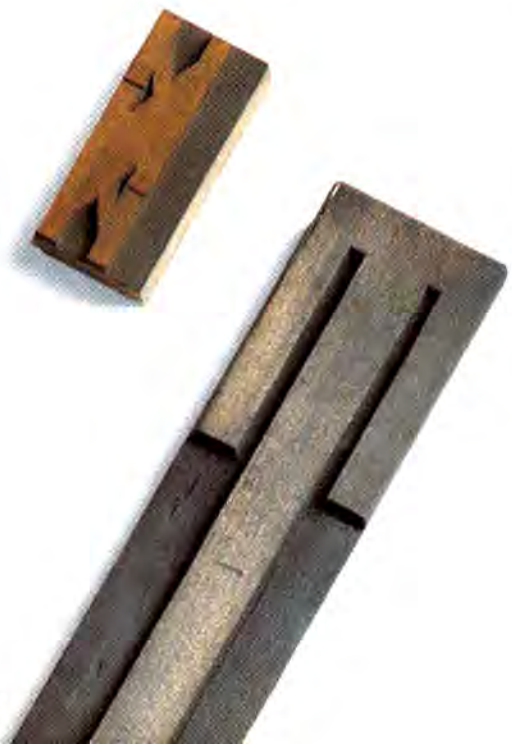
Justification is the process of fitting lines of type within a specified line length; hyphenation is a tool to achieve this end. The h&j process is a stren-

uous computing task; the lines must be justified according to line length, typeface, type size, kerning, the degree to which word and letter spaces can be compressed or expanded, and grammatical hyphenation rules.

An h&j program breaks lines at spaces between words whenever possible. When a word is too long to leave intact on a line, however, the program will split the word according to a hyphenation dictionary or a set of rules. In general, dictionary-based hyphenation is superior to a logic-based system. The difference can be illustrated with a word like *pressed*, which most logic-based programs will either hyphenate as *pre-ssed*, viewing pre- as a prefix, or *press-ed*, because consecutive identical consonants are usually legitimate syllable breaks.

Justification is the process of fitting lines of type within a specified line length; hyphenation is a tool to achieve this end.

Why hyphenate at all? The ability to hyphenate allows the computer to lay down type without greatly increasing and varying spaces between words and characters. Hyphenation preserves the program's ability to space text closely, thus enhancing readability.



Formatting the Type

Although dozens of elements determine the look of text, only four are absolutely necessary: typeface, point size, leading, and line length (or measure).

Beyond these, the most fundamental concern is margin treatment. You can vary a margin four ways (see Figure 4).

Justified text fills the line completely, except perhaps the short last line of a paragraph (known as a widow). Justified margins are vertically straight.

Flush left text is often described as *flush left, ragged right*. Such text abuts the left margin but does not necessarily extend to the right margin. This ragged right format is a natural compromise for word processing programs that cannot hyphenate. Justification without hyphenation grossly distorts word spaces.

Flush right is the opposite of flush left and is not recommended for setting large bodies of text, because the eye tends to get lost moving from the right margin back to the left when starting to read a new line. Flush right is typically used only in headlines and advertisements.

Centered (or *ragged center*) is a marriage of both flush left and flush right styles. Text is centered on a vertical axis running down the middle of the column; leftover space is allocated evenly to both ends of the line.

Line-Ending Commands

A typesetting program can usually set an individual line flush left, flush right, centered, or indented regardless of the position of the surrounding text. Most word processors—and PC programs that claim typesetting talents—translate <Enter> into a command for breaking lines. Most typesetting systems, however, rely instead on specific paragraph-ending commands and a family of line-ending commands called *quads*.

Bodoni developed lofty ideals and visualized anew the intrinsic beauty of typography. He introduced a distinct and beautiful style into his types that was the forerunner of all modern faces.

Flush left (rag right)

One of the changes which Bodoni introduced into the forms of his roman letters was in the serifs. Those of the capitals he reduced to single sharp lines of about the same weight as the thin strokes of the letters.

Centered (rag center)

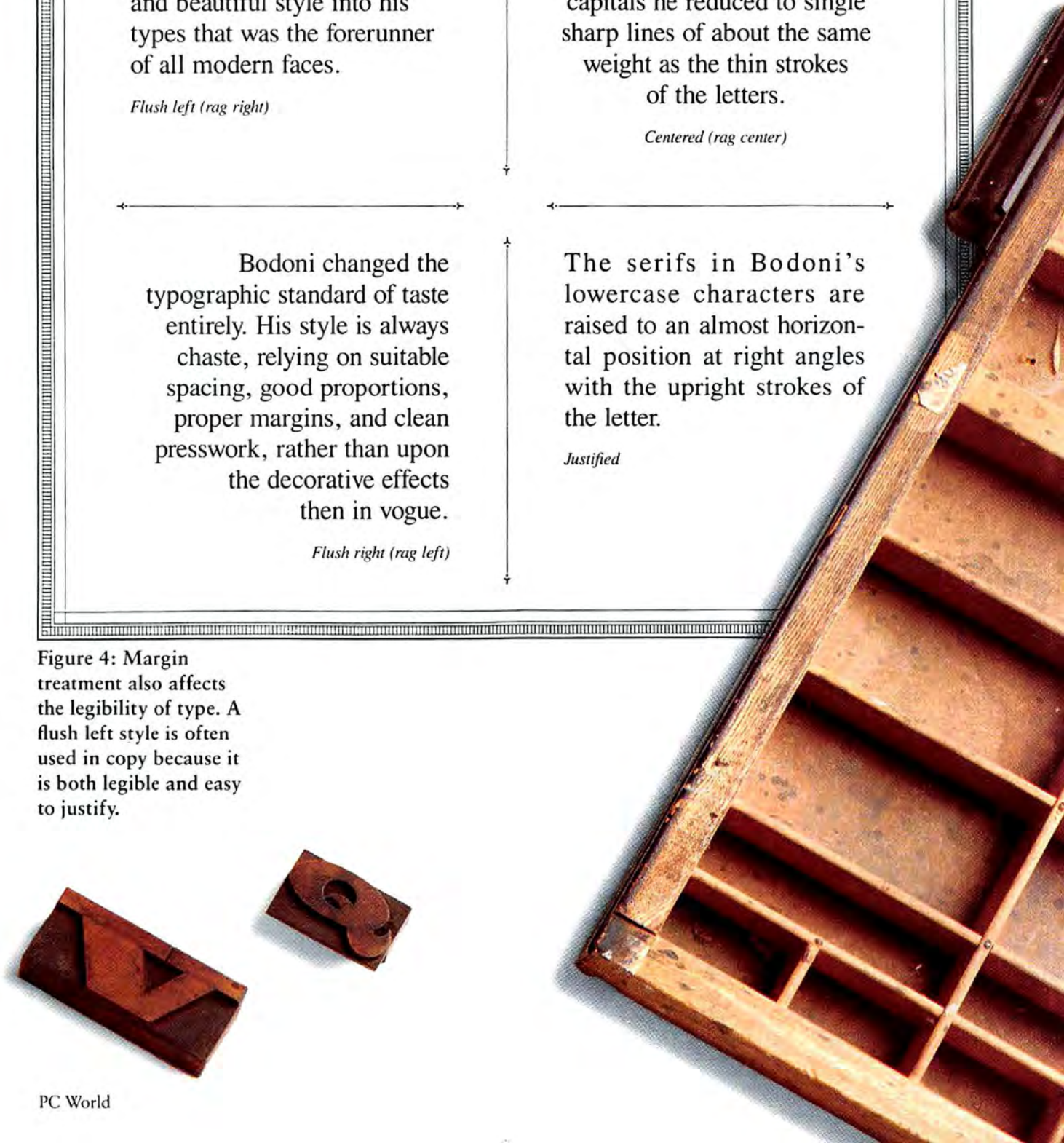
Bodoni changed the typographic standard of taste entirely. His style is always chaste, relying on suitable spacing, good proportions, proper margins, and clean presswork, rather than upon the decorative effects then in vogue.

Flush right (rag left)

The serifs in Bodoni's lowercase characters are raised to an almost horizontal position at right angles with the upright strokes of the letter.

Justified

Figure 4: Margin treatment also affects the legibility of type. A flush left style is often used in copy because it is both legible and easy to justify.



In the days of hand-set type, quads were blank blocks that sat below the inked plane of the letter blocks, filling out lines of type when the actual text fell short of the full measure, as in Figure 5. Quads were also used to center lines of type or align them flush right or left, and so the terms remain—quad left, quad right, and quad center.

In computerized typesetting, left, right, and center quad commands are used as line-ending commands to override the prevailing margin treatment. In other words, you can direct the system to set text flush left, but when it encounters a quad right command, it will end the current line, set it flush right, and then revert to setting text flush left.

The end paragraph command is similar to the quad commands—it quads the line to the appropriate margin (to the left in flush left copy, to the right in flush right copy). The end paragraph command also enacts paragraph formatting functions, such as an indent on the first line of the next paragraph.

A Formatting Tool Kit

Commercial typesetting systems come with an impressive array of formatting commands that precisely control the look of a page. While the personal computer publisher won't need all the powers of a dedicated (and prohibitively expensive) typesetting system, most of the following functions should be available in any PC publishing system.

Figure 5: The term "quad" originated in the days of hand-set type, when typesetters used small blocks of lead called quads to hold short lines of type in place.

A variety of *indention* schemes is desirable (see Figure 6). These schemes can be combined to automate indention and create free-form layouts and outline formats. Most typesetting indents are conditional, toggling off under certain circumstances, such as the occurrence of an end-paragraph command, but any personal publishing system should have a *standing indent* that remains in effect until it is explicitly canceled. A standing indent will indent every line of text, no matter how many lines are set, how many paragraphs come and go, or how many other indents are created and canceled.

Also important is a *paragraph indent* function that moves the left or right margin toward the center of the typeset column, much like a standing indent. The key difference is that this indent is canceled by an end paragraph command–a handy feature for forgetful PC publishers.

A publishing system should also have a command that indents the first line of every paragraph by a specified amount. Called *first line indent* or *indent first*, the command can be inserted at the beginning of a lengthy passage of running text, and as long as each paragraph is tagged with an end paragraph command, the first line of every paragraph will automatically be indented.

The functional opposite is the *hanging indent*, which is likewise activated by an end paragraph command. It directs the system to leave the first line of type flush to the left margin but to indent all the other lines in the paragraph.

An *indent on text* function lets you create an indent based on the length of a specific string of text–a word or phrase. The indent on text feature is commonly used in outlines and order forms.

Extra lead and *reverse lead* commands modify the leading scheme in effect, immediately altering the position of the baseline. Lines beyond these commands are set relative to the new baseline.

One common application for the extra lead command is providing additional space between paragraphs. If you're setting 14-point type and you specify an extra 7 points of lead at the beginning of a paragraph, the first line of that paragraph is set on 21

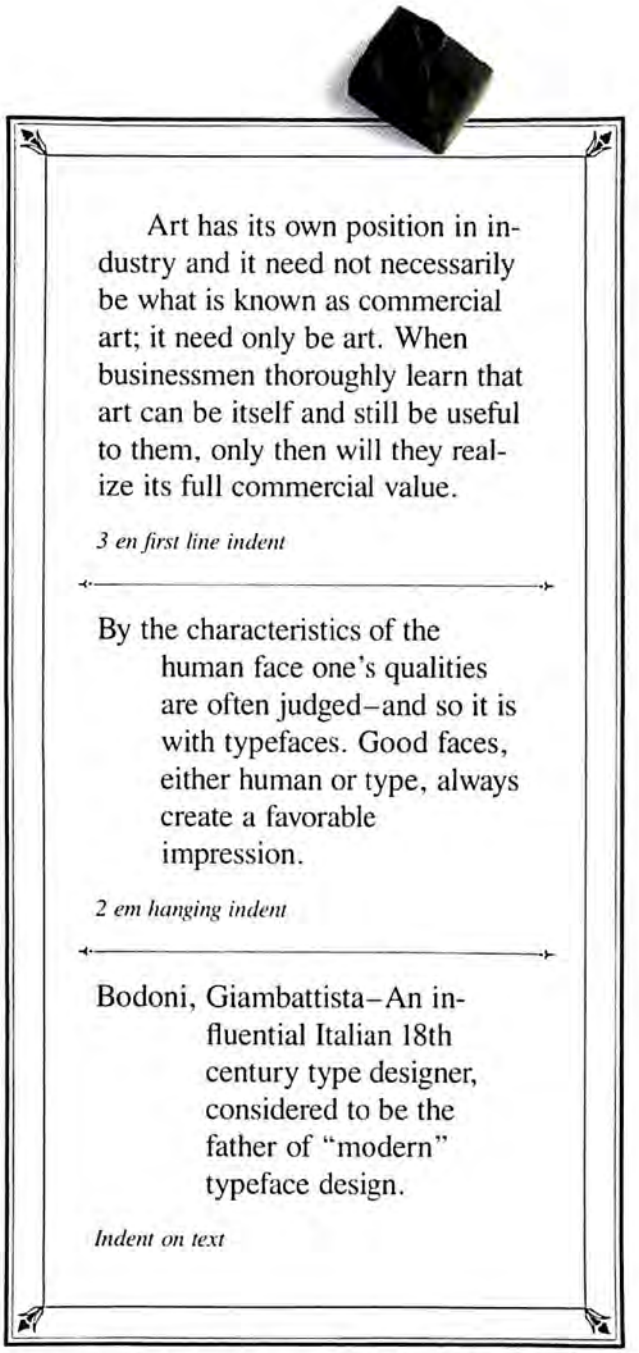
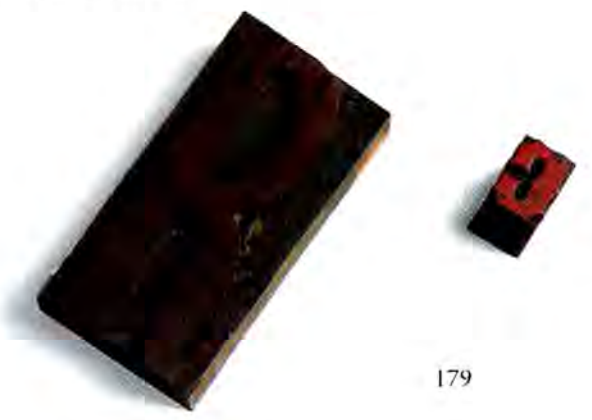


Figure 6: An indention sampler. Both the first-line and hanging indents can be invoked automatically. The indent on text allows you to create an indent based on the width of typeset matter, in this case the name Bodoni.



points of lead. At the end of that typeset line, the system will return to 14-point leading. If a line includes scientific or mathematical symbols, you can also insert or remove lead anywhere in the line to accommodate subscripts and superscripts.

Expanding and compressing spaces between words and between letters is fundamental to professional-looking documents. You should be able to control spacing for an entire document and within a single line. This flexibility allows you to *letterspace*, or custom fit, a line to the margin—a very popular design technique these days. It also comes in handy when an h&j program cannot do its job within the format limitations you've established.

Because a trick of the eye causes white space between letters to look disproportionately wider in larger type sizes, larger type appears to be loosely set. *Tracking*, which measures and controls the overall tightness of letterspacing, can be adjusted in the typesetting process (just as the spacing between letter pairs can be adjusted by kerning) to counteract the optical illusion of loose type (see Figure 7). Most typesetting systems offer several degrees of tracking; the appropriate degree may be triggered automatically when type size crosses a designated limit.

Fundamental Questions

Personal computer publishing products range from slightly modified word processors to professional quality commercial typesetting programs. You should answer several basic questions before investing time and money in one of these products.

Perhaps the most fundamental issue is whether a laser printer, such as the HP LaserJet or the Apple LaserWriter, will be your sole source of output, or whether you will send files to a commercial typesetter. In the latter case, your PC publishing program should possess sophisticated typographic capabilities, such as kerning and tracking, that govern white space. The program must also support the same fonts the typesetter uses. Otherwise, you'll be setting typo-

Figure 7: The upper sample is unrefined text: No adjustment has been made to the overall letterspacing—tracking—and the text has not been kerned. The lower sample has been kerned and had its tracking tightened.

graphically inferior type on a commercial typesetter, which is akin to giving an old car a new paint job without hammering out the dents. Unfortunately, very few publishing packages for the PC offer commercial typesetting capabilities.

Do you expect the entire typesetting process to be automatic? Some moderately expensive typesetting programs will automatically kern an entire file on the fly, but others may require manual kerning.

Keep in mind that available PC publishing systems offer different grades of utility. To rate the practicality of a program, make an effort to discover what it takes to use it—and if the effort is worth the output. But don't shy away from a sophisticated program just because it seems a little too complicated. Your needs and your skills may grow more quickly than you think.

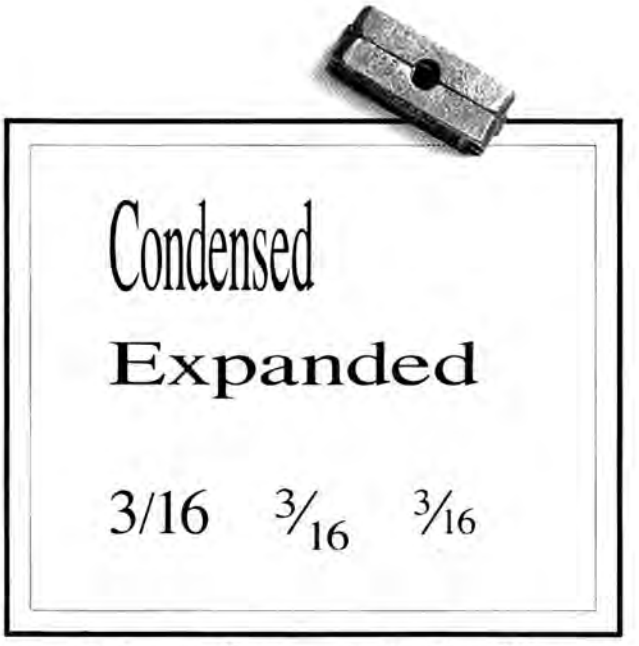


Figure 8: Special effects. The samples at the top were created by altering character width. The rightmost fraction was set by an automatic fraction-building utility, which creates far better results than integer fraction building (left) and the superscript/subscript approach (center). The rules that surround the figure were built individually, using vertical and horizontal rule set commands.

Typographically Forewarned

When laser printer manufacturers first claimed their machines could produce commercial quality type, typographers rightly belittled the assertion, noting that laser output was at best a rough approximation of professional-level type. The criticism is still well founded. When shopping for a PC publishing system, look beyond the hype. *Kerning* is currently the favored buzzword among vendors, but few packages offer true kerning ability. What is often touted as kerning is actually a tracking utility.

Also make sure that hyphenation is automatic. Some PC-based hyphenation programs force you to intervene when difficult hyphenation decisions arise. Manually inserting a break point is usually a simple task, but it hardly makes for efficient production. While speed may not be important to you, accuracy should be. Test the program with some sample text laced with a good selection of hard-to-hyphenate words. Include long words to see if the program hyphenates them in the middle or simply clips off the first or last syllable. Set up narrow column widths to maximize hyphenation opportunities and see how well the program performs.

Finally, look for extra features that you may not need now but might eventually use. As with any productivity software, you need room to grow. When you become proficient as a page designer, you may want features like automatic fraction building, horizontal and vertical rules, expanded typefaces, and discretionary hyphenation (see Figure 8). While none of these special effects is crucial, each can lend your documents a crisper, more finished look. Words will be arranged in a pleasing way; the page will invite the reader to read on. And that, after all, is what the craft of typography is all about.

Although a capable PC publishing system and a working knowledge of typographical concepts will get you started, you must also have an eye for detail and the patience to sweat the small stuff. In the world of typography, it's all small stuff, measured in fractions of inches.

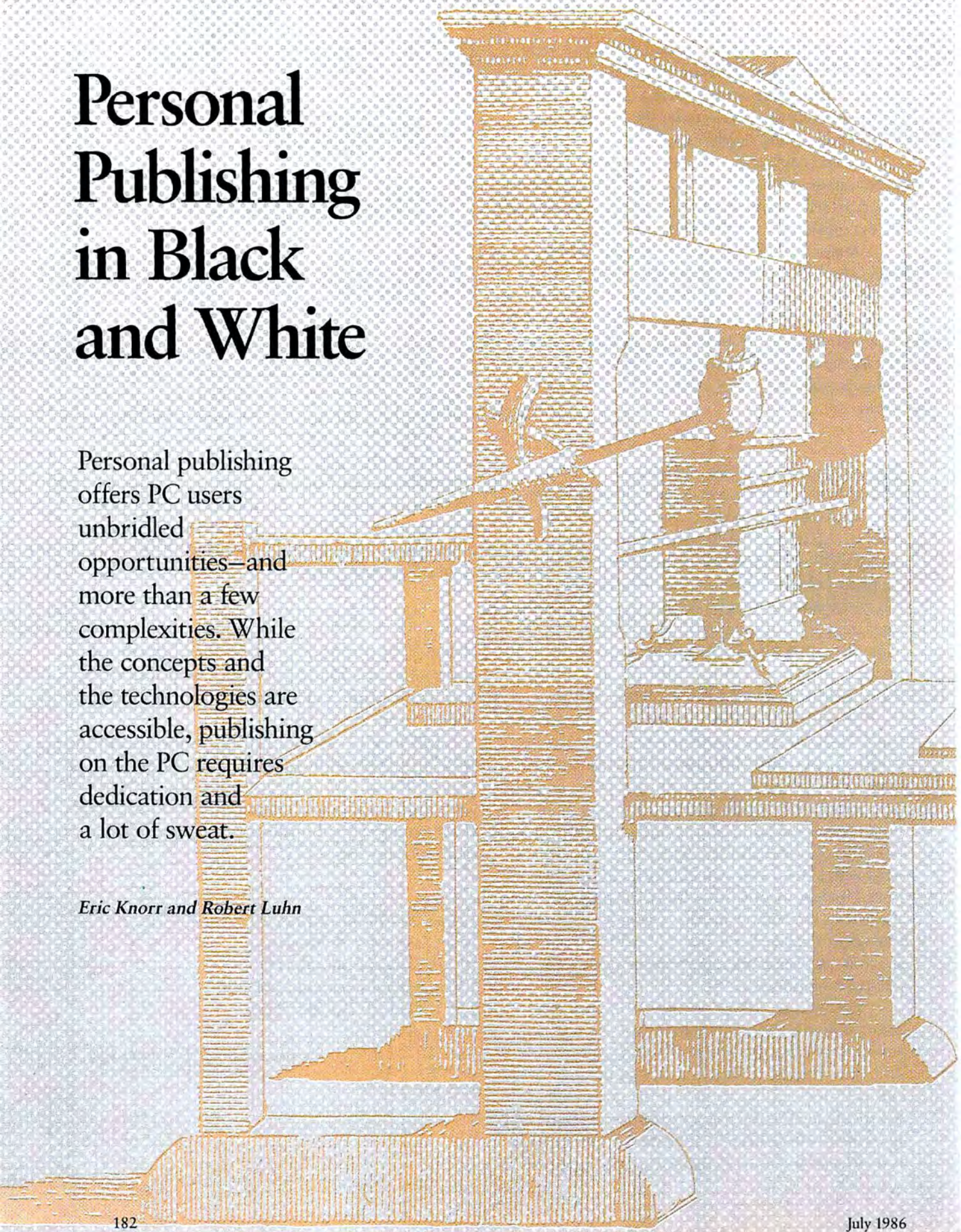
James Felici is the Technical Editor of Publish!. *Ted Nace is a Contributing Editor for* PC World *and the coauthor of* LaserJet Unlimited *(Peachpit Press, 1986, Berkeley).*

This article is based on the forthcoming book New Skills for Laser Publishing, *by James Felici and Ted Nace, to be published by Addison-Wesley, Boston, Massachusetts.*

Personal Publishing in Black and White

Personal publishing offers PC users unbridled opportunities—and more than a few complexities. While the concepts and the technologies are accessible, publishing on the PC requires dedication and a lot of sweat.

Eric Knorr and Robert Luhn



Fred Simpson

In the early 1980s, a PC with a word processing program and a dot matrix printer with graphics capability represented the sum total of personal computer publishing systems. Company executives, pleased with the productivity gained with PCs but raised on the authoritative, crisp output of the IBM Selectric, thundered, "Make it look typed!" Letter quality printers soon satisfied this demand, but when it came to impressing clients and beating out competitors, greater polish was required. Thus, most companies turned to graphics, layout, and typesetting professionals for the necessary presentation pizzazz.

Today, personal computer publishing is coming into its own, spurred by advances (and drastic cost reductions) in laser printers, word processing packages, and page composition programs. For the first time, businesses lacking the deep pockets of a Fortune 500 company can blend text and

graphics to create winning reports, customer and company newsletters, manuals, brochures, fliers, price lists, and more without farming the work out to typesetting firms and graphics houses. While the quality of the resulting laser-typeset text and graphics won't threaten magazine and book publishers, the output is suitable for many business situations. Better still, a PC-based publishing system lets you control the entire process and make last-minute changes without bankrupting your company.

Publish and Perspire

The current clutch of laser printers and page layout software can't fully mirror the powers of a mini- or mainframe-based typesetting system. But with these tools, you can justify text, control spacing between letters and words, pour text into columns, paste up digitized images and graphics generated by paint programs, and access enough typefaces to keep budding personal publishers happy. In short, you have the power to size and combine all the important elements on a page to create an aesthetically pleasing, harmonious whole.

But be forewarned—publishing on the desk top is no simple endeavor. If you thought mastering your first word processor was tough, you'll appreciate its relative simplicity once you tackle the ins and outs of a page composition program. Not only will you have to get up to speed on such time-honored techniques as kerning, justification, leading, and indention (see "Typesetting Point by Point" in this issue), you'll need to learn a handful of unfamiliar programs to produce that ultimate company newsletter. The specifics will vary, but you may have to switch to a newer word processor such as *Microsoft Word* that offers comprehensive page formatting and is designed to use laser printer fonts. To conjure up charts and supporting graphics, you will have to grapple with painting and drawing programs like *PC Paintbrush* and *Graphix Partner*.

The accomplished PC publisher in effect must wear several hats at once: designer, layout artist, and typographer. But expediency and reality may compel companies with voluminous and more complex output to create a full-time publishing manager position. Filling that slot means dedicating the necessary budget to hire a professional with publishing and/or design experience. Given the complexities of PC publishing, the money would be well spent.

The accomplished PC publisher in effect must wear several hats at once: designer, layout artist, and typesetter.

Publishing à la PC

Publishing and design professionals may initially balk at the idea of using a PC for personal computer publishing. The machine of choice has so far been the Apple Macintosh—and for good reason. The Mac environment imposes a set of strict rules that programs must follow. Data formats must be compatible; thus, integrating text from a word processor with graphics from a paint program is a relatively uncomplicated process. The Mac's consistent graphics-oriented user interface, which relies on icons and pull-down menus, makes learning a variety of programs a far simpler task. Add a mouse for dragging text and graphics around, and you have a system that's tailor-made for laying out a page.

Consider, too, that the Macintosh is linked to the Mercedes-Benz of laser printers, the Apple LaserWriter. The printer features a hefty 1.5MB of memory, a Motorola 68000 microprocessor, and ROM chips holding PostScript, Adobe Systems' powerful page description language (see "PostScript: Master of the Raster," *PCW*, August 1985). The LaserWriter's capacious memory is the key to its high-resolution output and to easier page makeup; an entire page at 300- by 300-dpi (dots per inch) resolution can be manipulated at once. (The Hewlett-Packard LaserJet, by comparison, is limited to a 75- by 75-dpi graphics page.) In addition, Mac programs that incorporate PostScript drivers, such as *PageMaker* and *Microsoft Word*, can scale fonts, stretch and rotate images in almost any conceivable manner, and take advantage of other LaserWriter talents.

But in the business world, the Mac is an adjunct to office computing; the PC, its programs, and

its peripherals reign supreme. On a cost/performance basis, the scales usually tip in favor of the PC family. Processing is faster, and memory and hard disk storage are sometimes half the price of comparable Macintosh hardware. The array of software for the PC dwarfs what is available for the Mac. In the laser printer world, the Hewlett-Packard LaserJet (by dint of its association with the PC) outsells the LaserWriter six to one. With a comparatively modest $2995 price tag ($3000 less than the LaserWriter), the LaserJet's popularity with PC users is no surprise. This trend may change as more and more PC users yearn for the graphics capabilities of PostScript.

Naturally, the LaserJet can't match all the talents of the LaserWriter. Though both printers are based on the Canon LBP-CX laser printer engine and use the 68000 microprocessor, the LaserJet is shy on memory and unable to comprehend PostScript commands. As a result, the LaserJet produces minuscule 300-dpi graphics and cannot scale fonts. However, an extra $1000 buys you a LaserJet Plus, and things begin to look considerably better. Memory jumps to 512K, enabling the printer to store as many as 16 disk-based fonts and spit out 300-dpi images covering a third of a page.

Third-party vendors are also helping the LaserJet catch up. Inexpensive font generation programs such as *Fancy Word* expand the LaserJet's character set, while multimegabyte memory boards such as the JLaser from Tall Tree Systems enable the LaserJet to handle full-page 300-dpi graphics easily (see "From the Hardware Shelf" in this issue).

Still, the extra memory won't lend your documents the éclat of the LaserWriter and PostScript (see Figure 1). But the LaserWriter can connect to the PC's serial port, and new publishing programs for the PC such as *MagnaType, ScenicWriter, Do-It,* and the

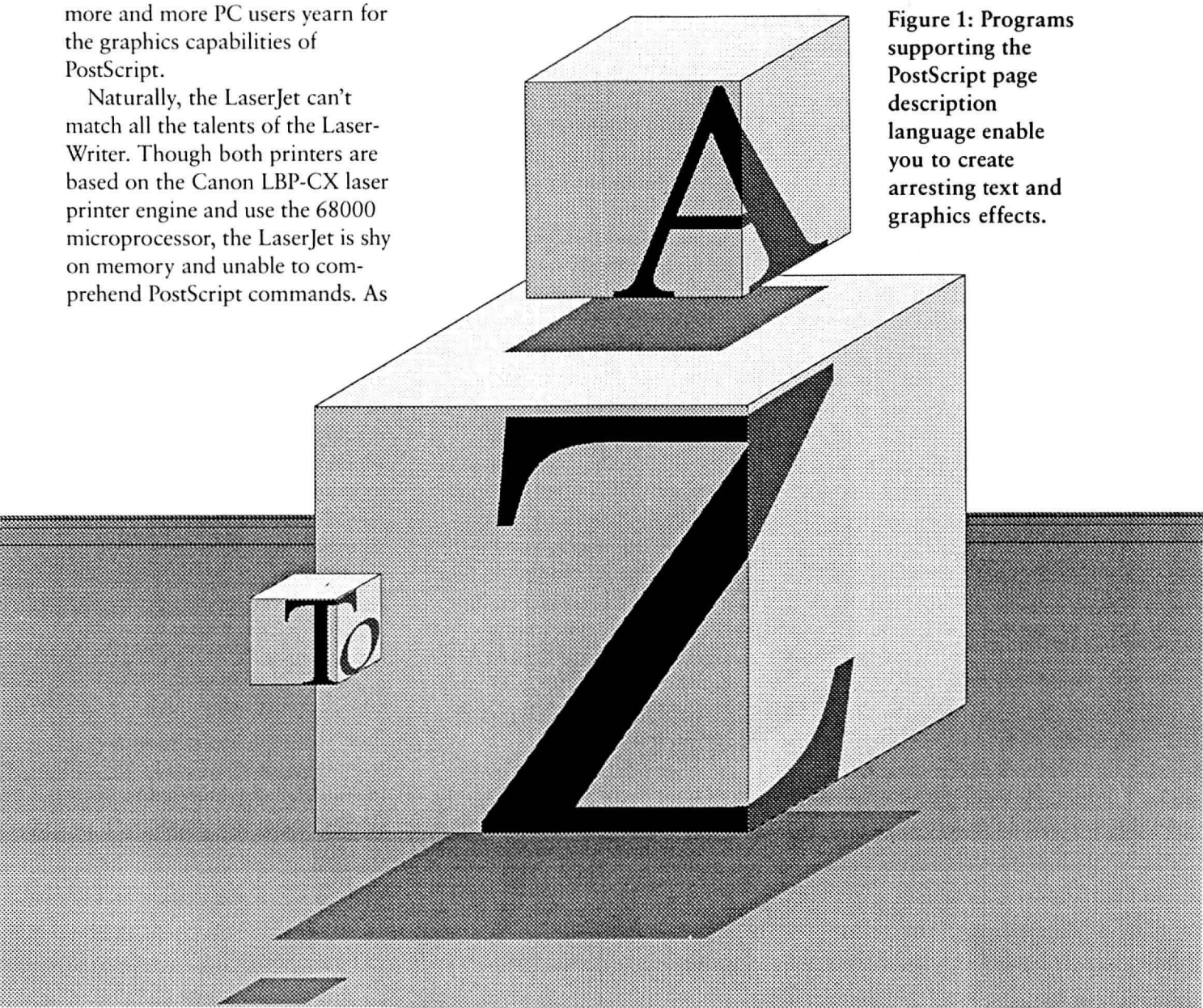


Figure 1: Programs supporting the PostScript page description language enable you to create arresting text and graphics effects.

recently converted *PageMaker* all generate PostScript files—as can *Microsoft Word, XyWrite III,* and *Microsoft Chart.* Converters such as Tangent Technologies' PC MacBridge board also let popular programs from *WordStar* to *1-2-3* tap the LaserWriter's powers.

The PC's user interface is also moving toward Mac-like standardization. *Microsoft Windows,* an extension of DOS that imposes many of the same rules on applications that the Mac does, can easily integrate text and graphics from *Windows*-compatible programs (see Screen 1). Mac analogues such as *Windows Write, Windows Paint,* and *Windows Draw* and converted Mac programs such as *ClickArt* and *PageMaker* will likely be available by press time. *Windows* will, of course, sport a PostScript driver for LaserWriter output.

What You See and What You Don't

Depending on the personal publishing program you use, you may or may not see on screen what eventually rolls out of your laser printer. Some programs rely on coding, in much the way early word processing programs handled printing enhancements. As with traditional typesetting programs, there's little attempt to show on screen what the document will look like when printed. *WordStar* is a good example of the coding approach. To print a block of text in boldface, you insert control characters at the beginning of the block and turn them off at the end. Embedded codes also control italics, subscripts, and similar functions.

Other publishing programs take the what-you-see-is-what-you-get (sometimes referred to as WYSIWYG) tack—screen display closely emulates a document's ultimate appearance. If you want to set text in italics, for example, you don't have to wait until print time to see your handiwork. Moreover, rather than requiring embedded codes, many such programs let you pick fonts and functions from menus.

Code-oriented publishing programs are generally more flexible and powerful than their display-oriented counterparts. One particularly pertinent example is *MagnaType* from Magna Computer Systems, which provides a full complement of typesetting features, from kerning and tracking (functions that control spacing between characters and words) to automatic hyphenation and justification. Although it supports PostScript and the LaserWriter, *MagnaType* is a true typesetting program, capable of driving a commercial typesetter (see "MagnaType: The Personal Typographer" in this issue).

Typographers may not prefer display-oriented programs, but design professionals and those making their first forays into the field will find them much easier to learn and use. A leading example of such software is Aldus's *PageMaker,* currently the most popular page composition program for the Macintosh and perhaps soon for the PC. The program can display an entire page, zoom a section, automatically reformat for new column margins or inserts, and scale images to fit (see Figure 2).

> PageMaker *can display an entire page, zoom a section, automatically reformat for new column margins or inserts, and scale images to fit.*

Instead of coding a hole in a document for a picture that will be pasted in later by hand, all elements of the document are assembled on one electronic drafting table. (See "Taking a Page From the Pros" in this issue.)

Graphic Impressions

There's more to PC publishing than setting text in a professional-looking typeface. You can enhance a document by creating graphic elements like boxes, horizontal bars, and vertical rules—functions supported by most PC publishing programs. But if you've seen effective presentation graphics, you know how charts and illustrations can amplify a message. If extra visual punch is what you need, consider page layout programs, such as *PageMaker* and Ventura Software's *Ventura Publisher,* that can import graphics from other business programs and include freewheeling output from draw or paint programs.

A typical page makeup session to produce a newsletter in the *Microsoft Windows* environment might work as follows. Before importing text formatted by *Word* into *Windows Write*, you would convert the document from style sheet formatting to direct formatting, because *Write* discards style sheets. Once text is suitably polished, you would open the *Write* document file from *PageMaker* and pour the text into previously defined columns. You could construct a masthead and headlines using *Windows Draw*'s fonts and create a freehand graphic with *Windows Paint* illustrating a news item. *PageMaker* would then import the two files. Using *PageMaker*'s toolbox, you could crop, shrink, or expand the images and insert borders for emphasis. The page would then be sent to the laser printer.

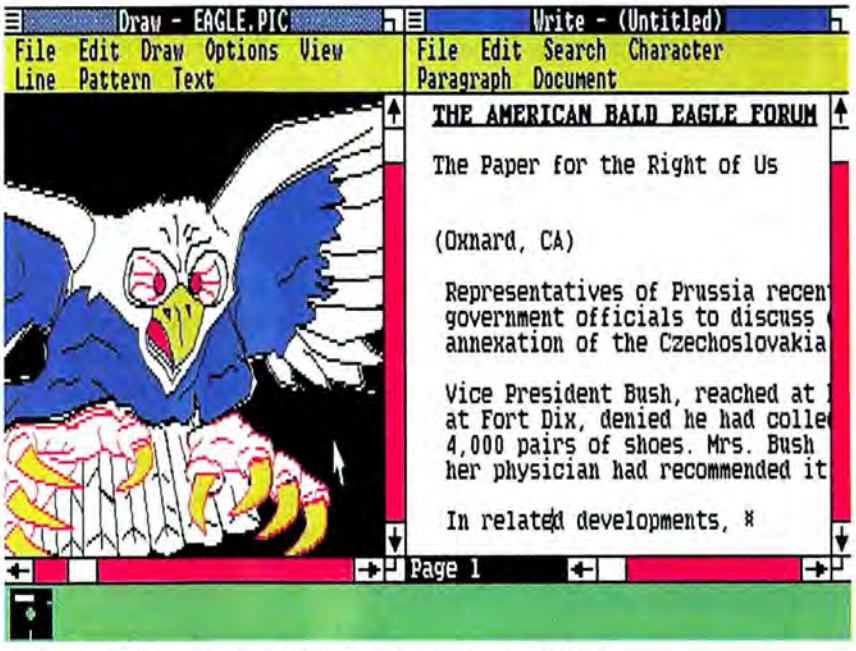
To further complicate matters, if you want to incorporate photos into a document without physically pasting them in, you'll have to turn to expensive and not-so-friendly digitizers like the Datacopy Model 700 Word Image Processing System (WIPS). Resembling a desk-top photocopier, the Datacopy turns whatever is placed on its scanning plate into a digitized bit map. To include a scanned image in a document, you must transfer the bit-mapped image file by means of the scanner's software to *PageMaker*.

If this sounds convoluted, it is. Integrating all the elements discussed here would mean learning no less than seven separate programs. In addition, some steps in the process—such as final layout, scanning, and printing out graphics—are intricate and time-consuming. It's clear that PC publishing is no casual affair.

System Suggestions

Naturally, the quality and complexity of the output you require will determine the cost and capabilities of your personal computer publishing system. If you generate only letters, memos, and departmental reports, running *MagnaType* on an AT is overkill indeed. A word processor and a dot matrix printer with a sharp near letter quality mode would probably suffice. Bona fide personal computer publishing becomes imperative when you must incorporate graphics and when clients, top management, or the public will see your documents.

Wherever you are in the PC publishing continuum, be aware that do-it-yourself publishing is expensive. A system including a PC, the requisite software, and a laser printer can easily top $20,000. As you move toward the high end (above $40,000), some contend that you might as well purchase a terminal and a small dedicated typesetter for about $50,000. A dedicated system offers far more fonts than a laser printer but can't use any other software. For many, a PC-based system will likely be the best choice.



Screen 1: If you've used the Macintosh, you'll find the Windows environment familiar. In the early part of the page makeup process, you create graphics with Windows Draw and enter text in Windows Write. Depending on your whim, the image on the left could be reduced, cut, and pasted into the Write document; the entire Write file would then be imported by PageMaker. PageMaker could also capture and size the text and graphics files separately.

What systems dot the personal computer publishing landscape? Based on cost and functionality, there are some notable points along the way.

The low end. A commonsense personal publishing system for the low end would probably include a hard-disk-equipped PC XT featuring monochrome graphics capability. For output, either the QMS KISS or the LaserJet Plus, because both are supported by a wide range of software. The KISS is about $1500 cheaper than the LaserJet Plus and is compatible with programs that have drivers for Epson, Diablo, and Qume printers (see "KISSes $2000" in this issue). However, the KISS's graphics potential is sorely limited by 128K of memory and relatively crude 150-dpi output. The LaserJet Plus produces sharp characters and one-third-page 300-dpi graphics.

If you choose *Microsoft Word* or *XyWrite III* as your word processor and pseudo page makeup program, you have access to the LaserJet's collection of cartridge and disk-based fonts. But text and graphics integration is problematic, since mammoth amounts of memory and disk storage are required and images are difficult to size and fit on a page.

The midrange. One rung up, you might hang on to *Word* or *XyWrite III* for word crunching and add *Windows, Windows Write, Windows Paint, Windows Draw,* and *PageMaker.* For color display and swift processing (respectively desired and required with *Windows*), you would swap the XT for an AT equipped with a hard disk, an Enhanced Graphics Adapter, and an Enhanced Color Display. A LaserWriter would accommodate PostScript files generated by *PageMaker.* Text would be sharper still, with full-page images of 300 dpi and unlimited graphics manipulation. For the truly professional look, PostScript files could be sent to a Linotronic 300 typesetter for 1270-dpi output. This capable personal publishing system could easily cost $15,000. If digitized images were a must, you'd need to add $3000 or more for a scanner.

The high end. In this rarefied realm, the distinctions between desktop and professional typesetting begin to blur. An 8MHz AT or 10MHz compatible and a monochrome monitor would run *MagnaType.* The LaserWriter would produce preview galleys, and type would be set on a commercial typesetter driven by *MagnaType.* The resolution of the output would depend on the typesetter used. Hold on to your wallet: Behind door number three lies a bill starting at $14,000—not counting the typesetter and the professionals needed to run the system.

Caveats for Custom Publishing

There's always another "revolution" coming round the bend. Laser and other photoelectric printers will no doubt continue to boost resolution while whittling price tags. Software developers, goaded by the success of upstart *PageMaker* and the entry of traditional systems like *MagnaType,* will bring greater functionality to their PC publishing products—and, one hopes, simplify the process. Word processing developers, for better or worse, will continue to take document formatting seriously and ponder the possibilities of laser printing. Programs such as *Word,* with its comprehensive style sheets, laser font use, and PostScript output, point the way toward a possible path—one that few professional word processing programs will be able to ignore. And the example of the Macintosh, as illustrated by *Microsoft Windows,* may make the cherished buzzword *integration* a reality.

In the meantime, keep in mind that personal computer publishing isn't for everyone. For some, sticking with a tried-and-true type and design house is just the ticket; for others, doing the coding in-house, having a type shop run off galleys, and pasting up the result on boards may be a perfectly cost-efficient solution. PC publishing means time, often unrewarded effort, and a willingness to be patient with hardware, software, and your own limitations. There are many programs to learn and disciplines to understand. Future publishing programs may help you make better design decisions, but until then, be prepared to climb a steep learning curve.

Eric Knorr and Robert Luhn are Associate Editors for PC World.

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Neither is printing those columns on a single page. In fact, MultiMate Advantage supports over 350 different printers.

It also supports a new 40,000-word thesaurus. As well as a 110,000-word dictionary (complete with medical and legal jargon), which you can easily customize to include your own frequently used words.

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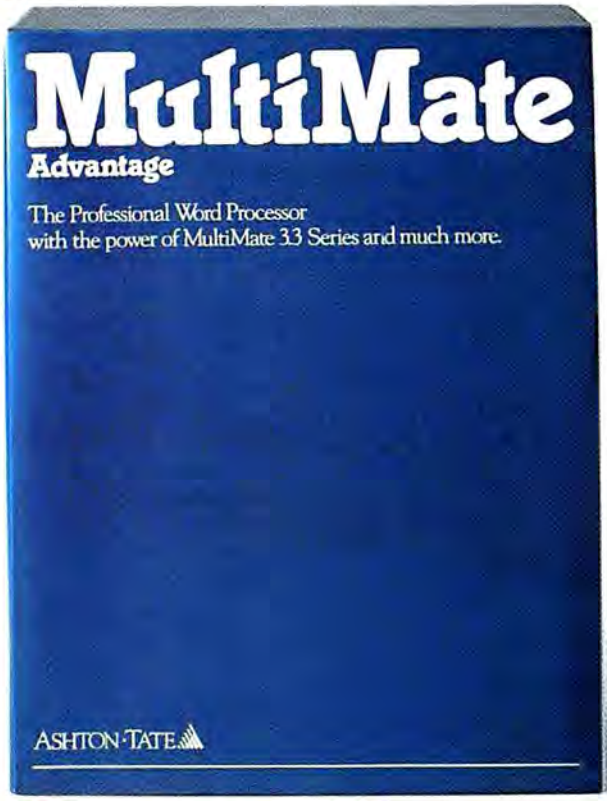

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Circle 501 on reader service card

Corporate Publishing Takes Off

Pioneering companies large and small are reaping enormous savings and dramatically improving the quality of their public image by assigning a new function to their PCs—publishing.

Barbara Robertson

Around the Boeing Corporation legend has it that the documentation for a 747 weighs more than the plane itself. That mass of paper, however, is just a small portion of the aerospace giant's total publishing effort, which amounts to 2 billion pages a year. So it is not surprising that one division at Boeing is using more than 200 Macintosh computers to halve production costs for some of its reports and proposals. After all, Apple has heavily promoted the machine's ability to handle personal computer publishing.

What comes as a surprise is that the bulk of Boeing's campaign to improve the quality and reduce

David Bishop

the costs of its publishing centers not on the Mac but on the PC.

When typesetting specialist Chad Canty was hired by Boeing's Software Education Product Group to improve the department's documentation, he first considered using Macintoshes. But Canty was not pleased with either word processing program available on Apple's flagship product–*MacWrite* was not sophisticated enough, he says, and *Microsoft Word* was too slow. His ultimate decision to go with PCs was helped by the fact that the software group already possessed them.

Enormous publishing costs are not unique to Boeing. According to InterConsult of Cambridge, Massachusetts, publishing ranks second only to personnel as most companies' biggest expense, typically consuming 6 to 10 percent of gross revenues. Nor is Boeing alone in its effort to reduce those costs through an existing investment in PCs.

At Sperry Corporation, a Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, computer manufacturer, Tony Menichelli, manager of composition and layout services, faced a task similar to Canty's. While evaluating a switch from manual pasteup of type produced by a local typesetter to a mainframe typesetting and page layout system, Menichelli found a third alternative–a local area network of Sperry PC ITs and the PC-based *Superpage* pagination system, an interactive page layout program.

Publishing ranks second only to personnel as most companies' biggest expense, typically consuming 6 to 10 percent of gross revenues.

At SBT, a Sausalito, California, software company that offers *dBASE II*-based accounting programs, a PC pagination system combined with a laser printer reduces the costs of documentation and provides a competitive edge. "We can quickly add features or change our discount policy to meet a changing market and get new, high-quality printed material to our dealers in 48 hours," says Robert H. Davies, SBT's president.

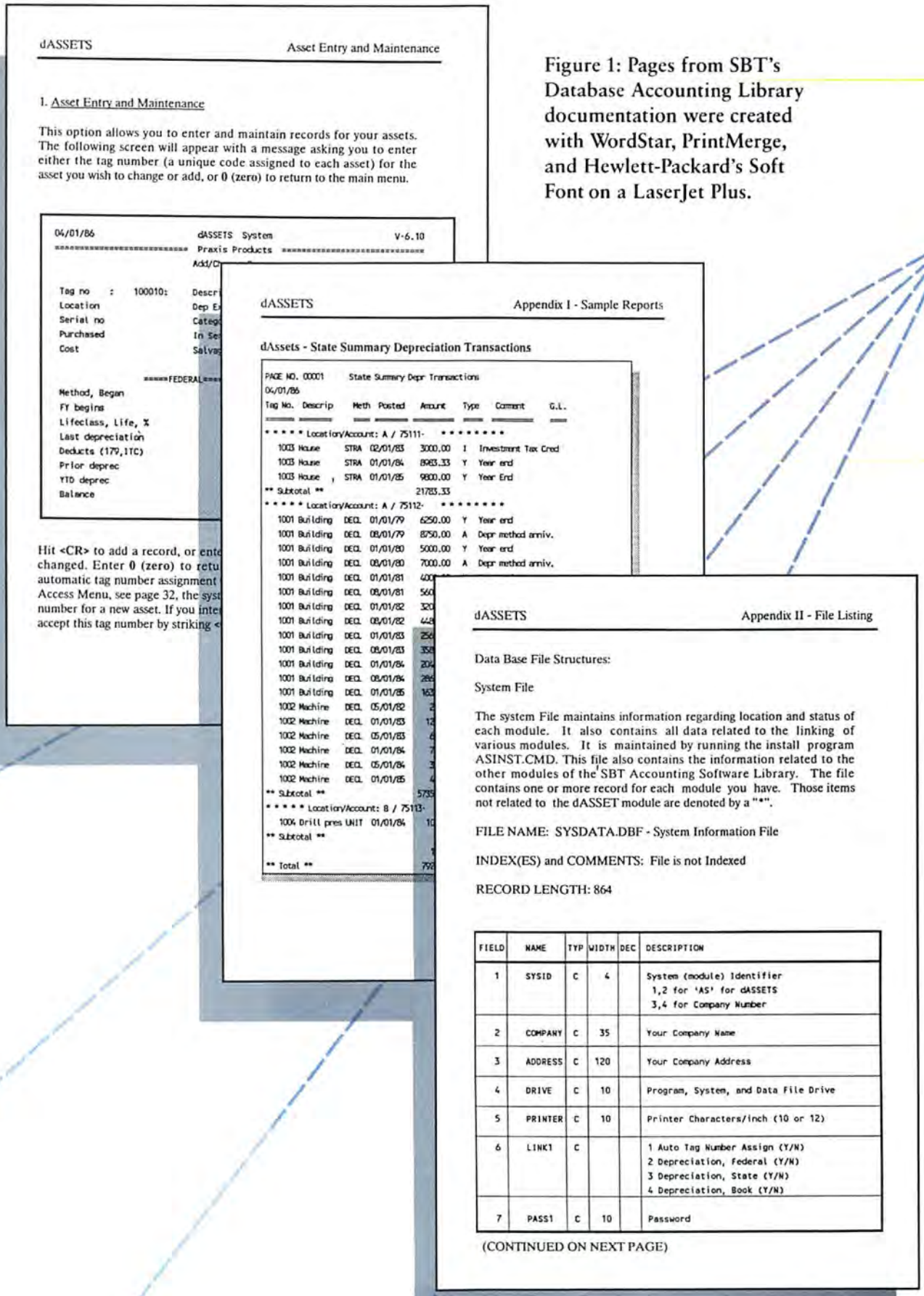
How is all this possible on PCs? After all, the personal publishing tools that have made such a splash on the Mac–the inexpensive, do-everything programs that integrate graphics and type into camera-ready pages–are just now being introduced on the PC. But there are ways to enhance the publishing process without the sophisticated page layout capabilities of a program like Aldus's *PageMaker* for the Macintosh. Indeed, such programs may not be appropriate for every publishing application.

The Cost of Tradition

One reason the cost of publishing is so high (InterConsult estimates that U.S. firms spent $200 billion to produce 2.5 trillion pages in 1984) is that most firms still assemble business documents by the traditional, labor-intensive manual method. The written portion of a document goes from a word processor to a typesetter, and not always directly–sometimes it is manually rekeyed. The rosin-coated paper used by phototypesetters is expensive–about 50 cents a sheet–but its cost is relatively insignificant compared to that of the manual cut-and-paste process whereby type is combined with headlines, charts, diagrams, and other graphic elements.

The inevitable last-minute changes that occur in the assembly process are even more laborious: It has been estimated that a 10 percent revision can account for 70 percent of a document's production time, boosting the cost of technical documentation to as much as $400 per page over the course of several revisions.

For some applications, the expense and turnaround time of this traditional process are completely unacceptable. SBT originally used daisy wheel printers to produce camera-ready copy, which was then photographically reduced from 8½ by 11 inches to fit a smaller, bookshelf-size three-ring binder. Later, in an effort to make the documentation look more professional, SBT went to an outside production facility. "We got an estimate for $8000," Davies says. "But it ended up costing $30,000; took four months for the production alone; and since the outside company didn't understand the program, the resulting quality was not what we'd hoped for."



dASSETS Asset Entry and Maintenance

1. Asset Entry and Maintenance

This option allows you to enter and maintain records for your assets. The following screen will appear with a message asking you to enter either the tag number (a unique code assigned to each asset) for the asset you wish to change or add, or 0 (zero) to return to the main menu.

04/01/86 dASSETS System V-6.10
Praxis Products

Tag no : 100010:
Location
Serial no
Purchased
Cost
=====FEDERAL=====
Method, Began
FY begins
Lifeclass, Life, %
Last depreciation
Deducts (179,ITC)
Prior deprec
YTD deprec
Balance

Hit <CR> to add a record, or ente
changed. Enter 0 (zero) to retu
automatic tag number assignment
Access Menu, see page 32, the syst
number for a new asset. If you inte
accept this tag number by striking <

dASSETS Appendix I - Sample Reports

dAssets - State Summary Depreciation Transactions

PAGE NO. 00001 State Summary Depr Transactions
04/01/86

Tag No.	Descrip	Meth	Posted	Amount	Type	Comment	G.L.
***** Location/Account: A / 75111- ********							
1003	House	STRA	02/01/83	3000.00	I	Investment Tax Cred	
1003	House	STRA	01/01/84	8983.33	Y	Year end	
1003	House	STRA	01/01/85	9800.00	Y	Year End	
** Subtotal **				21783.33			
***** Location/Account: A / 75112- ********							
1001	Building	DEQ	01/01/79	6250.00	Y	Year end	
1001	Building	DEQ	08/01/79	8750.00	A	Depr method anniv.	
1001	Building	DEQ	01/01/80	5000.00	Y	Year end	
1001	Building	DEQ	08/01/80	7000.00	A	Depr method anniv.	
1001	Building	DEQ	01/01/81	400			
1001	Building	DEQ	08/01/81	560			
1001	Building	DEQ	01/01/82	320			
1001	Building	DEQ	08/01/82	448			
1001	Building	DEQ	01/01/83	256			
1001	Building	DEQ	08/01/83	358			
1001	Building	DEQ	01/01/84	204			
1001	Building	DEQ	08/01/84	286			
1001	Building	DEQ	01/01/85	163			
1002	Machine	DEQ	05/01/82	2			
1002	Machine	DEQ	01/01/83	12			
1002	Machine	DEQ	05/01/83	6			
1002	Machine	DEQ	01/01/84	7			
1002	Machine	DEQ	05/01/84	3			
1002	Machine	DEQ	01/01/85	4			
** Subtotal **				5735			
***** Location/Account: B / 75113-							
1004	Drill pres UNIT		01/01/84	10			
** Subtotal **							
** Total **				79			

dASSETS Appendix II - File Listing

Data Base File Structures:

System File

The system File maintains information regarding location and status of each module. It also contains all data related to the linking of various modules. It is maintained by running the install program ASINST.CMD. This file also contains the information related to the other modules of the SBT Accounting Software Library. The file contains one or more record for each module you have. Those items not related to the dASSET module are denoted by a "*".

FILE NAME: SYSDATA.DBF - System Information File

INDEX(ES) and COMMENTS: File is not Indexed

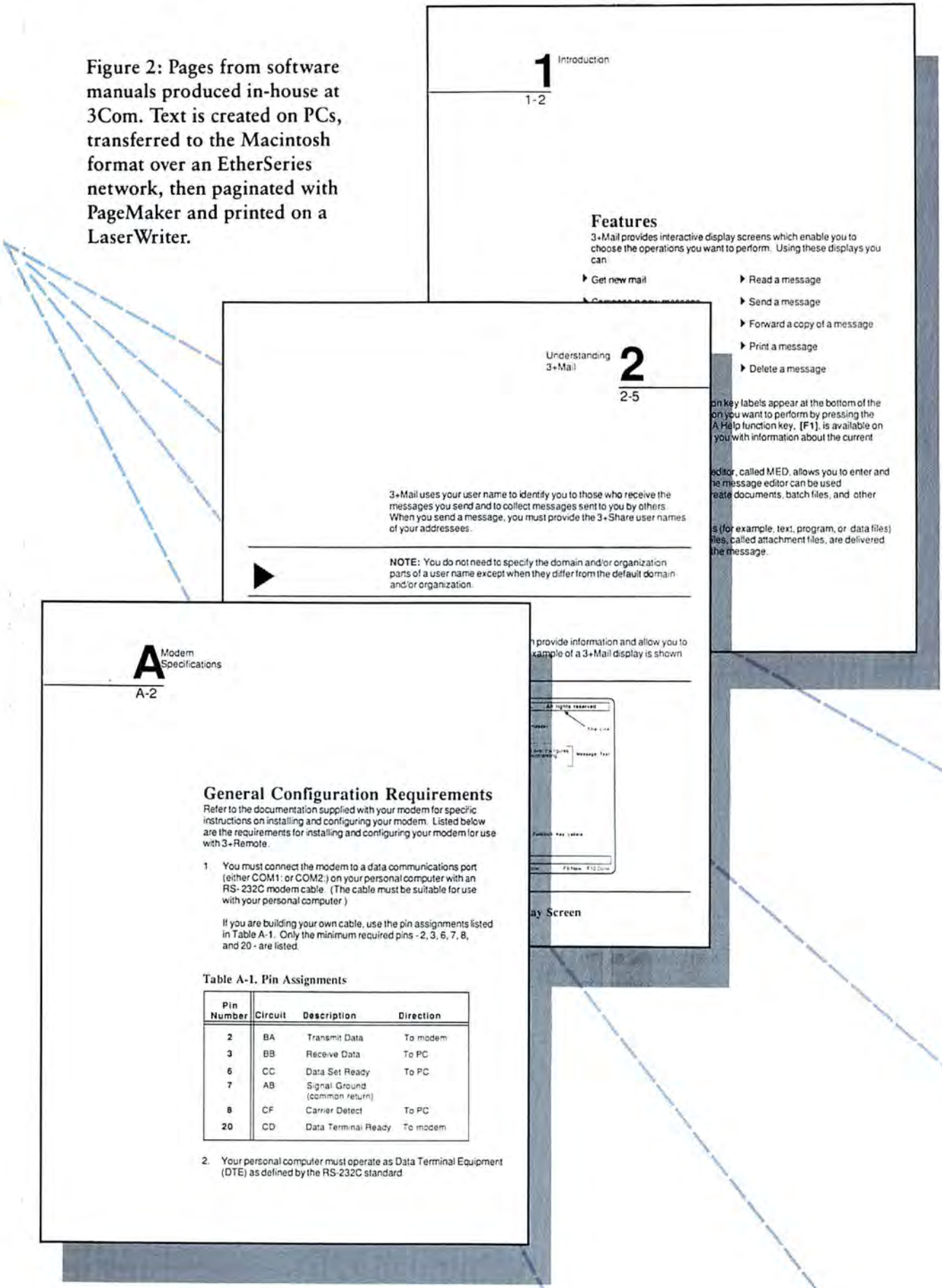
RECORD LENGTH: 864

FIELD	NAME	TYP	WIDTH	DEC	DESCRIPTION
1	SYSID	C	4		System (module) Identifier 1,2 for 'AS' for dASSETS 3,4 for Company Number
2	COMPANY	C	35		Your Company Name
3	ADDRESS	C	120		Your Company Address
4	DRIVE	C	10		Program, System, and Data File Drive
5	PRINTER	C	10		Printer Characters/inch (10 or 12)
6	LINK1	C			1 Auto Tag Number Assign (Y/N) 2 Depreciation, Federal (Y/N) 3 Depreciation, State (Y/N) 4 Depreciation, Book (Y/N)
7	PASS1	C	10		Password

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

Figure 1: Pages from SBT's Database Accounting Library documentation were created with WordStar, PrintMerge, and Hewlett-Packard's Soft Font on a LaserJet Plus.

Figure 2: Pages from software manuals produced in-house at 3Com. Text is created on PCs, transferred to the Macintosh format over an EtherSeries network, then paginated with PageMaker and printed on a LaserWriter.



1 Introduction
1-2

Features
3+Mail provides interactive display screens which enable you to choose the operations you want to perform. Using these displays you can:

- Get new mail
- Read a message
- Send a message
- Forward a copy of a message
- Print a message
- Delete a message

on key labels appear at the bottom of the
on you want to perform by pressing the
A Help function key, [F1], is available on
you with information about the current

editor, called MED, allows you to enter and
e message editor can be used
eate documents, batch files, and other

s (for example, text, program, or data files)
iles, called attachment files, are delivered
the message.

Understanding 3+Mail 2
2-5

3+Mail uses your user name to identify you to those who receive the messages you send and to collect messages sent to you by others. When you send a message, you must provide the 3+Share user names of your addressees.

NOTE: You do not need to specify the domain and/or organization parts of a user name except when they differ from the default domain and/or organization.

provide information and allow you to
xample of a 3+Mail display is shown

ay Screen

A Modem Specifications
A-2

General Configuration Requirements

Refer to the documentation supplied with your modem for specific instructions on installing and configuring your modem. Listed below are the requirements for installing and configuring your modem for use with 3+Remote.

1. You must connect the modem to a data communications port (either COM1: or COM2:) on your personal computer with an RS-232C modem cable. (The cable must be suitable for use with your personal computer.)

   If you are building your own cable, use the pin assignments listed in Table A-1. Only the minimum required pins - 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, and 20 - are listed.

Table A-1. Pin Assignments

Pin Number	Circuit	Description	Direction
2	BA	Transmit Data	To modem
3	BB	Receive Data	To PC
6	CC	Data Set Ready	To PC
7	AB	Signal Ground (common return)	
8	CF	Carrier Detect	To PC
20	CD	Data Terminal Ready	To modem

2. Your personal computer must operate as Data Terminal Equipment (DTE) as defined by the RS-232C standard.

Now, using *WordStar* for text entry and a combination print driver and page formatter called *PrintMerge* from Polaris Software, SBT produces high-quality, camera-ready copy in-house, sending it out only for reproduction of multiple copies (see Figure 1). In addition, the company uses this system for preliminary documentation and addenda, which, because of laser printing, look as polished as the final versions. "We can make a change in the program and ship it with changed documentation the same day. It's unbelievable," says Davies.

The *PrintMerge* program lets *WordStar* users select LaserJet type fonts and sizes, specify page formats, and add graphics by entering commands from within *WordStar* documents. For example, to draw a box, you enter the dot command .BX followed by numeric codes that designate line width and upper-left and lower-right coordinates. Type spacing, size, and style are selected with *WordStar* control-code sequences.

Other users of *PrintMerge* tend to be much like the production staff at SBT: *WordStar* users who want better quality than they can get from a daisy wheel printer and *WordStar*'s limited formatting capabilities. Pacific Information Corporation, for example, produces specialty books with *PrintMerge* and an HP LaserJet. "I do a lot of the layout and page formatting myself," says Kenneth Plate, president of the company, who also writes and edits most of Pacific Information's books. "Since I'm involved with the intellectual content of the books, it's easier, saves us time, and makes a better product."

The Electronic Art Department

Tony Menichelli's graphics needs at Sperry Corporation are more complex. The company's annual output of 40,000 pages of mainframe software and hardware manuals requires that more than 120,000 pages be typeset and laid out in the course of the several revisions that lead to final, camera-ready copy. Menichelli chose *Superpage*, a pagination program from Bestinfo, that is much more expensive than *PrintMerge*.

Based on the various letter widths in a chosen proportional type font, *Superpage* calculates how many characters are needed to complete a column line. To fill the space evenly *Superpage* hyphenates words at the ends of lines, then presents the text file on screen in preview mode.

"Once *Superpage* has hyphenated and justified the text, it flows that text onto your predefined page forms," says Menichelli. "If you agree with where the program cuts the copy, you accept it; otherwise, you establish a new bottom margin and then continue flowing text onto the next page."

Before *Superpage*, Sperry used a fairly traditional publishing process. Working on dedicated word processing terminals, writers entered their text and coded it for typesetting. The output from the typesetter was a column of text known as a galley. The art staff spent most of its time cutting the galleys into page-length chunks, with running headers and footers pasted in manually. "Our artists were doing pasteup instead of graphics, and consequently the books' graphics suffered. We've been trying to put more graphics in for the past five years," says Tony Menichelli, "but schedules never seemed to allow it."

Menichelli says the electronic cut-and-paste process has given his artists more time to work creatively with authors, think about graphic concepts, and do mock-ups on their drawing boards. "But then they'll show people their concept for the illustration—and you can't really show it until it's nearly done—and someone will decide that it's wrong, and they've got to change it." Such changes, he says, are much easier if the graphic is created electronically. Menichelli hopes to have such a capability on hand soon. With computer-created graphics, he notes, "you can erase sections, move type, and change the lines of charts and boxes around." Making changes on electronic graphics saves time, he says, "the same way word processing does when it saves you from retyping pages because of a few changes."

Menichelli currently has *Superpage* leave an appropriate amount of space on the page for graphics to be pasted in later. He plans to look into a recent enhancement of *Superpage* that uses a scanner to "read" and digitize images. "You can use a Datacopy scanner to scan an image into a file; then at pasteup stage, you can call it into the page being printed." The Datacopy software has a sizing ability so you can reduce or enlarge the graphic to fit the layout.

Because the PC-based system is just part of Sperry's publishing operation, switching to another

system would be difficult, Menichelli says. A mainframe pagination system was brought on line prior to the development of the PC-based system to solve the same problem—the cost and delays resulting from manual pasteup. A gateway between the mainframe and the local area network on which the PC-based system resides allows work to be transferred between the two systems when either one is overscheduled. The system can also vary the quality of output, depending on the job at hand.

"If it's something for which we can accept no compromises, we print it on our Autologic APS-5 typesetter," Menichelli explains. But when slightly lower quality output will suffice, his division produces the work much less expensively on a laser printer driven by *Superpage,* without having to change formatting codes. For drafts, *Superpage*'s text editor, a modified version of *XyWrite II,* has a compressed mode that allows text to be edited and printed on a dot matrix printer without interference from typesetting codes.

Boeing Takes Off With XyWrite

At Boeing, Chad Canty has taken a completely original approach to what at first seemed a simple problem. Many of the software systems designed to solve internal engineering or management problems were good enough to become commercial products. Boeing's RIM data base, developed for NASA to keep track of the many unique heat-shield tiles on the space shuttle, is just one example. Canty's Software Education Products Group was given the charter to sell such software and services to the outside world. But the letter quality print of the in-house documentation was not suitable for products intended for public consumption. When Canty was asked to add proportional spacing to the division's word processing capabilities, he initially thought that meant finding a word processor that would work with any laser printer.

By the time he was finished, Canty had given an inexpensive, off-the-shelf word processing program, *XyWrite II +*, the ability to do typesetting, graphics, and page formatting.

Canty chose *XyWrite* because the program had many of the options he wanted, such as widow and orphan control and multicolumn formatting with word wrap inside columns. *XyWrite* does not display a bit-mapped page on screen with type in a font and size corresponding to what will be printed. However, *XyWrite* does display line breaks based on the specified type style and point size, even for proportionally spaced text. Equally important, the program allows users to insert PostScript printing commands, which handle the gamut of typesetting codes, anywhere within a file.

PostScript is a page description language that can tell a laser printer, such as the Apple LaserWriter, to create virtually any kind of graphic element. For example, a PostScript command could instruct the printer to "measure the length of the text in a line and build a box to fit around it," says Canty.

Canty believes that people underestimate the difficulty of moving from word processing to near typography. "There's a lot more to be conscious of," he says. "It's like going from driving a bus to flying a Lear jet." In order to simplify the task for his department's 24 employees, Canty developed a number of correctly formatted boilerplate texts. The writers no longer worry about the front matter of manuals. The formatting instructions that set type for the necessary ownership and licensing notices, title pages, and tables of contents, as well as other standard elements, are all inserted automatically. Yet Canty still expects several staff members to handle the fine points of typography and design.

As a result of Canty's efforts, Boeing is publishing professional quality manuals for little more than

the cost of the relatively amateurish books that preceded them. While it is difficult to quantify what this means to Boeing either in production dollars saved or in increased sales, the improvement in quality is so dramatic, it earned Canty a special award from Boeing's Computer Services Division.

How difficult is it to write PostScript code? "Not hard for someone who has worked with a high-level language before," says Canty. Although it might require working in unfamiliar units of measurement, such as picas and points, "the typographic aspects fall out by themselves," he says.

The Future Is Now

Although sophisticated publishing is possible with PCs, not everyone is eager to buy a $7000 package like *Superpage* or even a $2495 program like *Do-It* from Studio Software. Nor does constructing a homegrown solution like Canty's appeal to many. Instead, most companies have been awaiting the arrival of relatively inexpensive programs like *PageMaker* for the PC.

Some companies, however, can't wait for the future; they have to publish now with the available tools. In Mountain View, California, 3Com's Application Systems Division documentation and product services department was locked into the PC world, says Liz Kroha, department manager, but simply couldn't wait for the forthcoming PC publishing programs. The company contracts with outside writers for much of its copy, and they all work on PCs. Thus, text comes in on 5¼-inch, PC-DOS-formatted floppy disks.

Using five Macintoshes and two PCs hooked up to an EtherSeries network with a 3Server file server as a gateway between the IBM and Apple machines, the production team gets the best of both worlds. After a utility strips out the formatting characters from the various kinds of word processing files—*WordPerfect, XyWrite,* and *WordStar*—those files are transferred over the network from DOS formats to 3½-inch Mac-formatted disks. *MacDraw* images are combined with type that has been formatted and justified by *MacWrite* (see Figure 2). The department has used the system to turn out 16 books—2500 pages of camera-ready art—in three months time.

Clearly, progressive companies that already are comfortable with PCs are finding that they can dramatically reduce their publishing costs and improve their image through PC-based publishing systems. Though the software is still short of perfection, it won't be long before *PageMaker* and other advanced electronic publishing programs begin to make an impact among a much broader second wave of companies. They will discover in the PC an inexpensive, high-quality alternative to the costly, laborious process that has ruled the publishing world for generations.

Barbara Robertson is a Mill Valley, California, freelance writer and editor.

PrintMerge
Polaris Software
310 Via Vera Cruz #305
San Marcos, CA 92069
800/388-5943, 800/231-3531
California
List price: $124
Requirements: 196K, two disk drives, DOS 2.00 or later version

Superpage
Bestinfo
33 Chester Pike
Ridley Park, PA 19078
215-328-2900
List price: $7000
Requirements: 512K, hard disk, Hercules Graphics Card with 64K, parallel port

XyWrite II +
XyQuest Inc.
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Bedford, MA 01730
617/275-4439
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MagnaType: The Personal Typographer

More than a personal publishing program, MagnaType is a powerful front-end typographic program that can control a phototypesetter as easily as it drives a laser printer—without the cost of a minicomputer.

James Felici and Walter Omstead

Pardon the prejudices of professional typographers, but the personal computer publishing revolution did not start with laser printers and page makeup software for personal computers. Those were mere Boston Tea Parties and Stamp Act rebellions compared with the shot heard round the world from *MagnaType*, an advanced typesetting program for PCs. Magna Computer Systems' debut program does not provide "near typeset quality" output, but the real thing—bona fide commercial typesetting from a PC. Unlike personal publishing packages, *MagnaType* doesn't emulate professional typesetting, it *is* professional typesetting.

Until the introduction of *MagnaType*, commercial-quality typesetting systems typically required a minicomputer and one or more terminals, in addition to a film processor and a phototypesetting machine—hardware so expensive that it is impractical for all but high-volume type producers. In fact, commercial type shops usually run two shifts to make ends meet.

Magna Computer Systems, however, has brought the power of the minicomputer to the XT or AT with no sacrifice in functionality. For commercial-quality type you still need a phototypesetting machine, but the cost of the front-end computer and software to drive it has dropped from $40,000 to less than $15,000. (For an introduction to typesetting systems, see "Typesetting Point by Point" in this issue.)

Magna Force

MagnaType is the brainchild of Fred Rose and Burt Wigdor, who were also the heart of the team that developed one of the most popular and successful commercial typographic systems, marketed by Computer Composition International (CCI). The CCI system utilizes a network of "dumb" terminals connected to a Data General minicomputer.

With the rise in the popularity and power of the PC, Rose and Wigdor realized that for most commercial typesetting operations the minicomputer

DESKTOP
PUBLISHING
COMPUTER
THE PC INK
Type

system could be replaced by PCs. Rose and Wigdor tried to convince their company to develop a PC version of its system, but CCI was not interested. So in 1984 the two entrepreneurs set out on their own to found Magna.

MagnaType is structured as a shell over DOS, providing a work-alike version of the CCI typesetting system. The program runs well on a hard-disk-equipped PC, an XT, or a compatible. On the faster AT it actually outpaces its minicomputer-based predecessor.

The program's economic and logistical advantages are clear. First, it runs on off-the-shelf hardware: No specialized equipment or expensive service contracts are required, plus you have the freedom to shop for hardware bargains. Second, *MagnaType* sets up each PC as an independent workstation running its own software. Data can be shared via a local area network, and the absence of a shared CPU avoids the slowdowns and crashes that can occur with a minicomputer-based system.

Using MagnaType *exclusively with desktop laser printers is high-tech overkill.*

Functional advantages aside, perhaps the real beauty of *MagnaType* lies in the savings it makes possible. At $8500 for the version that controls a typesetting machine, or $5250 for the version that drives only a laser printer, the program may seem costly, especially when you consider that each terminal needs its own copy. But add the software's price to that of a PC, and you have a typesetting front end that costs a fraction of the $100,000 you might spend on a minicomputer front end. And because the unit price of *MagnaType* declines with multiple purchases, the more workstations you add, the more you save.

Additional Magna software can increase savings and improve efficiency. *MagnaWord*, a $2500 subset of *MagnaType*, does everything but drive the typesetter. You could install *MagnaWord* on some workstations and transfer files to a *MagnaType*-equipped computer for output to a typesetting machine or laser printer. Another program, *MagnaLink*, establishes a multiuser system with an AT or compatible as the file server and XTs or compatibles as the workstations.

In-House Typesetting

Despite the savings compared to the cost of a traditional system, a complete in-house *MagnaType* setup still requires a sizable investment. Aside from software and computers, you need a commercial-quality typesetter, a variety of type fonts, a film processor to develop the silver-based photographic paper used by the typesetter, and possibly a laser printer for proofing. A system with two workstations is likely to range in price from $40,000 to $100,000, depending on the sophistication of the hardware, primarily the typesetter itself. However, a minicomputer-based system might cost between $100,000 and $200,000. For businesses that spend tens of thousands of dollars a year on typesetting, an investment in *MagnaType* could pay for itself quickly.

Among the businesses that could profit from a complete in-house system are magazine and book publishers, advertising agencies, and large companies with centralized publication departments.

An alternative in-house system might forgo the typesetting machinery and use a laser printer to create proofs that show how the typeset copy will look. All proofreading, corrections, and design modifications could be accomplished with *MagnaType* and the laser printer; then the final, corrected files would be transmitted to an outside type vendor that also used *MagnaType*. If you plan to use such a system, verify that your *MagnaType* system's parameters exactly match those of your type vendor. A typesetting vendor without *MagnaType* might be able to accept your coded files but would first have to write a custom programming interface specifically for *MagnaType*.

The laser printer you use in-house must be driven by PostScript, the page description language created by Adobe Systems of Palo Alto, California. At

present, the Apple LaserWriter and high-end models from DataProducts, NBI, and QMS all employ this language.

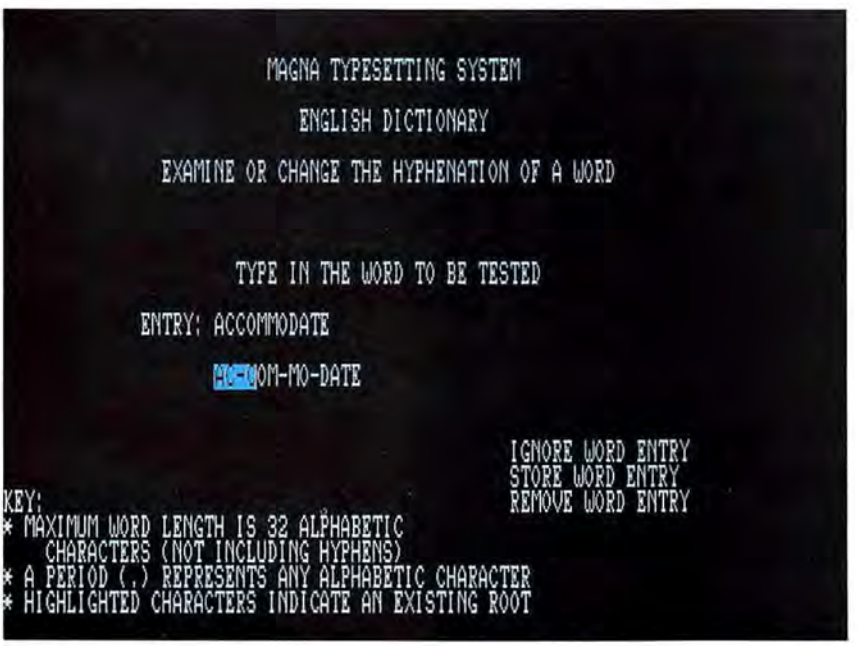
MagnaType is best suited for production of commercial-quality type (which utilizes silver-based photographic paper) rather than for laser printer personal publishing. The extremely fine grains of photosensitive compounds are the key to the excellent resolution produced with such paper. The laser printer can, of course, be used to create final copy for many applications, but much of the program's power is wasted on the coarse 300-dots-per-inch (dpi) resolution of printers such as the LaserWriter. Using *MagnaType* exclusively with desktop laser printers is high-tech overkill.

Easy Does It

Software for typesetting systems is not known for its user-friendliness, but *MagnaType* has taken a step in the right direction with its menu-based structure, which clarifies the organizing principles of the program. For example, one primary menu selection gives you access to the program's management operations, such as font-width tables, hyphenation dictionaries, and kerning tables and values, which determine spacing between some letters (see Screen 1). Other menus permit you to move around the system; view file directories; and create, select, and transfer files.

The program also maintains a continuous internal log of all actions performed on the system—who did what when. This is an essential function in a typical typesetting environment, where several people may work on the same job. *MagnaType* also includes a number of housekeeping utilities for deleting redundant files, clearing out completed jobs, and creating and organizing work areas.

The simplicity of using the program, however, belies the complexity of the craft of typesetting. Like most professional typesetting programs, *MagnaType*'s text processing is based on a mnemonic coding scheme. The operator, or keyboarder, formats documents by embedding codes in the text string, and these codes are translated into instructions for the typesetting machine. The codes are composed of an alphabetic identifier followed by a numeric quantifier,



Screen 1: MagnaType's English hyphenation dictionary. The program gives you access to any of 99 hyphenation dictionaries. During hyphenation you have the option of redefining word breaks or adding a word not already in the dictionary.

enclosed in angle brackets. For example, in *MagnaType*'s coding <cc20> means "change the column measure to 20 picas wide." The complexity of typesetting can be glimpsed by viewing all the codes needed to create the paragraph you're now reading (see Screen 2).

Most of these codes only need to be stated once—they remain in effect until altered or toggled off—but all the parameters must be defined. The *MagnaType* system uses 110 such commands, which in the correct combinations can create almost any typographic effect under the sun.

You can make many of the more complex or redundant coding functions invisible, automatic, or easily invoked by mnemonic macros. In addition, a number of the typographic parameters and refinements can be preset as background functions or defaults that the keyboarder never has to enter. These parameters include how fractions are built, what letter combinations are kerned and by how much, and when hyphenation is allowed.

Fancy Formats

Typesetting formats are powerful macros made up of coding sequences, text, or both. The headings in this article, for example, were created by using a short format. When the keyboarder inserted the mnemonic code <uf6>—"use format 6"—the code string invoked ended the preceding paragraph, added lead to create the space above the heading, produced the solid box next to the heading, indented the text for one line to avoid crashing into the box, and changed the heading typeface to bold.

MagnaType's file structure and use of formats enable you to create a custom coding scheme. You assign a file label to a family of jobs; when beginning a new job, you add a hyphen and a job number to the family name. Each job can also have a descriptive name for easy identification, and you can create a file of up to 500 numbered formats for a family of jobs.

This formatting capability is fairly typical of typesetting systems, but Magna has surpassed many others by allowing you to assign your own mnemonic labels to the numbered formats. These labels can even transcend job families. Say your company regularly creates annual reports, quarterly reports, an in-house newsletter, a client newsletter, and an employee hand-

```
      JOB              NAME          ENTRY    LAST REVISION   CHARS  PICAS
MAGREVU - 001-05   MAGNATYPE IMCAP  25MAR86 25MAR86 18:58 JF    786    0.00

<AG><XB><RR><AH><CS5,5,5><T1><CP10.5><CL13><CC12.9><CFSA><IF0,11>
The simplicity of using the program, however, belies the complexity of the
craft of typesetting. Like most professional typesetting programs,
<CFSAI>MagnaType'<CFSA>s text processing is based on a mnemonic coding scheme.
The operator, or keyboarder, formats documents by embedding codes in the text
string, and these codes are translated into instructions for the typesetting
machine. The codes are composed of an alphabetic identifier followed by a
numeric quantifier, enclosed in angle brackets. For example, in
<CFSAI>MagnaType'<CFSA>s coding $IUcc20$IV means "change the column measure to
20 picas wide." The complexity of typesetting can be glimpsed by viewing all
the codes needed to create the paragraph you're now reading (see Figure 2).
```

Screen 2: The top line of the text area shows the elaborate coding string needed to format a typical PC World paragraph using MagnaType. In practice, most of these codes are introduced in the form of a user format—akin to a familiar macro statement—and need to be stated only once in a document. Most typesetting commands stay in effect until altered or toggled off.

book. Each of these publications has its own headline, text, subhead, and running head styles. Magna's format-labeling scheme allows you to use the same logical label for a running head, regardless of the publication.

Importing Files

Although not a practical substitute for a good word processing system, *MagnaType* can handle text prepared with a word processor. The program has a menu for importing ASCII files, which most word processing programs can produce. Files imported this way, however, are stripped of their original formatting and control characters.

Still, you can insert a lot of coding with a word processsor before transferring files to the typesetting software. Certain essential indicators, such as the one for all "hard" carriage returns, must be translated into typographic code before export to the Magna system, or they will disappear during file transfer.

H&J: Give Me a Break

After a file has been coded, a one-key *MagnaType* command begins *hyphenation and justification (h&j)*. The monitor shows the actual line breaks that will appear in the typeset copy (though the text does not actually appear justified on screen because of the monospace display). In a mode called *measured h&j*, each line is accompanied by measurements that indicate line lengths in picas and points, as well as the distance of each line from the beginning of the file (see Screen 3). These are excellent copy-fitting aids, allowing you to fit copy to a given measure and to determine the length of an article or chapter without seeing proofs.

The h&j routine also flags unresolvable coding errors, such as a column measure too wide for the typesetter or a nonexistent format number. The program won't catch all coding errors, only those that demand the impossible.

Screen messages indicate such errors, and you can use the program's search-and-replace utility to locate and replace incorrect codes. Unlike typesetting systems that stop the h&j process every time such an error is encountered, *MagnaType*'s h&j component simply flags the errors and continues justifying. No matter how many coding errors a file contains, you can correct them in one operation rather than having to stop and restart the h&j process.

```
     JOB          NAME          ENTRY    LAST REVISION   CHARS  PICAS
MAGREVU - 001-07   MAGNATYPE IMCAP  25MAR86 25MAR86 19:01 JF    784   21.08

(AG)(XB)(RR)(AH)(CS5,5,5)(T1)(CP10.5)(CL13)(CC12.9)(CFSA)(IF0.11)0
The simplicity of using the pro-◀0.11/11.1x1.1▶
gram, however, belies the complexity ◀12.2x2.2▶
of the craft of typesetting. Like most ◀11.8x3.3▶
professional typesetting programs, ◀11.8x4.4▶
(CFSAI)
MagnaType'(CFSA)s text processing is based ◀12.4x5.5▶
on a mnemonic coding scheme. The ◀11.8x6.6▶
operator, or keyboarder, formats docu-◀12.7x7.7▶
ments by embedding codes in the text ◀12.2x8.8▶
string, and these codes are translated ◀11.11x9.9▶
into instructions for the typesetting ◀11.6x10.10▶
machine. The codes are composed of ◀12x11.11▶
an alphabetic identifier followed by a ◀12.1x13▶
numeric quantifier, enclosed in angle ◀12.3x14.1▶
brackets. For example, in (CFSAI)MagnaType'◀12.6x15.2▶
(CFSA)
s coding $IUoc20$IV means "change the ◀11.8x16.3▶
column measure to 20 picas wide." The ◀12.7x17.4▶
complexity of typesetting can be glim-◀12.7x18.5▶
```

Screen 3: The screen display after the hyphenation and justification of the text shown in Screen 2. The numbers to the right of each line show, in picas and points (1) indents, if any; (2) line length; and (3) distance of the line's baseline from the top of the file. The figure at the upper right of the screen, above the status line, shows the total length of the file in characters and picas.

A Sampler of MagnaType Features

Copy protection. The disks are not copy protected, but the program will not run without a hardware lock that attaches to a serial port on the computer. Each copy of the program has a unique lock assigned to it. The lock has a pass-through connection that allows the port to communicate with another device, such as a printer or typesetting machine, if the lock verifies that the correct copy of the program is in use.

Screen display. Display is monospaced in either color or monochrome. Colors are not user-definable.

Clipboard. Blocks defined during editing can be saved in a holding area called the clipboard. You can define and save four of these blocks indefinitely and partially view them in an on-screen window.

Programmable keys. The function keys invoke h&j, block moves, search and replace, word/line deletions, automatic case change, cursor jump by paragraph, and several screen suppression options. The numeral keys are programmable, and the key assignments can be viewed in a window.

Global formats. In addition to user formats that are linked to specific families of jobs, you can define global formats that apply to all jobs on the system.

Networking. PCs running *MagnaType* can be linked with off-the-shelf network hardware and software,

Ecumenical Output

The final operation before typesetting is *composition*, during which the program translates all the embedded codes and information assembled during h&j into instructions that drive the typesetter. Because every typesetting machine has its own language, *MagnaType* is equipped with drivers for a variety of machines, including the Apple LaserWriter.

During the h&j and composition phases, *MagnaType*'s multitasking capabilities really shine. The program performs h&j from the beginning to the end of a file, a process that takes 30 seconds or more for a 40K file. But *MagnaType* displays the first part of the file on screen while it's processing the latter portion, so you can begin checking and editing right away. Similarly, while the program is composing files, you can be working on another file.

MagnaType allows for easy queuing of jobs for composition and output. From the main file directory, you select whatever jobs you want to compose, and the program will prepare them for typesetting while you do other work on the system. As they are finished, *MagnaType* lists the composed jobs in a separate directory. To send them to the typesetter, you go to that directory and select the jobs you want typeset. You can also prioritize a job, which automatically places it ahead of all others in the typesetting queue.

Training, Support, and the Great Beyond

Because commercial typography is so complex, *MagnaType* is elaborate for a PC program. However, Magna does not let users sail on the typographic seas without orientation and a fairly good set of charts. All purchasers are entitled to three full days of instruction from a Magna representative. The first two days focus on handling the software itself, and the

but it is probably better to use *MagnaLink*, even though it is not a true network. Rather, it is a file-sharing system that saves all jobs on the system twice—once at the workstation where they were created and once in a central workstation that is designated as a file server. This creates a central depository for all files, with automatic backup at the remote stations.

Device drivers. *MagnaType* has drivers for Allied-Linotype's series 100, 202, and 300; Autologic's APS-5 and μ-5; Compugraphic's 8400 and 8600; Apple's LaserWriter; and PostScript laser printers from Data-Products, NBI, and QMS.

third day is a typopgraphic workshop on practicing coding and system management. After the initial training, *MagnaType* owners can subscribe to a telephone support service. In addition, subscribers receive *Magnazine*, a user-group publication containing tips and shortcuts, information on system subtleties, detailed articles on system functions, and news of product updates.

MagnaType's documentation is typical of commercial typesetting software manuals: It supplies what you need to know but never as much as you want to know. The documentation shows how to typeset with *MagnaType* but not necessarily *how* to typeset. For this reason, the phone support service is an important resource, especially for typesetting neophytes.

Like other typesetting system vendors, Magna will continue to produce corollary programs and utilities in addition to regularly upgrading the program. Planned enhancements include book pagination and highly automated tabular capabilities.

For thousands of businesses, schools, and government agencies, typesetting is a fact of life; quality publications depend on it. The cost of a system and the complications of typesetting have largely outweighed the production and economic advantages an in-house system can provide. *MagnaType* is changing all that, and as personal-computer-based typesetting systems plummet in price and grow in accessibility, the reverberations from Magna's shot heard round the world will be felt in the related field of high-resolution, commercial typesetting.

James Felici is Production Editor of Macworld *and Technical Editor of* Publish!. *Walter Omstead is a San Francisco-based author and consultant.*

MagnaType, MagnaWord, MagnaLink
Magna Computer Systems
14724 Ventura Blvd.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
818/986-9233
List price: MagnaType with driver for typesetter: first copy $8500, second copy $5000, third to fifth copies $4500, sixth copy and up $4000; MagnaType with driver for laser printer only: first copy $5250, second copy and up $3500; MagnaWord: first and second copies $2500, third to fifth copies $2250, sixth and up $2000; MagnaLink $3500
Requirements: 512K, hard disk, DOS 2.00 or later version

The Scenic Route

With a multitude of commands and an arcane operating system, ScenicWriter isn't everyone's personal publishing system. Its power rivals that of sophisticated typesetting systems, however, making it the program of choice for demanding publishing projects.

Jim Heid

ScenicSoft's personal computer publishing software, *ScenicWriter,* brings to mind the old TV commercial that ended with, "It isn't for everyone. But then, it doesn't try to be." *ScenicWriter* is a complex product that requires a big investment in hardware and learning time. The program swims against the rising tide of mouse-based, what-you-see-is-what-you-get products. With *ScenicWriter,* what you see are cryptic commands like *.SetItemP 2q .5l 2l 1l.*

What you get, however, are capabilities that most personal publishing products can only dream of: publications of virtually any length, with tables of contents and indexes that are created automatically. *ScenicWriter* can also produce complex tables, automatically update cross-references (as in "see Figure XYZ on page 150"), and print text in any number of columns. And *ScenicWriter* can control today's top laser printers and phototypesetters as few programs can.

Sound like a typesetting system? It is. When it was created in 1981, *ScenicWriter* cost $5000 and was the centerpiece of turnkey publishing systems in which $25,000 laser printers produced proofs and final copy was generated on $50,000 phototypesetters. In those days, *ScenicWriter* ran under SofTech Microsystem's p-System operating system on multiuser, 68000-based microcomputers. When desktop publishing became *the* hot growth area in microcomputing, the portability of the p-System enabled ScenicSoft to release a PC version without rewriting the program.

The advantage of this family resemblance is that PC users can enjoy the same publishing power as supermicro, minicomputer, and mainframe users; the PC version of *ScenicWriter* has all the typographic talents of its predecessors. The disadvantage is that *ScenicWriter* still runs under the p-System, a complex operating system whose tutorial takes up the first third of *ScenicWriter*'s 300-page manual. For PC-DOS users, the p-System is an alien world where drive A: becomes #4:, the E key displays a directory, and file names can have more dots than a Dalmatian.

The p-System causes headaches for any PC user, but it's downright hostile toward Tandy 1000 owners, freezing the keyboard and forcing them to restart the computer if they type too quickly. A

forthcoming version of *ScenicWriter* promises to cast off its p-System ball and chain, but for now, the product's learning curve resembles Mount Everest.

Climbing Mount Scenic

ScenicWriter demands much, not only in patience but in disk space. You'll need roughly 1.5MB of free hard disk space to hold the p-System and *ScenicWriter*'s various programs and data files. *ScenicWriter* is not copy protected, and installing it isn't traumatic if you follow the manual's directions to the letter. After copying the *ScenicWriter* disks to your hard disk, you'll be tempted to plow into the program and begin creating design masterpieces. Try it, and the foreign ground of the p-System combined with *ScenicWriter*'s complexity will stop you like a brick wall.

ScenicWriter's excellent manual wisely suggests that after you install the program, you practice editing an example file to master the p-System editor—an awkward program that's hardly better than a pen and eraser for text editing.

With the editor, word wrap is optional, paragraph reforming is manual, and separate modes for inserting, deleting, and replacing text make you concentrate more on the commands than on the text. The editor was designed for programmers, offering automatic indentation, nested editing of multiple files, and other features that simplify working with lines of code. It's more of a grown-up EDLIN than a word processor.

Fortunately, you don't have to use it—a *ScenicWriter* utility lets you convert *WordStar* and plain ASCII files into p-System files, which are required by the *ScenicWriter* typesetting program. You'll probably use your favorite word processor to write text and insert formatting commands, then import the files into *ScenicWriter*. Still, this leaves much to be desired. When revisions are required, you have to either return to your word processor, make the changes, and then convert the revised files, or face the p-System editor.

A forthcoming version of ScenicWriter *promises to cast off its p-System ball and chain, but for now, the product's learning curve resembles Mount Everest.*

ScenicWriter *controls the LaserWriter series like no Macintosh program can. I've never seen a LaserWriter Plus work so hard.*

The good news is that a new *ScenicWriter* release, which should be available when you read this, will include a modified typesetting program that will be able to read MS-DOS-format ASCII files directly. This will allow you to edit and maintain text files using the word processor of your choice.

Of Menus and Macros

ScenicWriter comprises several programs, all tied together by a main menu. In addition to the editor, p-System filer, and the DOS filer, there are file conversion utilities, a spelling checker, and two printing programs. One option prints files without formatting, useful for checking formatting commands and proofreading; the other, called LaserText, processes the commands and translates them into camera-ready copy.

ScenicWriter's formatting commands fall into two categories: macro and backslash. Some macro commands control a publication's overall appearance, including margin width and the position of headers, footers, and folios (page numbers). Others select fonts or summon special text formats such as bulleted or numbered paragraphs or tables. Still others let you number a publication's chapters and sections—a key step in creating a table of contents.

Each macro command comprises any number of low-level *ScenicWriter* commands (see Figure 1). For example, the macro command *.Ix 'biscuits'* might appear in the text of a cookbook,

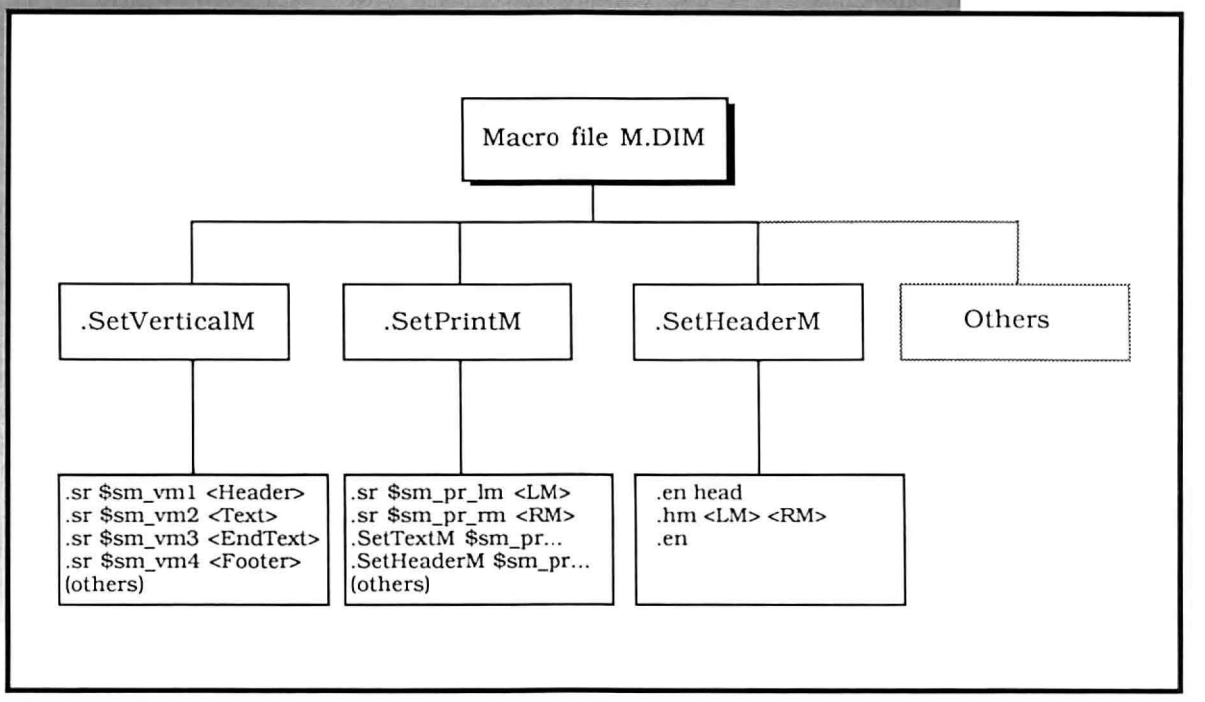


Figure 1: An organizational chart for the macro file M.DIM, whose macros control text margins. Every ScenicWriter macro comprises a number of low-level commands and does the work of many typesetting codes.

representing an index entry for the word *biscuits*. When the LaserText typesetting program encounters the macro, *ScenicWriter* executes several low-level commands that save the macro's parameter (in this case, *biscuits*) in a data file along with the page number where the reference occurs. The data file is later processed and printed by other macros to form the cookbook's index.

Because few publications require every macro, *ScenicWriter*'s macros are organized into files—M.DIM.TEXT contains macros that control dimensions and the number of columns on a page, whereas macros in M.RULES-.TEXT are for drawing lines. You specify these macro files using yet another macro. The command *.Use M.RULES*, for example, tells *ScenicWriter* to process all the macros for creating line drawings.

Macros give *ScenicWriter* power and flexibility. You can stay within the confines of existing macros and not concern yourself with their underlying technicalities, modify them for a specific publication's design, or define new macros that handle formats not built into *ScenicWriter*.

The only problem with the *ScenicWriter* macro facility is that you must type macros in a mix of uppercase and lowercase characters, such as BoldCenter or SetColumns. If you fail to observe the case conventions, you'll be rewarded with an error message at printing time.

Details, Details

If macro commands form a publication's foundation, backslash commands control the details (see Figure 2). The most-often-used backslash commands change typestyles (*\it* for italics, *\bf* for boldface, *\fontHelvetica* for Helvetica type) or print accented characters or symbols not on the PC's keyboard (*\bullet* for •, *\emdash* for —, *\degree* for °). Others change the type size (*\size24p* for 24-point type) or add extra line spacing before a line (*\extrapre6p*). Some commands can be combined (*\bf24p* for bold 24-point type).

A few backslash commands work together with macros. One example is the automatic cross-referencing feature. To tell *ScenicWriter* to maintain a cross-reference for an occurrence of *biscuit*, you place the macro *.RefPoint 'biscuit'* near the point where *biscuit* appears. Then, you use the backslash command *\$xr_biscuit* elsewhere in the publication, as in, "See page *\$xr_biscuit* for more biscuit recipes."

ScenicWriter provides nine measurement systems for such elements as type size and margins: centimeters, inches, Didot points (one equals .3759 millimeters), picas, points, units (1/300 inch for most laser printers), quads (type width), line spacing, or type height. The latter three are relative measurements whose actual values depend on the size of the current typeface.

Preparing for Printing

For small publishing jobs, you can place commands that specify typefaces and dimensions at the beginning of the text file itself. For large jobs involving many text files, however, that isn't a good approach, since changing the publication's specifications would mean revising every text file.

ScenicWriter provides a logical system for structuring large jobs that makes wholesale formatting changes a matter of editing one or two lines. Instead of pecking the formatting macros into every file, you store all formatting information in a print file, which also holds a macro that calls an include file and the data file (see Figure 3). The include file lists the publication's text files in their printing order. When a publication contains a *ScenicWriter*-generated table of contents and index or automatic cross-references, a separate data file holds information such as the page numbers where chapters begin, cross-references occur, or index entries appear.

To print the entire publication, you need specify only the print file. If a design change requires reformatting, you simply edit the appropriate lines in the print file and reprint.

ScenicWriter comes with four formatted print files that you can modify. Two files create simple, one-column pages for one-sided or two-sided printing, respectively. A third produces the layout used in *ScenicWriter*'s attractive manual, while the fourth produces a book layout according to Prentice-Hall specifications.

Your reward for climbing ScenicWriter's *learning curve comes when hard copy appears. The program's typesetting heritage lets it give today's top laser printers a complete workout.*

Power to the Printer

Your reward for climbing *ScenicWriter*'s learning curve comes when hard copy appears. The program's typesetting heritage lets it give today's top laser printers a complete workout. Versions of *ScenicWriter* are available for Hewlett-Packard's LaserJet and LaserJet Plus, Apple's LaserWriter and LaserWriter Plus, other laser printers, including several QMS models, and even phototypesetters.

The program gives LaserJet Plus owners full access to the printer's gray scales and patterns, and elegantly supports LaserJet Plus SoftFonts—disk-based fonts that are loaded into the printer's memory before use. After a one-time installation process that involves

```
.. Backslash commands example file
.Use M.DIM
.Use M.ORG
.. Next two lines call key symbol macros; M.SCREEN draws boxes
.Use M.IBM_KEYS
.Use M.SCREEN
.. Set margins
.SetPrintM 1i 4.75i
.fi 1
.SetJust 0
..
\it ScenicWriter'\ro s backslash commands are used to access \it italic, \bf
boldface, \ro and \bi bold italic \ro type. They also summon characters not on
the PC's keyboard\emdash like the em dash. You must remember to type a space
after a backslash command, since that's how \it ScenicWriter\ro  knows where the
command ends.

\extrapre.5l \fontPalatino-BoldItalic \size14p They also control fonts and
sizes.

\extrapre.5l \rol0p Backslash commands also let you add extra space before and
after lines. And they're the key to printing key symbols, as in: Press \kRt  to
move the cursor right, or \kLt  to move it left.
..
.pi
```

ScenicWriter's backslash commands are used to access *italic*, **boldface**, and ***bold italic*** type. They also summon characters not on the PC's keyboard—like the em dash. You must remember to type a space after a backslash command, since that's how *ScenicWriter* knows where the command ends.

They also control fonts and sizes.

Backslash commands also let you add extra space before and after lines. And they're the key to printing key symbols, as in: Press [→] to move the cursor right, or [←] to move it left.

Figure 2: On the top is text formatted with backslash commands, on the bottom, the printed output.

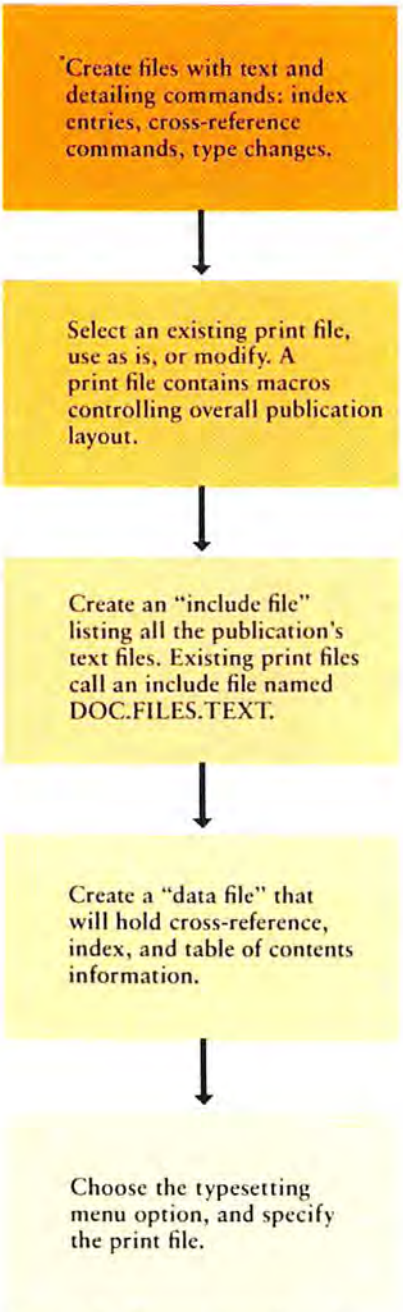


Figure 3: A conceptual outline of the publication process. The program takes a batch-oriented approach to large publishing jobs.

using the DOS filer to transfer the font files into the p-System, you can access any downloadable font by name; before downloading a font, *ScenicWriter* checks to make sure it isn't already in the printer's memory.

Combined with a LaserJet or LaserJet Plus, *ScenicWriter* turns out first-rate copy, but it pales compared to what the program can produce with Apple's LaserWriter series and other printers equipped with Adobe Systems' PostScript page description language. *ScenicWriter* controls the LaserWriter series like no Macintosh program can. I've never seen a LaserWriter Plus work so hard. Through macros and backslash commands, *ScenicWriter* can slant, expand, and contract fonts and produce text in sizes from 1 point to 6 inches, in increments of 1/300 inch—a total of 1800 different type sizes. You can print outlined text as well as text shaded in any of 99 gradations of gray.

ScenicWriter also exploits PostScript's ability to define new fonts made up of modified existing fonts. A typical application of this capability is slanting the roman version of a font to create a pseudo-italic, or oblique, font (see Figure 4). But in keeping with *ScenicWriter*'s "make PostScript sweat" philosophy, you aren't limited to typical applications. If you want to compress and slant a font beyond recognition, you can.

ScenicWriter's LaserText program not only opens the doors to font finagling, it handles traditional typographic chores as a dedicated typesetting system would. For example, most word processors justify type (align its left and right margins) by varying the spaces between words. *ScenicWriter*, in contrast, alters the spaces between letters (micro-justification), thus eliminating wide gaps between words and giving justified text a professional look.

What It Can't Do—Yet

Despite *ScenicWriter*'s many gifts, some tasks exceed the abilities of the version reviewed. The most significant limitation concerns graphics—although you can manually create charts and diagrams within the program using block characters, you cannot import graphics or digitized images into a publication. Another shortcoming is the lack of an automatic hyphenation feature, which is especially helpful when creating publications with justified margins. Finally, *ScenicWriter* cannot automatically kern—enhance the appearance of certain letter combinations by placing the letters closer together. However, you can manually kern text using *ScenicWriter* commands. Since you would normally need to kern only with large text such as headlines, *ScenicWriter*'s inability to kern automatically isn't a major flaw.

ScenicSoft programmers are working on new versions that will be released throughout this year. By the time you read this, ScenicSoft should have released a version that adds an automatic hyphenation feature, a revised LaserText program that can read DOS files directly, and the ability to incorporate *1-2-3*, *PC Paintbrush*, and *AutoCAD* graphics into a publication. Finally, a version that bids

farewell to the p-System and runs under MS-DOS is scheduled for release later this year. If you need *ScenicWriter* now, however, don't wait: ScenicSoft's track record for upgrades is commendable, with minor upgrades provided free and major revisions costing $50 to $75.

Is It Your Type?

Whether you should take the scenic route to publishing depends on your work. Because the program offers no interactive design features, such as the ability to move or reformat text and immediately see the results on screen, *ScenicWriter* isn't suited for those who would rather rough out a design visually than type formatting codes. Similarly, if all you produce are small publications such as brochures, newsletters, or short reports, *ScenicWriter* is probably more program than you need.

With its ability to cross-reference text and generate tables of contents and indexes, *ScenicWriter* shines for book and documentation publishing. It's also finding a niche in what ScenicSoft calls data base publishing, in which files of client or inventory information are transferred directly from a data base manager into *ScenicWriter*, allowing directory and catalog production with no additional typesetting costs. *ScenicWriter*'s batch approach to printing makes major graphic revisions a snap, even in massive documents, and its printer and typesetter support is outstanding. You can't master *ScenicWriter* overnight, but you aren't likely to outgrow it, either. To borrow from another commercial (and with apologies to the Peace Corps), it's the toughest program you'll ever love.

Jim Heid, based in Peterborough, New Hampshire, is a freelance writer, personal publishing consultant, and a former typesetter for a commercial typographer. He is also the coauthor of The Complete Guide to the Tandy 1000 *(Ashton-Tate, Torrance, California, 1986).*

ScenicWriter
ScenicSoft, Inc.
12314 Scenic Dr.
Edmonds, WA 98020
206/742-6677
List price: $695
Requirements: 256K, hard disk, laser printer or phototypesetter

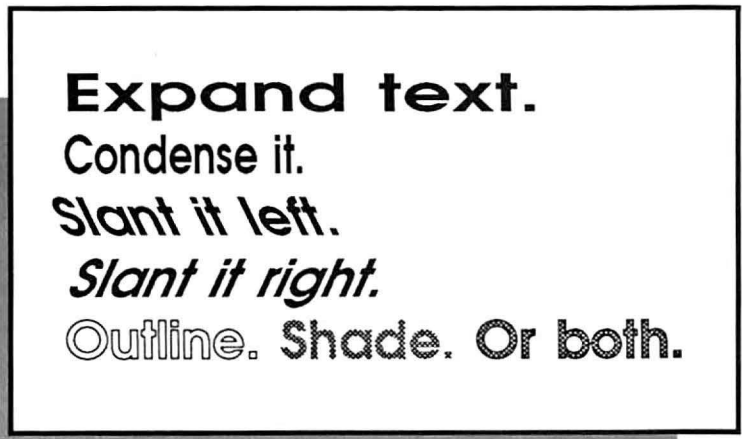


Figure 4: ScenicWriter gives printers equipped with Adobe Systems' PostScript a complete workout, letting you create new fonts from altered versions of existing ones. ScenicWriter also supports Adobe's downloadable fonts, offering owners of Apple LaserWriters and other PostScript-equipped devices access to today's most popular typefaces.

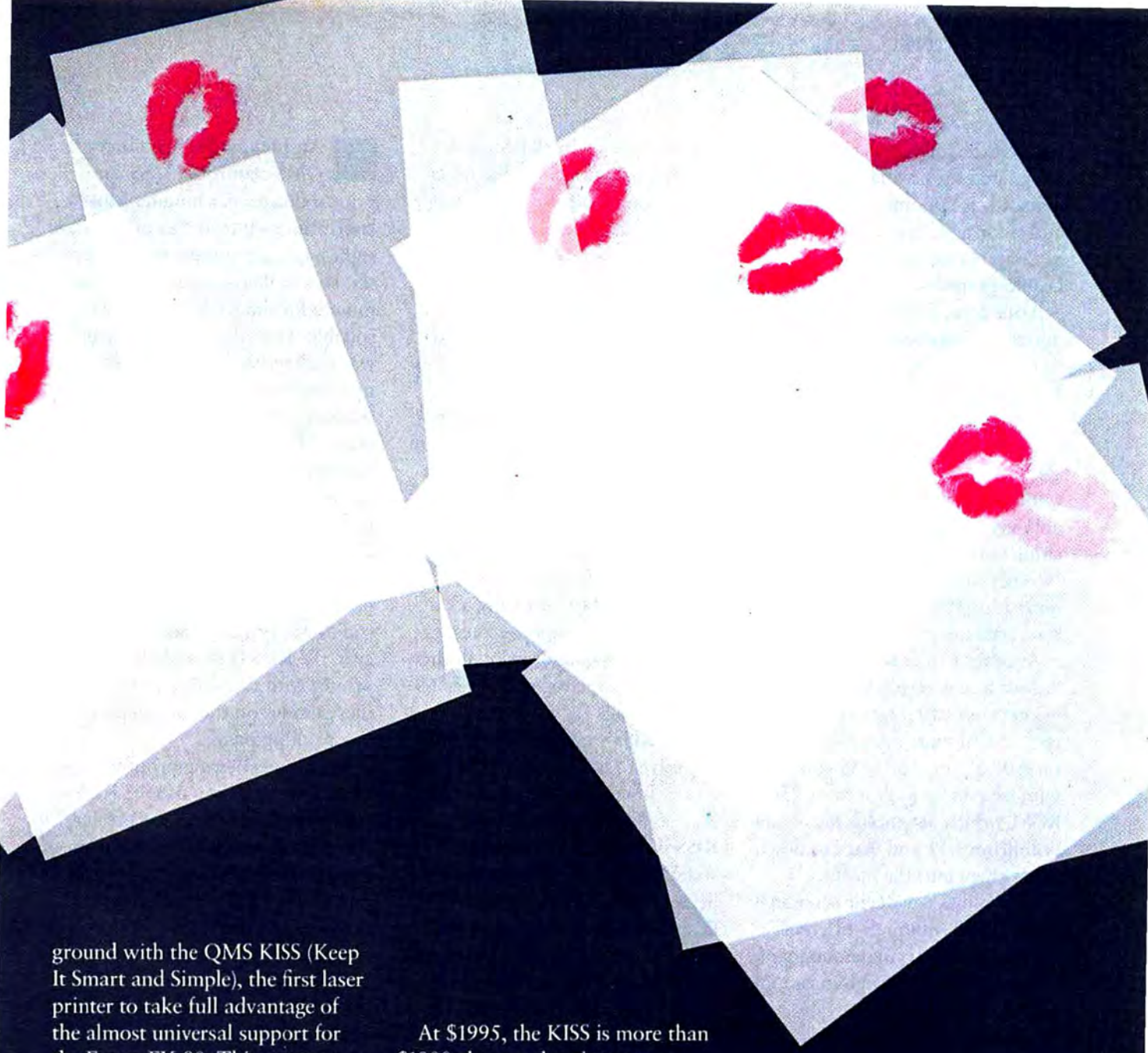
KISSes $2000

The QMS KISS's low price is making headlines, but the real story behind this laser printer is that it works like the printers you already know.

Bill Crider

File formats, protocols, communications, expanded memory specifications, graphics interfaces . . . each has its own requirements for software compatibility, and the cacophony of competing standards is deafening. Laser printers have recently added to the babel, with nearly every different laser device demanding its own driver. Although it's entertaining to imagine a get-tough organization (something like ANSI with muscle) making order out of this chaos, the reality is that standards are made in the marketplace, and the de facto standard for dot matrix printers clearly belongs to Epson.

Quality Micro Systems (QMS) has capitalized on this common



ground with the QMS KISS (Keep It Smart and Simple), the first laser printer to take full advantage of the almost universal support for the Epson FX-80. This common-sense approach makes the KISS instantly compatible with nearly every piece of software written for the IBM PC. To round out its repertoire, the printer also supports programs written for the most popular daisy wheel printers, the Diablo 630 and the Qume Sprint series.

At $1995, the KISS is more than $1000 cheaper than its nearest competitors, the Hewlett-Packard LaserJet and the Corona LP-300. While few FX-80 owners will make the leap to even a low-cost laser printer, you can bet the KISS is turning the heads of daisy wheel printer owners. Compared to daisy wheels with "fast" speeds of 40 or 50 characters per second (cps), the KISS represents an inexpensive step up to 400-cps printing, plus Epson-compatible graphics and a variety of fonts.

Capitalizing on the Competition

Central to the KISS is the same Canon printing engine found in Hewlett-Packard, Canon, Corona, and Apple laser printers. The control panel also resembles the panels of those printers, and the KISS uses identical toner cartridges. The KISS comes with 128K of RAM—64K more than the LaserJet and 384K less the LaserJet

Plus. Of the total RAM, 80K is designated for downloadable fonts, 8K is appointed as a print buffer for text, and all 128K can be commandeered for Epson or Diablo graphics.

Aside from low cost, the biggest difference between the KISS and its competition is the interface. Most laser printers use serial interfaces, which you set up by means of DOS MODE commands and special cables. The KISS has a Centronics parallel interface, enabling you to hook up the machine with standard printer cable. No special configuration is required. (QMS also sells a 19,200-bps serial interface for $250.)

Another KISS earmark is the lack of font cartridges. Most laser printers use cartridges, which contain several fonts apiece—at $200 to $500 a pop. The KISS comes with nine fonts built into its 256K ROM (which also holds the emulation firmware), and you can download others into the machine's RAM on disks available separately from QMS. Although different fonts take up varying amounts of memory, 80K is enough for about four downloaded fonts. Fonts can be set in up to 32 point—compared to the LaserJet's 14.4-point limit and the Corona LP-300's 24 points.

Emulating Everyone

Some laser printers, such as Corona's Desktop Printshop, are partially Epson compatible. Without relying on added software, the KISS comes much closer. The only major difference between KISS commands and those used by the Epson FX-80 is the KISS's lack of a wide print mode. All the other Epson commands found in most software packages perform without surprises—including *1-2-3*'s single, double, triple, and quad densities.

During testing the KISS fared well, running dozens of programs compatible with Epson, Diablo, and Qume printers without any major snafus. The biggest problem was the slight skewing of the aspect ratio (the ratio of length to height) in some graphics output, due to the machine's imperfect emulation of Epson dots. Also, some files had to have only 63 lines per page, simply because laser printers cannot print all the way to both the top and the bottom of a page.

The KISS's command sets are exclusive to its current emulation mode. In other words, you can't issue a Diablo command when the KISS is doing an Epson impersonation, which is the machine's default mode. To switch to the Diablo or Qume mode, you enter a command on the KISS's control panel or send the appropriate escape code from a DOS batch file or from within an application. When emulating Diablo 600 and Qume Sprint text output, the KISS executes tricky maneuvers with alacrity, including shadow printing, proportional spacing, and printing the extended character set.

If you need graphics, however, note that the KISS's Epson compatibility has its price. Although the machine can print 300 by 300 dots per inch (dpi), it's using all those dots to emulate either Epson or Diablo output. In the Epson FX-80 single-density mode, for example, the KISS's resolution is only 60 by 72 dpi.

Auspicious Performance

QMS claims the KISS can print six pages per minute. Most laser printers purport to print eight pages per minute but deliver six, so a ballpark guess of four per minute for the KISS seemed reasonable. Happily, this pessimism was undeserved. In fact, when printing from DOS, the KISS consistently cranked out *eight* pages every 59 seconds. Of course, printing speed ultimately depends on the software being used, which is probably the rationale behind QMS's conservative estimate.

All laser printers support both portrait (normal) and landscape (sideways) printing modes. However, the KISS is the only laser printer with the ability to mix these modes on the same page in one printing pass.

Instead of entering program commands, you can use the KISS's control panel to select the printer you want to emulate and the printing parameters within each emulation mode. However, altering the machine's settings with the control panel keypad is often unnecessarily complicated. To change typefaces, you may have to issue a sequence of 20 or more keypad entries. Using an escape sequence, the same operation would take 5 keystrokes on your computer's keyboard.

The KISS offers extensive built-in diagnostics, including printer status sheets and printouts of font sets and test patterns. The two-character LED display on the control panel shows 15 status messages. Some are obvious (PJ for paper jam, PO for paper out), while others are less so (PU for power-up self-test sequence, DL

Epson, Diablo, and Qume compatibility make the QMS KISS simple to use, but the graphics are limited.

for download idle). At the end of the power-up sequence, the machine automatically prints a status sheet showing the current margins, paper size, emulation mode, page orientation, and default fonts. It also tells you how many pages have been printed by the print engine—a nice feature if you want to track printer and toner cartridge usage.

The Low-Cost Laser Appraised

I love this printer, but I hate its documentation. QMS went to great lengths to produce a simple, easy-to-use product and then bundled it with some of the most obscure technofog in print. The manual is organized in the worst possible way, presenting an explanation of the control panel commands first. After you've spent hours on this exercise in futility, you're belatedly taught the far simpler method of using escape codes to control the machine.

Especially frustrating is that the documentation glosses over the most engaging attribute of the machine—ease of use. Setting up the KISS is as easy as plugging it in and telling your application that it's using an Epson printer (switching emulation modes is a separate process). While the manual is useful as a technical reference, its ponderous explanations are certainly not vital to setting up and using the machine.

Far more useful is the $69 utility sold as an extra by QMS. The utility is RAM resident, enabling you to pull down menus from within almost any application to change modes or fonts. This is an unusually effective approach to printer control, although I think the disk should be bundled with the machine. A brief start-up manual and a quick-reference guide to the various configuration groups, options, and toggles would also help KISS users immensely. In the meantime, I've learned to get by with a series of batch files in DOS and a printed list of often-used commands.

The KISS doesn't do everything a laser printer is capable of, especially when it comes to graphics. Software that can exploit the machine's 300-dpi graphics potential is sorely needed. The addition of LaserJet emulation would be one way to get the most out of the KISS until third-party software devlopers start supporting the machine.

On the other hand, adding more capabilities would also increase the complexity and the price. Instead, the machine provides a relatively simple set of capabilities for two-thirds the cost of most other laser printers. This positioning makes the KISS extremely attractive for daisy wheel users who've been waiting for a laser printer that's both cheap and easy to use. Someday, a standard will emerge that will set the pace for all laser printers. Until then, QMS has broken new ground by applying today's standards. Buying a KISS means you'll have to sacrifice high-resolution graphics capability, but you'll also own a laser printer with the broadest software compatibility available.

Bill Crider is president of the Tucson Computer Society and a Contributing Editor for PC World.

QMS KISS
Quality Micro Systems
P.O. Box 81250
Mobile, AL 36689
205/633-4300
List price: $1995, with serial interface $2245, optional utility disk $69

Plotting the Big Picture

A low-cost expert forecasting system for the layperson, Macro-Track may not look pretty, but its predictions about the economy can be surprisingly accurate.

John B. Gordon

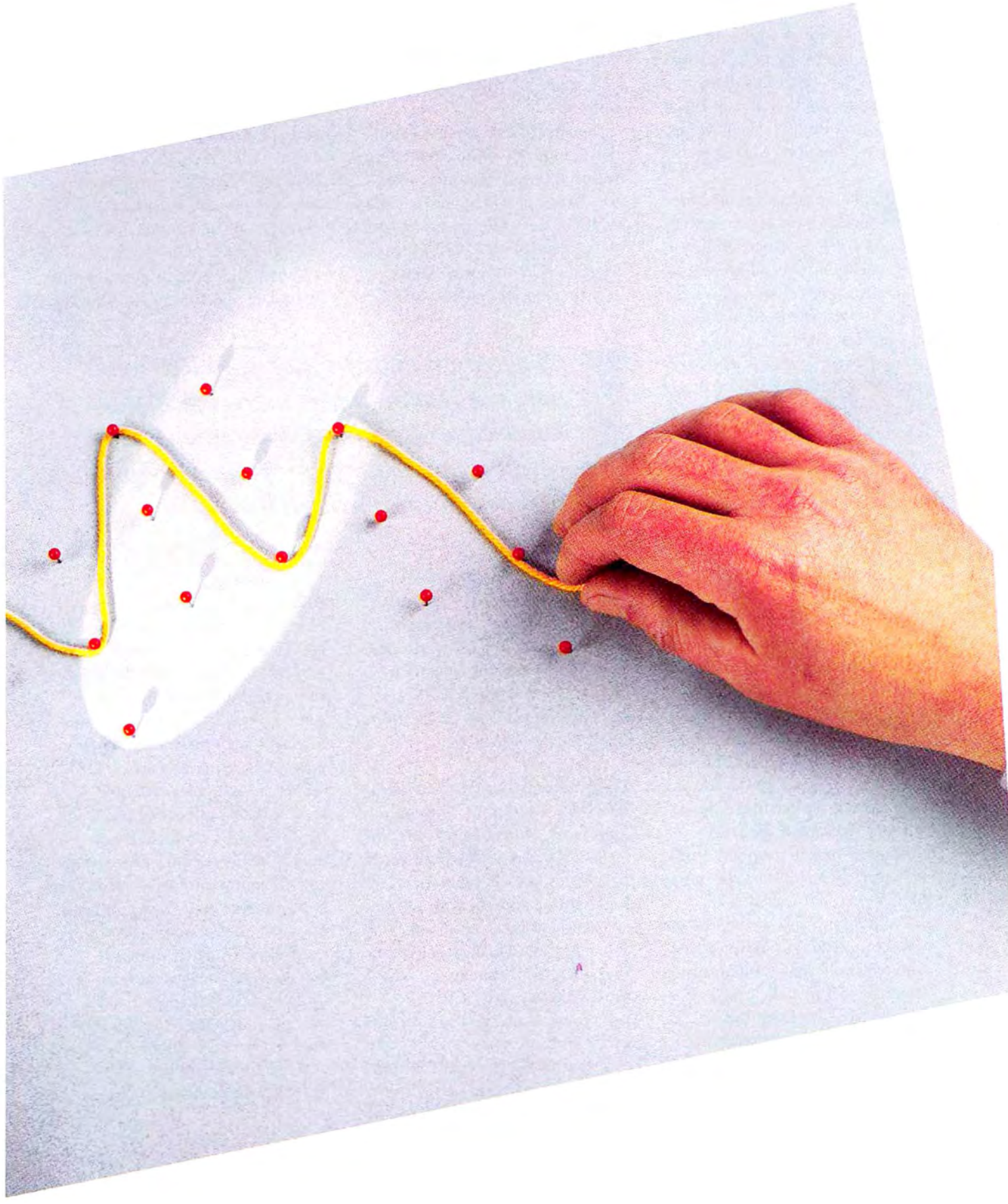
You don't have to be a VP of Exxon to watch the economy closely and reckon its effect on your business. Taking into account expert forecasts for inflation, interest rates, and consumer sentiment can give any business strategy a sharper competitive edge. But when you're hashing out a business plan, finding the information you want in publications like *Barron's*, *Business Week*, or the *Wall Street Journal* can be an interminable task.

Macro-Track from Black River Software provides a centralized source of information about the overall economy. An expert forecasting program aimed at private investors, small business managers, and marketing and financial analysts, *Macro-Track* offers a historical data base of over 53 economic indicators and predicts three months to three years in the future for each.

Bucking the traditional regression modeling approach to economic forecasting—a method that weaves a complex web of cause-and-effect relationships based on conventional assumptions about the economy—*Macro-Track* makes its projections using standard statistical analyses. While the program's methodology is largely textbook stuff, employing statistical decision rules in an expert system is an innovative approach to economic forecasting.

Macro-Track's $224.95 price tag may make it tough for some to take the program seriously. Its closest competitors, offered by leading econometrics firms, are in the $2000 to $3000 range. In addition, *Macro-Track* is painfully slow, and the character graphics

Fred Stimson



on screen and on paper are uninspiring, to put it kindly. But make no mistake—this is a serious forecasting program, and its projections stack up quite well against those proffered by the big guys.

The Soothsayer On Line

Unlike most expert systems, *Macro-Track* does not require expert users. No special knowledge of statistics or economics is necessary; in fact, the program's design is best described as a black box. *Macro-Track*'s specific method of analyzing historical data is proprietary, and there's no way to change the statistical rules that govern its operation. You can add your own data to the program's data base, but *Macro-Track*'s predictions appear to be most accurate when confined to the program's own relatively small data base.

Macro-Track comes on a single non-copy-protected disk, and the installation is easy. The historical data base comes on a separate disk, which Black River updates by mail monthly (three months of updates are included with the price of the software). To add this new data to the existing data base, you type *update* at the DOS prompt; a special program on the new disk then transfers the update files.

On a floppy disk system the update requires about five minutes. The reason it takes so long—aside from the fact that the program is written in compiled BASIC—is that *Macro-Track* revises its forecasting models as it updates, so you don't have to wait for it to recalculate each time you select an option.

The historical data base comprises monthly or quarterly figures for each of its economic indicators, some of which go back as far as 1960. Referred to as *time series*, these records are stored in chronological order and provide the source material for *Macro-Track*'s projections. Unlike the government's raw economic statistics, which are often revised after they're issued, Black River's data is clean and current when it arrives in your mailbox. Some analysts may buy *Macro-Track* for its quality data base alone.

Unlike most expert systems, Macro-Track *does not require expert users. No special knowledge of statistics or economics is necessary; in fact, the program's design is best described as a black box.*

Forecasting Future History

For a program with high ambitions, *Macro-Track*'s user interface is pretty pedestrian. At the program's homely main menu, highlighting an item with the cursor keys and pressing <Enter> is the only way to make a selection. Pressing <Esc> backs you out of most options, and <Ctrl>-P prints out an on-screen report or listing in its entirety.

Selecting the Directory option from the main menu opens a window containing a complete list of *Macro-Track*'s time series, which you can flip through using the <PgUp>, <PgDn>, <Home>, and <End> keys. In printout form, the list includes the beginning and ending dates of each time series, but the screen display shows only the series' name (see Screen 1). Why the program uses pint-size windows that cut off valuable information is one of *Macro-Track*'s many mysteries.

When they receive their monthly update, most users will skip the Directory and go directly to *Macro-Track*'s Bulletin, a magazine-style synopsis of economic conditions similar to *Business Week*'s "Business Outlook" section. The Bulletin compares *Macro-Track*'s GNP and inflation forecasts with those of other experts—Chase Econometrics, DRI, Wharton Associates, Merrill Lynch, the Conference Board, and the President's Council of Economic Advisors. This information enables you to average forecasts and assemble your own prognosis on where the economy is going.

After perusing the Bulletin, you'll probably delve into one of three summary reports that give overviews of *Macro-Track*'s forecasts. Designed to highlight series with a high probability of change, the Short-Term Alert, One-Year

Outlook, and Turning Points summaries provide a starting place for further exploration.

The Short-Term Alert shown in Figure 1 projects the amount of change in all 53 time series for the fourth quarter of 1985. The series are classified into three groups according to the probability that the projected direction of change will actually occur—*Macro-Track*'s "confidence rating" for its own forecasts. On screen, this report displays only those columns that show the series' names, probability, and direction of change. This truncation means you must print out the report to see the level and percentage of projected change, plus the level, scale, and date of the latest time series update.

Seven series in Figure 1 have an 80 to 100 percent chance of matching the projected direction of change, which *Macro-Track* terms a 'significant' probability. Eighteen series have a 60 to 80 percent chance, or a 'moderate' probability, and the remaining half of the data base falls into the 'indeterminate' group, with a less than 60 percent probability of matching *Macro-Track*'s predictions. If you wish, you can alter the default percentage ranges that define these groups.

The number of indeterminate series in Figure 1 may seem unreasonable, yet the major econometric services and the business press were all equally uncertain about most of the same series. 1985 was a tough year for forecasters. For example, although strong economic growth usually coincides with a bull market, most of 1985 saw sluggish growth despite a strong stock market. Forecasting uncertainties were compounded by the large federal budget deficit and a tax reform plan looming on the horizon.

Screen 1: Macro-Track uses small windows to display reports; reports appear in their entirety only on printouts.

The format of *Macro-Track*'s One-Year Outlook summary report is identical to that of the Short-Term Alert, the only difference being the length of the projection. The Turning Points summary predicts the date when each series will change direction. Like the other summaries, the Turning Points report shows the level and percentage of change as well as current level, scale, and date information.

A Second-Rate Broker

The last summary option on the main menu is the Investment Guide, which recommends the markets you should invest in, based on forecast yields. You can simulate the returns over time from either these *Macro-Track* suggestions or your own strategy. The program also compares the simulated returns with the least-risk strategy (treasury bills), while another function simulates the returns from perfect advance knowledge of the markets.

The Investment Guide is the least useful of *Macro-Track*'s features. Although Black River has recently added data for specific securities, most of the time series for stocks are price indexes. In other

```
                              M A C R O * T R A C K

Ver:2, SN:718                                                  Tue 24 Sep 1985

                                SHORT-TERM ALERT
                                ----------------
                  Probability of moving Up or Down Next Period

                                 Next Period Direction                Currently
                                 ---------------------------          ---------------------
Series                           Prob.  Dir'n   Level Change          Level Scale  Date
-------------------------------  -----  ------  ---------------------  ---------------------
SIGNIFICANT PROBABILITIES:

 Trade:US Net Exports            98.6%  DOWN to -109.6 -   9.6%      -100.0 bils  Q3 1985
 Price:New Homes                 96.5   UP to    104.5 +   1.5        103.0 thou  Q3 1985
 Money Supply:M2 1972$           92.9   UP to    976.6 +   0.4        973.0 bils Aug 1985
 GNP:Constant $                  92.3   UP to   1691.3 +   0.7       1680.0 bils  Q3 1985
 Capital Expenditures            90.3   UP to    400.9 +   2.1        392.6 bils  Q3 1985
 Price:Growth Mutual Fund        81.4   UP to    261.6 +   2.6        259.0 %    Aug 1985
 Exchange Rate:$/Lb.             80.6   DOWN to    1.38 -   1.5          1.40     Aug 1985

MODERATE PROBABILITIES:

 Stock Price:Wilshire 5000       79.3   UP to     2005 +  20.0       1985 %     Aug 1985
 Price:Sotheby Art Index         76.8   UP to    337.5 +   0.4        336.0      Aug 1985
 Inventory-Sales Ratio           76.0   DOWN to    1.52 -   0.5          1.53     Aug 1985
 Stock Price:Dow Jones 30        75.9   UP to   1356.6 +   0.9       1345.0      Aug 1985
 Price:PPI Energy                72.4   UP to    653.4 +   0.8        648.3      May 1985
 Exchange Rate:DM/$              71.4   DOWN to    2.88 -   0.7          2.90     Aug 1985
 Exchange Rate:Yen/$             69.8   DOWN to   236.8 -   0.7        238.5      Aug 1985
 Stock Price:S&P 500             67.0   UP to    194.8 +   0.9        193.0      Aug 1985
 Int Rate:AAA Corporate          63.4   DOWN to   10.86 -   0.1         10.93 %   Aug 1985
 Int Rate:LT T-Bonds             65.1   DOWN to   10.33 -   0.1         10.40 %   Aug 1985
 Help Wanted Ads                 62.8   UP to    142.7 +   0.5        142.0      Aug 1985
 Int Rate:Municipal Bonds        62.1   DOWN to    8.65 -   0.1          8.70 %   Aug 1985
 Indicator:Leading               62.0   UP to    170.0 +   0.1        169.8      Aug 1985
 Saving Rate                     61.9   DOWN to    5.0 -   0.1          5.1 %    Q3 1985
 Indicator:Coin/Lag Ratio        61.4   UP to    128.8 +   0.2        128.5      Aug 1985
 Ind.Production:NonDurable       61.3   UP to    126.6 +   0.2        126.3      Aug 1985
 Productivity:Output/Hour        61.2   UP to     98.3 +   0.3         98.0      Q3 1985
 Price:Copper                    60.9   DOWN to   0.69 -   1.4          0.70     Aug 1985

DIRECTIONS ARE INDETERMINATE:

 Int Rate:3 Mo T-Bills           59.7   DOWN to   6.91 -   0.1          7.01 %   Aug 1985
 Int Rate:Home Mortgage          59.3   DOWN to  11.60 -   0.1         11.65 %   Aug 1985
 Profit Margin:Mfg.              58.9   DOWN to    4.0 -   0.1          4.0 %    Q3 1985
 Consumer Credit Ratio           58.9   UP to     16.3 +   0.2         16.1 %    Aug 1985
 Int Rate:Prime                  58.6   DOWN to   9.31 -   0.1          9.40 %   Aug 1985
 Exchange Rate:US$               58.4   UP to    141.5 +   0.4        141.0      Aug 1985
 Price:Wheat                     58.2   DOWN to   2.99 -   2.0          3.05     Aug 1985
 Retail Sales:Constant $         57.8   UP to    53.82 +   0.2         53.70 bils Aug 1985
 Price:Beef Steers               56.9   DOWN to   52.0 -   1.0         52.5      Aug 1985
 Income:Hourly Earnings          56.5   UP to    166.5 +   0.3        166.0      Aug 1985
 Price:Silver                    55.9   UP to     6.38 +   2.9          6.20     Aug 1985
 Price:Gold                      54.5   UP to    327.3 +   0.7        325.0      Aug 1985
 Stock Volume:NYSE               54.3   UP to     2521 +   0.8         2500 mils Aug 1985
 Price Change:GNP                54.2   UP to      3.1 +   0.1          3.0 %    Q3 1985
 Price Change:PPI                52.9   UP to      1.6 +   1.1          0.5 %    Aug 1985
 Consumer Sentiment              52.6   DOWN to   92.6 -   0.4         93.0      Q3 1985
 Federal Govt:Surplus            52.8   DOWN to -160.5 -   0.5       -160.0 bils  Q3 1985
 Capacity Utilization            52.2   DOWN to   80.2 -   0.3         80.5 %    Q3 1985
 Housing Starts                  51.2   DOWN to   1696 -   0.2         1700 thou Aug 1985
 Ind.Production:Durables         51.0   UP to    129.0 +   0.2        128.8      Aug 1985
 Price Change:CPI                50.8   DOWN to    3.4 -   0.1          3.5 %    Aug 1985
 Income:Real Per Capita          50.4   DOWN to   4975 -   0.0         4975       Q3 1985
 Profits:Corporate Aftax         50.0   UP to     134.0     0.0        134.0 bils  Q3 1985
 Autos:Domestic Sales            50.0   UP to      7.7      0.0          7.7 mils Aug 1985
 Unemployment Rate               50.0   UP to      7.4      0.0          7.4 %    Aug 1985
```

Figure 1: The Short-Term Alert, one of four report options that summarize Macro-Track's projections

words, unless you want to invest in one of the few Fortune 500 companies listed, the program will recommend that you buy stocks in a given market, but it won't tell you which ones. Entering your own specific stock price information into the data base is one option, except that *Macro-Track* is not really designed to handle all the extenuating circumstances that affect the stock market. *Macro-Track*'s strength lies in its macroeconomic forecasts, and it can falter badly with microeconomic projections.

In-Depth Analysis

The summary reports offer a way to browse through *Macro-Track*'s projections and find those of personal interest. For example, if you're a retailer, you'll find predictions for retail sales, consumer confidence, consumer credit, and personal income particularly intriguing. If a summary forecasts a major change in one of these series, you'll want to know when and how big the fluctuation is likely to be.

Suppose your primary concern is the outlook for interest rates on home mortgages. When you're in the Directory or a summary report, moving the cursor to the time series called Int Rate: Home Mortgage and pressing <Enter> superimposes a larger window on the first. At the top of the window

is a status line showing the default analysis option, Forecast 70% Range.

Pressing <Enter> at this point generates an on-screen graph that plots the most recent 18 quarters of actual home mortgage interest rates as well as a forecast for the next 12 quarters. The Forecast 70% Range option also displays any recent recessionary periods plus the projected long-term trend, which is based on the entire history of home mortgage interest rates held in the data base.

To view the base figures for the data points, you can select the Display Plot Values option, which stacks these numbers on the graph itself. If you generate a Forecast Analysis printout, however, an orderly, chronological listing of the applicable time series data appears (see Figure 2). You can also print a table of all data for a time series or a graph of a complete time series history plus a three-year projection.

In the Forecast Analysis report, the 70% Range column figures (represented by slashes on the graph) indicate the confidence limits surrounding the forecasts. In other words, there's a 70 percent chance that the projected interest rates will fall between the low and high end of the range. Pressing the percent key after selecting the Forecast 70% Range option lets you change the probability range to whatever you like.

In addition to the basic Forecast 70% Range analysis, *Macro-Track* offers several conditional options.

```
                          M A C R O * T R A C K

:Ver:2, SN:718                                                Tue 24 Sep 1985:

                FORECAST ANALYSIS - Int Rate:Home Mortgage

                  SCALE: Percent      UNITS: -n/a-
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

                59.3% chance of DECREASE next period.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

                                          Change
                                 Change   from      70% Range
                          Most   Annual   Last     ------------
            Date        Likely   Rate     Year      Low   High
            --------    ------   ------   ------    -----------
            Sep 1985    11.60    -0.6     -2.4      11.36 11.83
            Oct 1985    11.51    -1.1     -1.9      11.23 11.79
            Nov 1985    11.40    -1.4     -1.5      11.07 11.72
            Dec 1985    11.27    -1.5     -1.7      10.91 11.64
            Jan 1986    11.13    -1.7     -1.9      10.72 11.54
            Feb 1986    11.21     1.0     -2.1      10.76 11.67
            Mar 1986    11.40     2.2     -2.0      10.90 11.89
            Apr 1986    11.68     3.4     -1.3      11.14 12.22
            May 1986    12.06     4.6     -0.2      11.48 12.64
            Jun 1986    12.55     5.8      0.7      11.92 13.17
            Jul 1986    13.13     7.0      1.4      12.46 13.80
            Aug 1986    13.94     9.7      2.3      13.23 14.65
            Nov 1986    14.49     2.3      3.1      13.65 15.34
            Feb 1987    15.11     2.5      3.9      14.14 16.08
            May 1987    15.72     2.4      3.7      14.62 16.83
            Aug 1987    16.27     2.1      3.3      15.04 17.51
            Nov 1987    16.71     1.6      2.2      15.35 18.07
            Feb 1988    16.99     0.9      1.9      15.50 18.49
            May 1988    17.10     0.2      1.4      15.47 18.72
            Aug 1988    17.02    -0.5      0.7      15.27 18.78

          * = Actual    . = Forecast    / = Range    + = LT Trend
    20.00 -+-----------------------------------------------------------+
          :                                                           :
          :                                                           :
          :                                                           :
          :                                                           :
    18.00 -+                                                          +
          :                                                           :
          :                                                           :
          :                                                           :
          :                                                           :
    16.00 -+                                                          +
          :                                                           :
          :    *                                                      :
          :     *                                  + + + + + + + + + /:
          :      * *       + + + + + + + + + + + +                   :
    14.00 -++ * + + + + + + + +                                  / .+
          :*             *       *                                    :
          :                   * *                                / . /:
          :                 * *       *                      /      :
          :                                 *              /   . /   :
    12.00 -+                                    *     /          /   . /    +
          :                                       * * . . / / / /   . /      :
          :                                          / / . . . . . /         :
          :                                                / / / /            :
          :                                                                   :
    10.00 -+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+
           M A M J J A S O N D:J F M A M J J A S O N D:J F M A M J J A
              84    84    84    85    85    85    85    86    86    86

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

                    Most likely LOW Jan 1986 at 11.13 %

                    70% Chance: as Early as Aug 1985
                                as Late as  Dec 1986

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
```

Figure 2: Macro-Track's Forecast Analysis report details past and future activity for a given time series.

The most interesting of these, Analyze My Forecast, allows you to evaluate your own assumptions about future economic conditions.

For example, suppose you plan to buy a new home in the winter of 1986 but you can't afford the mortgage payments unless interest rates are less than 9 percent. If you enter your wishful 9 percent projection, *Macro-Track* will calculate the probability that your desire will actually come to pass. The Analyze My Forecast option is one of *Macro-Track*'s most valuable features. If you make an assumption about future economic conditions in a business plan, having a quick way to assess the accuracy of that assumption can be invaluable.

Two other conditional options allow you to change the time frame on which *Macro-Track* bases its projections. Three more conditional options plot percentage changes from period to period. One shows the percentage change from quarter to quarter, another plots the annual rate of change (annualized at a compound rate), and the third calculates the percentage change between any period last year and the same period this year.

This flexibility makes it possible to cull the data you want for a variety of applications. You can even create a .PRN file with *Macro-Track* and import it into *1-2-3* for further manipulation, but you can only include base data in the .PRN file, not forecasts.

Macro-Track Versus the Competition

For those skeptical of *Macro-Track*'s abilities, the program features an intriguing simulation option that enables you to measure its past forecasts against the economy's actual performance. *Macro-Track* needs the first few years of

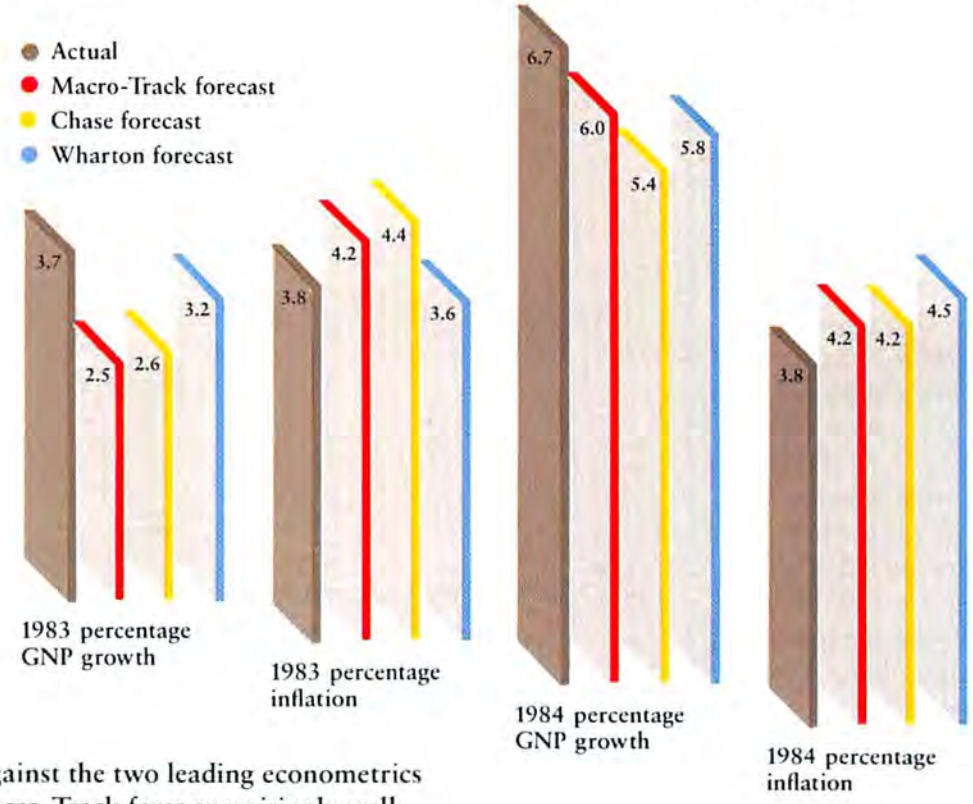


Figure 3: Against the two leading econometrics services, Macro-Track fares surprisingly well. Bucking the traditional regression modeling approach to economic forecasting, Macro-Track makes its projections using standard statistical analyses.

data in a time series on which to base its projections, of course, but beyond that it will plot every subsequent quarter up to its three-year limit. For a single time series, running a simulation takes several minutes, during which time the screen stays blank.

Executing a simulation for interest rates on three-month treasury bills from January 1983 to June 1985 produced notable results. Because their fluctuations often lead to changes in other interest rates, treasury bills are probably the most-watched indicators, and they're notoriously hard to forecast.

Although the forecast showed some large errors around the turning points in July 1983 and December 1984, *Macro-Track* was correct about 90 percent of the time in predicting whether interest rates would go up or down—an impressive performance, considering that all forecasts were simulated three months in advance. Simulated forecasts for several other interest rates yielded similarly accurate results.

Finally, the crucial challenge—measuring *Macro-Track*'s forecasts of real GNP growth and inflation for 1983 and 1984 against forecasts produced by the two leading econometrics firms, Chase Econometrics and Wharton Associates. As you can see in Figure 3, which includes the actual performance of the economy, the three forecasters show little variance.

While *Macro-Track* is undoubtedly a value for the price, its rough edges are often distracting. The documentation is maddeningly brief and lacks any screen shots or report illustrations. The demo disk—actually a tutorial—is somewhat more successful, although it too falls short of comprehensively explaining the data *Macro-Track* provides. On-line help, activated by pressing the question mark key, brings up a small window at the bottom of the screen that simply lists basic cursor key and menu selection functions. Fortunately, the program is simple to operate, so you'll probably learn your way around with only a minimal trial-and-error period.

Better graphics, faster operation, and more complete documentation of *Macro-Track*'s report options would greatly enhance the program's appeal. Regardless of proprietary taboos, a layperson's guide discussing how the program arrives at its projections is also much needed, especially for people who plan to risk money on the forecasts. But the real bottom line for a program like this is the accuracy of its forecasts, which compare well with projections from more conventional sources. For anyone concerned with the peaks and valleys of the economy, *Macro-Track* provides a low-cost sketch of future terrain.

For those who are skeptical of Macro-Track*'s abilities, the program features an intriguing simulation option that enables you to measure its past forecasts against the economy's actual performance.*

John B. Gordon is a professor of business administration and an associate editor of a forecasting journal.

Macro-Track
Black River Software
118 N. Marshall #150
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
800/841-5398
List price: $224.95 including three months of data base updates; additional updates: one year $95, two years $175, three years $250
Requirements: 48K, two disk drives
Not copy protected

For Services Rendered

For professionals who charge by the hour, Timelog, TBR, and The Client Management System can keep track of where the time goes, turn time sheets into invoices, and make sure that an hour spent is $125 earned.

Clifford Clouse and David Sandhaus

Attorneys, CPAs, and consultants—and any professional whose primary commodity is time—end each day with a vague memory of hours bent over books and talking to clients, and, if they're diligent, a slip of paper detailing how those hours were spent. A month later the slips of paper, intermingled with receipts and bills, have multiplied to stacks. With each passing day, the prospect of compiling those scrawls into an orderly account

becomes more daunting, and in the madhouse of day-to-day duties, the task is often shunted aside.

Time-billing software can tame the business end of your profession. Such programs track dollars and hours spent on each client, then generate client bills, record payments, and track and age accounts receivable. Most keep data bases of a firm's personnel and activities and generate management reports that summarize time and money spent on each client, project, and activity. When you're ready to send out bills, the software serves them up, logs them, and then awaits payments. When payments arrive, the program hospitably accepts your entries. And because tasks become manageable, they're more likely to get done.

Time-billing software can tame the business end of your profession. Such programs track dollars and hours spent on each client, then generate client bills.

Most time-billing packages are designed for any professional who charges by the hour—lawyer, engineer, consultant, architect, accountant—but some are created to meet the needs of specific professions. Three standouts (two generic and one job-specific) are considered here. *Timelog* is a general-purpose time-billing package from Gavel Computing Systems that provides basic functions at a bargain price. *Time, Billing, and Client Receivables (TBR)* from Computer Associates (formerly Sorcim/IUS) is a more comprehensive general package for a heftier sum. *The Client Management System* from CompuLaw is designed to solve the specific billing problems of small to medium-size law firms (see Table 1).

Timelog

Someone who pales at the sight of a computer monitor can install *Timelog* and be entering client files in a couple of hours. Installation is a breeze. *Timelog*'s documentation doesn't match the program's precision, but entry screens and menus are so clear that you can almost throw the book away.

Timelog purports to offer basic time-billing functions for any profession, and its simplicity and $295 price tag bring it within reach of almost any office. The simplicity notwithstanding, *Timelog* offers a number of praiseworthy features.

A time-billing package must make entering client data easy; the idea is to prevent the month-end pileup of time sheets. To make keeping up uncomplicated, *Timelog* relies on just one simple form for entering both fees and payments (see Screen 1). You can enter charges as hourly fees (calculated for increments as small as 1/100 of an hour) or flat fees.

Ever in pursuit of efficiency, most time-billing programs use codes to describe transactions. *Timelog* eschews that practice, instead offering up to two lines for a plain English description of each entry. As a shortcut, however, the program lets you define the function keys at the beginning of each entry session. With the proper forethought you can thus insert most transaction descriptions—*consultation fee* or *payment for professional services*, for instance—with the press of a key. A new release of the program will reportedly allow you to use <Alt>, <Ctrl>, and <Shift> combinations to program 40 function key definitions instead of the current 10.

Timelog also minimizes typing with a ditto feature, which repeats the last entry typed for an item. If you're entering several transactions for Melvin Magpie, for instance, you need only type the name on the first form. After that, pressing <Enter> at the Name line automatically enters *Melvin Magpie*. After you've entered one transaction for a client, the program automatically attaches the proper address and the name of the professional handling the case to additional transactions for that

Table 1: Time-billing features

Timelog	TBR	CMS	Features
1000	Unltd.	2500	Number of clients
Unltd.	Unltd.	40	Number of professionals
			Accounting
■	■	■	Hourly rates
■	■	■	Fractions of hours
■	■	■	Flat fees
■	■	■	Disbursements
		■	Retainers
		■	Trust accounts
	■	■	Automatic aging of past-due accounts
			Invoice accounting
	■	■	Automatic interest charges
			Bills
■	■	■	Prebill reports
■	■	■	Itemized bills
	■		Customizable bill formats
■	■	■	Adjustable amounts
■	■	■	Selectable bill printing
	■	■	Reminder statements
			Time keeping
	■	■	Nonbillable-time tracking
■	■	■	Overridable default rates for each professional
			Miscellaneous
		■	Screen printing
		■	Password security
	■	■	Projects grouped by matter/type
■	■	■	Records purged at end of billing period
■	■	■	Hard audit trail available
■	■	■	User-defined cross-references
■	■	■	User-defined codes for labeling transactions
			Reports
■	■	■	Client list
	■	■	Project list
			Accounts receivable
■	■	■	For firm
■			Per activity
■		■	Per professional
	■	■	Per client
	■	■	Per project
			Aged receivables
■	■	■	For firm
			Per activity
■	■	■	Per professional
■	■	■	Per client
	■		Per project
			Costs advanced
■	■		For firm
■			Per activity
■	■		Per professional
■	■	■	Per client
	■	■	Per project
			Unbilled hours
	■	■	For firm
			Per activity
			Per professional
			Per client
			Per project
	■	■	General ledger
	■		Closed files
		■	Retainer account activity
		■	Trust account activity

client. And if you begin to enter your client's name but can't remember how to spell it, you can call up a *Timelog* window that will oblige with a client list.

Words Are Key

Timelog identifies charges and payments via a short lexicon of predefined keywords and phrases (for example, *credit*, *payment*, *fee*), which you indicate on the description line. Entering any of these keywords puts a transaction into one of three categories–expense payments, fee payments, or professional fees–for billing purposes. An additional keyword, *settlement*, applies only to legal practices. You can also define two keywords for hourly fees and eight for payments.

The keyword lexicon works in this way: Because *payment* is a predefined keyword, typing *payment for consultation on 11/24* tells *Timelog* to credit the amount and insert the transaction under Payments on the client's bill. Thus, keywords help keep classifications straight but do not limit your ability to describe your dealings with clients. Once you've defined your keywords, however, they cannot be changed. Any description not using a keyword is itemized under Other Fees on client bills.

Like all the programs evaluated here, *Timelog* uses a balance forward method of recording payments–that is, it unquestioningly credits payments received to a balance owed on an account. If a client owes you $450 for consultations and $75 for payments you made for your client to a third party, a $75 reimbursement would be shown simply as a $75 credit against the outstanding balance of $525. The payment would not be credited toward any specific item, making it hard to square contested amounts or identify specific write-offs.

The Creditor Cometh

Although *Timelog*'s bill-generation facility is not sophisticated, it is adequate. Invoices are separated into three categories: hourly fees, other fees, and payments. You can itemize and date fees or print totals only. Gavel reports, however, that its update will offer 15 to 20 standard bill formats and free customized bill formats during the first year of release. Like the other programs evaluated here, *Timelog* lets you print prebill reports, which create a facsimile of the bill without changing a client's record. You can survey the prebill report and decide on write-offs or adjustments before creating the bill itself.

For such a modest program, *Timelog* shows surprising strength at report generation. The program's Totals menu offers account summaries by client, transaction description, professional, or any combination of the three. Accounts receivable can be summarized by client, by professional, and for the entire firm. You can call up a list of past-due accounts, aged 30, 60, and 90 days past the last billing or last payment. Most totals–but strangely, not all–can be sent to a printer; all totals can be displayed on the screen.

Unaccounted For

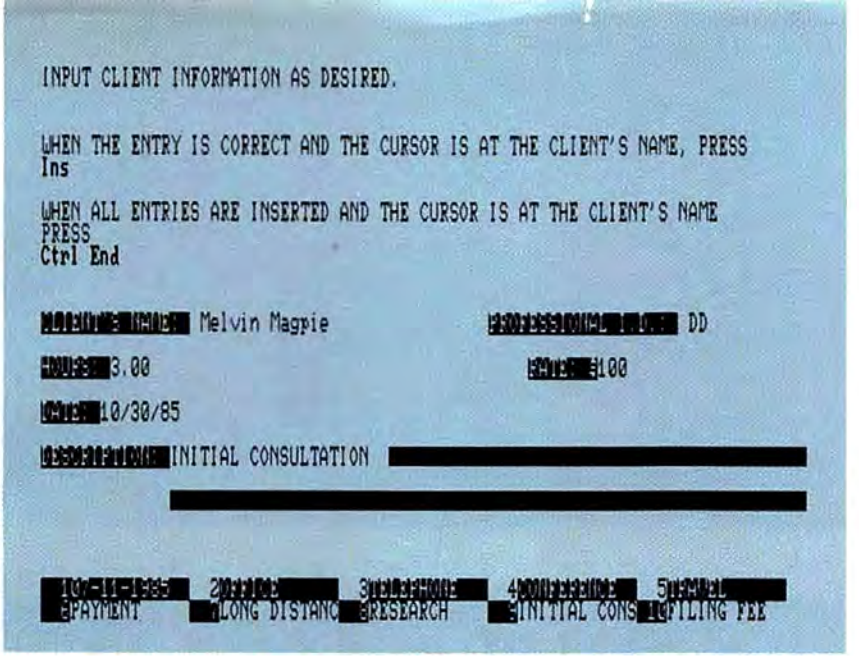
Timelog's reporting falls short in one important respect: It cannot record and summarize unbillable time. Such accounting is not necessary for strict billing purposes, but it gives managers information about their firm's productivity.

Professions that require such a feature or that need specialized billing procedures could find *Timelog* deficient. Law firms in particular might miss retainer and trust accounting. Retainer accounting, which subtracts expenses from prepaid sums, is slated for the program's new release, but Gavel has announced no plans to include the trust fund accounting required by most law practices. If your firm can do without these added embellishments, *Timelog* is a bargain.

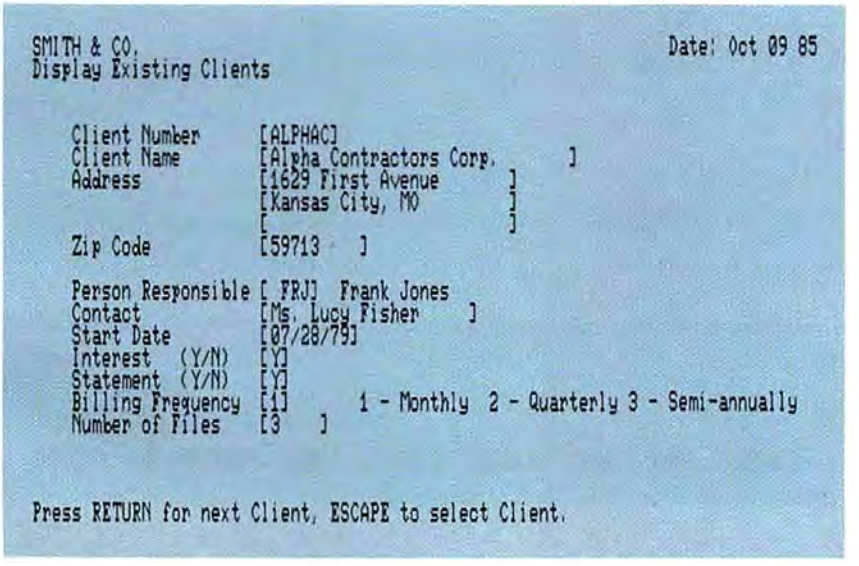
TBR: Major League

With its four system disks, 39 reports, and $1500 price tag, *TBR* is in an entirely different league from *Timelog*. Had Bob Cratchit used this package, Tiny Tim might have spent Christmas in Saint-Tropez. *TBR* is designed to take care of time accounting for small to medium-size professional firms; Computer Associates claims that the program handles an unlimited number of clients and professionals.

TBR is indisputably intended for the firm that expects to plow considerable effort and money into a time-billing system. The program depends on user-defined codes to categorize transactions and clients. This requirement makes *TBR* a challenge to set up, but the program can be closely



Screen 1: Timelog's data entry screen is sparse but surprisingly flexible. Keywords entered on the description line tell the program how to sort the entry. The function key definitions at the bottom of the screen are created by the user to enter keywords or other often-used terms.



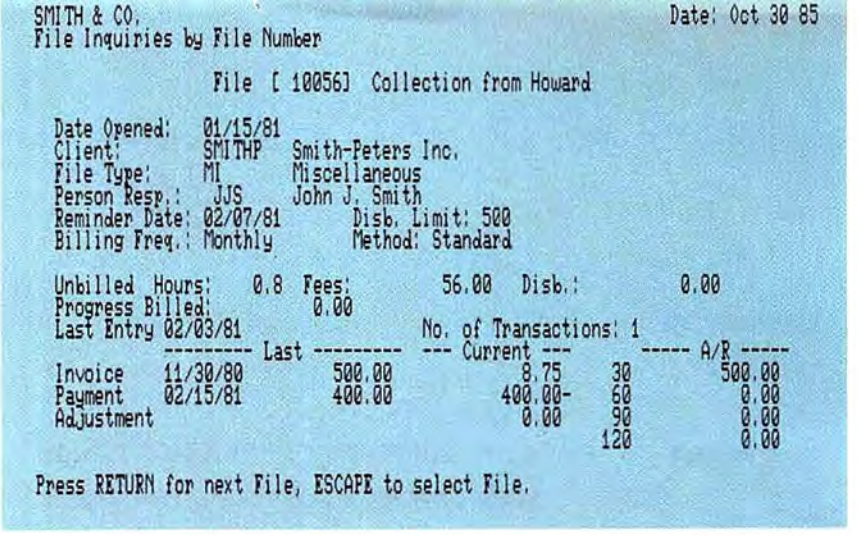
Screen 2: The client data screen in TBR's Client Profiles module creates data base entries from which the other modules draw. Information about projects and the firm's professionals are entered into similar video forms.

customized for your office. Once you've got it running, it supplies complete and efficient accounting. Although harder to use than *Timelog*, *TBR* pays off with elaborate and targeted responses to your needs.

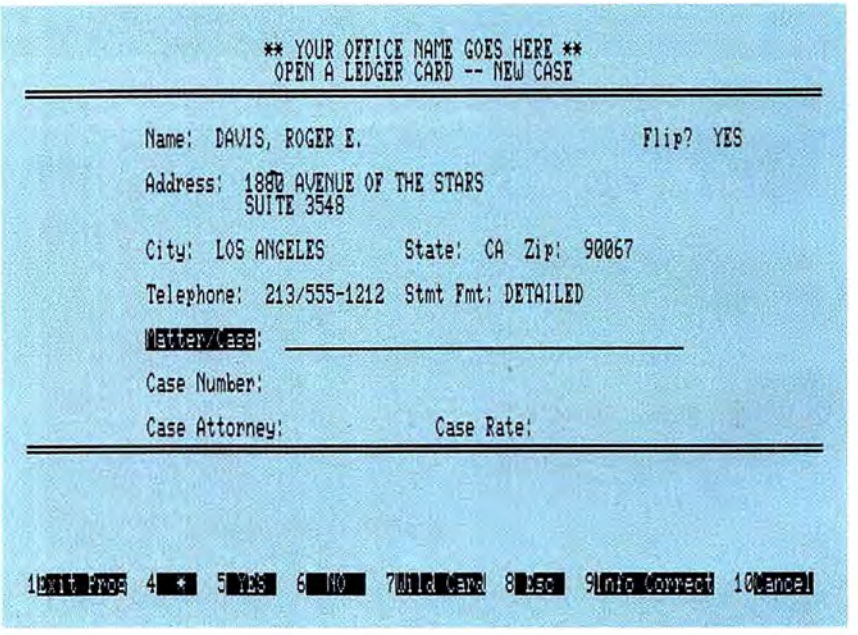
A Modular Troika

TBR is organized into three integrated modules: Client Profiles, Client Time and Billing, and Client Receivables. The modules provide simple on-screen forms with which you enter, alter, and view file information (see Screen 2). Each module also includes summaries of pertinent billing statistics and a lineup of key status reports—39 preset reports in all.

The Client Profiles module maintains information on staff members, clients, projects (called files in *TBR* lingo), and bank accounts. It includes separate entry forms for data about each element. The module lets you define file types, into which you can



Screen 3: TBR serves up on-screen summaries of accounts by client, file, file type, or professional. A client summary is shown here.



Screen 4: This CMS entry form creates a new "ledger card" for a case.

group projects. An accounting firm, for instance, could group files into corporate and tax categories and call up statistics grouped by type. Each professional in the firm receives identifying initials and a billing rate classification. (You can define up to nine billing rates.) When deleting a file from Client Profiles, you have the option of saving summary information on that file in a closed file report.

Account Activity

You enter time and disbursement records into the Client Time and Billing module. You can define up to 999 *dictionary codes* with which to label transactions and the same number of *disbursement codes* to label costs advanced to a client's account. The codes are automatically translated into their English counterparts on reports and bills.

You can set aside up to 10 dictionary codes to identify nonbillable time. Unbilled hours don't appear on a client's account but are tracked for management records. They can be used to tally each

professional's productivity and the profitability of each project category, thus detailing the firm's strengths and weaknesses. On-screen reports in this module summarize billed and unbilled hours and payments to date by client, file, file type, and professional (see Screen 3).

TBR's refined formatting procedures let you custom-design bill formats, including two-part bills for separate client and office records. You can also import custom bill formats created with Computer Associates' *EasyWriter II* word processor. Up to five bill formats can be stored and then retrieved with a single keystroke.

Once the invoices are posted and sent, the Client Receivables module, *TBR*'s third, takes over. Here you record payments, identify and charge interest to accounts that are 60, 90, and 120 days past due, and produce reminder notices of aged balances. For a client with multiple cases, you can easily distribute payments among them, in any combination you choose. On-screen reports show current and previous balances for each file. Transaction records can be printed to Computer Associates' *EasyBusiness General Ledger* or to an ASCII file for transfer to another package.

Strict Efficiency

TBR uses an orderly accountant's approach to time billing. Its strictness is exemplified by two features in particular. Throughout, *TBR* forces a hard audit trail. After each batch of transactions is posted, you cannot enter more information until you've printed a transaction report—a feature you grow to appreciate, though it can be frustrating. Another control feature is the program's time sheet check, which totals time submitted for each professional during a specified period and prints a report of those who have not accounted for all eligible hours.

Although thoughtfully documented and logically organized, *TBR* is not for the faint of heart—it makes few concessions to user-friendliness. Plan to devote a considerable amount of time to learning *TBR*'s ins and outs; program installation and customization require especially serious concentration. The manual does include a good tutorial, however, and once mastered, *TBR* is fast, efficient, and complete—and flexible enough to accommodate almost any profession.

Features Gone AWOL

Like *Timelog*, *TBR* lacks provision for retainer and trust funds and uses simple balance-forward accounting. These omissions are excusable in a $295 package, but not in a program that sets you back $1495.

A part of Computer Associates' *Plus System*, *TBR* is integrated with the company's accounting and financial reporting programs as well as with *EasyWriter II*. Other available enhancements include *EasyPlus 1.1*, which uses windows for limited multitasking with popular applications like *1-2-3* and *WordStar*, and the *EasyPlus Network Manager*, which enables the program to be used on 3Com's EtherSeries local area network.

The Client Management System

Lawyers have perhaps the most complex billing requirements of all professionals. In addition to the hourly fees and advanced costs covered by most time-billing packages, attorneys often charge a fixed fee or a contingency fee with costs advanced, or draw against a retainer. An individual attorney may charge different rates for different types of cases, or even change rates within the same case: for example, if a case goes to the trial phase, the attorney typically charges a new, higher rate. Trust fund accounting must be managed separately. CompuLaw's *Client Management System (CMS)*, a time-and-billing package designed specifically for law firms, handles all these vagaries.

CMS falls between *Timelog* and *TBR* in both complexity and price. Its easy-to-read manual provides a step-by-step tutorial for new users, and the program is generally competent and friendly. CompuLaw will provide on-site training for a fee, but you can become proficient with the software on your own in about a week's time.

Keeping Time

CMS handles up to 40 *timekeepers*. In theory, this means the program is suitable for firms with up to 40 attorneys, but since many law firms also charge for secretaries, law clerks, paralegals, word processors, and even photocopy machines, the practical limit on attorneys may be much smaller. The program can store 220 clients per 1MB of hard disk space and a

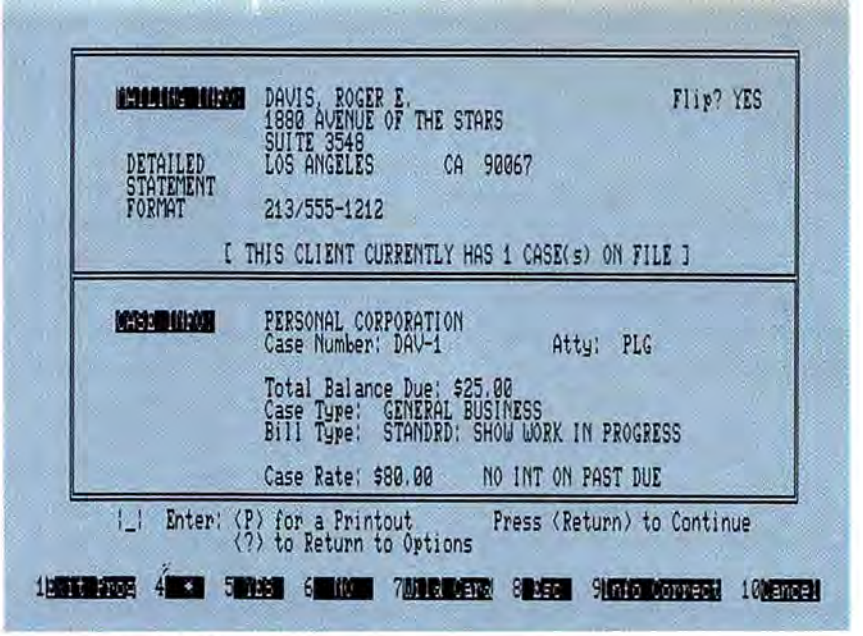
maximum of 2500 cases. The program works on floppy disk systems as well, but is excruciatingly slow and can store little client data.

To set up the program, you define up to 40 case types (akin to *TBR*'s 10 file types) and 63 service codes to label transactions. Predefined service codes monitor transfers to and from trust accounts and retainers, and track these for reports. You're also free to assign a default hourly rate for each attorney.

If you need to label more than 63 types of transactions, you can designate one service code as OTH, for other charges. And you can enter as lengthy an explanation as needed to document a transaction or activity on a client bill. Adding a pound sign (#) to any transaction code identifies it as nonbillable.

The core of the program is the ledger card that you create for each case (see Screen 4). The program updates the ledger card with each new transaction, bill, and payment. You can call up a ledger card by client name or case number at any time to see a summary of a client's account or to enter a new transaction (see Screen 5). Using the <Tab>, <Shift>, and <Ins> keys, you can perform basic text editing.

Like *Timelog* and *TBR*, *CMS* draws the appropriate address, attorney, and other information from a client's file for each new transaction for that client; it also keeps track of the attorney responsible for each case. These elements are automatically applied to each file but can easily be overridden.



Screen 5: The ledger card summarizing an account can be called up by case number or client name.

Flexibility to Spare

CMS's 22 management reports are comprehensive and comprehensible. An abbreviated general ledger (GL) management report provides accounting information such as monthly, quarterly, and yearly accounts receivable, fee write-ups and write-downs, costs billed, discounts allowed, and monthly trust accounting information. The general ledger also offers an accounts receivable aging report that shows which clients have not paid their bills in 30, 60, 90, or 120 days. CompuLaw offers a full-featured general ledger package and calendar modules, along with a program that allows *CMS* entries to be entered at remote computers and posted in batches to the main program. The remote entry module also includes ten extra management reports. The GL and calendar programs can be fully integrated into *CMS*.

The program provides eight preset billing formats, running the gamut from a simple summary statement of amount due to detailed bills that provide line descriptions of all work done for a client. You can print bills and reports to your screen or to the printer by attorney, alphabetical range, case type, or bill type. You can also send single statements or prebills, in ASCII format, to any word processor. One slick little feature enables you to enter clients by last name but receive a report listing first names first.

Calling Collect

Overall, *CMS* is characterized by an abundance of features and ample flexibility. It handles unpaid accounts impressively, automatically aging accounts and calculating late payment charges according to a user-defined interest rate. Actions taken to collect past-due accounts, such as letters or calls to the client, are also recorded.

The program's main limitation is its lack of provision for handling general office overhead. *CMS* handles costs advanced and allows account adjustments but does not allow a firm to track individual expenses. Such costs as travel and

heating offices on weekends are increasingly pertinent to client billing systems; in a competitive market attorneys bill clients for such expenses instead of raising hourly rates. Chalking up those expenses to costs advanced skews the ledger, and merely adjusting an account balance or charging flat fees denies the firm a method of tracking the effect of such expenses over time. In order to better track expenses, we found it necessary to designate one timekeeper as EXP (for expenses), which had unfortunate ramifications in the program's general ledger and timekeeper productivity reports. On the other hand, the program enables you to compute and bill interest separately.

The program's only other flaws are minor. *CMS* uses some odd and inconsistent commands. Instead of using <Esc> (a common toggle), you usually press ?–a confusing and awkward command–to exit a menu, and occasionally X or <F10>. The program also accesses the disk quite often, delaying the screen refresh several seconds.

Still, *CMS*'s many strengths outweigh its weaknesses. It's easy to install, learn, and use, free of fatal bugs, and flexible enough to adapt to most small and medium-size law firms. And at $995, it's affordable.

Top Billing

Each of the three packages evaluated here takes a distinctive route to essentially the same destination. Choosing among them, however, is easy: They're all good programs, but if you can use one, you probably can't use the others.

For $295, *Timelog* is a surprisingly complete time-billing system. Its numerous management reports and ease of data entry match those of systems costing three times as much, and the new release should add flavor to its vanilla invoices. It can't track retainers, trust accounts, or unbillable time, however–shortcomings that may disqualify it for many firms.

TBR is a complete, businesslike package. With its generous complement of transaction codes and user-defined file groupings, you can customize it for any size business, and buried within its menus are features to take care of just about any task. Its integration with Computer Associates' various business packages strengthens its appeal, as does its local area network support. *TBR*'s price and lack of trust and retainer accounting, however, may make it unsuitable for some practices.

CMS offers heavyweight time and billing features for law firms, addressing their complex and specialized accounting needs. It doesn't handle expense accounting as well as it could, but it tracks almost every other transaction in neat, easy-to-understand fashion.

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Clifford Clouse is an accountant and controller of 4-5-6 World, a distributor of 1-2-3 *templates. David Sandhaus is an attorney in San Jose, California, and president of Legal Automation, a consulting firm.*

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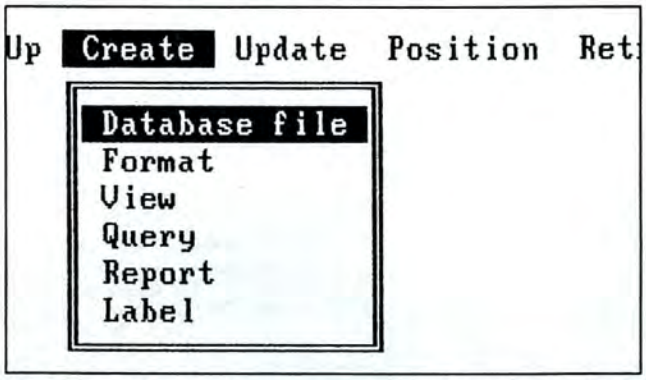

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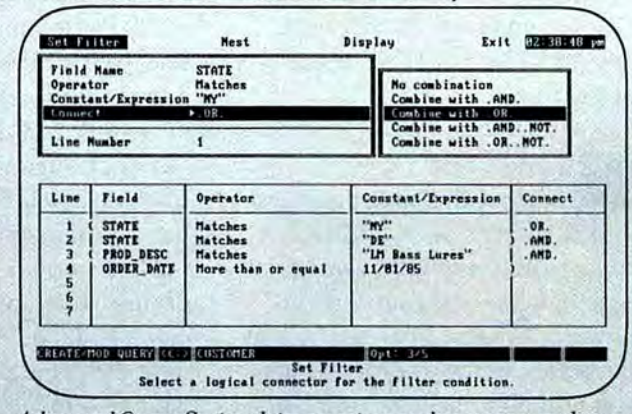

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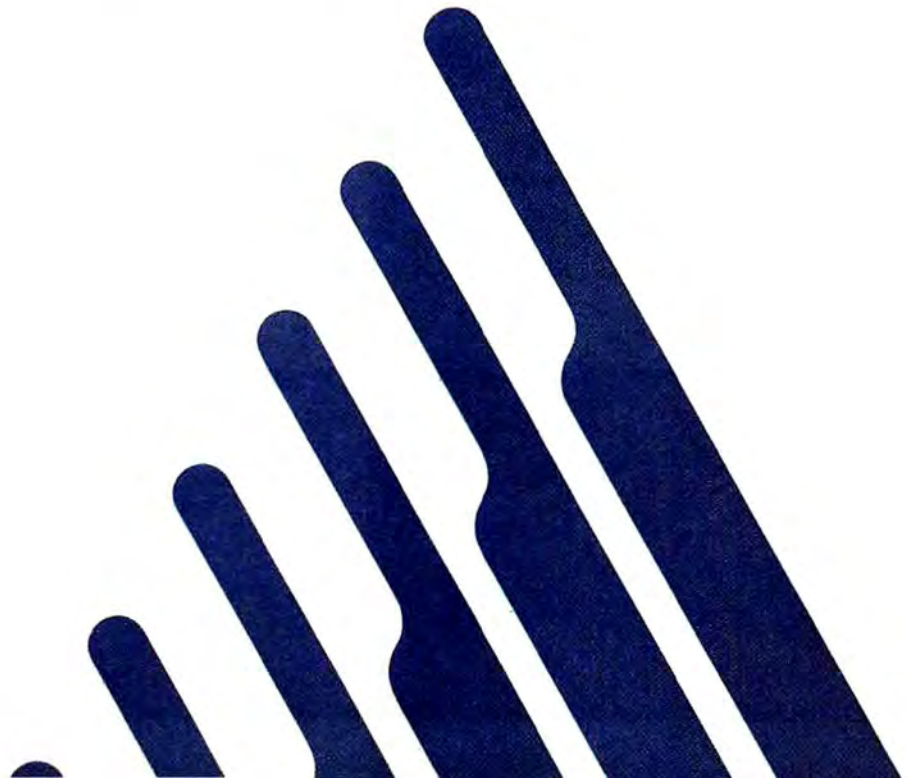

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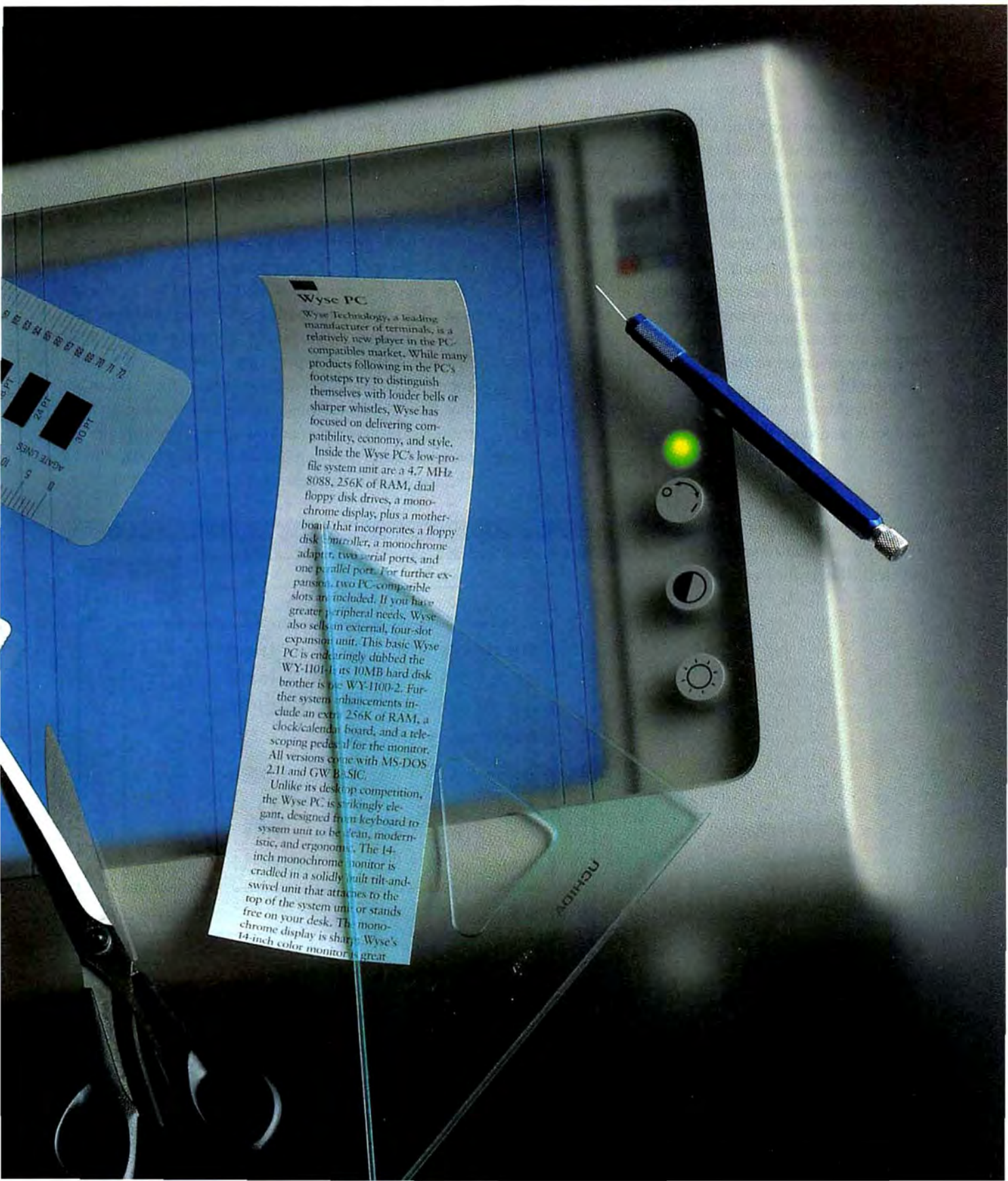
Taking a Page From the Pros

PageMaker and Ventura Publisher will soon bring sophisticated page makeup power to the PC environment. Both programs work hard at taming PC hardware for this highly graphic application, but while they look very similar, each is suited to a different style of document.

Danny Goodman

The many newsletters, manuals, and magazines that spill from the LaserWriter's output tray demonstrate that the great promise of personal computer publishing is being realized on Apple's Macintosh. Existing page makeup software products such as *PageMaker*, *MacPublisher*, and *ReadySetGo* allow virtually anyone to piece together handbills, advertisements, newsletters, even pages of magazines and books, with the mechanical skill of an experienced layout artist (albeit without the professional's crucial

Fred Simson



Wyse PC

Wyse Technology, a leading manufacturer of terminals, is a relatively new player in the PC-compatibles market. While many products following in the PC's footsteps try to distinguish themselves with louder bells or sharper whistles, Wyse has focused on delivering compatibility, economy, and style.

Inside the Wyse PC's low-profile system unit are a 4.7 MHz 8088, 256K of RAM, dual floppy disk drives, a monochrome display, plus a motherboard that incorporates a floppy disk controller, a monochrome adapter, two serial ports, and one parallel port. For further expansion, two PC-compatible slots are included. If you have greater peripheral needs, Wyse also sells an external, four-slot expansion unit. This basic Wyse PC is endearingly dubbed the WY-1101-1; its 10MB hard disk brother is the WY-1100-2. Further system enhancements include an extra 256K of RAM, a clock/calendar board, and a telescoping pedestal for the monitor. All versions come with MS-DOS 2.11 and GW BASIC.

Unlike its desktop competition, the Wyse PC is strikingly elegant, designed from keyboard to system unit to be clean, modernistic, and ergonomic. The 14-inch monochrome monitor is cradled in a solidly built tilt-and-swivel unit that attaches to the top of the system unit or stands free on your desk. The monochrome display is sharp; Wyse's 14-inch color monitor is great

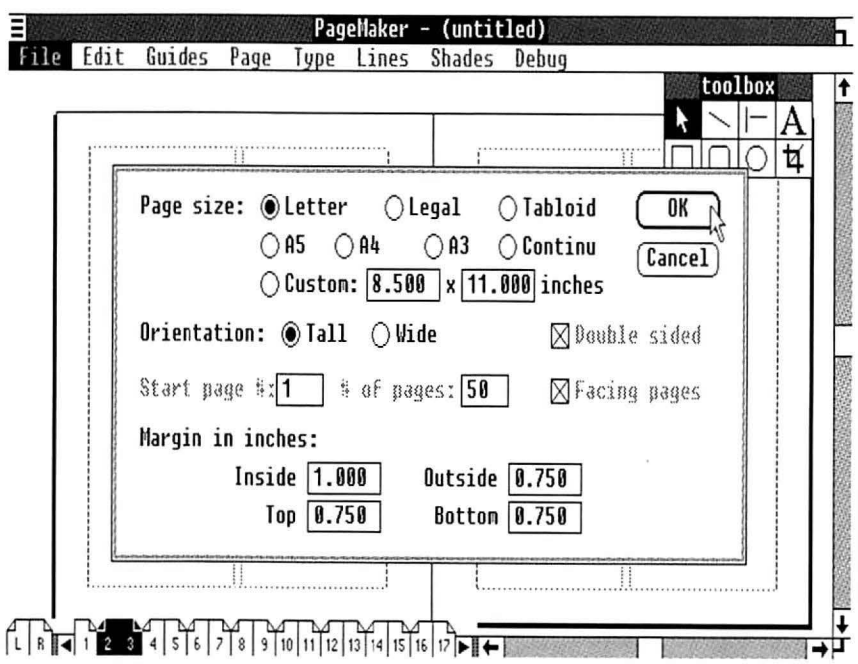
sense of elegant and effective design). On a high-resolution laser printer, these programs can produce text that comes remarkably close to typeset quality and line-art illustrations that look painstakingly handcrafted. You can prepare creditable camera-ready art in a matter of minutes, without leaving the office or hiring expensive outside services.

Cut From the Same Cloth

The Macintosh will yield its sole grip on the personal computer publishing market this summer as software developers such as Aldus Corporation and Ventura Software bring Mac-like publishing programs to the IBM PC environment. Due to the multiplicity of PC video displays and popular laser printers, the task of making a what-you-see-is-what-you-get page makeup program work on the PC has kept many a programmer up past bedtime. These two programs are but the first to successfully address these problems.

PageMaker from Aldus runs under *Microsoft Windows* and reveals its roots by closely paralleling the appearance, command structure, and functions of its Macintosh counterpart. Positioned head-to-head against *PageMaker* is the GEM-based *Ventura Publisher,* developed by Ventura Software and marketed exclusively by the Xerox Corporation. At press time, both mouse-controlled products were still in development and thus not available for review, but as this product preview indicates, their differences are as striking as their similarities.

PageMaker and *Ventura Publisher* look much alike on screen. Obvious similarities include pull-down menus, on-screen fonts closely resembling the characters that will be printed, and display of bit-mapped graphics imported from other graphics programs. Both programs can display two-page spreads on a single screen, although small type must sometimes be *Greeked* (represented by jumbled or dummy text). The programs' basic page-layout concepts are also quite alike. For example, in both you first specify the page's physical dimensions, column widths, and column spacing (Screen 1 shows how *PageMaker* handles these specifications). Then, by choosing an item from a pull-down menu, you open previously prepared word processing documents or graphics image files for placement beginning at a particular spot on a



Screen 1: PageMaker's setting sheet enables you to specify the physical dimensions of a page.

page. Regardless of the margins in the original document, the programs fill in the text between the column guides established according to that page's specifications.

High Road, Low Road

Beneath the superficial likenesses of these two programs lurk substantial differences in conceptual design and approach. *PageMaker*, adhering to the design of its original Macintosh version, is much truer to the on-screen metaphor of the layout artist's work environment. The PC version will incorporate the improvements and added features of *PageMaker 2.0* for the Macintosh, including automatic hyphenation and kerning (see "Typesetting Point by Point" in this issue). Just as the layout artist applies text typescript and graphics photostats to pasteup boards, with *PageMaker* you can work with text and graphics on a simulated pasteup board (see Screen 2.) A scrap area on either side of the active page lets you temporarily store pictures and text blocks while you work with other elements.

A layout artist will also appreciate *PageMaker*'s prowess in electronically cutting and pasting galleys (strips of typeset text)—a method far superior to the manual one. *PageMaker* treats a word processed document like one continuous galley ready to "flow" into columns of any width. To begin "pasting up" a document, you move the cursor to an appropriate starting place. Snap-to guides assure that the left margin of the text about to be placed on the page will be exactly flush with the left edge of the previously set column. A click of the mouse button fills the column with text; a plus sign at the bottom of the column indicates that more text is waiting to be filled into other columns. With the pointer, you "pick up" the remaining text and place it wherever you want to, be it in the next column or several pages deeper into the document. If you later decide to add a figure or change the location of the starting point in the column, *PageMaker* will readjust the text of that article throughout the document to fit the new layout. A *PageMaker* document is limited to a maximum of 999 pages.

Just as the layout artist applies text typescript and graphics photostats to pasteup boards, with PageMaker *you can work with text and graphics on a simulated pasteup board.*

Ventura Publisher conceals the pasteup-board metaphor, instead supplying a slightly more automated environment for flowing text into a page makeup document. For instance, when you place the beginning of a word processed document on a page, the program automatically flows the entire document across as many pages as the article requires. Thus, the length (in pages) of a *Ventura Publisher* document changes dynamically to accommodate the textual material; the program creates up to 100 pages in a PC equipped with 640K. Pasting up a second article in the same document, however, requires more manual manipulation than laying out a single article. You proceed page by page, placing the boundaries for each article, selecting the text file from the menu, and watching the next section of text flow into the container. *Ventura Publisher* then remembers the container and the text connections you establish so that it can automatically reformat text after inserts or deletions.

Ventura Publisher incorporates graphics more adroitly than its Aldus counterpart (see Screen 3). When you draw an area to contain an imported

graphics image, *Ventura Publisher* automatically reformats the text around the graphic block. In *PageMaker*, you must first pull up the text in a column (like pulling up a window shade), change the column guide, and then drag the bottom of the column back down so that the program can reflow text into the narrower column.

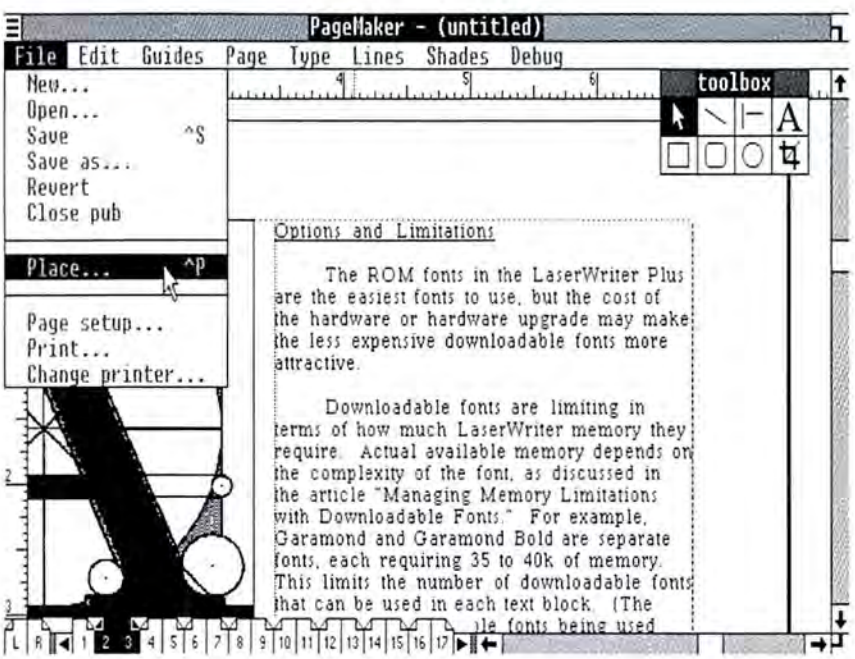
As you might expect, *PageMaker* easily imports graphics created with *Windows Paint* or Micrografx's *Draw; Ventura Publisher* incorporates graphics from *GEM Paint, Draw, Graph,* or *WordChart. Ventura Publisher* works with text in ASCII, *WordStar, MultiMate,* or *Microsoft Word* format; at press time *PageMaker* accepted only *Microsoft Word, Windows Write,* and ASCII documents, but Aldus stated its intention to support the most popular word processing programs with the initial release of *PageMaker.*

File Styles

The two programs differ significantly in their methods of storing documents on disk. *PageMaker* assembles files of text and graphics information that will eventually be sent to the printer (high-resolution graphics images from optical scanners remain in a separate, linked file). Thus, *PageMaker* documents are often larger than the original word processing files, but not large enough to be unwieldy on a hard disk. A typical text-only page occupies roughly 5 to 10K of disk space (depending on the content of the page).

Editorial changes made within *PageMaker* are stored only in the *PageMaker* document; the original document is left untouched. *Ventura Publisher,* on the other hand, creates files that hold only page-formatting information and "pointers" to the text and graphics files created with other programs. The text and graphics files are thus dynamically linked to the *Ventura Publisher* document—if you edit a text document while in *Ventura Publisher,* the change is saved in the original file. The relative merits of either method are debatable.

The ability to send files to remote typesetters is related to file composition. Sending *Ventura Publisher* page layouts to a typesetting service (presumably one with PostScript-equipped phototypesetters—see "Personal Publishing in Black and White" in this issue) is riskier because you must make sure that all component files are telecommunicated or delivered on disk. *PageMaker*'s one-file-per-document system reduces the likelihood of confusion. Consider your requirements for data integrity and convenience before choosing either program.



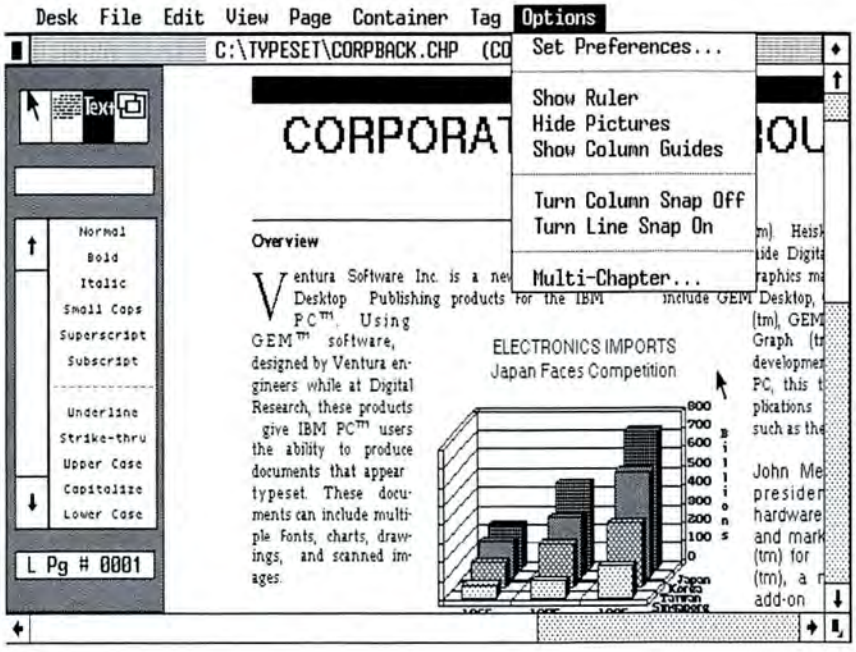
Screen 2: PageMaker uses the pasteup-board metaphor to facilitate page design and layout.

Style Sheets and Other Differences

Ventura Publisher features a built-in style sheet capability, which simplifies the formatting of various textual elements—subheadings, chapter titles, article titles, bulleted copy, and so on. For example, once you establish style specifications for an instruction manual, you simply assign a subhead style element to each subhead on screen. Later, if you decide that subheads should be 14-point text instead of 16-point, you change the subhead font specification on the style sheet. Immediately, all subheads throughout the document change to the new size. Aldus plans to offer "templates"—its version of style sheets—in a future release of *PageMaker.*

Despite their similarities, *PageMaker* and *Ventura Publisher* seem suited for entirely different document environments. By virtue of its pasteup-board metaphor, *PageMaker* provides excellent control over multiple elements within tricky layouts—newsletters, sales brochures, annual reports, and documents whose text spans several successive pages. By contrast, *Ventura Publisher*'s speedy reformatting and extensive support for table of contents creation, index

The Mac's hardware and operating system software seem to have anticipated the requirements of personal computer publishing.



Screen 3: Ventura Publisher reformats text around a graphics block.

generation, and section numbering make it well suited for long, single-article documents such as technical manuals and book chapters. *Ventura Publisher*'s style sheets and automatic flowing of text also ensure consistency throughout lengthy documents.

Over the Hardware Hurdles

Although personal computer publishing is not a trivial programming feat on any system, several critical technical issues make designing such software for the Macintosh relatively easy. The Mac's hardware and operating system software seem to have anticipated the requirements of personal computer publishing. For instance, the Mac screen displays text in a vertical resolution of 72 dots per inch (dpi). Consequently, text and leading (spacing between lines) display accurately according to standard typesetting point size (1 point equals 1/72 of an inch). On the Mac screen, therefore, a 12-point font is displayed within a vertical range of 12 picture elements (pixels) on the screen. As long as the specified font size is an integer (such as 12, 13, 14), the Macintosh accurately depicts leading and the vertical height of characters. At any other video resolution, character heights might require scaling to fit to the nearest pixel. But because the Mac is a one-monitor computer, a programmer doesn't have to split hairs to accommodate monitors with different resolutions.

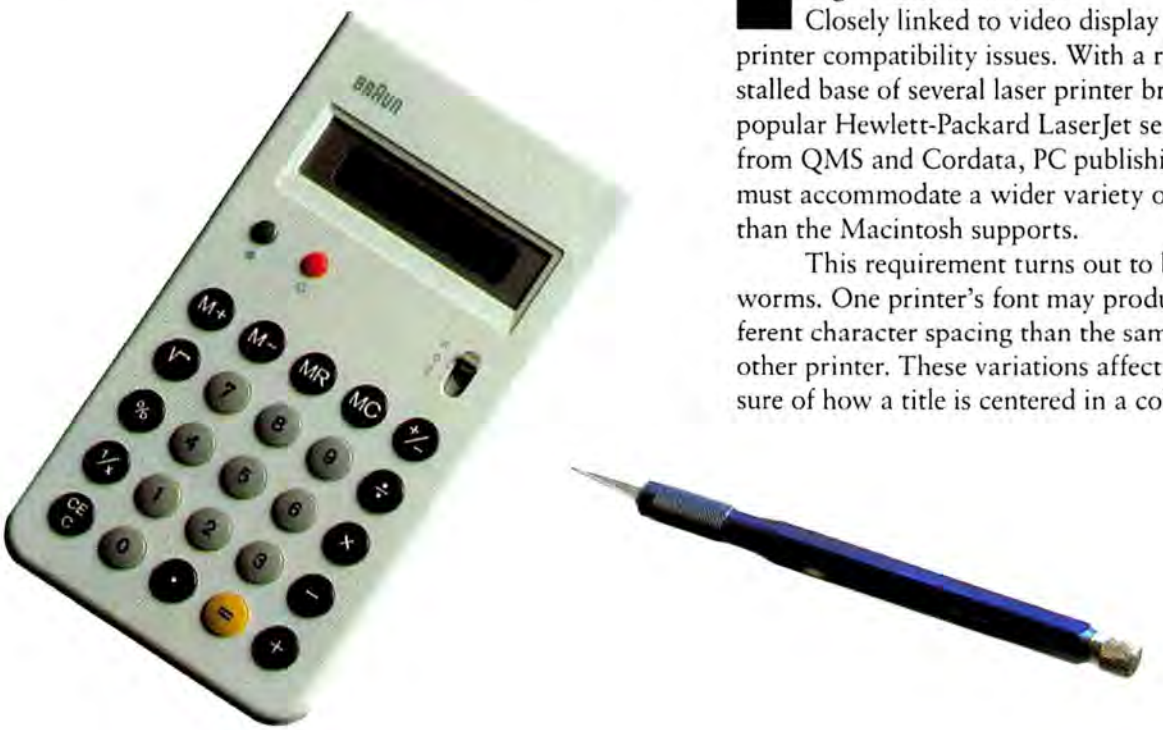
The situation is quite different on the IBM side of the personal computer publishing fence, however. Potential problems abound for the programmer who strives to make the program work with a variety of video display devices and printers. In many ways, page makeup software is asking this hardware to perform a task for which it wasn't originally designed.

Traditional measures of video resolution prove inadequate when the software design goal is the most accurate possible on-screen representation of printed output. Various display adapters and monitors produce different numbers of pixels per inch. Therefore, PC publishing program designers prefer to think in terms of the actual number of dots per vertical inch that a particular display device offers. At the low end of the IBM bit-mapped display scale is the IBM Color Display, which paints approximately 28 dpi vertically. The IBM Enhanced Color Display, driven by the Enhanced Graphics Adapter (EGA), measures 52 dpi, while the EGA-driven IBM Monochrome Display comes in at a respectable 64 dpi. Surprisingly, the combination of the Hercules Graphics Card and the IBM Monochrome Display offers 72 dpi. The Hercules aspect ratio (horizontal-to-vertical relationship) of 1.5 to 1, however, makes images look a bit wider than the 1.1 to 1 or 1.2 to 1 ratios of some display adapters.

Page Printer Problems

Closely linked to video display concerns are printer compatibility issues. With a relatively large installed base of several laser printer brands, such as the popular Hewlett-Packard LaserJet series and printers from QMS and Cordata, PC publishing designers must accommodate a wider variety of output devices than the Macintosh supports.

This requirement turns out to be a can of worms. One printer's font may produce slightly different character spacing than the same font on another printer. These variations affect the precise measure of how a title is centered in a column or how a



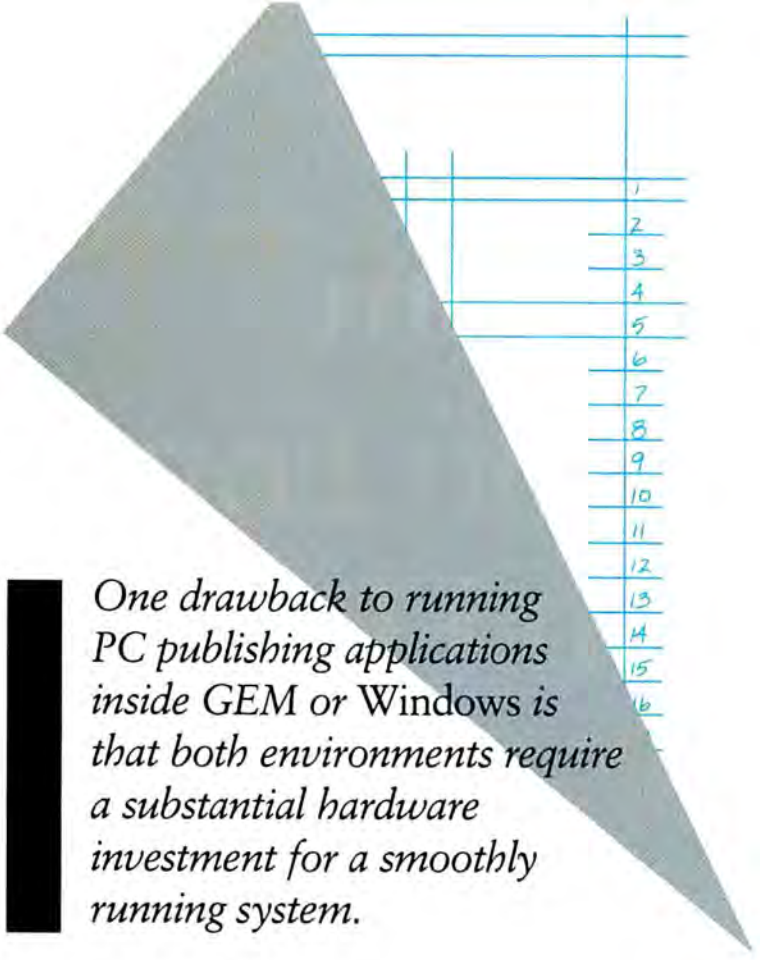
line fills out to the desired margins. For the page makeup software to accurately display on screen what the printer will produce, the program must customize the on-screen page layout for a particular printer's font characteristics. In other words, for the most accurate screen representation of printed output, screen fonts must be designed, or "tuned," for the specific printer in use. If they aren't, you might end up with a printed page that differs markedly from its on-screen draft.

Environmental Impact

Programming environments such as GEM and *Windows* handle many printer and display device parameters automatically. If you specify a 16-point font in a GEM application, for example, GEM scales down the next larger tuned size (18 point) to display a 16-point character height as accurately as possible. But *Windows* balks when you specify an odd multiple of a tuned font on file. Instead, it displays loosely spaced text in the next smaller tuned font on file. The page makeup program must then calculate the proper intercharacter and interword spacing of a true font in the size you wish to print.

One drawback to running PC publishing applications inside GEM or *Windows* is that both environments require a substantial hardware investment for a smoothly running system. Operation on any 8088-based PC means sluggish performance—acceptable speed demands an 80286-based computer. And due to the size of the environments themselves, a minimum of 512K is recommended. Furthermore, to even approach an accurate display of printed documents, a Hercules or an EGA graphics board is recommended. (*Ventura Publisher* will run on an IBM Color/Graphics Adapter or the equivalent, but it is not recommended.) The environments also require a hard disk for efficient operation. Finally, be prepared to add a mouse to your PC publishing workstation. Laying out text blocks, graphics blocks, and design elements on a page is a visually oriented operation; the mouse speeds and simplifies adjustments.

Fortunately, pioneering program developers Aldus Corporation and Ventura Software have met the technical challenges discussed here. The PC's open architecture promises to inspire a wider range of high-resolution monitors and page printers—in short, a robust environment for personal computer publishing. *PageMaker* and *Ventura Publisher* have proven the PC's publishing's viability; end users' imaginations will surely prove its usefulness and find ways to expand its applications. ●



One drawback to running PC publishing applications inside GEM or Windows *is that both environments require a substantial hardware investment for a smoothly running system.*

Danny Goodman is a Contributing Editor for PC World *and* Macworld.

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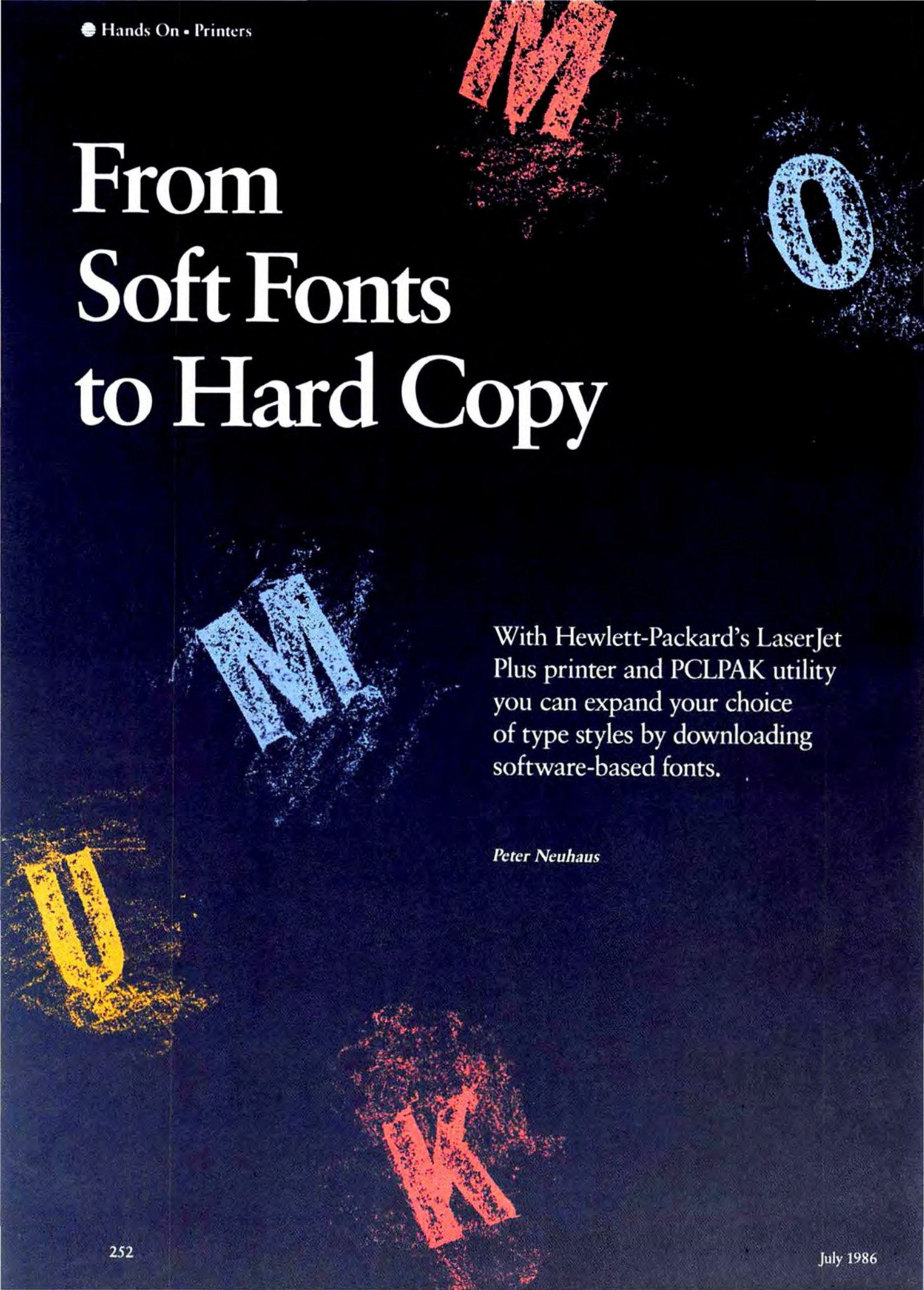
From Soft Fonts to Hard Copy



With Hewlett-Packard's LaserJet Plus printer and PCLPAK utility you can expand your choice of type styles by downloading software-based fonts.

Peter Neuhaus

When Hewlett-Packard introduced the LaserJet printer, the field of publishing expanded to include average PC users. These users quickly absorbed the new technology, identified its limitations, and demanded even greater capabilities.

In particular, they noted the inability to set many different fonts on a page and complained about the scarcity and limited flexibility of font styles. HP's newest laser printer, the LaserJet Plus, has emancipated itself from many of its predecessor's restrictions (see "Son of LaserJet," *PCW*, February 1986). The Plus's ability to print disk-based fonts that are downloaded from a PC—also called soft fonts—goes a long way toward making the LaserJet Plus a viable personal computer publishing machine.

This article supplies step-by-step instructions on using PCLPAK, a utility included with HP's *LaserJet Plus Printer Soft Font*, to create an environment in which these fonts can be accessed by a word processor, specifically *Microsoft Word*. It is assumed that your LaserJet Plus is already properly configured and operational and that you are familiar with its basic operation.

The Fonts of Life

Before the LaserJet Plus can print characters on paper, it must have dot-by-dot descriptions of those characters, which are collected in files called fonts. Such fonts take three forms: internal fonts, permanently stored in the LaserJet's ROM; optional plug-in ROM font cartridges; and soft fonts downloaded from the PC, which reside temporarily in the printer's internal RAM.

Each type of font has advantages and disadvantages. Internal fonts don't occupy any of the LaserJet's internal RAM and are easy to use—just establish

Donna Sharee

Table 1: Each font possesses a variety of characteristics, the most dramatic being its height, or point size.

Characteristic	Definition	Example
Orientation	How the character is placed relative to the page	Portrait, landscape
Symbol set	The type of characters in the font	ASCII, Roman 8
Spacing type	The method of spacing between characters	Fixed, proportional
Pitch	The number of characters per horizontal inch	10, 12
Height	The general size of the character given in points (72nds of an inch)	12 point
Style	A modification of the normal font	Upright, italic
Stroke weight	The density of the characters	Light, medium, bold
Typeface	The name, sometimes copyrighted, describing the overall appearance of the font	Courier, Helvetica, Times Roman

communications with the PC and you're ready to start printing. The price of this simplicity is that you are limited to two basic typefaces, both of which are upright, medium weight with fixed spacing: Courier 10 pitch, 12 point (portrait and landscape) and Line Printer 16.66 pitch, 8.5 point. The term *portrait* refers to pages printed in a normal orientation; *landscape* denotes pages printed sideways.

To expand the range of choices, HP offers additional fonts in the form of plug-in cartridges, each containing variations on one or two typefaces. You can choose from 20 cartridges, but a single cartridge costs $225 to $400, a sizable investment if you want a full library of fonts. Furthermore, because you cannot change cartridges without turning the printer off, you are restricted to a limited number of fonts within a single document.

The third source of fonts, soft fonts, appeared on the scene with the release of the LaserJet Plus. The printer's ability to store multiple fonts eliminated one of the most severe restrictions imposed by the original LaserJet. Soft fonts are also a bargain—$250 buys two major typefaces (Helvetica and Times Roman) in 9 fonts each. If you count the landscape variations, you get a total of 36 fonts. The same fonts in cartridge form cost more than $1000. Unlike cartridge fonts, which are limited to a point size of 14.4, soft fonts can also produce 18- and 24-point characters. Furthermore, HP guarantees its cartridges for only 500 insertions each, whereas disk-based fonts are practically immortal. Soft fonts are not without their drawbacks, however; loading them into the printer's internal memory takes time, and they consume printer memory space that could otherwise be used for text, graphics, or forms overlays.

The Great Escape

On the original LaserJet, accessing a particular font was a roundabout process. The user specified some or all of the attributes shown in Table 1, and the printer selected from the current internal and cartridge fonts the font that most closely matched those attributes. The attributes were specified by a string of characters that began with the Escape character (ASCII 27). For example, to choose a single font you would have had to send the following cumbersome escape sequences to the printer: ESC&l1O ESC(8U ESC(s0p16.66h8.5v0s0b0T.

This indirect method of specifying a font resulted from the HP standard known as Printer Control Language, or PCL. Besides the clumsiness of the required escape sequences, their length sometimes exceeded the limitations of popular word processors, which were used to embed them in text files.

With the LaserJet Plus, HP has provided a much simpler method for selecting fonts. Now, each downloaded or cartridge font can be assigned a font

ID number that can later be referenced by a much simpler escape sequence. For example, to select the font previously assigned font ID number 123, you would send the sequence ESC(123X to the printer. If your word processor has a printer driver that supports downloaded fonts, you might be able to simply choose the font attributes from a menu or give a two-keystroke macro command.

PCLPAK Preliminaries

To take advantage of the power of soft fonts, you must first transfer them from disk to the LaserJet's internal RAM. To eliminate the need for users to write their own downloading programs, HP includes its PCLPAK utility with the soft fonts. This menu-driven program accepts page layout and font specifications from the user and converts them to the correct commands. You can send these commands directly to the LaserJet Plus or to a disk file that can be copied to the printer later.

In this example, you will use PCLPAK to create a disk file containing the font descriptions necessary to print out the final copy in Figure 1. After the files are downloaded to the LaserJet Plus, you will be able to access them with a word processing program, in this case *Microsoft Word*. Figure 2 shows a conceptual diagram of the process.

Before you begin, make sure you have purchased the right symbol set–either ASCII, which provides standard characters and numerals, or the larger Roman 8, which contains foreign character and math symbols. Some word processors like *Microsoft Word* support only the ASCII symbol set.

The user guide that comes with PCLPAK contains detailed installation instructions. Essentially, you copy the program files and the soft fonts you want to use into a hard disk directory called

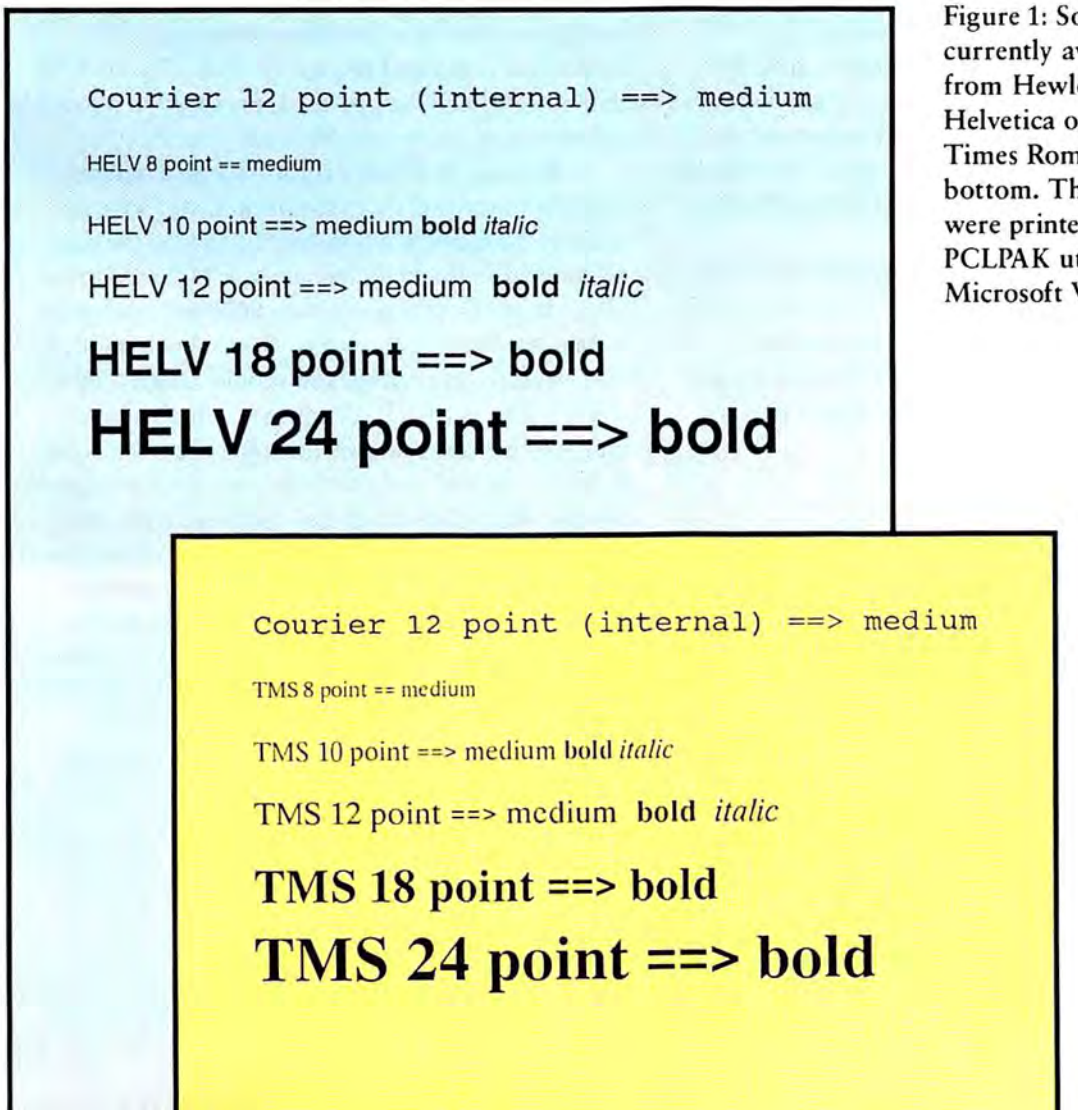


Figure 1: Soft fonts currently available from Hewlett-Packard: Helvetica on top, Times Roman on the bottom. These documents were printed using the PCLPAK utility with Microsoft Word.

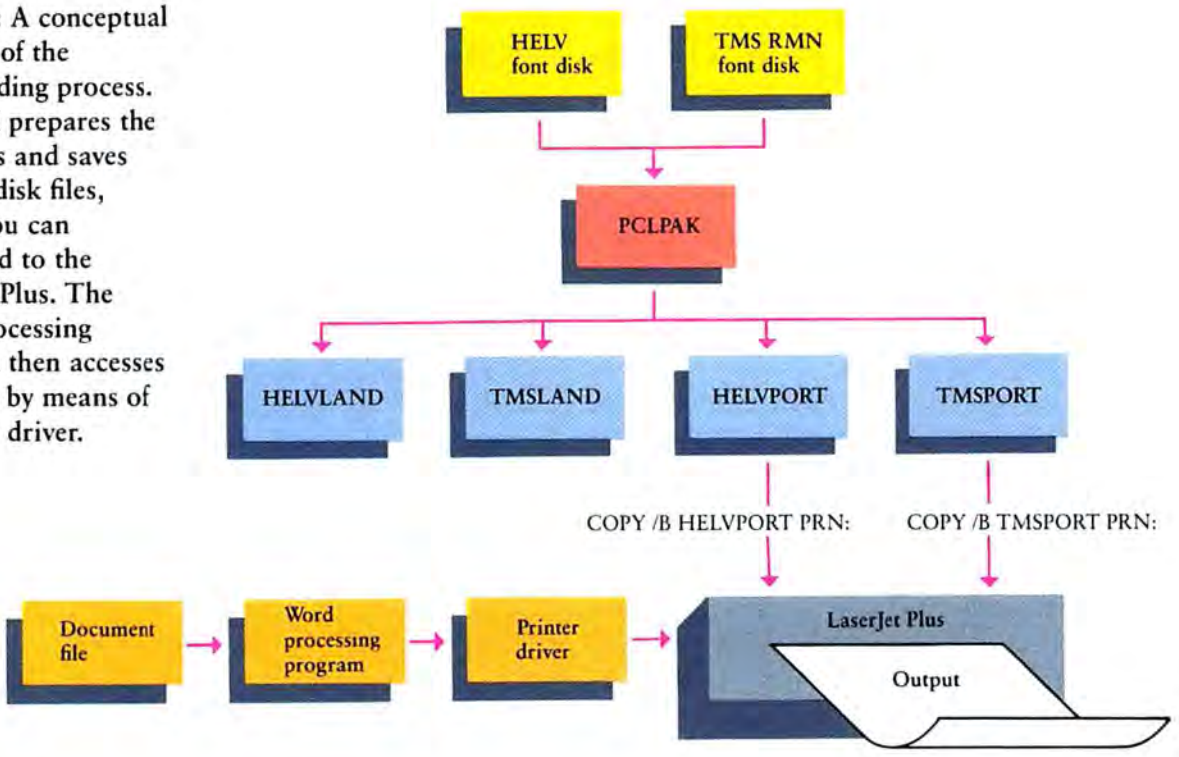


Figure 2: A conceptual diagram of the downloading process. PCLPAK prepares the soft fonts and saves them in disk files, which you can download to the LaserJet Plus. The word processing program then accesses the fonts by means of a printer driver.

\PCLFILES. If you have a floppy system, place PCLPAK in drive A: and the soft fonts in drive B:. Before proceeding with PCLPAK, it is a good idea to print a directory listing of all the file names on the font file disks. You can use this listing to check the accuracy of the file names that you will enter into the PCLPAK menus.

To load the program and call the Printer Selection menu, type **PCLPAK**. After you choose the LaserJet Plus, the main menu appears. The order of the remaining steps is critical. If you make a mistake, exit PCLPAK and start over—there is no way to remove commands from the output file.

Assigning Fonts

Currently two soft fonts are available from HP: a Helvetica-like font named HELV and a Times Roman-like font named TMS RMN (see Figure 1). We'll use both fonts. The next step is to create a file named HELVPORT, which will contain the soft fonts for the HELV font set in portrait mode. This file is fairly large—around 150K—so you'll be able to store only two such files on a floppy disk.

You can also send the fonts directly to the printer, but if the printing process takes more than one session or you want to reuse a particular font set, saving the fonts in a file makes more sense. You can even add a command to your AUTOEXEC.BAT file that automatically copies the fonts saved in a font file to the printer every time you start your PC.

Because PCLPAK expects that you will download the fonts directly to the printer, you have to redirect the fonts to a disk file. To change the destination from the main menu, enter **M** (for Manage Files), **D** (for Destination), then **HELVPORT**, and press **< Enter >**. Pressing **Q** returns you to the main menu.

Before continuing, you should assign a number to each font in the HELV font set. Since there are nine files for portrait fonts, number them 1 through 9. Notice that all portrait fonts have the file name extension .SFP, while landscape fonts use .SFL. Although assigning font IDs is optional, it allows easier access to the fonts from some word processors.

To assign the font IDs, press **F** to go to the Fonts menu and **D** to move to the Download menu. To give the first font an ID, press **I**, then **1**, and then **< Enter >**. Now press **F** (for Filename) followed by the name of the first font file name, in this case **HV08R#US.SFP**. Press <**Enter**> and then **G** (for Go) to send the font to the disk file.

You can find the font names on the Font File Sheet that comes with the soft fonts or in the file directory listing that you printed previously. If you made a mistake while entering a font ID or file name, you can correct it before issuing the Go command. Just use the I and F commands again. Once you select Go, the font becomes part of the output file and cannot be removed.

Repeat the sequence of assigning a font ID number, followed by the corresponding font file name, and issue the Go command for the rest of the font files. The first six files to be stored in HELVPORT are shown in Screen 1. The three not shown are HV12I#US.SFP, HV18B#US.SFP, and HV24B#US.SFP.

As you download each font file, it is added to the list displayed under the Current Font Status heading. You may notice in Screen 1 that PCLPAK has tagged the first font Primary, the second as Secondary, and the remainder Not Selected. For this application, these labels have no bearing—all the fonts chosen, even those marked Not Selected, will be available for printing. You may also notice that under Current Settings, the fonts are listed as Permanent. This status protects them from being removed if you reset the LaserJet Plus with either an escape sequence or a front panel control.

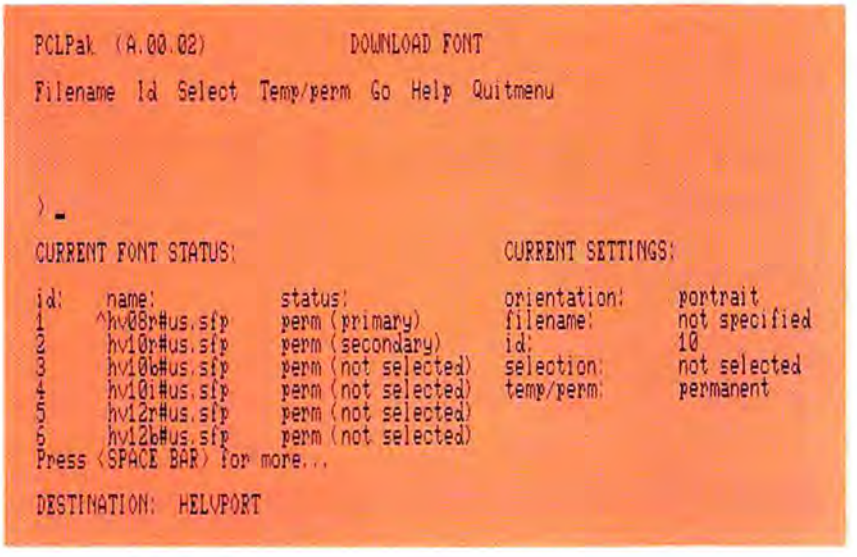
Although the LaserJet Plus has approximately 390K of user memory available, it is easy to waste this space with unused fonts. Therefore, if you won't need certain fonts, simply omit them from the procedure. Don't renumber the fonts; use the font IDs that you originally assigned. This method avoids overlaying a downloaded font with a different font that uses the same ID number, and makes font management and font references within your documents less confusing. When you're done selecting fonts, press **Q** three times and then **Y** to exit PCLPAK.

Downloading the Fonts

You are now ready to transfer the soft fonts to the LaserJet Plus in preparation for printing them with a word processor. From the DOS prompt in the \PCLFILES subdirectory, type **COPY /B HELVPORT PRN:** and press **< Enter >**. The /B option specifies a binary copy, which ignores any special characters within the file that might terminate the transfer. While the transfer is taking place, the Ready light on the printer will flash.

If you also want to use the TMS RMN font set, repeat the PCLPAK procedure just described, but assign the destination to a new file called TMSPORT. This time use font IDs 10 through 18 for the TMS RMN font files. Finally, copy TMSPORT to the printer using the same COPY /B command from the DOS prompt.

For every portrait font file there is a landscape font file on the supplied disk. If you want to use landscape mode, perhaps to print a spreadsheet or a wide transparency, create two files called HELVLAND and TMSLAND following the procedure described earlier. A couple of steps are different: You need to reassign the destination to HELVLAND for the Helvetica



Screen 1: PCLPAK's Download Font menu. To specify a font for downloading, you assign it an ID number, type in the file name, and select Go to send it either to the printer or to a disk file. Assigning font IDs is important if you have a word processor that requires you to insert the escape codes in the text.

files and TMSLAND for the Times Roman files, and instruct PCLPAK to set the fonts for landscape mode. To do the latter, press **P** to go to the Pagelayout menu, **O** to move to the Orientation menu, and **LLQQ** to select Landscape and return to the main menu. The rest of the process is the same as that used to create the HELVPORT file, except you replace the file name extensions .SFP with .SFL. Use font IDs 19 through 27 for the HELV landscape fonts, and 28 through 36 for the TMS RMN fonts.

The new files can be downloaded to the printer using the COPY /B command mentioned earlier. Note, however, that although the printer can store both the portrait and landscape fonts for either HELV or TMS RMN, the remaining user memory may not be sufficient to print a large document. Also, you can use only 16 fonts per page—fewer if you select the larger fonts, which take up more memory. Therefore, load only the specific font and orientation needed for a single application.

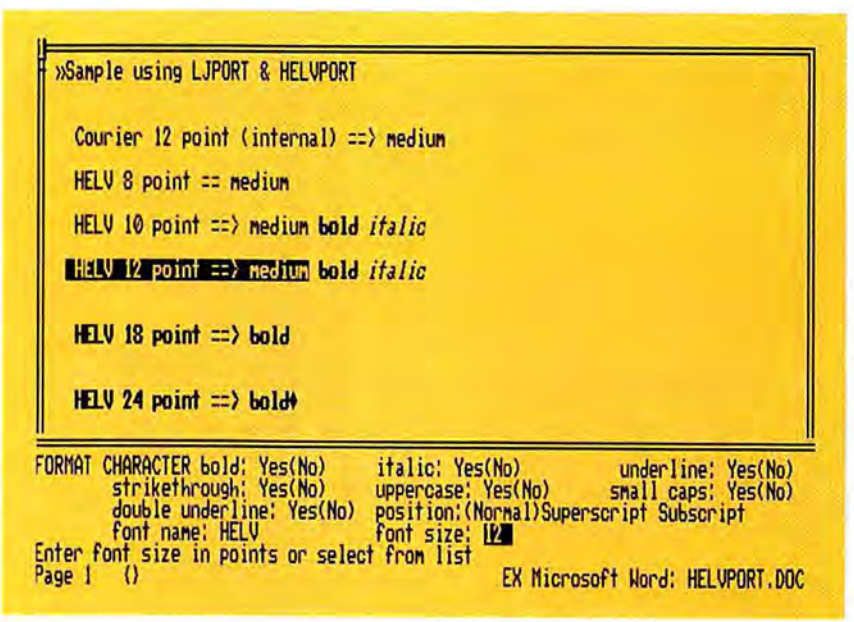
The Word Processor Connection

At press time only eight word processing programs provided printer drivers that specifically support soft fonts for the LaserJet Plus (see Table 2). You may be able to use downloaded fonts with other word processors, but with varying degrees of success. If you want to use another word processor, contact the vendor to find out how the program accesses soft fonts, and if possible, get someone to demonstrate how the fonts work.

Each word processor handles font selection escape sequences differently. Some, like Quicksoft's *PC-Write*, allow you to key them directly into the text by holding down the <Alt> key and typing 027 on the numeric keypad (to send the escape character) followed by the remaining characters that call a particular font. *PC-Write* and some other word processors can also be configured to insert the correct codes each time a given key or formatting code is selected. With a program that requires you to enter the escape sequence directly into the text, you would type <Alt>-<Ins>-<CursorDown>-<Home>(18X into the document to select the font assigned ID 18. To return to an internal font, such as Courier, you must send one of the lengthy escape sequences that uniquely identifies the desired font. Chapter 5 of the LaserJet Plus's *Operator's Reference Manual* lists these sequences.

Word processors such as *Microsoft Word* completely isolate the user from escape sequences. Fonts are simply selected or changed in a submenu of the Format Character menu, which lists the fonts associated with the active printer driver.

Currently, *Word* supplies two drivers for accessing HP's soft fonts. The first driver, HPDWNSFP-.PRD, is for both HELV and TMS RMN font sets in portrait orientation. The other, HPDWNSFL.PRD, is designed for printing the same fonts in landscape for-



Screen 2: Microsoft Word's Format Character menu. Word allows you to choose soft fonts from menus rather than having to insert escape codes in the text.

Table 2: Word processors with drivers that specifically support Hewlett-Packard soft fonts

Program Name	Version	Manufacturer
Microsoft Word	2.1	Microsoft Corporation
WordPerfect	4.1	Satellite Software International
WordStar 2000	2.0	MicroPro International
Proofwriter	2.28	Image Processing Systems
Palantir Word Processing	2.0	Palantir Software
Volkswriter 3	1.0	Lifetree Software
Spellbinder Scientific	6.0	Lexisoft Incorporated
Spellbinder Desktop Publisher	6.1	Lexisoft Incorporated

mat. Both drivers also allow access to the internal Courier fonts.

You specify one of these drivers when you install *Word* using the SETUP program. Thereafter, when you issue the Print Options command in *Word*, this driver appears in the list of available drivers. Since you can use only one driver at a time, you cannot mix landscape and portrait pages or soft and cartridge fonts within a document.

To begin formatting text in a particular font, first highlight the text. Press **< Esc >** to summon *Word*'s main menu, and then press **FC** to go to the Format Character menu (see Screen 2). Tab to the font name field, and press the **< CursorLeft >** key to display a list of fonts available with the active driver. Select the correct font with the cursor keys and press **< Enter >** ; then tab to the font size field and press the **< CursorLeft >** key to display a list of point sizes. Use the cursor keys to choose the correct size, and press **< Enter >** . Bold and italic versions of these fonts can be selected from this menu, or, while in text mode, via the <Alt>-B and <Alt>-I commands.

An alternate method for accessing the soft fonts in *Word* is to assign them as style sheet attributes in *Word*'s Glossary. The Glossary's menus are the same as the Format menus; the only difference is that you don't have to highlight the text or return to the menus each time you change a font format. All you do is type in the style attributes once; you subsequently access them by entering a short keystroke command in the text. With either method, you print the document as you would any other–except you'll see your LaserJet Plus produce as it never has before (see Figure 1).

Future Fonts

It's clear that cartridge fonts are on the way out and that disk-based fonts will soon be the method of choice for laser printer typography. Hewlett-Packard may offer supplementary fonts by the time you read this, and third-party vendors are already competing in the soft font arena, so you can expect to see lower prices and a wider range of fonts and type styles.

Soft fonts provide a flexible means of unleashing the power of your laser printer. Yet their very flexibility requires an organized approach to font management and use. By following a few simple procedures, you can add a whole new range of fonts to your printer's repertoire. ●

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LaserJet Plus Printer Soft Font
Hewlett-Packard
P.O. Box 3640
Sunnyvale, CA 94088
800/538-8787, 408/738-4133
List price: $250 (for Helvetica and Times Roman fonts shown in Figure 1 and PCLPAK downloading utility)
Requirements: 256K, two disk drives, DOS 2.00 or later version, LaserJet Plus printer

Painless Extraction

Is your company's mainframe computer a distant citadel, open only to the potentates of DP? If so, take heart. With Infogate and 1-2-3, you can have mainframe data your way without resorting to safecrackers.

Wayne Rash

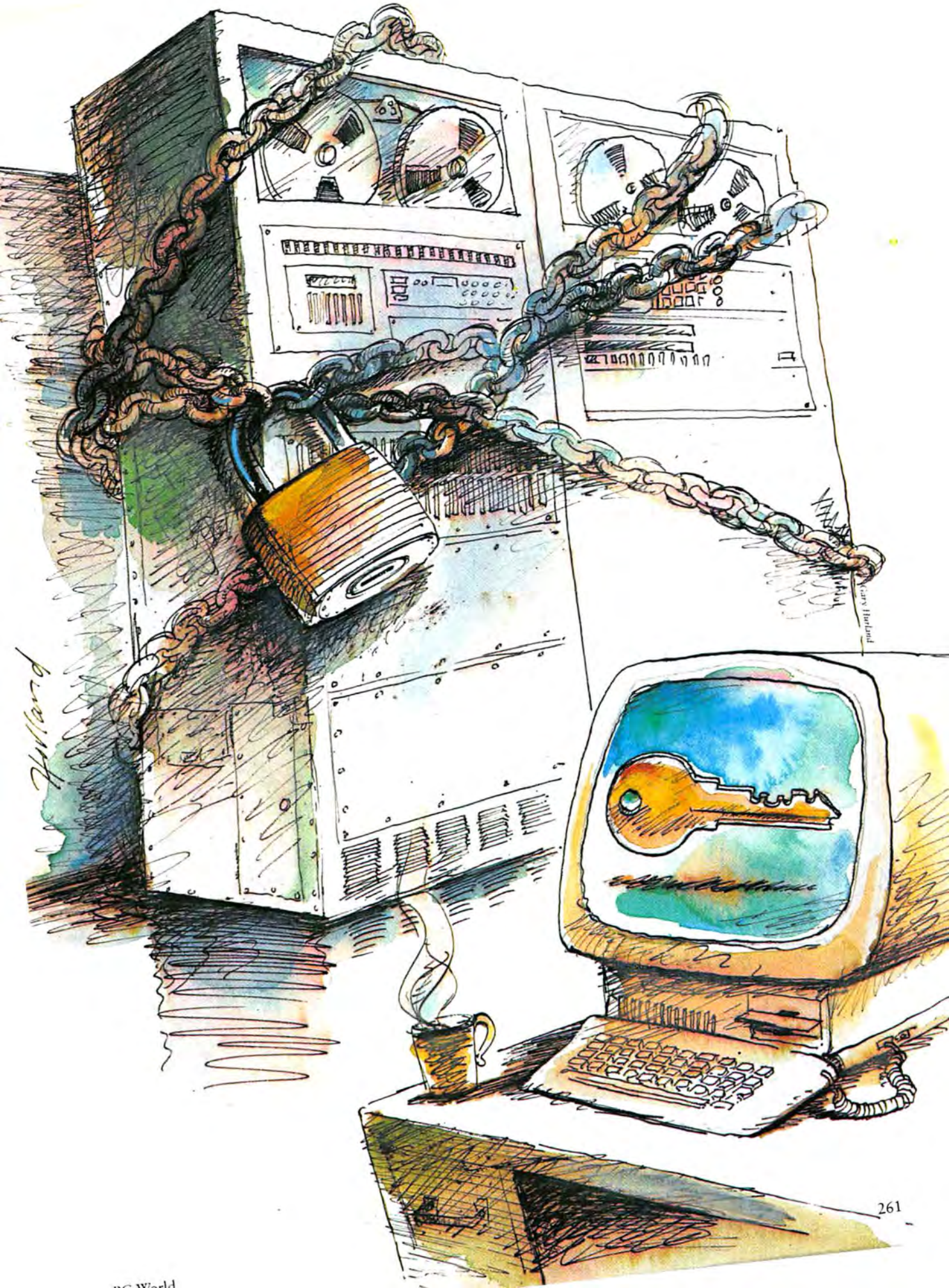
Ever since personal computers snuck onto corporate desk tops, business users have dreamed of tapping into their company's mainframe computer data. Such dreams weren't realized until relatively recently, partly because data processing (DP) managers who controlled mainframe resources resisted, and partly because mainframe software companies made no provisions for PC users. But the walls separating the mainframe and the PC are crumbling. Software and hardware vendors on either side are improving the micro-to-mainframe connection. Users at Fortune 500 companies, hospitals, and universities—and anyone else with a yen for mainframe data—can grab a piece of the action. Not surprisingly, DP departments are taking PCs a bit more seriously.

One PC program leading the charge is *Infogate* from Cullinet Software, a major provider of data management software for IBM mainframes and compatible systems. No expensive mainframe software companion to *Infogate* is necessary, and better still, a PC needn't be wired directly to the mainframe—though communications via 3270 emulator boards like the IRMA Fastlink are supported. As this article demonstrates, all you need is a modem, *Infogate,* and an amenable mainframe data base at the other end.

But *Infogate* is more than a fancy terminal emulator. With this jack of all systems, not only can you access mainframe data like a dedicated terminal user, you can capture (download) it, transfer it to *1-2-3* or another PC program for a rubdown, then return (upload) the altered data to the mainframe, all under the aegis of Cullinet's sophisticated file transfer protocol. *Infogate* communicates with nearly any computer and data manager, but when it finds Cullinet's IDMS/ICMS data management system at the other end of the line, it treats the mainframe like an extra PC disk drive.

Environmental Protection

Of course, mainframe data cannot be funneled directly into a *1-2-3* worksheet. *Infogate* acts as an intermediary, extracting mainframe data, translating it from native 8-bit EBCDIC into the equivalent 7-bit ASCII code, polishing it in the program's spreadsheetlike module, and finally passing it on to a PC application. Riding herd over the process is



easier than with most PC-to-mainframe arrangements because applications such as *1-2-3*, *dBASE*, and *Symphony* can be treated like *Infogate* program modules. In effect, *Infogate* works like an ersatz *Microsoft Windows*, simultaneously integrating mainframe and PC applications and thus easing the passage of data between the two.

Setting up and running an *Infogate*-to-mainframe session is not terribly taxing. *Infogate*'s *SuperKey*-like Teach function can record and play back all the cursor movements, program commands, and miscellaneous keystroke sequences that call various procedures. *Infogate*'s ability to control and automate a PC-to-mainframe session is considerable.

Whether you'll be allowed to tap this power depends largely on your company's policies. Many DP managers will rightly object to freewheeling PC users altering a central (and expensive) mainframe data base. At best, modified files will be transferred to a protected area in mainframe storage, where they will be examined, validated, and eventually stirred back into the mainframe data. Accordingly, this application focuses on forging and automating the PC-to-mainframe link with *Infogate*, bringing data to the PC and eventually to that ubiquitous data manipulator, *1-2-3*.

Tools of the Trade

Central to *Infogate*'s operation are program modules called Tools. The Information Manager, one of the most important Tools, gives the user entrée to Teach along with a number of DOS-like commands that delete and copy files, create subdirectories, open files, and run programs on both PCs and mainframes. The Profile Tool configures *Infogate* for your

```
Connection Name SYS24PC     IDB Connection Yes     Connection Type Hayes
Description
    TTY Connect to IDB with Hayes Smartmodem (Receive Timeout=600)

Autolog Procedure
    c:\logon

Port                  Com1              Break Length          35
Duplex                Half              Data Bits             7
Baud Rate             1200              Parity                Ignore
Receive Timeout       600               Stop Bits             1
Send Timeout          10                XON/XOFF              No
Emulation             TTY

Phone Number          1-111-555-1234
Dial                  Tone              Wait for Dial Tone    2
Touch Tone Timing     70                Wait for Carrier      30
Pause Time for Comma  2                 Recognize Carrier     6
Speaker Status        On Until Carrier  Carrier Loss to Hang Up 7

                                                  ready

To return to command menu, press <F9>
```

Screen 1: Getting to know you. Like a PC-Talk setting sheet, an Infogate connect definition file holds the communications parameters that make PC to mainframe chitchat possible.

system, Emulator handles communications, Translator converts data into mainframe or PC format, and Mail stores incoming files.

While extracting even a handful of mainframe data is no trivial task, applying the necessary Tools (and automating their execution) is well within the grasp of most PC users. If you use DOS subdirectories, are acquainted with communications software, and occasionally access commercial online services such as Dialog or Dow Jones, many of *Infogate*'s procedures will be familiar.

Often, using a PC and a mainframe together is faster and more convenient than using either alone. Consider the following situation: A corporation stores employee salary data on its mainframe. The manager of Department 200 wants to gather information on staff members hired before January 1, 1985, pour it into a *1-2-3* template, calculate bonuses against a budget, and insert the information back into the mainframe data base for the company's payroll department.

Without direct access to mainframe data, someone would have to print out the data, enter it into a *1-2-3* worksheet and manipulate it, print it out once more, and type it into the mainframe from a dedicated terminal. However, "what if" questions are often difficult to pose to a mainframe program—and mainframe equivalents of *1-2-3* are not inexpensive. Depending on the amount of data being processed, *1-2-3*, *Infogate*, and a mainframe working in tandem can do the job in a fraction of the time.

Screen 2: A typical mainframe logon sequence. At each step in the process, Infogate must wait for the mainframe prompt to appear before sending a request.

Logging On

Infogate can't reach out and touch someone without a Connect Definition file, which is not unlike a *PC-Talk* setting sheet or a *Crosstalk* configuration file (see Screen 1). However, there are a few differences. The Autologon Procedure statement specifies that in this case, the logon commands are found in the \logon subdirectory. The communications parameters that follow will seem familiar, though some settings—such as time-out and break-length—will require a call to the DP department.

To actually make the link that lets you access those tantalizing gigabytes of mainframe data, *Infogate* must log on to the system and plot its course through the mainframe's file structure. Again, your company's DP department will have to provide system and user specifics (acceptable transmission speeds, user account number, and so on) and offer advice on maneuvering through the data base.

You can automate the entire logon process by recording it the first time around with Teach. At start-up, you would select Teach from the Information Manager screen and name the logon sequence. Teach transcribes the action at the keyboard and stores it as a text file with the .!_H extension. Unfortunately, Teach can't record the mainframe's prompt—in this case, (/\)—or take time delays into account. As a result, you must record when and where the mainframe prompt appears in the sequence and note any time lags. Once you have recorded and stored the logon procedure, you would open the file with a word processor and insert the mainframe prompts. Indicate set time

delays with *wait* plus a value in seconds (such as *wait(,3)*), and delays that depend on the appearance of the mainframe prompt with *wait("?(/\)")*.

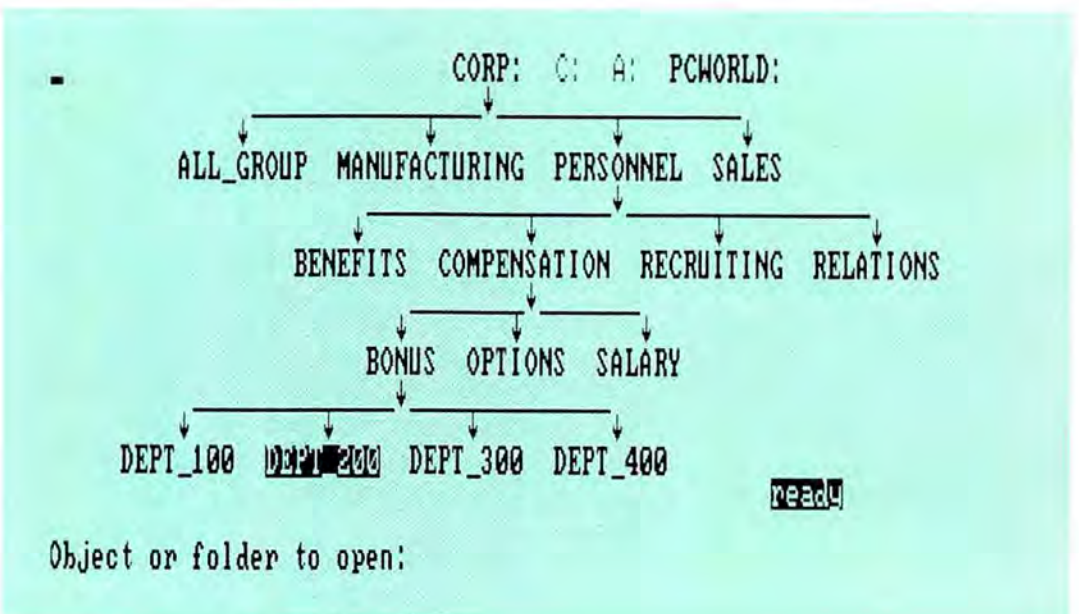
Screen 2 shows a typical logon sequence recorded by Teach with mainframe prompts and wait statements inserted with *WordStar*. Typing *input* tells the Emulator that the following entries should be transmitted to the mainframe. In this particular case, *Infogate* must wait 3 seconds before sending *I*, the command to run the IDMS/ICMS data management program. You hold *Infogate* with <Ctrl>-<Home> for 3 seconds, type **I**, and wait for the (/\) prompt. Throughout the logon process, you would type in a message or command, wait for the prompt to reappear, then type in the next entry. In sequence, you sign on to the mainframe (s pcw infogate), gain entrance by supplying the user name (pcw) and the password (infogate), and finally unlock the door to the assigned data base by typing in the magic phrase (asf2dci) and confirming the choice with **< Enter >**. To actually maneuver around the data base, you would exit the Emulator and press **< F9 >** to run the Information Manager.

Seek and Ye Shall Find

Before you can extract data, you naturally need to know its location. The path to enlightenment—and your data—starts in the DP department. With such guidance, chances are you won't get lost in a forest of subdirectories or accidently copy a mainframe file that dwarfs the storage capacity of your PC.

Thankfully, *Infogate*'s Information Manager simplifies the process of finding a file by graphically depicting directory relationships, much in the manner of *Xtree* and similar DOS shell programs (see Screen 3). You can slide down a directory path with the cursor keys, ferret out subsidiary directories, and elicit directory listings noting a file's name, size, type (IDB or DOS), and time and date of creation.

In this example, you moved from CORP: in the root directory, through the Personnel and Compensation subdirectories, to the BONUS subdirectory. A file directory listing (see Screen 4) shows that BONUS contains the sought-after file, DEPT_200. (You could



Screen 3: Navigating around a mainframe's directory is a matter of following the map laid out by Infogate's Information Manager.

also arrive at this point by supplying *Infogate* with the path statement CORP:/PERSONNEL/COMPENSATION/BONUS/.) The salary data can now be captured and spirited away to the PC.

From Mainframe to PC

Keep in mind that you can't view the mainframe data until you download it to *Infogate*. You can't scroll through a relational mainframe data base file like a *1-2-3* worksheet, marking and cutting out desired blocks of data. Instead, you must coax the data out with conditional statements. Thus it's imperative that you have an idea of how the mainframe data is structured. Once again, avail yourself of the DP department's wisdom in this area.

Now that you know the path to the DEPT_200 file, exit the Information Manager and load the Translator Tool. The Translator displays a spreadsheetlike interface but is primarily a holding area for incoming mainframe data—you can't insert numbers or labels. (Both are supplied by the downloaded data.) Choose Open, type the path **CORP:/PERSONNEL/COMPENSATION/BONUS/.)** and answer **yes** to the mainframe's query. In my example, employees who started work before January 1, 1985, are eligible for bonuses. You would choose Select from the Translator menu and type **select hire < "85/01/01"**, press **< Enter >**, and answer **yes** to the mainframe prompt. This directs the mainframe data management system to gather the pertinent data. To trigger the downloading process and the actual translation of data into a DOS-readable format, select Save from the Translator menu and specify a PC drive and path. Downloading is not particularly speedy; at 1200 bps our sample of 100 records took 20 minutes to make the journey.

Screen 4: A quick directory listing reveals that the DEPT_200 file is held in the BONUS subdirectory.

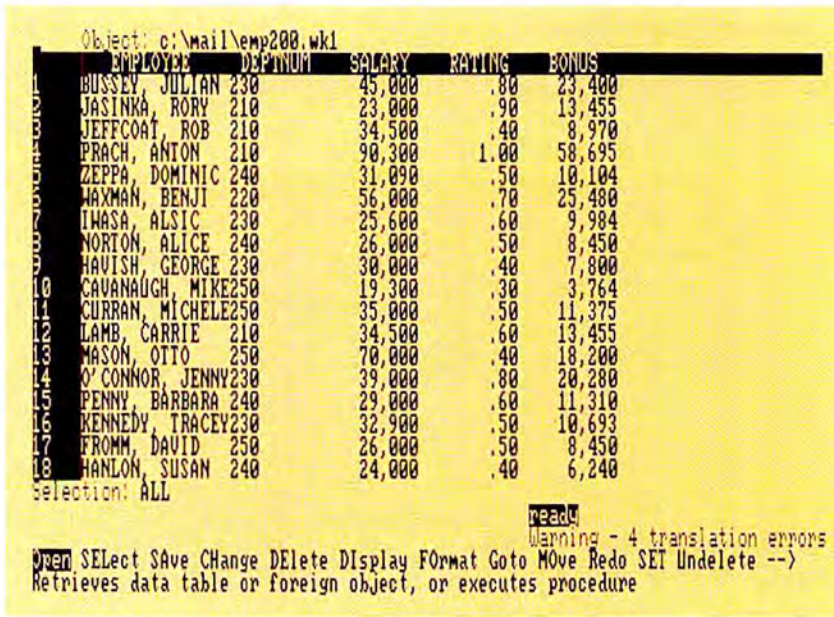
```
Contents of -- CORP:\PERSONNEL\COMPENSATION\BONUS
5 Entries                                                    length
   BONUS                        data-table   2-07-86  10:30am    NA
      Data table of employee salaries and FY '86 bonuses
   DEPT_100                     folder       2-04-86   4:37pm
   DEPT_200                     folder       2-04-86   4:37pm
   DEPT_300                     folder       2-04-86   4:38pm
   DEPT_400                     folder       2-04-86   4:38pm

                                  Ready

Object or folder to open:
```

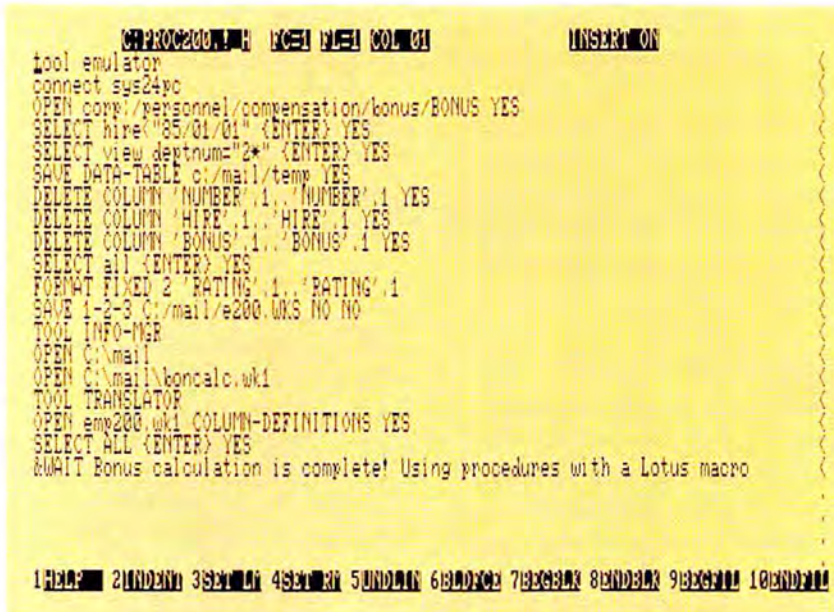
From PC to 1-2-3

Once *Infogate*'s sluggish downloading process grinds to a halt, the data is ready for sculpting. Using the Translator's Delete function, you can remove superfluous columns and rows by name (delete column 'number') or flick the cursor around in *1-2-3* fashion and shave off the dross. But the Translator is more than a data Skilsaw. With the Format command, numeric data can be recast in a flash. For example, values in the Rating column (see Screen 5) arrived in single digit form (1 for future star, .3 for corporate benchwarmer). Selecting Format and entering **fixed 2 'rating'** converts the data into two decimal places as shown. You could use the same procedure to translate whole dollar amounts into currency format.



Retrieves data table or foreign object, or executes procedure

Screen 5: Captured mainframe data is deposited in Infogate's spreadsheetlike holding area before moving on to a PC application. Here, columns and rows can be deleted, decimal places added, and data translated into a program-specific format.



Screen 6: Infogate's Teach function can record the keystrokes for finding, selecting, transferring, formatting, and passing data to 1-2-3 and play them back, effectively automating the PC-to-mainframe session.

With the data finally in presentable shape, select Save and enter **1-2-3 C:/MAIL/E200.WKS**. *Infogate* automatically creates a worksheet named E200.WKS, shoehorns the data in, and places the file in the MAIL subdirectory. To calculate employee bonuses, *1-2-3* must step to the fore. You could leave *Infogate* at this point and run *1-2-3*, but as we shall see, remaining in the *Infogate* environment has its advantages.

Exit the Translator, return to the Information Manager, log on to the MAIL subdirectory, and load BONCALC.WK1 (see Listing 1). Because *1-2-3* was installed as an *Infogate* Tool, it loads automatically whenever *Infogate* tries to open a worksheet. The \0 macro in BONCALC.WK1 loads E200-.WKS and asks you to enter the budget. From here, you can specify different assumptions for different salary ranges. For example, if you firmly believe that the rich should get richer, employees making over $70,000 might get a 50 percent bonus, while those making between $50,000 and $69,999, a mere 35 percent. Once you supply this information, the macro calculates all the bonuses and notes if you are over or under budget. Once you are happy with the result, the \d macro extracts the bonus values and drops them into a newly created worksheet, EMP200.WK1. Its job done, *1-2-3* returns control to *Infogate*. (Screen 6 shows a Teach recording of the session, from selecting the data to download to macro execution.)

```
\0        /fccee200.wks~
          {branch \b}

\b        {goto}b2~~{?}~
          {down}{?}~
          {down}{?}~
          {goto}f3~~{?}~
          {calc}
          {menubranch \c}


\c        Continue              Stop
          Enter next range      Extract and save data
          {branch \b}           {branch \d}

\d        {goto}A7~~
          /fxvemp200.wk1~
          {right}{right}{right}{right}
          {branch \e}


\e        {down}{IF @cellpointer("contents")}{branch \e}
          {branch \f}

\f        {up}~r~               /qy
\0        /fccee200.wks~
          {branch \b}

\b        {goto}b2~~{?}~
          {down}{?}~
          {down}{?}~
          {goto}f3~~{?}~
          {calc}
          {menubranch \c}


\c        Continue              Stop
          Enter next range      Extract and save data
          {branch \b}           {branch \d}

\d        {goto}A7~~
          /fxvemp200.wk1~
          {right}{right}{right}{right}
          {branch \e}


\e        {down}{IF @cellpointer("contents")}{branch \e}
          {branch \f}

\f        {up}~r~
          /qy
```

Listing 1: The bonus calculation macro, BONCALC

Teach Your Program Well

Since *Infogate* is still connected to the mainframe, you don't have to log on to shoot the bonus data back to the mainframe. You merely load the Information Manager, select the Copy command, and type

C:E200.WKS CORP:/PERSONNEL/COMPENSATION/BONUS/.)

In reality, you wouldn't directly update Dept_200 but would send the data to a separate holding file.

If nothing else, *Infogate* makes mainframe-to-PC data transfers palatable and practical. While you will have to shepherd a session through the first time, *Infogate*'s Teach function can handle the job solo after that. Once you've gotten the hang of *Infogate*, you'll never again meekly accept monthly printouts from the DP department—and you won't have to.

Wayne Rash is a freelance writer, a senior analyst with the American Management Systems of Arlington, Virginia, and a microcomputer and office automation consultant to the federal government.

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Information and insights on the PC communications marketplace

This month: Will CD ROMs threaten the on-line industry? Can NAPLPS survive without Viewtron? Can GEnie compete in the on-line consumer market? Will your next job interview be with an AT?

Edited by Eric Brown

On Line

On-Line Vendors Eye CD ROM

As radio stations, record stores, and stereo shops around the country extol the pristine audio reproduction of compact disks (CDs), the personal computer industry ponders the virtues of CD's computing cousin, CD ROM. Like their audio counterparts, CD ROM disks and players use lasers to read and store digitized information, but instead of playing music, they store and retrieve a massive amount of text and data—550MB (150,000 pages) of text. The fact that this much information is now accessible through a PC without any type of communications link has on-line data base vendors rethinking the mechanics of information exchange. It seems likely that those data bases that don't require frequent updating are destined for a new home on CD ROM disks. In fact, a few services are already placing selected data bases on CD ROMs.

Most electronic information vendors see compact disks as complementary rather than adversarial. "CD ROM enhances on-line information," says Rick Meyer, product manager at Dialog Information Service. "It's a natural extension of existing on-line services." Jane Brown, director of business development at BRS Information Technology, agrees that incorporating "on disk" with "on line" makes good sense. "CD ROM is another medium of electronic information storage," she says, "and we're in the electronic information business."

Despite these confident pronouncements, on-line data base vendors are somewhat uncertain, playing in a new ball game whose

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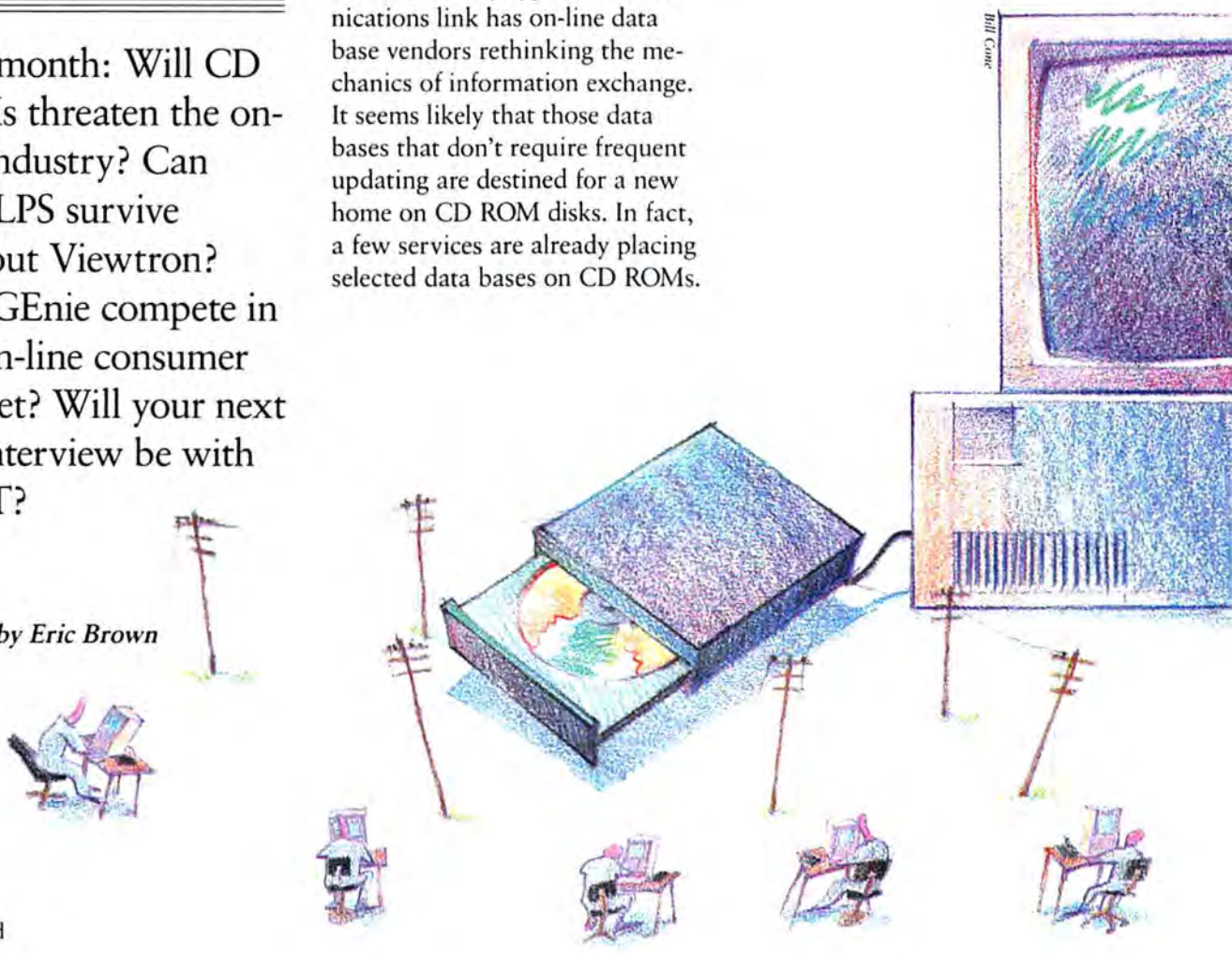

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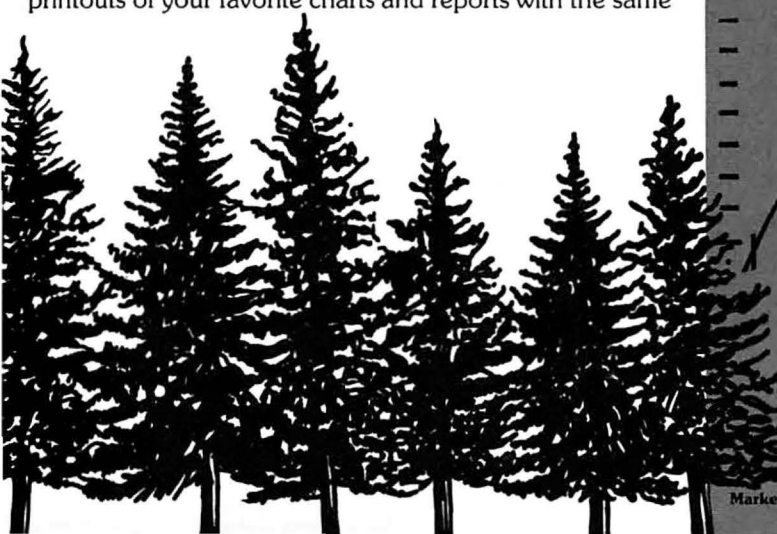

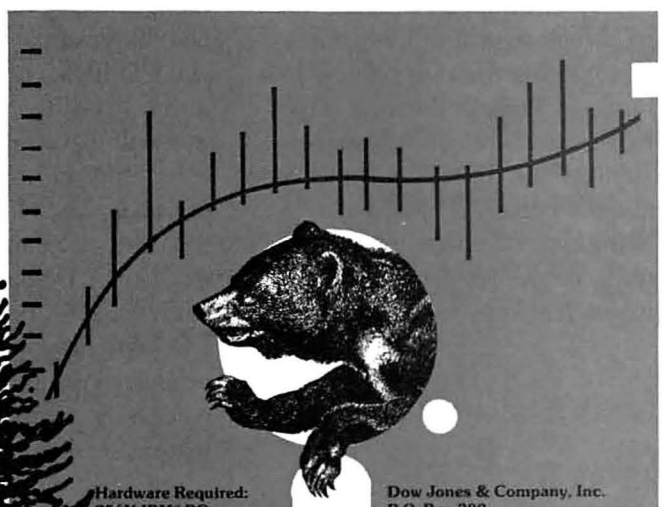

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rules have yet to be formulated. It clearly isn't business as usual. On-line companies have traditionally sold passwords to individual users or organizations. Their product is the amount of time used on the system to access a data base. CD ROM promises to make that same information as accessible as a collection of encyclopedias, with no central data base, no communications link or log-on procedure, and no running meter.

Because CD ROM products will sit on a desk top either in the office or at home, data base vendors must repackage their on-line data in a more personal format. "People live with on-line products," says Brown, "but CD ROM products will have to be something they can't live without. [CD ROM] requires an entirely different marketing perspective."

Dialog's Meyer agrees, "We have experience with on-line products, but CD ROM presents many unresolved issues." Among the major concerns that companies have yet to address are product pricing, industry standards, what information to transfer to disk, and update policies (whether to send replacement disks or have users update their data bases via modem). Perhaps the most important issue is determining specific applications. The debate rages on about whether CD ROM is a home entertainment or business technology. "People who consider themselves knowledgeable in the industry haven't given these issues hard thought," says Brown. "We've never handled a product like this."

One major concern that may be deterring information providers from creating CD ROM products is the lack of industry standards. Meyer says, "It will certainly foster the market when CD ROM search software and information products can run on any drive."

Few publishers will commit to CD ROM without an installed base of hardware, and users won't purchase hardware without applications. To resolve this impasse, the High Sierra Group, an ad hoc committee composed of companies with interests in CD ROM, such as Reference Technology, Digital Equipment, Microsoft, Hitachi, Philips, and 3M, are meeting to develop a de facto file format standard. The file format governs the way information is organized on a CD ROM disk, ensuring that data bases published on CD ROM can be read and accessed by any CD ROM player.

Clouding the issue is the joint announcement made by Sony and Philips International (the original developers of compact audio disks and CD ROM) of a compact-disk-interactive (CD-I) specification that will make possible interactive entertainment or educational products. The High Sierra Group has postponed any announcement of CD ROM standards pending its study of CD-I. Brown believes CD-I will have little impact on products currently under consideration by most electronic information vendors. "CD-I," she says, "will probably be most prominent in educational products."

Despite the predicament currently stalling the industry, CD ROM products, many still in the testing stage, are beginning to appear. Dun's Marketing Services will make Dun & Bradstreet's Million Dollar Directory available on CD ROM. The directory contains information on the top 160,000 companies in the United States, including area of business, leading executives, sales volume, and affiliated companies.

Richard Schwarz, senior vice president of Dun's Marketing Services, says the company is testing a CD ROM product but admits that the market remains unidentified. "We still need to find out how we are going to use this product," he says, "and consequently how to price it."

David Roux of Datext believes the CD ROM race belongs to the swift. His company has brought to market a CD ROM product aimed at executives and managers in Fortune 1000 companies. The Datext Corporate Database provides financial data on 10,500 companies culled from data bases like Disclosure, Business Research, and Predicasts, all available through on-line sources. "We saw attractive information in electronic form that we felt people would find easier to use in CD ROM format," Roux says. "Being the first company with a product for the business market has given us a definite edge."

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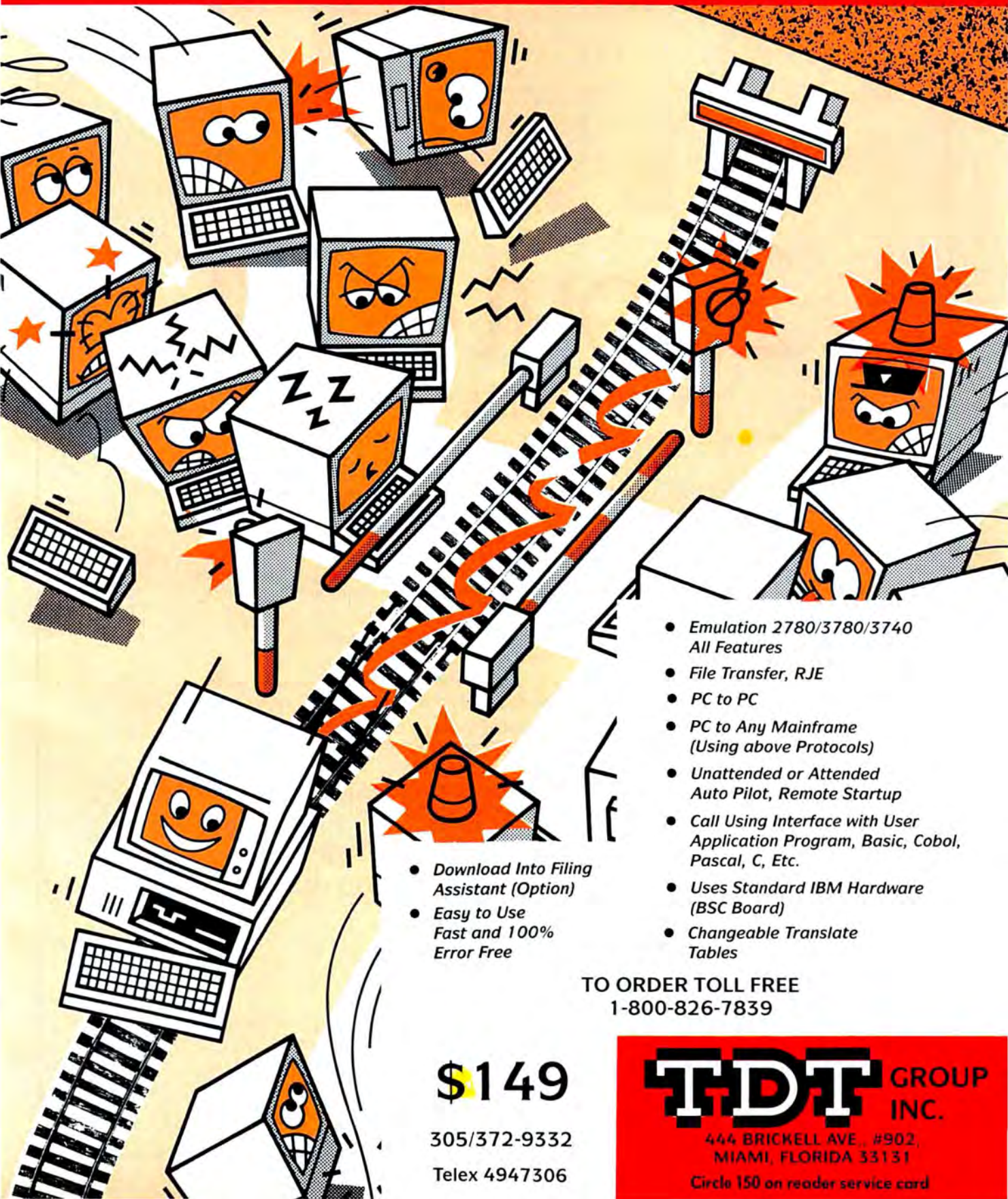

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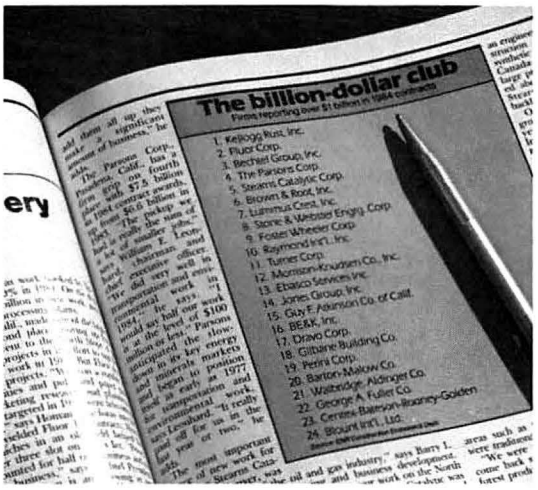

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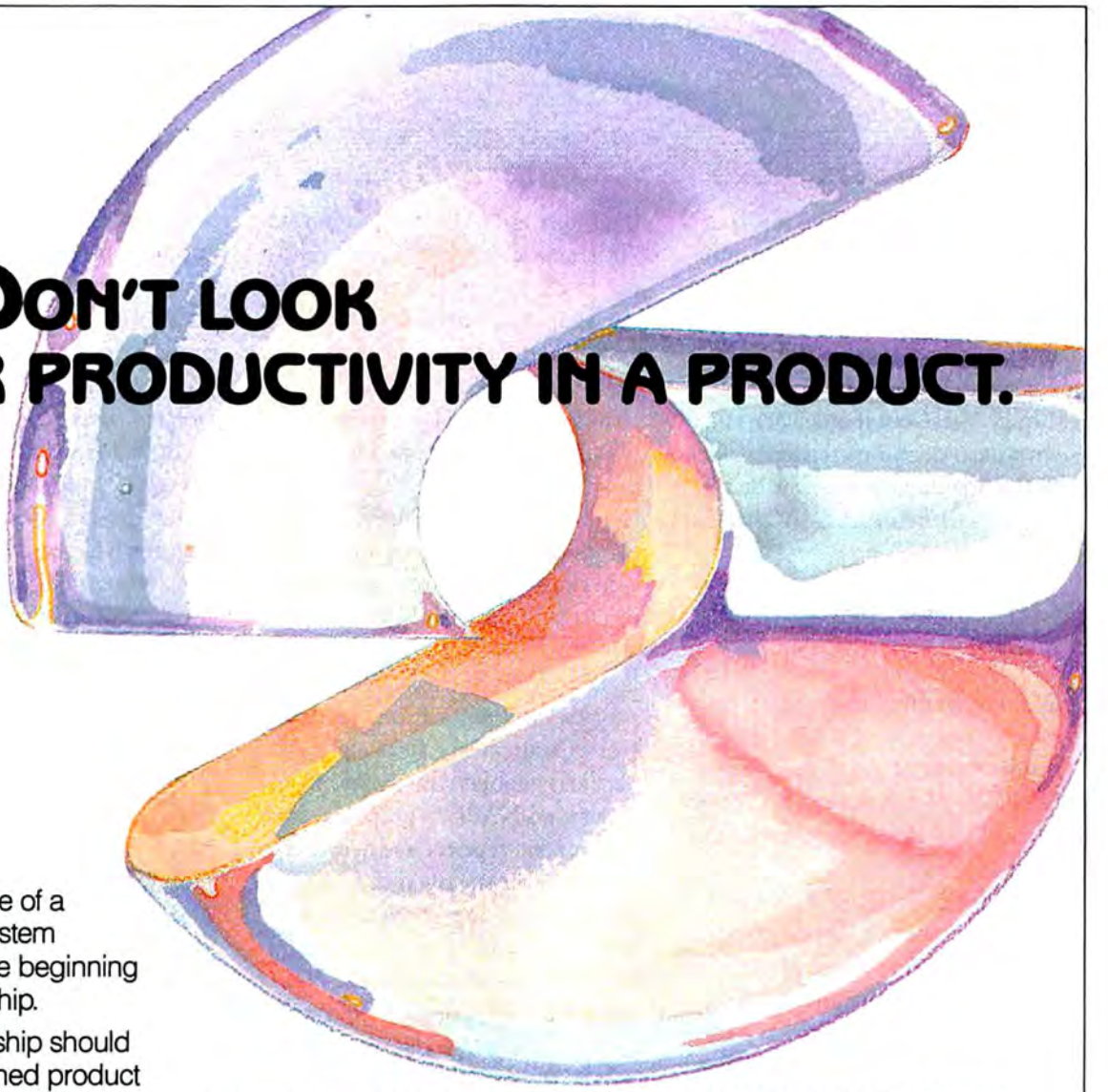

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Ironically, the on-line information industry, which is itself quite young, is now threatened with at least partial obsolescence unless it acts quickly and takes control of the new CD ROM business. Although these companies are faced with hard decisions regarding CD ROM, the compact disk is definitely in their futures. *–Wes Nihei*

Here Comes NAPLPS –Viewtron or Not

Despite the dissolution of its greatest proponent, a standard for the transmission of graphics called NAPLPS (North American Presentation Level Protocol Syntax) refuses to die.

After Knight-Ridder Newspapers' recent attempt to go nationwide with its mixed NAPLPS-ASCII on-line consumer service, Viewtron, the 3-year-old videotex service went out of business. During its brief stint in the national spotlight, Viewtron offered a choice between going on line with standard ASCII-based software or downloading color graphics frames of data using NAPLPS decoder software (see "Here Comes Viewtron–NAPLPS or Not," *Password Communicate, PCW,* March 1986).

Notwithstanding a boost in subscribers from 3000 to 20,000 during the last six months, Knight-Ridder president James K. Batten announced Viewtron's shutdown on March 21. Pointing the finger at NAPLPS, Batten said, "It is now clear that videotex is not likely to be a threat to either newspaper advertising or readership in the foreseeable future."

With Viewtron's passing, one would expect the long-standing dream of a nation tuned into graphics videotex to be extinguished. Yet even as Viewtron disappears from the on-line scene, other powerful players seem willing to pick up with NAPLPS where Knight-Ridder left off. The latest version of *Professional Connection* communications software from CompuServe Information Services enables subscribers to download NAPLPS graphics, such as financial reports and weather charts, from specified data bases. For example, any stock chart on the system can be viewed as a NAPLPS line chart. "NAPLPS drivers are included on the *Professional Connection* disk," says Sandy Trevor, executive vice president at CompuServe, "but anybody with a NAPLPS decoder and a graphics system can view these charts."

Users can also interact with the service in the traditional (and much faster) ASCII text mode. According to Trevor, however, the simplicity of CompuServe's graphics overcomes NAPLPS's biggest drawback–slow transmission speed. "NAPLPS is slow at transmitting pictures and logos," says Trevor, "but it's much faster with lines, curves, and polygons"–the business graphics found on CompuServe. Trevor points out that using a 2400-bps modem will further reduce delays.

CompuServe will continue to support the transmission of graphics using the less sophisticated RLE (Run Length Encoded) monochrome raster protocol. An RLE decoder is included in *Professional Connnection* and can also be downloaded from CompuServe's IBM PC special interest group. So far, the major application for RLE has been the transmission of weather maps. According to Trevor, airline pilots often download the maps using Tandy Model 100 laptops while in flight. Weather maps can also be accessed with the NAPLPS decoder.

But CompuServe isn't the only service experimenting with NAPLPS. NAPLPS services are still holding their own in Canada, and several specialty services in the United States continue to serve up their on-line information in NAPLPS form. For example, Videolog Communications' Videolog service, which specializes in the electronics industry, uses NAPLPS graphics to store and transmit circuit diagrams and other electronic schematics.

Perhaps the most significant support for NAPLPS comes from Trintex, the videotex partnership of IBM, CBS, and Sears Roebuck. Earlier this year Trintex announced it would adopt NAPLPS for its service but declined to give a launch date.

The choice of NAPLPS for this IBM-dominated venture has sparked speculation that Big Blue

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Circle 648 on reader service card

has finally hit upon a strategy for disposing of its warehouses full of unsold PCjrs. The PCjr, discontinued over a year ago, can still be bought for as little as $550, and a PCjr version of IBM's *PC Videotex* NAPLPS decoder software is still available. With a color monitor, the NAPLPS-equipped Jr would make a respectable, low-cost videotex terminal.

Until the problems of low speed and limited graphics resolution are solved, most on-line vendors will probably follow CompuServe's lead in providing NAPLPS as an option rather than a requirement. Even if some NAPLPS services flounder, more graphics videotex services will undoubtedly follow. The El Dorado of graphics communications and the hope that it will eventually lure advertising into the on-line world are just too tantalizing to resist.

GEnie: Out of the Bottle

GEnie (General Electric Network for Information Exchange), the new on-line service from General Electric Information Services Company (GEISCO), is a technically solid, well-designed consumer service that emphasizes communications. You'll find no searchable data bases or ticker tape services on GEnie, but you will be able to send and receive electronic mail, join special interest bulletin boards (called roundtables), and engage in real-time computer conferencing. These services are standard fare on other on-line networks, but GEnie's are a little better than most, and the user manual is one of the best around.

Low cost is the big story behind GEnie. At $5 an hour for non-prime-time access plus a sign-up fee of only $18 (compared to as much as $50 for the competition), the service may force other vendors to reconsider their pricing.

Although GEnie is new, with a low activity level and only a fraction of its competitors' services, it is well worth checking out. Most of the roundtables deal with technical topics such as the IBM PC, the Amiga, Tandy computers, and PC data base software. Many roundtables contain libraries of public domain and freeware programs. You can use the XMODEM error-checking protocol to upload and download programs. For several months this spring, GEnie stopped charging users for time spent uploading material into the roundtable libraries, an experiment that GEISCO's management is considering making permanent.

The most popular roundtable is Scorpia's Game Roundtable, where people can engage in fantasy role-playing games. Scorpia, well known in the computer gaming world for her articles and reviews, ran a special interest group for several years on CompuServe. Her gaming group is one of the best roundtables on any system, offering more fantasy games than the present GEnie population can support.

Beyond roundtables, the list of services is short but growing. GEnie offers several excellent on-line games, many designed by Bob Maples, a top computer game designer. Also provided is the ISIS (Internationally Syndicated Information Services) electronic news wire, which carries synopses of stories from leading industry newsletters. GEnie publishes an on-line magazine called *Computing Today*, which carries news of the microcomputer industry and reviews of new products.

In the electronic-yard-sale section, members can sell or trade items. However, GEnie lacks large-scale electronic shopping, on-line travel reservations, and many other interactive services available from the competition.

When you enter command mode, GEnie's solid design becomes apparent. Here you can avoid the menus and move directly from one service to another by typing *M* followed by the proper page number. Add a comma, and you can specify a selection from the menu of the page you are going to. For example, if you want to read your mail, type *M200,2*. The next screen you see will be your first incoming message. GEnie also uses plain English commands to access many services—another way to check your

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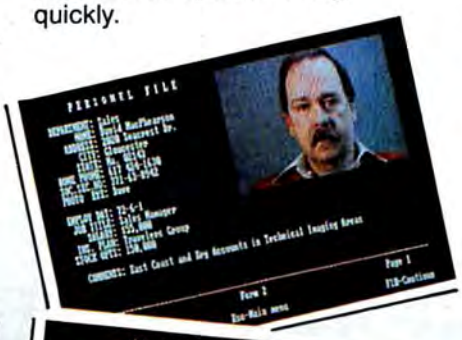

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mail is to type *read* at any system prompt.

GEnie's roundtable command mode is particularly powerful. It allows you, for instance, to read all the new items nonstop. At the end of each topic a prompt asks if you want to reply, continue with the next category, or quit. At any prompt in the roundtable you can select a specific category and topic to either read or reply to; read specific messages identified by number, author's name, or date; or search for messages containing a specific character string.

The real-time conferencing system also has a well-designed command set that includes options for talking privately with someone during a conference, communicating in code, and squelching comments from particular attendees.

GEISCO has built a solid foundation upon which GEnie can grow, and it appears to be doing so by leaps and bounds. One of the giants in corporate communications, GEISCO is a worldwide packet-switching network offering a range of applied teleprocessing services, some of which could be ported to GEnie. GEISCO has the market clout to attract leading third-party electronic service providers to GEnie and give its fledgling service the technical and financial resources to survive in the highly competitive on-line environment. The question is whether GEISCO will really commit itself to GEnie or simply regard it as an experiment. So far, GEISCO seems prepared for the long haul as it "hothouses" its new baby into the dangerous jungle of the on-line marketplace.

–G. Berton Latamore

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Trends

Interrogation by AT

The next time you apply for a job, you may find yourself being interviewed over the telephone by a PC AT. More than 200 companies already screen potential employees using a computerized interview system developed late last year by Telecomputer Interviewing Services (TIS) of San Francisco.

The company claims that applicants will be more honest in responding to computerized interviews than they would talking to a human. "Research indicates that people provide more sensitive information about themselves to a computer than to a stranger," states Robert Clouse, vice president of research and development at TIS and a polygraph (lie detector) expert. The company has conducted more than 10,000 computer interviews so far.

Client companies are given an access code, a password, and a toll-free TIS telephone number. A personnel official uses a touch-tone phone to call TIS, then logs on and hands the phone to the interviewee. The job applicant answers 150 questions in 20 minutes by pushing one of three buttons on the phone.

Telecomputer's system is built around two IBM PC AT computers and custom software developed by the company's programmers. One AT answers incoming calls, verifies customer access codes, scores the interviews, and directs the second AT, which conducts the interview using a digitized speech board.

A preemployment interview costs $15 to $28, depending on the client's annual volume of business. Clients that conduct more than 5000 interviews a year can save about 25 percent by buying a Portable Interview Processing Unit, which includes an AT with custom software and a digitized speech board.

Clouse says many employers use the tests to probe into alcohol and

(continues)

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drug use, something most job applicants will not admit in face-to-face interviews. To keep interviewees off-balance, the TIS system gives them only 3 seconds to respond to each question.

To check for accuracy, the computer asks similar questions at different points during the interview. For instance, it might ask if the applicant has used illegal drugs in the past year and later inquire if he or she has smoked marijuana in the past month.

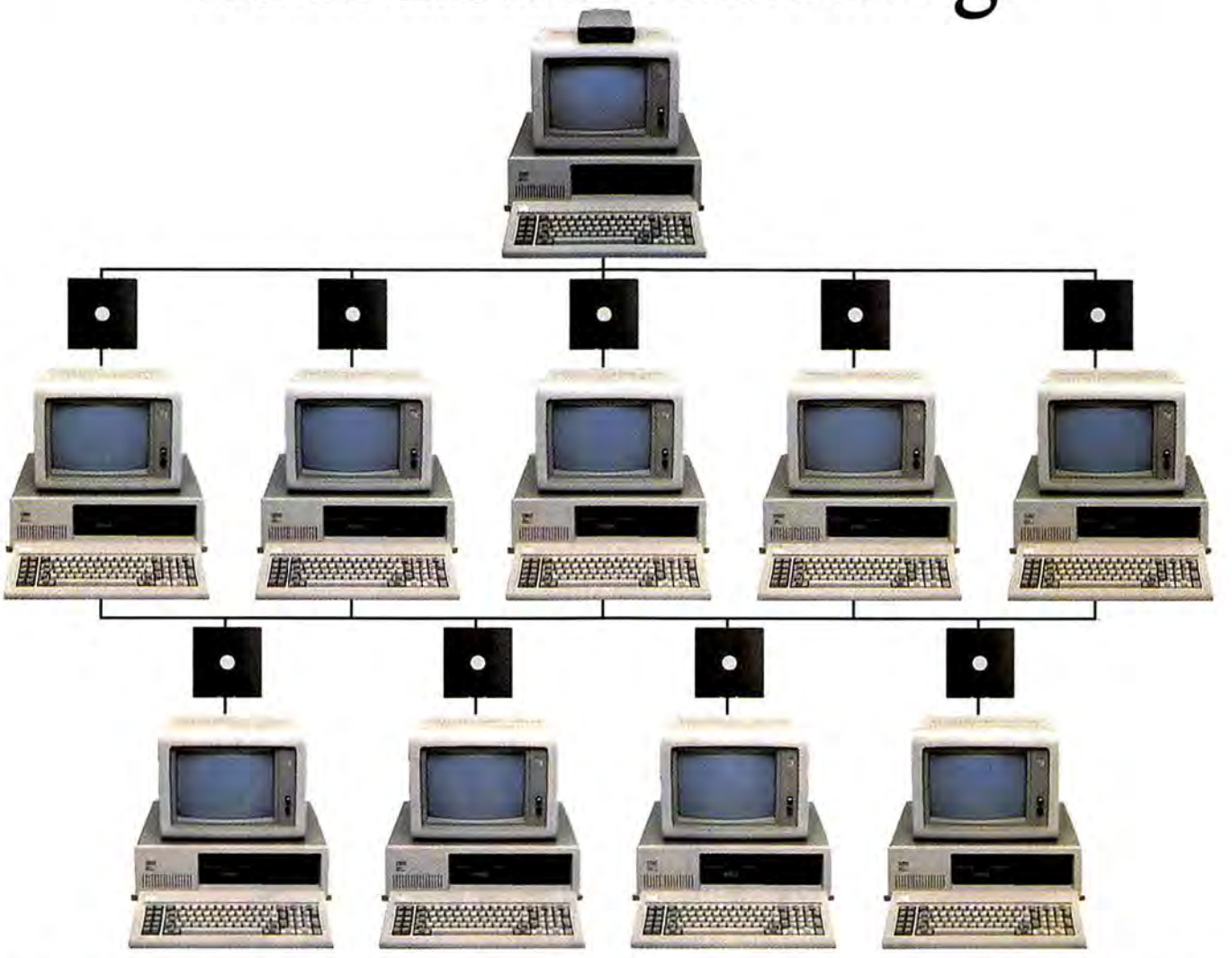
Two minutes after the interview, the employer can call TIS for the results. In a digitized voice, the AT will rate the applicant in productivity, attendance, honesty, and social behavior. TIS also gives an accuracy rating, based on the consistency of the applicant's answers. The computer can even inform employers if an applicant made a significant admission during the interview, such as the theft of more than $100 in the past year.

Although at least one union has already raised questions about the TIS interview's invasion of privacy, Clouse insists the test is not designed solely for the benefit of employers. "Our real goal is to inject some objectivity into the personal interview," says Clouse. He points out that no question used in the interviews is illegal. (After conducting legal research in all 50 states, TIS changed about 70 percent of the interview questions in a prototype interview.)

TIS only provides scores and does not approve or disapprove of job applicants. The company also insists its computer interview should serve as an adjunct to rather than a replacement for human personnel interviews. But while interviewing by touch-tone phone may not be as Draconian as some measures intended to catch drug abusers, the practice nevertheless turns at least part of a job interview into a menacing interrogation rather than a friendly chat. *–John Eckhouse*

Wes Nihei is the Editorial Assistant for PC World. *G. Berton Latamore is a writer based in South Burlington, Vermont, and the editor of* VideoPrint, *a videotex industry newsletter. John Eckhouse is a business correspondent for the* San Francisco Chronicle.

If you can't put a Hayes modem on every PC in your IBM network, here's the next best thing.



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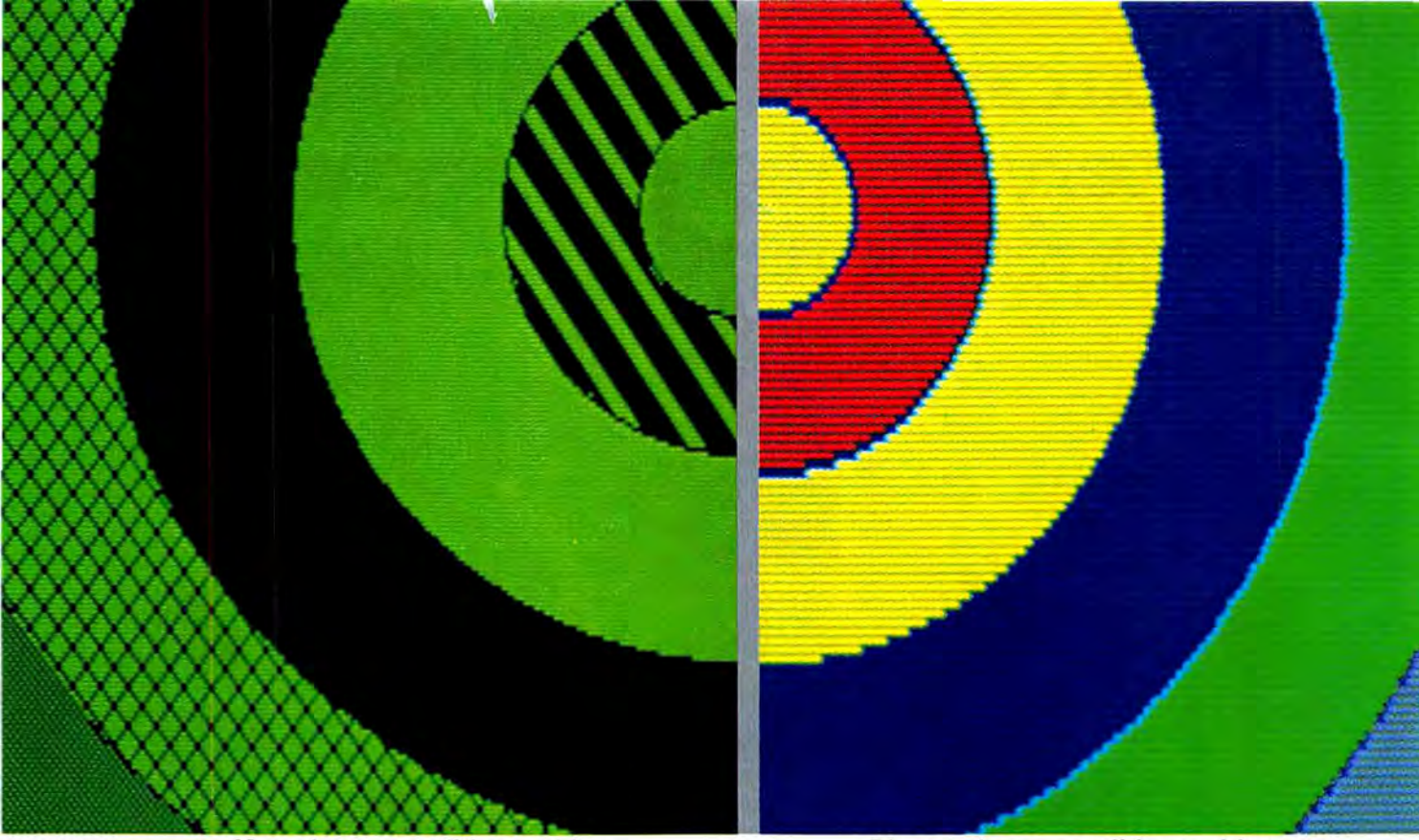

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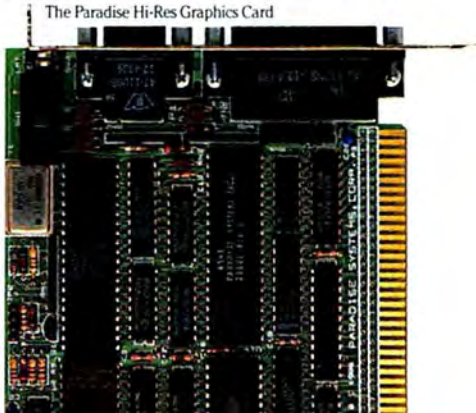

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The Help Screen

PC World offers answers and advice at every level

This month: Using 1-2-3 release 1 or 1A to convert numeric scores to letter grades; light pen drivers; programs for the Apple LaserWriter and the Hewlett-Packard LaserJet; an undernourished menu system; and setting the PC on its side

Karl Koessel

Grading Without Upgrading 1-2-3

Several readers have written in response to the solution published in April's *Help Screen* for converting a numeric grade in a *1-2-3* worksheet cell into a letter grade. (The screen referred to made a delayed appearance in May's column.) Those readers offered macro techniques that, while admittedly a bit time-consuming and not automatic (as a cell formula is), did not require release 2. The macro shown in Screen 1 is an enhanced blend of the algorithms offered by Darlene Drysdale of San Antonio, Texas, and Larry O. Miller of Camarillo, California.

To create the macro, load *1-2-3*, go to cell J1, and enter the macro's description. Copy the lines shown in the cell range K1..K20, starting at cell K1. (Remember, you must type an apostrophe before entering macro lines that begin with a slash. To save time, use /Copy Range to duplicate the first /XI@Vlookup line and then edit the duplicates.)

In the column immediately to the left of the macro, enter the labels '**A**, **Loop**, **Next**, and **End** in the appropriate rows. Then go to the cell containing /A, the name of the macro. Select */Range Name Labels Right*, press **< CursorDown >** until you've highlighted the four labels (from /A to End), and press **< Enter >**.

The next step is to create the three-column grade table. The first column, the table's index, contains the minimum grade point required to receive the letter grade in the third column. The second column lists the values to be returned by the @Vlookup function. Go to cell G3 and enter the label **Grade table**. Then use */Worksheet Column Set* to reset the width of columns G, H, and I. Press **< CursorDown >** and enter the grades F through A + + into column I as shown in Screen 2. In the cell to the left of the F, select */Data Fill* and type **< Backspace >. < PgDn > < Enter > 0 < Enter > 1 < Enter > 13 < Enter >**. Move the cell pointer one column to the left and enter the numbers shown in column G. Next, place the cell pointer on 0 at the top of column G, select */Range Name Create*, and type **Grade table < Enter > < Backspace > . < End > < CursorRight > < End > < CursorDown > < Enter >**. Save the work done so far.

(This example uses standard percentage grading. Because the macro employs the vertical lookup command @Vlookup to search the grade table, you can easily modify it to accommodate other grading systems. For example, assume 255 points is a perfect score, or an A + +; 210 is the minimum number of points for an A +; 195 for an A; and so on. Simply replace the minimum values for percentage grading with the minimum accumulated points required for each letter grade, and the modified macro is ready.)

To use the macro, create a list of student names and grade points like those shown in Screen 2, place the cell pointer on the first cell of the grade point column, and press **< Alt > -A**. The first two lines of the macro create, delete, and recreate the range named Grade point. The process ensures that this range name is assigned to the cell that the pointer is currently highlighting—even if that name has previously been assigned to another range. The next line

(continues)

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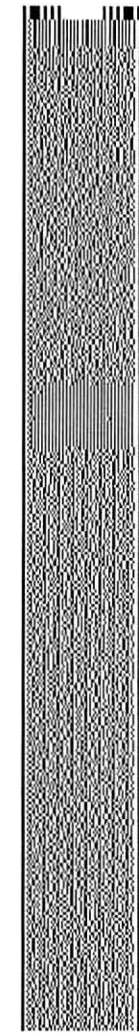

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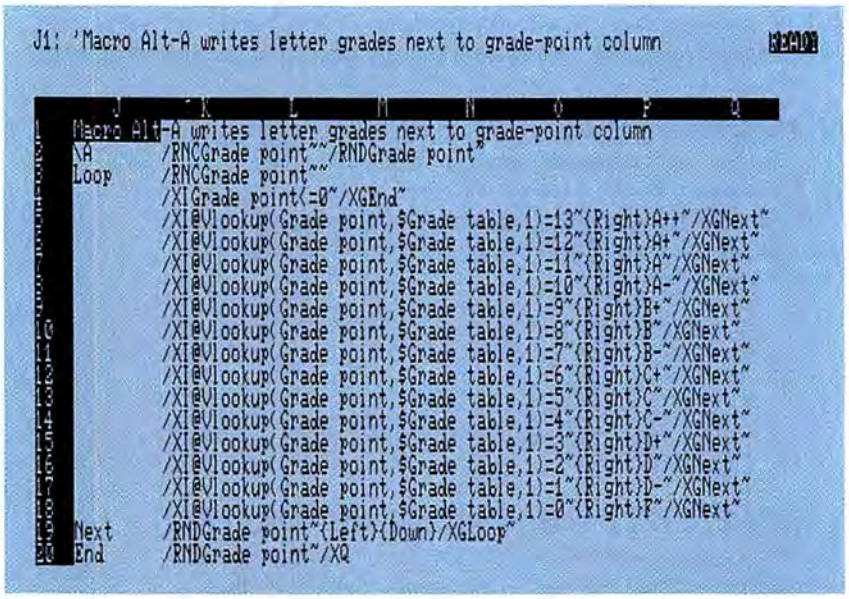
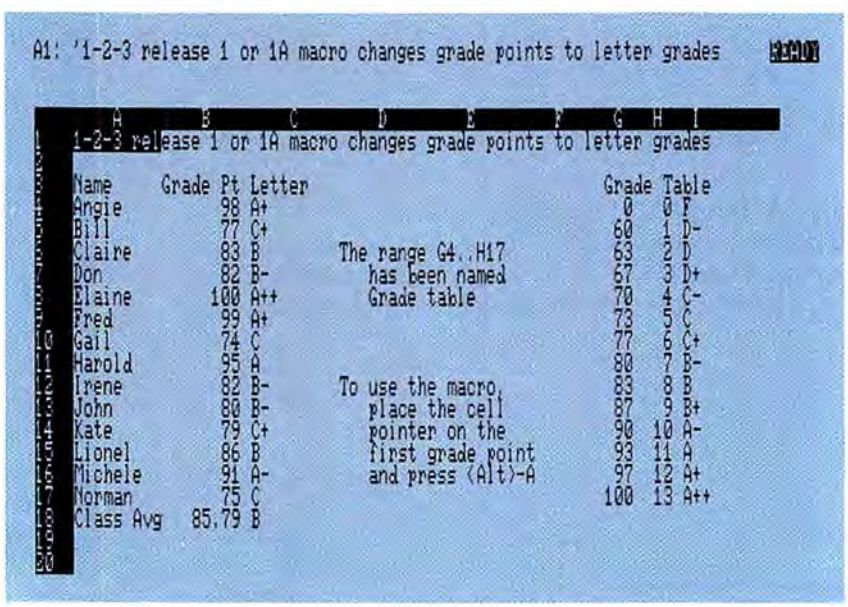


```
J1: 'Macro Alt-A writes letter grades next to grade-point column          READY

     J       K       L       M       N       O       P       Q
  Macro Alt-A writes letter grades next to grade-point column
  \A      /RNCGrade point~~/RNDGrade point~
  Loop    /RNCGrade point~~
          /XIGrade point<=0~/XGEnd~
          /XI@Vlookup(Grade point,$Grade table,1)=13~{Right}A++~/XGNext~
          /XI@Vlookup(Grade point,$Grade table,1)=12~{Right}A+~/XGNext~
          /XI@Vlookup(Grade point,$Grade table,1)=11~{Right}A~/XGNext~
          /XI@Vlookup(Grade point,$Grade table,1)=10~{Right}A-~/XGNext~
          /XI@Vlookup(Grade point,$Grade table,1)=9~{Right}B+~/XGNext~
          /XI@Vlookup(Grade point,$Grade table,1)=8~{Right}B~/XGNext~
          /XI@Vlookup(Grade point,$Grade table,1)=7~{Right}B-~/XGNext~
          /XI@Vlookup(Grade point,$Grade table,1)=6~{Right}C+~/XGNext~
          /XI@Vlookup(Grade point,$Grade table,1)=5~{Right}C~/XGNext~
          /XI@Vlookup(Grade point,$Grade table,1)=4~{Right}C-~/XGNext~
          /XI@Vlookup(Grade point,$Grade table,1)=3~{Right}D+~/XGNext~
          /XI@Vlookup(Grade point,$Grade table,1)=2~{Right}D~/XGNext~
          /XI@Vlookup(Grade point,$Grade table,1)=1~{Right}D-~/XGNext~
          /XI@Vlookup(Grade point,$Grade table,1)=0~{Right}F~/XGNext~
  Next    /RNDGrade point~{Left}{Down}/XGLoop~
  End     /RNDGrade point~/XQ
```

Screen 1: This 1-2-3 release 1/1A macro computes letter grades from numeric grade points.



```
A1: '1-2-3 release 1 or 1A macro changes grade points to letter grades    READY

     A       B       C       D       E       F    G   H   I
  1-2-3 release 1 or 1A macro changes grade points to letter grades

  Name      Grade Pt Letter                              Grade Table
  Angie           98 A+                                    0   0 F
  Bill            77 C+                                   60   1 D-
  Claire          83 B          The range G4..H17         63   2 D
  Don             82 B-            has been named         67   3 D+
  Elaine         100 A++           Grade table            70   4 C-
  Fred            99 A+                                   73   5 C
  Gail            74 C                                    77   6 C+
  Harold          95 A                                    80   7 B-
  Irene           82 B-         To use the macro,         83   8 B
  John            80 B-            place the cell         87   9 B+
  Kate            79 C+            pointer on the         90  10 A-
  Lionel          86 B             first grade point      93  11 A
  Michele         91 A-            and press (Alt)-A      97  12 A+
  Norman          75 C                                   100  13 A++
  Class Avg   85.79 B
```

Screen 2: The macro in Screen 1 is easily modified for other grading systems. Just place the minimum point value for each letter grade in the first column of the grade table.

checks to see if the value in the range Grade point is less than or equal to 0. If it is (as when a cell is empty), the macro branches to End, the last macro line, which deletes the range name Grade point and returns the worksheet to the ready mode. If the value in the cell is greater than 0, the next line of the macro executes.

That line uses the @Vlookup function to extract a value from the grade table and then compares that value to 13. If the returned value is not 13, the macro branches to the next line. For example, if a grade is 88, the @ function returns a 9. Because 9 does not equal 13, processing is passed to each subsequent /XI command until @Vlookup(Grade point,$<UN>Grade table,1) = 9 is encountered. Once the proper match is found, the remainder of the line executes, and the cell pointer moves right to the Letter column of the worksheet and posts the letter grade (in this case, B+). The /XGNext command at the end of the line appropriately branches the process to Next, the last line of the macro. That line deletes the current range name, Grade point; moves the cell pointer left to the list of grade points and down to the next cell; and instructs macro execution to continue at the line labeled Loop, where the cycle begins again.

Light Pen Emulates Mouse

In reference to "Light Pen, Heavy Problem" (*The Help Screen, PCW,* March 1986), Craig M. Rawlings informs us that his company has

(continues)

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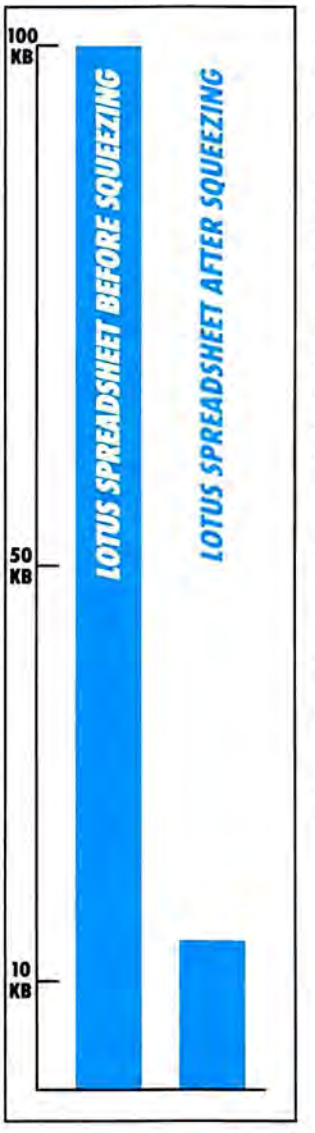

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light pen drivers for *1-2-3, Symphony,* and *GEM Draw,* as well as for *WordStar, AutoCAD,* and *Windows.* Warp Speed Computer Products also markets a single-pixel-resolution light pen adapter, a video adapter that provides single-pixel-resolution light pen support, and *Penmouse,* a mouse-to-light-pen converter that will adapt most mouse software (programs with standard bus or serial mouse drivers, such as *PC Paint, PC Paintbrush,* and *Dr. Halo*) for light pen control. For more information, write to Warp Speed Computer Products at 5555 S. Inglewood Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90230, or call 800/874-4315 (800/826-1563 in California).

Learning to Love the LaserJet

Q. *I have access to a Hewlett-Packard LaserJet at my office, where it does its job quietly and more or less quickly. However, I want to learn more about the machine, available software, and compatible hardware. Are there any sources of information on software and hardware, and are there any relevant techniques for integrating text and graphics?*

Tami Woods
Los Angeles, California

A. *LaserJet Printer Family Software and Hardware Solutions* from Hewlett-Packard (1986, part number 5954-7298) is a comprehensive directory of software and hardware for the LaserJet. For in-depth product information and tips for marrying text and graphics, get ahold of *LaserJet Unlimited* by Ted Nace and Michael Gardner. The book is available from Peachpit Press, 2110 Marin Ave., Berkeley, CA 94707, or it can be ordered by phone (415/524-0184). Information is also just a *PC World* away. Check out "Dress Up Your Documents" (September 1985), *From the Software Shelf* (November 1985), and "Lotus by Laser" (February 1986).

PC Programs for Apple's LaserWriter

Q. *My firm recently purchased an Apple LaserWriter, which we use with our PC and* Microsoft Word. *The results are fantastic, and we would like to expand our use of the LaserWriter into other applications such as graphics, spreadsheets, and data management. Can you identify other PC programs that support the LaserWriter?*

Thomas M. Miner
El Toro, California

A. *MagnaType* and *ScenicWriter* make extensive use of the LaserWriter's talents (see "MagnaType: The Personal Typographer" and "The Scenic Route" in this issue for reviews of those products). Another package to watch for is Aldus Corporation's popular Macintosh program, *PageMaker,* scheduled to appear soon on the PC under the aegis of *Microsoft Windows.*

Keep in mind that any PC program making use of the LaserWriter must support PostScript, the page description language built into the printer. *Word* has a PostScript driver and thus can take advantage of the LaserWriter's scalable fonts, extended character sets, and more. One solution for the lack of a driver in programs such as *1-2-3, WordStar,* and *MultiMate* is *LaserScript/S,* a PC-to-PostScript converter from Tangent Technologies (see *From the Hardware Shelf* in this issue). For a list of PC applications supporting PostScript, send a request to Adobe Systems, the developer of the language, at 1870 Embarcadero Rd. #100, Palo Alto, CA 94303, or call 415/852-0271.

Menu System Recipe's Missing Ingredient

Q. *I feel like the bride whose mother-in-law gave her the groom's favorite cake recipe but, with a wry smile, omitted one key ingredient. Following the instructions in "Serving Up DOS"* [PCW, *February 1986], I prepared a front-end menu that works like a charm—except for one small problem.*

The last two lines of 1.BAT, 2.BAT, and so on are supposed to return control to the main menu batch file after exiting the particular application that each calls. When exiting two of my applications, Crosstalk *and* Reflex, *the menu system works perfectly. But exiting* Microsoft Word *or* Dollars and Sense *halts the menu system; I am returned to DOS in the respective program's subdirectory.*

(continues)

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Circle 383 on reader service card

Why does the menu system work with two of my applications but fail with two others? What is the missing ingredient that will get my menu system to serve up both Word *and* Dollars and Sense *and then return to the main menu after exiting those programs?*

Henry P. Starr
Woodland Hills, California

A. Most programs are well behaved. Certain types, however, make the menu system in "Serving Up DOS" fail. Some cause COMMAND.COM to lose track of the batch files that called them. Others are loaded by other batch files, but because COMMAND.COM can keep track of only one batch file, when the first batch file calls the second, COMMAND.COM forgets the first. These problems can be remedied by inserting **COMMAND /C** on the same batch file line before the command that calls the application. For example, change the batch file line that calls *Dollars and Sense* to read 'COMMAND /C DS'.

Sideways System Saves Space

Q. *On my desk I have an IBM PC, keyboard, monitor, and external hard disk drive–a convenient but unsightly arrangement. My office doesn't have room for PC furniture, such as a desk that would house the system unit and external hard disk drive below the desk top and out of sight. However, Curtis Manufacturing offers a stand that mounts the PC's system unit on its side. With the stand I could keep the system unit vertically on the floor under my desk, but I am concerned that this could cause the PC to overheat.*

I assume that the PC was made to sit horizontally and that its internal layout and air intake vents were designed to produce an airflow pattern that provides adequate ventilation. If I turn the PC on its side, what ill effects, if any, will result from the altered airflow pattern? For example, when the PC is horizontal, the expansion boards are vertical and do not obstruct the rising heat that they and the motherboard generate. But when the PC is on its side, the horizontal expansion boards might impede the outflow of hot air. Could reduced cooling cause internal electronic components to fail prematurely? Also, does sideways operation affect a floppy disk drive?

John N. Ridgely
Rockville, Maryland

A. Keeping the PC on its side will not cause it to overheat, nor will it tax the life or performance of a floppy disk drive. Natural convection, the flow of air caused by rising heat, plays a minor role in cooling the PC. The airflow pattern is maintained by the location of the PC's air vents and exhaust fan, so it doesn't matter whether the PC is horizontal or on its side. And floppy disk drives are designed to operate horizontally, vertically, diagonally, or upside down.

There are, however, ergonomic considerations in placing the system unit on the floor. The unit should be kept close enough so that inserting and removing disks is not cumbersome or inconvenient. The monitor should be high enough to encourage good posture. You may need extension cables (also available from Curtis) for the keyboard and the monitor. Remember, damaged equipment can be easily fixed or replaced–a damaged spine can't.

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Do you have any questions concerning the IBM PC or compatibles? Send them to The Help Screen, PC World, *555 De Haro St., San Francisco, CA 94107, or electronically to MCI Mail PC-WORLD, CompuServe 74055,412, or The Source STE908.*

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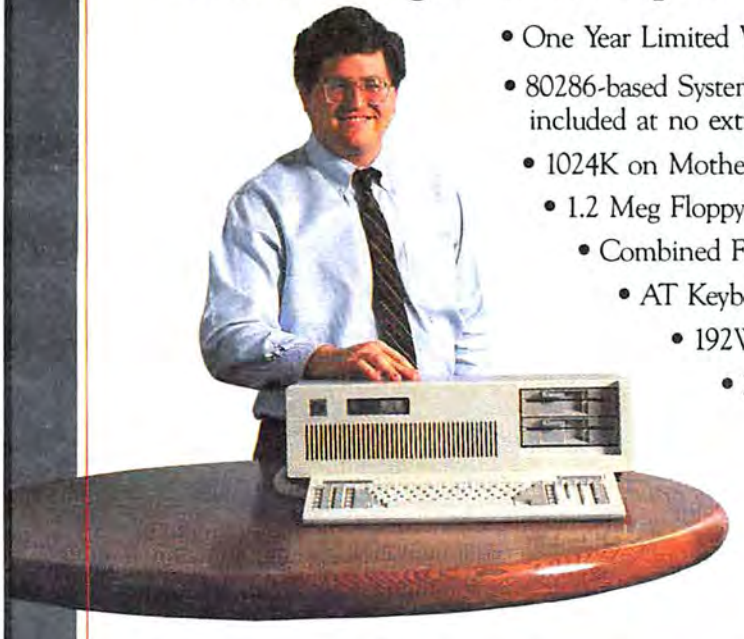

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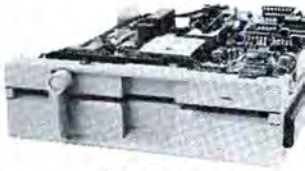

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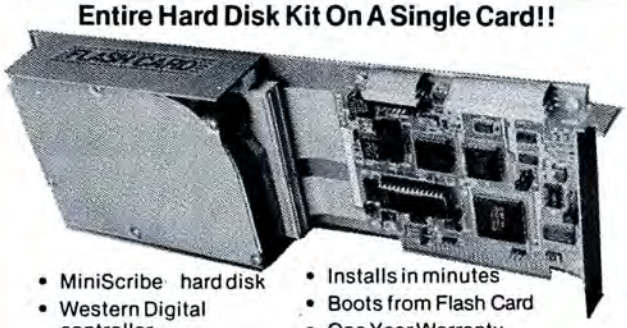

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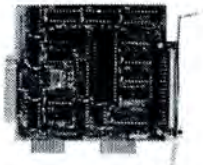

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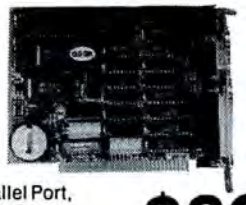

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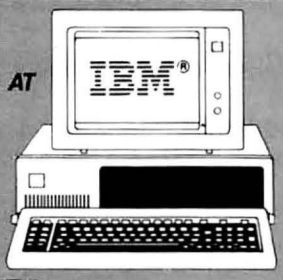

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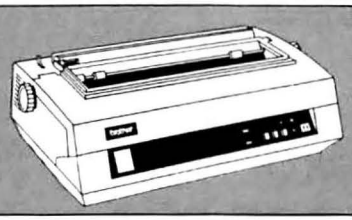

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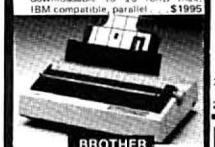

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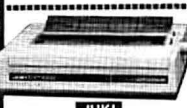

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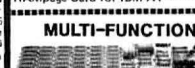

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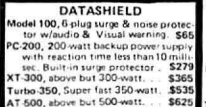

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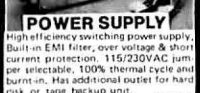

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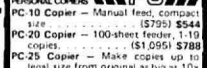

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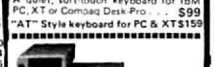

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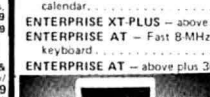

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Edited by Steven Cook

Colors With 1-2-3 Release 2

Here's an update to Albert Bleakley's very useful patches for changing the screen colors of *1-2-3* release 1A [*.*, *PCW*, October 1985]. Unfortunately, release 2 uses new video drivers, so release 1A patches don't apply. I used DEBUG to examine the 123.SET driver file and discover where the screen color information is stored. The values won't necessarily be at the same locations in every case, but you can find them and select new colors.

Four separate values control the foreground and background colors of the worksheet's cells, menus, and help screens; the border and cursor; the unprotected cells and help screen headings; and the help screen cursor and unprotected cell cursor. I searched through the 123.SET file with DEBUG for the default values that were published in the original *.* item. Because release 2 sets the fourth value for a different color, I searched for only the first three.

Once the values are located, changing them is easy using Mr. Bleakley's instructions. Make sure you modify a copy of the 123.SET file and not the original. [Once modified the default values are no longer present in the file, so you will not be able to locate them later. For this reason you should copy 123.SET to another disk for safekeeping and only use a new copy of this original 123.SET file each time you want to change *1-2-3*'s colors.]

The only problem I've encountered is that these patches do not affect the screen's outside border color. I use a short utility program to set the border color, but I'd prefer to know how to patch 123.SET to do the job.

Larry Phox
Houston, Texas

Editor's note: The program 123COLOR.BAS performs the steps necessary to change release 2 screen colors. To create this program, load BASIC, then type in the lines shown in 123COLOR.BAS. Save the program to disk, then type **RUN**. *123COLOR.BAS will search through the 123.SET file to locate the three default color values. If it finds them, it will prompt you to enter the new foreground and background values (only values 0 through 7 are allowed for background values) and then modify the 123.SET file. Choose the desired color values from Figure 1.*

EGA at Length

The IBM Enhanced Graphics Adapter is capable of displaying 43 lines of text when used with an Enhanced Color Display or a Monochrome Display. [See "Compressed WordStar and the EGA," *The Help Screen*, *PCW*, September 1985.] However, the IBM-supplied ANSI.SYS device driver does not handle scrolling properly in the 43-line mode; only the upper 25 lines of the screen are active.

The solution is to modify ANSI.SYS to accommodate the additional lines. You will also have to modify COMMAND.COM so the CLS command will work properly. The steps apply to IBM's PC-DOS 3.10 only; do not attempt to use them with any other DOS version.

(continues)

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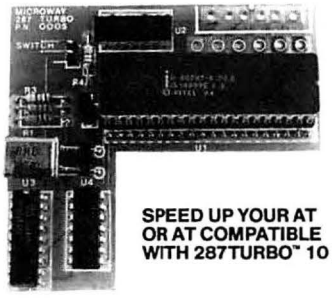

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```
100 DEFINT A-Z : KEY OFF : CLS
110 DATA 07,30,0A
120 F$="123.SET" : G!=1 : C$=""
130 VALID$="0123456789ABCDEFabcdef"
140 FOR J=1 TO 3 : READ A$ : DF$=DF$+CHR$(VAL("&h"+A$)) : NEXT
150 FOR J=1 TO 4 : READ T$(J) : NEXT
160 FOR J=1 TO 2 : READ S$(J) : NEXT
170 '
180 OPEN F$ AS 1 LEN=1
190 FIELD 1,1 AS BYTE$ : SIZE!=LOF(1)
200 '
210 LOCATE 4,1 : PRINT "Searching for color data..."
220 FOR J=1 TO 3 : GET #1 : C$=C$+BYTE$ : NEXT
230 IF C$=DF$ THEN 280
240 G!=G!+1 : IF G!>SIZE! THEN PRINT "Values not found":GOTO 560
250 GET #1 : C$=MID$(C$,2)+BYTE$
260 GOTO 230
270 '
280 LOCATE 6,1,1:PRINT "Values located.  Choose new colors:"
290 FOR J=1 TO 4
300    PRINT : PRINT T$(J)
310    FOR K=1 TO 2
320       PRINT S$(K);"  ? ";
330       A$=INPUT$(1) : PRINT A$
340       P=INSTR(VALID$,A$) : IF P>0 THEN 360
350       PRINT "Invalid response" : GOTO 320
360       IF K=2 THEN IF P>8 THEN 350
370       Z$(K)=A$
380    NEXT
390    N$(J)=Z$(1)+Z$(2)
400 NEXT
410 '
420 PRINT : PRINT "New color bytes will be:"
430 FOR J=1 TO 4 : PRINT N$(J), : NEXT : PRINT : PRINT
440 PRINT "Do you have a backup copy of 123.SET (Y/N)? ";
450 A$=INPUT$(1) : PRINT A$
460 IF INSTR("Yy",A$)=0 THEN 560
470 '
480 PRINT : PRINT "Now modifing file ";F$
490 FOR J=0 TO 3
500    LSET BYTE$=CHR$(VAL("&h"+N$(J+1)))
510    PUT #1,G!+J
520 NEXT
530 CLOSE : PRINT "Modification complete."
540 END
550 '
560 PRINT "Process halted." : STOP
570 '
580 DATA "Worksheet cells, menus, & help screens"
590 DATA "Border & cursor"
600 DATA "Unprotected cells & help screen headings"
610 DATA "Help screen cursor & Unprotected cell cursor"
620 DATA "Foreground:"
630 DATA "Background:"
```

123COLOR.BAS: This program changes the default colors used by 1-2-3 release 2.

0 Black	6 Brown	C Light red
1 Blue	7 White	D Light magenta
2 Green	8 Gray	E Yellow
3 Cyan	9 Light blue	F Bright white
4 Red	A Light green	
5 Magenta	B Light cyan	

Figure 1: Select new colors for 1-2-3 using this chart.

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```
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A>debug ansi43.sys
-e 29d 90 90
-e 2a1 90 90
-e 27c 2b
-e 283 2a
-e 50c 2b
-e 58f 2b
-w
Writing 0673 bytes
-q
A>debug command.com
-e 263b 2a
-w
Writing 0673 bytes
-q
```

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For DOS 3.10, simply change the appropriate byte from 1 to 0. To do so, first type **DEBUG \COMMAND.COM** to start the DEBUG program. At DEBUG's hyphen prompt, type **E 1967 00 <Enter> W <Enter>** to make the change and save it to disk. Finally, type **Q** and press **<Enter>** to return to DOS.

Photios G. Ioannou
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Editor's note: The ECHO OFF patch is a winner. It's now a permanent part of DOS on my disks.

Turbo Asides

When I needed to print extra-wide lines, I decided to write my own sideways printing program in Turbo Pascal version 3.0. The result is SIDEPRNT.PAS.

The biggest hurdle I encountered was finding a font to use; I solved the problem by using the graphics character screen font built into the PC's ROM. The font data may be stored in different locations on some "compatible" computers, but on the PC it resides at address F000:FA6E.

SIDEPRNT reads a text file to accumulate pages of 53 lines and prints the text sidways, 9 characters to the inch. This process continues until the entire document has been printed. The formfeed character (Control L) is recognized and causes a page eject, even in the middle of a line.

Each character's bit map is 8 bytes long, defining the character in an 8-by-8 matrix. Because most characters don't fill the entire matrix, space is left between displayed characters. SIDEPRNT

(continues)

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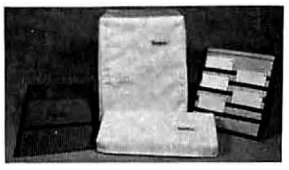

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```
(*
   SIDEPRNT ... sideways (rotated) printing ...
   Author --- John T. Bagwell, Jr.

   Uses Character tables in the BIOS ROM  to do a simple form of
   sideways printing. Character values above 127 aren't supported.

   FormFeed acts as a 'page' eject, even in the middle of a line;
   a line ends at CR/LF, FF, or end-of-file.

   This program is designed for the Epson FX-80 or FX-85 printer.
*)

program SidePrint;
const
   PrintMultipleSpacing = #27'3';
   JiggleDown = #13#27'J'#1;
   NormalSpacing = #27'2';
   GraphicsPrint = #27'*';
   LineFeed = ^J;
   FormFeed = ^L;
                              { ... possible choices ... }
   BitsPerChar =      9;    { 9   8   9   8   9   8   9   8 }
   ModeCode =        #0;    {#0  #0  #4  #4  #5  #5  #6  #6 }
   MaxLinesPerPage = 53;    {53  60  71  80  64  72  80  90 }
   MaxLineLen =    1000;    {adjust to match max lines and available space}
type
   BitMap = array [0..7] of char;
   Line = array [1..MaxLineLen] of char;
var
   Paper: array [1..MaxLinesPerPage] of Line;
   InFile: text;
   InChar: char;
   LineNo, CharNo, i, j, k, BitsPerPage, LineLen: integer;
   Cindex, PrintMultiple: byte;
   CharTable: array [0..127] of BitMap absolute $F000:$FA6E; {BIOS Table}

(*---------------------------------*)
(*         READ ONE 'PAGE'         *)
(*---------------------------------*)

procedure ReadOnePage;
var
   LineSize: array [1..91] of integer;  {big enough for all options}
   eject: Boolean;
begin
   LineNo := 1;
   CharNo := 0;
   LineLen := 0;
   eject := FALSE;

   for i := 1 to MaxLinesPerPage do   {erase old lines}
     LineSize[i] := 0;
repeat
        {accumulate a line...}
  while (not eoln(InFile)) AND (not eject) do
    begin
      read(InFile,InChar);
      if InChar = FormFeed then  {watch for page ejects}
        if (LineNo = 1) AND (CharNo = 0) then
           {ignore redundant page ejects}
        else
           eject := TRUE
      else
        if CharNo <= MaxLineLen then  {build a line}
          begin
            CharNo := CharNo + 1;
            Paper[LineNo,CharNo] := InChar;
          end;
    end;

       {at end of each line ...}
    if CharNo > LineLen then   {save longest line length}
      LineLen := CharNo;
    LineSize[LineNo] := CharNo;
    LineNo := LineNo + 1;
    CharNo := 0;
    if eoln(InFile) then
      readln(InFile);         {get the end-of-line mark}
```

SIDEPRNT.PAS: Turbo Pascal program to print sideways

(continues)

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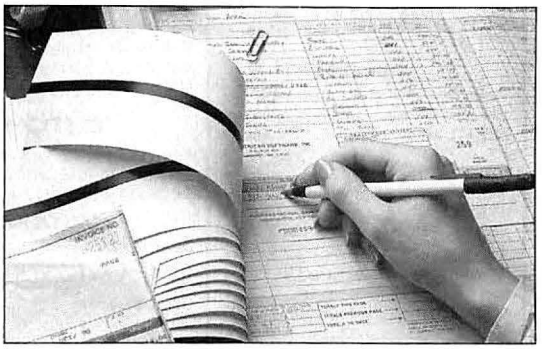

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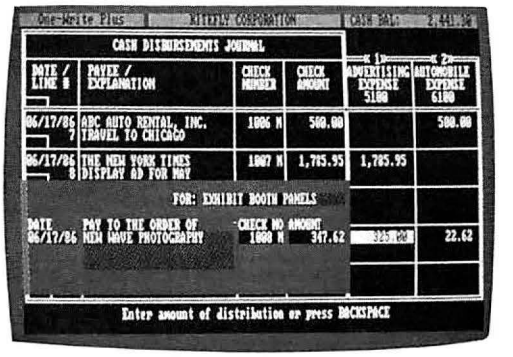

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```
          {force eject when page is full ... }
      if LineNo > MaxLinesPerPage then
        eject := TRUE;

    until eof(InFile) OR (eject);

  (* make each line the same length *)

    for i:= 1 to MaxLinesPerPage do
      for j:=LineSize[i]+1 to LineLen do
        Paper[i,j] := ' ';
end;

(*-----------------------------------*)
(*         PRINT ONE 'PAGE'          *)
(*-----------------------------------*)

procedure PrintOnePage;
begin
  for j := 1 to LineLen do   {each rotated 'line'...actually, each character}
    begin
      for LineNo := 1 to PrintMultiple do
        begin
          write(LST,GraphicsPrint,ModeCode,
            char(lo(BitsPerPage)),char(hi(BitsPerPage)));
          for i := MaxLinesPerPage downto 1 do  {lines in reverse order}
            begin
              Cindex := ord(Paper[i,j]);
              if BitsPerChar = 9 then {FOR loop (9 to ...) req'd if it is > 9}
                write(LST,#0);
              for k := 7 downto 0 do
                write(LST,CharTable[Cindex][k]); {bottom up each char}
            end;
          write(LST,JiggleDown);   {C/R + microspace down}
        end;
      write(LST,LineFeed);         {next 'line'}
    end;
end;

(* ------ MAIN PROGRAM ------ *)

begin

            (* GET FILE PARAM *)
    if paramcount < 1 then
      begin
        writeln(^G'Missing file name on command');
        halt;
      end;
    assign(InFile,paramstr(1));  {OPEN the file}
    {$I-}
    reset(InFile);
    {$I+}
    if IOResult <> 0 then
      begin
        writeln('File "',paramstr(1),'" not found.');
        halt;
      end;

            (* GET /D DOUBLE-PRINT OPTION *)
    PrintMultiple := 1;
    if paramcount >=2 then
      if (paramstr(2) = '/d') OR (paramstr(2) = '/D') then
        PrintMultiple := 2;

            (* SET-UP *)
    BitsPerPage := BitsPerChar * MaxLinesPerPage;
    write(LST,PrintMultipleSpacing,char(24-PrintMultiple)); {nn/216th inch}

            (* MAIN LOOP ... *)
    repeat                  {do one "page" at a time}
      ReadOnePage;
      PrintOnePage;
      write(LST,FormFeed);      {do a page eject to line up properly}
    until eof(InFile);

            (* ALL DONE *)
    close(InFile);
    write(LST,NormalSpacing);    {resume normal spacing vertically}
end.
```

SIDEPRNT.PAS (continued)

also adds a minuscule space between lines to improve readability. The size of this space is controlled by the program variable BitsPerChar.

After you have compiled the program, run it from the DOS prompt by typing **SIDEPRNT** *filename* followed by an optional /D switch. The switch causes each line to be printed twice, the second pass offset slightly to further enhance print quality. Using the switch, of course, doubles the printing time.

Graphics characters above ASCII 127 are not supported. If you have DOS 3.00 or later, you can use its GRAFTABL program and modify SIDEPRNT to check interrupt vector 1F for the table. The control characters (those below ASCII 32) are printed, except for Control J, Control L, Control M, and Control Z, which have other purposes.

I tested SIDEPRNT with the various graphics modes available on my Epson FX-80 printer and decided that mode 0 seemed most suitable. Program comments tell you how to modify the program and try the other modes, or, if you are so inclined, how to improve the program by adding your own font or changing it to work with another printer.

John T. Bagwell, Jr.
Torrance, California

Editor's note: Aside from its usefulness, SIDEPRNT.PAS is a good tutorial for anyone interested in learning how to write Pascal programs that process characters and graphics data.

(continues)

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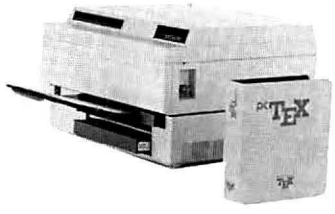

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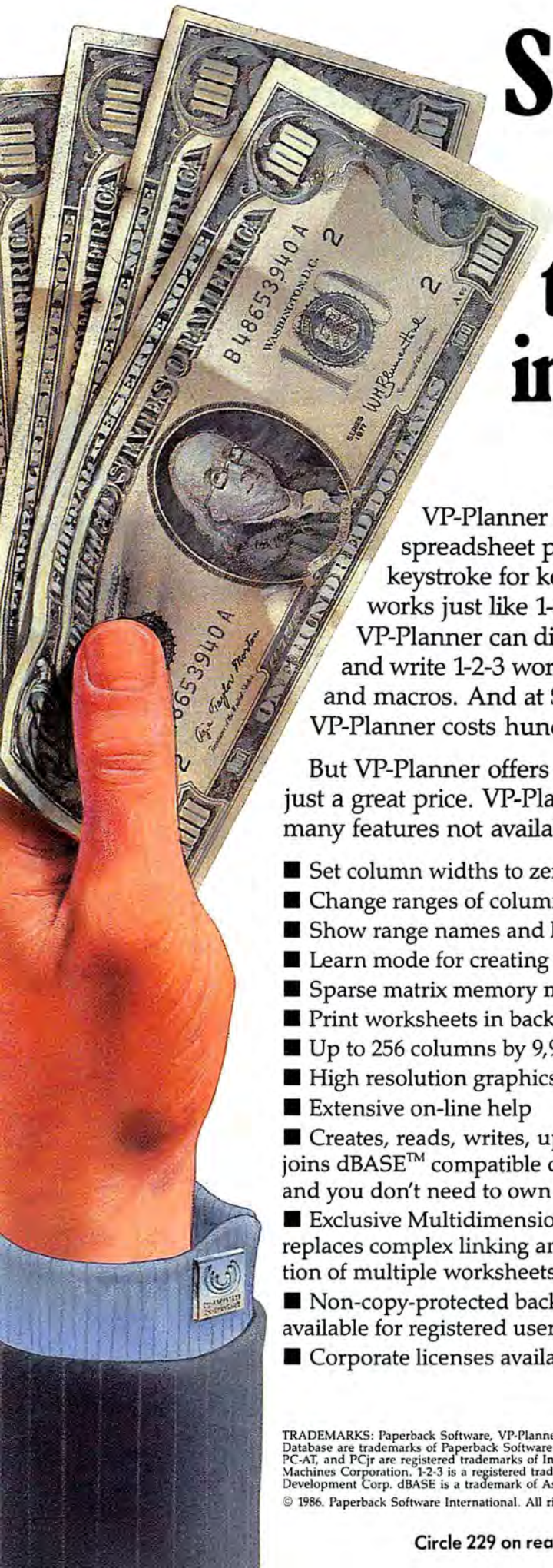

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```
10 DEFINT A-Z:CLS:KEY OFF:DEF FNHEX(X$)=VAL("&h"+X$)
20 LOCATE 3,1:PRINT "X-Maker":READ F$
30 LOCATE 5,1,1:PRINT "Now testing for data errors...please wait";
40 SUM=0:READ LN:IF LN<0 THEN 80
50 READ H$:IF VAL(H$)<0 THEN 70
60 SUM=(SUM+FNHEX(H$))*2:SUM=(SUM\256)+(SUM MOD 256):GOTO 50
70 READ CKSUM$:IF SUM=FNHEX(CKSUM$) THEN 40 ELSE GOTO 170
80 RESTORE:CLS:LOCATE 3,1:PRINT "X-Maker":READ F$
90 LOCATE 5,1,1:PRINT "Press any key to create ";F$;": ";
100 A$=INPUT$(1):PRINT:IF A$=CHR$(27) THEN END
110 LOCATE 6,1:PRINT "Working...";
120 OPEN F$ AS #1 LEN=1:FIELD #1,1 AS BX$
130 READ LN:IF LN<0 THEN 160
140 READ H$:IF VAL(H$)<0 THEN READ CKSUM$:GOTO 130
150 LSET BX$=CHR$(FNHEX(H$)):PUT #1:GOTO 140
160 CLOSE:PRINT:PRINT F$;" has now been created.":END
170 PRINT:PRINT "Error in DATA line";STR$(LN);". ";
180 PRINT "Check your work.":BEEP:END
```

X-MAKER.BAS: Star-Dot-Star's program-creating program

```
1000 DATA "a:clocktic.com"
1010 DATA 1,E9,20,01,00,00,00,00,00,00,54,07,49,07,4D,07,45,-1,D0
1020 DATA 2,07,20,07,20,07,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,FB,9C,-1,76
1030 DATA 3,1E,06,50,51,52,56,57,B8,40,00,8E,D8,A1,49,00,2E,-1,C5
1040 DATA 4,A3,1C,01,A1,6E,00,2E,A3,19,01,2E,3B,06,15,01,74,-1,8F
1050 DATA 5,05,0E,1F,E8,8E,00,2E,A1,1C,01,3C,04,72,06,3C,06,-1,56
1060 DATA 6,77,02,EB,73,2E,A1,03,01,8E,C0,0E,1F,BF,8C,00,BE,-1,14
1070 DATA 7,09,01,B9,06,00,FC,F3,A5,2E,8B,0E,03,01,8E,D9,2E,-1,DB
1080 DATA 8,A1,19,01,3D,0C,00,76,03,2D,0C,00,3D,0A,00,72,0A,-1,10
1090 DATA 9,B9,31,07,89,0E,96,00,2D,0A,00,05,30,00,B4,07,A3,-1,8F
1100 DATA 10,98,00,C7,06,9A,00,3A,07,B8,40,00,8E,D8,A1,6C,00,-1,E2
1110 DATA 11,BA,00,00,B9,50,04,F7,F1,BA,30,07,3C,0A,72,06,FE,-1,41
1120 DATA 12,C2,2C,0A,EB,F6,2E,8B,0E,03,01,8E,D9,89,16,9C,00,-1,22
1130 DATA 13,04,30,B4,07,A3,9E,00,5F,5E,5A,59,58,07,1F,9D,2E,-1,41
1140 DATA 14,FF,2E,05,01,2E,83,3E,17,01,1C,75,16,E4,61,24,FC,-1,B1
1150 DATA 15,E6,61,2E,A1,19,01,2E,A3,15,01,2E,C7,06,17,01,00,-1,28
1160 DATA 16,00,C3,2E,83,3E,17,01,00,75,13,B0,B6,E6,43,B8,0C,-1,04
1170 DATA 17,02,E6,42,8A,C4,E6,42,E4,61,24,FC,E6,61,E4,61,8A,-1,15
1180 DATA 18,E0,24,FC,80,F4,03,80,E4,03,0A,C4,E6,61,2E,FF,06,-1,1F
1190 DATA 19,17,01,C3,1E,B8,40,00,8E,D8,B8,63,00,1F,3D,B4,03,-1,B9
1200 DATA 20,75,0A,2E,C7,06,03,01,00,B0,EB,08,90,2E,C7,06,03,-1,75
1210 DATA 21,01,00,B8,1E,B8,40,00,8E,D8,A1,6E,00,2E,A3,15,01,-1,39
1220 DATA 22,1F,B8,1C,35,CD,21,2E,89,1E,05,01,2E,8C,06,07,01,-1,98
1230 DATA 23,BA,1E,01,B8,1C,25,CD,21,BA,23,02,CD,27,-1,CF,-1
```

CLOCKTIC.DAT: Add these lines to X-MAKER.BAS to create the CLOCKTIC.COM screen time-display program.

Tic-Toc-Clock

The program CLOCKTIC.COM displays the current time in 12-hour format in the upper right corner of the PC's screen. It should work with most PC compatible computers, because it writes the time directly to the screen buffer. CLOCKTIC is a memory-resident program that uses the PC's timer interrupt to update the currently displayed time. The clock will ring the PC's speaker at the beginning of every hour. The current CRT_MODE is checked, and the time display will be omitted if the screen is in graphics mode. The PC's speaker, however, will continue to ring on

(continues)

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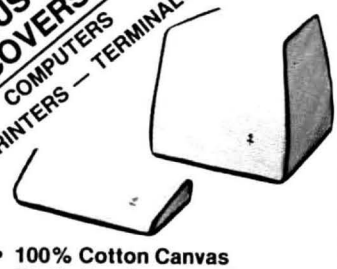

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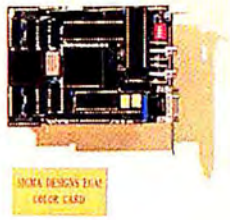

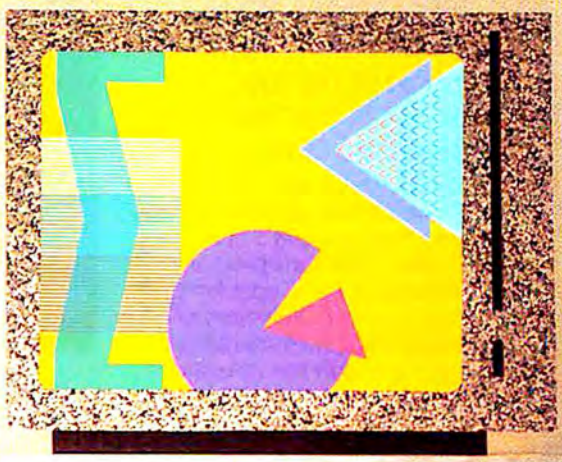

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the hour. As with all resident programs, you will have to experiment to determine its compatibility with other software.

Michael J. Mefford
Gleneden Beach, Oregon

Editor's note: To create CLOCKTIC.COM, load BASIC, then type in the lines shown in X-MAKER.BAS, followed by the lines shown in CLOCKTIC.DAT; then type **RUN** *and press* **< Enter >**. *To use CLOCKTIC, simply type* **CLOCKTIC** *at the DOS prompt or insert the command CLOCKTIC in your system's AUTOEXEC.BAT file. Do not run CLOCKTIC more than once after you start the computer because it loads another copy of itself into memory each time it is run. Note that some programs, including BASIC, intercept the clock interrupt signal and thus disable CLOCKTIC's time display.*

At Your Command

More and more programs can execute DOS commands while running, but most are limited to just one command at a time. *WordStar 3.3*, *dBASE III Plus*, *KnowledgeMan/2*, and *Microsoft Word* are such programs.

This single-command limitation can be a real nuisance. For example, if the DOS command you want to execute is not in the current subdirectory, or if you wish to perform several commands in sequence, completing your task can take several steps.

I have discovered that if COMMAND.COM is executed, DOS will load a copy of itself into memory, and you can then execute as many other commands as you like. When you have finished, simply enter the EXIT command at the DOS prompt, and the application program is returned.

Before issuing the EXIT command, be careful to return to the subdirectory and logged disk drive that were originally in effect. If you don't, the application program might not be able to find its overlay files or other information that it needs to continue.

William R. Mumpower
Big Stone Gap, Virginia

Editor's note: Even so, this may not work for all programs, all versions of DOS, or on some "compatible" machines.

Troubleshooting Tip

Recently my 3-year-old Juki 6100 printer began an intermittent pattern of halting and illuminating its Check lamp in the middle of printing. At first I could correct the problem by pressing the Reset button, but after a while the printer would print only a few lines before halting.

My local computer dealer charges $50 per hour just to look at a printer. I balked and instead searched through the printer manual and determined that the Check lamp lights only under three conditions: when the printer is out of

(continues)

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For example, we pay one of the big name manufacturers 98¢ for their "famous name" diskette in a pretty box. In an unequalled display of favoritism, that same manufacturer sells the same diskette in the same fancy box to a major corporation for 42¢ each. Finally, a software duplicator can buy the same diskette *without* the box for 37¢!

A 265% price difference: for what?

In the example above, that's a difference of 265% in price for the very same diskette!

So you see, paying for a "famous name" on a diskette doesn't guaranty you that you're getting any more for the money.

You may be paying for some big corporation's fleet of aircraft and their executive retreats in Minnesota and Canada, but you are not paying for any more quality.

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There are four kinds of diskettes: And Super Star™ is right up there with the best.

As you leaf through the pages of this magazine, you will see diskettes advertised at prices as low as 33¢. Every one, of course, claims to be the "best".

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Here are the only kinds of diskettes you can buy:

High-Clip Product: this is what you get when you buy Super Star™, 3M™, Maxell™, TDK™ or any number of other famous and not so famous name diskettes. They have clipping rates of 60% or more, are certified for ten million read/write passes or more and are simply the best diskettes available. You can expect perhaps 1 out of 100,000 to fail...and that will usually be the result of dirty or misaligned drives.

ANSI Spec Product: These are "okay" diskettes. They have a clipping level of 40%. Usually they are the fall-out from a manufacturer's "high-clip" product line. You can expect about 1 out 20 to fail in normal use. (But that failure rate has more to do with the disk *drive* rather than the diskette.) The price difference between an ANSI-spec disk and a High-Clip product is only a few cents. But the failure rate of ANSI product is 50,000 times higher!

Duplicator Product: This is a catch-all category. Some of it may be High-Clip Product, some ANSI spec, some cosmetically blemished, some garbage. Usually anyone who buys product in this class justifiably anticipates that 20 out of every 100 diskettes will not format properly.

Floor Sweepings: This is just plain "garbage". For example, the 5.25" SSSD diskettes that you see advertised for 39¢ are exactly that: garbage. No decent manufacturer has sold any 5.25" SSSD diskettes in several years. SSSD is the absolute bottom of the line in terms of quality. Most of the discount diskettes you see advertised are "floor sweepings"...bought up by brokers and passed on to the unsuspecting public by unscrupulous merchants who are simply out to make a fast buck.

When every bit counts, you can count on Super Star™!

Well, I wish we had more space, but we don't.

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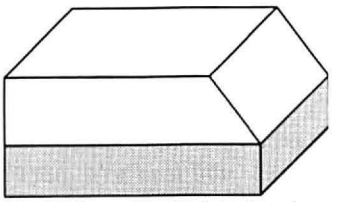

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ribbon, out of paper, or when the operator has pressed the Pause switch.

There was plenty of ribbon and paper, and I hadn't pressed the Pause switch, so I figured that something was erroneously lighting the Check lamp. Closer inspection revealed a small sensor beneath the ribbon spool.

The bottom of the spool has a pattern of alternating silver and black spokes, so I reasoned that the silver spokes reflect light into the sensor. The turning spool alternates the reflection; when the ribbon runs out, the spool stops turning, and the reflected light stops alternating. Because the sensor was covered with residue, I thought that it might not be receiving enough light, thus causing the erroneous signal. A little polishing (I cleaned the bottom of the spool, too) proved my assumptions correct.

Now my printer works like new, and I've saved time and money. I hope this tip will help other readers solve similar problems.

Marc J. Verber
Address Unavailable

Editor's note: Many computer and peripheral problems are surprisingly easy to correct. Often just a little investigation and some common sense will lead to a quick solution. Take a few moments to check the obvious. Are all the cables connected? (The cliché about "it wasn't plugged in" has wide application.) Are they connected to the proper locations? Are there any indicator lamps? What do they indicate? If possible, test the "broken" device with something that is known to work. Don't forget to try different cables, too. A few minutes spent determining exactly what is wrong can save hundreds of dollars and many days of lost time. If you can't solve the problem, be sure to tell the technician the exact symptoms and describe the steps you took to isolate the trouble.

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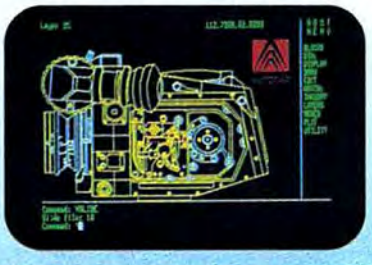

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Kevin Strehlo

Tales of a Weakened Publisher

A computer-savvy graphic designer grapples with the shiny new tools of personal computer publishing—and nearly misses a deadline.

As Bill Hill walked home in a downpour late Friday night from an all-night store carrying a six-pack under his arm, he was completely preoccupied with the thought that he might not get the newsletter done on time.

It wasn't a pleasant possibility. Bill worked as a graphic designer for David Kelley Design in Palo Alto, California, a firm that had a record of exemplary work done under the tough deadline pressures of high-tech product launches. Bill himself had designed the Macintosh mouse for Apple (pleasing Steve Jobs, which was no easy task). He couldn't let the firm down now over a little newsletter.

It had been easy to talk the client, Silicon Compilers, into letting him design and produce *Compiled Times* on a computer. But by the same token, people who make it possible for engineers to simply specify what a chip is supposed to do and then watch the computer pump out tested, 200,000-transistor chip designs aren't likely to buy the "my computer ate it" line when their six-page newsletter comes out too late for an important trade show.

But if the computer hadn't eaten the newsletter, it had at least chewed it a bit and, with it, Bill's confidence that he could handle *PageMaker* personal publishing software. He had worked from early evening until nearly midnight trying unsuccessfully to fit copy into a rough layout he had done at LaserWrite, a firm that specializes in helping clients turn out newsletters using *PageMaker.* Earlier, he had gone to LaserWrite for advice and ended up taking a 2-hour *PageMaker* lesson from the firm's chief designer, Deanna Trimble. He'd left that session feeling confident. But that was before he had tried *PageMaker* by himself. Now, each time he managed to get one or two of the ten stories to fit, he'd make a change in one of the remaining stories and watch in frustration as the change rippled through the entire newsletter, ruining the stories he'd just fixed.

Returning from the store at 1 a.m., he sat down at the keyboard with a beer to try out a possible

(continues)

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solution. That was when the storm knocked out the power.

When Bill's wife saw him sitting at the dead keyboard, still dripping wet, she told him he looked like hell. But she listened sympathetically as he told her what he thought about the latest labor-saving technology for graphic designers.

Diane Burns is never surprised when she hears about people having trouble with personal computer publishing. Burns has been at it since Compugraphic used Apple's Lisa as part of a page composition system three years ago, and now her firm, TechArt of San Francisco, spends a good deal of time rescuing would-be PC publishers who get into trouble on the Mac. "It's the old misconception with a new twist–you know, all you need to do is get a computer, and your books take care of themselves," Burns says. "People get the idea that because they can figure out how to do some useful things with *MacDraw* in 30 minutes, they can take on a big project."

Personal computer publishing tools can be incredible timesavers, she says, and yet she often sees people spending more time on a publishing project than if they had done it the traditional way. She recalls the new TechArt employee who worked on the art for a crossword puzzle for 5 hours. "She could have inked that puzzle by hand in an hour. And she was wasn't a novice with *MacDraw*." Her problem? Instead of using

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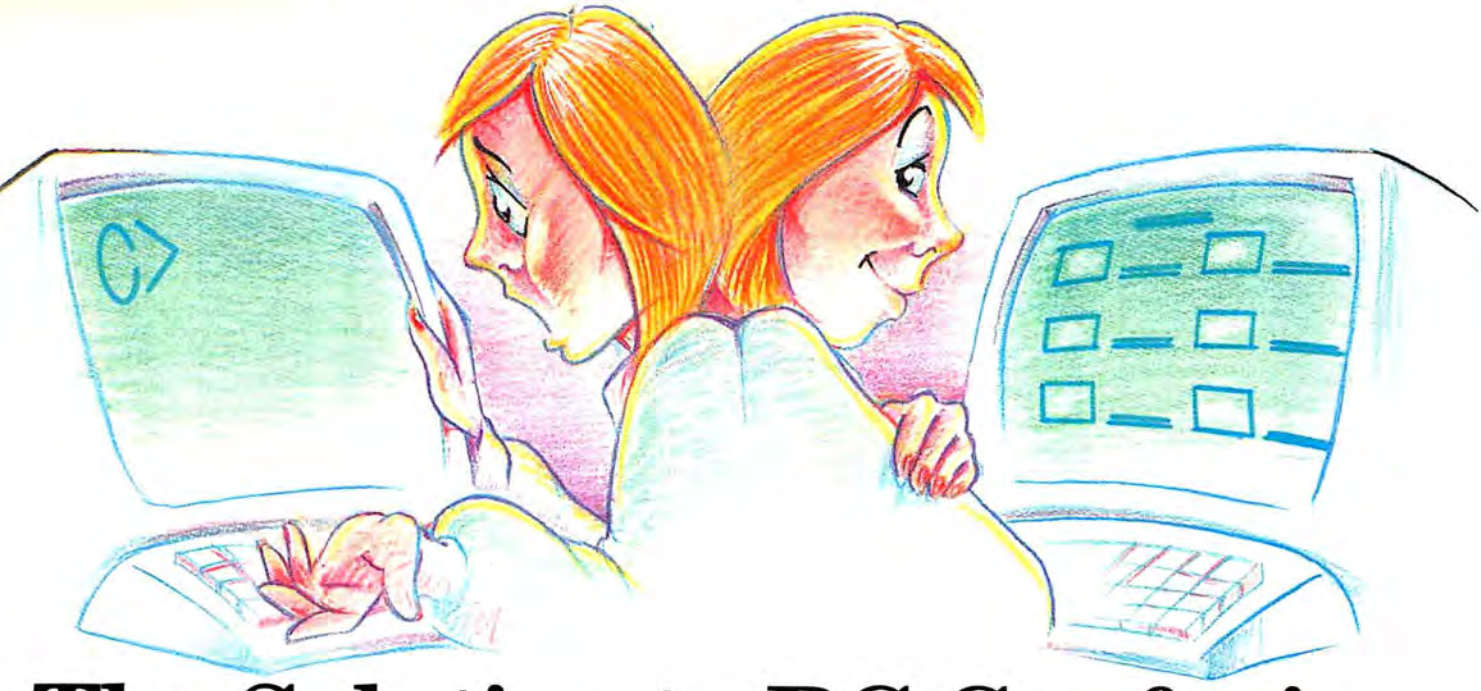

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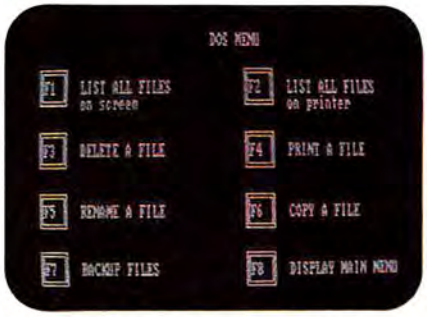

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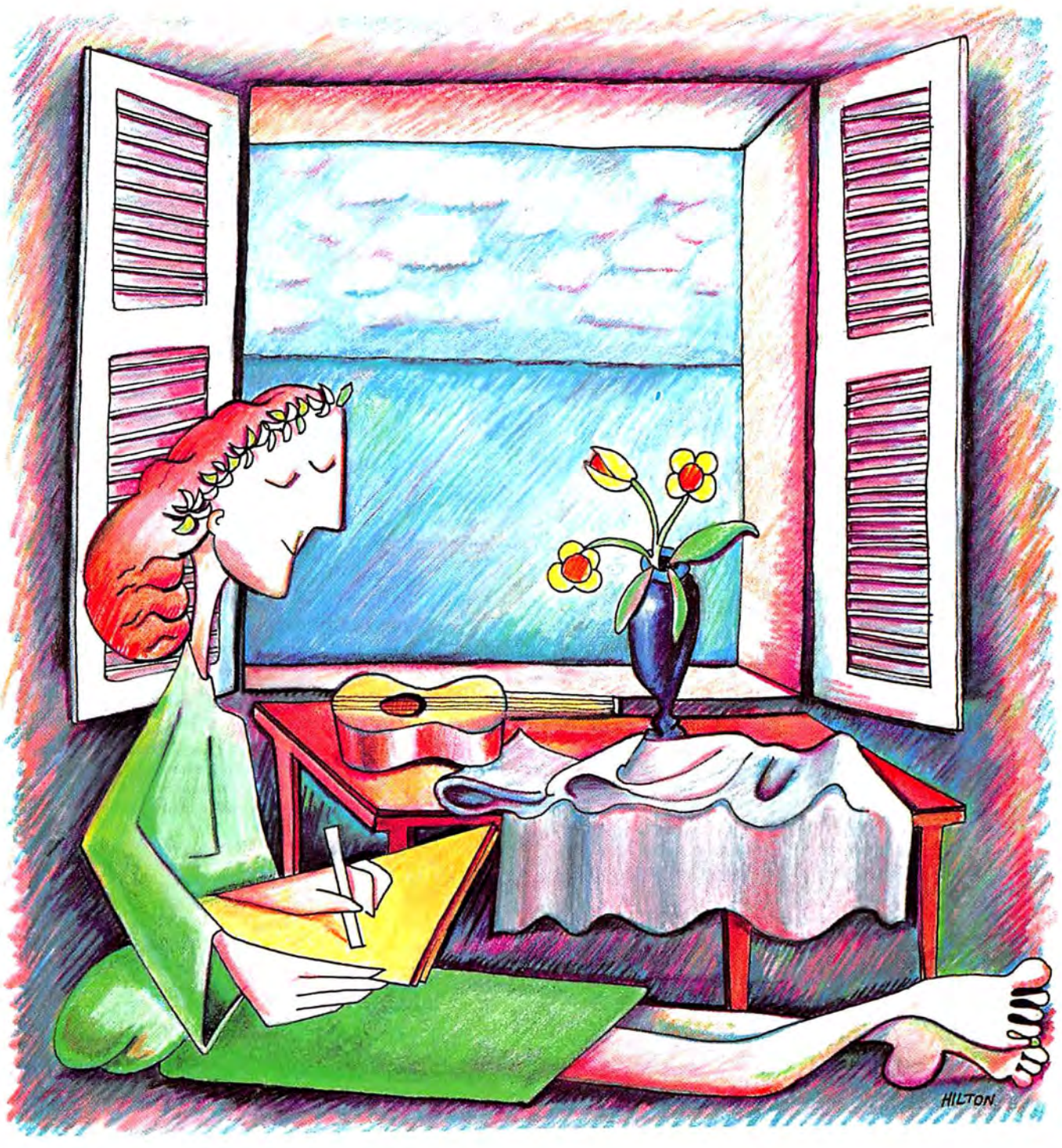

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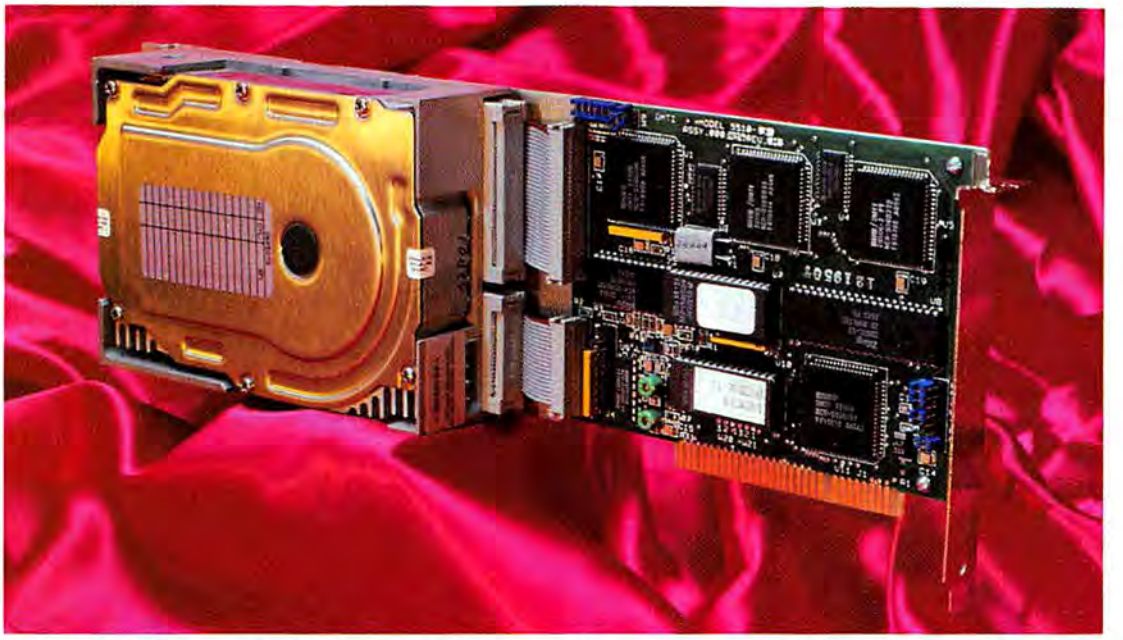

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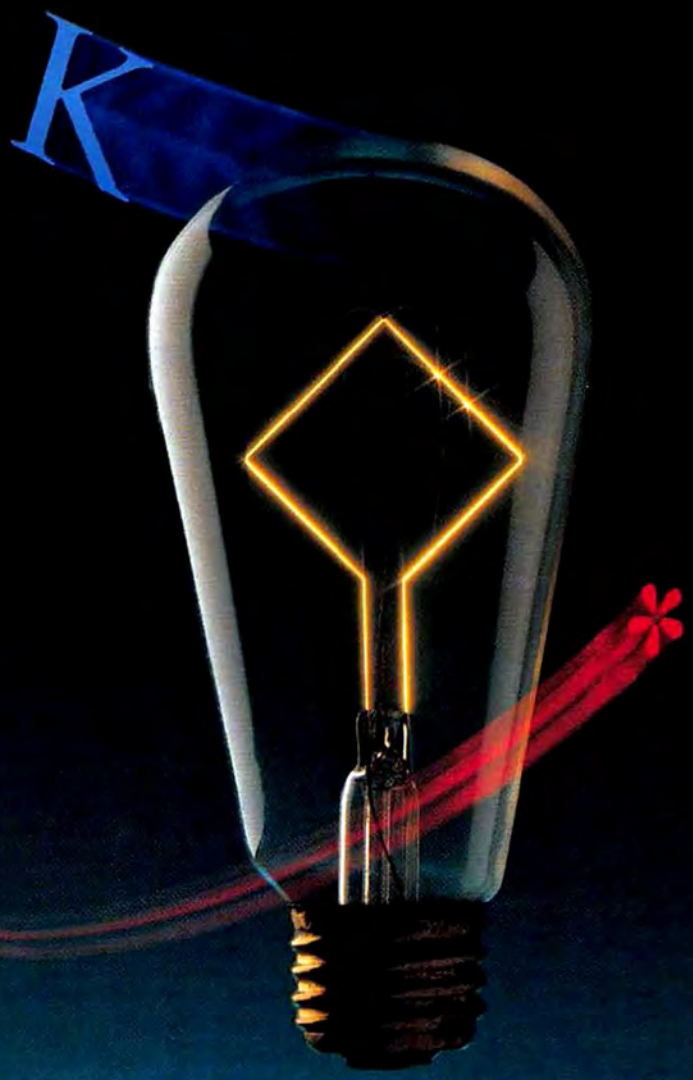

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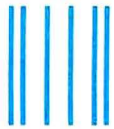

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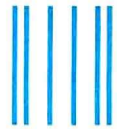

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lines to make the puzzle grid, she had drawn individual boxes that refused to align properly.

So although part of TechArt's business is training people to do their own newsletter or business documents in-house with PC publishing tools, a larger part of it is start-to-finish projects or clean-up work on a project someone started but couldn't finish.

Lacking the time to master the software, many customers have had TechArt design *PageMaker* templates for newsletters they wanted to produce in-house. For TechArt, it means steady—and easy—production jobs.

"Don't get me wrong," Burns says. "There's a big leap just in going from daisy wheel print to Times Roman on a laser printer. And sure, the pitfalls are there, but they aren't insurmountable." Burns hopes that *PageMaker* on the PC will be less temperamental than it has been on the Macintosh. She pins her hopes on the thought that *Microsoft Windows*—which will provide the Macintosh-like interface for *PageMaker* on the PC—will prove less quirky than the Macintosh operating environment.

But even expert use of flawless personal computer publishing tools won't guarantee good results, she notes. "A brochure still needs copy that makes sense. And we've certainly seen billions of ugly, poorly designed brochures. Now that the production process is easier, we'll probably see zillions. And most of them will be done at the very last minute."

(continues)

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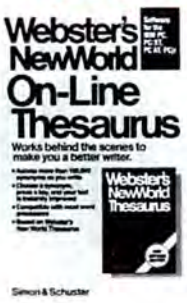

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On Saturday, Bill Hill called in the reserves: his wife Kathy, also a graphic designer, and a friend, Gail Blumberg, who was not only a graphic designer but also a *PageMaker* buff. After Gail rearranged the files on Bill's disks to eliminate the 'disk full' errors he was getting, they got down to serious work, with Bill issuing instructions, Gail running *PageMaker*, and Kathy doing a dash of design and a pinch of gofer work. Gail was pessimistic—finishing a newsletter in a weekend was a pretty unreasonable expectation when you hadn't made any real progress by noon Saturday—but Bill seemed downright cheerful.

It was only a front; Bill was worried enough for the both of them. It was midafternoon before a change in one article's layout stopped rippling through all the other articles. But by evening, when Bill called Silicon Compilers' Laurie Souza to postpone the final approval meeting on the newsletter, they had made real progress, and Bill had real hope.

Bill hadn't sold Souza on *PageMaker* because of quick turnaround times. It was a matter of cost. LaserWrite charged $10 an hour for the use of one of its Macintoshes and 50 cents a page for printing on the LaserWriter, "which made the cost of type practically free," says Bill. And since Bill figured he'd spend no more time designing and producing the newsletter on the Macintosh than he'd spend doing it by hand, they would save on pasteup costs, too.

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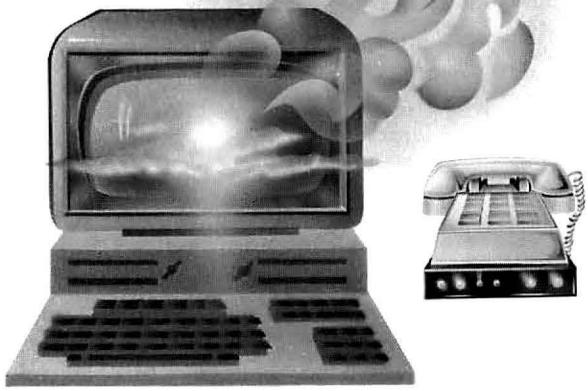

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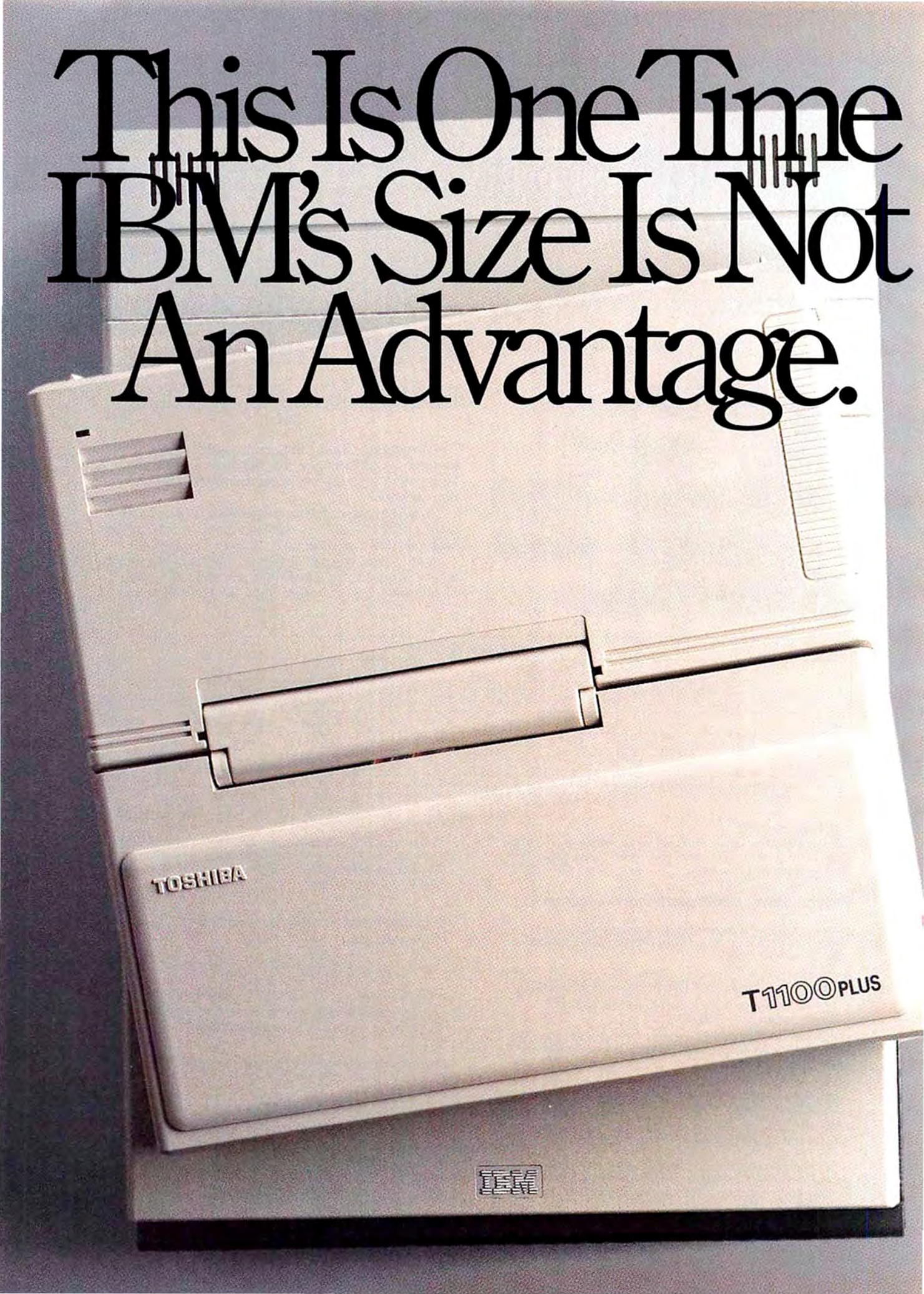

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That's one reason the new dual disk drive Toshiba T1100 PLUS has it all over the IBM PC[1] Convertible.

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And with theirs, if you want serial and parallel ports or a CRT port, you have to add add-ons.

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Before we go any further, we have to tell you there is one thing about the T1100 PLUS that's bigger than the IBM portable. It's maximum memory capacity. Ours is 640K of RAM. Theirs is only 512K of RAM.

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The Toshiba T1100 PLUS uses a high-contrast, high-resolution LCD display screen. It shows 25 lines by 80 characters of text with 640 x 200 resolution, tilts to any convenient viewing angle and folds flat when you use a CRT monitor.

The IBM portable also uses an LCD display screen. But it doesn't have as much contrast. It doesn't tilt to as many convenient angles. And you have to pull it off to hook up another monitor.

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Of course, the Toshiba T1100 PLUS is fully IBM-compatible. So you can run popular software like Lotus 1-2-3,[2] WordStar[3] and dBASE III.[4]

And, as we mentioned, it has two built-in 720K 3.5" disk drives. It also has an optional 1200-baud Hayes[5]-compatible internal modem and runs on built-in rechargeable batteries. Just like the IBM portable.

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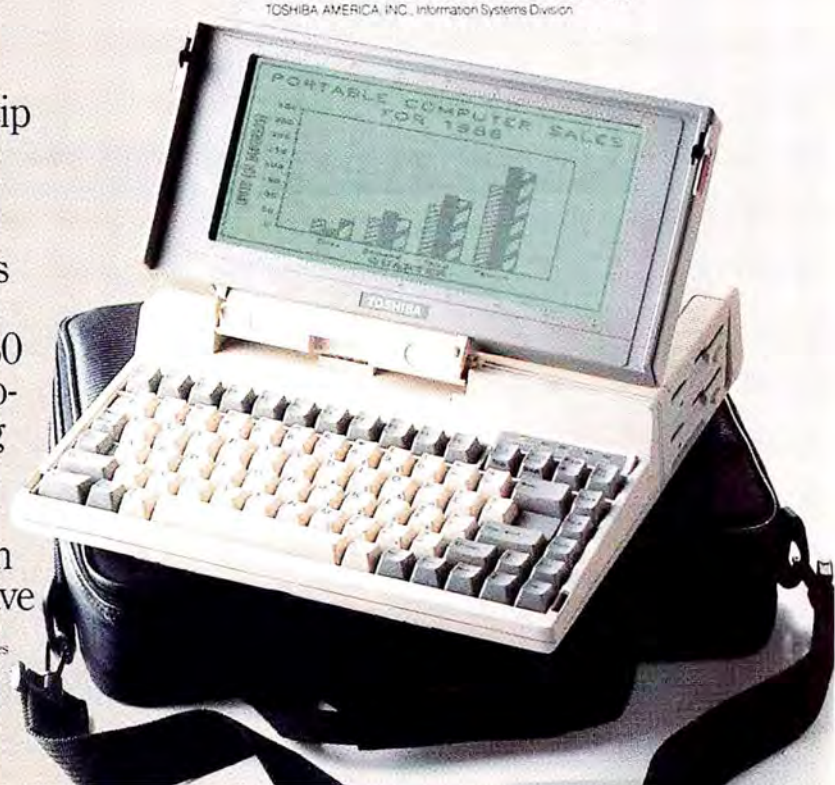

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a last-minute problem with Silicon Compilers' trade show booth (which Bill had also designed), and unexpected trouble in getting *PageMaker* to wrap text around photographs, they finished on time. When Gail left for home at midnight on Sunday, Bill was printing out the final, camera-ready pages.

Bill says he has no regrets about traveling the personal computer publishing route. "It was the best way to get it done. We would have paid huge rush charges to have type set in a single day during the week. It would have eaten up the whole budget, never mind the cost of my time and the pasteup." The only alternative would have been a newsletter produced on a daisy wheel printer—a church bulletin kind of effort—but that would have been unacceptable to Silicon Compilers.

Bill is still excited about the potential of *PageMaker*. He just hadn't expected a tool that was supposed to make the job so much easier to cause so much frustration.

As it was, the newsletter had a few flaws. Type reversed out of a heavy black line wasn't centered properly—a result of *PageMaker*'s regrettable what-you-see-isn't-exactly-what-you-get. The newsletter still needed the final polish that would bring it up to Bill's normal high standards. There just wasn't time. But the inaugural issue of *Compiled Times* is still good enough for Deanna Trimble at LaserWrite to keep a copy around to show off to potential customers. And Bill says the second one will be terrific. "This time," he says, "we're going to do it right."

Meanwhile, Silicon Compilers' has already missed the deadline for assigning stories for the second issue . . .

Kevin Strehlo is a freelance writer and PC World *columnist who hunts for PC tales from an office overlooking Silicon Valley.*

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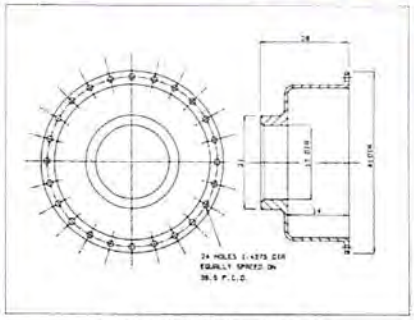

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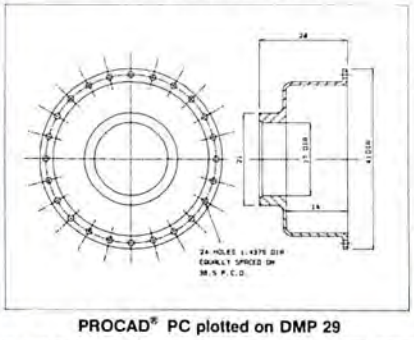

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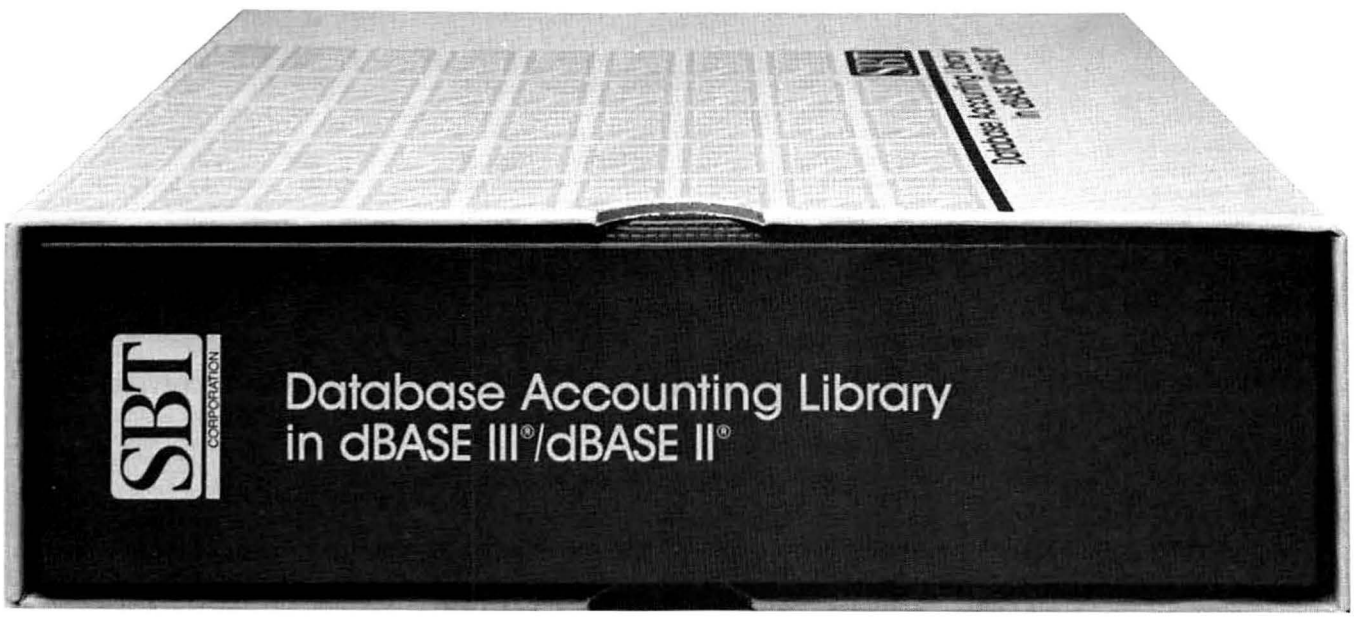

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Anyway, time was simply not an issue when Silicon Compilers hatched the idea for a newsletter. They had three months before the deadline—a trade show at which the company planned to announce some important new products. The one time-related consideration that came up, Bill says, was that with personal computer publishing tools, he could finish the newsletter and make last-minute changes without any trouble.

But by the time the project really got off the ground, only a couple of weeks remained before the show. Silicon Compilers had hired a freelance writer to produce the copy, but when she turned it in, they told her it was too flamboyant, too sales-oriented: Try again in a more journalistic vein, they suggested.

Meanwhile, Bill watched the clock tick.

Even when the writer's second draft came in and was approved by Silicon Compilers' top executives, Bill didn't get the copy. There was the usual hitch in telecommunications—LaserWrite was having trouble receiving the copy without dropped characters. The firm's president, Vince Dorn, blamed it on the writer's system, an old CP/M machine. For whatever mysterious reason, it was the Friday before the trade show's Tuesday opening that the copy, stripped of *WordStar*'s high-order bit and formatting characters, was finally on a Macintosh disk for Bill.

Turning that copy into an a professional-looking newsletter in two days took exceptional effort. Despite fierce rain, power outages,

(continues)

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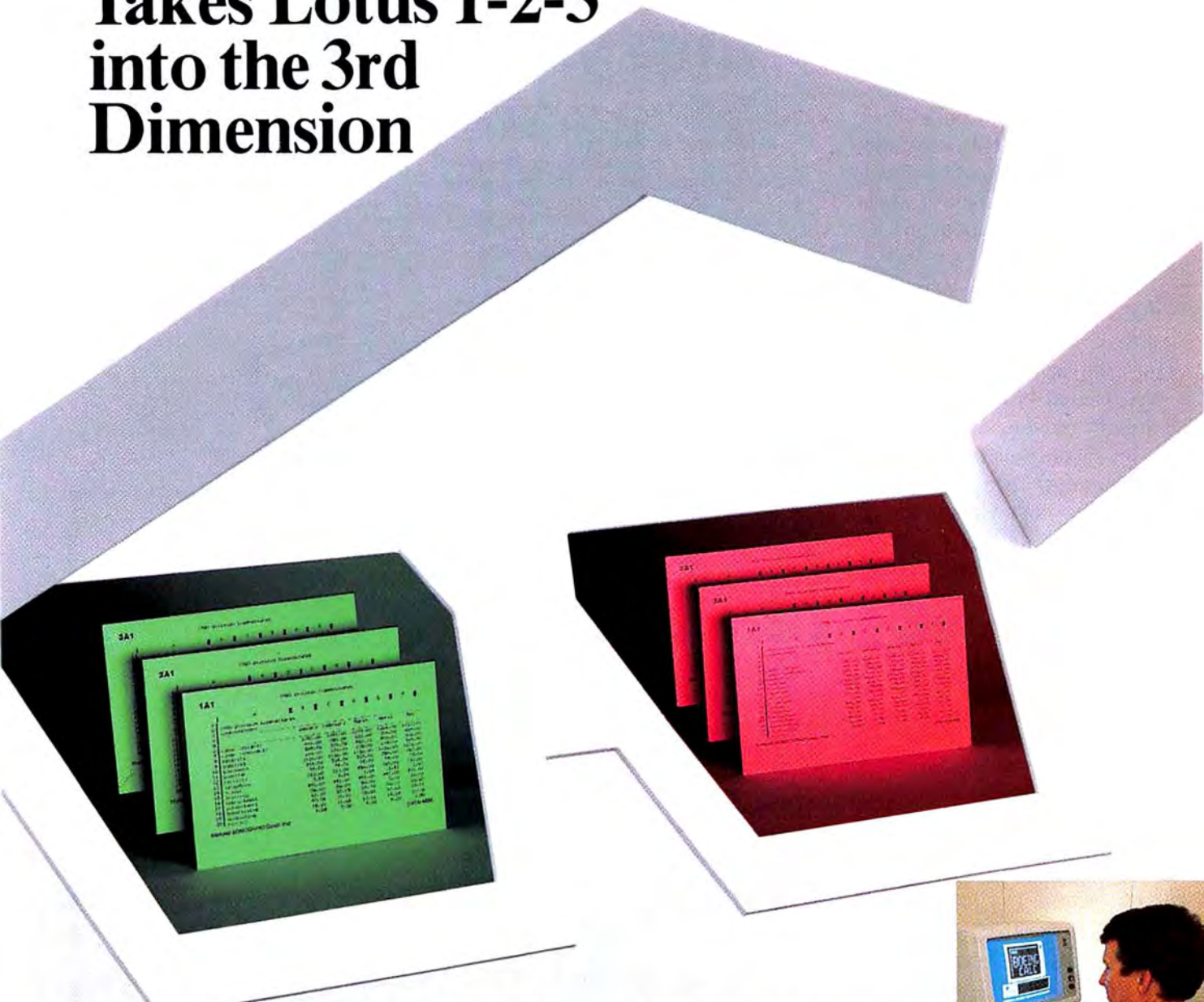

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- ☐ (A) Corporate or general management
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- ☐ (C) MIS manager
- ☐ (D) Professional
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- ☐ (3) 100-499
- ☐ (4) 500-999
- ☐ (5) 1000 or more

3. Information requested for:

- ☐ (A) Business applications
- ☐ (B) Home applications

4. Reason for inquiring:

- ☐ (1) Plan to buy–next 3 months
- ☐ (2) Plan to buy–4-6 months
- ☐ (3) Plan to buy–7-12 months
- ☐ (4) Plan to buy–beyond 12 months
- ☐ (5) Reference only

5. For how many IBM PCs and compatibles do you buy products? (Include both company and personal units, please.)

- ☐ (A) 1
- ☐ (B) 2-4
- ☐ (C) 5-9
- ☐ (D) 10 or more

6. How much do you expect to spend in the next 12 months for peripherals and other add-ons?

- ☐ Less than $250
- ☐ $250-$499
- ☐ $500-$999
- ☐ $1000 or more

7. How much do you plan to spend in the next 12 months for software?

- ☐ Less than $250
- ☐ $250-$499
- ☐ $500-$999
- ☐ $1000 or more

8. How much do you plan to spend in the next 12 months for personal computers?

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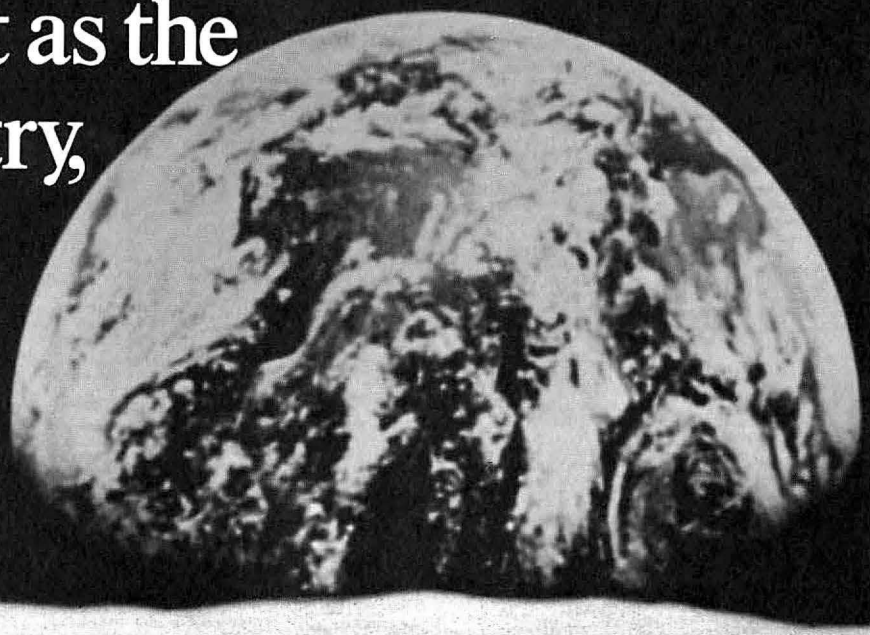

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Wednesday, July 9, 11:00-11:50, Room A
PC EXPO Keynote Address
Wednesday, July 9, 12:00-12:50, Room A
Compatibility Issues in Enhancement Products
Wednesday, July 9, 12:00-12:50, Room C
Personal Computer Training in Corporate America
Wednesday, July 9, 12:00-12:50, Room D
The Information Center—A Case History
Wednesday, July 9, 12:00-12:50, Room E
Avoiding Computer Nightmares
Wednesday, July 9, 1:00-2:50, Room A
Site Licensing Panel
Wednesday, July 9, 1:00-1:50, Room C
Multi-Processor Micro-Systems Challenge Minicomputers
Wednesday, July 9, 1:00-2:50, Room D
The Direct-Sales Dilemma
Wednesday, July 9, 1:00-1:50, Room E
Purchasing Decisions Using LAN Standards and Benchmarks
Wednesday, July 9, 1:30-3:30, Room B
A Technical Presentation by IBM, for Independent Hardware and Software Developers, Concerning IBM PC Products and Enhancements
Wednesday, July 9, 2:00-2:50, Room C
Microcomputer Service and Repair
Wednesday, July 9, 2:00-2:50, Room E
Managing Personal Computing: What's Hot, What's Not
Wednesday, July 9, 3:00-4:30, Room A
Graphics: What's Now, What's Next
Wednesday, July 9, 3:00-4:30, Room C
Voice Recognition: Less Talk and More Action
Wednesday, July 9, 3:00-4:30, Room D
Choosing a Local Area Network: A Multi-Faceted Decision
Wednesday, July 9, 3:00-4:30, Room E
Issues and Alternatives of Micro-to-Mainframe Connections
Thursday, July 10, 10:00-12:30, Room B
A Technical Presentation by IBM (see Wed. July 9, 1:30)
Thursday, July 10, 11:00-12:50, Room A
Portable Computers: Solutions Finally Finding Application
Thursday, July 10, 11:00-11:50, Room C
The Role of Management in Securing Computer Systems
Thursday, July 10, 11:00-12:50, Room D
Migration Patch and Time Bombs
Thursday, July 10, 11:00-12:50, Room E
The Write Stuff: A Word processing Panel Discussion
Thursday, July 10, 12:00-12:50, Room C
Customized Microcomputer-Based Information Systems
Thursday, July 10, 1:00-2:50, Room A
Information Management for Corporate Decision Makers
Thursday, July 10, 1:00-1:50, Room C
The System/36 and Networked PCs: A Hands-On Comparison
Thursday, July 10, 1:00-2:50, Room D
Electronic Printing: A Demystifying Look at The Options
Thursday, July 10, 1:00-1:50, Room E
Forces of Change in the Microcomputer Industry
Thursday, July 10, 1:30-3:30, Room B
A Technical Presentation by IBM (see Wed. July 9, 1:30)
Thursday, July 10, 2:00-2:50, Room C
Automation of the System Development Process on the PC
Thursday, July 10, 2:00-2:50, Room E
Software Buying Plans of Corporate PC Users
Thursday, July 10, 3:00-4:30, Room A
Multi-User Systems and LANs: How They Fit Into a Company's Plans
Thursday, July 10, 3:00-4:30, Room C
Micro-to-Mainframe Communications: The Industry Catches Up
Thursday, July 10, 3:00-4:30, Room D
On-Line Meetings: A Telecommunications Application With a Competitive Edge
Thursday, July 10, 3:00-4:30, Room E
Project Management Using Microcomputers
Friday, July 10, 10:30-12:30, Room B
A Technical Presentation by IBM (see Wed. July 9, 1:30)
Friday, July 11, 11:00-11:50, Room A
Graphics In Word Processing and Database Applications
Friday, July 11, 11:00-12:50, Room C
Presentation on the State of the Industry
Friday, July 11, 11:00-11:50, Room D
Corporate Training: An Integrated Approach
Friday, July 11, 11:00-11:50, Room E
Office Automation from the Bottom Up
Friday, July 11, 12:00-12:50, Room A
Computer Contracts—Upgrades, Support, and Service
Friday, July 11, 12:00-12:50, Room D
PCs and Expert Systems: Costs/Benefits
Friday, July 11, 12:00-12:50, Room E
Handling Dissimilar Data Using a Chart of Accounts
Friday, July 11, 1:00-2:20, Room A
What Makes an Information Center Tick?
Friday, July 11, 1:00-1:50, Room C
Computer Security: Is Your System Safe and Sound?
Friday, July 11, 1:00-2:20, Room D
LANs: Assessing User Needs
Friday, July 11, 1:00-2:20, Room E
Micro-to-Minicomputer Communications: An Overview
Friday, July 11, 2:30-4:00, Room A
Beyond Keyboard Entry: Options in Data Input
Friday, July 11, 2:30-4:00, Room C
CAD/CAM, Candidly
Friday, July 11, 2:30-4:00, Room D
Memory Storage: Past Dreams/Future Visions
Friday, July 11, 2:30-4:00, Room E
The Revolution in PC Publishing

NEW YORK

JULY 9-11, 1986

Jacob K. Javits Convention Center of New York

The biggest trade show and conference ever for corporate buyers and resellers of PC-compatibles!

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JACOB K. JAVITS CONVENTION CENTER JULY 9-11 1986

PC EXPO

PC EXPO attendees must be qualified. Please check one box only in *each* of Fields I and III or Fields II and III. (Minors may not register.)

TRADE RESELLERS—YOUR COMPANY'S MAIN BUSINESS ACTIVITY

I
1 ☐ Computer consultant
2 ☐ Computer dealer/dist.
3 ☐ Computer OEM
4 ☐ Office products dealer
5 ☐ Service vendor
6 ☐ Software developer
7 ☐ Systems house
8 ☐ Turnkey vendor
9 ☐ Value adder
10 ☐ Other (specify) _____

CORPORATE VOLUME BUYERS—YOUR COMPANY'S MAIN BUSINESS ACTIVITY

II
A ☐ Accounting firm
B ☐ Advertising
C ☐ Banking
D ☐ Communications
E ☐ Construction/Architects
F ☐ Credit
G ☐ Education
H ☐ Engineering
I ☐ Government/Military
J ☐ Hospital
K ☐ Hotel
L ☐ Industrial design
M ☐ Insurance
N ☐ Law office
O ☐ Management consultant
P ☐ Manufacturing
Q ☐ Publishing
R ☐ Real estate
S ☐ Research/ Development
T ☐ Retail sales
U ☐ Securities broker
V ☐ Transportation (all)
W ☐ Utility
X ☐ Wholesale/Retail sales
Y ☐ Other specify _____

YOUR JOB FUNCTION (Check main one only)

III
AA ☐ Accountant
BB ☐ Administrator
CC ☐ Consultant
DD ☐ Corporate officer
EE ☐ Creative arts (all)
FF ☐ Designer (all)
GG ☐ DP/WP manager/ operator
HH ☐ Engineer (all)
II ☐ MIS Dir./Mgr.
JJ ☐ Programmer
KK ☐ Purchasing
LL ☐ Sales/marketing
MM ☐ Scientist
NN ☐ Securities financial analyst
OO ☐ Service technician
PP ☐ Systems analyst
QQ ☐ Other (specify) _____

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Mail check payable to PC EXPO with completed registration form to: PC EXPO, P.O. Box 1026, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632-2705.

PC World Directory

PC World Directory *is a comprehensive listing, by category, of products and services for the IBM PC, look-alikes, and compatibles. It provides rapid access to the burgeoning PC marketplace for both readers and advertisers.*

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Advertisers may choose among categories already in use, or they may create their own. Display advertisers can cross-reference their current ad to the PC World Directory *for increased exposure at low cost.*

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Books

DOS Shell Kit
Non-technical, 100 pg. tutorial helps you use DOS to assemble a menu-driven, automated & organized file structure on hard disks. Disk version has prewritten files. Also covers batch files, key assignments, file protection, etc. Supplements DOS manual to version 3.2. By author & *PC World* writer Tom Sheldon. Bk: $12; Disk & Bk: $25. $1.50 s/h. Visa/MC. *Sheldon Publishing, 789 Casiano Dr., Santa Barbara, CA 93105, 805/687-0865/964-2480*

WordStar in English I
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The definitive guide to the LaserJet and LaserJet Plus. Find out how to create manuals, forms, worksheets, mailing labels, envelopes, math symbols, music scores, foreign languages, logos, drawings, bar codes, and fancy fonts. $24.95 plus $3.50 s/h. CA residents add 6.5% tax. Check/M.O./Visa/MC. *Peachpit Press, 2110 Marin Ave., Berkeley, CA 94707, 415/524-0184*

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For Entrepreneurs

Legal forms for hardware/software developers. Employee agreement, non-disclosure form, contracts for sale (hardware and/or software), consulting, development, hardware/software maintenance, non-competition, copyright notices, software licenses, project delivery & more. Complete, documented, modifiable. $50. *Waters Publishing, 8235 Douglas #1000, Dallas, TX 75225, 800/628-2828, ext. 539*

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U.S.-made Turner Hall Card comes with 256K RAM installed & clock/calendar with battery back-up. Even beginners can install. Free software includes print spooler & RAM disk emulator. Designed for IBM PC, XT, Portable PC & Compaq. Fits in short slot (only 5 inches long). 30-day money back guarantee. *Turner Hall Publishing, 10201 Torre Ave., Cupertino, CA 95014, 800/556-1234, ext. 526; 800/441-2345, ext. 526 (CA)*

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FiXT boots from most popular Hard Disks–DAVONG, TECMAR, IOMEGA, GT LAKES, etc. Adds XT-like BIOS interface to your disk for PC. Security, multiple volumes, removable media support optional. No-slot plug-in installation. Specify controller & computer with order. $80-$110 + $3 shpg, CA tax. *Golden Bow Systems, P.O. Box 3039, San Diego, CA 92103, 619/298-9349*

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We install 768K of RAM on your IBM-PC1 or PC2 system board. 768K installed w/3-month warranty–$350; 768K IBM w/no down time motherboard exchange–$388 (requires deposit); DO-IT-YOURSELF-KITS: 640K XT KIT–$115 (NO SOLDERING), 768K-PC1 or PC2 KIT–$250 (REQUIRES SOLDERING), add $7 Kits, $12 syst/bds. s/h. *Add-MEM, 22151 Redwood Rd., Castro Valley, CA 94546, 415/886-5443*

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IBM Mailing Lists
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IBM PC Mailing Lists
IBM PC end users, business users, VARs, retailers, etc. Geographic sorts with a fast turnaround & low minimum order. *Foothill Marketing, P.O. Box S-3464, Carmel, CA 93921, 408/373-8373*

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- Open For Business™ I & II–entry-level accounting solutions for DOS & the Macintosh.

Open Systems, Inc., 6477 City West Parkway, Eden Prairie, MN 55344, 800/328-2276

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Complete menu-driven user-friendly payroll. Calculates FWT, SWT, FICA, 4 misc. deductions. Prints paychecks, W2s, 941. Hourly & salary, manual or automatic. IBM PC & most compatibles. $49.95 + $3 shipping. Visa/MC/chk. 30 day money back guarantee. *Joe Lynn Computer Services, 23501 W. Gagne Lane, Plainfield, IL 60544, 800/243-8563, 815/436-4477*

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CPA Review with Pass or Refund Program. CPE Hours. Diagnostics for CIA, CMA, CPA exams. Personnel Evaluator. Recruitment. IBM PCs or compatibles. Individual, office & college packages available. Advanced Software for Advancing Accountants. *MicroMash, P.O. Box 6512, Huntsville, TX 77340, 800/241-9700, 409/295-1597 (TX)*

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Digitan Systems Inc., 5007 16th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11204, 718/436-3777

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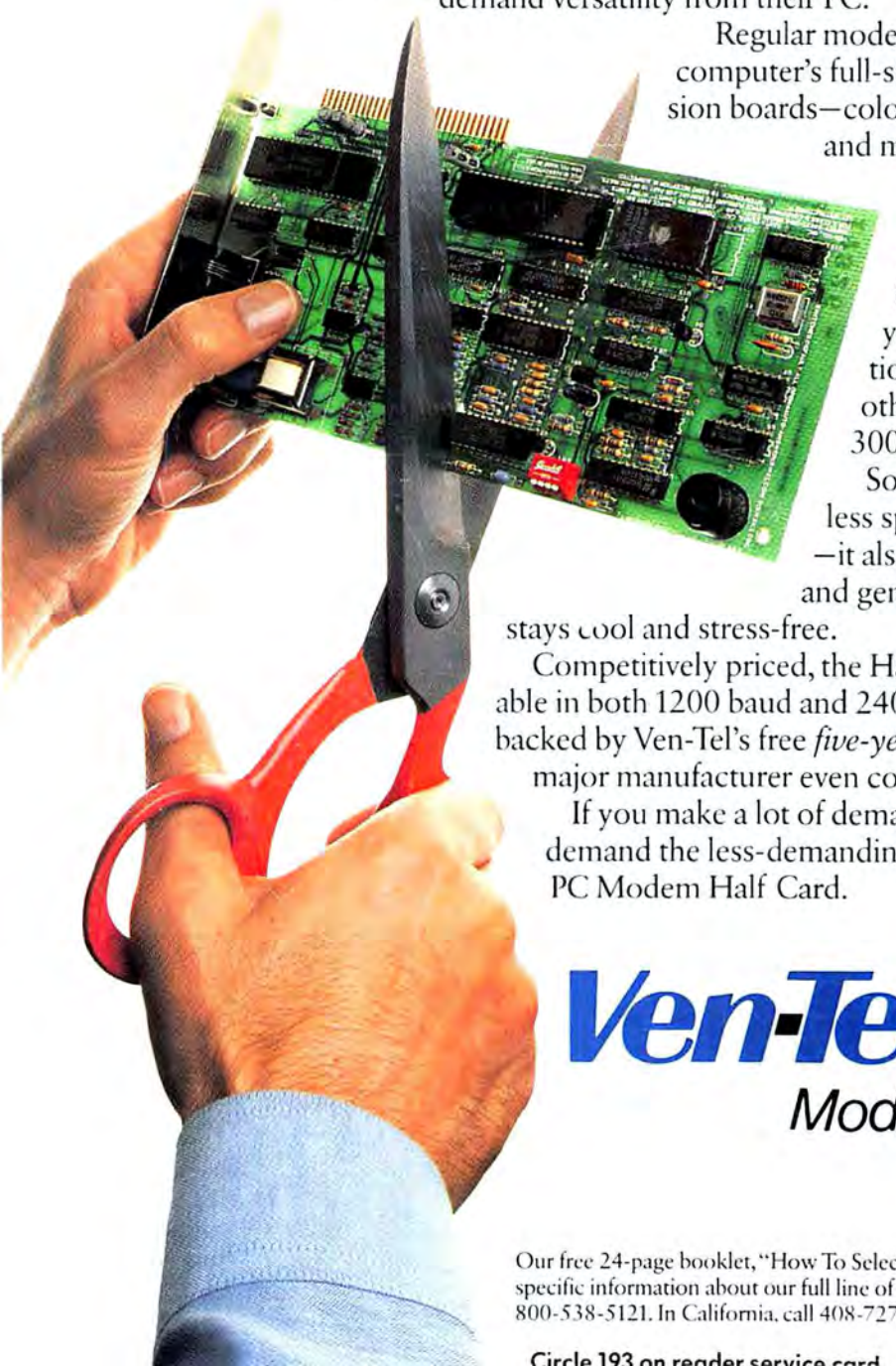

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