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## BOTTOM LINES

# THE FAXES the problems of the

in—it seems no home office is complete without one of these ubiquitous machines. And for good reason. Faster and cheaper than overnight delivery services, a fax machine can get your important correspondence to the right person at the right time.

In the race to fill this growing market, **Dataquest**, a market research firm based in San Jose, California, named **Sharp Electronics** as the number 1 seller of fax machines in the United States for the third year in a row. Sharp, headquartered in Mahwah, New Jersey, sold 350,000 units last year—good for 21½ percent of the market.

Sharp will try to meet the demands of the plain-paper fax market with its new FO-5200 model, which incorporates laser technology. Hewlett-Packard has revamped its own lasers with its introduction of the LaserJet III, an eight-pages-perminute printer that retails for \$2,395. This successor to the venerable Laser-Jet II uses the company's Resolution Enhancement technology for improved print quality and claims to offer faster graphics printing-a welcome feature for home office users who have fallen asleep waiting for graphics to print from the LaserJet II.

Hewlett-Packard also said it will release Macintosh versions of the LaserJet III, IID, and IIP printers sometime in the second quarter of 1990. The firm will continue to take orders for the LaserJet II through September 1990.

No matter what kind of computer you own, if you want to make money with it at home, The American Institute of Computer Technology has published a short, informative book by John R. Mortz called *Make Money Moonlighting*.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Mortz says, 20 percent of American workers earn money moonlighting, and those who use a computer earn the best wages. The author goes on to proclaim that the best 11 areas for earning money with your computer are word processing, desktop publishing, shareware development, computer consulting, computer training, computer repair, computer services broker, computer seminars, bulletin board systems, computer equipment rentals, and employment agencies. For more information about this book, write the Institute at 30 North Raymond Avenue, Suite 714, P.O. Box 2615, Pasadena, California 91102-2615, or call (818) 793-8429.

A few other "bests" were named recently at the Software Publishers Association Excellence in Software Awards, held March 27 in San Diego, California, Named as Best Personal



The LaserJet III offers improved print quality and speed at a lower price.

Productivity/Creativity program, Intuit's Quicken 3.0 furthered its excellent reputation. The award for Best Business Application: Numeric or Data Orientation went to Borland International's Quattro Pro, while Hewlett-Packard's graphical operating environment, New Wave, took the Best Business Application: Graphic or Display Orientation honor.

If you've already set up your home office, you may be missing the

camaraderie that comes with working the old 9 to 5. Well, stop fretting because you can choose from two organizations designed for home-based entrepreneurs: the American Home Business Association (397 Post Road, Darien, Connecticut 06820) and the National Association for the Cottage Industry (P.O. Box 14850, Chicago, Illinois 60614). So pick up a pencil and join the club.

On the subject of sharing, how would you like to link a couple of PCs within a network for less than \$100? Networks don't immediately leap to mind when you think of a home office. But if you're one of those people out there who has bought an upgraded PC and is wondering what you'll do with your old one, here's an answer.

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You can share more than a printer if you log on to the Home Office/Small Business Roundtable on the GEnie online information service. Topics ranging from tax advice to setting fees are discussed in free-ranging electronic conversations that make you feel like part of a larger group—and you should. The U.S Chamber of Commerce counts more than 10 million businesses that list a home address with the IRS.

If you have your own information to share with COMPUTE!'s Home Office Direct readers, I'd like to hear from you. Drop a line to COMPUTE! Feedback—Home Office Direct, P.O. Box 5406, Greensboro, North Carolina 27403.

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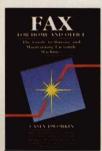
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## CONVERSATIONS

#### KEITH FERRELL

he year's most compelling computer buzzword—
multimedia—has hardware and software companies scrambling to find applications, develop products, generate excitement, and even define the term. No company is more engaged in these activities than IBM. And few people are more involved than IBM's Peter Blakeney, manager of Market Support—MultiMedia Solutions.

"Our definition of multimedia is the incorporation of still image, sound, motion video, graphics and animation, and touch into a personal or desktop system," Blakeney says.

"There is a broader definition [of touch]," Blakeney says, "which encompasses new input mechanisms other than a keyboard. It might be a stylus on a pad or gestures that modify action on the screen, as well as spoken voice. In general, touch means new methods of interacting with the computer."

Blakeney sees several areas ripe for multimedia impact. "One [area] is training," he says. "There is an enormous requirement across the world to retrain the work force. The training ranges all the way from basic skills and remediation, for workers who are not getting an appropriate education coming out of the K-12 environment, to [training for] those who are being retrained for new skills and also [for] management employees."

"The second area," Blakeney says, "is the educational institutions themselves, K-12 and higher. Here, multimedia uses the techniques of motion video and sound to enhance the traditional text, and even graphics presentation causes the [educational] efficacy to explode exponentially."

Such a multimedia explosion may be necessary in our classrooms, Blakeney says. "The children who are coming up through our schools today deal in an entirely different grammatical context than you and I did—and it's caused by television, radio, and music. There's a new grammar, and the grammar that they're used to now is video images: MTV."

Multimedia can also save schools money. "Chemistry is an example," Blakeney says. "To be able to do experiments interactively without caustic chemicals, very expensive chemicals, or environmentally damaging chemicals can yield great savings."

Multimedia devices will also appear outside the classroom, in the public information arena. "This involves the placement of interactive multimedia displays in kiosks or in accessible locations in malls, lobbies of office buildings, and cafeterias where either the general public or a specific audience can touch the screen or access information easily, without being computer literate or application literate," Blakeney explains.

In Tampa, Florida, a pilot pro-

gram involving public kiosks allows citizens to find out where to get a marriage license, how to lodge a complaint against city hall, and how to gain access to other services.

Retail business will also feel the impact of multimedia. "The fourth arena is what we call merchandising," Blakeney says. "The placement of kiosks on the retail floor will be used to supplement as well as replace employees in merchandising products."

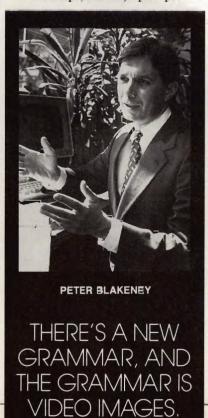
Multimedia's greatest impact may come in the way we use our computers. "The fifth arena," Blakeney says, "consists of masking complexity, increasing ease of [computer] use. You use icons, still images, and touch to mask the complexity of using the computer. The user does not have to understand the nomenclature of the computer in order to navigate through the computer."

Blakeney also believes that multimedia will become a home technology, but that it may take awhile.

It's in our schools, however, where multimedia's impact may exert the largest long-term influence. Blakeney sees computers and multimedia at the heart of the transformation that will soon sweep through our educational institutions.

"Everybody who's 35 years old or older grew up in what was essentially an Industrial Age educational system—a system that provided education by presentation, recitation, and regurgitation of information," he says. "That doesn't teach people to correlate or analyze information; it teaches students to store facts and repeat them."

Those days, Blakeney argues, are gone. "The new paradigm is that we need to be able to teach children to correlate, analyze, and draw conclusions. It's an *informational* education system as opposed to an industrial education system. That's what multimedia does. It allows us to present information in a variety of ways. The user can explore the information, as opposed to simply receiving it, repeating and regurgitating it."



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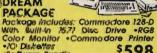


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54Mb Seagate	31499	\$1939	37770	31881

## NEW PRODUCTS

#### LIZ CASEY AND MICKEY MCLEAN

#### 100 Percent

Two educational packages from Gamco Industries, *Percent* and *Percent Word Problems*, teach students about percentages. *Percent's* first lesson contains six drills on converting fractions and decimals, percents greater than 100, and percents with one or two decimal places. The second lesson offers practice in finding a percent of a number, finding the number when the percent is known, and mixed drills. Students have access to help screens at each level except review.

With Percent Word Problems, students can choose from five different lessons, including two-step problems and find the percent. Teachers and parents can control the difficulty level so the student focuses on the word problem and not the calculations.

Both packages are available on 51/4- and 31/2-inch disks for the IBM PC and compatibles, Apple II series, and Commodore 64/128. All versions retail for \$44.95 each.

Gamco Industries, P.O. Box 1911, Big Spring, TX 79721

Reader Service Number 200.

#### **Travels with Jack**

Accolade has released the third in a series of golf simulations created in association with Jack Nicklaus Productions. Jack Nicklaus Presents the International Course Disk is a supplementary disk to Accolade's Jack Nicklaus' Greatest 18 Holes of Major Championship Golf. The company's first add-on course disk was Jack Nicklaus Presents the Major Championship Courses of 1989, released last year.

The new collection offers computer golfers the opportunity to play on three simulated courses based on championship layouts designed by Nicklaus in Australia, Japan, and England.

The Australian Golf Club in Kensington, the frequent site of the Australian Open, is the oldest and one of the toughest courses in Australia. Saint Creek Golf Club in Nagoya, Japan, one of Nicklaus's more recent design projects, just opened in October 1989. St. Mellion Golf and Country Club in Cornwall, England—an American-style championship layout with streams, lakes, undulating fairways, and large, fast greens—opened in 1986.

The IBM PC and compatibles version of Jack Nicklaus Presents the International Course Disk has a suggested retail price of \$21.95. Versions for the Apple IIGS, Commodore 64, Amiga, and Macintosh are scheduled for release later this year.

Accolade, 550 S. Winchester Blvd., Suite

200, San Jose, CA 95128 Reader Service Number 201.

#### Winning the War—Again

Revolution'76 from Britannica Software takes you back to 1776 and the beginnings of the American Revolution. You must compel the British leaders to concede defeat even though the redcoat forces far surpass your own colonial forces.

This historical simulation presents you with the same problems the American revolutionaries faced, including selecting generals, raising and maintaining an army, keeping troops united, and planning strategies to defeat the British. It also tests your diplomatic skills as you try to develop European allies without entwining the colonies in European politics.

Revolution'76, developed for age 11 and older, is available for the IBM PC and compatibles with 640K and for the Apple IIGs. Each version retails for \$49.95.

Britannica Software, 345 Fourth St., San Francisco, CA 94107

Reader Service Number 202.

#### **Notebook Power**

Toshiba has introduced the 80C286based 7.9-pound T1200XE notebooksize personal computer. The T1200XE features 12-MHz clock speed, a 20MB hard drive, a 1.44MB-3½-inch floppy drive, and one megabyte of RAM expandable to five megabytes.

Its 25-millisecond hard drive and PS/2-compatible floppy disk drive reads and writes both 1.44MB and 720K formats. The blue-on-white side-lit supertwist liquid crystal display has 640 × 400 double-scan CGA compatibility and measures 7¾ × 4½ inches. The full-function 82-key keyboard has 12 function keys and 8 dedicated cursor-control keys.



The 80C286-based T1200XE is Toshiba's most powerful notebook-size PC.

The battery-operated T1200XE comes equipped with a 12-ounce removable nickel-cadmium battery that recharges in three hours. A nonremovable nickel-cadmium battery backs up system memory. Battery-conservation features include a sleep mode and a user-designated hard drive and display shutdown, which goes into effect after a period of keyboard inactivity.

Other features include serial, parallel, RGB, external 5¼-inch floppy drive, and keypad ports. Options include 2MB memory cards, an internal 2400-baud modem, a 17-key numeric keypad, a battery pack, a three-pack battery recharger, an auto adapter, and a carrying case.

The T1200XE comes with MS-DOS 4.01 and the PC Kwik Power Pak. It also has a hypertext online disk-resident T1200XE reference and an MS-DOS 4.01 manual.

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lumn newsletters.

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ADDRESS-O-MATIC (127) Grabs names and addresses from letters and automatical-

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FACING THE EMPIRE (290) NEW! Great

intergalactic adventure game.

RETURN TO KROZ (291) Unique arcade

RETURN TO KROZ (291) Unique arcade-adventure game. Sequel to prize-winning Kingdom of Kroz.
PINBALL ART (295) NEW! Fast-paced high-quality pinball games. Requires CGA.
CRIME LAB (279) Great, unique graphic murder mystery game. CGA or EGA.
CAPTAIN COMIC (260) Commercial quality arcade game. Excellent! EGA or VGA.
PRACILE AN LONDON (271) Surea craphics

arcade game. Excellent! EGA or VGA.

DRACULA IN LONDON (271) Super graphics
adventure game. Great fun. CGA or EGA.

NINJA (201) Commercial quality karate
arcade game. Neat graphics. CGA, EGA.

3-D CHESS (205) Superb 3-D game. Loaded
with options. Use wany graphics card.
PC-RAILROAD (210) Trains run on readymade routes or design your own. You
have total control. CGA required.

CARD GAMES (214) Toraw Poker. Hearts.

CARD GAMES (214) Draw Poker, Hearts,

CARD GAMES (214) Draw Poker, Hearts, Canasta and Bridge.

ARCADE GAMES #5 (220) Rockets, Snake, Xonix, Nemon, Spacewar. Needs CGA. FAVORITE GAMES (221) Pango, Obert, Frogger, Packman, 3-Demon. CGA. GAMBLING GAMES (229) Blackjack, Poker, Roulette, Craps. CGA required.

BOARD GAMES #1 (230) Monopoly and Risk. Requires CGA.

EGA ARCADE GAMES #1 (251) Aldo, EgaBreakout, Egaroids. Needs EGA. EGA ARCADE GAMES #2 (252) Snarfs and

Ega-Star Trek. Requires EGA.

BOARD GAMES #3 (245) Scrabble, Concentration, Boris, Seek & Sink. Needs color

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL (203) Super baseball game. Neat graphics. CGA. EGA GOLF (250) 18 holes of the best

EGA GOLF (250) 18 holes of the best scenery available. Requires EGA. SIMBASE (206, 207) (2 disks) Great baseball simulation with detailed analysis. BASS TOUR (258) New! Feature-packed fishing game. Select rod, reel, bait, everything. Needs CGA or EGA. BOARD GAMES #2 (231) Checkers, Chess, Dominoes, Backgammon. Needs CGA. ADVENTURE GAMES #2 (248) Empire & McMurphy's Mansion.

STRATEGIC WAR GAMES (226) War on the Sea, Tank & African Desert Campaign.

ARCADE SPORTS GAMES (223) PC-Pool,

ARCADE SPONTS GAMES (22) POPOOI, PC-Royal & Archeny, CGA-or EGA.. ARCADE GAMES #1 (216) Spiders, Tank Wars & Disk Crash. Requires CGA. EGA FOOTBALL (257) New! You control all the great action. Plays like a real foot-ball game. Needs EGA.

#### UTILITIES

VIRUSCAN (403) NEW! Best, easiest virus protection. Updated to catch new virus. NEWSPACE (410) NEW! Was commercial. Terrific automatic hard disk space saver

DBS-KAT (425) NEW! Great disk cataloging system w/no data entry. 384K, DOS 3.0 +. SCREEN CAPTURE (445) NEW! Capture screens in CGA, EGA, VGA & save to disk.

PC-BROWSE (492) NEW! Incredible file & text search from makers of PC-Write. Hypertext, Cut/Paste, much more. 640K. LIST (417) Read text files on screen. All-

BATCH FILE MENUING (419) Easily add

professional menus to batch files.

BAKER'S DOZEN (406) Powerful package of 14 utilities from Jim Button. Top rated CGA SIMULATOR (433) Run most CGA programs on Hercules compatible mono-

HARD DISK UTILITIES (437) Very useful.

#### **MENUS and DESKTOP**

POWER DESK (606) NEW! Superb desktop

POWER DESK tout NEW! Superb desktop manager & complete office system.

POWER MENU (702) Excellent, easy menuing program. Needs hard disk.

TREEVIEW (706) New! Our favorite DOS command shell with pull down menus.

#### WORD PROCESSING

HELPPERFECT (801) for 5.0, (802) for 4.1 & 4.2. NEW! Incredible must-have Word-Perfect utility. Pull-down menus with 70

WORDPERFECT 5.0 TOOLS (841) ASCII to WP5 format converter plus other super utilities to improve performance. PC-WRITE 3.03 (809-811) (3 disks) New! Top

rated w/spell checker.
WORDPERFECT CLIPART (843, 844) (2

disks) Over 180 great graphics.

PRO-SCRIBE (822) New! Really improves

impact and clarity of your writing.
WORDPERFECT MACROS (831) for 5.0, (837) for 4.2. 70 great macros templates.

#### **SPREADSHEET**

AS EASY AS 4.0 (902) NEW! Great Lotus 123

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clone. Latest with 8,192x256 grid. Does almost every Lotus function.

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#### DATABASE

dLITE (1031) Amazing dBASE multi-utility incl. cut & paste, and much more.

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Easy, powerful database. PC-Magazine said it "performs like a thoroughbred."

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dFLIPPER (1025) New! Directly edit dBASE & compatible files from DOS. PC-FILE+ 2.0 (1009-1011) (3 disks) Jim But-

ton's relational database masterpiece.

#### CREATIVITY

CREATIVITY PACKAGE (3000-3002) (3 disks) Unique, 3-phase pkg. Computer brainstorming unleashes your creativity.

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#### **PROGRAMMING**

ADVBAS (1413) Best Basic programming aid. Advanced function library, windows. A86 and D96 (1403-1404) (2 disks) Finest macro assembler & debugger. Fast!

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ICONVERT (1600) NEW! Powerful graphics file converter. Converts between 16 formats. Needs graphics, 2 floppies or hard disk. PC-KEY DRAW (1607-1609) (3 disks) Power-ful drawing/CAD program with clip art. CGA, EGA, or HERC w/CGA emulation.

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Requires graphics card.
VGA PAINT (1622) New! Graphics/drawing
in 248 colors. Requires VGA, 450K.
PRINTMASTER GRAPHICS (1602, 1603) (2
disks) 1,000 great graphics for Printmaster.
PRINT SHOP GRAPHICS (1663, 1664) (2
disks) New! 1,000 graphics for Print Shop.

#### HOUSEHOLD

ATRECIPES (1831) NEW! Computer chef with PC-BARTENDER (1823) Professionally mix

GARDERNER'S ASSISTANT (1809) Plan your

garden in every detail.

VIDEO LIBRARIAN (1812) Catalogs your video tape library. Menu-driven. SHOPPERS ASSISTANT (1816) Easy grocery shopping and coupon file

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WORDPERFECT LEARNING SYSTEM (353, 354) for 4.2. (355, 356) for 5.0.

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SPANISH TUTOR (351) 3 powerful programs to help you learn Spanish.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

PRIVATE ACCESS (1718) NEW! Connects PC to answering & FAX machines, & pagers. PROCOMMI (1700, 1701) (2 disks) Newest. All features, menu-driven. Top rated.

#### **BUSINESS & FINANCE**

POSTAL CONSULTANT (8934) NEW! Computerized U.S. Postal rules guide

FREIGHT+ (8904, 8905) (2 disks) NEW! Top rated commercial UPS shipping system. Complete, fully functional. Re-quires DOS 3.0+, 380K, hard disk.

FINANCE MANAGER II (8917-8922) (6 disks) NEW! Best business accounting. G/L, A/P, A/R, Payroll. 2 floppies or hard disk, ACTIVE LIFE (509, 510) (2 disks) NEW! Best ever appointment/scheduling program. Unique features in a graphic interface, Needs graphics monitor, 512K, hard disk.

MASS APPEAL (1963) NEW! Complete powerful mail list manager, Requires 512K, 2 floppies or hard disk.

AREA CODE FINDER (1962) Quickly finds

US & foreign area codes.

RENTALS (1951) Fast, powerful property
management. Menu-driven, easy to use.
Requires 420K, 2 floppies or hard disk.

ZIP CODE FINDER (1900) New! Computerized zip code book. Ultra fast search.

FASTBUCKS (1903) Fast, easy, home finance package. Needs graphics card.

SOLVE-IT! (1919) 29 menu-driven financial

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and reports.

EASY PROJECT (1932) Total project manager. Gantt charts, reports.

ASC IN-CONTROL (1952, 1953) (2 Disks) Sales prospecing/tracking, billing, scheduling, auto-dial, labels.

FONE (1954) New! Price your phone calls while you're on the line & save money.

BUSINESS FORM LETTERS (1936) common business letters. Fill in blanks

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

TRIP PLANNER (1305) NEW! Fantastic computerized U.S. roadchart. Finds shortest routes, much more!

COLLEGE PROBE (304) NEW! A wealth of info helps you select best college.

ELECTRONIC ALMANAC (2700) NEW! Hundreds of traditional features.

JORJ (331, 332) (2 disks) NEW! Extraordinary showed in English dictionary. Powerful.

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unique features. Needs hard disk.
MICRO WORLD DATA BANK (2608-2612) (5
disks) Ultra detailed world mapping.
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EGA. Features 2 types of mapping.
PIANOMAN 4.0 (2202) Play and compose
music. New update is better than ever.
WORLD (2509) Stunning! Featurepacked
world map w/zoom. Needs CGA or EGA.
ASTROLOGY 9.5 (2701) Complete, accurate
chart calculation.

chart calculation.

LOTTO BUSTER (2130) Lottery program really works on any pick-6/pick-7 lottery.

WISDOM. OF THE AGES (1216-1218) (3 disks) New 16500 quotes on 81 subjects from history's greatest minds.

Immediate pick-up for WALK-IN customers

The suggested retail price of the T1200XE is \$3,999.

Toshiba America Information Systems, Computer Systems Division, 9740 Irvine Blvd., Irvine, CA 92718

Reader Service Number 203.

Making a Clean Sweep

Curtis Manufacturing offers a series of computer cleaning products designed to keep your computer components free from dirt, dust, and potentially damaging static buildup.

The Curtis Clean Drive, available for 51/4- and 31/2-inch disk drives, features a drive-cleaning disk and 15 single-application head-cleaning solution packets. It removes dust, oxide deposits, and other debris and helps prevent read/write errors and breakdowns. Curtis recommends that you use Clean Drive once a week for 30-45 seconds. It retails for \$9.95.

With the Curtis Clean Screen, you can prevent data-threatening static discharge. The kit comes with eight single-application wet towels, eight single-application dry towels, and one large, reusable towel. The cleaning system can be used on normal or coated monitors as well as on glass or mesh glare filters. Clean Screen can also dissipate static from facsimile machines, copiers, and keyboards. It retails for \$5.95.

Curtis Manufacturing, 30 Fitzgerald Dr., Jaffrey, NH 03452

Reader Service Number 204.

#### AD & D Roundtable

GEnie, an online consumer information service, is now offering the TSR Online Roundtable. TSR is one of the world's leading publishers of role-playing games and products, including Advanced Dungeons & Dragons.

In addition to getting information and news about the AD & D game, GEnie subscribers will be able to take part in live gaming, enroll in the Role-Playing Gamers Association, purchase TSR products through an online catalog, and participate in regular online classes on role-playing and

dungeon-mastering.

Regular features on the Roundtable will include RPGA network events, DRAGON magazine articles available for downloading, previews of upcoming TSR novels, regular conferences and interviews with TSR game designers, up-to-the-minute information on gaming conventions and events around the world, and the opportunity to ask questions about any TSR product. TSR licensees such

as Strategic Simulations will also offer information on the service.

For more information about the GEnie service, call (800) 638-9636. GEnie, GE Information Services, 401 N. Washington St., Rockville, MD 20850 Reader Service Number 205.

**New Campaign** 

Dynamix has released Simulation Module #1 for its flight simulator, A-10: Tank Killer. The module adds seven new missions that can be played individually or back to back in a

Simulation Module #1 is available only from Dynamix for \$12.95. The package also includes an embroidered Flying Tigers patch as well as mission hints and tips. Orders can be placed by calling the Dynamix Ordering and Technical Support line at (503) 687-8690. The module is also available on the Dynamix Bulletin Board. Modem owners can call the BBS at (503) 687-8497.

Dynamix, 99 W. 10th, Suite 337, Eugene, OR 97401

Reader Service Number 206.

#### **Good Investment**

The CompuServe Information Service has recently added two personalinvestment services accessible by your personal computer and modem.

VESTOR, a weekly updated stock-analysis service, provides buy/ sell recommendations on more than 6000 individual companies. Also, you can screen the information database for investment opportunities. By entering ticker symbols, you can obtain a computer-generated forecast of expected performance of stocks. It also identifies stocks to buy or sell based on financial criteria you enter.

RateGram lists the highest returns available on federally insured certificates of deposit, money-market rate-paying accounts, and moneymarket funds. Also updated weekly, RateGram reports on liquid moneymarket accounts, small- and minimumbalance CDs and jumbo CDs, mortgage rates, and taxable and taxfree money-market funds. Reports display the name, address, and phone number of the institution along with the required minimum deposit, frequency of interest compounding, stated interest rate, and other indicators.

VESTOR, provided by Investment Technologies, charges \$15.00 per hour over and above normal CompuServe connect charges of \$12.80 per hour. RateGram is a service of the Bradshaw Financial Network and is available for a \$1.00 surcharge per report plus Compu-Serve's connect charges.

In addition to VESTOR and RateGram, CompuServe offers up-todate stock-market quotes; information on mutual funds, options, commodities, and bonds; online discount brokering; and financial news. CompuServe, 5000 Arlington Centre Blvd., P.O. Box 20212, Columbus, OH 43220

Reader Service Number 207.

Classic Storyteller

The Milliken Storvteller brings new life to classic children's stories such as Henny Penny, The Ugly Duckling, and Little Red Riding Hood by taking advantage of the sound capabilities of the Tandy 1000 and Covox-equipped IBM PCs and compatibles.

Each story is read aloud with a real human voice, and animation is used to bring each illustrated character to life. The program also contains activities such as comprehension questions and coloring screens.

The Milliken Story Collection II will soon be available and will contain Jack & the Beanstalk, Aladdin & the Magic Lamp, and Peter Rabbit.

The Tandy 1000 version has a suggested retail price of \$44.95. The IBM PC and compatibles version comes with Covox speech hardware and sells for \$69.95. Both versions require at least 384K of RAM and support EGA, CGA, VGA, and Hercules monochrome graphics. If you own an IBM PC or compatible already equipped with Covox speech hardware, you should purchase the Tandy 1000 version.

Milliken Publishing, 1100 Research Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132

Reader Service Number 208.

**Table Strategy** 

MicroAce Blackjack offers something for the blackjack beginner as well as the seasoned player. The program, both a game and tutorial, illustrates different blackjack strategies developed by Julian Braun. Play for fun or to improve your blackjack skills.

The program features six pop-up strategy tables, strategies for basic single- and multiple-deck play, advanced single- and multiple-deck play, player/dealer odds calculations, strategy practice drills, and card-counting practice.

MicroAce Blackjack requires 256K and retails for \$49.95. MicroAce, P.O. Box 5223, Englewood, CO 80155

Reader Service Number 209.

www.commodore.ca



#### DAN GOOKIN

s with all things in this universe, your PC has cycles. (People have cycles, too: When we're young, they're tricycles, and later they're bicycles. As we get older, they become mood cycles—nasty habits and violent outbursts we privately relish but publicly blame on beverages such as beer and coffee.)

One of the most popular means of tracking these cycles is the zodiac. Created by the Romans, the zodiac gives fanciful names to the months of the year. The Romans ascribed a special sign to each month, which was a much more successful method than that employed by the ancient Zaldavians, who named each of their 12 months *Moon*.

It's said that a child born under a specific sign will show traits related to that sign. But researchers have always asserted that if children are born under any sign, it's the one called Tantrum. What hasn't been disproved by scientific circles is how the zodiac influences your computer. To further aid enlightenment, I offer an astrological calendar for the Information Age, along with a hint of what you can expect this month.

Aries. Aries is the sign of your PC's memory. It's also the sign of the TSR (memory-resident) software craze, which was born with the crowded house rising toward 640K. For June: Be patient. That flashing MEM light is only temporary. OS/2 looms.

Taurus. Taurus is associated with computer manuals and documentation. It's also the birth month for shrink-wrap, discovered by a 3M chemist who got bored one day while playing with Saran Wrap, his wife's hair dryer, and the family cat. For June: A relative from out of town will visit. Stop her before she puts the Melba toast into your disk drive.

Gemini. Gemini is the duplex sign of the modem and all data communications. Always the social sign, Gemini lends itself well to the land of the electronic BBS. It's also the best month for a 14-year-old to think of a handle other than Dr. Death. For June: A second PC will come into your life and bring you much happiness. But along with the happiness will come financial burden and a need to buy a new disk format.

Cancer. Cancer, the crab, walks sideways even though its eyes and defensive claws point forward. The Cancer sign rules those people who walk around in huge discount warehouses and look at the stuff on the shelves instead of where they're going. For June: Nothing much going on.

Leo. Leo governs your power supply. It may purr like a kitten now, but when it dies, it's a lion, with popping and a lot of blue smoke. For

SIGN OF THE TIMES

June: Take that vacation. Buy an extension cord and put the PC on the patio.

Virgo. Virgo is the virgin. (Originally, the Roman month of Tarto followed Virgo.) Most people desiring to build their own computers do so at this time of year. For June: A long-term financial obligation and debt will vanish this month—until you get your VISA bill for all that mail-order software you bought under Leo.

Libra. Libra is the sign for harmony, for the balance of opposing forces. You'll often find a copy of COMMAND.COM in every subdirectory on a Libra's hard drive. For June: In a haunting dream, Peter Norton, dressed as a rabbi, accuses you of piracy. Buy the software. Cancer figures in picture.

Scorpio. Scorpio is the sign for money and investing. This is the perfect time for expanding your system. It may also explain why this is when Mondo Marvin's Compute-O-Rama holds dollar days. For June: It's time to entertain. Invite your poker buddies into the den for a round of Leisure Suit Larry IX: You Can't Do That in Georgia.

Sagittarius. Sagittarius is patience, the listener, the hearer of wisdom. When told to insert a disk in the drive and close the door, the average Sagittarian will insert the disk, then close the office door. Sagittarius also governs expansion-slot covers, which true Sagittarians never throw away. For June: Nothing much going on, but that's no different from the usual.

Capricorn. Capricorn is the hungry wanderer. It's the sign for all the lost pieces of potato chips in your keyboard. Under this sign's influence, most users are apt to wedge a floppy disk in that tiny sliver of space between drives A and B. For June: Spirits will dampen when you realize you have saved every chapter of your book under the filename CHAPTER. Sell your firearms collection.

Aquarius. Aquarius is the combined sign of computer laptops and the table trays in modern airliners. Aquarius is also the month in which you'll most likely spill a liquid beverage into your keyboard. For June: Nothing much going on.

Pisces. Pisces is a troublesome sign for computers. It's during this month that the mythical wandering Esc key is rumored to find a permanent home. For June: Wedding bells may ring in the future. But remember: You're marrying the tall one, not the squat thing with four rubber feet.



#### SOFTWARE BESTSELLERS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

#### HOME PRODUCTIVITY

#### 1. Tax Cut

Prepare for April 15. MECA IBM

#### 2. Turbo Tax 1990

Speed up your tax calculations. CHIPSOFT IBM

#### 3. Quicken

Manage your finances. Intuit IBM, Macintosh

#### 4. The Print Shop

Make signs, cards, banners, and more. Brøderbund Apple II, Apple IIss, Commodore 64/128, IBM, Macintosh

#### 5. MacInTax

Mac-simize your tax refund. SoftView Macintosh

#### 6. Calendar Creator Plus

Create many different calendars. Power Up IBM, Macintosh

#### 7. Managing Your Money

Allocate your income.
MECA
Apple II, IBM, Macintosh

#### 8. Print Shop Graphics Library

Add variety to your *Print Shop* creations.

Brøderbund
Apple II, Apple IIss, Commodore 64/128, IBM

#### 9. WillMaker

Get help in writing a will. Nolo Press Apple II, IBM, Macintosh

#### 10. PC Globe 3.0

Explore world demographics. PC Globe IBM

#### HOME ENTERTAINMENT

#### 1. Tetris

Deceptively addicting falling-block game. Spectrum HoloByte Amiga, Apple Ilss, Commodore 64/128, Macintosh

#### 2. SimCity

Run the world's first simulated city. Maxis Amiga, Commodore 64/128, IBM, Macintosh

#### 3. Flight Simulator

Head for the wild blue yonder. Microsoft IBM. Macintosh

#### 4. SimCity Terrain Editor

Design your own *SimCity* landscapes.

Maxis
Amiga, IBM, Macintosh

#### 5. The Hunt for Red October

Computer adaptation of Tom Clancy's book. Electronic Arts Amiga, IBM

#### 6. Life & Death

Your chance to play surgeon. Software Toolworks Apple Ilgs, IBM, Macintosh

#### 7. Populous

Deities battle it out. Electronic Arts Amiga, IBM

#### 8. Leisure Suit Larry III

Larry and Passionate Patti get together. Sierra

#### 9. Falcon

Air combat at its best. Spectrum HoloByte Amiga, IBM, Macintosh

#### 10. ChessMaster 2100

Board strategy that isn't boring. Electronic Arts Apple II, Apple IIcs, Commodore 64/128, IBM

#### HOME LEARNING

#### 1. Where in Time Is Carmen Sandiego?

Can you find Carmen in time?
Brøderbund
IBM

#### 2. Math Blaster Plus!

Teaches basic math concepts.
Davidson & Associates
Apple II, Apple IIcs, IBM

#### 3. Where in the World Is Carmen Sandiego?

Chase Carmen around the world. Brøderbund Amiga, Apple II, Commodore 64/128, IBM, Macintosh

#### 4. Reader Rabbit

Helps children learn to read. The Learning Company Apple II, Commodore 64/128, IBM, Macintosh

#### 5. Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing

Learn to touch-type.
Electronic Arts
Apple II, Apple IIcs,
Commodore 64/128, IBM, Macintosh

#### 6. Where in the USA Is Carmen Sandiego?

The chase moves to the USA.
Brøderbund
Amiga, Apple II, Commodore 64/128, IBM,
Macintosh

#### 7. Learning DOS

Learn the ins and outs of DOS.

Microsoft
IBM

#### 8. The Playroom

Kids explore and learn on their own.
Brøderbund
IRM

### 9. The Children's Writing & Publishing Center

A desktop publisher for kids. The Learning Company Apple II, Apple IIss, IBM

#### 10. Math Rabbit

Build early math skills. The Learning Company Apple II, Commodore 64/128, IBM, Macintosh

COMPUTE!'s Hotware lists were prepared by Egghead Discount Software and are based on retail sales of Apple II, Macintosh, and IBM software from February 4 through March 3, 1990, at 201 Egghead stores in the United States and Canada.





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