

STReport CONFIDENTIAL

"Rumors Tidbits Predictions Observations Tips"

- Sunnyvale, CA.

THE REVOLVING DOOR IS ALIVE AND WELL!

Recent development have found Gary Weiner, Intn'l Sales has left Atari. His old office, beneath JT's has been dubbed the "office of death", has once again fulfilled its ominous reputation as being the last stop at Atari.

- Sunnyvale, Ca.

ATARI LOSES LAWSUIT WITH NINTENDO

Courtesy San Jose Mercury News
05/01/92 14:47:38

Atari Corp. was unsuccessful in its antitrust suit against Nintendo of America. The jury found in favor of Nintendo. The jury did however, find that Nintendo did have monopoly power in the videogame market but that Nintendo did not monopolize that market. The jury was also unable to reach a decision on two other points regarding monopolization and restraint of trade. During the 10 week trial, Nintendo claimed it had only engaged in vigorous competition and that its exclusive had legitimate business justifications. "We are disappointed the jury did not understand the negative impacts Nintendo's exclusive contracts had on competition because of Nintendo's power over its suppliers and customers," said William Jaeger, senior partner, Khourie, Crew & Jaeger, the San Francisco law firm that specializes in complex business litigation and represents Atari.

"The consumer also loses from this result because the antitrust laws have worked very effectively to maintain a strong competitive

environment with lower prices and better choices for consumers. This decision will seriously weaken those vital laws." "In this case, it was clear that Nintendo's practices violated our antitrust laws and thwarted Atari's ability to compete. Atari should be compensated for its substantial damages. This award is also necessary to send a strong message that our antitrust laws protect and encourage healthy competition -- no more, no less."

- San Jose CA.

POWERHOUSE POWER SUPPLY

Best Electronics is coming out with a replacement power supply for Mega S'Te/TT owners. This UL Listed power supply is rated at 64.1 watts but supposedly, can handle 80 watts. Development was ramped up about a year because Best Electronics thinks that some of the problems that users are experiencing from TOS/AJAX/1.44 floppy upgrades are due to the anemic power supply that ships in certain Mega S'Te/TTs. It will fit perfectly where the original power supply was installed. They hope to start shipping in 4-6 weeks. The power supply should sell for approx. \$125.00

- San Francisco Ca

AJAX HAS ACHILLES HEEL?

According to sources close to BEST Electronics, the Ajax upgrades are not in stock and they will not stock any more of 3.06/AJAX/1.44Meg upgrades until a recently discovered

problem is found and corrected. When a SCSI internal Hard drive is installed in the TT030 and access to the 1.44meg is attempted, the system does not acknowledge the Floppy. However, if one uses a different power supply for the SCSI drive, all is fine. They said. Also, they said there may be a problem with the AJAX chip.

- Sunnyvale, Ca .

ATARI VOICE MAIL HITS THE REVOLVING DOOR

In an apparent attempt at streamlining communications, the "infamous" Atari voice mail system has been shut down. User abuse (storing too much) has been cited as the cause for abandonment of the system. As fate would have it, most folks around the country were caught off guard and many of Atari's callers found themselves listening to many rings and an unanswered phone call. The old answering machines are slowing coming back on-line.

- Sunnyvale, CA

EXPLORER & ZNET JOIN IN ONLINE VENTURE!

Atari's Explorer Magazine and ZNET online will undertake a joint effort in producing an online newsletter. According to our sources, the current editor of Explorer will oversee the operation. Ron Kovacs will assume the duties of editor of the new online newsletter. Frequency of publication is expected to be bi-weekly.



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Lake County Atari Computer Enthusiasts

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 8788

Waukegan, IL 60079-8788

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in L.C.A.C.E. is open to all individuals and families interested in personal computing. Annual dues are \$20.00 per individual/family and includes a one year subscription to the News Journal, and access to clubs libraries. Membership maybe obtained at the monthly meetings or by calling or writing to the club at the above address.

MEETINGS

L.C.A.C.E. meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month, at the Warren-Newport Public Library, 244 O'Plains Rd. Gurnee, IL. Meetings begin at 11:00 am. We do not require you to be a member to attend our meetings, they are free and open to the public.

NEW JOURNAL ADVERTISEMENT

For information on placing ads, please write our Public Relation Chairman at the above address, or call (312) 587-9157.

ADVERTISING

Rates: Full Page - \$25, Half Page - \$15, Quarter Page - \$10, Business Cards - \$5. Discounts are given for advance purchase of 12 consecutive ads.

Send: Camera ready copy and payment by the 21st of the month preceding publications to above address.

circulation in March 300 (Subscribers 122, Stores, 98, Exchange 53, Others 34)

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ATARI DESKTOP PUBLISHING

The L.C.A.C.E. News Journal is produced on an Atari Desktop Publishing System (Mega ST4, Atari SLM804 Laser) using Soft Logik's PageStream. Some of the artwork has been scanned on a HP Scanner, Mirgraph's Hand Scanner and touched up using Mirgraph's Touch Up and Dr. Bob's MVG program.

L.C.A.C.E. HOTLINE

(708) 623-3815

Python BBS

Official Club BBS

(708) 680-5105

Deadline Approaching For Next Months Articles

Remember, the deadline for all articles submitted to *The News Journal* is the 20th of each month. Send your articles, via disk to the clubs P.O. Box, or upload to **Pegasus BBS (708) 623-9570** prior to this date. Your articles may be edited for length and clarity.

Presidents Bam

Out with the old and
in with the new...

Mike Brown (LCACE)

1989-1991

I write this, my last column as outgoing President of LCACE, with mixed feelings- I am proud of the things that we have accomplished this year, and in the last few years. As an organization, we have shown our best efforts in what were very difficult tasks. On the other hand, I wonder if, during this period of time, we have been true to our main purpose for being- the support of the (Atari) user community.

It is no secret that the Atari userbase as a whole is continuing a downward trend; LCACE membership is following this trend- the lack of membership renewals is alarming.

I would propose that the incoming LCACE board of directors make the restructuring of LCACE to a *general PC user's support group* their first priority. I would propose that we reorganize into a minimum of 3 special interest groups: MS-DOS, Mac, and Atari SIGs. Each would be run as an independent organization, with each SIG having a position and vote on the LCACE board.

It's true that we have had informal MS-DOS and Mac SIGs for quite some time, but for the most part, they have been quite inactive. In order to ensure the survival of LCACE, we must turn our attention to the solid organization of these SIGs.

I'm sure that many of us will continue to use and enjoy our Atari computers until Atari Corp. ultimately ceases to exist- but we must face the reality that we are losing members to more "mainstream" hardware platforms, and broaden our scope to support those members and former-members who have invested in other platforms.

I'm hopeful that the new LCACE board will act quickly and firmly enough to save LCACE from oblivion. We can no longer be blind to needs of users of *those other machines*. To stimulate growth, LCACE should promote itself not only at Atari-oriented shows, but also should exhibit at other general-computer shows within Lake County this coming year.

The time has come for me to take my leave of you fine folks and like the *old soldier*, just *fade away*. It has been my pleasure to have served the LCACE family these last few years- peace and prosperity to all of you.

Steve Kostelnik

1992-2001

First of all I would like to thank everyone for electing me as President. I, as all of those elected in the past, will attempt to make L.C.A.C.E. an organization that we all can be proud of. What's in store for L.C.A.C.E. will be determined by YOU, the membership.

What would YOU like? More Demos, more parties, more vendors, a group buying program, one-on-one with the experts, more swapfests, take-home demos of commercial programs; what would YOU like?

As one of your officers for the last 6 or so years, I know what the officers have gone through to organize L.C.A.C.E. We have attempted to read the pulse of the club and to respond to your needs. We would like to evaluate those needs again to see what they are in our changing computer environment. What would YOU like?

In the near future, we will include a questionnaire for you to fill out. Please do fill it out and return it to us at the meeting or mail it to our P.O. Box. We want to know what you want and how you feel about OUR club. What would YOU like?

What would I like? How about a fast computer and a big hard drive to run the L.C.A.C.E. BBS on.

Steve Kostelnik

President and SYSOP for L.C.A.C.E.

Time to Renew?



Check your label!

V.P.'s RAM

by Larry Grauzas (LCACE)

April 1992

The april club meeting should be an exciting one. A swap-fest will be held! There will be only a few simple rules. Tables will be available free to all members and nonmembers who wish to sell computer equipment or software. The person selling is responsible for watching their own items. The club will not be responsible for lost or stolen items nor will it provide personnel to man tables. This is a good opportunity to sell some items that you are no longer using and pick up some bargains.

The election for the Board of Directors will also be held at this meeting. A total of seven people will be elected. If you cannot attend this meeting, you can still vote if you use the ballot that is in this newsletter. This ballot must be received by the club before the April meeting. Only registered members in good standing may vote. The Chairman of the Board (President) will be elected from one of the seven board members. You must be present at the April meeting to vote for the President.

It finally seems that Atari is starting make a push in the market- place. There has been talk that they will announcing some new computers in the near future. A 1040 style 68030 machine with a price tag of around \$1200 to \$1400 would be a welcome addition. This could provide an opportunity to upgrade from the ST line without breaking-the-bank to buy a TT. New machines could provide a much needed spark for the entire line of computers as long as they will be

available in decent numbers. Atari must sell more machines to build a good base to attract new and former third party developers back to the fold. Hopefully we will soon see a good supply of machines and new dealers to carry them.

My kids are really crazy about their LYNX games. Atari has a solid winner here if they keep the supply plentiful. But unfortunately that is the problem. Many of the local stores are not pushing the LYNX as much as before. Stores that once had thirty titles in stock are now only carrying about ten. They complain that they cannot get enough stock. They are now pushing other machines that have ample games and machines available now. New games have been announced in magazines that could really spark new interest in the LYNX if there is an ample supply available. My only hope is that Atari has solved its manufacturing problems and can meet the demand at the stores.

See you at the meeting!

May 1992

Congratulations to Steve Kostelnik who was elected the President of the club at the April meeting. I would also like to welcome Dave Moriarty as the new member of the Board of Directors. A few changes in the officers' positions have been made by the Board. Since Steve Kostelnik has been elected President, Dwight (JJ) Johnson will be taking over the Treasurer's position. Dave Moriarty has volunteered to

become the Newsletter Editor. Dave is filling some big shoes replacing JJ, so he will need all the help that he can get. If you are interested in helping prepare the newsletter, give Dave a call. I also would like to thank JJ for all the years he has been our newsletter editor and produced an excellent newsletter. Also, a big round of applause must go to Mike Brown for the excellent job he did as President this last year. Last year was a banner-year for the club with the many excellent events during the regular meetings culminating with the November show due in a large part to Mike's leadership.

It finally seems that Atari is starting to make a push in the market-place. There has been talk that they will be announcing some new computers in the near future. A 1040- style 68030 machine with a price tag of around \$1200 to \$1400 would be a welcome addition. This could provide an opportunity to upgrade from the ST line without breaking the bank to buy a TT. New machines could provide a much needed spark for the entire line of computers as long as they will be available in decent numbers. Atari must sell more machines to build a good base to attract new and former third- party developers back to the fold. Hopefully we will soon see a good supply of machines and new dealers to carry them.

Commercial alert! Commercial alert! I actually saw three Atari commercials last Sunday night on the Fox network! They were Lynx ads that were very good. At last, some exposure to the general public. I can only hope that these were only the first of many. My

kids are really crazy about their LYNX games. Atari has a solid winner here if they keep the supply plentiful. But unfortunately that is the problem. Many of the local stores are not pushing the LYNX as much as before. Stores that once had as many as thirty titles in stock are now only carrying about ten. They complain that they cannot get enough stock. They are now pushing other machines that have ample games and machines available now. New games have been announced in magazines that could really spark new interest in the LYNX if there is an ample supply available. My only hope is that Atari has solved its manufacturing problems and can meet the demand at the stores that hopefully their advertising campaign will produce.

See you at the May meeting!

It is with deep regret that I sign off from this, my farewell newsletter. I have enjoyed the opportunity to keep you posted on the happening events. Over the years we have evolved from a simply word processor (Bob's Min-Word Processor, Bank Street Writer, AtariWriter and Paper Clip) to one of the best desk top publishing programs available for any computer (PageStream).

It has been a labor of love for for this one man operation of the past nine years, and I've had more or less a free hand to experiment, and try different formats in bringing the News Journal to press. I have to admit this has been a learning experience, but now it is time to pass the gavel on to a new soul. I thank each of you who have contributed over the years with your article and news worthy information that has helped the entire Atari community grow.

I will continue to be supportive of the News Journal and its new editor for I will now be about to able to spend a little time keeping your informed with my

MAST

THE MILWAUKEE AREA ST USER GROUP

PROUDLY ANNOUNCES...

THE SECOND ANNUAL
MILWAUKEE ATARIFEST

June 14, 1992

10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Bowlero, Red Carpet Lanes

11737 W. Burleigh Ave.
Wauwatosa, WI.

Ticket price: 3.00 dollars

For more information please call 414-463-9662 or call MAST BBS
(414) 461-1730. You also can write to;

MAST

P.O. BOX 25679
Milwaukee, WI 53225

The following companies will be at the show...

ABC Solutions	AIM Magazine
Apple Annie	Cal-Co Software
Clear Thinking	CodeHead Software
Compu-Seller West	D.A. Brumleve
Electronic Spinster	Gadgets By Small
ICD Corp.	ISD Corp.
Mars Merchandising	Maxwell CPU
MegaType	Micro Creations
Micro Magic	MissionWare
MS Design	Paper Express
Paul's Software	Soft-Logik
SKWare	Schultz Software
Toad Computers	Wiz Works

own articles and information submissions.

I don't believe that I will ever be able to take a total backseat position in the club because a being the founder, L.C.A.C.E. will always be also a special part of me. As I continue in the

position as your treasurer and disk librarian.

Again, thank your for letting me serve you and thank your for your support.

Dwight (J.J.) Johnson

Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts General Meeting

March 14, 1992

The March meeting of LCACE was brought to order by President Mike Brown at 12:00 noon. The meeting was held at the Warren/Newport Library.

Vice-President Larry Grauzas reminded the attendees that the April 8th meeting of LCACE will be at the Waukegan Public Library, rather than the Warren/Newport Library due to a minor scheduling conflict. We were advised that a swap meet will be held during the April meeting for those wishing to part with used Atari/computer related goods. Larry also reminded us to make plans to attend the annual LCACE picnic on August 8th, which will be held once again at the Old School Forest Preserve. \$ 1,054.79 remains in the show account and will be transferred into the general account, with the exception of a token amount to keep the show account open, unless the costs to maintain the account are prohibitive. Hybrid Arts has still not satisfied their BAD DEBT of \$425.00. Hybrid Arts incurred this BAD DEBT OF \$425.00 as a result of their participation in the Chicago Computerfest this past November. Treasurer Steve Kostelnik reported the group is solvent and the general account has a balance of \$ 1,221.60. Python BBS, the official LCACE BBS, is up and running the latest version of Express Pro. A few kinks still need to be worked out but those with the capability are now able to log-on at 9600 bps.

8-bit chairman Lawrence Grauzas Sr. had an interesting display of an Atari 8-bit computer showing the internal circuitry.

Librarian and Newsletter Editor Dwight (JJ) Johnson showed a new club Public Domain/Shareware Journal. Many new demos have been added to the library.

Membership Chairman Steve Yeaton told of four renewal memberships and at the end of the meeting announced Dennis Renner as the winner of the 50-50 raffle.

A representative from MilAtari asked for volunteers to assist them at the upcoming Gen-Con August 20-23 at the Mecca in Milwaukee. Volunteers will be issued a "Judges Badge" which will allow free access to the Great Hall. Those working a minimum of four hours will be entered in a special raffle for volunteers only.

Bob Carpenter from MAST, another Milwaukee area user group, spoke of the show they are sponsoring June 14, 1992 at the Bolero Red Carpet Lanes, in Milwaukee. Hours are 10

am to 6 pm with a \$ 3.00 admission. Dave Small has committed to the show and will be showing his SST boards and may also give a seminar. (Dave's seminars alone are worth the cost of admission.)

Nominations for the LCACE board of directors were opened once again with no new nominations. Mike Brown again declined nomination.

Mike adjourned the meeting at 12:37 pm and the floor was relinquished for demonstrations.

Jake and Terry (the Tutor) Olbrich from Rockford (R.A.C.C.) demonstrated the reading and spelling programs written by Jake for learning-disabled children. Terry mentioned the programs are also being used in some adult education classes with great success. Although currently written only for the Atari 8-bit, a PC version may be forthcoming. The 8-bit program was also shown running on an STe using the Transformer emulation program. The programs appear to be very worthwhile and may be of great assistance in helping a child or adult with a learning disability learn how to read.

Joe Julian also demonstrated the newest educational program by D.A. Brumleve, Multiplay, and the latest version of Kidpublisher Professional. Multiplay is an addition and multiplication program which the parent of a 3-11 year old may configure in several levels of difficulty depending upon the child's ability. Patterns and puzzles may be created by the child and he/she may even test themselves on their progress. Kidpublisher Professional has added several new features. Among those are a mirror-imaging function which was previously only available in Kidpainter. Horizontal, vertical, or both horizontal and vertical mirror-imaging are possible. A date option for the title page has been added. The date will be automatically be set to the date from the computer's system clock. The date may also be manually entered or changed from that of the system clock. A coded font set has also been included in this version of Kidpublisher. It is a simple code wherein each letter of the alphabet is replaced by the letter which precedes it by four letters. The code proved to be quite an entertaining feature. Dorothy writes good stuff and prices her products very reasonably. They are very useful learning aids for children.

April 11, 1992

The April meeting of the Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts, (LCACE), was brought to order by President Mike Brown at 12:40 p.m. The meeting was held at the Waukegan Public Library rather than the usual location of the Warren/Newport Public Library. This was due to a special event which prevented our use of the Warren/Newport facility. The April meeting also celebrated the tenth anniversary of LCACE. Cake and ice cream was served to honor the event. Special recognition to LCACE founder, Dwight (JJ) Johnson, was given for holding the group together for so many years. A swap meet was also

held and quite a bit of Atari-related hardware and software changed hands. Elections for the board of directors were held for the 92-93 year. The results follow later.

Vice-President Larry Grauzas spoke briefly of the annual LCACE picnic which will be held at the Old School forest preserve on August 8th. Grove 'B' is the site this year instead of site 'A' as in the past.

Treasurer Steve Kostelnik said there is approximately \$1100 in the check book with no outstanding bills to be paid. As Steve also is the sysop of Python, the official LCACE BBS; he mentioned that there are some major bugs in the system software he recently installed. A new version is forthcoming which is hopefully devoid of bugs. In the interim, do not attempt a batch download as it locks up the system.

8-bit V.P., Lawrence Grauzas Sr. demonstrated an AC converter for use on XE systems without power supplies. It should also work with similar systems.

Librarian and Editor, JJ said there is not much new in the library this month and Pegasus BBS is still in fine tune. JJ also plans to resign as newsletter editor within about 60 days. A job change as well as a change in work schedule was given as a primary reason for his decision to resign. These demands caused a delay in the publication of the April newsletter which may be combined with the May issue. JJ's

expertise will be greatly missed and it is hoped that he will remain available as a "consultant" to the new editor.

Membership chairman, Steve Yeaton said there were two new as well as two renewal memberships. Chris Huppenbauer and Russ Zimmerman were welcomed to the group.

As mentioned above, elections were held for the board of directors of LCACE. Elected to the board were Steve Kostelnik, Larry Grauzas, Lawrence Grauzas Sr., Dwight Johnson, Joe Julian, Steve Yeaton and Dave Moriarity. Also receiving votes but not elected to the board was Walt Schaff. Steve Kostelnik and Dave Moriarity were nominated for election as Chairman of the board. Steve was elected with a near unanimous total and will serve as Chairman as well as President of LCACE for the upcoming year.

During a subsequent officer's meeting, Larry Grauzas was re-elected as V.P., Lawrence Grauzas Sr. as 8-bit V.P., Joe Julian as Secretary, Steve Yeaton as Membership chairman, and Dave Moriarity as the new newsletter editor. Dwight Johnson will take over as Treasurer and will also remain Librarian.

Congratulations to LCACE on its ninth anniversary!

Joe Julian, Secretary LCACE

What on earth is dog - steak doing HERE?

Don't worry about our dog, it's still going strong, no bites yet. But, here comes the big question: WHY don't we eat dog? Well, probably because nobody has tried to convince us to, it might (??) be delicious and terribly healthy...imagine if somebody told society over and over again that dog - steak actually makes you SLIM???

But in Spain they eat sheep's brain which in Sweden they wouldn't even glance at.... And we all know there are countries where people starve having the beef right in front of them.... So, then, here goes the headline: What's the trouble with Atari?

Question: Why does everybody know that Volvo is a car? That Coke is a drink? That Madonna is a singer?

Answer: Because they tell us so! What you can't do is produce a product and not even try to let potential customers know what it is, what can it do, how much it cost, how to buy it....

To make a customer make a purchase you'll need to make him/her feel a need and desire to obtain YOUR product. If that desire/necessity doesn't exist the customer can easily live and die without your product...or, if it's a real necessity, buy another bargain that he DOES know about.

Many say Atari is in a crisis and that is, of course, sad news. But for us, the users, satisfied with Atari hardware, the attitude of Atari Corp. is much more amazing. Because if you produce a professional computer [that is] able to perform multiple and different tasks, and you don't bother to tell anybody, from any simple marketing point of view, it seems like business harakiri.

What we, as journalists and Atari-customers ask is: Would Atari still be alive if it hadn't been for the great amount of support given by software producers, user groups and others that have offered loads and loads of time, research, and cash to let users know about their products AND Atari.

We don't mind that Atari seems to prefer spending its money on ads for Lynx and other fun and games products because everybody surely knows that "Atari is a computer for playing games." Great!

But the fact that you seem to be almost ignorant about products like the TT, laser printer, STacy and other "adult" solutions is totally incomprehensible. There is something called "creating an image."

Let's look at the image of some other computers.

IBM: Great computer for any serious office. Major prestige in three letters. To have a PC (clone) is: "Oh well...." To have an IBM is: "Wow! An IBM!!!"

APPLE MACINTOSH: An image as the #1-DTP, a polished image, appealing to those who want to feel like part of the yuppie-creative pack. An image like Levi's. You might not be more seductive wearing them but it sure make you feel good....

AMIGA: For animation, games, DTP and other jobs. Not a very strong image, but neither is it a childish one.

ATARI: The one for playing games.

I do believe dear Atari executive that it's about time for you to strike a deal with a good PR agency. Give them a complete DTP set-up for a start, so they'll know what it is....

What sure ain't amusing is to hear comments like the one from a gentleman (VERY close to Atari U.K.) at the Atari Fair in Dusseldorf: "What makes you think there is a market for magazines about DTP and Atari? We would love (and I know we aren't alone) to see some kind of serious marketing event. At least some kind of mailing with information for users, retailers (I) and why not a few press releases...or whatever, just not to leave the whole job of promoting Atari to its customers. (Sure, it's great, marvellous...! But it won't be enough in the long-short (?) run....)

We insist: it sure is difficult to understand their marketing policies [at Atari]...unless the reason is that there are none.

Calendar 1992

09	MAY	L.C.A.C.E. Meeting
10	May	M.A.S.T. Meeting
16	May	MilAtari Meeting
30	May	CES Trade/Consumer Day
31	May	CES Trade/Consumer Day
31	May	Computer Central
13	June	L.C.A.C.E. Meeting
14	June	M.A.S.T. AtariFest II
20	June	MilAtari Meeting
11	July	L.C.A.C.E Meeting
12	July	M.A.S.T. Meeting
18	July	MilAtari Meeting
25	July	M.I.S.T. AtariFest IV
08	Aug	L.C.A.C.E. Annual Picnic
21	Aug	GenCon Gaming Fair

L.C.A.C.E. MAILBOX

GEMULATOR

The Atari ST Emulator for MS-DOS and Windows which will allow almost any 386 or 486 PC compatible to be turned into a virtually 100% compatible ST system. Orders are now being taken at the introductory price of \$199 (when ordered by August 31, 1992).

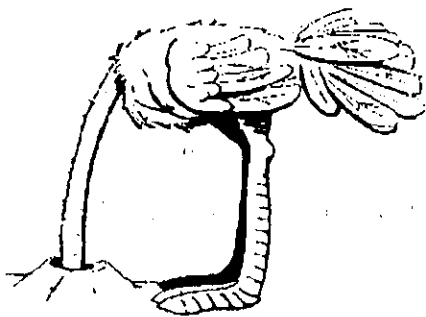
Phil Comeau Software

Phil Comeau Software is announcing the release of GramSlam 3.0! This new version of GramSlam has many new features and improvements. To upgrade, just send your original disk along with a check or money order for \$8.00 (\$5.00 upgrade fee plus \$3.00 S/H).

ATARI 800/XE/XL OWNERS

The new 1992 Bellcom catalogue with over 600 Atari 8-bit Public Domain & Shareware disks is now available. Clip and mail coupons will be available at the next meeting.

- **Missing something?**
- **Only getting half the Atari news?**



As a participating User Group member, you can subscribe to AIM (Atari Interface Magazine), and have it delivered directly to your door each month for the unbelievable low price of \$6.00 per year.

Don't miss another issue, see your club treasurer at the next meeting, or send your request along with your \$6.00 to the clubs P.O. box.

Subscribe Today!!



ATARI-TALK and Tips

WNVR Vernon Hills Business Radio Network (BRN) 1030 AM radio for Business and Financial Success (Computer talk 7-9:00 Saturday mornings. Heard a computer program Sunday afternoon also. Talk-show host Tom Fokes [sp]). They have different topics for discussion; PC and compatible-oriented of course. Examples: converting files from the old CP/M machines; viruses; charitable disposal of older, serviceable machines (East-West Foundation, Boston, MA); Windows; x86 machines; trouble-shooting. Then there's Community Calendar; Dobson short commentary on the family; business and tax topics of all sorts. Try it! I haven't heard anything yet on Atari, but I haven't been listening all that long either; I really have to give credit to my wife MaDene anyway--she told me about BRN. I'll be listening more now that I have more of an interest in the "MS DOS" world. (Low-end at 286, I'm never "on top" of things--no wise-cracks please.)

A few months back, I wrote a review of DCOPY36 for ATARI-TALK. At that time I could only write my results of a fairly thorough test; I hadn't worked with the program that much. I had an experience yesterday that I should tell you about. Might save someone from the same mistake.

I'd just finished proofing an article for the NJ and put it in my UPLOAD folder for upload to the editor's desk of Pegasus BBS (JJ's domain). But there were several datasets in the UPLOAD folder that had already been Uled--move them to the UPLOADED folder where I store files temporarily while deciding which, if any, need to be archived for posterior--posterity I mean (sorry about that). IDEAL Since the group MOVE function of DCOPY prompts for "Yes, All, or No"...I'll

select "Yes" in the UPLOAD folder for my MOVE sources for everything but the one file that I want to keep and then when DCOPY prompts for delete from the UPLOAD folder, I'll just select NO for my newest non-Uled file. I did--almost. When I got the delete prompt, I absent mindedly hit "All." When I opened my UPLOAD folder, MY NEW FILE WAS GONE. When I looked in the UPLOADED folder, of course it wasn't there either. My immediate reaction was to use UNDELETE (MS DOS, heh, heh). Really pretty stupid. I couldn't have told that ten years ago, but I guess I have very little pride anymore. I lay awake last night trying to remember how long ago it was that I still had the deep-burning feeling in my gut that made me feel I had to protect my ego.

This is not exactly "ATARI-TALK," but I guess you know I upgraded my "laptop" situation. From a medieval Tandy 600 to a space-age 1800HD (286 machine); $600 \times 3 = 1800?$ Tell you what I did--works for me anyway. I have 640K RAM (actually 638). I installed a memory manager for expanded memory which recovered 288K unused space...in addition to the 640K, and don't ask me how, I don't know. If any of you [hello B.G and L.G.] know how this works, let us know please. Anyway, I loaded a "Smartdrive" for fastload of my big text files and allocated its cache memory to the 288K that the memory manager found. Then I installed a virus-protection program which eats about 30K of the 640K. Then the MS DOS overhead leaves me with 520K of usable memory. I can recover 30K from the virus program by putting a REM ahead of VSHIELD in the AUTOEXEC.BAT file, for 550K total RAM. I've since started using SENTRY, another McAfee anti-virus program that's not TSR (terminate and stay resident) and doesn't take up any

memory after LOGON except 10K+ for a log file, etc. Leaves me 546K+ and I'm rambling. So:

The part of all this that seems to apply to the Atari is that it's really all FOR MY ATARI anyway. Anything I do on this machine (I'm entering this on it now) is going to be transported to Mr. Atari via diskette (always the case), and I don't have to worry about keeping this in ASCII because the Tandy word processor operates in ASCII mode unless I use special page formatting, which I'm careful not to do. Of course we know that TOS will read an "MS DOS formatted" disk...on reflection, we might ask if any of the "PC-compatible" companies in the industry have even tried to make their disk formatters "TOS-compatible." I'm not sure, but I think probably not. Unfair? Of course. But then there's the \$\$\$\$\$.

Let's have your comments in ATARI-TALK. Write to the address in the front of the NJ and put ATTENTION ATARI-TALK on the front of the envelope. If you've read this far you have to be interested in my RAMbling or maybe curious--or stupid. I just proofread an article for the News Journal (which I hope you're reading now) titled "Dogsteak" that I thought was really to the point, though I had to struggle through the first "portion." I have a dog. Name's MacKay--Australian terrior.

Hip-hip-hooray for Mr. "G" and his 8-bit jellybeans.

Hello Khalil Abdel-Karim.

"Heard" on the Pegasus BBS grapevine:

Title: Tired !!!
Base: Atari ST Forum
Author: Anon

I'm tired of defending Atari Company to others. The articles in (most) Atari publications tell readers all about the incredible capabilities of Atari

Computers. We read about the huge shows where Atari was the star and people were crowded around their booth. And, we read about all the new software and hardware being released. Then we turn to the "Letters to the Editor" section and read about the real Atari screen: user frustrated by vaporware from Atari, Atari Software which is not as powerful as their IBM and Mac counterparts, no local dealer support, etc.

I have been defending my Atari computers for nine years and I feel like it is just a losing battle. I use a Mega ST4 and I refuse to spend any more money on upgrades when I cannot financially justify their needs. The only upgrade made was a set of TOS 1.4 ROMs. Why should I spend huge amounts of money upgrading to a TT when an IBM 386/486 is in reach of the typical user?

I hate bashing Atari after owning their machines for nine years. But, the truth is that the Atari scene is quite bleak. Frankly, if my Mega ST system had a better resale value I would not hesitate to sell it and buy a PC 386 system with Super VGA graphics. That is what a friend of mine did and he doesn't regret it one bit. It opened a whole world of powerful applications which he could only wish for with the Atari.

While I still am an Atari user, I look forward to reading Atari related magazines and I wish them the best success.

From Vic: Rest assured that there are a lot of us Atari owners who hear you and understand your frustration. I own a 520 with 1-meg RAM and am still running the old TOS 1.0, and I have similar feelings. In fact, I'm writing right now on a Tandy 1800HD notebook. Having this machine opened up the world of MS DOS for me. And I guess we've been over this umpteenth times. When is the Atari Company going to make the big push to overcome the "games" image? We're waiting. Or do they want to \$\$\$? What do users have to do besides USE?

And good luck to Darek M. with his GEMulator--I'd think Atari would grab that ball and run with it...convince some of these guys with the fast "PC" clones that there really is something to be gained with Atari emulation.

Anyway, thanks for the use of your comment: for all of you other readers of the News Journal--your anonymity will always be respected in this column if you wish, so don't be so hesitant about writing in--give us your views and ideas! That's what ATARI-TALK is supposed to be about.

You know--I just figured out (I think) partly what really is wrong with personal computing. When I bought my Atari ST, I thought I got a very good deal--"computing power without the usual price," that sort of thing. But ever since, and more lately, the way the industry moves, I feel that I paid too much and got too little for my money (speaking only of software and hardware quantity; memory, TOS version, etc.). And yet...I don't want to buy the newest and best because my old machine that I paid too much for works too well yet! And Atari makes no more money on me because they make their

machines to last! Now I'm getting to feel the same way about my new Tandy notebook. And yet it's a terrific machine, and does everything that I want it to do. When I tell knowledgeable people about my recent purchase, I always stress the fact that it was "on sale" (they've already lowered the price again, making me feel cheated...but I quickly rationalize that it runs MS DOS 5.0) and then I add, somewhat "hang-dog," that it's only an 80286 processor and already somewhat obsolete. Why? Why do we even think like this? I'm proud of my machines--all of them. MaDene and I bought a used printer (only used by two old ladies to print one letter) and rigged up my old Tandy 600 for my younger son to use for a word processor--that 8-year old machine is still going strong at 32K...there I go again!

I'm outa here...until next time--maybe.
Vic



Article Submission

Articles of interest to 8-bit Atari enthusiasts will be accepted at any time. You may submit that material in hard copy or on disk. Bring them to the meeting or send them to the club postal box:

L.C.A.C.E.
ATTN: 8-Bit Editor
P.O. Box 8788
Waukegan, IL 60079-8788

Or you may upload your article to Newsletter Editor SIG #19 on Pegasus

BBS (708) 623-9570. All files should be sent in ASCII format (print to disk without control characters), but if [this is] not possible, please leave a note or message informing us as to what word processor/text editor you are using.

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The declaration "Atari users are dropping like flies around here lately," was recently posted on our own BBS. It can hardly be argued. User groups are folding, many who are still in existence are cutting back on services. I'm sure you have noticed the advent of a MAC and IBM PD collections being offered by MilAtari and many other clubs, indicating the more wide-spread use of emulators. Disgruntled 8-bit users who have held out upgrading for so long are not upgrading to the ST or ST3 and longstanding members are buying IBM compatibles. Yes, the Atari user-base is shrinking.

A fellow user group member was heard to say "I would not recommend an Atari computer to a friend. There just isn't enough software out there." I can understand his attitude. I was recently in a position to promote the use of an Atari Computer, but gave in to the same uncertainty.

I recently became involved in a newsletter committee at our church. Church leaders were interested in starting a monthly newsletter to improve communications and reach out to the poinsettias and Easter lilies of the parish. They wanted the newsletter to be put together in house, and they were also considering similar changes with their weekly bulletin. Also in the works was a move to computerize parish records.

A separate committee was formed about that time to purchase the computer for the parish. Of course I also became a member of that committee. It was assumed from the onset that the computer would be an IBM compatible. One committee member owned a MAC and I own an Atari but the assumption was still IBM. For a variety of reasons, I bit my tongue and resisted the urge to recommend looking at the alternatives. Eventually they bought an IBM compatible, an overpriced and overrated church census program and desktop publishing software. I was offered the position of Newsletter and Bulletin Editor, and took the job. I've now had a few months of experience

IBM BLUES

By Michelle Gross

([Rekeyed] from MilAtari March 1992)

using the "OTHER" computer.

In the meantime, my dad developed a need for a home computer. Again, I felt that twang of guilt, and the hesitation in recommending Atari for all the right reasons: you can't find many dealers, the software is drying up, no local stores carry Atari software, there are no glossy magazines, etc., etc.

My Dad lives in South Carolina and we had planned to pay him a visit right after the Chicago ComputerFest by Atari. Well, of course after going to an all-Atari show we were all pumped up over our own brand of computer. We then thought we would take the opportunity to visit the infamous Atari Store, Computer Studio, in Asheville, North Carolina, a mere hour from my Dad's home.

On our initial visit to Computer Studio, Dad took along some IBM software that he had as a result of his own volunteer activities. Because he expressed an interest in being able to use the software. Sheldon showed him the IBM clone he carried for just that type of customer. My heart sank. However, after careful evaluation of what exactly his needs would be during the drive home, we came to the conclusion that he didn't need to run that software at all.

Meanwhile, I had gained more and more experience on the IBM compatible at the office. Although I initially welcomed the thought of learning a new operation system and getting a feel for the IBM world, I quickly became disillusioned with Big Blue, and acquired a new appreciation for my little orphan at home. One day [I came home from the office] and announced "If we had bought an IBM, it would be upstairs collecting dust!"

My frustration lies with the complexity

of basic operations such as copying and deleting files, formatting, and even viewing directories. For seasoned 8-bit users, perhaps the MS-DOS environment is like a summer home, but for people who have never used a computer, and for ST users, this DOS is a nightmare come to life!

Installing a program is not simply a copy and run operation as it is with the Atari. Many programs require a change to the CONFIG or AUTOEXEC file, files the computer reads at boot up, similar to auto folders and accessories in an odd sort of way. Everything seems to require oodles of research in the massive manuals that accompany DOS and each program you purchase. The research translates into oodles of time, time better spent playing with the program you want to run, I'd say. I still do not have the mouse working with DOSSHELL.

Are you used to loading your favorite accessories and fond of some of the auto folder programs on the ST, like Universal Item Selector, Image viewers, or the countless other available to us commercially and in the public domain? Well, forget them...in fact forget the concept of accessories and boot disks in the IBM world. There are no boot disks, item selectors or accessories as they exist on the ST.

While we're on the subject of item selectors, the MS DOS version is unbelievably lacking. I found out very quickly why hard drives are not partitioned into smaller, manageable directories in the IBM world. There is something very logical about the use of directories and subdirectories for managing your programs and files, in my opinion. I rather like the use of partitions on my hard drive, so I don't have to wade through endless folders and files to find something. Having drives set up, one for DTP, another for

CAD, a small partition for games, and of course your boot drive partition, is a neat and organized system.

The IBM item selector does not allow you to read the contents of floppy drives (or partitions) by the click of a button. Instead, one is reduced to command line entries while in the item selector to see what is on drive A or B. Yuki!

Support is not what you would think in the IBM world either. I was amazed to find that many support-lines are, would you believe, 900 numbers!?! Could you imagine the uproar if ISD, Codehead, or any of our other favorite developers announced that they would be instituting a 900 number, at a cost of \$2.00-a-minute for technical support on a \$100 software product.

We Atarians are spoiled. Not only do we enjoy a level of support like no other, but we often are offered that support by the author of the software I like the closeness and personal touch the smaller TOS market has to offer. MS DOS--no thank you!

All the frustrations of the past months came to mind when I spoke to my Dad about his impending computer purchase. I envisioned the problem he would encounter as a novice. Perhaps I was wrong in thinking that if I, an intermediate computerist with a working knowledge of basic disk operations, was frustrated by the MS DOS environment, then how much difficulty would my Dad encounter as a new user, and further, how long would it take before the CPU became an oversize paperweight on the desk in his den.

Maybe my thinking is off-base, and the rest of the world is right. Does the difference in fact lie in the attitude of the user? Do the Atari users consider their computer a passion, while the MS DOS clans look upon the computer as a mere tool.

After considering my own experiences, and knowing exactly what Dad would want to do with his computer, I decided

that I had no choice but to suggest he look at the Atari. The software he would need is out there...after all, how many word processors does a person really need? I had been using Word Writer since I bought the computer and have yet to find it lacking in terms of my needs. Dad's needs were not much different [from] my own. Yes, I feel a little twinge of guilt when he has noted the masses of MS DOS titles at stores all over town. But I had seen the titles and I would answer that 90% of them are junk. We have junk on the Atari platform as well, but overall I firmly believe that our choice of software has the most bang for the buck: Calamus, Pagestream, DynaCADD, Word Writer, LDW Power, HyperLink, etc., etc., etc. Besides, what is currently available in the ST line would keep even the most industrious novices busy for years!

Dad did buy the ST, and already has joined a user group. I've been able to help him get going over the phone, as has Sheldon Winnik and his new-found friends in the Greenville Atari User Group (thanks guys!) He's going to be joining GENie, and then we will be able to converse through GENie mail. I do not regret making the recommendation to by Atari. I often

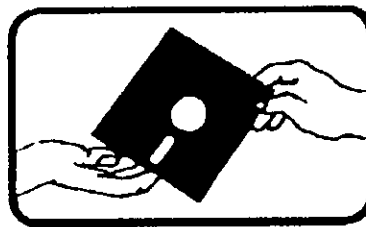
consider what Dad would now be doing if he had purchased a clone.

Now I regret that I didn't speak up at my church. Never again will the argument "that's what everyone else is using" wash with me. I have since promised myself that I will never again pass up another opportunity to introduce the family of Atari computers to a new or seasoned user...for whatever reason.

I challenge you Atarians to do the same!

Disclaimer: The previous article was in no way meant to be MS DOS bashing. These opinions are solely those of the author. The author respects that everyone has a personal preference in all matters, and merely wishes to point out her own experiences and choices.

[Edited for the News Journal. Note from proofreader: I recently bought a notebook computer running MS DOS 5.0, and while it has opened up an interesting new area to me, I can really identify with most of this author's comments.]



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A FUNNY THING HAPPENED AFTER THE CHICAGO SHOW...

By Douglas Hodson
[Rekeyed] from
MVACE News, Jan, 1992

Rising Star did very well at Chicago AtariFest a couple of weeks [ago, with] the exception of one event.

It happened Sunday night while driving back from Chicago. My sister, Sherry, and I were cruising along (=70 eastbound). We were about 40 miles west of Dayton and it was 1:00 am in the morning. To play it safe, we both checked the gas gauge to make sure we wouldn't do something dumb, likesay, run out of gas. At the time the gauge read one quarter of a tank, plenty to spare? No more that 30 seconds later the engine stops running and we are coasting up the next exit ramp with nothing open in sight. We spotted a closed gas station and an open motel. I wouldn't mention the name of the motel, but I will say it didn't fit our "Budget."

The plan was simple, bundle up tight for it was cold outside and make the trek (about 1/2 mile) to the motel and call for help (i.e., the police). We made it to the motel only to find a mean old lady (some people might call her a witch, but I would never use that kind

of language) awaiting us. She informed us that there was a pay phone outside. Simple enough, except that we found it to be out of order! So we told her and asked if she would call the police for us? She replies "NO I DON'T HAVE A PHONE!" (Funny that she had business cards sitting on her front desk with phone numbers.)

We were told that in order to get help we could A) walk three miles to the next gas station, which might be open or B) rent a room where there is a working phone. Now I may be dumb enough to run out of gas but I'm not dumb enough to walk three miles in the freezing cold hoping to find an open gas station (especially at 1:00 am with my sister), so I bent over and paid the \$30 for the room.

We paid for the room and made the call to the local police. Twenty minutes later we were "checked out of the motel" and sitting in the police cruiser. My sister made an off-hand comment about our expensive phone bill, and that's when things started to happen...

The trooper looked at us funny and wanted to know more. We told him the entire story and he was outraged. Immediately he got out of the cruiser and ran into the motel demanding that the lady refund our money. The lady refused. He motioned for me to come inside and formally request a refund. I did and she said no and the trooper became even more upset. He asked her for identification and she again refused. He indicated that as an officer of the law she must provide identification when asked or she could be arrested! She still refused. About that time another guy walked in and asked for a room. The police officer told him to purchase the

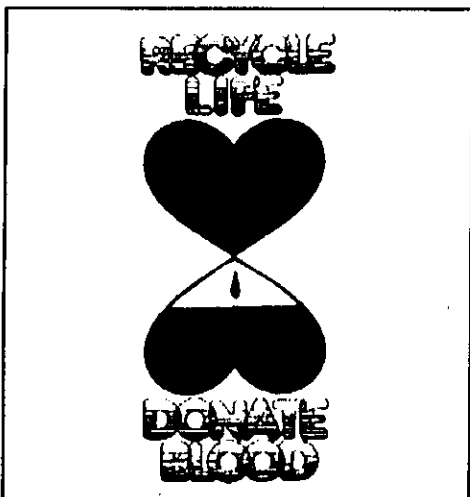
room from me for the \$30 I had already paid and we would be on our merry way. Guess what? The lady jumps up and informs us (the policeman, me and the other guy) that I could not sell my room to this guy because he did not sign for the room. The policeman informed her that he was my second cousin and he would be staying with me (this was great). Finally the lady wised up and shut up.

When we returned to the cruiser all sorts of things started to happen. The trooper called in to report the incident and started logging every event and gathering evidence for the entire situation that had just transpired. So many things happened it's hard to explain, but I'll try.

First, the lady would be arrested for failure to produce identification. Second, charges for a felony against this lady were filed for failure to aid my sister and me in an emergency situation. Next, weather conditions were documented and my initial call to the station was logged and saved (they record every call). Next the gas station attendant signed papers indicating that we indeed needed gas to refill our van and yes it gets better...

A couple of days later we were contacted and were told that other charges had been pressed for theft. Why? Because she essentially took \$30 for a phone call or should I say for a room that was never used and refused a refund. We were also informed that the motel would be subject to both a full fire and health inspections (I have to grin here) and the IRS will audit them for the next five years to ensure books are in order. If that's not enough, the city board of trustees will no longer hold meetings at this location and the newspaper would be writing story about the entire event! Now ain't that special! See ya Doug.

PS: Last night we just received a call from the Indiana State Police requesting that we testify at the trial sometime in March or April of '92...



Why Atari ?

A Diehard-User Tells Why Atari Is The Best by Bill Yerger

([Rekeyed] from Current Notes Jan/Feb 1992)

The often-asked question. Are you ever asked this question, the one I hear most often from non-Atari owners? Sometimes I even hear it from Atari owners. After all, it seems the whole world is moving toward MS-DOS machines or Macs. I have given a little thought to this issue's "Why Atari?" and hope my conclusion might be of interest. The first and most important thing I like about my ST is the operating system. It's built-in and to me it seems everything works the same way, much more than Windows on IBM compatibles. Software usually cost less, too. What really impresses me is the reliability of my Atari hardware. I'm on my second Moniterm monitor, but I have been using the same Mega 4 since October 1987. I also have a color monitor that has been working almost continually since 1985.

Atari's Comfort Factor

My two favorite programs are Calamus and Pagestream. These are also Atari's strongest suit, other than music. I can do what I want to, reliably and fast. The main thing for me is

that it is cozy. My ST is comfortable and reliable. I sit down in front of it, and it is like an old friend that I can count on not to let me down. As a dealer I get a kick out of new users who are just beginning to get excited about software and the potential of their machine. To me there is really something special about someone just finding out what [he/she] can do with [his/her] new tool/toy. Hey, the ST is a great graphics machine, a great word processing machine, and excellent MIDI interface, and an outstanding desktop publishing machine. With dBMAN V and Superbase the ST is a very adequate data processing machine.

Music Animation and Drafting

Drafix and DynaCadd are very capable drafting programs. Phase 4 and Cad 3D are powerful animation tools, and as a music machine the ST is on a par with any computer made, in fact, the ST has some remarkably good programs in every area of computing culminating in powerful and friendly all-around computing system.

Initially, More to Offer

Atari has traditionally had more to offer than its competition. Mac's have always cost more, IBM's used to cost more and had lower resolution as well as having lousy sound. Amigas have a convoluted operating system with interlaced graphics, with good video but little else. Atari monochrome screens are still about the best around for sharpness and brightness. Also don't you find it satisfying to champion lost causes, especially when the underdog outperforms its more highly touted opponents.

The Pride Factor

Let there be no mistake about it, the ST does outperform most of its neighbors in certain areas. I love bringing up my price list on the ST when a customer wants a printout of one and just printing it in about a minute right in front of him or her. Usually they are asking about an IBM compatible of some sort and they say, "Is that Pagemaker?" "No," I say, "this is an Atari, probably the best desktop publishing machine available other than the NeXt computer." Obvious pride and enjoyment surface when I am training someone on the ST. It's such a smooth and capable transition from word processor and art program to desktop publishing to laser printer that whenever anyone comes in and wants a computer for this purpose I have no hesitation in immediately recommending Atari. Of course, this is not the only area in which Atari shines, but it is nice to know that in this niche Atari keeps getting better and better. With color scanning and separations becoming available, as well as high resolution edition programs, Atari seems to have a good future in what is beginning to be known as the pre-press production market. Have you ever noticed how many Atarians use modems? I've never done any research on this but it seems that Atari's files on GENIE are just about as numerous as those for the Mac, while our number of computers is about a twentieth. This indicates to me that we are a lot more vocal group. I personal-

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ly find that the ST is an excellent telecommunications machine. Once again, the ease of use is the real clincher. Instructions? I hate to read instructions until I get lost trying to do something. So far I haven't had to read anything that isn't already on-line, to use my modem.

The Heroes and the Villains

Another significant motivation for using Atari computers is the relations you build with other users and developers. I like to think that some people continue using their ST's because of the support and familiarity of my store. I am sure that people like John Russell, Dave Small, Charles Johnson, to name a few, help keep me plugging away at my Atari. Like other small organizations, Atari users get to know each other. While there are a lot of advantages to this, occasionally there are disappointments. For instance, it hurts us all when someone like Shelby Moore of Neo-Cept (WordUp) goes out of business. We have our heroes and we have villains, and we know each other a lot better than we would on an amorphous platform like IBM. For a diehard-user like myself the other people who are involved with Atari are almost enough in themselves to make using the ST worthwhile.

A Bright Future?

So it would seem that Atari should be a very stable platform with solid growth and a bright future. Regrettably, the indications are mostly to the contrary. Why, you ask? Because the internal politics and management of Atari rejects suggestions, even products, unless they [come from] inside the organization. Regrettably, most of the villains in the Atari drama are employed by Atari in Sunnyvale. This means that while Atari has long been a better serious computer than the Amiga, easier to use than IBM clones, and faster and more fun than Macs, our sales lag behind all other computers. In fact Atari's survival is seriously in question, and although the Traniels are always beaming with enthusiasm, developers [and] dealers are not. Two

companies have developed high-density drives for the ST. Currently the ST and TT are the only models made with double density drives. Even IBM compatible XT's can [not use high density disks.] The STE is also the only computer made with CGS (640x200) color graphics. At least three companies have developed higher resolution solutions for the ST, but Atari would rather boost people up to the overpriced TT [which they] cannot supply anyway, than adopt one of those solutions. So why Atari? Because I am familiar with [Atari] and I believe in the potential of the engineering. I like the way the machines and software operate. Yet alas, last April when the time came to do my taxes I couldn't find a good program for the ST, so I popped Swiftax from Timeworks into an IBM compatible. I typed install at the A prompt and within a few minutes I was inside a program that could well have been on the ST. In an hour I had finished and printed my taxes out.

Desert Island Disks

Yes, the ST is a great computer, it's enjoyable, competent and cozy. Mac

is no longer the big competitor though, it is IBM and their windowing programs. Right now it takes a very fast IBM compatible to approach the ST's screen redraws and font handling. But they are catching up and we are not keeping up in software development. That means while a few of us will exist in the oasis when the ST shines, the war will be won by the IBM compatibles. Myself? Eventually, when I go to a south sea island swimming and sunbathing, I'll be taking a TT or the next step up, from Atari. I like the way my ST works and I want a computer I can count on. Besides, I hate writing batch files and configuring obscure COMS settings.

But that said, it would be nice if Atari should fix and release GDOS, and if they would seriously enter the computer market with equipment and advertising! Though this is unlikely now, Atari users hang in there. You've got the best!

[edited and reformatted for the NJ]

Welcome

Please help welcome our newest members that have recently joined L.C.A.C.E.

New

Russ Zimmerman - Waukegan, IL
Christopher Huppenbaver - Melrose Park, IL

Renewals

Walter Schuff - Spring Grove, IL
Steve Yeaton - Lindenhurst, IL
Joseph Richardson - Waukegan, IL
Lawrence F. Grauzas - Bensenville, IL
Danial Meyer - Wauconda, IL
Gregory Gaskill - Gurnee, IL
Bob Berry - McHenry, IL
Dennis Wilson - Milwaukee, WI
Larry Grauzas - Hawthorne Woods, IL

ETIQUETTE ON THE BOARDS

([Rkeyed] from PACESETTER
Newsletter 12/91)

Further edited for the News Journal

With the advent of modems more and more people are "talking" on BBSs than ever before. Some of these "conversations" are causing quite a stir in some circles. Apparently, some people have the mistaken idea that the freedom defined in the first amendment is a license to say whatever they wish regardless of the merits, validity or truthfulness. This, of course, can lead to some strange messages being left on these boards. Consequently, some BBS operators are having to resort to

**DON'T USE CAPITALS.
This is like shouting
and is considered very
rude behavior by BBS
operators.**

"censoring" what is permitted on their board. Sig (special interest group) operators, while encouraging free speech, are at the same time forced to screen comments which they believe to be illegal, libelous or just in poor taste. This has led to the adoption of some modem rules by most responsible boards such as CompuServe, Prodigy, GENie, and possibly by some of our own local boards.

The first rule is that there aren't many to break. While some boards permit

so-called "locker-room" discourse most find them offensive. Most boards will not allow abusive messages aimed at any single person or group. Those who do are warned that such behavior will not be tolerated and the offending person may be refused access to the board.

The second rule is not to be a "lurker." That's a person who just accesses the board and makes no contribution to the board's raison d'etre but merely "listens in" or just takes stuff.

Before posting messages to the board it is a good idea to get a "feel" for the kind of message base it is. It's not a good idea to put a cooking recipe on

the technical base. While BBS operators allow most anything to be posted on their boards, there are limits. Bear in mind that these messages CAN be read by anyone with access to the board. One should be careful in making remarks

that can be libelous. The BBS operator is not responsible for policing messages on his board, you are. **DON'T USE CAPITALS.** This is like shouting and is considered very rude behavior by BBS operators. **KEEP IT SHORT.** Say what you have to but be brief. While spelling may be important to an English professor's sig, misspelling are not a cause for worry. Most important is to keep messages brief and to the point. A "get-outa-here!" will serve as well as a long winded remonstrance. **SHUN JERKS.** Rather than argue with rude or

insulting individuals, it is better to shun them. Just as Eskimos used shunning as punishment instead of jails it is best to shun electronic bores. Some boards have macros which allow just that. A simple "shut Off Bozo" and the bores' comments will no longer appear on the board. Nothing steams a loud mouth more than not having a forum or someone to listen to him. Beware of liars and the mischief-maker. Because a BBS serves as a good cover for anonymity some people will say the most outrageous things. Be on guard for the blackguard, the Romeo of the Boards, [the] con-artist and the like. Also be on guard for the unscrupulous who will use any handle to get on board then make outrageous claims or statements in that person's name or get their kicks from lousing up a board.

By following these simple rules it is fairly easy to get the most enjoyment out of a BBS.

Finally, a word about some symbols (so-called emoticons) [which] connote various short-hand expressions. Some are cartoon depictions which are readily identifiable with a half head turn to the left.

:) Smile:(Frown:' Cry
;) wink:D Laughter%-(- Confused
:-O Yell>:-< Anger:Q Smoking
:X My lips are sealed:* A kiss
:P Stick out tongue

Information in this column was taken from the 11/18/91 issue of U.S. News & World Report as reported by Marc Silver...Vito A. Raia.



Converted to IMG using Arabesque Professional by Gribnif Software.

Mid-Indians ST MIST ASCII-BLAST-PAUG

Saturday, July 25, 1992
10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Castleway Conference Center
Indianapolis, Indiana
Admission - \$3.00

Mid-Indiana ST proudly announces their fourth annual Atarifest! MIST Atarifest IV will continue the tradition of being one of the best "one day" show in the nation.

MIST Atarifest IV will be held at the same quality location as last year's show, the Castleway Conference Center at 6385 Castleway Drive, Indianapolis, Indiana. This is an air-conditioned and full carpeted location on the north side of Indianapolis has ample parking and is close to several major highways. Nearby are many fine restaurants, reasonably priced hotels, and the largest mall in Indianapolis.

MIST Atarifest IV will be an excellent opportunity for you to buy and sell a variety of hardware and software. Public admission to the fest will be \$3.00 and will include a raffle ticket to win one of the may hardware and software items donated by attending vendors and developers. Additional raffle tickets will be available for purchase. Last year over 50 items were given away, including a complete Calamus DTP system and six TOS 1.4 upgrades.

Plans are underway to offer seminars, as well as, our ever-popular Midi-maze and new Lynx tournaments.

If you would like more information regarding MIST Atarifest IV. Please contact us by one of the following methods:

Leave mail on GFnie to D.WARD10
FidoNet NetMail to Dan Ward @ 1:231/370.0
Call the INAGM BBS at (317) 581-9031
Call Dan Ward at (317) 254-0031

ATARI EXPLORER ONLINE

May 1, 1992 Issue #92-01

*** PREMIER EDITION ***
The Official Atari Online Journal

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Pegasus BBS (708) 623-9570

PD Software Update

from The PD News Journal
(c) 1992 Pegasus Enterprises/BBS

ST-474 UTILITY DISK (MA-356)

Two Column Printer Release 5

A utility which prints text file (ASCII) in a two column "magazine style" format. This saves paper and make long listing much easier to refer to. To save even more paper, it has a option that simplifies two sided printing even on continuous form paper. Major enhancements in this version are sorted paper output for cut sheet printers, and new "Auto" and "passed parameter" modes of operation.

Atari Hard Drive Utilities (v5.00, Dec. 3, 1991)

Included in HDX V5.00 which has more compatible command set, should be able to format just about any drive you throw at it, including drives such as the Quantum "PULSE" drives. One interesting enhancement is the ability to boot Sysquest removable media without a cartridge in it.

Big Bux ver 1.14

A utility for doing numerous types of financial calculations. This version apparently fixes bugs in the Amort table..

Measurement Converter

CONVERT is a utility for converting numerous types of measurements. An example is converting feet to meters.

DATEFILE

A utility for changing the date/time attributes of a file. You can change either the date of the time attribute or both. Either way, it is simple as pointing clicking and typing in the new values.

LOANSUM

A unique loan calculator that displays both input and output in a single dialog box. This provides for quick results when you wish to "play" with the APR and the other variables. You can also compute the interest saved when extra payments are applied to the principle. An amortization table (which shows accumulated interest) can be sent to a scrollable window, printer or disk file.

LOWSWIT

A program which boot low resolution programs and then returns you to a medium resolution desktop.

MUSE_PM

A collection of Printmaster icons which are designed to designate disk types. For example, Joystick, games, IBM Emulator programs, etc.

Silkfont 1

A utility which combines a mouse accelerator with a utility which replaces allscreen fonts with it's own GDOS compatible fonts.

ST Tool Ver 1.0

The screen display and many of the features of this program are reminiscent of PC Tools for the MS-DOS machines, hence the name. ST Tools. When the program starts the Fat tables and the disk structure of the current disk or partition are processed to produce the disk tree in the left window and the contents of the

root directory in the right window. Seeing the "directory tree" means that you can see, for example, what folders are inside of the folder on the desktop.

ST-475 DEMO DISK (MA-357)

Midwinter II

DEMOA self-running demo of Midwinter II, and adventure game. The disk is set to autoboot this demo.

Tumble-ST v2.05 Another Adventure in Kinetic Art - A program for creating interesting patterns on your screen. These patterns may be changed by setting various parameters.

Uncle Carl's Famous Disk Librarian, Ver 3.7 A disk cataloging utility which will read alldirectories from either you Floppy or Hard drive and allow you to save this information to disk in ASCII format. This information can then be sorted, merged, appended, edited, printed, searched, or transferred. This is a SHAREWARE program with a few of the features disabled.

ST-476 GAME DISK (MA-358)

LLAMA512

A fast-paced arcade game reminiscent of the 8-bit "Berserk." In it you are a Llaina (If your don't know what that is, look it up!) in which your mission is to blast all the baddies surrounding you. This version runs on 512k machine. LLAMAMEG, a version requiring 1 meg of memory, is also included on this disk. The one meg version has cute sound effects, more color, and various other objects running around the screen.

MYTH

A demo of a side-view, scrolling platform arcade game. Very colorful.

ST-477 GAME DISK (MA-359)

Rookie Ver 2.0

A game in which you are a police officer in training. The opening sequence is indoor firing range.

Soldiers V1.2

A squad level overhead view WWII wargame. Two scenarios are included, and a scenario builder can be ordered from the author for a SHAREWARE contribution.

Siege Master

An overhead view, teamtype role playing game. Your first quest is to show your fellow warriors how to survive in this evil land. Played with the mouse.

ST-478 GAME DISK (MA-360)

MAD DOG

The Adventure of Mad Dog Williams in the Dungeons of Duridian - An animated adventure reminiscent of the Kings Quest series. This is a commercial quality game. Very Colorful. The introductory screens are impressive in themselves. The game features three levels of difficulty and it has sound support for a variety of Midi keyboards. This is a large program, nearly 800k.

TetriSide V2.0

A number of bugs were fixed in this version of the PD Tetris game. The game features a split screen, so two people can play each other. You can play against the computer, of course.

ST-479 GAME DISK (MA-362)

Jeopardy by Dave Burns V3.2

Apparently the third version of this PD version of the popular game. Four files are included.

Maze

A first person maze game reminiscent of Midi Maze. The game features 1) Split screen 2-player action, 2) Very fast MACHINE CODE graphics in 3D, 3) Full feature maze editor, 4) Six minutes of high quality music, 5) An impressive introduction sequence, 6) Incredibly fast, full screen maze, 7) Test feature (from editor), 8) A set of pre-set mazes, and 9) The facility to load and save your own maze designs.

Poker Dice

A computer version of this popular bar game. Up to 5 players can play. Excellent graphics and sound. Some speech is included.

Woldchild



A demo of a side-view, scrolling arcade game. In this one, you change into a werewolf at times.

Upgrades

The latest version of ST Writer Elite v4.8 will be available. FREE upgrade, just bring back your original disk the get this upgrade.

MegaCheck Now Shipping

BELTON, MO: Muller Automation has announced the release of version 1.20 of their latest produce, MEGA-Check. Despite the many enhancements added from the previous version 1.20 will run on a 512K. Mega-Check is a GEM based small business and personal finance manager that support features such as automatic funds transfers, scheduled deposits, bill paying, check printing, bank statement balancing and custom report listings. For more information contact Muller Automation at (816) 322-4919.

	More Graphics from Pegasus Ent	
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Meeting**

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