

THE TORPET

BULLETIN OF THE TORONTO PET USERS GROUP

ISSUE No. 4 March 1981

NEW CHAPTER

The Toronto Pet Users Group now has two chapters. In addition to the Central Chapter which will continue to meet at the Leaside Highschool there is now also a West Side Chapter that will meet at Sheridan College. The West Side chapter is being co-ordinated by Jim Hindson of Burlington, telephone number (416) 335-5104. The first meeting will be on March 11 at 7:30.

The meeting date of the Central chapter at Leaside has been moved to March 18, so there will be no conflict. It is intended that meetings will always be scheduled on different Wednesdays so that those desiring to attend both meetings may do so.

At the present your one membership fee entitles you to attend either or both meetings, and members of either chapter have all the rights and privileges of the other, such as receiving the TORPET and access to the club disks. If in the future those attending the West Side chapter decide to become completely autonomous, then the degree to which their membership fee will be used (if at all) to support the Central club will have to be decided at that time. In the interim the West Side chapter is being supported from the present treasury.

If there are any other geographic areas such as further north or further east that feel they have enough members to form a separate chapter, they should inform the executive. One format that was discussed at one time was having a number of smaller chapter meetings every month and then a larger joint meeting say quarterly. This idea, like all others, is in flux in our dynamically growing club.

300 SURPASSED

The club membership has now surpassed the 300 number. Increased membership will permit many new activities, so invite your friends and help spread the word. With the split into chapters there should be lots of room in both meeting locations.

BULLETIN BOARD

The February executive meeting gave special attention to the subject of a bulletin board. Gord Campbell attended and Mike Bonnycastle gave a demo using his phone to contact an existing Apple bulletin board in the U.S. There are a large number of bulletin boards already in existence and there are directories published with their numbers. It appears that anyone with a modem has free access to many of them.

The potential uses of a bulletin board are many. Users can use it for leaving each other messages (these can be private if their is a known shared password), getting recent club information, exchanging programs, advertising private goods, and numerous other uses.

Steve Punter has volunteered to write the programs for a club bulletin board and Michael Bonnycastle plans to give a demonstration at the next Central chapter meeting similar to the one he gave at the executive meeting. Steve will be speaking at the West Side chapter meeting and perhaps those attending their can get more of an update from Steve.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

It is our intention to publish a telephone directory of the club membership. The executive has vetoed the idea of publishing the club mailing list because of the fear that it might fall into the hands of junk mailers and be abused. However, it is felt that it may be very useful for the club members to know who each other is, and to have each other's phone number. Especially during the summer months. If anyone has an objection to their telephone number being listed, please hand a slip of paper, with your name on it, to the editor at the next Central chapter meeting, or to Jim Hindson at the West Side chapter meeting, or inform a member of the executive.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

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Please note that the MARCH meeting of the Central chapter at Leaside has been changed to MARCH 18. This has necessitated the elimination of the M.L. group meeting which was scheduled for March 20. The April meeting of the M.L. group is being rescheduled to Friday April 3. The original date fell on Good Friday.

CALENDAR

MARCH

11 West Side
18 Central

APRIL

3 M.L. Group
8 Central
15 West Side

MAY

13 Central
20 West Side
22 M.L. Group

JUNE

10 Central
17 West Side
19 M.L. Group

West Side chapter meets at Sheridan College

Central chapter meets at Leaside Highschool

M.L. group meets at George Brown College

NO ISSUE BEFORE APRIL MEETING

There will be no further issue of the TORPET before the Central chapter meeting in April since that meeting comes so early in April. So put yourself a reminder on your calendar.

The TORPET

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MEMBERSHIP DUES

For the balance of the present season
adult \$10 (otherwise \$5 per time at the
door); students and spouses \$5 (otherwis
e \$2 per time at the door). Membership
includes TORPET subscription and
library privileges.

AD RATES

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| 1/8 page..... | \$15.00 |
| 1/4 page..... | 25.00 |
| 1/2 page..... | 45.00 |
| full page..... | 85.00 |

by Dave Goff
and Gord Campbell

Here are two more programs from Gord Campbell.
The first one is a handy aid which lets you printer show
you what characters it can print, along with the internal
codes for them.

CHAR SET

```
0 OPEN4,4
10 FORJ = 4TO15
20 FORK = 0TO7
30 X = K J'8
40 PRINTx4,X":'CHRS(X)LEFT$(' ',6-LEN(STR$(X)));
50 NEXT:PRINTx4,CHRS(13);CHRS(10);:NEXT
60 CLOSE4
```

DISK/HEX CHAR DUMP

```
0 DIMHS(15):FORJ = 0TO15:READHS(J):NEXT
10 HMS = "/CHM/[24CD]'"
20 RIS = "/40CR'"
30 INPUT"FILE NAME";FS
40 OPEN5,8,5,"0:" FS ",P,R"
50 DIMAS(7)
60 FORJ = 0TO7:GET# 5,AS(J):IFAS(J) = ""THENAS(J) =
CHRS(0)
70 NEXT
80 PRINTHMS;:FORJ = 0TO7:A = ASC(AS(J)):B = INT
PRINTHMS;:FORJ = 0TO7:A = ASC(AS(J)):B = INT(A/16):C
= A-B'16:PRINTH$(B)HS(C)" ";:NEXT
90 FORJ = 0TO7:PRINTHMSRIGHT$(RIS,25 J)AS(J);:NE
XT
100 PRINT
110 GETZ$:IFZ$ = ""THEN110
120 IFZ$ "Q"THEN60
130 CLOSE5:END
140 DATA0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,A,B,C,D,E,F
```

The Hex/Char Dump program
is a useful too for examining
program files. It shows on the
screen in hexadecimal and ASCII,
a line of 8 locations at a time.
You get the next line by pressing
any key and quit by pressing 'q'.

You can see that Gord's pro-
gram uses strings of cursor
control characters. Our conver-
sion program is not yet smart
enough to recognize a sequence of
these, so we edited the output.
Otherwise it would have shown
all 24 cursor downs and all 40
cursor rights.

We thank Gord for these
examples which gave us an
opportunity to exercise the Goff-
proof program.

FEBRUARY MEETING

by David Hook

COPY SESSION

Our facilities at Leaside High School seemed to work well, especially for a first meeting. With the availability of 4 disk drives (with DOS 2.0) for the duplicating, we believe that the session went pretty well.

Next time out, we would like a 'fast teller' single line to enter the copying area--the crush of bodies was audible! We think that the use of 'Duplicate' shortened the wait substantially.

One complaint--someone out there pinched a diskette. Yours truly is definitely a sucker given the 'mad-house' conditions. Try not to take advantage of such an easy target. If the gentleman who said 'That's my Verbatim disk' will quietly return same to me, I'll drop the issue. I can stand the \$5 loss, but the point is that it wasn't mine to lose.

The diskette with the January copies was destroyed by some individual who ought not to have been running the disk. Sorry about that.

MEETING NOTES

If the weather kept you away, you missed a fine tutorial by Jim Butterfield on data files. Starting with writing a tape file, Jim demonstrated how one makes use of this facet of file management. We progressed to reading this file, then repeated same for sequential disk files.

We continue to enlist new members, many of whom are not as advanced as the veterans. 'Back to Basics' is planned as a regular meeting feature.

The club library was then distributed to the 10 individual volume managers. Their duties are to include individual review of the programs, comments on equipment compatibility, and maintenance of the volume under their control.

Thanks to the efforts of John Le Grande and Bob Gidden, I was able to demonstrate a terrific graphics utility for ROM 1.0 and 2.0 PETS. It is a comprehensive package in M.L. with full documentation, which allows easy use. Simply print something on the screen then do a few pokes to move, reverse, scroll, etc.

Chris Bennett closed the meeting with a demonstration of his comprehensive mailing list package. As always with Chris' work, it's a professional job and very well done. Moreover, Chris has decided to contribute this to our library. The business volume value has at least doubled with this addition. Thank you!

In the formatting program, I have a SYNTAX ERROR in line 9143. A stray piece of line starting '9050 goto...' seems to be tacked on at the end. I deleted this part, and carried on OK.

FEB MEETING

universal wedge
copy all
aid 2.1
graphix instr
graphics-loader
graphics-demo
library
mail list 4.0
mail list 2.0
format
update
print
menu
mail backup
Blocks Free 433

MARCH RELEASE

Disk Drive x 1: tplug-
universal wedge
copy all
lp:new rom music
music/old rom
76 trombones!
the entertainer!
invention x8!
when i'm 64!
water music!
allelujah!
march in d!
prel and fugue x2!
sinfonia!
invention x11!
starspgl banner!
wonderland!
music box dancer
baroque fanfare!
jingle bells!
1950's medley!
bumble bee!
espana
well tempered
fughetta
polonaise in bfl
gavotte and musette
spring song
minuet in g
the promenade
marche militaire
palindrome
sonata l.82
duelin' banjos
reel
three tunes
danse caprice
eleanor rigby
silence
stairway
elephant
tarantela
minute waltz
sound.demo!
petsong
sound.info!
washington.post!
petsong-bach
sounds taps cb2
joplin music
petsong 1
petsong 2
Blocks Free - 186

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POWER ON/ERROR INDICATOR
FOR 2040/4040 DISK DRIVES \$29.95

LIBRARY OF PET SUBROUTINES
\$24.95

NEXT MEETING

We'll have ten copies of the music disk for sale. This has the 'driver' programs for 1.0 and 2.0 ROMs to handle the plethora of software included. The directory below has the contents of this release.

Don't forget to bring at least one blank disk for March copying. Bring a DOS 1.0 NEWed disk as well, for other stuff that may be floating around. Peter Smith will probably have last month's copies for sale (on tape). We'll try to have one disk drive with February's there too.

DISK LIGHT

by Chris Bennett

The power on/error indicator is made by BMB Compuscience Canada and sells for \$29.95. The unit is installed inside the 2040 disk drive and replaces the red error light found in the middle of the drive. This is the indicator that glows red when a disk error occurs. To install the new device, you must first open the disk drive and remove the original L.E.D. and connector. Next the plug-in module is connected to the main logic board and the dual function L.E.D. is installed in the front drive panel.

The operation of the new indicator is quite simple. Under normal conditions, the light is green. However, when a disk error occurs, the light turns red and an audible alarm sounds inside the disk drive. This continues until the error channel is read. The device can also be used to provide an audible prompt to the operator. This can be accomplished by sending an invalid disk command to force an error condition. The alarm can be turned off after a specified time or after the operator has replied.

Installation in my disk drive was a little more involved than the instructions implied. Possibly because I have one of the older drives. I had to remove the entire main logic board and substitute a longer bolt to hold the PCB module. It was still very easy to connect and I have already found the device to be useful.

MIDNIGHT REPRINT

Once again, courtesy of James Strasma we bring you the following: Issue#2, THE MIDNITE SOFTWARE GAZETTE, Winter 1981

THE MIDNITE SOFTWARE GAZETTE. Unprotected: requires no ROM and applies to any PET. Inexpensive. Useful to those who think about buying programs, or selling programs. Uneven quality: they reviewed VISICALC without mentioning what it does. Perhaps controversial: will there be 'rebuttal' reviews in future issues? Money-back guarantee. Well worth twice the price (free). Hopefully quarterly.--Jim Butterfield.

Welcome to MIDNITEx2, an off-the-wall publication of CIPUG. (Central Illinois PET User Group--PET is a trademark of Commodore Business Machines Inc.) This issue is going to those who sent in a stamped envelope. With copying it will be seen by several hundred PET owners. Note your envelope. In the lower left is the issue number, and how many issues you've provided SASEs for. We suggest you send more envelopes when your envelope says 0 left. Sending 3 or 4 is a good idea. Sending more could create hassles when postage rates change etc. Several readers sent donations. Thanks very much! Your generosity paid for this issue. We also received several guest reviews, and offers to do reviews of programs we send.

As some noticed, we aren't competent to review some categories of PET software, notably some education, and scientific applications. Programs in these areas may be reviewed by PET owners further away. Preference in doling out donated programs for review will be given to those who contribute reviews.

We really need reviews of business programs. So far, we've heard complaints about all but 1 of the available packages. Only 1 was praised, and it was bitterly berated by another user.

We don't review free programs--if worthless, so what? Some freebies are better than commercial versions. Pet User Groups often have exchange libraries. Look there first. Unless otherwise listed, disk programs reviewed here should work on Basic 3 and 4 and both keyboards. Non-disk programs should work on all PETs. Graphics programs over a few months old probably won't display correctly on 80 column PETs. We hope to test major programs on an 8032.

ABOUT CUSTOMER SATISFACTION:

Some readers praised or panned specific companies. We remember bad software from 2 years ago--We'd assumed more recent offerings do run. Now we know better. But we don't do anonymous reviews. If a program is a rip off, get someone to review it openly.

On behalf of sellers, it's VERY difficult to write programs for all PETs. We have 3 ROMs, 2 character generators, 2 screen widths, 3 disk densities and 2 DOS's from Commodore, plus 2 other incompatible brands of disk drives, each of which comes in more than 1 variety, 2 printer ROMs and models of printer from Commodore, plus several brands of competing printers and printer interfaces. I can hardly wait for Basic 5...

Even so, companies should provide upgrades for new equipment. A usual policy is to provide fixes at no or low charge. (ATTENTION SUPERSORT CUSTOMERS: IF YOUR COPY IS EARLIER THAN DECEMBER '80, RETURN YOUR CASSETTE OR DISK FOR A FREE UPDATE-JS). Major improvements are available for the difference in price between the versions. The line between fix and upgrade is fuzzy. Most good programs can be improved, and are.

Some software houses refund money for returned programs. Others don't. This makes it essential to know whether a program will work for you. If you order sight unseen, say as much as possible about your equipment. The company may warn you if the program won't work for you, or notify you if they discover a problem with your equipment. If you don't get good service, write again. Recently, I lost an order. The requested program is ready to mail, but I can't remember who gets it.

In this light, we received a complaint about a requested fee to upgrade ASM/TED. The complainer had good points, and so did Carl Moser, ASM/TED's author. I find Carl to be honest and helpful. If not, I wouldn't coordinate his ASM/TED user group. Given my bias, I won't judge this disagreement. However, it shows the need for both sellers and buyers to do what they can to achieve customer satisfaction.-JS

1) Programma's TALKING CALCULATOR doesn't do all math correctly, especially dividing or multiplying by 0. However, it is a great demo of non-hardware speech synthesis.--Gene Beal 2) The PROGRAMMER'S TOOLKIT ROM, TK40 is now available, for \$40 and up, or \$20 plus your old Toolkit chip. It fixes all known bugs, and adds a 'bye' command. This disables

the Toolkit, so it can't interfere with another program. 'bye' also returns Basic to full speed. It is ONLY for Basic 4.-JS 3) DIAL A ROM no longer includes the on/off switch complained about in Mx1.-JS

QUESTIONS:

1) 'What is the difference between Extramon and Supermon?' Extramon is a superset of Supermon. Supermon is by Jim Butterfield, who improved Bill Seiler's Extramon with goodies from Supermon. Those in CIPUG with both, prefer Extramon, because it has several commands not in Supermon. Both exist in versions for all PETs. Both are free from user groups, but Programma also plans to sell Extramon. 2) 'What is a dummy ROM?' A dummy ROM is 1 that is used by the program ONLY for protection against copying. For instance, KRAM, which is a dummy despite appearances, merely alters a register and returns. If not for protection, that could be done faster without the ROM.

COMMODORE NEWS

Commodore's problem isn't Japan. It's keeping employees. Rarely can I call the same employee twice. They've left! I especially miss Bill Seiler, who was around from PET's start til recently. He wrote BASIC AID, EXTRAMON, and the BRANDING IRON program, (reviewed below).

The VIC20, a \$300 mini-PET, is selling in Japan. It uses your TV, has 4 k memory, color, sound, and a subset of PET Basic. Hope it reads PET tapes. New disks coming are the 8061 and 8062; vertical 8 disks, with 1.6MB and 3.2MB respectively. Cost is \$2,500 and \$3,500. A 2031 has also been announced. It's a 5 single disk, with 130k for \$595. (2 similar disks, announced 1 and 2 years ago, never appeared.) The 8096 PET is an 8032 with 96k memory. The 8024 printer was announced in England, for 1160 pounds sterling. It has 132 character lines, bidirectional printing and a 9X7 dot matrix. A \$300 full Pascal is labeled IN STOCK in Chicago. Uses 32k plus disk. Maximum object code length is 22k. Two other new CBM programs are--OZZ, a machine-language database manager, and Wordsmith, another word processor.

Anyone seen Issue 11 of the Commodore PET User Group Newsletter? Its editor told me last June that it was finished and had been sent to Pennsylvania for printing. If not, consider this a negative review.-JS.

HINT: Wondering why you can't send monitor listings to the printer with Basic 4? You're probably calling it with 'open4,4:cmd4:sys1024'. The fix is to type 'open4,4:cmd4:sys54386.'

FINALLY, THE REVIEWS!

In this issue, we feature the work of two software producers: Baker Enterprises and California Software Associates. Both sent several programs for evaluation. Their addresses are:

Baker Enterprises
15 Windsor Drive
Atco, N.J. 08004

California Software Associates
P. O. Box 969
Laguna Beach, CA. 92652

COMMENT ON BAKER. I was able to run most of these programs strictly from the prompts, which indicates an excellent job by Bob Baker in being end-user oriented. His prices are quite reasonable for utility programs, unless you are willing to work for far below the minimum wage in creating equivalent programs.-RS

Price Note for Baker, unless disk price is listed, add \$2 per order for a disk, holding any number of programs.-JS

DISK MASTER, \$10 from Baker. Needs disk. Printer optional. The best disk library program for PET now available. It automatically reads disk directories into disk files. It stores 140 alphabetized directories per diskette. Each needs a distinctive ID number. If not unique, you'll be warned. This allows you to update the directory after changing a disk. Able to find which disk contains a particular program, even if you don't remember the program's full name. Also prints a list of IDs in use, to help avoid duplicates. Everything is speedy except the search routine, which takes several minutes.-JS

DATA DISK WITH SEARCH, \$7.50 from Baker. Manual entry inventory program for disk contents. No way to abort search feature without punching the stop key, which then leaves the disk drive active. Too slow when you are looking for something, unless you have used the printer option to make hard copy for future reference.-RS

XREF, \$7.50 from Baker. For Basic 3. A simple and very handy little machine language program that upon a sys command will display all variables used in a BASIC program. It won't interrupt your program and is a nice touch I'd like to have in ROM. Since you don't have to run your program first, as you must with PAIC's TOOLKIT, it's easier to use.-JO

HOUSE INVENTORY, \$5 from Baker. Program is input bomb-proof. Memorization of prompts not required--

displayed at all times. Fails to return character set to original at end. This is an excellent purchase, and if used, with a copy of data in a safe place, takes a large step in home protection.-RS

BLACK FRIDAY, \$10 from Baker. Needs 8K. A stock market simulation for 1-4 players. More realistic than most such games. Very easy to play. You start with \$5000 and try to have the most money after 10 years (turns). Stocks split and dividends are paid after each session. A good stock market game. Worth the price.-JO

DISK/TAPE-COPY, \$2 from Baker. 2 programs. Copy data files to tape and conversely. Can't copy programs. Takes about 16 seconds/disk block. Each program is less than 1k long. A single menu-driven program would have been better. Included with Assembler (below).-RS

ASSEMBLER, \$10 tape, \$15 disk from Baker. Needs Commodore disk. Includes an editor, assembler, loader, and copier (above), all in Basic with no ROM-dependent peeks or pokes. Will allow use with future ROMs. Syntax error detection excellent. Requires memorization of syntax which may not be consistent with some assemblers. Good place to start, but if you are into large assembly programs, this package is too slow.-RS

WORD HUNT, \$5 from Baker Enterprises. Requests and hides 10 words in 10 X 10 letter matrix. For each word, you guess row/column or 1st letter and direction code. Points awarded for accuracy and speed (5 skill levels). Screen displays about all you need, but the matrix is tight and hard to look at. Good input channeling and error trapping. Entertaining, though I prefer Len Lindsay's 'Hidden Word' (published in Recreational Computing) for its unscrutinized matrix, printer option, and answer key. Uses: puzzle fans or student (10 yrs) Practice in word recognition.-B

PET DISK UTILITY PACK, \$100 from CSA. Needs 2040 or 4040(DOS 2) disk. Printer optional. Programs also available separately; prices below. All have excellent instructions and prompts. All are reliable and recommended.-JS

RECOVER, (\$30) Restores files or programs scratched or new/header-ed off a disk, so long as new programs haven't reused the space. It works quickly and reliably. Quite an accomplishment...

MESSAGE, (\$60) Disk monitor, like the monitor in the PET. Allows any desired manipulation of the Disk. Seems reliable, and safe in use. Includes

warnings, and descriptions of disk organization. For DOS 1, but works fine on DOS 2, except thinks there's a sector 19 on tracks 18 to 24, as in DOS 1. No problem. Files don't use those blocks, and Massage considers them allocated.

EDIT, (\$60) A simple way to alter sequential and usr files in place. Seldom needed, but very useful occasionally.

SNAPSHOT, \$25, from CSA. Not for Basic 4. Copies screen memory to assigned RAM near Himem. Allows up to 9 pictures to be instantly saved and restored later. It is good for those without a printer, or those who must save quickly changing results. It also makes program editing a bit easier. Easily disabled, so can't interfere with other programs. Should work well with a modem to save a conversation.-JS

FET/RECOVER, \$65 from F.L.C Inc. 1407 Clinton Rd Jackson, MI 49292. Monitor for the 2040 disk. 'This program works well so far as I've seen. It can be of great use, if you lose part of your index and need to reconstruct it.'-Fred Bruey

I understand FET has recently been revised. I watched the old version ruin a disk it was trying to restore.-JS

MICROPHYS PROGRAMS: x721-724, \$20 each from Microphys, 2048 Ford St. Brooklyn, N.Y. 11229. For senior highs. Common format gives random user code and questions keyed to that code. Displays 2/screen. User solves on paper. After 6-8 questions, displays answers. (optionally suppressed.) You correct the paper by changing a line, running from a different start, and giving user code and answers. Little program interrupt protection. No assistance, 'See Instructor for help'. Dull programs, too much code, too many dollars for so little payoff. Saves teacher time by random problem generation. Ditto sheets are cheaper.-Walter Sadler (Math Teacher)

PAPERMATE, \$30 from A.B. Computers, 115 E. Stump Rd. Montgomeryville, PA. 18936. An inexpensive word processor. Features machine-language for the PET to ASCII conversion routine. Fast, and could be faster, but for PET's garbage collection routine (Basic 4 cures this!) Word wrap-around, without awkward splits, optional hyphenation, formatting, headers, page numbers, commands for disk or cassette, linked files, form letters, and even options for various printers are built-in. Instructions are good and Mike Riley is steadily improving it. On disk or cassette.-Tom Owen.

BRANDING IRON, \$80 from AB. For all PETs, (Old PETs need an add-on 24 pin EPROM board.) Software by Bill Seiler (see Commodore news) and others. Hardware by Seiler and the St. Louis PET SET. Programs 2716 (2k) and 2532 (4k) EPROMs. Connects to user port and cassetex2 port. Easy commands, patches into Commodore's monitor. Handy LED shows programming in process. Nice screen display zips thru bytes being programmed or shows errors byte by byte. Can VERIFY results or COPY the EPROM into RAM. FAST. CHEAP, RELIABLE. Don't pass this up if you want to program your own ROMs.-BA

COLUPAD, \$150 from Etcetera International Software, P.O. Box G Apex, North Carolina 27502 'I...have purchased COLUPAD, a program similar to Visicalc. It works very well and is well integrated to disk and printer. It, too, uses a worksheet formula, but is not as complicated as Visicalc and costs \$50 less.'-John Ellison

BANNER PLUS, \$10 from Programma International, 3400 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA. 90010. Prints large characters across paper's LENGTH. You choose message, letter size, and centering. Nice feature for creating new character or shape. Smallest character size (7x9) looks best. Fun to use, potentially useful.-BA

TELEPHONE BOOK, \$7 from Programma. Create, change, and store (tape/disk) entries in electronic phone book. Find entry by name, city, state, zip, area code, or category. Works fine, but a hassle without disk. Would be more useful with options to sort and display all listings, especially on paper.-BA

DATA LOGGER, \$15 from Channel Data Systems, 5960 Mandarin Av. Goleta CA 93017. Enables creating/manipulating sorted list of data: insert, delete, modify, find, output (printer or screen), or save. Find, modify, and output may operate on a specified field of a data record. Simple but effective. Uses 2K, so leaves much room for data.-BA

BIKE, \$10 from Softside Software, 305 Riverside Dr. New York, N.Y. 10025. An economic simulation of running a bike co. You must deal with the amount of workers, the price to sell your bikes, whether to invest in more machinery or an ad campaign. At times a worker will break a machine and you always have to contend with inflation. No graphics but written well and even if it does run with a random number generator, I still enjoy it. I forgot to mention that your sales will fluctuate with the seasons. A 1 player game.-JO

BULLS and BEARS, \$15 from Speakeasy Software, Box 1220 Kemptville, Ontario CANADA. (Must order thru a dealer.) A stock market game where you and up to 5 other people try to buy stock in 2-7 companies and take control of them. Invest in production and borrow to keep afloat and it makes for an interesting game. With \$50,000 you begin the game to make a fortune. NOTE: After many, many tries I finally accumulated 43 billion dollars. So much for the national debt.-JO

DOW JONES, \$8 from Instant Software Inc. Peterborough, N.H. 03458. Uses 8k. Simulates the stock market. 1-6 players...if less than 6 the computer plays for the remaining players. You choose the length of the game by determining how many days of trading you want. You buy and sell stock in 3 categories of industrials, transportation and utilities with 4 different companies in each. You must watch flashing bulletins and other players' transactions, (plus the high influence option) to become the richest at the end of the game. Stocks split and pay dividends. I recommend it.-JO

TREK-X, \$8 from ISI, Uses 8k. A different approach to Startrek. Klingons, Romulans, Orions are after you in all directions and real time. The top 3/4 ths of the screen is your window to space. After you set replot time (which determines approximately how far you've traveled in the universe) the screen clears and redraws the area. Commands include shields, torps, phasers, and warp or impulse drive. If you go too fast you burn. Let your shields get too low and you'll vaporize. You have a map to show your location. You MUST find a base as you destroy the 50 enemy vessels. Good graphics, sounds and real time action make it a good game for anyone just learning to be 'Captain Kirk'. (Changing a couple of variables makes it tougher.)-JO

SANTA PARAVIA and FIUMACCIO, \$10 from ISI. Needs 16k. The best 'Kingdom'-type game available for the PET to date. Up to 6 players can participate. With 4 difficulty levels, it's challenging. You decide how much to feed subjects, when to buy and sell land, what grain reserves to keep, what taxes to charge on income and sales, what to pay soldiers, and what justice to provide. You must build markets, mills, a castle and a church to become king. Only if you accumulate the wealth within an average of 20 years are you going to win. Graphics are very well done. Bad points: Plays too short a game. If you change the year to begin the game it could last all night.-JO

REAL TIME BASEBALL, \$8 from Softbrew, P. O. Box 50117A, Indianapolis, IN. 46250. Cassette only. Basic Machine Language. Not for Basic 4. Heavily protected. All action is on the screen, with 9 players represented as numbers and the entire baseball field shown, including outfield bleachers. You play the computer or a person or watch the computer play itself. You use the '5' and 's' keys to pitch or bat. When a ball is hit, the 4 and 6 keys move the outfielders. You must reach the outfield bleachers to get a hit, represented by 'S' 'D' 'T' and 'H', after each pitch. The innings, balls, strikes and outs are also displayed. You also have sacrifices, bases on balls and double plays. Simple to play. Graphics are excellent.-JO

CURSOR, \$27/year. Bimonthly, from the Code Works, P. O. Box 550 Goleta, CA. 93017. Cursor is a widely-praised tape magazine. I've subscribed almost from its beginning. However, I'm now due to renew my subscription, and wonder if one can have too much of a good thing. I don't like games much, and that's over half of Cursor's content. Recently, I went through 10 disks full of games to select those I am willing to play. Result, 1 mostly full diskette, with only 1 CURSOR game on it. On the other hand, at least twice a year, they include a utility program so good, I'd pay the annual cost for that alone. In short, I renewed. I wish utilities were included more often, but I still get my money's worth from Cursor. I'm sure you will too.-JS

MCTERM, \$195 from Madison Computer, 1825 Monroe St. Madison, WI. 53711. 'Do you remember I told you I was impressed with a terminal program by Madison Computer - McTerm? It works great until you try to get hard copy (by saving it to the disk). While the program is saving to the disk and checking the error channel, it loses some of the incoming text. It's written in Basic and can probably be fixed.'-John Melissa

8050 DISK, \$1795 from Commodore. The long-awaited Megabyte disk. Looks like a 2040, but uses better disk drives, two 6502's and DOS 2.5. Two were ordered, and promptly delivered. One works great. The other had a drive so warped, that we couldn't even insert a diskette. To the good, a replacement came in 2 days. Amazing capacity. That's not always a blessing...Newing a disk takes 2 minutes, and backup 8 minutes. The unit to unit copy program works quickly and well to dump files from 2040 to 8050 and back. Unfortunately,

Visicalc, is not available for the 8050, and can't be copied by Unit to Unit. Businesses need the 8050, and perhaps a 2040 too. For others, it may be overkill, as many programs need their own diskettes, and huge directories are hard to read. On the other hand, triple the storage for a third more is not to be sneezed at. Good documentation.-JS

CBM 8010 MODEM, \$395 from Commodore. Acoustic modem. Originate or answer, 300 baud. Full or half duplex. Apparently the same as the Star Modem, available from AB for \$265, or \$135 if your modem program simulates RS232. Work, but only if you have an IEEE modem program. Delivered without ANY instructions or programs! Took 2 days to get it working well enough to call anyone. I consider modems a luxury, unless you must use an outside computer. If you DO need a modem, a direct connect originate AND answer modem costs little more and works better. Network's \$300 IEEE modem (not reviewed) has been around for years, and even dials for you. Skip the 8010.-JS

THE SOURCE, \$100 variable fee/hour, from Source Telecommunications Corp. 11616 Anderson Road McLean VA. 22102. Unless you can call toll-free, Source can cost \$10 /hour to use. Up to

5 minute wait between commands. Offers toll-free help number. Needed! It took 3 help calls and a password change to get in. The mailed sign-on instructions were almost totally wrong. We received a few pages of instructions, with a promise of a real manual later. Another user claims they've said that for months. Hard for PET owners to use as they don't offer a PET program like those for TRS-80 and Apple 2. Unless you have a great need for its databases, skip Source for now.-JS

MEMORY EXPANSION, \$50 interface \$200/8k. From Skyles Electric Works, 231 E South Whisman Rd. Mountain View CA 94041. Expands PET to as much as 40k RAM. Available in (stackable) modules of 8 or 16K. 2 year guarantee, prompt delivery. Solid, compact, stacks and connects easily inside PET. Connector on cable allows later use of untapped RAM/ROM expansion (ie. other SEW products). Fast, thorough test program provided on cassette. Clear instructions for installation/testing. Nice map of memory expansion lines. So far (5 months), perfectly reliable, very useful and worth the price.-BA

COMPUTHINK COMMENT: (Maker of disk drives and added memory) 965 W. Maude Sunnyvale CA 94086. 'I've

spoken quite regularly with Computhink people over the past year. I had 1 problem with the disk in the beginning. They paid (via Federal Express) to have it shipped down to them from Alaska, and returned it within 5 days, the same way. I like that attitude!!'--John Malone

PET BENELUX EXCHANGE, f15,00 . FROM Johan Smilde, COPYTRONICS, Burs. V. Suditelen Straatub FU13 XP Deventer, NETHERLANDS. An excellent Dutch Pet Users' Group Newsletter. 50 Glossy pages per issue. Amazingly good for a newsletter started by a single person less than a year ago. Includes ads for lots of products never seen here. Good articles, ie. 'Tips voor Commodore floppy gebruikers', not to mention an 8032 Demo program, and 'Commodore's Basic Cursus' (19 programs!). All right, so I'm part-Dutch; it's still neat!-JS

CIPUG people contributing to this issue were: Brent Anderson, Jim Oldfield, Robert Samuelson, and Jim Strasma. Send envelopes, reviews and correspondence to:

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SYMBOLIC ASSEMBLER

SEARCH ARRAY

by Dave Goff
and Gord Campbell

Eric Brandon has donated to the club library a symbolic assembler which he has written. It was demonstrated at the last meeting of the M.L. club. We wish to thank you for this, Eric.

Here is the first use of our program which converts a program on disk or tape for sending out to the phototypesetter. This process has been dubbed "GOFFPROOFING" by Bruce Beach, in one of his more quizzical moods.

This is an example of a search of an array, courtesy of Gord Campbell. Gord is keen to point out the good practice of completing our loops. If we don't jump out of a FOR/NEXT loop, the program is easier to debug and to maintain, and doesn't abuse the stack. Since BASIC (unlike some languages) allows us to modify the index variable ,J, we can quite nicely say that we're finished with that loop. Here's a cheer for maintainable programs!

```
10 READN:DIMSS(N),RS(N)
20 FORJ = 1TON
30 READSS(J):READRS(J)
40 NEXT
50 PRINT"WHO DO YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT"
60 INPUTAS
70 X = 0
80 FORJ = 1TON
90 IFSS(J) = ASTHENX = J:J = N
100 NEXT
110 IFX = 0THENPRINT"I DON'T KNOW "AS:GOTO60
120 PRINTAS" IS "RS(X)" YEARS OLD":GOTO60
130 DATA6,GORD,36,MARTY,35,DERICK,12
140 DATALORI,8,BRADLEY,3,TIGER,7
```

MAIL LIST PROGRAM

Chris Bennett has donated his mailing list program to the club library. We hope to publish the user documentation for this program in a forthcoming issue.

REPORTERS NEEDED

The TORPET needs more articles being written by club members. Please notify the editor of any intentions that you may have so that they may be scheduled. Articles that include a short program or routine listing will be especially welcomed.

NO PROMOTIONS

The executive has agreed that there should hereafter be no promotions of private products from the podium. There always seem to be exceptions and of course there are no hard and fast rules. However, it is felt that for the strength of the PET community that it is important that we have strong and viable dealers. For this reason we do not wish to discount against them.

As an alternative it is intended to open something on the order of a computer bazaar near the admissions table. Any person may, with permission from the executive, sell products in this location. However, as stated before they will not be advertised from the podium.

The only new magazines that will be permitted to be sold in the bazaar are COMPUTE and MICRO. The reason for this is that periodicals are important to dealers as traffic builders. The executive is making an exception in the case of COMPUTE and MICRO because it is felt that one of the important functions of the club is dissemination of information and these are particularly related to the 6502 mpu which we use.

Decisions like this embody a value judgement and trade-off. Which will make the PET community stronger? More widely disseminated information or more dealer traffic? Not everyone will be satisfied with any decision, of course. The TPUG has been very careful to discourage the pirating of copyrighted programs, and to try to keep within reasonable bounds what might be called infringements on dealers prerogatives.

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