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to Choose Your
Trademark-p. 26

Is Telecommuting
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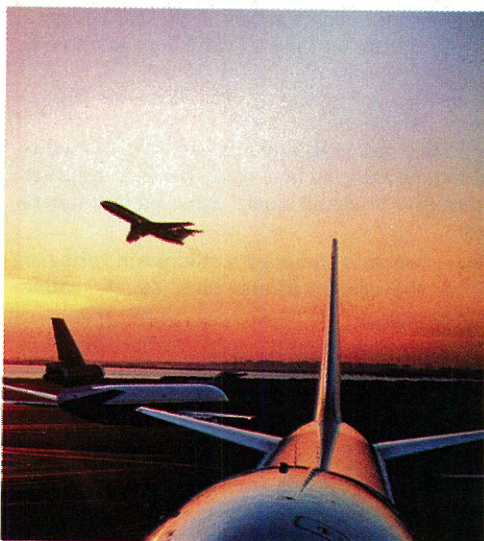
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COMPU SERVE

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Dear Reader

If you were a CompuServe member in early 1991, it's likely you'll recall when *CompuServe Magazine* published the first "Favorite Files Mania" issue—a compendium of more than 200 downloadable goodies squirreled away in forum libraries all over CompuServe. That June issue was indeed a favorite with readers—so much, in fact, that we decided to bring it back and expand it. Ergo, "The Son of Favorite Files" begins on page 10 and marches through 14 more pages filled with classic programs, new programs, information-filled text files, hidden gems, shareware and public domain-ware gathered hither and yon from CompuServe's forums.

Much has changed in the forum libraries during the brief year-and-a-half since the first Favorite Files issue. Scores of new forums have opened and thousands of new and updated files have appeared systemwide. In "Son of Favorite Files" you'll find about 350 files that operate from all major platforms and systems and cover five main subject areas: communication, education, graphics, leisure and personal productivity.

Work on the massive file-collecting project began several months ago and was undertaken with a poll of sysops and forum members to gather high-quality input and recommendations for the list. From there it was a matter of sifting and sorting, drafting file descriptions and notifying sysops about nominated files—an imposing job coordinated by *CM's* San Diego, Calif.-based contributor, Andy Rathbone and Senior Editor Mary Mitchell.

We hope you enjoy "Son of Favorite Files" and find new programs and text files that add to your profit and pleasure on CompuServe. *CM* has made every effort to ensure that files listed here are viable and presented in the format and filename listed. Occasionally, however, a few files stray from the pack and undergo name changes, are moved to different libraries, and are updated or withdrawn by the uploader (file owner) in the interim between list assembly and publication. If you can't find a listed file, we suggest you try the File Finders (GO FILEFINDER) or leave a message with the forum sysop asking for help in locating or making complete use of the file. If you still have problems after that, write to us at 76004,3302; we'll try our best to solve the problem.

* * *

More good news for Favorite Files lovers...

We are using this month's cover package as a springboard for a reconstituted "Uploads" section, a column that used to appear regularly in the pages of *CompuServe Magazine*. The new version is called "Downloadable Notables," and starts next month. DN features as many sampler-style Favorite Files as comfortably fit into two pages. The file-gathering and qualitative process is similar to the one that gave birth to this month's cover story, albeit on a smaller scale.

Downloadable Notables also offers a monthly File Cluster column, similar to the one on page 24. "File Clustering" simply involves choosing a rather random keyword (e.g. ELVIS) and letting File Finding nature take its course. The results are sometimes surprising—and always interesting.

Douglas G. Branstetter
Editor

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Future Watch

I enjoyed the feature article, "A Once and Virtual Future," (p.10) in the December issue of *CompuServe Magazine*. But like many other articles, television newscasts and some TV commercials, you have jumped the gun on 21! The year 2000 is not in the 21st century. It is the last year of the 20th century; the 21st century doesn't begin until Jan. 1, 2001.

Budd Churchward
Grapeview, Wash.

I read "A Once and Virtual Future" by John Edwards with interest. The predictions of where technology is going can become a test of one's imagination and knowledge of technological trends. Several of the people interviewed predicted what the near future might hold. Many publications have solicited expert opinions on this subject over the years, but rarely is there follow-up to see how those predictions turned out. I'd like to revisit this article in 10 years to see if they were correct or if they misjudged the future.

Tom Kopke
Orlando, Fla.

Singles Life

I read the December issue's article, "Singles Together" (p.42), about single people and the Human Sexuality Open Forum, and was impressed that the author referred to gays and lesbians as normal people and directed them to relevant parts of the forum. It seems like a small thing, but most services and businesses don't realize we represent perhaps one out of every 10 customers.

Steve Perry
Detroit, Mich.

Golden Compass

I am disappointed that the article "The Meter's Not Running (As Long)" in the PC Special Insert (December, p.10) did not discuss the Golden Compass program for OS/2. I used TAPCIS for several years, but find Golden Compass much more powerful. Not only do I get the power of OS/2 that allows me to use other programs while downloading messages, but I also can begin reading messages while downloading from other forums.

Excellent support is provided by author Larry Finkelstein in the IBM OS/2 User Forum (GO OS2USER).

Jeff Parker
Sunnyvale, Calif.

More Modems

After reading the excellent article on modems ("Fast-Track Modems," November, p.16), I was surprised to not see the Intel SatiFAXtion line of modems. They are not only great 4800-bps modems but great faxes as well.

I own a SatiFAXtion/100 modem/fax and recommend it to anyone. Intel has a forum on CompuServe (GO INTELFORUM) for solving technical problems quickly.

Ricardo M. Coppola G.
Caracas, Venezuela

Mercury Network

In reference to "New for U.K.: Mercury Network" (Monitor, November, p.6), about U.K. access networks, I find that the cheapest access is to use nonprime-time access and to make an ordinary trunk call (via Mercury) to the CompuServe London number. This number offers enough of a savings in communications charges (nonprime carries no communication surcharge) over the network charges (whether GNS Dialplus or Mercury 5000) to more than pay for the trunk call at Mercury rates. This is largely due to the pound declining in value against the dollar (network access is charged in dollars, and even nonprime is charged at \$4.20/hour plus local call charges at approximately 96 pence/hour). The London number has the advantage of 9600-bps access, although the savings is effective regardless of bps rates.

At the present rates, the savings offered by accessing CompuServe from outside London via Mercury amounts to approximately 1.4 pounds sterling per hour, or 35 percent of the total cost of access to basic services.

Angus Lamont
Upton Poole, England

Kudos

I had to take a minute to commend the editors and writers of *CompuServe Magazine* for an outstanding job. The breadth of topics, the practicality of its content and the undercurrent of humor make for the best "member publication" I've ever received.

I found October's article on newsletters ("The Newsletter Boom," p.40) especially helpful, and I tabbed eight items in the November issue for follow-up. While these kudos are belated, they're no less sincere. You're doing a great job of expanding interest in the online universe.

Denise Modrick
Stroudsburg, Pa.

Just when I finally cut my forum usage down to the bare minimum and still satisfy my online craving, you come out with the "I Didn't Know I Could Do That on CompuServe!" issue (October). Now I think, "That's a file I just have to get" or "I have to check out that forum."

Your magazine is very good at instructing us in how to reduce costs, but articles like that just make me want to spend more time online. Your regular features are already enough to get me interested in new sections, but that issue? Dynamite!

Marcy Dryden-West
Riverview, New Brunswick, Canada

I live in Colombia, South America, and have long been a CompuServe member. I want to thank you for a good magazine, one that allows us to find better ways to use CompuServe. It was through your magazine that I recently discovered TAPCIS, which now allows me to participate in forums. Previously, I only used the service to watch my stock portfolio.

Antonio E. Senior
La Guajira, Colombia

Offbeat America

As a new CompuServe member, I thoroughly enjoy using the service and receiving *CompuServe Magazine*. I noticed an article in the September issue entitled "America's Weird, Wild, Wacky Stuff," featuring Roadside America in Shartlesville, Pa., which is just an hour from my home. This place is really neat!

The article also mentioned South of the Border in South Carolina, which I visited as a child on trips to Florida. This is another example of rural Americana at its best.

David E. Kingsborough
Harrisburg, Pa.

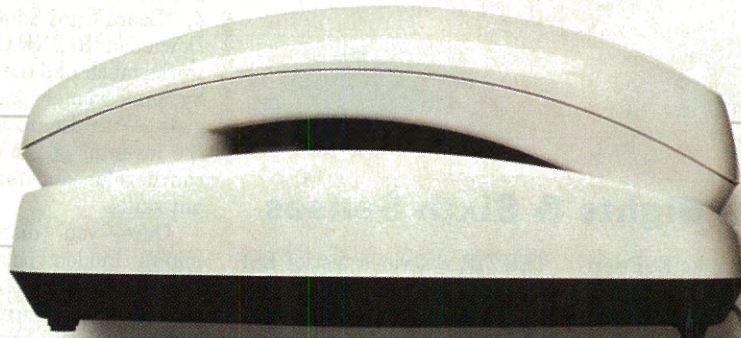
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Send your letter to the editor by CompuServe Mail to 76004,3302. A \$25 connect credit is given to the writer of each letter published. *Sorry, we cannot acknowledge letters or answer questions through this service.* Please use CompuServe's Feedback system (GO FEEDBACK) or call 800/848-8990 (U.S. only) for questions, problems, address changes, etc. A representative from Customer Service will be glad to help you.

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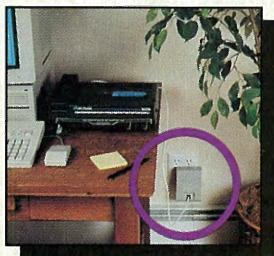
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MONITOR

WORLD UPDATE

Microsoft Goes Dutch

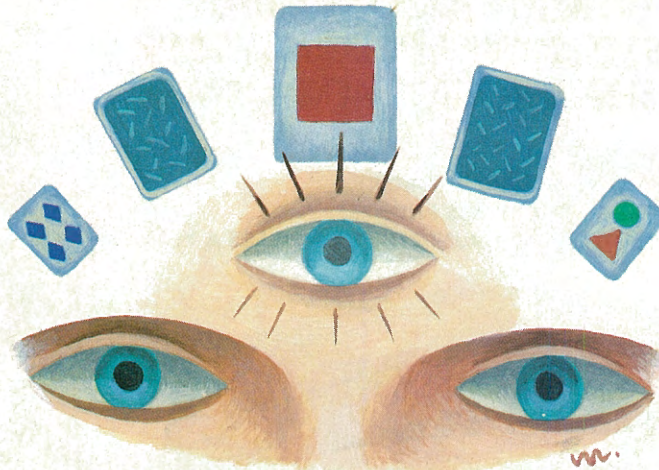
In addition to the Microsoft Central Europe Forum, CompuServe members in Europe now have another resource for online support of Microsoft products. The Microsoft Benelux support area (GO MSBEN) offers information in English and Dutch about the company's Benelux services and provides access to the Microsoft Benelux Developers Forum. Also accessible from the area are the Microsoft end-user forums and other Microsoft developer forums, Microsoft KnowledgeBase and the Microsoft Software Library of files for downloading.

The Microsoft Benelux Developers Forum (GO MSBF) provides support for users of Microsoft products for program development including BASIC, C/C++, Client Server Computing, Windows SDK and Microsoft database products based in the Benelux countries. Benelux-based developers can share information with other users and developers, and with Microsoft Benelux support staff.



CompuServe's Australian/New Zealand Company Library (GO ANZCOLIB) is the newest offering for members looking for in-depth directory and news information on more than 95,000 public and private businesses in the Pacific Rim area.

Company information can be compiled from D&B—Australian Dun's Market Identifiers®, D&B—New Zealand Dun's Market Identifiers® (updated quarterly), Reuter Text-line (updated continuously) and the Asia-Pacific databases (updated every two weeks).



MICHAEL MCLAUGHLIN

Second Sights & Sixth Senses

Whether you take ESP seriously or view it as a party trick, you ought to know if you have it. To find out, begin in the New Age Forum (GO NEW-AGE), Library 2, "Programs/IBM Compatible," with file ESP-

TES.ZIP, a serious test of ESP that can be fun. In the IBM New Users Forum (GO IBM-NEW), Library 8, "Word & Card Games," try Psychic Tester 1.3 (PSYC3.ZIP), which explores clairvoyance, precognition, te-

lepathy and psychokinesis (mind over matter) capabilities. Routines to graphically display results are included. Scores accumulate through several rounds for further substantiation.

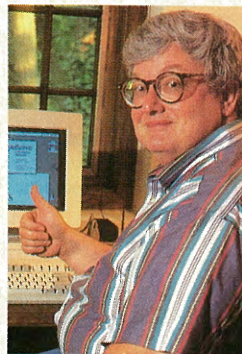
Macintosh owners join the fun in the Mac Entertainment Forum (GO MACFUN), Library 4, "Board/Card/Educ. Games." Download RHINE.CPT, which works much like the cards used by professional parapsychologists. With Rhine (named for the inventor of the cards), you can develop and test clairvoyant skills.

Once you discover your mind's hidden powers, learn how to unleash and apply them in the New Age Forum's Section 13, "ESP/Mind Powers," and in the Issues Forum's (GO ISSUESFORUM) Section 10, "UFO/Paranormal Issues."

Thumbs Up on Your Latest Epic

When a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer says he likes what he reads in CompuServe forums, well, we can't resist making some bold claims. To wit: bantering on the message boards makes you a better writer.

Roger Ebert, an internationally known film critic and no slouch at the wordsmithing business himself, thinks there might be some connection. "For some reason, most of the people on CompuServe in the forums I have visited are very good writers. Maybe electronic mail helps you become concise because of the cost and memorable because of the competition," says Ebert, a recent guest in the Journalism Forum.



GWENDOLEN CATES

'Cut shorthand': Ebert

All of this coming from a writer, former rhetoric teacher and magazine editor who has some pretty cynical views on the ability of most people to communicate on a professional level. "There is a kind of scorn about communicating well," says Ebert.

A caveat from the E-bard about online communication: Go easy on those emoticons. "Online services might be a good place to learn to write, especially if you exercise stern control over silly faces and similar flotsam."

The complete transcript of Ebert's seminar is in EBERT.TXT in Library 3, "Free-lancers," of the Journalism Forum (GO JFORUM).

The Mild Side

Ah, Political Correctness. While language can often be made more inclusive and just plain nicer, it can undeniably cross over into the region of what the PC folks themselves might call humor-impaired. A recent tongue-in-cheek thread in the Journalism Forum proposed some "kinder, gentler" euphemisms for various states of being, including:

Visually challenged:

four-eyes

Vision challenged:

candidate for president

Chronologically challenged:

too young/old

Existentially challenged:

can't wait in lines

Automotively challenged:

road kill

Windows challenged:

everyone but Microsoft

Challenge Challenged:

the World Wrestling Federation

For more, GO JFORUM (unless you're "chroniclely" challenged).

Will Maria Keep the Baby? Will Greg Return?

Soap operas are supposed to mirror life. But for many members of the ShowBiz Forum's (GO SHOWBIZ) Section 9, "Soap Operas," the programs are an integral part of life.

"I use the section to get information and updates on soaps," says forum member and soap fan Laurie Gruhn. "Specifically, I get info on what people are saying about *All My Children*, because it's the soap I watch."

Member Elaine Johnson says the forum serves as a clearinghouse for soap opera informa-

tion and opinions. "We share views on writers, producers, networks and casting. Sometimes, I see interesting plot suggestions." Johnson believes that soap producers visit the section to check the pulse of their viewers, although she has no conclusive proof to back her suspicion.

To keep members up-to-speed on the latest soap developments, Library 9, "Soap Operas," includes files that provide detailed cast lists and plot summaries for most of the leading soaps.



COURTESY MODEL AVIATION

Even Better Than the Real Thing

Remember that model of a 1956 Corvette you built back in 1976? You know, the one with three lopsided wheels and a glue-glopped back seat?

Well, here's some incredible news: There are members of the ModelNet Forum (GO MODEL-

NET), Section 9, "Static Modeling," who can actually build kits that look as good as the picture on the box. Amazing, but true.

"I'm drawn to modeling as a creative outlet," says forum member Jim Boring. "It affords the opportunity to re-create the

world through your own eyes. I even find it therapeutic, a way to relax." Boring notes that the hobby also allows him to own an F-15 without building a hangar in his back yard.

Section Leader Gary Kato says members can get tips on building and painting, advance information on new releases, reviews of kits and pointers to reference material contained in the section's companion library.

"My models aren't museum quality, since I never get to the point of finishing them," admits Kato. "I'm one of those fellas with a short attention span who has 10-plus kits he's building at the same time."

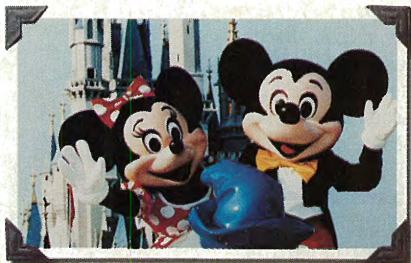
So what's the secret to modeling success? According to ModelNet regulars, it's patience, a steady hand, concentration and, oh yes, always reading the instructions.

Someday, Your Prints Will Come—to TRAVSIG

When our parents went on vacations, they took endless rolls of pictures of themselves, posing in their Hawaiian shirts and Bermuda shorts, which they then converted into thrilling slide shows to inflict ... um, *instruct* all of their neighbors, friends and relatives. Well, we're not like our parents, are we? Nope, we're high tech!

And now, any CompuServe member who wants to share his or her vacation photos can take advantage of the Travel Forum's Travel Photo Scanning Service. Mem-

ber Max Wyss will professionally scan your photo with a Hewlett-Packard ScanJet IIc scanner connected to a Mac



THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY

ber Max Wyss will professionally scan your photo with a Hewlett-Packard ScanJet IIc scanner connected to a Mac

If your photo passes muster with the forum managers (it has to be "tasteful," among other things), it will be uploaded to the forum library as a GIF image. Then that fabulous shot of you hugging Mickey in front of the Magic Castle will be available for thousands of CompuServe members to see.

For more information, read the file GIFSVC.TXT in the Travel Forum (GO TRAVSIG), Library 10, "GIF/The Photo Album." Mom and Dad will be proud of you.



ANDREA EBERBACH

The Ultimate in Access

Sometimes it's fun to do something just to say you've done it—like running a marathon or tuning in a far-away radio station in the dead of night. The online crowd finds it amusing to brag about outlandish log-on feats.

Graham Earnshaw, Asia/Pacific editor for the Reuter news organization, recently used a satellite transmitter telephone to log on to CompuServe from Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The stunt was all the more extraordinary because the city's regular international phone lines were out of service at the time.

"I was in Cambodia for the formal opening of the Reuter news bureau in Phnom Penh in mid-October, and it seemed like a good opportunity to chalk up an international e-mail first," he says. He left a message bragging about his accomplishment in the Travel Forum.

Earnshaw is an international log-on expert, having successfully made connections to CompuServe from a number of remote locations, including Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, although India has him stumped.

"The principle is clear: Computer networks can now be accessed from absolutely anywhere ... and the location of a computer host has become irrelevant."

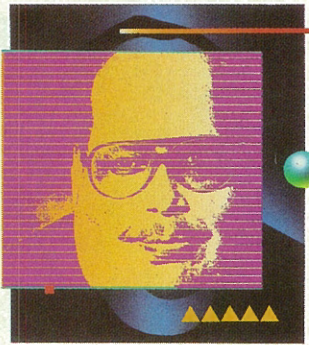
Monitor

Contributors:

Cathryn Conroy, John Edwards, Mike Pietruk, Lindsay Van Gelder

Behind the Screens

with John Edwards



No Longer TV-Guided

I'm losing touch with reality. Or at least reality as expressed by television networks ABC, CBS and NBC.

If you're like me, you're spending a lot less time watching television now that you own a modem. There's a lot to be said for people who prefer to

exchange thoughts and peruse new ideas online as opposed to those who passively watch whatever The Tube has to offer. I congratulate you, me, us.

Unfortunately, I feel that alternative technologies such as online services will lead to a schism within American life. As more Americans abandon network television to enjoy the fruits of the computer world, a great unifying force in the culture will be torn asunder.

Prime-time network television represents the closest thing Americans have to a daily shared cross-cultural experience. Nightly television programming is often the only thing we can discuss with neighbors, co-workers and friends and not fear the consequences of misinterpretation or ignorance. Or, at least, it used to be that way.

Since shunning network television (I still watch some cable television and videocassettes), I've found myself largely disconnected from the

mainstream. No longer do I recognize the titles of popular shows or the names of rising young actors and actresses. *TV Guide's* listings have become little more than strange hieroglyphics to me.

Perhaps you're experiencing this same condition to a greater or lesser extent. If so, please let me know. Maybe we can form a support group. An online one, of course.

* * *

They recently made a big change at my local post office. The workers changed the sign that read "All postal box mail available by 9:00 a.m." to "All postal box mail available by 10:30 a.m."

Of course, I hear mail plunking into those boxes at 3 p.m. It just shows you—never trust the government.

The sign change also got me thinking. What if the post office decided to embrace technology and launch an elec-

tronic mail service? Think of the possibilities:

- ▶ One e-mail delivery a day, six days a week.
- ▶ The eventual discovery of a network administrator who hides undelivered e-mail in his attic.
- ▶ No e-mail delivery on holidays that everyone else goes to work on.
- ▶ Torn e-mail.
- ▶ An e-mailmaster general who appears on talk shows to chat about how cheap and effective the service is.
- ▶ E-mail delivered nationwide by tape reel-carrying 18-wheelers.
- ▶ Free e-mail privileges for political hacks.
- ▶ Newspaper stories about e-mail that took 40 years to arrive at its destination.

It kind of makes you feel—eyucccch!

For more *BTS* gems by John Edwards, GO OLT:130. Edwards is a contributing editor of *CompuServe Magazine*. His *CompuServe User ID* number is 70007,412.



MICHAEL MCLAUGHLIN

Where There's No Imbalance in Trade

It is youth, naturally, that has found a way to bridge the geographical and cultural gap between North America and the Far East. Students have done it by devising a clever translation link between CompuServe and its Japanese counterpart, NIFTY-Serve.

In Section 7, "New Age-Discovery," in the Students' Forum (GO STUFO), U.S. and Canadian students leave messages for Japanese students. These are downloaded, translated and posted by Takeshi Watanabe, the sysop of NIFTY-Serve's Junior Forum. The Japanese students reply in English because they are trying to learn the language, and Watanabe posts their responses in the Students' Forum.

"The messages are beginning to reflect a real exchange of ideas," says Michael Grant, a senior at Trenton State College in Ewing, N.J., and a section leader in the Students' Forum.

While their parents might discuss trade barriers and deficits, the students, who range from elementary school to college, are talking about high school football and track, clothes, after-school jobs, music, school and politics.

Grant believes such communication is the first step toward understanding each other. "One can learn much from newspapers and television, but nothing can replace one-to-one communication for promoting understanding between cultures."

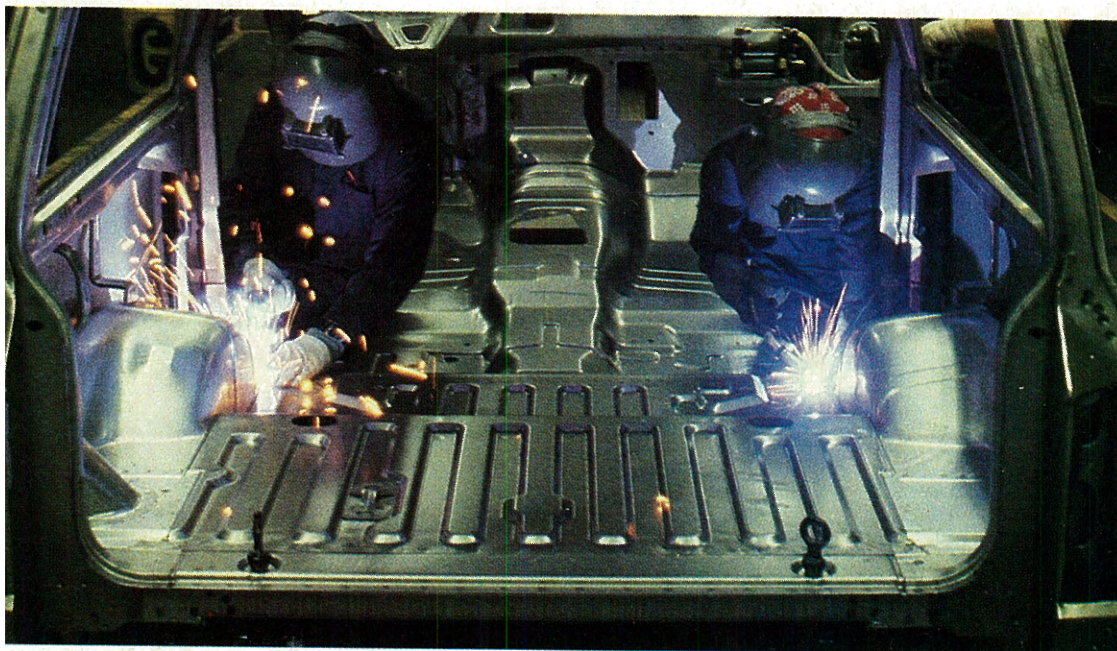
Keeping Up with ADA

Whether you're disabled or a manager with disabled employees, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) makes it imperative that you familiarize yourself with available assisting and adaptive technology. Most mainstream computer industry periodicals only touch upon this topic.

One good way to keep abreast of developments is by reading John McCormick's column, "The Enabled Computer," which is published each Friday in *NewsBytes* (GO ZNT:NWB). It is not only a solid source of up-to-date information but also a valuable reference resource for researching technology accessibility problems.

Some three dozen of the best columns are available in the Computer Database Plus (GO COMPDB) magazine reference service. The articles focus on such diverse topics as the rights and obligations associated with ADA; the MIC 300i, a powerful but affordable TDD (telecommunications device for the deaf) on an 8-bit, half-size PC card; and practical innovations demonstrated at the Johns Hopkins National Search for Computing to Assist Persons with Disabilities competition.

Additional disability information may be found online in the Handicapped Users Database (GO HUD), the Disabilities Forum (GO DISABILITY) and the IBM Special Needs Forum (GO IBMSPEC).



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are now sweeping

the world?

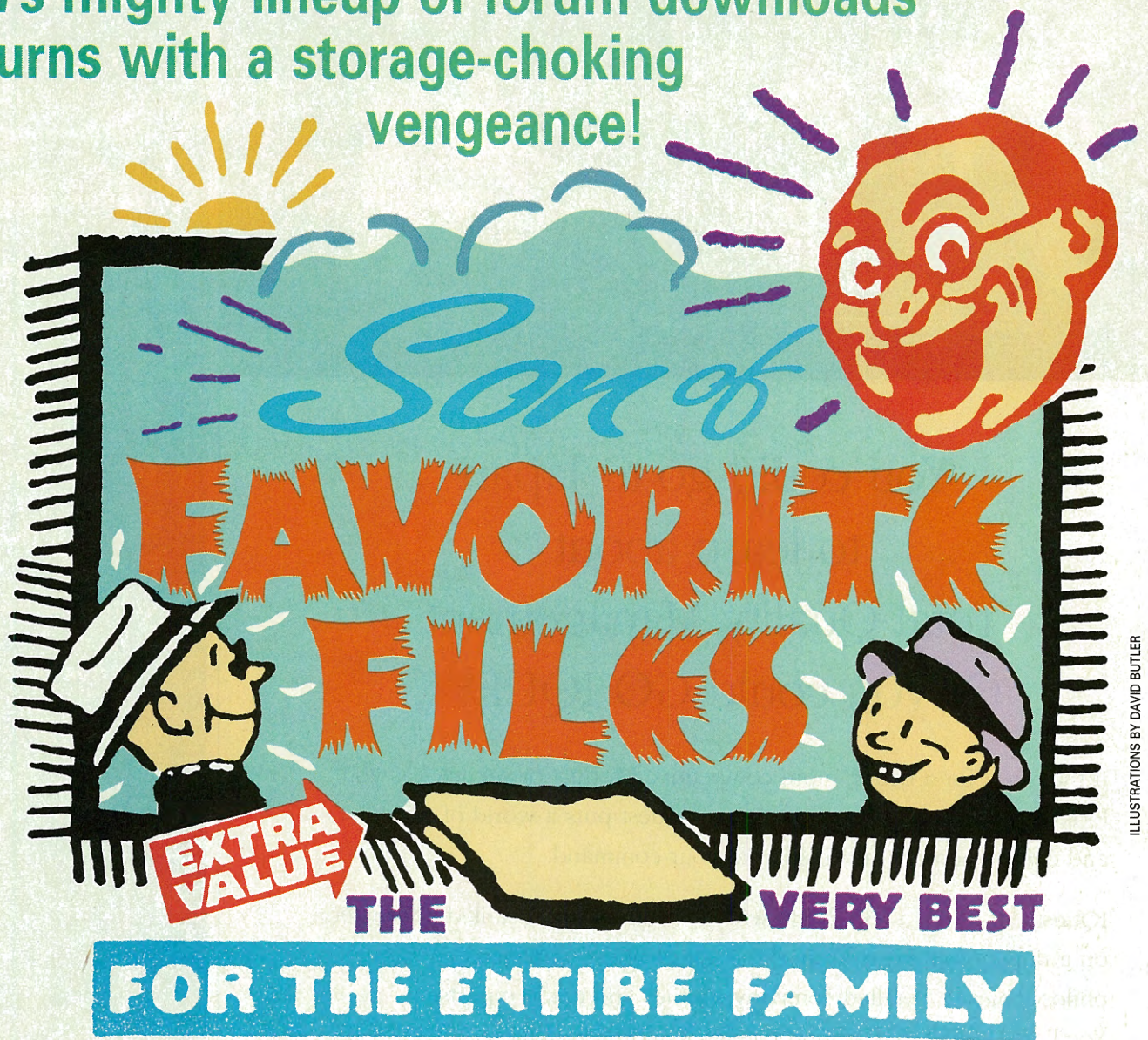
Free Product Line and Tradename SmartSCANs this month! Get the facts before you make a purchase or name a new product.

For February only, the \$5 scan charge is waived for IQuest's Product Line and Tradename SmartSCANs. (Complete details online.)

GO IQUEST for more information.

You asked for it!

**CM's mighty lineup of forum downloads
returns with a storage-choking
vengeance!**



ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVID BUTLER

Hundreds of thousands of files line the shelves of CompuServe's forum libraries. But don't think they're all filed under the word "computer." For instance, you'll find advice on raising oscars and goldfish in the Aquaria/Fish Forum. Want to grow "monster" tomatoes? The Gardening Forum's ready to serve.

This package serves as a miniature card catalog of sorts. Sysops from CompuServe's many corners joined together to submit some of the best files from their libraries. Some files have been downloaded so many times that they're considered classics. Others are recent uploads, ready to solve new problems and dish out new information. Still others are hidden gems—older files that deserve a second look. They're all organized into five categories:

► **Communication:** One of the most popular categories, these files help people con-

nect their computers through the telephone lines, a task familiar to all CompuServe members.

- **Education:** The most wide-ranging of the categories, this list contains everything from the complete text of the U.S. Constitution to instructions for ridding your home of fleas.
- **Graphics:** The advent of "Windows wallpaper" makes these libraries buzz with activity. Line your Windows' desktop with pictures of Stevie Nicks or color pictures of the Grand Canyon.
- **Leisure:** When the day's work is through, there's no reason to turn the computer off. Instead, check out some of the latest computer games. Or, if you're tired of computing and ready to rock, look for tips on how to buy the right electric guitar.
- **Personal Productivity:** This collection

of utilities will fine-tune your mouse, organize your hard disk and just plain simplify your computer life.

To facilitate searching, files are subcategorized by computer type. Although this list contains hundreds of popular files, they're only a small percentage of what CompuServe has to offer. Once your appetite has been whetted, check out CompuServe's File Finders to search for even more files meeting your needs. File Finders are available for IBM (GO IBMFF), Macintosh (GO MACFF), Amiga (GO AMIGAFF), Atari (GO ATARIFF) and Graphics (GO GRAPHFF). If you are using CompuServe Information Manager version 2.0 or above, you can download files directly from the IBM, Macintosh and Graphics File Finders. For tips on downloading files and putting them to work, see page 14.

Access Numbers—List of U.K. phone numbers for connecting to CompuServe. U.K. Forum (GO UKFORUM), Library 1, "General & Lib Info," PHONES.TXT (11,411 bytes).

Etiquette for German-speaking CompuServe Users—Benimmregeln und hilfreiche Tips fuer deutschsprachige CompuServe. Markt & Technik Forum (GO MUTFORUM), Library 7, "Diverses," CISTIP.EXE (15,616 bytes).

AMIGA

Telecom Program—BackTalk, featuring XPR Protocols, ARexx support and much more. Amiga User Forum (GO AMIGAUSER), Library 5, "Communications," BT155A.LZH (183,898 bytes).

Terminal Emulator—JR-Comm, an ANSI/VT-100 terminal emulator. Shareware. Amiga User Forum, Library 5, JRC102.LZH (245,386 bytes).

Supra Tips—Latest Supra modem0.device that works correctly with Whap! Amiga User Forum, Library 5, SUPRAZ.LZH (62,682 bytes).

Send/Receive Faxes—Demo of AmigaFax software for fax transmission/receival with Class 1 fax/modem. Amiga User Forum, Library 5, AFAXDE.LZH (318,720 bytes).

BBS Package—Incredibly flexible, powerful BBS package including ARexx BBS server and full-featured BBS system scripts. Freeware. Amiga User Forum, Library 5, PRTEUS.LZH (517,960 bytes).

Serial File Transfer—Twin Express 1.1a features transfer speed of about 22,000 bps and compatibility between the Amiga and IBM versions. Shareware. Amiga User Forum, Library 5, TNXA11.LZH (57,446 bytes).

Tiny BBS—MicroHost 1.3 creates a simple BBS mainly to send and receive files from the office. Amiga User Forum, Library 5, MCHST1.ARC (27,648 bytes).

ATARI

CompuServe Reader—Save time and money on the Atari ST by reading and responding to messages offline. Atari Productivity Forum (GO ATARIPRO), Library 2, "Telecommunications," QWKCIS.PRg (112,310 bytes).

Background Communications Program—Freeze Dried Terminal 2.20 supports background dialing, auto-log-ons and more. Atari Productivity Forum, Library 2, FZD220.LZH (280,576 bytes).

Communications Program—VanTerm 4.0 supports XMODEM, YMODEM, CompuServe B and other file-transfer protocols. Full mouse support. Atari Productivity Forum, Library 2, VTERM4.LZH (127,232 bytes).

High-speed Modems—All you need to know about modems reaching speeds of 9600 bps and above. Atari Productivity Forum, Library 2, MODEMV.TXT (104,966 bytes).



GEM File Transfers—A full GEM implementation of Alan Hamilton's XYZ file-transfer program. Atari Productivity Forum, Library 2, GEMXZY.LZH (22,656 bytes).

COMMODORE

Modem Patch for C-64—Patches VIDTEX4.2 to allow 2400-bps transfers. Commodore Music, Graphics/GEOS and Games Forum (GO CB-MART), Library 1, "Help/Data Lib," VID24.IMG (4,736 bytes).

IBM

APPC Answers—Information on APPC (Advanced Program-to-Program Communications), APPN (Advanced Peer-to-Peer Networking) and CPI-C (Common Programming Interface-Communications). APPC Info Exchange Forum (GO APPC), Library 1, "General Forum Info," APP-CPR.TXT (4,000 bytes).

Network Information—Easy-to-read introduction to Advanced Peer-to-Peer Networking. APPC Info Exchange Forum, Library 4, "Technical Papers," APPNOV.ZIP (21,000 bytes).

APPC Classics—Classic techniques for implementing Client/Server transactions with APPC. APPC Info Exchange Forum, Library 4, TPD-SGT.ZIP (14,000 bytes).

APPC Tester—Industry standard APPC program written in CPI-C for connectivity and speed testing of your APPC configuration. Freeware. APPC Info Exchange Forum, Library 6, "Sample Programs," APING.ZIP (181,000 bytes).

APPC Command Executer—Executes a command on a remote computer using APPC—modelled after TPC/IP's REXEC program. Freeware. APPC Info Exchange Forum, Library 6, AREXEC.ZIP (159,000 bytes).

APPC Messenger—APPC program to send a message to a remote computer, modelled after VM's TELL. Freeware. APPC Info Exchange Forum, Library 6, ATELL.ZIP (161,000 bytes).

APPC OS/2 Tester—Stand-alone test for your APPC applications on OS/2 2.0 Communication Manager on Extended Services. Freeware. APPC Info Exchange Forum, Library 7, "Config Examples," SATES.ZIP (17,000 bytes).

APPC Modem Tools—SNA (Systems Network Architecture) over async. Run your APPC or 3270 applications over a modem. Freeware. APPC Info Exchange Forum, Library 8, "Tools and Utilities," SNAAOS.ZIP (40,000 bytes).

Autosig—Information on the Autosig CompuServe automation program. IBM Communications Forum (GO IBMCOM), Library 1, "Autosig," WHATIS.ATO (6,475 bytes).

CompuServe Reader Information—Information on the OzCIS CompuServe automation program. IBM Communications Forum (GO IBMCOM), Library 12, "OZCIS," OZCIS.BRO (7,868 bytes).

CompuServe Reader—TAPCIS, automates CompuServe sessions to minimize cost. Shareware. TAPCIS Forum (GO TAPCIS), Library 1, "TAPCIS," TAP.EXE (221,080 bytes).

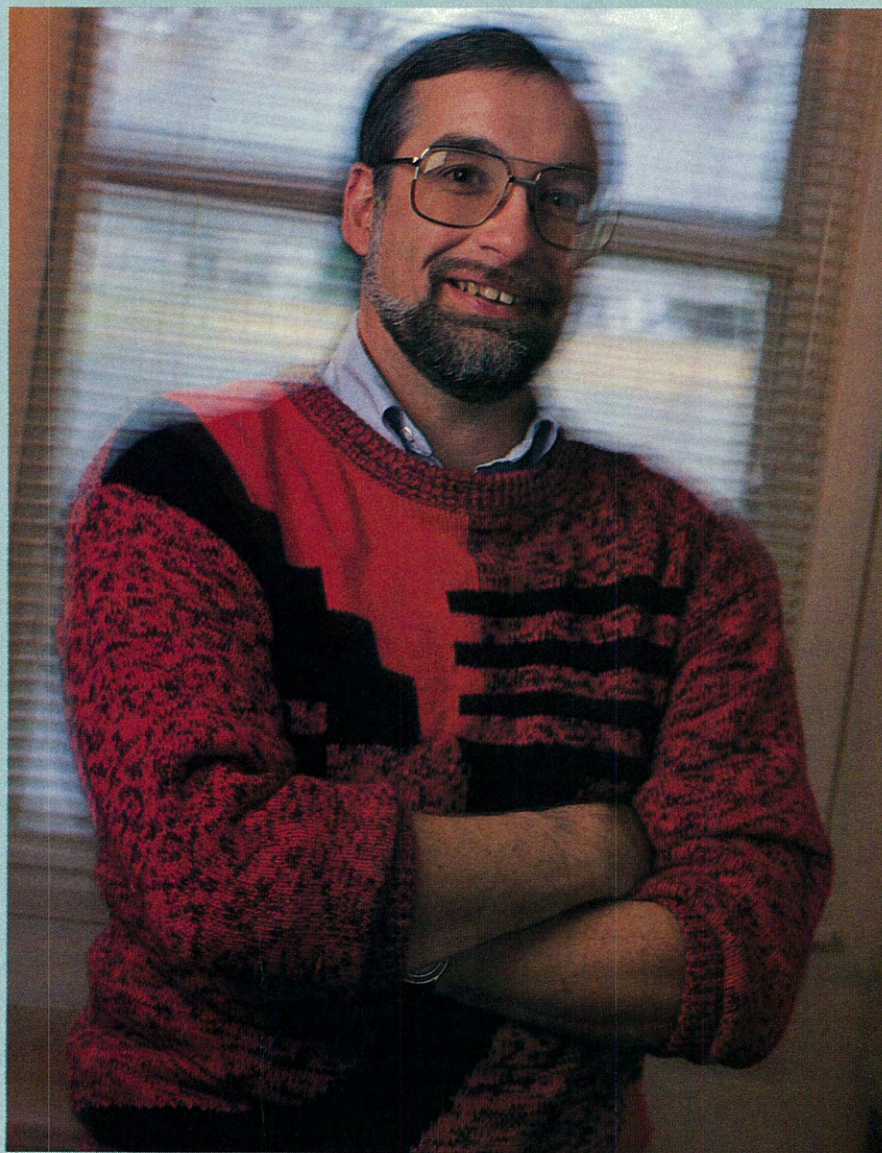
TAPCIS Documentation—Documentation needed for TAPCIS. TAPCIS Forum, Library 1, TAP-DOC.EXE (157,282 bytes).

Weather Forecast Capture—Script for capturing weather forecasts in TAPCIS. TAPCIS Forum, Library 2, "Scripts & Tools," GETWEA.SCR (814 bytes).

Stock Quote Capture—Script for capturing basic stock quotes in TAPCIS. TAPCIS Forum, Library 2, QUOTES.SCR (2,258 bytes).

Message Sorter—TAPORDER, an add-on for sorting, rethreading and aging message files under TAPCIS. TAPCIS Forum, Library 2, TAP-ORD.EXE (126,190 bytes).

Thread Marker—Marks threads in TAPCIS for easy gathering. Shareware. TAPCIS Forum, Library 2, TPT.EXE (198,035 bytes).



Tales from the Download: David DeVore

Austin, Texas

Favorite File: UC3H-1.ZIP (210,413 bytes); shareware, \$69.95

Location: Microsoft Windows Advanced Users Forum (GO WINADV), Library 14, "Comm Apps/Utils"

David A. DeVore, multitasking aficionado and technical director of KnowledgeBase Group, recently faced two simultaneous deadlines: He needed a software developer to send him via modem a 2MB expert system file at the same time that he had to send a large file to another client.

The problem wasn't insurmountable with Unicom, communications shareware that allows Windows 3.1 users running in enhanced mode to do background file transfers while continuing to work in other pro-

grams. This time, that other program was a concurrent file transfer.

Taking advantage of Unicom's ability to use up to four modems simultaneously, DeVore connected an external modem to his '486 computer to supplement the internal one. "I was able to download the program from my developer on the external modem, while uploading to my client via the internal modem," he says. "It saved the day."

Unicom features a dialing directory, WinScript script language, chat mode, file marker, screen editing and more. It is upgraded frequently; to find the most current version, search using the keyword UNICOM.

—Cathryn Conroy

TAPCIS News—Provides tips and keeps users up-to-date on TAPCIS. TAPCIS Forum, Library 16, "TAPCIS News," NEWS1.ZIP (53,842 bytes).

U.K. TAPCIS Script—TAPCIS script file for U.K. users to connect to CompuServe via the Dialplus network. U.K. Computing Forum (GO UKCOMPUTING), Library 1, "Comms," DIALPL.SCR (494 bytes).

CompuServe Reader—WigWam, Windows program for automating CompuServe access. U.K. Computing Forum, Library 10, "Ashmount," WIGWAM.ZIP (244,439 bytes).

MACINTOSH

File Conversion—Handy mix of popular file conversion utilities in a programmable shell. Shareware. Mac Communications Forum (GO MACCOM), Library 4, "Comm Progs/Utils," TICKLE.SEA (430,336 bytes).

Appletalk Messenger—BroadCast 2.0 sends messages across Appletalk networks. Mac Communications Forum, Library 4, BROAD2.CPT (24,576 bytes).

FidoNET Reader—Sends and receives e-mail from the Fido network. Shareware. Mac Communications Forum, Library 4, MCWOOF.CPT (248,192 bytes).

ARA Disconnecter—This compactor file contains a quick disconnect FKEY for Apple Talk Remote Access users. Mac Communications Forum, Library 11, "Apple Remote Access," ARA-DIS.CPT (1,920 bytes).

File Compression—Compact Pro compresses files to take up less disk space and transmission time. Shareware. ZiffNet/Mac Download and Support Forum (GO ZMC: DOWNTECH), Library 1, "Applications," CPTPRO.SEA (121,000 bytes).

FirstClass BBS Communicator—FirstClass Client is a graphical telecom program that lets you connect with FirstClass BBSes. Freeware. ZiffNet/Mac Download and Support Forum, Library 1, FCLASS.SEA (261,000 bytes).

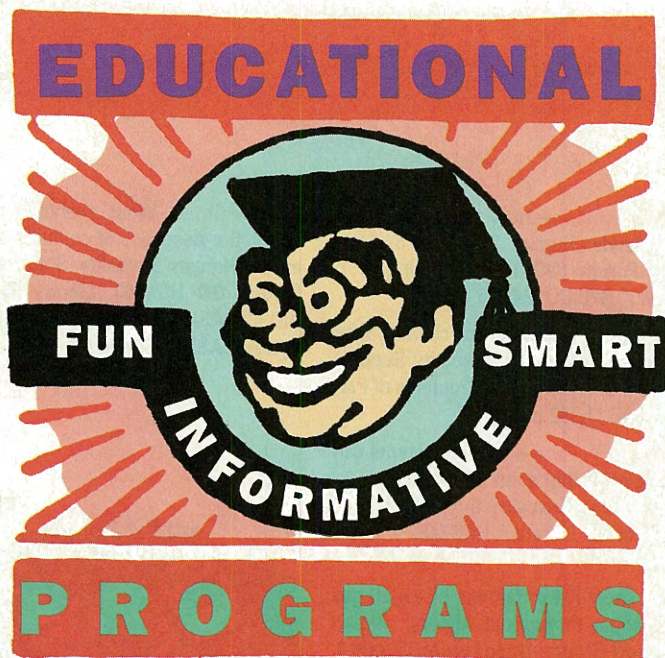
Telecom Program—ZTerm, a fast, efficient telecommunications program that's not overloaded with features. Shareware. ZiffNet/Mac Download and Support Forum, Library 1, ZTERM.CPT (189,824 bytes).

QuickB Protocol—QuickB DA adds CompuServe's QuickB protocol for uploads and downloads. Shareware. ZiffNet/Mac Download and Support Forum, Library 2, "DAs," QBDA.SIT (15,000 bytes).

NEXT

NeXT Modeming—Installing and using a modem on the NeXT. NeXT Users Forum (GO NEXT), Library 3, "Connectivity," MODEM.TXT (11,128 bytes).

CompuServe with NeXT—How to connect to CompuServe using your NeXT without a communications program. NeXT Users Forum, Library 3, NOCOMM.TXT (2,477 bytes).



Portfolio Answers—Answers to frequently asked questions about the Portfolio. Atari Portfolio Forum (GO APORTFOLIO), Library 1, "Forum Help Files," PORT.FAQ (54,715 bytes).

Wave Tank—How to build a tank that can simulate the wave pulse action of the ocean. Aquatic Data Center (GO AQUADATA), Library 13, "Online Drum & Croaker," DC0001.TXT (7,779 bytes).

Freshwater Angelfish—How to raise angelfish from eggs. Aquatic Data Center, Library 15, "Online Aquarium Fish Magazine," AFM012.TXT (9,466 bytes).

Aquarium Filtration—Steve Meyer article covers the basics of filtration. Aquaria/Fish Forum (GO FISHNET), Library 1, "Your First Aquarium," BL0017.TXT (14,268 bytes).

New Tank Syndrome—Describes a phenomenon common in new aquaria: a buildup of harmful chemicals in the water. Aquaria/Fish Forum, Library 1, BL0007.TXT (6,496 bytes).

Oscars and Goldfish—Article discusses common mistakes made with these fish and how best to keep them. Aquaria/Fish Forum, Library 3, "Freshwater Aquaria," FA0458.TXT (8,670 bytes).

Fish Diseases—List of fish diseases and medications to treat them. Aquaria/Fish Forum, Library 4, "Duty Team Help Requests," DT0024.TXT (4,246 bytes).

Aquarium Tips—Recommended reading list, including information on ponds, fresh and marine aquariums. Aquaria/Fish Forum, Library 6, "Miscellaneous Hints and Tips," MT0174.TXT (22,200 bytes).

Garden Pond—Planning a pond in your yard. Aquaria/Fish Forum, Library 9, "Koi/Fish Ponds," KP0021.TXT (10,235 bytes), KP0022.TXT (12,969 bytes).

Left, You Idiot!—Survival guide for Americans driving in the United Kingdom. Automobile Forum (GO CARS), Library 7, "Safety/Driving," BRTDRV.GDE (36,000 bytes).

Chess—Recommended books for beginners. Chess Forum (GO CHESSFORUM), Library 2, "Chess Basics," CHSBKS.TXT (5,845 bytes).

Card Collecting—List of nonsport card dealers. Collectibles Forum (GO COLLECT), Library 3, "Nonsports and Comics," NSDEAL.TXT (5,829 bytes).

Coin Collections—How to sell your coins. Collectibles Forum, Library 4, "Coins and Currency," SELL.TXT (36,608 bytes).

Latin and Greek Newsletter—Focuses on Classics and computers. Foreign Language Education Forum (GO FLEFO), Library 4, "Latin/Greek," PROS.01 (30,000 bytes).

Monster Tomatoes—Record holders reveal secrets for growing giant tomatoes. Gardening Forum (GO GARDEN), Library 2, "Vegetable Gardening," BIGTOM.TXT (11,500 bytes).

Lawn Tips—How to have a fine lawn without chemicals and excess water. Gardening Forum, Library 7, "Lawns & Landscaping," LAWNGR.TXT (8,826 bytes).

Lilac Lovers—Tips on growing these old-fashioned favorites. Gardening Forum, Library 7, LILACS.TXT (17,000 bytes).

Gardening Programs—Review of more than 20 garden-related programs. Gardening Forum, Library 11, "Tool Talk," SOFTGA.TXT (18,500 bytes).

Building a Greenhouse—How to get started. Gardening Forum, Library 12, "Houseplant/Greenhouse," GREENH.TXT (13,500 bytes).

Can't Get Enough? Try File Indexes

Among their thousands of files, CompuServe forum libraries contain files that are indexes to other files. Here's a sampling:

Atari Portfolio Forum—Index of files, updated regularly. GO APORTFOLIO, Library 1, "Forum Help Files," files FILES.TXT (56,000 bytes) and FILES.ZIP (compressed version, 22,000 bytes).

Consumer Electronics Forum—Catalog of information in the forum. GO CEFORUM, Library 1, file LIB1.CAT (7,000 bytes).

HP Peripherals Forum—Descriptions of files in HP ScanJet library. GO HPPERIPH, Library 7, "ScanJet," file HPPL7.LIS (1,878 bytes).

IBMNET Forums—Each IBMNET forum has two compressed index files in its Library 0, "General": IBM.*ZIP, a full catalog of that forum's files, and *SUM.ZIP, one-line summary descriptions of the files.

Example: IBM Communications Forum (GO IBMCOM), Library 0, files IBMCOM.ZIP, the catalog of forum files (203,000 bytes), and COMSUM.ZIP, the summary description (30,000 bytes).

MAUG Forum Indexes—Each Macintosh user forum contains two compressed files in its Library 1, *DES.SIT, a monthly update of files in that forum, and *TIT.SIT, a weekly update.

Example: Mac New Users and Help Forum, Library 1, "Help Files," files NEWDES.SIT, the monthly catalog (30,080 bytes), and NEWTIT.SIT, the weekly catalog (5,888 bytes).

MAUG Forums—Full listing of all files in MAUG (Macintosh) forum libraries. Macintosh New Users and Help Forum (GO MACNEW), Library 1, "Help Files," file MAUGLB.SIT (288,000 bytes, compressed).

Toshiba Forum—Index of all forum files, sorted by library number and updated every 60 days. Toshiba Forum (GO TOSHIBA), Library 1, "News and Press," MASTER.DIR (93,264 bytes) and MASTER.ZIP (compressed version, 33,168 bytes).

ZiffNet/Mac—Index of files, ZiffNet Download and Support Forum (GO ZMC:DOWNTECH), Library 7, "Reference," files INDEX.TXT (48,000 bytes), INDEX.CPT (compressed version, 22,000 bytes), FINDEX.SEA, same information plus full file descriptions (compressed and self-extracting, 139,000 bytes), and NEWUPL.TXT, a list of recent uploads (11,000 bytes).

ZiffNet Support Forum—Full description of files in the ZiffNet Support Forum (GO ZNT: SUPPORT), Library 1, "General Information," files SUPPOR.CAT (25,000 bytes) and SUPDES.EXE (compressed version, 9,000 bytes).

—Michael Naver

Relationship Tracking—Tips on finding out relations with ancestors. Genealogy Forum (GO ROOTS), Library 1, "General Information," COUSIN.TXT (3,827 bytes).

Beginner's Guide to Genealogy—How to start tracking your roots. Genealogy Forum, Library 1, SEARCH.TXT (59,368 bytes).

Irish Genealogy Research—Tips on tracking relatives from Ireland. Genealogy Forum, Library 6, "Text Files," IRISH.NAM (3,721 bytes).

Scandinavian Genealogy—Tips on tracking down Scandinavian ancestors. Genealogy Forum, Library 6, SCAND.TXT (5,167 bytes).

Nostalgic Recipes—Delicious meals from yesteryear. Genealogy Forum, Library 6, SECRET.ARC (111,723 bytes).

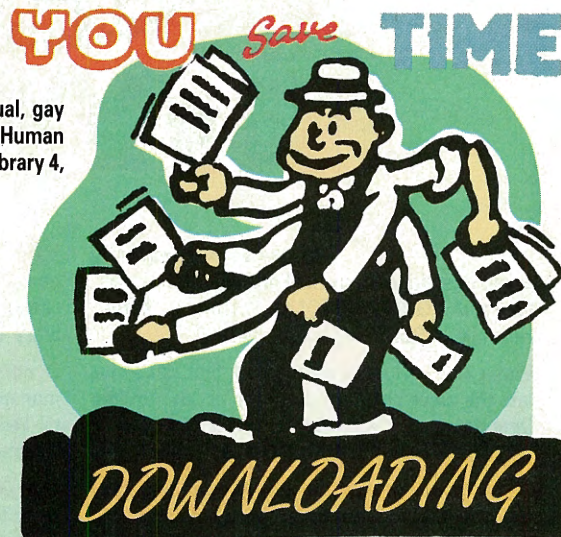
Ending a Relationship—How to say goodbye and still be friends. Human Sexuality Support Groups—Open Forum (GO HSX100), Library 1, "Dear Kathy M.," BYE.CO (24,323 bytes).

When Daddy Leaves—How to tell children why parents are divorcing. Human Sexuality Support Groups—Open Forum, Library 2, "Problems of Parents," LEAVE.DAD (7,892 bytes).

And Baby Makes Three—How new parents can protect their relationship even with the bundle of joy. Human Sexuality Support Groups—Open Forum, Library 2, BABY.CO (21,171 bytes).

Gay Pride—A short list of famous bisexual, gay and lesbian people throughout history. Human Sexuality Support Groups—Open Forum, Library 4, FAMOUS.TXT (2,818 bytes).

AIDS Primer—What everyone needs to know about the deadliest of sexually transmitted diseases. Human Sexuality Support Groups—Open Forum, GO HSX100, Library 13, "Living With AIDS," BASICS.1 (20,036 bytes), BASICS.2 (20,836 bytes), BASICS.3 (36,464 bytes).



The Lowdown on Downloading

CompuServe offers you thousands of files for use with your computer. To take advantage of this treasure trove, you need to know the basics of "downloading" (retrieving) files.

Downloading is especially easy if you use CompuServe Information Manager software. Just pull down your Library menu, select "Retrieve File" and CIM does the rest. Or select "Browse" to review the names of files in various libraries before you select the ones you want to retrieve.

If you're not sure of the name of the file or exactly where to find it, there's a helpful feature of CIM and File Finder, a search utility. While in CIM, "GO" to File Finder and you'll see a display of dialog boxes. These allow you to search for your target files by keywords and other characteristics, then download them.

To take advantage of this feature of CIM, you'll need DOS version 2.0 or higher or Macintosh version 1.6 or higher. To upgrade to these newer versions, GO CISSOFT.

Along with CIM, there's other CompuServe-specific software that does much of the downloading work for you. These CompuServe "auto access" programs, as they're called, include TAPCIS for IBM PCs and CompuServe Navigator for the Macintosh. All of these packages use CompuServe's proprietary B and QuickB protocols for fast, error-free transfer of files to your computer.

File-transfer procedures are different if you're using third-party communications software. These packages typically log you

onto CompuServe in "terminal mode," and you select a file-transfer protocol from a menu of choices presented by CompuServe.

To use this menu, enter a forum library, select a file to download and type DOW (for "download"). The menu gives you a choice of protocols: XMODEM, CompuServe B+ and B, YMODEM, CompuServe QuickB, Kermit and DC2/DC4 Capture. (For a full discussion of downloading in terminal mode, go to the CompuServe Practice Forum, GO PRACTICE, Library 3, "New Library Info," and read the file DOWHLP.TXT.)

When you download files from a CompuServe forum, you'll notice that some file names contain a three-letter extension such as ARC, SIT, CPT, LZH, SEA, ZOO or ZIP.

You don't need to ask at the zoo or consult your ZIP code directory for an explanation. These letters tell you that the file has been compressed into a smaller size, and will have to be "decompressed" after downloading.

Why compress a file?

- ▶ To reduce the time it takes you to download it, saving you money.
- ▶ To save storage space on CompuServe computers, allowing more files to be stored.
- ▶ To group several related program and text files into a single compressed file, so you need download only one file instead of several for a given program.

Why the different compression formats? The original one was ARC (for "archive"). It

was developed for MS-DOS computers and later extended to Amiga and Apple IIe or IIc machines. Other formats were developed later to offer better compression techniques and to take advantage of the particular class of machine for which each was intended. For example, SIT files (short for "StuffIt") and CPT (for "Compactor") are for Macintosh computers; ZIP is for MS-DOS and Amigas; and LZH and ZOO are for Amigas.

How do you decompress a file you have downloaded? The forum where you downloaded the file usually provides a utility in its libraries. For example, Macintosh files compressed with the SIT extension can be decompressed with the free UnStuffIt utility found in the Mac forums. If you're in doubt, leave a forum message asking how to get the right decompressing utility.

A welcome recent development is compressed files that are "self-extracting"—that is, you don't need a utility to unpack them. Just run or launch the file after downloading and it unpacks itself. Files of this type have the SEA extension.

For a general description of file compression practices, check out the CompuServe Help Forum (GO HELPFORUM) and download the file COMPRS.DOC from Library 1, "Help Library." Time spent in this forum is free of connect-time charges.

Help for Abuse Survivors—A thorough list of resources, organizations and publications for survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Human Sexuality Support Groups-Adult Forum (GO HSX200), Library 2, SOURCE.HLP (30,125 bytes).

Sexism in Education—Enlightened parents beware! Even *Sesame Street* shows gender bias. Human Sexuality Support Groups-Adult Forum, Library 3, "For Women Only," SEXISM.TXT (4,371 bytes).

For Partners of Survivors—Books and other resources for friends and loved ones of survivors of physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Human Sexuality Support Groups-Adult Forum, Library 4, "The Psychiatrist," PARTNR.TXT (3,373 bytes).

Travel for the Disabled—What people with handicaps should know about their legal rights and practical alternatives. Human Sexuality Support Groups-Adult Forum, Library 17, "Yes I Can!" TRAVEL.THD (54,951 bytes).

U.S. Constitution and Amendments—Complete text. Legal Forum (GO LAWSIG), Library 0, "General," USCONS.ZIP (16,476 bytes).

Copyrighting Software—How to register the software you write. Legal Forum, Library 1, "Computer Law," COPYSO.TXT (8,346 bytes).

Zoning Language—Permits home-based businesses on a restricted basis. Legal Forum, Library 10, "Municipal Planning," ZONING.TXT (4,270 bytes).

Vietnam Names—Complete database of Americans killed or missing during the Vietnam War. Military Forum (GO MILITARY), Library 15, "Vietnam Memorial," KIAMIA.ARC (1,621,046 bytes).

Music Information—Sources for classical music scores, sheet music and books about music, in the United States and worldwide. Music and Performing Arts Forum (GO MUSICARTS), Library 2, "Classical Music," STORES.TXT (2,648 bytes).

Microsoft and Pens—Discussion on "Pen-centricity" and Microsoft's competition. Pen Technology Forum (GO PENFORUM), Library 6, "GO Corp.," PENCEN.THD (4,217 bytes).

Pen Strategy—Strategic directions and releases of PenPoint operating system for the next 18 months. Pen Technology Forum, Library 6, PP_MAP.TXT (5,616 bytes).

Pen-based Computing Shows—Schedule of upcoming pen-based computing shows and conferences. Pen Technology Forum, Library 16, "News/Review/Shows," PENCAL.TXT (6,500 bytes).

Future of Pen-based Computing—How will this emerging technology evolve? Pen Technology Forum, Library 17, "Community Square," PENFUT.THD (73,339 bytes).

Battle of Pens—Thread on PenPoint versus Microsoft's Windows for Pen. Pen Technology Forum, Library 17, PENWIN.THD (16,045 bytes).



PHOTO NEWS/GAMMA LIAISON

Tales from the Download: Korman Sengun

Brussels, Belgium

Favorite File: SKYGLB.ZIP (287,257 bytes); shareware, \$20

Location: Astronomy Forum (GO ASTROFORUM), Library 7, "Astronomy Software"

Korman Sengun enjoys challenging his 8-year-old daughter. As a retired naval officer, he especially delights in offering one-on-one lessons in astronomy and space exploration. However, like most children, his daughter is busy with school work and other activities, leaving little time for day-long trips to the city planetarium.

Sengun recently discovered SkyGlobe, an award-winning shareware planetarium program that is fast, fun and easy-to-use and that rivals the more expensive commercial software. SkyGlobe features more

than 25,000 stars and constellations, the planets, sun, moon, the Messier objects and more. Using a mouse or simple command keys, it offers constellation boundary lines and image display.

"With the help of SkyGlobe, I try to show my daughter the skies and motions of the stars and planets," says Sengun. "This program is an excellent simulation of a planetarium that serves as an educational tool for children and adults."

He says using SkyGlobe has the same effect as traveling to the planetarium—without the extra hours and expense. An added benefit of SkyGlobe is being able to select the time and location of display, which provides the Sengun family with hours of educational entertainment.

—CC

War on Fleas—How to rid your home and pets of fleas. Pets/Animal Forum (GO PETS), Library 1, "Pets Info Center," FLEAS.DOC (6,254 bytes).

Housebreaking Pets—Information on crate training your dog/puppy. Pets/Animal Forum, Library 3, "Dog Library," CRATE2.TXT (4,035 bytes).

Adding a Cat—How to ease the transition when adding a cat to a household with existing pets. Pets/Animal Forum, Library 4, "Cat Library," NEWCAT.TXT (5,336 bytes).

Veterinary Advice—What you should be doing with your vet. Pets/Animal Forum, Library 4, VETCON.TXT (10,544 bytes).

Animal Testing—Lists of companies that do and do not test their products on animals. Pets/Animal Forum, Library 14, "News/Issues/Laws," TES.TXT (3,236 bytes) and NOTEST.TXT (15,766 bytes).

AMIGA

Math Tutor—Tutors kids from 4 to 14 in addition, subtraction and multiplication. Amiga User Forum (GO AMIGAUSER), Library 13, "General Apps," COUNT.LZH (104,560 bytes).

Division Tutor—Tutors kids of all ages in division. Amiga User Forum, Library 13, DIVISN.LZH (185,731 bytes).

Morse Code—Morse code practice/training program. Amiga User Forum, Library 13, MOR-391.LHA (10,253 bytes).

IBM

Intro to PCs—Outline for two-hour course. Computer Training & Support Forum (GO DPTRAIN), Library 8, "DPTRAIN Thinktank," PCINTR.2HR (5,000 bytes).

Intro to PCs and DOS—Outline for four-hour course. Computer Training & Support Forum, Library 8, PCINTR.4HR (5,000 bytes).

Virus Simulator—Simulates viruses on your PC. Freeware. Markt & Technik Forum (GO MUTFORUM), Library 3, "Spiele, Simulation," VIRLB.EXE (85,856 bytes).

Genealogy Tracking Program—Brother's Keeper. Genealogy Forum (GO ROOTS), Library 3, "MS-DOS Software." Four parts: BK5A.EXE (277,851 bytes), BK5B.EXE (284,923 bytes), BK5C.EXE (352,835 bytes), BK5D.EXE (440,508 bytes).

MACINTOSH

Japanese Dictionary—Macintosh HyperCard Japanese/English dictionary. Foreign Language Education Forum (GO FLEFO), Library 7, "East Asian," JAPAN.SIT (507,000 bytes).

PALMTOPS

Portfolio Demo—Excellent graphic demonstration of Atari's IBM-compatible palmtop, the Portfolio; runs on desktop PCs. Freeware. Atari Portfolio Forum (GO APORTFOLIO), Library 17, "Misc. Files," PDEMO.ZIP (295,637 bytes).

GOOD and WHOLESOME



GRAPHICS

1964 Shelby A.C. Cobra—Picture of classic American car. Automobile Forum (GO CARS), Library 11, "Collectors' Corner," 64COBR.GIF (142,000 bytes).

Star Trek—TNG Hologram of USS Enterprise. Collectibles Forum (GO COLLECT), Library 3, "Nonsports and Comics," ST.GIF (61,339 bytes).

Snowy Owl—Picture of owl under starry night. Computer Art Forum (GO COMART), Library 6, "World of Nature," SNOOWL.GIF (104,448 bytes).

Typical Planetary Cutaway View—Drawn by Tom Hudson. Computer Art Forum, Library 8, "Fantasy & Sci-Fi," GLOBE.GIF (7,276 bytes).

Space Shuttle Challenger—From Jan. 28, 1986. Graphics Corner Forum (GO CORNER), Library 10, "Space & Astronomy," SHTL01.GIF (71,330 bytes).

Type Gauge—PostScript file will generate type gauge showing inches, picas, centimeters and more on any PostScript printer. Freeware. Desktop Publishing Forum (GO DTPFORUM), Library 7, "Samples & Templates," TYPEGA.SIT (64,000 bytes).

Mirror, Mirror—By Gunni Nilsson Price. Fine Art Forum (GO FINEART), Library 4, "Gunnel Nilsson Price," MIRMIR.GIF (150,592 bytes).

Medusa—By Caravaggio. Fine Art Forum, Library 9, "Old Masters," CRV003.GIF (193,342 bytes).

Self-Portrait—By van Gogh. Fine Art Forum, Library 9, VG0001.GIF (189,568 bytes).

Visual GIF Catalog #1—Thirty images from Smithsonian Online. Graphics Gallery Forum (GO GALLERY), Library 3, "SI: Smithsonian Art," SI01.GIF (107,715 bytes).

Giant Pandas—Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing of the Washington, D.C., Zoo. Graphics Gallery Forum, Library 6, "SI: Science/Nature," PANDAS.GIF (176,689 bytes).

Grand Canyon—From photo by Woodbridge Williams. Graphics Gallery Forum, Library 14, "America! West," GCANYN.GIF (97,793 bytes).

Raytraced Marble Sculpture with Nearby Lady—By Dion Kraft. Graphics Developers Forum (GO GRAPHDEV), Library 7, "Raytrace Images," JADELV.GIF (105,600 bytes).

Sea Dancers—Pen and ink by Marilyn Morey. Graphics Plus Forum (GO GRAPHPLUS), Library 3, "Hall of Fame," SEADAN.GIF (28,187 bytes).

Graphics Interchange Format—Official ASCII version of the specification. Graphics Support Forum (GO GRAPHSUP), Library 16, "Standards and Specs," GIF89A.DOC (85,478 bytes).

Digital Imaging—Rand Molnar's report on his experience at Kodak's Center for Creative Imaging, a digital-imaging learning center. Photography Forum (GO PHOTOFORUM), Library 5, "Digital Imaging," CAMDEN.TXT (11,000 bytes).

Ethics Discussion—Does digitally altering news photos affect credibility? Photo Forum, Library 5, ETHIC1.ZIP (75,000 bytes).

Model Release—When and why you need one. Photo Forum, Library 13, "Business/Marketing," MODEL.R.THD (60,000 bytes).

Hot-air Balloons—At fair near Baton Rouge. Quick Pictures Forum (GO QPICS), Library 4, "Cars/Boats/Planes," BALON1.GIF (122,978 bytes).

Stonehenge—Seen during Summer Solstice in June of 1987. Quick Pictures Forum, Library 11, "Landmarks," HENGE.GIF (19,712 bytes).

AMIGA

Fractal Generator—Generates chaotic Lyapunov patterns. Amiga Arts Forum (GO AMIGAARTS), Library 14, "Graphic Utilities," LYAPUN.LHA (102,793 bytes).

Screen Grabber—Grabs any screen, window or portions as an IFF-ILBM file. Amiga Arts Forum, Library 14, GRBIFF.LHA (29,843 bytes).

Animator—Uses the skeletal technique of modeling objects and simple tweening. Amiga Arts Forum, Library 14, KFAST.LZH (60,273 bytes).

ATARI

Paint Program—Full-featured graphics package for Portfolio. Atari Portfolio Forum (GO APORT-FOLIO), Library 11, "Graphics," SPAINT.ZIP (18,917 bytes).

Paint Program—Many resolutions and tools including lines, boxes, circles, text, pixel editing, area fills, and copy and paste. Atari Arts and Entertainment Forum (GO ATARIARTS), Library 14, "Viewer/Utilities," ART232.ARC (60,544 bytes).

Graphics Viewer—Supports IMG, PI, JPEG, TIFF, GIF, GEM, BMP and XIMG. Atari Arts and Entertainment Forum, Library 14, GEMVIEW.LZH (336,896 bytes).

File Viewer—Conversion/viewing program for many different picture formats. Atari Arts and Entertainment Forum, Library 14, PICSW7.ARC (36,608 bytes).

Drawing Program Demo—Silhouette, a bit-image and vector graphics drawing program. Atari Vendor Forum (GO ATARIVEN), Library 6, "Maxwell CPU," S137TT.LZH (113,664 bytes).

Animation—Ball rolling across checkered floor. Atari Vendor Forum, Library 9, "Lexicor Software," REFLEC.LZH (517,000 bytes).

Fonts—Ten Calamus fonts in Old English and Script styles. Atari Vendor Forum, Library 17, "ISD Marketing," MSFONT.ARC (224,000 bytes).

COMMODORE

Art/Music—Swinth, a kinetic art routine for the C-64. Commodore Music, Graphics/GEOS and Games Forum (GO CBMART), Library 10, "Graphics Util & GIF," SWINTH.BIN (13,292 bytes).

GIF Viewer—Views GIF pictures on C-64. Commodore Music, Graphics/GEOS and Games Forum, Library 10, VGIF64.BIN (18,010 bytes).

Graphics Converter—GIF to geoPaint converter for the C64/128 using GEOS. Shareware. Commodore Music, Graphics/GEOS and Games Forum, Library 13, "GEOS in General," GEOGIF.BIN (11,776 bytes).

IBM

Animation Software—Windows program for demos, intros, logos, etc. Shareware. Markt & Technik Forum (GO MUTFORUM), Library 1, "Anwendungen, Grafik," TAKEON.EXE (171,321 bytes).

Animation Player—By Autodesk for demos with FLI extensions. Computer Art Forum (GO COMART), Library 10, "Animation," AAPLAY.ZIP (56,764 bytes).

Wheelchair Symbol—International wheelchair access symbol in TIFF format. Freeware. Desktop Publishing Forum (GO DTPFORUM), Library 3, "TIFF Clip Art," HANCAPT.TIF (15,000 bytes).



JIM RUSH

Tales from the Download: Elyse Chapman

Claremont, Calif.

Favorite File: LEFTYC.SIT (31,488 bytes); shareware, \$10

Location: Desktop Publishing Forum (GO DTPFORUM), Library 8, "Mac Fonts"

Striking a balance between the speed and efficiency of automation with the vitality of the personal touch is the task Elyse Chapman often faces in her work as a free-lance art director and designer.

Advertisers occasionally want promotional pieces to be handwritten. Although this is possible, it is time-consuming. In one incident, the president of a newly reorganized company wanted to publish an advertisement to longtime customers using the format of a handwritten corporate memo, but his handwriting was illegible.

Chapman turned to the Desktop Publishing Forum where she found Lefty Casual, a Type 1 PostScript font for the Macintosh. A classic example of left-handed printing, it is designed to look like actual handwriting. Unlike some of the beautiful, handwriting-inspired fonts produced commercially that are usually too perfect to look real, Lefty Casual fit the bill for Chapman's client.

"The ad was a great success," says Chapman. "My client was delighted with the customers' response to it."

She has even adopted Lefty Casual for her personal correspondence, but please don't tell her mother those letters aren't really handwritten!

—CC

Fractal Generator—Fractint, a popular and free fractal generating program. Freeware. Graphics Developers Forum (GO GRAPHDEV), Library 4, "Fractal Sources," FRAINT.EXE (451,840 bytes).

Polyray Raytracer Archive—Needed for version 1.4 (AT or higher needed to run). Graphics Developers Forum, Library 6, "Raytrace Sources," PLY286.ZIP (252,489 bytes).

Raytracer Program—POV-Ray 1.0. Graphics Developers Forum, Library 8, "POV Sources," POVIBM.ZIP (235,747 bytes).

Graphics Display System—CompuShow 8.50a. Shareware. Graphics Support Forum (GO GRAPHSUP), Library 3, "Decoders/Encoders," CSHOWA.EXE (132,314 bytes).

Graphics Viewer—VPIC 5.1; supports GIF, BMP and others. Shareware. Graphics Support Forum, Library 3, VPIC.ZIP (137,116 bytes).

Image Processing Program—Piclab 1.91; for GIF, PPM and Targa files. Freeware. Graphics Support Forum, Library 10, "Piclab," PICLAB.ZIP (174,885 bytes).

Animation Player—Plays GL format files. Freeware. Graphics Support Forum, Library 11, "GRASP Demos," GRASPT.ZIP (68,369 bytes).

AddComment—Graphics forums staff tool for adding text comments to GIF images. Freeware. Graphics Support Forum, Library 14, "Misc Util/Code," AC.ZIP (18,354 bytes).

GIF Data Stream Analysis Tool—QuickCheck 2.20. Freeware. Graphics Support Forum, Library 14, QCHK.ZIP (29,081 bytes).

Complete WinRIX/dcs—Version 1.1 for Windows. Graphics Vendor Forum (GO GRAPHVEN), Library 7, "RIX Softworks," NEWDCS.ZIP (582,400 bytes).

Windows Graphics Tool—Paint Shop Pro displays, converts, alters, captures and prints images. Shareware. IBM Applications Forum (GO IBMAPP), Library 10, "Graphics," PSP.ZIP (200,608 bytes).

Kaleidoscope Art—Dazzle offers EGA/VGA computer art. Shareware. IBM New Users Forum (GO IBMNEW), Library 5, "Graphics," DAZZLE.EXE (165,338 bytes).

Image Viewer—JPGVIEW 4.0 handles JPEG (JFIF, JTIF, JPG), LEAD, TGA, BMP, TIF, PCX, GIF and others. Shareware. Photography Forum (GO PHOTOFORUM), Library 15, "Utilities/GIF/ZIP," JPVIEW.ZIP (151,000 bytes).

MACINTOSH

Typeface Reference Maker—Aids in the creation and maintenance of a typeface reference book. Freeware. Desktop Publishing Forum (GO DTPFORUM), Library 5, "Mac DTP Utilities," TYPEBK.SEA (114,000 bytes).

Davys Dingbats—Macintosh PostScript Type 1 font with cats, ballerinas, moons, floral patterns and others. Shareware. Desktop Publishing Forum, Library 8, "Mac Fonts," DAVYSD.CPT (266,000 bytes).

GIF Decoder and Converter—GIFConverter 2.2.10. Shareware. Graphics Support Forum (GO GRAPHSUP), Library 3, "Decoders/Encoders," GIFCNV.SEA (189,056 bytes).

Molecular Modeling—MacMolecule generates molecular structures. Mac Applications Forum (GO MACAP), Library 9, "Graphics Tools," MAC-M17.SEA (231,296 bytes).



Television Help—Buyer's guide to TVs and projection television. Consumer Electronics Forum (GO CEFORUM), Library 2, "Video Hardware," TV92.TXT (30,843 bytes).

VCR Buyer's Guide—Advice on purchasing VCRs, camcorders and video accessories. Consumer Electronics Forum, Library 2, VCR92.LST (53,645 bytes).

Film List—List of film plots, casts, release dates, etc., from 1992-1994. Consumer Electronics Forum, Library 7, "Films/Theaters," FILM92.ZIP (166,983 bytes).

Online Chess—Chess Club rules and instructions for playing online. Chess Forum (GO CHESS-FORUM), Library 1, "General/Help," HOWTO.TXT (19,746 bytes).

Playing Tips—Guide to playing casual games online in the forum. Chess Forum, Library 6, "Casual Games," CASUAL.TXT (5,305 bytes).

Forum File Index—Master index of all MIDI/Music Forum files compressed to reduce download time. MIDI/Music Forum (GO MIDIFORUM), Library 1, "New Uploads," MASTER.ZIP (99,200 bytes).

Rhapsody in Blue—Enjoyable rendition of George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" in MIDI File Format. MIDI/Music Forum, Library 10, "MIDI Song Files," RAPSDY.ZIP (30,208 bytes).

MegaWars I Map—Galaxies from *MegaWars I*. Multiplayer Games Forum (GO MPGAMES), Library 2, "MegaWars I," MW1.MAP (7,055 bytes).

MegaWars III Starter Kit—Introduction for new *MegaWars III* Players. Multiplayer Games Forum, Library 3, "MegaWars III," STARTE.ARC (65,408 bytes).

Kesmai Guide—Instructions for *Island of Kesmai*. Multiplayer Games Forum, Library 4, "IoK/Beginners," KOMPAN.MAN (151,811 bytes).

Island of Kesmai Map—Depiction of *Island of Kesmai* surface and dungeons. Multiplayer Games Forum, Library 7, "IoK/Techniques," KESMAI.MAP (31,663 bytes).

Help for YGI!—Basic commands for playing YGI! Multiplayer Games Forum, Library 12, "YGI!/Tech," COMNDS.REF (4,224 bytes).

Sniper! Basics—Beginners guide to *Sniper!* Multiplayer Games Forum, Library 13, "Sniper!," RECRUT.HLP (54,034 bytes).

Best CDs—Best classical CDs according to member panel of forum experts. Music/Arts Forum (GO MUSICARTS), Library 2, "Classical Music," BEST.TXT (71,968 bytes).

Jazz Article—Wealth of jazz information, including hard-to-find recordings, films, interviews, photographs, books and periodicals. Music/Arts Forum, Library 3, "Jazz/Blues Music," LIBRAR.TXT (19,391 bytes).

Guitar Buying Guide—Forum messages concerning new and used guitar purchases, covering brands, models, prices and features. Music/Arts Forum, Library 9, "Instruments/Sounds," GITARZ.ARC (36,736 bytes).

Play-by-Mail—Information on play-by-mail companies in the forum. Play-by-Mail Games Forum (GO PBMGAMES), Library 1, "General/Help," INFO.VEN (5,942 bytes).

Starcon—Rules for the Starcon play-by-mail game. Play-by-Mail Games Forum, Library 3, "SF Games/Closed-End," RULES.STC (39,507 bytes).

Diplomacy Online—Rules for playing the game. Play-by-Mail Games Forum, Library 7, "Diplomacy/Games," RULES.DIP (2,915 bytes).

Dog Show Terms—What to watch for at a dog show. Pets/Animal Forum (GO PETS), Library 3, "Dog Library," CONSHW.TXT (7,315 bytes).

Online Games—List of CompuServe's role-playing games played online. Role-Playing Games Forum (GO RPGAMES), Library 1, "General/Help," GAMES.LST (5,387 bytes).

GameMasters Information—Help for online GameMasters. Role-Playing Games Forum, Library 10, "GameMastering," INFO.GM (8,208 bytes).

Car Rental Advice—Tips to follow when renting a car. Travel Forum (GO TRAVSIG), Library 0, "General Interest," CARREN.HOW (12,058 bytes).

Australia—Message thread with comments from Australian and New Zealander members. Travel Forum, Library 6, "Oceania," AUSTRL.THD (29,112 bytes).

Eurail Train Trips—Hints on European train travel. Travel Forum, Library 12, "Rail Travel," EURAIL.INF (41,913 bytes).

AMIGA

Sports Game—Bloody, with orcs, skaven, slann and elves. Shareware. Amiga Arts Forum (GO AMIGAARTS), Library 2, "Games," BLOOD.LHA (260,736 bytes).

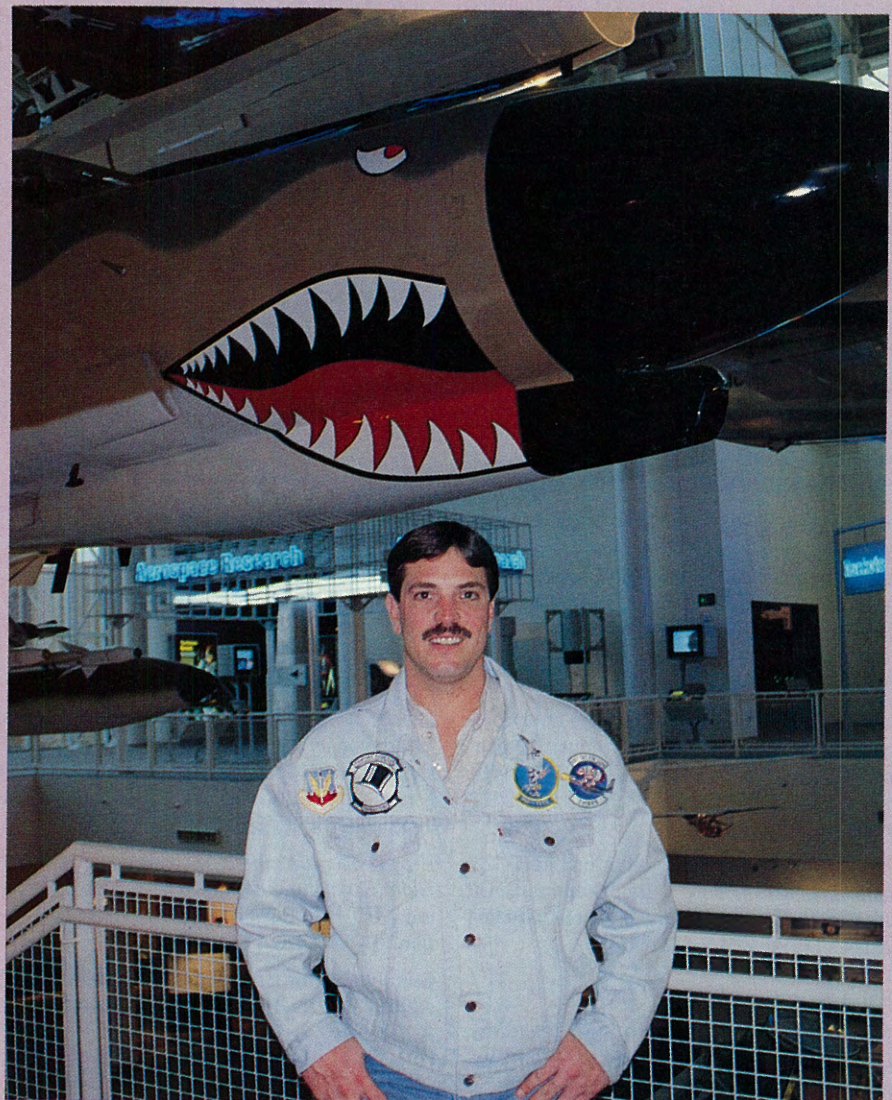
Tank Game—For one player, with multiple playfields. Amiga Arts Forum, Library 2, BLTZA.LZH (131,840 bytes).

Voice Utilities—Offers voice-activated command execution. Amiga Arts Forum, Library 7, "Audio/MIDI Utils," VCLI5.LHA (27,212 bytes).

ATARI

Mah Jong—Solitaire version featuring many options for customization. Freeware. Atari 8-bit Forum (GO ATARI8), Library 10, "Games," MY-JONG.ARC (14,976 bytes).

Two-Player Game—Tricky Tracks game challenges one or two players to construct a continuous track from a board of unconnected sections. Atari 8-bit Forum, Library 10, TRICKY.OBJ (13,568 bytes).



TONY GIANNINI

Tales from the Download: Tony Giannini

Hampton, Va.

Favorite File: FALCNR.ZIP (124,786 bytes); freeware

Location: Flight Simulation Forum (GO FSFORUM), Library 8, "Modern Air Combat"

After 24-hour shifts as a fire fighter, Tony Giannini needs to relax. The best way for him is to take off in his F-16 over Iraq to drop a few bombs—with his computer and Spectrum HoloByte's *Falcon* flight simulation game, that is.

What started as "a great way to vent frustration" has turned into a full-fledged hobby that now requires a '486 computer, super VGA and a keyboard emulator, as well as frequent library research on the techniques of real military pilots and supplementary software to enhance *Falcon*.

His favorite program addition is Falconer 3.1, freeware in the Flight Simu-

lation Forum billed as *the* survival tool for *Falcon* campaigns. It allows users to play God, resurrecting dead pilots, issuing spare supplies until kingdom come and more.

A key to successful play is managing the crew of pilots; however, *Falcon* doesn't provide an easy way to do this. The Falconer shell allows players to learn more about their pilots and to change their features. Pilots killed during a mission can be brought back to life; those tired from hours of flying can instantly rest and be ready to go again; and those better at dogfights than bombing can learn new skills instantly. Pilots become perfect with Falconer.

Giannini plays *Falcon* an hour a day, but spends many hours thinking of strategy and learning techniques. "It's neat that the computer has allowed this kind of reality," he says. "After all, speed is life."

—CC

Defender-style Game—A fast action arcade game. Atari Arts and Entertainment Forum (GO ATARIARTS), Library 2, "Games," BLASTE.ARC (28,160 bytes).

Poker Cards—Five-card draw poker played against four "seasoned" computer opponents. Atari Arts and Entertainment Forum, Library 2, COYOTE.LZH (151,040 bytes).

Asteroids-style Game—Arcade game. Atari Arts and Entertainment Forum, Library 2, MEG-ARD.PRQ (46,720 bytes).

Robotron-style Game—Llamatron (Robotron clone), excellent sound/graphics arcade. Atari Arts and Entertainment Forum, Library 2, TRON.LZH (168,704 bytes).

Music Player—Supports many file formats. Atari Arts and Entertainment Forum, Library 5, "Music/MIDI," MMM211.LZH (92,915 bytes).

Music Lessons—Demo of MIDI Music Lessons from MIDImouse Music for learning to read and play keyboard music, chords and scales. MIDI/Music Forum (GO MIDIFORUM), Library 4, "Atari Files," MIDEMO.ARC (216,800 bytes).

COMMODORE

Music Player—Plays six-voice songs on a Commodore C-64/C-128. Commodore Music, Graphics/GEOS and Games Forum (GO CBMART), Library 4, "Music Util/Demos," STRP10.IMG (49,536 bytes).

Tetris Clone—80-column Tetris on the C-128. Shareware. Commodore Music, Graphics/GEOS and Games Forum, Library 8, "Arcade/Action Games," TETRIS.BIN (9,472 bytes).

IBM

Chess Aid—ChessBase 3.0. Freeware. Chess Forum (GO CHESSFORUM), Library 5, "Hardware/Software," CBDEMO.ZIP (143,744 bytes).



Electronic TV Guide—Software for the Personal Entertainment Guide, an electronic TV Guide-style program. Shareware. Consumer Electronics Forum (GO CEFORUM), Library 16, "P.E.G.-TV Listings," PEGWAR.EXE (258,405 bytes).

Flight Simulator—Enhancements for Microsoft Flight Simulator. Freeware. Flight Simulation Forum (GO FSFORUM), Library 2, "General Aviation," DOODAD.TXT (22,405 bytes).

Supply Editor—Falcon and Campaign Supply editor. Freeware. Flight Simulation Forum, Library 8, "Modern Air Combat," FALCNR.ZIP (124,786 bytes).

Airport Advice—How to make good landings with Flight Simulator. Flight Simulation Forum, Library 11, "Flight Instruction," LANDIN.ZIP (12,320 bytes).

Hint System—Universal Hint System Reader offers computer game hints. Freeware. Gamers' Forum (GO GAMERS), Library 1, "General/Help," UHSDOS.ZIP (56,692 bytes).

Adventure Game—Hugo's House of Horrors. Shareware. Gamers' Forum, Library 2, "Adventure Games," HUGO.ZIP (234,553 bytes).

Utility Editor—Editor for Civilization. Freeware. Gamers' Forum, Library 3, "War/Strategy Games," CIVED.ZIP (70,678 bytes).

Golf Course—Muirfield Golf Course for Jack Nicklaus. Freeware. Gamers' Forum, Library 6, "Sports Games," FIELD.ZIP (157,374 bytes).

Windows Fantasy—Castle of the Winds fantasy game for Windows. Shareware. Gamers' Forum, Library 9, "Computer Role-Playing Games," SCASLT.ZIP (437,710 bytes).

Ultima VII—Complete walkthrough for Ultima VII game. Gamers' Forum, Library 15, "TEG Magazine," ULT7.WLK (39,405 bytes).

Crawling Critters—Demo of Lemmings arcade game. Freeware. Game Publishers A Forum (GO GAMAPUB), Library 16, "Other Publishers," LEMING.ZIP (306,772 bytes).

Falcon 3.0—Playable demo of Falcon 3.0 flight simulator. Freeware. Game Publishers B Forum (GO GAMBUP), Library 3, "Spectrum HoloByte," FALD3.ZIP (656,725 bytes).

Chinese Checkers—Stunning animated classic board game for up to six players. Shareware. IBM New Users Forum (GO IBMNEW), Library 6, "General Fun and Games," CCHECK.ZIP (223,996 bytes).

MIDI Guide—A list of commercial MIDI software for IBM-compatible computers, including locations of demo versions on CompuServe. MIDI/Music Forum (GO MIDIFORUM), Library 3, "MIDI Basics," IBMSW.TXT (4,312 bytes).

Sound Card Editor—Blaster Master music editor for the Sound Blaster, Sound Blaster Pro, Thunderboard, and ATI Stereo FX cards. Shareware. MIDI/Music Forum, Library 15, "Sound Card Files," BMSTR5.ZIP (246,070 bytes).

Kesmai Front-end—Adds graphics to Island of Kesmai. Freeware. Multiplayer Games Forum (GO MPGAMES), Library 4, "IoK/Beginners," THEGUI.ZIP (112,012 bytes).

Backgammon Rules—Rules for backgammon tournaments in CompuServe's Entertainment Center. Multiplayer Games Forum, Library 16, "ECenter," BGC.RUL (13,406 bytes).

Character Abilities Generator—Generates abilities for characters for Advanced Dungeons & Dragons. Freeware. Role-Playing Games Forum (GO RPGAMES), Library 2, "AD&D," PCGEN.ZIP (33,920 bytes).

Gamemaster's Assistant—Modular Gamemaster's Assistant program. Freeware. Role-Playing Games Forum, Library 10, "Game-Mastering," CAVERN.ZIP (170,880 bytes).

Charitable Donations: How to Upload

CompuServe and its forums encourage members to contribute, or "upload" files that can be retrieved, or "downloaded" and used by others. You're not billed for connect time spent while uploading files.

If you're a user of CompuServe Information Manager, submitting files to a forum is a snap. Just select the Library menu and choose "Contribute." You're prompted for a file name and guided through the steps.

Uploading also is easy if you use one of the CompuServe auto-access programs, such as TAPCIS for IBM PCs or CompuServe Navigator for the Macintosh.

If you're using another telecommunication package, check your software manual for specific instructions on how to upload. You'll also find tips in help files in many forum libraries.

Here are some guidelines to keep in mind before uploading:

1. Make sure the file is not copyrighted. If it is, get permission from its owner.

2. Don't upload the same file to more than one library or forum. Pick the right place for it. Many forums have a "New Uploads" library.

3. If it's a large file, submit it in compressed format. Check with the forum manager about this. (See "The Lowdown on Downloading," p. 14.) If you compress it, make sure downloaders don't need a password to use it.

4. Describe your file as clearly as possible when uploading, so that everyone who might be interested will know what it does.

5. Finally, if you have a question, post a message for the forum manager.

—MN

WordPerfect Blackjack—A complete blackjack game constructed entirely from WordPerfect macros. WordPerfect Users Forum (GO WPU-SERS), Library 4, "Macros/Merges DOS," BLKJAK.ARC (9,856 bytes).

MACINTOSH

Breakout Game—Time-honored "bricks and bouncing ball" game. Mac Entertainment Forum (GO MACFUN), Library 2, "Arcade/Action Games," DIAM16.SIT (324,224 bytes).

Empire Builder—Advanced *Galactic Conquest*, where players build individual empires on up to 400 planets. Mac Entertainment Forum, Library 3, "Adventure/War Games," ADGALC.CPT (113,536 bytes).

Classic Trek—Perhaps the best *Star Trek* shareware strategy game available for the Mac. Shareware. Mac Entertainment Forum, Library 3, TRK142.CPT (133,760 bytes).

Ditholous Incident—As captain of the Enterprise, can you boldly go where no one has gone before? Mac Entertainment Forum, Library 3, DTREK1.SEA (752,896 bytes), DTREK2.SEA (698,240 bytes).

Vegas Poker—Classic poker machine with color. Mac Entertainment Forum, Library 4, VGP-K30.SEA (240,640 bytes).

Chess Analyzer—Analyzes chess games, move by move. Mac Entertainment Forum, Library 4, CHESPK.SIT (102,272 bytes).

Space Arcade—*Continuum*, a classic outer space arcade-style game. Shareware. ZiffNet/Mac Download and Support Forum (GO ZMC-DOWNTech), Library 1, "Applications," CONTIN.CPT (102,000 bytes).

Egyptian Arcades—*Glypha II*, a fast, jousting arcade game with an Egyptian theme. Freeware. ZiffNet/Mac Download and Support Forum, Library 1, GLYPHA.SEA (200,000 bytes).

NEXT

NeXT Game—*BlastAppV3*, the ultimate NeXT-step shoot-'em-up game. NeXT Users Forum (GO NEXT), Library 1, "Recreation," BLAST3.TAZ (95,744 bytes).

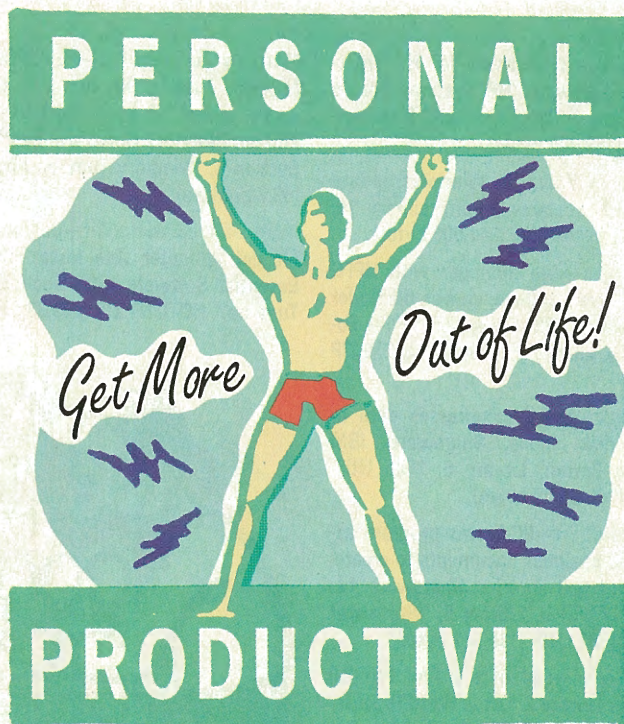
PALMTOPS

Letter Game—Overlooked yet fun game to find the letter that doesn't change. Freeware. Atari Portfolio Forum (GO APORTFOLIO), Library 4, "Entertainment," FINDME.COM (1,862 bytes).

Minesweeper—Clear the minefield without blowing up. Freeware. Atari Portfolio Forum, Library 4, LMINE.EXE (6,561 bytes).

Tetris—Classic *Tetris* clone for Portfolio. Freeware. Atari Portfolio Forum, Library 4, PRTRIS.ZIP (6,193 bytes).

Psion Game—A 36-level graphical arcade/adventure/maze for *Psion*. Shareware. Palmtop Forum (GO PALMTOP), Library 7, "Psion," BOM107.ZIP (15,220 bytes).



AMIGA

AmigaDOS Monitor—Helps you see what libraries, devices, fonts, environment variables or startup files a program is looking for. Amiga Tech Forum (GO AMIGATECH), Library 11, "System Utilities," SNOOPD.LHA (35,941 bytes).

File Requester—Automatically replaces default system file requester. Shareware. Amiga Tech Forum, Library 13, "Libraries," FRQLIB.LHA (96,543 bytes).

Address Filer—Rolodex-type name and address program. Shareware. Amiga Users Forum (GO AMIGAUSER), Library 13, "General Apps," AMIDEX.LZH (80,120 bytes).

VCR Tape Database—With built-in search and print capabilities. Shareware. Amiga Users Forum, Library 13, VCR.LZH (107,922 bytes).

Program Launcher—ToolManager 2.0, an AmigaDOS 2.0 utility offering a flexible interface for launching programs. Amiga Users Forum, Library 15, "General Utilities," TMAN20.LHA (580,000 bytes).

ATARI

High Capacity—DOS that handles high-capacity disks, including hard disks, in a familiar AtariDOS type of menuing system. Freeware. Atari 8-bit Forum (GO ATARI8), Library 3, "System Utilities," MYDOSM.ARC (71,130 bytes).

DOS Enhancer—Adds more than 20 new commands to SpartaDOS 3. Shareware. Atari 8-bit Forum, Library 3, WEDG21.ARC (61,952 bytes).

Disk Utility—Determines file type from 37 different formats. Freeware. Atari 8-bit Forum, Library 3, WHATIS.ARC (8,448 bytes).

Compression—Self-extracting Atari ST package with ARC, LHarc and ARCSHELL. Freeware. Atari ST Productivity Forum (GO ATARIPRO), Library 4, "Utility Programs," ARCLZH.PRg (134,549 bytes).

Backup—Fast Atari ST hard disk backup program. Shareware. Atari ST Productivity Forum, Library 4, CHEETA.ARC (41,984 bytes).

General Utility—Atari ST text reader, ARC utility and file converter program. Shareware. Atari ST Productivity Forum, Library 4, DCOP36.ARC (34,688 bytes).

Editor—GEM-based word processor with thesaurus. Shareware. Atari ST Productivity Forum, Library 5, "Applications," DBWRIT.LZH (103,936 bytes).

Item Selector—Replaces Atari ST's stock item selector. Shareware. Atari ST Productivity Forum, Library 6, "ACCs and Setups," LGS18.ARC (41,216 bytes).

Mouse Accelerator—AUTO program for Atari ST mouse and screen-saver options. Freeware. Atari ST Productivity Forum, Library 6, MACCEL.LZH (9,344 bytes).

French Word Processor—Demo of La Redacteur. Atari Vendor Forum (GO ATARIVEN), Library 5, "MacDonald Associates," RED_DE.LZH (371,072 bytes).

Boot Utility—Lets you run boot disks from the desktop. Atari Vendor Forum, Library 13, "Double Click Software," DCBTIT.ARC (5,120 bytes).

Desktop Enhancer—Organize your DC Desktop bootup. Atari Vendor Forum, Library 13, DCD-AUT.ARC (21,376 bytes).

Print Utility—DC Directory Dump lets you print any directory's contents to the screen, printer or file. Freeware. Atari Vendor Forum, Library 13, DCDDMP.ARC (5,504 bytes).

IBM

Atari Disk Reader—IBM program to read Atari disks formatted under MS-DOS. Freeware. Atari 8-bit Forum (GO ATARI8), Library 3, "System Utilities," DSKUTL.ARC (26,163 bytes).

HP EtherTwist—Latest software for HP EtherTwist LAN card. Freeware. HP Systems Forum (GO HPSYS), Library 7, "HP EtherTwist Networking," 27248.EXE (158,000 bytes).

Update Disk—New Wave for Windows update disk. Freeware. HP Systems Forum, Library 10, "HP NewWave," NW401.EXE (841,000 bytes).

OS/2 File Manager—File manager with HPFS support, directory tree, archive, viewer, file finder and more. Shareware. IBM Systems/Utilities Forum (GO IBMSYS), Library 2, "OS/2," XL2270.ZIP (236,639 bytes).

Data Compressor—SHEZ compresses data to consume less disk space. Shareware. IBM Systems/Utilities Forum, Library 6, "File Utilities," SHEZ02.ZIP (242,028 bytes).

Document Assembler—PC-Forms program assembles legal and business documents to create, maintain and print text libraries. Shareware. Legal Forum (GO LAWSIG), Library 5, "Software/Automation," PCFMS1.ZIP (136,522 bytes).

Ami Pro 2.0 Notes—List of the Ami Pro 2.0 technical notes in Library 2. Lotus Word Processing Forum (GO LOTUSWP), Library 2, "Ami Pro—Technotes," AP20TN.IDX (13,000 bytes).

Ami Pro 3.0 Notes—List of the Ami Pro 3.0 technical notes in Library 2. Lotus Word Processing Forum, Library 2, AP30TN.IDX (7,000 bytes).

Disk Copier—Copy any disks, including unusual formats and multiple copies. Super! Mouse and VGA required. Shareware. Markt & Technik Forum (GO MUTFORUM), Library 1, "Anwendungen, Grafik," VGACOP.EXE (224,435 bytes).

Windows Compressor—Shows, extracts, deletes ZIP/LZH/SFX/ARC. Shareware. Markt & Technik Forum, Library 2, "Tricks, Utilities," CPWINZ.EXE, (112,001 bytes).

System Diagnosis—Shows hardware configuration, BIOS, CMOS, RAM, mouse, memory, etc. Shareware. Markt & Technik Forum, Library 2, STATUS.COM (38,383 bytes).

German Help for Windows—German HLP files for Windows 3.1. Microsoft Central Europe Forum (GO MSCE), Library 5, "Sonstiges," WIN31H.ZIP (234,000 bytes).

Database—Information about PC-File, a Shareware database. PC Vendor A Forum (GO PCVENA), Library 1, "Buttonware," PCF65.INF (21,501 bytes).

DOS Enhancer—4DOS version 4.0 adds new DOS commands. PC Vendor B Forum (GO PCVENB), Library 10, "JP Software," 4DOS4P.ZIP (274,649 bytes), 4DOS4D.ZIP (manual, 247,120 bytes).

WordPerfect Calendar—Creates a set of 12 one-month calendars. WordPerfect Users Forum (GO WPUSERS), Library 4, "Macros/Merges DOS," CALNDR.ZIP (18,996 bytes).

WordPerfect Addresses—Macro makes mailing labels from on-screen addresses. WordPerfect Users Forum, Library 4, LABELZ.ZIP (11,777 bytes).

WordPerfect Macros—Pop-up menuing macro system for WordPerfect 5.1. WordPerfect Users Forum, Library 4, MKBOX.ARC (6,528 bytes).

Memory Tune-up Kit—Public Brand Software's Memory Tune-up Kit lets you control virtually every aspect of your memory under DOS 5. ZiffNet Essential Software Kits (GO ZNT:KITS), Section 3, "Memory Tune-up Kit," MEMTUN.ZIP (99,705 bytes).

Hard Disk Tune-up Kit—Beginner's kit includes file defragmenter, disk tester and more. ZiffNet Essential Software Kits, Section 4, "Hard Disk Tune-up," HDTUN1.ZIP (233,333 bytes).



Windows Tune-up Kit—Basic Edition can launch programs, change colors, change icons and more. ZiffNet Essential Software Kits, Section 5, "Windows Tune-up," WINTN1.ZIP (176,932 bytes).

Emergency Toolkit—Basic version will unerase deleted files, recover from a hard disk crash, or use preventive medicine against these emergencies. ZiffNet Essential Software Kits, Section 6, "Emergency ToolKits—Basic Version," EMERG1.ZIP (270,610 bytes).

Spreadsheet Templates—Surcharged templates to cover a wide variety of household and business calculations in Lotus 1-2-3, Excel and Quattro Pro. ZiffNet Designer Template Collection (GO ZNT:FORMS), Template Sampler (27,425-55,796 bytes).

Tips and Tricks from PC/Computing—1,001 tips and tricks and batch files from the magazine's pages in ZDG format. ZiffNet PC Contact Forum (GO ZNT:PCCONTACT), Library 0, "General/Forum Info," T1001A.ZIP (286,562 bytes), T1001B.ZIP (381,474 bytes).

OS/2 and Networks—How to install an OS/2 workstation on a Novell NetWare LAN. Table in ZDG format. PC Week Forum (GO ZNT:PCWEEK), Library 10, "Hot News," OS2LAN.ZDG (4,125 bytes).

Windows and NetWare—Setting up Windows 3.1 on a NetWare LAN. Table in ZDG format. PC Week Forum, Library 10, WINLAN.ZDG (4,407 bytes).

MACINTOSH

Mac and IBM File Sharing—Explanation of how Mac and IBM-compatible users can share files compressed on each other's systems. Desktop Publishing Forum (GO DTPFORUM), Library 1, "Forum Transcripts," SHARE.TXT (17,000 bytes).

Time Tracker—Tracks amount of time spent on the computer. Mac Applications Forum (GO MACAP), Library 6, "General Business," LOG.SEA (27,264 bytes).

Virus Checker—Effective against all known viruses and Trojans, including T4 and ChinaTalk. Mac New Users/Help Forum (GO MACNEW), Library 6, "Anti-Virus Tools," GATKPR.CPT (226,688 bytes).

Floating Point Unit Emulator—Allows programs requiring a FPU to work on computers without one. Macintosh Systems Forum (GO MACSYS), Library 3, "INITs/Extensions," SFTFPU.SIT (66,304 bytes).

System 7 Customizer—Allows faster Finder copies and much more. Macintosh Systems Forum, Library 4, "Control Panels," 7PACK.CPT (45,312 bytes).

Reminder System—Notify control-panel-based reminder system. Shareware. Macintosh Systems Forum, Library 4, NOTIFY.SIT (71,686 bytes).

Sound Assigner—SndControl program assigns sounds to events. Shareware. Macintosh Systems Forum, Library 4, SNDCTL.SEA (56,448 bytes).

Typing Utility—Speeds up typing of abbreviations. Shareware. Macintosh Systems Forum, Library 4, TYPEIT.SEA (52,736 bytes).

Document Creator—Creates self-running, stand-alone documentation files with many features. Shareware. Macintosh Systems Forum, Library 7, "System Hardware," DOCMAK.SEA (173,056 bytes).

Disk Copier—Copies floppies. Shareware. Macintosh Systems Forum, Library 7, DSKDUPSIT (22,272 bytes).

Folder Switcher—Choose from pop-up menu of several system folders on a disk. Freeware. Macintosh Systems Forum, Library 7, SYSPKB.SIT (19,772 bytes).

Alias Creator—ZMakeAlias creates aliases for files from within the document's applications. Freeware. ZiffNet MacUser Forum, (GO ZMC:MACUSER) Library 3, "MacUser Utilities," ZMAKEA.SIT (45,000 bytes).

System 7 Survival Guide—System 7 information from 32 MacWEEK articles. MacWEEK Forum (GO ZMC:MACWEEK), Library 3, "Special Supplements," S7WRIT.SEA (112,896 bytes).

NEXT

NeXT Formats—Guide to the file formats used in NeXT Forum libraries. NeXT Users Forum (GO NEXT), Library 2, "NeXT/Misc Info," README.TXT (9,440 bytes).

NeXT Buyers—List of who is buying NeXT computers and why. NeXT Users Forum, Library 2, WHOBUY.TXT (21,462 bytes).

NeXT Decompressor—Can extract ZIP, ARC, SIT, ZOO, LZH, HQX, BIN, shar, uuencode, compress and tar files. NeXT Users Forum, Library 5, "Applications," OPENER.TAZ (245,257 bytes).

PALMTOPS

BASIC Language—PBasic, considered the classic freeware programming language for the Portfolio. Atari Portfolio Forum (GO APORTFOLIO), Library 8, "Programming," PBASIC.ZIP (142,836 bytes).

Organizer Tips—How to maintain a to-do list on an organizer. Palmtop Forum (GO PALMTOP), Library 3, "Sharp Wizard," TODO.THD (6,233 bytes).

To-do List—Prioritized action list for Psion. Palmtop Forum, Library 7, "Psion Inc.," PRIORI.ZIP (8,548 bytes).

Wizard/PC Link—WizLink for Windows allows importing and exporting between Sharp's Wizard and an IBM-compatible PC. Shareware. Palmtop Forum (GO PALMTOP), Library 3, "Sharp Wizard," WLW30A.EXE (47,2064 bytes).

Cursor Expander—Makes laptop cursor more visible. Palmtop Forum, Library 14, "Software Applications," BIGCSR.ZIP (3,549 bytes).

Outliner—Organize notes on the Poqet. Shareware. Palmtop Forum, Library 14, PCO-UTL.ZIP (100,352 bytes).

File Compressor—Compress EXE and COM files by half. Palmtop Forum, Library 14, PKL113.EXE (49,928 bytes).

Power Management—Utilities for the Sharp PC3000. Palmtop Forum, Library 14, POWER.ZIP (4,030 bytes).

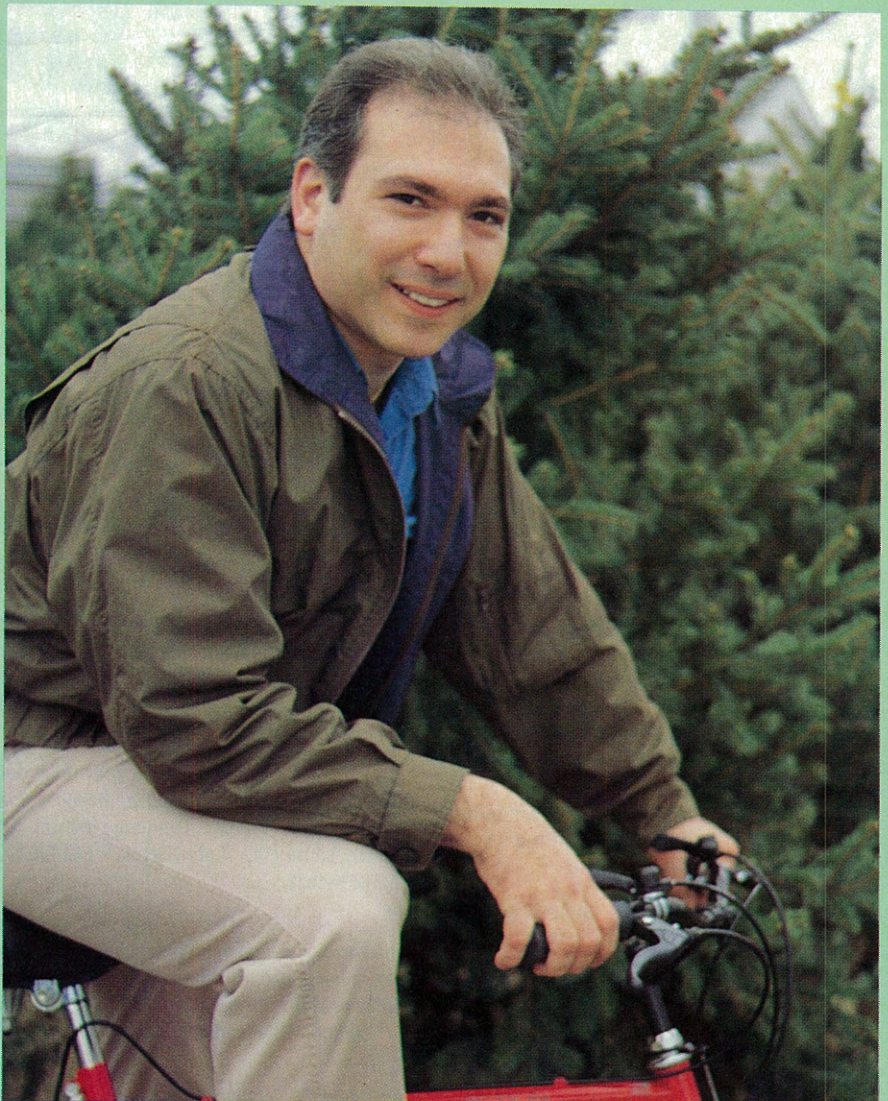
Travel Organizer—Tracks to-do lists, schedule, flights, meals. Shareware. Palmtop Forum, Library 14, TW13.EXE (27,184 bytes).

HP 48 Utilities—"Goodies Disk" for HP 48 scientific calculator. Freeware/shareware. HP Handhelds Forum (GO HPHAND), Library 4, "Advanced Handhelds," HORN5.ZIP (513,000 bytes).

HP 95LX Products—List of third-party products for the HP 95LX. Freeware. HP Handhelds Forum, Library 5, "95LX New Users," 95PROD.ZIP (38,000 bytes).

Stacker on the HP 95LX—Instructions for installing Stacker on the HP95. Freeware. HP Handhelds Forum, Library 7, "95LX Users," STAC.ZIP (4,000 bytes).

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RICHARD STEELE

Tales from the Download: Jim Pietrangelo

Toms River, N.J.

Favorite File: ZIP.ZIP (25,472 bytes); shareware, \$30

Location: Hewlett-Packard Handhelds Forum (GO HPHAND), Library 6, "95LX Datacomm"

On a flight to San Antonio, Texas, video lottery salesman Jim Pietrangelo was trying to get a new file manager program working on his Hewlett-Packard 95LX palmtop computer. Suddenly the screen cleared, and Pietrangelo's worst fears were realized: Due to a total memory reset caused by RAM disk corruption, all of his files were erased, including spreadsheets for calculating sale prices, solver equations for computing payout percentages, customer and lead lists, and sales notes.

Upon landing, he headed for the trade expo he was attending and frantically

searched for a PC. A sympathetic magazine editor allowed him to use her computer to transfer to his palmtop the disk-based backup files he always carries.

The HP 95LX doesn't have a diskette drive, but files can be copied to it via the RS-232 port. Copying them one file at a time would have taken too long. Instead, Pietrangelo copied ZIP.ZIP to the palmtop from the back-up disk, using the PC as a host. This program transfers files between computers over a serial cable at speeds up to 115,200 bps, enabling him to copy every file on the back-up disk at one time. Each file automatically went back into the appropriate subdirectory.

"Having those price quotes, contact names, to-do lists and phone numbers was a career-saver," he says. "I used what I knew would work. Hats off to ZIP.ZIP."

—CC

Introducing **NEW FILE CLUSTERS** TREAT YOURSELF TO *Your Favorite!*



Here it is, folks, the new *CompuServe Magazine* feature that stays crunchy, even in milk. The File Cluster isn't fat-free nuts and twigs, but a tasty blend of uploaded files from CompuServe forums culled by a single, simple keyword. Thus served up hot: a sense of the great diversity stored within online libraries.

This month, it's bigger than a question but smaller than a test—if you get the answers right, it's likely that you guessed: a QUIZ.

Know Your Supernovas—A humorous three-part quiz of astronomical terms knowledge. Astronomy Forum (GO ASTROFORUM), Library 1, "Forum Help/General," FUNQWZ.1, FUNQWZ.2, and FUNQWZ.3 (approx. 2,500 bytes each).

Electronic Atlas—For the Atari ST, maps of the world and continents, with United Nations statistics. Quizzes on capitals and countries. Atari Arts Forum (GO ATARIARTS), Library 2, "Games," GEOGRA.ARC (96,640 bytes).

Learning to Fly—A set of 12 quizzes used in a private pilot ground school, for instructors and students. Aviation Forum (GO AVSIG), Library 0, "General/Help," QUIZS.TXT (27,804 bytes).

American Graffiti—Match the 41 song titles from the 1973 film classic to the artists who sang them. Collectibles Forum (GO COLLECT), Library 14, "Music Collectibles," GRAFTI.QUZ (listings, 2,895 bytes) and GRAFTI.ANS (answers, 2,776 bytes).

Chef Assessment—A silly quiz from the *Great American Food Almanac* testing the flavor of your personality. Cooks Online Forum (GO COOKS), Library 17, "Potpourri," QUIZ.TXT (5,394 bytes).

Quizmaking Software—Quiz Master Construction Set 4.0 is one of many test-generating programs for teachers online. Allows 200 questions per quiz. Education Forum (GO EDUCATION), Library 2, "Software to Go," QM40.ZIP (146,409 bytes).

Get Out of the House!—Part six of *The Ultimate Disney Quiz Book* sees what you remember of the Haunted Mansion ride at Disney World. Florida Forum (GO FLORIDA), Library 13, "DisneyMania," QUIZ6.TXT (3,580 bytes).

E Pluribus What?—Sharpens your skills with the Latin 100 Vocabulary Quiz, based on an Oxford course. Foreign Language Forum (GO FLEFO), Library 4, "Latin/Greek," LAT100.EXE (78,672 bytes).

Dealing with Dysfunction—A list of signs, symptoms and feelings present in those living with an alcoholic or other dysfunctional. Health and Fitness Forum (GO GOODHEALTH), Library 2, "Addiction/Recovery," LAUNDR.LIS (1,883 bytes).

At Your Command—Three tests of your familiarity with DOS commands: basic, DOS 5.0 and "power user." IBM Applications Forum (GO IBMAPP), Library 11, "Education," DSQUIZ.ZIP, DS5OZ.ZIP and ADQ.ZIP (approx. 43,000-49,000 bytes each).

Read That Movie?—Multiple-choice format tests your grasp of film and literature in three difficulty levels. IBM New Users Forum (GO IBMNEW), Library 8, "Word & Card Games," FILMNL.ZIP (92,151 bytes).

Calculated Workout—Math Worksheet Generator 2.2 creates exercises in basic calculation with whole numbers, integers, fractions and decimals. IBM Special Needs Forum (GO IBMSPECIAL), Library 2, "Software," MWKS2.ZIP (71,918 bytes).

Left or Right?—The World's Smallest Political Quiz plots you on the political spectrum. Issues Forum (GO ISSUES), Library 2, "Political Issues," WSPQ.TXT (5,512 bytes).

B.J. (Before Jennings)—Answers to an old forum quiz covering all of the ABC television network's news anchors since 1948. Journalism Forum (GO JFORUM), Library 6, "Radio/TV," ANCHOR.ABC (1,095 bytes).

Hobbit Habit—A freeware trivia quiz for fans of the works of J.R.R. Tolkien. Macintosh Entertainment Forum (GO MACFUN), Library 4, "Board/Card/Ed Games," TOLKIE.SIT (68,608 bytes).

"To Be or ..." Darn!—Identify quotations from Shakespeare's plays by title and character name. Mensa Forum (GO MENSA), Library 8, "The Arts," SHAKES.TXT (quotes, 1,637 bytes) and SHAKEY.TXT (answers, 2,199 bytes).

Bible Trivia—One of a host of religious quiz programs, this game tests recollection of the Old Testament (King James version). Religion Forum (GO RELIGION), Library 9, "Scholarship," BCH-10.ZIP (162,301 bytes).

Trekkie IQ—Serious fans of the *Star Trek* series need only apply to this final (frontier) exam, guaranteed to raise a smile. Science Fiction and Fantasy Forum (GO SCIFI), Library 2, "Star Trek," TREKKI.TXT (4,253 bytes).

Where's Waldo, Calif.—An educational program to test knowledge of California's cities, lakes, rivers and mountains. Students Forum (GO STUFO), Library 1, "Computers," GEO-QUI.ZIP (56,158 bytes).

Wrath of Grapes—What do you really know about wine? Find out in two quizzes uploaded together. Wine Forum (GO WINEFORUM), Library 7, "Wine Symposium," QNA.ZIP (5,184 bytes).






Are You Creative?—Test your creativity potential just for fun. Working From Home Forum (GO WORK), Library 1, "General Information," QUIZ.FRM (questions, 1,710 bytes) and QUIZ-ANS (answers, 1,060 bytes).

—Christopher J. Galvin

K

EEP YOUR VALUABLES IN A SAFE PLACE.



The things you value most in life should be kept safely under lock and key.  We suggest a Volkswagen. Many Volkswagen vehicles continuously rate safest in their classes, or among the safest, in independent tests. The healthy details: In a 1992 Highway Loss Data Institute (HLDI)* study, Volkswagen Golf and Volkswagen Jetta had the lowest and second lowest frequency of injury claims, respectively, among all small four-door cars. It was the second straight year Golf topped the list.  Jetta also earned *Prevention Magazine's* "Safe Import Car of the Year Award" for 1992, while Vanagon earned top import van honors.  And in 1991, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reported that Cabriolet had the lowest fatality rating in its class, while Golf and Jetta recorded the second lowest ratings in their classes.  Why the impressive safety record? We believe it's no accident. Though many factors contribute to safety, engineering breakthroughs like the automatic safety belt system we voluntarily developed in 1975 and the unique crumple zone design on our new *Golf III* and *Jetta III*, all help prevent or reduce injury. And save lives. And let you sit back, relax, and enjoy the unique driving experience we call *Fahrvergnügen*.  Call 1-800-444-8987 or, better yet, see your Volkswagen Retailer for a test drive. It's the safe way to go.

Lowest Overall Injury Claims Among 1989-91 Small Four-Door Cars (Average Rating is 132)

Volkswagen Golf	Volkswagen Jetta	Mercury Tracer	Plymouth Sundance	Mazda 323 Protege	Honda Civic	Ford Escort	Toyota Corolla
95	115	121	125	126	127	127	129

(Source: Highway Loss Data Institute)

*1989-91 model year cars evaluated

E X P E R I E N C E F A H R V E R G N Ü G E N .





ILLUSTRATIONS BY JUANA SILCOX

Making Your Trademark

Juana Silcox '92

► **More than just a letterhead, your business' name is an identity. Pick and protect one with online help.**

Shakespeare may have quipped, "That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet," but the Bard never claimed it would sell as well.

PERSONAL ENTERPRISE

CM's Personal Enterprise Credo:

Your livelihood is in the cards and circuit boards of a machine, whether it's running a home business, entrepre-
neuring or financial planning. If time is money, time online can build a treasury of ideas on saving and making both.

Business Titles

▼
Trademark Checks, p. 31

▼
Work That Works, p. 32

So what *is* in a name? Business experts say that a name conveys the identity and good will that are often more powerful (and valuable) than the business or product it identifies. Because a good name may be a company's most important asset, large corporations often engage "corporate identity" experts to name products or rename businesses. Retainers for these services usually start in six figures, and a successful naming project may run into millions of dollars.

But you don't need megabucks to come up with the right name. CompuServe's professional forums and databases help keep time and expense to a minimum. You can get explanations and guidance on the legal and creative aspects of developing a name, check it for conflict with other business or product names, learn how to register it locally and nationally, and find out how to extend it into worldwide markets (see "Whatchamacallit Inc.," p. 30). There are various "categories" of names (see "Name

Game Buzzwords," p. 27), but the same principles and resources apply for all.

Two professional forums, in particular, often provide help to entrepreneurs looking to title a business or product. One tends to concentrate on pragmatic issues, the other on developing the necessary pizzazz to stand out in the marketplace.

Paul and Sarah Edwards, sysops of the Working From Home Forum (GO WORK), contend that "what you name your business *can* be one of the least expensive yet most important and long-lasting business decisions you have to make." They believe that your name should *identify* the business and convey something about the "benefit" the business offers, such as convenience (one stop), speed (today) or vision (tall). The Edwardses suggest speaking with prospective customers about what they see as most important about your kind of service or product and using that information to devise a name that will muster up business.

While the Working From Home Forum members frequently offer advice based on their own recent experiences with starting businesses, the resident wordsmiths in the Public Relations and Marketing Forum (GO PRSIG) arguably have more fun with naming. After all, many members generate snappy, memorable product and company names for a living. Their years of expertise make for lively exchanges on the forum message boards.

Name Game Buzzwords

Trademark law is complex, and varies from country to country and even from state to state within the United States. However, certain terms with specific legal meanings keep cropping up:

Trade name: A trade name is the name a business uses to sign contracts, pay taxes and otherwise *do* business. It could be your legal corporate name or a "fictitious" name you use.

Trademark: From a legal standpoint, a trademark is just that—a mark. It can be a word or a logo or some combination. It designates the source of a product and is exclusively reserved to the seller or owner. Aldus is a trade name, but Pagemaker is a trademark.

Service mark: A service mark is the equivalent of a trademark, except that it refers to the origin of a service rather than a product. IQuest is a service mark of the CompuServe Information Service.

Common law trademark: Rights accrue simply through the use of a name, even if it is not registered. This form of trademark may be adequate for a local business, but provides scant protection against others using the name. You could use your name for a few years and suddenly receive a cease-and-desist order because someone else has registered it as a trademark. After extended legal maneuvering, you may be able to keep your name for local use by demonstrating that you had it first, but protection may be minimal.

State Registration: State registration of a trademark or service mark provides somewhat better protection than common law, but it is useful only within the borders of that U.S. state.

A trademark is intended to help consumers find the products they want and reduce the likelihood they will be confused among several similar products. By contrast, a trade name is used so each state can keep track of each business to tax it, or to aid in finding the business if a consumer wishes to engage a legal matter.

Trade names in each state include all the names of corporations, as well as names of the noncorporate businesses. Most states require that partnerships and proprietorships register their trade names with the state, except when the business uses the name of the owner as part of the trade name. Registration of a trade name is usually done through a department of the secretary of state.

Patent and Trademark Office registration: This is the most comprehensive trade or service mark protection available in the United States. The process is complicated and is becoming increasingly expensive, as the PTO moves toward funding through user fees. PTO registration must be carried out in each business class applicable to your trademark usage, and applications for each must be filed separately at a cost of \$200 each. Thom Hartmann, sysop of the Desktop Publishing Forum, points out that you can call on the PTO for help, but it makes for a long, drawn-out process. Most CompuServe members who have gone through the process advise hiring a trademark or intellectual property lawyer to register with the PTO. Someone knowledgeable in trademark law is essential for finding your way through the legal thicket of registration with national trademark offices in any other country.

—PH & DL

Since last September, the Creativity section of the PR and Marketing Forum message board has applied "brainlining"—Assistant Sysop Peter Lloyd's term for a form of online brainstorming—to help people name their companies and products. The initial response was so strong, in fact, that new guidelines are being set to avoid flooding the board with "naming" threads.

When a CompuServe member requests help, the sysops ask for specifics. For example, when Robert K. Paschall of Atlanta sought a creative name for his technology company, Assistant Sysop Jon Hoornstra advised him to "tell us about your company so we know not only *what* it does (makes), but also give us a feel for its history, personality and culture."

Paschall's startup does systems integration (such as LAN) work, with about half of its clients drawn from Atlanta's medical community. Forum members generated nearly 100 name suggestions that ranged from atLANta to Lynx.

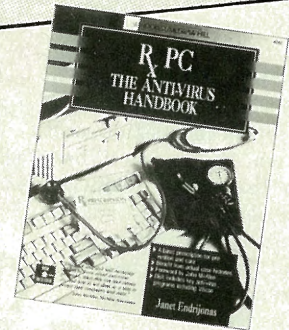
Throughout the give and take, Lloyd me-

diated and encouraged all ideas, however far-fetched. Lloyd notes that company principals "are often advised and cowed into backing into a safer name than they would like to call themselves. Playing it safe does exactly the opposite of what a name is meant to do—identify the personality of the company as found in its people."

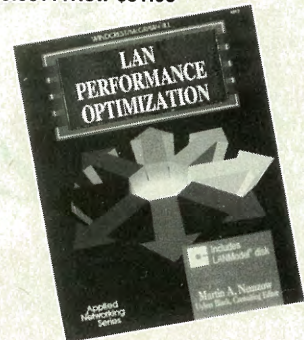
The distinctive name that emerges from any naming process is not just a business asset—it's a legal necessity. Once you've drafted a brilliant name, your next step is to find out if someone has already beaten you to the punch. There are more than 750,000 trademarks or service marks registered at state and national levels in the United States and hundreds of thousands more worldwide. Moreover, there are innumerable other common law trade and service marks in use (see box above for definitions). If the name you desire is already being used, your freedom to adopt it is severely limited.

Your mission is to check legal trademark registrations and to dredge existing written references—including newspapers, advertis-

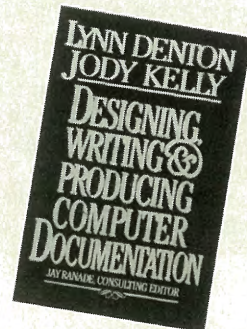
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Go-Go Logos, or Inventing a Sexy Symbol

Having chosen a name and jumped the registration hurdles, you still need to devise a look that makes your company or product instantly identifiable. Dressing for success is an essential part of corporate identity.

Don't try to directly imitate famous logos—the Coca-Cola typescript or IBM fat blue block, for example—because you may find yourself impaled on a sharp lawsuit. “Look and feel” may still be a foggy legal area in the design of software, but it's crystal clear when it comes to corporate identity symbols.

You can't copy someone's appearance any more than you can sign his name to a check.

Your logo—and by extension the design of your stationery and forms—is your corporate signature. The Desktop Publishing Forum (GO DTPFORUM) is a good place to start for advice about logo design. Many members are professional designers, and often can advise you on how to locate a designer in your price range in your area.

The temptation to do it yourself with a paint program and a nifty batch of fonts can be overwhelming. But Desktop Publishing Forum Sysop Kathleen Tinkel observes, “People who design their own logos (even designers) usually do a poor job because they lack objectivity and cannot assume the customer's point of view. ‘Clever’ logos usually look amateurish and do more harm than good.”

As the client, you can ease the process by knowing what kind of logo you want:

representational, pictorial, typographic, abstract symbols or evocative symbols.

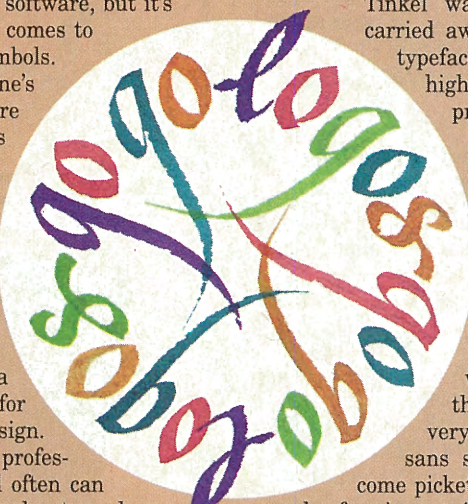
Forum member Daniel Gray suggests that type may do the job. Among the first questions he asks when designing a corporate look are: What does the company do? What is the product? Do you want to portray a specific era or time frame? “Much of that can be carried by the typeface choice. With a distinctive typeface, the logo is set apart from the everyday humdrum.”

Tinkel warns about getting carried away by type. “Avoid typefaces that are really high-style, since they probably won't be in six months,” she says. Moreover, “avoid typefaces that are difficult to reproduce well under adverse conditions. This includes scripts, very tall faces, type with strong thick/thin contrast, and very narrow condensed sans serif faces that become picket fences after a couple of copies or with any reduction.”

Gray echoes the advice about simplicity, noting that logos should be able to survive photocopying and faxing. As a result, color should be used sparingly and selectively.

Consensus among designers is that unless you're an ace typographer, don't manipulate type for special effects, such as condensing or expanding letters, filling them with texture or pattern, or making them “wobble” or look as if they're shattered. Says Tinkel, “The result will shriek ‘amateur!’ Even your mother will cringe.”

—PH & DL



limit the search to your category or type SOS at a Trademark Research Center prompt for further assistance. (Each full description costs \$5.) Fortunately, the Trademark Research Center's Trademarkscan databases are designed to catch homonyms (words that sound the same but are spelled differently) and spelling variants or corruptions. Thus, if you include the word “color,” the search also will turn up “colour,” “kolor” and “colores.”

Finding no matches in the Trademark Research Center's databases doesn't mean the name is free to use. A trademark attorney often will check prior usage of a name by searching 10 or more databases, many of which are available on CompuServe. “The Patent and Trademark Office does its own search when you apply,” explains attorney Fred Wilf, a frequent participant in trademark discussions in several forums. “And they *do* look for prior use—a company using the name even if it isn't registered.”

Where to carry out more targeted research depends on your line of business. You can use news databases such as the Newspaper Library (GO NEWSLIB) to search for common law trademarks. More specialized industry-specific databases are better choices for computer industry names.

To do business outside the United States, you must make sure that your chosen name is available for use in the target countries. Thorough information is available for the United Kingdom; use the U.K. Company Library for company names (GO UKLIB) in D&B—Dun's Market Identifiers® (GO DMI). The U.K. Trademark Library (GO UKTRADE) and the U.K. Newspaper Library (GO UKPAPERS) provide ways to search for registered and unregistered trademarks, respectively. For other countries, it's easier to search for company names than for product trademarks. Trademark data, per se, is not available online, but company listings are. In general, the D&B—Dun's International Market Identifiers (GO DBINT) database is a good source, as are country-specific corporate databases.

When expanding into unfamiliar turf—especially into markets where you're not fluent in the language—check with native speakers to see if your name might have unexpected connotations in other cultures. As *CompuServe Magazine* reported in September, one member discovered from the Foreign Language Forum (GO FLEFO) that one word in his company name, “Tomato,” was Portuguese slang for a portion of the male reproductive anatomy. No doubt General Motors wished its marketers had checked the forum before introducing the Nova (Spanish for “no go”) into Latin America. When beginning to market in China, Coca-Cola had its product name translated into Chinese characters only to find that the characters, which were pronounced similarly to “Coca-Cola,” actually meant “bite the wax tadpole.”

ing and trade journals—for examples of names that sound like, look like or duplicate the one you want to use (see “Been Done Already?” p. 31).

Begin with directories. If your main concern is a company name rather than a product trademark, head first to Biz*File (GO BIZ*FILE), CompuServe's online Yellow Pages or to Dun & Bradstreet—Dun's Electronic Business Directory (GO EYP). In Biz*File, choose the combination of name and geographic area, looking for your chosen name and similar ones in your state. Be sure to check names that would look or sound like yours. A similar check in D&B—Dun's Electronic Business Directory, searching by company name, turns up those that may not be listed in some telephone directories.

If your business is strictly local, that

could be all the checking you'll need to start using your chosen name. Most legal experts, however, advise making sure your name doesn't duplicate any trade, business or product names registered in your state as a trademark. The quickest information source here is the Trademark Research Center (GO TRADERC), where the state trademark registration database covers Puerto Rico and all 50 United States.

Checking usage of a name throughout the United States is more involved. Again, use the Trademark Research Center, searching both the state and national databases. You can search by all business categories or only by the category your business falls into—say, “electrical and scientific apparatus” for computer products. When in doubt, cast a wide net; if the results menu has several “hits,”

Once you've arrived at a name, you should stake your claim to it. You acquire certain rights to a name simply by using it, but they can be hard to defend. Registering a name with the state as a business name or a state trademark may provide somewhat better protection—but this does not necessarily have effect beyond state borders. If you wish to do business only in your own state and perhaps the adjoining one, consider registering with the second state as a "foreign business" to protect your business name and trade or service mark. Before applying, follow the same procedures you used for checking conflicts in your own state.

Best protection comes from registering with the national trademark registry wherever you're doing business—the Patent and Trademark Office in the United States (see "Name Game Buzzwords," p. 27). Advice on procedures is readily available in the Working From Home Forum, the Entrepreneur's Small Business Forum (GO USEN), the Desktop Publishing Forum (GO DTP-FORUM) and the Legal Forum (GO LAWSIG).

If you've done a thorough search to ascertain that your name is available, you can save the lion's share of attorney fees involved in trademark registration with the Patent and Trademark Office. Law partners Fred Wilf and Gerry J. Elman—who actively discuss intellectual property law in several forums—suggest providing your attorney with a printout of your name search to demonstrate which bases have already been covered.

Protect your name or trademark from the outset by attaching a symbol to it. The superscript TM is standard for a common law or state registered trademark. Superscript SM denotes a service mark. You gain the right to use the superscript R in a circle only after being granted a PTO trademark.

"Use it or lose it" is the rule of thumb with trademarks. Most countries outside the United States grant a limited time period after registration before you must use your trademark within that country or forfeit the rights. Likewise, the PTO requires using a mark within six months of filing.

Be careful how you use your trademark in advertising and correspondence. History is full of trademarks lost through improper use, such as nylon. Vigilant companies defend their marks assiduously. 3M is stuck on using Scotch brand tape, and no photocopy is a "xerox" unless it's a Xerox brand photocopy. If you fail to protect your mark and lose it, Kimberly Clark will pass you a tissue—a Kleenex brand tissue, of course.

One final note: This article is intended as a starting point for anyone grappling with the process of naming a company or product. The suggestions do not constitute legal advice. For that, an attorney must be retained.

Patricia Harris and David Lyon are free-lance writers based in Cambridge, Mass.

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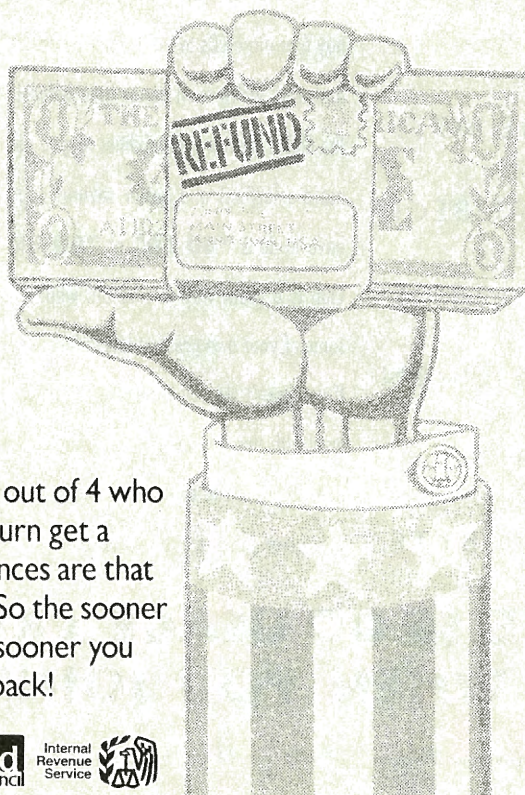
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Whatchamacallit Inc.: Helpful Forum Files

CompuServe's forums contain numerous files to help in the name and trademark research process. Here's a sampling:

DESKTOP PUBLISHING FORUM (GO DTPFORUM)

Trademark Law—Transcript of conference on trademark law with attorney Fred Wilf. Library 1, "Forum Transcripts," TMCO.TXT (25,636 bytes).

Intellectual Property—Transcript of conference on copyrights and trademark considerations. Library 1, COPYCO.TXT (25,197 bytes).

Logo Design Principles—Discussion of approaches to designing logos. Library 16, "Magazine Articles," LOGO.TXT (10,556 bytes).

ENTREPRENEUR'S SMALL BUSINESS FORUM (GO USEN)

Trademark Application Forms—Four files, all in Library 3, "Business Start-Up," for applying to the Patent and Trademark Office for trademark. Directions for forms, TRADOC.TXT (5,190 bytes); partnership application, TRDAPL.PAR (7,385 bytes); individual application, TRDAPL.IND (7,385 bytes); corporation application, TRDAPL.COR (7,525 bytes).

LEGAL FORUM (GO LAWSIG)

Software Copyright and Trademark—Basic article on property rights, especially regarding computer programs. Library 1, "Computer/Tech Law," COPYRT.TXT (23,020 bytes).

PR AND MARKETING FORUM (GO PRSIG)

What to Name Your Firm—Approaches to naming a new PR, advertising, consulting or other business firm. Library 1, "On Your Own," NAME-4U.THD (19,981 bytes).

Creative Naming Process—Demonstration of creative naming through thread helping Atlanta-based systems integrator. Library 2, "Creative Space," CONAM.THR (11,901 bytes).

Newsletter Names—Edited list of newsletter names from "brainlining" session. Library 2, NLNAME.TXT (1,589 bytes).

WORKING FROM HOME FORUM (GO WORK)

Naming Your Business—How to check out a business name to make sure it can be yours alone. Library 2, "Business Info," NAMBIZ.THD (6,534 bytes).

Name Example—Thread on naming a computer consulting business, with suggestions on adapting the process. Library 2, NAME.BIZ (3,002 bytes).

Trademark Search—Information professionals offer suggestions on researching brand names and trademarks. Library 4, "Info Professionals," BRANDS.THD (6,721 bytes).

Assumed Names—Thread on who must register a business name that differs from owner's personal name. Library 9, "Accounting & Tax," DBA.THD (5,016 bytes).

Name Registration—Thread on registering business names and trademarks. Library 12, "Legal Matters," NAME.THD (12,180 bytes).

Been Done Already? Where to Check

Both general and industry-specific areas on CompuServe allow you to search for company and product names in current or past use. But not all services are applicable to every search. The following synopsis should help you narrow the places to look.

Australian/New Zealand Company Library (GO ANZCOLIB)—Selected directory and news information from D&B—Dun's Market Identifiers on more than 95,000 businesses, both public and private, in Australia and New Zealand. The Asia-Pacific database covers the business and economic news and can be searched by company name. Reuter Textline includes prominent English-language newspapers and news wires originating in Pacific Rim countries. Both news databases cover 1985 to the present.

Biz*File (GO BIZ*FILE)—Comprehensive database of 10 million businesses, including addresses and phone numbers. Search by company name or by type of business, in the United States or Canada.

Business Database Plus (GO BUSDB)—Covers more than 450 regional, U.S. and international business and trade publications. Search by word used in text for company names and trademarks. Coverage for most publications as of Jan. 1, 1987.

Business Dateline (GO BUSDATE)—Coverage of business news in the United States and Canada with a strongly local emphasis. Search by subject words. Coverage includes articles from 115 regional publications from 1985 to the present.

Computer Database Plus (GO COMPDB)—Computer-related articles from more than 130 magazines, newspapers and journals. Do a "words in text" search using company or trademark name. Coverage as of Jan. 1, 1987.

Computer Directory (GO COMPDIR)—Database oriented to computer-related products providing detailed information on more than 13,600 manufacturers. Search by "words in manufacturer's name."

D&B—Canadian Dun's Market Identifiers (GO DBCAN)—Contains directory information on about 350,000 Canadian companies. Can be searched by words in the company name.

D&B—Dun's Market Identifiers (GO DMI)—Contains directory information on more than 6.7 million U.S. establishments, both public and private. Can be searched by words in the company name.

European Company Library (GO EUROLIB)—Selected financial information on more than 2 million European companies. Included are D&B—European Dun's Market Identifiers, which can be searched by company name. Other databases profile fewer European companies in greater depth.

Executive News Service (GO ENS)—Set up a clipping file with the names you wish to check,

casting as wide a net as possible. Automatic clipping will alert you to uses of the name or names in question.

D&B—Dun's Market Indicators (GO DBINT)—Contains directory information on approximately 2.1 million public, private and government-controlled companies in 120 countries. Can be searched by both geographical location and words in the company name.

Germany Company Library (GO GERLIB)—By entering the company name, industry codes or geographic location, users can find directory, financial and product information for more than 48,000 companies.

Health Database Plus (GO HLTDB)—Articles on health and fitness provide check on company and trademark names in the health field. Search by words that appear in text. Coverage dates to Jan. 1, 1989.

Magazine Database Plus (GO MAG-DB)—Articles from magazines offer backup for checking unregistered trademarks and trade names. Coverage dates to Jan. 1, 1987. Search using the keyword TRADEMARK for articles about trademark law.

NewsGrid (GO NEWSGRID)—Functions as a daily check of names in world news. Useful backup to track common law use of trademarks and foreign names.

Newspaper Library (GO NEWSLIB)—Contains selected full-text articles from 48 U.S. newspapers. Excellent way to search local business names. Search by subject.

Trademark Research Center (GO TRADE-ERC)—Trademarkscan-Federal, updated twice weekly, contains all active, registered trademarks and service marks filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, plus pending applications. Also includes inactive marks from 1984 forward. Trademarkscan-State contains information on trademarks and service marks registered within the United States and Puerto Rico. Corporate name registrations are not included. Note that states update their data on varying schedules.

U.K. Company Library (GO UKLIB)—Selected financial information on more than 1.2 million U.K. companies. Includes information from D&B—Dun's European Market Identifiers database, which can be searched by company name. Also includes ICC British Company Directory, which contains name and address directory and summary information on limited liability companies in the United Kingdom.

U.K. Trademark Library (GO UK-TRADEMARK)—Database includes BSI Standardline database (industrial codes and standards) and British Trade Marks, a database of all registered U.K. trademarks and pending applications, as well as lapsed trademarks and applications since 1976.

—PH & DL

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Away From Their Desks

► Telecommuters find home work to be good for them *and* the boss.

The federal Clean Air Act mandates that employers with more than 100 employees who are located in selected metropolitan areas reduce car commuting by 25 percent by 1996. Consequently, many U.S. corporations, nonprofit organizations and government agencies are taking a new look at the option of telecommuting—having some of their employees regularly work from home a few days a week, connected to the office via computer and modem.

If you're interested in joining the approximately 6.6 million people New York City market research firm LINK Resources says are now telecommuting and the 25 million Jack Nilles, president of JALA International Inc., a telecommuting firm, expects will be telecommuting by 2000, chances are you'll have to take the lead in presenting the idea to your employer.

What's in it for you? Potentially, a lot. Not only will you have more time to call your own and more control over your professional life, but you also may find that you accomplish more and can become more valuable to your company.

People begin telecommuting for a variety of reasons, according to Brad Schepp, author of *The Telecommuter's Handbook* (Pharos, 1990). The reasons include a temporary disability that makes commuting difficult, the need to be more accessible to the family, a long commute, a spouse's job requiring a family move or job requirements.

Bill Hall, electronic support coordinator for Symantec, Peter Norton Product Group, has a two-hour commute from his Palmdale, Calif., home to his office in Santa Monica. When his employer wanted someone to monitor and answer messages in the Symantec Norton Utilities Forum during "off" hours, Hall volunteered—provided he could telecommute, working three days at home and two-and-a-half days at the office. "Everyone wins. I get off the freeway, and Symantec gets someone to provide weekend product support," he says.

Hall most appreciates the flexible hours. As a night owl, he'd rather work in the wee morning hours and sleep later the next day. He also values the four hours he saves daily with no commute. Best of all, Hall insists he is more productive at home. "There are less distractions and the environment as a whole is more relaxing," he explains.

The biggest disadvantage to telecommuting for Hall is making other employees

realize he is still available even though he is working from home. "They seem to think if you're home, you must have the day off," he says, noting he has combated this by plastering his home telephone number on every message and report and answering his electronic mail several times daily.

Most people do need interpersonal contact. Going to the office several days a week will provide this interaction, so isolation on the days at home becomes an asset, not a problem. Still, telecommuting isn't for everyone, especially if you have trouble communicating unless you are face-to-face or if you need the office camaraderie to work well and

tivity," insists Nilles. "All those things people worry about going wrong can happen."

Successful telecommuting also requires management by results. "The point to working must not be to put in a set number of hours, but rather to accomplish the job at hand. Telecommuting forces you to get organized and focus on the results of your work," says Nilles.

Good management aside, enthusiasm is one of the most potent factors for a telecommuter's success. "Telecommuters succeed because they make it work," says Schepp. "They get their work done and then some, and they don't lose touch with the office."

Ben Rogner, editor of the *Journal of Court Reporting*, telecommutes from his Chicago condominium to the Vienna, Va., offices of the National Court Reporters Association. When he landed his dream job in 1986, he didn't want to move. Since the association had a history of telecommuting, it wasn't difficult for Rogner to set up his office in Chicago.

Although he visits the Virginia headquarters twice a year, he admits the isolation of working hundreds of miles away can be an advantage as well as a disadvantage.

Because he is self-disciplined, he does a lot of work. "I can eliminate distractions more effectively than in any office setting," he says. "However, a lot of what we know is learned because we overheard a remark in the lunchroom or saw a fax arrive while waiting to send one. Telecommuters need to find ways of compensating for that informal learning."

Rogner has done this by using CompuServe Mail to informally chat with the association's employees. "CompuServe Mail is how I yell down the hall at someone. It takes seconds to pass along a quick comment, piece of information or bad pun," he says.

But the greatest advantage to him has been Section 7, "Reporter/Paralegal," of the Legal Forum (GO LAWSIG). The magazine Rogner edits is primarily written by volunteers. "Can you imagine a more ideal place for the editor of such a publication to look for people who can write?" he says, adding it is the most significant development for the magazine since it started using computers.

U.K. resident Claudia Cragg, a correspondent with Sekai Bunka Inc., telecommutes to Tokyo. Since her skills as an Asian foreign correspondent are sufficiently unusual, she had an easy time convincing her employer to allow her to move to England

Who's Telecommuting?

In 1992, 6.6 million people telecommuted, up 19 percent from 1991's 5.5 million. According to LINK Resources Inc., 77 percent of telecommuters are white-collar workers, and 81 percent work for companies with less than 100 employees. Some 60 percent have college degrees, and 37.6 percent of telecommuter households have incomes greater than \$50,000.

feel part of the company team.

What's in it for the boss? More than the boss might ever consider. With properly trained, motivated and self-disciplined employees, telecommuting offers increased productivity at a lower cost.

"Telecommuters are interrupted less at home than they are in the office, so they get more work done," says Nilles, who coined the term "telecommuting" in 1973 when he was a professor at the University of Southern California. In addition, those in the office get more accomplished because they aren't interrupted by the telecommuters.

Morale also improves, and this is indirectly reflected in lower turnover rates. Companies spend much time and money training employees. Often, telecommuting will mean the difference between someone continuing to work for the firm or resigning. "It's an investment retained," says Nilles.

Once the telecommuting is organized, it is self-administering. Managers find they spend less time managing the telecommuter, leaving more time for the manager to get work done.

However, if telecommuting is not done right, the boss can lose a lot. "You can't just say, 'Go out there and do it.' You have to have a management and coordination plan or you will suffer major costs and a loss in produc-

Those Are the (Tax) Breaks

When it comes to U.S. tax law, issues surrounding telecommuting are murky at best, since telecommuting is not specifically addressed by the Internal Revenue Service.

However, if you telecommute, you are probably entitled to some deductions, including the home office, since you are providing your own work space and footing the bill for electricity and heat. Like all work-from-homers, including the self-employed, your home office must be used *exclusively and regularly for business*. Telecommuters have the added burden of proving to the IRS that the home office is for the *convenience of the employer*.

Douglas Perreault, a C.P.A. in Tampa, Fla., says not even a letter from your employer stating the home office is for the company's convenience is enough proof for Uncle Sam, although it might help. Instead, Perreault urges you to document in writing the reasons why and how the office is for the convenience of the employer. In addition, he says the home office should be used for no other purpose.

Perreault says if you meet these criteria, you should then consider his list of the "Five Tests of Deductibility." Deductible expenses should be:

1. Ordinary.
 2. Necessary (and for the convenience of the employer).
 3. Reasonable.
- And if they are, they are deductible if:
4. They are prorated for personal versus business use.
 5. They are not expenses for items that are against public policy, such as bribes or traffic tickets.

"Although you have to prorate your expenses between your home office and the rest of your house, such as rent and electricity, if the home office is used exclusively for business, Test 4 is otherwise not a problem," says Perreault. "A home office is not against public policy, so Test 5 is also met."



Limitations leave little to deduct: Perreault

To take the home office deduction as a telecommuter, Perreault advises using Form 8829, "Expenses for Business Use of Your Home." To figure the deduction for indirect expenses and for depreciation, the deductible amount should be transferred to Form 2106, "Employee Business Expense," as "other expenses" and added to those items that are also deductible for all employees, such as office supplies, telephone calls and business automobile mileage.

Office equipment purchased by the telecommuter (not the employer) is deductible on Form 4562, "Depreciation and Amortization," and that total is transferred to Form 2106. Total expenses are then transferred to Schedule A, "Itemized Deductions," as a miscellaneous deduction. For many people, forms 2106, 4562 and 8829 will not need to be attached to the return, but keep these forms for your records in case of an audit.

The big catch: Before you can deduct any of these expenses, you must first subtract 2 percent of your adjusted gross income from the total amount of deductible expenses. The remainder is what you may deduct.

That is, if your adjusted gross income is \$50,000 and you accrue \$1,200 in telecommuting business expenses, you must subtract 2 percent, or \$1,000, of your adjusted gross income from the \$1,200 in expenses, leaving just \$200 that is deductible. Not only that, but you must itemize your deductions as well.

"After going through all this work, you may find you don't even benefit because of this limitation," says Perreault, who hopes Congress will reinstate employee business expenses as an above-the-line adjustment to income "so we can all benefit from alternative and productive work environments."

For additional information, see the instructions to the forms listed above and also IRS publication 587, "Business Use of Your Home." To get these free forms, call 800/TAX-FORM.

and telecommute via CompuServe Mail and fax connection.

Cragg says the key to successful telecommuting is organization. "Prepare, make lists, know exactly what has to be done every day and make sure you do it," she says, advising telecommuters to establish a daily routine. "Never put off until tomorrow what can be done today and then some."

To convince the powers that be to let you telecommute, Schepp says to write a proposal explaining how you will work, what you will accomplish, where you will do it and the benefits to your employer. In addition, you and your employer should hammer out a formal telecommuting agreement so you both know the ground rules.

Nilles says the two most common objections raised by employers are decreased productivity and corporate liability for your safety in your home office. Many managers think you won't work unless someone is peering over your shoulder. You have to convince your boss such supervision isn't necessary. If your employer balks, Cragg suggests you ask for a one-month trial. "The employer

should see an increased commitment to the organization, as well as productivity from you," she says.

The other roadblock is liability and the issue of workman's compensation. "Most employers think that unless they can check out your home, you'll kill yourself in it and sue them," quips Nilles. In fact, in 20 years of telecommuting, no telecommuter has ever filed for workman's compensation for an injury sustained at home.

The telecommuting agreement should address this issue with the telecommuter pledging to maintain a home office that is as safe as the corporate office. The company should also be permitted to inspect for safety. Any corporate liability would extend only to the work area and not the entire home.

"I would say an employer who uses liability concerns as an excuse for not letting an employee telecommute, probably doesn't want that employee to telecommute," says Schepp.

Sonya Castellucci Buckman, director of newsstand marketing for Faber, Coe & Gregg Inc. in Secaucus, N.J., left nothing to

chance when she proposed telecommuting as an alternative to an extended maternity leave. She assembled a written proposal that included such information as home office set-up and the cost to the company, as well as her availability and recordkeeping of her work hours and phone calls.

"I was shocked my bosses agreed to everything in my proposal," she says, noting that being a valuable employee will help the cause. If possible, break out your value to the company in dollars, showing your credit for the bottom line.

Federal laws to clean up the air may spur the option of telecommuting, but LINK Resources' Thomas E. Miller insists performance and productivity will always outweigh the issue of work location. That is, people will choose work methods that are the most effective for them. But the '90s should also offer a new choice—the best work location for those methods.

Cathryn Conroy is senior writer of CompuServe Magazine and book review editor of Online Today. Her CompuServe User ID number is 70007.417.

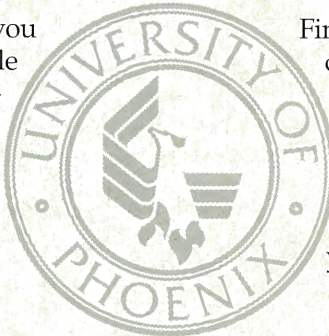
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Learn about telecommuting and tips on convincing your boss to let you substitute a modem for a car. Use the keyword TELECOMMUTING in Magazine Database Plus, Computer Database Plus or the Working From Home Forum's Library 11, "Jobs/Telecommuting." Here's a sampling of articles:

MAGAZINE DATABASE PLUS (GO MAGDB)

"Adding Vision to Telecommuting," *The Futurist*, May-June 1992. Full text and abstract. Reference #A12389073.

"The 10-Second Commute" (convincing managers to consider telecommuting), *Home Office Computing*, December 1991. Full text and abstract. Reference #A11575634.

"Selling Your Boss on the Work-At-Home Office: How to Put Together a Winning Pitch for Telecommuting," *PC/Computing*, August 1991. Full text and abstract. Reference #A11019888.

COMPUTER DATABASE PLUS (GO COMPDB)

"Bringing it All Back Home: A Look at the Bottom Line," *Corporate Computing*, November 1992. Abstract only. Reference #A12704648.

"Does Telecommuting Work?" *MacWEEK*, Oct. 12, 1992. Abstract only. Reference #A12768647.

"Critical Factors for Telecommuting Success: Do You Have What it Takes to Succeed as a Telemanager?" *Telecommuting Review: The Gordon Report*, Sept. 1, 1992. Full text and abstract. Reference #A12647883.

"Not Getting There is Half the Fun," *Communications Week*, June 22, 1992. Abstract only. Reference #A12328470.

"Telecommuting: A Workstyle Revolution?" *Modern Office Technology*, May 1992. Full text and abstract. Reference #A1225214.

"Telecommuting and Child Care: A Case Study in Short-sighted Management," *Telecommuting Review: The Gordon Report*, May 1, 1992. Full text and abstract. Reference #A12198536.

WORKING FROM HOME FORUM (GO WORK)

What do managers think? Survey results of 88 San Francisco Bay area mid-level managers' thoughts on telecommuting. Library 11, "Jobs/Telecommuting," SFMGRS.DOC (3,123 bytes).

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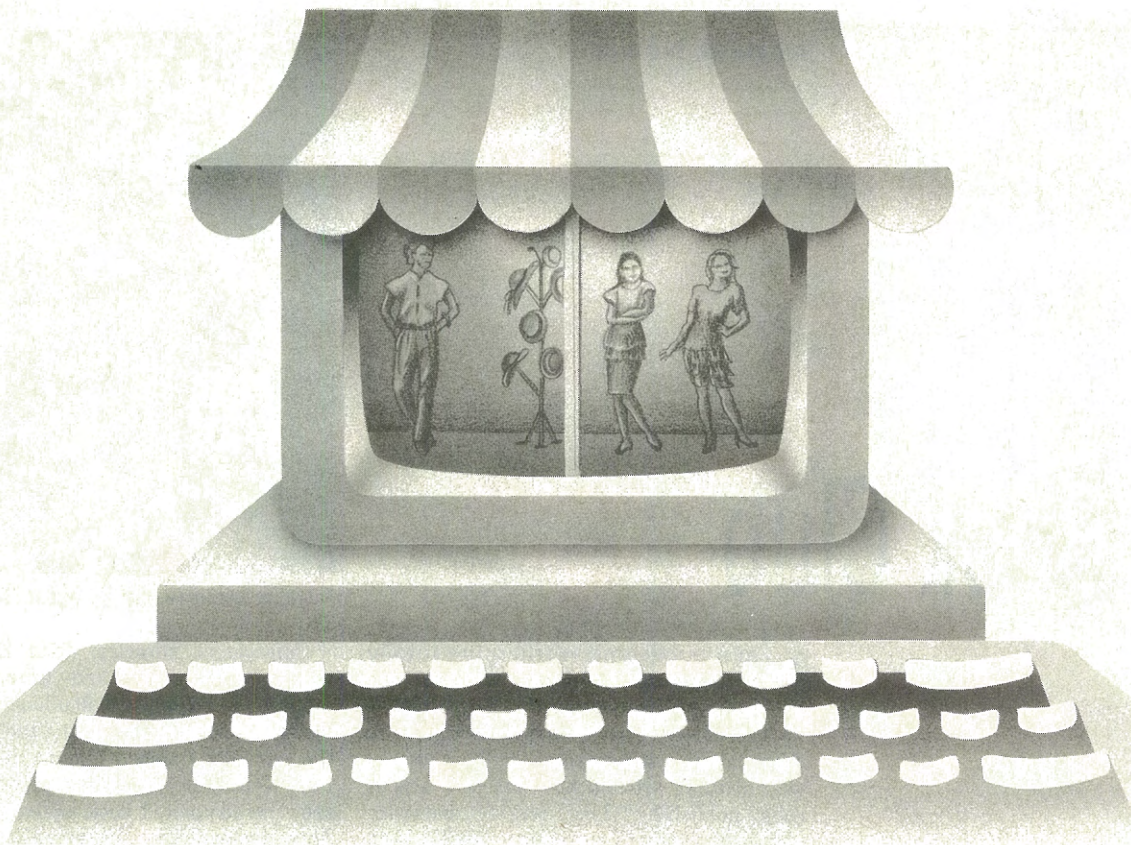
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The Book Club



Found an audience, then an agent: Gabaldon

► In a publishing world gone totally Hollywood, online connections help authors onto the Big Shelf.

Not many professional pursuits rake their practitioners across the barbed-wire wall dividing art and business as much as book publishing. Like entertainment or sports, publishing's aesthetic value has been superseded by press barons and multimedia conglomerates, million-dollar contracts to name novelists such as Stephen King, retail distribution chains and the pressure to produce the next commercial hit.

Authors, to a great extent, have to rely on not just what they write but also who they know and how well they can play the game. Connections in the unpredictable, inconsistent field help spread word of their work and get the responses they most want to hear: "Let me show your stuff to my agent" and "We want to publish your work." In the case of the following authors (all of whom just happen to be women), those connections, earning them a big break or the support of their peers, were of the online variety.

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▼ Big Margin Break

▼ Eatery Picks & Pans, p. 40

▼ Animation's New Age, page 44

Diana Gabaldon

About a year after software reviewer Diana Gabaldon joined CompuServe's Literary Forum (GO LITFORUM), she got into an online discussion with a man about what it feels like to be pregnant. In the course of things, she mentioned that she'd written a fictional episode about the subject. The man challenged her to leave it in a forum library.

In short order, a number of members left her messages, telling her how much they'd liked the entry and asking her what it was from. Abashed by the enthusiastic response, she sheepishly admitted that the segment came from a novel-in-progress that she was writing as a finger exercise to teach herself the form. Several members asked her to put more of the book online, which she did.

Miracle of miracles, John E. Stith—a well-known novelist and forum member—offered to introduce Gabaldon to his agent, Perry Knowlton. Recognizing the promise of the partially finished manuscript she sent him, Knowlton agreed to represent her. He sent the completed book to five publishers. Three made bids. The greenhorn novelist signed a three-book deal with Delacorte Press.

The rest of the story has become a publishing legend. Two of the three books—*Outlander* and *Dragonfly in Amber*—have been smash hits, and she's polishing a draft of *Voyager*. The books tell the story of Claire Randall, a nurse during World War II, who is mysteriously propelled into the Scotland of 1743 and marries a rugged Scots laird.

"Diana's success is as close to the fairytale version as I've come across," says Stith. "With her first novel, she instantly went to the income level and print runs reserved for writers who've built up readership for 10 to 20 years."

Now a full-time author, the fourth-generation Arizonan confides that the prototype for the dashing laird, Jamie Fraser, is husband Doug Watkins—from the neck down. "Oh, great," he said, when informed of the fact. "Now the entire world knows what I look like with no clothes on."

Gabaldon identifies far more with Jamie than she does with her heroine. "If I 'am' anybody in particular, I'm Jamie Fraser—or he's what I might be, were I an 18th-century Scottish male," she says with a grin. "He has my Catholicism, loyalty and love of family, among other things."

Although her novels are put in the Romance section of bookstores, she's not entirely pleased by such pigeon-holing, since her books have elements of mystery, science fiction, and plain old story-telling that can be appreciated by male and female readers. "I'm interested in telling an interesting story," says Gabaldon. "I haven't any hesitation in combining genres and elements or using those in unusual ways to do so."

The writer dislikes "unreadable" fiction,

A Novel Approach for Lit Forum Favor

You've got a manuscript in your sock drawer. You don't have the strength to deal with one more rejection letter. Nonetheless, you believe in your book. What can you do?

Many CompuServe members have turned to the Literary Forum (GO LITFORUM) for help. Where else can an unpublished author swap comments with dozens of authors boasting hundreds of books between them? "I carry on dialogues on matters of writing and offer any information or advice I have," says Herman Holtz, author of more than 50 books produced by McGraw-Hill, Prentice-Hall and other publishers.

Like many writers themselves, the forum is a quirky and charming place to visit. "Lit Forum is like a street café where everyone, from the most battle-scarred publishing veterans to the newest ingénue poets, drops by, pulls up a chair and begins earnest discussions on the politics, perils and production of writing," says Clarissa Pinkola Estes, online member and author of the New York Times best seller, *Women Who Run with the Wolves*.

As in any society, what members respect most is talent. Don't jump in and ask well-known writers to give you names of editors and agents. Begin by uploading your best work into the forum's libraries, and allow writers to approach you first with comments.

"You never know who might be reading your stuff online and what it will lead to," says John L. Myers, author of the detective novel *Holy Family*. "I met my agent online."

By the time first-novelist Diana Gabaldon was ready to sign with an agent, she already had convinced veteran novelist John E. Stith that she was a major talent. That the two had become friends online was an additional plus in her favor.

"She asked if I'd be willing to recommend her to my agent, and I was glad to do it," says Stith, author of *Redshift Rendezvous* and the upcoming *Manhattan Transfer*. "My agent said he'd take a look at her work, and things worked out fabulously."

As always, observe online rules of etiquette:

- ▶ Do ask for information in "byte"-sized chunks. For example, ask if someone knows a publisher specializing in children's mysteries. Don't ask for a list of every publisher who has ever done them, says Myers.
- ▶ Do participate in the forum and become somewhat of a regular before you ask for anything. "The better you know people, the more willing they are to go out of their way for you," says Stith.
- ▶ Do make sure your question isn't already answered in a forum library before you ask it (see "Text on Texts," p. 38.)
- ▶ Don't come online asking for a 20,000-word recipe for instant success, says Stith.
- ▶ Don't forget to say thanks when someone helps you. And don't get huffy if someone is kind enough to give you constructive criticism, says Myers.

Rather than single out one writer for help, Assistant Forum Sysop Janet McConnaughey recommends that you post your messages to ALL. She says that most writers recall the help that other people gave them at some time. "Since you can never pay back all that other writers give you when you're starting out, you have to 'pay forward' by helping others in your turn," a famous online author once told McConnaughey.

—HN

and says that she'd rather emulate such masters as Alexandre Dumas or Arthur Conan Doyle than she would James Joyce. Pressed to cite her literary heroes, she ticks off Charles Dickens, Robert Louis Stevenson, John D. MacDonald, Dorothy Sayers and P.G. Wodehouse.

How does she get her ideas? Occasionally her historical and geographical research will trigger an idea or scene, says Gabaldon. More often than not, she mines her psyche until a vein of silver lies exposed. "I sit still and stare at the wall until something occurs to me," she says.

On days when Gabaldon suffers writer's block, she has a tried-and-true method of squirting creative WD-40 into the frozen crevices of her brain: "I'll usually just start with a description of something, and see what happens—something always does," she says.

Gabaldon's fourth book may surprise her readers. Rather than get caught in a rut, she plans to write a contemporary crime story. "Then I'll write the fourth Jamie and Claire book, to finish the quartet in good style," she promises.

Michael Lee West

Novelist Michael Lee West has many admirers, but none who climb trestles to serenade her. In 1990, when Longstreet Press launched her first novel, *Crazy Ladies*, reviewers repeatedly hailed it as a distinguished addition to the canon of American literature. "There is a wealth of humanity

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Forum is a 'kitchen' writers' colony: West

here, a depth of understanding of character that has been equaled by few first novelists—ever," wrote one critic.

The novel's structure is unusual. Each chapter is an extended monologue delivered variously by six women, members of the same Tennessee family. West cleverly binds the chapters together with a single theme: one violent act, no matter that it be done out of necessity, has far-reaching, destructive consequences.

The use of multiple voices with Southern accents is reminiscent of William Faulkner at his best in *As I Lay Dying*. "She writes like the Mormon Tabernacle Choir—a thousand voices, all different, all together," says novelist Gabaldon, who befriended West in the Literary Forum.

The beneficiary of all this praise is a feisty resident of Lebanon, Tenn. She's a jumble of walking contradictions, a rebellious baby boomer "raised right" by Southern parents. She wears a "Cowgirls Looking for Trouble" T-shirt to give neighbors gossip fodder, yet serves snacks on linen napkins displaying two inches of tatted lace. "Just as Melanie Wilkes could not conceive of dishonor in anyone she loved, Michael Lee West cannot conceive of serving on paper napkins," she says.

The West family lives in a house right out of a Southern gothic novel, its beveled glass clotted with cobwebs and wasp nests. She and husband Mahlon raise vegetables for ritual canning in a fertile dirt patch she calls "Mrs. Frankenstein's Garden." The name will be on the title page of a future novel. "I've got the novels-in-progress stacked up like airplanes at O'Hare," she cracks.

The author writes early drafts on legal pads, then loads them into her computer to give them editorial legitimacy. Just as Tennessee Davy Crockett personalized his rifle with a nickname, West has baptized her computer, a Goldstar '286. "Miss Hattie talks to me in a sweet, soothing voice," she says. "She takes my hand and pulls me forward."

Don't be misled by the author's glamorous publicity photographs. West says she works best who works at her grubbiest. She writes

daily from 8:30 a.m. until 2:20 p.m.—the time her younger son is in elementary school—clad in a torn T-shirt atop pink sweats patched with electrical tape. Occasionally, she flails the computer keys while wearing a flannel nightie when inspiration won't wait.

Chapters from the manuscript of her new novel, *She Flew the Coop*, now are coming back to her via CompuServe Mail with the comments of several trusted writers who have befriended her online.

"The Literary Forum is like Yaddo or McDowell [Writers'] Colony, but it's in my kitchen," says West, who logs on to CompuServe with "Little Bit," her laptop. "It's the ideal writer's community: It's supportive, there's no competition, and people break their necks to find answers to your questions."

Vonda McIntyre

Believe it or not, there's a disadvantage to publishing your first story at 20, says Vonda N. McIntyre, best-selling science-fiction author whose total sales amount to 4 million books. "I'm 44, but have been around so long everybody thinks I'm 102," says the author of *Metaphase*, *Dreamsnake* and several books in the *Star Trek* series.

And please, don't call her a sci-fi writer—though she's a member in good standing of the Science Fiction Forum (GO SCIFI). "Even though that's CompuServe's preferred designation, (the abbreviation) 'sci-fi' is actually considered rather an insult within the community," says McIntyre, whose first-degree black belt in Aikido convinces most folks that she's serious.

The author stresses that what she writes isn't fantasy. Her speculations about social, political and biological life in the future are all within the realm of possibility.

Text on Texts: Lit Forum Files

Whether you're a pro with books in print or you finished your first poem last weekend, you'll find great information on the writing trade online.

GO LITFORUM to access the Literary Forum. You'll find Library 13, "Art of Writing," particularly geared to the questions all writers ask. Here are sample files:

Manuscript Info—Contains information on the right manuscript format for poetry, articles and fiction. MSFMT.MAB (3,768 bytes).

Revision Tips—Offers hints from a professional editor on the art of revision. HINTS (2,250 bytes).

Overcoming Mental Block—Gives those with mental constipation 45 ways to stop writer's block. BLOCK.OUT (3,426 bytes).

Contacting Editors—Gives some specifics on writing query letters to editors, particularly those in the field of romance. QUERY.ROM (1,645 bytes).



Mingles with her science fiction fans: McIntyre

McIntyre, a winner of the "Oscar" and "Emmy" of science-fiction writing, the Nebula and Hugo awards, works out of her Seattle home. Except for a pair of unusual icons—glow-in-the-dark slugs atop her computer monitor—her office is free of ornamentation. Each working day she heats up her creative stove by answering mail, then keys in the revisions from the previous day's hard copy into a disk file.

Except for the heroes of the *Star Trek* series, McIntyre's protagonists are all strong-minded women who are the author in idealized form. And don't ask her to apologize, either.

"I think it's obvious to most folks that I'm a feminist," she says. "I'm sad that so many younger people think the word is an insult and deny that it could ever apply to them. At the same time, I'm glad that the world has changed enough that a lot of those younger people don't—can't—understand how necessary the feminist movement was."

An "alien contact specialist" named J.D. Sauvage is the heroine of McIntyre's best-selling *Starfarers* series. Her own real-life cultural hero is Jacques Cousteau, whom she cites as "one of the first and most constant defenders of the sea."

Starfarers speculates what future computer networks will be like. She predicts, privately, that CompuServe in the 21st century will enable any member to communicate with anybody or anything, anywhere, anytime. "What we have to figure out how to deal with is instantaneous dissemination of baloney," she says.

McIntyre enjoys chatting with her fans in the Science Fiction Forum and has made her books available for purchase in Library 3, "SF Literature," through the "Basement Full of Books" list. "The conferences are fun, especially if you're a fast typist, which I am," she says. She likes to carry on multiple conversations, some public and some private.

"Adds a certain amount of risk," she says mischievously.

Hank Nuwer, the author of 13 books, is finishing a biography of track legend Jesse Owens. His CompuServe User ID number is 76004,1751.



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Visiting Mission Beach, Calif.? Don't miss the Green Flash restaurant on the boardwalk, advises Susie Lindeberg in the Cooks Online Forum.

Still hungry? Mission Beach's popular Spice Rack is good for breakfast.

If you're traveling and hungry, good eating advice is as close as your computer and CompuServe, the network's gourmets say. The search for good places to dine and drink is almost a full-time occupation for participants in forums that focus on food and beverages, including the Cooks Online Forum (GO COOKS), the Travel Forum (GO TRAVSIG), and the Wine and Beer Forum (GO WINEFORUM). These forums not only devote entire message sections to dining out but also reserve library space for scores of restaurant reviews written by members (see "Eat at Joe's, Or Don't," p. 42).

Just about everyone who eats is an expert on where to do it well. "I think we all are aware that the local denizens usually know the best watering holes and food emporiums," says Dave Groves, sysop of the Diabetes Forum (GO DIABETES). Since virtually all forums are becoming more international, a simple message with the subject "Eats in [city]?" generally results in several responses for most cities in the world.

This is especially true in the Travel Forum, where members from Astoria to Zimbabwe post restaurant recommendations. "Where we don't have members living, we have them passing through," says Forum Manager Jerry Schneiderman. "A message for anything up to and including the best Italian restaurant in Burma will get results. I'll 'steak and brew' my reputation on that."

Travel Forum's globe-trotting members talk about good eats in virtually every one of the forum's geographically divided message sections, from the United States (Section 1) to Asia (Section 8), and even airlines (Section 13). First class on Singapore Air, by consensus, has the best airline food. Travel Forum's "postcard" reviews of restaurants and hotel accommodations, contributed by members

from wherever they travel, are scattered through the forum's libraries.

There's no "magic" to getting restaurant hints online, says Dallas resident G. C. Bellaire, a regular participant in the Travel Forum. Just post a message and solicit responses. This allows you to be specific in dining preferences. "Not only do we get excellent recommendations this way—for restaurants, hotels, airlines, tours, cruises, you name it—but we also get real personal experiences," says Bellaire.

Beer fancier Steve Stroud of Boston says he rarely travels without checking in with

checked in with the U.K. Forum (GO UKFORUM) before heading to London last year and found several good London restaurants. "I wanted a restaurant that served typical English cuisine. First I checked out the book *Cheap Eats in London*. Then I posted a forum message and listed a few that sounded interesting to see if anyone had experience with any of them. I got *many* responses and even some additional ideas."

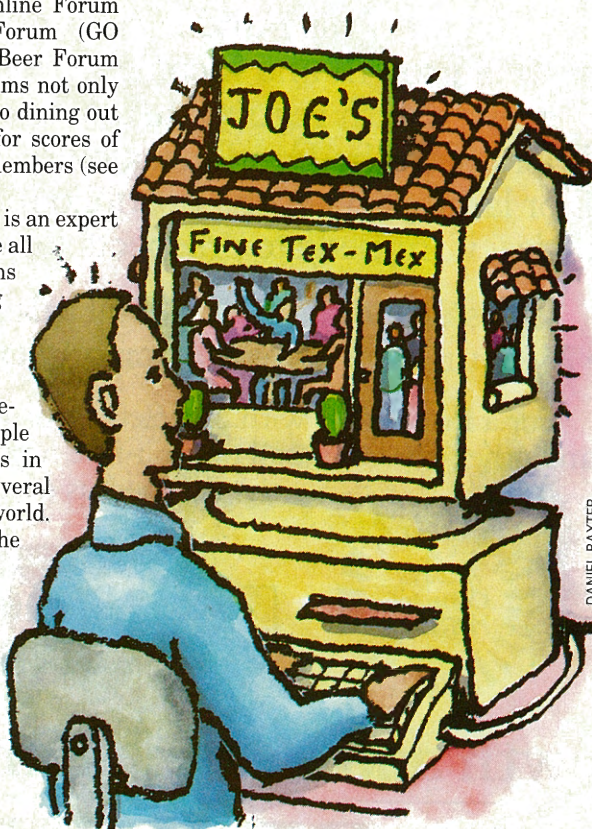
Better yet, she says, forum member and London resident Pete Hall saw her message, visited one of the restaurants on her list (Porter's English Restaurant, a moderately priced place in the Covent Garden neighborhood) and tried some of the items on the menu. Based on Hall's favorable report, Payne and her family had a wonderful dinner, complete with English cider.

Even the participants in such seemingly unlikely places as the Pets/Animals Forum (GO PETS), the Gardening Forum (GO GARDEN) and the Literary Forum (GO LITFORUM), for instance, frequently talk about dining out in their nonbusiness or "chat" sections. Before she travels to a new city, Debbie Gates of Vicksburg, Miss., notifies her friends in the Pets and Aviation Forums (GO AVSIG) of her upcoming trip. Not only does she gather restaurant recommendations but also friends to join her dinner table. "I never have to eat alone!" she says. "I've had the best pizza in Chicago with friends from the Aviation Forum, enjoyed the best view in New York City with friends from Pets Forum and tasted several sides of New Orleans with folks from both forums."

But sometimes there is so much advice it needs to be filtered. Kenneth Krone "trolls" the Wine and Beer, Travel and Cooks Online Forums for good suggestions, but he gets his best results by polling people online whose past advice has been reliable and whose interests and tastes agree with his.

Cooks Online participant Bob Vowels of Washington, D.C., agrees with this approach. "Ask folks who are hanging out in a milieu that *you* hang out in," he advises. "Taste is so subjective: To one person, 'Sizzler' is the best; other folks wouldn't be caught dead in one!"

In addition to their online resources, CompuServe members also search local magazines and guidebooks for good restaurants. However, experienced travelers warn against the free promotional magazines available in hotel lobbies, which usually fea-



his buddies in the Wine and Beer Forum's Beer and Brewing sections. "Hit the forum libraries," he advises, for extensive lists of microbreweries and brewpubs. Then post a general query and ask for advice. "Someone might know of a local publication about beer such as *California Celebrator* or *Yankee Brew News*."

New Jersey resident Paula Payne

Zagat's Just-Plain-Folks Reviews

The most difficult part of dining out is deciding where to eat. So when people hear that Tim and Nina Zagat engage thousands of independent, volunteer restaurant reviewers for the *Zagat Survey*, they put down their forks and listen.

The Zagats, both former practicing attorneys, co-publish the acclaimed *Zagat Survey*, a series of major U.S. metropolitan and regional restaurant reviews. More than a million copies of the surveys have been purchased in guidebook form, and they are considered the reference books for fine dining. As U.S. restaurant surveyors, the Zagats now give online members advice with their new restaurant review database (GO ZAGAT).

The survey formula, as opposed to the individual critique, is analytically more reliable because the average restaurant review is based on hundreds of meals, according to the Zagats. Therefore, a greater number of menus, seasonal items and serving idiosyncrasies can be sampled, critiqued and scrutinized for an accurate and succinct description of what diners can expect at restaurants in 29 U.S. cities and regions.

To locate survey participants, the *Zagat Survey* team targets people who eat out or travel regularly. Although survey participants dine out an average of three or four times per week, the difference is that they are commoners in the world of elite, professional reviewing. The *Survey* itself is "very long and detailed," Zagat says, "and the result is a survey that is not only current and reliable but also filled with thoughtful commentary."

Reviews are updated annually, either with a new survey or by editors who update existing reviews, including listing new and closed restaurants, as well as significant chef and management changes. Final evaluations are compiled by data processing houses in New York and New Jersey.

With the online survey, participants begin by selecting the city or region of interest. The *Zagat Survey* then allows the online diner the opportunity to refine the search based on one of five criteria. Search for a review by restaurant name, neighborhood location, type of cuisine, price range or noteworthy newcomers (restaurants opened within the last year or two).



A chorus of critiques from diners: The Zagats

And, for would-be reviewers, the *Zagat Survey* not only offers a chance to comment on the product (Option 3, "Your Comments about *Zagat Survey*," on the main *Zagat* menu), but also extends an invitation to become a *Zagat* reviewer (Option 1, "About *Zagat Restaurant Survey*").

For diners across America, the *Zagat Survey* defines "good" once and for all.

ture only favorable pseudo-reviews of restaurants that buy advertising. "Many of those are tired tourist traps," warns Travel Forum member Henry Mensch of San Francisco.

Unlike the free handout magazines, however, city magazines, usually aimed at the locals, have good restaurant information. "Food and restaurants are often a major part of the content," says Wine and Beer Forum member Tom Brudzinski, who lives in Columbia, Md. "A trip to the closest newsstand (often in the hotel) and some discreet browsing can usually produce an interesting restaurant."

Travel Forum participant Lan Sluder, of Asheville, N.C., stops in a local bookstore upon arrival to a large city and skims the local guidebooks and magazines for appealing restaurants. In smaller cities, however, he and his wife rely more on the visual. "My wife favors asking strangers who look well fed," he says. "She also says that in the South the best barbecue is at restaurants where there are both old pickup trucks and new Mercedes and Lincolns parked outside."

An experienced concierge at a quality hotel also will be knowledgeable about good local restaurants. U.K. Forum's Nigel Peacock, of Tunbridge Wells, England, takes this approach when looking for a restaurant recommendation, but with a twist: "In larger cities, when staying at the 'better end' hotels, a question to the oldest-looking reception clerk is usually a good bet," he says. "Ask for three or four names and then ask him to pick

the best of the four. I have found this works eight times out of 10."

Cab drivers, too, usually know which restaurants are the most popular, because they take a lot of fares to them, Sluder says. The caution here is that the most popular restaurants aren't always the best.

If you're looking for vegetarian cuisine, get in contact with the local vegetarian society. "You usually can find one in every area," says Chris Mitchell, leader of Cooks Online's Vegetarian section.

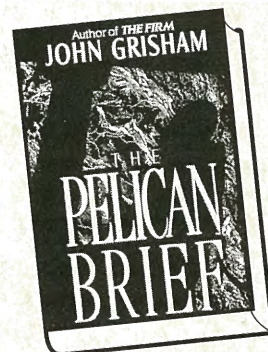
Also, try the creative option of talking to merchants who deal in quality merchandise and gourmet fare, as they are generally interested in fine dining, suggests Wine and Beer Forum member Bob Cohen of Albany, N.Y. "I've found that clerks in wine shops seem to know of good local restaurants. This also applies to clerks at good gift shops and art galleries."

Sometimes simple instinct works as well as anything. "I like just strolling around an appealing neighborhood and may take my chances just jumping into some place that looks good, meaning filled with happy-looking local people," says assistant Travel Forum Sysop Makiko Itoh. "This works particularly well for ethnic neighborhoods."

Robin Garr, for many years the wine and restaurant critic of The Louisville Times and The Courier-Journal and now a writer based in New York, often writes about food and wine. He is associate sysop of the Wine and Beer Forum. His CompuServe User ID number is 76702,764.

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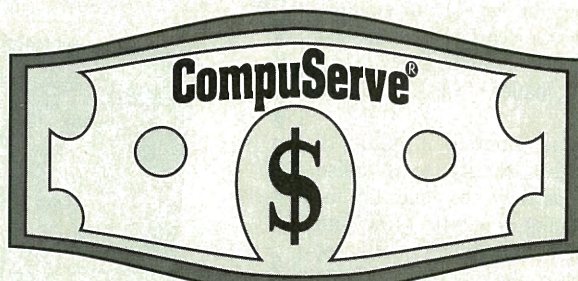


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Eat at Joe's, or Don't: Fine Dining Files

Whether you're staying in Casper, Wyo., with a hankering for good barbecue, planning a big evening on the town in the Big Apple or merely seeking vicarious dining pleasure via computer, you'll find reviews of restaurants worldwide in CompuServe's forums devoted to travel, food and beverages.

Browsing using the keywords RESTAURANT, FOOD and WINE in the Travel, Cooks Online, and Wine and Beer Forums brings up scores of CompuServe members' reviews. Here are highlights:

TRAVEL FORUM (GO TRAVSIG)

Become an Online Critic—Simple form to post your reviews of restaurants and hotels. Library 0, "General Interest," REVIEW.CRD (2,569 bytes).

Windy City Dining—Australian visitors Mark and Grace Christian share their impressions of Chicago, with reviews of four fine restaurants. Library 1, "United States," CHICGO.IL (9,168 bytes).

Kauai Wowie!—Good places to eat on Hawaii's Kauai island, presented by forum member and Hawaii resident Mike Endres. Library 11, "Hawaii Help Line," KAUEAT.HI (2,289 bytes) and KAUALI.EAT (1,957 bytes).

WINE AND BEER FORUM (GO WINE)

New York Dining—"Postcard" and other reviews of forum members' favorite Big Apple dining spots. Library 11, "Restaurant Guide," PC-NY.TXT (2,512 bytes) and NYREST.TXT (15,501 bytes).

On the Other Coast—Forum's "Postcard" reviews of California spots. Library 11, PCCA.TXT (6,878 bytes).

The City That Care Forgot—Robin Garr's advice on dining in New Orleans, and an interview with Cajun Chef Paul Prudhomme. Library 11, NORLNS.RG (9,992 bytes), and Library 4, "Food and Wine," KPAUL (11,858 bytes).

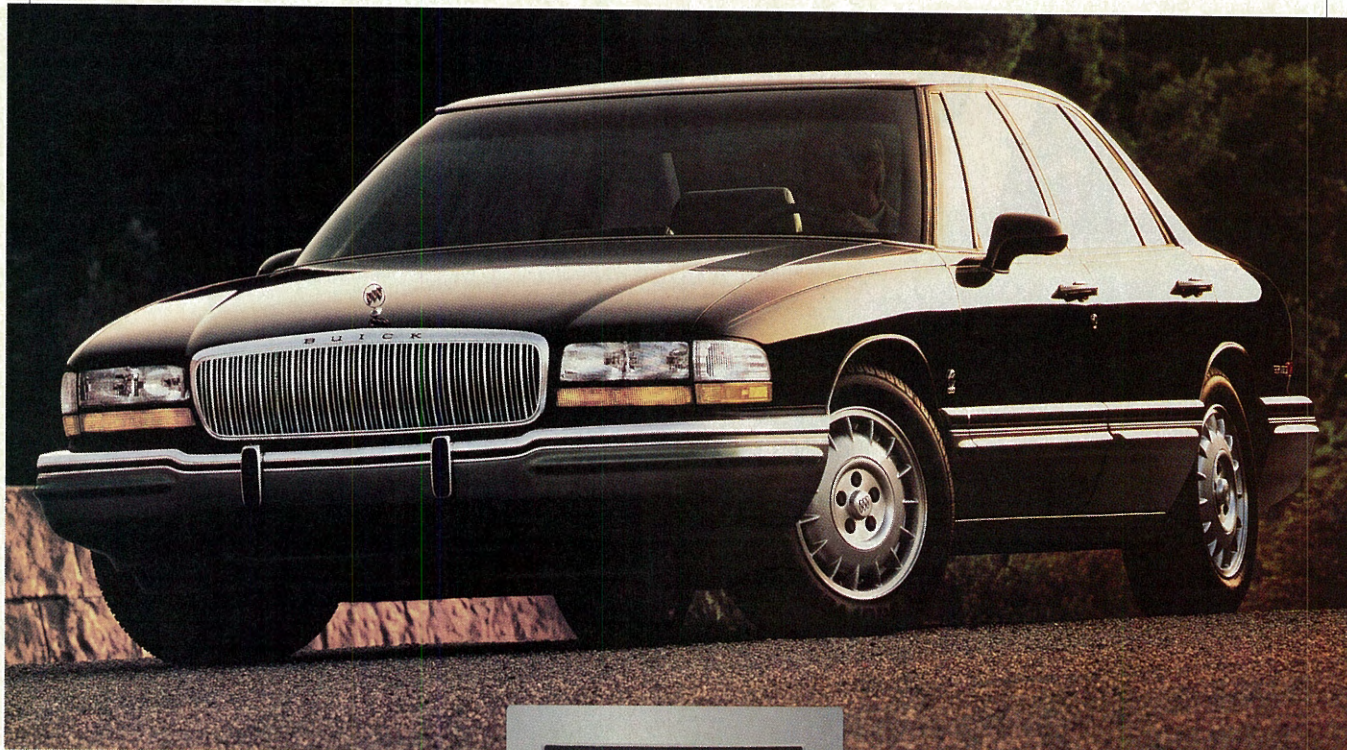
Write Your Own Review—Text "template" for forum "Postcard" reviews of restaurants, taverns and brewpubs. Library 11, PCTEMP.TXT (225 bytes).

COOKS ONLINE FORUM (GO COOKS)

New York Vegetarian—Chef and food enthusiast Dan Perlman's restaurant-review column covers two vegetarian restaurants and a spicy-food store. Library 13, "Dining Out," OCTREV.TXT (7,884 bytes).

Seattle Eats—Food writer and chef Gregory H. Maass describes his memorable meals in Seattle restaurants. Library 13, SEATTL.TXT (3,512 bytes).

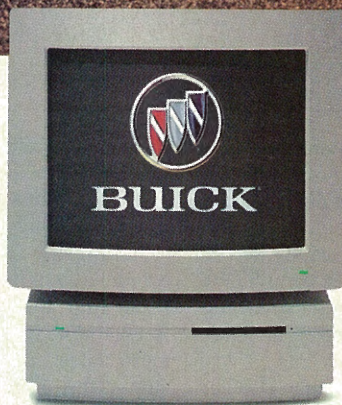
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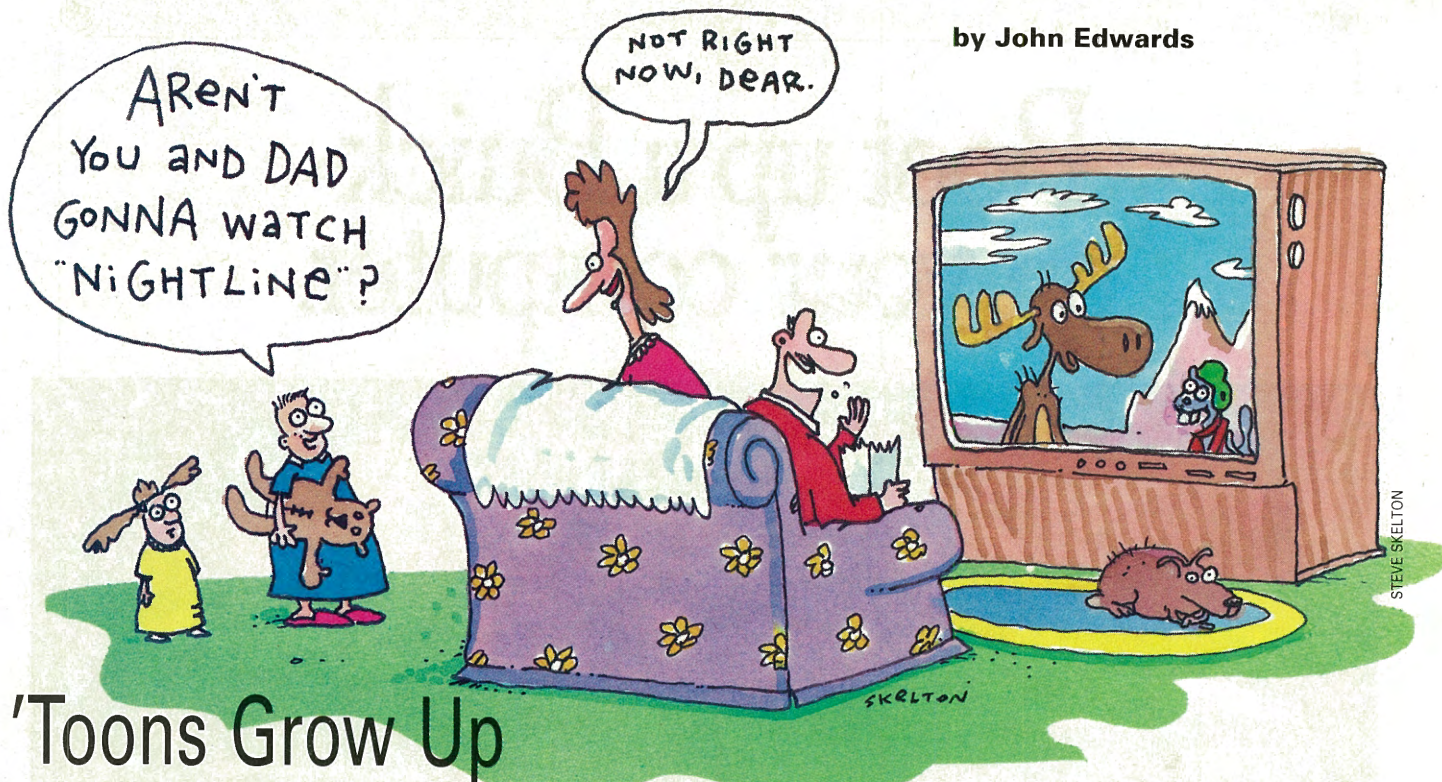
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by John Edwards



'Toons Grow Up

► **Pow! Animation's early fans are reviving the comic art as adults.**

Until recently, comic book and animated cartoon characters had the soft and easy life: lobbing asteroids into deep space, squashing two-legged cats with steamrollers and giving grief to mad scientists everywhere. In their multicolored world, things were pretty black and white.

But times change and that innocence is now largely lost. Today's comic and cartoon protagonists are as likely to struggle with the runaway federal deficit as runaway asteroids. Worse yet, steamroller exhaust fumes contribute to the global greenhouse effect. And mad scientists? Perhaps Dr. Gloom just has a deep-seated psychological problem that can be successfully worked out

in therapy.

Like their readers, comic books and animated cartoons have grown up. The success of such movies as *Aladdin*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?*, as well as TV shows such as *The Simpsons*, have given new life to the genre. So has an increased sophistication on the part of comic book authors and cartoon animators. For

Keeping Up with 'The Simpsons'

It's a well-known fact that many comic book and animation fans are very devoted to their favorite characters. But on CompuServe, pure, unadulterated fandom doesn't have to remain a deep, hidden secret.

Whether you're nuts about Batman, Mickey Mouse, or Ren & Stimpy, the odds are that you can easily find at least several fellow online members who share your interest. It usually takes nothing more than joining an existing message thread or leaving a message to ALL to get a discussion going.

While most comic and animation character threads take place in the Comics and Animation Forum (GO COMICS), you'll have to visit Section 6, "TV/Cable/Radio," of the Consumer Electronics Forum (GO CEFORUM) to meet the fans of the '90s hottest animated show, *The Simpsons*.

Throughout the week, *Simpsons* fans drop by the forum to gossip about the show's inside jokes and to clue in fellow members to upcoming plot developments. Often, members get scoops from the very people who create the show.

"With other forum members, I mostly chat about the show I am working on," says Sandra Roy, an animator for *The Simpsons*. "They tend to be much more interested in the entertainment aspects of the show, although occasionally someone will ask me how a show is put together, what my contribution is, who does what job, or how long it takes to complete an episode."

Another forum regular, Roger Reini, may very well be the ultimate *Simpsons* fan. Reini has documented each and every

Simpsons episode and placed the fruits of his labor in Library 6, "TV/Cable/Radio."

"When I first joined the CE Forum in 1990, I found a file listing all of the first season episodes. That list gave me the idea to start compiling my own list for the second season and upload it for everyone to enjoy," says Reini.

At first, his episode summaries were brief, usually one or two lines. But as the season progressed, Reini started adding more and more detail. By the end of the season, he was writing lengthy summaries of the plot and mentioning each episode's best gags. "When the third season came around, I picked up where I left off. Same with the fourth season," says Reini.

There are currently five guides available in the library: SIMP0.TXT (describing the shorts that originally aired on *The Tracey Ullman Show*) and SIMP1.TXT, SIMP2.TXT, SIMP3.TXT, and SIMP4.TXT—each corresponding to a full regular season of *The Simpsons*.

"I've received responses from people in Britain, Holland and Sweden who've downloaded the guides," says Reini. "And I've heard that they've been read by some of the production staff of *The Simpsons*, which is only fair. After all, they do assist me in preparing the guide by giving me production code numbers, titles and brief plot details."

As long as the series continues, Reini intends to keep on summarizing the episodes. Forum members can expect the free-wheeling *Simpsons* discussions to continue as well.

example, Art Spiegelman's *Maus: A Survivor's Tale* and *Maus II: Here My Troubles Began*, novel-length works that use comic-style text and illustrations to portray Jewish concentration camp victims as mice and their Nazi guards as cats, won a Pulitzer Prize, an imprimatur of legitimacy for any field of fiction.

"What attracts adults to comics are the stories in combination with the art," says Neil Gaiman, a Minneapolis-based professional comic book author who regularly visits the Comics and Animation Forum (GO COMICS) to swap ideas and opinions with his readers and fellow members.

Gaiman's own comic book-based story, *Sandman 19: a Midsummer Night's Dream*, placed ahead of several traditional-style prose works to win the 1991 World Fantasy Award as best short story.

"Comics are words and pictures. There's no limit to how good either can be, nor how well they can work together," Gaiman observes. "The medium is the least important factor in whether a work of art is good or bad." Alex Amado, a publicist for Fortune Public Relations of Berkeley, Calif., a company that works with comic book publishers, believes that diversification in the comic book industry over the past decade is a major factor behind the upswing in adult readership of comics. "The 1960s and '70s had a deluge of underground 'adult' comics, but mostly soft-porn stuff," he notes. "The new breed of adult comics has a mainstream legitimacy that was lacking in previous comics." Like Gaiman, Amado believes that comics and animated cartoons can stand on their own as serious literary and artistic works, as long as their creators continue to tackle serious subjects.

But while a greater emphasis on adult themes is attracting more grown-ups to comics and animated cartoons, many people in the field believe that comics and cartoons have always had their adult fans. While *Rocky and Bullwinkle* may have never covered such topics as world hunger and homelessness, the savvy dialogue exchanged between the moose and squirrel was hardly kid talk.

"Comics and animation have always had adult adherents," observes Pat O'Neill, editor of *Wizard: The Guide to Comics* and a frequent contributor to *Comics Retailer*, a comics industry trade publication. "Remember, during World War II one of the largest segments of the comics-reading audience was servicemen, and newspaper comics have always been aimed at a primarily adult audience. After all, who buys the paper?"

O'Neill also notes that cartoons have appealed to grown-ups for longer than most people think—or are willing to admit. "The classic cartoons of the '40s and '50s were created by adults for an adult audience. They didn't become 'kiddie fare' until they were

sold to TV, where they became an easy way for program directors to fill an afternoon."

Comics and Animation Forum member Milton Teruel in New York City works as a mail clerk for an engineering firm, but spends his spare hours free-lancing comic art. He believes that comic books appeal to today's adult readers because they combine the best of two complementary artistic worlds. "A comic book presents an interesting collaboration between writer and artist," he notes. "One gets the opportunity to compare his or her own interpretation of the story with the actual visuals. The more 'professional' the artistic storytelling, the more enjoyable the experience."

Teruel observes that comics provide a temporary escape for readers. "The depth of involvement is up to each individual, and the amount of variety today is astounding, allowing many different and quite enjoyable experiences. Maybe that, as much as anything else, explains the renewed interest."

But forum member Tim Fitzpatrick, a computer consultant in Dale City, Va., who enjoys reading comics and watching cartoons, believes that the resurgence in popularity of comic books and cartoons is partly rooted within people's hearts. "I read comics

for many reasons, one of which is nostalgia," he says. "I don't think cartoons and comics ever really stopped being cool," says forum member Vinnie Bartilucci of Elmont, N.Y., who says he has been following comics and cartoon animation nearly all of his life. "You read and watched them as a child. Then you pass through that awkward age where you would sooner slit your throat with a rusty saw than be associated with anything even remotely 'childish,' so you quit them in a vain attempt to be cool. And then once you are old enough, you get seized by a wave of nostalgia and look at the stuff again."

So where are comic books and animated cartoons headed? "Everywhere, with luck," says Gaiman, who notes that the fields must continue to appeal to a wide audience by addressing an array of topics—from superheroes and interplanetary explorers to talking rodents and the struggles of ordinary people. "Good art is good art," he points out, "regardless of whether it's a film, radio play, novel, comic, TV show or live recitation in a public place."

Rocky and Bullwinkle would probably agree.

John Edwards is a contributing editor of CompuServe Magazine. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,412.



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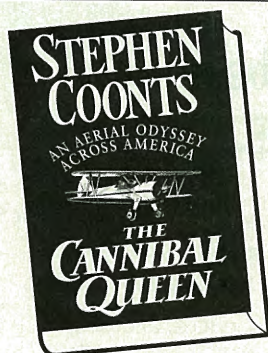


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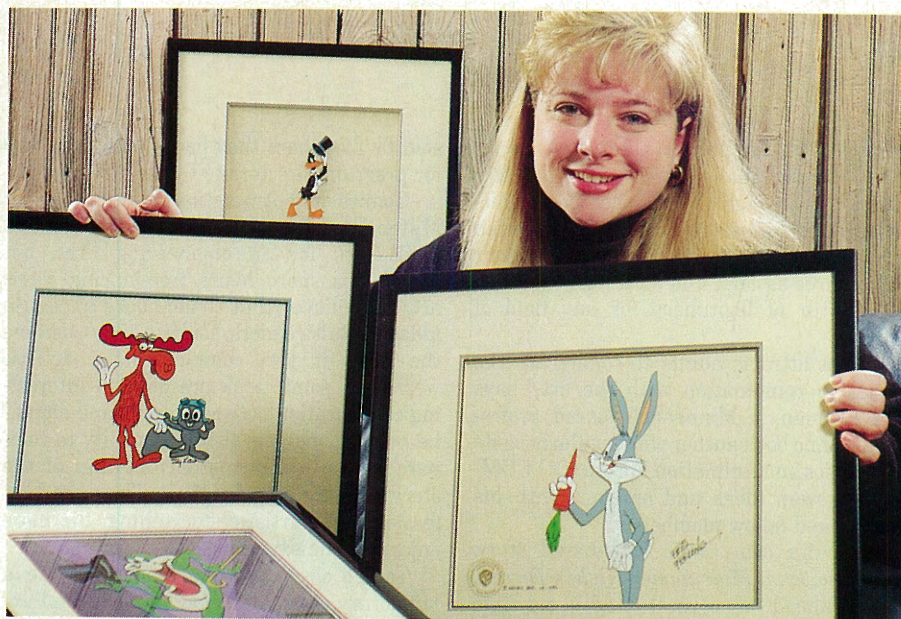
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BLAIR SEITZ

Painted cels may increase in value, but who cares?: Buffington

Art You Can Really Appreciate

Like coins, stamps, baseball cards and fine works of art, animation cels—the hand-painted celluloid renderings that form the basis of all noncomputer-generated cartoons—have become highly collectible items.

Six-figure prices for top cels featuring such Disney characters as Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and Snow White are not at all uncommon. Even cels of run-of-the mill TV characters, such as Fred Flintstone and George Jetson, can fetch thousands.

"The main draw for me is collecting cels from cartoons that I've seen and enjoyed," says Kevin Yee, a systems analyst who uses the Collectibles Forum (GO COLLECT), Section 7, "Other Collectibles," to meet and exchange information with fellow cel collectors.

The investment prospect does influence his buying decisions, but it doesn't control it. "I buy and collect animation art for the sheer satisfaction I get out of seeing Marvin the Martian, Foghorn Leghorn, Elmer Fudd, Tom and Jerry, and others displayed on my walls, and remembering each scene that those cels came from," Yee says.

Forum member Frances Buffington has collected animation art for about 10 years. "I buy animation art because it makes me smile," she says. "There's nothing I hate more than walking into an animation art gallery and having to hear a sales pitch that centers on investment value. I really don't care if the cels I own ever appreciate."

Kyle Miller, a cel collector who works as an art director for a software publisher when he's not free-lance cartooning, says newcomers who are shocked by "Looney Tune" prices should check out some of the alternate animation collectibles that are on the market. "Now that prices have gone through the roof, I have to look hard for the cels that are within my price range," he says. "Because of that, I've started collecting other pieces of

'discarded' animation art, such as pencil tests. I actually like them better, since they sometimes include notes to the inker and cameraman that give a real insight into how the cartoon was made."

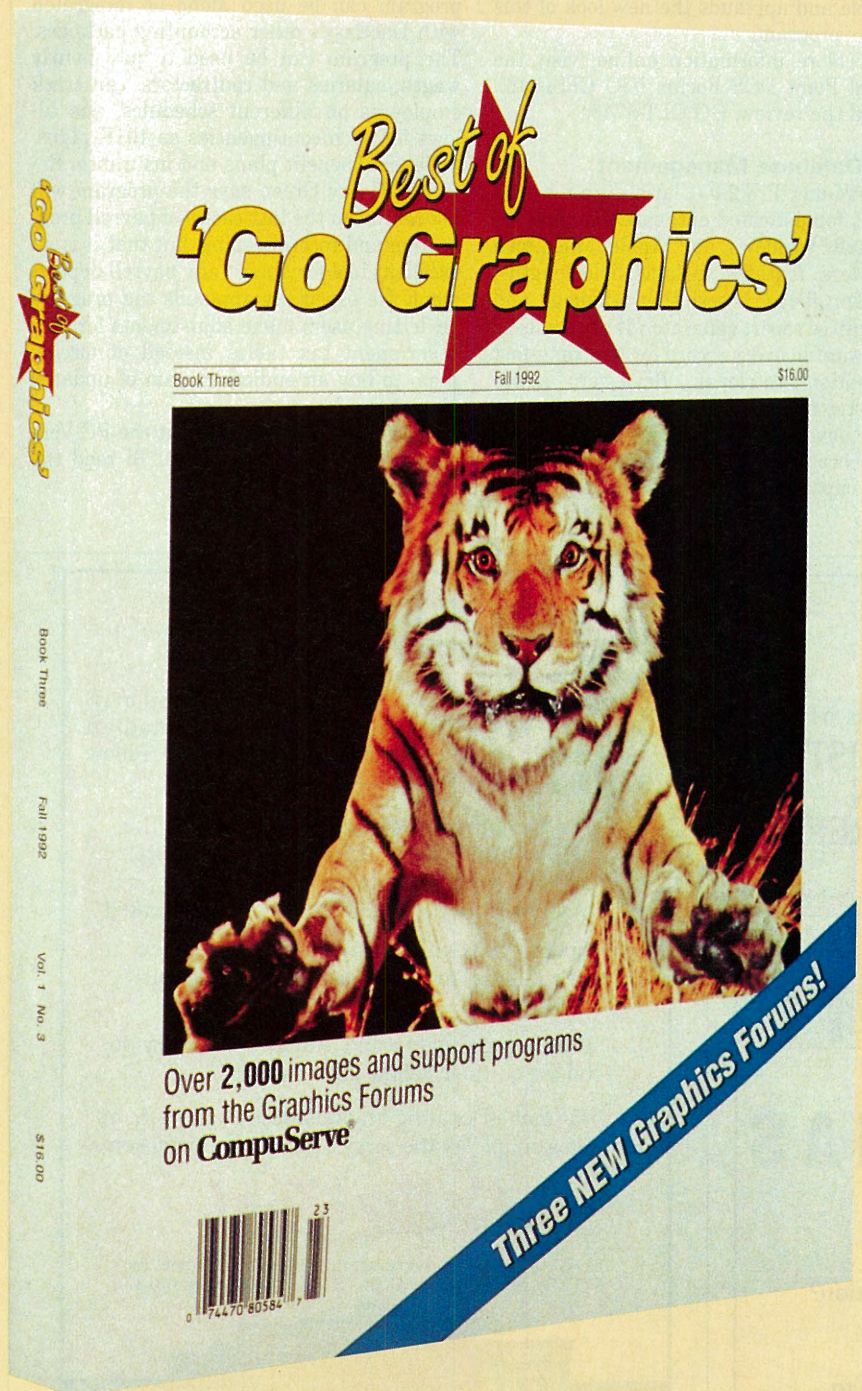
Another low-cost approach is to purchase limited edition reproduction cels—cels painted exclusively for the collector market and never actually used in a film. "While I like to limit my collection to production cels, I do have one limited edition—Michigan J. Frog—because I've never seen an original," says Buffington.

"My initial advice for people just getting started in animation cel collecting would be to start out slow with something that is in a realistic price range," says Yee. "It's easy to get caught up in a gorgeous piece of artwork, like some classic Disney piece, and then get influenced by the salesman's pitch. Establish your price range first and try to stay within it. Another tip would be to collect a character you really like, not just something you think has investment potential." Yee notes that a good way to learn about the history and value of specific cels is to talk to other collectors, including the members of the Collectibles Forum and the Comics and Animation Forum (GO COMICS).

For a list of information sources on animation cels and related items, check out file CELS.TXT (695 bytes) in Library 7, "Other Collectibles," of the Collectibles Forum.

While market activity in cels has diminished somewhat in recent years, thanks in large part to the recession, most long-term collectors feel the field will eventually rebound. "Although I doubt if we'll see anything like the 'go-go '80s' again," says Buffington, "I'm optimistic that interest in animation art will increase as baby boomers come into more disposable income."

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Following are summaries of software reviews available for reading this month in *Online Today*. To read the complete reviews, use the GO commands listed at the end of each summary.

Software

Freeform 3-D Designs

Alias Sketch! 1.5 (Alias Research Inc.), a professional three-dimensional design and illustration program for Apple Macintosh computers, can import two-dimensional drawings from other programs and turn them into 3-D images quickly and easily. In addition to powerful drawing routines, it has advanced rendering capabilities including projection mapping and many lighting options. Reviewer Anthony Watkins faults the program's manuals, but applauds its tutorial video. He says this program's expense is more than justified by its power and flexibility in the hands of a professional designer. *GO OLT-3735*

30 Utilities in One

PC Tools 8.0 (Central Point Software), a collection of more than 30 utilities for IBM

computers, includes a file and disk manager, an antivirus program, a task switcher, a screen blanker and a backup program. PC Tools also contains a telecommunications program and a remote computing feature. Reviewer Christy Brothers reports that some of the utilities turned out to be incompatible with other software on her system. However, she found most of the package valuable and applauds the new look of this popular program.

For more information online, visit the Central Point DOS Forum (GO CPSDOS). To read the review, *GO OLT-3745*.

Easy Database Management

FileMaker Pro 2.0 (Clariscorp.), a simple but sophisticated database manager for Microsoft Windows and Apple Macintosh computers, features variable field lengths, repeating fields, a scripting language and an intuitive report generator. It also indexes every word in every record for lightning-fast information retrieval. Reviewer James McAlister reports that the program is easy to use, even for those with no database experience. He says the program lacks relational capabilities and a phone dialer, but

otherwise says it is a powerful program.

For more information, visit the Macintosh A Vendor Forum (GO CLARIS). To read the review, *GO OLT-3755*.

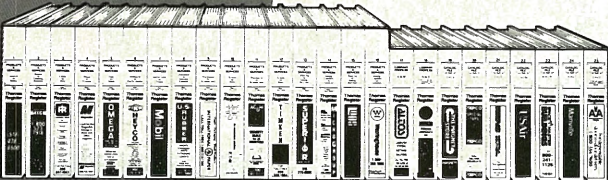
Painless Payrolls

DacEasy Payroll 4.3 (DacEasy Inc.) prepares payroll checks and government forms for small and medium-size businesses. The program can be used alone or integrated with DacEasy's other accounting packages. The program can be used to pay hourly wages, salaries and contractors, can track employees on different schedules, and allows for such contingencies as 401K plans, "cafeteria" benefit plans and insurance. Reviewer Harry Green says the program will not teach you the intricacies of payroll preparation and recordkeeping, but that it is an excellent tool for almost any payroll department. He especially applauds the program for letting users make adjustments for new government tax tables instead of forcing them to buy an endless stream of updated versions.

For more information, visit the PC Vendor B Forum (GO PCVENB). To read the review, *GO OLT-3765*.

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Sales Tracking and Control

DacEasy Point of Sale 4.3 (DacEasy Inc.) links a company's cash registers to their IBM computers. The computer can be used as a cash register to print receipts, record transactions and track inventory. Sales can be posted to the computer program from a regular cash register. The program can be used alone or its data can be linked to other DacEasy accounting programs. Reviewer Harry Green says this program will be of value to many small commercial businesses.

For more information, visit the PC Vendor B Forum (GO PCVENB). To read the review, GO OLT-3775.

Personal Finances

Money Counts 7.0 (Parsons Technology) is a finance manager for IBM computers. The program, which can be used by both individuals and small businesses, uses a checkbook metaphor and intuitive menus to guide non-accountants through the process of logging transactions and maintaining financial records. Included are a name and address database, a routine for mailing labels, a pop-up calculator and password protection. The program can print checks in several different styles and make payments through online checking services. Reviewer William J. Lynott says the program is easy to use and has some features that are usually available in more expensive programs.

For more information online, GO PA. To read the review, GO OLT-3785.

More in the Works

Microsoft Works 3.0 (Microsoft Corp.), an integrated software package for Macintosh computers, includes a spreadsheet, database manager, word processor, communications program, and drawing and charting capabilities. It also can share files with several other applications. Reviewer Anthony Watkins especially applauds the program's documentation and drawing programs. He says Works is an improvement over earlier versions but not noticeably better than its competition.

For more information, visit the Microsoft Applications Forum (GO MSAPP). To read the review, GO OLT-3795.

Simple Data Management

My MailList and My Database (My Software Co.) are simple and inexpensive data managers for the Apple Macintosh computer (IBM versions are also available). The mail list program is supplied with pre-defined fields for names and addresses, but allows users to modify those definitions. The database program features additional field types including calculated fields. Reviewer Franklyn Jones says both programs are easy to use and adequate for both personal and small-business recordkeeping. He notes

that My Database includes all of the features of the mail list program and many additional features. Therefore, he rates it as a much better value. GO OLT-3805

The following software reviews are also available for reading this month in Online Today: TrueType for DOS (MicroLogic Software), GO OLT-3815; Correct Quotes, Cor-

rect Writing and Correct Grammar (Wordstar International Inc.), GO OLT-3825; Super Seven Utilities 1.0 (Atticus Software Corp.), GO OLT-3835; CAD Vantage 1.0 (Gamma Software), GO OLT-3845; and Trailblazer (Twisted Pine Software), GO OLT-5890.

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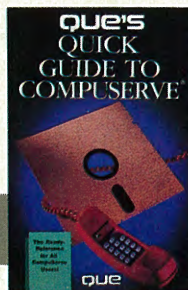
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Book Reviews

Following are summaries of book reviews available for reading this month in *Online Today*. To read the complete reviews, use the GO commands listed at the end of each summary.



Que's Quick Guide to CompuServe

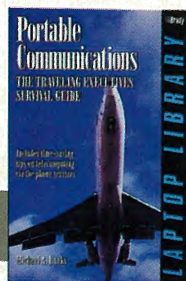
By Mark K. Bilbo
Que Corp., 1992
320 pages, \$14.95 (softcover)

This succinct text offers an entry-level survey of CompuServe's many products, while also providing a few tips for old online hands. Reviewer Paul A. Gilster criticizes the spotty book for trying to reach two divergent audiences. *GO OLT-5900*

Dvorak's Guide to PC Connectivity

By John C. Dvorak, Nick Anis
and Werner Feibel
Bantam Books, 1992
968 pages, \$49.95 (softcover, with three 5.25-inch diskettes)

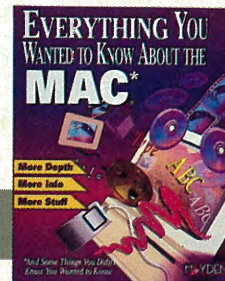
Written so anyone with a smattering of PC knowledge can grasp it, this book offers a thorough explanation of connectivity. With the full-fledged LAN packaged on disk inside the back cover, reviewer Harry Green deems it a top-notch value. *GO OLT-5910*



Portable Communications: The Traveling Executive's Survival Guide

By Michael A. Banks
Brady Publishing, 1992
287 pages, \$18.95 (softcover)

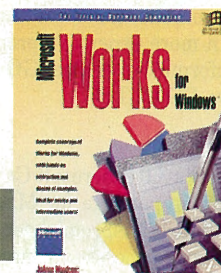
If you think telecommunicating on the road is far-fetched, this is the book for you. Reviewer William J. Lynott says it is crammed with practical information that will appeal to the no-nonsense traveler who wants to learn PC telecommunications quickly. *GO OLT-5920*



Everything You Wanted to Know About the Mac (And Some Things You Didn't Know You Wanted to Know)

By Hayden Development Group
Compiled and edited by Larry Hansen
Hayden, 1992
946 pages, \$29.95 (softcover)

This useful compendium of Macintosh knowledge contains much indispensable material and is the perfect text to consult when those inevitable emergencies arise. Reviewer John Edwards says it would make a fine keystone volume for any Mac user's library. *GO OLT-5930*



Microsoft Works for Windows

By JoAnne Woodcock
Microsoft Press, 1992
418 pages, \$22.95 (softcover)

Billed as the official companion to Microsoft Works for Windows, this book is a step-by-step tutorial on the software's major functions. Not only will you learn how to use the tools, but also you'll learn a sense of their value, says reviewer Robert Sanchez. *GO OLT-5940*

Que's Big Mac Book (Third Edition)

By Neil J. Salkind
Que Corp., 1992
942 pages, \$29.95 (softcover)

This single, comprehensive book about the Macintosh offers detailed explanations on everything from how hard disks work to an anatomy lesson of a diskette. Reviewer Anthony Watkins predicts it will become the single reference source for Mac computing. *GO OLT-5950*

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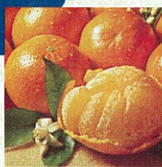
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VALENTINE'S DAY 2-3
MUSIC 2, 3, 4, 5
BEST BUYS 4, 5, 8, 12
NEW MERCHANTS 4, 8, 9
SAVE! SAVE! SAVE! 6
COMPUTERS 8-12



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PERSONICS SYSTEMS. GO PS

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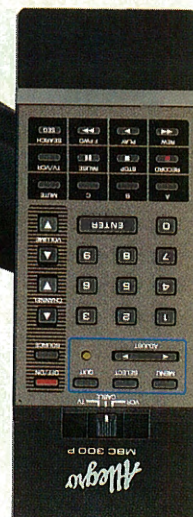
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Rent Mother Nature. GO RM "It's Not Nice to Fool Mother Nature"

Answer all five nature quiz questions correctly, and you'll be entered in a random drawing.



- 1st PRIZE:** A Breakfast Feast & Bucket Lease, a \$64.95 value
- 2nd PRIZE:** A Five-Tree Coffee Lease, a \$39.95 value
- 3rd PRIZE:** A Yankee Blueberry Breakfast, a \$19.95 value

BONUS! Everyone who enters, right or wrong, will receive a copy of Rent Mother Nature's all new catalog and a \$5 coupon good on any purchase of \$30 or more at Rent Mother Nature.

Sharon Luggage and Gifts. GO SL "Seek and Ye Shall Find"

Find the four featured items in the store and identify the code words on the flags, and you'll be entered in a random drawing for those items!



- 1st PRIZE:** A Rollaboard Suitcase, a \$99.99 value
- 2nd PRIZE:** A Mini-Security Shredder, a \$29.95 value
- 3rd PRIZE:** A Night Writer Pen, a \$22.50 value

4th PRIZE: Executive Punching Bag, \$19.95 value

Coca Cola™ Catalog. GO COKE "Take a Stroll Down Memory Lane"

Answer all five true/false questions correctly in Coca-Cola™ Catalog's Nostalgia Quiz and you'll be entered in a random drawing.



- 1st PRIZE:** A Coca-Cola® Dart Board Set, a \$89.95 value
- 2nd PRIZE:** A Vintage Coca-Cola® Sign, a \$24.95 value
- 3rd PRIZE:** A Coca-Cola® Bottle Opener, a \$5 value

The Metropolitan Museum of Art. GO MMA "Find the Lost Treasure"

Find the Goddess of Uma in the store, tell her ancient secret, and you'll be entered to win:



- 1st PRIZE:** Egyptian Ram's Head Bookends, a \$68 value
- 2nd PRIZE:** *The Metropolitan Museum of Art Book* by Howard Hibbard, a \$29.95 value
- 3rd PRIZE:** Ten winners! Surprise Museum Notecards, values from \$7 to \$10

MacWarehouse. GO MW "Solve the Word Scramble"

Unscramble the answer to this word puzzle and you'll be entered in a drawing for ten great prizes.



- 1st PRIZE:** Two winners! A *Power Up Address Book Plus*, a \$52 value
- 2nd PRIZE:** Three winners! *Jack Nicklaus' Greatest 18 Holes*, a \$35 value
- 3rd PRIZE:** Five winners! *Computer Comic*, a \$19 value

Computer Comic, a \$19 value

MicroWarehouse. GO MCW "Mix-N-Match Puzzle"

Match computer products to the correct manufacturers, and you'll be entered in a random drawing.



- 1st PRIZE:** Two winners! A CRT Valet Clamp Mount from MicroComputer Accessories, a \$85 value
- 2nd PRIZE:** Three winners! *Headline Harry & The Great Paper Race* from Davidson Associates, a \$39 value

3rd PRIZE: Five winners! *PGA Tour Golf* from Electronic Arts, a \$32 value

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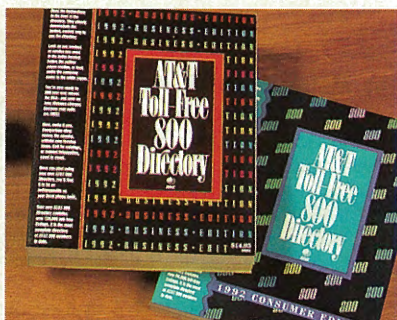
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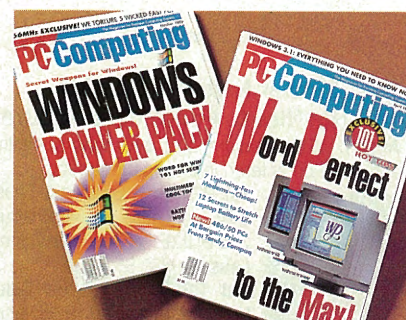
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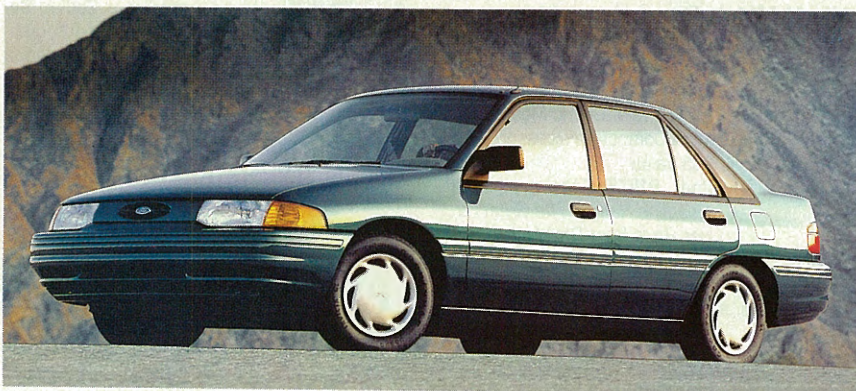
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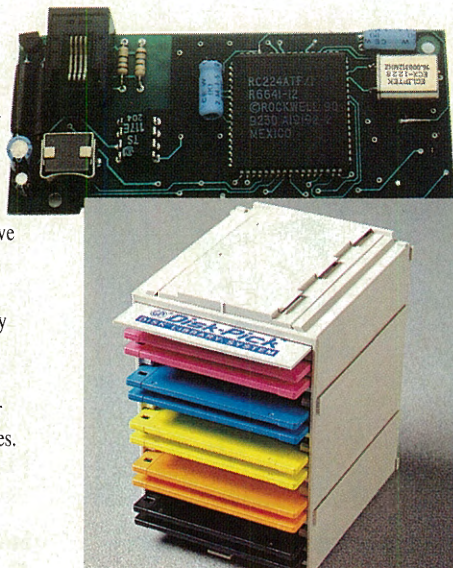


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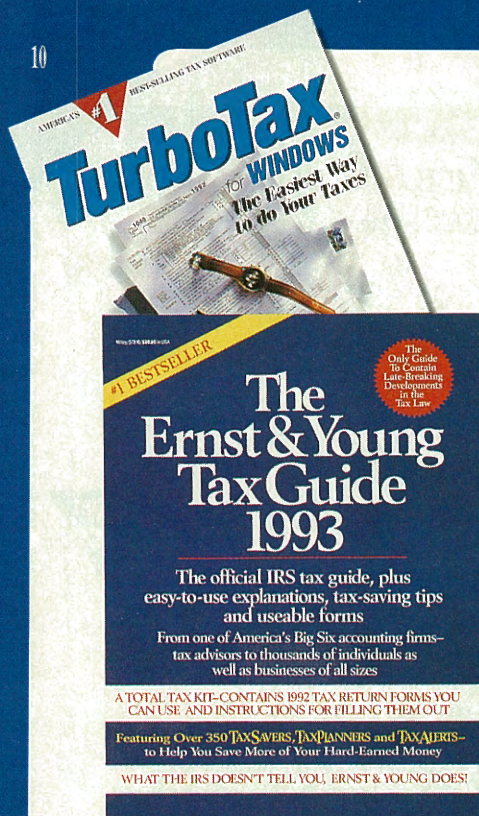
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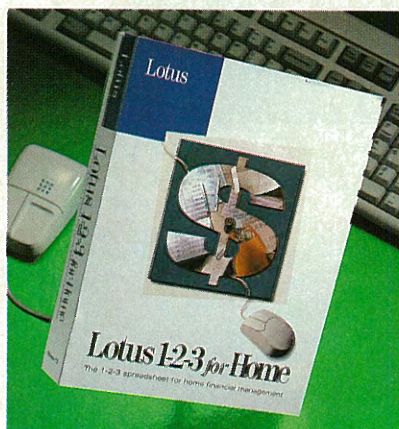
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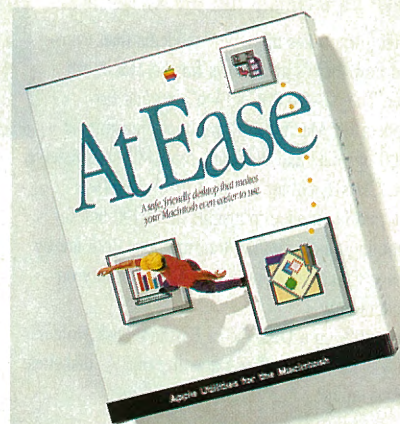
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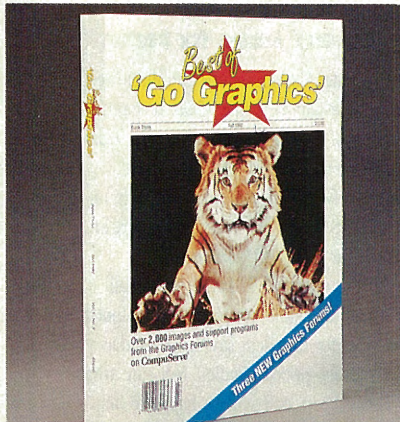
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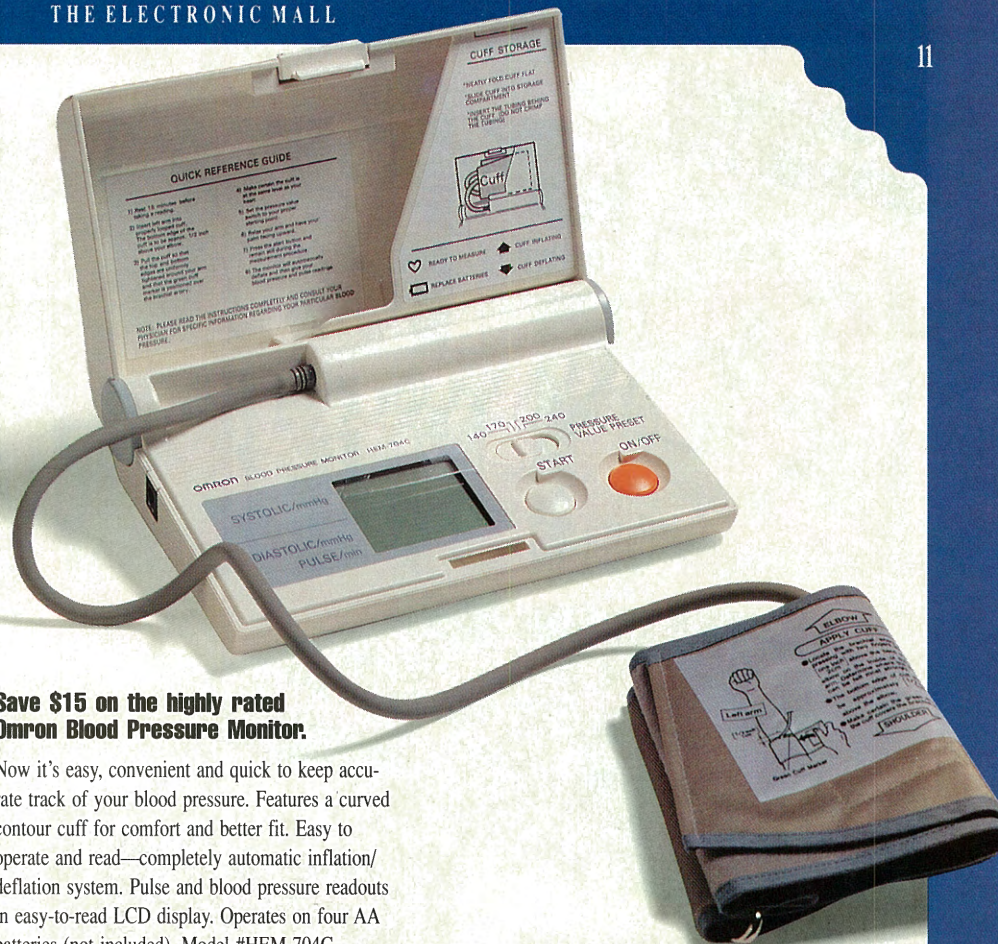
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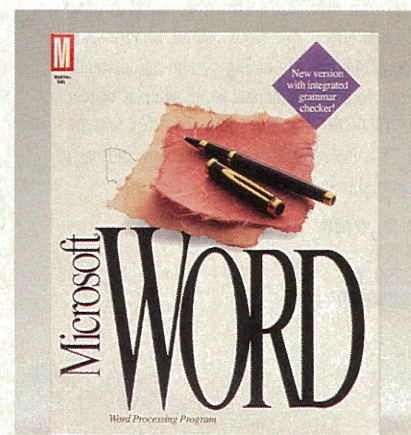
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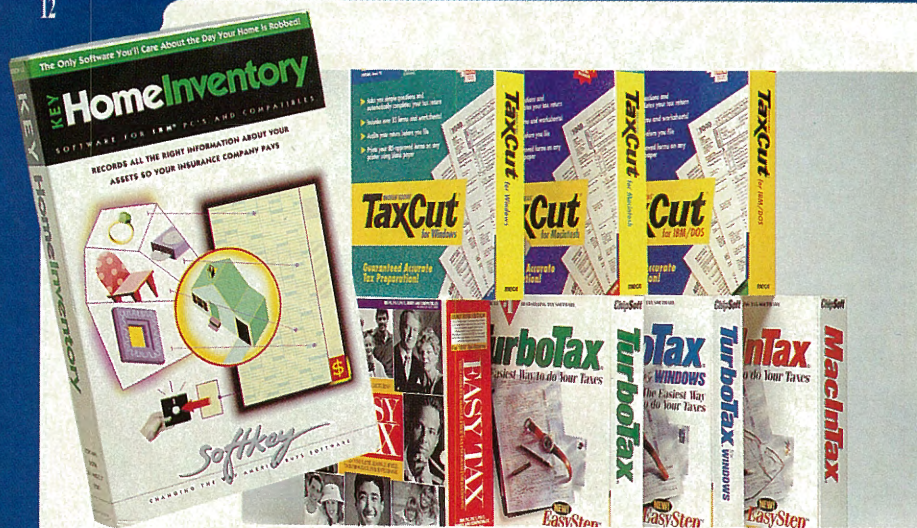
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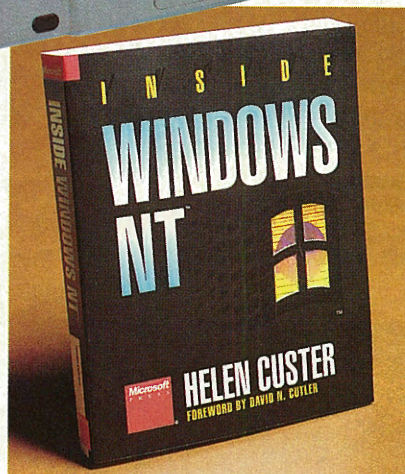


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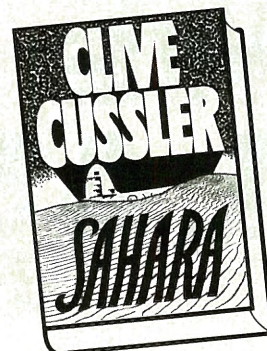
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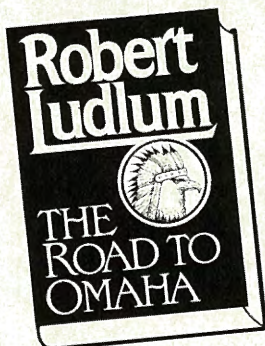
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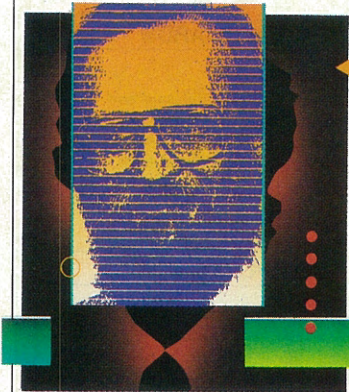
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How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe

with Charles Bowen



Fax by Modem; UnZIP Tips

I work for an international trading company that does its fax transactions mainly through modem. I am looking for software to help with my fax file management.

Eric Han
Cerritos, Calif.

I think your best bet is to check in with a communications forum that supports your particular hardware. For instance, CompuServe's IBM and Macintosh forums have message sections and libraries that deal specifically with fax.

If you are using an IBM or compatible system, check out the IBM Communications Forum (GO IBMCOM) and look into Library 4, "Fax," where there are a number of public-domain and shareware programs devoted to working with faxes. Also, the corresponding message section invites messages about the subject.

If you are using an Apple Macintosh, you might want to visit the Macintosh Communications Forum (GO MACCOM) and see Library 6, "Fax," and its related message section.

* * *

I am using CompuServe Information Manager, so I can download files all right, but I can't seem to get into them. I am using the PKUNZIP (archive) program and so far it hasn't been able

to unZIP any file. Do you have any suggestions or know where I could get an updated version of PKUNZIP?

Elizabeth A. Haar
Madison, S.D.

I think you're right in suspecting the problem is the age of the ZIP utility you are using. You can retrieve the latest version in the IBM Programming Forum (GO IBMPRO) in Library 10, "Data Compression." Browse PK*.* to find all related files. At this writing, the latest version was 1.1, which was uploaded there in March 1990 in a self-extracting file by the name of PKZ110.EXE.

By the way, you might be interested that PKWare, maker of the ZIP utilities, is represented online in the PC Vendor Forum C (GO PCVENC). If you ever need to talk to them, just visit the forum and leave a message in Section 11, "PKWare."

* * *

I'm looking for a forum or an application program that will figure simple personal investment alternatives, real estate transactions and stock/funds.

Ron Mande
Lakeport, Calif.

The Investors' Forum's (GO INVFORUM) message boards

are full of discussions that might be of use to you, and its libraries contain free and shareware programs. The sysops are helpful and might be able to point you to some of the good stuff.

Also, you might be interested in the NAIC Forum (GO NAIC), which focuses not so much on day-to-day market changes but on long-term investment ideas.

Finally, CompuServe has a wonderful shortcut for finding software through services called File Finders, databases that can be searched by file names, descriptions and locations (the specific forum libraries where the files reside). To reach them, GO FILEFINDER.

* * *

Could you help me with the new version of CompuServe Information Manager? I retrieved file CIM206.EXE. Could you tell me what to do next? How do I load the program?

Laura Nassraway
Westchester, Calif.

The CIM206.EXE file you downloaded is self-extracting, meaning all you have to do is "run" it from the DOS prompt and it will expand itself and create the necessary files for operation.

Follow this procedure:

- Make a new DOS directory

with the DOS MD (Make Directory) command (such as MD NEWCIM to create a NEWCIM directory off the root directory).

- Copy the CIM206.EXE you downloaded to that new directory with the DOS COPY command (COPY CIM206.EXE\NEWCIM).

- Move to the new directory with the DOS CD (Change Directory) command (CD \NEWCIM).

- Run the new file by typing CIM206 at the DOS prompt. This will extract the files. Be sure to read the README.TXT file that is extracted to complete the upgrade process.

You then can run the new CIM version from that directory by typing CIM at the DOS prompt there.

Note that the procedure I've outlined here is the conservative approach, allowing you to retain your old version of CIM on its existing directory until you've had a chance to work with the new version.

Charles Bowen is a contributing editor of CompuServe Magazine and co-author of the widely-acclaimed How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe book series from Bantam. He's also author of CompuServe from A to Z from Bantam, an encyclopedia of the CompuServe Information Service.

Send your questions to Charlie by CompuServe Mail to 70007.411. If he answers your question in this column, we'll apply a \$25 connect credit to your CompuServe account.

MEMBER ESSAY

In the Realm of the Census

Having the best, most credible information first is very important to a Washington lobbyist like myself. A person with the right data can control a congressional debate.

Last summer, Congress was considering reauthorization of legislation that had already been in effect for 15 years. But no one had any hard information about its effectiveness.

I remembered that CompuServe had census information and thought maybe an analysis would tell us what we needed to know. I accessed Cendata (GO CENDAT) and found exactly what I wanted. The data was easy to download and edit with WordStar. Then I used AmiPro for chart- and graph-making. I was the only person with the accurate, credible, understandable data needed for this debate. Time spent: less than two

hours! One of the charts I prepared was even enlarged and used by a senator during the floor debate.

Since then, congressional staff members have called me for help in securing information on other subjects. I amaze them with my fast and complete presentations of census data.

Steve Workings
Alexandria, Va.

How to Submit Member Essays

Compete for \$50 worth of connect time and free CompuServe Information Manager software in CompuServe Magazine's monthly Member Essay contest. Write a 200-word essay describing an original way you've used the Information Service and send it to CompuServe User ID number 76004.3302. Include your full name, address and User ID number.

Mensa Puzzler

by Dr. Abbie F. Salny

This month the Mensa Puzzler offers some fun with wordplay. Enjoy. You can check your answers in the Mensa Forum's News Flash (GO MENSA).

1. You are traveling in the land of Liars and Truthtellers, where every citizen is one or the other. You need to ask a question of a Truthteller, but how do you know who it is? You see three people across a stream (there is no bridge, of course) and call across, "Are you Liars or Truthtellers?" The first one replies, but you can't hear him. The second man says, "He says he is a Truthteller." The third man says, "No, he said he was a Liar. I am a Truthteller." Which is which?



DANIEL BAXTER

2. There is a palindrome (the word is spelled the same backward as it is forward) that tells you about an Eskimo who fell out of his boat:
_____ (9 letters)

3. What is the following proverb when put into everyday language?
Individual devoid of sapience finds that the medium of exchange commonly used for daily sustenance rapidly disappears.

4. Solve the following brief cryptogram:
QDT GEJC DSR ASOVTR KJ DEP DUMY QDEP QKK PDSHH LSPP

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Do you have a Puzzler that you'd like to share with CM readers? Send your entry of no more than five brief puzzles (with answers) to: Puzzlers, CompuServe Magazine, PO Box 20212, Columbus, OH 43220. Include your full name, address, daytime telephone number and CompuServe User ID number. Do not send puzzles by electronic mail—we accept hard copies only. If your puzzle is used here, we'll credit \$35 to your CompuServe account.

Reader Tips of the Month

It is an excellent idea to use a terminal access program that has a "capture" facility—i.e., the capability of logging all information from you to CompuServe and also from CompuServe to a file on your computer. Such a "log" file is useful when you have problems. You can see precisely what happened and either figure out what the problem is yourself, or have the record of the events surrounding the problem available when seeking help.

Another use for such a log file is that you'll have a record of your online activity and can browse it offline as many times as you like. This is useful when you want to keep a record of one of CompuServe's Help topics or a record of responses you received while using a forum or database.

Richard Shorter
Auckland, New Zealand

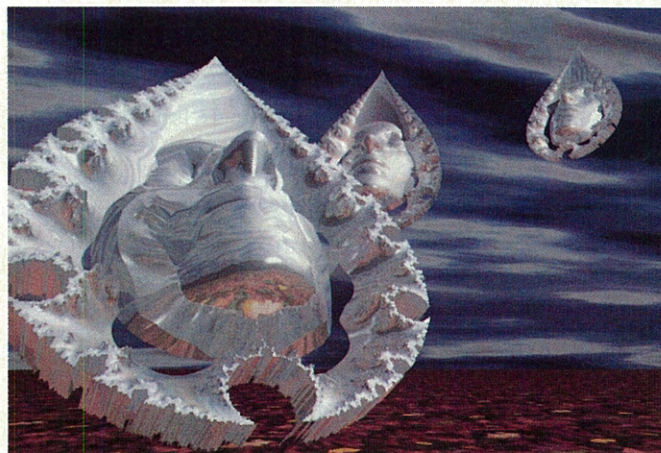
The best hint I've learned in using CompuServe is to use different communications software programs for different purposes, rather than looking for one "perfect" program. I use AUTOSIG to access the five forums I am active in, and to do my electronic mail. When I'm active as a helper on CB Simulator or in the Entertainment Center, I use CBT or SpeakEasy, because of the monitoring and scroll-back features. If I want to look at weather maps or GIF files for possible downloading, I use CompuServe Information Manager, which is also helpful when exploring new areas of the service.

Dr. David H. Dyer
Little Rock, Ark.

If you have a good tip about using the Information Service that you'd like to share with other CompuServe members, send it to CompuServe User ID number 76004,3302 and type in "Tip of the Month Contest" on the e-mail subject line. If your tip is published in this column, we'll apply a \$25 connect-time credit to your CompuServe account.

Graphic of the Month

CM's Graphic of the Month is "Frosty" (FROSTY.GIF) by Dan Farmer, a POV-Ray creation with help from Fractint fractal generator. The intricate heart-shaped frames surrounding the faces are inverse Mandelbrot fractal images converted by POV-Ray into 3-D. Each fractal object in the image is constructed from 960,000 triangles. The faces are formed by data converted on Mira Imaging's HyperSpace. For details on this image, stop by the Graphics Developers Forum (GO GRAPHDEV), Raytracing Section 16. Dan Farmer is a raytracing hobbyist and uses DKBTrace on a 486/50 computer.



If you have a favorite image on CompuServe, consider nominating it as a Graphic of the Month. Provide the filename and identify the forum and library where the image is stored (do not send the files themselves) and send the information by CompuServe Mail to User ID 76004,716. If the image you nominate is published in this column, you and the image uploader/creator will receive a \$25 CompuServe account credit. Image uploaders/creators are permitted to nominate themselves, but only one \$25 credit is applied to each member.

UPDATE



1993 Car Info in Showroom

Visit the New Car Showroom to see retail and invoice prices and specifications for 1993 American and import cars. Compare new models or price one model with the information provided for standard and optional features and technical specifications. GO NEWCAR



Moon, Planet GIFs in 'Gallery'

The Graphics forums, in cooperation with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), have opened Section 9, "NASA: The Planets," in the Graphics Gallery Forum, to discuss the unmanned research of the solar system. Its companion Library 9 contains a selection of GIF images provided by NASA showing the Earth, Moon and other planets. GO GALLERY

Win an online shopping spree in Media Vision's PAS16 applications contest in the MIDI B Vendor Forum. Now through July 15, shareware and freeware authors can win up to \$5,000 in merchandise and other prizes from Computer Express in The Electronic Mall. Prizes will be awarded for MIDI, music, sound and game applications using Pro Audio Spectrum 16 sound cards or compatibles. GO PASCONTEST

The Claris Forum is now open to provide support for Claris' application software for Macintosh and other operating systems. Products supported include FileMaker, ClarisWorks, HyperCard, MacWrite, MacProject/SF, Resolve, AppleWorks and more. GO CLARIS

During February, the normal scan charge is waived in IQuest's Tradename and Product Line SmartSCANS, a savings of \$5 per scan. Product Line SmartSCAN lets you find out more about a product before purchasing. Tradename SmartSCAN determines if a product or service name is already in use. All other IQuest charges, including charges for searches performed from the SmartSCAN Results menu, remain in effect. GO IQUEST

CompuServe is offering a 50 percent reduction in non-prime time communications surcharges on the Mercury 5000 network in the U.K. during February. This rate is significantly less than the rates for GNS Dialplus during this period. The Mercury network provides U.K. members with local dial-up access in 58 cities and V32 (9600 bps) access in 28 of those. DOS CIM users should be using version 2 to take advantage of this rate. GO LOGON

Support On Site is now available in ZiffNet. This comprehensive database covers more than 36 popular PC-environment and applications software products, and offers a resource base of software publishers' manuals, technical notes, and reference books by Que and Ziff-Davis Press. GO ONSITE

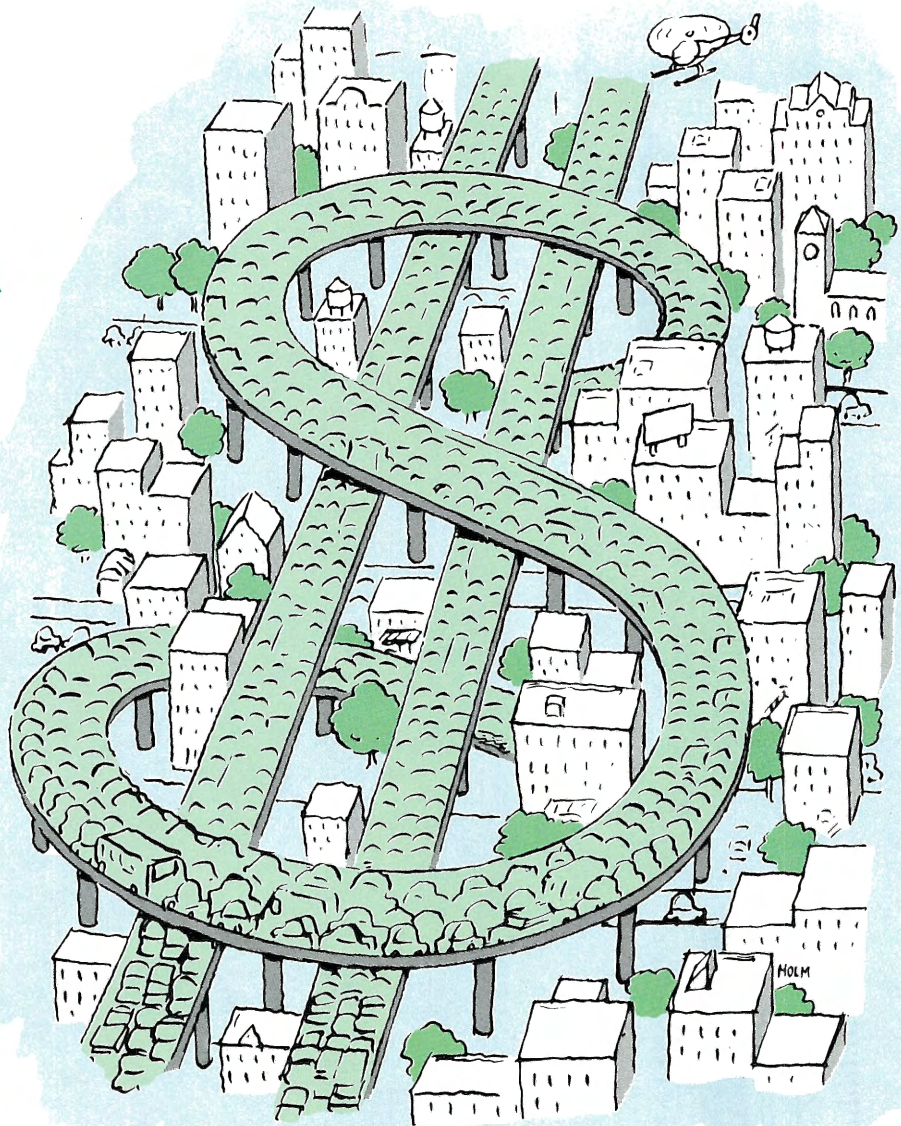
The PC Vendor G Forum is now open with six companies offering support: Brown Bag Software, Reach Software Corp., Magic Software, Futurus Corp., Identitech Inc., and Vertisoft. GO PCVENG

The Toshiba GmbH Forum has opened to provide technical support for German-speaking users of Toshiba computers and peripherals. Exchange ideas or ask Toshiba's technical staff at its German headquarters in Düsseldorf, for support. GO TOSHGER

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Jerry Pournelle, Byte, July 1992

Inside Out

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