A.C.E. ST LOUIS

NEWSLINE

VOL 6, ISSUE 2   **February 1990**   **$2.50**

ACE-STL General meeting
February 28th, Wed, 7:00 PM
March 31st, Sat, 12:00 Noon
Thornhill Library
(See Back Page for Map)

ACE ST SIG
March 15th, Thurs, 7:00 PM
Randalls Home computers

ACE 8 BIT SIG
March 8th, Thurs, 7:00 PM
Randall's Home computers

ACE MIDI SIG
March 13th, Tues, 7:00 PM
Greg Kopchaks house

ILLINOIS CLUB MEETINGS

EAUG General meeting
March 5th, Mon, 7:00PM
meeting room, Alton Square
more info (618) 254-6077 modem

STAR General Meeting
March 25th, Sunday, 7:00 PM
Moose ,115 N.Lincoln, O'Fallon, IL
More info (618) 746-4710, voice

1990 ACE Officers

President:	Dick Pederson
Vice President:	Jeff Randall
Secretary:	Joan Ryan
Treasurer:	Anna Mason
Editor:	Terry Shoemaker
Book Library:	Wanda Schartman
8Bit Disk Library:	Mike Huddle
ST Disk Library:	Ed Patrick

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ST: Jeff Randall
MIDI: Greg Kopchak

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Special Desktop Publishing Issue

Editor's Corner

Terry Shoemaker

As Monte Python once said, And now for something completely different!

This months theme for the Newsline and the ACE meeting is Desktop Publishing. When I started thinking about handling this topic in print I kept thinking about the color TV ads. How can you tell if the picture is as good as they say when you are watching it on your old TV. That's why I decided to have each review done in the program being reviewed. The majority of the Newsline is done with Timeworks DTP since it is the program we have been using. The review of Pagestream was prepared and printed using Pagestream version 1.8 and the review of Wordflair was done it with that program. All of the articles were printed out on the Hewlett Packard Deskjet Plus printer.

The reviews here are the opinions of the individual authors and we were not able to review all of the Desktop Publishing programs for the ST. We could probably do another issue using programs like Calamus, Signum, Deskset or Fleet Street Publisher 3.0. We have not purposely shunned the 8 bit line, however due to memory constraints and graphics capabilities the XL/XE line has it's limitations. There are however, many creative people publishing Newsletters and similar materials using programs such as Paperclip, Atariwriter, Mat Edit, Newsroom, News Station and others. Besides, nobody submitted reviews for these programs which brings me to my next point.

Last month we mentioned the themes which our Newsline and meetings will follow. Next month is Simulation Games. There have been many of these written for the 8 bit and ST's so go sit down at your computer and write us a review for your favorite simulation software. You can upload your review to Gateway BBS (314) 647-3290, Flash BBs (314) 275-2040 or mail it to the Post Office Box listed on the cover of the newsline. Ascii or Wordwriter text is preferred but any format will be

accepted. In other words, we don't care how you do it, just do it! The majority of our Newsline is written by our own club members and as long as you keep good articles coming we will keep printing them. Our club has a lot of talent, both known and hidden, let your talent shine and contribute with an article. If not a simulation for March, how about an article on Hardware in April. Articles should be submitted by the 15th of the month.

Don't forget to attend the ACE Meeting where all members will be eligible for Attendance prize drawings. This month we will be giving away Pagestream for the ST, 8 bit software, 2 $10 gift certificates to Randall's Home Computers and more club disks. This alone is reason to be a member and come to the meetings.

Ron' Random Ramblings, February 1990

Ron Robinson

AvantGarde has isolated the PC Ditto II problem to timing differences in ST's. They are offering a software revision and a chip change to get everyone up and running. The problem of how to fit it in the case of most ST's will continues to be a problem.

Stacy may initially be offered as a MIDI controller. This could be due to the FCC "Class A" certification that will prevent sales of Stacy to the home market. The portable label may need to be dropped due to battery life only being in the 15 minute range. I'd be happy if it were just a transportable. Sam Tramiel is rumored to be against the Stacy feeling the MIDI market just isn't large enough.

Speaking of Mr. T, reports form within Atari state Jack Tramiel has retrieved day to day control of the company from his sons; Sam, Leonard, and Gary. The recent poor performance of Atari and in-fighting within the ranks surely didn't help things. The last Federated store has closed it's doors, hopefully allowing the powers to be to focus on the core businesses. Good news is Atari is looking for product support people, if interested, send your resume to Atari, attn: Ted Maciejewski.

Znet reported developers were ask their opinions about the possibility of a Mega STE addition to the Atari product line? What if had a real expansion slot? Maybe even a VME bus slot to help prepare for introduction of the TT? This would be nice.

Portfoilo's are reported to being returned at high failure rates. Atari is making returns very difficult with strict requirements to document sales and inclusion of original packageing materials.

Atari hardware shortages in the US continue. There is no sign of the STE while units marked with "US Version STE" are available in Canada. Monochrome monitors and mice are still on backorder. Mega 2's have not been available for months. Some Mega 2 backorders are being filled with Mega 4's with no increase in dealer cost.

Ralph Turner, Author of the "Atari ST Book", has released a sequel called "Intermediate and Advanced ATARI ST Subjects". If this one is anything close the first, it should be on the must have list of most ST owners. The price is $16.95 from Index Legalis, PO Box 1822, Fairfield, IA 52556, phone (515) 472-2293.

FROM THE GRAPEVINE

If you tried PageStream a while back and gave up, it's time for a second look. Version 1.8 is very solid, generates excellent output, and doesn't use GDOS. Upgrades are $10 if you return your disks to SoftLogik or $25 if you want the new manual.

FCC testing continues on the STE. Reports from Europe mention some interesting bugs in the TOS 1.6 used in the STE. MSDOS disks can not be read, you can not boot into medium resolution, and performing a disk copy to a write protected disk results in a system lockup. The STE is good at detecting rule breaking software also. On the good news side, UIS III does work on the STE, a problem with some old Atari Hard Disk software caused the reported lockup problems. I wonder if this is due to the US ROM's containing a few bug fixes the European version does not have? It would be nice for the US to get something better than what is shipping to Europe for a change.
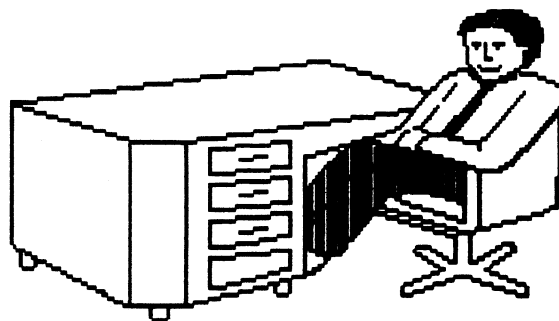
From the Desk of the President...

Dick Pederson

January's main meeting had a fair attendance. Perhaps those there were interested in the give away of TOS 1.4 for the ST or "Your Personal Net Worth" for the 8-bit. We also gave away two $10 gift certificates for use at Randall's Home Computers and several 8-bit games. This was in addition to the free drawing for a disk from the ST and 8-bit club disk library.

This month, we will give away a copy of the desktop publishing program for the ST, PageStream, by Soft Logic. Our thanks go to Soft Logic for donating that as well as a copy for us to do our Newsline with. For the 8-bit, we will give away a copy of Data Perfect, one of the best data base programs released, and at least one other game. In addition will be the two $10 gift certificates and a disk from each club disk library. Not a bad deal...but you have to be at the meeting in order to participate. Ask Greg Kopchak if he's enjoying the TOS 1.4 ROMS for the ST that he won last meeting.

A few weeks ago, officers from the area's Atari Clubs met at Randall's Home Computers and discussed ways of combining resources. In attendance were ACE St Louis, East Side Atari User's Group, STAR, and the McDonnell Douglas Atari SIG. We agreed to form a joint organization and to refer to it as MARC, which stands for Midwest Atari Regional Council. We needed a name in case we did something as a combined group.

We decided to try publishing a joint newsletter at least once a quarter. The first effort will be the March edition. Not all the details are finalized yet, but it might reach 50 pages and will surely provide a variety we cannot produce on our own. Since we have the largest newsletter, Terry Shoemaker will put the combined edition together.

We also discussed this years computer fair at McDonnell Douglas and ways to improve our participation. More information on this topic will be forth coming as dates/location are finalized. Another topic was holding a joint sale/swap meet for members. We have one scheduled for ACE in December at present, but perhaps we can have a combined one this summer as well.

A survey of our members was intended to bring in information from which we could tailor events and our schedule to meet the needs and desires of the membership. We can't do too well with only 8 responses, so PLEASE, if you havn't yet completed and turned in the survey found in January's Newsline, do so. Why not bring it to the main meeting?

As a last item, I would like to thank Jim Buccholz. What for? For being an officer of the club and a prime mover in our activities for the last five years. Jim donated a tremendous amount of his time to the club and we all benefited from his efforts. This year marks the first year since the formation of ACE St Louis that Jim has not held an office. He is taking a well deserved break, but we plan on keeping him involved.

From the members of ACE St Louis, past and present, thanks, Jim.

The HP Deskjet Printer

Reviewed by Terry Shoemaker

I have had my Hewlett Packard Deskjet Plus printer for eight months and still feel it is the best purchase I have ever made, well 2nd best to my computer without which the printer would not do me a heck of a lot of good.

The HP Deskjet isn't a dot matrix printer and it isn't a lazer printer. It falls somewhere in between. Somewhere close to the lazer printer. It prints at 300 dots per inch like the lazer but does it by spraying ink onto the paper through tiny ink jets, hence the name. The biggest benefit the Deskjet has over the lazer is price. Both in initial purchase and for additional ink cartridges.

The only negative comment anyone can make is the ink used. It is water soluble. This means you better not take your printer text to the shower or out in the rains. As soon as the water hits the ink it will run. You may not want to wet your fingers to flip pages either. My HP dealer tells me that the company is working to correct this. The reason they use this type of ink is to keep the ink jets from clogging up with ink. If you want permanent copies I suggest using a photocopier and you will be all set. This aside I have absolutely no complaints with this printer. It has been said that the print quality rivals and at times surpasses the lazer printers since the sprayed ink fills in instead of leaving small dots. The paper path is very simple and free of jams. The ink cartridges are easy to change and last a long time.

They can be found for $15 or less if you shop around and printouts are just as black on page 2500 as they are on page 1. Intensive use of printed graphics will cut down on your cartridge life.

The HP Plus is an improved version over the original HP. Some of the enhancements are an extended character set for the built in courier font, built in landscape (sideways) print, the ability to use a total of 512k of memory which can be purchased in two 256k cartridges for use with downloadable fonts and an increase in speed. The original HP could handle two 128k cartridges. Downloadable fonts are soft fonts or fonts which can be transferred from disk. Fonts can also be added with additional cartridges.

A must have for any Deskjet owner is the Epson Emulator cartridge which, when plugged into the printer will allow you to use any program with an Epson printer driver which accounts for just about all programs ever written. The HP will also use printer drivers written for it's big brother, the HP lazerjet printer and drivers written specifically to take advantage of the deskjet functions are available for most popular software packages.

Since the print quality is the same horizontally as it is vertically 300x300 landscape printing looks just as good as portrait. When I first purchased the Plus I thought I would never use landscape but soon discovered it was good for Speadsheet and database files.

If you are considering the Deskjet for DTP, all programs used for the Atari will print in landscape and utilize all of the fonts on both the standard Deskjet and the Plus. It is easy to judge for yourself on the quality of print by looking over this Newsline and the way the different programs print out.

In the Migraph Hand Scanner article the subject of DTP on a budget was mentioned. The Deskjet is also a serious consideration if, like most Atari owners you are looking for Power without the Price. I don't know about you but I have this nak, whenever I purchase something the price drops. I have had this problem with just about every printer I have owned.

I purchased my HP Deskjet Plus for over $700 from Cedar Computer Center which is now located at 12158 Lackland near Page and 270. Cedar now has the Deskjet Plus for $540 after rebate. The standard Deskjet can be purchased for $475 after rebate. I called Cedar and was told this is a cash rebate from Hewlett Packard. Not just a rebate on future purchases. If you've been putting off buying a new printer now is the time. Call Kay Kilgore at 469-5400 and tell her I sent you. I have received great service from Kay and have been very pleased with this printer.

For those of you who are looking for a lazer printer I got word that HP is coming out with the HP Lazer III which will have improvements over the HP II+ and will sell for under $1000.

Timeworks – Publisher ST

Reviewed by Jim Buchholz

DTP, Desk Top Publishing. When you want to do "professional" work at a "non-professional" price, the Atari ST opens the door for you at not only a low price, but with a capable hardware/software combination. I will be talking about Publisher ST from Timeworks. It is not the top of the line, but does excellent work for a minimum price. This is not a detailed how-to-use article, but what I intend to do is go over its good points, then mention a few of the things I wish it would do! So on with the show!
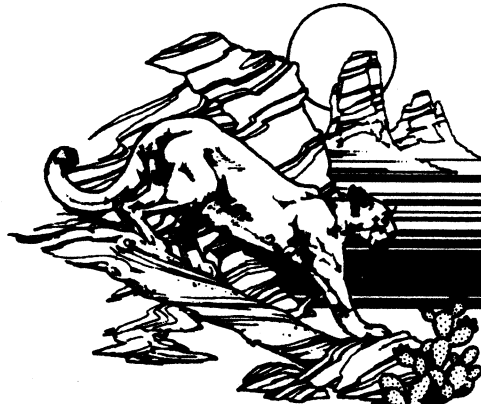
Timeworks is a five disk set. These disks install the program to your specifications. It allows for different types of printers, installation on hard drives and several other variables. It writes the correct printer drivers, creates the correct GDOS fonts and sets up the correct paths on your drives.

TimeWorks Publisher ST uses GDOS fonts, the plus is there are plenty around to choose from, they do a terrific job on either a dot matrix printer or a 300 DPI machine. That is until, the size grows, then the dreaded jaggies will appear. Jaggies? When the outline of the letter changes from smooth to toothy. But until you get to a very large size, there is no problem with the fonts. TimeWorks comes with **Swiss**, Dutch, **Rockface, DRURY LANE, Madison** and Bullits (o☆□☞■□◆ ✂✆✔✗✱➡ the fingers, arrows and other attention getters). Depending on the original setup the sizes will range from down around a 5 point font to a 72 point font. I particularly like GDOS when using a dot matrix, the print comes out very clear and readable. You can add new GDOS fonts by just rewriting your ASSIGN.SYS file. For the casual users, I would consider GDOS one of the strengths of PUBLISHER ST. It makes it versatile to almost any system.

Graphics handling, this is another strength of Publisher. It will allow the import of Degas (PI? only),

IMG files and GEM files. Although it would have been nice to allow Degas Elite or Tiny pics, the program handles the available graphics types quite nicely. Although (another although) you can not adjust the picture as far as how it prints. With Calamus you can take a darker pic and lighten it, with this program you can't. You can edit the pic, size it and crop it. The output is really quite nice, again with a dot matrix it works very well handling graphics.

Overall PUBLISHER ST, is an easy to use program. It has many features which allow a very versatile document. It is a very flexible program but has a few annoying problems. One of the biggest to me is the inability to merge PUB-LISHER ST files. When you work a document, you must do it in one big chunk. When creating the newsletter, it would have saved a lot of time if I could have merged several files into a single file to printout. But for some reason they did not allow that as an option. The time to create and printout a document is near the top in speed. Timeworks has a very user friendly program. Even with some small faults I would recommend it to anyone who wants a easy to use, versatile DeskTop Publishing program. I hope you will forgive the lack of specific details, but with the wealth of different features mentioning a few would be an injustice. I would suggest the BEST way of choosing is stop by your local dealer (in our case the Randall Brothers computer store) and ask for a hands on demo of the programs your considering. Factor in your hardware and choose after checking out those that fit your system and your pocketbook.

TimeWorks

Publisher ST

$129.95

PAGESTREAM

BY: Dick Pederson

Version 1.8 with a NEW manual

Soft Logik recently released version 1.8 of PageStream which corrected most of the problems/bugs found in 1.5. The program is now very stable and a joy to use. As a great addition, the manual has been redone and is a vast improvement over the one issued with version 1.5. Upgrading from 1.5 to 1.8 won't get you the new manual, only a supplement sheet. However, you can buy the new manual from Soft Logik.

The Program

PageStream is a desktop publishing program that includes the features of a word processor and an object oriented drawing program. This gives you tremendous flexibility and control over your documents, whether it be in graphics, art, drawings, or text. All aspects of page design are at your fingertips, from the basics to the advanced features. A novice can easily produce a great looking product without much effort. However, a word of caution is in order. With a product like PageStream, you have all the features of a publishing house. You could produce a magazine, a newspaper, a newsletter, or any other item you see on the news stands, but only if you know how. The "how" I'm referring to is not just knowing how to use this program, but knowing a little about the art of page design and layout. There are books on this topic available at most book stores that are crammed with example layouts and the reasons why one design is more appealing than another. To be truly effective in desktop publishing, you need knowledge of how the program works, knowledge of the art of page design, and some built in creativity to put all this good knowledge to use.

Control

In PageStream, you have complete control. You start by designing the page layout (margins, page size, number of columns, etc.) by selecting layout from the handy drop down menus. A dialog box provides all the choices and allows you to completely customize the page to your own settings or to make only a few changes and accept the default settings. As an example of how easy making the settings is, if you want a three column screen, you just set the columns to 3. The page is automatically formatted into three equal columns with all default margins set.

Once you've set your layout, you can type in text directly or you can import it into the page from an external ASCII saved document. The column to receive the text is identified by where you place the text cursor. If we assume the cursor was placed in the first of the three columns, the text will fill that column and stop, even if there is more than will fit in one column. You now get to specify where the text will flow to from this column. We could set it to flow to the second column, or if each of the first page columns was for a different article, we could set the text to flow to column 2 on page 3 and from there to column 1 on page 6.

PageStream makes multiple page layout easy by having a master page. If you set the layout on the master page, then all pages will have the same basic layout. If you don't set the master page, then you can have each page vary.

For titles at the page top and column tops, you can use another PageStream feature. Simply go to text mode, position the cursor, and type the text. You can then set the font type and size to anything you want.

Everything is an OBJECT

Whether you have a column, a box, or simply typed in text, everything in PageStream is an object. This means that you can go to the object mode, select anything, and then deal with that object. This has many benefits. In the text mode, you can select a letter, words, paragraphs, an entire column, or an entire page by dragging the cursor over the desired text. A simpler means is to go to the object mode, select the object (column or columns) and then change all the text within that object or on that page.

Any object can be rotated, repositioned, resized, joined with other objects into a group, or have it's page position locked, which are only some of the options. Treating everything as an object gives you complete control over everything concerning that object to include its background fill and whether its behind or in front of other objects.

Drawing Tools

The toolbox contains many drawing tools that enable you to easily create straight lines (vertical or horizontal), a line in any direction, circles, arcs, ellipses, elliptical arcs, boxes, round edge boxes, or free hand drawing. The lines can be of any thickness and have several types of endings, such as an arrow. With these tools you can create anything. The manual contains several examples of graphs made with these tools.

Text Attributes

Unlike other desktop publishing programs, Pagestream uses an outline font and does NOT use GDOS. Instead of needing a font file for each size to be in memory, PageStream uses only one file for each font. The outline font is merely resized to fit whatever size is selected. This gives you the capability to go to virtually any font size where other programs that use bit-mapped fonts are restricted to what memory can handle and usually cannot exceed 24 points in size. Font styles available with each font include normal, back slant, **bold**, <u>double underline</u>, *italics*, light, mirror, outline, reverse shadow, ~~strike through~~, <u>underline</u>, and ꓝꓵꓭꓷꓱ ꓷown.

Font formatting refers to how the text is dealt with in the column. It can be
flush left

or right,
centered
or justified. There are three options in justifying text to achieve a smooth right column margin. Word justification, character, or automatic. Word justification will put the necessary space between words to achieve the smooth right margin. Character will put space between each character to achieve it and automatic uses both methods.

Formatting text also includes indented or outdented paragraphs and the amount of space between each line of text.

Importing Graphics

Importing a picture is easy. You select the picture to import and then have the option of importing it to a graphics window where you can cut and paste from the image to your page or directly to the page itself. Importing is made very easy because you can directly import DEGAS, DEGAS compressed, NEO, TNY, IFF, IMG, GEM, AEGIS, EPS, or MACEPS formats.

Other Features

You can cut and copy, paste or delete from within an object, whole objects, or groups of objects, not to mention the same for text. Search or search and replace can be operated on text or on font attributes. Want to change all *italics* to **bold**? Just search and replace. Impressed yet? How about a built in spelling dictionary that even allows you to add to it or edit its contents?

Hyphenating words will often lead to much smoother lines when text is justified. Hyphenating can be done manually or automatically.

Rather than setting each title, or subtitle or area of text individually to the attributes you want it to have, you can create a tag. Making a tag for sub-titles allows you to simply select the new subtitle and give the attributes of your tag and all settings are automatically transferred.

To make things even easier, you can assign a macro to each of your function keys. The macros can be typed in or captured in a "record" mode. These macrc's can then be saved as part of your program configuration. You could have a macro that sets your page to three columns with other unique layout requirements and another for two column. A macro for your normal printing setup will save a few selections also.
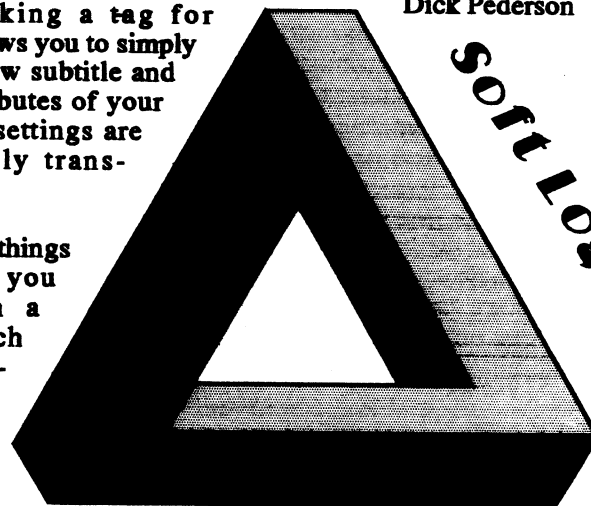
PageStream is capable of printing in postscript or in color when capable printers are used, in addition to being able to print to your eight or nine pin dot matrix printer.

In Summary

I'm impressed. I can't think of a feature left out and can see several that are not available in other packages, even those costing far more. This is an excellent package for the beginner and professional alike. Version 1.8 is bug free (at least I havn't found any) and comes with an excellent manual that clearly describes all options, provides tutorials, a thorough table of contents and a detailed index and glossary. The manual even introduces you to desktop publishing terms and techniques. Overall, PageStream is hard to beat and I don't think there is anything available for the ST that's better.

Dick Pederson

Soft Logik

Wordflair
From Blue Chip International

Reviewed by Jeff Randall

Wordflair is a new product released for the Atari ST computers. It is an integrated document processor with many features never before offered for the ST's. To use it you must have at least one megabyte of RAM, two double–sided floppy disk drives (or one floppy drive and a hard disk). I would highly recommend using it with a hard disk. You may use Wordflair with either a monochrome or color monitor, although the monochrome is much easier to read. Any type of printer can be used as long as you have a GDOS driver and fonts for it. It comes with a driver and fonts for

to use, but it is actually one of the easiest programs I have ever learned to use.

With the ability to calculate formulas, you can do simple math without even leaving the program. Or you can use its calculation capability to find the answer to very complex functions. One of the neat features of the program is that you can reference other cells within formulas. For example, if you look at the table on this page you can see that each of the quantities is multiplied by it's respective price and the results are formulated in the amount column. Then, the amounts are added together to form the total at

use multiple data sets. Also, there is no display of the units on the X and Y axis. You can create far better graphs from other programs, but if all you want is to show the relative size of some values, Wordflair's built in graphing may be alright.

In addition to graphs, you may import pictures, from other sources. These must be in either GEM image format (.IMG) or GEM metafile format (.GEM). You can resize them to any dimension on the page, and move them easily, just by dragging them around. The only aggravating things I found with graphics importing were: First, you must use the whole graphic. You cannot crop out only the section you want to use. And second, the program doesn't keep the graphic in the document. It only keeps the path and name of the file (eg. A:\PICTURES\TIGER.IMG). This means that you must always keep a copy of the graphics with your document file. If you delete them, or move them to another place, the program will not be able to load

Quantity	Description	Price	Amount
11	Apples	$0.24	$2.64
4	Oranges	$2.15	$8.60
6	Lemons	$0.65	$3.90
8	Pears	$1.03	$8.24
		TOTAL	$23.38

QUANTITY1*PRICE1

AMOUNT1+AMOUNT2+AMOUNT3+AMOUNT4

any Epson compatible 9–pin dot matrix printer. Wordflair comes with three fonts (Swiss, Dutch, and Typewriter) in various point sizes. Or you can supply your own set of GDOS fonts to use with it. We have been using it with our HP Deskjet with no trouble.

Now, you might be wondering what Wordflair has to offer. Well, it has all the usual features of a word processor, like search and replace, cut and paste, and so forth. But it also has the ability to calculate formulas, create graphs, and create databases to be merged with documents. You also have the ability to print multiple columns, use multiple typefaces and styles, and import graphics into your documents. With all these abilities, you would expect this program to be difficult

the bottom. If any one of the prices or quantities are changed you will then see the results automatically change accordingly. The results of these formulas can even be used to create a graph within the document itself.

This brings us to Wordflair's graphing capabilities. This is one of the areas I think the program could use improvements. Wordflair can create only simple bar, pie, and line charts. What I mean by this is that you cannot

them and display them with your finished document.

The last major feature of Wordflair is its ability to create a database. It can create a database of any kind of information. This information can then be sorted and/or merged with a document. An example of this would be to create a list of names and addresses and then use that list to print a form letter. Each letter would then be addressed to each person in the list. You can even pick a subset of the list based on some criteria. For example, you can pick everyone in the 63042 zip code.

Another feature that I liked about Wordflair is the fact that you can put a frame within another frame and they will move as a
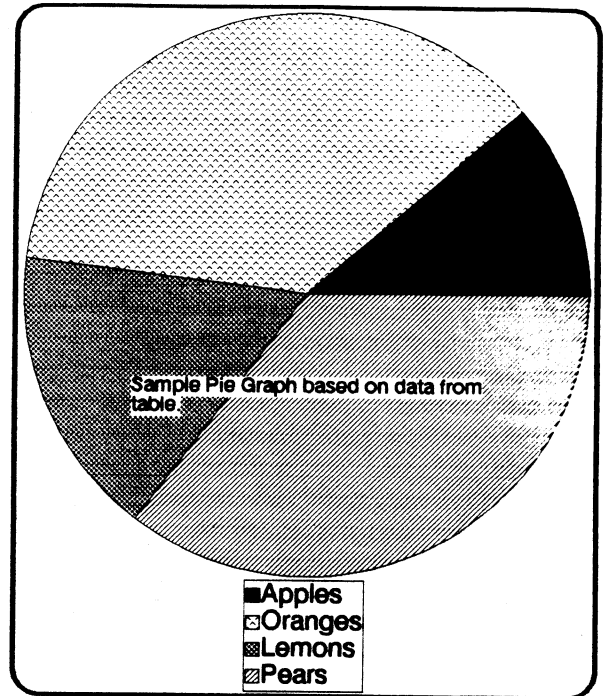
Wordflair continued

group. This is handy if you have labeled something on a graph or picture, and you want to move the picture.

There are a few things I did not like about about Wordflair. One is the fact that you have only two ways to view your document, actual size, or full page. This makes it difficult to use small fonts, because you cannot zoom in on a small area. Another thing I thought that should be added, is the ability to assign a fill pattern to a frame. This would allow you to shade frame to highlight certain areas in a document.

Overall, I think Wordflair is a very good program and Blue Chip International should be praised for bringing out one the first truly integrated packages. Now, if they could only fix a few of the things I mentioned, I would really be pleased. I recommend this program to anyone that needs to create high quality documents quickly, and may not need all the features of the more expensive desktop publishing programs. Wordflair is available at Randall's Home Computers for only $90 with your discount.

Sample Pie Graph based on data from table.

- ■Apples
- ☒Oranges
- ▤Lemons
- ▨Pears

Example of graphics that can be imported.

In order to show you what Wordflair is capable of, this entire article was designed, written, and created using Wordflair. It was then printed on a HP DeskJet.

Randall's Home Computers

What's new?

Ultima V, Warriors of Destiny, has just been released for the ST and it is the best one yet. It will keep you entertained for hours of fun.

Operation Thunderbolt is also new. It is an excellent sequel to the original Operation Wolf.

Looking for a new sports game? Wayne Gretzky Hockey has just been released. And it is the best hockey game yet!

Special Sale!
Double Dragon II only $22

Double Dragon II is one of the best one or two player fighting games available. In it you fight many different bad guys, and the action is always fast and furious. You can even use barrels, whips, and baseball bats as weapons. It is regularly $39.95
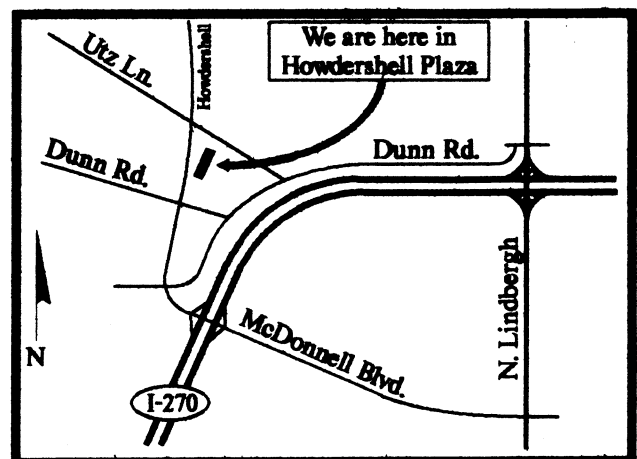
Clue, Master detective only $25

This is the computer version of the original board game. It is a lot of fun. You can play it by yourself or with a group of people.

Randall's Home Computers
6166 Howdershell Rd.
Hazelwood, MO 63042
Phone: (314) 895-8862

Hours:
Monday–Friday 10am – 8pm
Saturday   10am – 6pm
Sunday   CLOSED

We are here in Howdershell Plaza

Utz Ln. Howdershell Dunn Rd. Dunn Rd. N. Lindbergh McDonnell Blvd. N I-270

RYAN'S RAMBLINGS

(Minutes of January General Meeting)

Our January meeting opened with a demo by Steve Karaset of his program, **Tax Advantage**. This is an 8-bit tax calculation utility which has the 1989 tax tables built in. This year's update includes the ability to print out the information in IRS format right onto the form. Advantage even incorporates a mini-calculator right in the body of the program, allowing you to add columns as you go. Steve sells the original package for $20.00, with updates each year for $10.00. His address is: 855 Diversey Drive, Crestwood, Missouri. Steve also makes this program for other computers, so if you use your work computer for tax computations, you might want to ask him about this.

Chick Tower followed with a demo of our club library program, **Microcheck**. On boot up, a simulated blank check is displayed for you to fill out. The program records your checks and then balances your checkbook's totals with your bank statements. It will update your balance and put in the month and year automatically. You can search for checks by number or individual names. Also included in this package is Budget Summary designed by Greg Kopchak to augment the checkbook program.

During the break, we had a drawing for two $10.00 gift certificates to be used at Randall's. Winners were Paul Hebert and Vonda Hofen. Paul Hebert also won a club ST library disk. The 8-bit drawing winner did not come forward. Check with Mike Huddle. You may be a winner.

After break, Jeff Randall demo'd **Phasar**. Phasar is the Antic Software financial package which will do everything but drive you to the IRS. The first part is a comprehensive budget program. The second section is for tax computation. For a more in-depth review of Phasar, read Anna Mason's article in ACE Newsline, February, 1989 or stop by Randall's for a look. The cost is $89.95. Check out last

month's Newsline to see what a Phasar summary sheet looks like. Anna uses it for the club books.

Ray Perry then showed us his personal collection of **Fischertechnik Robots**. He bought these goodies second hand for $300, but estimated their original worth at around $800. Ray's purchase includes two robot kits and an interface which connects them to the printer port. The robots are a visual hybrid of parts which strongly resemble Legos and Erector Set pieces. Be assured, however, that they are much more sophisticated than either. The assembled model that Ray showed us contained four separate powerful motors. The robot can be crudely manipulated to pick up objects by using the diagnostic program provided on software. However, Ray, along with some valuable assists by Tim Randall, has written a program which will eventually allow an 8 mm camcorder to do optical tracking. We will be anxiously awaiting the advent of this one.

The last part of the meeting included a drawing for donated software. John Hamilton won **Personal Net Worth**, and Tom Williams acquired **Star Raiders**. Hank Masuki won a choice of one donated copywritten program for 8-bit and Greg Kopchak won one set of the **ST TOS 1.4 ROM'S donated by Bob Brodie**.

That's it for January. As you may have noticed, President Dick has incorporated some more nifty giveaways into our meetings, and Randall's have donated gift certificates. If you hadn't already joined for this year, you wouldn't be reading this newsletter, BUT you could tell all your friends about the perks. It might encourage them to join.

Joan Ryan

MIGRAPH HAND SCANNER

reviewed by Corey Baldwin

I bought my computer for one main reason, Desktop Publishing. I started piecing my system together slowly. DeskTop Publishing (DTP) systems are high dollar items and I could not afford to buy the whole thing at once.

After long tedious hours of cutting and pasting I knew I needed a scanner, bad! I was looking for a scanner that was able to scan from books but wouldn't drain my pocket book. I looked at the price of the Navarone scanners and knew that I would never be able to afford one soon. The sheet fed scanner was out of the question, and the flat bed was... well definitely a small fortune.

One day at a users group meeting, I saw some fliers on a hand held scanner from Migraph that someone brought from the Chicago computer exposition. Having owned Touch-Up version 1.0 for some time so I knew that Migraph was a good company with quality products. I immediately called and ordered the scanner, but they were awaiting FCC approval, and I was told I would receive it on a first come first serve bases.

About a week later I received version 1.5 of Touch-Up and the scanner finally arrived some two months afterwards. I opened the box it was shipped in, there inside was the scanner, cartridge and power supply, but no instructions. After a quick call to Migraph, they mailed them right of way. I received them in two days.

The Migraph hand scanner is very solid and well built. It was quite evident that it was not just a Logictech scanner with Migraph's name on it. It is a light gray color with a little light on top to let you know that you were scanning and moving it at the right speed, there's also a window to show what you are scanning. The scanner has several controls on it including a switch to set resolution from 100 to 400 dots per inch; a switch to set either line art or 3 different grays scales up to 32 grays; a dial to set how light or how dark the scan is going to be; a start button to what else,

start scanning and lastly a nice long six foot cord. As for the cartridge its very small compared to the Navarone cartridge, and it uses its own power supply. An addition I would like to see a version that uses the internal slot for us Mega owners.

I set up the new version of Touch-Up on my hard drive and the first thing I noticed was that the scanner Icon was no longer dithered. I clicked on that Icon and saw the new icons for controlling the scanner. I cute feature Migraph added to Touch-up 1.5, if you do not have the scanner connected it tells you that you can get one sent 2nd day air!

Starting from the upper left you have the clip area icon which turns the clip area box on and off. Next you have the writing mode icon where you can choose between Replace, Transparent, XOR, Reverse Transparent. The next icon is for miscellaneous tools, it contains clear page, invert page, clip to page, defaults, page/clip, lock. Page/clip is the only one that I will discuss right now because the others are used elsewhere in Touch-Up.

Page/clip is very important. It's used to set the size of area for your scans and X,Y, Dots Per Inch (DPI). X,Y, DPI lets you select how high or low of a resolution its going to be saved at. Even if you scan at 300 DPI it does not mean it will be saved at that resolution. Next you have start page scan. When you scan in this mode it will use the entire page that was defined in Page/clip.

The scan area lets you select a number of things which I rarely use. The first are: Half or Full, max. height 2" to 14", and Imperial or Metric. Then there is the start clip area scan, when you scan in this mode only the clip area is used by the scan. Lastly there are the 100 to 400 DPI modes.

BITS OF EIGHT

by Joan Ryan - 8 Bit SIG Director

February's 8-Bit SIG meeting featured **1020 plotter programs.** Our opening demo starred Nick Barr with another VCR label extravagana. Tom Gabrielli's **VCR Labeler** was designed specifically for the 1020 plotter and further customized to Nick's specifications. It prints out three labels at a time. Two are slated for the spine of the VCR and VCR box, and the third is to be affixed to the top of the cassette. The program prints up to 4 titles per label, color codes individual labels according to subject matter, (ie. sports, movies, etc.) and even prints a facsimile VHS or BETA logo.

I then showed Bill William's **Wordplot**, a 1020 print editor which is found (combined with other useful programs) under the title **Print N' Draw**, by Terrific Software. This versatile plotter program takes full advantage of the plotter's colors and particular talent for elaborate line-drawn fonts. It makes "Terrific" little ads, signs, labels, and even small cards and letters.

The 1020 Printer Driver for **Print Shop** was not judged very successful. It does print miniature Print Shop cards, banners, etc. on the small plotter paper. Instead of using vector (line drawn) graphics, however, it translates Print Shop's dot-matrix graphics into dotty printing on the plotter. It's not a pretty sight. Suddenly, your gentle little plotter metamorphoses into a mini jackhammer, ruthlessly (and noisily) drilling each tiny pixel into the paper. If that is not enough to disturb you, you'll find the resulting teeny pictures also take a WHOLE lot of time to produce, folks! It was a toss-up which would frazzle out first, our sanity, or the plotter motor. Unless you have great nerves, and a generous back-up supply of plotter machines, I'd pass on purchasing this particular utility.

Dale Vincent, a newcomer in our area from Michigan Atari country, did a mini-demo of **Textpro**'s screen commands. He will follow with a more in-depth show of this great shareware program next month.

The final demo's were by Chick Tower. He first showed us **Socoban,** a P.D./Shareware program which takes great cognitive skills to execute. The object of the game is to push a number of rocks around each screen into a premapped configuration of little egg shapes. The bad news, is that you are surrounded by walls which only allow you to push the rocks in one direction. You must plan VERY far in advance to keep from penning yourself into a corner.

Last on our list was a shareware Tetris clone by Darryl Yong, called **Tetrix.** Nintendo, eat your heart out! Our version is in living color, has sound effects, AND has that extra added advantage which I always look for in a game. It is large enough for me to SEE! We hope to include these new games in an upcoming 8-bit disk, so stay tuned.

Joan Ryan

P.S. Want to be a hero? Are there any of you former 8-bit, currently ST people who might be tired of doing "windows"? why not drop by and donate your "Basic" skills? We had a surprise visit by Greg and Randall Kopchak, who helped save the day by untangling a programmer's blooper on a plotter program. Come on DOWN! The old gang is still here, and the mini-winger's as always are great fun.

THE SPECTRE OF MACINTOSH EMULATION

Eating the Forbidden Apple – By Wm. Price

This is a reprint from the BMUG (Berkeley Macintosh User Group) Journal for Spring/Fall 1989. It is written for a Macintosh audience that has not met the Spectre with excitement.

Thanks are due to a much more liberal, and worldly editorial staff at BMUG for inviting this choir to sing in their church. This West Coast group with their tie-dyed T-shirts and earrings opened the eyes of white shirt and tie, wing-tipped shoe businessmen at this Summer's Mac World Expo in Washington, DC. They added a unique flavor to the stiff Washington scene.

TERRITORIAL IMPERATIVES

Few subjects outside religion, social issues, and politics raise strong, even emotional feelings. But among them is computing where brand loyalties are such that whatever one buys is "wrong" from the perspective of those who own different equipment. Remarks such as "Why did you ever buy that arcane, medieval system?" are common expressions of disdain. Aside from these perspectives, there is the question of Macintosh emulation. If emulation is being performed, how successful is it, how well does Macintosh software operate in a pseudo environment, and are the costs for emulation competitive? Answers to these questions and more are explored in this review of nibbling the Apple.

ROOTS OF HEARSAY

Over the past few years several efforts have been made to develop Macintosh clones in Taiwan, Korea, Brazil, and Germany followed by rumors of legal action from Cupertino. Yet this "cloned" capability has been around since 1986 in the form of an 8 MHz Motorola 68000 based computer from Atari and the Magic Sac and successor Spectre 128 cartridge emulators from David Small. This conjunction was unplanned. There was no collusion, but rather a collision of interests, and only recently have the individuals involved been able to work in a mutual business relationship -- albeit a minimal one.

The Spectre emulator operates the Atari ST as a Macintosh Plus, and comparative benchmarks show that Mac software is executed at speed increases of 20 percent over the Plus. This can be attributed to use of custom chips in the ST that handle some of the I/O functions to relieve the 68000 processor for other concurrent operations. Transfer of data from hard disks through the ST's Direct Memory Access (DMA) port is slightly faster than on a Macintosh II. And the 12-inch, 640x480 monochrome monitor provides a viewing area some 30 percent larger than that of the Plus. With STs available in half to 4MB RAM models at relatively reasonable prices, the performance of this emulation is worthy of serious attention, even from the skeptics.

Both IBM and Macintosh users have commented that the ST is the most underrated computer on the market, and Atari lacks aggressive marketing and support to change perceptions. It's as if the ST's designer developed an instrument beyond Atari's understanding and ability to exploit. This immediately recalls the pioneering developments by a remarkably talented staff at Xerox's Palo Alto Research Center. The futuristic results were more fully exploited by companies other than Xerox.

The ST was developed not as a Macintosh clone but rather as a look-alike and feel-like system that operates with a mouse under the Graphic Environment Manager(GEM) -- a windows shell developed by Digital Research Inc. Introduced in 1985, Atari must be given credit for recognizing the efficacy of this approach to computing years before IBM was driven to adopt it. The ST's disk format is almost identical to that used by IBM, and the ST's operating system can directly read both 3.5 and 5.25-inch IBM disks. Its low cost -- one of Atari's major production objectives -- has made the ST an ideal host for third party developers. Emulators have been a logical choice, and the first -- Magic Sac -- was introduced in the Fall of 1986 to support Macintosh operation.

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An IBM PC emulator developed by Bill Teal -- a former senior systems engineer in IBM's Federal Systems Division --followed within months. Dubbed pc ditto, it is remarkable that his PC XT emulation is totally software based, especially when it was considered unlikely that a Motorola 68000 could be used to emulate an Intel 8088 processor. A new version will rely on a cartridge and custom gate arrays to increase emulation speed. A CP/M Z80 emulator is also available. But the real eyebrow raiser is near perfect emulation of the Macintosh with David Small's Magic Sac and Spectre 128.

THE MAC CONNECTION

Dave's Macinations began soon after the ST was introduced, but it was the ready availability of Apple's 64K Operating System ROMs that made his idea a reality. When the original Macintosh was upgraded in 1985 by replacing the 64K ROMs, a plentiful supply of these chips appeared on the market. The Magic Sac cartridge and emulation software were sold without the essential Apple ROMs. Owners or prospective owners had to purchase these chips separately and make a simple installation

in the cartridge. Since Macintosh software will not display properly on the ST's color monitor, aspiring users had to purchase an additional high reso-lution monochrome monitor.

Macintosh emulation was an instant success with existing ST users. Although very few if any STs have been purchased solely on the basis of this capability, Magic Sac and pc ditto emulation make the ST an attractive computing system. This is especially true where IBM PCs dominate the office place, and compatibility, rather than ease of use and performance, is often a driving force when buying home computers.

Although emulation works well, initially Macintosh disks -- formatted and written at five different rotational speeds --could not be used with ST 3.5-inch drives that run at a constant 300 RPM.

Software had to be transferred to Magic Sac disks that are formatted with the same track and sector layout but at constant speed. To make this transfer, software is ported from a Macintosh through a null modem cable connected to the ST. TermWorks, with its 9600 baud rate, can be used on both computers with Ramdisks to speed transfer. Although Dave Small provided utilities for both the Macintosh and ST to port contents of entire disks, disk-to-disk transfer was slow. But his software did answer the "chicken and egg" question by allowing System and Finder, TermWorks and a Ramdisk utility to be ported first and establish a bridgehead on the ST for more efficient transfer operations.

MAC-IN-A-BOX

Not many Macintosh friends, despite the portability of their systems, were willing to spend the better part of Sundays performing software transfers to an ST. A solution was in the works, but production problems and FCC testing delayed delivery by some 6 months. Named the Translator, this small Z80 computer is daisy chained through the ST's external floppy drive port to perform reading, formatting, and writing of Macintosh disks on constant speed ST drives. Contents of Macintosh disks, either single files or entire disks, are read in one drive and written to a Magic Sac disk in the other. Although applications on Macintosh disks can be executed using the Translator, the slowness in performing disk operations clearly compares with the high viscosity of molasses. Transfer between 800K formats takes just over 12 minutes, but despite this slow process, files can be copied to Magic Sac disks where "real time" reading and writing is fully achieved.

The Translator's computer is operated through MIDI In/Out lines connected to the ST. It maintains proper linear micro-bit spacing when writing to either Macintosh or Magic disks, and data written at variable speeds are treated as different frequencies to achieve compatibility between the two methods of recording data.

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More recently, Richard Adam's new Happy Discovery Cartridge has furnished a faster means of transfer. Designed primarily for copying protected software, special utilities

support transfer between Macintosh and Magic Sac/Spectre disks. An 800K transfer is completed in 6 minutes. But the Discovery Cartridge, unlike the Translator, cannot read and display disk contents. It is a blind copying device, much like Copy II Mac, that exercises control over disk drives that cannot be achieved solely with software.

Solutions often uncover other impediments. Some drive mechanisms, like the earlier NECs, have internal frequency filters on the Write Data line. Although intended for eliminating the possibility of stray frequencies, this protection feature inhibits writing to Macintosh disks at the low frequencies required. In some cases, these filters can be removed to provide fully successful operation with the Translator.

KEEPING PACE WITH APPLE

Just as Macintosh users discovered, the Magic Sac with 64K ROMs has its limitations. Although Dave Small provided a unique capability for reading double-sided MFM disks, the HFS format can only be used with HD-20. But the greater problem is with newer versions of software developed around Apple's 128K ROMs. In the Spring of 1988, Dave completed the last enhancements to Magic Sac and began exploring emulation with 128K ROMs. After long nights, some of which produced over a thousand lines of code, the Spectre 128 cartridge was delivered in a record-breaking 3 months. Immersed in the Mac world, Dave understands every piece of code in the Macintosh Operating System better than some applications developers. Spectre was introduced at an Atari show in California, and the limited production run of some 200 cartridges was sold out on the first day. Like its predecessor, 128K ROMs must be purchased separately and installed by users. Although not as plentiful as the 64Ks, the higher priced 128s are available from several sources.

Spectre 128 is compatible with System 6.0.2, Finder 6.1, and Multifinder. But many users continue to prefer System 6.0 and Finder 4.2. Spectre works well with newer applications including MacWrite 5.01, MS Write 1.0, WriteNow 2.0, FullWrite Professional 1.0, Word Finder 2.0, Spellswell 2.0f, MacProof 3.0, MS Works 2.0, Reflex Plus 1.0, 4th Dimension 1.01, FoxBase+ 1.1, MORE II 2.0, PageMaker 3.0a, Ready,Set,Go! 4.5, Adobe Illustrator '88 1.6, FreeHand 1.0, Image Studio 1.0, MacDraw II 1.0, MacPaint 3.01, SuperPaint 1.1, Cricket Draw 1.1, Cricket Graph 1.1, Ready, Set, Show 1.0, and PowerPoint 1.0. Although HyperCard 1.2.1 works, it is unstable with some stacks. A compatibility list covering some 400 commercial software titles and versions is available from GEnie Page 691, File #81. About 75 items are identified as not compatible, and over half won't run because of copy protection that prevents transfer to Spectre disks.

A host of CDEVs, INITs, and DAs such as Suitcase II 1.2.2, On Cue 1.3, Menu Fonts II 2.0, Hierarchy DA, Memoir DA, Super Clock 3.0, and Sun Clock 1.4 DA also function properly.

Surprisingly ResEdit, FEdit Plus, Mac Zap and sector editors work with Spectre formatted disks. As for sound, although the Macintosh and ST methods are substantially different, a recent version of Spectre does provide support. This emulation noticeably slows operation, so sound can be toggled ON or OFF at anytime. Sound Master does work and the familiar HAL is available on start-up.

INCOMPATIBILITIES

Software that is hardware specific or doesn't comply fully with Apple's APD standards may not operate with Spectre. For example, the zero RAM address in a Macintosh is the beginning location for the ST's ROM-based system. Dave performs an incredible number of traps for "illegal" calls and reroutes them to maintain a seamless operation, but there are some that can't be handled. Among the

applications that won't work with Spectre are Fontastic 2.6(Fontastic Plus 2.02 works), Fontographer 1.5 (2.3 works), Copy II Mac, MacTerminal, disk copy in Mac Tools and Mac Zap, Mac Write 4.5 (4.6 and 5.0 work), MS Word, and TOPS. With Spectre and 128K ROMs, MS Word 3.01 and 3.02 give an "Out of Memory" message, but with 64K ROMs they work well. The latest version of Word seems to work without any problems. Although Quark XPress functions, it will not print to a non-PostScript device such as an Epson compatible or HP Desk Jet printer. The same limitation also applies to operation on a Macintosh.

The ability to read and write Macintosh formatted disks in real time is now being accomplished with the Spectre GCR. In fact, GCR can read Macintosh disks slightly faster than Spectre disks. GCR (Group Coded Recording) is a special format developed by Steve Wozniak for the Apple II. His IWM (Integrated Woz Machine) controller chip to handle this format was so simple and successful that it was carried over to the Macintosh. The need to transfer software and operate from Spectre disks is eliminated with Spectre GCR, which brings emulation closer to the real thing by running Macintosh software right out of the box.

A wide variety of printers can be driven through the ST's parallel or serial ports using SoftStyle drivers, Grappler LS, and Printer Interface III 2.0. Output from a 300 dpi HP Desk Jet, although slow, is remarkably close to that of a laser printer. But a major drawback is the inability to print directly to a PostScript laser. The System requires Apple Talk, which is not available on the ST. A cumbersome alternative is to save files as Encapsulated PostScript(EPS) and upload or dump them through the serial port with a utility. It would appear that if an entire computer system and its unique floppy drives can be emulated, it should be possible to do the same for Apple Talk. Unfortunately this is not one of Dave's current priorities, but he has struck on a possible solution.

DIFFERENCES

Shutdown and Restart are not supported by Spectre. Command E, Shift F1 and F2, or dragging disk icons to Trash must be used. And unlike the Macintosh, disks are not automatically ejected. They must be removed by using the drive eject button. Of course disks cannot be formatted from the desktop. Spectre utilities, operating under native ST control, are used to format both Spectre and Macintosh disks.

The ST's hard drive support provides a wide range of options, and its 10.6 megabit-per-second transfer rate through the DMA port has few contenders in either the Macintosh or IBM world. Hard disks can be partitioned for ST, Macintosh, and DOS usage on the same drive. My ST system has two 62MB Miniscribe RLL drives with four 12MB partitions for Macintosh software, 5 for ST applications, and 1 for MS DOS use.

RLL encoding yields an increase of 50 percent in sectors per track, and with 1:1 interleave format, contents of an entire track are transferred in one revolution of the disk. As another bonus, RLL and 1:1 give a 50 percent increase in the rate of data transfer. The Macintosh Plus is limited to a 3:1 interleave where three revolutions are required to transfer contents of a single track. A stock IBM PC XT with a 4.77 MHz clock must use a slower 6:1 interleave format requiring 6 revolutions to transfer a track. Even though there are minor shortcomings to Spectre emulation, they are far outweighed by other benefits.

THE ST BEHAVING AS ITSELF

Although earlier Atari 8-bit computers were popular for game software, the ST is a radically different architecture that provides performance and capabilities comparable to and in some cases better than other personal computers. And it does so at one of the lowest prices in the industry. The ST's GEM desktop display is similar to the Macintosh.

Multiple windows can be opened, scrolled and resized, and directories are displayed either as icons or text. Mouse operation is augmented by Function and Control (Command) Keys. But unlike the Macintosh, most printer drivers are unique to and installed by each application. Global access provided by the Mac System is not available on the ST except for special drivers and related fonts.

The ST is produced in four capacities: the half megabyte 520ST, 1MB 1040ST, 2MB Mega ST2, and 4MB ST4. Lower capacity models can be upgraded to 4MB. All STs come with an internal, double-sided, 3.5-inch floppy drive; a mouse; and 94-key extended keyboard. ST Color and monochrome monitors are optional, and the ST can drive most multisynch monitors such as NEC, Sony, Princeton Graphics, and Mitsubishi with an adapter cable. Standard on all models are serial and parallel ports for modems and printers, DMA hard disk port, MIDI In and Out, RGB analog output in both color and monochrome, high speed cartridge slot, and separate connections for mouse and joy stick. Supra and ICD market DMA interface boards for hard disk mechanisms, and fortunately both provide a wide range of utilities that support most popular drives and controllers. ICD utilities now support Sony's rewriteable magneto-optical disk drive which can be connected through their DMA interface.

It would be a mistake to simply view the ST and Spectre with "peaceful coexistence", or worse still, with disdain. The ST with Spectre and pc ditto provide a viable gateway and turnstile for my Macintosh II. It has more advantages than Esperanto, and languages involved need not be learned. Word Perfect files produced on an IBM PC can be loaded directly into the ST version of Word Perfect. These files can then be saved as ASCII text, and with Transverter, an ST utility developed by Doug Wheeler, files can be transferred and converted to Macintosh disks for use with MacWrite, Ready, Set, Go!, and other applications that import ASCII or Mac binary text files. The reverse transfer and conversion from Macintosh through the ST to an IBM PC is equally as easy.

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

Has this straddling of several computers produced a form of schizophrenia? Has the forbidden fruit been eaten? To the contrary, a true perspective of co-processing has emerged. And as noted earlier, there are more similarities than differences with the Macintosh. The desktop displays and operation of the ST and Macintosh are so similar that one is equally comfortable with either. ST users are frequent visitors to GEnie's Page 606. Macintosh users can also benefit by visiting the Gadgets by Small (Spectre) Roundtable on Page 690. You will quickly discover that ST users are not content with off-the-shelf products. They are an aggressive group best characterized as RYO (Roll-Your-Own).

You will also discover that domestic support from Atari Corporation is minimal. A high exchange rate for the American dollar, lower import duties in the Common Market, and the European's more pragmatic approach to computing with less buyer concern for brand names have turned Atari's attention to that market. Almost 70 percent of the ST production is shipped to Western Europe.

THE FUTURE

Earlier this year, Atari demonstrated a laptop ST at the Hanover Computer Fair (CeBIT). Currently called STacy, it may join the thin ranks of other Mac laptops by using the Spectre. With a super-twist, LCD display of 640x400 pixels, it will be offered in 1MB or 2MB RAM versions with either 2 floppy drives or 1 floppy and a 30MB hard disk. Although a tracball is built into the keyboard, a mouse can also be used. Reportedly this unit will be assembled in Japan rather than Taiwan.

Also shown was a prototype 16MHz 68030 TT with full 32-bit I/O and internal processing. UNIX is supported and it will share the ST's operating system to provide compatibility. Although scheduled for production this year in Germany, keep your expectations moderate because Atari is

Eating the Forbidden Apple – Last Page

noted for indecision and vaporware. Atari will not move until the price is right. In promising a CD ROM drive, Atari indicated it would not be available until units could be produced for a retail price in the $500 range. Although operational prototypes have been demonstrated, production units are not yet available.

On the positive side, Atari does not gouge your pocket. This has created a market where users expect reasonable prices, and third party developers of software and peripherals have been forced to compete in this lower pricing structure. Another plus is David Small's robust support for his product. With earlier releases of software, it was routine for him to upload improved versions to Compuserve and GEnie sometimes as frequently as 3 consecutive nights. Persistence, enthusiasm, and superb expertise are understatements. The ST and Spectre are well worth the investment as a back-up or companion to your Macintosh. You will also appreciate the color monitor and variety of respectable ST software that is available. ST users are delighted with this triple-header computing capability.

In exploring this emulation, it appears that the major differences between the Macintosh and ST are the 64K or 128K System ROMs, the floppy drive controller, and Apple Talk. The ST addresses ROM and RAM differently, it uses three custom chips to augment the 68000 processor, and Direct Memory Access instead of SCSI is used to interface hard disk drives. Of course there are much deeper technical differences in the architectures. The questions are whether or not (in the tradition of Adam and Eve) great damage has been done to society, or if there are redeeming values from this emulation. You now have the information to make your judgement.

PRICES	List /	Discount
520ST	$ 600	$ 500
1040ST	$800	$ 699
Mega ST2	$	$ 1200
Mega ST2 Color	$ 1900	$ 1500
Mega ST2 Mono	$ 1700	$ 1300
Mega ST4	$	$ 1700
Mega ST4 Color	$ 2600	$ 2000
Mega ST4 Mono	$ 2400	$ 1800
Color Monitor	$ 400	$ 329
Monochrome Monitor	$ 200	$ 150
Spectre 128	$ 180	$ 130
Spectre GCR	$ 300	$ 215
Magic Sac	$ 65	$ 50
Translator	$ 300	$ 250
Apple 64K ROMs (2)	$	$ 50
Apple 128K ROMs (2)	$	$ 100
Happy Discovery Cart	$ 250	$ 190
pc ditto	$ 90	$ 70
pc ditto II Board	$ 300	$ 225

Bill Price writes for Current Notes magazine concentrating primarily on desktop publishing and peripheral devices for the ST. He is both an ST and Macintosh II user. He established the Desktop Publishing and Presentations Center at the U.S. Department of State. Introducing the Macintosh to the Department, the centre is also equipped with IBM PS-2 and Wang 386 capabilities to provide a range of choices to users free from marketing pressure. The Centre provides graphic design and applications assistance as well as produces Department publications and presentations.

GEnie Mail: WM.H.PRICE

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TREASURER'S REPORT

by Anna Mason

As of 2/12/90, the balance in our checking account is $1339.02.

Our main expenditures for the month of January were the costs of printing and mailing the newsletter and membership cards. To date, our membership is only 53 members strong; but hopefully those who have not sent in their renewals as yet will do so in the near future.

ON THE UP(grades) & UP(dates)....

Gribnif Software will be releasing a new version of NeoDesk by the Spring of this year. This one will allow the use of both icons and text in different windows, at the same time, and many other improved features! Also planned is the "NeoDesk Accessories" package as well as their "NeoDesk Developers' Kit" (for all of you programmers out there) which may have already been released by the time you read this.

WordUp has been upgraded to 3.0 with major changes included....multiple columns, spellchecker, thesaurus, new fonts, etc. Registered owners are SUPPOSED to be notified about this soon. (Not being very patient, I've written them a letter inquiring about the cost and shipping dates).

Intersect Software (of Interlink fame) is releasing vers. 1.2 of Masterlink. The upgrade will be free to all registered owners who should be receiving the information as soon as it's available. (Let's hope they've 'squashed' all the bugs)

Finally, if anyone using the newest upgrade of Codehead Utilities is having a problem getting it to run in medium resolution, take heart.....the solution is simple. After experiencing this problem myself recently, I called them and talked to John Eidsvoog. It seems that there's some sort of conflict between the FONTRIX2.ACC and the ST's operating system (the call that allows you to change resolutions after boot-up). Atari, true to form, refuses to tell them HOW to get around this. So, all you need to do is copy one of your DESKTOP.INF files from another disk (that is already SAVED in medium rez) and all will be well.

The first thing I do when I scan is set the page to 2000 x 2000, and DPI to 300. By setting the page to 2000 x 2000, it fools the computer into thinking it has a monitor with that resolution even with the Atari monochrome monitor which is 640 x 400. Then looking at what I'm going to scan, I determine if its going to be line art or gray scale, and if I want it larger or smaller. When you scan larger objects be careful, I scanned in a picture and pieced it together and it took over 2 meg. of disk space.

When I started using the scanner the first thing I noticed is that it was very hard to keep the scanner straight and to keep a steady speed. Keeping a good steady speed came with practice, but keeping it straight was a different story, although when scanning gray scales, keeping it straight is not as important. I usually scan and print at 300 DPI, if I want to enlarge, I scan at 400 DPI which enlarges by about 40%. I rarely scan lower than 300 DPI, if the picture is too small, enlarging it causes it to lose quality and it looks unprofessional.

Overall the Migraph hand scanner is well built and I recommend it to anybody that wants to do DTP and is on a budget. With well built hardware, powerful software and good prices, Migraph is very serious company and should be around for years to come.
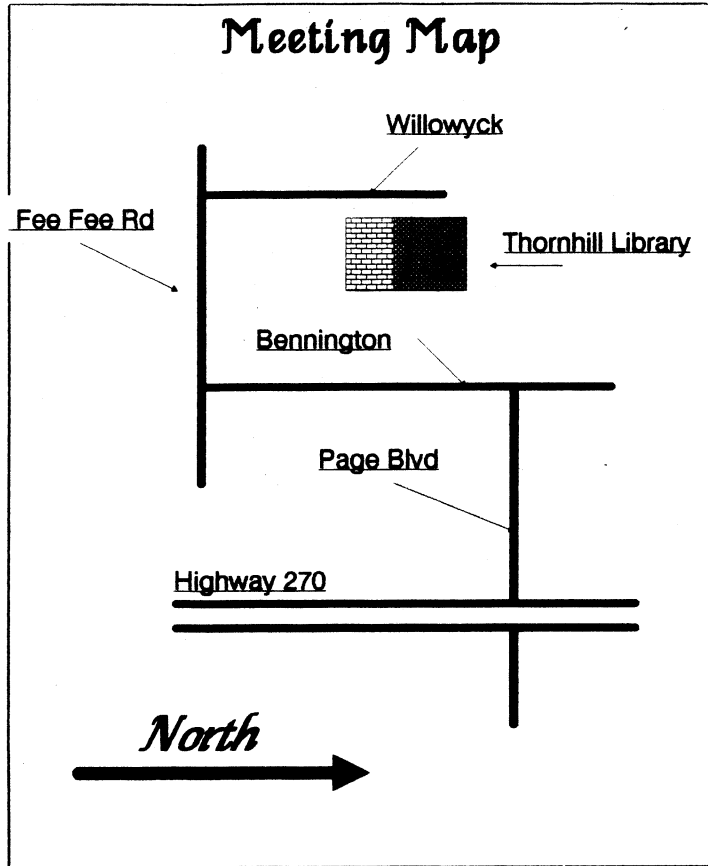
A.C.E. SAINT LOUIS USER GROUP

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Atari Computer Enthusiasts of St. Louis is a Not for Profit Organization dedicated to Improving the knowledge of Atari Computer Owners. We are looking for others with the same interest. The dues structure covers expenses incurred for the monthly newsline and other club benefits. Dues are prorated beginning in January starting at $25 on January 1st and dropping by $2 for each month.

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City: _____State: _____ Zip _____

Telephone: (   )   -   -

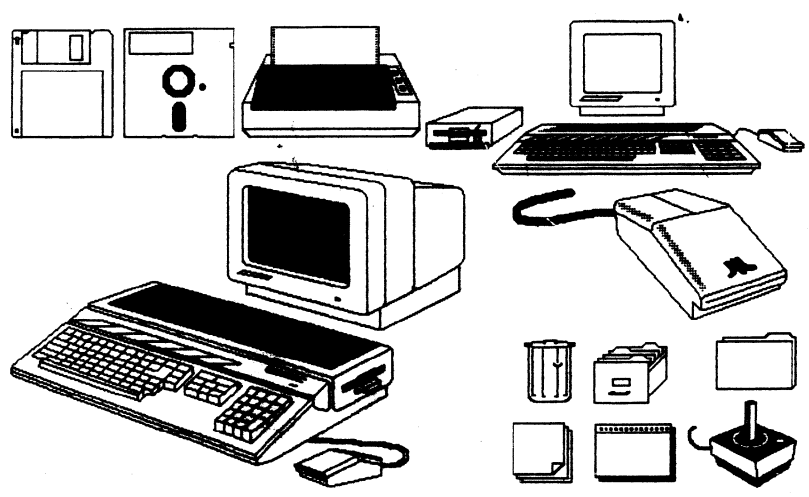## Mail to: ACE St. Louis – P.O. Box 6783, St. Louis, MO 63144

Meeting Map

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Bennington

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Highway 270

North

From:
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PO BOX 6783
ST LOUIS, MO 63144

TO:

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Florissant, MO 63031

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A.C.E.
St Louis
Newsline
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