

XIO3 GCACE

Garden City Atari Computer Enthusiasts

1003 Amphion St. Victoria, B.C. Canada V8S 4G2

WINTER 2000

ATARI News and Rumours

by Rowland Grant

The internet has become rather prominent in the news recently.

Internet based companies seem to be the darlings of Wall Street, and their stock prices are at dangerous highs. Some investors believe that this is the big industry of the future. The question is, how does an Atari computer user get on the internet? A good question which I decided to avoid. Last summer I was given a Centris 610 Macintosh. It is about seven years old. The CPU was upgraded to a 33Mhz 68040 and the memory is maxed out at 68MB. The motherboard is surprisingly small, the hardware layout is simple. It is the kind of computer that Atari could have made seven years ago, but didn't. The Centris handles the internet quite well, and I am content to let it do so. Apple itself supplies the essential network connecting programs, and the popular browsers, Netscape Navigator or Internet Explorer, are now free. The web browsers will get you to web sites and will display what you may find there. Special software is required to send e-mail, to send and receive files or handle newsgroups.

A parallel development has taken place in the Atari world. However it has involved a handful of individuals, and theirs is mostly a part-time effort I sus-

pect. At present there are three commercial packages that try to provide all the needed net manipulating tools. An internet package called Draconis Pro 1.63 is available in Germany. The package provides the necessary internet connection software and includes the web browser Adamas. Alas, according to all reports, Draconis has not been performing up to expectations. After three years of development this software still tends to be unstable and slow.

Swap & Shop

The February 24 general meeting will be our annual swap and shop. Bring all the hardware and software you don't need anymore!

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Wensuite 3.30 is another complete web package published by Oxo in France. Wensuite has been developed incrementally over three years like Draconis. The browser is very fast and is integrated with e-mail, FTP (File Transfer Protocol) and newsreader software. However reports indicate that Wensuite still needs some work. Judging from the intensity of complaints, Wensuite may have better prospects than Draconis. An English version of Wensuite is available.

Information on web pages is coded in some manner to create the display. The text one sees is usually controlled by HTML (HyperText Markup Language). The browser interprets the HTML instructions and creates the display. Javascript is another language that is now being used in web pages. At present only Draconis claims to support Javascript. However, users report that the Draconis Javascript module does not work. I notice that John Rojewski has ported a Javascript interpreter from Unix to the ST. It works apparently, but since it cannot be linked into an existing browser it is not much use. At the Stafford show in Britain there was a demonstration of a new web browser called HighWire. It is very fast but incomplete at the moment. The best hope for a new web browser for TOS computers that can handle all the current web formats lies with ASH in Germany.

ASH publishes CAB, Crystal Atari Browser, which is by far the best web browser for the Atari. Version 2.8 has been released with associated software (but it doesn't handle Javascript). The complete internet package from ASH requires a multitasking operating system, such as MagiC, also published by ASH. There are rumours that ASH has a team of programmers working on a new web browser to replace CAB. Also MagiC version 7 will have built-in networking support which makes internet connections simpler. Earlier versions of CAB (up to ver 1.5) were shareware and are still used with public domain connection software such as STiK and STinG. I have seen CAB in action on a TT. It works as

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MEMBERSHIP

Membership dues are \$25 per family per year. Membership includes a subscription to this newsletter, access to a few hundred 8-bit public domain disks and 210 ST disks in our library and literally thousands of 8-bit and ST PD files on various CD-ROMS.

MEETINGS

Meetings are held in the Nellie McClung branch of the Greater Victoria Public Library at 3950 Cedar Hill Road (corner of McKenzie) on the fourth Thursday of each month. All meetings are at 7 pm. There is no meeting in the month of December.

EDITORIAL

W elcome to the new millenium! Who would have thought we would still be around with Atari computers in 2000 back when Atari went out of the computer business. Unfortunately (or perhaps fortunately, depending on how you look at it), we filled all executive positions by acclamation once again. We're happy to do it, but would like some indication of what the members would like to see demonstrated at our meetings.

The executive decided that the newsletter will now be a quarterly publication, making life a little easier for Rowland. This will also cut costs. The next decision the executive made was to change our constitution so that if and when GCACE is dissolved, we could designate where the money went, rather than having the Provincial bandits, er, I mean government, take it.

Gord

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Club Information:	Gord Hooper	475-0857
	Rowland Grant	598-3661
8-Bit Applications:		
Bellcom Disks	John Picken	598-2386
Programming	"	"
DOS & Operating System	"	"
Word Processing	"	"
Games	Ted Skrecky	598-6173
16/32 Bit Applications:		
Desktop Publishing	Gord Hooper	475-0857
Word Processing	"	"
Games	Ted Skrecky	598-6173
Telecommunications	"	"
TOS & Operating System	John Towler	382-5083
Hardware:		
Modem & Printer Setup	John Picken	598-2386
Repairs & Sales	Gord Hooper	475-0857
Other Computers:		
Apple Macintosh	John Towler	382-5083
Commodore Amiga	Ted Skrecky	598-6173
IBM's & Clones	Rowland Grant	598-3661
	Ted Skrecky	598-6173
	John Picken	598-2386

PEEKing Around

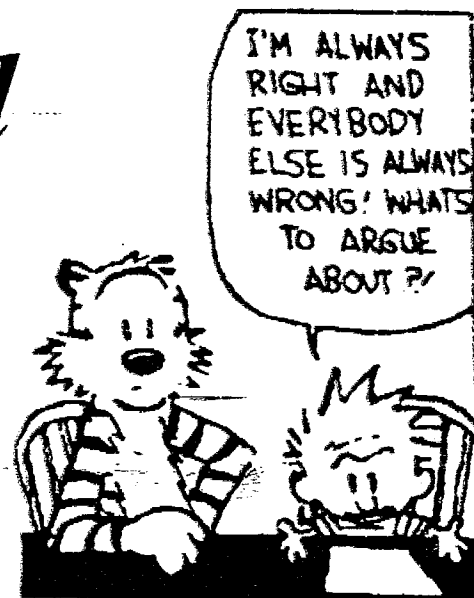
by Gordon F. Hooper

...I had email from DANE STEGMAN, our corresponding member from Akron, New York this week. He mentioned he didn't get his November/December newsletter and I informed him that was because his membership had run out. He apologized and said he didn't know. For the information of all members, your expiry date is shown on the envelope your newsletter comes in... DENIS BATE missed our January general meeting because he had a cold and didn't want to share it with the rest of us... MOEL BLACK tells me he is going to have to look after himself for six weeks because KAREN got a contract to design some web pages down in the US. I guess he's going to have learn to cook, clean, wash and mas..., no, he probably remembers how to do that... I got a copy of GEMulator 2000 from the internet, but it needs TOS.img also. Bruce FUNK was nice enough to bring me it on disk to the last executive meeting. When I get it up and running, I'll bring my Windows machine to show how to turn it into an Atari. If I'm lucky, I'll only have to use Windows 95 to boot the machine, then turn it into an Atari... Be sure and phone GORD at 475-0857 to give the lowdown on other GCACE members... Thanks to ARNOLD NAPP for all the jokes in this issue...

A college professor always started his class with a dirty joke. After one particularly vulgar story, all the women decided to leave the next time he starts telling a joke. The next day the Professor comes into the class and says, "Did you hear about the shortage of whores in India?" With that all the women got to their feet and headed toward the door. "Wait," cried the Professor, "the boat doesn't leave until tomorrow!"

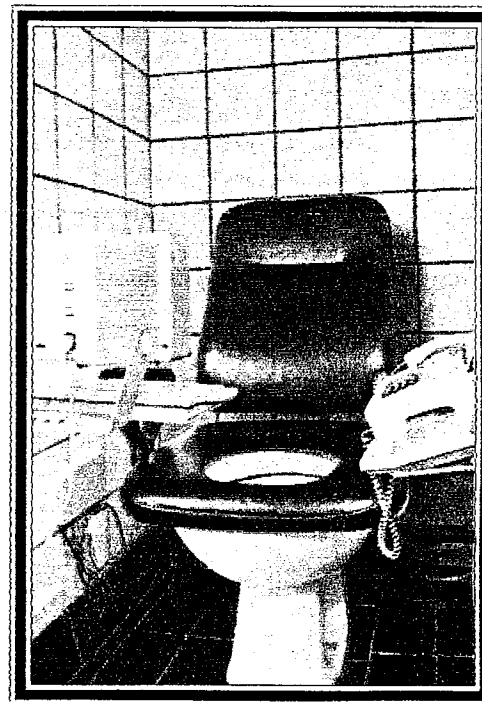
A few months ago, there was an opening with the CIA for an assassin. These highly classified positions are hard to fill,

and there's a lot of testing and background checks involved before you can even be considered for the position. After sending some applicants through the background checks, training and testing, they narrowed the possible choices down to two men and a woman, but only one position was available. The day came for the final test to see which person would get the extremely secretive job. The CIA men administering the test took one of the men to a large metal door and handed him a gun. "We must know that you will follow your instructions no matter what the circumstances," they explained. "Inside this room, you will find your wife sitting in a chair. Take this gun and kill her." The man got a shocked look on his face and said, "You can't be serious! I could never shoot my own wife!" Well," said the CIA man, "you're definitely not the right man for this job then." So they bring the second man to the same door and hand him a gun. "We must know that you will follow instructions no matter what the circumstances," they explained to the second man. "Inside you will find your wife sitting in a chair. Take this gun and kill her." The second man looked a bit shocked, but nevertheless took the gun and went in the room. All was quiet for about five minutes, then the door opened. The man came out of the room with tears in his eyes. "I tried to shoot her. I just couldn't pull the trigger and shoot my wife. I guess I'm not the right man for the job." "No," the CIA man replied. "You don't have what it takes. Take your wife and go the hell home." Now they're down to the woman left to test. Again they lead her to the same door and hand her the same gun. "We must be sure that you will follow instructions no matter what the circumstances. This is your final test. Inside you will find your husband sitting in a chair. Take this gun and kill him." The woman took the gun and opened the door. Before the door even closed all the way, the CIA heard the gun start firing, one shot after another, for 13 shots. Then they



heard screaming, crashing, banging on the walls. This went on for several minutes, then all went quiet. The door opened slowly, and there stood the woman. She wiped the sweat from her brow and said, "You guys didn't tell me the gun was loaded with blanks! I had to beat the S.O.B. to death with the chair!"

Below is a picture of my new computer room. As soon as I can get pizza and vodka delivered, I'll never leave it again...



a browser should, and could be quite impressive on a faster platform.

A faster platform is being prepared. The Milan II prototype was shown at the Hannover computer fair, and the production version should appear at the Cebit 2000 show in February when commercial production and sales may begin. If sales of Milan II are sufficient, there might be a future adaptation of the Milan hardware and software to the PowerPC standard. I understand that the Milan II will use the MagiC operating system. This probably explains the intense activity at ASH on an extensive upgrade of MagiC and new internet software.

There are still many commercial and professional users of old Atari computers in Germany. The biggest expense in moving to a PC or Mac is employee retraining and organization. This can be many times the cost of new hardware and software. The Milan makes it possible to replace the old Atari computers without having to change everything else, and unlike the Hades and Medusa, the Milan competes with the Mac and PC in price. One can see why Motorola and other companies are interested in backing the Milan. Also MagiC is a complete TOS replacement that owes nothing to the Atari and GEM copyright holders. MagiC could be promoted as an alternative operating system that uses DOS and Unix type file structures but rivals Apple's system software in simplicity, stability and power. ASH has become a major supplier of Macintosh software in Germany. It has the resources to support and promote MagiC as a general operating system. At the same time, there are rumours that LINUX is being compiled for the Milan.

The Milan computer is only available for sale in Germany. Unless the makers can get permission to use the Atari label from Hasbro, the Milan may not be available elsewhere. So where can the rest of us get a fast TOS computer for web browsing? The older TOS computers can be accelerated, but hardware modifications are not easy to find. I notice that Mario Becroft increased

the speed of his ST by using a faster 68000 chip and a cache. Using a 32Mhz chip might triple the speed. Mario says that if enough people are interested he might produce a simple ST accelerator card. Mario says he is now working on a more elaborate accelerator card that could be finished sometime this year. There are still rumours about a 200Mhz PowerPC upgrade board for the Falcon. Apparently Istari in Sweden is designing the board with a target price around \$600 CDN.

If the Milan II has good sales, other software producers in Germany are willing to jump in. Even now Epic Marketing is adapting Foundation II to the Milan, with more games such as Quake and Vipeout to follow. Also in Germany, Falke Verlag is adapting the software that will make it possible to transfer MP3 music between a TOS computer and a portable MP3 player manufactured by PONTIS. A light version of this software will be included, with drivers for other computers, on the installation CD that is packaged with the MP3 player. The driver should also function with MP3 players from other manufacturers.

Gemulator 2000, the ST/TT emulator is now available free from <http://www.emulators.com>. This is the full featured Windows version which uses all the regular PC drives or Windows drive containers. A Gemulator card with TOS chips is no longer needed. A TOS image file or a version of MagiC will suffice. Other TOS emulators for the PC abound, but Gemulator 2000 is now reported to be one of the best. Gemulator's creator, Darek Mihocka, works for Microsoft in the Macintosh software division. Darek's sideline company, "Emulators Inc.", also sells a Macintosh emulator (SoftMac) for Windows computers.

The first edition of *Atari Today*, a paper magazine, is due to be released in England in January. The magazine will be priced around 2.50 UKP and will include a cover disk and an optional CD-ROM. *Atari Today* will be a short format magazine of 16 to 20 pages. The magazine is currently soliciting submissions. *ST+* is the other magazine, and it will now be a bimonthly publication. Also a version of *ST+* in HTML format will be posted, possibly on (<http://www.stplus.org.uk>) for those with suitable

browsers. Mark Friedman has reported that he came across a web site devoted to the demised *ST Format* magazine (but he didn't give its web address). He reports that all of *ST Format* cover disks are available for download in disk image form. These disk images require the program STTODISK to recreate the *ST Format* cover disks.

Carl Forhan intended to release several games for the Jaguar. However game cartridge production is expensive, so he requested at least one hundred pre-orders before he went ahead. I presume that he was satisfied, because he has released the game Protector. The game is reported to be well turned out with a manual and coloured box art. There is no sign of the Atari name or the Fuji symbol on the box. Other obsolete Atari game machines are continuing to be served. The Lynx hand held game console still attracts an occasional new game. Also the Atari 7800 game machine is still being used, at least by collectors. The 7800 has its own cartridges, and also plays game cartridges meant for the old Atari 2600 video game system. Video 61 has announced that it has the rights to the rare 7800 monitor cartridge used to develop games for the 7800. If there is sufficient demand, the 7800 video cartridge will be produced again. Playstation Power magazine in the UK is giving away back packs with the Atari logo on it. This is a promotion of Atari labelled Hasbro games for the Playstation. The Atari symbol as used by Hasbro is reported to be badly proportioned.

DOOM for TOS computers is being developed slowly by Patrice Mandin. He has produced a software engine that uses game data files available for other computers. There are more reports of successes on the Falcon, TT and TOS clones as Patrice mops up the outstanding bugs. Arek Staworzynski writes that new Atari ST games are available from the Super Gau Collection in Poland at (<http://www.atarist.w.pl>). A few months ago Benjy Collins/Magic Online organized a contest for new versions of old classic games that would play on TOS computers. The first place was won by hardware expert Mario Becroft of New Zealand for his game "Orb". The first prize is software:

Annual General Meeting

by Rowland Grant

The general meeting in November had no feature demonstration, but there was lots of discussion, and the time ran out only too soon. There is no general meeting in December. The meeting in January is the Annual General Meeting. It was well attended, and the usual crew were re-elected to the Club executive, there being no other volunteers. As required by the Societies Act, the financial statement for 1999 was presented (and accepted). We ran a small deficit this year. At the end of 1999 our bank balance was healthy, more than enough to run the Club for another year with no income at all. While this is a comforting financial cushion, it seems somewhat excessive for a Club of 23 members. In order to rectify this, it was agreed that the annual dues be reduced to \$20, retroactive to July 1999.

Another item on the agenda was the disposal of Club assets if we decided sometime to bring the Club to an end. According to the Societies Act, as a charitable organi-

zation, we cannot distribute the assets among the members. However we can donate any remaining funds to another society. If this is not done, the Club's assets would go to the Provincial government. It was agreed that the government should not get our money. To avoid this, the Act requires that a suitable resolution or bylaw must be passed by the members.

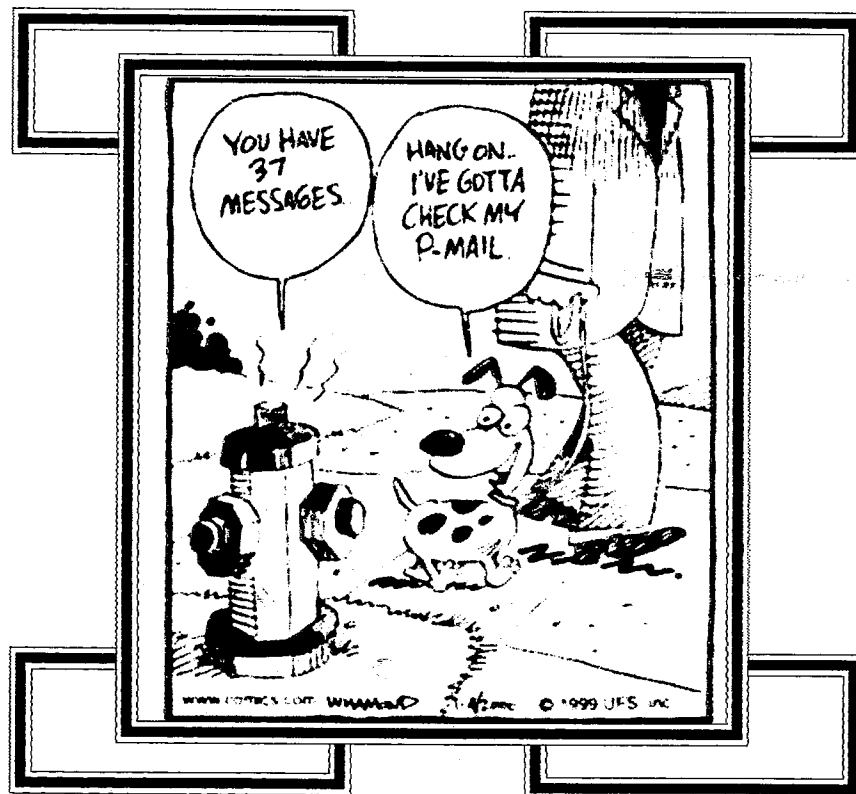
The following motion was accepted unanimously: Upon the winding up and dissolution of Garden City ACE Club, the executive shall donate all the remaining assets of this society to another society of their choice.

There was some discussion about the nature of the other society. It was felt that the Victoria FreeNet, another computer club or educational society would be appropriate. It may be advisable to place this resolution in our bylaws. Approval by 75 percent of the membership is required to amend the bylaws. This matter could be

taken to the membership again at a later date. It was pointed out that the bylaws of the Macintosh Users Group contains a winding up provision. All this does not mean that we are about to dissolve our Club. Rather, like a last will and testament, the resolution is only a precaution.

The Club executive is little changed from last year. President and Editor is Gordon Hooper, Vice President is John Picken, Secretary is Rowland Grant, Treasurer is John Towler, Librarians are Ted Skrecky and Cliff Bouvette, Directors are Bruce Funk, George Rose and Noel Black.

It has been taking longer recently to get the newsletter published. There is less news, and sometimes less energy. This matter was considered by the executive committee. Perhaps a quarterly, rather than a bimonthly newsletter would be more sustainable (and less costly). We will see how a quarterly publication works out.



Humour Page

Wonder if he enjoyed it?

A truck driver was pulled over by a State Trooper. The patrolman told him to get out of the truck, and noticed that the driver appeared to be putting something in his mouth as he stepped out of the cab. Figuring that the driver was putting away his pep pills, the patrolman asked "Did I just see you swallow something?" "Yep, that was my birth control pill," said the driver. "Birth control pill?" asked the patrolman. "Yep, when I saw your flashing light, I knew I was screwed."

The Mighty Hunter

A guy went out hunting one day. He had all the gear, the jacket, the boots and the double-barreled shotgun. As he was climbing over a fence, he dropped the gun and it went off, right on his penis. He went to the doctor and got put under the gas. When he woke up, he found that the doctor had done a marvelous job repairing it. When he was ready to go home, the doctor gave him a business card. "This is my brothers card. I'll make an appointment for you to see him." The guy says "Is your brother a doctor too?" The doc replies "No, he plays the flute. He'll show you where to put your fingers so you don't piss in your eye."

12 Things Not To Say To A Cop

1. I can't reach my license unless you hold my beer. (OK in Texas)
2. Sorry, Officer, I didn't realize my radar detector wasn't plugged in.
3. Aren't you the guy from the Village People?
4. Hey, you must've been doin' about 125 mph to keep up with me. Good job!
5. Are You Andy or Barney?
6. I thought you had to be in relatively good physical condition to be a police officer.
7. You're not gonna check the trunk, are you?
8. I pay your salary!
9. Gee, Officer! That's terrific. The last officer only gave me a warning, too!

10. Do you know why you pulled me over? Okay, just so one of us does.

11. I was trying to keep up with traffic. Yes, I know there are no other cars around. That's how far ahead of me they are.

12. When the Officer says "Gee Son . . . your eyes look red, have you been drinking?" You probably shouldn't respond with, "Gee Officer your eyes look glazed, have you been eating doughnuts?"

Arrogant Americans

This purports to be the transcript of the ACTUAL radio conversation of a US naval ship with Canadian authorities off the coast of Newfoundland in October, 1995. Radio conversation released by the Chief of Naval Operations 10-10-95.

Canadians: Please divert your course 15 degrees South to avoid a collision.

Americans: Recommend you divert your course 15 degrees North to avoid a collision.

Canadians: Negative. You will have to divert your course 15 degrees South to avoid a collision.

Americans: This is the Captain of a US Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.

Canadians: No. I say again, you divert YOUR course.

Americans: THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS LINCOLN, THE SECOND LARGEST SHIP IN THE UNITED STATES' ATLANTIC FLEET. WE ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THREE DESTROYERS, THREE CRUISERS AND NUMEROUS SUPPORT VESSELS. I DEMAND THAT YOU CHANGE YOUR COURSE 15 DEGREES NORTH, I SAY AGAIN, THAT'S ONE FIVE DEGREES NORTH, OR COUNTER-MEASURES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THIS SHIP.

Canadians: This is a Canadian lighthouse. Your call!

The Gates Of Heaven

A young female teacher was giving an as-

signment to her Grade 6 class one day. It was a large assignment so she started writing high up on the chalkboard. Suddenly there was a giggle from one of the boys in the class. She quickly turned and asked, "What's so funny Pat?" "Well teacher, I just saw one of your garters." "Get out of my classroom," she yells, "I don't want to see you for three days." The teacher turns back to the chalkboard. Realizing she had forgotten to title the assignment, she reaches to the very top of the chalkboard. Suddenly there is an even louder giggle from another male student. She quickly turns and asks, "What's so funny Billy?" "Well miss, I just saw both of your garters." Again she yells, "Get out of my classroom!" This time the punishment is more severe, "I don't want to see you for three weeks." Embarrassed and frustrated, she drops the eraser when she turns around again. So she bends over to pick it up. This time there is a burst of laughter from another male student. She quickly turns to see Little Johnny leaving the classroom. "Where do you think you are going?" she asks. "Well teacher, from what I just saw, my school days are over!"

Only In America

Two immigrants have just arrived in the United States by boat and one says to the other "I hear the Americans actually eat dogs".

"Odd", replies her friend, "but if we are going to live in America, we must do what the Americans do".

Nodding emphatically, one of the immigrants points to a hot dog vendor and they both walk to the cart. "Two dogs, please", she says.

The vendor is happy to oblige, wraps both hot dogs in foil and hands them over the counter. Excited, the companions go to a bench and unwrap their "dogs".

One of them opens the foil and begins to blush. Staring at it for a moment, she whispers cautiously to her friend, "What part did you get?"

by Rowland Grant

Nir Dary reports that he has an adaptor to connect a PS/2 mouse to an Atari 8-bit joystick port. Moving the mouse up, down, left and right, creates that same effect as moving the joystick in the same manner. The buttons on the mouse act in the same way as the fire buttons on a joystick.

Ernest Schreurs has announced that a limited run of Pool Disk Too CD's will be available for \$5.00. This is a no-frills offer: no case, no labels and no special packing for shipment. The regular Pool Disk Too package is still available for \$20 US. Ernest also reports that he has written software (for the PC) that will convert data from cassette tapes (such as those used by the Atari 8-bit) to a cassette image file on a PC. The data is on the cassette as a succession of low and high pitched sounds representing the zeros and ones of digital data. This sound data is received by a PC sound card and saved as a .wav file. Ernest's program changes the .wav data to a .cas file tape image. I presume that by using SIO2PC one could load the data from a .cas file into an Atari 8-bit. And if so, it should be much faster than loading from the original tape. Loading Shamus or Caverns of Kafka from tape could take ten minutes or more!

Much of the Atari 8-bit news these days involves the internet. And where there are web pages, a computer of more recent vintage than the Atari 8-bit is probably needed. Nelson Nieves wants to attract Atari 8-bit users to Atari message boards on (http://community.celebritybase.net). The Atari messages are classified under Action!, BASIC and BASIC compilers, emulators, buy-sell-trade. He is inviting programmers to post questions and answers. William Kendrick has a specialized search engine for finding software and documents related to Atari 8-bit computers on the web. His search software, called XL Search has cataloged over twenty thousand Atari 8-bit titles so far. XL Search can be found at http://xlsearch.atari.org. Dan Noguero is

assembling a list of Atari 8-bit commercial titles. His list has around 1400 titles and is still growing. Kevin Savetz reports that he has received permission to put *Antic* and *STart* magazines on the web at (www.atarimagazines.com). He may also put *Creative Computing* online, but preparing *Antic* is taking most of his energies at the moment.

A web site well worth visiting is Curt Vendel's Atari Historical Society at (http://www.atari-history.com). Lately it featured numerous drawings of proposed 8-bit computers. Curt has spoken to many ex-Atari engineers. He asked them why there was no further development of the 400/800 line. They replied that there was further development, but it never got to market. In the Atari 400/800 computers the ROM and the RAM were on separate plug-in boards to facilitate future upgrades. For the next versions of the 400/800 computers, Atari engineers had created a new operating system and memory boards that would provide 256K of continuous useable memory. But these enhancements were rejected by management who believed that cheap closed-box computers with limited capacity would sell better. The next development took place at the Atari lab in Manhattan where the Atari 1200XL was designed with a parallel bus socket and an 8-slot expansion bay attachment. True to the closed-box concept, management in Sunnyvale removed the parallel bus, cancelled the attachment, and made other disastrous changes. The resulting Atari 1200XL was not very cheap and didn't sell. It was quickly replaced by the Atari 800XL that did have a parallel bus.

Another early development was an Atari 8-bit assembled in pizza box shaped modules stacked one above the other. A sketch of this is on Curt's web page. One module contained the CPU circuitry, another the I/O circuitry, a third contained disk drives. This project ended when the head of Atari's Home Computer Division left with some of the engineers to form a company called "Mindset". So of course the Mindset com-

puter, an unsuccessful MS-DOS type machine, used a bunch of stacked modules.

According to Curt, Atari started its own semiconductor plant and had commissioned a 16-bit processor which would be similar to the Motorola 68000 but would be 6502 backward compatible. Then Atari changed its mind and sold the design to the consulting company. This led to the 65816, a chip later used in the Apple GS computers. One is struck by the enormous waste of time and talent at Atari under Warner's direction.

The final developments involved three projects based on the 68000 CPU. The most promising was code named GAZA. GAZA featured a dual 68000 multiprocessing system. It ran under CP/M 68K and used a chipset code-named "Rainbow" to create a high-end video processor system. The second project code-named Sierra used a 68000 and the "Silver and Gold" chipset. The sound chip in the set was called AMY, and during a demonstration it imitated opera singers, both male and female. When the Tramiels took over, they fired the entire staff of the Advanced Sunnyvale Research Lab where these developments were taking place. The new engineers brought in by the Tramiels couldn't get the AMY chip to work in their computer designs, although they tried for almost two years. The third project was code-named Mickey. This was the Atari version of the Lorrain computer which used the Amiga chip set. Atari had loaned Amiga \$500,000 to ensure a supply of these chips. When Jack Tramiel took over Atari and cancelled project Mickey, Amiga was forced to sell out. Amiga sold itself to Commodore.

Jack Tramiel resigned as president of Commodore because his board of directors would not take his sons into the management. Having money and time on his hands, he bought part of Atari. Jack had good relations with the technical staff while he was in charge of Commodore and many left

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Annual Financial Statement

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1990

INCOME

Membership dues	555.00	
Coffee income	24.05	
Bank interest	0.54	
ST+ sales	55.00	
Total income		634.59

EXPENDITURES

Newsletter	118.41	
Newsletter postage	152.99	
Other postage	11.57	
Room rental	235.40	
Coffee	20.34	
Office supplies	7.89	
Bank charges	9.80	
Societies Act	25.00	
ST+ printing	48.73	
ST+ royalties	32.00	
Total expenditures		661.93

SURPLUS/DEFICIT

Deficit		27.34
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ASSETS

Cash on hand	5.00	
Bank balance	749.72	
Prepaid room rent	235.40	
Total Assets		990.12

LIABILITIES

0.00

Rumours

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MagiC, NAES and Papyrus Office and other items.

While the world did not succumb to a computer glitch when the year turned 2000, a number of date-time anomalies have been reported by TOS computer users. A common complaint is that on the year rollover the computer's clock gave the year 2028. This was predicted a few months ago. The ST has two clocking circuits. They work differently. Depending on what clock the software accesses, a different date could be found. For instance, one person set the computer clock to the correct date, only to get year 2028 on rebooting. Yet most of the software he used showed the correct date. This anomaly is due to an error in GEMDOS in TOS 1.0x. A patch exists to fix

GEMDOS. Another report finds the computer's clock correct, but the file date stamp gives 1990 for the year. The addition of other clocking circuits can cause further confusion, even on TT's and Falcons. Computers using The ICD host adapter usually have an additional clock. This may have to be set separately with ICD's software. Then there is some software that sets the time and date without provision for year 2000. Superboot is a good example where the time-date option must be disabled. My Mega STE with TOS 2.05 and Neodesk 3 seems to behave properly. It set itself to year 00 without complications. I am using Tempus-2 text editor for this article. Its item selector displays the year 2000 for the current January files. So far so good.

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to join him at Atari. Commodore threatened to sue, claiming that the staff had taken the designs of its advanced computers with them. Jack Tramiel had Commodore in a bind. Losing its designers, the next Commodore computer would be delayed for some time. If Jack had offered a fair price for Amiga when it was available him, Commodore might have faded away due to lack of timely development. The lower priced computer market, split between the ST and the Amiga, might have fared much better with one computer supplying it: a computer using GEM and the Amiga chip set... hmmm. Hey this is an 8-bit column, how did those 16-bit computers sneak in here?