

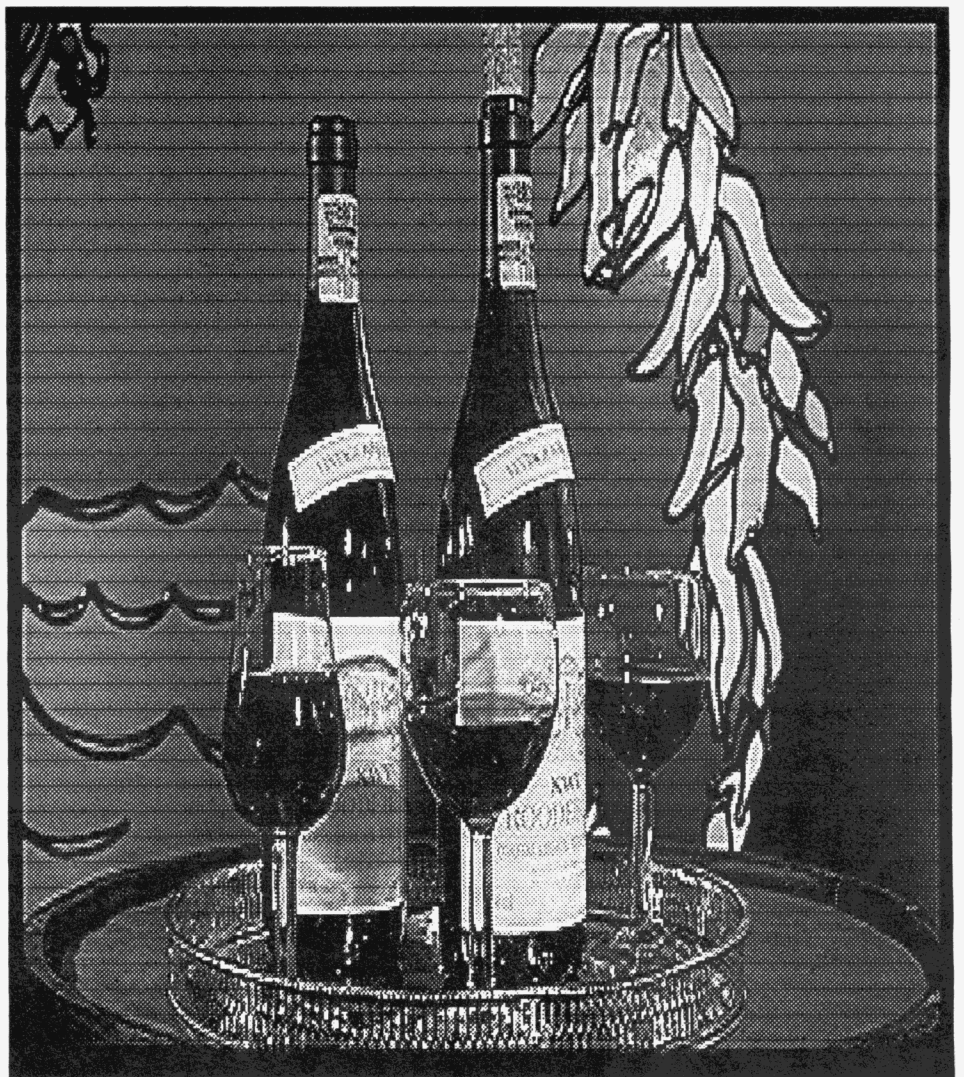
**THE UK'S ONLY SERIOUS CPC MAGAZINE
AND PREMIER CPC CLUB**

ISSUE 99

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APRIL

1996



***Charge your glasses as it will soon
be time to celebrate but will WACCI
get a telegram from the Queen?***

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- * The best magazine for serious CPC users.
- * An INDEX of the above from issue 1 - 96.
- * Telephone HELPLINE (indispensable).
- * Bargain buys/wanted lists from the MARKET STALL.
- * Discount off goods from advertisers.
- * List of PD discs, tapes, library books, services.
- * Above all the advice, assistance and friendship from other WACCI members.

BENEFIT list by Ernie (Wish List) Ruddick

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THE TELEPHONE HELP-LINE



BOB MOFFATT, 01994 453509,
Pendine, Carmarthen.
Masterfile III, Mastercalc
Qualitas and Protext.

FRANK FROST, 01983 882197
Isle of Wight, 4pm to 10pm
VDE, CP/M, Protext and
WACCI Services.

MALCOLM BRABBIN, 01502 716344, Suffolk
8pm to 11pm but not Saturdays. Basic programming.

IAN NEILL, 01926 337708, 6pm to 10pm, Warwickshire
Eprom blowing, Hardware, Electronics and more.

MARK STEWART, 01773 822599, Belper, 8pm to 10pm,
PAW Adventure Creator, Basic and general help.

NIGEL MELLS, *Has anybody got hold of Nigel of late
as I have had trouble getting him.*

MIKE LYONS, 01942 259942, Wigan, Basic, Stop Press
Dk'tronics Speech Synth and help with Dawn.

STUART GASCOIGNE, 0272 831361, Bristol, Basic,
Machine code, PD Discs 19 to 36.

JOHN HUDSON, 01484 423252, Huddersfield. MOII,
CP/M, Wordstar/Newword, dBASE, CP/M PD, CPC-PCW-PC

JOHN BOWLEY, 01733 702158, Peterborough.
PD/Book Libraries and WACCI OMBUDSMAN.

CLIVE JACKSON, Cobol, Basic, Bankman, Sorting,
File Handling and Applications programming.
37 Essex Road, Stamford, Lincs, PE9 1LG

NIGEL CALLCUTT, 01664 481705 Melton Mowbray.
Technical advice, hardware and CPC repairs.
Nigel is available 7pm to 10pm these days.

RICHARD AVERY, Tasword 464, GPaint, Another World.
35 Marlborough View, Cove, Farnborough, GU14 9YA

PHILIP DIRICHLEAU, 01522 511608
Powerpage 128, Gpaint, Tasword, Disc'o'Magic,
PD Utilities, Basic programming, the Star LC10
and Epson LX printers. 6pm 'til midnight.

NIC RAYNER, 0850 992747 (mobile) Manchester.
CPC Emulators on the PC.

NB:

*This help-line is provided on a voluntary basis by
club members to assist other members. Please call
between 7pm and 9pm (unless stated otherwise.)*

WACCI

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Owned By: *The Club Members*

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So here we are, issue 99, who would have thought it in 1986 when Jeff Walker first coupled with the CPC and gave birth to WACCI. But here we are and I hope you are all looking forward to issue 100 and the little surprises we have for you lot - can't wait - well it's only a month away...

BAD NEWS WEEK

I'm afraid we shall never again see Wizzard Games in the pages of WACCI because they have sunk without trace. I hope you haven't lost an order because of this as Wizzard Games were very reliable during their life but it seems no longer. WACCI purchased a few hundred ex-software house discs at very good bulk prices and we always had excellent service from them. So all I can say is tarra Wizzard.

THE CONVENTION BIT

WACCI 96 is now on the road and the date of the 29 September 1996 should be placed in your diaries now. Due to demand, believe it or not, the cost of a ticket is £2.00 and the booking office is now open. Please send (rush) your needs for tickets *asap* as only 130 are on offer. Remember that you need a ticket for each member of your party that attends. You should send your requests to me as Angie is still a little busy at present.

I look forward to the event as last years was such a great success. I hope to meet up with you in September...

ANSITERM UPDATE...

Cast your eyes back to issue #91, July 1995, and look out the article on Ansiterm on page 18 by Peter Campbell. Peter at the end of his review stated

that the source code for the program would be available soon and that he wanted help improving it. Well soon has now arrived and Peter has the code. So if you think you could help Peter, or if you just fancy a look at it, then send Peter TWO D20 formatted 3.5 inch discs (a jiffy bag to hold them makes a lot of sense), a SAE C4 envelope (takes an A4 page unfolded) addressed and stamped to the value of 75p and stamps to the value of £1.00 to cover photocopying charges.

HOW CAN I SAY THIS?

Some of you will already have seen page one and spotted a difference. Please do turn back a page and look at the price of your WACCI - yep £2.00 but who is to blame? Well you could blame me but I'll lay the odd (?) fact on you at this point.

It was February 1990, issue 40 in fact, that the price of WACCI rose from £1.25 to £1.50 and that price has been held errr.. to now. I'm planning for the future and that means a price rise to ensure WACCI can keep going for ever... I can't promise more than that can I.

Whilst the cruel day isn't here yet were magazine costs exceed £1.50 per copy, it must be said that when it does it's no use me putting up the price then. Subscription renewals take

a long time to come into effect as those of you who have just taken out a 12 month subscription at £18.00 will know. I must plan ahead and I hope you will all appreciate that we can't continue at a price set in 1990. Six years have added to our costs and I'm afraid there is no more I can say on the subject except - *sorry*.

DO YOU KNOW?

If you have had problems getting hold of Sentinel Software then it's because Richard is at University but he is available at weekends for business.

Goldmark Systems have left the CPC scene, more news of their products next month.

UAUG - CPC USER

I have been in touch with Tony Baker from The United Amstrad User Group and it appears that their membership is falling off towards a level which is causing concern about the future of the group. Should UAUG fall then WACCI will convert any subscriptions into WACCI subscriptions for those UAUG members that wish. They are also prepared to hand over their book and PD libraries etc., as they will have no further use of them. I'm also informed that John Packham has resigned as Editor with no replacement as yet. It is a sad day that appears to be looming up for them. I hope they can keep going as the CPC world has shrunk enough of late.

Seeya all next month for the big 100.

COMPETITION SPOT

With: John and Carol Bowley
97 Tirrington, Bretton
Peterborough PE3 9XT
Tel: 01733 702158

Hi once again all you WACCI people out there. I don't know about you but I've had quite a good week. I've now got my very own CPC 6128+ up and running by the good grace of Nigel Callcutt <Thanks Nigel> and now have my own modest little station set up in the kitchen (that's so I don't burn the dinner while I do this). <Mind you that doesn't stop her burning the toast -JB>. Right that's it so on with the business. Don't forget to enter even if you don't know all the answers. <<Carol>>

FEBRUARY'S RESULTS

Well now was I flooded with entries or what! Here are the much awaited answers:

1. Steve Zodiac. 2. Zoe Ball.
3. 42 (Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy)
4. Stingray. 5. 49152 or C000.
6. Grows every year. 7. Rover.
8. Catherine Cookson. 9. Z80.
10. Lost in Space. 11. Superman.
12. The Twilight Zone.
13. Garry, The others are all Power Rangers.
14. Buck Rogers. 15. Digitalis.
16. The Master or the Daleks.
17. 116. 18. Victor Meldrew.
19. 55-84.

Question 20 was a ringer but you sent me some terrific WACCI sentences. I can't print them all unfortunately as there isn't enough room but Thank You to all who entered. Did you also spot the answer to question 17 at the bottom of the page last month? John told you of an update to the library at the same time as I asked the question; don't say we never try to help you now will you!

And the winners are:

- * 1st Colin Hazell *
- * 2nd Martin Bela *
- * 3rd Stephen Potts *

1st entry received was from Doug Webb.

Well done to you all!

And finally, I really must give a mention to Dennis Francis who sent me such an impressive piece of work.

Although he wasn't a competition winner, every answer was sent as a WACCI sentence ie Digitalis - Without Any, Cardiac Collapse Intervenes and Superman - Wretched Accident Crippled Cinema Idol.

The time and patience that it must have taken Dennis to do this is really commendable so I have sent him 1 PD disc for his efforts.

MEMBERS MENTION

This is a new bit that I've put in where I can say hello to a few of you who write to me.

If you want to get a mention then you know what to do!

Hello to the lovely Marjorie Houston, Bob you'll have to buy that PD disc after all! Peter Curgenvin, my goading works then! Joan and Jack Butler, how are the Stroke Club members and did they get any of these answers?

APRIL'S COMPETITION

Well after last months easy competition I suppose I should set you a really hard one. Well this one depends on how hard you class hard.

This compo was set by James Coupe who has earned himself two PD discs for his valiant efforts.

The following are all anagrams of a variety of persons connected in some way to our very own WACCI.

Have a go at unravelling them if you can, I'm sure you will not find them too hard but if you do - TOUGH!

Here we go then and good luck to all.

1. Invest toads
2. Dry Chair Rave
3. Our Hot Rack
4. A Pink Rear
5. Smoky Line
6. Whack A Gin Ride
7. Rogue's Gas In Tact
8. O! Glance A. O.k
9. Warts Marker
10. Sad Rock Video
11. Lowly B.O Race

That's it and enjoy yourselves.

PRIZE ON OFFER

This time it is a £5.00 goods voucher that has generously been donated by the lovely Angela Cook on behalf of Merline-Serve. There is also a catalogue so you can have a look at whats on offer. <<Thanks Angela>>

CLOSING DATE

As usual your entry has to be with me by the end of April. <<Thank You>>

SUPA DOOPA COMPETITION

As I mentioned in last month's issue, May's competition will be one to remember. You will all want to get in on the act and I've already warned my postie to expect a sackful a day so he had better lay on some extra workers.

Neither John nor myself are open to bribery (well, not much but if the price is right etc...) and neither will we be judging the competition so you can see it will be something rather special.

Not forgetting of course that it will also be WACCI's 100th issue so we will be in the celebrating mood and know that you will want to join in the party.

So if you want to get the best read around make sure you get your WACCI and check this space. Byeee. <<Carol>>

Fair Comment



PHILIP "Tigger" DIRICHLEAU
Ground Floor Flat
121 Ripon Street
Lincoln
LN5 7NG

CPM - IT'S MADE TO CONFUSE YOU KNOW

Dear Philip, As a struggling and confused CPC user I wonder if the sources of my confusion may be of interest to other none expert WACCI readers (if such exist).

First of all is the conversion and use of P D discs. I have managed to systemise P D 10 but have not yet found how to run it. I get the 2.2 and '>' cursor but how do I get a menu and instructions? After labouring through the manual I tried the TYPE instruction, this gives me reams of bumph but still no ability to run the prog. As you can see I have Tasword and so don't need to use VDE266 but I do need to learn to use my computer, a CPC6128. I know that Clive says phone him with problems but if I do that no one else gets the benefit of the solutions. Or the amusement of seeing someone else suffering problems, long since overcome, is missed.

My second problem is with PD9. I formatted a disc to Vendor, then copied PD9 onto it, but on trying to get the CPM system tracks onto it I keep getting the message "disk is data format". When I format it to System, it simply converts back to Data on copying. <<I bet you're using a disc copier and not a file copier -Philip>>

Has anyone experience of building the Rombox from Amstrad Computer User Dec 89 are their any mistakes in the article etc. I am about halfway through building one.

I have Protext, Prospell, Maxam and Rodos but I don't know how to address them, if the Rombox works.

I used the WACCI article on replacing the disc drive belt and, although that part works, the sensor or pickup now just buzzes backwards and forwards and fails to read anything (I'm now using a second 6128, small adds £20).

I tried to use the cheat from A A 116 to give my daughter extra lives in Fantasy World Dizzy but when run the screen just disintegrates. The Multiface instructions are no better.

Why is it that some discs wont read

or give "disc missing", wont format under DES or system disc and yet will perform OK with Discology?

Discology says that it can copy tape to disc yet it doesn't give that option in the menu. Does anyone know how?

Keep up the good work. The efforts of everyone involved really are appreciated.

Yours Faithfully

A F SIMS

Beckton

<<Hello A F Sims. First names please. With VDE, what you're looking for is a file that ends in COM, probably VDE266.COM. When you get the > prompt, type in VDE266, if that's the COM file in question, and press enter. VDE will then fire up. If I were you, though, I'd stick to Tasword (at least I didn't mention Brunword)>>

If you're using CPC+ on a 6128 then you don't really need to bother with Vendor Formats. Just fire up CPM from Side 1 of the Master Disc and then insert the disc you want to load the program from. Type in the file you wish to run and it should happily get itself working.

Rombox? No idea! Roms? Less so! Any ideas gratefully received for next issue.

I had a similar problem with one of my drives. It seemed to sort itself out with time, so I still have no idea what the problem might have been. With a read/write head going backwards and forwards like that, it normally means that the disc can't be read. There is a long winded way of testing the drive a little better. Save a formatter over to tape using the working CPC, then load it into the damaged 6128. There are plenty of BASIC versions around. Now, format a disc in the damaged drive and see what happens. It might just format and work very happily from then on. Why? I have no idea. It just works sometimes.

Cheat Mode, in WACCI? Sorry, I don't have that game, so I can't test the cheat, but if anyone wants to write in

with a working version, then I'll print it, but just this once.

I haven't got DISCOLOGY either, so I can't answer that question. Not doing very well am I? Sorry. We'll both get an answer from some kind person next month, I hope -Philip>>

CROWN PRINCE OF THE TECHIES

Dear Philip, hi, long time no write. Well it sounded good when I wrote it! Anyway I thought it would be time to write to WACCI with some information or waffle as some say. Can Paul alter my times to the original 7-10pm as now I am one of the x million so have more time but also two children who are easily awoken by the phone, so a plea to those who ring to keep within these times. However I can be contacted during the day (if I am home that is!).

As I have mentioned to Paul I have several projects to put into a "TECHIE CORNER" for WACCI, like a 432 serial port, 8 bit printer port for the 464,664,6128, how to upgrade a 464plus to a 6128plus. Also a new idea called the A/A switch, more on that in Techie Corner...

When I came over to your place I noticed all your CPC's connected in the most strangest of ways, how did you manage all that? <<How the hell should I know -Philip>> My setup as you know is a bit more spaghetti junction with drive leads and other wires trailing from every orifice conceivable.

My ProSpell ROM is gone to chip heaven after a freak attack of a switch which took it away from me, it works in a fashion that very odd words appear and letters of a foreign alphabet that are automatically inserted into the document, so please forgive spealing matuks. There again you might have passed it through a spell checker and corrected it by the time it goes to print?? <<Believe me, it will, I'm having to read this little lot -Philip>>

I see the new 1.9 version of the CPC emulator for the PC has been included

in the PD library, I did a modification to the installer program and added the 464 and 6128 plus emulations so it does all the CPC's now from the 464 > 6128plus. Sorry no Burning Rubber game though.

A little note for 464 owners who have wrote or phoned with an odd fault.. For some reason, after a time the machine starts to reset itself for no reason and later develops into constant resEtting on power up. I never come across this until my 464 started the above actions. After changing the master Clock chip, the keyboard chip(s) and various other components I was about to give up when I decided to check the BASIC ROM (40009). I disconnected it from the main PCB and tried another in ROM 0 on my ROM board. Success, it appears the ROM failed, so I fitted into the correct position and it is now back in service. The 6128 ROM may go the same way in the future??? If there is enough call for one I may be persuaded to write a text file/booklet with faults for people who like me are technical minded and would like to fix their computers themselves. Any faults and remedies they pick up along the way that are not in my writings they could send to me for inclusion and they would be fully credited for their notes. This is just an idea but who knows it may just be the start of a new publication.

Some time ago I wrote some software for a TAPE drive (ex PC) for use on the CPC. Problems arose so it was shelved, one being it took over 3 hours to format a tape, another 3 to verify and an eternity to find something later in the tape. It was a good idea but is there any need for 120 megabyte (246mbyte compressed) of storage space?

At present I am working on a new diagnostic ROM cartridge for the CPC range that fully tests the internal and external workings of the computer. Tests include RAM/ROM, Tape/Disc, Keyboard, Sound, Printers and other various tests.

So for those of you who thought I had given up on the CPC scene will be pleased to know I have been hammering the keyboard all the time I have been away. My B (and A) 3.5inch drives are in production again and anyone interested can contact me for a price

list of the products and services I can offer. I do NOT make huge profits most of the time, I just recover costs or at times run at a loss, not very good business but I never intended to be a parliamentary minister! <<You'd make an ideal Chancellor of the Exchequer -Philip>>

Edit this letter as you wish, if space is tight split it over two issues. For those of you who have sent me orders and heard nothing please contact me as due to my moving house certain things have gone astray. <<A bit like your spelling in this letter -Philip>>

Time to give the keyboard a rest and wreck yet another joystick on a few games. Why is it some say playing games relieves stress? What a lie. I spend more time shouting and on the verge of a massive coronary trying to out play the baddies.

On that lighter note I will depart from the keyboard. I will be writing soon as most of the letters I read are after some information which I can help with.

Regards
Nigel Callcutt
(Home of the Freddie Drives)
Melton Mowbray

<<Urn, yes, all right, what ever you say Nigel, bye Nigel -Philip>>

<<Hi Nigel, I and all WACCI look forward to the articles for the new Techie Corner feature. My copy of Prospell is called Frank Neatherway and it seems very reliable. -Paul>>

LORD MOFFATT OF PENDINE

Dear Philip, there I was, minding my own business, wondering what next to turn my hand to (the options were to do five jobs I had carefully put off all day or to do something useful like have another cup of coffee), when the peace was shattered by Mr Alexander Graham Bell's interruption machine. You'll never guess who it was, it was you <<It was -Philip>>. Feeling guilty I went of the defensive. Of course I had read your note in Graham Denyer's article on 'The Year 2000'. Yes, I had tried putting in the year 2000 on a PC. No it was the machine at work, you don't think I would risk my own after Graham's dire warnings do you? <<I shall refrain from the temptation to

answer, Sire Moffatt -Philip>> And yes, isn't it bitterly disappointing when the wretched thing continued to work. <<Devastating -Philip>>

Shame I couldn't answer your question - how to spool lots of large files in Protext to a printer and on reflection I'm not sure I understood the questions. Perhaps some kind member could enlighten me?

Bob Moffatt
Pendine

<<Salutations My Lord Moffatt, your humblest servant doth greet thee on bended knee and begs thine gracious forgiveness for confusing thee on such a wondrous day.

My dreams are shattered. I was looking forwards to the time when I could watch the clock go to midnight, take a single step beyond and then laugh outrageously at the idea of all those computers going into temporal meltdown. Alas, it will never happen, sad to say. My own PC (yup I have an old 186) did the same thing and happily ticked over without crashing. Sad, isn't it?

Protext and spooling. Right, this is what I want to do. Take four files on the disc and send them all to the printer, one after the other, without having to load, print, load, print, load, print, etc. Tasword will do it, but will Protext? Any Answers to Any Questions next month.

Fairwell Sire, thy ever faithful servant -Philip>>

THE DIRICHLEAU SECRET DISCOVERED

Dear Philip, I've a few problems which I hope some of my fellow WACCI'ites can help me with. Would you like to help me find out? <<Yup -Philip>>

Firstly, how can you sit down in the evening with a small, select band of friends, eat huge meals whilst drinking vast quantities of expensive alcoholic beverages and then dash out to almost avert World War Two, by saving half of Europe from sex-crazed dictators in far-off Caribbean Islands? Or is that some other Duc DiRichleau? If it is you may I say you certainly don't look your age. <<The things I do for WACCI -Philip>>

But, I digress (often). At the convention I met Andree Howard and several others and the conversation turned to Comms (gentle nudging on my

part, I have to admit.) with our Amstrads. Even after his help I remain a Comms Virgin, unable to work out what to do and how to start. Working in a financial void I cannot afford to buy expensive kit like Modems with guarantees and instructions so I bought a second hand MGB 2426D at the computer fair, (from a Welshman who has to be part of a conversation I don't wish to have) who assured me that it was auto-dialling and in full working order. I also have an Amstrad Pace RS232 with ROM based software inside and the WACCI "Comms Suite" PD8. Now what do I do? I've a telephone extension socket alongside of Arnold but even after reading all that I can find on the subject I still do not understand what to do to get me going. What messages do I need to send out? How? When? Who to? What do I say to any computer at the other end of the mythical, mysterious wires of the Internet (or in my case, OUTERNET!) Can one of our experts, please write a Dopes' guide to Comms, please, please and don't forget "I Know Nothing".

Next question but still on the subject of my Modem, if it is supposed to be working what wires should be connected inside on the cable to plug into the 'phone extension? There must surely be more wired up than two out of four, mustn't there?

Wouldn't it be nice if Peter Campbell gave us a nice user friendly DES interface so that comms could look like the versions on the PC in Windows. It would also be nice if I could make the Telephone Number section on the PD8 disc accept modern British (post PhoneDay) numbers with eleven digits, I might even get up and running then myself.

I look forward to meeting you <<You really are a brave chap -Philip>> and the other Wacky-WACCI'ites at Bescot again this year, (hint, put me down for a ticket, who ever is doing the list!) Hope all concerned enjoyed the ABBA Plus article and I hope those who didn't can be a little tolerant for those that did.

Thought for the day. Why do my short letters take up enough space for an article and my articles not? <<Do you really want an answer? -Philip>>

Your friend
Bill Mohan
Sutton Coldfield

<<Oh those Hoyo de Monterrey cigars, the champagne, the adventure. How I miss Curzon street and Cardinals Folly, but, I too, digress.

I know nothing about COMMS, I don't have a Modem and my phone bill couldn't cope with one anyway. So, I'm going to throw it open to the 'great' WACCI readership and hope they can give you an answer.

I liked the Plus ABBA switch and so did others I know of -Philip>>

I LIKE LETTERS LIKE THIS ONE

Dear Philip, May I, through your pages thank three members for their help.

I have been a member for eight months now, due in part to the demise of Amstrad Action and needing something to take it's place I contacted Peter Campbell. He explained a little about WACCI and promptly sent me a copy. After reading the magazine through I decided to subscribe.

One of the first things I made use of, as a member, was the book library. This brings me to John Bowley, the librarian who I telephoned to order a book. John was very friendly and helpful and it seemed as if I had known him for years. The book arrived within two days - brilliant service.

And finally the third member is yourself <<Me? What have I done now? I was saving the world at the time. Just ask Bill Mohan -Philip>> I had spoken to Philip before I became a member, via the help-line service and although he didn't know me from Adam, and regardless as to whether I was a member or not, he helped me with a few problems.

Since becoming a member I again had cause to seek Philips help. My wife makes wedding dresses and she needs to make a note of measurements against a picture of a female form. I sent a copy of my requirements and Philip promptly sent back an exact copy to run along with Powerpage on the CPC.

I thank all three members for their help and especially to Philip for the Wedding Dress programme. Its nice to know that even if your computer skills are minimal, there are people that are willing to help and not treat you as an idiot.

Once again many thanks
Victor Hubbard
Bristol
Sunny Avon

<<Dear Victor, on behalf of Peter, John and myself, you're very welcome. It's letters like this that makes some of the very hard work that goes on in WACCI all the more worthwhile. You wouldn't know it, but your letter actually arrived at a time when it was most needed -Philip>>

A LITTLE COLOUR IN OUR LIVES

Dear Philip, at last I have an opportunity to put something into the club. I have had a couple of letters published recently where I have been asking for help with printer problems, particularly asking if anybody knew how to get slash 0 on my Panasonic KX-P2135. An unexpected result of this was a phone call I got from Ernie Ruddick, asking me if I would be interested in writing an article on producing colour printing from Protex using a Panasonic printer, as he also owns one.

Well, I don't know that the world is ready for yet another printer review, all of which read pretty much the same nowadays <<Except if it's been written by Bob Moffatt -Philip>>, so what I thought would help Ernie, and any other members who want to use colour printing, would be a list of the control codes that produce the desired effects, so without further meandering here they are:-

27 114 0 will produce standard black printing; substitute 1,2,3,4,5 or 6 at the end to print in red, blue, purple, yellow, orange and green respectively. As there is no code for turning each colour off you must insert the code for the next colour required after using one of the others; for example, after printing some text in red you must select the code for black to return to normal printing.

Furthermore, shadow and outline effects can be accessed by using the following codes:-

27 113 1	Outline on
27 113 2	Shadow on
27 113 3	Outline and shadow together on
27 113 0	Switch all off again

These codes obviously have to be allocated into any spare places available in your control codes by entering the Setprint option within Protex. <<Or by using the embedded

Protext >OC command -Philip>>

As I mentioned in my previous letter I can't take all the credit for this because Bob Moffatt and Mike Lyons initially set me off in the right direction, but if this is of any help to other members then I will feel that I have finally contributed to the club.

Andy Moreton
Plymouth

<<Thank you Andy, for making me appear to be even more wonderful. Since your letter arrived, I've had two queries about colour printing and both were answered by reading your letter. Oh well, now my other secret is out. Back to the Caribbean Islands I suppose. Thanks a lot for the very useful information -Philip>>

THE BRUNWORD BOUT - ROUND 157

Dear Philip, some more about the Brunword debate. I've never used Brunword *<<You lucky chap -Philip>>*, but it was the comments Hugh Keir made about Prospell that interested me. A dinosaur it may be and it takes its time with the (L)ook facility, but I've only just got a copy (on rom) for the first time (having used PowerSpell from one of the last Amstrad Action tapes before this, and for a brief time the excellent I-Spell (until I accidentally wiped the disc it was on) and I rather like it.

I don't think there's anything wrong with it bearing in mind it runs on a 64k machine and was programmed back in the days when any kind of spell-checker on a home computer (we called them micros back then) was a bit of a novelty. The constant disc accessing is because the disc is effectively an extra 178k of RAM. Whether we like it or not, there are only so many words than can be shoe-horned into 128k and a spell-checker worth its salt is going to need a dictionary at least as big as the 33,000 I have on Prospell. Oh, and Hugh, I must admit I've never spell-checked an 8 or 10 page essay, but I have quite happily used Prospell it on a 70,000 word novel without cursing too many times *<<What 70,000 word novel might that be -Philip>>* I know its not like a state of the art piece of PC software, but it works, is possibly a bit cranky and you might join me in admitting these are two of

the best qualities any piece of software can have. *<<I agree -Philip>>*

By the way, and still on Prospell, did I see a small add in, I think, Amstrad Action some time ago, with someone selling Prospell-compatible dictionaries on high capacity discs and having a dictionary of 80,000 words, and if I did can someone point me in the right direction? Or was I dreaming? Perhaps.

Next point. Should WACCI try to replace the late lamented Amstrad Action? The trouble with that magazine (and I took it from about issue 17) was that it had endless series on Machine Code and basic programming, all starting a course and few of them finishing it. The new feature Exercise Your Fingers might help fill a void, though AA stopped printing Type-In programs some time before its demise. But if part of the programs in EYF were looked at in detail by Clive or any other saint, that might be more helpful than anything. You see, it's easy to criticise the contents of WACCI but it works. As I said, I took AA for years and was never quite sure about second drives and side and ABBA switches, certainly not confident enough to risk the insides of my precious CPC, then I started subscribing to WACCI about a year ago when Paul made the offer that drew many of us down the true path to righteousness, and straight away, within a month, I was confident enough to fit a second drive (3.5 inch) with its accompanying switches.

Right. I remember thinking of a few more points I might make, but since reaching Graham Denyer's article in issue 98 I'm scared witless about the year 2000 and everything else has gone! I was going to thank Ernie Ruddick for his help and advice and express joy at the service of Merline-Serve, but why should I use your valuable column inches for my own personal messages? *<<Why not, everyone else does -Philip>>*

Yours etc
Peter Rogerson
Nottingham

<<Wasn't I-SPELL a wonderful spell checker, before you erased it. I would never do anything like that. I think that I-SPELL is the best thing since sliced bread and that every single CPC

system should have it permanently installed. Hey Paul, can I have a raise now? <<Maybe - Paul>>

The main problem with ProSpell is the dictionary speed. Can anyone out there find a way of installing it onto a Silicon Disc, or a 256k memory expansion. That would make it go at hyperspeed I think. I've looked through my old AA's, and I can't find any reference to Large Format dictionaries. If I'm wrong, then I'll know it within a few days of this WACCI coming out -Philip>>

THE EVER WONDERFUL.....

Dear Philip, I have been wanting to write to you for a long time to say how much I enjoy reading Johns WACCI every month. After I've checked how the competition page looks in proper print I always turn to your page to see what's been said about what. I am not interested in anything technical as I have no idea on the workings of our faithful CPC only that it completes the tasks I give it without question (well most of the time). I will also sing the praises of Protext without which I would not be able to function.

What has prompted me to write at last is the issue of censorship. I think you are right to print full, uncensored letters as members might complain if you were discovered censoring them so as not to cause offence to others or because you personally did not like or agree with what they had written. I feel this in turn may lead you to having to print the full version anyway as members may demand from you an explanation for censorship.

I think you and everyone else who bring WACCI to life do a wonderful job and I know I can speak for John too on this. It takes a lot of extremely hard work and many hours of thought and patience to produce even a small piece of work so keep it up all of you. Lastly I must say I like the new WACCI logo and I know it saves Paul a lot of valuable printing time.

Sorry to have droned on Philip but I wanted to let you know I'm in your corner. Oh and by the way, I have now taken to referring to John as HRH!!

Cheerio for now
Carol Bowley
Mrs Hairy Red Hamster!!!!

<<Dearest Carol. Censorship. Ugly word isn't it. Personally, I hate most forms of censorship (there are the obvious exceptions), and I don't really feel that I should cut letters. However, there are times when a little trim here and there might solve a lot of problems, so, hateful as it might be, I'm going to have practice such a fine art.

Another however. I shall NOT be trimming any letter just because it has a view I don't agree with. Swearing is out, as always, as are personal attacks (except those against Paul or myself since we get the last word and no one can win because of it). That is the ONLY censorship that might appear and then, it's only going to be might.

It is nice to be appreciated sometimes. Before I started doing Fair Comment, I really had no idea just how much work goes on behind the scene of WACCI. Now I know and, at times, it can be pretty exhausting. At least it's fun, or we wouldn't do it in the first place. In case anyone was wondering, this months Fair Comment had taken me roughly 20 hours to do, including research, grammar and spell checking. If anyone thinks that's a lot, just imagine what Paul has to go through each month.

You haven't droned on, dear Carol, a letter from your hand is always a blessed thing (I think I'm slowly start to lose it here) -Philip>>

NO PLUGS - AMAZING

Dear WACCI, I thought I would enter myself into the Word Processing debate that Philip so delicately exploded into last issue. My personal opinion is that Protext does have a slight edge over Tasword and BrunWord <<Only a slight edge? -Philip>> and I say that, ashamedly, as someone who was dragged screaming and kicking from Mini Office Two many years ago (the confession is out, my only excuse is that I was young and impressionable). BrunWord does have excellent spell checking facilities, far superior to any CPC word processor I have seen but I feel that is it's saving grace. Infoscrypt is a good idea and quite well implemented, but I am unsure of how needy it is, when attached to a word processor, to the general population. Tasword is also an

excellent word processor; it is very easy to use and extremely friendly, but the spell checker is the worst I have ever seen on any machine. I hasten to add, the best word processor is the one you know.

I was lucky enough to obtain the last version of Protext for the PC not long before Arnor sadly demised. This has an excellent spell checker on it which is greatly advanced from earlier versions. Before Arnor ceased trading a version of Protext for the Windows environment was being worked on. I think one of the reasons Arnor was forced to close was because they did not charge exorbitant amounts for the friendly and extremely helpful advice they gave and services they offered. I also have the latest update of BrunWord PC (version 4 I think), which is very similar to the CPC version. To be blunt, I have since wiped it from my hard drive. Whilst on the subject of PC's, I found Graham Denyer's article on the year 2000 very interesting so I tried changing the date on my PC and there was no problem. Everything came up with the year 2000 just fine.

My last point concerns Hugh Keir's attack Philip (Sorry I missed you and your knuckles at the convention Hugh, I was extremely busy - I hope to see you at the next one though). Philip works extremely hard, he does far more work than anyone can see through the pages of WACCI and is the last person I would call an enemy of the CPC. I know the vast majority appreciate the effort put into WACCI and the working of the CPC in general, but few realise the actual time, energy and money it takes for all involved (Paul, Jennie, Angie, Ron, John, Carol, Philip, Peter, Dave, my father and countless others) to continue the support now on offer. Everybody involved with WACCI does far more than anyone will ever know or give them credit for.

Angela Cook
West Sussex

P.S. Good luck to Jennie as Philip's new work-horse and well done to Philip for being so successful with Fair Comment, Mike Lyons' footsteps can't be easy to follow.

<<Hi there Angela. I think I have to disagree with the statement that the

best Word Processor is the one you know. I used Tasword for many years, right up until I started doing Fair Comment. I only switched to Protext to make me more compatible to the rest of the team. I didn't know Protext at all, but after a quick play, I was convinced that it was better than Tasword, which I knew very well.

Did Huge Keir attack me? I didn't notice. I think I attacked him a little. It was outrageously funny when I read that comment which, I think, was the context it was meant in. Oh yes, if Huge is reading this bit, I only think I'm wonderful because every else keeps telling me I am, so, who am I to disagree with them -Philip>>

SHE ART BACK AGAIN

Dear Philip, thank you for printing my letter in this months issue of WACCI. <<You're very welcome -Philip>>

I thought I would write to let you know that after I had sent my letter off to you, I was reading through February's issue of WACCI and saw that Doug Webb was selling OCP Advanced Art Studio, so I telephones him, left a message on his answering machine to ask if he still had got it? He telephone me back to say he had, so I sent a cheque by return and a day or so later it arrived.

The day the OCP AAS arrived, I followed the instructions and made a couple of copies of the master, then I had a quick go with it. I managed to draw this Micky Mouse looking creature with one ear much larger than the other <<You've met Paul then have you Susan -Philip>> and print it.

However, when my Husband and two sons arrived home and saw that I had produced, they started to play around with it. Well, I couldn't believe just how versatile this art package can be. In fact, eldest son <<you're not related to Lord Moffatt by any chance are you -Philip>> has produced a picture for the front cover of the Archery Society Newsletter, to which my Husband and two sons belong, for their Spring Issue using OCP.

So I was very happy to read in March's 'Fair Comment' that I had purchased the correct art package - but what is 'lens lock'?

Also, Philip, will you please say thank you through Fair Comment firstly to Nigel Callcutt for getting my AMX

Mouse to work on my 6128 plus and second to John Bowley for sending me a replacement HOMEGROWN DISC 7 which works perfectly. I have sent my original copy with the SYNTAX ERROR in 500 back to John for him to see for himself.

Yours
Susan Parson
Leicester

<<Dear Susan. I'm glad the the OCP Advanced Art Studio is up to scratch. It is a good little program isn't it. Not quite accurate, it is a very good big program.

Lens Lock. Not a pleasant subject. It was a method of protection that some software houses used for a while, which plastered a funny pattern on the screen which, when you looked at it through a special plastic lens which was supplied with the package, revealed two letters. These were typed into the keyboard and the program would run. That was the theory. In practice, lens lock was the bane of many a persons life and was hated by everyone because it never seemed to work at all well.

You've actually given me a chance to point out a slight error before anyone else manages to. The little patches last month were nothing to do with lens lock, they were to do with the Password System that AAS used for a while. There, beat you all to it.

Thanks Nigel, thanks John, you are both very wonderful -Philip>>

NO DIP LEFT MOTHER

Dear Paul, can you help me with the DMP 4000 printer. I picked up a second hand DMP 4000 but no manual. It works fine but I would like to know what the dip switches do etc.

Can you help or do you know anyone that can lend me one? Yours sincerely
Eric Morris
Kent

<<Hi Eric. Hopefully someone will be able to lend you one. I've never come across a DMP4000 yet, so I don't know what the switches are like. They may be the same as the other DMP series, in which case, someone will let me know. If anyone does have a DMP4000 manual they could lend to Eric for a couple of weeks, could you send it to me and I'll forward it on -Philip>>

COLOUR PRINTING WORKS

Dear Paul, Just a short letter of thanks, via your good self, to Philip DiRichleau, who I spoke to over the 'phone last evening, Very helpful and obliging. Also to Angela who suggested I contacted Philip with regard to my problem.

I have typed this in to try out the information given to me by Philip with regard to the colour printing, I did as follows:

- 1 Loaded Mini Office II
- 2 Typed name and address
- 3 Typed in code number re Philip, press shift and F1, followed by 27 114 1.
- 4 Pressed Esc to call print menu
- 5 Printed out letter
- 6 The address came up black, the rest of the letter RED
- 7 I rather think I should have typed in the code instructions at the very start of the letter, which I will try now.
- 8 This has worked perfectly, my thanks again.

The start of all this was reading the review on the LC100 Colour printer by David Crookes, I did have an Epson LX400 which was excellent. I wanted to try colour, to date very satisfied, now that I understand how to get into the colour code. My thanks again.

Regards,
Tom Litherland
Bangor

<<Good day Tom. You want to thank Angela for suggesting that you contact me? Most people end up wondering what I ever did to her to make her suggest such a terrible thing as actually talking to a Philip DiRichleau.

Alas, I cannot take credit for the Colour Printing bit. You may have noticed Andy Moretons letter a few pages back. Guess where I got the information from in the first place?

I'm glad it worked for you though and, I suspect, so will Andy be. But, saying that, it is great to be appreciated -Philip>>

WHAT! NOT MORE STEP TIME SEQUENCING

Dear All, just a quick letter in the hope of mailing it into April's FC.

Firstly, since Christmas I have been writing a programme to play Advanced

Music System files independently of AMS. This is now with John Bowley, so it may be in the PD library soon, for all those who are interested. This means you will be able to listen to Rob Baxter's excellent music disc (PD 104 - 108) even if you don't have the Advanced Music System.

Secondly, I was the person wanting to know about the programming details for MIDI interfaces, so if Paul Hollinshead could get in touch, that would be great. What I need is a copy of the Foundation Step Time Sequencer he uses, so that I can hack in and find out how to use the MIDI interface. This will then allow new software to be written for these interfaces. I feel that a bit of hacking is justified now that the original makers of the interfaces are no longer there to give us the information. Since Paul has had a look at the WACCI Web site, he might be able to email me about it. Alternatively, perhaps you could print my full address.

I liked Richard Dobson's plea for a "Computing with the Amstrad" for the 1990's (issue 98, page 7.) CWTA was the first mag I bought - I have all the issues. It was particularly good for programming tutorials. I learnt machine code and CP/M programming from the CWTA series.

Lastly, do you think the WACCI World Wide Web site should be listed somewhere on the WHO'S WHO page, so that people can find the URL - if they need it? The main page has been accessed almost five hundred times already this year but I've no idea if anyone has joined the club as a result. Yours,

Matthew Phillips
78 Botley Road
Oxford
OX2 0BU

<<Greeting Matthew. So you're the chap at fault. I had John Bowley on the phone the other day and he kept ranting and raving about this program that played the AMS files. He went on and on about it. I think he's just a little impressed, don't you. I've yet to see it myself, but John has promised to send it up to me as soon as possible.

And I still know nothing about Step Time Sequencing or MIDI stuff or

COMMS, or....Go on Paul, I'll let you interrupt at this point, since you know an awful lot more about the rest of the letter than I do -Philip>>

<<Hi Matthew, regarding your questions about the WWW. I feel the WWW site should be listed in the magazine, did you send me the address? Have I mislaid it? Sorry Matthew - can you let me have it again.

To the best of my knowledge no new members or enquiries have been generated by the Web pages but that must not stop us pushing WWW. Did you have any luck with the WACCI logo and graphics I sent you? -Paul>>

DISC MISSING - MARBLES AS WELL

Dear Paul, thanks for the latest issue of WACCI and for all the hard work each person concerned puts into our magazine. If there's anything I can do to help, just ask.

The one thing I'm getting desperate for is another 6128 keyboard. I've written to Angie and she was kind enough to put my advert in issue 97 but I've had no answers to it. What worries me is that I have been getting more "disc missing" messages in the past few weeks. I have isolated some discs that just will not work at all, some work some of the time and some only that seem to work only when I've been using my computer for a while. It seems as if they work once the drive has "warmed up" - can this be right? Is my keyboard slowly dying? Is it something I'm doing or not doing right? Is it the fault of a few discs? Is there life on Mars? Am I going GA-GA? Sorry, I got carried away (One day it will happen Isobel). Seriously, I just do not know what I would do if my beloved 6128 keyboard died. I rely so much on my computer for my writing and I learn more each time I use it. So, please can someone HELP!!!

By the way, thanks for the type-ins page. My small knowledge of Basic is improved each time I do one.

Kindest Regards
Isobel
Warrington

<<Well Isobel, if you want another 6128 without a monitor, the obvious place to try, to start with, is Merline Serve (why do I always say that). However, don't give up on the

only one just yet, it might be just a worn belt playing up. Replacement is easy and there must be a member who do the task leaving near you if you don't think you can do it yourself.

'Mother', that's the 6128 I use to do all my WACCI work on, and an awful lot more as well, had a similar problem for a while, but it sort of cured itself. So, once more, I have no idea what what going on.

I like the idea of type-ins appearing on the pages of WACCI, but with a single reservation. I don't want to see several thousand rather useless graphical bits with second rate colour cycling like AA did so many of.

How's Rebecca Lee getting on. How old is she now? 5 months? -Philip>>

INTRODUCING CPC SOUTH WEST

Hello Philip. Following on from Peter Curgenvin's request for an article on other 'ZINES' that are available to CPCeers, and your request for those who run a 'ZINE', I thought I would go for a little plug here (as Paul states, one that has staying power).

CPC SOUTH WEST, which I run, has been going for nearly 18 months now and I will continue to keep the group going, with our own PD Library, for as long as it is supported.

How did we get started? Back in August 1994, being a reader of the now defunct AA, I couldn't see any name or addresses from my part of this septic isle. 'Was I the LONE AMSTRAD CPC USER?' I asked myself. I asked AA to put in a little article to ask if there where any other CPCeers here in the West Country who would like to start up a USER GROUP with me. To my surprise, there was. Our Peter was I believe the first to reply. Our membership at the time of writing was 65 in total, some of which are WACCI members like myself and NOT JUST from the West Country.

I first started to produce a monthly 'NEWS LETTER' that has now grown into a Bi-Monthly magazine. Please find enclosed a photo-copy of the front cover, I will forward a complete magazine for you to review in due course. The magazine is A5 in size and about 30 pages per issue.

The cost to become a member is only £6-00 for a years subscription which is six issues (we produce an issue

every 2 months). We offer a cover disc that includes PD. Games, Utilities etc, all for the same £6-00, (members supply the disc). Can't be bad eh! And PD from the library only cost 25p per disc side. We are a NON PROFIT making group.

Also as you will know, I am the 'WACCI' Homegrown and PD 1-18 librarian (see my address in Who's Who). I am just trying to HELP to keep these marvellous little machines going.

Best regards, in anticipation of this being printed in the next available WACCI.

Dave Stitson
CPC South West
4 Connaught Avenue
Mutley
Plymouth
PL4 7BX

<<I have received the CPC South West you've sent me and a review will appear in WACCI soon. So far, however, I'm disappointed in the response, since you're the only Editor who has written in to me. There must be more out there, so, if you anyone knows of a CPC related publication, let me know will you, I'll see if I can get a review copy out of them and tell you all about it -Philip>>

SAD NEWS

I'm afraid that news of the death of long time member Dennis Anthes from Dorset came this month.

Dennis was an active member within the club and most of you will know his name from FC. John Bowley has written on behalf of the club to his family expressing our condolences.

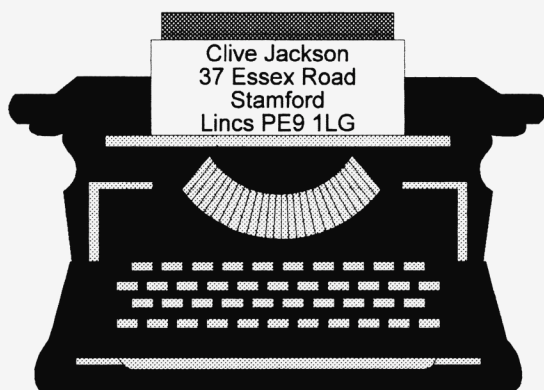
Paul

Merline-Serve

Angela has obtained some second hand CPC screens which she offers to members at the following:

GT65 (mono) £16 inc p&p
CTM644 (colour) £40 inc p&p

Brympton Cottage, Brunswick Road
Worthing, Sussex BN11 3NQ
Tel/fax: 01903 206739



EXERCISE YOUR FINGERS

With Clive Jackson

Once upon a time there was an international magazine called Amstrad Action. Like all other great things in life, it had to come to an end. My favourite column was called 'Type-ins' and would be the first section that I'd turn to. It gave me a lot of help and inspiration whilst I was trying to grasp the concepts of computer programming. The wealth of knowledge out there would never cease to amaze me.

COME ON YOU LOT

Many years on, I'm now a fully competent programmer. "How can I pass on my skills to others?" I thought to myself "Have a word with Paul and see if he likes the idea of a similar sort of column for WACCI." I did just that and after a lot of hard work and time, last month's 'Exercise Your Fingers' went to print. This month I'm afraid to say that due to the lack of support, the column may not run for another issue. Many thanks go to A Marshall who lives in Middlesbrough and Stuart Paterson who lives in Cleveland. These two people were the only members to submit anything.

It would be a great pity to close the column down but, as I said before, I can not continue without your support. If you have anything at all for me, send it in, I PROMISE to return your discs. Can you submit stuff on 3 inch disc or paper? I have no facilities to run 3.5 inch discs or tapes, Thanks.

DISC-O-TECH

This program is for 6128 owners. It's a disc organiser and catalogues, erases and renames files on any disc, drive or user area. Don't forget to run Type-writer from last month first, it will make life a lot easier.

```
{FxAs} 10 DIM file.name$(64)
{PoAs} 20 drive$="A":USER,0
{BsAj} 30 '
{NxAt} 40 quit=0:WHILE quit=0
{FlAl} 50 MODE 2
```

```
{OvDq} 60 LOCATE 1,2:PRINT CHR$(24);"
      Use Keys :-[C]=Cat [E]=Erase
      [R]=Rename [U]=User
      [D]=Drive [Q]=Quit ";CHR
      $(24)
{HrBp} 70 z$="":WHILE z$="":z$=UPPER$(
      INKEY$):WEND
{HuCi} 80 IF z$="C" THEN GOSUB 170:GOS
      UB 220:GOSUB 450:CALL &BB18:
{HnCn} 90 IF z$="E" THEN GOSUB 170:GOS
      UB 220:GOSUB 450:GOSUB 570:G
      OSUB 770
{JvCn} 100 IF z$="R" THEN GOSUB 170:GO
      SUB 220:GOSUB 450:GOSUB 570
      :GOSUB 840
{GkBi} 110 IF z$="U" THEN GOSUB 920
{CjBi} 120 IF z$="D" THEN GOSUB 980
{JoAv} 130 IF z$="Q" THEN quit=1
{FkAk} 140 WEND
{LvAj} 150 STOP
{FmAj} 160 '
{LvAm} 170 MODE 2
{KuCo} 180 LOCATE 17,1:PRINT"Insert Co
      rrect Disc Then Press Any K
      ey":CALL &BB18
{GsAv} 190 LOCATE 1,1:PRINT CHR$(18)
{BsAn} 200 RETURN
{NuAj} 210 '
{FsBs} 220 IF PEEK(43167)=193 THEN fre
      e.disc=178
{AqBq} 230 IF PEEK(43167)=65 THEN free
      .disc=169
{IuAo} 240 RESTORE 410
{GrBn} 250 FOR f=1 TO 64:file.name$(f)
      =SPACE$(12):NEXT
{IwBi} 260 file$=SPACE$(12):r%=0:count
      =0:t=0
{HuBl} 270 m=HIMEM:MEMORY &97FF:FOR f=
      &9800 TO &9853
```

```
{ItAx} 280 READ a$:POKE f,VAL("&"+a$)
{PsAj} 290 NEXT
{HpAo} 300 CALL &9800
{IjAn} 310 done=0
{EsAp} 320 WHILE done=0
{OlAl} 330 t=t+1
{MrAt} 340 CALL &9803,@file$,@r%
{PtAv} 350 IF r%=0 THEN done=1
{MsCu} 360 IF done=0 THEN count=count+
      1:file.name$(t)=file$+STR$(
      r%)+".K":free.disc=free.disc
      -r%
{BqAk} 370 WEND
{NkBo} 380 IF count<=16 THEN xcolumns=
      1:ycolumns=count
{FuBr} 390 IF count>16 THEN xcolumns=I
      NT(count/17)+1:ycolumns=16
{DiAo} 400 MEMORY m
{OsHx} 410 DATA c3,06,98,c3,16,98,cd,5
      7,bb,11,57,98,ed,53,55,98,c
      d,9b,bc,c3,54,bb,2a,55,98,7
      e,fe,ff,20,2b,23,e5,dd,6e,0
      2,dd,66,03,36,0c,23,5e,23,5
      6,e1,01,08,00,ed,b0,3e,2e,1
      2,13,01,03,00,ed,b0,dd,5e,0
      0,dd,56,01,ed,a0,ed,a0,22,5
      5,98,c9,dd,5e,00,dd,01,3e,f
      f,12,13
{LqAn} 420 DATA 12,c9
{OtAm} 430 RETURN
{AxAk} 440 '
{OrEv} 450 IF count=0 THEN LOCATE 1,4:
      PRINT SPACE$(79):LOCATE 10,
      4:PRINT"NO FILES FOUND UNDE
      R [USER:"PEEK(&A701);"
      ] [DRIVE:";DRIVE$;"]":CALL
      &BB18:RETURN
{KuAo} 460 x=3:y=5:t=0
{LwEm} 470 LOCATE 1,4:PRINT SPACE$(79)
      :LOCATE 7,4:PRINT count;" F
      ILES FOUND ON DRIVE:";drive
      $;" USER:";PEEK(&A701);"
      FREE DISC SPACE:";free.di
      sc;"K"
{EtAr} 480 FOR f=1 TO count
{EiAp} 490 y=y+1:t=t+1
{DnAx} 500 LOCATE x,y:PRINT file.name$
```



```

(f)
{FlAv} 510 IF t=16 THEN x=22:y=5
{GmAx} 520 IF t=32 THEN x=41:y=5
{FrAx} 530 IF t=48 THEN x=60:y=5
{AsAl} 540 NEXT
{PtAn} 550 RETURN
{LiAj} 560 '
{GxDr} 570 LOCATE 11,25:PRINT"Use Keys
:- [";CHR$(240);"] [";C
HR$(241);"] [";CHR$(242);"]
[";CHR$(243);"] Then [R
ETURN] When Done"
{BoAg} 580 a=3:b=6:t=1:z=0
{NoAs} 590 final=0:WHILE final=0
{PiBp} 600 LOCATE a,b:PRINT CHR$(24);f
ile.name$(t);CHR$(24)
{NvAp} 610 CALL &BB18
{LuCk} 620 IF INKEY(0)=0 THEN LOCATE a
,b:PRINT file.name$(t):t=t-
1:b=b-1
{GnCj} 630 IF INKEY(2)=0 THEN LOCATE a
,b:PRINT file.name$(t):t=t+
1:b=b+1
{IqCk} 640 IF INKEY(1)=0 THEN LOCATE a
,b:PRINT file.name$(t):a=a+
19:z=z+16
{LqCk} 650 IF INKEY(8)=0 THEN LOCATE a
,b:PRINT file.name$(t):a=a-
19:z=z-16
{FmAx} 660 IF INKEY(18)=0 THEN final=1
{CnBi} 670 IF b=5 THEN b=y:columns+5

{HtAx} 680 IF b=y:columns+6 THEN b=6
{MrAr} 690 IF a=79 THEN a=3
{IoAu} 700 IF a=-16 THEN a=60
{PjAt} 710 IF z>=64 THEN z=0
{HiAu} 720 IF z=-16 THEN z=48
{PkAm} 730 t=(b-5)+z
{BiAk} 740 WEND
{KpAn} 750 RETURN
{FwAj} 760 '
{AsAw} 770 LOCATE 1,25:PRINT CHR$(18)
{CmCp} 780 LOCATE 1,25:PRINT"ERASE ";C
HR$(24);file.name$(t);CHR$(
24);" [Y]=Yes [N]=No"
{CjBq} 790 z$="":WHILE z$="" :z$=UPPER$
(INKEY$):WEND
{LxAv} 800 IF z$<>"Y" THEN RETURN
{BoAx} 810 'ERA,MID$(file.name$(t),1,1
2)
{BkAn} 820 RETURN
{PsAi} 830 '
{NpAw} 840 LOCATE 1,25:PRINT CHR$(18)
{AuBp} 850 LOCATE 1,25:INPUT "Enter Ne
w Name";name$
{JjDx} 860 LOCATE 1,25:PRINT"RENAME ";
CHR$(24);MID$(file.name$(t)
,1,12);CHR$(24);" To Become
";CHR$(24);name$;CHR$(24);
" [Y]=Yes [N]=No"
{DrBp} 870 z$="":WHILE z$="" :z$=UPPER$
(INKEY$):WEND
{ApAw} 880 IF z$<>"Y" THEN RETURN

{LpBl} 890 'REN,name$,MID$(file.name$(
t),1,12)
{HjAn} 900 RETURN
{IsAi} 910 '
{JqAw} 920 LOCATE 1,25:PRINT CHR$(18)
{HlBm} 930 LOCATE 1,25:INPUT"Enter New
User Number";use
{FmCv} 940 IF Use<0 OR use >255 THEN u
se=0:LOCATE 1,25:PRINT"Out
Of Range (0-255)":CALL &BB1
8:RETURN
{FtAg} 950 POKE &A701,use
{AuAj} 960 '
{CpAn} 970 RETURN
{DmAw} 980 LOCATE 1,25:PRINT CHR$(18)
{FuBs} 990 LOCATE 1,25:PRINT"[A]=Drive
:A [B]=Drive :B"
{LlBp} 1000 z$="":WHILE z$="" :z$=UPPER
$(INKEY$):WEND
{AmBm} 1010 IF z$<>"A" AND z$<>"B" THE
N RETURN
{LkAu} 1020 IF z$="A" THEN 'A
{PxAu} 1030 IF z$="B" THEN 'B
{DqAg} 1040 drive$=z$
{OwAm} 1050 RETURN

```

So that's it for this month, let's hope the contributions start falling on my doormat.

Clive.



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JOYSTICKS

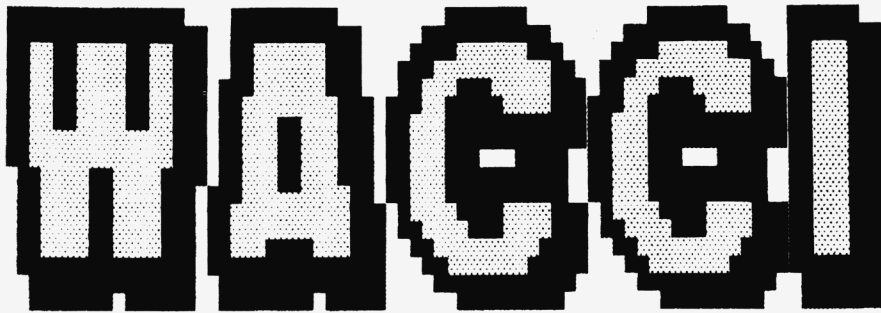
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GREAT



SERIES OF YEARS GONE BYEEEE...

FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE by Norman Buxton Pt 4

"NORMAL" NORMAN BUXTON TAKES US DOWN ONTO THE FARM

Want Another Ice Cream Tonight

(some more notes part 4 from one living in this green and peasant land.)

THE STORY SO FAR...

Norm, WACCI's intrepid secret agent has been requested to save the life of an immortal computer freak called Arnold, currently held to ransom by that infamous gang, AMICO. Norm, posing as a peasant, has been sent wearing only green wellies and carrying his electronic buttbox but reports back when he can in a form that looks like information on control codes. Now read his latest transmission...

DAY 93 - DEEPEST MACCLESFIELD

Silently, I inched my way through the kitchen door. In front of me, with his back towards the door, stood the perpetrator of the crime. Semi-crouched, I pulled my handcuffs from my jacket. Then, with one mighty leap, I finally arrested the one man who had masterminded the putting of lumps into custard for over thirty years.

Ah! There you are! That was just a sample of the exciting work secret agents get up to. But enough of this frivolity. I shall have to check whether you have learned last month's work. This once a month lark is just so infrequent that I suspect that you are not doing your practice sessions like you should.

TAKE THE CONTROLS!

Control codes are the ASCII values numbered 0 to 31. They are recognisable by the alphabet letter used with them, thus Control-A is chr\$(1), Control-B is chr\$(2) and so on. (They are actually ASCII numbers minus 64, so that the backlash (ASCII 92) used with Control produces chr\$(28) on screen in its code form. When printed to the screen, they produce effects similar to those available from Basic

programming but using a fraction of the space and finger-work.

UNFRIENDLY CODES

Up to now, we have used control codes alone for screen handling but there are some control codes that will not operate without further parameters. But (and I'm afraid it is a big but) although the codes are easy themselves to use, they are much more unfriendly if you mis-use them, as you'll not get a nice friendly message telling you what has gone wrong.

Instead, the system struggles on usually interpreting any available data in the best way it can.

Let's start this item with a simple pair used in the same way as those before. Control-B and Control-C which turn the text cursor off and on respectively. As you know, the text cursor is shown automatically when Basic is waiting for you to input instructions or data but using the codes above (just like using a CURSOR command with its parameters), you can display the cursor at other times.

LETS DEMO!

Have you ever looked at the demo prog on side four of your system disc? In

that demo, there is shown a spreadsheet look-alike which uses a cursor to show how and where the computer is calculating. If such uses are your forte, then Control-C will turn the cursor on, Control-B will turn it off again. The equivalent of a MODE command in code terms is Control-D, followed by a parameter value between 0 and 2. This parameter value, like any other, must be the ASCII value and therefore must itself be shown as a control code. However, there are big problems in persuading chr\$(0) to appear on the screen in code form. For this reason, the best way to produce mode 0 is to use a parameter value of 4 (Control-D). Since the parameter is read as mode 4, this then has the desired affect.

PUTTING PEN TO PAPER

PEN and PAPER ink values can also be set using codes. These are used in exactly the same way as we would use, say, PAPER 0 or PEN 0.

Taking PAPER first, this code is Control-W (chr\$(14)) followed by the ASCII number of the pen you wish to name. As before though, chr\$(0) is difficult to produce on screen and in this case, you can more easily use chr\$(16) as the ink number is read mod 16.

The PEN command (Control-0) is surprise, suprise, used in exactly the same way. You just follow your control-0 with an ASCII code between 0 and 15, again read mod 16 if the code falls outside these values.

If you wish to maintain your concentration for just another minute or so while I introduce one further code, we will then use them in

examples to illustrate the degree of space-crunching you can achieve.

Window commands are the next to be tackled. Pressing Control-Z will bring a bolt of lightening to your screen but also tells your CPC to look out for window dimensions to follow. At this point it is worth repeating that the parameters you enter here should be checked before use, as I have no knowledge of what the screen attempts to do if you try, for instance, to produce a window larger than that available in the particular screen mode.

What I can tell you is that you end up with rubbish windows if you dimension rubbish. One other thing to mention here and not documented anywhere, is that you should always specify the addressed screen when using this command. I mean that you should use the format:- PRINT #(<screenno>), "CODES FIT HERE" If you do not, then I understand that it defaults to #0 but you may not want the normal screen to be altered. It is just good tidy practice to specify it and saves the occasional clanger.

INTO ACTION

Let's put these codes into some example now to see how it all works. Find that original example we used for producing five-letter words.

We'll start by getting rid of line 10, which only cleared the screen and

which we found a much easier way of doing with Control-L.

Bring line 20 into edit mode. Replace tab(9) with a #1, which although we have not yet defined #1 is quite alright. We shall now enter some codes in front of the text but inside the inverted commas. I shall list them here in order together with brief reminder of each action.

```
Control-D Mode command
Control-A Set mode to 1
Control-Z Window command
Control-K Left edge at 11
Space Right edge at 32
(Space = chr$(32))
Control-F Top line 6
Control-L Bottom line 12
Control-X Swap pen & paper
Control-L Clear #1
```

Try running it now and you should find that screen 1 with reversed pen and paper inks occupies the middle of the screen from one quarter to one half of the way down. Note that the pen and paper inks are reversed before clearing the screen.

This little demonstration of the compact nature of control codes will either whet your interest for more or will kill it off completely.

I hope that you are still keen to learn more about these codes, since I think there are lots of useful spin-offs from their use.

CODES, CODES AND CODES

I shall mention just one more this month. How many times have you typed into a printer driver the ESC code (chr\$(27)), say, as part of a printer setting command. Well, you can now enter it as Control-[(first square bracket), inside inverted commas and save yourself a couple of skin thick-nesses off your finger-ends. Thus the command for emphasised text becomes:- print#8,"OE" where 0 stands for the screen code for chr\$(27) which cannot be replicated on paper.

I have given you a hard time, learning without any break this month and obviously things can only get better from now on, or so I shall let you think. We have of necessity covered a lot of ground that should be dealt with at one, otherwise the point of doing it may be somewhat obscured.

Signal falters... It seems like I shall have to finish now. Please pick up payoff at... (hiss)... at midnight the day after tomorrow.

Signing off now with the next pass-phrase.

Will Anyone Call Charlie In Time. Signal fading...

Yours unwittingly...

The peasant.

8BIT

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALL 8BIT COMPUTER USERS

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DLAN

By:
Cambell Systems

The Review by:
Clive Jackson

About 10 years ago, Campbell systems released DLAN (Display-LANguage) describing it as an eyecatching, electronic notice board. It's now Public Domain and can be found on WACCI PD disc No 86, here's the review...

THE SYSTEM

DLAN offers a variety of features including proportionally styled text which can be scrolled 4 ways. A cyclic action induces a polished and continuous display. There's an abundance of preset windows which can be redefined to your requirements, these windows can be enclosed using one of the many window frame styles which are available. Logos special characters and alteration to existing type styles can be achieved using the typeface maintenance program.

COMPATIBILITY

The system runs on the 464/664/6128 & the 6128+. Output is via screen, disc or the Epson/Gemini range of printers.

DOCUMENTATION

For the benefit of non printer owners (which has to be good news!), the whole manual (about 61 screens full) can be viewed on the monitor. A menu gives the options to view it page by page, go to a specific page and search out certain strings within the index. Other options are there to assist in pulling the required page without having to trawl through the complete manual to find the item that you want. The manual can of course be printed out in much the same way. Printing the complete manual runs to 32 pages. It's well written and describes all of DLAN's functions. There are a few exercises to try out and these help you to get to grips with some of the commands.

DISPLAY 'LANGUAGE' ?

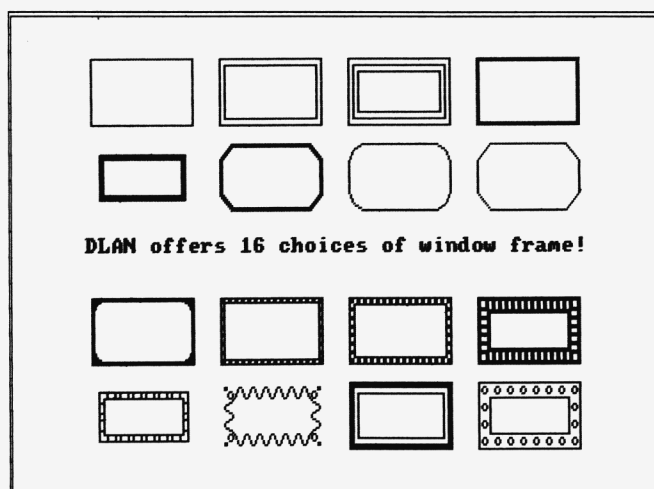
Don't be put off by the word 'language', DLAN is easy to learn and use. You begin by writing a display program which is created in much the same way that a BASIC program would be, ie. employing the editor & using line numbers. Execution of your program couldn't be easier, just press a key, this wakes up the interpreter and DLAN pounces into action doing all of the hard work for you. These program files are saved and loaded in the same way that BASIC programs are. BASIC recognises two types of comments, the word 'REM' and the apostrophe ([SHIFT] + [']), DLAN uses the latter, it scans your program lines for apostrophes as these denote DLAN instructions. It then goes on to execute the actual commands which are represented by a letter or a symbol. Multiple commands in a line are separated by the '\' character. Other parameters may be used such as repeat factors and text.

DLAN display programs can be locked to prevent vandalism, the soft reset may be disengaged as well, interruption of a run may be achieved within the program itself or by a key press. This may be for re-coding or calling other sub

programs. Up to 10 sub-routines can be used to invoke specially written modules, (a must for any structured programming). Each module is identified by a label, namely a single letter rather than line number. A trace can be toggled on for debugging purposes. The inducement of 'single step diagnosis' was a splendid idea. If there are any programming problems, the errors are trapped and reported back to the bottom of the screen where you are then returned to BASIC ready for editing (can't ask for more!). Well... that's the technical jargon out of the way, it's time to have some fun!

WINDOWS

OK.. I've read the manual and ran DLAN. The first thing I started with was setting up a window, there are 26 of them and each has been redefined for us (I didn't do a screen shot for you as showing them all would render the monitor rather jumbled) for example, window 'a' covers the whole screen, and window 'g' uses the lower half. If you require a window that is not there, just issue the parameters as you would using BASIC. Once you've set up your windows, frames can be used to enclose them, they are slightly offset so as not to interfere with any text being printed inside the window itself. There are 26 elegantly crafted frames to choose from and they can all be seen in screen shot 1.



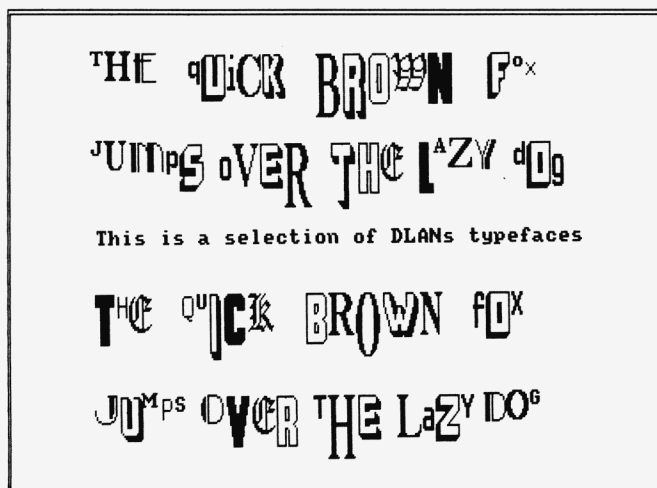
COLOUR

DLAN runs in mode 1, therefore 4 inks can be employed simultaneously. Each ink can be assigned to a colour corresponding to the standard ink set as set out in the Amstrad manual. Incrementation of these inks can give some

quite pleasing effects when the program is run. Border inks can be set and incremented as well.

TEXT

I've set up the windows, allocated a few colours here and there and I've bunged some frames in for good measure. Now I want to write some stuff on the screen. There are 26 nicely designed typefaces available, have a look at screen shot 2 to see some of them.



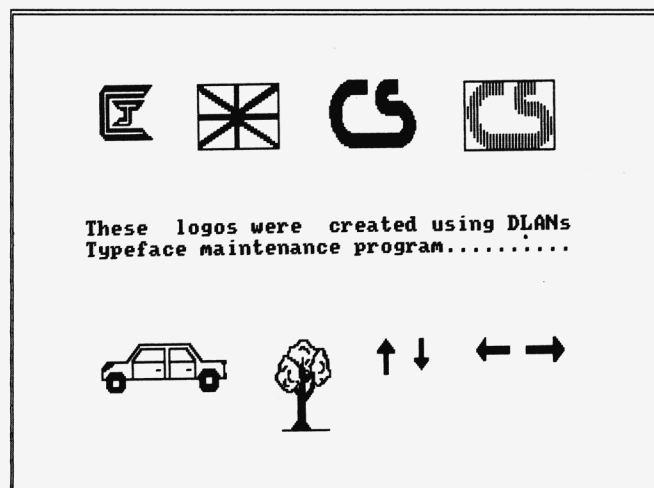
Issue the command 'Ta' and typeface No 1 is fetched, 'Tl' will fetch typeface No 12 which is Latin script (pretty neat!), anything to be written on screen will be written using the current typeface. Now..... this is the really complicated bit!, writing text on screen. There are 3 ways to do this, are you ready ?. Issue the command '=easy peesy' and everything after the 'equals' sign is printed inside the current window. Issue the command ';lemon squeezy' and everything after the semi-colon is written to the current window without throwing a new line. Issue the command '<easy peesy, lemon squeezy' and WOW.. everything after the '<' is not just written to the screen but gracefully scrolled from the right hand side of the window to the left hand side: flippin' hard wasn't it?.

The effect of the scrolling text adds considerably to the appearance of any display. I loved it because all I had to do to scroll the text upwards was to issue the command 'Su', scrolling to the right is just a matter of commanding 'Sr', you can guess the other directions. There are facilities to overlap text by adjusting the cursor position vertically or horizontally. You signify this by issuing the command 'H+8' where 8 is the number of pixels to be moved by. You can of course use any number to get the effect that you require.

TYPEFACE MAINTENANCE

There is a program called 'DLANTM' on the disc as well. This program allows you to alter or extend any of the existing typefaces. This utility also allows you to create your own typeface. Special characters such as foreign letters or even logos can be laid out and saved to disc ready for future use. These new letters, characters, logos or whatever are drawn on the screen using the 4 cursor keys. Each pixel is plotted and either drawn or erased as

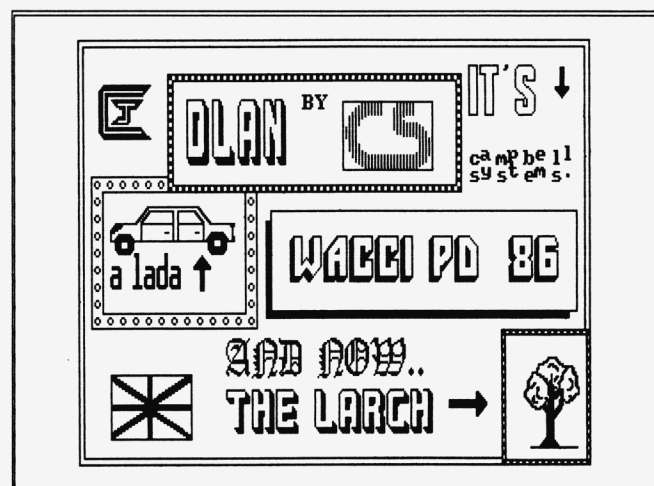
you go. On completion of your new character, you're asked a few questions such as its depth/width and ceiling height. I must admit I did have a few teething problems with this but, after scrutinising the relevant section of the manual and a few attempts at trial and error, the program came up trumps. I managed to create some logos, save them to disc and get them printed on to the screen, the results of which can be seen in screen shot 3, hopefully it will give you some idea as to what can be achieved using the typeface



maintenance program. Once you've selected a typeface, its range of characters can be demonstrated on the monitor. Another useful attribute is to show its actual format or layout using a test phrase that you will be asked to enter. All of the data for the typefaces is kept in a separate file. The main loader fetches this using the filename 'DLANCODE': you will be required to alter the main loader to fetch an updated generation that you may have saved earlier.

INTERACTION

DLAN can accept keyboard input, this may be useful to those who are in the advertising business. System variables can be set up within your display program: these can then be updated on line, rather than you having to rewrite the whole of your code to cater for perhaps say, an 'interest rate' change. Because the system is interactive, I also see



no reason why DLAN couldn't be used for educational purposes.

SCREEN DUMP

There is a screen dump available, this can be done from within your program or via a key press. The printed output of screen shot 4 looks brilliant: it is a little smaller than a full page but the quality is excellent. The manual states that larger print-outs can be done using Tasman Softwares 'Tascopy' utility: I don't have that software so couldn't see the results.

The screen dumps will work for the Epson range of printers, it posed no problems for my STAR LC10. The screen dump will NOT work on the DMP-1 (boo!)

COMPLAINTS

None! See criticism.

CRITICISM

None! See complaints.

SUGGESTIONS

May be a little more guidance toward typeface width/height and ceilings?

CONCLUSION

DLAN is the 1st WACCI Public Domain program that I've ever seen. I'm more than impressed with its performance. User friendliness is the name of the game, DLAN scores exceedingly high in this category as it's easy to learn and implement. Unfortunately my screen shots don't move! They cannot therefore do DLAN the justice that it deserves, you must see this stuff moving for yourself to appreciate its value as perhaps, the only electrifying bulletin board available to the Amstrad.

AND FINALLY...

Credit goes to Campbell systems.

*Clive Jackson
Deepest Lincs*

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THE GREAT WACCI '96 QUESTIONNAIRE

With your Question Master: James Coupe

Last time you were over 40, female, owned a 6128, maybe had a 3.5 inch disc drive and you might have had a Rombox which contained Protext. This time you're.... well I'll not spoil the surprise. You'll have to read the whole article.

INTRO

Firstly, many thanks to all 86 of you who replied to the questionnaire. Special thanks must go to Terge Grind and R. M. Briscoe, both of who replied to the questionnaire from abroad.

Before I continue, there may be mistakes and errors in these results. They shouldn't be large ones but if I do make any mistakes please forgive me. Oh, by the way, I haven't included myself in these results. Now, on with the results.

Question One: The Member's Charter

Do you agree with the overall policy of the Charter? Yes/No

Yes: 99% (85 people)
No: 0% (0 people)
Abstention: 1% (1 person)

The abstention mainly arose because the person didn't feel he had enough experience to judge. Personally, I think WACCI has pretty much always stuck to that policy even though it isn't a widely publicised thing.

A few things cropped up here. Firstly, Doug Webb thought it would be sensible to elect/list the members who comprise the 'major players' to avoid any dispute in the future. Personally, I'd have Philip DiRichleau, Angie Hardwick, Alan Tilling, John Bowley, Doug Webb and any others that people can think of.

The other main point was the ownership of Protext. P Rogerson felt that WACCI should have kept ownership of it and that point 4 of the member's charter should be expanded to "provide goods to members at lowest prices and ensure their availability" or something similar.

Question Two: Accounts

Do you want an annual balance sheet in the magazine? (Yes/No)

Yes: 35% (30 people)
No: 65% (56 people)

It would appear that people don't want one but I'll hand you over to Paul now about whether or not one will appear in the magazine. Indeed, Tony Jordan thinks that we might be legally bound to produce one.

<<I will gladly prepare some boring old accounts for a future issue of the magazine. -Paul>>

Question Three: Old Age

How old are you? (nn Years)

00 - 20	03% (3 people)
21 - 30	08% (7 people)
31 - 40	14% (12 people)
41 - 50	16% (14 people)
51 - 60	17% (15 people)
61 - 70	21% (18 people)
71 - ??	20% (17 people)

Yes, that does come to 99% but that's the wonders of rounding numbers to the nearest integer for you. In case you're interested, the youngest member was Richard Avery who is (or was at the time he wrote his reply) the same age as me.

Question Four: Sex

Are you male or female? (M/F)

I had specifically reworded this question to avoid the wonderful results of last time (95% female because of the exclusion of the Yes Please results) and people still replied Yes Please. You know who you

are Mr Roy Everett from Braintree in Essex.

Male: 92% (79 people)
Female: 8% (7 people)

Question Five: Other Clubs

Are you a member of other CPC clubs, user groups or fanzines? (Name them)

37% of you are a member of other clubs. That's 32 people. Of that 32 there are 22 in the UAUG, 16 in 8BIT, 8 in CPCSW and 4 in After Dark. There were several other clubs mentioned with only one or two votes including one called CHIC which I'd never heard of. Any chance of a round up of fanzines and user groups etc?

Question Six: Other PD Libraries

Have you used any PD libraries other than WACCI in the past 12 months? (Name them)

Well, only 29% of you have (25 people) but there were quite a few places mentioned. The top few were:

UAUG	5 people
KAD	4 people
CPCSW	3 people
Penguin	3 people
Demon	3 people
Presto	3 people

There were several others after that with only one or two votes. There were several surprise mentions including Presto (above) and Sheepsoft which I didn't know were still going. Can someone do a round up of all the libraries going at the moment please? *<<Yes please. -Paul>>*

Question Seven: Hardware

Do you own one or more of the following computers? (Answer from big list of computers)

First of all, I'll cover CPC related machines:

464:	40 machines
464->6128:	11 machines
664:	3 machines
6128:	107 machines
464+:	10 machines
6128+:	22 machines
GX4000:	2 machines

As expected, 6128s are prevalent. Now onto the other machines.

PC compatible:	15 machines
PCW:	12 machines
Sega (all models):	8 machines
Spectrum:	6 machines
ZX80/81:	3 machines
Nintendo (any):	3 machines
C64:	2 machines
NC100/200:	2 machines

There were lots of other machines with only 1 mention. Among these were Ataris, Amigas, Einsteins, BBCs, Acorns and lots of odd things mentioned by Angela Cook which I didn't know what they were.

On the subject of Angela Cook, (belated) apologies to her. Also, she apologised in the convention write up to Tony Jordan. Having spoken to him he doesn't know what she's talking about. However, as it happens, there were two A Jordans replying to the questionnaire (weird, huh?).

Question Eight: External Drives

How many additional drives do you have connected to your CPC? Do you have an ABBA switch? Do you have a side switch?

3 inch:	47% (55 drives)
3.5 inch:	51% (60 drives)
5.25 inch:	02% (2 drives)

Of those drives I made it that 19 of the 3 inchers were A drives and that 2 of the 3.5 inchers were A drives.

After that, 39 of the 3.5 inch drives had side switches and 1 of the 5.25 inch drives had one. Finally, 12 ABBA switches (14% of people) were counted. There were some other switches as well which kept the A drive constant and switched between two external B drives, or which kept a constant B drive and allowed switching between two A drives.

Question Nine: Roms

Do you have a rombox attached to your CPC? (No/Yes - list Roms)

Yes:	57% (49 people)
No:	43% (37 people)

There were a lot of Roms mentioned, including some I hadn't heard of. The most people ones were:

Protext	36 people
Utopia	29 people
Parados	25 people
Prospell	24 people
Maxam/Maxam 1.5	21 people
Promerge	+21 people
DES	13 people
CP/M	8 people
Proprint	8 people
Romdos	8 people

Roms which almost made it but didn't quite were Brunword Elite, Nirvana and Oddjob.

Question Ten: Content

Are you satisfied with the following: Programming, Hardware, Utilities, Humour, Stories? (Too little/Just Right/Too much)

Some confusion arose here because some people just put down one answer which I had to use for all of them.

Programming first. 35% (30 people) thought there was too little, 63% (54 people) thought it was just right and 2% (2 people) wanted less. Perhaps a little more programming wouldn't go amiss, but it seems to be about okay.

On hardware, 29% (25 people) thought there was too little but 70% (61 people) thought it was just right. No one person thought there was too much of it.

Utilities gave the results of 25% (22 people) thinking there was too little, 73% (63 people) thinking it was just right and 1% (1 person) thinking there was too much.

Humour got 6% (5 people) thinking there was too little, 92% (79 people) thinking it was just right and 2% (2 people) thinking there was too much. However, I know that several people putting too little had the opinion of "You can't have too much."

Stories gave the most interesting result. 1% (1 person) thought that there was too little, 57% (49 people)

thought that this was just right and 41% (36 people) thinking there was too much. I have to agree with the "too much" group because in some issues there has been an immense amount of fiction. Most of it is of good quality but whether it should be included in WACCI is debatable.

Question Eleven: Production

Are you satisfied with the quality of these various elements that go to make up WACCI: Layout, Artwork, Print Quality? (Brilliant/Okay/Poor)

Again, this caused some confusion because some people just put down one answer and others put down three. Also, to anyone that said that a Good category should have been included between okay and brilliant, I'll make sure that that happens next time.

Starting with layout, most people found it brilliant - 58% or 50 people. The rest - 42% or 36 people - decided that it was only okay.

Now we move onto artwork. This is something which I think has improved since Paul took over - now we actually have some! With Clive it tended to be pages of text which was all lovely to read, but a bit boring to look at. Anyway, 49% of you - 42 people - thought that it was brilliant, 48% of you - 41 people - thought it was okay and 3% - 3 people - thought that it was poor. As I remember, the "Poor" results came from Ron Izett, Angela Cook and someone else who I can't remember. I trust that their memberships have been docked one issue for such blatant heresy.

Print quality is last. 56% of you - 48 people - thought that this was brilliant. The other 44% - 38 people - decided that it was okay. Generally, I would agree although sometimes it photocopies with slight white blotches on it (well my copy does anyway).

Question Twelve: Our PD Libraries

Are you satisfied with the service you receive from our librarians? (Brilliant/Okay/Poor/Never Used)

Again, sorry to anyone that wanted to put down "good" but couldn't. The "Never Used" option had to be expanded to also include "No Opinion" because some people had used the library but not enough to decide on an option.

52% - 45 people - decided that our PD libraries were brilliant. 24% - 21 people - decided that they were okay. The other 23% used the "Never Used/No Opinion" option - 20 people. No, I don't know what happened to the missing 1% either.

Question Thirteen: Top Five Programs
Please list your all time top five PD or Homegrown software. (State names)

Some people definitely don't know the meaning of PD or Homegrown. For anyone concerned, Protext and MicroDesign are not PD. PD is something that is free except for a nominal charge for discs and copying. If this is how you got your copy of Protext or MD+ then I would be very worried.

The results were quite interesting with a very wide range of software included. The best pieces of software mentioned were PD Planner, ISpell and WACCIword (the reasons for this will be clear if you own them).

There was quite a heated battle for first place between Rambase (any version) and Powerpage (ditto). In the end though the results were.

Rambase	28 votes
Powerpage	20 votes
NSweep	12 votes
GPaint	11 votes
VDE266	11 votes
PD Planner	10 votes
JL-Copy	8 votes
Croco Magneto	7 votes
Crossword Compiler	7 votes

Programs which almost made it into the list but didn't were Anti-Multiface, Doscopy and Print Master with five votes each. The most bizarre program mentioned was Einstrad.com nominated by Tony Jordan. Full marks must go to Angela Cook for her reply of, "Better Than Life, Worm Slickers, Better Than Life, Better Than Life, Better Than Life." Sorry Angela, only one of them was counted.

Question Fourteen: Printers
Do you own a printer and what is it? (No/Yes - state model)

Quite interesting results here. From my sheet of results I can see that all but two of you owned a printer (that's 98% of you). When I first started

compiling the replies I thought that I was just going to get a list of 86 different printers (well, actually I didn't think that because I compiled them as they came in so I didn't know that I was getting 86 replies) but they did manage to sort themselves into small groups of popular printers after a while. The most popular printers were:

DMP-2/3000 series	39 people
Star LC-10	14 votes
Citizen 120-D	7 votes
PCW9512 Daisywheel	6 votes
PCW8256 Daisywheel	4 votes
Epson FX80	3 votes

There were a lot of other printers mentioned including Stars, Commodores, Panasonics, Epsons, Canons and the like. Personally, I own a Star LC24-200 which manages to be about the only printer in existence which doesn't like printing out files from MD+ (it keeps missing out lines and putting blank spaces in instead). Oh, by the way, as far as I know that's only my printer and not all of that type of printer. If anyone can help then let me know.

Question Fifteen: Membership Length
At what issue of WACCI did you join?

Thank you all of you that actually put down an issue number as opposed to those people who decided that things along the lines of "before the collapse", "about when Jeff Walker gave up" and "sometime during 1988" would be fine. Oh, and thanks to Frank Neatherway for helping me out with working out roughly when editor change overs occurred.

After the collapse the most popular issue for joining was issue 85 which had 8 people. After that was issue 52 with 6 people. Tying for joint third place were issues 84, 86 and 89 all of which had four people. Just as a matter of interest, 38% of you (33 people) joined either on issue 84 or later.

Going back to before the collapse (ie pre-issue 50) the most popular issue for joining was issue 35 which had three people. The earliest membership which I have recorded is as early as issue 5! <<I think we have lost Don who was in from Nr 1 -Paul>>

Question Sixteen: Anything Else
If there's anything else you want to mention please include it here.

There were lots of interesting replies to this question with various comments either placed in this section or scattered elsewhere in the letter. Many people suggested articles that could be done. I will drop a copy of them in the post to Ernie Ruddick so that he has a fair idea of the sort of things people want.

The main things that people wanted were an introduction to programming and computing for newer members who have only just purchased an Amstrad second-hand. A few people wanted slightly more advanced BASIC and machine code. Other people wanted some form of "Technical Forum" to be done in WACCI, or somewhere for questions asked in Fair Comment to be answered. Perhaps the most popular was the resurrection of a PD column which I see has happened in the latest issue. There were many others which are too numerous to list here.

Top marks must go to Dave Stitson who decided that Paul should send a bottle of scotch to all the PD librarians for Christmas. Sorry, too late. Also, Richard Narain was very upset that people wouldn't be able to include his ProClip program in their top five PD programs because he'd only finished writing it the day before. He included a couple of bits of clip art in his letter and I have to say that the output is pretty impressive.

AND FINALLY...

I'd like to finish by saying thank you to all those people that replied. The results will help Paul in deciding if the magazine needs changing. However, please don't feel that just because this questionnaire has finished you can't suggest improvements to WACCI. If there's something you don't like then write to Paul or Fair Comment and say so.

James.

I'd like to say thank you to all those of you who took the time to complete the questionnaire and to James for doing such a good job in running and presenting it. The results are a great help to the club and me. Thanks again -Paul.



THE MASTERS OF SPACE

REVIEWED
BY
JAMES
COUPE

People of Earth, your attention please. This is Prostetnic Vogon Jeltz of the Galactic Hyperspace Reviewing Council. As you will no doubt be aware, the plans for the development of the outlying regions of the Western Spiral arm of the Galaxy require the reviewing of Masters of Space and, regrettably, your magazine is one of those scheduled for publication. The process will take slightly less than two of your Earth minutes. Thank you very much.

SORRY I'LL START AGAIN...

No, scrap that. In one paragraph I have managed to alienate everyone in WACCI except myself and Patrick Hanlan (the only people in WACCI who I know actually like Hitch Hiker's Guide To The Galaxy), so I think I'd better start again.

INTRO

Masters of Space is a new (ish) game from Radical Software. It is a vertically scrolling shoot-em-up, and Paul, in his infinite wisdom (or foolishness) <<or both -Paul>> has given it to me to review.

First impressions of Masters of Space are very good. There is an instruction file on the disc which gives details of the extremely cliched plot and a few details about the game. The text scrolls across the screen in a manner similar to most demos, with the exception that you can actually read the text.

THREE LEVELS

The game itself is split up into three sections: learner, master and extra.

Each section is completely independent of all the other sections so you can play them without having completed any of the other sections.

The layout of the screens are very good. There is a large border around the playing area with pictures of aliens, your score, shield status etc. This looks great, but takes up a fair bit of room and reduces the size of the playing area but, generally, this isn't that much of a problem.

The graphics in the actual game are very good. Your ship is quite nice looking, the aliens are all quite different and you can see them quite easily against the space station type thing in the background. There are also lots of explosions, bullets and extra weapons flying round the screen most of the time, but there is never really any slow down or flickering of the graphics.

LISTEN CLOSELY

The sound is passable. There is a very annoying tune on the title screen which doesn't play during the game (hoorah). The in game sound is limited

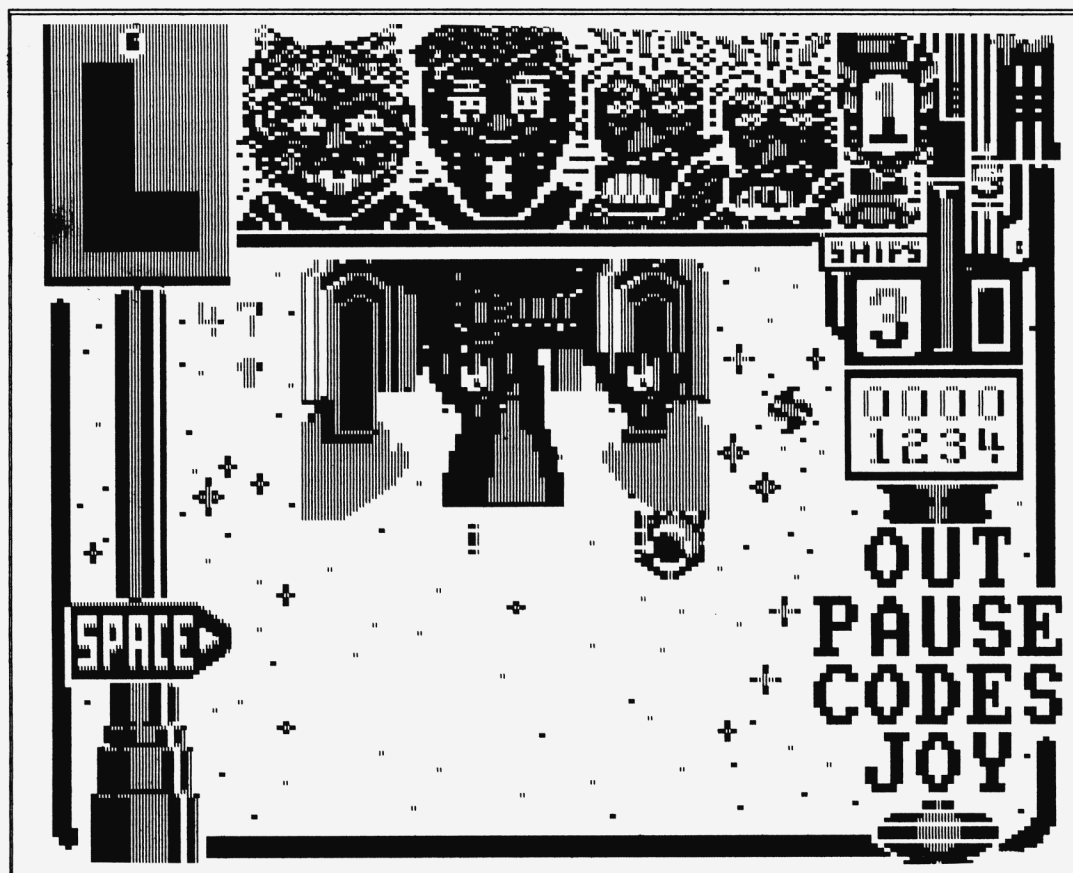
to just sound effects. While the bangs and explosions aren't that bad, they're not particularly all that wonderful either.

THE NOVEL BIT

Unlike many games of this genre, you can take more than one hit before dying. Most of the aliens cannot destroy you with one hit, they just take away a little bit of your shields, which is shown in the border. Flying into the red things sticking up out of the space station on some levels can kill you, but these are quite easy to avoid.

This game has a novel feature which I haven't come across before. You can only fly and shoot for one minute and then your ship blows up. The time counts down in the top left hand corner of the playing area, which is handy. When you blow up some of the aliens they drop little powerups full of fuel. These boxes are quite hard to spot, so the computer gives you a couple of hints. First of all, it makes a couple of noises at you. Secondly, an arrow points in the direction that you should go. Finally, the computer disables your weapons. You have to pick up the powerups to regain your weapons and replenish your fuel supply to sixty seconds.

When you pick up a powerup you upgrade your weapons. To start with



playing games. It is packed with lots of nice touches - like the red L plates on the learner section, with the signpost telling you where space is. It can be played with your keyboard or joystick, which is always handy, though you cannot redefine your own keys.

People who like games definitely won't be disappointed by this. Those of you who don't play games probably won't be reading this review anyway. The best thing of all is the price - only £9.95. When compared to games on other systems this is an absolute bargain, and I whole heartedly recommend this to anyone who enjoys the odd game.

James.

this gives you extra directions of fire power, but later you get big weapons, like rocket launchers and a red swirly thing which I don't know what it is <<Answers on a postcard please -Paul>>. If you lose a life then you lose the extra weapons, but not the extra firing directions.

SECURITY?

There are passwords between each level, which saves you having to play through all the levels. This saves you having to pull all of your hair out, which should be helpful for some of our more follicully challenged readers (for want of a PC equivalent to bald (that's the Politically Correct PC, not the other one)).

GAME PLAY

The game plays very well. It is quite addictive, and I certainly enjoyed it. It

is quite hard, particularly if you use passwords because then you start without any power ups of any description. On the other hand, I might just be particularly bad at

*Masters of Space: £9.95 disc only
From: Radical Software, Brympton
Cottage, Brunswick Road, Worthing,
West Sussex BN11 3NQ (ITGA)*



THE ANGELA COOK INTERVIEW



Here she is, the hunter stalking her prey. She competently steps nearer to the man who will feature next in her series of interviews. He looks around innocently from tapping away at his computer and she strikes, with the bluntness that only Angela can; "Will you answer a few questions for WACCI please, Mr Izett sir?"

INTRO BY PAUL

Not many members will know the full extent of the help that Ron gives me. If I'm snowed under and looking for help in laying out parts of the magazine, then it's Ron that I turn to. He's one of WACCI's unsung heroes but Angela makes him sing here.

THE INTERVIEW STARTS NOW....

WACCI) What is your computer set up?

Ron) My computer is a basic 464, very much expanded and added to over the years. It has been upgraded to a 6128 with a replacement chip and 64k of added memory. I also have the obligatory 3" FDI-1 disc drive. Originally, I had a 3" "B" drive as well, which has now been replaced by one of SD Microsystems 3.5" drives. I have a Maplin ROM board which holds my Protext, Promerge, Utopia and (as yet unused) Maxam 1.5. I also have a Dart Scanner and an AMX mouse which is complementary to my Stop Press program. All of this, including the keyboard, is built into a sort of homemade "console" to keep it all together and to protect the CPC's edge connector from damage. I should add that all these extras are permanently attached to the CPC and all the plugs and sockets, plus the connections for the scanner head, are carried out to a position behind the keyboard where I can get at them.

I also have a joystick and there is a stereo amplifier which I built to a circuit in Maplin's catalogue, first mooted in CWTA some years ago, with a matching pair of speakers, an audio operated switch which went with my Morse reader program, and some odd switchware, diaphragm and press button types, which I built to try out my single key operated games for disabled folk (In WACCI some years ago).

And finally, I have a DMP 2000 printer (mine) and an Epson LQ100 (WACCI's) connected with a Goldmark 8 bit printer port and a changeover switch so I can swap printers.

W) How and when did you get your CPC?

R) I came very late on to personal computing, being very much a practical engineering type, and have no understanding of such exotic things as electronics. However, my son became involved with computing while working at the P.O. Tower in London, and having acquired an obsolete device ex the scrap bin, began to talk of such things about which I knew nothing and understood less! So I decided that, to maintain the status quo as it were, I should acquire a computer for myself so as to keep up with him!

I looked at a number on offer at the time (1985) and decided that I couldn't put up with using a TV every time, so I plumped for the AMSTRAD, the only one offering a monitor as standard. I've had the same machine for nearly eleven years now, and I've never had cause to regret my choice.

W) What do you find good about the CPC?

R) I think that for someone like me who has never really grasped the micro-world of infinitesimal electric currents than can cause things to happen; the simplicity of the CPC; the built-in Locomotive Basic; and the comparative ease of adding extensions, coupled with its quite remarkable ability to handle complex programs, places it higher on the list of home computers than some pundits would have us believe. I can write programs that work and that's good enough for me. <<I think that is a great description of the CPC. -Paul>>

W) It states under Who's Who that you are an "Accomplice To The Editor", what does that entail?

R) Being an "Accomplice To The Editor" basically means that I sort out the articles that well meaning contributors send in as straight forward letters, which need to be titled and sometimes "introduced" as it were, to the reader, and converted into the current WACCI page format. This sometimes entails re-writing a sentence to get it all to fit on a page, or adding spaces to pad it out to fit.

W) How much does Paul put on you?

R) Generally I think I deal with all the difficult ones that Paul doesn't have time to sort out himself. This is especially true if someone sends a long article that has to be split between two or more issues. I also do a bit of "art work" if the article or story needs it, but with Paul's new printer not liking Microdesign (he says) this may have to cease <<That will be a pity. -Angela>>. As to workload, far less than I can comfortably handle, being retired, but I suppose some people send their stuff in ready to use, so my services are not needed. I have also done the odd review from time to time.

W) What is the motivation behind volunteering to help lay out the pages of WACCI?

R) When Paul took over Editorship of WACCI he asked for help and I thought, "I've got time to spare, I enjoy the magazine, I enjoy using the computer, so why don't I do something useful for a change?" I was a bit apprehensive for a start because by nature I'm not a joiner, but I'm very happy with it now.

W) Did you find it easy to pick up the WACCI house style?

R) I did stumble a bit for a start with the house style; I only had the DMP 2000 and no 8 bit printer port, so

that that Wacipage layout program didn't produce very satisfactory results. But, after a few hiccups, with the port and Epson printer in place, all is now well.

W) Do you ever blackmail the editor, knowing that he couldn't cope without you? If not, why not?

R) Well, I can't say as I've ever had cause to put pressure on Paul (yet), as I get the feeling, with all the new blood that seems to be coming into the club, it wouldn't be too difficult to find someone else to do what little I do <<What, with your flair and elan? -Angela>>. I think I'll just keep my head down and do what I'm told! I don't mind the odd grovel or two, and anyway, my moto is "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em."

W) Do you think you will be able to make the next convention?

R) I would very much like to get to the next convention. I would have made an effort to get to the last one only it coincided with a pre-booked holiday. In the event I spent most of the day being hurled about on a very rough sea in a so-called high speed catamaran ferry. Nasty! Still, I shall be a bit nearer this year with any luck, so we shall have to see.

W) WACCI aside, do you read other CPC orientated fan/disczines?

R) No, I have to say that I don't subscribe to any others. WACCI is as much as I can cope with.

W) Did this interview come as a surprise?

R) Yes, I was very surprised to be interviewed. Never really entered my head that anyone could be interested in the mumblings of an old, not very competent performer like me.

W) What's Your Favourite;

UTILITY - Utopia, this is what I use most, but I also use Microdesign Plus and the program that came with the 3.5" drive to compress files for archiving.

GAME - I don't play games much, but I enjoy a game of golf with "World Class Leaderboard" or a game of Draughts or Connect Four against the computer.

COLOUR - Can't think of a FAVOURITE colour, but I like the bolder and

brighter colours, got no brief for the wishy-washy pastels and non-colours.

SAYING - I don't think I've got any favourite sayings, at least none that spring readily to mind. After fifty years of marriage I find it's expedient not to say anything very much if it's at all repetitious!

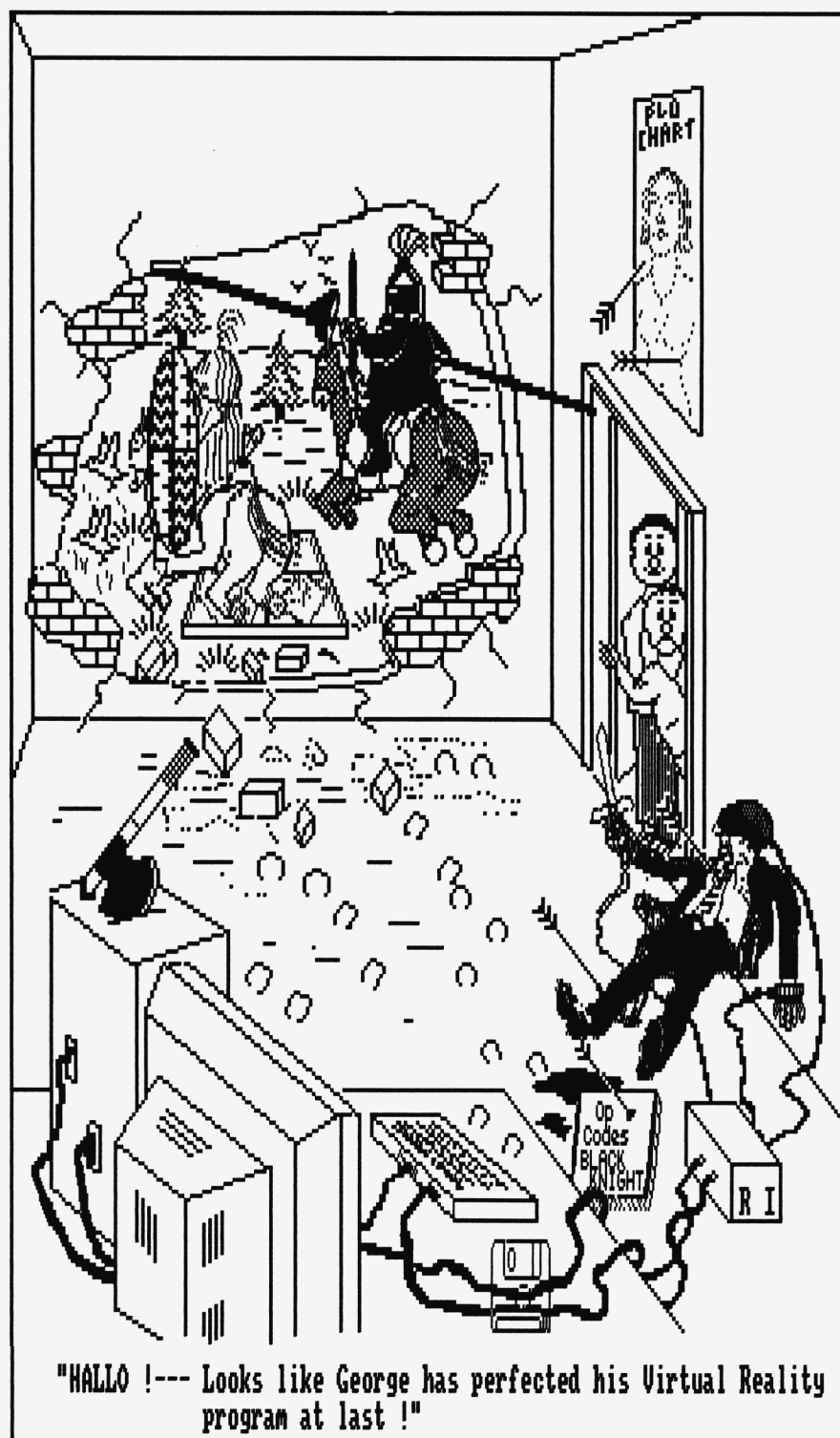
FILM - I'm not much of a film buff, especially these days when they all seem to consist of explicit sex and foul language. I'll plump for a film called "The Maggie", most of the Walt

Disney classics and Star Wars, to name but a few. I do enjoy spectacular special effects.

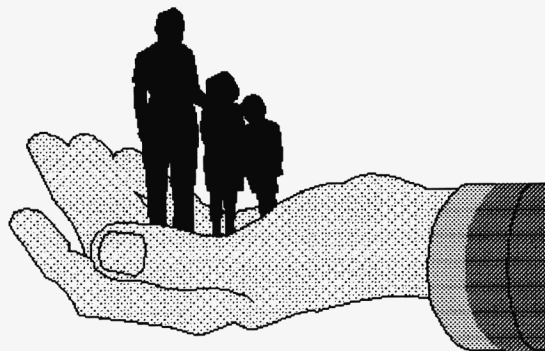
AND FINALLY...

Thank you Ron, this has been a most interesting read. Well, I look forward to the century issue next month and hope to surprise you with my next sacrifice. Get your party hat and streamers ready for next issue.

Angela.



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ZDE 1.6

With Ron Boreham

There have been many articles written in WACCI over the past few years about Eric Meyer's Video Display Editor (VDE), the last version of which (VDE2.66) is available on PD Disc No 10, but nothing has been written about Carson Wilson's much improved version, the Z-System Display Editor (ZDE). This is available in it's latest form (ZDE1.6) on PD Disc No 57.

INTRO

Both programs run under CP/M and while ZDE will run under CP/M 2.2 it is much better suited to CP/M 3.1(CP/M Plus).

ZDE1.6 adds Last Entry Recall, Proportional Formatting, Return to Previous Position, Fully Operational Auto-Indent, Global Find/Replace and more to what was already, probably, the best editor available for CP/M.

ZDE is fast. It will find a string near the end of a 50K file in under a second, and, because files are compressed as they are loaded, it can handle files up to 67K in size.

SETTING UP

ZDE comes to you on a disc in VENDOR format so before you start you need to create a work disc.

Take a spare disc and using DiscKit3(Under CP/M+) format side one as a System disc(169K) and side two as a Data disc(178K).

Using PIP, or another file copier, copy the following programs from side one of your CP/M Master Disc onto side one of your work disc:

```
C10CPM3 .EMS
SUBMIT .COM
SETKEYS .COM
```

Now copy the following files from your ZDE disc and add them to side one of your work disc:

```
KEYS6128 .ZDE      ZDE16 .QRF
PROFILE .SUB      ZDENST16 .COM
ZDE16 .COM        ZDEPROP .Z80
QTEXT21 .COM      SAMPKEY .ZDK
```

On side two of your work disc copy the remaining files from your ZDE disc. These are mainly Document files and can be loaded and printed at a later date. Return to CPM and at the A> prompt type:

```
SETKEYS KEYS6128.ZDE (return)
```

Reset the computer and then type !CPM. ZDE will now load along with QTEXT21, ZDEPROP and ZDE16.QRF.

QTEXT21 is a utility program that speeds up output on the Amstrad 6128 under CP/M 3.1(Plus) and ZDEPROP enables proportional formatting with printers that have proportional spacing capabilities.

ZDE16.QRF is the Quick Reference File that loads when ZDE is initially loaded and lists all the functions available.

ZDE comes to you set up for Epson compatible 9-Pin printers and if this is your set-up you should print out the QRF file for reference by pressing ESC then P then Return.

During use a "Help" Menu can be displayed on the screen by pressing ESC then H and by following the on screen prompts.

CUSTOMISING

If the toggles and switches are not what you require, or if you are using a 24-Pin or Ink Jet printer, then the toggles, switches and default settings can easily be changed using the ZDENST16.COM program.

Fully detailed instructions on how to do this are contained in the file, ZDENST16.DOC. It is recommended that you print this file and then sit down with your printer manual and a pencil and enter on the document all the codes you will require. It is then a simple matter to enter them into the ZDENST16 program.

When installed the quick reference file can be edited to show your options and a copy printed out for future reference.

MACROS

There are ten sample Macros for ZDE contained in the file SAMPKEY.ZDK. Again, full details of what each Macro does are contained in the file SAMPKEY.DOC. However, there is an

error in the document concerning the method of installation. The correct method is as follows.

To install the Macros in SAMPKEY.ZDK into your copy of ZDE, enter CPM and at the A> prompt type:

```
ZDENST16 ZDE16 SAMPKEY.ZDK (return)
```

then exit ZDENST16 with the <S>ave option. This produces a working copy of ZDE16.COM with Macro keys f0....f9 as defined in the SAMPKEY.DOC file.

To use the Macro keys when using ZDE, all that is required is to press ESC followed by the appropriate "f" key.

The most useful Macro in the SAMPKEY file is MACRO 1. This "Softens" Hard Carriage Returns from the line the cursor is on to the end of the paragraph. This allows reformatting of files from other Word Processors.

CONCLUSION

ZDE comes complete with a very detailed document file. This is in three parts:

ZDE-DOC.PT1, ZDE-DOC.PT2 & ZDE-DOC.PT3

and is well worth the time taken to print out.

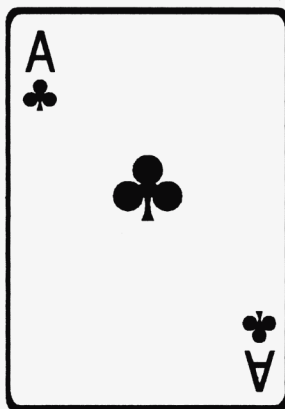
Similarly, the ZDEPROP.DOC file fully explains how the proportional formatting is achieved and how to vary it to suit your own requirements

AND FINALLY...

Once you get used to the key presses, ZDE is quite easy to use. I use Protext on disc for most of my everyday needs but for files over 22K in length I use ZDE. Also, for special material I use ZDE with it's proportional capability. The improved output result is well worth the extra little bit of trouble taken.

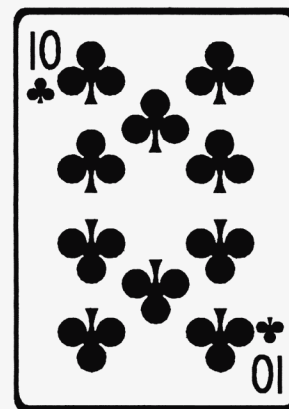
ZDE will cost you £3 from WACCI but for that outlay you will have one of the best word processor packages on the market with many more features than are contained in a lot of commercial programs.

Regards
Ron Boreham



SORTING and SEARCHING

by
Clive Jackson



Hi there everyone, I'm back again with you to finish the mini series off with the final part in the sorting and searching saga. Last month I left you looking at the binary chop method and please make sure the playing cards are to hand...

HOW'S THAT DONE THEN?

To describe how the system puts all of this into practice, get the ten Club cards once again and lay them out into ascending order, Ace on the left through to the ten on the right. The cards must be in order to represent the sorted line. An integer division rounds the result, the bottom of the line is at position one, the top of the line is at position ten. A marker must be placed at the middle of the line so, the bottom plus the top (1+10) is 11, divide this by two using an integer and the middle of the file is found at position five, the equation can be set out as $\text{middle} = \text{INT}((\text{bottom} + \text{top}) / 2)$. Place a pencil or something over the five of Clubs. There are now three positions which can be referred to, the bottom of the line at one, the top of the line at ten and the middle of the line at five. As the line is in ascending order, there is no way that the seven can be found to the left of the pencil as seven comes after five. All we do is set the new bottom of the line at position five (the old middle) and forget the Ace, two, three and four. The top remains at ten so we have to find the new middle position which will be between the five and the ten. Adding five (the bottom) to ten (the top) gives 15 and dividing 15 by 2 using an integer gives the rounded result seven.

We have successfully found the seven of Clubs after only two looks at the line. The three new positions are the bottom at the five of Clubs, the top

which is still at the ten of Clubs and the middle being pointed at by the result of the equation. This method cuts down the amount of records to look at by 50% each time. Only one card or value needs to be checked each time and this dramatically cuts down the time spent accessing the file.

WHAT SORT OF SORT?

There are many types of sorting mechanisms, the bubble sort is the simplest to use and understand but may not be fast enough for your requirements. Before employing the sort routine, a lot has to be taken into consideration. One of the

questions you must ask yourself is what type of data is to be sorted. Numeric data can be sorted a lot quicker than alphanumeric data. The amount of items to be sorted is an important factor as well.

IS IT UP TO ME THEN?

There are many versions to all the sort routines and they will be dependant on who wrote them and for what purpose, but they will all follow the same principle of storing values, comparing values and of course swapping values. It is up to the programmers how the sort is applied, they may wish to use a mixture of sort routines to achieve the best possible result. Polyphase sorting techniques come into a world of their own and can play an important part when file

Figure One

```
1 '% A basic bubble sort routine %
2 FOR f=1 TO 10:card(f)=INT(RND*100)+1:NEXT f 'Set up a random list
3 FOR f=1 TO 10:PRINT card(f):NEXT f 'Print the unsorted list
4 done=0
5 WHILE done=0
6 loop=0 'Set flag
7 FOR x=1 TO 9 'Set No. of cards to compare
8 IF card(x) > card(x+1) THEN GOSUB 15 'Compare the card values
9 NEXT x 'Continue looking
10 IF loop=0 THEN done=1 'Were any swapped?
11 WEND 'All sorted
12 FOR f=1 TO 10:PRINT card(f):NEXT f 'Print the sorted list
13 STOP
14 '% Two cards need swapping over %
15 temp.card=card(x) 'Store the highest value
16 card(x)=card(x+1) 'Swap the lowest value
17 card(x+1)=temp.card 'Retrieve The stored value
18 loop=1 'Swap took place
19 RETURN 'Go back
```


accessing is to be done quickly efficiently and of course cheaply....

BUBBLE SORT?

This routine is fast when applied to a small list of numeric data. It will take a considerable lot longer if applied to a large list of data. Here is a version of the bubble sort routine. (See Figure One.)

INSERTION SORT?

This routine is fast when applied to small lists of alphabetic data and will be slowed down somewhat if used to sort a large list. Here is one version of the insertion sort routine. (See Figure Two.)

SHELL SORT?

This routine is the fastest when applied to a large list of alphanumeric data. It should not be used on any small lists as the time spent swapping elements unnecessarily will prove to be inefficient. Here is the shell sort routine. (Fig Three.)

IS IT WORTH IT?

A certain British telecommunications firm owns several ICL main frames. On one main frame is a file that contains the names, addresses and telephone numbers to one million customers. It is a sorted, ascending, sequential file regularly updated. Directory enquiries receive a call requesting the number of a friend, the persons name is known and given. A telephonist enters the name into a terminal & the system trots off the check the file for a match. Three seconds later the number of the telephone for that person is given, how? simple, the binary chop search method was applied. To check one million names it only takes 19 looks at the file. If the name to be searched for was not directly in the middle, half a million names can automatically be discounted. Another 250,000 names can be discounted on the second look using this method, is this impressive or what?... Or would you prefer to pay for the privilege of waiting whilst a serial search was in progress looking for Mr Z Zanzibar's number...?

CAN I PUT IT INTO PRACTISE?

Below is a program which can be typed in and will demonstrate everything

Figure Two

```

1 '% An insertion sort
2 FOR f=1 TO 10:card(f)=INT(RND*100)+1:NEXT
3 FOR f=1 TO 10:PRINT card(f):NEXT:PRINT
4 FOR x=1 TO 10
5   temp.card=card(x)
6   FOR y=x TO 1 STEP -1
7     card(y)=card(y-1)
8   IF temp.card>card(y) THEN card(y)=temp.card:y=1
9   NEXT y
10  IF temp.card<card(y) THEN card(y)=temp.card
11  NEXT x
12 FOR f=1 TO 10:PRINT card(f):NEXT:PRINT

```

'Set up a Random list
'Print the unsorted list
'Set 1st loop value
'Store 1st loop card value
'Set 2nd loop value
'Swap previous card value
'Compare & swap > values
'Continue 2nd loop
'Compare & swap < values
'Continue 1st loop
'Print the sorted list

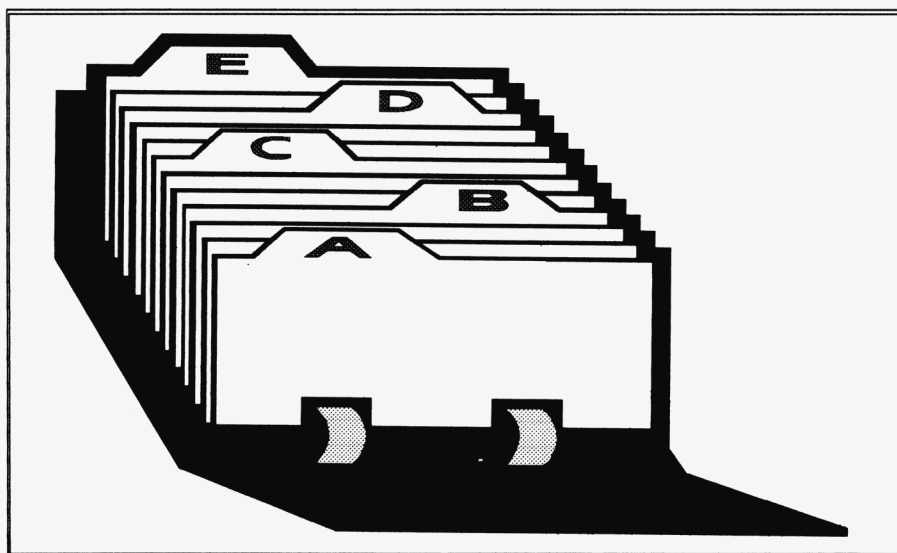
Figure Three

```

1 '% A shell sort
2 FOR f=1 TO 10:card(f)=INT(RND*100)+1:NEXT
3 FOR f=1 TO 10:PRINT card(f):NEXT:PRINT
4 middle=10
5 done=0:WHILE done=0
6   middle=INT(middle/2)
7   FOR x=2 TO middle
8     start=x+middle
9     FOR y=start TO 10 STEP middle
10    temp.card=card(y)
11    FOR z=y TO start STEP-middle
12      card(z)=card(z-middle)
13    IF temp.card>card(z) THEN card(z)=temp.card:z=start
14    NEXT z
15    IF temp.card<card(x) THEN card(x)=temp.card
16    NEXT y
17  NEXT x
18  IF middle=1 THEN done=1
19  WEND
20 FOR f=1 TO 10:PRINT card(f):NEXT:PRINT

```

'Set up random list
'Print unsorted list
'Set No of elements
'Continue to look
'Find middle of file
'Start 1st loop
'Set 2nd loop value
'Start 2nd loop
'Store 2nd loop value
'Start 3rd loop
'Store previous value
'Compare & swap > values
'End 3rd loop
'Compare & swap < values
'End 2nd loop
'End 1st loop
'No more to swap
'Finish
'Print the sorted list



that has been covered so far. Lines one to ten set up 100 strings of data which are made up of three randomly selected letters. The field 'count' indicates the number of data strings to create and can at a later stage be altered if required. Lines 12 to 14 asks you to enter one of the data strings that exist so that the system has something to search for. Lines 16 to 21 are a simple serial searching method and will demonstrate how many times the list has to be looked at before a match is found. Lines 23 to 32 consist of the sorting routine, I chose the insert sort and assigned string rather than numeric fields to sort. Lines 34 to 50 are the binary search routine, this will show once again how few elements in the list are needed to be looked at before a match is found. The maximum numbers of looks that are required to find a record from a file of 20 is only five. (See *Figure Four*.) That's it, I'm off to sort out my next search! *Clive.*

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

As you will have read in the Questionnaire result, most readers favoured the dropping of stories. As part of the survey we wanted know what you felt was best to replace these features with. Well I can announce the result now - a regular gardening series. But who to do it?

Well the answer was right here on my own door step. My wife, Lesley, a very keen and knowledgeable gardener has offered to take on the role. The series will start in issue 101 but I can't say what the subject will be yet. More news next month about the series.

AND FINALLY...

Also, as a result of the survey, bottles of scotch will be sent to all contributing members next Christmas. So come on, get active in your club.

Of course, those members that would prefer an alternative should let me know.

Paul.

Figure Four.

```

1 CLS
2 count=20
3 DIM a$(count)
4 FOR f=1 TO count
5   FOR g=1 TO 3
6     a$(f)=a$(f)+CHR$((RND*25)+65)
7   NEXT g
8 NEXT f
9 LOCATE 1,1:PRINT"Unsorted"
10 FOR f=1 TO count:LOCATE 1,f+2:PRINT f:"";a$(f):NEXT f
11 '
12 LOCATE 1,23:PRINT SPACE$(30)
13 INPUT"Enter 3 letters to search for";search$
14 search$=UPPER$(search$)
15 '
16 FOR f=1 TO count
17   IF search$=a$(f) THEN found=1:position=f:f=count
18 NEXT f
19 IF found=0 THEN PRINT"not found":CALL &BB18:RUN
20 LOCATE 13,2+position
21 PRINT"found in ";position;" looks
22 '
23 FOR x=1 TO count
24   temp$a$(x)
25   FOR y=x TO 1 STEP -1
26     a$(y)=a$(y-1)
27     IF temp$ > a$(y) THEN a$(y)=temp$:y=1
28   NEXT y
29   IF temp$ < a$(y) THEN a$(y)=temp$
30 NEXT x
31 LOCATE 44,1:PRINT"Sorted"
32 FOR f=1 TO count:LOCATE 44,f+2:PRINT f:"";a$(f):NEXT f
33 '
34 bottom=1:top=count
35 found=0:done=0
36 looked=0
37 WHILE done=0
38   looked=looked+1
39   middle=INT((bottom+top)/2)
40   IF search$ < a$(middle) THEN found=0
41   IF search$ > a$(middle) THEN bottom=middle+1
42   IF search$ = a$(middle) THEN top=middle-1
43   IF search$ = a$(middle) THEN found=1:done=1
44   IF bottom > top AND found=0 THEN done=1
45 WEND
46 IF found=0 THEN PRINT"not found":CALL &BB18:RUN
47 LOCATE 53,2+middle
48 PRINT"found in ";looked;" looks
49 CALL &BB18
50 RUN

```

Clive Jackson
Sorting and Searching
For WACCI

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