

# NEWS

Vol 3

North Texas IBM Personal Computer Users Group

No. 7

## Special Interest Programs

### Programmers

Neil's informal contest to see who can come closest to forecasting IBM's next PC, produced one entrant: The Advanced PC (aka 'Crackerjack') will have an Intel 8086 processor (as Intel is supposed to be having trouble getting 8087's to work with 80186 chips) and a 20 megabyte hard disk and the high-res color graphics board that everybody has been anticipating for over a year. There was some discussion of the rumor that IBM is writing its own PC DOS-3 internally and will not use Microsoft's DOS 3 or 4. Also discussed were PC/IX, 1200 baud modems. Members who have actually bought PCs offered their impressions.

The July meeting will be in our standard, open topic, format. There should be even more discussion of IBM's next PC, which is supposed to be due sometime between now and this Fall, and all the other wild and wonderful rumors.

Carrington Dixon

### Business Applications

The PC/DIALOG Personal Telephone Management System will be demonstrated by Doug Kilgore of DK Enterprises.

PC/DIALOG is a plug-in board for IBM PC compatible computers which connects directly to your telephone line. The PC/DIALOG digitizes and plays back high quality voice messages without a modem. (ELECTRONIC VOICE MAIL with the PC!) The software provided with the board allows the computer to answer the phone, screen incoming calls, receive and send voice messages, and forward messages to a third number.

Unique messages can be delivered to any of 200 people to whom you have assigned an ID code. PC/DIALOG can

(continued on page 2)

### Time Change

Remember... The start time for the general session has been changed to 10:00am. Various SIG meetings will be held beginning at 9:00. For time and room assignments of these and the other afternoon sessions, see the schedule on page 3.

### Agenda

The general session at the July meeting will be devoted to software integration tools. We will have presentations on Lotus' "Symphony", and Ovation Technologies "Ovation" software.

Symphony combines word processing, a powerful database with forms and mail-merge capabilities, communications, spreadsheet and business graphics into a single, integrated program. It includes a window management system that allows users to display spreadsheets, documents, forms, graphs, and terminal sessions in convenient layouts both on screen and on paper.

Ovation lets users integrate spreadsheets, word processing, graphics, information management and communications without complicated switching from one function to another. The program works entirely in English, requiring fewer than 30 English commands.

The presentation on Ovation will be given by Andrew Murphy. Symphony will be presented by Roberta Robinson and Tim Auer.

Charles

## Next Meeting July 14, 1984

Jesuit College Preparatory School  
12345 Inwood Road, Dallas, Texas

(See map on page 12)

10:00 to 11:30

(SIG Sessions start at 9am. See Schedule on page 3.)

New!



North Texas PC NEWS

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**Deadlines:**

All material for publication in PC NEWS (articles and ads) must be received by the NEWS staff no later than the fourth Friday of the month prior to publication.

**Articles:**

Column width is 56 characters. Article submission is preferred by modem or SSD disk (ASCII format). Type-written copy is acceptable.

North Texas IBM Personal Computer Users Group

A non-profit, independent group, not associated with IBM Corporation. The Group meets on the second Saturday of each month. See page 1 for meeting time and place.

**Officials:**

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Illustrations by Mel. White

**Special Interest Programs**

**Business Applications**

(continued from page 1)

automatically dial and deliver voice messages to 150 of the people on the ID list. If you like, it will also record their reply!

For a preview of the system in operation, call (214) 669-0813 with a touch tone phone; listen to the brief instructions, and have fun!

Join us at the meeting for more details.

Ricky Burke

**Beginning Assembly Language**

During the last meeting, Members registered for the Beginning Assembly Language course offered by Jeanne Pitz. If you plan to take the class and have not signed the register, be sure to do so at the July meeting. This should be a very good class.

The Lafore book\* will be the main text for the class. This book is easy to read, a Macro Assembler is not required, and the author assumes the reader knows almost nothing about Assembly Language Programming. One of our members (Jay) has most of the programs presented in the book on a disk. If you want a copy, bring a formatted disk... Assuming a machine is available, copies can be made after the meeting.

A helpful hint for members who are new to heavy-duty programming; keep a notebook nearby when you are working. There are two reasons for doing this. One, if you run into a problem you can't solve, notes may provide the details necessary for someone to help you; second, this SIG will involve a question and answer type format that may assist in finding the solution to your problems.

For the next meeting, everyone should read the first several chapters in the Lafore book. I imagine that some of the questions will involve information presented there. General getting-started type questions are encouraged. We are all here to learn from the "ground up", so don't be bashful.

Charles Shultz

\* Assembly Language Primer for the IBM PC & XT  
 "A Plume/Waite book" by Robert Lafore

**Room Assignments**



**M o r n i n g :**

Room #	9:00 - 9:55	9:00 - 10:25	10:00 - 11:30	10:30 - 11:55
105	Beginners - IBM			open
106	Beginning Assem - IBM			Mac - Lisa
107	BASIC - IBM			Stock Investaent -
108	C. A. I. - IBM/Apple			Apple/IBM Advanced Topics - Apple
109	-	Beginners - Apple		Business - Apple
111	-	Beginning BASIC - Apple		6502 Machine Lang. - Apple
113	-	CP/M - Apple/IBM		Genealogy - Apple
114	-	Advanced Applesoft - Apple		Games - Apple/IBM
116	-	Pascal - Apple/IBM		open
Auditorium	open	open	<u>IBM MAIN MEETING</u>	-

**A f t e r n o o n :**

Room #	12:00 - 1:25	1:00 - 1:25	1:30 - 2:30	1:30 - 3:30
105	Business - IBM			
106	Advanced Programming - IBM			Assembly Language Instruction (Members Only) - IBM
107	Communications - Apple/IBM			
108	Engineering/Scientific - IBM/Apple			
109	Apple III - Apple			
111	Printer/Hardware - Apple			
113	Graphics - Apple			
114	Spreadsheets - Apple/IBM			
116	Education - Apple			
Auditorium	open	First Time Apple Corps	<u>APPLE MAIN MEETING</u>	-


**Update**

Analytic Information Processing, Inc of Danville, CA has introduced PCool, an auxiliary cooling system for the IBM PC/XT. The fan is mounted on the front of the PC or XT chassis behind the slots on the left front of the cover. It plugs into the utility outlet of the IBM PC/XT and turns on when the computer is turned on. It has a "Y" connection so the outlet on the PC remains available to the user. PCool retails for \$99.95.

Data/Ware Development, Inc of San Diego CA is offering a PC expansion box with 40W power supply and six-slot motherboard claimed to be completely compatible with the IBM PC. Available for OEM or custom requirements the box can be ordered in various configurations, or complete with cables, fan, bezel, etc. Bare chassis price is \$309, complete unit is \$696.

SOFT IMAGES of Mahwah, NJ publishes a bi-monthly journal, that indexes 130 periodicals which deal exclusively with

the field of microcomputers. An annual cumulative edition encompasses many reviews of books, periodicals, hardware, computer systems, educational courseware, video games, and other items. Subscribers to LAMP (Literature Analysis of Microcomputer Publications) can get the special edition for \$39.95. Price to others is \$69.95.

Application Executive Corporation of New York, NY has announced APX Core Executive for the PC and PC/XT that integrates off the shelf software without modification, provides concurrent processing of up to 8 tasks, has "cut and paste" transfer among different programs, overlapping windows, keyboard macros, user-defined memory allocation and other features. All this within 48K, one disk drive and mono and/or color monitor. Suggested list price is \$195. Introductory price until July 15th is \$95. (I have a few brochures. Ed.)

(We're looking for someone with access to new product information to write a monthly article summarizing new product announcements for the PC family and compatibles. Call the Editor, (817-275-4109) if you're interested.)

### H U R L E Y C O M P U T I N G

Iomega 10 Meg Removable	\$2198.00	Iomega 20 Meg Removable	\$3099.00
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Epson FX-80 160 CPS	\$ 610.00	Epson FX-100 160 CPS	\$ 759.00
Epson RX-80 F/T 100 CPS	\$ 429.00	Epson RX-100 100 CPS	\$ 657.00
Lotus 1-2-3	\$ 349.00	Dollars & Sense	\$ 124.00
dBASE II	\$ 395.00	dBASE III	\$ 490.00
Advanced DB Master	\$ 420.00	Harvard Project Mgr	\$ 279.00
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PFS File, Report, Write	\$ 105.00	Microrim Rbase 4000	\$ 349.00
Hayes Smartmodem 1200	\$ 536.00	Hayes 1200 B w/Smartcom	\$ 412.00
Verbatim SS/DD	\$ 25.00	Athana bulk SS/DD	\$ 17.92
CDC SS/DD	\$ 23.82	CDC DS/DD	\$ 33.49
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Mail order or by pickup appointment. Save on shipping charges, order in advance for pickup at next IBM PC meeting. Price and availability subject to change without notice.

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## DISK OF THE MONTH

by Doug Windham

## JULY HIGHLIGHTS

More and more and more new software is coming out for the PC every week, and the club library is growing every month. Get ready, 'cause here come 5 (yes, five) new diskettes this month. With new software and the EXCHANGE diskettes from IBM, we'll have more software coming for months. Below are just the highlights of each diskette, so be sure to come to the meeting, pick up your disk, and "check it out".

DISKETTE JUL8401 (Single sided)

PC-WRITE by Quicksort. This is version 2.2. It includes 8 screens of help online, uses color or other screen attributes to show bold or underline onscreen, un-delete and un-replace, expanded printer support, exit and return to DOS 2.0, and many other new features. It works with any monitor, 64K RAM, and one or more diskette drives. This version works with any PC including jr. It is a much improved and expanded version.

DISKETTE PD0007 (Double sided)

Games, Educational programs, and Songs are the items on this diskette.

## GAMES

HANGMAN	NIM	GOBBLE	JAMMER	MOON
RUBIK	TOWERS	WUMPUS	NEWTREK	OPERATOR
PACKMAN	MOUNTAIN	PACGIRL		

## EDUCATION

READING	FRANK	IQBUILD
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## SONGS

EVRONWRD	LITUPLIF	PUFF	RANGERD	YESTERSONGS
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Edited by Jim Buckingham.

DISKETTE PD0008 (Double sided)

Utilities, Financial Programs, and a DBASE II mailing program are on this diskette.

## UTILITIES

PCS - a utility menu system for all your diskettes. Run any program from your menu system after you get the diskettes set up.

MONITOR - a series of routines that provide a consistent user interface for application development. It helps with the development of screen, menus, titles, prompts, and editing input.

CROSSREF - a BASIC cross reference program.

## FINANCIAL

FINANCE - a BASIC program that has 20 different financial formula. It will compute present value, amortization schedules, depreciation, internal rate of return, bond yields, and much more.

FINANCE! - a BASIC program that has 5 home financial programs in one, all controlled by a menu. It has loan amortization calculations, loan amortization schedules, annuity calculations, home owner's cost calculations, and depreciation schedules.

DBASE II - A set of DBASE II programs and formats for a complete mailing list for business and/or personal use. It is distributed under the "FREEMWARE" concept by Philip K. Perlman Associates.

Edited by Jim Buckingham.

DISKETTE EX0002 (Double sided)

This is the IBM EXCHANGE diskette #2, dated April, 1984. Last month's DOM was the charter issue of the EXCHANGE program. This is the first diskette of a new series I am numbering with EX---- prefix.

This diskette has -

Announcements of the Pascal Compiler Version 2.0, Fortran Compiler Version 2.0, Sort Version 1.0, and Plannercalc.

Reviews of IBM Cobol, PCjr Graphics, Decathalon, and PFS: FILE.

Tips on alternate colors for text in med. res, diskette copying on the XT, DOS 2.0 Buffers, Super Color for the PC, and Organizing Pascal Diskettes. Focus on Software columns on Shaping Your Cursor in DOS, Xmodem Protocol, and Back to Basic.

DISKETTE EX0003 (Double sided)

This is the IBM EXCHANGE diskette #3, dated May, 1984.

This diskette has -

Announcements of the PCWriter Program and several new programs to make the PC work like IBM's

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**DISK OF THE MONTH** (continued)
 

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**DISK DETAILS**

Price: \$5.00

Catalogs: \$2.00

- Displaywriter. Review of PFS: REPORT and APL Tips on Quick Start for DOS 2.0, Using the MORE Command, The CTTY Command of DOS 2.0, Using the BASIC FIELD statement, Dumping Graphics screens from BASIC, Processing TAB characters.

Focus on Software columns on BASIC sort using a RAM disk, the modem package, and computer based instruction. Focus on Hardware columns with an introduction to PC diskettes and installing computer chips.

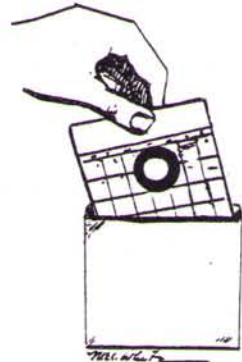
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All members of the club are encouraged to contribute copies of public domain programs to the club library. For each new diskette of software contributed, you may select any diskette in the club library in exchange.

Doug

Available at the meeting, in the cafeteria at the specially marked table, before and after the general meetings. Media: DSDD 5 1/4" diskettes formatted without DOS (320K)

Public domain software only, standard full disclaimers. Call chairman Doug Windham at 271-5727 evenings before 9pm to submit material and programs for future Disk of the Month issues. All back issues will be available at the meeting.




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**Software Report**


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by Dick Gall

**TENKEY**

TENKEY adds a convenient, versatile calculating function to the PC. This \$48.50 gem from Photon Software of Bellevue, WA. becomes memory resident when installed, and normally shows no evidence of its existence. One toggles it to life with a <CTRL><ESC> keystroke sequence, which opens a small patch of reverse video in the lower right corner of the monitor screen. This call for a TENKEY performance can be executed whenever desired - even during another program. And the calculated numerical result can be transferred automatically back to the main program. Control keys around the numeric keypad simulate calculator functions when TENKEY is active. In addition to the traditional four calculator functions, a memory register is also implemented with all four keys for adding to, subtracting from, clearing, and recalling the memory total. Clearing and percent functions are also available.

The active window shows the current control toggle settings and the current calculation result. A selectable (T)ape function turns on an upward extension of the window, simulating a calculator tape and its display of the most recently completed calculation entries and steps. The (K)onstant for multiplication or

division can be specified, and display format can be selected with 0 to 12 decimal places, dollars-and-cents format, and floating point.

Evaluation of TENKEY's performance included tests with 1-2-3, PC-WRITE, and BASICA. The ability to transfer a result from TENKEY to the main program was successfully demonstrated with all 3 programs. By pressing <CTRL><F1> once, TENKEY is terminated. With the second push, the last calculation result is transferred to the main program as though the number had been input by keystrokes.

TENKEY's flexibility shows that its been tested in many applications. Most functional keys can be reassigned in case of conflict with the main program (such as ESC). Key reassignments, display format, graphics screen accommodation, and other initial configuration options are specified by command line parameters when TENKEY is installed. Serious users will want it installed at boot time by including it in an autoexec.bat file. The demonstrator version evaluated was limited to 2 calculated digits, but performed just as specified. The documentation is typeset pages suitable for inserting in the standard PC software binders. Suggestion: the addition of a hexadecimal mode option might make TENKEY into a programmer's tool also.

Dick

# Newsletter Exchange

The following article is a reprint from the New York P.C. Users' Group Newsletter.  
Tom Prickett

## First Things First: Formatting and Autoexec.bat Files

by Rhyder McClure

Two of the more startling discoveries I've made as a computer writer/consultant/teacher in the New York City area are that few PCs are being used efficiently and damn few XTs have even been set up correctly.

The reasons are simple; the PC is an incredibly sophisticated piece of hardware that is accompanied by incomprehensible documentation, and a new owner who singlehandedly tackles the task of getting the machine up and running has his hands full ... and then some.

I am no longer suprised to be called in by a private owner who has had the machine for a year or so ... and has yet to get it going. Nor am I suprised to get calls from office managers who say, "There's 6 meg left on the hard disk but the thing won't work; any idea what's wrong?" Yes, I know exactly what's wrong.

For anyone new to personal computers, the hardware and software documentation seems to have been written either by or for Martians; it most certainly was not written for anyone with both feet on Tierra Firma.

To make your lives a little bit more tolerable, let me pass on a few, very simple tips. I have selected these because they are the answers to the most common frustration new-users encounter - getting the machine started.

Formatting disketts is the first step that MUST be taken after the machine is plugged in, and though it may



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- 8087 Arithmetic Coprocessor ... 195.00
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# Newsletter Exchange

► come as a surprise to the "old hands," there are lots of new - or would-be - users who never make it that far.

Then, there is the AUTOEXEC.BAT file, a truly wonderful invention. It is a file that contains usually more than one DOS command that the system finds (while booting), and executes.

It is a file that, at its most basic level, will default the system to the B drive and bring up an application program ... all ready to run. The high end of an AUTOEXEC.BAT file is limited only by an author's imagination.

One or both of the topics should prove useful to most new or future users, and for you old-timers, well, some of you may even find the AUTOEXEC.BAT file for the XT (toward the end of the piece) useful; it adds a directory-identifying flag to the DOS prompt.

Let's begin with formatting diskettes for PCs with two disk drives. There are, in this example, two types of diskettes -- system diskettes and data diskettes -- and it is the formatting that makes them different. WordStar will be used for the demonstration.

The WordStar program files should reside on the diskette in the A Drive, and the diskette with the information generated by the program (the data) should reside in the B Drive. While that is neither a hard nor fast rule, it is logical procedure.

The WordStar system diskette should contain, in addition to the program files, the DOS COMMAND.COM file, which enables the machine to start up and go about its business. So, before copying the WordStar program files to the diskette, it should be formatted as follows:

With the DOS diskette in the A drive, and a new diskette in the B drive, either turn on the machine or hold down the CTRL and ALT keys and tap the DEL key. After the date and time have entered, enter the following command:

```
A> FORMAT B: /S
```

The /S will cause the COMMAND.COM file to be copied to the diskette in the B Drive during the formatting. When formatting is complete, the machine will ask if you want to format another diskette. Answer NO.

The wordstar program diskette can now be placed in the A Drive, and the following command entered:

```
A> COPY *.* B:
```

which will copy all the program files to the newly formatted diskette in the B Drive. The "A>" symbol in the above command is the DOS prompt, and because it already exists on the screen, you do not type it.

Remove the diskette from the B Drive and label it "WordStar System." (If you are using WordStar, or just about any other program, for the first time, you will need to consult your manual for the Installation procedure).

Now, with the DOS diskette in Drive A and a new diskette in Drive B, enter the following command:

```
A> FORMAT B:
```

When formatting is complete, the machine will ask you if you want to format another diskette. Answer NO. Remove the diskette from the B Drive and label it "WordStar Data."

Place the WordStar System diskette in the A Drive and the WordStar Data diskette in the B Drive and type what you see below, which is an AUTOEXEC.BAT file that will automatically start the machine and cause it to place all the information you generate with WordStar on the diskette in the B Drive. Tap the ENTER key at the end of each line.

```
A> COPY CON: AUTOEXEC.BAT
DATE
TIME
B:
A:WS
F6
```

The F6 immediately above is the Function Key 6, not a combination of the F and 6 keys.

Now, if you hold down CTRL and ALT and tap the DEL key, you will see the magic of AUTOEXEC.BAT files. AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE: in some programs, such as MultiMate, you would not use the above AUTOEXEC.BAT file; that program defaults to the B Drive all on its own; read your manual!



Newsletter Exchange

► The most common error I see with XTs is that they are set up without sub-directories, which means the file directory limit may eventually be reached ... causing the machine to stop cold in its electronic tracks. That will happen even if the machine tells you it still has 6 meg of available space.

If you have been using an XT without sub-directories, it is advisable to spend a Saturday or Sunday correcting the set-up; not only will that eliminate the possibility of reaching the directory limit, it will make the machine perform much more efficiently.

How? Having an XT set up without subdirectories is the same as throwing every document stored in a big box - it'll hold them, but how do you find one particular file? By looking through everything! Creating sub-directories is the same as filing documents in different, clearly-labeled drawers.

For the sake of this piece, let's assume that you are dealing with a newly partitioned and formatted hard disk that contains no files whatsoever, and that you are going to set up sub-directories for DOS, WordStar, and Lotus 1-2-3.

With the DOS C> prompt on screen, you will create the sub-directories for DOS, WordStar, and 1-2-3 by entering the following Make Directory (MD) commands:

```
C> MD DOS <ENTER>
C> MD WS <ENTER>
C> MD 123 <ENTER>
```

After you have created the three sub-directories, enter the following Change Directory command:

```
C> CD DOS
```



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which will let the machine know that you want it to Change Directories (CD) - from the "root" (or "C:") directory to the DOS sub-directory. Place the DOS diskette in the A Drive and enter the following command:

```
C> COPY A:*.*
```

which will copy all of the files on the DOS diskette into the DOS sub-directory on the hard disk.

Replace the DOS diskette in the A Drive with the DOS "Supplemental Programs" diskette, and enter the following command:

```
C> COPY A:*.*
```

To get from the DOS sub-directory to the WordStar (WS) sub-directory, enter the following command:

```
C> CD \WS
```

and copy the WordStar program files into the sub-directory as above.

When that has been completed, change from the WordStar sub-directory to the 123 sub-directory with the command:

---

# N e w s l e t t e r   E x c h a n g e

---

► C> CD \123

and copy all the 1-2-3 files into the 123 sub-directory.

Again ... I remind you that most programs will need to be "Installed" after they have been copied to the hard disk, so check your manual.

With the installations completed, enter the command

C> CD \

which will take you back to the C> prompt at the "root" directory.

If you type

C> DIR <ENTER>

(the directory command) you will see the DOS, WS and 123 sub-directories!

The following AUTOEXEC.BAT file should prove useful to most XT owners/- users, new or old, for it not only brings up the list of sub-directories, it changes the DOS prompt from plain "C>" to a prompt that contains a flag that identifies the current sub-directory.

For example, when in the WordStar sub-directory, the prompt would be

C:\WS>

For you tree-structure artists, if you were in the "Letters" sub-directory of the sub-directory WS, the prompt you are about to create would be

C:\WS\LETTERS>

which is a very easy way of knowing exactly where you are.

To create the AUTOEXEC.BAT file, enter the following, tapping the ENTER key at the end of each line:

```
C> COPY CON: AUTOEXEC.BAT
      ECHO OFF
```

```
CLS
DATE
TIME
PATH=\WS;\123
PROMPT $P$G
ECHO ON
CLS
DIR \P
F6
```

The F6 immediately above is the Function Key 6, not the combination of the F and 6 keys.

Now, do a system re-set by holding down CTRL and ALT and tapping the DEL key. You have just made the XT more efficient, easier to use, and protected yourself from the possibility of running out of directory space.

It is, however, most strongly recommended that you study the sections of the DOS manual that deal with sub-directories, the Path command, and the tree-structures; understanding these subjects is vital for the efficient use of the XT, and there is simply not enough space here to get you through it all.

In the meantime, to use WordStar from the C:\> prompt, enter the command:

C:\>CD WS

which takes you into the WordStar sub-directory. Then, to bring up WordStar, simply type the letters WS and tap the ENTER key.

Though these examples have used WordStar, the information can be translated to almost all programs. If you do exactly what I have written and don't get the results you expected, check the manual for the particular program. I use the above AUTOEXEC.BAT files with 98% of my programs.

For the final time, this is not the Be-All, End-All for using the IBM PC or PC-XT - it's just a small step in the right direction. If you need further help call your dealer, a knowledgeable friend, or hire a consultant you trust.

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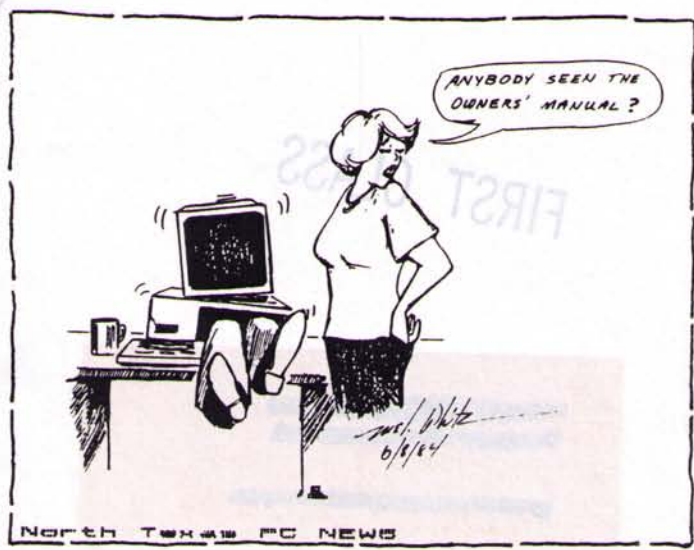
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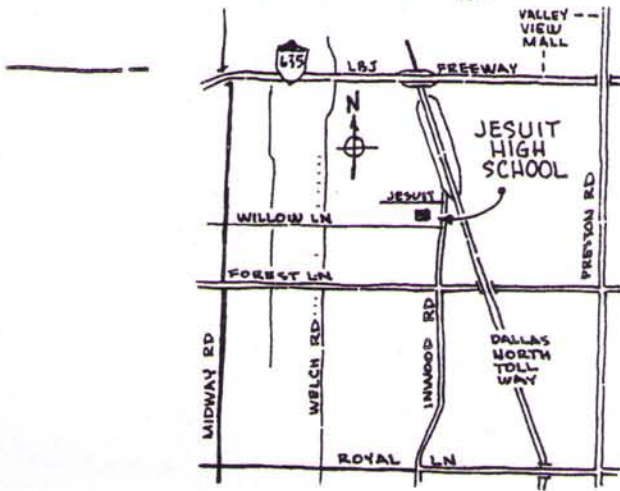


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