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*North Texas PC Users Group*

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All material for publication in North Texas PC NEWS (articles and ads) must be received by the NEWS staff no later than the 15th of the month.

**Articles:**

Please do not right-justify, indent or otherwise code the copy. If column alignment is critical, send along a hard copy, or written instructions. Article submission is preferred by modem (817/275-4109 or Startext 51563), or disk in ASCII format, unjustified. If you send a disk, please include a printed copy of the article to assure accuracy. Double spaced, typewritten copy is acceptable but must be received a week before the deadline.

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**DEADLINE**

Copy deadline for February PC NEWS:  
Thursday, January 15th.  
(... don't wait until the last minute!)

**Future Meeting Dates**

February Meeting - 2nd Saturday (14th)  
March Meeting - 3rd Saturday (21st)  
April Meeting - 2nd Saturday (11th) tentative

**North Texas Personal Computer Users Group, Inc.**

P.O. Box 780066, Dallas, TX 75378-0066

**Board of Directors**

Jim Graham, Chairman      Jim Hoisington  
Dick Barr                      John Pribyl  
Jim Janeway

The North Texas PC Users Group, Inc., is a non-profit, independent group, not associated with IBM or any other Corporation. Membership is open to owners and others interested in exchanging ideas, information, hardware, predictions, and other items related to IBM Personal and compatible computers. To join the Group, complete the application blank printed elsewhere in this issue, and send it with \$24 membership dues to address shown below. A subscription to the newsletter is included with each membership.

The Group meets once each month, usually on the second Saturday. See cover for date, time and place of the next User Group meeting.

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Payment of dues, address changes, and inquiries about membership should be directed to:

NTPCUG Membership Director  
135 Skyline Drive  
Plano, Texas 75074

Check newsletter mailing label for your membership renewal date. No separate renewal notice will be sent.




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**President's Corner**


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Well, it doesn't seem like it's been two years already, but I've chaired the last meeting of my term as president. I'd be lying if I said that it's all been fun, but I have enjoyed the time. I've got to thank all of the volunteers who have donated their time, effort, and sweat to make this Group work. It's people like you who make it worthwhile.

I'll not dwell too long on the past two years, even though we have come a long way. We've discovered that there are many people who think that what we're doing is important enough to spend an hour, or 2, or 40, a month to insure that it continues and improves. Our Group focus has expanded as we have tapped the talent of more and more of our members. We have been able to offer more information and services, and everyone has had a better chance to explore new areas.

This continued expansion and flow of ideas and information is essential for the Group and each of us as individuals. Everyone can get something out of our Saturday meeting if they're willing to try. With the pace of technology, it's often difficult to stay current in one area, much less ten. As part of this Group, we have

the potential to become an even better resource for each other.

Although we may own different computers we share many of the same goals - we're all looking for solutions. No one needs a crystal ball to see that the future includes connections between computers; what we need is better connections between the people behind the computers. Hardware and software are out there to connect a Mac to a PC, or an ST to a mainframe, or an AMIGA to a network. Let's continue to work on the "software" that helps us work together.

The Computer Council of Dallas has adopted bylaws that provide a framework for all of the groups to continue to meet together. This gives us all the opportunity to at least look at the rest of the world, and get more involved if we want. I'm excited about the future of the North Texas PC User Group and the new positive direction of the Computer Council of Dallas. I plan to continue to be involved. I want to be there as this happens. Thanks again for everything, and I'll see you at the next meeting - from the chairs instead of the stage.

Jim

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## January

Charles Kroboth, Program Chairman

9:00 AM, Auditorium \* Resource Center Tour \*

Mrs. Chris Dobson, manager of Library Services at Infomart, will discuss resources available to us as well as Library memberships.

10:00 AM, Auditorium \* EXECUCOM \*

Representatives from Execucom's local office will be demonstrating IFPS/Personal. This is a financial modeling package that will appeal to those who currently use the mainframe version, Interactive Financial Planning System, or those that have reached the limits of their spreadsheet.

**DOOR PRIZE:** Surprise!

## Mavericks, Strays and other Disk Clutter

by Dr. Reagan Andrews

Disk File Clutter is ubiquitous and self-reproducing. Sooner -- not later -- it afflicts all computer users, both floppy-only and hard-disk equipped alike.

Outside of being untidy, file clutter may actually retard efficient disk operation. As a hard disk fills, performance declines steadily to the extent some DOS operations such as COPY may take up to 200-400% longer than when new and empty. Similar degradations may be found with floppy disks.

Everyone has a different concept of "organization" when it comes to disks. But, most users find three general rules helpful in organizing and maintaining either floppy or hard disk systems:

(1.) Keep directories and subdirectories within reasonable bounds. This is as important for floppy users as for users with large hard disks. More than 50 files in a given directory become very difficult to manage unless they are highly related.

(2.) Keep repetition of programs to an absolute minimum. DOS .BAT "PATH" commands help eliminate program replication. Program files which have been superseded by new or revised versions should be deleted -- unless necessary for use with older application or data files.

(3.) "Old" or duplicate data files, unused drafts, .DOC and .TXT files or other "surplus" files need to be weeded from the disk. In some cases, these might be "archived" onto floppy disks or tape for later retrieval. Most of the time, however, such files can be erased or deleted.

To accomplish these, you need to know exactly what's on the disk -- in every directory and subdirectory. If there are a number of files with the same name in different directories, you need to know if they are identical, or just share file names. Periodically, you need to be able to transfer several files from one subdirectory to another, or selectively erase a

number of files from a subdirectory without having to erase all files there.

Solution to handling these chores -- after rejecting MS/PC DOS utilities as too slow and "Shells" (GASPI, 1-DIR, etc.) as too clumsy and complicated -- came from browsing through NTPCUG's DOM (Disk of the Month) catalogue and scanning the Files section of local computer bulletin boards (BBS's).

DISK, LIST, LDIR, CWEEP and VFILER are five file-management utilities I found. These programs work well on either hard-disk or floppy-only PC's, don't require massive amounts of RAM (the largest is CWEEP at 27K) and are easy to learn and use. All were obtained from DOM's or local BBS's. Where possible, I've sent the recommended contributions to their authors. ("Freeware" and "Shareware" are not "Public Domain" -- the authors expect some compensation if their programs are used.)

Initial task in file maintenance is determining what files are contained on the disk and where they reside.

DISK Command does that well. It is an extremely powerful, general purpose, directory and file listing utility that will easily read the hard disk and display all files, including "hidden" files, with pertinent attributes. This latter can be very useful in cleaning up the clutter left by copy-protected versions of otherwise good programs that prevent some backup routines from operating properly.

DISK allows file listing from an entire hard disk, including ALL subdirectories with a single command. Before embarking on massive culling or reorganization, I use DISK and redirect to a file for later printing. DISK offers calculation of totals (size) for each directory as well as full file specification including directory path.

Power options in DISK are command-line "switch" controlled in a manner similar to that used in DOS' COPY and FORMAT commands. Listing all files, both "visible" and "hidden", with full information on each file and subtotals for each subdirectory follows this command: "DISK/H/F/T <CR>"

DISK will perform file searches across all directories allowing "wild card" specification. That is, you may specify a listing of all ".DOC" files by "DISK \*.DOC <CR>" and DISK will list each .DOC file by directory and sub-directory on the disk. DISK has a number of other features that are equally powerful, but these are the most frequently used in my housekeeping.

I tend to name files capriciously rather than logically. As a result, I often need to "look" in a number of .DOC or .TXT files sequentially in order to see what's there. DOS's TYPE command doesn't let me use "wild card" specifications. LIST does.

LIST (currently in version 60J) is probably one of the more valuable additions to any utility collection to be found. As a "browser," LIST allows forward and backward scrolling through any file, either "page" or line at a time. Controls are "intuitive" and allow viewing files in either ASCII (text) or HEX format without difficulty. LIST also allows "Right" and "Left" scrolling.

LIST is invoked like TYPE, i.e., "LIST \*.TXT <CR>" (which will sequentially go through all files with the extension ".TXT" in the current directory. "Help" (command listing) is available through the <F1> or "/" keys. Documentation that comes with LIST is unusually complete.

LIST can be customized or "cloned" to work properly with almost any PC/MS-DOS computer. Presentation on color monitors can be controlled by the user, and features to accommodate use with LAN's and other special operating environments such as DesqView (c) and DoubleDos (c) are included in the basic program.

When I mailed the suggested contribution (\$15.), LIST's author, Vernon D. Buerg, responded by returning a DSDD disk filled with the latest versions of his MS/PC-DOS utilities. Among them was the third utility program to be covered -- LDIR30.COM.

I've renamed LDIR30.COM "D.COM" and use it instead of DOS's "DIR" command. It is the most-used utility on my hard disk. LDIR stands for "List DIRectory" and provides

selected directory functions with simple commands.

LDIR allows sorting by file name, size, date, extension or any combination of these. It will also display, if desired, file attributes such as archive, display "hidden" files and include all paths beginning at the current directory. LDIR doesn't have the easy, "total disk" power of DISK, but is much handier since its default is the current directory or subdirectory rather than the entire hard disk.

Command-line controlled, LDIR uses "switches" to control its options in a manner similar to DISK. "Help" (command listing) is obtained by typing "LDIR /? <CR>"

DISK, LIST and LDIR are for discovery. Heavy-duty house cleaning and reorganization call for copying, moving and deleting files -- individually, selectively or in groups. CWEEN214.COM and/or VFILER 2.8 are my choices for these.

Similar to CP/M's "SWEEP," CWEEN214.COM is a menu-driven file maintenance utility that takes a sorted list of files and allows copying, viewing, deleting and sorting -- either individually or in groups. CWEEN214, or CWEEN, since I rename frequently-used programs for minimal typing, is "line" oriented. That is, it presents one file at a time for "Tagging" (selection) rather than "cursoring" through a full-screen listing of files in the current directory.

CWEEN compensates for this "antiquated" approach with pure power. It performs paged Viewing (ASCII), HEX Dumps, Mass Copying and Deletions of files, "Protected" file Mass Copying -- that is, it won't overwrite a file with similar name in the target directory without asking, and choice of "Tagged" or "Untagged" and "wild-card" matching (or unmatching) operations. Unlike some "shells", CWEEN doesn't change file date/time stamps when mass copying.

There is no "Move" command in CWEEN, but use of the "Tagged" selection accomplishes the same thing. You can "Tag" a group of files, copy them to the new directory or disk, then delete the "Tagged" files from the source directory with a second keystroke. CWEEN also

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calculates disk space necessary for files to be copied and will check the target disk to ensure enough room is present.

A simple "Help" screen (command listing) for CWEENP is available through "/" key and a good DOC file comes with the program on most BBS's.

VFILER ver. 2.8 is a full-screen file management utility --unlike CWEENP's line-oriented approach. Some power is sacrificed for "user friendliness," but VFILER is faster to use and has some features CWEENP lacks.

"Tagging" (selection) is similar to CWEENP and Mass Copies and Mass Deletions are featured in addition to individual Copy and Delete operations. Individual files can be Viewed with paging and VFILER includes a printing facility that is quite similar to that found in Norton Utilities' Line Print command. It doesn't have margin and page width controls, but is one of the better file printing options available in this type of file manipulation program.

VFILER's authors are: Mike Nice, H.M. Van Tassell and Rick Schaeffer. The DOC included with the program may be somewhat above the first-time computer user, but does give the more comfortable use instructions for running

other programs within VFILER and altering the display colors. Limited "Help" (command listing) is available through "/" keystroke.

All of the utilities described are reasonably "well behaved" and should function within applications programs that allow access to DOS. I have used each from MS WORD's "Library Run" command with no difficulty and have yet to experience a serious "crash" from any of the utilities.

Reagan

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(Donations are suggested, but not specified.)

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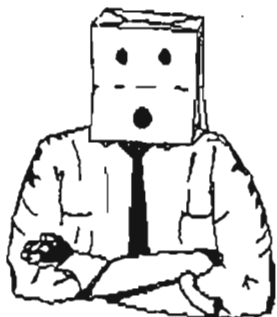
#### THANKS!

Special thanks to all who have worked the Information/Registration Booth at Infomart during 1986. You have been most generous of your time and most thoughtful of other members in the face of adversity (Oh, those name badge problems...!), especially, Lettie Graham. We thank you heartily and salute your efforts on behalf of the North Texas PC Users Group.

Happy New Year.

Connie Andrews

## NERD ON THE STREET



**HAPPY DAYS:** There was a Computer Council of Dallas meeting December 16 and some wonderful things happened. NTPCUG now has 1 vote per 100 members. Everyone needs to congratulate Jim Holsington and Jim Graham for force feeding proportional repre-

sentation to the CCD. I understand there was some very colorful discussion. The tide turned when J&J let the Council know that our Board of Directors insisted on one vote per hundred members. Best irrational quote of the evening came from a rep from one of the smaller Groups; "I guess this means we'll all be limited to 640K".

**DEFECTS:** Close to 1000 defective copies of Lotus' Freelance Plus were shipped in December. When program disk 2 is loaded, the computer does not recognize it and asks the user to insert the correct disk. If the #2 disk loads then you have a clean copy. Replacement disks are available from dealers.

**HORROR STORIES:** Did you know that Tandy's Model 100 is made by Kyocera Corp. in Japan? That probably explains why simple problems are resolved by replacing the motherboard (at \$185) and generally take two weeks to fix. Enhancements, such as expanded memory, have to be "special-ordered". The price is right (\$400), but watch out for this one.

**EXPLODING COMPUTERS:** Compaq Computer has notified it's dealers that the main system board of the Portable II PC could explode if improperly modified. "Improper modification can, in some cases lead to an explosion of the computer's lithium battery". Up to 8,000 Portable II's could be affected and Compaq is spending \$2 million to correct the problem. The problem results from the soldering of jumper J120 on the system board, which is identified by the marking PCB-000320-001 REV B, C, or D. Soldering what looks like a broken pin can result in a positive charge to the battery and cause the explosion. To date, no injuries have been reported.

**HARDWARE:** Some of you may remember a PC Magazine article last summer on color monitors. A company that caught my attention was Thomson Consumer Products Corp. because it received a very good rating and was one of the least expensive. They have a new product called the 4375 M-Ultrascan which is CGA, EGA, and PCG compatible as well as supporting IBM monochrome and Hercules stan-

dards. It will adjust to horizontal scan frequencies between 15.7 and 35KHz and vertical scan frequencies between 45 and 75Hz (It is being said that IBM's new graphics products will operate at 70Hz in an effort to thwart sales of products like the NEC MultiSync. The NEC has a maximum vertical scan frequency of 62Hz). The Thomson also supports video composite input signals and has a list price of \$895.

Micronyx, Inc. of Richardson is selling Triad, a PC add-on board and software system to allow hardware-based data security. IC-based "keys" let up to 64 users on the system and keep them where they're supposed to be. Convex Computer Corp. is selling the C-1 line of supercomputers that use up to 20,000 gate arrays and parallel processing. The C-1 XL starts at \$350,000 and the XP at \$495,000.

**NEWEST RUMORS:** The latest on IBM's small-footprint, 8086 based PC include high-resolution graphics, disk controller on the motherboard, and 640K bytes as standard. Base price is expected to be around \$1,100. It should operate at 6MHz and come with two 3.5 inch floppy-disk drives and a hard disk option. The system will measure 14 inches wide, 16 inches deep, and 2.5 inches high. The 2.5 inch height is possible because the three expansion slots are mounted horizontally. IBM is dedicating an additional 128K bytes to graphics and has raised the vertical-scan frequency to 70Hz (see HARDWARE). Also look for a new chick-let keyboard with 12 function keys (just kidding).

**JAPANEWS:** Komag, Inc. and Asahi Glass Co. of Tokyo are working on a glass-based hard disk that should produce twice the capacity of today's aluminum disks at four-fifths the price. The glass provides a more precise recording surface, thus lowering the read heads below the current 8-micron specification. The glass is also said to be lighter and stronger and makes the fantasy of a 100-megabyte, one-slot hard disk card possible. The product is expected on the market within the next 12 months and will include special handling & care instructions for aspiring sopranos.

Comdex, Las Vegas, attracted over 1000 exhibitors and 70,000 attendees. DataShow, Japan's equivalent, had 155 exhibitors and 500,000 visitors. Sushi for thought if you're a manufacturer. The Japanese Ministry of Treasury announced the opening stock price of NTT (Japan's Telegraph and Telephone Company). \$7,481 (US) a share.

**QUOTES:** "Beat 'em. If it's a good idea, go ahead and do it. It's easier to apologize than it is to get permission." - Adm. Grace Hopper.

REVENUE: IBM's third quarter profits fell 27%. This marks the first back-to-back quarterly decline in profits for Big Blue since the 1930's. 3COM's fourth quarter results exceeded Wall Street's expectations of \$22.5 million by about 25% and earnings per share of 16 cents by 20%. According to Paine Webber, Ashton-Tate has doubled Multimate International's revenue run rate since its acquisition.

Unfortunately for A-T they lost market share to Wordperfect and Microsoft. Due to a 35% international growth rate, Compaq Computer has invested \$23 million in a manufacturing facility in Erskine, Scotland. The 200,000 sq. ft. factory will be supplying European dealers. DEC's first quarter showed a 26% rise in sales due primarily to European business. Intel is expected to sell close to 100,000 80386 microprocessors in 1986 and has its sights set on 500,000 in 1987. Intel also lost \$114.2 million in its last quarter. In its first quarter, Businessland has shown a 50% increase over the same period last year.

SOME 1986 PROS & CONS: Best New Market - Desktop Publishing; Hardware Pro - Toshiba T3100; Software Pro - Quick Basic and \$2 Disk of the Month; NTPCUG Pro - This Newsletter; DCC Pro - Alan Kay; Best Performance by an Automaker - Hyundai Clones; Best New Image - Apple; Local Success Stories - DAC and Soft Warehouse; Hardware Cons - 286XT and Convertible; Software Cons - Lotus pulling the copy protection from 123 only if you purchase vast quantities; DCC Cons - Bylaws proposal of taxation without representation (\$1 per member); NTPCUG Cons - BBS; Worst Performance by an Automaker - GM.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTION: To be in the same tax bracket as Ross Perot due to worldwide syndication of this column. (Plan B: Get this column in before deadline.)

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#### SOFTWARE REPORT by Dick Gall

#### PC/TAXCUT PLANNER INTRODUCES BEST PROGRAMS' TAX & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

PC/TaxCut Tax Planner for 1986 and 1987 taxes is both a useful tax planning tool and an excellent introduction to the professional tax and financial management software produced by Best Programs, Inc.

Planner provides a convenient format for inputting the required data for individual federal income taxes and outputs a five-page summary including the bottom line refund or tax due. The data are stored for later editing and what-if calculations in the planning mode.

Once 1986 data are entered, they can be copied to the 1987 tax planner for a first-hand look at the impact of the recent tax code revisions.

Copies of the PC/TaxCut Tax Planner are available by sending a \$15 check to Best Programs, 5134 Leesburg Pike, Alexandria, VA 22302. Multiple copies for schools, companies or user groups are

available for \$2 each, minimum quantity of 25 copies.

Best Programs' standard line of software is available on a special offer through February 15, and includes:

- PC/TaxCut (\$95, regular retail \$145)
- PC/Professional Finance (\$165, regular retail \$245)
- PC/Personal Investor (\$125, regular retail \$195)
- All 3 programs above (\$300, regular retail \$585)

PC/TaxCut calculates and prints a complete 1040 long-form tax return, with up to 20 supporting forms and schedules. PC/Professional Finance is a powerful record-keeping program, and PC/Personal Investor is a portfolio management program. The three programs exchange data where appropriate to create a financial management system.

Based on the ease of use and effectiveness of the Tax Planner, the mainline Best programs should be excellent tools. The planner will run on any IBM-PC, AT, XT, or compatible using DOS 2.0 or higher. 256K of memory is required.

The planner program was submitted to the Users Group by Account Representative Melanie Day, tel. 800-368-2405.

Dick

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## On Complexity No. 5 in a Series

by Jim Holsington

It's the new year and time for some predictions. I have found that people in the PC world listen to various prophets. Some follow the musings of the prophet Katt, others follow the prophet Dvorak. A few even follow a minor prophet named Norton. But I attempt to divine the future from the utterings of the prophet Fred.

I had wanted to write this column in December, but Fred was not in Dallas. However, when I got up yesterday morning I spotted his Harley parked beside my swimming pool. And there on my floaty raft in the middle of the pool was the prophet Fred, sound asleep.

I grabbed a case of Lone Star longnecks and a jacket and went out onto the patio to ply the prophet for his visions of the future.

It seems the prophet had been in old Mexico visiting Boys Town (not the orphanage) but had hastily returned to Dallas in order to celebrate Texas National Fajita Day. After a few more longnecks, the prophet began to speak of the future.

When I asked about the ever increasing complexity of DOS, he burped loudly and mumbled something about a Microsoft Windows interface. So I said, "The Macintosh was the right design after all."

Fred looked at me disgustedly and gently explained that the Macintosh interface was too restrictive and that what would evolve on our machines would be a compromise between an all icon interface and a command line interface with optional pull down menus and hyper-mouse pointing device.

When I asked how all this was possible, the prophet explained that IBM would no longer build 8088 machines. All new PC's would be faster, have larger memory, and would use the new graphics chips. "Look," he said, "for the graphics interface to be built into the motherboard on some future machines."

"And what will become of the programs that we will run on these new machines?," I asked. Fred

replied, "Process Visualization!" I said, "But, that's what (Dr.) Neil Bennett has been saying for years!" "Yes," explained Fred, "he's been right all along and now that we have the machines that are powerful enough to allow it, you will be able to look into the heart of any program and watch it compute when you need to."

"Will there be a sixth generation language?," I asked the prophet. "Yes! After many of the companies that are currently selling database packages go under in 1987, a giant corporation will buy up all their unsold packages and merge all these products to run under the VISI-ON operating system. This new product will be hyped as the sixth generation language because it will take a machine with artificial intelligence capability just to understand the documentation."

By now things were getting pretty weird because it was only 35 degrees and the steam rising from the pool was making it harder and harder to see the prophet. As I tossed him the last longneck, I realized that I had time for only one more question. "Oh great prophet, what is a hyper-mouse?"

By now the prophet's voice was faint, but I did my best to make out his reply before he drifted off to sleep. The hyper-mice are already being produced by Harley Davidson, a new entry into the PC clone business, and are being stored in huge warehouses in Milwaukee. They will be introduced when IBM announces their 386 based machine and Harley has an exclusive license to import them into Japan. (Hopefully this will allow Harley a chance to recover some of the market that they lost to Honda and Suzuki in this country.)

The hyper-mouse is a pointing device that has an onboard computer that has been programmed with artificial intelligence. It keeps track of where you have been on the screen and guesses at where you are going. After a period of learning it goes ahead and runs your PC for you. You don't have to do anything. It decides for you what you were going to do. Sort of a self-fulfilling prophecy. Analogous to well known columnists who make predictions about the future.

Jim

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## Letter to the Editor

I couldn't let the November '86 column, "Nerd on the Street," go without reply. I have a complaint, a correction, and suggestion.

First, the complaint. This column has in the past delivered opinions about DCC that caused considerable pain to those of us trying to make DCC work, but the factual errors ... in this last issue are too much. Now the corrections:

- 1) There was NO discussion at DCC about moving the December meeting. The only move discussed was for April '87. There was NO statement that IBM or Apple would have fewer rooms from any move that might take place. And no DCC member brought up the move. C-CAD approached DCC about the BENEFITS for both parties gained by holding a joint meeting, more than 4 months ago. In fact, the only limit on number of rooms is 5 per club at any 1 time.
- 2) There is nothing in the DCC "charter," whatever that is, that gives groups free tables in the basement. That is part of the vendor policy, that can be changed at any time by the council. Also, DALACE is currently also using several tables for DOM activities. The object of concern here was an Apple Corps request for 12 (yes, 12) tables. Since the number of tables available are limited, DCC, quite properly, I think, discussed several possible policy guides if more table were requested than were available. Since there are a finite number available, DCC MUST, in SOME fashion, apportion tables between the meeting rooms, for club activities, the vendors (whose table rental enables EVERYONE to meet at INFOMART), and the DOM freebies. Which should have the lowest priority?

Finally, the suggestions:

- 1) Put a name to the nerd. Uncredited rumor mongering is hardly something I expect outside the tabloids.
- 2) Check your facts. I send a monthly column to all DCC affiliate editors via STARTEXT with the latest DCC news. If it contradicts a nerd rumor, at least check with your DCC reps, if you don't trust me.

Thanks for listening. Please make the newsletter better - avoid this sort of pernicious gossip in the future.

John Peilet

## Our DCC Rep replies...

1. Although the meeting date was April as stated in the letter, a member of the DCC did bring it up (CCAD has never sent a rep to the DCC). Although the fact that any specific group would have to lose room was not brought up, the resource problem was brought up, and although

the issue worked itself out by virtue of a single vote, if it had not, we would have to be planning a very extended day already and we still might not get enough rooms to hold all our SIGs. The Nerd was right on target with the issue.

2. The table situation is not addressed in the by-laws, although that situation may be remedied soon. It was part of the original agreement among the founding members of the DCC. At that time, 3 out of the 4 groups received a portion of their income through the use of the tables. The difference now is there are 13 members of the council and only three of them use DOM tables. In addition, what is not said in the letter is that APPLE had requested 12 DOM tables but immediately apologized when it was discovered that it was a matter of miscommunication among the APPLE members, the actual number should have been 6.

The Nerd serves a purpose. I believe that the popularity of similar columns in places such as INFOWORLD and PC WEEK comes from the fact that they can legitimately speculate and that they can fuel that speculation in no small part simply by their own anonymity and the anonymity that they provide. I have had little other than positive responses to the Nerd.

Jim Graham, President  
North Texas PC NEWS

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PS - On the night before the NTPC News went to press, the DCC (now the CCD) adopted a set of bylaws that should help to relieve the concerns of the Nerd and the Board and Officers of several User Groups. Getting these resolutions was not easy. We've been trying without success for more than 18 months. Last night, the CCD reached a breaking point - and an accusing finger was pointed at the Nerd as being one of the factors that had brought us to near dissolution. Well, perhaps, but surprisingly enough, with a desperate situation on our hands, we were able to accomplish in 5 hours what we haven't been able to do in the last 20 months - we agreed on a basic set of operating rules. They're not all things everyone wanted, there is still more work to do, but we've got something almost everyone can live with. I, personally, am sorry for any hard feelings that may have been caused by the Nerd's column, but if he helped us with this accomplishment then I'd like to pat him on the bag. We've got a chance at something good - if we all pull together it will work, and I hope that both the Nerd and his one or two critics will give us the chance to try. - JG

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## Special Interest Program Reports

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### General Special Interest Group (SIG) News

A reminder that any SIG news items for this newsletter must be received by noon of the 14th of the month — regardless of the date of the next meeting.

#### BEGINNERS

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Hopefully, this new SIG will start in January, even though time is short. It is our intent to have three relatively fixed programs, making up a Beginners series, that will be repeated four times during the year. Beginners can start at any time.

If this SIG begins in January, it will be listed on the projected schedule at the Infomart. Look for it!

#### BUSINESS-APPLICATIONS

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The success of the December "Christmas stocking stuffer" meeting can be measured in the difficulty we had in closing the meeting within the allotted hour. There were so much ground to cover, questions to answer, observations to discuss on the subject of "funware under \$50", that the time seemed to fly by. Our apologies to the succeeding SIG group scheduled for the room after us. We will try to be less rowdy, and more time conscious in the future. It was refreshing to see so many with such strong interest in the entertaining aspects of the computer (IE games). It just goes to show us all that we can never outgrow

our youthful enthusiasm, and childhood fantasies.

A round of applause please to Doug Windham for sharing information on shareware packages available, and to Soft Warehouse for providing a warehouse of information on the entertaining and educational software available on the market.

If there is anyone in the audience who would like to give a short talk on desktop publishing or any other good subject, please call me at 991-5967, otherwise we could be looking at slides of last year's vacation in future meetings to fill the time. So, call me if you have any ideas or good vacation slides.

With the cold blasts of winter and the January meeting, it is time that our thoughts turn to our favorite uncle in Washington, and the tribute we pay him yearly. Yes, what would be more appropriate for that taxing time of the year, than to review tax preparation and planning packages, along with a brief talk on how the new tax law will affect you and your computer. Hope to see you there.

#### BUYERS-BUILDERS

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The second meeting of this SIG under Charles Plumeau was again well-attended. Warren Ferguson reported that he has been researching mother boards and is arranging for future

demos. Charles told us of his research on Monitors. Nancy Cleveland talked about Hard Drives. Mitchell Lehr distributed a questionnaire to both the SIG and the general meeting requesting information about our hardware and experiences with vendors. Andrew Chalk told us of his experience in buying a clone. He found some discrepancies between vendor advertising and performance.

Bob Jones of Five-Star Electronics demonstrated one of their ATs. He said that they are not the least expensive vendor, but that they had found nothing that would not run on their products.

As in other SIGs, the diversity of knowledge and experience causes some problems in satisfying the needs of all the attendees.

The next meeting will include a visit from AIT in Carrollton to tell us about their ATTACK BOARD 286.

#### C LANGUAGE

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Kent Cobb of GASPI presented the December C-SIG program on task spawning and memory management. He explained how GASPI and other DOS shells work.

The January program will be presented by Neil Bennett, who will talk on screen I/O, fast screen writes and the control of devices. Come and join us for an interesting program. ■

### Nominees for President-Elect and Board of Directors

A ballot for the January election is printed in this issue of NT PC NEWS. Use it! Fill in your choices and bring the ballot to the January meeting, or mail it to the Secretary, NT PC Users Group, P.O. Box 780066, Dallas, TX 75378 so that it is received no later than 10 January 1987. (Voting is limited to members.)

(Biographical summaries were not received for some nominees.)

#### President-Elect - 1987 (President in 1988)

**Dr. Reagan Andrews**

**Dr. Sid Nolte**

Sid is a former secondary school teacher and college professor. He is a mathematician with degrees in Mathematics from the University of Iowa and Iowa State University. He was a Senior Member of the Technical Staff at TI-

until his retirement earlier this year. His TI career included software experiences on mainframe systems, mainframe operating systems, numerical analysis, calculator software, and personal computer software. He is presently a senior scientist at SAIC. He is also an avid personal computer hobbyist; an activity which started on the TI 99/4. He has been a member of the User Group since the summer of 1983.

#### Board of Directors - 1987 (Vote for three)

**Francis Bright**

**Kathryn A. Crawford**

A member of the Users Group since the Jesuit High School days, Kathryn has been involved with the Disk of the Month for the past year. Having produced a preliminary index to the club's software library, she and four other DOM participants are now working on a complete re-organization of the collection.

Kathryn has been employed in academic institutions for her entire professional career. As Librarian at U. T. Dallas she was involved with developing library applications on the microcomputer, software selection, and assisting new users in their computer applications. Her microcomputer applications work has been with several local and nationwide professional organizations.

**Gregory Daley**

**Jim Graham**

(President - 1986)

**Charles Kroboth**

Charles is currently Program Chairman for NTPCUG and has served in that capacity for 3 years. He served on the Board of Directors in 1985

**David McGehee**

David has been a member of the Users Group for over four years. He actively participates in the Advanced Programmers SIG, is backup SIG leader for Turbo Pascal SIG and does other volunteer work.

David is president of Visibility Unlimited Consulting, Inc., which has provided mainframe and personal computer consulting for a number of years. He has over 18 years in DP with over 2 years of management consulting. He has been involved with mini's and PC's for over 8 years.

**John Pribyl**

John has been Editor/Publisher of North Texas PC NEWS since July 1982. His goal is to get increased participation in the activities of the Group by members who are inactive.

**Jim Rich**

**Bob Russell**

(Membership Chairman - 1986)

**Stuart Yarus**

Stuart was President of the User Group for 1985. He has also worked on group purchases and user group publicity. Stuart is a founder of the Dallas Computer Council, and has been Chairman of the Events Committee of the DCC since its formation in March, 1985. The Events Committee is responsible for the monthly user groups' meetings. Stuart continues to work for benefit of our user group. ►



Official 1987 Ballot  
 North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.  
 Valid only with authorization symbol here ---->

USE ORIGINAL BALLOT  
 Copies not acceptable.

I vote for:

- Nominees for President-Elect:
- o Dr. Reagan Andrews
  - o Dr. Sid Nolte

President-Elect:

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- Nominees for Board of Directors:
- o Francis Bright
  - o Kathryn Crawford
  - o Gregory Daley
  - o Jim Graham
  - o Charles Kroboth
  - o David McGehee
  - o John Pribyl
  - o Jim Rich
  - o Bob Russell
  - o Stuart Yarus

Board of Directors:  
 (Vote for 3)

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Mail ballot to Secretary, North Texas PC Users Group, P.O. Box 78066, Dallas, TX 75378-0066, or bring to January meeting. Mailed ballots must be received by the Secretary no later than January 10, 1987.

CUT HERE



Disk of the Month

By Tim O'Neil

DOM Particulars

A great big congratulations to Kathryn Crawford. A much deserved award. The balance of our crew could not all be recognized but they all deserve an award.

Disk of the Month--AM-Tax

The program that we sell will only print the 1040. It will do the schedule on the screen but it will not print them out. We have made a deal with AM-Tax to register you for \$35.00 and this will give you all the documentation and all the schedules that you need to do your 1986 income tax.

- Also:
- PD-88 Astro-9 an astrology program
  - PD-89 XLisp 1.6-Artificial Intel.
  - PD-90-PD-Prolog-1.91 an update
  - PD-91--Castway--Buttonware game

Please be careful at Christmas; I want to see all of you at the Disk of Month Table in January!

Tim

The North Texas PC Users Group copies these programs as a service to the club and its members. We try to test all the programs, but we do not warrant the programs in any way. You must decide if a program is suitable for your system and use. If you ask, we will tell you what we know about any program, but the final decision to buy and/or use these programs is yours. We will gladly and without question exchange an unreadable diskette for one of the same program.

EXCHANGE: 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. The contributions will be reviewed before credit is issued at the next meeting.

MAIL ORDERS: At prevailing prices plus \$1.00 for mailer and postage. Mail your order to Tim O'Neil, Box 396, Bedford, TX 76021.

PRICE: Members: \$2.00 per diskette (if the program is on two diskettes the price is \$4.00). Non-members: \$3.00 each diskette.

CATALOG DISKETTES: Currently this is a two volume set priced at \$4.00. This has all of the readme files from each diskette in the club library.

MEDIA: DSD 5 1/4" Formated as 9 sector data diskettes. Public domain software only, standard full disclaimers.

AVAILABILITY: We will do our best to have all past diskettes at each meeting. DOM sales will begin at the DOM counter around 9:00, and continue until 2:00 PM.

IBM EXCHANGE NEWSLETTER: The EXCHANGE for the current month will be available at the auditorium AFTER the main meeting, at no charge to paid up members of the NTPCUG.

MEMBERSHIP  APPLICATION

NEW \_\_\_\_\_  
RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDR. CHANGE \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Metro? \_\_\_\_\_  
Work \_\_\_\_\_ Metro? \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed application with your \$24 check to:  
Membership Chairman, 135 Skyline Dr., Plano, TX 75074

Clone Alert

"The IBM XT Clone Buyer's Guide", is a computer buyers guide for IBM clones written by members of the XT Clone SIG of the San Francisco IBM-PC User Group. The buyers guide is available for \$9.95 from Modular Information Systems, 431 Ashbury ST., San Francisco, CA. 94117.

SWAP  SHOP

*Will be back...*

**WIN A FREE TRIP  
TO THE 1987 FALL COMDEX  
IN LAS VEGAS!!**

If you write an article that is published in the Newsletter and your article is selected as the best one published during the period of the contest, you will win an expense-paid trip to Comdex.

**The Contest Rules are as follows:**

1. All dues-paying members are eligible to win.
2. Articles must be submitted between December 1, 1986 and May 1, 1987, and must be published in the Newsletter before the entries are judged.
3. The articles must carry the name of a single individual as author, must be original, and must not have been previously copyrighted.
4. Articles will be approved for publication by the Newsletter editor, with the assistance of the Board of Directors. Their decisions are final. Articles received within the time limits of the rules but not selected for publication within these rules will not be eligible to win, but may be published in a later issue of the Newsletter.

5. Articles may be on any subject that is of interest to PC users.

6. No minimum size of articles. Lengthy articles (over 5-6 pages) may be "serialized" by the editor, appearing in successive issues of the Newsletter. Each part of a serial article will be considered a separate article in the contest.

7. The editor may judiciously edit articles, and they will be judged as published.

8. A ballot will be published in the Newsletter at the end of the contest, listing all of the entries published. All recipients of the ballot, including other Users Groups, are eligible to vote. The author of the article receiving the most votes will be declared the winner. In case of a tie, the winner will be selected by a drawing to be held at the main meeting. The winner need not be present.

9. The prize will include airplane, taxi, and hotel costs for the COMDEX Meeting. Approximate value \$600.

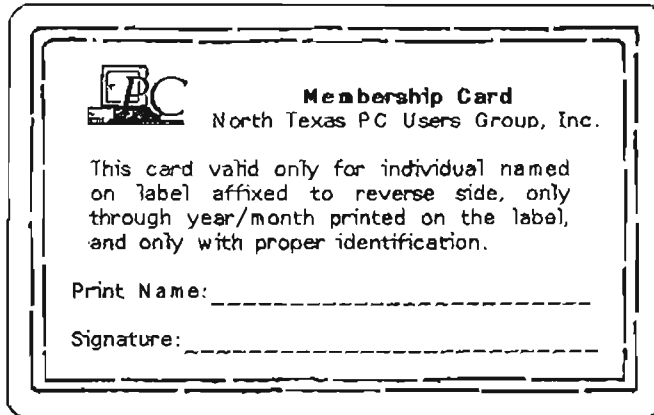
10. If a conflict arises regarding interpretation of contest rules, decision of the Board of Directors will be final. a



### MEMBERSHIP CARD

This is your membership card in North Texas PC Users Group. You will need it for identification at Disk of the Month sales, group purchases and other activities. This card is valid only for you, the person named on label on reverse side. It is valid through expiration date shown on the label.

When trimmed, the card will fit the holders previously furnished for Infomart cards which are no longer required. Wear your membership card instead. Additional holders will be available at a nominal charge.



Trim card to wallet size.

## Room Assignments



Saturday, 3 January 1987

Check times & room numbers in lobby at INFOMART

### Special Presentations:

9:00 - Auditorium

Mrs. Chris Dobson, manager of Library Services at Infomart will discuss resources available to us.

9:00 - 9:55	Room
Science/Engineering	_____
DOS	_____
Genealogy (w/Apple)	_____
Graphics	_____
Buyers Guide	_____
Astrometry	_____
9:30 - 9:55	
Orientation	_____

### MAIN MEETING: 10:00 - 11:00

Execucom will demo their financial modeling package - IFPS/Personal.

11:30 - 11:55	Room	1:00 - 1:55	Room
Orientation	_____	Artificial Intelligence	_____
12:00 - 12:55		Business Applications	_____
Assembly Language	_____	Communications	_____
APL	_____	Databases	_____
C Language	_____	Lotus	_____
Turbo Pascal	_____	Dataflex	_____
12:30 - 1:55		2:00 - 2:55	
Invest - N-Squared	_____	Advanced Programmers	_____
		Integrated Software	_____
		Basic Applications	_____

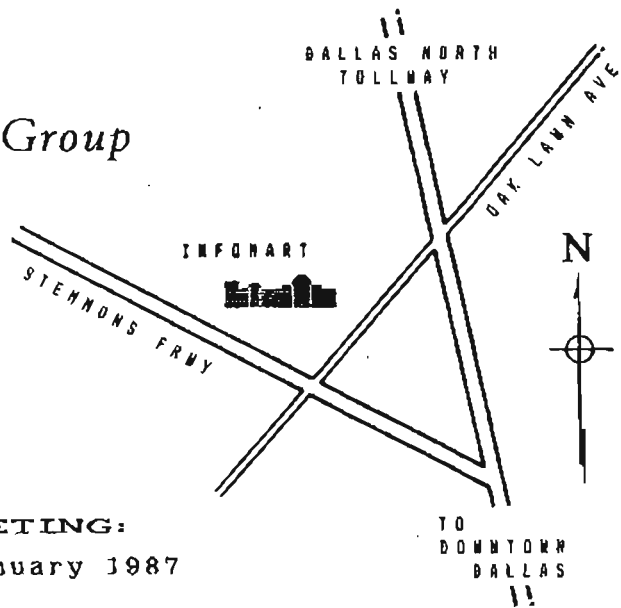


North Texas PC NEWS

2025 Rockcreek Drive, Arlington, Texas 76010



## North Texas PC Users Group



**NEXT MEETING:**  
3 January 1987