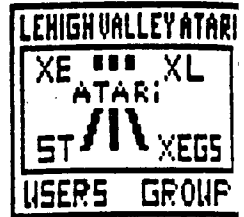


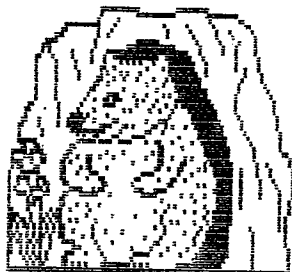
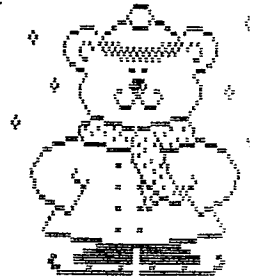
L.V.A.U.G. NEWS



MEMBER OF NEAR US

ISSUE #1

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WINTER
WONDERLAND
OF 1996



Atari-ST RoundTable
Catagory 39, Topic 7 Message 195
Mon May 15, 1995
T.PATRICK5[Happy Hacker] at 00:31
PDT

The Little Company Who Cried Wolf
(a fairy tale by the Atari anti-
christ)

Once upon a time there was a
little company named Atari that
watched over a flock of sheep on top
of a hill. One day the company got
bored and lonely and decided to make
a video game. When it was done it
cried out to the people below,
"Everyone... come and see my 2600
VCS!"

The people all rushed up the
hill to see what all the commotion
was all about, and when they saw the
video game, they patted Atari on the
back and said, "My what a good and
brave little company you are."

They all stayed to play with
Atari for a while, but soon the
people got bored with the same old
games over and over again, and when
the competition came out with better
games, they all left Atari alone.

So Atari said, "This time I'll
build a computer!" And when it was
finished it shouted out, "Hey
everyone, come see my new 800
computer!" So the people all rushed
up the hill again to see what all
the commotion was about, and
when they saw this new machine with
remarkable graphics and sound, they
all patted Atari on the back again
and said, "What a wonderful little
company you are!" Then they all sat
down to play, and Atari was happy
again.

But Atari spent too much time
resting on its laurels, They took
too long to release new upgrades,
charged too much for them, and
didn't support their dealers or

customers enough, so the people got
bored again and they all went away.

Atari was determined to win its
friends back, so it said, "This time
I'll build a better computer... one
that offers power without the
price!" And when it had finished
this innovative new machine it
shouted out, "Hey everyone, come see
my new ST computer system!"

But this time fewer people
came, although those that came were
truly amazed, and they all sat down
to play again.

And again Atari rested on its
laurels too long, and took too long
to upgrade, and didn't support its
dealers or customers, and this time
the people got miffed and said,
"You're a bad little company, Atari.
You shouldn't treat your customers
like that!" Then they all went
away, and Atari was alone again.

This really bothered Atari.
All it wanted was some friends to
play with, and now it seemed that
everyone was mad. Well, since
people liked it better when Atari
made games, it thought it would try
and make a new game. And what a
game it made! And when it was done,
it shouted to the people again, "Hey
everyone, come and see my new Jaguar
64-bit Interactive Multi-Media
System!"

But this time almost no one
came, and those that did were very
sceptical. Dealers were reluctant
to sell it, customers were reluctant
to buy it, and magazines wouldn't
even talk about it!

But the Jaguar was such an
incredible system that even the most
hardened sceptics soon warmed up.
As word got around, more and more
people came up the hill to see what
the commotion was about, and
eventually Atari had plenty of

friends to play with again.

But alas, poor Atari still had not learned from its past mistakes. Soon they were releasing game after game that didn't take advantage of the Jaguar's power. Then they started the countless upgrade delays and push backs of new product release dates, and this time the people didn't just get miffed, they got downright angry! And they said, "Atari, you're a very bad company. We're sick and tired of you!"

It was then that poor little Atari finally learned its lesson. It truly felt bad about what it had done, and it decided to make it up to everyone. So it set about the task of making a new product... not a game or computer, but something really amazing that would help everyone and change the world as we know it!

After much hard work, Atari finally did it. And boy did they! They created a new product so remarkable it simply defied description. So incredible it couldn't even be named! This new product could cure cancer, feed the hungry and back up your hard drive. Not to mention, grow hair, erase years from your complexion and do your taxes. Why, it could even make your VCR skip over those annoying commercials while recording your favorite shows! And to top it all off, it was so inexpensive everyone could afford one!

Atari felt excitement growing as its new product was completed, for it knew that once everyone saw it, all of its past mistakes would be forgiven! So with joy in its heart and a gleam in its eye, Atari began to jump up and down and shout to the people below, "Hey everyone, come see this great new product!" And it shouted... and shouted... and shouted, until its voice was horse

and it couldn't shout any more. And no one came, because no one cared about the poor little company any longer.

And the little company was no more...

Aloha, from the Happy Hacker ...

(Tim)

ICD/Black Cat Designs "CatBox" Inside

(This article was reprinted from June 1995 Issue of "The Sage Scroll")

The three essentials of happiness are something to do, some one to love, and something to hope for.

"WINDOWS SHOPPING

(Wit's End.)

Washington Post Magazine
27 August 1995

Dave Barry turns his weekly column into "Komputer Korner," answering questions about purchasing a personal computer: "Q. Which model of computer should I get? A. the best computer for your specific needs is the one that will come on the market immediately after you actually purchase some other model."; "Q. How does e-mail work? A. It's very simple: Each person on the 'Internet' has a unique e-mail 'adress' created by having a squirrel run across a keyboard...When you wish to communicate with someone, you simply put that person's address on your message, give the 'send' command, and within seconds...your message is being read by dozens of teenage hackers," who are also using your Visa card number to purchase Hawaiian vacations."

**LOYAL USERS
CLING TO
COMFORTABLE
OLD COMPUTERS**

By Leslie Miller
USA TODAY

Jim Brain doesn't much care for the word "obsolete."

He spends most of his free time helping what he calls "ma and pa users" get the hang of computers others have either given away or sold as junk. He hears the O word a lot.

"They're only obsolete because the corporate world has moved on," says Brain, a software designer and Internet consultant who's considered something of an expert on the Commodore 64, a popular home computer that came out in 1983.

Brain knows lots of people who are still using Commodores and other old computers to play games, write letters, even run small businesses. "I don't see any reason to say a machine is no good anymore as long as it fulfills your needs," he says.

Commodores, Apple IIs, Atari 8-bits and other computers developed in the late 1970s and early 80s are dinosaurs in a world where technology moves so fast that today's top-of-the-line machine may seem barely adequate in a manner of months.

Computer makers, of course, would love to see people go out and drop thousands of dollars on new models. But stalwart loyalists like Brain, 24, of Fenton, Mich., want to show the world that their old machines, often bought used for less than \$100, "still have

says.

Several million people are estimated to be still be using these and other brands of "orphan" computers, so-called because they're no longer made or supported by their manufacturers.

But that doesn't mean there's no support. Plenty of third-party companies sell new and used hardware and software for the old machines, and user groups, both local and on-line, are eager to help owners.

"The best thing these people can do is get a modem," says Len Stys, who manages the Cleveland Free-net's Atari special interest group, through which he gets about 200 Atari-related e-mail messages a week from people all over the world.

"Once they get a modem, they will find there is a lot of support available (on-line) and, more importantly, find out they are not alone," he says.

Many users have souped up setups with add-on drives, printers, even CD-ROMs and scanners.

"You can go right up to the big boys," Brain says, from playing games to your novel to surfing the internet. Commodore users even had their own on-line service, Quantum Link, started in 1985 by the company that later became America Online. Q-Link closed last year.

Some may wonder why anyone would want a clunky old dinosaur when new computers are more powerful and often easier to use.

One reason is money. "Some orphan computer owners stay because they don't want to keep spending \$2000 every couple of years," Stys says. Others "know them from the inside out



and can do everything they need to do with what they have.

For some, taking in orphans is almost a matter of principle. "It's sort of like rooting for the underdog," says Rob Funk, an electrical engineering major at Ohio State University. "PCs and Macs have plenty of advocates, or at least buyers, so they don't need us.

Funk recalls learning to program in Basic on his first Atari in 1983: He would type in programs from magazines, holding the magazine in one hand, typing with the other.

"Even then it wasn't the most popular thing around," he says. "It seemed like everyone else had Apples or IIs," (Texas Instrument computers).

For technical types, the antiques hold other attractions. Orphans' programmer parents love to wax poetic about the concise, "elegant code" written for the old machines, although its beauty was probably lost on most laymen.

And while do-it-yourselfers may adore tinkering with the hardware, "the single reason for keeping an old computer has nothing to do with the computer itself, but the software," says Adrian Vance, "If you are used to, happy with and hooked on a particular program why change?"

Vance runs AV Systems Inc. a Santa Barbara, Calif., producer of Apple II software primarily for schools. He estimates 1.4 million Apple IIs are in school use, but there's also a loyal following in the home market. "We get daily phone calls from people with trembling voices seeking software," he says. Although software continues to be developed for orphans, "anybody who's still doing it is in it for the love

of the machine, not the money," says Atari software developer Michael Hohman of Fine Tooned Engineering, Mesa, Ariz.,

"There's sort of a charm in using something that came out before PCs were invented," explains Michael Current, a librarian (and former computer science major) at Carleton College in Northfield, Minn.

Current, 24, says he's comfortable using any kind of computer, "but I only own Atari."

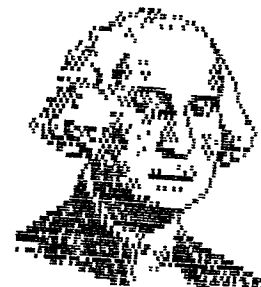
He uses it for home word processing, archiving personal e-mail and playing 200 or 300 games.

"I still think the game done on the old Atari computers were more fun than all the new game systems like Segas and Nintendos," he says.

They're a lot cheaper, too--most run just \$5, although some of the 10,000 or more applications available cost \$15 or \$20. "You can buy all the software you need and pay less than one title on a PC," he says.

Orphans aren't for everybody--"They're not exactly plug-and-play," Brain admits.

But he knows their users are fiercely loyal...Until those people all go away, old computers are going to stick around."



NAME GAME

By

"The Old Dog"

Reprinted from the

NeoStag News

July, 1991

(with some Old Definitions)

When someone long ago started giving names to places and things he must of thought we had a very low top of memory. It is said that Adam was to name everything. He knew nothing about data bases. This must be why we have so many abbreviations. Eve most likely got in the act. Then there was that matter with the apple. Watch for out for Mac-Apples.

Initials are not so bad an idea. What if we did not have A.M. or P.M. and how about B.C and A.D. To be honest with you I have forgotten what some stand for. Yet I know that A.M. is in the morning. So I get up and rush to let some of my body parts start functioning.

S.O.P. (Standard Operational Procedure) for letters addressed to more than one person is to read and intial the letter. I understand that at Sunnydale one such letter was passed around and read and initialed by all. Then with a shift in SOP it was passed back around. With a note to erase your initial and initial your erasure.

Here's my list (with a (*) rating):

COD and FOB (***) I group these together for obvious reasons. COD means Collect On Delivery or FOB Fetch On Back. Used by heartless UPS (United Parcel Service) drivers.

KFC(***) stands for the Kernal's Fried Chicken. This is not from Kentucky I know. I saw a truck with

Ohio plates delivering the unique chicken. That's a bird with one breast part, five short legs, four wings, two drumsticks and no back.

TLC(***) Tender Loving Care...The care given your CPU etc.

SOS(*) I'll be nice and call it Same Old Stuff. I know you remeber the other definition (think Mess Sergeant.)

KISS(***) Keep It Simple Stupid...Ok.

TELL (***)Take Every Legal Loop-hole/TEIL...If you figure that one out you could wind up in the can (short for slammer.)

File 13 (***) A place for all your bills.

NWF (*) No Way Fellow... My wife gives this a (***) rating.

UPJD (Up Jumped the Devil/DWTD Dancing With The Devil/DWTUJD Dancing With The Up Jumped Devil.)

AM (***) Any Morning/AQM Any Old Morning.

PM (***) Past Morning/PAQM Past Any Old Morning.

CW(****+) Corn Whiskey...Sometimes called C of Corn. I have heard of Turbo C, can't wait to try that stuff.

Last thought on names:

How do you catch a UR (Unique Rabbit)...U neek up on him. How do you catch a TR (Tame Rabbit)...Tame way U neek up on him.

Has anyone got a bootleg jar of Turbo C?

Editor's note: this article reproduced from The Sage Scroll of September 1991.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Well here it is 10.30 AM on January 8, 1996, and while we have lived at this address since September 1953, I have never seen the snow drifted so high as it is this morning we can't open any of our three doors, somebody is going to have to shovel them open from the outside, it is a good thing we are looking to go anywhere in the near future that we know about. I imagine that every member has his own tale of woe about the Blizzard of 1996.

Went to the hospital on December 4, 1995 to get my left knee replaced again and came home from the hospital on December 15th. My friendly neighbor took me to see the intern, and then a couple of days later to see the surgeon that put the new knee in for me, other than that I just walk up and down on the side porch to get exercise and the new knee is doing just fine.

Hope that you had a good meeting in December, also January and February if the weather let's you get to it. Will try and have another newsletter ready for you for the February meeting if it is possible for us to do so for you. Til then just be kind to each other.

"The Editor"

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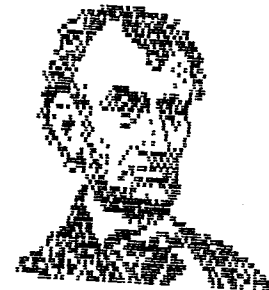
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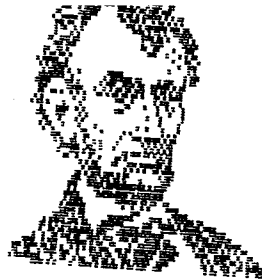
\$5.00



Generosity is giving more than you can, pride is taking less than you need.

It's easier to keep up than catch up.





**MARKED
FOR
LIFE**

**Implanted microchips can reunite
lost pets with grateful owners.**

The Queen of England's two cocker spaniels have them.

Ostrich breeders and racehorse owners use them too.

They are microchips--about the size of a grain of rice--created for owners who wish to "tag" their animals as an aid in identifying them if they are lost or stolen.

For animal shelters, veterinarians and people who breed and sell animals, microchips are becoming the preferred way to identify pets. The largest supplier of the chips says it has sold more than 3 1/2 million of them in the last 10 years.

"Anywhere from 90 to 95 percent of animals that come into shelters have no identification; therefore, very few are ever returned to their owners," said Mary Stewart, director of operations at the Dallas-based Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

"This is a credit card to call home," she said.

The SPCA is among at least 33 agencies and veterinarians in the Dallas area that use microchips.

The SPCA, at the agency's North Branch in McKinney and its Industrial Boulevard site in Dallas, has been scanning animals for microchips since April 1995. The agency has nine scanners, and in June it installed a new computer system that can store microchip information, Ms. Stewart said.

Turn that frown upside down.

When scanned the microchip emits a signal containing an individual identification number. The number is entered into a computer system, which displays information about the pet's owner.

SPCA scanners, which cost about \$450 each, were donated by AVID of Norco, Calif.

AVID, which stands for American Veterinary Identification Devices, is the largest of three companies that manufacture the microchips, sales manager Mitch Hammtree said.

Unlike traditional methods of identification such as collars and tattooing, the microchip can't be easily removed, lost, stolen, or duplicated, Mr. Hammtree said.

"The days of branding an animal are virtually over," he said.

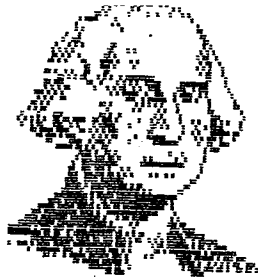
Ms. Stewart said the SPCA in August will begin implanting microchips in animals that are adopted from the agency. The procedure will be done at the owner's request and costs \$15 to \$18.

Veterinarians at the SPCA's downtown clinic will inject the microchip beneath the animal's skin with a hypodermic needle. The chip, encased in glass sits between the shoulder blades.

The procedure requires no anesthesia and takes only a few seconds, Mr. Hammtree said typical fees for the procedure are \$25 to \$40.

AVID has been marketing its microchips since 1990. Its scanners can detect all but one of the microchips that competing companies market.

AVID also operates a national computer network that allows anyone who scans a lost or stolen animal



and finds a microchip to call a toll-free number for information about the pet's owner.

There have been about 18,000 recoveries of lost or stolen animals in the United States in the past four years thanks to the microchip, Mr. Hammontree said.

About 25 Dallas-area veterinarians either implant the microchips or use scanners to detect them, said Gerald Prmer a retired veterinarian.

Dr. Parmer, who resides in Montgomery, Ala., is the sales director for AVID's southeast and southwest regions, which include Texas and 13 other states.

Animal-control shelters in Dallas, Farmers Branch, Denton, Arlington and North Richland Hills use scanners to detect microchips. So does the American Miniature Horse Association in Alverado, Texas.

"We're just stating to make our big push in Texas," Dr. Parmer said. "To be honest, I just have not had the time to get over there and get it going. I wouldn't be happy until we've got about 100 users in that area."

Dr. Parmer said that just about every state has someone using the microchip procedure. Leading the way are California, Illinois, Washington, Utah, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Georgia and Florida. Eleven other nations use the technology.

There are 109 Texas cities with at least one veterinarian or agency using AVID microchips to tag animals, including Houston, Longview, San Antonio, Austin, Tyler, Garland, Mewquite and Wylie he said.

Happiness is a way of life that makes the most of opportunities, the least of difficulties and the best of everything.

Bert White, interim manager at

Dallas Animal Control, said the microchip will help reduce the number of unidentified animals being euthanized if people take advantage of it.

AVID officials donated five scanners to the city agency about two weeks ago Mr. White said.

From October 1994 to June 1995, the agency impounded 28,264 animals. Of that number 15,259 were dogs and 6,572 were cats. Only a small percentage were returned to their owners.

"It's going to be great if we get more people using them," Mr. White said.

Mr. White said his office will provide a free lunch to the first person who scans an animal and detects a microchip. So far, no animals have been found with the tiny transmitters.

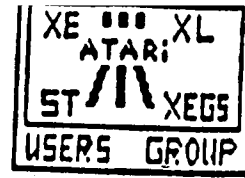
Animals impounded by the agency are scanned twice, he said.

"I even had a hedgehog in here, and we scanned him."

Editor's note: This is another article that doesn't have much to do with Atari but it does deal with what is happening in today's world of amazing things, you members give me Atari articles I will put them in your newsletter.

When you spill anger, it can't all be mopped up.

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