

HAPPY SCREENING TO YOU
 TOMORROW
 JAN 10 1990
 10:00 AM

PENN-OHIO USERS GROUP
 71 ELM STREET
 STRUTHERS, OH 44471

Last we received: 12/89

DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER
 P.O. BOX 29863
 DALLAS, TX 75229-

The Floppy Copy

Newsletter of the Penn-Ohio Users Group
 Dedicated to the TI and IBM user

Pres: Ed Luptak 755-7881
 Sect: Frank DePinto 763-0421

VP: Dave Tranovich 533-3183
 Treas: Herb Sess 743-1101

Volume 8

December 1989

Number 12

NEXT MEETING
 DECEMBER 11, 1989
 7:00 P.M.

STRUTHERS WATER TREATMENT PLANT
 530 LOWELLVILLE ROAD
 STRUTHERS, OH

Printed on a LPS ALQ224 printer using
 WordPerfect 5.0.

Editor: Ed Luptak
 Asst. Editor: Dave Tranovich.

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PRESIDENTS' CORNER

I would like to start by wishing a
 happy holidays season to all. I hope
 that you'll find the time to attend our
 next meeting, as those of you that were
 at the last meeting we will be meeting
 in Struthers this month. I was going to
 put a map in but
 just didn't have
 the time to get it
 in the format of
 the newsletter. SO
 IF YOU NEED
 DIRECTIONS CALL ME
 AT 755-7881. Gary
 will be doing some
 demo's at his
 computer operation
 at the plant. I
 will be a very
 inductive
 meeting. I hope
 to see you all
 there.



INVITATION

Please take this opportunity to
 challenge yourself. Write an article
 for the newsletter. Send your copy to
 Ed Luptak, 71 Elm Street, Struthers,
 Ohio 44471 or, if you wish to send it
 via modem, call Ed at 755-7881 to make
 arrangements. You may write or type,
 but the easiest to handle is in ASCII
 file made with your favorite word
 processing program.

DUES

Dues for the Penn-Ohio Users Group are
 \$15.00 per calendar year for an
 individual membership, \$20.00 per
 calendar year for a family membership
 and \$10 per year for an associate
 membership. Dues go to the cost of
 newsletter publication and library
 expenses.

MINUTES & COMMENTS
 BY Frank DePinto

CREDITS

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 Group, 71 Elm Street, Struthers, Ohio
 44471.

Ed called the meeting to order at 7:20
 P.M. Once again, the "old" standbys
 were present. How about all you

current and potential members showing up at for the December meeting. Ed said that Gary Karas, our past secretary, invited us to see the Struthers Water Treatment Plant and how the computers are tied into his job. The motion to hold our next meeting at the plant was passed; therefore, our next meeting will take place at the Struthers Treatment Plant on Struthers-Lowellville Road.

Ed then displayed a banner that was printed on the Star Rainbow printer in colors. I sure hope that Karen has a "new printer" for her birthday. This one will be worn out by the time her birthday rolls around. Ed keeps telling us that he wants to make sure that the printer is working correctly but we know that he likes to play and this printer has impressed him. The printer does a spectacular job with colors even if it is slow. It would be nice to have a second printer if you have the money.

A reminder: remember those posters from last month? Let's get this thing rolling and come up with a few posters that will help us to increase our membership. Bring them in next month, even if it is just a sketch, we need your ideas.

The Nominating Committee of Ron Baker, Ron Kendra, and that now famous TV personality, Dr. Frank Krautter, gave their recommendations for 1989. They must have burned the "mid-night oil" to come up with a perfect slate. Although the names look familiar, Columbia's president, Dave Tranovich for vice-president, Herb Soss for treasurer, and Frank DePinto for secretary. I sure hope that we have other nominations or someone volunteers to be secretary for the next year. I'm not sure that I will have time to read the duties of the office. Anyway, we will be voting at the next meeting. Come and cast your vote.

Last but not least, we voted to cut our newsletter exchange from 55 newsletters to 31 due to publishing and mailing costs. We did offer an associate membership to those clubs that will be eliminated to help defray some of the

costs. Hopefully, this will keep our treasury in the "black" through the next year.

After all the business was taken care of, we adjourned to the rear of the room where Ed demned "Scan Man" hand scanner. "What a neat little toy!" I'm almost tempted to ask Mrs. Cibus for one of those for Christmas instead of the 1990 Cadillac that she promised. There are a few bugs that have to be worked out, but I'm sure that Ed will have them out by the next meeting if not sooner.

I left the meeting about 11:15 and the others were still going strong. I hope they make it home before the next meeting. It's a long way to the Struthers Plant from the Red Cross Building.

Now for a few things that I found while reading a few other newsletters. First, I found a list of manufacturers support phone numbers somewhere (I'm not sure where) that I would like to publish just in case you might need one. I have used the number or WordPerfect several times. They are very helpful people.

MANUFACTURER	PHONE
Amdak	800-822-6331
Asman-Yate	213-829-8001
AST Research	714-868-8889
Computer Associates	408-842-1721
DAC Software	214-468-0031
Enale	814-496-0021
Essex America	800-421-3421
Hayes	404-449-8791
Hewlett-Packard	208-325-2551
Lotus Development	817-577-8501
MicroPro	415-499-1201
Okidata	800-654-3281
Paradise	415-588-8001
Plus Development	800-826-8021
Quaram	404-923-8661
GV	800-822-9901
Software Publishing	415-852-8511
Toshiba	800-433-5881
Ver-Tel	800-538-5121
Western Digital	800-847-6181
WordPerfect	800-921-5991
WordPerfect (Mac)	800-396-3614

THE LIBRARIAN'S REVIEW

By
Ron Baker

Stereo Shell ver 2.10 --- STS_210.ZI

Remember those "one liners" from last month? Those one liners have always intrigued me and I found another one from Ohio DeMart of TOPICS. He says you can save 2 or 3 beeps by entering the P

following:

```
1 FOR A=1 TO 3 :: DISPLAY AT
```

```
(1,1:BEEP:"":: CALL SOUND(30
```

```
0,4E,30) :: NEXT A
```

Here is another method.

```
1 FOR A=1 TO 3 :: CALL SOUND
```

```
(200,1400,3) :: NEXT A
```

Before I call it quits for this month, I have a short program called UNSCRAMBLER that I "dug out" of my archive. Sorry that can't find where it came from or who wrote it.

```
10 CALL CLEAR
20 RANDOMIZE
30 INPUT "WORD TO UNSCRAMBLE,
":WS
40 FOR Y=1 TO 10
50 FOR I=1 TO LEN(WS)
60 R=INT(RND*LEN(WS)+1)
70 IF A(R) THEN GO
80 A(R)=I
90 X=WS & SEQ$(WS,R,I)
100 NEXT I
110 RS(Y)=X$: X$=""
120 PRINT RS(Y):" "
130 FOR I=1 TO LEN(W):
140 A(I)=0 :: NEXT I
150 NEXT Y
160 INPUT "REPEAT THAT WORD
Y/N ":ANS
170 IF ANS="Y" THEN 10
180 STOP
```

I found this program in my old TI notebook, but I think it will work with the "clones" with a few modifications. I have not written any thing in IBM Basic yet, but I'm working on it.

Well, my Thanksgiving dinner is just about ready, and I have to change into something more respectable, so I'll see you at the next meeting. Don't forget the meeting is at the Struthers Sewage Treatment Plant in Struthers. Also, PLEASE bring your posters or ideas.

Again, here is one of my favorite programs. Stereo Shell is invaluable for someone who downloads files, like myself. Once I am in Stereo Shell, I can see all my compressed files, UNZIP, ARC, PAK, or LZH them, view or execute them without leaving Stereo Shell, and all from a menu.



Stereo Shell is a unique DOS shell utility program. This program provides two fully independent file/directory displays which enable it to provide extremely powerful, yet simple, file handling functions. The twin, or if you will, stereo display allows the user to perform file operations such as move and copy between any two drives, or directories, or combinations of drive/directories on the machine without ever typing a file or path name.

Stereo Shell also offers many more exciting features. A full complement of standard DOS functions is provided. These include the well known move, copy, erase, etc. and all in stereo! A built in view as well as a user defined editor and 4 user defined file utility programs serve to enhance the power and usefulness of the program to the maximum. Intelligent menus that appear when a filename is selected provide the main user interface. These menus are selected by the program based on the file type and offer the most frequently needed functions for that type of file in top-down order allowing quick, effortless operation. All ten function keys are also "hot" providing more experienced users with instant action. And we haven't forgotten the

mouse, full screen and hard disk in.

Four different file compression programs are also supported by Stereo Shell! Stereo Shell has built in menus and a file handling system to support ZIP, PKPAK, LHAARC, and PAK. This system provides an effortless interface to these excellent compression utilities.

The SS system uses the actual utility programs, not some kind of built in approximation to the real thing. This insures the user that his compressed files are really compatible and it also allows simple updates to revised versions of the various file compression programs without the need to update SS itself. Stereo Shell provides a great shell environment for your everyday activities. Its ease of use and ability to execute files while taking only a meager 33Kb of RAM makes it a refreshing change from the 100K-drum character based MS-DOS or some of those other old time directory utilities. It is also absolutely perfect as an executive's utility program for Procomm (IBM) or other communications packages since it provides the means to view directories, edit files, and even extract and execute files from compressed library files, all while sitting on-line!

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

SS will run on the IBM PC-XT-AT-PCjr-i5/2 and all true compatibles.

The general system requirements are outlined below. Memory 128 Kb. minimum. Shrinks its own memory usage to a mere 36Kb while executing external programs.

Operating sys. .. MS/PC DOS version 2.11 or later.

Video The MDA, CGA, MCGA, EGA, and VGA video adapters or any adapters that can emulate these are supported. SS offers the 43/50 line mode as an option on EGA, MCGA, or VGA equipped systems. Full 4 color text mode is provided on all but the MDA. Screen writing is user selectable

between BIOS and direct modes. This program is compatible with DoubleDOS (TM) and other similar multitasking systems.

Disk All disk I/O is controlled through standard DOS function calls. Stereo Shell was designed primarily for hard disk based systems and at least one hard disk is recommended.

Network systems.. \$15 version 2.10 has been tested on the Novell (tm) network software with excellent results.

You also need the following programs to make Stereo Shell fully useable. All are available from our library.

- PKZIP.EXE ZIP file packer
- PKUNZIP.EXE ZIP file unpacker
- PKPAK.EXE ARC file packer
- PKUNPAK.EXE ARC file unpacker
- LHAARC.EXE LZH file utility
- PAK.EXE PAK file utility
- GEDIT or E00.EXE .. ASCII text editor

It is by far the greatest file archiving and DOS shell written and is available from our library. As with any worthwhile program, it should tried, then registered like all Shareware.

HOT NEW CHRISTMAS GAMES

By Dan Gutman

All year long you struggle with your spreadsheets, your word processor, your databases. Now the holidays are approaching and it's time to have a little fun with your computer.



The software industry knows this, and they save their best computer games for the end of the year. Here's what I think will be the hottest new titles to stuff in your stockings this Christmas...

--if you like strategy games...

Lucasfilm has "Pipe Dream" (IBM, Mac, Commodore, Amiga, Atari ST, \$30-\$40), a thoroughly addicting maze game in which you have to build a pipeline before you're overtaken by a stream of chemical "floods."

Spectrum Holobyte, makers of last year's award-winning "Tetris," now have a sequel called "Welltris" (IBM, Mac, Amiga, \$35). Once again the game is created by Soviet mathematician Alexey Pajitnov, but this time the falling shapes fill up a four-sided well.

--if you like war games...

Sands of Time" (Thorn Sixty, Mac, \$60) takes you to North Africa and lets you take the role of a British or American commander during actual World War II battles. If you long for the good old days of the Cold War, look no further than "Red Lightning" (Strategic Simulations, IBM, Atari ST, Amiga, \$80). The game depicts a conflict in central Europe between NATO and Warsaw Pact nations. The game is pessimistically dubbed a "World War III" game.

--if you like driving games...

Anything that can be driven can be raced. You can race a motorcycle in Accolade's "The Cyclist: International Grand Prix Racing" (IBM, Commodore, \$30-\$40) or a jet hovercraft in Electronic Arts' "Pseudodrome" (Atari ST, \$40).

The same company makes the self-explanatory "Indianapolis 500: The Simulation" (IBM, \$60) while Accolade weighs in with "The Muscle Cars" (IBM, Apple IIGS, Commodore Amiga, \$15-\$20). In this one, you can drive a 1963 Stinson, 1986 Shelby Cobra, 1961 Pontiac GTO or a 1969 Dodge Charger Daytona.

The most outrageous driving game comes from Activision--"DeathTrack" (IBM, \$45). The drivers not only race, but also try to kill one another with wheel spikes, lasers, and missiles. It's great preparation for

driving home on New Year's Eve.

--if you prefer to fly...

Microprose has an update of their bestselling classic with "15 Strike Eagle II" (IBM, \$55). "The Blue Angels" (Accolade, for IBM, Amiga, Commodore, Apple IIGS, \$50) puts an emphasis on formation flying, while Lucasfilm's "Their Finest Hour" (IBM, Amiga, Atari ST, \$50) is a simulation of World War II's Battle of Britain.

--if you like the martial arts...

You can take the low road and wrestle in dingy dives with "Sgt. Slaughter's Mat Wars" (Commodore, \$30) by Mindscape, or you can learn about Japanese culture as you stomp a bunch of creeps in "Sword of the Samurai" (IBM, \$55) by Microprose. Take your pick.

--if you like adventure and role-playing games...

The popular "Wizard" series (Sir-Tech, for IBM, Apple, Commodore) is now available in a single package for \$40-\$50. Sierra's "Leisure Suit Larry" series is now up to #3 (IBM, Mac, Atari II, Amiga) and now Larry has a female counterpart--Passionate Pat!

Berlin may be all hugs and kisses in the real world, but in Accolade's "The Third Courier" (IBM, Apple IIGS, \$50) you prowl the city trying to recover NATO's stolen nuclear defense plans. Locations include the now familiar Brandenburg Gate and Checkpoint Charlie.

If that doesn't hold you through the holidays, well, there's always Nintendo...

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR COMPUTER LOVERS

By Dan Gutman

The holidays sure can play havoc on a computer. Fine needles find their way inside printers. Tinsel jams up disk drives. Egg nog spilled on a keyboard is a definite no-no.

is your computer. Lower in your life, you can keep them made it through the holidays with a high-tech gift. Several companies make inexpensive—and often silly—products that may not make computer users more productive, but DO let them have a little fun.



—“Count Disk” is a clever game that lets you interact with your computer screen in a new way—you shoot at it.

The package comes with a .45 caliber dart gun and six darts with suction cups at the ends. Can't figure out

that spreadsheet? Slip a few darts at the screen and you'll feel a lot better. Do a boss getting you down? No problem! When you get frustrated, just fire away.

The game includes a disk that puts five images on the screen, including a bullseye and a baseball game.

“Count Disk” works with IBM compatibles, but you can shoot the darts at AM computer screen. It's available for \$20 (plus \$3 for shipping) from: Count Disk, 1801-28 S. Military Trill, Suite 184, West Palm Beach FL 33415. 800-344-1918.

—What about Macintosh people? They're just as frustrated as any other computer user. Well, for the Mac person in your life, there's “Smack-a-Mac.”

This adorable and fun computer stands five inches high, the perfect size for punching, pking or flinging at your computer or loved ones. According to the manufacturer, “owning one is cheaper than professional help.”

You can get a “Smack-a-Mac” for \$3.95 from Leon Revew, 101 Reighard Ave., Williamsport, PA 17781, 800-215-8810.

—Most people put their printouts on

paper, but you can put yours on a coffee mug. Computer Expressions of Philadelphia will take any printed document, reduce it and laminate it onto an 11-ounce, dishwasher-safe stoneware mug. The mugs cost \$3-\$5, depending on the number of colors and size of the design.



The same company also makes a 1990 calendar in the shape of a computer (set). Each day has a different computer term and its definition. Contact: Computer Expressions, 8223 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, PA, 19124, 800-443-8278.

—There are other inexpensive computer gifts that aren't so frivolous. A company called Tech-Cassories makes “The Perf-O-Rip,” a simple device that makes it easy to tear off those annoying perforated edges on the sides of computer paper.

You just slide up 12 sheets of paper into “Perf-O-Rip” and give it a yank. It sells for just \$9.95.

The same company also makes “The PC Pillow” (\$18.95). It's basically a cradle for your keyboard so you can put it on your lap, lean back in your chair and work.

The top of “PC Pillow” is flat and it has a beanbag bottom, so it raises the keyboard up to a comfortable typing height and cushions its weight. “The Perf-O-Rip” and “The PC Pillow” are available from: Tech-Cassories, 980 East Rogers Circle, #2, Boca Raton FL 33437, 407-994-9060.

Computer people don't get turned on by golf clubs or neckties. What they really want for Christmas are new laser printers, full-page monitors, and multifunction accelerator cards.

You may not be able to shell out hundreds or thousands of dollars on those items, but an inexpensive computer gift may be just the thing to bring a little holiday cheer to a computer lover in your life—especially if you just dropped your candyed jam on his keyboard.

THOSE HOME OFFICE BLUES

By Dan Gutman

Working at home is great—unless it drives you completely crazy.

To a large extent, the personal computer has made the home office phenomenon of the late 80's possible. The advantages of working at home—higher productivity, less stress, lower overhead—have been discussed a million times.

But if you're thinking of working from home, you should consider the disadvantages also.

Problem number one is isolation. If you work for a company out of your home office, it's harder to keep your finger on the pulse of what's going on. Some people miss the good old days when they would schmooze around the coffee machine and gossip. You don't have that guy in the next office to bounce ideas off. The office football pool is a thing of the past.

People report that the gang at the office forgets about them because they aren't around for the usual lunches and drinks after work. Telecommuters have complained that they have been passed up for promotions because the boss didn't know what a fine job they were doing.

It's going to be lonely at times and you've got to make a special effort to interact with people. Get out of the office every day, even if it's only to buy a newspaper, schedule lunch or dinner meetings.

Join an organization in your field. Attend a workshop. Take a class. Work on projects that force you to collaborate with others. Make regular contact with clients and show your



I see once in a while in an office to brush up on your social skills.

When you work at home, nobody is looking over your shoulder to make sure you get the job done. Dagwood Bumstead had it easy. If he didn't do his work, Mr. Dithers would give him a

kick in the butt and knock him off his chair. When you work at home, the motivation has to come from within.

Get into a rhythm like the one you had at your old office. Maintain a schedule. Set firm deadlines for yourself. Set opening and closing hours.

If you feel yourself getting lazy, BREAK the rhythm—take a walk, run, or even a shower. I find that breaking a day into two separate blocks of time can fool my body and mind into being motivated twice within 24 hours.

Distraction can be a problem. The television set is just a few feet away, enticing you. Even more tempting is the refrigerator, stuffed with goodies. Reward yourself with food or TV only after accomplishing a prearranged task.

For procrastinators, there are all kinds of excuses for goofing off. Some people will spend the day stringing paper clips together, running meaningless errands, or doing housework. Anything to avoid what you're SUPPOSED to be doing.

Remember that your success or failure depends entirely on YOU. Working for yourself requires self-discipline, and if you can't get it together, you should go back to a traditional office, where discipline is provided by the company structure.

On the other hand, many people find

themselves running an "electronic sweatshop." Because you're responsible for bringing in the bucks, you feel the weight of the world on your shoulders. Workaholicism is a noble trait, but a dangerous one that numbs you creatively.

In this case you've got to discipline yourself NOT to work so hard. Schedule breaks and vacations the same way you schedule meetings--and keep those appointments. Get a separate business phone line and don't pick it up after working hours or when you're eating.

Take a day off in the middle of the week and do something you've always wanted to do. Knock yourself out all morning, then reward yourself by taking the afternoon off. When you finish what you hoped to accomplish for the day, don't poke around looking for other tasks that need to be done. Get out of the office and enjoy yourself.

All these problems can all be overcome. The question you should ask yourself is: Do the advantages of working at home outweigh the disadvantages? Some people just aren't comfortable working in the same place they sleep.

THE SWISS ARMY KNIFE COMPUTER
by Dan Gutman

Can the Swiss Army knife concept be applied to computers and electronic office machines?

Last week Canon introduced "The Navigator," a device that combines a personal computer, monitor, printer, fax machine, telephone and answering machine all in one box.

You can't fit it in your pocket like a Swiss Army knife, but it will fit on a desktop area no larger than a PC alone. "The Navigator" will be available early next year for \$2,995. All these separate machines are connected to one another and controlled by a touch-sensitive screen. When you pick up the telephone receiver, for instance, a phone book appears on the computer screen. You just touch the name of the person you want to call and the number is dialed automatically.

As you talk on the phone, you can continue working on a spreadsheet or other application. When you want to switch to the word processor, you just touch the pencil and paper symbol on the screen. The same goes for the fax.

Like a Swiss Army knife, "The Navigator" has some advantages over systems that are made up of separate machines. It takes up less space, you don't have to evaluate and shop for a bunch of different products, and you save money.

Furthermore, you don't have to worry about compatibility problems, a tangle of wires all over your office or the hassle of hooking all those components together.

But if your Swiss Army knife breaks, you're pretty much stuck in the woods and helpless. And if the telephone portion of your "Navigator" goes on the fritz, you lose your whole office while it's in the shop.

If you enjoy picking and choosing your office equipment, a system like "The Navigator" is not for you. If you don't like the fax that Canon put in the system--tough. You adapt to the system--the system isn't adapted to your needs.

It's kind of like the difference between buying clothes that are "one size fits all" or clothes made specifically for your body.

In the long run, the important issue is: Do we prefer our office equipment combined, or as separate components?

I have a Code-A-Phone telephone with an answering machine built in. It feels like one machine. I like the idea of making things easier to use and hook up by combining functions.

On the other hand, my computer has a built-in calculator, but I prefer to reach in my drawer and punch the real buttons on a handheld calculator.

Some machines work better as combos, others as separate units. Stoves and ovens generally come as one appliance, while washers and dryers tend to come separately. Stereo "rack systems" that combine a tuner, amp CD, tape deck and speakers have been very popular. But we don't have one appliance that handles both air conditioning and heating.



There have been fax machines that have built-in phones and answering machines, TVs with built-in VCRs. The very name "combos" means a combination of "camera" and "recorder." There is talk of future

printers that will have built-in copiers and scanners.

Is the world ready for computer rack systems? Compaq attempted to market a PC with a built-in telephone a few years ago, but it failed. Canon is battling against the experts who believe that human beings simply don't want to put all their computing eggs in one basket.

For a long time I've been saving an old clipping of an interview with Steve Wozniak, who created the first Apple computer. Woz said something that I knew would eventually become timely:

"When we first started out in computers, a computer could do ten different things. The trouble is people want only one function in one physical space. You want a You want a calculator in your pocket, you want a thermostat on the wall, you want a terminal to be a terminal."

It should be interesting to see who is right.

GO BACK TO THE FUTURE--TO SAVE JFK
By Dan Gutman

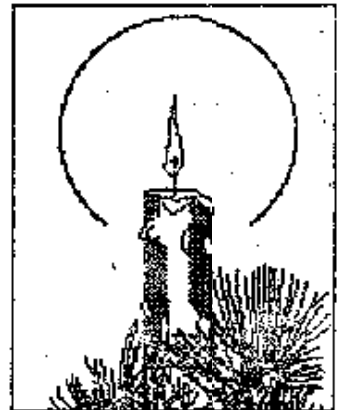
What if you could go back in time and witness the events leading up to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy?

That's the subject of a fascinating computer game, "Guardians of Infinity: To Save Kennedy" (Paragon Software, 412-336-1465).

The game (on IBM, \$45) begins in the year 2087, when the "time continuum" is spinning out of control. The whole mess began, according to physicist Adam Cooper, the day Kennedy was assassinated.

As a "temporal physicist," your mission is to travel back to Friday, November 25th, 1963 and do anything short of altering the course of history. You have one week to stop the murder.

It's not so easy. A strange r can't just walk up to the President of the United States--especially a strange r who claims a comes from the future.



The path to success in the game is to send your live agents (the "Guardians of Infinity") to meet and "talk" with people who influence the life of the President. The characters of LBJ, Jackie, Bobby Kennedy, J. Edgar Hoover, Peter Lawford, Lee Harvey Oswald and 120 others are depicted in the

game.

If your agents aren't arrested, kidnapped or killed along the way, you'll get to meet with President Kennedy himself. You have just 15 minutes to convince the President in a dramatic face-to-face meeting that you are from a distant century and that he should cancel his trip to Dallas.

F.J. Lennon, one of the designers of "Guardians of Infinity," was born the same year Kennedy was shot, but has been an assassination buff since his college days.

"We thought it would make an interesting game to combine fiction with an actual historical event," he says. "We wanted to combine a 'Mission Impossible' type theme with a big event."

To do it right, Lennon and his team of game designers spent a year combing the Library of Congress, the National Archives, and the JFK Library in Boston for everything about Kennedy and the assassination they could get their hands on.

The painstaking research that has gone into the project shows. While you fight to change history, you hardly notice that you're getting a pretty good history lesson too.

But recently, dramatization in television news stories has become a controversial subject. With "Guardians of Infinity," we're now getting dramatization in computer software. Is "docu-ware" a dangerous distortion of real events?

It's doubtful that anyone would take a fantasy like "Guardians of Infinity" seriously as historical fact. But the potential is there for problems down the line. There is nothing to stop a software publisher from releasing a program about American history, for instance, that is biased in favor of the company's political philosophy.

Time travel, as "Back To The Future I, II and III" proves, is a subject that continues to captivate us. And the

idea of going back in time to try to prevent the most memorable tragedy of our time is irresistible. "Guardians of Infinity" is a fascinating blend of fact and fiction.

You never actually find out who shot JFK, and the game doesn't play politics. But it DOES reject the Warren Commission's "single bullet" theory. If your plan is to go back in time and simply kill Lee Harvey Oswald, for example, the assassination still occurs.

"I definitely believe there was more than one gunman," says Lennon. "Oswald may have been one of them, but he wasn't the only one."

RANDISK RECOVERY

by Hal Tonkin

If you back up your ramdisk before turning off the power every time you use it, then read no further. But if you are like the rest of us mortals, who take a backup copy only once a month or so, then this article may help.

Every now and then when I turn on the power to the system, I find that the ramdisk operation system (ROS) has been corrupted. If the system will still come up and I can get extended basic to run, then it is a simple matter just to reload the ROS. Usually the files are still OK, and at this point I breathe a sigh of relief, and then take a backup. However, last week when I turned the power on, there was nothing - no TI banner, no menu, no response on the keyboard, just a little red light on the ramdisk indicating that it was looping in its power-up routine. PANIC!!! I had just finished entering a C program, and did not want to have to type it all in again. The ramdisk instructions say that when this happens, the only way out is to power down, remove the card, remove the batteries, wait, re-install the batteries, re-insert the card, and reload the ROS. However, this would also destroy the contents of the rest of the memory - that is, all my precious files. There had to be another way. This time there was, and

10

If this happens to you, perhaps the following procedure will also save your day.

1. Turn off the expansion box and the console.
2. Put a mini-memory cartridge in the console.
3. Turn on the console ONLY. At this point the TI banner should come up, and after pressing a key, the mini-memory menu should appear.

4. Select option 2, EASY-BUG.

5. Now turn on the expansion box. Since the console was already on, it did not try to execute any of the power up routines of the cards in the expansion box.

6. Select CPU single bit i/o by typing `C`, then type: `C100<ENTER>1<ENTER>` to enable your ramdisk. CPU address `>1000` is where my ramdisk address is set. If yours is at a different address, then enter the appropriate address instead of `>1000`. When you turn on the bit, the red light on the ramdisk card should come on, indicating that it has been selected. If it does not, then this recovery procedure will not work.

7. Exit CPU single bit i/o by typing a period.

8. Examine memory address `>4000` by typing `M4000<ENTER>`. This is the address of the first byte of the ramdisk memory and should contain the value `>AA` indicating that there is a device present.

9. Alter the byte at memory address `>4000` to be `>00` to indicate that there is no device present by typing `00<ENTER>`.

10. Exit CPU memory addressing by typing a period.

11. Turn off the CPU bit `>1000` by typing `C1000<ENTER>0<ENTER>`. The red light on the ramdisk should go out.

12. Turn off the expansion box, then

the console.

13. Remove the mini-memory cartridge and insert extended basic.

14. Turn on the console, and then the expansion box.

15. Type `PCN =` to reset the system. All the cards in your expansion box except the ramdisk should reset themselves, and the system should not hang up since the ramdisk did not try to go through its power-up routine.

16. Put your ROS disk in drive 1, and select extended basic.

17. Reload the ROS, and with luck your files will still be there.

18. Take a backup NOW, before anything else goes wrong.

This procedure may not work all the time, but it did for me, and may be worth trying before removing those batteries.

