TAS Update #10
03/05/85

Several new products this issue, and a "mile marker": Our first product for MSDOS that is not yet available for TRS-80! How the times are changing.

First, Northern Bytes, Volume 6, Number 2, should be ready by the time you read this. For your copy, send $2 to TAS, or you will receive this issue free with any order from TAS until the next issue is announced. We have a growing number of people being added to our "regular" list. You must have a Visa or MasterCard to be added to the list. You will NOT be charged in advance for ANY issues. We will bill you $2 for each issue as it is shipped, $3 outside North America.

One bit of unfinished business. From time to time I get complaints from past subscribers to the Programmer's Journal because they feel they got a raw deal when their subscription was transferred to Computer User. I don't believe Computer User has performed as any of us thought it would. For that reason, if you feel "shafted", let us know. We can determine how many issues you were supposed to get and perhaps fill the remaining subscription with Northern Bytes, as long as Jack cares to produce them, or whatever. If you like, you can give us some credit for the issues of Computer User received, but I'm flexible. Probably too much so. I'm going to need your business before we're through and that's sort of hard to get if you're holding a grudge.

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Homework will never be the same! When some folks learn about our very special math software they ask, "You mean that software isn't available?" No, incredibly enough. Until now, no one has had the insight to produce it.

Michael Grost (like Frost, with a 'G') invested over two years to produce The Algebra Program. Some of us would require that long just to open and read a file, but you might also consider that Mike graduated from Michigan State University when he was 15 years old.

As you might imagine, Mike could do about anything he wants. He tried teaching, but decided the world needed some better math tools. He has produced those math tools and they're currently ready for the IBM PC and virtually all MSDOS semi-compatibles including the SANYO 550 series and all Tandy MSDOS machines. 128k required for the IBM PC and 192k required for other MSDOS machines. TRS-80 Model 4 and Macintosh versions will be announced later this year.

The Algebra Program will do for math what the hand calculator did for arithmetic. On your computer, The Algebra Program will completely automate the solving of algebraic and, with additional modules, calculus problems! Simply plug in the equation and out comes the solution, instantly, along with all intermediate steps. Enter your algebra expressions just as you see them in the book, or use computer notation. An example expression might look like "xyz" or "x*y*z" or "x * y * z". All are acceptable.

The Algebra Program is very user-friendly and forgiving about syntax. Problems can be entered just as they appear in the textbook. You can optionally route the step-by-step detailed algebraic solution to the printer. The Algebra Program contains "core" information and is a requirement for all additional modules in this series. Coming up: The Trig Program and The Derivative Program.

The Algebra Program is $99.95, includes simple documentation, and is available immediately. PO's accepted. Sorry, but this software is protected.

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Upgrade info: Shortly, a new version of TASMON4 will be available that does not use the SYS13 overlay area. Unfortunately, the author found a bug on the day I was writing this UPDATE, so shipment of the new version will be delayed until further notice. We DO have a Max80 version, for use with MAXDOS6, compliments of Jeff Mock. The cost for an upgrade for registered owners is your master disk and a postage paid mailer. If you elect to order by phone, the cost of the upgrade will be $7.50. Max80 owners that don't now have TASMON can purchase this version for $39.95.

A new version of TINYPAY is available. Employees are now encoded as local and state residents (or not, as the case may be), plus a few other "clean up" tweaks were made to the program. Send your master disk and a postage paid-mailer for an upgrade.

Once again, we have The Hacker's Handbook from Australia in stock. Price on this excellent collection of information is $25.

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Our Public Domain library is e-x-p-a-n-d-i-n-g! Public Domain Disks numbers 5 and 6 are ready and waiting to be added to your library. These two volumes include many programs from past issues of Northern Bytes and a complete bulletin board system by Mike Bernstein, MINIBBS!

As with past volumes, PD #5 and PD #6 are 40-track, single density, double-sided "flippy" diskettes. Each of the first 6 volumes is $10 per volume.

Programs on PD #5 include: DIRSLOT/ASM, /CMD and /DOC, (from Northern Bytes) MINIBBS2/BAS, /DOC, /JCL, /ASM and /CMD, MOVE/SRC, VCLIST/BAS, VCLIST/DOC, XMODEM30/CMD (part of MINIBBS), MCIPGMS/DOC and MCITOFIL/BAS (for MCI MAIL users), LINE/BAS and /DOC and 9 other files.

Programs on PD #6 are mostly written by Jerry Vabulas and include BOOT43A/CIM and /DOC (4 and 4P - boot directly from a DOSPLUS 3.50 disk), BRO/CTL (Superscripsit printer driver for Brother (& Comrex?) daisywheel printers), COMP/ASM, /CMD and /DOC (fast program to compare two files, with additional options -- requires Newdos/80 2.0) and DISKCOMP/ASM, /CMD and /DOC (Similar to COMP, but compares the contents of two disks), D/CMD and /DOC and SD/ASM, /CMD and /DOC (fancy directory programs), DATESET/ASM, /CMD, SD/ASM, SD/CMD (mods to Jack's original SETDATE program), DISTANCE/BAS, GM/BAS, MAP/CMD (a MAP program for MultiDos), MSTRMIND/NB and WEEKDAYS/NB (programs for use with Modular Software's powerful NEWBASIC), SETPRT/BAS and P/CMD (to set C. Itoh printer modes), HDSTART/ASM, /CMD and /DOC (mods for using hard drives with a Holmes Sprinter), and a few others.

Note to Model I owners: If you have old 35-track drives, you may have problems reading these 40-track disks. Before ordering, you should make arrangements for transferring from 40 to 35 track diskettes.

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HYPERCROSS II (XT II) is now a reality. Mike Gingell has done a fantastic job. New features include capabilities to do "alien to alien" transfers using only a two drive system, save a list of "tagged" files that are to be copied, handle RANDOM files with record lengths other than 256, and extended help messages. If XT II can't read a disk, it will tell you what the disk PROBABLY is. If you need to talk to one format consistantly, you can "configure" XT II to be ready for that format without operator intervention.

Supported formats include PCDOS and MSDOS 1.1, 2.0/2.1 single and double sided and Tandy 2000. CP/M includes Aardvark, Access, Altos, ATR, CCS, Cromemco, DEC, Eagle, Epson, HP, IBM CP/M 86, Heath/Zenith, Kaypro, LNW, MAX-80, Morrow, NEW, Osborne, Otrona, Sanyo, Superbrain, Teletek, Televideo, TRS-80: Holmes, Hurricane Compactor, MM Shuffle Board, Montezuma, R/S CP/M 3.0+, Xerox, Zorba and standard 8 inch CP/M.

A supplemental package of formats is available for an additional $39.95. This package includes DEC Rainbow and MONROE MSDOS, Olympia, TI, Toshiba, Sharp, Heath-Magnolia, all 8 of the Montezuma vresion 2.2x formats and many others. HYPERCROSS II is required to access these additional formats. With this package, HYPERCROSS II will support over 130 different formats.

HYPERCROSS II is available 4 ways. CP/M (only) includes all single-sided CP/M formats and is $49.95. Most popular MSDOS (only) formats is $49.95. Combined version of HYPERCROSS II (XT II) is $99.95. A package of 50+ additional formats (requires XT II) is $39.95.

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A MARVELous program: Listen Up, True Believer! The World's premier comics company has joined with the originator of Adventure games to bring you the awesome QUESTPROBE Series: An epic group of home computer Adventures by Marvel Comics and Scott Adams in which YOU become the greatest Marvel Super Heroes (TM) characters. The TRS-80 vesion of the first QUESTPROBE is now ready for Models I, III and 4.

Much more than an arcade game and recommended by educators around the world, an Adventure allows you to move through a wonderous electronic world by entering English commands. In the HULK (Volume I of the series) you actually control the intellect of Bruce Banner and the savage might of ol' "Jade Jaws" himself, the HULK (TM). Your objective is two-fold: to unlock the riddle of the Chief Examiner and...to survive! Each installment of the QUESTPROBE is a complete adventure. The HULK was written by Scott Adams with artwork by Mark Gruenwald and John Romita. The HULK, available immediately, $29.95 (disk).

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Save money with a 1200 baud modem! The PASSWORD is our choice for a full featured, low cost "smart" modem. Beware when purchasing other low-cost modems -- certain missing features limit your ability to do things like set up a bulletin board. Thanks to a special purchase, the PASSWORD is only $300 from TAS! If you request, we'll include Public Domain disk #2 which contains public domain terminal software.

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Ever have a problem finding games that are good for kids? And when you do find them, they're probably too expensive, right? We have an alternative: GAMEPAK-3 from Micro Mining and Assay Company. This includes three very fine games that are easy to learn, have excellent graphics, different each time you play, an excellent buy for the money and Fun! Repeat After Me is an excellent and original computer implementation of a plot to develop memory and co-ordination. Matchmaker follows the game format of Concentration with its own unique twists. Funny Face is actually three games in one: The user may select random faces, customize faces from a library of 100,000,000 different faces (sorry, we have not counted them all, but there's a lot, we know!) or play a game called "LINE-UP" where you try to select a criminal from a LINE-UP of similar looking characters. We highly recommend this game package. All three are available, on disk only, for only $29.95. Ask for GAMEPAK-3.

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Just when you thought that Model I and III were dead, Behold: A phoenix arises from the ashes. Models 4 and 4P are proving quite popular with school systems, software developers and other persons who care to closely investigate the actual value of their computing dollar. Rumor has it that the 4 and 4P have already sold more machines than Models I and III combined. The volume of software for these machines is steadily increasing as more "hackers" (in the old sense of the word) learn the IN's and OUT's and other relevant data. Wouldn't it be nice if you could run these programs on your Model I and III?

You can. Dennis Allen, author of BAS34, BASANYO and BAS2000 (Soon to be BASGW, since it works with all Gee-Whiz BASIC) has produced one additional package (with some prompting from some die-hards here at TAS): BAS43. With this neat package, Model I and III users can convert ASCII BASIC programs written with Model 4 BASIC to run with their machine!

While it is impossible for the machine to make all decisions necessary for this conversion, we take care of 90% of the gruntwork, including the conversion to 2 character variables (a special XLATE program is included in case you want to manually assign specific variable names), PRINT@, TAB, EXPONENTIATION and more. A cross reference is created that details all BSAIC reserved words incompatible with the Model I/III BASIC, along with the line number where they occur. What this means is that, after the conversion, you will know all lines where remaining tweaks to be done. You won't have to do a random search, hoping you catch them all. BAS43 will also work with some Gee-Whiz (read: IBM) BASIC programs.

BAS43, with a 30+ page manual detailing what BAS43 will convert (and how to handle what it won't convert) is available immediately for only $49.95.

Please send the following products:

Description	Model	Price

Ship TO:

S & H: $3.00

Total: _____

Sender: The Alternate Source, 704 N. Pennsylvania
Lansing, MI, 48906, Phone (517) 482-8270
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