TAS UPDATE #13
07/20/85

Thank you for your kind response to our request for committments to purchase issues of Northern Bytes. We are getting responses almost every day. Folks who have already signed up have Volume 6, Number 5 on the way. A simple post card will get the issue on its way to you. Currently, thirteen back issues of Northern Bytes are available, only $2 each.

***

We have temporarily delayed shipment of The Algebra Program. George at JMG was disappointed because the program didn't do a little more for beginning users, a valid consideration. I have passed along a few suggestions to Michael and he advises that coding is just about complete; just a little polishing remains. When we reannounce The Algebra Program, it will not be protected as was initially announced, for various reasons, not the least of which is Tandy's requirement that the program be 100% compatible with the Model 2000. Our protection system wasn't. Mike is also adding a "HELP" feature to The Algebra Program, since we will be dealing with many new computer users. Please wait for an official announcement before ordering.

***

Further explanations department. An unhappy customer writes, "I am returning XPL since it can't even substitute for an 8088 assembler, let alone improve on one. The statement in your promotional literature would lead me to assume that it implements the whole 8088 instruction set and gives constructs which make it easier to use than an assembler..."

XPL is NOT an assembler. It is a compiler and a language unto itself. Our intention was to inform that the source code for an XPL program could be moved between a variety of machines. I did not mean to imply that XPL even remotely resembled 8088 assembler code, even though it does slightly resemble the Z80. The XPL instructions supporting structured code help make programs self-documenting to a greater degree than either the 8088 or the Z80. There currently exists a 6809 version of XPL, not yet announced; a 68000 version is under consideration. We will not announce these latter products until we have determined whether we can successfully market programmer tools of this caliber at this low price. It is possible that the number of people to whom this product will appeal is too limited, and that is about to be determined.

While maintaining great compatibility, XPL presents few restrictions during code development and you get machine language speed. XPL provides a mass market for your software, and you only have to write the program one time. The same source code will compile to the proper object code for the machine you're using with XPL. The alternative is to learn the machine language for all these machines. XPL is especially effective where machine language speed is required, but this doesn't mean that it will exactly replace an assembler for any given machine.

The XPL compiler is available for either MSDOS or CP/M at $79.95. Your further inquiry is encouraged.

***

Bugs away: Lary Myers has reported a small bug in LTERM4 when using a 7-bit word. Sorry about that. If you'll send us a disk and postpaid mailer, we will upgrade your LTERM4 at no charge.

New users who need a versatile telecommunications package, LTERM4 is versatile and very easy to use and only $49.95. A Model I/III version (which doesn't contain all the features of LTERM4 because of hardware limitations, is only $10 as a part of The Alternate Source Public Domain Library Volume 2.

***

Another volume has been added to the TAS Public Domain Library for the TRS-80, bringing the total to eight volumes. Each volume consists of a double-sided, forty-track, single density "flippy" diskette jam packed with excellent quality software that has been subjected to limited testing on TRS-80 Models I and III, and in some cases, 4. Volume eight, for example, contains a complete bulletin board system, a mini-disk operating system, a calculator program that uses double precision accuracy and recognizes constants such as "pi" and "e", a program to determine if your phone number spells out any words or names, a fast disk formatter (complete with source code) with several formatting options and much more.

Each volume is value priced at only ten dollars and includes a cover sheet detailing that volume. Marianne, after several requests, is now taking subscriptions to automatically ship volumes of the TAS Public Domain Library diskettes as they are released. This does not mean that we will release volumes any faster, or even that we'll release another volume, but if we do, you can receive it automatically simply by asking that Marianne add you to the "Automatic Shipment PD List" and providing your charge card number. Subscriptions are presumed to expire when your charge card expires unless you request otherwise.

If you care to inspect other public domain libraries, you will find that they frequently contain software that originated through one of several TAS projects. By purchasing the official volumes, through TAS or our dealers, you will be contributing to the kitty so we can continue the screening process and continue to purchase fine programs for the library. Your support is appreciated.

***

We have access to a few sets of the near-famous Encyclopedia For The TRS-80 published by Wayne Green Books a few years back. The series consists of ten volumes. Soft cover copies are only $4 each; hardcover copies are only $8 each. There are a limited number of these, so you should order soon if you want to get a set at this price. We believe our collection of hard cover sets is the only commercially available collection remaining. Sorry, but you must order in complete sets.

***

Start your accounting system with complete and accurate sales data. The TAS Order Entry System is a complete system designed to minimize operator input drudgery and maximize data output accuracy. The format is very flexible, as good business software should be.

You have complete control of the pricing structure. You can discount just a product and/or the entire order for those special sales and closeouts. Items can be added to the order with a minimum of keystrokes. If the quantity ordered or other information varies, any single information field can

be edited with the greatest of ease. Tax rates and totals are automatically computed (but may be edited), eliminating potential operator input error.

You start by defining your product list. Our budget package supports interactive product inventory levels for 300 products; the deluxe package supports over 60,000 products (with proper disk storage, of course). You simply enter the product code; price, description and quantity are immediately displayed. You can optionally edit any of several "forms" quickly and easily with a small, easy to learn set of special commands. A message area allows communication with customer via invoice or packing slip without having to write a separate letter.

The data format is so condensed that even two 40 track double density single-sided drives can serve as a functional system, albeit with minimal disk swapping. All programs in the system are non-protected and can be used on hard drives with no problem. Disk space usage will depend of the number of orders and the number of items in each order.

Documentation for the package is under 30 pages. All program menus are accurately described. File handling considerations are also discussed so that the order entry system may be adapted to your hardware system with minimal problems. A special appendix discusses how to allocate disk space for maximum efficiency. Versions of Tas Order Entry System are available for TRSDOS 6.x and MSDOS (IBM and all compatibles).

Quickly produced inventory indexes can provide a variety of valuable information. A sort by VENDOR will help you plan your product purchases. A sort by QUANTITY-ON-HAND will show you what needs reordering. A sort by PRODUCT-DESCRIPTION is helpful for preparing your catalog or product list. Inventory is easily updated, even in the middle of entering orders. Information is also provided that will assist you with defining meaningful product codes.

A daily sales report shows state tax, freight and sales broken into "in-state taxable" and "out-of-state non-taxable". A monthly sales report that details every single sale by vendor (or author) and product will assist you with determining product performance and planning. Reports can be used for author royalty payments, if required. All reports are designed for inexpensive 9" x 11" tractor-feed paper available at most computer stores; forms are drawn as needed. For mail order sales, you can use the folded invoice or packing slip as a shipping label and eliminate custom labels.

In addition to being easy to use, well documented and loaded with features, the source code is optionally available. The code is structured and well commented; user modifications are a breeze. Should the TAS Order Entry System be almost what you want, we also offer inexpensive custom modifications, in the event that you can't find a local programmer. Hooks are provided for use with TAS Mailing List System -- completely automatic mailing list maintenance, activity codes, and "type of prior purchase" codes.

The TAS Order Entry System for either MSDOS or TRSDOS 6.x (only) is $198.00. Manual alone is $5.00, applicable toward purchase. Please specify computer type.

***

We've had several requests for a versatile and easy to use data base manager that even kids could use. InfoScan is an information reference utility. It can be used to organize, store and retrieve any type of information that is useful to you, in any format that is meaningful to you.

InfoScan combines the features of a word processor, data base manager and information retrieval and display utility. You compose information records on the screen, using the word processing feature, in any format you like. Each record is described by 1-17 character key phrase that you specify. Once created, the information file's key phrases can be scanned as a list, on the screen, using an impressive key scan bracket. You scroll the key phrases through the brackets with the arrow key and the corresponding information record is retrieved from disk and displayed on the screen.

You can use InfoScan to organize any kind of information:

* Product Profiles
* Recipes
* To Do Lists
* Daily Appointments
* Lists/Reminders
* Short Memos
* Customer Information
* Menu Planning
* Personnel Records
* Music Library
* Diskette Contents
* Diaries
* Sales Leads
* Inventory Data
* Card Catalogs
* Home Inventories
* Checkbook registers
* Working Notes
* Automobile Records
* Magazine Indices
* Document Summaries
* Name/Address Lists
* Student Profiles
* Thousands More Uses

InfoScan is flexible, powerful and easy to use. Operating features include:

* 350 Records per file
* Any number of files
* All machine language for speed
* Unlimited BACKUP allowed
* Display a record in 1/2 second
* No complex commands
* Password protect files
* Two record display formats
* Automatic Disk Space Management
* Visually oriented menus
* Up to 1792 characters per record
* Automatic keyword locator
* Excellent graphic display panels
* Uses windowing techniques
* Fast keyword sort routines
* Use any I/III DOS
* Sort keywords in groups
* Word wrapping data entry
* Quick forms generation/fill-in
* Fast cursor action
* Change keywords easily
* Full screen editing
* Add, delete and change records
* Line insert/delete
* Print records on lineprinter
* 29 page user manual

Best of all, the price of InfoScan is only $49.95.

***

Hacker's Handbook is again in stock! This book is written by Kevin O'Hare of Brisbane, Australia, who became frustrated with having to go to five or six different books every time he needed some bit of information, and decided to gather the most useful information together in one place. The TRS-80 Hacker's Handbook evolved from his collection of notes.

This book comes from Australia and takes about 4

months to get here, so order your copy of this very popular book now while our in-stock supply lasts, only $24.95.

***

These days, when it seems that nobody wants to be compatible (after all, how are you going to be convinced to buy a new machine?), along comes a product like MultiDos 1.7. Jack Decker had lodged a complaint because MultiDos wouldn't support the Newdos/80 double sided 80-track format. It does now. As a matter of fact, you will be able to read virtually every TRSDOS-like disk with this new implementation, providing you have the supporting hardware capability.

Single handedly Vernon Hestor is winning the battle of DOS Features against such odds as no support from TANDY and a general avoidance of anything that might be construed as non-standard by the computer public. MultiDos is good for programmers because it provides a lot of utilities, many not included with any other operating system or even commercially available in another form. MultiDos is good for users because coding has been implemented to make a lot of things easy. When you want to read an unknown disk format, you don't need to worry about disk configurations. All is automatic.

MultiDos is a splendid buy for the money, only $89.95 for the Model I or III version 1.7 and $99.95 for the Model 4 1.7. We do have a limited number of version 1.6 available for only $59.95, in the event that you're short of cash now and want to upgrade later.

***

The Official TAS I/O Public Domain Data Library is now being created. There is a variety of data bases that we need, and we presume that you might need them too. We will be offering an expanding library of data bases at very reasonable costs.

Volumes in the TAS I/O Data Library are on diskette and you may order them in any diskette format you choose. We support most CP/M (including 8 inch), MSDOS and TRSDOS formats and others are available by special arrangement.

Each diskette contains two files, a data file and a BASIC program that will print the file on one-up labels. Other printing formats and data editing tools are optionally available at reasonable prices.

All lists are culled by our own marketing efforts or from public domain sources, governmental information, etc. This means that you are not buying just a set of labels. You get the actual data on diskette that can be printed as many times as desired, and even edited and updated.

Entrepreneurial types who want to make some spare change by initiating and maintaining lists for us, please approach us with your list suggestions.

Current public domain data bases available and prices:

Michigan High Schools $19.95
Indiana High Schools $19.95
West Virginia High Schools $19.95
Kentucky High Schools $19.95

State Government Capitols $9.95

Michigan Newspapers and Periodicals $29.95
Ohio Newspapers and Periodicals $29.95
Indiana Newspapers and Periodicals $29.95
Texas Newspapers and Periodicals $29.95

Computer Product Promotion List $49.95

Others available soon. Always specify disk format required. Multiple disk formats, deduct 20% when ordered at the same time.

***

Adventure International has released another of their Questprobe (TM) adventure games based on popular Marvel comic book heros. In this Questprobe adventure, you are the amazing Spiderman (TM), controlling all of Spidey's incredible powers -- his agility and acrobatic ability, spider strength, webbing and spider sense -- as well as Peter Parker, Spiderman's alter ego as he combats MYSTERIO. You'll also meet the mysterious CHIEF EXAMINER, the overseer of the entire Questprobe series.

The Questprobe adventure featuring the Hulk is also available once again. Each Questprobe adventure is $29.95. Currently The Hulk and Spiderman are the only Questprobe adventures available, although more are expected. Model 4 users, this program will run in the Model III mode.

***

Just in from Adventure International is The Adventure of Buckaroo Banzai, Across The 8th Dimension. Now our only TAS TV serves as a monitor for the CoCo, but we understand that Buckaroo Banzai is a hit of the Home Box Office set. The character was not well received at the movie theaters, but went on to receive fame after being screened by Home Box Office. Here is a more explicit description of the character, from the package back:

"First of all, let us introduce you to BUCKAROO BANZAI (TM). He is not just a neurosurgeon and a particle physicist, he drives a super-sonic jet powered automobile and displays his musical talents with a rock band in East Texas.

"In the adventure of BUCKAROO BANZAI, you, as Buckaroo, must disarm the doomsday bomb that has been left on earth by the evil Lectroids. This bomb is of complex design and operation and will destroy the world unless Buckaroo can find it.

"What will Buckaroo do, now that the bomb has entered the final countdown stages? The bomb will go off today, so Buckaroo must act fast."

How often do you get an opportunity to save the world for only $29.95?

***

CLOSEOUT SPECIAL

A standard set of products carried by TAS I/O is a collection of books published by a company called International Jeweler's Guild, or IJG for short. These books have served as standard reference materials for a variety of TRS-80 projects. Every one of the books includes a selection of important software routines. These can be very important for getting a software project completed in a minimum amount of time. There is a limited number of these books left; we will continue to carry them as long as they are available. Some of the books have companion diskettes that contain the routines already keyed onto

diskette, both in source and object format. The following offer will allow you to complete your TRS-80 library at minimal expense, plus we offer small quantity discounts. Please inquire. Here is our listing and current prices on each product:

TRS-80 Disk and Other Mysteries by Harv Pennington. The "How to" book of data recovery for the TRS-80 Model I disk operating system, the standard for the TRS-80 I/III and 4 industry. Regular price: $22.50. TAS Price: $16.95

Microsoft BASIC Decoded and Other Mysteries by James Lee Farvour. Complete guide to TRS-80 Level II BASIC, most applicable even with 4P ROM images! Regular price: $29.95. TAS Special Price: $22.50

The Custom TRS-80 and Other Mysteries by Dennis Kitsz. This book is especially for Model I TRS-80 Users. Software drivers could be used with minimum modifications. Regular price: $29.95. TAS Special Price: $22.50.

BASIC Faster and Better and Other Mysteries by Lewis Rosenfelder. A superb collection of small Z80 routines that can be used with BASIC programs to make them faster. Complete implementation instructions. Regular price: $29.95. TAS Special Price: $22.50.

BASIC Faster and Better Library Disk. Contains 121 functions, search merge, compare and listing routines plus array handlers, BASIC overlays and video drivers. Regular price: $19.95. TAS Special Price: $16.50.

BASIC Faster and Better Demonstration Disk. Contains 32 demos of the Library Disk contents above. Regular price: $19.95. TAS Special Price: $16.50.

BASIC Disk I/O Faster and Better and Other Mysteries. Programming tips and techniques to store/retrieve data from disk. Regular price: $29.95. TAS Special Price: $22.50.

BASIC Disk I/O Faster and Better Demonstration Disk. A collection of major disk I/O subroutines including random, ISAM and TREESAM file handlers. Small business supported here. Regular price: $29.95. TAS Special Price: $22.50.

Machine Language Disk I/O and Other Mysteries. A guide to machine language disk I/O for the TRS-80. Includes Small Operating System (SOS) and other valuable routines. Regular price: $29.95. TAS Special Price: $22.50.

TRSDOS 2.3 Decoded and Other Mysteries. The authorized version of the TRSDOS 2.3 source code. Here is an excellent place to learn how operating systems work. Regular price: $29.95. TAS Special Price: $22.50.

How To Do It On The TRS-80. A complete applications guide to the TRS-80 Model I, II, III, 100 and Color Computer. They probably have a lot more in common than you think! Regular price: $29.95. TAS Special Price: $22.50.

***

We have a small quantity of Bruce Hansen's Threshold Zero, a fast and furious arcade game, available for only $6 on diskette. This very good graphic game appeared just as the TRS-80 game market was riding into the sunset. We also have a quantity of 11" x 14" posters dipicting the Threshold Zero cover. One is FREE with each Threshold Zero ordered, if requested, as long as the supply lasts. TRS-80 I, III and 4 only.

Mail all orders and inquiries to: TAS I/O, 704 N. Pennsylvania, Lansing, MI, 48906
Phone Orders (M/C, Visa and COD) may be placed by calling (517) 482-8270

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Product Description: _____ Price: ____.____

Product Description: _____ Price: ____.____

Product Description: _____ Price: ____.____

Product Description: _____ Price: ____.____

Product Description: _____ Price: ____.____

Visa/MasterCard Number: _____ Shipping: ____.____

Expiration Date: _____ MI Residents, please add 4% sales tax: ____.____

COD, add $2.00 The Bottom Line: ____.____

What computer models and/or other hardware and software considerations that may affect software performance will you be using with these TAS products?

Please add $3 shipping to your total order for postage and handling expenses.
Thank you for supporting The Alternate Source!