

# Microcomputer Newsletter

June 1985

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## Discount Program News

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We are continually amazed at how quickly and frequently the microcomputer market changes. This month's discount program news includes all the usual chaos endemic to the microcomputer market: products that have been dropped by vendors, announcements of new products, several additions to the discount program, and the ever-popular price reductions. Here are the details:

### • IBM Graphics Printer price reduction

The Minnesota Bookcenter (Williamson Hall) has reduced the price of the IBM Graphics Printer from \$249 to \$199 (while supplies last). The printer has a Centronics-style parallel interface and is software compatible with the Epson RX-80. Since IBM has stopped shipping the Graphics Printer in favor of the IBM Proprinter, this is your last chance to buy this product. The IBM Proprinter is a dot matrix printer that IBM just introduced. When the deadline for this issue arrived we had only had a short look at the Proprinter, so we cannot give you much information about it. A review of the Proprinter will follow in next month's newsletter.

### • Apple stops production of the Macintosh XL

Apple is halting production of the Macintosh XL (formerly the Lisa). Lisa owners should not despair, however. Apple will continue to support the Lisa for 5 more years.

The demise of the Lisa apparently came about because Apple had decided to phase out the Lisa in favor of a Macintosh with a 20M byte hard disk drive. To clear out the inventory of Lisas, Apple reduced the price, but this strategy proved to be too successful. After the price reductions took effect, three times as many Lisas were sold as Apple expected. With the supply of Lisas dwindling, Apple decided the best thing to do was to announce the demise of the Lisa and the forthcoming hard disk for the Mac now. The stock of Lisa machines was supposed to last until September or October, which is when Apple hopes to begin shipping the 20M byte disk for the Macintosh. Unfortunately, we do not yet have any technical details about the Mac hard disk. We'll keep you posted.

(Discount News continued on page 2)

# Review: HebreWriter

## A Hebrew font for the Apple Macintosh

The manufacturers of HebreWriter (Certificate Plus) advertise their product as software that will work with MacWrite and allow you to use your Macintosh as a Hebrew typewriter. From the ads in MacWorld we expected actual software, perhaps a program analogous to the Key Caps desk accessory, that would handle the problem of typing characters from right to left. (Hebrew is written from right to left; English is written from left to right). We were disappointed to find that the product isn't really software at all and you must enter characters from left to right.

This product is simply a Hebrew font, in one rather large size, along with a small collection of MacPaint documents. The manual is *one-half page long*. It shows the location of the characters on the keyboard and provides you with *only two sentences of instructions*: "Add MacPaint, MacWrite and/or Banner to this HebreWriter© disk. Use 10 points and bold with any styling or edit option!"

We followed the meager instructions and proceeded to try the product. We met with several disappointments. We were terribly frustrated with the difficulty of typing Hebrew backwards and even though we selected the smallest possible font size, the Hebrew characters were so large that only a few words would fit on a line. Therefore, we cannot recommend this product for any serious document preparation.

(Discount News continued from page 1)

### • MacDraw available at the Bookcenter

MacDraw is an *object-oriented* graphics editor. By *object-oriented* we mean that MacDraw keeps track of all the circles, lines, and rectangles you create as objects rather than patterns of dots. MacPaint, in contrast, manipulates graphics strictly in terms of dots.

An example should make the distinction between MacPaint and MacDraw clear: Suppose you draw a circle with MacPaint. After the circle is drawn, you

cannot change the size or location of the circle without erasing it. This happens because once MacPaint displays the circle it converts the circle into a dot pattern and forgets that the dot pattern represents a circle.

When you use MacDraw to draw a circle, MacDraw remembers that the dot pattern represents a circle. Since MacDraw associates the dot pattern on the screen with an object, you can change the size and location of a circle and MacDraw will erase the old circle automatically. MacDraw works well for applications such as producing maps, organizational charts, and other documents which need to be revised frequently. MacPaint is better suited for artistic pursuits, because MacPaint gives you control over individual dots in the image. MacDraw is available for \$80 at the Williamson Hall Bookcenter Electronics Desk.

### • Lower Zenith Z-150 and Z-160 prices

Zenith has lowered the prices on the Z-150 and Z-160 series microcomputers. The Z-150 and Z-160 machines are both IBM-PC compatibles. Nearly all the software that was written for the IBM-PC will run without modification on the Zenith machines. The Z-160 is a transportable version of the Z-150. Here are the new prices:

<u>model</u>	<u>description</u>	<u>price</u>
ZF-151-21	Z-150 system, one floppy disk drive, 128K memory, four expansion slots, RGB and composite video output, MS-DOS operating system	\$1143
ZF-151-52	same as ZF-151-21, two floppy disk drives, and 320K memory, MS-DOS operating system	\$1351
ZW-151-52	Z-150 system, one floppy disk drive, one 10M byte hard disk drive, 320K memory, three expansion slots, MS-DOS operating system	\$2079
ZFA-161-21	Z-160 system, one floppy disk drive, 128K memory, four expansion slots, 9" amber monitor, MS-DOS operating system	\$1143
ZFA-161-52	same as ZFA-151-21 with two floppy disk drives and 320K memory, MS-DOS operating system	\$1351

# News: Macintosh Software Upgrade

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## The MacWrite, MacPaint, and Finder upgrade has arrived.

The MacWrite upgrade you have been hearing about since last November has finally arrived. MacWrite version 4.5, MacPaint version 1.5, and version 4.1 of the Finder are available now at the Microcomputer HelpLine. If you do not already have a copy of the new versions of these packages, you should visit the Microcomputer HelpLine to upgrade your software.

The new version of MacWrite can handle documents that are much longer than what the previous version of MacWrite could accept. MacWrite 4.5 manages this feat by storing part of the document on disk while you are working on it. The old version of MacWrite kept the entire document in memory, which made it impractical to work on documents larger than about 10 pages on a 128K Macintosh (or 50 pages on a 512K Mac).

You can use MacWrite version 4.5 to work on documents that were created with the previous (memory-based) version of MacWrite, but once a document has been converted for use by version 4.5, the memory-based version of MacWrite will be unable to read the document from disk. Owners of Hayden Speller (a spelling checking program) should be aware that the current version of Hayden Speller is unable to read documents that have been manipulated by version 4.5 MacWrite. Hayden will be sending registered owners of Speller information about upgrading Hayden Speller so it will work with MacWrite 4.5.

MacPaint version 1.5 does not include any new features nor has the way the program functions changed. Version 1.5 was released to fix some of the bugs that were present in the previous version of MacPaint.

Version 4.1 of the Finder is a faster version of the Macintosh system program that maintains the desktop metaphor that the Macintosh operating system uses. The Finder handles your requests when you aren't running an application program (such as MacWrite).

Beyond running more quickly than the previous Finder, there are several new commands in version 4.1. Our favorite is the Shut Down command. Shut Down ejects all disks and restarts the Macintosh. Shut Down is the equivalent of ejecting the disk and turning the Mac off and back on (which could be a 4-step process with the old Finder).

To get a copy of the new software, bring *two initialized 3.5"* diskettes to the Microcomputer HelpLine (room 125 Shepherd Labs) during regular HelpLine hours (9:30-12:00 and 1:30-4:00, Monday-Friday). We ask that you initialize your disks before you bring them to the lab to save time when we copy the new software onto your disks. Documentation of the changes in MacWrite, MacPaint, and the Finder is included on the disks.

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## Announcements:

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### WordPerfect Demonstrations

A member of the UCC Microcomputer Systems Group will demonstrate WordPerfect, a word processing package for the IBM PC at the Micro HelpLine in 125 Shepherds Lab. The demonstration will use Version 4.0 on an IBM AT, will last about one hour, will cover WordPerfect's basic capabilities, and will be held twice:

10:00 am, Thursday, June 13th and  
10:00 am, Wednesday, June 19th

Version 4.0 includes an improved function key arrangement and a 100,000 word dictionary, as well as other new features, and easily converts WordStar files to WordPerfect files and vice versa.

### WordPerfect support for the Hewlett-Packard LaserJet

SSI, the people who wrote WordPerfect, will send a diskette containing printer drivers for Hewlett Packard LaserJet fonts D, E, F, and L to any registered WordPerfect owner. To get the diskette, call the SSI technical support phone number.

# Software at the Microcomputer HelpLine

The Microcomputer HelpLine has copies of the following software that people can try out (in the lab only). Most of this software is either available over the counter at the Minnesota Bookcenter, or can be special-ordered at the Electronics Desk. This list is current as of May 10th.

## • For the Macintosh:

Data Base Management (Many of these were reviewed in the April newsletter.)

1st Base	I Know It's Here Somewhere!	DBMaster
MacLion	FactFinder	Main Street Filer
File	MegaFiler	FileVision
OverVue	Habadex	pfs:file
Helix	pfs:report	

Word Processing (and related software)

Fontastic	Speller	MacWrite
Think Tank	Master Type	Typing Intrigue
MegaMerge	Typing Tutor III	Ready-Set-Go
Word		

### Art

ClickArt	Mac the Knife: Vol. I & Vol. II	MacPaint
MacDraw	DaVinci:Commercial Interiors	DaVinci:Buildings
DaVinci:Interiors	DaVinci:Building Blocks	DaVinci:Landscapes

Programming Languages

Basic Interpreter	Hippo-C	MacFORTRAN
Pascal		

Miscellaneous

Multiplan (spreadsheet)	Dollars and Sense (finance)	MusicWorks (music)
MacProject (scheduling)	MacTerminal (communications)	Plot-It (graphics)
TK! Solver (mathematics)	Professional Composer (music)	
Smooth Talker (text pronouncer)	Chart (graphics)	

## • For the IBM PC and compatibles:

Data Base Management

dBASE II	pfs:report	dBASE III
Power-Base	dBASE III for the AT	RBase 4000
pfs:file		

Word Processing (and related software)

Final Word	VolksWriter Scientific	MailMerge
Word	My Word	Word Perfect 4.0
pfs: write	WordStar 2000+	SpellStar
WordStar 3.3	StarJet	
WordStar Professional	VolksWriter Deluxe	

Spreadsheet

CalcStar	Lotus 1-2-3	MultiPlan
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Integrated

Framework	MetaFile	Symphony
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Programming Language

Basic Compiler	Macro Assembler	Cobol Compiler
Pascal Compiler	FORTRAN Compiler	Turbo Pascal

Miscellaneous

Chart (graphics)	ReportStar (report generation)	DataStar (data input)
SPSS/PC (statistics)	Friday (office utilities)	StatPro (statistics)
StarIndex (WordStar utility)	Norton Utilities (disk utilities)	pfs:graph (graphics)
Sidekick (PC-DOS utility)		

# *New Arrivals at the Folwell Micro Lab*

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## Zenith Z-150s now available at UCC's Folwell Microcomputer Lab.

In addition to the venerable Terak 8510 microcomputers that have graced the Folwell Microcomputer Lab for the last several years, there are some new additions. UCC added seven Apple Macintosh machines to the lab a few months ago. Now IBM compatibility comes to Folwell lab in the form of five Zenith Z-150 (IBM PC compatible) microcomputers and one Zenith Z-100 (CP/M and semi-IBM PC compatible) microcomputer.

The arrival of the Zenith Z-150s to Folwell should be good news for those of you who want to run software written for the IBM. In our experience, the Zenith Z-150 is an excellent clone of the IBM PC and will run nearly any software written for the IBM PC. Students may use the Folwell lab if they have a lab access card, which costs \$10 per quarter. Access cards may be purchased at the University Bursar's Office.

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## *Micro HelpLine Equipment Policy*

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The Microcomputer HelpLine's primary mission is to provide consultation and resolve technical questions about microcomputers and common microcomputer software. Basically, we are not an instructional or production computing lab. But we do allow individuals to use our equipment for blocks of time when this does not conflict with our primary mission.

What follows is our policy on renting our equipment for individual use. It is easiest to use the (somewhat pendantic) method of Socratic inquiry to elucidate our policy. That is, we will pose questions and then answer them, and the questions and answers define our policy.

**Q:** Can I rent the Micro Lab's facilities?

**A:** Yes, you can rent the facilities in the lab and use them on the lab's premises. To use the lab you must buy an access card. Use of the lab's facilities is limited to one 2-hour session per day; you can use the lab's facilities more than 2 hours/day only if there is no demand for the machines that day.

Our facility's rental fee is \$5 for one hour (or any portion of an hour). If you use a printer, you must pay an additional \$5 for every 50 pages (or any portion of 50 pages) you print.

**Q:** Where can I buy an access card?

**A:** The lab does not handle or accept cash, journal vouchers, purchase orders, and the like. You can only purchase access cards at UCC'S administrative office in room 227 of the Experimental Engineering Building, and you can only buy cards in 1 hour (that is, in \$5) increments.

**Q:** What microcomputers can I rent?

**A:** You can rent one IBM PC, one IBM AT, one Zenith Z-150, one Zenith Z-100, one Xerox 820, three Macintoshes.

**Q:** What other microcomputers/printers can I rent?

**A:** Providing either you or the lab has software configured to work with the following combinations, you can rent the IBM PC or Zenith Z-150 connected to the:

- Diablo 630
- Epson FX 80
- Hewlett-Packard LaserJet

the Macintosh connected to the:

- Apple Imagewriter
- Apple LaserWriter.

**Q:** What other equipment can I rent?

**A:** You can rent 300 and 1200 baud modems for the microcomputers listed above. The lab's equipment changes frequently. If you see equipment you want to use, ask the microcomputer lab staff if you can rent it.

**Q:** What do I do with my access card?

**A:** Give it to one of the microcomputer lab staff before you begin to use the equipment.

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Wanted:

Used Zenith Z-100,  
journal voucher or cash.

Harold Mooney  
373-3137

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