



The Reflection

May 1991

Volume 2 Issue 6

The Chief Sez

Some people are comfortable with wasting money. At least many give that impression.

There has been a recent surge in people "upgrading" to other computers. Inevitable when they do so they will attempt to sell their existing equipment. Many have THOUSANDS invested in the C64/C128 and peripheral equipment. When they change computers they are willing to sell for a mere fraction of what they invested.

Personally, I'm not so sure they are "upgrading" but that is a topic for discussion some other time. Right now we are looking at how people waste money.

It is also interesting to note that many of those that "upgrade" then take that expensive "other computer" and do nothing more with it than run a BES. What have they gained? It may be a bit faster than IMAGE and some may have a few additional features but, basically, they have merely left one system that served a purpose to spend more money on another system for the same purpose. And many of them

have urged us to make a version of IMAGE for their NEW computer.

To my way of thinking the C64/C128 is an ideal computer for running a BES. People have them, they have invested in them, they cannot possibly get out of them what they spent on them, and they certainly don't want to tie up their new "upgrade" to run a BES. The C64/C128 can serve a purpose and can last for YEARS. It makes a very good BES (when coupled with good software - and it DOESN'T HAVE TO BE IMAGE - though that's what we would prefer)

Rather than attempting to sell the equipment for a fraction of it's cost it should be dusted off and used for as long as possible, that is the only sure way of getting one's money worth. I'm sure you all know that my BES started with an obsolete and discarded VIC 20 which I got much more use out of by using it for a BES than had I just left it in the closet.

Here is another point. Since many people are determined to sell their equipment now is a good time to pick up some "spares". Buy that extra disk drive or that back-up computer that someone is trying to give away for pennies. Buy it and

use it as a spare system or as a back-up to your regular board computer.

The point is, there is little need to sell off, at a loss, one's equipment, it makes better sense to use it for a BBS. Maybe that way we all survive for a while longer.

-R-

LORAL - The Rebirth

As many of you may know, things were looking pretty bad for Pittsburgh's only IMAGE BBS. We were terribly dissatisfied at the lack of use by our local users. No posting, responding, & very little UD activity. Things were so bad, that we considered taking the BBS down completely. We quit the network and informed the users that at the end of the month The World of LORAL would be going down, probably forever.

Happily, the users AND my co-sysop, Mad DM, prevailed upon me to give it another month. I agreed, and dropped out of the BBS except to do the maintenance the BBS needed, and USE the BBS myself, just like any other user. I'm pleased to announce that LORAL is beginning to pick up again (mostly due to a just a couple of users who REALLY care), and it looks like WOL will continue. If finances pick up again we would like to rejoin the net, but that's a ways away.

The moral here is don't give up. Let the users KNOW what the problem is, and let 'em know that it's up to them to keep the BBS up. It's working here!

-Tarhos- (the burnt-out sysop)

Announcing Plus File Disk SIX

There has been a lot of anticipation concerning the release of IMAGE 1.3. We have been working on it for quite some time and have decided that there is still MUCH to do. We realize that there are many that hate to wait and for that reason we decided to make some of the enhancements that have been developed available to those that would like them now. They will be fully compatible with the next version when it is finally released.

These are the items being made available on PF6 now.

Perhaps the biggest attractions is the Extended Command Set, or ECS. This will allow the addition of ANY command at any time. It is only necessary to enter the ECS editor and you can add/delete/change/save or load your commands. A full set of instructions is included on the disk in the ifile "ml.ecsdefs", with also contains the command ECS. You will need to replace your "im" file and your "setup" file with the ones from the disk (renamed correctly of course). Once done you can boot up and enter ECS at the main prompt and then take it from there. You'll note that commands are not limited to two characters and further EACH command can be password protected and can have an access level assigned. It is further possible to charge credit for any particular command, lock it so that one must

be in LOCAL MODE to use it or have it IGNORE EXTRA characters. (SE1 does not ignore).

ECS is simple to install and easy to use. It will give you tremendous flexibility in adding commands. Virtually all of your single module Pfiles could be made available at the main prompt.

Some important considerations to keep in mind with ECS. You must know whether a Pfile uses a GOTO or a GOSUB to enter it. Files like BA, ST, LG, and QM all use GOSUB, files like VB, UD, SB, and BE all use GOTO. If a command uses a certain line

number in "im" you must know what line it is. You must also know what the file name is when a file is called. For example, the command ECS calls the file "+.ecs" with a GOTO command.

Another feature of the next version that is available on this disk is the "autoweed" program. This is not like the weed programs that have circulated before, this is totally new. It uses a file that is similar to the "v.index" (and is maintained by the same ++ 4). In order to use it you must FIRST run the file "makeautoweed" from BASIC. It will have to be run on the same device/drive that your "v.config" is on and it will have to have the file "++ sort" on the same device/drive as it uses that file. It will then go through your user file and put all of the last call dates in a list.

Following that you can boot up and run the file "+.set autoweed"

which will allow you to set a weed date from 1 month to 48 months. Once set it can be changed at any time. You are then set. You can use the "+.am" included on the disk, which will call the file "+.autoweed" each time it is run and that will then call the file "+.lo".

The weed is very, very fast, taking only seconds. It does not have to go through your log since it already KNOWS who has not called.

There are a couple of additional files. If you are using an automaint that uses the LMP format there is an LMP version of "+.autoweed" included. There is also a file that you can run that will check the users in the weed info file.

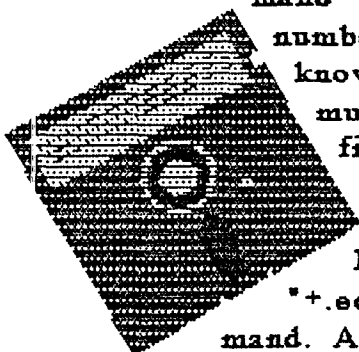
One additional comment. When the weed is first run it will weed quite a few users usually. In no event will it weed more than 30 users.

The Multi-Archival Command system (or MAX - or MACS) is a system that can be installed in any "im" and "+.nu" files. The "1." mod files have been included along with the "+.MX".

When entered as an ECS command it will allow a user to create up to four "macros" that will play back when he enters the appropriate number at the main prompt. For example a user might have two "macros" defined as:

```
1 SE1,1^RA
2 PF^1^1^4
```

Entering a 1 at the main prompt would take him to the first subboard in the first SIG and do an RA. Entering a 2 at the main prompt would take him into the PF



section. There are many variations, your users should really enjoy it.

The BIOGRAPHY and some other new "+.on" modules have been included. For those that have PF5 it is a simple matter to add these additional modules. If you don't have PF5 a "+.on" is included. Note that if you DO have PF5 you may want to change the "+.on" anyway. This one has been renumbered and has all of the "+.on" modules starting at line 200 and extending to 500. The NEWS module is called at line 199 and the EMAIL is called at 500. All of the files from PF5 have been included as REM statements and these new files added after the PF5 files. It is a very simple matter to rearrange the order that the files appear in or REM out or UN-REM any that you prefer.

With the Biography module the users (after validation) are told that there is no biography on file and asked for a short BIO. The file "+.UB" can be entered as the command UB or anything else you might like. I use BIO on my board. Entering UB will allow anyone to read any other BIO. It will allow a user to change his bio and will show the real name to users with maintenance access.

Another of the "+.on" modules is the "+.on.question" which will ask users if they run a BES. If they do it is entered in the file "u.sysops". An auxiliary command, BL ("+.BL" for board lister) is included. It can be entered from any prompt and will go through the "u.sysop" file and list out any boards that are found. There are

options to change the data by the sysop and the person that entered the data.

Additional commands that are included are:

CH ("+.CH" change handle) this file will allow a user to change his handle and other vital information, including his phone number, name and so on. A lot of options.

LN ("+.LN" list nodes) Similar to the LN command on all netted boards except this can be entered at any prompt and will bring up a short menu that will let a user list all boards, list active boards, get information on any node or look at the node map. The map can be displayed in 40 or 80 column if

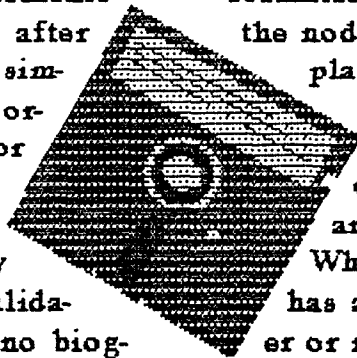
available. Also when listing nodes the user has the option to start the listing at any point (with any node). When he gets info on a node he has an option of selecting another or returning to the menu.

ME ("+.ME" macro editor) Similar to the "+.macros" file, this will let users edit macros. It can be set for any access so if you don't want the users to have access set it accordingly in ECS.

UB ("+.UB" user biography) described above.

CG ("+.change") this file will allow the sysop to change his main prompt at any time to anything he wants. He can select a color for the text and for the box that is drawn around the text.

TI ("+.time") A file to allow the sysop or a remote sysop to set the date/time from a remote console. Handy for people that run their boards remotely or have a co-



sysop that does a lot of the maintenance work. An example of how this could be used was when Doc Shade was running Superboard remotely for a while. He would change the main prompt with the "+.change" above and when he logged on he could tell if the power had been out because the main prompt would change. If the prompt had changed he would use the "+.time" to set the time. Neat.

We have also included the new, working, Xmodem with CRC. This file has been up on the support boards for download but not everyone has it yet so we have added it to this disk in the hope that it will get widely distributed.

We have not neglected the on-line games with this new pfile disk either. There are some really exciting NEW games on this disk. Also some that have been converted from other medium.

A new version of Battle Mex is included. This version, done by Amazer at Titanic Resort utilizes the Little Modem Pfile concept and works very well. Allows users to battle other "Mex" robots with all options fully implemented.

Also by Amazer is a game called Connect Four. The object is

to connect four boxes either vertically, horizontally or diagonally before your opponent (the computer) can connect his four. It is an interesting game. Challenging.

On the space theme is a game called Outpost. You man an outpost that is under attack from different quadrants. It is up to you to eliminate the threat and allow the supply ship to land and resupply your outpost. You must be careful not to exhaust your supplies before the supply ship arrives. Again, it can be quite challenging.

A new game by Wooly is called Combat. This is definitely different and is only available to C/G users. All of the activity takes place on-screen, with constant screen refreshes. It is really very interesting. The screen is windowed to simulate a console and the inputs and outputs appear as they would on a console. A LOT of work has gone into this file.

Another one by Wooly is the Snail Exacta. A race run by snails. The user can bet on the outcome of each race and can select an "exacta" or the exact finish of the four snails. There should be a warning with this one, if someone bets high and hits the exacta he can win a

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LOT of credit. The other options, selecting the winner of each race does not pay off as much. This game has proven to be very addictive.

Another game that has been around a bit but is still worthy of being included here is Greed. This one was done by Cregan at Codex and is a truly fascinating game. It is very, very addictive and once you start playing it is difficult to quit. Your users might tie up your board for hours with this one.

The good thing with all of these games, except Battle Mex, is that they can easily be added as commands in your ECS. You can either give them a one or two letter command or can put the file name in as the command. With ECS all things are possible.

These games should spice up your board and should make it well worth the price of the disk.

As has been our policy for some time now, the price of the disk will be \$16.00. There is a \$3.50 shipping/handling charge and an additional \$3.50 if ordered COD. You can order from the voice order line (801-423-2209) or can use the order form on the back of this newsletter.

-R-

Mod

By: Dave Proctor
(TRUCKER)

This mod is a spinoff from seeing IMAGE 1.3. I hope you like it as much as I do.

When you call one of the 1.3 IMAGE test boards it will ask you if you want to logon or just check your E-Mail. This does the same

thing but works on 1.2.

At the "Hit Return/Enter" prompt your users will also have the choice to check for E-Mail by hitting M for Mail check. They will then enter their HANDLE and it will check the drive for Mail for them. At the same time it will log the time & date that their mail was checked as well as their handle. If the user has mail on the system it will display a seq file that you make saying they have E-mail, And if they don't have mail it will display the No Mail seq file. After that they will get a prompt asking them if they want to logon to the BBS at this time. If they answer YES they will then enter their password and proceed to logon to the BBS. If they answer NO they will be logged off.

This mod will only work on 2 part "+.lo" files, (+.lo & +.off) If you don't have this version then you will have to download them from your support board before adding this mod.

Here's the mod:

```
120 pw$="":&*[F6]Hit Return/Enter
or A"
121 &*[F6]Hit M For Mail Check
:£g1£v7":iftr%-1then250
122poke53252,20:k=.:i%=an$="I"
andzz:id=i%:oni%goto150
123 ifan$="M"then550

550 poke53252,20:&*[F6]Enter
Handle Only!:£i1":ifan$=""then120
562ma$=an$:gosub572:
a$="m."+left$(ma$,14)+",s,r"
:dr=2:gosub1011:ife%then565
564 a$="s.lo.mail y":dr=1
:gosub1076:goto566
565 a$="s.lo.mail n":dr=1
```

```

:gosub1076
566 &*[F6]Do you wish to logon
now? *:gosub1902:ifa=1then576
570 &*[F6]Later...*:goto250
572 a$=" "+ma$+" 's mail Checked"
:gosub1490
573 an$=d1$:&,15:a$=" On-"+an$
:gosub1490
574 a$="-----"
:gosub1490:return
576 an$=ma$:ac%=16:id=.:goto128
    That's it...

```

This mod has been tested for 3 weeks on CMD & Lt Kernal boards and works fine.

This mod can also be downloaded from The Truckstop BBS or on some of the other support boards in sdp form with the mod already installed in a "+.lo" file and also a merge for those of you that wish to install it in your own "+.lo" files.

If you have any problems call The Truckstop @ 716-934-3474 and we'll be glad to help install this mod.

Truckstop System Mods
TSM 1991

-R-

By: Al DeRosa (BUCKO)

Ever have a great C/G screen for the entry into the subs, but your ASCII users complain because it's all garbled characters?? Well here's a micro micro mod for you to install. In "im" change line 1323 to read as follows:

```

1323 a$=z$+str$(nl):gosub1350
:goto1301

```

Pretty simple huh?? Now all you have to do is create 2 screens for your Sub Entry, UD Entry and UX Entry. Title them as follows:

```

"s.SB 1" -> For C/G Users
"s.SB 0" -> For NON-C/G Users
"s.UD 1" -> For C/G Users
"s.UD 0" -> For NON-C/G Users
"s.UX 1" -> For C/G Users
"s.UX 0" -> For NON-C/G Users

```

And that's it!

Enjoy... There's more where this came from'!

Bucko - The Wrong # [[BBS
(914)/328-9078 NetNode 14
3/12/2400 baud!

-R-

NISSA Notes

By: Al DeRosa (BUCKO)

Hello again from the world of NISSA. I apologize for not having a full article last month, but Bruce and I both had personal problems and couldn't find the time to get an article ready for the newsletter. Not much has happened over the last 2 months, between Bruce, Ron and myself we really haven't been able to get much done other than testing some files, for the NISSA checked files UD's. So far what we have tested and available are the multi main prompt file titled "prompts.sdl" written by Chili Junction, the file performs flawlessly and as it is supposed to. Another is the mod "Dr.Hourglass", this file works as claimed but it is a memory eater, it will add about 3 or 4 blocks to your "im". I don't have the author's name of that mod handy at the moment. Another which has been tested and overhauled by myself is a "+.on" LMP file called "+.on.mini". I don't have the author's name for this one either. There were some problems with it

and I fixed them up and now it runs flawlessly. At the present time I haven't had the time to get on Port Commodore to download some of the files in the UD's to test. I am trying to download most of the files on Qlink but haven't had too much luck with that either. All of the above mentioned files are available or will be available on all of the Regional Support Boards and on PCM shortly.

Now on to other things Bruce recently mailed out questionnaires to SOME members, NOT ALL. If you didn't receive one don't worry you will eventually, we have received back one and that is it! This, I find ridiculous. If you folks want to keep in contact then ANSWER THE DAMN THING! We don't read minds, we don't know if you moved, we don't know if you are alive or dead! Come on folks NISSA will not continue unless we get some input from you folks who are members of this fine group. We are going to be sending them out again in the next couple of months, when we do there will be a time limit on how long to mail it back. If we do not receive it back by that time we can only assume you do not want to be part of NISSA any longer and you will be removed. We want to keep the communications lines open as best as we can but we can't unless you folks tell us you exist.

Another thing we have been toying with is a Plus File contest which the winner would get their file put on an IMAGE plus file disk, just like what IMAGE did with Battle. These will be the rules:

1: Write a NEW plus file, Not a

conversion from another BES program.

2: Upload it to the following BES's

A) The Wrong #][914-328-9078

B) Port Commodore 801-423-2734

C) Treasure Chest 913-651-2330

Only the above BES's will accept the files, and they will not be validated for people to download.

3: There will be a special UD on all of the above mentioned BES's called Contest UD.

4: The decision of the Judges (Ron, Bruce and I) are FINAL!

5: You can start uploading files between the following dates - May 1, 1991 - August 31, 1991. Any files received after August 31, 1991 will not be judged.

6: If you make revisions to a file you may upload the revised copy, to the above mentioned boards.

That's about it, we will have a final rules and regulations posted on May 1, 1991 for all to read..

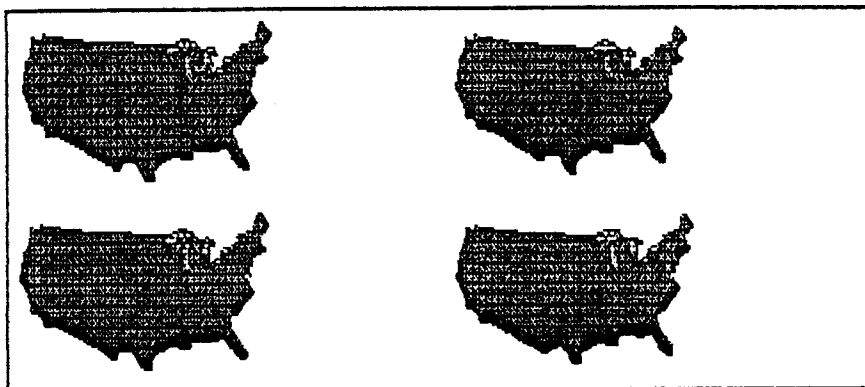
Last order of business, If possible I would like all members to send me some NetMail telling me what kind of system you run, ie, Lt Kernal, CMD, serial drives, etc. If you run serial drives tell me which ones you run, If you run on IEEE tell me what IEEE interface you have and what drives are hooked up to it.

That about wraps things up for this months article. Have a great month.

Al

Bucko

-eR-



By: Ken Burt (BIG BURT)

Quad State Report

Well it all started one afternoon when Jim "Haystack" Mays called me and asked if I would like to be a co-sysop on his Ivory BBS system. I had just gotten my first Commodore modem, a speedy Total Tel 300 band for the princely sum of two used "LP's". I think I got the bad end of the deal.

Over the next few months we started thinking "is there anything else?" We only had subs and nd's, no games or movies and it was getting boring.

I found a guy that had a copy of C-Net 11.0 so we said "what the heck, let's do it." I spent the next week sitting at my computer calling and logging all of our users back on so they would be able to log on with their old handle and password. We had 93 users at that time on the "Other Side".

We had great hopes of not having to do much else. Heheheh. We found that we spent a lot of time re-booting after constant crashes. So I told Jim, "let's go with IMAGE." I had been calling "The CIA" in New York and really liked his board, so we ordered the

IMAGE BBS and started with the conversion process. Jim tried to convert the user file from C-Net to IMAGE and somehow the old file was a duster. I said "I ain't going to go through the same thing putting the users back in" so we started off

fresh. And on January 2 1990 "The Other Side" and "The Grid Iron" were born although "The Grid Iron" was a private board I used for my business. I opened it up to any one in April of that year.

I mainly did the "mods" on "The Grid Iron" and then transferred them to "The Other Side" so I knew they worked. (I had NO programming training or anything, just goes to show anyone can do it).

We were real excited when the network came out. We could now have a constant connection for our users, if TOS was BUSY they could call TGI and forward it. About this time I had gotten to be good friends with TRUCKER at the "Truckstop" in NY. He was my main supplier of new stuff, and my second node away on the network. He has the ability to make a new user feel right at home, and new sysops feel important.

Over the next few months we were busy upgrading our equipment. Jim was running five 1581's and a REU and a '41. I was running just about the same thing when I found a deal on an IEEE 9090. I was so happy 'til I found it was toast. Over the next few months I ended up with another 9090 a 9060 an

8050 and an SFD-1001. Jim laid a bombshell on me, he was getting the Lt. Kernal he had been saving for. I said to myself "geez am I going to be able to do anything?" (I figured the Lt.K was a hard one to learn on).

I must digress a few lines and add in the rest of the story. I had a sysop call me from Youngstown by the name of Bill "LIZZARD" Cunningham wanting to know if I was the only BBS down this way. I told him no, and "The Other Side" had a new user too. Over the next few months we became great friends and visited each other several times. By this time the net had undergone some changes and we had dropped out of the national network. We ran our own Valley net for a while but did return to the national net.

Still having problems with the IEEE system, I was off line for about a month trying to find or fix a 9090 with a bad drive. Bill called me one night and said the sysop at "Alternative Reality" was selling his Lt. Kernal and would take payments for it. I was on my way to getting it two days later. It took me a week to set it up for IMAGE.

Now we can catch up with the last month or so. We were hooked up to the net but were not getting anything reliably. So Bill and Fred found a node that would take us. I am happy to say thanks FRED and AL for the hookup. In the next update I will have a great friend and sysop connected to TGI. The "Truckstop" and TRUCKER. He is working on an online data base that is out of this world (alpha testing right now), and a mail check "mod"

for the 1.2 (it should be released by the time you read this). I am one of the alpha testers for him and will look forward to his input to the network. If you are wondering why it is called Quad State Report and only have Ohio and New York listed I am looking to my left from my desk and seeing the mountains of West Virginia and the state of Pennsylvania is just two miles up the street where the "World Of Loral" is. So as you can see IMAGE does have connections all over and I thank everyone involved with it's development. I plan on an update to the Quad State report for July. We are having a "moding" party in June so look for some new mods in the July and August issue.

Ken "BIG BURT" Burt
The Grid Iron BBS
216-386-9213

Jim "HAYSTACK" Mays
The Other Side BBS
216-386-9524


Bill "LIZZARD" Cunningham
Instant Insanity BBS
216-746-0942

Dave "TRUCKER" Procter
The Truckstop BBS
716-934-3474

Any sysop in the Eastern Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, Northern West Virginia Western New York are invited to the party. Call me voice for directions at 1-216-386-3898 or any of the above boards.

Ken Burt

-eR-



**THE
CROSSROADS**

NISSA Regional Support
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Image Support! ALWAYS SOMETHING
NEW AT THE CROSSROADS!
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128 development
24/12/300-24 Hr/7 Day
IMAGE Net Node 16

.....

Eagle's Nest
908-828-2367

NISSA Assoc - Netmail - Rele
Over 140 Megs Online
FREE IMAGE Sysop UD.
3/12/24 * 7 Days * 24 Hours

ELYSIAN
A
C-64/128
Public Domain
BBS
501-835-6065

You can have a BBS listed here.
\$1.00 Per Ad

BBS Ads

No more than six months at a time per order please.

NEW NUMBER
Lyon' Den East

Image Net Node 1
Home of IMAGE v1.3
On-line data base to check orders
313-453-2576

Digital Dimension
206-699-6653
Starlink Node 5447
Vancouver, WA
20 Meg - 2400 Baud
24 Hours

Lankhmar
609-858-2033
IMAGE Net Node 35 - LKR
NISSA ASSC
3/12/2400 - 7 Days - 24 Hr
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CompuSoft-Online
The Canadian Connection
Sign/USB/Games
48 Megs/24 Hours



Image & Lt. Karol Sales (Canada)
807-623-1031

ORDERS

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ St. _____
 Zip _____ Serial # _____

Products

IMAGE 1.2 From 1.0	\$25.00	_____
PFile Disk #3, 4, 5, 6 (Indicate selection)	16.00	_____ Ea
GFX Disk #1, 2, 3 (Indicate Selection)	10.00	_____ Ea
Networking	20.00	_____
Turbo Rel Subs/SIGS	20.00	_____
Turbo Rel AND Network	30.00	_____
ALL PF & GF (7 Disks)	68.00	_____
Subtotal of order		_____
Shipping/Handling	3.50	_____
COD (If Applicable)	3.50	_____
Grand Total		_____

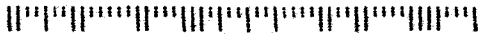
All Tec Products

Tec-Net PFile Disk	\$16.00	_____
Tec-Net GFX Disk	10.00	_____
Tec-Net RLE Disk	10.00	_____
Total Order		_____

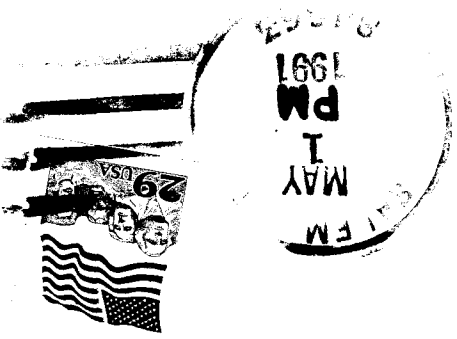
The Reflection \$15.00 _____
 (12 issues)

Note: Some "package" prices are available on IMAGE products, call for details. (801-423-2209)
 Send all orders, with check or money order to:

New Image Software
P.O. Box 525
Salem, UT 84653



0292
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 E. White Plains, NY 10604



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