February Schedule

February 14th General Meeting:
  Claris Works

February's Special Interest Groups:

<u>Beginners</u> at 7 pm on Feb. 21st:
  Questions and Answers
  Spreadsheets & Databases

<u>Business</u> at 8 pm on Feb. 21st:
  MacInTax: A case study

<u>Desk Top Publishing</u>, 9 pm on Feb. 14th:
  MicroTek scanning demonstration

<u>Educators</u> at 9 pm on Feb. 14th:
  A Typography Primer for Educators

<u>HyperCard</u> at 8 pm on Feb. 10th:
  Creating and Using Stacks: Information
  for the Beginning and Advanced User

General Meeting: **7pm**
  Second Friday
  Building 500
  NY Institute of Technology
  Northern Blvd., Westbury

SIG Schedule:
  Beginners   7pm
    Third Friday
    NY Institute of Technology
  Business   8pm
    Third Friday
    NY Institute of Technology
  DeskTop Publishing   9pm
    Second Friday
    NY Institute of Technology
  Educators   9pm
    Second Friday
    NY Institute of Technology
  HyperCard   8pm
    Second Monday
    Plainedge Library

President's Remarks

When Apple decided on a new price policy in 1990, I thought it was a great idea for all those *other* people who were thinking about buying a computer and wanted one that was **easy to use. For current users it portended lower prices for** any of the latest computers we might want to upgrade to and even lower prices for many peripherals. That's what I was thinking at the time and in general that's what happened. Because of Apple's price cuts and other market factors, the prices of memory, SyQuest drives, hard drives, disks and many other items descended considerably. I even went out after almost five great years with my Mac Plus and upgraded to a IIci. So I'm real happy, right? Well, not completely.

About six years ago, I needed a piece of software that would keep track of several thousand bits of information and would be very fast. By coming to LIMac I found out the software I needed was called a database. Many people were very helpful in sharing copies of software with me so I might see what fit my requirements. I decided on a program called OverVUE and trashed all the other database software I had been given. Now one of the reasons I chose OverVUE, in addition to it being a dynamite database, was that a major upgrade had been announced. Could you guess what the price was? $20! (*Twenty*, just in case you thought I had made a typo.) The program has evolved into what is today called Panorama II, itself an outstanding database program. The **price for the latest upgrade, however, had risen to $99.** *Quite a jump, don't you think?* The program is still a screamer but I thought quite a bit about the price before upgrading.

Last week I received my upgrade to Word 5. The first time I purchased an upgrade it cost me $50. This time it cost $129 plus tax and shipping. The grand total? $144.82 for an upgrade to a word-processing program, not a professional CAD program that originally cost a couple of thousand dollars. I guess the question I'm asking is this: With the prices of hardware going down, why do the prices of software seem to be going up?

Now I know that every company has to make money or it won't stay in business. But there are profits and there are **profits**. Granted the need to make money, granted that both the programs I mentioned were good upgrades (Word's reference manual is a super improvement), I think the time

President's Message Continued:

has come for some of our software companies to sit down and rethink the future of their products. Should they continue to improve their programs until Panorama becomes 4th Dimension and Word becomes PageMaker? If things keep going the way they have been, in about two years an upgrade for Word will cost $258 and in four years $516. I think that's a little to rich for my blood and not at all in line with Apple's new price policy. If you agree, let the software companies know loud and clear that they are on the verge of pricing themselves out of the general Mac software market.

The PeachPit Press discount on books continues. But only for one month! So if you are still interested in group savings, have an order and a check ready for Martin Vogel at the February general meeting or send both to him by February 14th. This is your last chance to get those wonderful books at such a great savings.

Bob McAteer, President

Members' Exchange

Non–Commercial ads from members will be printed, at no charge, in a special section of the Forum called the "Members' Exchange." If you would like to place an ad, simply bring it on disk to a general LIMac meeting and give it to Larry Mansfield or Joyce Prigot.

Desktop Publishing SIG
Balan Nagraj

The featured presentation at our January meeting was on the new features of *PageMaker 4.2*. Elizabeth Ciapala of Aldus Corporation, who demonstrated SuperPaint at the general meeting, gave us an interesting demonstration of some of these features.

This version is not only System 7 savvy, but includes a number of enhancements like a new on–screen control palette, support of page sizes up to 42" by 42", a hotlink to *FreeHand 3.1*, a step and repeat feature, etc. It also comes bundled with Aldus PrePrint for color separation and a certain amount of image enhancement. Elizabeth also explained the new Aldus Extensions technology. She commented that Paul Brainerd, Aldus founder and CEO, has challenged their R & D staff with a goal of coming up with enhancements like these every 6–8 months. She also briefly touched upon some of the enhancements made to *FreeHand* and *Persuasion*. In response to a question on trapping, Elizabeth is sending me copies of the Aldus position on this subject. I should be in a position to bring it to our next meeting. I would like to have a discussion on members' experiences with the new Aldus products in a couple of months.

The LI Office of Aldus has always been very responsive to my requests for information, presentations, raffle prizes, etc. Elizabeth and the other representatives I have been in touch with previously deserve recognition for their efforts. During our general meeting, I read a letter to Joe Cortale, their Regional Manager, expressing my personal appreciation for this cooperation. In addition, our President presented Elizabeth with an appreciation plaque from the group.

February's meeting will feature a discussion and presentation of scanning. Robert Ozankan of MicroTek Labs will be demonstrating the *600–ZS*, their highly popular scanner. MicroTek has recently reduced prices on their scanner line. I am also trying to arrange a demonstration of *Ofoto*, the highly acclaimed scanning software that ships with Apple's OneScanner. Originally, this software was available only with Apple's scanner. It is going to be available as a separate product from LightSource in a few weeks. I am also likely to arrange a demonstration of *OmniPage Professional* (the OCR package from Caere), a product that has just started to ship. I have recently obtained a baby picture of our resident *Macaholic Extraordinaire* (Brad). In this picture, he is playing with the original Motorola Chip. We are going to scan this picture and have fun with it. Should be an interesting experience. If you have interesting baby pictures, please bring them along.

The December Meeting In A Nutshell

Wallace Lepkin

The opening meeting of the new year brought out quite a crowd. Considering the flu epidemic and that even some of over Board Members were emulating President Bush at dinner in Japan, the size of the flock was quite respectable. For the first time in many months it was not raining on the second Friday.

Balan Negraj, DTP Chair, and Bob McAteer, President, expressed thanks to Aldus Corporation for their kindness to us. Balan said, "They always come through" and Bob added "It's a pleasure to deal with them." LIMac presented a plaque to Aldus and its representative Elizabeth Ciapala. Bob read the plaque, "LIMac User Group proudly presents this Certificate of Appreciation to Aldus Corporation, Eastern Region, in recognition of the support to our Users Group."

Guest Spot

Elizabeth demonstrated SuperPaint 3.0. which integrates painting, drawing and image-enhancement in a single application, with many added color capabilities. Actually, we didn't see exciting color on the screen. Experimenting with a projector, we hooked it directly to the Mac while Elizabeth, seeing orange where there should be blue, suggested connecting past the monitor. What we lost in color was made up by the impact of this powerful, easy to use program –and it still works great in black and white.

SuperPaint has a variety of ready-to-use fills in colors, patterns, textures and gradients and all can be customized. The fills can be applied to any tool in the Paint or Draw layer. Elizabeth copied a section of a colorful floral print dress and used this design as applied texture. She also deleted a piece of the dress and then replaced it from the texture file. Super! SuperPaint 3.0 supports all color models; all files—TIFF, PICT, PICT2, EPS; Startup Screen and MacPaint. With SuperBit you can place and edit B&W and TIFF color images. It prints to PostScript and QuickDraw, B&W and color. It is System 7 compatible. Now pull yourself away from KidPix and move up to SuperPaint 3.0.

Question and Answers with Bradley Dichter

Q: Get "Coprocessor error" and "Coprocessor not installed" messages on SE30. A: This is a bug in System 6.0.7. With an SE30 recommend using 6.0.5 or 7.0 unless you need 6.0.7 for such as Sound Manager. Q: What is your recommendation for low cost PostScript laser printer? A: I'll repeat what I said last meeting — the QMS PS-410, around $1650. The least expensive is the TI microLaser Plus PS/17 at $1200, and a step up is the Apple Personal LaserWriter NT for about $1800. Q: Note that System 7.0 is 2 megs and 7.0.1 on Powerbook is 1 meg. Are they the same; should I copy 7.0.1 to my other Macs? A: System 7.0.1 is more efficient and faster in math. Can use on other Macs but reinstall, do not simply copy. Q: When copying file get message "Disk error." Don't think it's a bad disk. A: This may happen when copying a large file, or several files at the same time, and you run out of memory. Try dragging one file at a time or break up large file. Q: How solid is Microsoft Word 5.0? A: My experience is limited but it appears solid. Someone used the beta version for weeks without a problem. So it seems even the beta version 5.0 is solid.

Q: With System 7, can I rebuild the desktop without restarting? Don't want to restart because open directly to application. A: Hold down Option and Command keys when quitting. Also, if you hold down Option and Command on restart, the Command key will first bypass the application. Q: Why rebuild desk top? Is this the same as optimizing and defragmenting? A: The desktop file continues to keep track of deleted files, and that slows down your Mac. Rebuilding the desktop removes all the old information. You should rebuild the desktop about once a month or whenever you have deleted or moved a lot of files. A file on a drive may get fragmented. That is, parts of it appear in different sectors of the drive, and this really slows things. Defragmenting brings these pieces back to contiguous sectors, one after the other. Optimizing will place various types of files such as applications together in one area of the disk. This cuts down on movement, particularly to areas not accessed as often, decreases the chance of a crash, and speeds things up. I strongly recommend Norton Utilities for clearing and correcting your disk.

Research

I have been writing this column since the September, 1989 general meeting. It take a lot of listening, a lot of writing, a lot of checking the facts. I try to be as accurate as possible, for example using lower case "m" in TI microLaser. I try to be fair and kind to our guest speakers but I also like to tell it as it is. I feel Bradley Dichter is the star draw of our meetings. I get very little feedback about the column. As Ed Koch says, "How'm I doin'?" Do you think the "Nutshell" is OK; should it be reduced to an acorn or enlarged to a coconut? Should I include announcements made at meetings, those not picked up elsewhere in the *Forum?* Some say the column eliminates the need to attend meetings, others say the column makes them want to attend. Where do you fit? Why not drop me a line at P O Box 518, Seaford NY 11783 or see me at a meeting. (I'm the fellow sitting up front taking notes like crazy). Thanks.

Off the Shelf
Helen & Sheldon Gross PD Librarian

How about some feedback!!! What do you like (or hate)? What do you want? By the way, have you picked up your new January catalog disk? Tell me which Catalog Program you prefer.

We are truly gifted this month. We have the 4 disk set of the Macintosh Electronic Reference referred to by our esteemed president, **Bob McAteer**, in last month's *Forum.* I must admit that the location of these disks was an internal mystery, devised by our own magical filing system. (Notice how the pronoun shifts from I to we when assessing blame.) At any rate, don't blame Bob. I did manage to lose (and find) the disks all alone. This 4 disk package is available for a limited time at $5.00.

In addition, we have a game disk including Diamonds from **Al Choi**, and from **Larry Mansfield**, MacQubic 2.2, a three dimensional TicTacToe, and Chello and a PD version of KidPix, the great children's paint program. We also have Max Apple Zoom, contributed by **Pam Kromer**, Little Black Book, a great address book system, NetCal which includes a free calendar, and a shareware init enabling the calendar to be used over networks. For network users, we also have Timbuktu, from Farallon. Don't miss out on The Microsoft Project working Demo, requiring a Mac in the II seris or an LC and a 2mg system 6.0.5 or later. Our Microsoft Project Demo disks were donated by Microsoft, and are available while they last for only $2.00.

For **HyperCard Users**, we have a new Games disk, and also an Education collection. All HyperCard users should be aware that if they are running a version of HyperCard that is newer than the one on which the application has been created, it may be necessary to Convert the application. Don't worry!!! It's easy. Just click on Convert in your HC File column and Bingo. See HyperCard Help for more details. Don't worry, Convert will appear when needed.

Distribution: We are now distributing PD disks at $5 each, with no swap at all. Please note that this new reduced price does not cover mailing, and we will be forced to charge $1 for postage and handling. The PD Librarian will make every effort to have the newest disks available at meetings.

System News: We have System 6.0.5, a very stable system, and System 6.0.7, available at $10 for a 4 disk set. System 6.0.7 is required for True Type usage. The full System 7 is here, on a set of 9 disks, and we are making it available at an introductory starting cost of $20. Starting soon we will be forced to raise our prices.

FYI: We do not pay our members for the disks they prepare, but of course we offer a swap. Choose the disks you wish to own. Please find your own favorite shareware and share with us.

Disky Business: Please remember to transfer all programs purchased to disks which have been *initialized on your machine,* therefore containing the system and finder which operate best with your hardware. Don't forget to send shareware funds when requested by the program author.

Our Latest:

> **LIMacPD#544/HCEducation**: A collection of HyperCard stacks particularly useful for educators. Included are health stacks, grades, MadMathMinute2.0, Spelling, Mayan Icons, Trig Formulas, and HyperX.
> **LIMacPD#543/HCGames**: You may have to convert some of these games, but included are HyperJotto, Bowling Scores, Lotto Blaster, Day at the Racetrack, and, my favorite, Bob.
> **LIMacPD#542/MicrosoftProjectDemo**: This working demo, runs on LCs and II family Macs. You must have a minimum of 2 mg of memory and System 6.0.5 or later. Teaches and uses Gantt charts, etc.
> **LIMacPD#541/Timbuktu4.0**: This screen test was made available for network users, by Farallon.
> **LIMacPD#540/NetCal™**: This free calendar DA places a calendar in a window on the Mac. You see a month at a glance, and can edit as needed. For networkers, an init is included, for sharing the calendar over a network. The demo disk contains 4 demo keys so that the network demo will work for you until June 1, 1992, for tryouts.
> **LIMacPD#539/Little Black Book**: This shareware DA by Bill Oliver is an address and phone book DA that lets you also move the listings in to any word processor or other application. A very good deal.
> **LIMacPD#535-538/MacintoshElectronicReference**: This 4 disk set, sent by the Apple User Connection, tells you all you need to know (and probably more than that) about how to use your Mac and System 7. For

The EdSIG January Meeting
Mike Kirshner

All right teachers, there are two questions for us to examine today. The first is how do you use computer word processing to assist you in your job? Do you rely on it mostly for tests and class notes. If so, then the presentation by Goeff Broadhurst and Rick Matteson at the January 10th meeting of the EdSig was for you. They presented numerous examples of additional ways they use word processing, such as: certificates of merit and appreciation; posters asking people to sign up for the tennis team; reminders to students who have not handed in required work; bulletins; thank you notes; and announcements. Goeff came well prepared with numerous photocopied samples of his work, and those in attendance each took home 10 to 15 examples to inspire them and perhaps to emulate.

The second question before us today is how do you use graphics within your word processing documents? Do you tend to turn out documents that are dense with prose and short on white space? If so, the youngsters you teach may find your documents a bit dull. Goeff and Rick showed how to use borders, cartoons, icons and clip art to liven up these documents They demonstrated how to use several type faces to create interest and make notices memorable for students. Often students will ask Goeff for a copy of one that they missed, sometimes describing it as the one with the funny type. Goeff did caution, however, not to use too many different fonts within the same document because that becomes distracting. Use of a cartoon, drawing or border can do wonders too for livening up your documents for young minds. Goeff and Rick gave careful instructions as to methods for importing these graphics into your documents using a page layout program such as Ready Set Go, or PageMaker. The approximate order of steps, each of which was demonstrated, is: lasso graphic, go to work menu and say copy picture, add border, scale page, set up graphics block, add graphic, set up text block, add text, etc. Often you can photocopy illustrations from old workbooks and then scan and digitize them using a scanner. Goeff uses ThunderScanner, which temporarily replaces the ribbon cartridge in an ImageWriter printer. You can create your own graphics using a program such as SuperPaint or use disks of clip art from LIMac's Public Domain library. You may choose to rotate or edit the graphic a bit to fit the space available or make a full composition.

Why not try one of Goeff's ideas for hall passes that kids find fun and impossible to forge? He begins with a photo of himself that has been digitized and scanned into his Mac. Then he adds a few lines of appropriate text such as room number. Next he prints out the pass, photocopies them four to a page and slices them apart, for a stack of unique hall passes.

The workshop had so much to convey that time ran out. Perhaps Rick can finish up at a future meeting

The monthly package from Apple had several items of interest that you should know about. The first of these was a questionnaire form Apple asking for our feedback and ideas as to how the User Group Connection can serve us better. Any suggestions? Next came two very well done publications from an English language elementary school in Austria illustrating how they plan for and integrate technology into the curriculum. Also included were publications for those in higher education. One examines how Macs are used in college libraries and the other the *Higher Education Product Companion*, "...features an overview of software, hardware, and other products available for the Mac...."

Time is running out to apply for Apple grants. If interested, see Rick for information or our EdSig librarian, Nancy Pope, who will be able to give you the information supplied in last month's package from Apple to our EdSig.

A volunteer is needed to write this column for the next few months. I will be unable to attend as regularly as I have in the past. Someone is also needed to take over, at least temporarily, the loaning of LIMac's instructional tapes. The advantages of each job are that you get to meet a lot of great people and you get first crack at all the materials. If interested, please contact Mike Kirshner for full information and copious thanks.

The next EdSIG meeting will be February 14. 1992.

Off the Shelf Continued

a limited time this 4disk set is available for only $5.00.

LIMacPD#534/MaxAppleZoomPK: An excellent DA to utilize more of the screen in front of you, for Mac II computers. Donated by Pam Kromer.

LIMacPD#533/GamesAC: Al Choi supplied us with Diamonds, an interesting new game, along with other fun experiences.

LIMacPD#531/PaxImperiaColorDemo&#532/Black&WhiteDemo: The great new game, demoed at the December meeting. Please indicate whether you want Black&White (#532) or Color (#531).

LIMacPD#530/GSP1.02 Demo: A great demo, usable, of the Geometer's Sketch Pad. One of our members has volunteered the info that he loves it. Look for a revue of this shortly.

Beginners:	Larry Mansfield	354-0904
Membership:	Alan Gordon	538-7013
Technical Advice:	Bradley Dichter	874-4363

PRODIGY: A Review

by Roy Miller

A friend of mine has an IBM clone and uses the Prodigy "Online Service." When I purchased a Zoom Fax Modem, my friend had Prodigy send me a free start-up kit. Evidently, every Prodigy user can send a total of two free kits to prospective users, who can use the service for one month before deciding whether or not to continue the service. So what did I have to lose?

It seemed that I had everything to gain. There are no online charges—just a $12.95 monthly fee, no matter how often you use the service. You can check the latest headline and sports news and weather from around the world or close to home. You can check stock prices, get travel information, including airline schedules and prices, use the online encyclopedia.

But there was something to lose—time. It takes an incredible amount of time to do even the basics. If you have only one phone in the house, you can tie up that phone for hours. At any rate, here is the letter I sent to Prodigy after a few weeks trial:

Gentlemen:

This is to notify you that I will not be continuing the use of Prodigy. I understand that there will be no charge as I am canceling before the first 30 days.

In case you are interested as to why:

Everything runs too slowly on Prodigy. The refresh rate of each new screen seems to take forever. You can't scroll through a long list. You must click "Next" and wait for the screen to refresh for the next section of the list. Of course, you can click on "Jump" and then type the name of a service you want to see. But even so, you must spell the words precisely. If you type: "Consumers Report," you get a dialog box saying there is no such category. You must type "Consumer Report" (without the "s") to get there.

The mutual fund price quotes give only today's price, and not the change from the previous day that most newspapers give.

Prodigy seems to be strongly IBM oriented. Other than a few advertisements, there seems to be little of value for the Macintosh user. And, speaking of advertisements, the fact that each screen forms a new graphic ad for something we are usually not interested in, adds to the screen refresh times.

So my primary complaint is that it is too slow. Life is too short to spend it waiting for Prodigy to reform the screen—time after time.

Nutshell Continued

Raffle Prizes:

Bob Taub, a great supporter of LIMac, won Silicon Beach *Personal Press*; Al Choy, Silicon Beach *Digital Darkroom*; Michael Brodesky, Software Venture Microphone II; Steven Shore, DeskTop Art *Graphics & Symbols #1*; Harvey Simms, Symmetry *ACTA Advantage Outline Organizer*. (Silicon Beach is marketed by Aldus, to whom we express thanks for the gifts).