March Schedule

The March 13ᵗʰ General Meeting:
   Symantec's GreatWorks
   Raffle prizes: GreatWorks, SUM
   and Norton Utilities. Discount
   Coupons for GreatWorks.

March's Special Interest Groups:

<u>Beginners</u> at 7 pm on March 20ᵗʰ:
   Questions and Answers
   Fonts/DA's - INITs/cdevs

<u>Business</u> at 8 pm on March 20ᵗʰ:
   Shopkeeper Plus (see p. 2)

<u>Desk Top Publishing</u> at 9 pm, March 13ᵗʰ:
   MicroTek scanning demonstration

<u>Educators</u> at 9 pm on March 13ᵗʰ:
   Font management

<u>HyperCard</u> at 8 pm on March 9ᵗʰ:
   Building your own stack

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

Every year, a great many people make New Year's Resolutions. They last for a few days or even a few weeks, and then they slide, ever so slowly, into oblivion like our memories of copying disks on a 128k Mac. Gone for good! But sometimes it's good to take a look at resolutions we have made and ask ourselves how we're doing. Apple made a lot of resolutions for this year. How are they doing?

For User Groups, Apple has been unusually responsive. Starting with their prompt shipment of System 7, they have followed up with the Macintosh Electronic Reference for System 7. Just last week we received the new System 7 Tune-Up disk. Also included was a two-disk set of QuickTime disks including QuickTime version 1 and QuickTime Extras version 1.1. All these disks will be available at our Public Domain desk at our next general membership meeting. Additionally, we received the February, 1992 Apple User Group Connection Videotape. It contains the MacWorld San Francisco User Group Panel Discussion featuring the 1991 User Group Advisory Council and the Apple/IBM alliance press conference highlights. See our tape librarian if you're interested in viewing this video. All in all, I would say Apple has kept its New Year's Resolution for User Groups.

But what about the general public? What about lower prices, new machines? Well, just the other day I read in the *New York Times* that Apple was going to announce a new round of price cuts. Sure enough, a few weeks after I bought my IIci, Apple did have more price cuts. Of course, my machine was included. Such is life! But to be fair, there were additional cuts on many other machines also. In the new hardware arena it looks like the Mac LC will become the Mac LC II with an 68030 processor, an 030 Direct Slot and a socket for a math coprocessor. Making more PowerBooks available with 4 megs of memory factory installed and a 40 meg hard drive is also rumored to be in the offing. But these hardware upgrades are not yet shipping. Even so, it appears likely that something quite similar to what I described will shortly be available. Granted, the hardware isn't available yet but the cuts are real. All in all, Apple seems to be really delivering on its new year's resolutions.

Bob McAteer, President

Desktop Publishing SIG
Balan Nagraj

MicroTek's scanner demonstration has been postponed from February to March. We again plan to demonstrate optical character recognition, the conversion of print into computer text, using OmniPage Pro and WordScan Plus. We may also be able to demonstrate Apple's new scanning program, Ofoto.

I have prepared a disk with a test document to be used on various printers. We are trying to assemble a collection of print samples from as many printers as possible. If you would like to prepare a sample on your printer, please give me a call at 351-8405.

Business SIG
Harriet Waldman

Shopkeeper Plus will be demonstrated at the next Business SIG meeting. It is used by small businesses in retail point of sale and mail order billing. Its strengths are: flexible multi-user; exports information to various accounting packages, spreadsheets and text files; bar codes, UPS shipping, labels, cash register lookup.

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

February's EdSIG Meeting
Rick Matteson

Type was supposed to be the main subject of February's very sparsely attended EdSIG meeting. Instead, the eight members attending the session briefly discussed another time and place for future meetings before getting down to the nitty-gritty. The consensus was that it would depend on the time and the place selected (no consensus, really). So, if you're an EdSIG member and you have an opinion on the subject, please bring it up at our next meeting (which, in all likelihood, will be at our usual time and place). A survey of printer makes and models, type formats and ATM use was left for another more well attended meeting.

Rick Matteson presented a fleeting glimpse of his Typography Primer for Educators, a HyperCard stack/ book/Macintosh presentation, possibly to be released sometime in the future. The discussion began with a brief look at basic typographical terminology and meandered around typeface styles, past type (font) management, skirted type formats, approached font management again, zipped by printer types, sauntered around type vendors and eventually came to a rather feeble halt at 10:15 PM. We'll pick up on this subject at a later date.

Next month we'll have some member demonstrations of favorite programs and continue our discussion of one aspect of typography, font management (including Font/ DA Mover, Suitcase and MasterJuggler).

Peach Pit Press Resume
Martin Vogel

The offer of a 40% discount on Macintosh books from PeachPit Press was a resounding success. Forty-one LIMac members ordered 92 books during our January and February meetings. The most popular volume was *The Little Quickeys Book* (15 orders), followed by *The Little Mac Book* - 2nd edition (12). There was a three way tie for third place with *The Mac is Not a Typewriter, Canvas 3.0* and *I* (9 each). *The Little System 7 Book* and *PageMaker 4 -Easy Desk Reference* sold seven copies each. We plan to make this offer again next fall. By that time, PeachPit Press will have some new books to offer.

For those who ordered books but have not picked them up, make certain to pick them up at our regular monthly meeting on March 13th. After that date, please call me at 516-883-1380 to arrange a convenient pick-up time.

The February Meeting In A Nutshell

Nancy L. Pope

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

The second meeting of 1992 opened with Bradley Dichter's assistance with the following: **Q:** Having difficulty opening a Word document. **A:** The bundle bit may have been lost. Try using Norton Utilities. **Q:** Updates for MacInTalk? **A:** No info on that by Apple. Latest version is v 1.3. **Q:** Lotus 1,2,3 crashes - why? **A:** Make more RAM available. **Q:** Menu bar not refreshed occasionally. Why? **A:** Probably due to sloppy programming in the application. User should kick in a screen saver temporarily to restore. **Q:** Type 1 error? **A:** A common one, it's a bus error. Corrupted program, corrupted document. Could be quite a few things. Type 2 error is an address error. **Q:** Having a problem closing Excel. **A:** Memory becomes fragmented and you can't recapture it without restarting. It's a problem with System 6 & 7. **Q:** How good are Auto Doubler and Disk Doubler? **A:** Pretty reliable. Use both to compress a document in order to obtain more free disk space. They invisibly compress and decompress as you use an application or document.

Q: Can Norton Utility's Speed Disk be used occasionally without causing trouble with the hard drive? **A:** Any activity that excites the hard drive is a potential problem, but generally it is reliable and doesn't cause trouble with the hard drive. It optimizes the drive. **Q:** Occasionally an icon is lost! **A:** Again, there is trouble with lost bundle bits. "They kind of fall off like dandruff." It happens when you remove the application that the document was created with. The computer can't recognize the document and may lose its icon. **Q:** Have to shake the Apple Quantum drive to start it up! **A:** It's been a problem with the drive. It will eventually seize up totally. Better to back it all up now and get a new drive. **Q:** Problems scanning - system drops out while idling! **A:** Use a cable of shorter length – the shortest possible.

CLARIS WORKS DEMO:

Michelle Stankowski presented a demonstration of Claris Works, an integrated package combining five environments: word processor, graphics, spreadsheet, data base and communications. The program occupies only 562K of memory, and will work with as little as 900K of RAM, making it especially practical for new powerbook users. The program is also "system 7 savvy."

Compact and speedy, the modules of the program are based on other Claris products. The word processor, for example, uses the same ruler, dictionary and thesaurus as does MacWrite. It's data base module is based on their FileMaker Pro, the graphics module is like that of Mac Draw and the spreadsheet is based on Resolve.

The program includes 20 translators to import "oodles" of text and graphics. There is a mail merge function when working with the word processor and data base, but no print preview is available. Tear off palettes are a feature of the program and the graphics bar includes icons to select back and forth between the spreadsheet, graphics and text of a document. Inserting graphics in a document is easy to do. A newsletter may be worked up in the graphics environment, which, as Michelle stated, ends up looking like a PageMaker layout. The communications environment will work at a 57600 baud rate.

The potential buyer of Claris Works must realize that because of its comparatively small memory requirement, the user cannot expect five completely full featured applications. All of the features, for example, of Mac Write are not be available. There is no search and replace on characters, or show and hide invisibles. There are no left and right headers and footers, only a full header or footer is available. Claris Works is available for $299, which would make it a reasonable product for Mac owners interested in relatively well-featured environments of the kind included in Claris Works. For owners of competitive products, the cost is even more appealing at $99. Contact Claris at 1-800-2-CLARIS for details on how to acquire the program at this price.

RAFFLE WINNERS:

The following members won the door prizes offered at the meeting: Bob Taub, *Claris Works*; George Gaeta, *Spelling Coach Professional*; John Pignataro, *For the Recor*; Eric Azoff, *Pro 3D*; Savas Kyprianides, *Computalk*.

A brief review of the Geometer's Sketchpad Demo (LIMacPD#503)

Herb Friedman

Geometer's SketchPad for the Macintosh is a superb improvement on The Geometric Supposer software that was an old favorite among math teachers who used the Apple II. It is used for making and examining geometric conjectures. It emphasizes an inductive approach to geometric thinking before the use of deductive proof. This excellent demo has all the capabilities of the "real thing" except you cannot save, print or use color. However, from the demo version, you can get a good idea of what SketchPad can do. There is a free 28 page demonstration guide booklet covering the demo version which may or may not be available from Key Curriculum Press. The latter's name with an 800 phone number for inquiries and for ordering the "real thing" (for about $170) appear in a dialog box every few minutes when you run the demo.

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Off the Shelf
Helen & Sheldon Gross, PD Librarian

Everyone has a technique for reading the millions of publications that arrive in the house, daily, weekly and monthly. Some start at the front and others at the back. Our system is to start with the Letters to the Editor. In these, we find which article we missed, or skimmed over lightly, was provocative enough to cause controversy. Then we go back and read the offending article. Using this technique, we realized that October '91 *MacUser* had an article about Fonts and Font Types that will probably answer all the questions people keep asking us. Kathleen Tinkel, in Dueling Font Standards, explains much of the material. Now if we can only find the time to read and absorb it. Also, while skimming Guy Kawasaki's article in the March '92 *MacUser*, we found mention of TATTLE.SEA, recommended as a wonderful way to provide a report of what's running in your system. Since we have TATTLE.SEA on LIMac#513 along with MODE32, it is a good time to point out that we often have just the utility you have been looking for, even when you didn't know it. I must admit that I didn't know about the program before reading the article. Please folks, when you know what a file does, tell us.

March is the month for new ideas. We have included a set of indices on the catalog disk. These, saved both in text and Word 4 format, list all of our disks by classification. Perhaps they will help you to organize your needs.

System News: We have System 6.0.5, a very stable system, and System 6.0.7, both available at $10 each for a 4 disk set. System 6.0.7 is required for True Type usage. **System 7 Tune-Up 1.0 is now included in our System 7 package.** Please note that the price of our System 7 ten disk package is now $25. System 7 Tune-Up improves memory allocation for printing, memory management and fixes several bugs. This disk is available separately for those who already have System 7.

Our Latest:

LIMacPD#552/Tune-Up: System 7 Tune-Up 1.0: Improves memory management, printing and fixes several bugs.

LIMacPD#551/GamesLM: Roboids, Glypha II, Stained Glass. Color required.

LIMacPD#550/HCWorkingStuff: HyperList, MakeLetterButton, Retriever, ZoomRect, DragRect, BarButton, MassCompacter, XFCNmiscellany, and ICN#-ICON for starters.

LIMacPD#549/HCBusiness: MemoNoteStack, VisualOutlines, TimeKeeper, MailingListMaker, Week at a Glance, OrgannelCharts, ExpenseVouchers, PhoneBook, and Scheduler.

LIMacPD#548/HCWhoKnows: Couldn't quite figure out how to classify this collection of interesting HyperCard Stacks. Included are APDgenerator2.0, Font Stack, HCRistauFont Stack, Classical Icon Stack, ShipStack, DispPICT, and MacVermont#2.

LIMacPD#547/HCProgrammingStacks: A collection of tools for programming in HyperCard including the all important Panic Button. Also on the disk, in addition to Programmer's Notebook, are Stacks named resourcesXCFN, Lock/Unlock, CardMover1.1, NewFolder, PowerTools, STAKinfoCard, Rezmover, HyperMIDI, and WorkStation3.8.

LIMacPD#545/HeizerSoftware &LIMac#546/ExcelDataFiles: This two disk set offered by Heizer Software include samples and free programs, including Excellent Exchange for Excel, WorksXchange for Works, and Stack Exchange for HyperCard.