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Mass Users of the Ninety nine and Computer Hobbyists

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June 1986

Monthly Newsletter

Version 5.6



THIS MONTH'S MINUTES WERE TAKEN IN MY BEHALF BY BRUCE WILLARD BECAUSE I WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING. I WILL DO MY BEST TO FILL YOU IN FROM A TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEETING.

THE MEETING WAS HELD AT 8:30 WITH THE USUAL RAFFLE THAT WAS WON BY DAN ROGERS. HE WON A 300 BAUD MODEM WHICH I DONATED SOME MONTHS BACK. THIS MONTH'S MEETING HOWEVER WAS NOT LIKE OUR MEETINGS PAST. OUR VICE-PRESIDENT NORMAN ABARE, RAN THE MEETING WHILE BRUCE WILLARD STOOD BY. THE MEETING STARTED WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF LAST MONTH. THE TREASURERS REPORT WAS NOT AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, IT WAS ESTIMATED AT A BALANCE OF \$495.64 IN THE CHECKING ACCOUNT. EXPENSES WERE \$50.00 FOR THE NEWSLETTER, \$15.00 FOR THE MONITOR RENTAL, AND \$17.60 FOR POSTAGE. FOR THE INCOME WE RECEIVED \$12.00 FROM A RAFFLE LAST TIME, A \$15.00 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND \$93.00 FROM THE FAIR ON APRIL 5TH.

JACK SUGHRUE REPORTED THAT IF THERE IS ANYONE THAT IS HAVING TROUBLE WITH THE FUNNEL-WRITER, HE WILL BE PUTTING TOGETHER A DISK FOR A TUTORIAL AT THE NEXT MEETING, WHICH IS SIMILAR TO THE ONE HE HAD THERE THAT EVENING.

AL CECCHINI, OUR LIBRARIAN, SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN LOOKING AROUND IN THE DIFFERENT BOOK STORES AND THERE AREN'T VERY MANY BOOKS BEING PUT ON THE SHELVES FOR THE TI COMPUTER AT THE PRESENT TIME. ALTHOUGH JACK ALWAYS SEEMS TO COME ACROSS A FEW HERE AND THERE ON SPECIAL. WE ARE VERY APRECIATIVE WHEN THE BOOKS THAT HE FINDS, AFTER READING THEM, DONATES THEM TO THE CLUB LIBRARY FOR EVERYONE ELSE TO READ. IF YOU HAVE ANY BOOKS OR MAGAZINES AND THEY ARE JUST SITTING ON YOUR SHELF, IT WOULD BE GRAND IF YOU COULD ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THE LIBRARY. IF THERE IS SOMETHING THAT YOU WISH TO HOLD ON TO BECAUSE OF A PARTICULAR ARTICLE THAT MAY BE IN THERE, MAKE A PHOTO COPY OF IT AND THEN DONATE IT. THAT WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO LET OTHERS ENJOY IT JUST AS YOU HAVE. ALSO ARTICLES THAT DO BELONG TO LIBRARY SHOULD BE RETURNED. SOME THINGS HAVE BEEN SEVERAL MONTHS OVER DUE.

ANOTHER THING THAT IS SEVERAL MONTHS OVER DUE IS AN EDITOR FOR OUR NEWSLETTER. WHERE ARE YOU? WELL, WE HAVE A VOLANTEER, A JIM MURPHY. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH HIM. WE WILL MAKE IT AS SMOOTH AS POSSIBLE FOR HIM AND HIS ASSISTANT, BRAD CLARK, TO GET UNDER WAY.

WE ARE STILL WORKING ON A BBS FOR OUR LOCAL AREA WHICH COMES FROM THE SUPPORT OF THE BOSTON COMPUTER SOCIETY USERS GROUP.

BRUCE WILLARD TALKED TO THE GROUP ABOUT THE COST OF THE ADVERTISING IN OUR NEWSLETTER. THE RATES WERE SET UP SOME TIME AGO WHEN WE HAD A LARGE ENROLLMENT OF CLUB MEMBERS THAT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

\$50.00-DOUBLE PAGE, \$25.00-SINGLE PAGE, \$15.00-HALF PAGE, AND \$10.00-QUARTER PAGE. WE NOW HAVE ONLY HALF THE READERSHIP OF BEFORE. WE'RE

DOWN TO ABOUT 40 FAMILY MEMBERS. IT SEEMS TO BE A HIGH PRICE TO PAY WHEN THERE ISN'T ENOUGH OF MEMBERS TO REACH. BRUCE SUGGESTED THAT IT BE CUT IN HALF. THE LAST ADVERTISING THAT WE GOT WAS FROM "VIDEOVISION" ONE MONTH AGO. THE COST TO US TO HAVE THE ADS PLACED IS VERY SMALL. WE MAY ENCOURAGE MORE ADVERTISING FROM OTHERS IF WE WERE TO LOWER THE RATES. A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR THAT THE NEW RATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

\$25.00-DOUBLE PAGE, \$13.00-FULL PAGE, \$7.00-HALF PAGE, \$5.00-QUARTER PAGE.

A SHOW OF HANDS WAS TAKEN TO FIND OUT HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE MODEMS AND THERE WERE ABOUT EIGHT PEOPLE. DAN ROGERS HAD WON THE MODEM IN THE RAFFLE, AND BECAUSE HE ALREADY HAD AN ACOUSTIC MODEM, HE IS GIVING US HIS OLD ONE TO RAFFLE NEXT TIME.

PETER HODDIE FROM THE BCS WAS OUR GUEST THIS MONTH. HE TALKED TO US ABOUT THE NEW HORIZONS RAM DISK AND WHAT IT CAN DO AS WELL AS A FEW OTHER THINGS. HE WILL BE STARTING AN ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE COURSE IN JUNE. IT WILL MEET EVERY TWO WEEKS AT SOME PLACE CLOSE TO BOSTON. IT MAY BE A BIT FAR TO TRAVEL BUT THIS COURSE WILL DEFFINATELY WORTH IT. IT WILL BE GEARED TO THE BEGINNER AND FOLLOW A VERY SLOW PACE THAT WON'T LEAVE ANYONE BEHIND IN THE DARK. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH PETER AT (617)861-8733 AT HIS HOME. HE HASN'T, AS YET, MADE A FIRM DATE AND SCHEDULE. HE IS WILLING TO MAKE THE MEETING TIME AVAILABLE TO ALL THAT ARE INTERESTED. SEE YOU NEXT TIME,

CORSON WYMAN, SECRETARY

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#### MUNCH OFFICERS AND NUMBERS (all in 617 area)

---

President	Bruce Willard	852-3250
Vice President	Norman Abare	297-2100
Secretary	Wm. Corson Wyman	839-5116
Treasurer	Jim Cox	869-2704
Editor	Jim Murphy	756-9900
Asst. Editor	Brad Clark	886-2188
Hardware Chair		
Programs Chair		
Adv Prog. Chair	Dan Rogers	248-5502
Club Reviewer	Jack Sughrue	476-7630
Library	Al & Lisa Cecchini	
Software Library	Don Mason	754-6630
	Hector Beaudreau	
Mail & Messages	Direct to Editorial Staff	

AGENDA for June 17, 1986

7:00 - 8:00 Open Demonstrations  
New Member Registration  
Software Exchange (members only)  
Special Interest Group meetings  
Basic Programming -- as required  
Assembly Language -- by Dan Rogers  
Kids Corner -- with (to be announced)  
Sector Surgeon -- demo by Don Mason  
Funlwriter -- demo by Jack Sughrue

3:00 - 8:20 Raffle  
Business Meeting:  
Approval of Minutes  
Treasurers Report  
Committee Reports  
Old Business  
New Business  
Announcements

8:20 - 9:30 CONTINUATION of:  
Special Interest Group Meetings  
and Open Demonstrations and Discussion  
  
Plan for July meeting  
  
New German Ram Disk demo -- by Peter  
Hoddie (BCS).  
Continuation of other SIG's

ADVERTISING RATES:

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Double Page	(10.5" by 8")	\$25.00 per insertion
Full Page	(5" by 8")	\$13.00 per insertion
Half Page	(5" by 4")	\$ 7.00 per insertion
Quarter Page	(5" by 2" or (2.5" by 4")	\$ 5.00 per insertion

Classified (non-commercial) ADs are FREE for MUNCH members.

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RAMBLINGS

by

JIM COX

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As of June 1, 1986 the Group will have a new mailing address. It is:

M.U.N.C.H.  
560 Lincoln St.  
P.O.Box 7193  
Worcester, Ma. 01605

NOTE TO OTHER USERS' GROUPS PLEASE CHANGE OUR ADDRESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!!!

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A reminder to all members, please check the date on your mailing label. This is the expiration date of your membership, if there is a problem please see me at the next meeting or send me a note in the mail. If you haven't renewed yet please do so this month.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

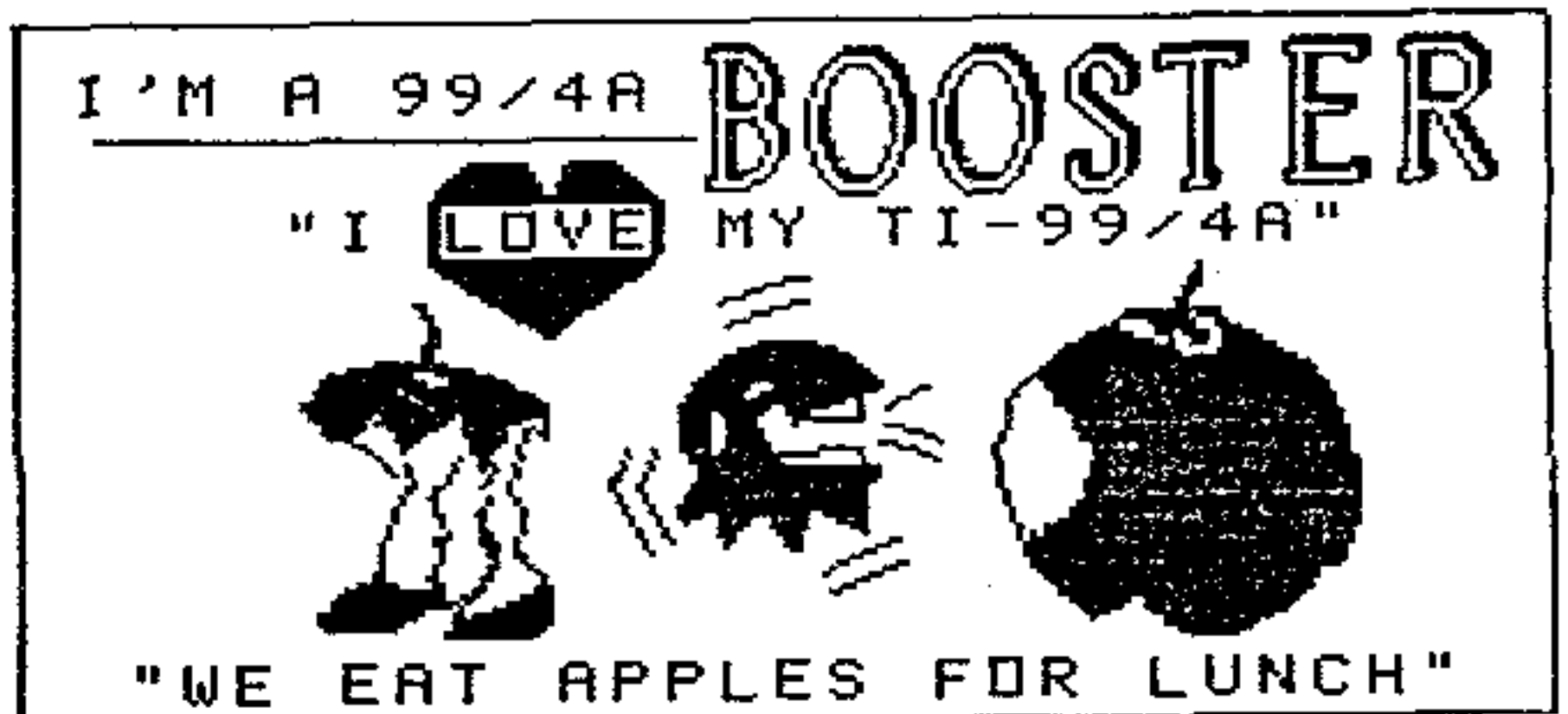
Sandra Lessard of Manchaug and Louis Holmes of Melrose.

\*\*\*\*\*

REMEMBER THE TIGERCUB Jim Peterson of Tigercub Software has hundreds of excellent programs at very reasonable prices. You can get a copy of his catalog by sending \$1.00 to: Tigercub Software 156 Collingwood Ave. Columbus, Oh. 43213.

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The T.I. Booster bumper stickers are now available You can pick up one at the meeting for \$1.50 or send for one through the mail for only \$1.75 postage paid.



# TEXTWARE / SOFTWARE

by JACK SUGHRUE

## FUNLWRITER REVISITED

Now that I've had *FUNLWRITER* as part of my system for a month, I can honestly say *I Could Not Do Without This After Having Had It*. In other words, How you gonna keep em down on the farm after they've seen Pareeeees! And *FUNLWRITER* is the Paris of the 99er Globe.

It's better than I praised it last month.

For lots of reasons.

Lots.

For example, though I have heard of some hard-to-load Editor/Assembler programs being difficult through the Disk Manager 1000 portion of the *FUNLWRITER* environment, to date I have had no such problems. I've loaded all my E/A programs without difficulty by loading the Utility option (3) from the first menu. Then load ENTER NAME (9) from the second menu. Basically, those programs previously loaded on Option 3 of the E/A cartridge (the DIS/FIX 90 files, usually), will load from this menu's Option 4. Those programs which loaded from the E/A cartridge Option 5 in the past (the PROGRAM files, usually), will now load from this menu's Option 3. (If the process had taken the word "START" as an additional program filename, it will load in automatically with this. If the program required another "entry code", this program will list it for you after the load filename(s) have been listed.)

In short, it's easier than the E/A cart. It finds things for you. And you keep your Extended BASIC cart in the port for long life.

### Examples:

Let's say you have the game *SPOTSHOT*. The files are *SPOTSHOT* and *SPOTSHOU*. (There's no mystery to this. If an E/A program file exceeds 33 sectors it automatically strings the files together by using filenames which step up the final letter(s) by one ASCII number. You most often see this with *GAME*, *GAMF*, *GAMG*, *GAMH*. That kind of thing. So it is with this file.) These are two strung-together program files of 33 and 17 sectors, respectively, and listed as *PROGRAM* or *PGM* on your cataloger.

Choose the Option 3 on the *FUNLWRITER* E/A (which would be Option 5 on the cart), type in *SPOTSHOT* following the "DSK2. " on the screen and it will load itself automatically. (The cart would



have required an additional input of the word "START" under Program File.) This loads on any diskdrive and, so long as you do not have to come back to DSK1 with internal loading directions from some input, you're fine. If you only have one drive you don't have to worry about it at all.

Let's say you have the game *Entrapment*. This is a 32 sector DIS/FIX 80 file and would usually be loaded on Option 3 on the E/A cart. Load it on Option 4 here. After "DSK2. " just type "ENTRAPMENT". When a request for another input comes up, just press ENTER. The "entry code" here is the word TRAP. It will come up on the screen and give you some other options with the loaded program. (These "other options" and many more contained in the whole environment I just don't have the space to begin discussing here.) Just type "P" and this program will also RUN automatically.

It's great!

For those of you with the *DISK MANAGER 1000 version 3.1*, there may be a bit of a disappointment for you (though I'm not sure why) because the new version cannot replace the 2.3 version that the *FUNLWRITER* environment is built around. Maybe another version of *FUNLWRITER* will house this latest DM. But the modified 2.3 built in does pretty much everything the new version does only in different places or off different menus.

When I replaced the 3.1 version in my *FUNLWRITER*, I could no longer load many E/A programs. I could no longer copy or move files from one disk drive to another. There were a few other little things, too, but I don't remember what they were. I just put 2.3 back fast. Unfortunately, not fast enough. I wiped out my disks attempting to move and/or copy files. Ah, well. Backups are nice and handy. And I had them in these cases. (Surprised myself. I usually wipe out first, think of backups later.)

The word processor portion of the *FUNLWRITER* is perfect for my needs (once the docs have been replaced by 80 sectors of programs and templates that work off the environment) except for one little thing. Each time one wishes to Search and Replace, one can only do it on a single basis. It will not repeat a FindString situation after it has once done it without reloading the entire file. Weird, but not a tragedy. Inconvenient. But when you have the most remarkable word processor ever made for a home computer, this is a small price to pay.

Coming out of *FUNLWRITER* with an active catalog, one could easily build in some fascinating graphics programs, like *GRAPHX* (particularly now that those extraordinary *COMPANIONS* are made for it), and never have to come out to anything else.

I put my banner and calendar and labelmaker and active catalog all inside the 80 sectors the docs took up. And added 3 templates which include my mnemonically-structured transliteration keys for interactive printing coding. The templates also include a 140-column condensed adapter and some footer/header, width, fill stuff. AND 2 templates of graphic designs from the Control keys!

But any kind of template or file could be stuck inside this environment and easily added to the automatic menu.

I wore out cartridge ports on two 99s. Changing the XB to E/A to T.I.W. to DM (and not counting the constant changing of game carts and things like Personal Record Keeping). Now I keep XB in all the time. The DM 1000 is about 1000 times better than the cart. The E/A is better. The built-in screen dump is better and much, much faster. The T.I.W. is better and faster and keeps you in the mode (if not the mood). And all this is on one disk (with a Forth load and a few other things thrown in for good measure).

Now with PRBase on disk (considerably better than PRK) and most good games (Does anyone really need anything more than INFOCOM?) and utilities on disk, I probably will have very little reason for removing my XB cartridge again.

And with something so convenient as FUNLWRITER it becomes quickly addictive (in an easy to use kind of way). It's just so natural for me to load up this disk without even thinking what I'm going to do on the computer. It doesn't make any difference. The environment as I've modified it permits me to load up ANY program I own, pretty much, whether BASIC, XB, E/A, FORTH, whatever. Or look into things. Or write letters. Or create programs. Or read DIS 80 files (text or code).

There's just not much I would do on my computer anymore that couldn't operate out of this environment.

If you don't have FUNLWRITER yet, get a copy from your users' group as soon as possible. If you do have it, remember it's Fairware. Send a check to the authors (see docs with programs) as soon (and as much) as possible.

## LIBRARY NOTICE

Please return all borrowed materials to the MUNCH library at each meeting. This will give other members a chance to enjoy our collection of "text-ware" as much as you have !!!

THANK YOU !!!



In May we had two raffles, first a ten pack of disks was won by  
And second, a direct connect modem was won by Dan Rogers.

This month we will have a choice of two educational cassettes, Division and  
Subtraction, and a coin bank for the first choice. The second choice will be  
Car Wars cartridge. The cassettes were donated by Computer Sense Center. The  
bank was donated by Wallace Gove. And the cartridge was donated by Brad Clark.  
(Brad also donated Jaw Breaker II and Super Demon Attack for a future raffle.)

The raffle is open to all who attend. The drawing will be held just prior to  
the business meeting. Remember:

\*\*\*\* YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN \*\*\*\*

Bruce Willard, Pres.

**NEWSLETTER STAFF**  
-----

Don Mason  
30 Princeton St.  
Worcester, Ma. 01610

Bob Doyle  
210 Sewall St.  
Boylston, Ma. 01505

Jim Murphy  
21 Annisquam St.  
Worcester, Ma. 01602

Bruce Willard  
1 Marmion Ave.  
Worcester, Ma. 0160

M.U.N.C.H.  
P.O. Box 7193  
560 Lincoln St.  
Worcester, Ma. 0160

Brad Clark  
Paddock Road  
Rutland, Ma. 01543

RANDOM BYTES

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WANTED: Upgrades on 1984 TI Tax Plan put out  
by Aardvark Software (now owned by McGraw Hill).  
Write to Al Cecchini at the MUNCH Group address.

Looking for used 300 Baud Modem, acoustic  
coupler or direct connect. Contact Brad Clark  
at 617-886-2188.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This month is kind of exciting for me. Several things have happened to show support for our group and our 99/4A's.

I'm proud to announce that we have a new Editor and Assistant Editor. Welcome Jim Murphy and Brad Clark.

Come, and show your support. Send in your computer articles. You don't have to be a great author. Just write about some of your discoveries while learning about your computer. Many people are going through the same trials and tribulations you went through in the past. As newcomers, these people will feel more comfortable knowing someone else has had the same troubles. You could write about a new piece of hardware or software you just purchased. Let us know what you think of it -- whether or not you like it, and why. People want to know more about what they are buying. Even the software in our Library is worth writing about.

The articles can be written, printed, typed or run off on the word processor and printer. If possible, send them to us "camera ready". That is, make your copy 78 columns wide in condensed print. To enhance the appearance, put in 5 space paragraph indentations and a line between paragraphs. Please keep them coming.

Our Treasurer, Jim Cox, is no longer affiliated with The Video Connection. Our User Group address has been changed to:

M. U. N. C. H.  
P. O. Box 7193  
560 Lincoln St.  
Worcester, MA 01605

OTHER USER GROUPS: Please make special note of this new address.

We still have more T-shirts for sale, small, medium, and large. They are \$8.00 each. Corson will have them at the June meeting, to be purchased and worn proudly. All proceeds go into the Group's treasury.

There is a possibility our June meeting will have two separate raffles. The first one will be the regular raffle, while the second will be a special raffle of an acoustic coupler modem. Since Dan Rogers won the direct connect modem in the May special raffle, he said he would donate one to the raffle. Thanks Dan for a very generous donation.

The other day it was brought to my attention that we never do any demonstrations using cassette. I thought a minute, and realized that we had been short-sighted in our business meeting planning. Maybe that's why we

don't have many members with only a cassette for auxiliary storage. We fell into a "disk drive rut" and possibly drove good members away. Well, if you know of anyone with only a cassette for storage, tell them of the cassette demonstrations that we have and encourage them to come to the meetings.

On the Boston Computer Society Bulletin Board the word is out. NYARC announced, at the Chicago Electronics Show (CES), that they will be ready to take orders for the computer in July. Remember, that's the computer that fits in the PFB. The lap-top still has considerable development time yet. HOW'S THAT FOR GOOD NEWS ???

I have one last item before I put my computer to bed for the night. Our Vice President is going to "solo" running the June meeting because I am scheduled to work. Now everyone can show up and not listen to my pleas for help. Lets show Norman a lot of support. I know how capable he is and what a fine job he will do. Thank you Norman. See you in July.

----- Bruce Willard, Pres. -----



***"I couldn't do my history homework, because  
I didn't have the right software."***

M.U.N.C.H.

P.O. Box 7193

560 LINCOLN STREET

WORCESTER, MA. 01605

First Class

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IMPORTANT NOTICE  
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June meeting will be on June 17, 1986  
at University of Massachusetts Medical Center  
(Come to the VISITORS entrance and follow the signs for MUNCH...)