# Cinmo news 3

I must say that the immediate response to the second newsletter was very encouraging and 99% of the people were enthusiastic. The usual three people did not like it but I hope they will like this one.

The Committee has so far only really produced the newsletters but I hear rumour that they are about to generate some new ideas. One small problem with the Committee is that in January, when it was formed, its members were independent users but since that time the majority of them have become Nascom employees. They are still as critical but slightly more biased. Therefore, I ask again for people to write in who are willing to be part of either the main Committee under David Hunt's guidance as Chairman, or who would help on a regional capacity as, for example, the INMC Officer in their local computing club. Many clubs that I know of are now getting a large number of Nascom users but none of them, as far as I am aware, have an INMC Official.

Also, I do feel that, sceptical or not, more of you could have made an effort to support Hunt and his cronies and sent in more letters or ideas or programs or engineering tips. Trying to produce a magazine without this kind of help from the outside is bloody difficult and if you want to have an INMC then start helping yourselves.

On a happier note, I was really pleased with the response to the competition in which we got some incredible programs and you will see the results and the winner's name in this issue. I am quite prepared to put up prizes for competitions as long as people are willing to enter them sensibly.

Lastly, I would suggest that Nascom users when going to buy product buy it from their local Distributor and support him, otherwise in many areas you will not have a local Distributor at all. If you all want to buy from one central warehouse, I feel that you will lose the personal value that you all seem to feel is most important.

Kerr Borland INMC President

## UNFORTUNATELY

### THIS COULD CONCERN YOU

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INMC 3 also contains monosodium glutamate, permitted colouring matter, ion exchange reagents, toluene di-isocyanate, office coffee (very nasty), methanol, nitromethane, non-milk fats and traces of wisdom, wit and humour (less than 3 parts per million)

INMC 3 has been awarded a U certificate by the British Board of Software Censors and an X certificate by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Computers.

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No liability can be accepted for brain damage, CPU malfunctions, hebrephrenic schizophrenia or indigestion caused by reading INMC3.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

There must be a number of NASCOM l owners who, like myself thought they were purchasing a kit for a complete and usable micro system. This system offered the possibility of software exchange via cassette.

Now I am reading in the INMC News and elsewhere about NASBUG Tl/T2,T4, B-BUG, Tiny Basic, 3K Tiny Basic, Level A, Level B, etc. No doubt NASCOM et al. are hoping to tempt owners such as myself to expand our systems and run more sophisticated programs.

From the NASCOM owner's angle this is most unsatisfactory. There is a notable lack of information as to the interdependency of the various developments, e.g. is 3K Basic compatible with Nasbug Tl? Does 3K Basic require 8K of memory? How compatible are 2K & 3K Basic? What comes after T4? What happened to 8K Basic?

The hobbyist needs to be able to be confident before he starts expanding that

- (i) His expansion will serve his needs.
- (ii) Costs will be controlled.
- (iii) His old software will still run.
- (iv) Software from other sources will run.
- (v) Further developments will not make his system obsolete.

The name of the game is "information".

Can we have some?

Yours faithfully,

J.Griffiths
West Yorkshire.

Dear Mr. Griffiths,

#### UPWARD COMPATIBILITY

The INMC promises to do its best to ensure that you have a computer system which can be expanded and improved, without hopeless incompatibility resulting.

#### (a) HARDWARE

Hardware expansion is made standard by the use of NASBUS. This is a bus standard, and this means that the signals between all different expansion boards will meet this standard. Note that the new NASCOM 2 computer plugs directly into NASBUS, without the need for a buffer board, which is an improvement. The NASCOM 2 still has the same screen formatting and the same Z80 CPU, so it is highly compatible with NASCOM 1.

#### (b) SOFTWARE - MONITORS

I hope that the article on monitors (later in this newsletter) explaining the development which has resulted in NAS-SYS, has answered many questions. Here is a brief summary. The following group of monitors are all highly compatible.

NASBUG T1: This was replaced by T2, and no one has a NASBUG T1 any longer. (We hope!)

NASBUG T2: Standard 1K monitor.

B-BUG: 2K monitor, fully compatible with T2. It will run all programs written for T2, without modification. It can read and write tapes in LOAD/DUMP format, like T2, or in READ/WRITE format. This monitor is not a NASCOM product.

NASBUG T4: 2K monitor, improved version of B-BUG. Same comments apply as for B-BUG. One tiny difference - SRLOUT routine was moved by one byte.

NAS-SYS 1 This new monitor is not directly compatible with the earlier monitors. It is called NAS-SYS, meaning NASCOM OPERATING SYSTEM, and has in fact been designed to provide for easy upward compatibility in the future. Quite a few earlier programs have been converted to NAS-SYS, (even including the 8K Basic!), and it has proved very easy in every case. When NAS-SYS and its full documentation and listing are available, I am sure it will be generally agreed that any inconvenience is made worth while by the enormous improvements. If a user has a large number of old programs, an old monitor can always be plugged in to run them. In fact, even NASCOM 2 could be run under NASBUG T2, if you really want to do this! In the future, all programs will be NAS-SYS compatible, and there won't be any problems.

#### (c) SOFTWARE - TINY BASIC FROM NASCOM

The 2K Tiny Basic runs under NASBUG T2, B-BUG or NASBUG T4. If NASBUG T2 is in use, programs are saved on cassette using LOAD/DUMP format. If B-BUG or T4 are plugged in, then the Basic automatically uses READ/WRITE format, which is, of course,

four times faster. The 3K Basic is the 2K Basic with an extra 1K EPROM to provide extra commands, so it works exactly like the 2K Basic. The 3K Basic, like the 2K Basic, requires some memory expansion to run, either 8K, 16K or 32K.

#### (d) SOFTWARE - TINY BASIC LEVEL A AND B

These Tiny Basic interpreters are not provided by NASCOM, and no information about compatibility is available. We believe that level A is a 2K Basic interpreter, which replaces the monitor program. Therefore, no monitor is available when level A is in use. Also, various features of the Tiny Basic have had to be left out, including FOR - NEXT loops. The only advantage is that no memory expansion is required to use it. Obviously only very short programs can be run, without memory expansion. Level B seems to be normal 2K Tiny Basic. It is not known how programs are stored on tape, or with which monitors it is compatible.

#### (e) SOFTWARE - 8K BASIC

The 8K Basic is on its way. It has been well tested, and really does exist and it works! It is coming from NASCOM in two versions - in ROM at E000 - FFFF with workspace and program starting at 1000, and also on tape, at 1000 - 2FFF, with workspace and program starting at 3000. Apart from the different location of the program area, these products are virtually the same. Programs can be saved on tape. Furthermore, NASCOM 8K Basic works with B-Bug, Nasbug T4 or NAS-SYS!!! (The tape version also works with Nasbug T1/T2). Only when using NAS-SYS are full program editing facilities available, making it very easy to change bits of programs easily and quickly. We (the INMC committee) recommend that you use every possible inducement to get your hands on NAS-SYS and the 8K Basic, because we think it makes the whole system far more useful, and very impressive even when compared to certain boring machines which come ready built in plastic boxes from the USA, at far greater cost.

#### (f) SOFTWARE - ZEAP

The ZEAP Editor/Assembler runs under NASBUG T2, or NASBUG T4. It is going to be released in an improved form to run under NAS-SYS.

#### (g) SOFTWARE - Z80 PROGRAMS FROM OTHER SOURCES

There are always problems when moving programs from one system to another, because of different I/O capabilities and different assignment of memory. However, the 2K and 8K Basic interpreters have been converted for NASCOM without great difficulty, and so have many other programs. NAS-SYS uses standard ASCII codes, which will help make future conversions easier. (Also, the 8K Basic will run most published Basic programs, often without any modification.)

#### (h) SOFTWARE -DISC OPERATING SYSTEM

NASCOM have announced their intention to provide the CP/M operating system, for disc users. This will open up the possibility of running hundreds of CP/M programs which already exist, including larger more powerful versions of BASIC, as well as other languages. We hope you will support the committee's belief that this is the way that we should go for large systems.

We hope that we have answered all the questions asked by Mr.Griffiths. If not, write back to us. All queries are welcome, although we can never hope to answer all of them.

The Editor

Dear Sir,

I thought NASCOM users might be interested in some additional Z8O opcodes that I have discovered. They all operate on IX or IY and their effectiveness hinges on the fact that IX and IY are functionally similar to HL. In general, instructions operating on HL will operate on IX or IY if preceded by DD or FD. From this it can be deduced that the internal microcode of the Z8O addresses HL, IX, IY indirectly by a 2 bit register address pointer which is cleared at the start of each new instruction. When this pointer (call it P) is OO then instructions operate on HL when it is 10 they operate on IX and when it is 11 they operate on IY. The effect of the instruction prefix DD is to set P to 10 and the effect of FD to set it to 11. Similarly, there must be other flip flops to select between the alternate register and accumulator sets.

Because of this any instruction normally accessing the H or L registers can be used to access the high or low order bytes of IX or IY if prefixed by DD or FD. This gives 80 new instructions. I have tested these on a NASCOM using a Zilog processor. I assume that similar instructions exist for rotate and shift, test, set, reset, which would give 124 more instructions. I have tested EX DE and IX and found that they do not work.

Yours faithfully,

W.P.Cockshott Edinburgh.

Dear Mr. Cockshott,

Congratulations on finding the hidden bonus in the Z80. It is unfortunate that we can never be certain that every Z80 in the world has these instructions. Some might execute them unreliably.

There are 8 more hidden instructions which are prefixed by CB. These were found not to work as originally intended when the Z80 was built, so they were simply written out of the specification. See if you can find them and work out what they do wrong! Also, there may be some ED prefix instructions that have not yet been found. Good hunting.

The Editor.

Dear Sir,

I just had to write and congratulate you on Issue 2 of the INMC news. I enjoyed every page and every article and found the tips most invaluable to a striving amateur like myself. Your publication is a shining light in the NASCOM wilderness. Please! Please! keep it up.

P.S. When I have mastered the art sufficiently to contribute - I will have a go!

Yours faithfully

N.A.Lincoln Loughborough.

Dear Mr.Lincoln,

What can we say except thank you. We will not be able to "keep it up" however, without some support from the vast membership. The four of use who make up the INMC committee wrote the last issue and this issue in their entirety and yet we all have full-time jobs. I am sure that it is not beyond each member's scope to write just one short article and send it to us. If we can, then so can everyone else. We look forward to hearing from you when you have "mastered the art".

Yours sincerely

The Editor.

#### GAMES COMPETITION RESULTS.

Thank you for your competition entries. We didn't get the quantity of response that we expected, but if we had I imagine the judging would have taken a week!

Anyway, one evening recently the INMC committee sat down with beer in one hand, sandwiches in the other and keyboard between teeth to judge the games that we had received. The programs had been entered, and stored on cassette during the previous week by our noble secretary. She double checked for errors and so we knew that any programs that didn't run were either incorrect or illegible.

So the judging began with "Burst the Balloon". In this game balloons are released, one at a time, from the bottom of the screen and make an erratic journey upwards, at the mercy of random breezes. The aim of the game is to burst as many balloons as possible by firing your gun, which is situated on the left hand side of the screen. This is an infuriating game as the balloons seem to tease you, pausing just below your line of fire, and then leaping past it just as you shoot. Quite entertaining, although we felt it could be improved by allowing movement of the gun.

We then came to two versions of "Life". Both interesting although unfortunately not necessarily for the correct reasons. We were a little uncertain whether or not to include these, as "Life" is a simulation rather than a game. Anyway, we had them on tape, so we tried them. The first one made clever use of different ASCII characters to give an effective display of 30x48. Various standard patterns were tried, and bred correctly. The speed of the program was impressive too. The second version, however, was not quite as successful, for whatever pattern we loaded seemed to make no difference and just resulted in a varied pattern moving across the screen! We could only assume that a transcription error had occurred somewhere along the line.

We continued with various other games. These included "Darts" which seemed to show promise, but also suffered from some bug; "Submarines" which allowed you to drop depth charges from your ship in a race against the clock to hit 9 submarines; and "Walled chase" a game for two players, with one chasing the other, but with invisible walls in the way.

"Lollypop lady trainer" appeared in the competition, and as many of you will have discovered, this was our "Mystery Program" in the last newsletter. From the same competitor we had "Road Race." This is a very entertaining game where you have to steer along a narrowing road in a bid to get home. There is a choice of three speeds, and the game ends with a comment related to the amount of damage that you did to your car. A must for learner drivers!

Two games had a "Space" theme. One was "Space Invasion", a game very similar to that seen in many amusement arcades. Very entertaining, and a game that gets progressively more difficult as you improve. We did manage to discover a way of cheating, but we'll keep quiet on that one.

The other space game was "Moon Lander." This game has appeared many times on one computer or another, and we have seen several versions written for the NASCOM. This version, however, we decided had a little extra and you will find a full description of it, and machine code listing elsewhere in this issue.

After each game we each awarded it points out of ten. At the end of the evening we added them up. The totals clearly indicated the winner as "Moon Lander," entered by Nick Ray but written by Arthur Norman and Chris Webster, with help from Philip Gladstone, Jim Cownie and Nick Ray. To them we will be sending a Zeap package. (We were thinking of sending them ½K of Zeap each, and not telling them who has got which bit!).

We also decided that, as Marcus Parker-Rhodes had got two games in the final list, he should be awarded a prize also, so a Super Tiny Basic set goes to him. Finally, to all those listed below we will be sending a selection of programs from the INMC library.

Thank you everybody for an entertaining evening.

Winner Moon Lander Nick Ray

Runners-up (in order) Road Race Marcus Parker-Rhodes

Space Invasion Graham Clarke

Lollypop Lady Trainer Marcus Parker-Rhodes

Burst the Balloon John Waddell Life J. Haigh

Special Prize Marcus Parker-Rhodes

#### Games Competition Winner - Moon Lander

Reproduced below is the object code listing of the winner of our games competition.

The aim of the game is to land a spacecraft on the moon's surface with a vertical velocity of less than 30, as near to the target (as indicated by the Distance parameter) as possible. However, you must not land on a boulder.

```
> MOON LANDER PROGRAM
>T C50 FF0
```

ØE38 CB 2F 83 DD 77 Ø5 5F Ø\$ 82

The craft is controlled by means of the keyboard, which varies the rate of change of thrust. If no keys are pressed the thrust automatically decays to zero. All the keys may be used - the idea is to press in the direction you want thrust - dead centre is between the H and J keys and the force applied is proportional to the weighted distance from there.

You have a limited amount of fuel and should you run out the spacecraft will fall to the surface. You will lose all your fuel if you collide with the 'edge of the moon'. The spacecraft is represented by a bell (07) or if your fuel becomes exhausted the 'flames' go out and the spacecraft becomes a lower case 'O'.

As you approach the surface, the program gives you an expanded view showing the surface in detail, including boulders (which must be avoided).

An unhealthy landing will result in a minor explosion:

The game executes at OE6A. Note that the last column of figures in the listing is the checksum and should not be entered.

#### SO.. WHAT ABOUT ZEAP ??

ZEAP stands for Z80 Editor Assembler Package.

OK, so what is an assembler?

An assembler is a program which is used to take the 'donkey work' out of writing machine code programs. When you are converting your tediously written mnemonics into instruction codes (and fumbling through the book, 'cos you can't remember what they are) and at the same time assigning them to addresses, you are "assembling the program". Now an assembler does this for you, not only that, but it keeps track of where you put the subroutines and workspaces, converts lines of text into ASCII, and tells you when you started making up instruction mnemonics.

Fair enough, but what does the editor bit do?

Well most programs don't work straight off, because you got something wrong, or left something out, and these errors usually mean inserting or deleting some mnemonics, which of course sods law dictates that program will either be longer or shorter. Now the editor allows you to change, insert or delete at will, and when you re-assemble, all the addresses assigned to subroutine etc. will all come out in the right places; because the assembler part keeps track of where you put them. No more ploughing your way through 2K of object code, changing all the subroutine calls, just because you left out two bytes at the start.

Well, I've seen the output of ZEAP, but I still get lost, why is that?

Pirstly, you've got to remember that ZEAP is only about 2½K long and that is pretty short as assemblers come. ZEAP was designed to run in a NASCOM with the minimum (8K) expansion possible, and because of this a few short cuts were taken. The short cuts all concern what are known as 'assembler directives' which are instructions to the assembler (not program instructions to the Z8O) to do certain things with certain bytes of the program. For instance a 'defined byte directive' (DEFB), now this directive instructs the assembler to put the byte you have defined into the program. So DEFB £1A means put 1A into the program (the £ sign means the byte is expressed in hexadecimal). The assembler will assemble it like this; OC5O is the address by the way OO1O is the line number:

OC50 1A

0010

DEFB £1A

Now for the short cut bit - suppose you have a string of defined bytes, followed by an instruction, the assembler would assemble them like this:-

OC50 1A OO10 DEFB £1A, £2C, £44, £5F OC54 3E1F OO20 LD A, £1F

Notice that ZEAP only displayed the first defined byte, but the addresses worked out right. This is because ZEAP assembled them, it just does not display them. Notice also the second instruction, there is no space between the 3E and the 1F. Remember, if you were typing that into a NASCOM, you would have to put a space between the two.

The same point about defined bytes applies to defined words (DEFW) and defined messages (DEFM) thus;

OC50 1A	0010	DEFB £1A, £2C, £44, £5F
OC54 350C	0020	DEFW £0C35, £0O35, £0124
OC5A 54	0030	DEFM /THATS THE LOT/
OC67 3E1F	0040	LD A, £1F
0004	0050	DEFS 4
OC6D OO	0060	NOP

Notice that with a defined space (DEFS) ZEAP simply put 0004 in the address field, and advanced the address counter by four.

So the basic message is, when loading programs assembled on ZEAP, watch the address counter.

Of course, lets not create a wrong impression, these short cuts in the display only occur on the monitor screen or on a printer, if you were using ZEAP yourself, these deficiences need not cause problems, because you would ultimately assemble the program to memory or tape, in which case these bytes would be correctly assembled even though they are not displayed.

Other points to remember;

Anything following a semicolon is a comment, and is ignored by the assembler.

The other directive ZEAP accepts is 'ORG', which is the location where ZEAP is to start the assembly. Sometimes there may be several ORG directives where parts of programs are assembled at different locations.

An 'EQU' is used where lable or symbol not included in the program has been used. Most commonly these refer to routines in NASBUG/B-BUG which are used as part of the program. As these do not appear in the program, you have to tell ZEAP where they are. Also symbols like CR (for carriage return/new line) may be defined by an EQU as, you never know, someone may come along with a new monitor which redefines the symbols. In this way, ZEAP can be used as a sort of 'cross assembler'.

#### MEMORY PLAGUE !!

What is it? How do I identify it? How do I cure it?

"Memory Plague" is a euphamism for the unexplained failure of NASCOM memory boards. "Memory Plague" seems to affect about 10% of NASCOM issue 1 memory boards, and its causes are, to say the least, obscure. It would seem that noise caused by switching transients from the data latches (81LS97) and the address multiplexers (74LS157) may be breaking onto the data bus via IC2. Poor board layout would seem to be primarily to blame, in conjunction with chips that just happen to be on the low side of average for noise immunity.

Identifying "Memory Plague" is not as easy as it would at first appear because a memory suffering from mild plague will pass both memory test programs in the construction manuals with flying colours and will run Tiny Basic without problem. is because both memory tests and Tiny Basic are loading operands to memory, and not actually executing Ml (op-code fetch) cycles. Ml cycles are more critical on timing and hence more susceptible to corruption caused by noise. Likewise "Memory modify" and "Copy" commands are unlikely to cause problems except in severe cases. So the only thing likely to reveal "Memory Plaque" is a program with lots of Ml cycles and filling a sizeable chunk of memory. ZEAP is ideal for this. If you do not have ZEAP, then write a simple relocatable program that may be copied throughout memory, finishing with the printing of an \* then looping back to the start. Leave this running as long as possible (preferably If the program "crashes", then provided you have overnight). eliminated next-doors' fridge (never your own, of course) as the cause, then it's likely that "Plaque" has struck.

So to the cures:

None of these is technically elegant, but they do work. They should be tried in order until the problem is cured. Don't go in for overkill, as this is unnecessary, and undesirable.

- 1). Go for a National 81LS97 in the IC2 position (AMD devices seem to have lower noise immunity although AMD deny this). You have 7 81LS97s to play with, 3 on the NASCOM, 1 on the buffer, and 3 on the memory, one at least is likely to be made by National. Swap these ICs about for the best results in the IC2 position.
- 2). Grid off the Ground and +5 volt supplies. On the underside of the pcb it will be noted that the GND and +5 rails supplying the TTL ICs terminate at the end of each row. Wire links can be fitted to connect these rails to the equivalent rails supplying the RAM chips, thus completing the "grid" on the power supply rails, thereby reducing power supply noise. Take care not to short out the power supply rails by "gridding" to the wrong tracks.
- 3). The 74LSO4 on the buffer board may be replaced with 74SO4. Bit of a naughty one this, as far as loading goes, but it does tidy up the MREQ waveform.
- 4). On ICs 4-11 only, fit a 4K7 resistors from pin 9 to pin 14 of each chip, thus pulling the outputs of the RAMs to +5V.
- 5). On ICs 4-11 only, in addition to 4 (above), fit 47pF ceramic capacitors from pin 14 to pin 16, thus producing a time constant on the RAM output.

Various combinations of these cures have been tried with 100% success on the few boards that have come our way, and although not 'elegant' solutions have transformed recalcitrant RAM boards into perfect working members of the species.

Please write to the INMC if you have come across any other oddities in the RAM or buffer boards.

#### STOP PRESS!

We have recently discovered that noise on the NASCOM 1 itself can cause problems with expansion, but fortunately this is easily cured. If you look at the corner of the board where the modulator is situated you will see an issue number. If it is "ISS.C" ignore these comments. Otherwise you may find it worthwhile to add a few links to the back of the board along the long edge of the board where the power supplies are connected. The links should "bus up" the ground and 5V supply rails and the easiest way to do this is to connect the ground of each decoupling capacitor at the edge of the board to the next decoupling capacitor at the edge. Similarly connect the 5V sides. Be careful not to get them twisted!!

If you are at all uncertain about any of these modifications, please contact your distributor, NASCOM, or the INMC. If in doubt,  $\underline{\text{stop}}$ . If you return the system for repair you should include the NASCOM, memory and buffer boards to ensure that the system is totally operational when returned to you.

#### SPECIAL OFFERS

We have received offers from the two companies below for special reductions to INMC members.

#### Cassettes

D.J.M.Services offer quality C12 cassettes manufactured by Racal Zonal Ltd. Their normal prices are 5 for £3.00, 10 for £5.00 and 50 for £22.50. These prices include postage and VAT, CWO only. INMC members qualify for 10% discount on these prices. All queries to:-

D.J.M.Services 82 Hilden Park Road Hildenborough Kent TN11 9BN TEL: 0732-832815/357721

#### Soldering Irons.

Future Electronics offer Adamin Model 15 miniature soldering irons. These irons are described as being "probably the slimmest and lightest available and make construction of kits like the NASCOM 1 easy, giving professional results with little effort". A 1/16" bit is supplied, and a full range of 14 bits is available in copper or long-life forms. A catalogue of soldering products will be sent to all enquiries and orders, and goods will be despatched first class, by return of post. Future Electronics also hope to shortly be offering hand tools.

The recommended retail price of these irons is £4.27 inc.VAT - INMC members can obtain them for £3.50 including p & p and VAT.

All enquiries to: Future Electronics Unit Bl

Parkhall Trading Estate

Martell Road

London SE21 TEL: 01-660-0747

VAT Please note that both of the above offers were made prior to the recent budget - please check with the companies for details of changes.

#### APOLOGIES

In Issue 2 of INMC News we referred to a NASCOM Club being started by Frank Butler in Mansfield. We said that he would like to hear from other NASCOM users with a view to starting a club in North Wales. This should of course said North Notts and we apologise for any inconvenience that this might have caused.

For those of you to whom this is the first newsletter, the address again is:

Frank M Butler, 8A Church Side, Mansfield, Notts. NG18 1AD

Telephone: 0623-29237

#### SOFTWARE SECTION

#### Beginners' Corner

#### How to move data around-quickly!

I have seen a program which put a message on the screen with a piece of code like this:

LD HL, address on Screen

LD A, "M

LD (HL), A

INC HL

LD A, "E

LD (HL), A

INC HL

and so on ..... and on ...... and on ......

This works very well, but it takes a long time and a lot of program just to do this simple task. You should see the last newsletter for an easy way to display a message using code EF, then the message, then a zero.

But quite often, one wants to move lots of data around and not just output a message at the current cursor address. By far the easiest way is by the LDIR instruction. Here is an explanation:

- 1. Set HL to the address of the data you want to move.
- 2. Set DE to the address you want to move it to.
- 3. Set BC to the length of the data you want moved.
- 4. LDIR instruction this does the work.

For example, suppose you had 48 bytes of data at address OE80, and you wanted to put this on the top line of the screen. The address of the top line is OBCA.

SO:

1. 21 80 OE LD HL, OE8O (from)

2. 11 CA OB LD DE,OBCA (to)

3. 01 30 00 LD BC,0030

(Length of data, 0030 = 48 decimal)

4. ED BO LDIR

#### 2. Plea for help

In the last newsletter we said that it was your newsletter. Please will you send in helpful tips to this software section of the newsletter. I promise to consider printing anything that isn't actually wrong!

#### 3. Correction

The last newsletter said that to end a program you could jump to PARSE. I did not write that - it was edited by our super software? expert (Ta for the compliment Richard. Just wait until you want some hardware sorted!! D.H.) and INMC chairman David Hunt, who got it wrong! This is a complicated situation, and the ONLY 100 percent safe way that ALWAYS works is to jump to address O. If you don't want to clear the screen, put in a 76 (HALT), and press RESET to carry on when you are ready.

#### 4. Solution to Puzzle (in the last newsletter)

Nobody sent in a correct explanation of the problem, but I give half marks to those who made the program work by putting in code B7, which is OR A, before the INC A. The reason for the problem is that although INC A and ADD A, I might seem the same, INC A does not set the Carry flag, or change it at all. Once the carry flag gets set, the DAA instruction gets completely confused! To understand all this, use the S command to step through, keeping an eye on the Carry flag. Also, have a look at the Z8O programming manual, under INC, ADD, and DAA. If you don't understand the table describing DAA, you are not alone! By the way, perhaps the Z8O should set Carry when INCing - but if it did it wouldn't be 8080 compatible, so you really have to blame Intel for the 8080 design. Anyway, these little quirks make programming interesting.

#### 5. NASCOM Monitor Programs - a personal view

Here is a brief history of the monitors - also known as operating systems - which have controlled my NASCOM l computer. By now I suspect that there maybe quite a few confused NASCOM owners, because so much change has occurred in the last year, so this may also help to clear up misunderstandings.

In the beginning I had NASBUG 1. This lasted about two minutes, then I blew it up - it got very hot, I burnt my fingers, and pulled its little legs off getting it off the board! I then had a replacement NASBUG 1, which worked, except for the tape loading problem. This was cured when NASBUG 1T2 was produced, and most NASCOMS probably use this monitor, which is the only standard 1K monitor.

Eventually the magic of NASBUG wore off, and frustration with slow tape loading set in, so I wrote a monitor called B-BUG, which was NASBUG compatible but with extra features, the most important of which was the read and write commands, for tape loading at four times the speed. B-BUG used about 2/3 of the second IK EPROM, so there was still room for improvement.

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Next I wrote NASBUG T4, which used up all the rest of the available 2K, and contained many improvements and new features. Most important, it was still NASBUG compatible, so programs written for the other monitors would run under it.

At this point it was apparent that there was no further scope for significant improvement, because of the need to retain complete compatibility with the original old NASBUG 1. At this time I got my memory expansion and ZEAP, and re-assembled NASBUG T4 using ZEAP, which was fun because all the previous work had been done by hand in machine code! NASBUG T4 is the best monitor currently available for the NASCOM 1. But ....

Some of you have probably heard about NASCOM 2, and you may be wondering about its monitor. What happened was this: Using my NASCOM 1, with 32K board and ZEAP, I developed a completely new and somewhat incompatible monitor, by starting with NASBUG T4 and steadily improving it. Several major changes were made:

- 1. The Cursor on the screen is made to blink on and off. It is possible to move it anywhere on the screen. Lines on the screen can be edited, and even characters inserted and deleted by moving the rest of the line to left or right.
- 2. The line to be processed is always the line where the cursor was when enter (or newline) is pressed.
- Output starts at the top and scrolls down.
- 4. The extended NASCOM 2 keyboard is fully supported including up, down, left and right arrows to move the cursor. (The old keyboard can do these too.)
- 5. The memory used by the monitor has to occupy addresses OCOO to OC7F.
- 6. All monitor commands perform comprehensive error checking on the line entered. Also, all routines are callable by the user program, NOT by a CALL instruction which has an actual address, but by a restart instruction followed by a (magic) subroutine number.
- 7. Various errors have been corrected, and lots of extra features added. There are very full input/output options, to make it easier to use printers, teletypes, etc. Also, the machine uses ASCII codes for carriage return, line feed, back space and clear screen.

This monitor is called NAS-SYS 1, and is the only monitor for the NASCOM 2. No changes are planned, and it will be completely standard. Even if changes are made there are no compatibility problems because of the use of subroutine numbers (see 6 above).

Now the crucial question - can NAS-SYS be used on a NASCOM 1, making it very like NASCOM 2? - the answer is yes, and I use my NASCOM 1 under NAS-SYS most of the time, <u>BUT</u> - will NASCOM provide if for you? Marketing Director, Kerr Borland, says "No plans at present." If you want it, why not write and tell him what you think about it he might pay attention (he thinks I'm crazy).

By the way, the 8K Basic works best under NAS-SYS, because you can correct lines of program using its editing facilities. Otherwise, you have to re-enter the whole line in error. I have got a version of the 2K Tiny Basic which runs under NAS-SYS, but it's not really worth bothering with - the 8K Basic is so tremendous. I am patiently waiting for ZEAP to be converted to run under NAS-SYS - come on!!

Send in any queries about monitors and what they do or don't have, and I will try to remember the answers and print replies, Good Luck out there!

Richard Beal

Note: Address contributions to "Software Section, INMC"

#### Idea for a Program

Suppose you have a program from a magazine which is assembled to run at address OOOO-O1OO, and it uses a data area at FOOO-FO2O. You want to run it on a NASCOM, with the program at OC8O-OD8O and the data area at OEOO-OE2O. Now you could convert all the addresses, effectively reassembling the program. But suppose you don't have the source listing, and don't even know that it uses a data area. It would still be possible to disassemble and examine the program, but this would take a long time.

What I propose is a program to watch over the program that is being run. The unaltered program would be loaded into the NASCOM at OC80. The control program would be told:-

All addresses 0000-0100 are to be converted to 0C80-0D80. Any other addresses are to be reported out before being executed.

The control program would then be run. It would look at each instruction in turn and then execute it. Addresses in instructions would be examined, and depending on their value, either left alone, be adjusted according to instructions given to the control program, or else be reported out and the program paused.

This suggested control program would also be excellent for debugging ordinary programs. For example, on an unexpanded NASCOM, it would be told: Run this program. Report any attempt to use an address in the range 1000-FFFF.

The control program could carry out the single step execution of the other program by copying the instruction to another part of RAM and following it with a RET, and then calling it as a subroutine. Or perhaps NMI single step feature could be used.

Please send in any ideas for how to do this, or indeed if it is possible.
Better still, try writing a program to do it!

Richard Beal Software Co-ordinator INMC Committee

#### SOFTWARE LIBRARY

Below is a list of programs that are now available from the INMC Software Library. Copies cost 8p per sheet, and the number of sheets for each program is given alongside its description. Please also enclose postage, as detailed on the enclosed order form.

For a variety of reasons, we have decided to remove the previous list of 12 programs from the library, and for simplicity, this list starts at number 20. Therefore, please do not write and ask us about numbers 1 to 19, they don't exist.

Program No	Description	No. of sheets
20	Robots Six homicidal robots chasing you across a field of electrified pylons. The robots head directly towards you and so by careful movement you can persuade them to electrocute themselves on the pylons. Speed and difficulty selectable from cinch to impossible! Good instructions, teletype assembly listing, no comments.	l
	By H Birkett	
21	T.V. Test Pattern 26 bytes Displays test pattern of "+" symbols on screen to set up colour T.V. Well commented.	1
	By R Cogliatti	
22	NIM Approx 700 bytes The classic game of Nim Nicely commented with good instructions. By N A Purver	15
23	Attack Approx 350 bytes Shoot the descending aliens before they get you! Commenting fair.  By M R Perry	6
24	Octal to Hexadecimal Convertor  Approx 180 bytes Rejects all illegal input characters Well commented.  By J Hill	3
25	Space-Invasion Approx 900 bytes Very similar to the game seen in many amusement arcades. As you get better, it gets harder. Addictive. Well commented.  By G Clarke	15

Program No.	Description	No. of	Sheets
26	Digital Clock Approx 130 bytes Simple 24 hour digital clock (hours, mins., secs.). Nice demo of arithmetic and counter manipulation. Well commented but ties up processor 100%.	4	
	By B C Winch		
27	Roadrace Approx 900 bytes Steer your car home with minimum damage. Choice of speeds. Addictive. Well commented.	11	
	By M Parker-Rhodes		
28	Decimal to Hexadecimal Convertor  Approx 120 bytes Nicely commented. Poor input validation. Positive numbers only.	2	
	By G Harriman		
29	Life Approx 750 bytes The ubiquituous simulation of life, using special characters to give an expanded Universe. Works well, very fast, good instructions, well commented.	8	
	By J Haigh		
30	Moon-Lander Approx 1000 bytes! Ingenious moon-landing program using keyboard as "crashpad joystick". Below 2500 ft display expands to terrain map, and when you land, look out for those boulders. Well commented, good instructions, teletype assembly listing. INMC games competition winner - object code listing in INMC issue 3.	19	
	Submitted by N Ray		
31	Compact Ascii Editor Approx 130 bytes Crude editor allowing Ascii characters to be located and changed. Well commented, good instructions. (Nic demo, not very practical).		
	By A Fountain		
32	Carre Chinois We have no idea what this game is or what it does (we ain't French is we?) Totally written (and presumably (?) beautifully commented) in French.	21	
	By G Bochent		

Program No.	Description		No.	of	Sheets
33	Lollypop Lady Train See if you can get across the road with them run over. Well commented.	Approx 800 bytes the chickens		9	
34	Random I-Ching Char Great mystical sign those who understan Nicely commented.	Approx 180 bytes nificance (for		4	
35	Walled Chase For two players, or other but there are in the way, which hit them. Fascinating game,	e invisible walls appear when you well commented		12	
		By S Montgomery-Sm	ith		
36	Sub-Search Ship traverses scr depth charges on r submarines.	Approx 300 bytes een dropping random andomly moving By T Bailie	l	6	
37	Random Display Displays random pa Nicely commented.	37 bytes ttern of asterisks. By G Harriman		1	
38	Submarines Hit the randomly d with your steerabl Good instructions,		<b>j</b> .	,	7
		By N D Wallbridge			
39	Burst the Balloon Shoot the balloons way up the screen random breezes. Well commented, go	as they make their at the mercy of			9
	werr commenced, go	By J Waddell			
•		DA n Madrett			

#### FOUR FREE PROGRAMS!

As a special bonus, here are four programs which are fun to have. We hope to include proper assembler listings of these programs in the software library soon, so that you will be able to see how they work. Some of you who have bought games tapes from Henry's Radio will have seen some of them before, but there should be some which you haven't yet seen.

You should find all the programs self explanatory, given the notes printed with them. The last column of numbers on the listings is a checksum, so don't type it in!

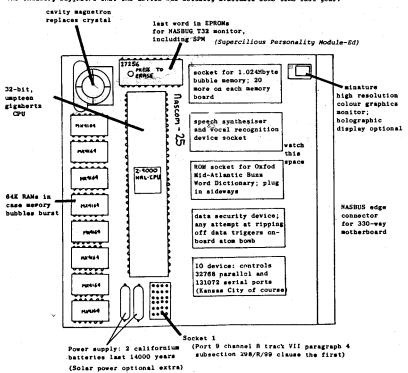
The programs will run under NASBUG T2, B-BUG or NASBUG T4. We hope to reassemble them for NAS-SYS one day.

One point about REACT. It uses its own special keyboard scan routine, and it is essential that the spare keyboard input pin be tied to +5V, not to earth. (This is the same modification required for the Tiny Basic.) Connect pins 7 and 8 to pin 16 of the keyboard socket to solve the problem. This prevents the spare input lines floating.

To play OTHELLO you need to know the rules, but you may be able to deduce them since the program doesn't let you cheat and shows you where you can move. It scores the game and provides quite good opposition. Remember to press the space bar to let it move. It can also simply supervise a two human player game.

Richard Beal Software Co-ordinator INMC Committee

STOP PRESS: This preliminary board layout was found by our own Investigative Journalist on the desk of NM's ace designer Heath Robinson-Crusoe. Concealed beneath a copy of — International Times was also a breadboard prototype, but this disintegrated before it could be photographed. Robinson-Crusoe was unavailable for comment, but sources close to the industry suggested that the device was actually available some time last year.



```
REACT BY DAVID HUNT
>T C50 F00
  ØC5Ø 31 FF ØF CD ØØ ØF B9 Ø6 56
 ØC58 Ø5 D9 21 78 ØC 18 Ø1 D9 D9
  ØB20 68 65 6E 20 79 6F 75 27 ØC
  ØD28 72 65 20 72 65 61 64 79 41
  ØD30 2E 21 58 ØD 11 50 ØD 7D E8
  ØD38 FE 5B 2Ø Ø4 2B 2B 2B 2B 6E
  ØD4Ø 23 7B FE 65 2Ø ØA 18 1B AE
  ØD48 1B 1B 1B 1B 1B 1B 1B 20
  ØD50 13 CD 69 Ø0 30 E1 18 ØE DD
   0D58 02 03 04 05 30 35 32 33 3D
   ØB6Ø 34 35 36 37 38 39 7E 32 64
   ØD&8 9D ØD 1A 32 71 ØD 18 Ø4 Ø5
   ØD7Ø 37 38 92 Ø7 CD ØØ ØF 21 82
   ØD78 CA Ø9 22 18 ØC EF 41 6E 3C
   ØB8Ø 79 20 73 65 63 6F 6E 64 A2
  ØD88 20 6E 6F 77 20 20 20 3E A7 9D90 00 CD 1D 0F 06 80 CD 35 1E 9D98 00 10 FB D9 06 04 D9 06 72 0DA0 FF CD 69 00 38 08 10 F9 2B 0DA0 D9 10 F3 D9 18 20 CD 00 6F 0DB0 0F 21 DA 09 22 19 0F FF 0B
   ØDBØ ØF 21 DA Ø9 22 18 ØC EF Ø5
   ØDB8 57 41 49 54 20 46 4F 52 Ø1
   ØBCØ 20 49 54 20 21 20 21 00 0C
   ØDC8 CD 1D ØF C3 9F ØF 21 71 D1
   øDDØ ØD 7E 32 DF Ø9 11 ØØ ØØ 93
   øpp8 3E 55 3D 20 FD 7B C6 01 14
   ØDEØ 27 5F 7A CE ØØ 27 57 DA 13
   ØDEB D9 ØE 3E Ø2 D3 ØØ AF D3 71
   ØDFØ ØØ Ø6 Ø8 3E Ø1 D3 ØØ AF CC
   0DF8 D3 00 DB 00 FE FF 20 04 D4
   gegg 10 F1 18 D4 ED 53 72 00 BA
   ØEØ8 CD 69 ØØ 32 70 ØD 21 71 8D
   ØE1Ø ØD BE CA 54 ØE.CD ØØ ØF F1
   ØE18 21 DA Ø8 22 18 ØC EF 4E AC
   ØE20 6F 74 20 76 65 72 79 20 17
   ØE28 63 60 65 76 65 72 99 CD 84
   ØE3Ø tD ØF CD 23 ØF 21 N9 Ø9 60
   ØE38 22 18 ØC EF 74 6F 2Ø 67 E5
```

ØE4Ø 65 74 2Ø 69 74 2Ø 57 52 ED 9E48 4F 4E 47 20 21 00 CD 1D 65 9E50 0F C3 63 0F CD 00 0F 21 9F #E58 DE #8 22 18 #C EF 43 6F 33 

 ØE60
 72
 72
 65
 63
 74
 20
 00
 CD
 87

 ØE68
 1D
 ØF
 CD
 23
 ØF
 21
 CA
 Ø9
 95

 ØE79
 22
 18
 ØC
 EF
 42
 65
 74
 74
 42

 ØE78
 65
 72
 20
 74
 68
 61
 6E
 20
 48

 ØE89
 30
 2E
 36
 20
 73
 65
 63
 6F
 EC

 ØE88
 6E
 64
 73
 20
 69
 73
 20
 67
 5E

 ØE99
 6F
 6F
 64
 2C
 20
 31
 20
 69
 E5

 ØE98
 73
 20
 61
 76
 65
 72
 61
 67
 AF

 ØEA8
 29
 74
 68
 61
 6E
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 ØEA8< ØE60 72 72 65 63 74 20 00 CD 87 ØEEØ 54 68 61 74 20 74 72 69 EE ØEFØ 20 77 6F 72 6B 20 21 00 22 

 ØEF8
 CD
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 9F
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 ØØ
 7Ø

 ØFØØ
 3E
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 3B
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 ØF1Ø
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 Ø4
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 ØF1B
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 ØC
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 ØF2Ø
 36
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 C9
 21
 56
 Ø9
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 Ø8

 ØF3Ø
 6F
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 D9

 ØF3Ø
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 6B
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 ØF3Ø
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 ØF5Ø
 3A< ØEF8 CD 10 ØF C3 9F ØF ØØ ØØ 7Ø ØF68 ØC EF 44 69 73 70 6C 61 CF 9F70 79 65 64 20 20 20 3E 00 5F ØF78 CD 1D ØF 21 ØA ØB 22 18 FØ ØF8Ø ØC EF 4B 65 79 20 70 72 B5 ØF88 65 73 73 65 64 20 3E 00 09 ØF9Ø CD 1D ØF 3A 71 ØD 32 99 1B ØF98 ØA 3A 7Ø ØD 32 19 ØB 21 DF ØFAØ 8A ØB 22 18 ØC EF 5Ø 72 3B ØFA8 65 73 73 20 61 6E 79 20 8A ØFBØ 6B 65 79 20 74 6F 20 74 9F ØFB8 72 79 20 61 67 61 69 6E B2 ØFCØ 2E ØØ CD 1D ØF CD 69 ØØ 2C 9FC8 30 FB C3 50 0C 00 00 1F 40

EXECUTE AT ØC5Ø

OTHELLO BY RICHARD BEAL (Game against Computer)

```
ICSG FE8

#CLSG C2 36 32 55 68 36 88 00 FE
#CLSG C3 36 32 55 68 07 38 #CLSG C3 38 #CLSG C3 36 32 55 68 07 38 #CLSG C3 38 #CLSG
                      9E38 3A E1 0C 2F B7 ED 42 BE 40
```

> REVERSE By Howard Birkett >T C60 F90

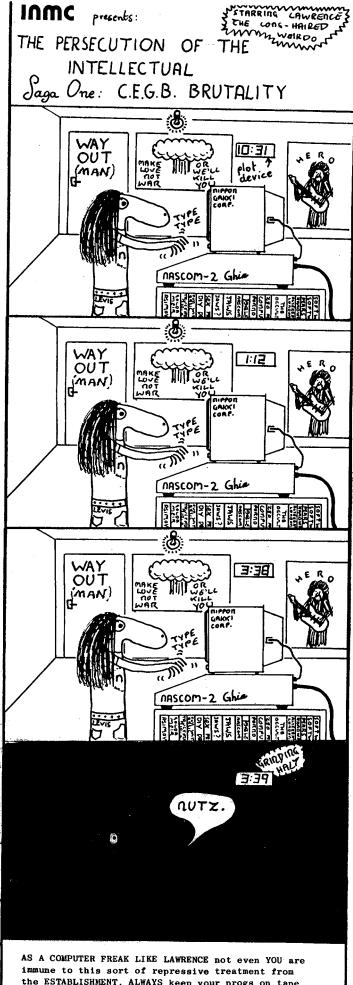
EXECUTE AT #DF2

\$D\$8 64 \$\$ C9 EF 47 6F 6F 64 6A \$DC# ## C9 EF 4E 6F 74 2# 62 38 8DC8 61 64 89 C9 EF 41 76 65 6E ØDDØ 72 61 67 65 ØØ C9 EF 4E 82 #DD8 65 65 64 2# 7# 72 61 63 D9 ■ ØDEØ 74 69 63 65 ØØ €9 EF 46 9Ø ØF48 6F 20 73 74 61 72 74 Ø8 14 #F5# CD 88 #F #6 #F CD 4# #2 E7 ØF58 10 FB EF 20 20 48 65 72 CØ ØF60 65 20 77 65 20 67 6F 29 E6 @F68 2E 2@ 2E 2@ 2E 2@ 2E 2@ AF #F7# 54 68 65 2# 6C 69 73 74 7C ØF78 20 69 73 1F 1F ØØ C3 BØ 34 9F89 9C 98 60 99 98 69 99 98 **6F88 CD 3E 60 FE 20 20 F9 C9 A2** 

```
JJ BY HOWARD BIRKETT
>TC50 DE0
  ØC5Ø EF 20 61 6E 64 20 00 C9 87
  ØC58 EF 20 77 65 6E
                       74 20 75 CA
  Ø06Ø 7Ø
          20 74 68 65
                       20 68 69
  Ø038 60
          60 1F
                 54
                       20 66 65
                    6F
  ØC7Ø 74 63 68
                20 61
                       20 00 09
  ØC78 EF 20 6F 66 20
                       00 C9 EF
  Ø08Ø 2Ø 66 65 60
                    60
                       20
                          64 6F
  0088 77 6E
             20
                61
                    6E
                       64
                          20
                             62
  ØC9Ø 72 6F
             6B 65
                    20
                       68
                          69.73
                                 B1
  ØC98 20 00 C9 EF
                    20 63
  ØCAØ 65 20 74 75
                   6B 62 60 69
                                 RF
  ØCA8 6E 67 20
                      74
                61
                    66
                          65
                             72
                                BB
  ØCBØ 2E ØØ C9
                EF
                    1E 47
                          69
  ØCB8 65 20 6D 65
                    20
                          20
                                 33
  Ø000 åF 72 å4
                 20
                    66
                       6F
                          72 20 98
  ØCC8 74 68 65
                20
                   66 6F
                          60 60 E2
  ØCDØ 6F
         77 69 6E 67
                      20
                          3A 1F 29
  ØCD8 41 20 63 6F
                    6E 74
                          61 69 C3
 ØCEØ 6E 65 72 20
                   3F
                       15
                          99
                            -09-78
 ØCE8 EF 40 61 60
                   65
                       20
                          δE
 ØCFØ 6D 65 20 3F
                   1 F
                       ØØ
                          09
                             EF
 ØCF8 46
          65
             6D 61
                    60
                       65
                          27
                             73
                                E8
         3F
      20
             20
                1F
                   ØØ
                      C9 EF
 ØDØ8 20 70 61 72 74
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         74 68
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 ØD18 79 20 3F
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 ØU2Ø 2Ø 6C 69
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                                F5
 ØD28 3F
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                   [t]
                      21
                             00 42
                          DB
 ØD3Ø 21
         E5 ØD Ø6 Ø5 CD B3
 ØD38 CD 9F ØD CD E8
                      ØC
 9049 90 CD F7
                0C CD 9F
                             \mathbf{C}\mathbf{B}
 ØD48 Ø6
         ØD CD 9F ØD CD
                          1 E
 ØD5Ø CD 9F
             ØD 2A
                   DD
                      ØD CD
 Ø058 ØD CD 50
                ØC
                   2A
                      DF
                         ØD CB
 Ø060 D1
         ØD CD 58 ØC
                      2A
                         DB ØD
 ØD68 CD D1 ØD CD 78
                      ØC
 0070 00 CD D1
                ØD EF
                      1F
 ØD78 DD ØD CD D1 ØD CD
                         7F
 ØD8Ø 2A E1
            ØD CD D1
                      ØD
                         EF
                                5E
 0088 00 2A DF
                ØD CD DI
                         ØD
                            CD
                                23
 ØD9Ø 9B
         ØC CD 3E ØØ FE
                         2F
                            20
 ØD98 F9 C3 2C ØD EF 1F ØØ CD
 ØBAØ BB Ø1 11 4B ØB 1A FE
 ØDA8 28 F5 DD 75 ØØ DD 23 DD
 9DB0 74 90 DD 23 F5 78 FE
                            Ø4
 ØDB8 28 Ø4 FE Ø3
                  20
                      Ø3 F1
                            18 1E
 ØBCØ Ø3 F1 C6 2Ø 77 23
                         13 1A
 ØDC8 FE 20 20 F6 36 99
                         23 Ø5
 ØDDØ C9 7E FE ØØ C8 CD 3B Ø1 F3
 ØDD8 23 18 F6 E5 ØD E9 ØD EE EC
```

EXECUTE AT 0020

ENTER / FOR A NEW GAME.



AS A COMPUTER FREAK LIKE LAWRENCE not even YOU are immune to this sort of repressive treatment from the ESTABLISHMENT. ALWAYS keep your progs on tape and dump BIG ones to tape in LITTLE SECTIONS so when the FASCIST PIGS switch you OFF you won't BLOW your whole THING. And REMEMBER: As a PARTICIPANT in an AREA of LEADING EDGE TECHNO'LOGY, your SITUATION is MEANINGFUL and ALL your SCENARIOS are VIABLE.

watch NEXT MONTH's FINGER LICKIN' INSTALMENT!!!!

charge