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**TAP**

Publishing Society

A unit of the

**Technological Advancement Party**

Presents..

...a family of people dedicated  
to the advancement of home computer  
systems and electronic technology, the  
study and duplication of related commu-  
nication networks and the subsequent  
utilization of one's own ingenuity in  
today's fast-paced world of creative logic.

News from the TAP staff  
BY: Aristotle

As the editor, I would like to apologize for the long delay for the release of this issue. The staff of TAP has been going through some changes and all of us have been extremely busy this summer. As you may notice by the credits, Olorin the White is no longer with us. We have picked up a new staffer that is helping us with printing and we hope to have the capability to print decent photographs soon. Hopefully you will first see this new elite, k-rad technology in #95. As for when that will be released, it should be within 2 months from now. Obviously we are not keeping on the 10 issue/yr. schedule. For now and ever, we will be on a non-specific release schedule. We will simply print the issues when we have enough time and resources. You should expect at least 6 issues a year though. We feel that it is better to tell you straight up what the deal is rather than giving excuses. As for those that sent in more than 6 stamps, you will still receive one issue for each stamp you sent to us. That should always remain the same.

For those interested in back issues, we are pleased to inform you that we have completed an index of all 93 back issues. We have not decided when it will be released or if it will be free. It is too large to be printed within an issue and too large to send it out separately. If at all possible, we will give them away for free but it really looks like you will have to pay a huge sum for them (\$1 or 50¢!) When we do start offering back issues, the subscribers will be the first to know. I would like to add that we will be offering back issues for much less than what others are asking. 8-->

You may or may not be glad to hear that we have been in contact with past members of the TAP staff including Cheshire Catalyst and TUC. If anything extremely interesting comes out of our correspondence with them, you will be the first to know. And last but not least, please do not forget to fill out and mail the post card that was enclosed with this issue.

Until next time,

Aristotle



TELEPHONE WIRES IN NEW YORK IN 1890

Pole lines in New York at a time when there were about 8,000 phones on Manhattan Island. There are now 930,000 telephones on the island. Without the research that produced telephone cables which can be buried underground, the growth of the telephone business would have stopped. There is not room enough in Manhattan to make feasible the connection of 930,000 telephones over open wires pole lines

The TAP staff is in need of any information on the phone company. If there is an article in your newspaper, cut it out and send it to us. If you run across something in a magazine, send us a photocopy. If you have any extra information on anything of interest, send it along also. We are always looking for more articles and info. If you would like to see something printed or need special info, write us a letter and we will try to help. If we cannot, maybe a reader can. If you have any manuals or journals, send them along and we will give you something in return (back issues, whatever we have, etc.)

Making the tags work in the magnetically noisy environment of a supermarket—as opposed to the relatively pristine confines of a library—is “damned tricky engineering,” conceded Arthur Minasy, president of Knogo Corp. (Hicksville, N.Y.). Shopping carts, with their large coils of metal, can mimic the inductive effect of the tags and trigger false alarms; so can electric motors such as the ones in cash registers. At the same time, the “yield” of the magnetic systems—the percentage of active tags that trigger the alarm when passed through the gate—is disturbingly low. Minasy claims that Knogo has delivered “a couple of hundred” magnetic systems for testing in various supermarkets and major merchandise stores, but there are persistent rumors that these trials have ended with the store throwing the systems out.

One advantage of the magnetic system over the radio system is that a checkout clerk can easily and quickly deactivate the magnetic strips by passing them over another magnet. This could even be done automatically by putting a magnet under the product-moving conveyor belt. The radio tags, on the other hand, must be covered with a piece of metal (perhaps imprinted with “Thank you”), a procedure that could slow checkout lines. An alternative method—passing the still-active radio around the gate to a pick-up point while the customer walks through the gate—requires the store to place transmitter/receiver setups at each checkout counter rather than just the store’s exits.

Close to three-fourths of the electronic surveillance systems now in use in the U.S. use neither radio frequency nor magnetic detection, but rely instead on microwaves. Most of the white plastic tags on clothing or other “soft goods” are part of microwave systems, virtually all of which are made by Sensormatic Electronics Corp. (Deerfield Beach, Fla.). Each tag encapsulates an antenna, a diode, and a resonator circuit. The transmitter at the store’s exit gate sends out microwaves at two frequencies; the diode generates harmonics such as the sum and difference frequencies that other receiver senses to set off the alarm. Because they can be emitted in a directional beam, microwaves have twice the range of rf or magnetic systems, allowing usage in doorways 6 to 8 feet across. But as competitors point out, thieves can beat the system fairly easily: Since water blocks microwaves, merely wrapping a hand around the tag conceals it from the sensor. Sensormatic downplays the significance of this vulnerability, claiming that shoplifters conceal items in pocketbooks and bags. They rarely try to exit the store with a piece of clothing scrunched up in their hand.

Apparently the microwave circuits are too complex for mass production in sticker form cheaply enough for large-volume, disposable use. Sensormatic does market a fairly large adhesive microwave tag that is not intended for supermarket use; disguised as Universal Product Code stickers, they must be deactivated at the checkout counter with a special wand that emits a pulse to blow the circuit’s fuse while appearing to read the bar code. Sensormatic is also working on small disposable tags for mass-merchandise stores, but the company declines to discuss which technology it will employ.

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TAP STAFF

ARISTOTLE & PREDATOR  
WE DID EVERYTHING

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OZONE. American Telephone & Telegraph Co. says it intends to eliminate by 1994 all emissions from its factories of a chemical that destroys the ozone layer. AT&T said it was the first American electronics maker to set such a target for emissions of chloroflourocarbons.

## Mercury Fulminate

by  
Dark Overlord

Here is the formula for Mercury Fulminate. It can be used as a primer for heavy explosives and for practical jokes (put it on a friend's door hinge.)

**CAUTION:** It is a very unstable chemical. Handle with care and use carefully.

### Needed:

5 grams pure mercury  
35 ml nitric acid  
distilled water  
ethyl alcohol (denatured is fine)  
litmus paper  
filter paper  
3 flasks  
heat source (eg: alcohol lamp)  
one well vented area

- 1) Mix 5 grams pure mercury with 35 ml. nitric acid.
- 2) Slowly heat the mixture until the solution bubbles and turns green in color (this indicates that the silver mercury has dissolved into the solution.)
- 3) After the solution has turned green, pour the solution into a flask of ethyl alcohol. This will result in red fumes so be sure to do this outside or in a well vented area.  
\*\* DO NOT BREATHE THE FUMES, THEY ARE POISONOUS \*\*
- 4) After an hour or so the fumes should turn white in color. Wait a few more minutes and add distilled water to the solution.
- 5) Filter the solution in order to extract the white crystals. These crystals are mercury fulminate, wash these crystals until the remaining acid is removed (You can use litmus paper to test for this).

## HOW TO HACK STAMPS

Yes!, it's another addition to the neverending How to hack series. In this article I will show, in easy to understand terms, how to remove the cancellation mark from a used postal stamp. This method has been proven to be about 80% effective on all stamps that I could get my hands on. The 20% that did not work were composed of stamps that were taken off of large or irregular shaped packages. I suppose the manual cancellation devices use a different ink. 80% is not that bad though, you can still save mucho dinero and even the lives of some trees. Here is how it is done:

### STEP 1.

Obtain the following materials:  
1 bottle of Isopropyl Alcohol (rubbing).  
1 bunch of used stamps  
1 Medium sized glass of room temp water.  
1 Telephone book (These always come in handy)

### STEP 2.

Remove the stamps from the envelope by tearing around the stamp, thus removing the stamp and the paper.

### STEP 3.

Let the stamp(s) soak in the glass of water until they float off of the paper. This usually takes at least 5 minutes.

### STEP 4.

Blot wet stamps dry in a telephone book. Do this by placing the stamps between some pages and pressing lightly so the stamps are just about damp. Next remove the stamps.

### STEP 5.

Soak stamps in the alcohol for 3hrs or until the cancellation mark vanishes. It helps a bit to agitate the alcohol about every 45 minutes or so. Be sure to change the alcohol when it starts to get dark. If you do not, the dissolved ink will start to turn the white parts of the stamps black.

### STEP 6.

Pull out clean stamps and repeat step 4.

### STEP 7.

Now repeat step 4 AGAIN in a dry section of the phone book and leave the stamps in until they are dry. A good time period for that is overnight.

### STEP 8.

Remove and use stamps to your content. The best way to fasten the stamps to an envelope is to simply glue them on with Elmers glue-all.

## Hoffman worked to help all of mankind

No matter what they say, I know what killed Abbie Hoffman

I'll be perfectly honest and make a confession worthy of my roots. I did not Steal This Book, crash the Democratic National Convention in Chicago or join the Yippie movement.

Though I was hip-deep in bell bottoms, roach kickers and gauze shirts sans brassiere, I diligently pursued my studies, I tried not to get too sidetracked by urgent political or passionate social issues far removed from my middle-class upbringing.

The march on Washington D.C. of course, was another story. Vietnam affected the non-political as well as the political: the middle-class college student as well as the high school urban dropout.

Ironically, it was that war that bonded me to Abbie and made him my spokesperson. He represented the conscience of the minorities, the nobodies who changed the course of history.

He raged at the media, the politician, the president. He railed at anyone who would or would not listen, shouting our sentiments, fueling our fires, so that we could sit complacently and nod and hold up two fingers for peace.

Abbie Hoffman fought our battles on the front lines. He shaped, formed and articulated our battle cry. He endured the beatings, the bruising and the arrests that would have interrupted our lives.

After Abbie and I ended the war, I slipped back into my bastion of domestic and social rest. I didn't think about Abbie Hoffman anymore. Our war was won. And, after all, I had children to raise, graduate school to attend.

Then I heard, Abbie was on the lamb, maybe somewhere in Mexico. America's conscience was quelled, or so I thought, until reading *Steal This Urine Test*.

Once again, his outraged voice inveighed against injustice and advised the masses to rip out their bladders and send them to the lawmakers, lest we succumb to the il-

### GUEST OPINION

legal search and seizure of bodily fluids

Abbie was back, and I was right there with him, silently cheering. This man knew no limitations. He relentlessly and humorously sniffed out the moral, social and political inconsistencies in our society. He did not yield to any deter-

He relentlessly and humorously sniffed out the moral, social and political inconsistencies in our society.

rent.

He even helped Yippie Jerry Rubin turn into Yippie Wall Street Entrepreneur, an obvious example of his unabashed and uncensored notion of freedom and humor.

Abbie Hoffman, America's representative conscience and political hit man, did not limit his targets. His conscience forced him to delve into environmental injustices and, I imagine, this responsibility became too great a burden for even him to bear.

The recent effrontery against nature, perhaps the worst disaster of its kind, will wipe out certain species of marine and bird life. I think the Exxon Valdez, also wiped out a one-of-a-kind human being, a person who, for most of his life, sought to improve the human condition.

Perhaps, Abbie's heart couldn't bear this final blow. Perhaps, he needed me and the rest of his friends to help share the onerous misery of America's conscience.

Susan Werner Masterman is an instructor in the English department.

## Police raid 3 Jefferson homes in search for computer hackers

By CALVIN MILLER  
Staff Writer

Jefferson County police, searching for computer hackers who are believed to have stolen long-distance telephone service, confiscated thousands of dollars in computer equipment yesterday after raiding three homes around the county.

Police were alerted to the alleged theft when a security official for the Long Distance Discount Service telephone company in Jackson, Miss., turned over "a wealth of information" about the hackers.

In simultaneous raids, police served search warrants and confiscated equipment at homes in eastern Jefferson County, in Jefferson town and in western Jefferson County.

No arrests were made.

"Computer fraud is new to this area, but there is a tremendous potential for abuse," said Capt. Larry Grant, police spokesman. "This action is a first for us, but I think we'll see more of it."

Grant said there was "sufficient evidence" to justify a search war-

rant, but police will not make a arrests until experts review the hundreds of computer discs of information taken in the raid.

Grant said police believe the hackers were making calls and billing them billed to regular customers of LDDS. He didn't know if the hackers were using the telephone service or reselling it.

Walt Frier, security manager for LDDS, said he gave evidence to Jefferson County police yesterday that implicated occupants of 1 houses in the theft of about \$1,000 services.

"We've got security systems to alert us to this," Frier said. "They were trying to access the system."

Grant was not sure if the computer operators were working together "but we know that hackers do share information."

Grant said theft of service more than \$100 is a felony and unauthorized entry into a computer system could also bring federal charges.

"We have to wait until the data is analyzed before we know," Grant said.

Here are two items that Phrack Inc. handed out during the conference. The pin is yellow and the poster is twice the size that you see it.



Summercon '89 By Aristotle

Well, we made hack safely from this year's hack/phreak convention. Summercon, for those that don't know, is an annual gathering of the nation's elite, (and not so elite,) hackers and phreakers. It is held each year in St. Louis, Missouri. It is hosted by the editors of Phrack newsletter with help from Forrest Ranger.

Summercon '89 was held at the west Western Executive International Hotel from June 23-25th. The actual formal meeting was on Saturday the 24th. Due to a lack of space, I am able to print details about the actual meeting only. This does not mean that the other days/activities were not as interesting if not more than the formal meeting. I can say that Predator, Tuc, Lex Luther, Bill from RNOC, Forrest Ranger, and Lucifer 666 had a hell of a time at the St. Louis arch but probably will not be invited back :-). As for the other days, you can read about them in issue 29 of Phrack newsletter.

**The People:** A list of the people that attended the meeting is as follows: Android Pope, Aristotle, Bill from RNOC, Crimson Death, Cryptic Fast, Doc Holiday, Erik Bloodaxe, Forrest Ranger, Hugo Danner, Knight Lightning, Lex Luther, Lucifer 666, Phil Free, Predator, Synthetic Slug, Teran King, Tuc, and The Urville.

**The Speakers:** After Forrest Ranger welcomed us to the conference, I was the first person to speak. My time started off giving an overview of what TAP magazine is, who it is, and why we are doing it. The crowd had fun giving me shit until someone had the nerve to mention that I might be doing something illegal. This was answered by a few people that noted that both hacking and phreaking are mostly illegal. Most of what I had to say is what you have already read in issues 22 and 23.

After that, I went on to answer some questions regarding Olerian the White and The Renegade Chemist, both of whom have nothing to do with TAP whatsoever.

The next speaker was Lex Luther telling us how people get caught using codes and that we should not use them. Code abuse took up the rest of his time.

Giving an update on the status of Phrack was Knight Lightning and Teran King. They described the present and future of Phrack newsletter. An excellent description of their tour of a GTE Central Office ended their speech. Everyone found that interesting.

The Urville was next and he gave a speech describing the various methods of hacking a Unix machine. Although I was completely lost due to my lack of experience with Unix, there were still some people that got something out of the speech. I guess I will have to brush up on my Unix facts. Practice makes perfect, hehe.

Our entertainment came from Bill from RNOC. Bill told us some rather interesting stories about 2600 magazine the meetings in NY that they host. The fun part came when he played a tape in which he engineered an insane man into believing Bill was all sorts of people. This erupted when I asked him why his name with LODH was at the bottom of a poster he sent to TAP. The various members of LOD (and the rest of us) got a kick out of that one.

When we got bored with the tape, we glided into an open discussion which included topics regarding Chesshire Catalyst, Red Knight, Scan Man, Telepub '86, and The Whoolies. The meeting ended with the group forming a human pyramid which we have pictures of but cannot print because it doesn't copy too well. We will have a copy for you though for about \$1.00.

**The End:** The con ended for Predator and I after Dr. Cypher and a couple of his friends showed up at Bill's room and the situation kind of erupted.

For those that could not make it but would like to go next year, just keep up with TAP and Phrack and you will find out how to get details when the plane comes up. I do strongly suggest that you make an effort to come as it was loads of fun and we did not find one fad the entire weekend.



IS THE ANSWER



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