Tom Edison:

One of the major reasons I am displeased with what TAP has become is that you have spent nearly 50% of the damn space bitching and venting your spleen and other organs about what you don't like about us, the readers. We subscribed because the original version contained interesting and useful information, not the ravings of an ego-maniac who is pissed at himself because he can't handle the job, and wants somebody else to do it for him. Knock off the crap, and get back to business, or I shall cancel also.

Wash., D.C.

I received the above letter a few days ago and usually whenever someone feels strongly enough to take the time to write a poison pen letter to the editor, there are probably many other readers that feel the same way but are just too damn lazy to voice their opinions or they feel that their complaint letters will never see the editorial page. I could have taken the easy way out and just thrown away your letter but I feel that anybody that takes the time to write me deserves a reply. I'm very sorry that you disapproved of all my bitching but it WAS necessary! People are basically lazy. TAP readers are almost dead! To try and get some of our readers to write an article is almost as impossible as trying to get Bell to reduce phone rates! I honestly hoped that if I antagonized enough readers they would get off their asses and write me, even if they began their letter with "Stop bitchin', Edison, here's the info you wanted." No such luck. I then tried an "open door" policy where I decided to tell our readers EXACTLY where we stand financially. I let you all know that we needed new subscribers fast. As an immediate result to all of your NONaction, I was forced to increase subscription rates! In another attempt to get some help I opened the TAP office

from 12 noon to 9:00 PM for the months of July & August. Do you know how many TAP readers came in to help? I won't embarrass TAP by telling you how many people came in, but you could count them all on one hand and still have fingers left over to finger-fuck your girlfriend while cleaning out your ear waz with your pinkyl As for being an ego-maniac, I plead guilty! I'd be a hypocrite

if I told you that going from a lowly subscriber to editor-in-chief hadn't given me a swell head!

As for being pissed at himself because I can't handle the job, you're partially right! I AM pissed that I can't do a better job but considering the fact that since I joined TAP we've published regularly and the fact that I have a full time outside job along with several other part time jobs, I don't feel that that I've fucked up the job too much, do you?

And as for wanting someone else to do the work for me, you're absolutely correct! I'd like nothing better than to sit on my fat ass just collecting the money and let some other sucker do all the work, but unfortunately it's just not happening that way. I wish that some of you who are bitching about the lack of technical info in our more recent issues could spend just one day at the TAP office! After 47 issues, there is just so much reader supplied info. I admit that I've had to scrape the bottom of the barrel sometimes for articles, but at least I've tried, which is more than I can say for most of you! Don't complain to me about the lack of technical info! You send it to me and I'll print it! And finally, don't you threaten me about canceling your sub.

N body put a gun to your head to force you to subscribe and I can assure you that even without your subscription, TAP will survive!

> IF YOU FIND MISTAKES in this publication. please consider that they are there for a purpose. We publish something for everyone and some people are always looking for mistakes.



JAN·FEB 1978 NO. 48

Pay Bills by Phone

AUTOMATIC Telephone Payments (ATP) is an idea whose time has arrived. The service may be offered by 100 banks throughout the country within the next few months. Why do consumers like the idea? The overwhelming plus is that it's easy and convenient.

It saves lots of time. There are no checks to write, no envelopes to seal or address, no stamps to lick. You can pay bills without leaving your home or office. You can use the service almost any time, day or night. Even when you are out of town, you can call in your bill payments if you didn't have time before you left. ATP cuts down on paperwork. Your record keeping is made simpler. And it eliminates the embarrassment of writ

ing oad checks for regular bills It's usually far cheaper than conventional bill paying methods. It can cost as little as a 10 cent or 20-cent phone call. Some financial institutions charge no service fee at all. Some charge a monthly flat fee of \$2 to \$4. Some charge a

10-cent or 15-cent fee per transaction. Consumers who use the service like it so much that they wish they could use it for all their bills. But most systems are set up to handle only the regular, recurring payments, which account for 60 to 76 per cent of your financial

However, the service has encountered customer resist nce in some markets. Because it's such a new and innovative idea, people don't understand what it's all about. The unfa-

miliar naturally breeds suspicion. Drawbacks voiced by those who have not used the service include the fear that they will somehow lose control over their payment process. But payments are made only to vendors whom you've authorized ahead of time. And pay

ments are not made unless you make the phone call to activate the payment. Some tolks prefer the security of having canceled checks as proof of payment. ATP systems furnish a monthly state ment listing all transactions. The Internal Revenue Service

accepts the monthly statement as proof of payment as long as the bank backs it up. However, in some localities, courts have not yet ruled whether ATP statements will be sufficient proof of payment in all situations Some people worry that the system may be too complicated for them to operate. But after placing the phone call, you get step by step instructions from a live operator or recording.

Concern has been expressed that privary will be lost that your bank will find out your bill paying habits. But if you now have a checking account, your bill paying habits are already known to your bank. Some persons don't want to mix their transaction funds with their savings funds. This refers to ATP service offered by thrift institutions in states that prohibit them from offer-

ing payment accounts. But money in savings accounts receives interest up to the time you authorize payments to be made - an advantage over placing your money in a regular checking account. Giving up "the float" is another reason some people don't favor ATP. You must have funds in the bank at the

time you authorize payment. No chance to race to the bank to make a last-minute deposit before the check clears.

Ma Bell Strips A new patient was quite upset when the doctor's nurse led him to a curtained cubicle and told him to undress. nail!" he protested.

"But I only want the doctor to look at my ingrown toe-"Our rule is that everyone undresses," curtly answered the nurse as she left him. "Durn fool rule," grumbled the patient as he compued,

"making me undress to look at my toe!" "That's nothing." came a voice from the next cubicle, "I came in to install another telephone."

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Dear TAP.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Your new smaller type is super -- more information in less space. I was particularly surprised to get the article on radar speed detectors as I had just been reading an article in Electronics Magazine (copy encl.) describing how good ol' Kustom Signals, Inc. of Chanute, Kansas... (316) 431-2700....has put a 6800 microprocessor in their newest radar gun. The object is to enhance the tactic Smokey uses now, where the pistol-grip rader is left off until its victim is well within range. then related suddenly and activated. He has your picture before your Puzzbuster has had time to make up, let alone your brake foot react. The micro-controlled gun operates with a modulation-controlling program which randomizes the transmitter's pulse width and repetition frequency; it also keeps the transmission duration so low that a detector doesn't have time to respond. I can't see any reasonable electronic countermeasure to this gun, particularly since its first accessory will be a camera to record your license number, the speed and the date photographically. This device will almost certainly obsolete the radar jammer anticipated in the September issue of Car & Driver, Which has, by the way, surfaced as one of the most libertarian straight publications I've seen. Check out this issue, sure, they're into making money for the publisher, but

you can read a lot of reality between the lines (schematics too).

Of course, all this technology is really irrelevant; as anyone who had ever contradicted a cop in traffic court knows, the judge listens to the cop. A prime example of this is the primitive timer used a lot in the south for speeding busts (Vascar). Any cop who can solve a timedistance-velocity equation can cheat on this just by flipping a switch a little early, yet the device looks real scientific in court, It's prohibited in California by V.C. 40802, which specifically precludes convictions based upon devices which measure the time required for you to traverse a certain distance. Related sections define a speed trap, outlaw the use of unmarked cars, identify an officer as legally incompetent if he attempts to introduce evidence based upon a speed trap or is not in full uniform, etc. The lesson to be learned is that one who drives at a reasonable speed (over 55) would be well advised to purchase a copy of his or her

state's motor vehicle code. I don't know if they all make this information available (it sure is subversive) but California does, and is required to by law. You aren't going to win by denying the violation, so you have to win by m) having a good lawyer (expensive and unreliable in most cases, not to mention the difficulty of finding one with the motivation to work on a low-profit case); b) knowing the law better than the cop who testifies; or c) knowing some loophole that will make them reticent in prosecuting. In the Bay Area I have found a couple of helpful bits of knowledge: first, as soon as you get a ticket, go to court and plead not guilty, asking for a trial date as late as the judge will allow. You will be arraighed and must be brought to trial within 45 days. In most cases, the court will be so backlogged that this will be impossible. If that doesn't happen, there is still a good chance that the cop won't show up because it's his day off, or that he will show up and will request a cantinuance. If he doesn't, you should, say your lawyer didn't show up, or whatever...just try to get the trial date postponed until after the 45 days have elapsed. If the cop isn't there (on any date agreed to by the judge, who has presumably consulted the prosecutor) or if 45 days have elapsed since you were arraigned, you may move immediately to have the case dismissed for lack of prosecution, and the judge must comply. Meedless to say, nobody at the courthouse is going to help you with this: in fact they will often bullshit you in an attempt to make you fuck up, so read the book. Remember, this court-and-lawyer stuff is just a game, and nobody involved takes it very seriously...they just think they do. Unfortunately, you as the defendant are the only person who has to tak- it seriously.

perhaps I should send out a plea for help in the area of countercomputers. The unfortunate truth is that most folks who don't trust the government, big business, & technology, also don't trust computers. But they're using computers, and the computer myths, to oppress us; the more we understand computers and other implements of modern societal control, the better chance we have to subvert them. And as most far subscribers know, the best way to understand something is play with it. Due to the miracles of modern technology we now have microprocessors little chips of milicon that can be taught todolots of interesting things, While I personally feel that they're being forced on designers and will soon take all the joy out of logic design (unless you happen to design logic for a semiconductor house) they do have the power of relatively cheap versatility. They never get tired of dialing, and they're capacle or extremely accurate timing, Quite a lucrative market has developed around putting little systems into boxes and selling them as computers to bored engineers in suburbia, but it's not necessary to spend \$2000 which is what they'd like. The KIM can be found for \$175 used, and with a lot of patience and a little ingenuity can be made to synthesize tones. close relay contacts, measure frequencies, learn and repeat control sequences, and so forth. For those with tools, the cost can be reduced to about \$50 by sleazing samples from manufacturers, copying someone else's manual, ripping off small parts and hand-wiring. (If you guys want an article on sample-sleazing, send me a few beans and 1'll find the time) Because the people who own personal computers tend to come from secial strata where both several hundred dollars and the requisite education come naturally, there aren't many revolutionary computerfreaks. There's

While I'm digressing from the subject of telephone systems.

a number of publishers trying to elbow in on the profits, but their political leanings prevent any exchange of sensitive information. So we need a medium through which we can transmit information.... information we desperately need, like encoding algorithms for airline computer network data transfer, access methods for the NCIC computers. and so forth. We have the medium (TAP) but which's THE INFORMATION? Just a few letters from interested folks appearing in TAP would probably supply the motivation for a lot more of us lazy fuckers. I'll be pleasantly surprised (as well as get my ego bookted) to hear from anyone with a desire to correspond in a less public manner, but I think everybody needs a fire lit under 'em. WHATDAPUCK?

Power Bus Lynn, velocity

who has been a faithful Black Box user for some time, beard a knock on the dimension evening --- it just happened to be three Telco security people whill had with them a computer print-out of every phone call that had been made to his phone since Moreh. I this year!! They had been alerted by the large number of "unanowered" walls to his. number. They asked him where he got the device (from a hitch-hiker), how not hold cost to build (who knows?), how is it made (didn't know), where is it (threw it ison), etc. They told him they know there are lots of Black Bokes all over the country and they have the means to detect them. They know there are a large number in the New York area. but right now the number is too large for them to go after. My cousin gave the Belt: \$400 as partial payment for the talks avoided, and they agreed not to prescente. Phose include this alert in the next TAP issue. I don't know what advice to give execut if neverybody to stop using Black Boxes for a month or so. That might confuse 'em a bit! The Answer Man-

This is a BLACK BOX ALERTIII About a month or six weeks ago my combin in lower,

FOUR MAN'S JAMES BOND AND THE SUFFICIOR POTH BY KURT SAKON.

INEOPMATION PAIN DATA SERVICE

Poor Man's James Sond is an availant and shorking book. It's tasically a manual of violent maybem that covers homewade weapons, arson, explosives, dirty tricks, and counterfeiting. Saxon accurately bills it as "the rost gutrameous book on improvised weaponry erer. FMJB is divided into two sections. The first

is by Saxon and concerns general do-it-

courself style mestiness and destruction. Typical topics are "tear pas", "onegical delay intiters", "the eleven shot shotgar", and took handline and protection. Material is clearly presented in Saxon's very unique and hurorous style. The plans and formulas are simple but effective and so are easily enacted by even the most drug-crezed and porally bankrupt TAP reader. The second half of PMJS is a technical paper

(ie: a porker). It's quite extensive and concentrates on the "how to's" of this growth industry. Bighly recognended for anyone who has a burning desire (ugh) to get even with the FoneCo. The only way in which PMJB can be faulted is

on arson written by a member of the other side

in the fact that a small amount of information is outdated and thus inaccurate. For exemple, appropriate (an explosive mentioned) is no longer available in plant purseries. Nicotice Insecticide, for which Saxon has a rather rovel use, has also gone the way of the three slot payfone. It is, however, only a small amount of information in PMJS that is erroneous and the enterprising reader will quickly discover what

material no longer applies.

The Survivor is a wonthly newsletter

published by Saxon. It's supposed to be a

continuation of PMJB but in my opinior does

not fulfill this role. It seems to be concerned with surviving some sort of vague catastrophe (as the name implies). I was never one for imminent disaster and do not find most of the material relevant. A lot of it deals with various aspects of (post blowout) primitive lifestyle such as tlacksmithing. windpower, Survival nutrition, etc. There is some material which corrects and adds to PMJP (the letters column is best in this respect) tut the rejority of the material in The Survivor is concerned with making it past that tig turmer. A lot of this information is simply regripts from old formularies that ilike Henley's) that Saxon is hig on but seem to be of little value. If you're itto the "coming crash" mentality you'd probably enjoy The Survivor. On the other hard, if you are the average technoptreak TAP reader who'd rather screw Hell than stalk the wild rutabaga it's of limited value. But PMJB is a seri late note: Saxon is now selling a new edition of PMJE that includes some additional texts on fireworks for \$10.70. I have not seen this new

for a worthly sub. Both are available from: Atlan Formularies, Fox 492, Eureka Calif 95501. * the name of this column cores from End's sonp "Miss Shapire": and the information rain slashed the dirty window cames in the square." Flease direct any comments, criticism, etc. to Information Rath Data Service c/o TAF. 1 at

edition but am sure it is well worth the money

telog asked. The Survivor is \$8.20 per year

estecially interested in applica if there is interest in having this become a regular column revelwing some of the more "unique" material teary sublished those days.



Dear TAP,

"Although we call TAP as 'information only' source, we do encourage all our renders to send an any hot type about a new gadget or development. No matter what sophisticated technology Ma Bell comes up with to enter us put, one of us always invents a way around it, shares it through the paper, and soon all the paressa are on top again." granned Eduson, termed a erack electronics specialist. "We've now become se popular we've rested an office at 1201 Smedway, room 608. It's open every Wadnesday alternoon until 9 p.m. Anyone can come ia and rap with us about phone problems, get infor-

mation, or just swap stories about what's going on in the acene. And we've even set up a sperial service called 'MEAT' so phresius can discover each other within their own cities." (Subscriptions are \$5 for 10 issues; \$7 first-class. Mailing address: TAP, room 506, 142 W. 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 100361.

aMethods for rurning traffic tights ergen while remaining in your curolatest schemes for getting free elecofflow to lower phone bilts every month. by repunching the computer card, creating a special refund that gets deducted from the next month's bill. Doesn't anybody ever get chuckt in a rip-off enterprise of this magnitude." "Oc-"Axionally." Edison admitted. But not often. We're extremely curvful. It's impossitie to telephone us, and we serven all our

requests very thoroughly. The ones that lauk suspicious get discouraging replies We sheed every sangle piece of discurded paper. Man. does ATT hate us," he chuckled. "You know, there's really nothing they can do. All their tracking machinery's facome so complex and expensive it's Armonishes for more to observe out and perfor every susperior " The above article originally appeared in the September 28th issue of THE VILLAGE VOICE in the Scenes column written by Howard Smith & Leslie Harlib. This is as good a time as any to publically thank the Voice and especially Smith & Harlib for giving us a plug now and again when we needed it. I've been a Voice subscriber for 18 years and I go back to when it was 10¢ and 10 pages. It's now 80¢ and well over 100 pages and

vote of thanks because it was his TAP plug in the September 1974 issue of the Voice that enabled me to write to TAP for a subscription which led eventually to my becoming Editor of TAP. A one year subscription costs \$18 or you may sub for half a year for \$9. Write to: The Voice, Subscription Dept., 643 Ryan Way, Marion, Chio 43332. Tell 'em Tom Edison sent ya. NEW RATES !! Bund Its es are 600 ears. 12 Page 12 - 12 usedes - US 9 Lk rate 55.

while some Voice readers feel that the new large size makes

the Voice less intimate. I personally feel that the increase in

size has made for a wider range of topics and writers. The

worth the price of the issue. I owe Howard Smith a personal

fascinating information in Smith's Scenes column alone is

First Hase in plain scaled correl per 37. innan b Messey Free Case 31. res is 46. 12 (2 5 5 15) Inquise most of 10 (1 7 Sector 2 pp. was returned to TAP by the bridge a contraction of _ - Noticeptly \$1,000

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Indicators show the craftsman trunk battery polarity. "NORMAL" polarity (Battery on Ring) lights one LED while "REVERSE" polarity (Battery on Tip) lights the other LED. Battery reversal supervision and signalling are guickly and unambiguously displayed. Parallel connected "TRUNK" Jacks allow other test Instruments to be connected to the trunk under test along with the 312A. This feature is particularly useful in transmission and noise testing with the 312A being used to outputse the proper test number for 1 milliwalt test tone or "quiet line" with an external level meter in parallel to measure the tone or noise level. An isolated and bridging "METER" jack is provided on the 312A for connecting instruments with unbalanced and/or low impedance Inputs to the trunk under test. Many instruments such as spectrum analyzers, wave analyzers, and vacuum lube voltmeters have such inputs and these are normally difficult to connect to a belanced trunk without a bridging amplifier. Six highly stable transistor oscillators provide the standard 700, 900, 1100, 1300, 1500, and 1700 Hz MF frequencies for producing all MF codes including KP2. Code 11, and Code 12, thus making the 312A useful for lesting CAMA, TSPS, and International Direct Distance Dial (IDDD) trunks. Normal power for the 312A is -48 VDC from the central office battery. With option 01 the 312A is powered either by the -48V central office battery or its own internal battery pack. Dear TAP, Thank you for your inquiry concerning the 312A MF & DP Trunk

Test Set. We are currently supplying a number of Bell System and Independent telephone companies with this test set. The

primary area of interest and application has been in switching maintenance. I have enclosed several data sheets for your convenience. The 312A Trunk Test Set is far less costly than competitive instruments, and yet has superior performance and features. The price of the 312A, which operates from both central office

battery supply and its own internal battery pack, is \$650. The small size and light weight makes the 312A very versatile and easy to use. If you or anyone else at your company would like more information regarding the 312A HY & DP Trunk Test Set, please call or write:

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I HEAR THE POLICE CHIEF IS

LAYING OFF MEN. HOOPLE! HE

SAYS HE CAN CUT DOWN, NOW

THAT YOUR BOARDING HOUSE.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD IS CHIPPING

CARTED OFF YOUR LATEST

IS ONLY HALF FUEL!

IN FOR A GIFT FOR THE AMBULANCE PRIVER WHO

FLAKE! HAW-HAW!

5Hz (0° to

Applications

ELECTRONICS INC. PO BOX 1497 MT VIEW, CA 94042

Dessert of Day:

The teacher became suspicious when students began wolding down

Pot Luck ... Two Kittatinny Regional High School students face juvenile court action because they added too much "apice" to brownies in a home economics class, police said. State police in Newton said yesterday that two 16-year-old boys in a cooking class in the school in the Sussex County community of Hampton loaded brownies with marljuana and passed them out to classmates.

the treats, police said.

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