

ADAM

by Faye Deere

Jim Notini, who works with the NIAD newsletter, sent me a beta copy of his new Wizard's Lair program, School Daze. It's geared to help youngsters with their math. It deals with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. It is divided into four sections: the first two deal with the math, and the other two are a list of Adam supporters and instructions for the program. Parents should read these instructions, and then explain to the child how to play the math games.

If you press SmartKEY I, you are taken into the section that deals with all kinds of math drills. You choose the drill. Then it gives you a problem, and asks for an answer. If the answer is correct, a smiling face appears on your report card, and another question comes up. If you answer incorrectly, a frowning face appears. At the bottom of the screen, you are told how many questions you correctly answered, and it gives you a score.

This section is particularly good for multiplication-table drills. I had a terrible time with those when I was a kid, and would have welcomed a game like this. Something like this would have been great even when my kids were growing up.

When the series of questions is finished, you are asked to choose another question or Escape. You can then return to the main menu, continue, or restart.

If you choose to go back to the main menu and press SmartKEY II, you enter the section called Math Climber. When it is finished loading, you are faced with a castle wall and a drawbridge. A ladder is next to the drawbridge. A problem comes up in the little window on the other side of the drawbridge; it may deal with any type of math. If you answer it correctly, the little man on the ladder climbs to the next rung, and you are presented with the next problem.

Here again, the program will

answered enough questions correctly, your man finally makes it to the top of the castle wall. Congratulations, you've won. You can then start over or quit.

The only thing I might possibly change on this program is the drawbridge. I would have made it come down when the little man reached the top of the castle. I played this game and thought it was well done, and enough to hold a youngster's interest. I discovered to my horror, though, that I am no better at math now than when I was a kid—how depressing! Where would we be without calculators? To order this program, get in touch with Jim Notini at NIAD, P.O. Box 1317, Lisle, IL 60532; phone (708) 961-3529.

It seems that In House Service has gone out of business. That company was among the first to make double-sided disk drives for the Adam. Terry Fowler states that he has bought out their inventory, and once everything has been tested, they will be offered for sale. I'll let you know more as I get the information. Contact Terry Fowler at Adam's House, Route 2, Box 2756, Pearland, TX 77581; phone (713) 482-5040.

The following item was in the August issue of the Metro Orlando Adam Users Group (MOAUG) newsletter. From what I understand, it was a message on CompuServe. The Adam ImageMaker (AIM) was announced by Gary Bowser of Oasis Pensive Abacutors at the meeting.

Gary has been selling products for the TI 99/40, which uses the same video chip as Adam. The AIM is based on the V9938 chip, which is software-compatible with Adam's chip, but offers many enhanced capabilities. I've seen it running on the TI computer myself, and it's really quite impressive, especially for graphics. The unit will be an "expansion module" which just hooks onto the right side of the Adam. There's nothing to take apart; installation should be really simple. The following is promised: software

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Here again, the program will track your score. If you give the wrong answer, the little man slips back one rung. If you give too many wrong answers, and don't reach the top of the castle wall before the series of questions is finished, you have to start all over.

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graphics mode, each pixel can be any of 256 colors; 512 x 192/212 graphics mode, pixels can be any of 16 colors chosen from the 256 in the palette; 32 sprites with up to 8 per horizontal line; plus all your present software will work as normal.

Cost will be around \$300 Canadian (about \$255 U.S.) or maybe

I'm anxious to try it out with GoDOS. It should make working with GoBASIC something next to heaven! To contact Ed Jenkins about the MegaRAM memory expander, write E & T Software, 1010 Westminster, Garland, TX 75040.

Speaking of GoDOS and memory expanders, I recently tried to

MegaRAM 256K memory expanders are dropping in price, due to a predicted drop in the price of memory chips.

even less. I wonder if this would be compatible with GoDOS and GoBASIC?

Syd Carter of Trisyd in Canada tells me that he has perfected a formatter that can increase the storage space on your data packs from 256K to 306K. This is almost as much as a double-sided disk. It's certainly more than your tapes will now hold. He tells me that he thinks he can eventually increase the storage to 16Mb—using a longer tape than the C-60 that is now used, of course. He is looking to be able to format a C-90 in the 400+ range in the near future.

The MegaRAM 256K memory expanders are dropping in price, due to a predicted drop in the price of memory chips. NIAD recently advertised them for \$149.95 with the one SIP that makes the 256K. If you remember, adding three more SIPs would give you 1Mb of memory expansion! Can you imagine all that memory on your little old Adam? The additional SIPs can be purchased separately for \$59.95 each, and installed at any time.

Since I already have the Walters Software Co. program RAMDisk, I'm hoping I can load several pro-

demonstrate the capabilities of GoDOS to our ECAUG club members. Every time I booted GoDOS, it asked for my password. I would enter the password, and the program would tell me the password was wrong and force me to reboot. I was finally convinced I was using the wrong password. I got the original copy of GoDOS and discovered that I WAS using the right password! So what went wrong?

I was using an unfamiliar Adam and didn't realize that it did not have a memory expander in it! I never considered that the Adam I was using at the meeting might not have at least a 64K memory expander in it. If you are planning on exploring the wonderful world of GoDOS, folks, remember that it WILL NOT WORK without at least a 64K memory expander. Plan on getting one, since you won't want to miss the terrific programs that are going to be coming out for use with the new GoDOS system developed by Solomon Swift. I talked to both Swift and Tony Patterson, and they tell me that their terrific newsletter, Nibbles & Bits, is back on line. To contact Patterson or Swift about

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Since I already have the Walters Software Co. program RAMDisk, I'm hoping I can load several programs into the RAM and interact between them. It's rather like having a hard disk drive to work from. It will be interesting to find out what happens when I do something stupid, and have to reboot SmartBASIC. I'll let you know how things go.

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I understand that a new company called the Gerlach Family Software Company has been formed. It deals with graphics for such programs as

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PowerPAINT, Clipper, and SmartLOGO. It recently released its first commercial educational program, "Learning Turkish with Adam." I'm told that the artwork on the programs for PowerPAINT, etc. is terrific, and the company plans future educational programs, such as learning German, a SAT vocabulary review, and others. For a free

catalog, just send an SASE to Gerlach Family Software, P.O. Box 175, Ft. Campbell, KY 42223.

Another catalog you might want to send for is the CP/M disk conversions catalog from Elliam Associates. They do conversions for Adam, and I understand that they have one of the best selections of CP/M programs available. They can

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be contacted at: Elliam Associates, P.O. Box 2664, Atascadero, CA 93423; phone (805) 466-8440.

A company that the Adam community had thought was no longer in existence is alive and well. Eve Electronics is now E.E.S. Companies and still offers the 80-column units that can be used with the Adam in CP/M. It also offers CP/M conver-

sions, and does disk-drive conversions as well. For a free catalog, write to them at: E.E.S. Companies, 2 Vernon St., Suite 404, Framingham, MA 01701; phone (508) 650-1872.

If you would like to correspond with me, my address is 411B North Sea Lane, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548. If you want a reply, please enclose an SASE.