MAC Q & A
by Jonathan E. Hardis

Leftovers: In January's Quickies, I mentioned a tip for getting the Imagewriter II to print bidirectionally. I hid it there, since I couldn't test it, and since I didn't know the antidote. A reader called to confirm the tip, and to offer the reverse operation. That is, hold down Caps Lock, Shift, Option *and Command* when clicking "OK". On another topic, Rich Fay wrote to say that Assimilation Products trackballs are manufactured by Cambridge Automation, 20230 State Road, Cerritos, CA 90701. They can provide parts and maintenance. The ads in the major Mac magazines from Kensington show that they've picked up the product, too.

Q: I don't have a LaserWriter. But I prepare documents for printing on one. How do I be sure that things like margins will be correct?

A: The main thing is to make sure you have current System software. Today, that includes System 3.2, Finder 5.3, and the LaserWriter driver 3.1. (After the new product announcements in March, these will be updated.) Then, using the Control Panel, mark AppleTalk as connected, even if it isn't. Using the Chooser desk accessory, you can select "LaserWriter" as your printer. Thereafter, programs you run (such as MacDraw) will adjust their page margins accordingly. (You may have to select "Page Setup" from the menus if the program is already running in order for it to notice the adjustment.) Some programs, such as MacWrite, will have rulers that don't scale right on the LaserWriter. But LaserWriter printing and "Tall Adjusted" ImageWriter printing should look the same.

Make sure that you've installed, and use, the LaserWriter fonts (such as Times, Helvetica, Courier, and Symbol) that were released after the Mac Plus. One way to tell is to look at the symbol Option-Shift-K using Key Caps. The newer fonts have an Apple symbol there, while the older ones have the missing character rectangle. If you have to install the fonts in your System file, make sure you use Font/DA Mover version 3.2 or later.

There are some remaining details that are next to impos- sible to tweek until you see real LaserWriter printing. Bit map graphics (from MacPaint or Thunderscan, for exam- ple) don't always line up as you would expect with struc- tures from MacDraw. Also, text that lines up on the screen may not line up when printed. Right Justified text is the best example. The reasons for these effects are known, and are just starting to be repaired in major soft- ware. See, for example, the next question.

Q: How can I stop PageMaker from screwing up the spacing of my text?

A: You need three things. First, you need to install the LaserWriter screen fonts that contain full LaserWriter character width information. They are really font families, with separate data for plain, bold, italic, and bold-italic styles. Aldus can supply the fonts for Helvetica and Times. You may have to buy the others from Adobe Systems. (Note: I don't mean their downloadable fonts, just the revised versions of their screen fonts.) Secondly, you need version 1.2.3 (or later) of the AldusPrep file. Third, you need an Aldus supplied desk accessory called WYSSY. It will enable the use of the extra font information by enabling features found in the newer (128K) Macintosh ROMs. For information on getting this material, call Aldus Customer Service. For the technical background on what's going on, see Apple Tech Note 92, and the Font Manager chapter of Inside Macintosh, Volume 4.

Q: Help! When I try to open a PageMaker document, I get the message "Open Stopped - you have used all available memory." This doesn't seem to be the case. How can I recover my document?

A: After long conversations with Aldus, the answer is you can't. There is a bug in PageMaker that causes documents to become hopelessly scrambled, leading to that message. Aldus claims that the bug is intermittent, rare, most likely associated with the newer (128K) ROMs, less likely to occur with System 3.2, and not reproducible in-house. However, Version 2.0 will no longer write documents in the same way, and the assumption is that the bug will vanish on its own. In the meantime, they recommend that you *never* "Save..." a document over itself. *Always* "Save As..." a new document with a different name. This way, you would be able to go back a generation or two if your latest file becomes corrupted. There is also an indication that the bug only bites when you overwrite with "Save...". (Ed. Note: Contrary to Aldus' advice, we almost always use "Save" when changes are made, and we have never experienced this problem in version 1.2.) For the technically oriented, PageMaker documents are resource files, and they feel that the bug might be in the ROM. PageMaker 2.0 will minimize reliance on the Resource Manager. Fred Shower also recommends that you only import "Text Only" files into PageMaker, and limit individual documents to 8-12 pages.

Q: What's PageMaker 2.0 like?

A: PageMaker has been completely rewritten. Both the Mac and PC versions share a lot of programming in common, and they have a common data file format. (The Mac version will have more features, of course.) The program will come with a new manual, and won't be copy blocked. Registered users will be able to upgrade for $75; those who have paid for Extended Technical Support will be charged half of that. Recent buyers (since September) will be upgraded for free.

Q: Every time I return to the Finder (viewing the