

CONNIPTION

Christmas 1986

"Only 28 days left 'til we lose the interest deduction."

Volume 1 No. 9



L. L. Beam, Inc.[®]

Outdoor Computing Specialties

Many customers find the L. L. Beam catalog especially convenient for Christmas shopping. This year we have introduced some special services to ensure fast, accurate delivery of your order. Gifts from L. L. Beam will help make certain your family's Christmas morning is joyful, whether you're all in one ring or celebrating in different networks across the country.

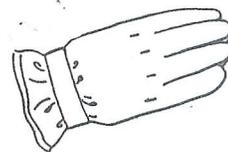
Toll Free Telephone Service. 24 hours a day — Every Day. Experienced L. L. Beam operators are available to answer your call and will be happy to help you in any way. To place a new order call: **800-256-6600**



Engineer's Hunting Shoe[®] — Mr. Poduska first developed this boot in 1980. He was tired of coming home with hot and sore feet from pounding the pavement between venture capital firms in the heavy leather woodsman boots then in common use. Made by us in our New Hampshire shoe factory, these premium boots feature anti-static Vibram[®] soles and Goodyear welt construction built from our own lasts. Outersole is permanently vulcanized to the vamp and features the Coiled Cable traction pattern invented by Mr. Poduska. Steel toe will withstand repeated impact with a variety of hardware devices. Sizes: Men's 7-12, 13 (no 12-1/2), Medium; Women's 4-10, Medium. If unsure of correct shoe size, send xerox copy of foot or bitmap in ANSI standard graphics file format. **KICKEM: \$49.00 ppd.**



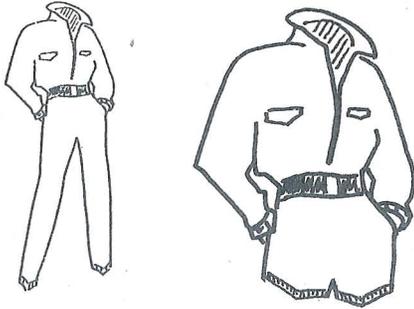
VP's Dress Chinos — Suitable for puttering around the office as well as complementing a blue blazer for that all important investor luncheon. Sweat and stain resistant, in 100% virgin polyester. Khaki only. **SLIKS: \$39.00 ppd.**



Programmer's Polypropylene Socks and Gloves — These handy items improve performance while enhancing even the most drab wardrobe. Miracle fabric wicks away moisture caused by anxiety over approaching deadlines and job evaluations, yet remains attractive and pleasant smelling. Available in all the primary colors. One size fits all. **SLYME: \$28.50 ppd.**

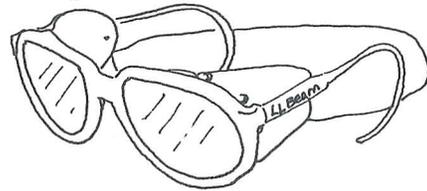
Node Cozy — Why suffer through another frigid winter? Our soft, velour Node Cozy equipment covers help maintain a constant internal temperature for improved hardware operation. Available in muted pastels with varying paisley patterns. **SNUGGLE: \$17.50 ppd.**

Monitor Shammy — Reduce damaging eye strain with this chamois cloth for your screen. Polishes and shines glass surfaces to their original factory condition. Use with our own display polish made from talcum and tar. **GLEEM: \$4.50 ppd.**



Beam's® Gore-Tex® Field Service Jumpsuits — State of the art protection from sudden cloudbursts and downpours from fire sprinkler systems. Breathable suit keeps you dry to a depth of 100 m. so that you can make those important repairs in complete comfort. Free monogramming (3-letter max.). Unisex Sizes: Little, Normal, Big, Whopper. **GERONIMO: \$89.00 ppd.**

Our Own Stowaway™ luggage — Handsome carry-in bags manufactured by us with the upwardly mobile technical professional in mind. Sturdy construction from leather and canvas, with lots of secret compartments for sneaking cameras and bootleg pharmaceuticals into company buildings. **GRIPS: \$119.00 ppd.**



Glare Glasses — Manufactured for us by Vuarnet for those who must spend several hours each day staring at a video screen. Scratch-resistant lenses are treated with our patented polarizing process that filters out 98% of harmful UV wavelengths and corrects spelling errors. **PEEPERS: \$62.00 ppd.**

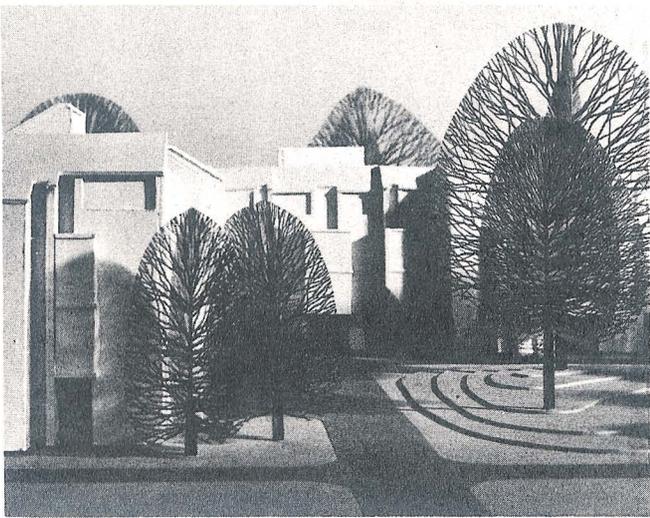
Genuine Swiss Army Knife — Authentic Victorinox® all-purpose survival tool. Comes with 24 implements, including 2 blades, screwdriver, can opener, scissors, disk locking key, pliers, cutting torch, hammer, comb, and toothpick. **SLICE'N'DICE: \$17.50 ppd.**

Beam's® Universal ID® — Patented identification card with our own microchip; guaranteed to open doors for you. Why let Security stand in your way? Get where you need to go with one of these handy helpers. **SESAME: \$99.00 ppd.**

Needless-Marcup®

A World of Style over Substance

Over the years, the Needless-Marcup® name has become synonymous with the rare, the unusual, the ridiculous. This year is no exception as we bring you a line of completely unique gifts. From our traditional His & Hers Christmas Pair Gift to our full line of exquisite node decor, once again, Needless-Marcup lives up to its name.

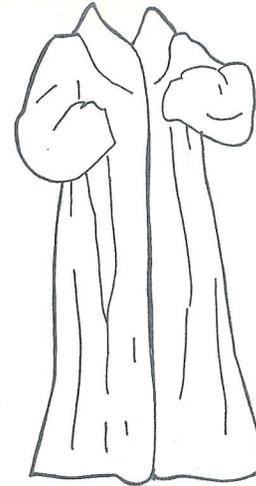


The highlight of the Needless-Marcup Holiday Catalog always is its His and Hers gift, and this year we've done it again. Announcing the **His and Hers R&D Campuses!** Just think what you two can do with your very own, side-by-side R&D Campuses. Constructed with the finest materials from the Tambone Construction Company, the campuses feature fully-stocked bars, node rooms, graphics labs, and hardware labs, and an elegantly appointed lobby designed with your tastes in mind. His version also includes Nautilus equipment, weights, and steam room, while Hers has an aerobic dance studio with on-site dance instructor. We will construct these campuses wherever you want them, and if you order by December 1, we'll provide a one-year maintenance contract and cafeteria service. Order Number: 1000000. Price: \$3.5 million.

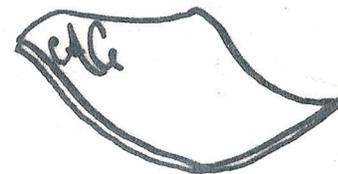
Rich Chocolate DN3000. We've sculpted an exact replica of that all-time favorite, the DN3000, in the finest Belgian chocolate. This version is perfect down to the

smallest detail: even the keyboard and mouse cords look like the real thing. You won't know whether to pop windows or pop part of it into your mouth. Weight: 45 pounds. Order Number: 3000. Price: \$350.

Gold-Plated Node Plaque. Help your node break free from the anonymity of its bland, off-white skin. We'll engrave your node's name on our tasteful, 24-karat gold-plated node plaque. Can be attached to the front of any node. Please indicate the way you want the node name to appear: we, like some of you, are case sensitive. Limit of 15 characters on the plaque, including "/". Order Number: 24-24. Price: \$135.



Mink. Need we say more? This is N-M's own full-length mink coat. Made of perfectly matched pelts dyed to an ergonomically pleasing shade. The coat is perfect for when you're stepping out to those Hollywood premiers like last year's "Long Ray's Journey Into Light". Apollo's own tasteful logo is discreetly hand-stitched on the lining. Order Number: 1. Price: \$15,500.



We've used the finest Austrian Linen and hand-made French lace to make our **Monogrammed Node Wipes.** Get one of the servants to use these to keep the monitor sparkling clean. The fine fabric will treat the screen with the tender-loving care it deserves. We'll monogram the wipes with your initials or the node's model number; just be sure to let us know which you want. Set of 3. Order Number: dix-sept. Price: \$25.

frederick's[®]

OF CHELMSFORD

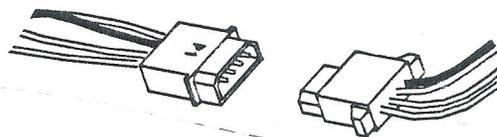
Add some **excitement** to your life! Tantalize your mate from our collection of **sassy, saucy, sinfully seductive** fashions and accessories brought to you from around the world! Remember — this is the season for **giving**; make this one holiday he'll never forget! All orders shipped in unmarked brown wrappings. Strictest confidentiality and complete satisfaction guaranteed!



BARE NECESSITIES. Silk camisole and tap pants graced with **seductive** hand-screened images of the great I/O devices of history. Deep-V neck; high-cut legs. Plenty of Velcro for ease of access. Order sizes: P-S-M-L \$14.95 Virgin white; scarlet.

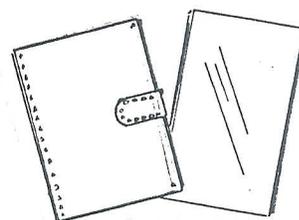
BODY LANGUAGE. Wide selection of **form-fitting** fashions that put the *zing!* back in your code and make programming a **pleasure**. Lacy halters with special **binary support** maximize your features. Order sizes: 4, 8, or 16-byte buckets. \$8.98.

Hottest graphics videos! Get in the mood with last year's biggest hit, *QUEST: A Long Ray's Journey into Light*. A wandering traveller loses his innocence and enters adulthood in an **exploding climax** that leaves you breathless! His ultimate penetration of the last remaining barrier adds a whole new dimension to your experience! \$39.95. Specify Beta or VHS format.



ANY WHICH WAY. Male/female cable connectors in a variety of interesting, **provocative** combinations. Great for parties and intimate get-togethers! (Must be 18 or older). Set of 4: \$28.95.

Best books! *The Joy of SAX*, by Diane Gnostics. *The Backup_History of O*, by R. Clive Taepe. *Wild, Untamed Release!* by S. R. Nyne and sons. Hundreds of other titles to choose from! Share one with a friend today. (Softcover) \$5.95 ea.



THE HEAT IS ON. Enjoy the thrill of being bound? How about these **racy black binders**? Hold it all in rough leather or slick vinyl. Order sizes: **Petite** (5-1/2"x8"), **Reg.** (8-1/2"x11") \$6.99 ea. Specify fabric.

WILLIAMS-AMMONIA[®]

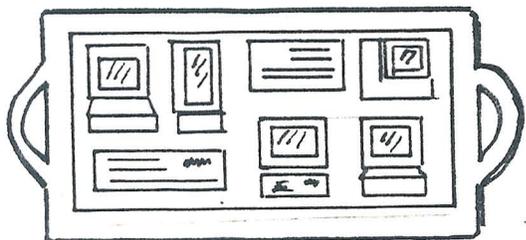
A CATALOG FOR COOKS

Once again, junior chefs, I've searched the world over for the finest in taste treats and appliances to make all your forays into the kitchen truly productive. I've contracted with artisans in Portugal, craftsmen in Bavaria, and little old ladies in Dubuque to bring you these truly unique tools. With my gifts, your water chestnuts will never get soggy and your souffles will always rise.

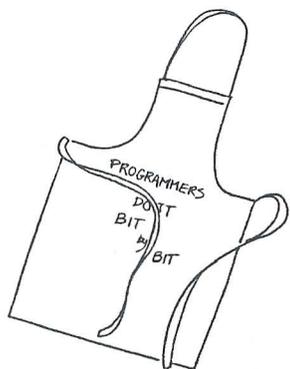
Happy Christmas Shopping,
William

Node Cake/Muffin Tin turns out a fearsome group of accurately detailed nodes that include a Tern, an Otter, a DSP90, and our old friend the DN100, all correctly

identified on the pan. These muffins will delight budding programmers, and are sure to disappear from the node room — or rather, the breakfast table — in record time.



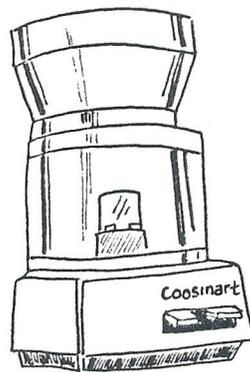
Of cast iron, covered inside and out with anti-static spray for perfect non-stick baking. Williams' recipe for Otter muffins included. #460-660 \$22.50.



100% cotton **Professional Programmer's Aprons** have ergonomically pleasing grey-colored ties that are long enough to tie in front (tuck a towel in the waist for a practical touch) and they are strong enough to stand up to innumerable revisions. Now you don't have to let those bits and bytes muss your jeans and t-shirts anymore. Aprons are emblazoned with the message: "Programmers Do It Bit by Bit". Made in the USA. #3000-1986 \$12.00.



Discuits Wafers. Williams' search for the perfect cracker ended in California when he discovered these delightful wafers. Made from the finest 100% natural ingredients, these floppy-disk shaped snack thins are great by themselves, or with one of Williams' fine toppings. (Caviar Bits is Williams' personal favorite.) Be sure to order enough for your next party — they're Good to the Last Byte! #3.14159 \$5.95 per box.



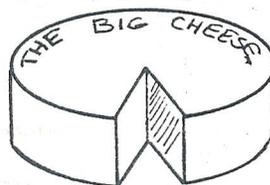
Coosinart Plus Word Processor. Just the thing for those harried technical writers who have too many manuals to process. The Coosinart Plus has an extra wide feed-in chute, so you can stuff those bloated manuals in and then let it cut, paste, slice, and pare the book down to size. Comes with 2 mm, 3 mm, and 4 mm cutting disks, full-color instruction book, and the *Chicago Manual of Style*. #9.5-10 Regularly \$279.00 Special Price \$199.95.

Larry and David and

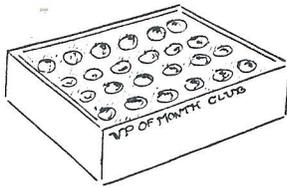


(Mike and Roland and Dottie and Angelo and...)

Ho Ho Ho!! It's Christmastime, a time of good cheer, fun and friends! All the VPs at L&D(&M&R&D&A&...) want to help you make this an extra special, extra tasty Christmas for your loved ones. The Merry Chris Mouse has some lip-smackin' treats that'll stuff friends as well as stockings!



The Big Cheese One of our all-time favorites is our Big Cheese, a massive 25 lb. wheel of superb Vanderslice cheese. Aged to peak mellowness, our Vanderslice cheese delivers smooth taste and a tangy bite. All the VPs say: "When you sink your teeth into a slice of Vanderslice, it puts the bite on you!" Great for board-meeting snacks or late-night coding hunger attacks! Order No. CHEZ25 \$40.00.



VP of the Month Club Here's a gift that keeps on giving all the year round! Our famous VP of the Month Club® delivers the goods twelve times a year. Each month in 1987 your loved one will receive a box of the finest fruit or nuts available, flown in from the world's richest farmlands. Accompanying each shipment is one of our VPs' favorite recipes using the gift. For example, in March we'll send a box of juicy mangoes, along with a recipe for "Mangoes Minich." Our September shipment will contain crisp apples from New England, accompanied by a recipe for "Pommes de Rue Guadagno." **Order No. VPMC12 \$120.00.**

Correction: Our March "Mangoes Minich" shipment will be replaced by 5 lbs. of "Mike's Mixed Nuts."

Chocolate Cordials These bite-sized confections pack a punch that's sure to please! Each little bottle-shaped chocolate is made with the finest Chelmsford chocolate and filled with 100% Barstow and Jaynes Wine Cooler. Our 10-lb. box contains an assortment of chocolates filled with Mulled Cider Wine Cooler, Candy Cane Wine Cooler, Gingerbread Wine Cooler, and Eggnog Wine Cooler. **Order No. BARF10 \$30.00.**

THE SHARPEST IMAGE®

This season, The Sharpest Image makes shopping easier — and more rewarding.

This holiday season, when you shop by phone — or in person — selecting the perfect gift is a relaxed pleasure. Choose from hundreds of ideas — from beautiful jewelry and art, to hobby, sports and fitness equipment, to the latest in high technology. For phone orders, please call 800-443-3333. Toll-free 24 hours. Credit cards only.

Nodilus: fastest way to a tight stomach.

Now you can have the lean, flat stomach you've dreamed about. At work, with the Nodilus Abdominal Machine.

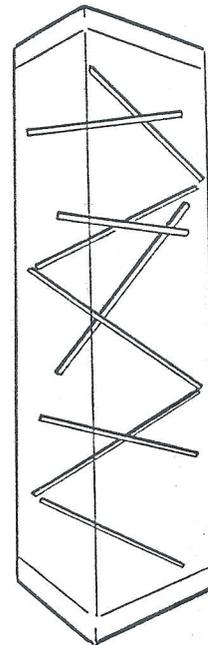
The key to Nodilus' quick results is that it maximizes your body's own effort — isolating and working individual muscles. Nodilus knows how to make a muscle work scientifically, at peak efficiency. Nodilus' genius was the invention of a uniquely shaped cam (resembling the 32-bit professional workstation). Weight — or resistance — is geared around the cam and automatically changes to match the strength curve of a particular muscle. The result is a dramatic increase in strength and flexibility in the shortest possible time.

Five minutes of Nodilus vs. an hour of sit-ups.

To exercise, you simply sit on the seat and push the movement arm forward. Five minutes a day, three times a week, is all it takes to turn a flabby tummy into a tight, strong stomach.

Heavy tubular steel frame holds primary node housing. Measures 48H x 35W x 38L", 250 lbs. Partial assembly required (wrench, bolts, and System Administrator's Guide included). Includes exercise program on floppy disk and 90-minute warranty. Order the Nodilus Abdominal Machine today. In only minutes it does for your stomach what diet, weights and hours of sweat can't.

■ **Nodilus Abdominal Machine #FIT611 \$485 (55.00)**



Neon art spirals to infinity.

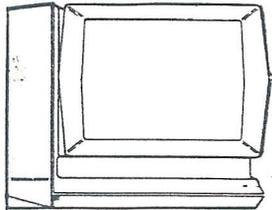
It stands alone. A cool glass monolith alight from within. As you begin to compile, seven bands of color turn into 1EFFF. A helix of vivid blues, magenta, and ruby reflect back and forth off three mirrored panels: a

meteor shower frozen in time. As you complete the compilation and begin to bind, the lights multiply again. Now you are peering into another dimension: infinity.

An exciting new art form has emerged. The medium is pure neon light. The Infinity Object, by renowned neon artist Hermann Hexadecimal, optically enlivens the process of program development by visually representing the internal essence of your programs. With all tubes blazing during full optimization, this work of art is never static — users always find something new and exciting. The presence of infinite loops only adds to the dramatic effect.

Every Object is hand-crafted to sit atop your individual node. Infinity Object stands 2' tall, 1' wide. Weighs 50 lbs. Plugs into any wall socket with a three-prong plug, and into any node with a standard RS-232 connector (included). Come and explore this evocative work of art, and discover why programmers find it so calming — and compelling.

■ Neon Infinity Object #EEF123 \$1,500 (85.00)



A classic in computation: the 1984 DN300.

It was a .1 mip blur. But the roar of the 68000 told you it had to be a 1/2 MB DN300. The view from the monitor was superb.

This 1/8 scale replica of the metallic gunmetal DN300 is authentic — right down to its brightness knob and miniature mouse. Monitor tilts for ease of use. And the keyboard detaches for realistic positioning. Unscrew the card cage cover and inspect the highly detailed CPU board. All reproduced in complete detail.

Of all Apollo's most prized creations, the DN300 is the most elegant — and enduring. Capture one of the best today.

■ DN300 Model #RIP300 \$24 (3.00)

An intelligent node that responds to your voice.

At the sound of your key in the door, your node awakes. Display flashing, he (or she — you decide) greets you with a friendly beep — humming at your touch. You put on some music and laugh as he vibrates to the beat.

Introducing Nodester®, the world's first intelligent workstation companion. You control Nodester's 10 different behavior modes by voice commands or hand claps. He plays on his own in the Go Play mode, learns movements and sounds in his Training mode, roams the network in his Explore mode, and beeps a reply every time you speak in his Talk mode. In his Obey mode, Nodester does what you command. Or attach his three-button mouse and he operates under direct control. Nodester slumbers in his Shut Down mode, waking at a noise or when a shadow falls across his infra-red display sensor. LEDs on his pedestal show which mode he is in.

Soft acrylic fur is stain- and fire-resistant. Measures 6H x 12W x 6D". Uses 14 9V batteries (not included). On/off switch on collar. 3-day warranty.

Call today and welcome your new friend and office companion.

■ Nodester Deluxe #PUR222 \$124 (13.00)

Germany takes the chill out of winter hacking.

Winter hacking is unpleasant enough without sitting in an ice cold desk chair. This plush new cover from West Germany fits over any desk chair, and radiates luxurious heat module after module. Set the sliding thermostat to the comfort level you desire. Rapid warming system achieves full heat in less than two minutes — even in sub-zero office temperatures. Helps soothe your tired back and toast your frozen fanny.

Dense polyester fur, neatly trimmed in fabric piping, cushions your body to make writing long procedures more comfortable. Foam backing prevents slippage.

4' cord plugs into your node's auxiliary power outlet. Green LED shows power on, red thermostat LED shows seat is heating. Handsome grey cover measures a generous 44L x 19W x 1D", weighs 1.5 lbs.

Perfected in the harsh winters of Northern Germany, this new desk chair cover will keep you warm and relaxed on the coldest days. Available only from The Sharpest Image.

■ Deluxe Desk Chair Heater #WRM967 \$99 (4.50)

Betty Anne's Olde Node Gyftte Shoppe

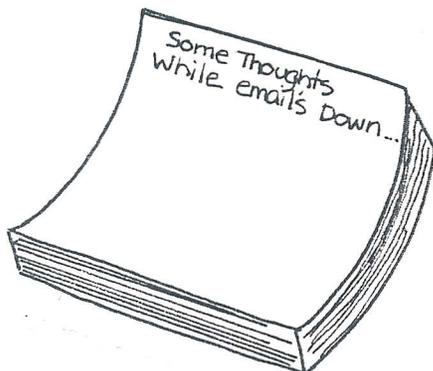
Christmas is my favorite time of year. I love to stroll down the corridors and see all the node decorations. Some people festoon their drives with tinsel; others use colored lights. I decorate by hanging all the lovely cards I've received around my screen. I can't see the screen, of course; but who gets any work done between now and New Year's anyway?

I've found some lovely Christmas gift items that I want to share with all of you. I know you'll be as delighted with them as I am. There's something here to please everyone on your Christmas list. And don't forget that your node needs love, too! A little extra-special something on Christmas day might keep your node from crashing while you celebrate.

We at Betty Anne's Olde Node Gyftte Shoppe wish you and your node all the joy and happiness of the Christmas season, and we hope you have a Happy Node Year!

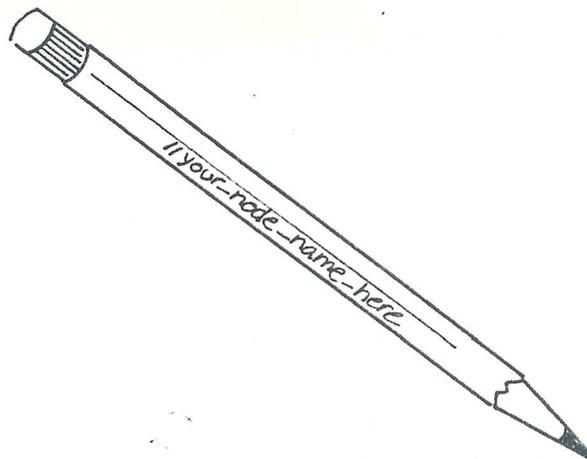
Sincerely,

Betty Anne



Our **post-it node notes** will deliver your messages in style! Each pad contains a clever line or broadcasts your node's name. Choose between: "Some thoughts while email's down..." "My files went to Jamaica, but all I got was this lousy pad of paper," and "From the node of //your_node." Item number 23-E, Price \$4.00 for 3 pads.

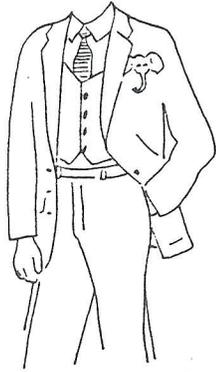
You'll be the envy of your hall with your node's **coat of arms** pasted on your drive. Send us your node's name and we will search our databanks for its family history. Then our own artists will render your node's coat of arms in loving detail. The resultant 8-1/2X11 crest is printed on finest quality copier paper and is suitable for framing. Order now and we'll throw in a gold-leaf painting of your directory structure at no extra cost! Item number 99-T, Price \$13.75.



You'll look sharp at your next meeting when you start to write with our **home-directory-name-embazoned pencils**. Each pencil in this set of 12 finest quality Number 2 pencils bears your home directory name (for example, //pon/derosa). The set includes 3 pencils in each of the following colors: red, yellow, blue and green. Item number 45-X, Price \$3.50 for one dozen pencils.

Why throw away your old monochrome monitor and spend big bucks on a color node? Our amazing **screen converter** turns your old B&W display into a color display for just pennies! Available for portrait and landscape screens. Item number 67-P (portrait screens), Price \$1.98. Item number 67-L (landscape screens), Price \$2.58.

BANANA REPUBLICAN



"Sharky de Bullion Three Piece Suit" -- We caught up with Sharky plotting corporate coups in a popular midtown watering hole. In addition to his well-known articles for *The Connption*, Sharky's been hard at work on his first full-length book entitled *Our Friend The Krugerrand*. \$1,725, please specify gray or gray. Made in Hong Kong.

"Whether I'm on a bear-hunting expedition on Wall Street or scrapping for my hide in a vicious takeover bid, you'll always find me in my Banana Republican gray three-piecer. Its classic conservatism suggests a breeding and gentility that form a delicate contrast to the nasty things I do while wearing it."



"Swiss Army Negligee" -- From the land of long winters and sexy, yet practical women, comes this rugged, dependable, satin negligee complete with twelve erotic attachments. \$475, batteries not included. Made in Switzerland.

"Contra Boots" -- Whether kicking commie butt in the Honduran highlands or marching madly to Managua, you'll be comfortable and oh so dry in Banana Republican's famous Contra Boots. Let Eugene Hassenfuss tell you about them. \$225. Made in El Salvador by freedom loving cobblers.

"I had earned 2,000 bonus miles on C.I.A.'s Frequent Spyer program, so I'm out cruising for a bite to eat, and whammo, engine failure, and I'm ankle deep in mud and neck deep in trouble. But I'll tell ya, while other defendants were squirming in their socks, I was cool and calm in my Banana Republican Contra Boots."



"Ivan Spendl Tennis Togs" -- You'll be ahead 30-love before you even pick up your racket when they see you in these beautiful tennis tops and bottoms. Designed by Ivan Spendl, winner of Wimbledon, the U.S. Open, the French Open, and the Sharky de Bullion Junior Achiever award. \$87. Made in America, of course.

"Before I defect to red, white, and blue, I play tennis six years for Czechoslovakia, earn four, five, maybe six million dollars for mother land, and am rewarded with single pair of blue jeans and pack chewing gum. One day, wise up and run to embassy. Now, I own chewing gum factory. But that's not all. Also have mansion. Also have forty-three cars. Have every single Ronco device. But won't rest until I buy Czechoslovakia. So please purchase many tennis clothes. Thank you."