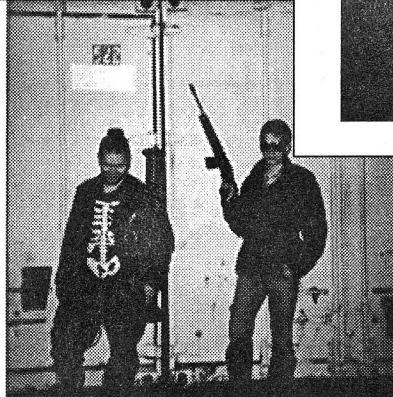
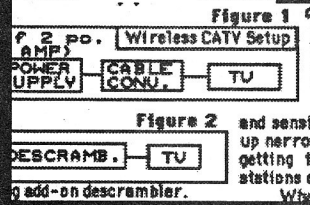


MRR: For somebody with absolutely no knowledge of these matters, define the *Cyberpunk Technical Journal*.

ICOM: The *Cyberpunk Technical Journal* is a source of technical information for cyberpunks. It's basically a tool. It gives people information to help them survive both now and for whatever happens in the future. It's for people who wish to exist as free citizens in a totalitarian state.



↑ Thomas Icom
NECROSS Sinaister



MRR: How would one define "cyberpunk"?

ICOM: A cyberpunk is a hacker with a social conscience. The term "cyberpunk" was originally started as a literary movement and it's grown into an entire culture. The cyberpunk movement is a mixture of the hacker movement of the 1980's with the punk rock movement of the 1970's. They're people who are into high technology who are trying to use that technology to change things for the better. The basic attitude of cyberpunk is that you should grab onto technology with both hands and hang on.

CYBERTEK

INTERVIEW WITH TOM ICOM, PUBLISHER OF THE CYBERPUNK TECHNICAL JOURNAL
A.K.A. CYBERTEK, CONDUCTED 11/15/92.

MRR: I would assume the punk rock reference has more to do with the anarchistic attitude than the fashion attitude?

ICOM: Yes, cyberpunk does have its own fashion, but as the men from Mongo would say, real cyberpunks wear just about whatever they want to.

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MRR: What could one expect to find in an issue of *Cybertek*?
ICOM: Mostly technology. You could find anything from computers to crossbows. Issue N98, which is the current issue, contains a source code for an IBM program that will generate tones which can be used for various signaling and experimental functions with telecommunications networks. It also contains information on how to tap RS-232 connections, which are the connections that go from computers to modems and laser printers. There is information on various hardcore aspects of survival in there—weapons and resistance operations and so on. We also have an article on intelligence gathering

channel: BBs, bearings, sorted scrap metal pieces, etc.

an electric detonator/re. However, other could be used. are interest- nry, I strong- he Poor U.S. Militia.

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operations, how to effectively gather information about the outside world and apply it to your group's activities. In past issues, we've had articles on digital communications, which don't use phone lines and are very secure; plans to turn any standard phone into a lineman's butt set, which can undetectably tap any phone; hiding yourself, which is self-explanatory; schematics for an intruder detector; surplus weapons; discussion on libertarian and populist points of view; herbal medications; and reviews of various books and businesses.

MRR: Would a novice find this information easy to use? Or would they have to have a background in computers and other technologies?

ICOM: We try not to get too complicated in our articles. However, a basic knowledge in electronics or technology or computers or whatever our current topic is would help.

MRR: So the average person could buy an issue of *Cybertek*, go to Radio Shack, buy the components for one of your projects, and make it work?

ICOM: Yes.

MRR: Do you see technology being used in a more benign or malignant way?

ICOM: Well, in today's day and age the corporations and the government are taking technology and using it against the people. The essence of cyberpunk is to have the people take that same technology and use it against the corporations and the government for a change.

MRR: It seems that the Cyberpunk movement by its nature is a very underground movement.

ICOM: That's hard to say. It originally started as an underground movement, but it's pretty open for an underground movement. It's about as underground as any other type of popular culture would be. There's an underground attraction to it, similar to the way it was with the hacker scene and even to a certain extent with the punk scene, but it is beginning to mainstream. You can go and buy cyber punk zines, such as *Mondo 2000* or *Boing Boing* at your local Barnes and Noble.

MRR: Do you think that the cyber movement has a function in mainstream society? Could it play a role in shaping the forces that control the mainstream?

ICOM: I hope so.

MRR: What are you, as editor of *Cybertek*, trying to accomplish?

ICOM: I'm trying to educate people, maybe stir some stagnant brain cells into action...kick them into action if it becomes necessary. If we have a bunch of people educated with the proper attitude, maybe some of the stuff that's been going on in this country that hasn't been too good can be reversed.

MRR: What do you think the problem is?

ICOM: There's quite a few of them! For starters, the United States government has been slipping more and more into a dictatorship. That combined with the increasing ignorance of the vast majority of the American population equals something that is not good for this country. Hopefully, the information in *Cybertek* will educate some people and give them the right attitudes. I mean, if you have a whole bunch of educated people that know various aspects of high technology

and survival, then you have a government that is less able to institute a totalitarian form of itself upon those people. Or, as James Madison put it quite eloquently, "a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power that knowledge gives."

MRR: What was your opinion of the recent (1992) elections?

ICOM: I think it was a farce. All of the candidates were interested in increasing their own power. As an interesting side note, President Clinton only acquired 25% of the popular vote of the American citizenry.

MRR: Thus showing the true value of "democracy" as it is today. Would it be safe to say that you present the option of the ballot or the bullet?

ICOM: I guess you could say that.

MRR: What is the best thing that you have concretely accomplished through publication of *Cybertek*?

ICOM: I've been putting out *Cybertek* since 1990 and I really haven't noticed much overtly. It seems that my subscribers keep to themselves, but I'm hoping that I've at least educated a few more people and that when the time comes those people will be able to act in the right way when they have to.

MRR: On a lighter note, I remember the article from *USA Today* about the rash of garage doors flying open in California.

ICOM: Yeah, that happened a few months after we published the article on the universal garage door opener. Now, it might have been the U.S. military experimenting with some form of radar, but it's always nice to think that someone read *Cybertek* and built one of those universal garage door openers and tried it out.

MRR: What is the best tool that somebody in the cyberpunk movement can possess?

ICOM: A mind.

MRR: Can members of the general public contribute to *Cybertek*?

ICOM: I sure as hell wish they would! If they would, I'd put out more issues. I've gotten contributions from people; however, if I want to keep *Cybertek* going the way it should be I'm going to need a lot more of them. I write most of the articles, do the layout, run off the copies, and mail them out. This is not a full-time thing for me. I'm not making any money off of it so I have to do it in my spare time. It quite often takes a lot of time and effort, which is why I've only put out 8 issues. If people would contribute to *Cybertek* or even just tell us what they'd like to see, more issues would come out. The hardest part of operating a zine without any feedback is that you're operating in the dark. I mean, I have my own writing style and my own viewpoint. If other people were to contribute, it would add more flavor to the magazine. We're all in this together so...

MRR: I assume that's an invitation to readers of this fine magazine to get off their butts and send something in.

ICOM: Yeah, I would say so.

MRR: So, how do we get ahold of you?

ICOM: You can write us at PO Box 64 / Brewster, NY 10509 USA, or you can leave a message for us on the 2600 voice mailbox system. That number is 1028807007512600 and the box number is 4266. You can also contact us on Uncensored BBS at 914-761-6877.