



Central and Upper Midwest Bally / Astrovision Club
2206 West 21st Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55405

THE SKY IS FALLING
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THE EMPEROR HAS NO CLOTHES
ABANDON SHIP - WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST
ROLL UP YOUR PANTS, IT'S TOO LATE TO SAVE YOUR SHOES

...AND OTHER TIMELY TOCSINS

December 9, 1982

Dear Arcade Fanatic:

The enclosed half-page advertisement was xeroxed from today's Minneapolis Star and Tribune. The nationally-known firm of C.O.M.B. (Close-Out Merchandise Buyers), well-known advertisers in Popular Mechanics and other such hardware jock mags, has acquired a 1.2 million dollar stash of 1982, fresh-in-the-box, Astrocades. Figuring a street value of \$240 bucks apiece (AstroBasic not included), this adds up to an inventory of 5000 machines. And they are for real...I drove over to C.O.M.B. and checked them out myself. The price: 98 bucks apiece! Now, you and I both know that is well below dealer cost, and damned close to what it cost Astrocade to market the things. And who would have a stock of 5000 of them just lying around? Most dealers I know talk in terms of dozens... never thousands. The only clue we are given is that they were acquired from "...a financially troubled East Coast distributor...". Don't forget that C.O.M.B. is making a few bucks on this deal themselves; they didn't buy them for anything near the 98 dollars each that they are selling them for. Somebody took a bath somewhere... we can smell the soap all the way up here in Cold Country.

I am sending this note to you for several reasons. First, you are one of the key people in the Arcade underground and can be trusted to either spread the word like wildfire or figure out a way to cash in on this action yourself; I don't care which. Frankly, I am merely the bearer of the news and don't want to get caught up as a middleman again the way I did two years ago when Montgomery Wards closed out all their cartridges at \$9.00 apiece. I'll run interference for anyone who needs help, since C.O.M.B. is a Minneapolis firm, but I won't put up any front money this time or crate up units and run back and forth between UPS and C.O.M.B. As I understand, they do a brisk mail-order business, take all major charge cards, and the telephone area code is 612. You can probably work out your own arrangements.

The second reason is that I'd like to see these 98 dollar 'Cades get nice homes where they will be loved and properly cared for.

The third reason is that I would like to hear from someone with East Coast connections who can tell me who bellied up and gave away a million bucks worth of Astrocade hardware. Where did they come from? Somebody died, that's for sure.

As for the \$19.95 cartridges, they've got cases and cases of 'em, but not all titles. The ones I know of for certain are:

Tornado Baseball/Hockey/etc.
Demo Derby/Grand Prix
Biorythms
Dogpatch
Red Baron/Panzer Attack
Brickyard/Clowns
Galactic Invasion
Space Fortress
Astro Battle (Space Invaders)
That dippy Star Wars down-the-trench thing
...and about six other old titles.

No, they don't have The Incredible Wizard, or anything newer than Space Fortress.

Well, read the ad and do your thing. I've done my job and you can't say you didn't know about it. Good luck, you Arcade nuts, and I hope somebody is happier about this than the guy on the East Coast that lost his pants. (5000 units...that's got to be, like, Sears or Montgomery Wards. Nobody stocks 5000 Astrocades. Nobody stocks 5 Astrocades that I know of.)

Oh, yes, my now-famous closing line: Sounds like the end to me. But I've been saying that for four years now. Who the hell is Nitron, anyway?

Your pal,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anderson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Craig J. Anderson

Deputy, 2 others
killed in state
traffic accidents
Associated Press

St. Louis County deputy sheriff
and two other Minnesotans have
died after separate traffic accidents.

Deputy Karen Rice, 37, of Cambridge died Tuesday night at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis after injuries suffered in a car accident Nov. 10, the State Patrol said.

Rice was on her way to work when her car went off Hwy. 47 about nine miles northwest of Cambridge and rolled over into a water-filled ditch. She was submerged in the car for several minutes before found by a passing motorist, authorities said.

Deputy Anderson, 77, of Ramsey was killed when he was hit by a car while trying to cross a street in Ramsey Tuesday night, the patrol said.

Deputy Omodt, 24, of Houston died when his car struck a concrete island on a road in La Crosse, Wis., about 10 a.m. Wednesday, authorities said.

\$100,000 damage caused
by weekend fires at 'U'

University of Minnesota officials said Wednesday that at least \$50,000 in damage was done to the Classroom Building by fires set last weekend at several places in the building. They said they are still trying to estimate damage to computer equipment.

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LEATHER BAGS
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\$40
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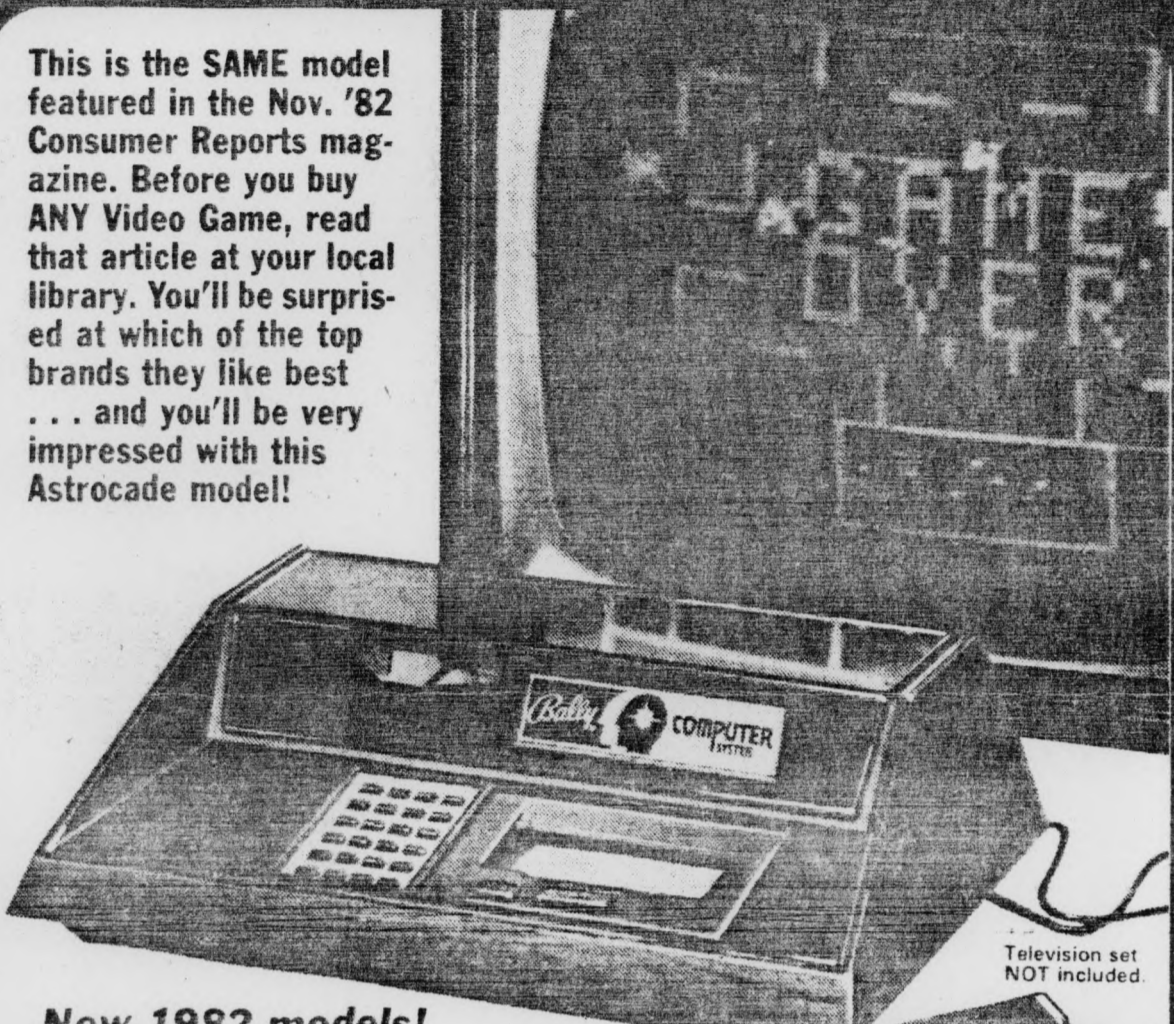
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1st Avenue BLOOMINGTON
184 Brooklyn Boulevard WEST
St. Paul from Burnsville Center) 14310
EDGEHAVEN MALL (Across from
Parkway & Cleveland ALSO

LIQUIDATION! ASTROCADE VIDEO GAME

\$1,200,000 Inventory, now at FAR BELOW dealer cost!

This is the SAME model featured in the Nov. '82 Consumer Reports magazine. Before you buy ANY Video Game, read that article at your local library. You'll be surprised at which of the top brands they like best . . . and you'll be very impressed with this Astrocade model!



Television set NOT included.

**New 1982 models!
Perfect condition!
Full factory warranty!
It's an action-packed game machine!
It's a math calculator!
And it can be a basic personal computer, too!***

Manufacturer's Suggested Retail

\$240.00

OUT THEY GO AT ONLY:

\$98

Includes THREE built-in games
Also includes TV antenna switch and AC power adaptor. Connects easily to black & white or color TV

- Developed by Bally... for decades, one of the leaders in coin-op arcade games.
- Rated the overall favorite... with superior sound and graphics... in impartial consumer comparison tests.
- Fastest speed-on-the-screen action of any home video game.
- The only home video game with 8-way hand controllers for MORE responsive game play, MORE kinds of motion.
- Unique pistol-grip controllers. MORE convenient than ordinary controllers.
- 4-player capability. (Comes with controls for 2 players.)
- Graphics in 256 color combinations.
- Remote control game selection.
- Includes THREE built-in games.
- Built-in 10-position calculator with memory modes for math problems.
- Built-in storage for 15 cartridges.
- Built-in 3-octave music synthesizer and sound effects generator for greater drama and excitement.
- * • Basic programming cartridge available (NOT at our stores) that turns this into a home computer so you can create your own games, music, video art.

Here's how experts compare Astrocade with other top brands:

HOME VIDEO MAGAZINE, March 1982
(Astrocade's) "control mechanism, a hard plastic pistol grip, is a boon."

ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION, Dec. 4, 1982
"Overall, our panelists liked the Astrocade best of the four machines tested. Preferred (Astrocade's) hand controls over the others. They liked the idea of built-in games. They also thought the graphics and sounds were exciting."

A financially troubled East Coast distributor found it necessary to liquidate some of their inventories for immediate cash. Their loss is YOUR gain! Because NOW you can get a fantastic bargain on the top-rated Astrocade video game machine!

Compare Astrocade's features AND our sensationally low liquidation price with any other video games in town. Check the article in the November '82 Consumer Reports magazine. THEN you'll realize what a terrific value we have for you!

Astrocade utilizes the same advanced microprocessors as in coin-operated arcade games. And Astrocade is designed with THREE microprocessors (instead of just ONE as in some other top brands). The result? You get FASTEST action! QUICKEST response! MORE variety of movement! MORE colors! BETTER sound effects! SUPERIOR graphics! You get much more of everything that makes video games so darn much fun for the entire family to enjoy.

Better hurry while we still have Astrocade in stock. This is a ONE-TIME liquidation closeout! We have a limited quantity on hand. When they sell out, NO MORE will be available from us!



Selection of exciting Game Cartridges

At a Liquidation Closeout Price!

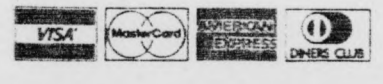
Choose from a variety of fast-action, exciting games that feature thrilling competition in outer-space or land warfare, sports, pinball, cards, etc.

Our supply of individual titles varies. Shop early for best selection.

Mfgs. Suggested Retail: \$24.95 to \$34.95 ea.

Liquidation Closeout Price Now \$19.95 Ea.

NOTE: Astrocade currently markets 25 different game cartridges. More are constantly being developed. We have some, but not all, of their current game titles. Additional ones are available at regular Astrocade dealers, locally and nationwide, at their normal retail prices.



"There's no place like C.O.M.B."
C.O.M.B. Co.

THE NATION'S LARGEST AUTHORIZED LIQUIDATOR OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS

Store Hours • Mon-Fri: 9 to 9 • Sat: 9 to 5 • Sun: 10 to 5
S. Mpls. store: Weekend hours same as above. Weekdays to 6 pm. ONLY!

Golden Valley • 6850 Wayzata Blvd.
Hwy. 12 at Louisiana Ave 541-9700
S. Mpls. • 3258 Minnehaha Ave. S.
3 blocks south of Lake St. 729-0648
Burnsville • 3070 West Hwy. 13
Next to Menard on Hwy. 13 896-8295
Oakdale • Hwy. 694 & Co. Rd. 5
E. St. Paul, next to Menard 770-2672