Double
START Disk
Offer Inside
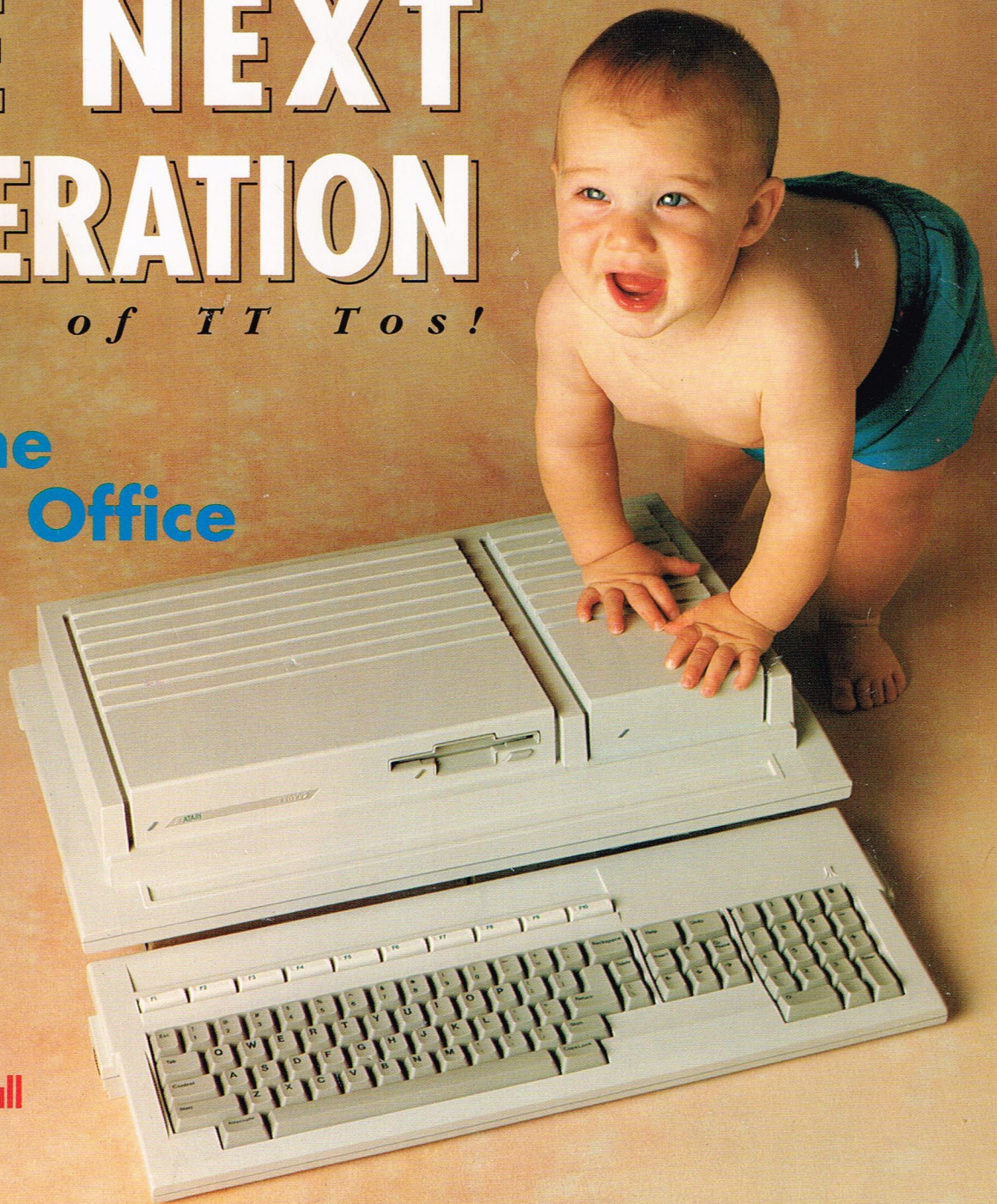
THE NEXT GENERATION
Secrets of TT Tos!

STs in the Doctor's Office

REVIEWED:
Indy Action Game
Final Cut
Cuckoo's Egg

ON DISK:
X-10 Controller
Chaos on your ST
Crunch Time Football

02

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operations. As an example, we want to take the file, use STRIPWS to strip out any "high parity" characters that WordStar might have put into it, feed it into SUPERWRITE, take the PostScript output from that and laser print it using MajorScript (these are all future-tense programs, of course).

We could do things one step at a time:

```
#STRIPWS < myfile.txt > myfile.stripped
#SUPERWRITE < myfile.stripped > myfile.postscript
#MAJORSCRIPT < myfile.postscript > laserfile lp
< laserfile (print the laser file)
```

Or, we could just "pipe" them together. We pipe with the " | " character (not a colon!), that character on your ST keyboard that you've been wondering about. This automatically takes the output from one thing and feeds it into another. So it becomes:

```
#STRIPWS < myfile.tst | SUPERWRITE |
MAJORSCRIPT | lp
```

This does it all in one step. Hence, when you're running UNIX, you have incredible power over redirecting where *everything* goes. You can hook together many, many different operations to get your particular job finished.

UNIX Philosophy

This leads us to what has become the *UNIX Philosophy*, the way things are done on UNIX — and the way you'll pretty much have to do them, because that's the way the tools you'll be using are laid out.

There aren't any 500-function programs in UNIX. Forget the drop-down menus and whatnot.

There *are* lots and lots of tiny little programs that are really good and efficient at doing one thing. It's up to you to redirect, pipe, script, and otherwise "glue" them together to get what you want done.

This has mixed results. On the one hand, it's really powerful. You can dream up mixtures of commands to do nearly anything, particularly to text, since UNIX is so text-oriented. (Hopefully, graphics utilities for UNIX will start to catch up soon.)

For example, I can take a list of my files, prune out the ones that don't matter, mail the list to Amy so that she sees them next time she's on, go through the list, spellcheck and print each one out for final hand-editing, and so on — *all in one command.*

Remember how ls gave us only a pathetic list of file names, with nothing else? That's because ls is *designed* to feed other programs with just that list — and other programs don't want that extraneous junk like lengths, file type and so forth in the listing they receive. Just the names, ma'am.

On the down side of this, you have a million little utilities to learn. ▶