A VOLUNTEER PROLETARIAT MINTAINS ONE OF the most invisible communication undergrounds going. Linked by phone lines, a web of computer bulletin board systems (BBSs) work night-duty collating messages and electronic mail for free. Regulars patronize small-time &tin they can feast on immediate gossip about very BBS subjects. By phone lines, a web of computer bulletin board systems like. You con then read messages posted since you (BBSs) most invisible communication undergrounds going. Linked A plug it into the phone jock. You'll find listings of public Any old computer will let you in. You fit it out with a and Microtimes, and at user-group meetings. Once you and Microtimes, and at user-group meetings. Once you longdistance that's been. If you've been gone two weeks, you read two weeks' worth, and then you're caught up to the center of underground BBSs where teenage under 384K and hard disk. Copy-protected. $300 for single Exchange. (415) 661-9490. 24 hrs.; 300/1200 baud. BBS boards for buyout, sell, and anyone interested in an agate inflates. Free. 80% of systems. Free. No fees. 13 E. Chapse. Secret, Partner 1. (213) 543-5273. B-1, 24 hour, 300/1200 baud. "Find your longwatched sweetheart." F. Howard, sysop.

THE BULLETIN BOARD PROLETARIAT

VOLUNTEER PROLETARIAT MINTAINS ONE OF the most invisible communication undergrounds going. Linked by phone lines, a web of computer bulletin board systems (BBSs) work night-duty collating messages and electronic mail for free. Regulars patronize small-time &tin they can feast on immediate gossip about very BBS subjects. By phone lines, a web of computer bulletin board systems like. You con then read messages posted since you (BBSs) most invisible communication undergrounds going. Linked A plug it into the phone jock. You'll find listings of public Any old computer will let you in. You fit it out with a and Microtimes, and at user-group meetings. Once you longdistance that's been. If you've been gone two weeks, you read two weeks' worth, and then you're caught up to the center of underground BBSs where teenage

BBBS are a gathering medium, not a broadcasting channel. The ones that work sculpt a comfortable visiting space to welcome comments. Dave Hughes, the pioneer telecommunications visionary, says the acid test for a BBS is if it averages one posted message for every two calls in. Any fewer messages and it will fade rapidly.

To start your own home-based BBS, you'll need a computer, modem, and one of these recommended software packages. For the Apple, we suggest GBBS. It's easy to set up in less than an hour, takes customized modifications superbly, and tends to be crash-proof. Consensus in the Macintosh world is that Red Ryder Host is the ticket for a home-based Mac BBS. Since it doesn't matter too much what computer you use, the most efficient way is to run your BBS on an IBM clone. The choice for IBM and compatible is TBBS. It's programmable by amateurs, and has been around a long time. There are two flavors. Single phone line (about $300). Multiline, which will take up to eight phone lines ($895), and mail to the free-forwarding FIDO service linking up BBSs at night ($100). With both FIDO mail and 8 lines in, a souped-up BBS approaches the capabilities of a local teleconferencing system like the WELL. In fact, having both public and private access to your personal answering machine is the innovation brewing here. A BBS may be part of the household furniture someday.

— Kevin Kelly

TBBS: Version 2.0. For IBM and compatibles; needs 384K and hard disk. Copy-protected. $300 for single line, $895 for multiline, $100 for FIDO mail; from eSoft, 410 South Parker Road/Box 305, Aurora, CO 80004; 303/699-6556.

GBBS: Version 1.3. For Apple family; needs two drives. Not copy-protected. $128 postpaid from L & L Productions, P. O. Box 5354, Avada, CO 80005; 303/420-3156.

Red Ryder Host: Version 1.4. For Macintosh; needs 512K. Not copy-protected. $60 postpaid from FreeSoft, 150 Hickory Drive, Beaver Falls, PA 15010; 412/846-2700.


The Shark's Head BBS: Something for all of you serious, no-fun, no-magic-system. We're not only user friendly, we're friendly users. Members SVSE Dusty & Candy Van, (408) 247-4810.

Photobytes, a photography database, features product contest listings, plus music and photo shops. Shop, 305. Aurora, CO 80014; (303) 439-2515.

Diet-Your-Match's (818) 482-9480. 300/600. 24 hours, 7 days, 1 call. 300/384K. Meet new friends forever! The original and most unique in the world. Friendship since 1978. D.B.S. DMN network allows you to send messages across the U.S.

Vietnam Vet-The Looney Bin: Nancy & John Looney, sycope Ellah 100, "A man's search for his brothers, wives, lovers, and friends and more relationships plus free counseling. Online 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Call us toll free at 1-800-243-27. 7634 FidoNet 