On a related note, Sigma Designs makes a NuBus card called the DoubleUp board that makes DiskDoubler run about 10 times as fast as the software version alone. (I'm unsure as to which computer is used as a benchmark for this comparison, but I'd assume a IIcx.) Once it's installed, DiskDoubler functions the same way, but runs much faster. It carries around a $150 street price. Salient is currently working on a very much-improved compression product that will be more memory-intensive and boost speed. According to Salient, it will be offered to current DiskDoubler users "at a substantial discount."

DiskDoubler does its best compression on text- and number-heavy files such as PageMaker documents, ASCII text and Word-processor files, and on TIFF graphic images. Others, such as applications and complicated object graphics files, tend not to compress quite as well. I find I get an average of about 45% savings on the items that I compress on my disk. DiskDoubler is ideal for compressing occasional-use things such as clip art and old documents. I certainly wouldn't compress PageMaker each

time I finished with it, or I'd spend all my time waiting for it to compress and decompress! Applications like UnZIP and UnARC, though, are ideal candidates for DD, since I use them once a month at most.

This new version adds a "Create SEA" (**S**elf-**E**xtracting **A**rchive) command, so you can compress a large document to send to an associate, and he'll be able to decompress it without a copy of DiskDoubler. The decompression routine adds about 11K to the size of the file. A freely available DD Expand package (Expand-only versions of the program and INIT) is also available.

I'll be honest: DiskDoubler has saved me from having to buy a second hard drive. (All right, a third hard drive. See what I mean?) I still use it only for local compression--Compact Pro is *much* better suited for multiple-file archives. (DiskDoubler has a Combine command, but individual files cannot be extracted)

This new version is System 7-Savvy, with judiciously implemented balloon help and complete compatibility. With a better combined-file system and slightly better speed, it would quite possibly be the perfect Macintosh file-compression product. **B+.**

DiskDoubler 3.7

Author: Salient Software
Price: $99 list; $49 street
Sys7: Savvy

L E T T E R S

other in macho and bravado--it's a most transparent insecurity coverup— Well, they brewed up a grand lynching whirlwind, all gleefully agreeing to boot him off every single one of the dozen area BBSs and crowing sniggeringly to each other about it.

Goldstar refused to take cover or relog under another name--too proud. But in his last chat with me he was very sad--lost the spark--and has not been heard of since.° It's been six weeks and all the neighboring Sysops tirelessly reminisce--and will gloatingly reminisce for months more--about how they slaughtered Goldstar.

°The Resurgence of Goldstar 1991

That was over a year ago, and now we are in the midst of an odd sequel--Goldstar has been welcome for a change, using the handle ***Skip III***.

Sysops tolerate and use him as bait to swell their boards and their forums with lurid if trivial badinage, still bashing but with slightly more grown-up sophistication. After all, this is the Nineties!

And to add some variety, Goldstar now claims to be reforming(!); becoming a young man of pure and holy thoughts— Harvard Law next? Or a priesthood? This is Goldstar Two!

Goldstar III 19- ??

Stay tuned for Goldstars III & IV-- a Public Defender, or perhaps a bishop one day, and--who knows? Why not the Vatican! After all, a dumb Polak made it!

-- Author wishes his name to be witheld. Replies will be forwarded..

*[Editor's Note: The sysop of the Macintosh Network was in **no** way involved with this sysop "Lynch Mob." In its three years of operation, only two people have ever been removed from the Mac Network; Skip was **not** one of them.]*