

to use "VIPERS" in place of a name if you prefer.

Instead of competing with only one anonymous opponent as in most computer games, VIP-OKER controls the actions and strategies of three different players seated with you at the poker table. Terry is to your left, Rick straight ahead and yours truly, Tom, takes the chair to the right. The four of us each start with \$50 and you will be the first dealer. A center arrow points to each player as the play proceeds around the table and messages keep you informed each step of the way.

As there is a lot of information on the screen, the action may seem fast at first, but after a few rounds you should be able to follow the play with no difficulty. Each player's name sits on top of the amount of cash that player has to play with. Your name (or "VIPERS") and cash are at the lower right hand side of the screen. In the center of the display, the amount of the pot is shown (if you are not a poker player, that's the total bet by all players). Your cards appear in the lower left part of the screen.

Play always begins with the computer collecting an "ante" (pronounced "auntie") of \$1 from each active player. The program waits while the deck is shuffled, then your hand is automatically dealt and shown. Your