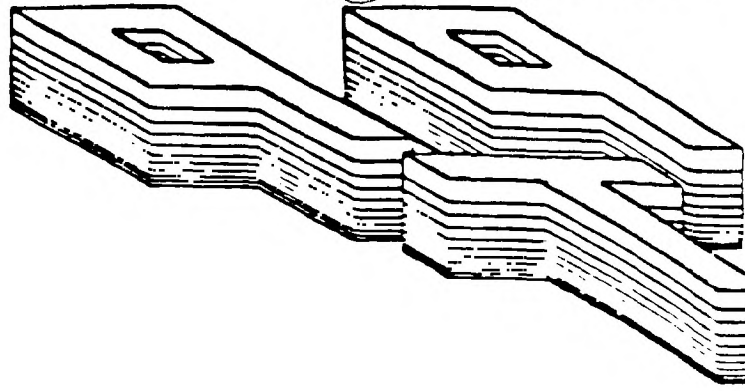


8702 (062) Nine T Nine

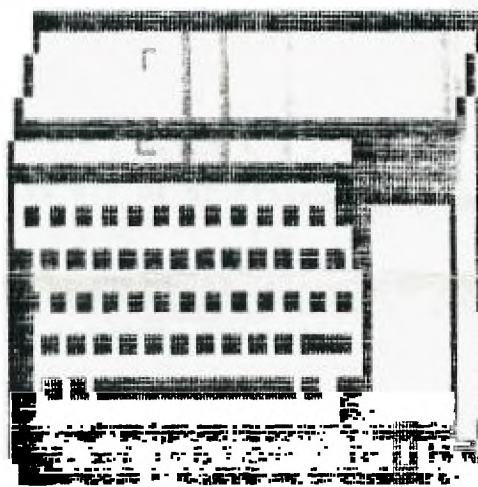
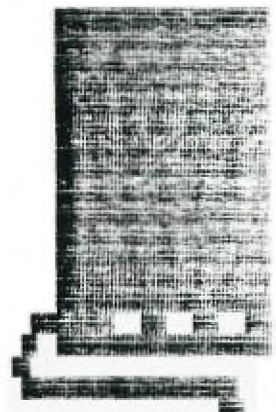
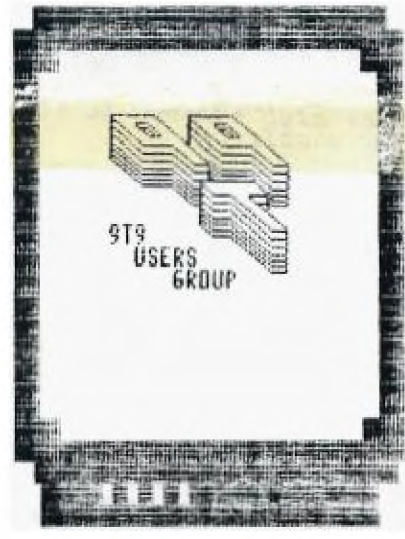
# NEWSLETTER 9T9



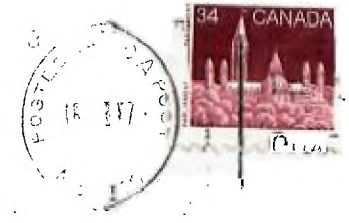
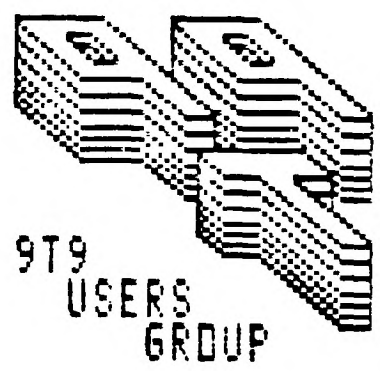
Texas Instruments  
USERS GROUP  
TORONTO

FOR THE TI-99/4A COMPUTER

## FEBRUARY 1987 ISSUE



FROM:



Edmonton UG  
Box 11983  
Edmonton, AL T5J 3L1

15 KERSDALE AVE.  
TORONTO, ONTARIO  
M6M-1C9, CANADA

TO:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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VICE-PRESIDENT Neil Allen (255-8606)
SECRETARY/MEMBERSHIPS Randy Rossetto (469-3468)
TREASURER Peter Sandford (820-7589)
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Andy Parkinson (275-4427)
Cecil Chin

PAST-PRESIDENTS Lloyd Lindsay (743-3868)
Emile Verkerk (633-1451)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Steve Mickelson(657-1494)
Associate Editor - Blair MacLeod

MEMBERSHIP FEES

FULL MEMBERSHIP \$30.00 / year
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION \$20.00 / year

All memberships are household memberships. An newsletter subscription is only for those who do not wish to attend meetings, but wish to receive our newsletter and have access to our library. You are welcome to visit one of our general meetings before joining the group. If you wish more information contact our president in writing at the club address on the front cover or call and leave a message with his answering machine.

NEXT MEETING

The meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month. The next will be held at the York Woods Public Library in Downsview, starting at 7:30 pm. The library is at 1785 Finch Ave W just west of Keele St. The entrance to the library is on Finch Avenue. See meeting schedule, below:

- February 24
March 31
April 28
May 26

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING

Any business wishing to reach our membership may advertise in our newsletter. The rates are as follows. (width by height):

Table with 3 columns: Ad Type, Dimensions, Rate. FULL PAGE (9" x 6") \$40.00, HALF PAGE (4 1/2" x 6") \$20.00, QUARTER PAGE (4 1/2" x 3") \$10.00

Please have your ads camera ready and paid for in advance. For more information contact the editor.

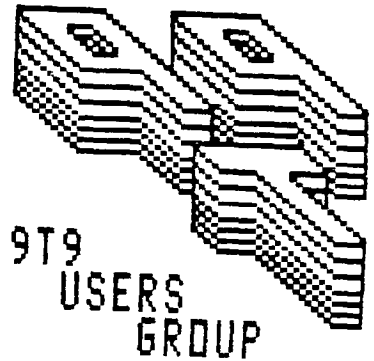
Don't forget, that any member wishing to place ads, may do so free of charge as long as they are not involved in a commercial enterprise.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

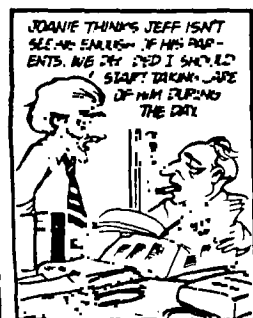
Members are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter in the form of articles, mini-programs, helpful tips, jokes, cartoons and questions. Any article may be submitted in any form by mail or modem. We welcome the reprinting of any article appearing in this newsletter providing credit is given to the author and 9T9. If more information is required, call the editor. The names 9T9, Nine-T-Nine, Newsletter 9T9, 9T9 Users Group, and Nine-T-Nine Users Group are Copyright, (c), 1987 by the 9T9 Users Group of Toronto, Canada, all rights reserved.

DISCLAIMER

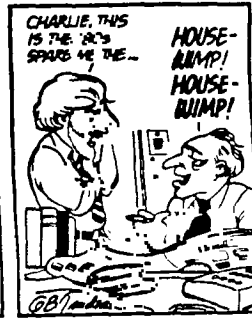
Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and are not necessarily those of the 9T9 USERS' GROUP. 9T9 cannot assume liability for errors or omissions in articles, programs or advertisements. Any hardware modification or project is presented for informational purposes, and the author, newsletter staff, and/or 9T9 Users Group cannot be held liable for damage to the reader's equipment. All such projects are done at your own risk!



Doonesbury



1



The Eyes Have It:

I asked for comments on the new format of this newsletter, and boy there's no apathy there! After hearing complaints of so many readers, literally with tears in their eyes, I am pleased to announce a return to the 12 CPI Elite used in the November-December issue. However the width is full 80 columns with reduced spacing between lines.

So print clearly any further complaints in the square provided below:  
Use this box for complaints->



Last Month:

I, also, heard it said that the January issue was a bit gossipy. Well thanks to the lack of submissions from you!

This Month:

Well we have our Treasurer's Report, as well as a listing from our club's library. I intend to add some new RLE files, including some in the Star Trek series to those we already have. Contact one of our librarians for your selection(s).

Contest:

We have in our library a well-written load amortization program. This file was written in TI Console Basic. It has not been updated, save for the addition of a printer I/O routine.

The clubs executive have decided to have a contest to "improve" the program. The math is excellent, as the calculations are more accurate than that calculated by the "more powerful" computers used by many legal offices and mortgage firms. The improvements are namely in the area of speed; addition of disk I/O's, (so as to save the calculations to disk), possibly in a DVE (TI Writer) format; possibly graphics; etc.

The program can be translated into Extended Basic, FORTH, C, assembly, etc.

Entrants will receive a copy of the original program on a numbered disk. (If you require another format contact Andy Parkinson in advance of the meeting). All entries will remain the property of the 9T9 Users Group.

The best entry/entries, (yes, Virginia, we could have multiple contest winners), will receive their choice of \$30 in diskettes, cassettes or cash. The decisions of the judging committee is final.

Elections:

A hearty welcome to the newly elected executive of the 9T9 Users Group!

If you haven't heard or read I was elected the president of the 9T9 Users group and take this opportunity to say thanks for the vote of confidence! I would like to say that I was nominated because the position of Newsletter Editor has been traditionally filled by the club president. May I say that the Newsletter being the cohesive life-blood of our organization is still a priority item, to me. I would like to say that I feel that virtually anyone from our current executive would easily fill the presidency.

As for plans for this year, expect to see more demonstrations of hardware, software and modifications. We are, currently, working on having Clint Pulley as guest to a meeting this spring, to demonstrate both the Geheve, (now called just the 9640) and his C-compiler. I feel that a software writer could better put the new compatible through its paces, as well as demonstrating the TMS 9900 C or is it c language, which is fast overtaking FORTH as the choice of programing enthusiasts in our community. We are lucky to have Clint a "stone's throw" away, in Burlington. Watch this newsletter for additional information.

Also, this year expect to see more seminars and tutorials on our computer. This month features a how-to demonstration on upgrading the power-regulator and installation of a quiet biscuit-type fan on the Expansion Box, by Neil Allen.

SIGNificant News:

I would like to thank Sean Wainstein for offering to undertake the position of Head of the Cassette Library Committee. For those interested, you may contact Sean at 494-6178.

I hope to see the emergence of both a Superspace and LOGO Special Interest Groups. The Superspace group would concern applications for Superspace devices such as the GRAM Kracker, Gram card, Maximem, Supercart, and possibly Maximem. The LOGO group would be concerned with TI LOGO I and II.



On the topic of the GK, there is some news. Millers Graphics, has discontinued production of the GRAM Kracker, though a current rumour has Triton as one of several vendors looking into production of a plastic version of this device. It is also said that the cartridge dump utility packaged with the Myarc-dumps cartridges in a format identical to that used by the GK. Therefore the 9640 could use most of the GK modified cartridge dumps.

A recent phone call from Al Lappin, has informed me that the Triton/NG IBM-clone adapter for the TI, mentioned last month, won't be shipped to Canada, because it doesn't have CSA approval. In the words of the Triton rep. who spoke on the phone with Al, the device doesn't now and "never will have CSA approval", hence no orders will be taken from Canada". It seems that the problem may not be related, necessarily, to approval of the power supply, but possibly in RFI (Radio Frequency Interference) of the device or just the initial cost of the device. This is only speculation on my part. I do know that Korean-built monitors, which use two wires in close proximity, as capacitors, get UL approval, but fail CSA tests.

I am not saying that CSA necessarily has higher standards; just different ones. But it seems that if the Triton/NG device falls, for whatever reason, to get CSA approval; the same may happen with RU in Europe, as well as in Australia and the UK. This says alot for the competition(?), Myarc 9640, which is in "card" form, utilizing an expansion box, which has a power supply already approved in the respective country; bi-passing the need to be inspected.

Ottawa's Fair:

Gil Tennant called to say word is out that this years Ottawa TI Fest is scheduled for May 16, at the Meriville High School, Nippean, Ont. For more information call (613)623-7841 or watch for updates here.

Benchtests and such:

(submitted to MICROpendium, by Gary Guibor of Miami). The following program produces 10 perfect squares on the TI-99/4A, while the TRS model II, Apple and Pet computers found only 6! Microsoft Basic, in most CP/M's, discovered 9. Other than the TI, only Basic-Plus on a \$100,000. (U.S.) found all ten:  
 10 FOR C=1 TO 100  
 20 IF SQR(C)<>INT(SQR(C)) THEN 40  
 30 PRINT C  
 40 NEXT C

Also in TINNS; this one-liner will frustrate your Atari, VIC-20, and Color Computer friends(Extended Basic):

In command mode type in the following and hit enter to see all 28 sprites do their thing. To get an instant replay, hit FCTN 8 (REDO) and ENTER as many times as you wish;

```
CALL CLEAR :: CALL SCREEN(5) :: CALL MAGNIFY(2) :: FOR I=1 TO 25 :: CALL
SPRITE(#1,64+I,16,80,3*I,8) :: NEXT I :: FOR J=1 TO 5000 :: NEXT J
```

Here's a couple of my own discoveries:

print mode type-in and run this one-liner from Console Basic, (not Extended Basic):

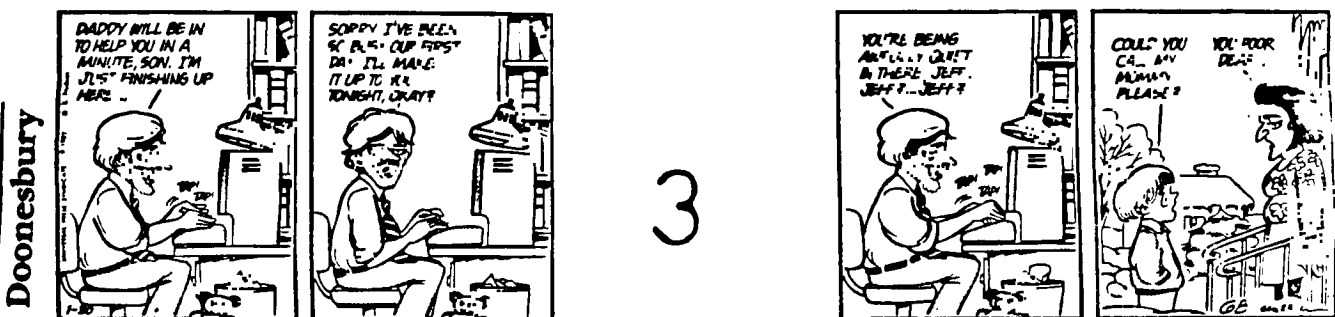
Type in line 10, REM then both Control(CTRL) and C keys simultaneously. Then list to PIO or whatever the printer's name. This will put the above two printers into condensed print mode untilreset. It doesn't work with my Seikosh printer, though.

```
10 REM CTRL C
LIST "PIO"
```

Also, for those of you still in the market for the replacement keys fo the TI sold a Radio Shack, (now at \$2.00 each!), an informal sampling of over a dozen of these beige keyboards have resulted in the following:

- 1) There are at least two obvious vendors, Stackpole and General Instruments.
- 2) There appear to be two major countries of origin, Taiwan and Mexico.
- 3) In my opinion the keyboards with the best "feel" and liveliest response are those made by General Instruments, in Mexico.

It is difficult to test these boards in the package, but their transparent wrapping lets you check the underside for the name of this better keyboard.



\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* NINE T WINE USEFS GROUP STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 1986 rev. 12.01/87 \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Open Bal.	1076.23	85 exec	Bank Balance	1236.49	at 30/12/86
Total Inc	3098.19		Cash on Hand	156.01	
Total exp	2787.52		Accounts rec.	0.00	
-----			Accounts pay.	5.60	
BALANCE	\$1386.90		TOTAL	\$1386.90	
			DIFFERENCE	0.00	

=====

EXPENSES Total to Date \$2787.52

	newsletter, printing and paper	postage and supplies	equipment	library and software	miscellaneous
SUBTOT.	925.21	363.70	365.95	238.49	894.17
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

=====

INCOME Total to Date \$3098.19

	memberships	advertising	library	miscellaneous
SUBTOT.	2659.50	0.00	195.00	243.69
	-----	-----	-----	-----

Misc. expenses includes: \$315 for T-shirts  
 \$120 for Mtg. hall rental -submitted by  
 \$286 for Computer Shows Pete Sandford, Treasurer

9T9 Disk of the Month Jan./Feb. 87

Contains a selection of public domain, and Triware programs (to the best of knowledge). This disk assumes 3.5K XB with a printer necessary for some of the programs. Another disk is planned for Mar. 87. Your comments please.

Andy Parkinson 275-4427

- ASCII Back F Character set for DRAWPIO
- CHARA1 Front F Character set for RAPID Can also be used with TI Writer if you like these characters better. (from Funlwriter)
- D-STATIC1 Front A An assembly language game. Runs from E/A #5 or loader.
- DISK LABEL Front X A handy disk label utility. An early version by W. Allen
- DISKSORT Front A A disk catalog utility outputting to screen, printer, or a DV80 file to a disk drive. This file was made using this program and then edited with TI Writer. Runs from E/A #5 or suitable loader. You will like this one.
- DRAW/HELP Back F Docs on DRAWPIO
- DRAW/TEST1 Back F Sample work using DRAWPIO
- DRAW/TEST2 Back F Sample work using DRAWPIO
- DRAW/TEST3 Back F Sample work using DRAWPIO
- DRAWPIO Back A A Computer assisted drawing using a window. Good for flow charts and plans. Loads from E/A #3. Needs ASCII
- DSKMANAGR1 Front A A poors mans GRAM KRACKER, or MAXIMEN version of the TI cartridge. Works just like the original only better.
- DSKMANAGR2 Front A Run from E/A #5 or suitable loader.
- DSKMANAGR3 Front A Simulates the E/A environment from X/B. Uses the loader LOAD1. Saves changing modules. Also looks for and defaults to the program name in Load Run applications
- I'M-LOST Front A A maze game with assembly speed. Try some of the higher levels. Loads by a suitable loader only.
- LABEL Front X Handy printer utility for printing labels envelopes.
- LOAD Front X Developed by Jim Ballantyne contains assembly routines for loading XB and standard assembly programs from XB.
- LOAD1 Front X Loader for E/A
- LOAD2 Front X Loader for TI FORTH from XB.
- OVERLAYER Front X Generates overlays for the TI. Well done. Printer reqd.
- PAVE Front A A TI version of pong. I believe that this was one of the programs TI released to user groups. EA#5 or loader
- RAPID Front X A DV80 file reader, contains assem. routines. Requires the file CHARA1. Docs on the assem.
- RAPID/DOC Back F Docs for RAPID. An full assembly and a 64 col. version is available from Triware.
- SONGS/EA Back A A collection of music. Runs from E/A #3.
- TELE-P Back A Turn your phone number into a name at assembly language speed. Requires 7 numbers. Runs from E/A #5 only.
- UTIL1 Front A A companion program for load only from E/A self boots from E/A #5 to load assembly programs. Disk edit reqd.
- XBC\_BUDGET Front F Demo file for XB CALC
- XBC\_LOAD Front F Demo file for XB CALC
- XB\_CALC Front X A good X/B spreadsheet program running in XB. For home use who needs MULTIPLAN anyway.

**LIBRARY NEWS BITS**  
-By Gary Bowser

TriWare disks have a nominal fee of \$2.00 per disk (includes disk and handling)

ON-LOAN disk of the month has a fee of \$3.00, and must be returned in 30 days or at the next scheduled meeting.

TriWare disk of the month has a fee of \$5.00.

Books and newsletters can be borrow from the library and must be returned in 30 days or at the next scheduled meeting. You now also must sign for them.

All TriWare disks are available by mail, send cheque or money order with a list of disk numbers, to the club's address.

**9T9 TriWare and Public Domain Software**

PROGRAM	SIZE	RUNS	DISK#	DISCRIPTION
4thMUSIC	Pub - 1	EA/LDR	9	Music or Graphics Demo
APELOCK	Pub - 1	EA	32	Clock
ARTCAL86	Pub - 1	XB	22	Prints 1986 calendar Girly
AYLE	Pub - 1	EA/XB	24	Music (Beverly Hills Cop)
EA WRITER	TrI - 1	XB	38	TI Writer Disk Version
BEAKS	TrI - 1	XB	36	Editor Assembler Disk Version
cBASIC	TrI \$20 2	EA	14	cBasic Language Compiler
CHECK/BOOK	? - 1	XB	33	Cheque Book and Budget Management
CRAPS	? - 1	XB	26	Crap Game Requires 32K
CRFILESYS	TrI \$10 2	XB	6	Database program
DIM	Pub - 1	EA	18	Disk information manageme
DISKU	TrI \$10 1	EA	18	Disk fixer type program
DM-1000	TrI - 1	EA/XB	34	Disk Manager 1000 V3.3 from Ottawa
DRAWPID	Pub - 1	EA	3	Computer assisted drawing
FASTTERM	TrI \$15 1	EA/XB	17	Terminal Emmulator program
FORTHCCC	Pub - 5	DVSO 11,12,13		Forth Manual on disk
FRACTAL	TrI \$10 1	EA	16	Fractal explorer
FRENEY	Pub - 1	XB	24	Space game very well done
FUNLWTR	TrI \$10 2	EA/XB	1	TI Writer/E/A systems disk
GFHJACKET	TrI - 1	XB	40	Prints a disk jacket using a GRAPHX file
JETSPRITE	TrI \$ 5 2	XB	20	Sprite builder program
JFGRAPHIC	Pub - 2	EA/LDR	9	Forth graphics and demo
MONA	Pub - 1	XB	23	Prints Mona-Lisa
MS-ADVEN	TrI \$10 1	XB	30	Adventure game
OIL INVAS	Pub - 1	EA/LDR	10	Forth Game
OMNI LDR	TrI \$10 1	EA	19	E/A program loader
POSTERS	Pub - 1	EA	23	Selection of printer art
PREASE	TrI \$10 2	EA/XB	5	A good Data Base Program
RAPID	Pub - 1	EA/YS	19	Rapid scroll for DVSO file
REDISK	TrI - 1	XB	39	Disk copy program for TI Corcomp
RLE	Pub - 2	EA	2	Display graphics (special)
SCREENDP	Pub - 1	XB	21	Screen dump to printer 32K
SCNS3/EA	Pub - 1	EA	32	Selection of music
SCRGAN	Pub - 1	EA	25	Makes Keyboard an organ
STAR	TrI - 1	XB	37	Super TI Assembly Routines for XB
SUPERCAT	TrI \$10 1	EA/XB	4	Disk Catalog Program
SYSTEX	TrI \$ 5 1	XB	19	Encode assy to X7E program
TI-SORT	Pub - 1	EA	19	DVSO Sort program
TI99/POLY	? - 1	XB	31	Monopoly on the computer
TIFORTH	Pub - 1	EA/LDR	7	TI FORTH Language
TIFLOT	TrI \$10 2	EA/LDR	15	TI PILOT Language
TRIVIA99	TrI \$10 1	XB	27	Trivia Game
WITGAME	TrI \$ 5 3	XB	28,29	Game
WORDWIZ	TrI - 1	XB	35	A word game with speech

**LIBRARY BOOKS NEWSLETTERS**

Name of Book	REF NUM
User's Reference Guide (french)	LCB4491
User's Reference Guide (english)	LCB4491
Beginner's Basic	LCB4180
The User's Guide to Texas Instruments	9362112
How To Use The TI Computer	9329163
SAMS TI Graphics And Sounds (como pack)	26219
SAMS TI 24 Basic Programs (como pack)	26172
SAMS TI Calc (como pack)	
SAMS Entertainment Games In TI Basic and Extended Basic (como pack)	26169
SAMS Professional's Guide to the TI Professional Computer	22255
SAMS TI Basic Programs	22255
SAMS TI Trivia Data Base	22255
SAMS TI Calc	22414
SAMS Texas Instruments Computerfacts	
SAMS TI Tricks	
TI-99/4A For The Beginning Beginner	EN79225
The Best Texas Instruments Software	9373273
Things To Do With Your TI Computer	128427
Terrific Games For The TI	9987654



Other Newsletters copied for loan	city, state or prov.	from - to
K-Town 99'er	Oliver Springs, Tenn.	06/86, 12/86
99/4a Users of Canada	Stathroy, Ontario	08/83 - 12/84
FLUG Forest Lane Users Group	Dallas, Texas	11/85 - 1/87
Boston Computer Society, TI SIG	Boston, Mass.	

Others Clubs' Newsletters will be added once they have been photocopied, punched and collated.

### BBS NEWS:

24 Jan 87 07:34:32 (PRIVATE) (RECV'D)  
 From: Jason Keltz  
 To: Steve Nickelson  
 Subj: Steve.

You have not called my BBS for quite a while and I figured that I would tell you that even though I am running on a commodore computer, that if you want, I can have a whole bulletin subsection all for you. You would of course (or someone) have to be the sysop of the section, but I am sure we can arrange things to allow the trading of informations in a bulletin type of thing. I would allow it because I took MY OWN download section out of the BES because of room. Users are donating money at the time to help get a new drive but even if that happened, the TI section would never go as I still like, enjoy, and use my own TI. It is mostly modems, but I use it quite a bit. If you would like. Call Club Med II... (MY BES!)

#### Club Med II

Hours : 8pm-8am NOW!  
 Phone : 736-6492  
 EEC : Proscan V10.3

24 Jan 87 07:38:27  
 From: Jason Keltz  
 To: Gil Tennant Or Anyone Who Cares..  
 Subj: Hey!

Hey Gil, I would be glad to have a TI section on my BBS...Not downloading but a whole bulletin section...WELL! That would be fun.. Anyways, now that I have room..I have room for your catalog on-line, and wouldn't mind putting it up in the bulletin section for you if your business is still high. I have not talked to you for a while. My BES is run now on a commodore 64, Ya see, I have taken ALL downloads out because of room but a bulletin section for you guys would be great!

Anyway, Also featured on my BBS:

- Reviews Of Other BES's
- Movie Reviews From a Guy Who
- Technical Projects
- Voting Section For Votes
- Large Message Base
- Many Bulletin Sub-Sections
- 9 access levels
- Post, Adding, Auto-Validation on-line!
- Hours 8pm-8am 736-6492

Works RIGHT IN THE THEATRE!

Gimme A Call..

#### More on BES':

Garth's FIDO Net BBS still supports messages among TI Users. It can be reached at 221-3578.

Also, Gil Tennant called me to say he has started a FIDO BBS which will support TI and IBM. There is no user fee to access the TI message base, though you must pay a fee to be able to use the upload/download section. This BBS is on a FIDO net system.

The hours for Gil's BBS are 10PM-10AM, Monday - Friday; and from 10 PM Friday to 10 AM Monday at 300-1200 BPS.

To try this board or for more information call the BBS at 288-9412



6



This program is a little late for Valentine's Day, but I feel it is still of interest:

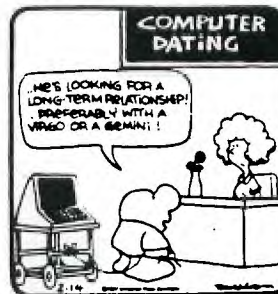
50 ! DOWNLOADED AUGUST, 1984 BY STEVE NICKELSON

```

100 CALL CLEAR
110 OPEN #1:"PIO.BA=9600"
120 PRINT #1:CHR$(27);CHR$(106);
130 PRINT #1:CHR$(27);CHR$(48);
140 REM 23 OCT 80
150 REM REMARKABLE PROGRAM BY DAVID AHL
160 PRINT "A TRIBUTE TO THE GREAT AMERICAN ARTIST, ROBERT INDIANA"
170 PRINT "HIS GREATEST WORK WILL BE REPRODUCED WITH A MESSAGE OF"
180 PRINT "YOUR CHOICE UP TO 60 CHARACTERS. IF YOU CAN'T THINK"
190 PRINT "OF A MESSAGE, SIMPLY TYPE THE WORD LOVE"
200 INPUT "YOUR MESSAGE PLEASE ":A$
210 CALL CLEAR
220 PRINT "COMPUTING"
230 L=LEN(A$)
240 REM OPEN OUTPUT FILE
250 DIM T$(120)
260 PRINT
270 FOR J=0 TO INT(60/L)
280 FOR I=1 TO L
290 T$(J*L+I)=SEG$(A$, I, 1)
300 NEXT I
310 NEXT J
320 C=0
330 A1=1
340 P=1
350 C=C+1
360 IF C=37 THEN 640
370 PRINT #1:
380 READ A
390 A1=A1+A
400 IF P=1 THEN 460
410 FOR I=1 TO A
420 PRINT #1:" ";
430 NEXT I
440 P=1
450 GOTO 510
460 REM START LOOP
470 FOR I=A1-A TO A1-1
480 PRINT #1:T$(I);
490 NEXT I
500 P=0
510 IF A1>60 THEN 330 ELSE 380
520 DATA 60,1,12,26,9,12,3,8,24,17,8,4,6,23,21,6,4,6,22,12,5,6,5
530 DATA 4,6,21,11,8,6,4,4,6,21,10,10,5,4,4,6,21,9,11,5,4
540 DATA 4,6,21,8,11,6,4,4,6,21,7,11,7,4,4,6,21,6,11,8,4
550 DATA 4,6,19,1,1,5,11,9,4,4,6,19,1,1,5,10,10,4,4,6,18,2,1,6,8,11,4
560 DATA 4,6,17,3,1,7,5,13,4,4,6,15,5,2,23,5,1,29,5,17,8
570 DATA 1,29,9,9,12,1,13,5,40,1,1,13,5,40,1,4,6,13,3,10,6,12,5,1
580 DATA 5,6,11,3,11,6,14,3,1,5,6,11,3,11,6,15,2,1
590 DATA 6,6,9,3,12,6,16,1,1,6,6,9,3,12,6,7,1,10
600 DATA 7,6,7,3,13,6,6,2,10,7,6,7,3,13,14,10,8,6,5,3,14,6,6,2,10
610 DATA 8,6,5,3,14,6,7,1,10,9,6,3,3,15,6,16,1,1
620 DATA 9,6,3,3,15,6,15,2,1,10,6,3,3,16,6,14,3,1,10,10,16,6,12,5,1
630 DATA 11,8,13,27,1,11,8,13,27,1,60
640 PRINT #1:
650 CLOSE #1
660 END

```

TC&V



Note: You may have to change 110 to PIO or whatever

### TI SYSTEM FOR SALE !!

#### HARDWARE:

```

: TI Console
: Expansion Box
: 32K Memory Card
: TI Disk Controller Card
: TI Disk Drive
: RS232 Card
: Cable For Printer

```

#### SOFTWARE:

```

: Extended Basic
: Household Budget Manager
: Personal Record Keeping
: Touch Typing Tutor
: Number Magic
: TI Writer (Includes Manual)
: Multiplan (Includes Manual) + MORE!!

```

**TOTAL PACKAGE - \$500. OR BEST OFFER!**

Contact: Rick Schmidt  
30 Troy St.  
Kitchener, Ont.  
N2H-1L8

Phone #: (519) 742-2916

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The following ties-in with the hardware modifications, to be shown next meeting:

### NEWS FOR FIXING YOUR EXPANSION BOX

With the introduction of the Geneve this article on how to repair your expansion boxes' special problems will come in handy.

1. If the cards and any drives lose all power and the fan is still working.

- A fuse inside the transformer is blown.
- Caused by some short temporary, unknown or otherwise.
- Double-check by looking for an open (by an ohmmeter or continuity tester) in the primary of the transformer with primary wires isolated disconnected or open circuited.

- Fix by digging at the plastic cover and/or tape of the transformer until you find, it could be on either side towards the card connectors or the pc board, the fuse then jumper (short it) around it (the fuse in the fuse holder in the back of the box near the power input is now your only protection) instead you could put a new fuse in parallel with the old fuse.

-If there continues to be a short because the fuse in the fuse in the fuse holder in the back of the box or the fuse continues to blow then problems 2 or 3 below might be the problem.

2. The diodes on the PC board in the power section of the box are bad.

- Caused by the accidental reseating of cards while power is on or shorts by foreign metal objects fallen on the card connectors.

- If too quick an accidental of cards occurred or foreign object fell while the cards were operating then the diodes in the power section and the buffer chips (741s244's or 741s245's) on victim cards (any cards known to be operating at the time) should be replaced.

3. Metal objects got in under the edge card connector bus PC board or the edge card connector bus PC board broke, fractured in a small spot due to forcing the cards in to hard.

-The short is caused by the fact that at manufacture pins of the card edge connectors were left at there normal long length which means that those pins come closer to the grounded exp. box chassis than anyone would expect. This makes it easier for small metal objects to cause shorts between the pins and ground or a cracked edge card connector PC board to touch the grounded chassis.

More on the subject of P-BOXES (edited):

This is the message thread on the expansion system power supply failure. There is information on voltages by pin outs. About what it costs to exchange with TI. Where to obtain schematics. Others experience with the same problem.

Sb: #PBOX FAILURE!!!! Fm: Scott Darling 72366,714 To: ALL ANYONE

Has anyone else had a Pbox failure like the following!: Fan runs but no power to the cards or drives. No power coming out of the leads on top of the transformer. I wud think that these leads are the power for everything. Cud they be linked to the invisible fuse in the trans?? Wud appreciate feedback cuz I don't wanna hafta send away fur a new box!! Thanx Scott Darling 72366,714

Sl: #33105-#PBOX FAILURE!!!! Fm: MACK MCCORNICK 74206,1522 To: Scott Darling 72366,714 (X)

Scott,

Let me try to help. To begin with I have the schematics from TI on the PEB. If you need a copy let me know. If you're not technically inclined a technician could use them to repair your box. I understand, although I've never personally seen it, that there is a fuse under the power transformer. It's not shown on the schematic though. I'm not sure what the AC voltage is supposed to be from the secondary of the transformer but here is a bit of information. Pin 5 on P1 is the center tap. Pin 1-4 should all indicate AC voltage using pin 5 as a reference between 6 and 20 volts. If you really need me to I'll open my box and measure them for you. P2 connector on the output of the power supply board should have: P2-2 +16VDC, P3-2 +12VDC, P2-4 +8VDC, P3-1 +5VDC, P2-1,5,6 GND, P2-3 -16VDC. If you have the AC voltage present at the secondary of the transformer then shut off the PEB and check the 6 diodes with a meter then follow thru the circuit and check the chokes for an open. Finally replace the 7812 and 7805 regulators (they are cheap). That's really the only components likely to fail. Most importantly try to determine what caused the PEB to fail in the first place. The fan is powered directly from the input (primary) of the transformer so you know power is getting that far. If I can help more let me know.

Mack

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Fm: Barry Traver 70436,373 To: Scott Darling 72366,714 (X)

I've had the same PE box failure (fan works fine but nothing else does), but I don't think I'll be of any help, because I haven't gotten it fixed yet and I \*know\* what caused my problems.

We just moved into a new house, and I plugged my entire system into what looked like a normal outlet under a window ("normal" because it expected a normal plug instead of the slanted 220-volt plug). Well, in spite of outward appearance it \*was\* a 220-volt line, and I blew my entire system (fuse blew in my TV, power supply for console blew, \*AND\* my PE box no longer worked \*EXCEPT\* for the fan, which worked fine! (Incidentally, the fuse in my surge protector outlet strip did \*not\* blow, supposedly because it is only affected by an amperage surge, not a voltage surge!)).

The easy-to-get-to fuse in my PE box didn't blow, but there apparently is another one hidden away somewhere that may have blown. Another possibility for the problem may be the PE box flex cable, I'm told. I don't understand hardware, so I'm only repeating what I've been told.

If you find out the source of your problem, \*P-L-E-A-S-E\* leave a public message telling us how you solved it!

Fm: TOM KENNEDY 74176,774 To: Scott Darling 72366,714 (X)

I DONT KNOW WHERE YOUR CLOSEST EXCHANGE CENTER IS, (MINE? HERE IN TOWN) BUT I BLEW MY TRANSFORMER (BY RUNNING THE FAN TO SLOW) AND THEY EXCHANGED IT FOR \$63.

Sb: #33141-#PBOX FAILURE!!!! Fm: Scott Darling 72366,714 To: MACK MCCORMICK 74206,1522 (X)

THANK MACK! Does the Tech manual from TI (\$25.00) have those schematics? If so I should be gettin it soon. Maybe that will help. I really hate to hafta send it back to an Exchange Center for \$30.!!! Thank again! I have another? for you concerning reading the rs232 ports w/minimem but that can wait.

Sb: #33176-PBOX FAILURE!!!! Fm: MACK MCCORMICK 74206,1522 To: Scott Darling 72366,714

Scott,

These are loose schematics obtained from TI dealer parts for \$2 per set. They cover the PEB and every card. It's not the same thing as the Technical Data Manual. Fire away when ready with your question on RS232 from MM. It's almost identical to E/A. Hope you get your box up. If you can't find the problem yourself I'd recommend the TI exchange center route for \$30 since a local repairman will probably charge at least that.

Mack

Sb: #33166-#PBOX FAILURE!!!! Fm: BOB WOLFF 75206,2764 To: TOM KENNEDY 74176,774 (X)

Tom,

Hope this was not due to my January suggestion. Mine has worked for two years. How slow was your slow.

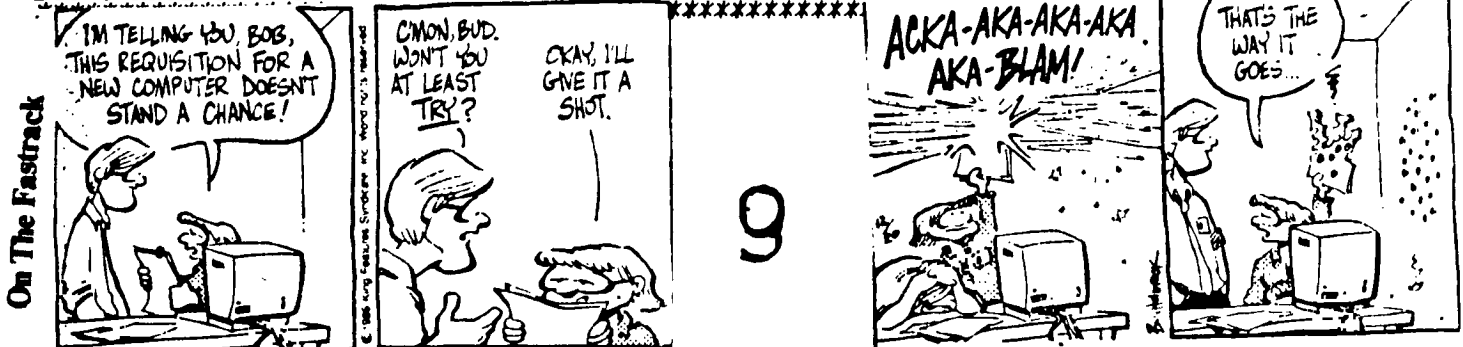
Bob Wolff

Sb: #33282-PBOX FAILURE!!!! Fm: TOM KENNEDY 74176,774 To: BOB WOLFF 75206,2764

In a way, yes, but it was really my fault. You see I tried using a common household light dimmer which has no sensitivity, and when you turn the dial, it was either off or on. The spot between off and on was very hard to maintain, and it had a tendency to fall off that mark and shut off! So, I spent a great deal of time with the fan COMPLETELY off and it just got too hot. I knew that switch was'nt right, and I really DID mean to get the right kind "someday".  
\*sigh\*

Oh well, now I'm either gonna look for a thermostatically controlled fan motor speed switch, or pull the transformer out and hang it out the window, or try and find a quieter fan, or just get some earplugs!

BUT I HATE THIS FAN !!!!



## NEW LANGUAGES !!

(Editor's Note: This is an abbreviation and adaptation of an Article that appeared in the APL SIG newsletter, THE SPECIAL CHARACTER SET, edited by D. Ehrer. First known TI newsletter reprint, Northwest Ohio 99'ers News. January 1986 Additional editing for the 99/4A by Art Byers, 73157,3017)

### NEW LANGUAGES FOR THE TI-99/4A -by Ted E. Bear, Pipedreams, Inc.

**BASIC, LOGO, FORTH, PILOT, PASCAL** - These are well known and presumably loved languages throughout the computer industry, and all implemented on the 99/4A. But in this best of all possible years for the now famous orphan, such famous programmers as Aon Rotbright, John Bentkey, Naig Ciller, and Tarry Braver have now implemented a whole new series of modern languages for our machine:

**FIFTH.** This is a precise mathematical language in which data types refer to quantities. The data types range from CC, GUN-E, SHOT AND JIGGER to FIFTH (Hence the name of the language), LITER, MAGNUM and BLOTT. Commands refer to ingredients such as CHAPLIS, CATERNET, GIN, VERMOUTH, VCIKA, SCOTCH, BURBON, COORS, E'D, AND WHAT EVER IS AROUND. Rumor has it hat this is the 99/4A owner's favorite of all the new 99/4 languages an it has even been dumped into GRAM KRACKERS. You get loaded faster that way - RIGHT!

**LITHP.** This otherwise unremarkable language is distinguished by the absence of "S" in its character set. Programmers and users must substitute "TH". LITHP is said to be useful in processing lithth. This language was developed in San Francisco.

**LAIDBACK** This Language was developed at the Marin County Center for Tai Chi, Mellowness and Computer Programming (now defunct), as an alternative to more intense atmosphere in Nearby Silicone Valley.

The center was ideal for programmers who liked to soak in hot tubs while they worked. Unfortunately, few programmers could survive there because the center outlawed Pizza and Coca Cola in favor of Tofu and Perrier.

Many mourn the demise of LAIDBACK because of its reputation as a gentle and non-threatening language since all the error messages are in lower case. For example, LAIDBACK responded to syntax errors with the message: "i hate to bother you, but i just can't relate to that. can you find the time to try it again?"

**DOGO.** Developed at MIOT (Massachusetts Institute of Obedience Training). DOGO heralds a new era of computer literate pets. DOGO commands include SIT, HEEL, STAY, PLAY DEAD and ROLL OVER. An innovative feature of DOGO is the "puppy" graphics, a small cocker spaniel that occasionally leaves deposits as i travels across the screen.

**REAGAN.** This language was developed in California, but is now widely used in Washington D.C. It is the current subset of the international bureaucratic language known as DOUBLE-PEAK. Commands include REVENUE ENHANCEMENT, CAP WEINBERGER, CABINET, CHEP WOOD, and SCENARIO. WATT and BURFEE have been removed from the commands while there is a current effort to add MEESE.

The operating system used in NEW RIGHT and the designated memory is THE RANCH. The compile SCENARIO is a compile with NANCY followed by a link with BONJO resulting in a SNOOZE. Program bugs, called CONNIES, are removed with the GRANADA Command. A program written in REAGAN commences with a LANDSLIDE and terminates with SENILITY.

**VALGOL.** From its modest beginning in Southern California's San Fernando Valley, VALGOL is enjoying a dramatic Surge of popularity across the Country an has been adopted by many of the more youthful 99/4A programmers.

VALGOL commands include REALLY, LIKE, WELL, and Y\*KNOW. Variables are assigned with the =LIKE and =TOTALLY operators. Other operators include the California Booleans, AX and NOWAY. Repetitions of code are handled in FOR - SURE loops. Here is a sample program.

```
-----  
LIKE Y*KNOW, I MEAN START  
IF PIZZA = LIKE BITCHEN AND GUY = LIKE TUBULAR  
  AND VALLEY GIRL =LIKE GRODY**MAX THEN FOR I = LIKE 1  
  TO OH*MAYEE 100  
DO*WAH - (DITTY**2)  
BARR(I) =TOTALLY GROSS OUT  
SURE - LIKE BAG THIS PROGRAM REALLY LIKE TOTALLY (Y*KNOW)  
  IN*SURE  
GOTO*THE MALL
```

VALGOL is characterized by its unfriendly error messages. For example when the user makes a syntax error, the interpreter displays the message:

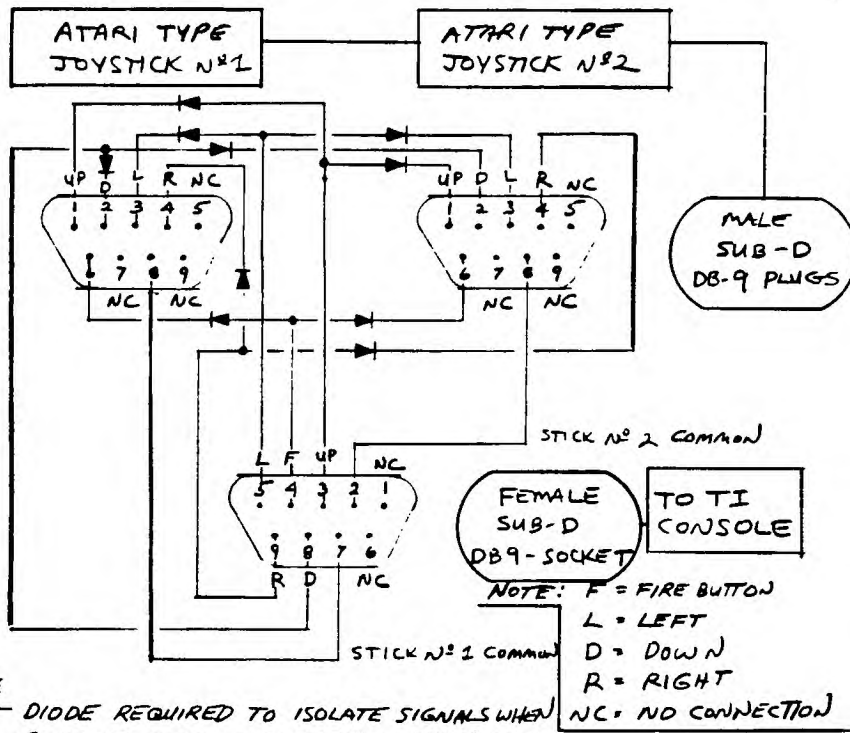
- GAG ME WITH A SPOON!

A fix for the joystick adapter from a couple of issues ago. Thanks to Randy -

RANDY ROSSETTO 979 USERS GROUP TORONTO  
TI 99/4A TO ATARI TYPE JOYSTICK ADAPTER

- MAT'L REQ'D - 1- DB9 FEMALE (SOCKET) 9 PIN 'D' SUBMINI CONNECTOR  
 2- DB9 MALE (PLUG) 9 PIN 'D' SUBMINI CONNECTOR  
 1- SUITABLE ENCLOSURE  
 MISC. WIRE (20-22 GA), SOLDER

MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE AT RADIO SHACK, ELECTROSONIC, SAYNOR, ARKON, ACTIVE COMPONENTS, EXCELTRONICS, ZENTRONICS, ETC.



NOTE:  
 → DIODE REQUIRED TO ISOLATE SIGNALS WHEN USING 2 JOYSTICKS, USE 1N914 OR EQUIV. SIGNAL DIODE.  
 IF YOU WANT TO ELIMINATE THE ENCLOSURE YOU CAN MAKE UP A "Y" CABLE FOR JOYSTICKS N#1 & 2 OR A SINGLE CABLE WIRED UP FOR THE JOYSTICK OF YOUR CHOICE. IN THAT CASE YOU WILL REQUIRE COVERS OR HOODS FOR THE DB9 CONNECTORS. NORMALLY JOYSTICK N#1 IS SELECTED.

STOP THE PRESSES...  
 MIKE O'DOWD  
 PROMED TO SAY  
 THE COMPUTER REF.  
 BOOK THAT HE  
 FOUND VERY USEFUL  
 FOR THE SEMI-  
 TECHNICAL PERSON  
 IS  
 "THE PLAIN ENGLISH  
 REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE  
 GUIDE FOR HOME COMPUTERS"  
 - BY HENRY F. BEECHGOLD  
 (2 EIS AND 2 HIS)  
 - IT IS IN PAPERBACK  
 AND SHOULD BE  
 AVAILABLE AT  
 BETTER STOCKED  
 BOOK STORES AND  
 LARGER LIBRARIES.  
 - EDITOR

**Computoons**

