

# CLEVELAND AREA 99-4A USERS GROUPS NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 1986

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## EDITORIAL COMMENTS

### COPY-PROTECTION FIRM SUCCEEDS TO OWN SOFTWARE

In a bizarre twist, a software firm whose business mandate was to develop copy-protection programs for software publishers has filed for bankruptcy in Nocopy, CA. The company, named Try To Copy This, You Slime! Inc, set out to produce a foolproof program of the same name; ironically, the developers succeeded too well.

When the firm's production department attempted to duplicate the program for customer orders, the company's mainframe computer responded, "aha--caught you! Now take this, you sleazy ball of pond scum!" Hidden wires in Try To Copy This, you Slime! then proceeded to wipe out all the firm's hard-disk-based accounting data, including the Swiss-bank-account data of the company's founders. It next generated longhand, letter-quality love letters from the president to his secretary, and effected an automatic mailing of the letters to the president's wife. Finally, it caused the company's \$600,000 VAX mainframe to catch fire. Bewoaned the firm's president in an interview in divorce court, "It works."

The preceding fictional account is reprinted with permission from an article called "Travisties", written by Bill Travis for the June, 1985, issue of Personal Engineering and Instrumentation News, edited and published by Paul G. Schreier (617) 969-7274, and is our salute to the month of April, commonly known as.....

A reminder to the group presidents that their EXECUTIVE NOTES should be to Deanna the Wednesday BEFORE the 4th Saturday of the month, so that they can be typed by the editors meeting in order for space to be allocated for the various articles.

Please make special note that BOTH TI-Chips and NorthCoast will be meeting a week earlier than normal because of conflicts at their respective meeting sites.

The much-publicized TI-FAIRE in Chicago last fall has spawned several others, in LA, New Jersey, and Boston. The LA Faire was the first of March. It takes time for reports to filter out through the newsletters, but the Thainers of Edu-Coop downloaded some conversations from CompuServe concerning announcements made by Craig Miller of Millers graphics for new accessories for the TI. One is a keyboard interface card which allows you to hook up any IBM PC or IBM XT keyboard to the 4/A which will allow you to have true separate cursor control keys, function keys and a 10-keyboard pad. You will be able to move the keyboard around without worrying about the flex cable interface, power cable, cassette cable and video cable connections. It works with all software, firmware and hardware. It also adds a keystroke buffer.

Also announced was a smart programmable keyboard (via additional plug-in chips) which allows complete programmability of any key(s) on the keyboard! You can program any key to be any other key or any series of keystrokes (up to 32,000 keystrokes). This will allow you to have MACROS and/or BATCH FILES for TI-Writer, Multiplan,

Extended Basic, Editor/Assembler and ALL your other favorite software. You will be able to preprogram Extended Basic KEYWORDS, such as CALL CLEAR or DISPLAY AT, into SINGLE keystrokes. The keystroke memory (32K) is battery backed up so you will not have to load your special key definitions each time you use your computer.

It seems too good to be true to have enhancements such as these coming on the heels of the already-fabled GrakKraker. But Craig Miller has been true to his word and not announced products he cannot deliver.

Jim Mekeel of NorthCoast has offered to be an "answer man" if anyone has encountered a programming, software, hardware, problem, etc. If you will contact him through the P.O. Box listed on the back of this newsletter, he will try to answer your question, or find someone else who can, and publish both the question and the answer in the newsletter. This sounds like a good idea to get some dialog going. However trivial you think your problem is, it may be exactly what is troubling someone else. So don't hesitate to take advantage of this offer.

There was an ad in the March Computer Shopper for 32K cards for the expansion box for \$49.95, produced by MULTICOM and sold by Rocky Mountain Micro, P.O. Box 1693, Sandy, UT 84091.

Thanks to Chuck Mareno for bringing along the April TI section of the Computer Shopper, you might like to know that Randy Holcomb will no longer be doing a TI column for that publication, but will be replaced by Jonathan Zittrain and Ron Albright. Both are Sysops on the commercial databases. Also gleaned from that column is the news that Navarone Industries has been acquired by another company and relocated to Texas. If you need it, the new phone number is (214) 437-1118.

Totally unexpected when the order was placed, was the receipt of 2 BLACK keyboards for my BLACK computer. From the many ads in Computer Shopper for TI keyboards, I chose Lolir Electronics Corp., 13933 N. Central Expressway, Suite 212, Dallas, TX 75243, phone (214), 234-8032. Cost: \$3.75 ea. plus \$3.50 postage.

A possible source for inexpensive TI computers and peripherals might be your local pawnshop. This idea comes from the Boise, ID newsletter where a pawnshop owner contacted them and stated he often had people bring in their TI computers, etc. they no longer wanted.

The following was edited from the NET Newsletter of Hurst, TX, from an article by LeRoy Thompson who was reflecting on how he got his TI, what happened, and where we are now. He was discussing TI's reluctance to encourage third-party hardware and software which leads into the following...."The look-back is for a comparison reason. Nowadays, the third party market is the only market that we have. Oh! if only we could have had the third party suppliers and TI peacefully co-exist. I can only wonder

what would have been if TI had had the open architecture that the Itty Bity Machine Co. has used since introduction of its product. What all this rambling is for is to introduce a rumor that I heard recently. A friend who works for that company that used to build our computers and is high enough up to be able to talk to the people who are high enough up to make some difference, is trying to impress the higher ups with the currently existing market. The desire is to convince that company to go into a limited production of all the neat gadgets that are already invented but are resting in peace hidden away. By the way, it is also rumored that TI still will not sell/give away any license for 4A/related stuff. Wonder what this means..."

Look inside for...Reviews of a couple of the FAIRMARE programs by Steve Weinkamer; A review of TI-Artist and a sample of some artwork by Oscar Prodenetsky using that program; A tutorial in Basic Logic by Tom Nellis; a load program by Steve Weinkamer which will catalog to printer, delete a file, or run a program and only takes up 10 sectors of disk space; an announcement by Jim Mekeel of a new program he has placed in the FAIRMARE market; plus an article by Jim detailing his experience in placing 32K of memory inside his computer; a review of 3 FAIRMARE disk cataloging programs and an article on the most commonly asked questions regarding TI-Writer; a review of "The Orphan Chronicles" (which is now available from Edu-comp). We are indebted to Art Byers of the Central Westchester 99'ers for the articles on TI-Artist, "The Orphan Chronicles", the FAIRMARE disk catalogers and the TI-Writer. Art uses BV/BO files (as we are now doing) and is willing to share his newsletter articles with others if you will send in an initialized disk (2 sides) and RETURN postage. Now that we have several issues behind us in the same format, we will be glad to make the same offer to other newsletter editors out there.

#### EXECUTIVE NOTES - TI-CHIPS

I hope that you are as glad to see spring come as I am. I want to remind you that our April meeting will be the SECOND Saturday, April 12. Mark your calendars now.

At our March meeting, Terry Vacha demonstrated Draw a Plot. Baryl Saylor gave a talk on files; Otto Hagels demonstrated the Copy Cat disk; and Mark McCauley showed us how the BM1000 works. Thanks to everyone for these presentations.

Thanks also to John Parken for making up new bulletins to distribute advertising the TI computer clubs. Congratulations to Baryl Saylor for winning the raffle for the Adventure Editor disk. The copies of the new library catalog are now available and Mark is now making copies of disks for those who want them. See you at the meeting on APRIL 12.

JAN FEDOR

**EXECUTIVE NOTES  
SOLON**

Due to the weather, our March 8 turnout was smaller than usual, however we still had an enthusiastic group on hand. Kim Jones gave us a demonstration of MASTER PAINTER 99, one of several graphics design programs available for the 99 4/A. Those of you who are familiar with graphics utilities know that each one has it's strong and weak points. MASTER PAINTER 99's forte is the ability to dump the screen to a printer in different dot densities to simulate color gradations created on the screen. A very interesting demonstration! Thanks Kim. April's demo will be given by Ray Chom, and hopefully, an as yet unfound volunteer. Ray says that he will try to plan a program revolving around taxes, a timely subject for April.

It's really great to listen to the exchange of information that is being traded before the meetings each month. I always get at least one good tidbit of information that I didn't have before. I keep thinking of those people who don't take advantage of the User's Groups anymore or have let their memberships expire. There is an immense wealth of information that is only available through the group and it's grapevine, and it is too bad that more people don't attend the meetings on a regular basis if at all. I can say for myself that if it hadn't been for our group, I would probably be using my computer for a game machine for the kids or a doorstop by now.

I'd like to take a moment to thank Tom and Doris Jablonski for their help in putting together the newsletter this past year. Due to health reasons, they will no longer be able to mail out the newsletter. Thanks for your dedicated service and thanks again from the entire Cleveland area group.

**A COUPLE OF QUICK REVIEWS  
BY YOURS TRULY**

From time to time, I plan to review some of the programs that I have come across from various sources. I managed to obtain several programs at the last newsletter meeting that I'd like to review at this time.

EASY SPRITE is a really nifty little XDOS utility, written by Tom Freeman, that lets you design and save sprite characters for use in your programs. The program has easy to understand documentation files in B/V 80 format to help you get rolling. One drawback to alot of sprite editing programs, is the long pauses due to calculations and manipulation of strings and other data. EASY SPRITE has overcome these hangups with assembly routines in just the right areas. EASY SPRITE lets you manipulate sprite orientation, (i.e. flip, flop, rotate, and reverse image) and print out or save hex codes to disk or tape. It also lets you print out an actual image of the sprite in graphics mode of an Epson/Genini printer. With EASY SPRITE, you have the full ability to create, save, edit, and print sprite graphics without having to tediously copy lots of hex code by hand. Well worth the fairware cost. Rates a 9.

LANNONER, on the other hand, is a game that put even my five year old to sleep. The object behind this clunker is to guide a man and his lanceour around a yard and avoid being bitten by a dog or hit on the head with a stick by an irrate neighbor. The graphics leave much to be desired and the sprite coincidences seem to miss about 25% of the time. As the game plods along, you see areas of the lawn and try to score points by running over a dog bone that moves across the screen. A fuel gauge lets you know when to regas the mower to keep the game going. Outside of the slowness of the game, the biggest frustration is the slow response to the joystick. You have to move the stick way before you want the mower to move, and this has you steering wildly all over the place. It's too bad this game is a stinker, because the author, (Gary Cox), obviously spent a great deal of time putting it together. Definitely not worth the waste of disk space or the the fairware asking price. Try again Gary. Rates a 2.

Hope to see all of you April 12, at Solon Public Library!

Hope you are feeling better Mark Woodward. We all miss you.

**Steve Weinkamer  
President**

**EXECUTIVE NOTES - NORTHCOAST**

At the March 13 meeting, we welcomed 4 new members. We also had an informative demonstration of Name-it from Extended Software by Stan Morr. The raffle program, Morse Code Generator from Dynamic Data Devices was demonstrated by Jim Mekoel. The latter program can be used as a drill or to convert text into code at up to 15 wpm. We use the Name-it program for the club membership list.

We were also informed of 2 hardware projects. Jim Mekoel put 32K of RAM into a console, and Don Stupak installed a quiet fan in his PEB. Both members have promised more information at our next meeting on April 12, which is a week early. At this meeting, the raffle will be a disk drive head cleaning kit. Hope to see you there.

**ASSEMBLY SIG NOTES**

This SIG is still well attended and going strong. Fifteen attended last month. The April 12 meeting at 7:30 pm will cover Chapters 6 & 7 in Malesworth's book. The meetings at are Tom Nellis house. If you brought chairs last month, please bring them again. The Youngstown users group (POUG) has loaned out to this group, all their documentation on Assembly. Please look at all the articles. If you find something interesting, a copy can be made.

**TOM NELLIS**

(TI-ARTIST)

#### SUMMARY REPORT CARDS

Performance.....B  
Ease of Use.....A  
Documentation.....A  
Value.....A  
Final Grade.....A

Cost: \$19.95 on floppy disk.

Manufacturer: INCEBOT INC. Software  
P.O. Box 260  
Arnold, MD 21012

#### SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Console, monitor or TV, disk system, expansion memory, one of the following: (Extended Basic, Mini-Memory, Editor/Assembler, TI-Writer, CorCorp or NYARC disk controller card (in short a assembly object code loader)), joystick (optional), Super Sketch (optional), mouse (optional), track ball (optional).

#### PERFORMANCE

TI-Artist has to be the best all round graphics program on the market. Even though GRAPHI, Master Painter 99, Draw A Bit, Draw and Plot, and Super Sketch each offer certain unique features, TI-Artist offers the best features in a single package.

It is an extremely easy program to use and is completely menu driven from a picture title screen. Simply move your cursor to the picture of the desired action or press the corresponding letter on the keyboard and presto you are in that mode. Some of the unique features are: Continuous Lines from point to point, Rays, Fills with user selected patterns, Frame, Box, Circle, Disc, perfectly horizontal or vertical lines, alphanumeric lettering in 81 possible sizes determined by the user, Store or load from disk, zoom the picture size 4X for detailed drawing, Mirror your drawing in four quadrants, Input your drawings using the keyboard, joystick, Super Sketch, trackball, or a mouse, multiple brush sizes/styles, index pictures previously saved on a disk, optional density, magnification, and line spacing printouts on EPSON compatible (most printers), Okidata, or Seiksha GP-100 printers. One option which I particularly like is the ability to load drawings previously drawn with Draw A Bit, Draw A Bit II, and Draw and Plot and convert them to drawings which may be used with TI-Artist.

There are several features which could be easily added which I feel would enhance the program. First, on printing out the pictures the user should be able to permanently re-define his printer specifications instead of entering

them each time, abort the print out, and define shades of print densities corresponding to screen colors. Second, a provision for pre-drawn ICONS for the inclusion in drawings would have been nice.

#### EASE OF USE

From the moment I loaded the program I was able to begin drawing with minimal reference to the instructions. Even the inexperienced user should be able to quickly master all facets of the program. This program is also well suited for children as an introduction to drawing on the computer. I found a small administrative procedure when you first run the program very interesting. You are asked for your name which is permanently placed on the disk. From then on each time you load the program you must enter your name as a protection against piracy.

#### DOCUMENTATION

The documents are contained on the disk in files which may be printed out. Minimal documentation is required to use the program but the author covers all aspects in sufficient detail. For the advanced programmer he provides the information required to interface an input device (for example a sketch pad) which is not standard in the program. He also describes how to use TI-Artist with Super Sketch or a mouse. Several example drawings provided are very educational. For example there are drawings showing the wiring diagram for a Centronics PIO cable and attaching a mouse to your Super Sketch for use by TI-Artist.

#### VALUE

TI-Artist at \$19.95 has to be the best buy on the market. When one considers the effort required to write this tremendous program plus the cost of materials, postage, and handling it would be impossible to find a better deal.

#### FINAL GRADE

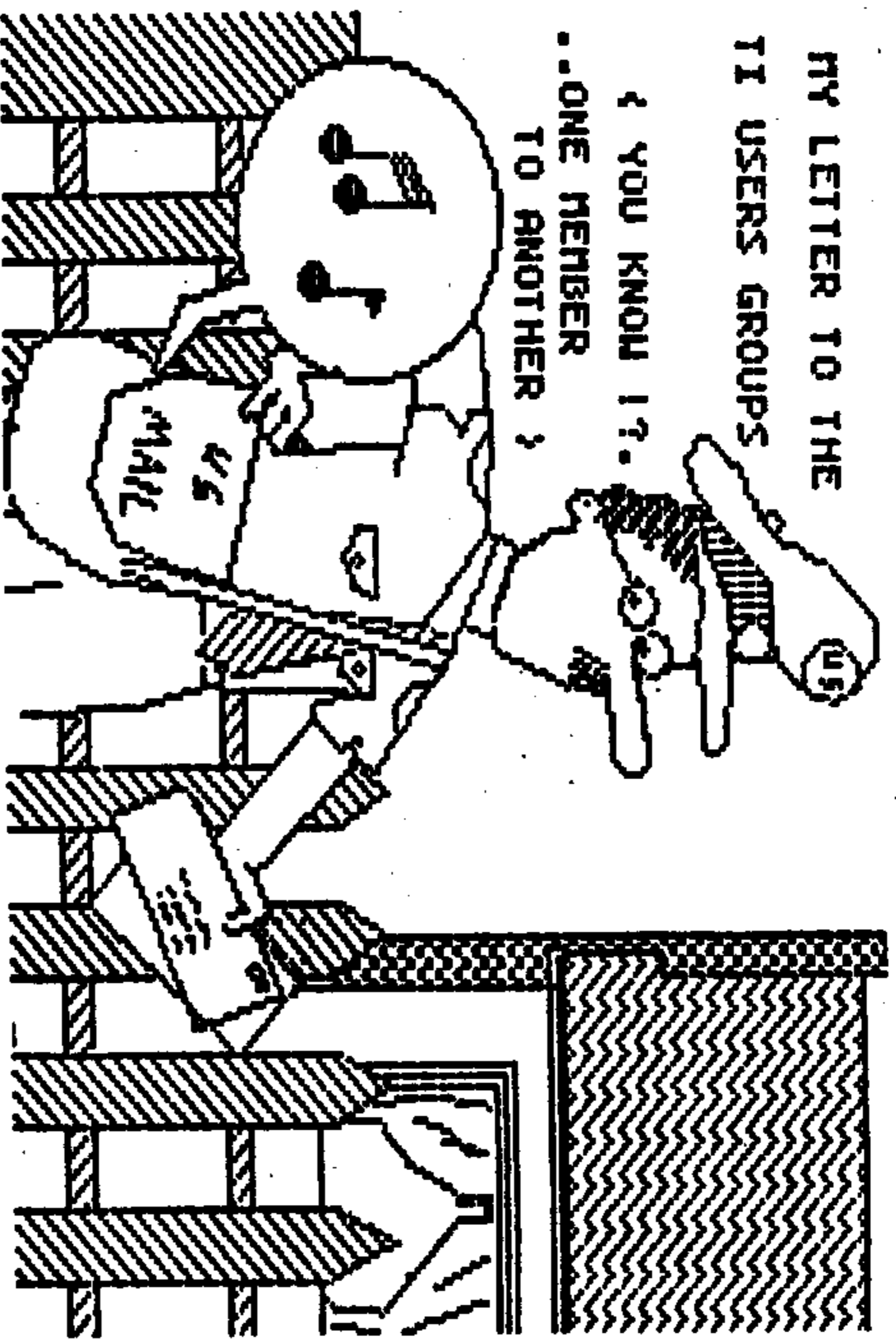
TI-Artist certainly deserves the top grade. I found the program a joy to use and I am certain it will not become another useless program sitting on the shelf. I've saved the best for last. The author is Chris Faherty, one of our own here on CompuServe. If you purchase the program please let him know how you feel about it. I assure you this will be one of the best buys you'll find all year.

A Review by Mack McCormick 74206,1522

B/L from CompuServe by Neil Gary  
Central Westchester 99'ers

FOR SALE - Mini-Memory Cartridge - Miscellaneous  
Mini-Memory games - Line-by-line disassembler -  
Compute!'s Book of Assembly for Mini-memory and Ben  
Editor/Assembler for the Mini-Memory. All for 645  
Tom Nellis - 475-4067

As noted, these "art works" were produced by Bruce Prodenastis who belongs to both TI-Chips and NorthCoast groups. He used companions from BOTH Groups and Artist. He said it was very easy and did not take a long time to accomplish. If you would like to add a little jazz to your art work, letterheads, whatever, you can get colored ribbons from Judy at Ede-Camp for \$2.99 apiece. If you are going for the "silver", silver ribbons can be obtained from Software Center in North Olmsted for \$7.00 apiece. Harry Osterman has produced some attractive letterheads using CS05 and the colored ribbons.



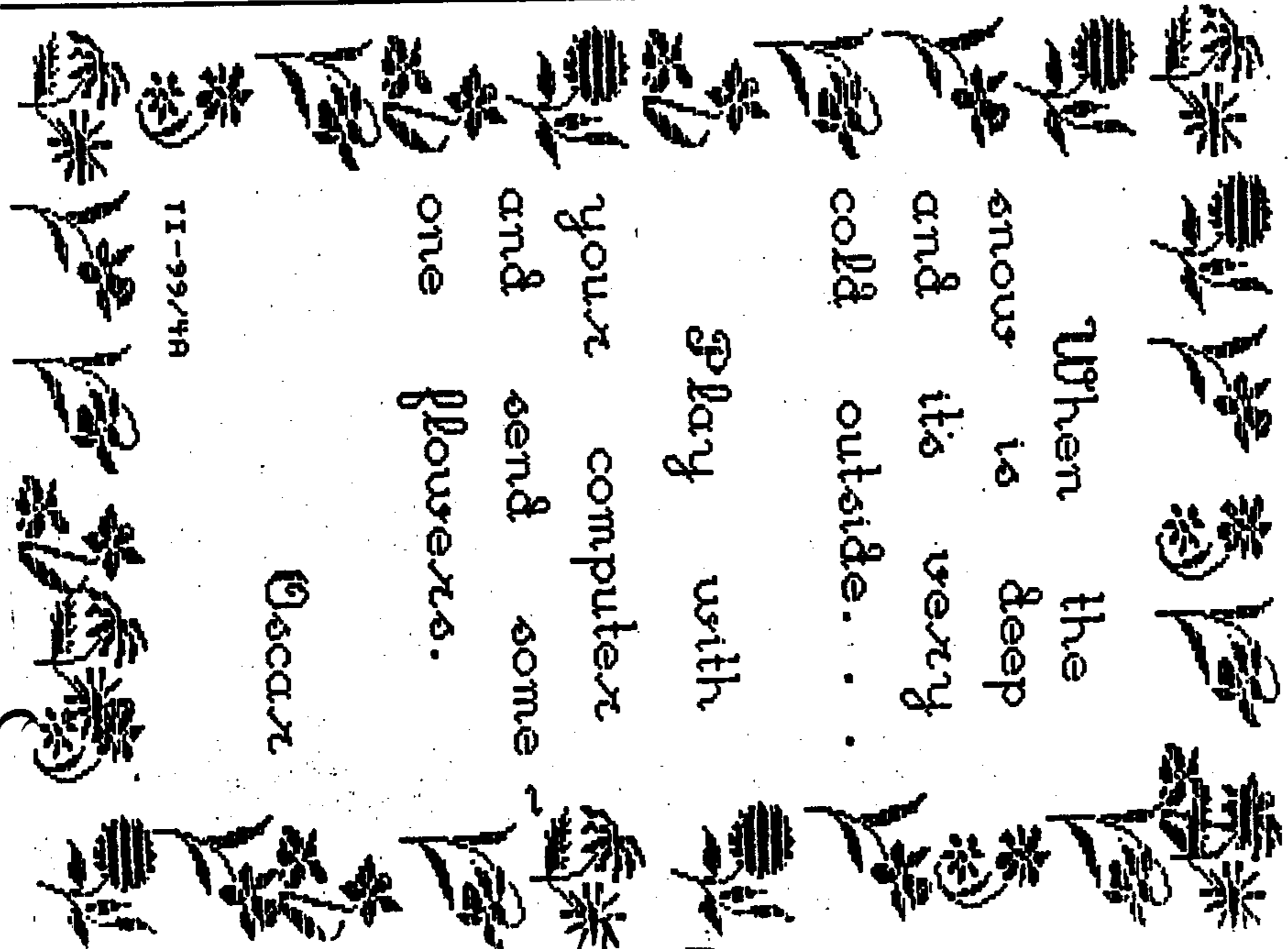
MY LETTER TO THE  
TI USERS GROUPS

DO YOU KNOW I?  
...ONE MEMBER  
TO ANOTHER?

OSCAR  
FROM BRUNSWICK



TI USERS GROUPS  
CLEVELAND, OHIO.  
THE SUNSHINE CITY



When the  
snow is deep  
and it's very  
cold outside...  
Play with  
your computer  
and send some  
flowers.

Oscar

TI-99/4A

**TI-WRITER**  
**COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS**  
By Tom Kennedy

TI-WRITER is an extremely powerful Word Processor, and much of this power is attributed to the many commands and features available only a keystroke away. The problem many find though, when learning to use this software, is "Which Keystroke?"

Everyone has had one particular problem that stumped them for hours, only to find a simple answer, and wonder: "Why didn't I see that?". In this section, we will attempt to cover some of these questions, perhaps the very ones you have on your mind. Also included are some little known tips to aid in using the TI-WRITER word processor.

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Q: How do I backspace beyond the left margin?

A: The keystroke CTRL-Y will temporarily disable the left margin. NOTE: there is no right margin release.

Q: How do I stop the printer from printing a blank page when printing through the formatter?

A: The "quirk" of the unwanted blank page printed when using the Formatter has been eliminated in the new revised version of the FORM1 and FORM2 files, recently released to the public domain by TI. Another way is to select the single page option in the formatter menu, and reset the paper before printing.

Q: When using the .HE command to print a "Header" and page number, how do you suppress the page number until a later page?

A: The value of the page number in a Header or Footer is incremented on each page, and can be reset to start over at any number. To have NO value printed, (such as for the introduction of a book) use the .PA format command, with a value of zero. The page numbering will begin on the following page., and a ".PA" at the end of each page will delay the numbering further.

Q: Can TI-WRITER save a file in any format besides D/V80?

A: Yes, if you use the PF command to print a file, you can insert an "F" in front of the filename, as in: F DSK1.NYFILE. The F will cause the file to print in

Display/Fixed 80 format. The use of a "C" in front of the filename strips any control characters from the file as it is sent.

Q: How do you reformat a table created in Fixed mode, without drawing the whole table into one paragraph?

A: Unfortunately, this is not a convenient task. The only way is to insert a Carriage Return symbol after each line, and reformat each.

Q: How do you use the Text Formatter, and what are Format Commands.?

A: To start off with, the Formatter is a utility program that reads in a file, and interprets designated characters, or groups of characters, and performs certain functions on the text of the file. To use the formatter, you install these groups of characters, called Format Commands, into your text where needed. Most of these commands follow the rule of starting with a period (.) and starting at the beginning of a line. Numerical values are usually required, and must also follow in order. There are some format commands that consist of only one character, such as the ampersand (&), which underlines the following text. A complete list of the format commands, and their meanings, is in the Forum Data Library-0, under the name FMTCMD.MLP

Q: How do the Transliterate commands work?

A: The Transliterate command is special type of Format command that redefines any ASCII key value to equate to a string of character values. This is used to send specific code values to a printer in order to activate special functions. The format is ".TL xxx:aa,bb,cc..." where xxx is the key to be redefined, and aa, bb, etc are the subsequent code values being sent. You will have to check your printer manual to see which codes do what.

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This list is in no way complete. It requires an active part of anyone who has one of those nagging questions holding them up. If you have a question, please leave a message in the forum, addressed to [74176,774] and you will receive a prompt reply, along with the updating of this category.

D/L from CompuServe by Mel Gary NEM JUG  
Courtesy of Art Byers, Central Westchester 99'ers

**EXECUTIVE NOTES - GOLDEN CRESCENT**

As usual, about 30% of our membership attended the March 20 meeting at RAM Enterprises in Vermilion. It's really too bad! Dwayne Hughes demonstrated both the New Horizons Ram Disk AND the MS FrankCracker. This combination is super fast. Thanks to Dwayne for an interesting evening.

Thanks to Dick Burger, owner of RAM for the use of the "hall". Also thanks to Judy Thaler, Edu-Coop for providing some of the latest information around. Tom and Judy are on the "boards" almost every evening in an effort to gather the

latest information available. We are very lucky to have not one, but two fine dealers in our area. They deserve our support. Call Dick at (216) 967-1317 and Judy at (216) 327-6579 for the very latest products available.

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 17, at RAM Enterprises in Vermilion. Again, we will have the latest software available and an interesting demonstration of hardware is planned.

CHUCK MARENO

**THE OSMAN CHRONICLES**  
A Book Review

Author: Ronald G. Albright, Jr., M.D.  
Published by: Millers Graphics, San Diego CA 91773  
Cover Price: \$9.95

Paper back, Slick Cover. Good quality  
paper, sewn binding.  
172 pages plus introduction and contents table

Review by Art Byers  
Central Westchester 99'ers

Although Ron Albright starts out by saying "the author made no attempt to portray anyone in this book in anything but an objective light.", he follows that immediately with the statement: "The author only presented the facts as he viewed them" - meaning to me that as hard as one tries to be objective, some human subjectivity must show through. We all see life through different color glasses.

Therefore I did not expect the remarkable objectivity that the author did achieve. If anything, I think he has bent over backwards in his attempt to be "objective" and dealt a such too kindly with both TI's management and Gary Kaplan of MCM. As I believe the book is well worth reading, for any avid 99/4 owner, when you read it, be your own judge on the matter of subjectivity and objectivity.

The first chapter gives a capsule history and analysis of the rise and fall of the 99/4A. The tale of events is presented in logical sequence, thoroughly documented with quotes from important sources, and written in a clear and interesting style. The varied machinations of TI to prevent third parties from creating software, the Commodore Atari TI price wars and such more are covered in 18 concise pages.

From there the following chapters cover such matters as the "commercial user groups" i.e. the now defunct IUG, the User groups such as ourselves, Telecommunications - bulletin boards, The Source's Texnet and Comuserve's TI Forum, publications including MCM and Micropendium, Freeware and so on. There is a plethora of valuable information, history and advice. In addition there are 11 appendices covering documents from TI, IUG, and MCM, PLUS lists of all TI produced software, hardware manufacturers, software manufacturers, local user groups, books on the TI, bulletin board phone numbers, etc. etc.

All in all I find this a most worth while and interesting volume, well packed with information. Ron's insights into the virtues and flaws of the computer add to our knowledge. I do not hesitate to recommend it to all of you.

Having said this, let me do some nit picking and grind my own subjective ax. I realize there is a limit to the amount of authoritative documentation any author can include in a relatively small volume such as this. However, at the time of TI's decision to staunch the flow of corporate blood (That means stop losing lots of money), there was some thorough analysis and comment in both the New York Times and

Wall Street Journal that is nowhere quoted. (I might be somewhat uncharitable in assuming that the Californians, are too chauvinistic to pay such attention to "Eastern" publications.) - and not all of the aforementioned agreed completely with Ron's analysis.

I dispute Ron's statement that MCM provides "page for page" as much 99/4A material as did the predecessor magazine. The articles in MCM are, for the most part, "Generic" - applying to all five brands. There are only one or two specific columns devoted to each separate brand in each issue.

Next, I feel that the book deals very leniently with Gary Kaplan and MCM's promises both specifically made in letters mailed to 99'er subscribers as well as implied by the past contents of 99'er Magazine and 99'er Home Computer Magazine. These were never kept.

Where Ron has completely missed the point is that no mention is made of the glaring omissions. Where are the peeks and pokes, the assembly, TI-Writer, Multiplan tutorials, the articles that should be there on TI FORTH? Where is the big excitement of new languages for the 99/4A such as C and Pilot that are now available, the sensory maps? A wealth of riches exists that Gary Kaplan pretends does not exist. We know where all this excitement is being featured, it is in User Group Newsletters and on Comuserve.

According to MCM pages you would think the U.G.'s don't exist. MCM has even stopped publishing information about ALL and ANY U.G. no matter what brand of computer they serve.

I believe this is because MCM considers all U.G.'s to be competitors (if not outright enemies) as they give computer owners access to truly advanced software, advanced technical knowledge, hints and tips on telecommunications, and so on. The User Group Newsletters from coast to coast and abroad are crammed with well written accurate articles covering the full range of the capability and potential of the TI-99/4A. Surely with such a bonanza of material and talented authors as show up on the Forum and in UG bulletins, Mr. Kaplan could be enriching the TI section of MCM. Instead, MCM's pages are a blank as far as most of this is concerned, and often resemble Pablum compared to real red meat when put up against the software and tutorials available in User Group libraries via telecommunication.

Don't get me wrong, MCM's software is meritorious and well worth the price of the magazine (which acts as documentation) and matching disk software. This is especially true when compared to the prices IBM and Apple owners pay for commercial software.

One last point, the arrogance of Gary Kaplan shows through in the documents and the quotes of his words in this book. It is obvious the man feels we should all be everlastingly grateful to him and worship at his throne.

This as much as anything, certainly more than the "abandonment" mentioned by Albright, has contributed to the stones and arrows slung by U.G. editors and officers such as Dave Wakely and myself.

Buy the book! You will find the reference appendices worth while, and more important, you will enjoy it.

**BASIC LOGIC**  
By Tom Nellis, Northcoast 99ers

I'm thinking of a number between 1 and 100. Your first guess should be 50 and depending if the number was higher or lower than 50, your next guess would be 25 or 75. If you continue using this process it will only take you 7 tries or less to guess the correct number. Something else that you probably never noticed is that after only two guesses you've eliminated 75% of the numbers and after 4 guess you've eliminated 94%.

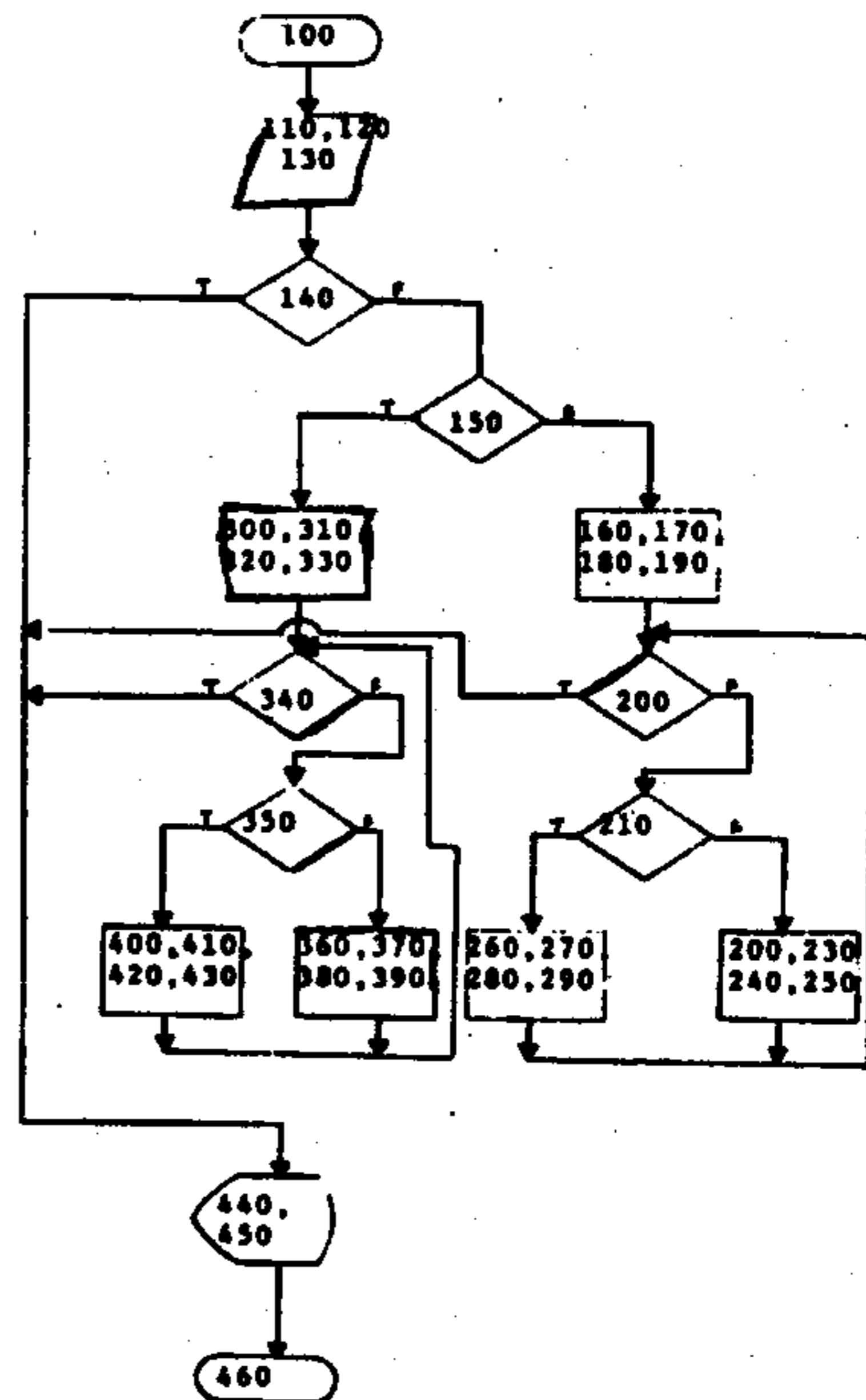
The logic of this program mimics this same process. the variables TOP and BOT establish the upper and lower limits. The algorithm  $(top+bot)/2$  establishes the midpoint (variable mid) and compares it to your input. Depending if your input is greater or less than this midpoint the whole process is repeated until a match (mid=input) is found.

If you would like to watch this process add this statement PRINT TOP;MID;BOT to lines 241,281,381,421. It will let you watch how it finds a match for your input. The disadvantage is that it will slow the program down immensely. You can change the value of TOP (X on line 110) to as large as you like (1 trillion).

In order to keep things simple the code has been duplicated in several places. The accompanying flow chart shows this. Once the value of the variable MID has been established the code is almost identical. The only difference being that different variable names are used in some lines.

The same program can be written in EX-Basic using only 6 lines but it would be much more difficult to follow the logic. I first used this program as a subroutine to search an array with 500 entries.

In the next few months I will show you how to use this as a subroutine to search an array very quickly and a few other things I learned the hard way.



100 CALL CLEAR	100 MID=ABS(INT(TOP-BOT)/2)	200 MID=MID+BOT	370 MID=ABS(INT(TOP-BOT)/2)
110 X=100	190 MID=MID+BOT	290 GOTO 200	380 MID=MID+BOT
120 INPUT "PLEASE ENTER THE NUMBER YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEARCH?" : A	200 IF A=MID THEN 440	291 REM **** USING THIS HALF IF > THAN MID	390 GOTO 340
130 MID=INT(X/2)	210 IF A>MID THEN 260	300 BOT=MID	400 BOT=MID
140 IF A=MID THEN 440	220 TOP=MID	310 TOP=X	410 MID=ABS(INT(MID-TOP)/2)
150 IF A>MID THEN 300	230 MID=ABS(INT(TOP-BOT)/2)	320 MID=ABS(INT(TOP-BOT)/2)	420 MID=MID+BOT
151 REM *** USING THIS HALF IF < MID	240 MID=MID+BOT	330 MID=MID+BOT	430 GOTO 340
160 TOP=MID	250 GOTO 200	340 IF A=MID THEN 440	440 PRINT A,MID
170 BOT=0	260 BOT=MID	350 IF A>MID THEN 400	450 PRINT
	270 MID=ABS(INT(MID-TOP)/2)	360 TOP=MID	460 END



## HOW TO MAKE FLIPPLIES FROM FLOPPYS

By Ken Gladyszewski  
NorthCoast 99ers

A pattern is needed to accurately locate the index hole and the write-protect notch. An old floppy jacket with the magnetic disk removed is perfect. Align the read head opening and using a white or silver pencil, mark both the index hole and write protect notch on either side of the disk. A 1/4 inch diameter round paper punch can be used for each. If the punch is all metal, a piece of paper should be slipped between the jacket and the media, and the punch slipped between the jacket and the paper. The write-protect notch need not be cut square. Sufficient write-protect tabs are not normally supplied for the extra notches, but a small piece of black plastic electrical tape seems to be a great substitute. Before I discovered this, I installed a write protect override switch on an external disk drive.

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### **NORTHCOAST LIBRARY ADDITIONS, ETC.**

Through active trading with Los Angeles, Boise, ID, Westchester, NY, and member contributions, we are continuing to add to our FAIRMARE and utilities sections of the library.

Ready for next month's meeting will be UNIVERSAL DISASSEMBLER, a disassembler in FORTH; PILOT, the language; CHECKBOOK MANAGER by John Taylor; FAST FORTH; DISK MANAGER 99, a resident disk manager; DISK CATALOG 82, holds close to 1000 files; PRINTOUT, a printart type disk - nice; DISASSEMBLER by Marty Kroll, SEARCH OF XYLOSE, an adventure game and DISKHELPER1.

It was discovered that PRBASE has a bad loader to the main program and in reading other newsletters, it seems that the Boise club also had the same problem with their copy. It seemed the best way to remedy the situation would be to go directly to the author for a good copy.

Ordering FAIRMARE directly is very easy and the only costs involved are an initialized disk, mailer, postage to and from. So, if there is a particular program out there you would like, you can probably get a newer version than the ones floating around users groups at very little initial cost. Also, you might be surprised at the additional benefits from going the direct route. Dave Talan has been getting everything posted for Adventure Games and Assembly Language. He has found that if you inquire, the authors go into depth about how they wrote their program, why, etc., and he has found some new friends in this manner and even

gotten newsletter exchanges going for us.

If this just isn't your bag, and there is still something special you would like to have, please leave a note in the little "voluntary offering" box, and I will try to get it. With these contributions coming in, it gives me a little more leeway in actively obtaining new programs.

Don't forget that just because FAIRMARE seems to be the "in" thing now that there are also some very good public domain programs in the library waiting to be utilized and we would still like to have any programs written by any of our members. Also, programs which have been greatly enhanced or changed from the original are welcome.

DEANNA SHERIDAN, NORTHCOAST LIBRARIAN

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### **FAIRMARE UPDATE**

The first 3 of the following new FAIRMARE releases appeared in the February issue of MICROENDING. The last came from a newsletter which Chuck Mareno passed on.

**SUPER-MAIL** - A telephone/address program with provision for printing labels. Send \$5 to cover cost of postage, packaging and diskette to Henry J. Beck, 609 County Home Rd., Lexington, NC 27292

**SIDESPRINT FOR MULTIPLAN** - SidesPrint prints a Multiplan spreadsheet sideways. Requires a printer that accepts the Star Micronics Gemini 10X protocols for downloading a character set. Send \$5, or disk and self-addressed, stamped return mailer to: Jim Swedlow, 7301 Kirby Way, Stanton, CA 90680

**CAPITAL CAPERS** - An educational program designed to help teach when to capitalize a word. Requires Extended BASIC and a cassette recorder. Send cassette and self-addressed, stamped return mailer, or \$7, to: Larry P. Morgan, 9 Fountain Lake Dr., Greenfield, IN 46140

**CALENDAR PROGRAM** - The Super Calendar is a disk-based program that creates and stores up to 12 months of data for up to 3 separate calendars. Allows entry of data in a date-calendar format by month. Calendar months can be printed out for any single month of any calendar. Send an initialized single-sided, single-density disk and check for \$5.00 with disk mailer and return address label enclosed, or forward \$7.50 and disk and mailer will be provided to Super Calendar Program, 3535 S. H St., 893, Bakersfield, CA 93304

THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM WAS SUBMITTED BY STEVE WEINKHAME R OF THE SOLON GROUP. THIS LOAD PROGRAM WILL LET YOU RUN YOUR PROGRAM, CATALOG IT TO PRINTER, OR EVEN DELETE AN UNWANTED FILE...AND IT ONLY TAKES UP 10 SECTORS!

```
10 CALL CLEAR :: DISPLAY AT(
3,6):"RUN AUTOBOOT? Y" :: AC
CEPT AT(3,20)BEEP SIZE(-1)VA
LIDATE("YN"):XX$ :: IF XX<>
"Y" THEN END
```

```
100 X$="1"
```

```
110 DIM A$(97),H(98),J(97),K
(97)
```

```
120 CALL INIT
```

```
130 FOR I=1 TO 5 :: READ TYP
E$(I):: NEXT I
```

```
140 DATA "DIS/FIX","DIS/VAR"
,"INT/FIX","INT/VAR","PROGRA
M"
```

```
150 CALL LOAD(-31806,16)
```

```
160 OPEN #1:"DSK1.",INPUT ,R
ELATIVE,INTERNAL
```

```
170 INPUT #1:A1$,U,U,V
```

```
180 Q,R,S=0
```

```
190 GOSUB 440
```

```
200 Q=Q+1
```

```
210 INPUT #1:A$(Q),H(Q),J(Q)
,K(Q)
```

```
220 IF LEN(A$(Q))=0 OR Q=97
THEN 230 ELSE 200
```

```
230 S=S+1 :: R=R+1
```

```
240 IF ABS(H(S))=5 THEN B$="
" ELSE B$=" "&STR$(K(S))
```

```
250 T$=TYPE$(ABS(H(S)))&SE6$
(B$,LEN(B$)-2,3)
```

```
260 GOSUB 470
```

```
270 IF R=15 OR S=0 OR H(S+1)
=0 THEN 280 ELSE 340
```

```
280 R=0 :: GOTO 490
```

```
290 ACCEPT AT(24,22)BEEP VAL
IDATE(DIGIT," ")SIZE(-3):PRG
```

```
300 IF PRG=00 THEN 620
```

```
310 IF PRG=97 THEN 330 ELSE
IF PRG=98 THEN 340 ELSE IF P
RG=99 THEN 370 ELSE IF PRG=9
99 THEN 510 ELSE PRG=A$(PR
G)
```

```
320 GOTO 340
```

```
330 GOSUB 680 :: DISPLAY AT(
23,1):"INSERT NEW DISK":"PRE
SS ENTER WHEN READY" :: ACCE
PT AT(24,23):A$ :: CLOSE #1
:: GOTO 160
```

```
340 IF PRG<>" THEN 360 EL
SE IF S<Q AND H(S+1)<>0 THEN
230 ELSE 290
```

```
350 CLOSE #1
```

```
360 CALL PEEK(-31954,A,B)::
GOSUB 380 :: RUN "DSKX.12345
67890"
```

```
370 END
```

```
380 Z=A*256+B-65536 :: CALL
PEEK(Z,A,B):: Z=A*256+B-6553
6
```

```
390 CALL LOAD(Z+29,LEN(PRG$
```

```
)+5):: CALL LOAD(Z+33,ASC(X$
))
```

```
400 FOR I=1 TO LEN(PRG$)::
P=ASC(SEG$(PRG$,I,1)):: CAL
L LOAD(Z+34+I,P):: NEXT I
```

```
410 IF LEN(PRG$)<10 THEN 42
0 ELSE 430
```

```
420 FOR I=LEN(PRG$)+1 TO 10
:: CALL LOAD(Z+34+I,130)::
NEXT I
```

```
430 RETURN
```

```
440 DISPLAY AT(1,1)ERASE ALL
:"DSK":X$:" -DISKNAME=":A1$:
"AVAILABLE=":V$:" USED=":U-V
```

```
450 DISPLAY AT(3,4):"FILENAM
E SIZE TYPE":
```

```
460 RETURN
```

```
470 DISPLAY AT(R+4,1):USING
"##":S :: DISPLAY AT(R+4,4):
A$(S):: DISPLAY AT(R+4,14):J
(S):: DISPLAY AT(R+4,19):T$
```

```
480 RETURN
```

```
490 DISPLAY AT(21,1):"00 DEL
ETE A FILE":"97 READ NEW CAT
ALOG":"98 NEXT SCREEN 999 PR
INT CAT":"99 END SELECTI
ON:"
```

```
500 GOTO 290
```

```
510 GOSUB 680 :: DISPLAY AT(
21,1):"ENTER DATE" :: ACCEPT
AT(21,12):D$
```

```
520 OPEN #2:"PIO" :: PRINT #
2:CHR$(27);"B";CHR$(13);CHR$(
27);"A";CHR$(8);
```

```
530 PRINT #2:D$
```

```
540 PRINT #2:"DSK":X$:".":"-
DISKNAME=":A1$:"AVAILABLE=":
V$:" USED=":U-V
```

```
550 PRINT #2:" FILENAME
SIZE TYPE":
```

```
560 COUNT=S :: S=1
```

```
565 FOR I=1 TO B-1
```

```
570 IF ABS(H(S))=5 THEN B$="
" ELSE B$=" "&STR$(K(S))
```

```
580 T$=TYPE$(ABS(H(S)))&SE6$
(B$,LEN(B$)-2,3)
```

```
590 PRINT #2:I;TAB(5);A$(I);
TAB(15);J(I);TAB(19);T$ :: S
=S+1
```

```
595 NEXT I
```

```
610 CLOSE #2 :: S=COUNT :: 6
OTO 490
```

```
620 GOSUB 680 :: DISPLAY AT(
23,1):"DELETE WHICH FILE NAM
E?"
```

```
630 ON ERROR 650
```

```
640 ACCEPT AT(24,1)BEEP:DEL$
:: GOTO 660
```

```
650 DISPLAY AT(24,1):"FILE I
S PROTECTED" :: FOR I=1 TO 5
00 :: NEXT I :: GOTO 490
```

```
660 DELETE "DSK1."&DEL$
```

```
670 CLOSE #1 :: GOTO 160
```

```
680 CALL HCHAR(21,1,32,125):
RETURN
```

NEW FAIRWARE PROGRAM RELEASED  
AUTHORED BY JIM NEKEEL OF NORTHCOAST 99ers

Jim Nekeel has released DISKHELPER1 for the FAIRWARE market. Jim states this utility disk developed because of his desire to have everything needed for disk management on one disk. His programs are entitled CATALOG PRINTER AND DISK FIX/VAR READER.

The menu has options for QUICK COPY, NIBBLER AND DM1000. Only DM1000 is included as the other two programs are commercial copyrighted programs which will have to be supplied by the user. Any remuneration to Jim should be only for his CATALOG PRINTER and DISK FIX/VAR READER. Remuneration for DM1000 should go to that author.

Jim states that DISK FIX/VAR READER can read any FIXED or VARIABLE file of any record length and print it to the screen or printer which eliminates the need to have TI-Writer to print out document files.

The following donation is requested if you find the programs of value: DISK FIX/VAR READER, \$2; CATALOG PRINTER; \$2; MENU LOADER \$2;, or \$5 for all.

The disk has been placed in the NorthCoast 99ers' library, or you can obtain it directly from Jim for \$5.00 with your own disk and mailer, or \$7 if he supplies the disk and mailer. His address is: Jim Nekeel, 11596 Forest View, Munson, OH 44024.

## 48K TI SUPER COMPUTER

by Jim Hekeel  
NorthCoast 99ers

Well folks, I am now the proud owner of a 48K TI Super Computer. Yes, that's right, I performed surgery, and not only did the patient survive, but the darn thing is starting to ask for even more memory.

For those of you who are asking, "What is he talking about?", I shall fill you in. Last year, B. Elsner and P. West of the Perth, Western Australia Users Group, wrote an article entitled "32K Matchbox Expansion". This design was based on the Hitachi HM6264LP-15 8K x 8 memory chip. After reading the article and studying the schematics of the TI, I decided they knew what they were talking about. But, as an engineer, I could not just follow their directions (which are excellent); I had to try something else.

Why not have a new plug insertable board in the P-Box with a minimum number of components? Within 2 months I had designed and built a new 32K memory expansion card. However, electronics are just like software, you must debug every design, and mine was no exception. Without being too technical, I found there were problems controlling the data buss using the RDBENA line. This problem has a solution, but it would have required adding more chips into the circuit. The RDBENA signal is only needed for controlling the buss transceiver chips (74LS245) in the cable that connects the P-Box to the console. If the memory chips are in the console, the RDBENA signal is not needed. Thus, I decided to return to the Matchbox design of the Australian group.

The surgery to install the 32K memory chips in the console is not difficult, but it does require about 4 hours of time. The completed package fits nicely between the metal housing of the computer board and the top of the plastic outer case. I suggest that multi-colored ribbon cable be used in connecting the chips to the circuit board. I did not use the HM6264LP-15 as specified in the construction article; instead I used HM6264lp-12 which has a little faster access time. This did not cause any trouble.

So what's next? How about some extra memory for our hungry little machine? I am now working on a design for a 58K Extra-Supper TI console. I'll let you know about the results.

---

FOR SALE - TI-COMPUTER - \$45; Stand-alone BOXCAR RS232 with cable - \$85; 9 games - make offer; Typewriter word processing (can be used with cassette) - \$15; Home Budget Module; \$10; TI joysticks - \$7  
JEFF McGAFFICK 256-3200 or 845-6800 (leave message)

FOR SALE - NEW TI 300 Baud modem, cable & instruction book - \$59 or best offer; Hayes Smartmodem 300 baud, auto answer/auto dial in carton with instruction book - \$99; NEW cartridge expander by Navarone - \$20; various cartridges.  
MARK McCAULEY 235-8888

DISK LIBRARY CATALOGERS  
A review of three Fairware programs  
MASTERCATALOG by Mack McCormack  
CATLIB by Marty Kroll  
The DIRECTOR by Ron Rutledge

Reviews by - Art Byers  
CALL SOUNDS-Central Westchester 99'ers

Programs that make an alphabetical listing of all the programs in your library (along with a cross reference of the disk they are on, program size in disk sectors, and file type etc.) are among the most popular in both public domain and Fairware listings. This club has a P/D program (Diskmaster) in its library written in XB. However, it is slow, limited in its capabilities and features and slow to sort.

The Fairware field has several different programs, and this article reviews three that take different approaches. The first two are machine language programs.

MASTER CATALOGER by Mack McCormack is short and to the point. Its advantages are that it can hold up to 2000 files and that it is lightning fast, plus it will print out on any printer without any adjustment except choice of interface (PIO or RS232). Unfortunately, the fact that it is just bare bones has meant the loss of many desired features. Once you have made the initial catalog of your library, you cannot go back at a later date to delete disks, add more disks. Furthermore, although you do get a dual listing: #1 list of disknames and sectors used, and #2 alphabetical list of files and programs, you can only list it to a printer, not to the screen. Therefore, unless you are primarily interested in Speed, and only plan to catalog your complete library once a year, I doubt you will be satisfied with this Fairware.

CATLIB by Marty Kroll is a full feature program. You have a large menu of options including the ability to list to screen or printer. The printer listing is in condensed print. This has the advantage of putting such more information on one page but the disadvantage of incompatibility for those of you operating with daisy wheel printers. The disk contains two versions of the same program. #1 is for Okidata compatible printers. #2 is for Epson compatibles.

Other features include the ability to delete disks, go back later and add disks. It also catalogs each disk individually to the screen and asks if you desire that particular disk to be added to the library catalog. Limitations: It will only hold about 600 files and programs. However, if your library is organized logically, that is games on one set of disks, music on another set, etc. this does not appear to be a problem as you can catalog each category under a separate filename.

Sorting is fast. Printout format is excellent. I

*Cont - Back page*

highly recommend this program. It is well worth the \$10.00 asked. One word of warning: At one point the program displays only a screen that says "By the way". You might think the computer has locked up. Be patient and you will get back to the main menu. This lengthy delay is a genuine annoyance, however.

The DIRECTOR by Ron Rutledge is a first class job of Extended Basic programming. Some 99'ers seem to feel that just because a program is written in Assembly, it must be better. Of course, this is not true. Extended Basic is a fine powerful high level language. If assembly was the answer to all programming needs, the middle level languages such as Forth or C, or the High level languages like Xbasic or Microsoft Basic would never have been written. The Director offers features lacking in both of the above, but with some small trade-off.

First the goodies: As a bonus, it includes a nice Disk Labeler program and it takes a different approach of which I, subjectively and personally approve. The Director does not give you the endless alphabetical listing of all programs in the library. Instead it gives you a listing by diskname and all programs for that disk in one grouping.

I feel that alpha listings just cause confusion. Often a piece of software consists of five or six files and programs, each one necessary for successful usage. In an Alpha listing, these are scattered hither and yon and the list is not really too useful. In addition, severe

duplication results. You have all seen such listings with 20 programs in a row all called LOAD or DISKCAT. To compound the problem, many software authors use similar or identical names such as EDIT1 EDITA1 UTIL1 UTIL2 UTIL/3. An alpha listing can become meaningless.

Another plus is that this program is driven by a logical series of menus so that it is simple and easy to use. Documentation is on the disk along with a short program to give you a print out. There are all the needed features: You can add, search, replace, delete items quickly. This makes updating a pleasure. You can list or update a single disk, parts of the list or the whole shebang! There are more features but space limits a full description.

The trade-off's mentioned are that you are limited to 121 disks to be listed on a master disk (I don't consider this a problem as my most frequently used disks number about 25, and my total library is not yet up to 100) and that it does not run as fast as the machine language programs. However, remember that directory updating is something you do twice or three times a year so the few extra minutes that XB takes are trivial.

All three programs are available from the club's Fairware library. I recommend either CATLIB or DIRECTOR or both. Please send the author the requested contribution if you find it useful. This is the only way to assure ourselves of a continuing supply of fresh useful software.

**NEW ADDRESS**  
CLEVELAND AREA 99/4A USERS GROUPS  
P.O. BOX 23283  
EUCLID, OHIO 44123

**CHECK YOUR EXPIRATION DATE.**  
**THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST ISSUE!**

04/86

**!! TIME DATED MATERIAL !!**

