

# CLEVELAND AREA TI-994/A USER GROUPS NEWSLETTER

## MARCH, 1989

OFFICERS	NORTHCOAST	TI-CHIPS	MEETING DATES	
PRESIDENT	ERNIE MALNAR 289-7742	MATT ANDEL 676-9759	NORTHCOAST 1130 P.M.	TI-CHIPS 10 A.M.
V. PRESIDENT	MARTY SMOLEY 1-257-1661	GLENN BERNASEK 238-6335	EUCLIDIAN ROOM	N.ROYALTON LIBRARY
TREASURER	FRANK JENKINS 283-8526	LIN SHAW 235-3912	EUCLID SQUARE MALL	STATE RD & RT 82
MEMBERSHIP	CHUCK POULIN 731-6475 361 E. 280TH ST. EUCLID, OH 44132	JOHN PARKEN 331-2830 4172 W. 217TH ST. FAIRVIEW PARK, OH 44126	THIRD SATURDAY	THIRD SATURDAY
SECRETARY	CHUCK POULIN 731-6475	MARY PHILLIPS 582-5009	APRIL 22, 1989	APRIL 15, 1989
LIBRARY(DISK)	MARTIN SMOLEY 1-257-1661	MARK McCAULEY 235-8888	MAY 20, 1989	
(TAPE & MODS)	TOM NELLIS 475-4067	JOHN PARKEN 331-2830	JUNE 17, 1989	
(HARD COPY)	DICK ALDEN 1-352-9172		JULY 15, 1989	

Look out TI World, CLEVELAND is going to Lima in full force. Our own Marty Smoley will be giving one of the main demos in the conference room. We will have TI-BASE for sale as well as have available Marty's disks with detailed instructions, tutorials and TI-BASE programs. Glenn Bernasek plans to have several disks of programs he has either authored or enhanced. We have made arrangements with Rodger Merritt of PICTURE\_IT, PRINT\_IT, JIFFY FLYER, FORM SHOP, etc., to have available for sale his various programs. By that time he should have completed JIFFY CARD to add to the group. See my separate review of FORM SHOP for details since we will have all these programs available locally for you with the club getting a small 'cut' of the action. We have three tables reserved for the two groups. If you can, please start planning to attend!

Since the Lima Conference will again fall on our regular meeting date, CHIPS, are looking into the possibility of meeting a week earlier as they did last year. They should know by the March meeting so that we can pass on the word.

At the newsletter meeting, Tom Nellis suggested that since we had planned to have a combined meeting some time this year, that perhaps if CHIPS can get theirs reset, this might be an ideal time. The NorthCoast people could attend the CHIPS meeting on May 13 and then everyone would be free that could go, to go to Lima the following week. This was only a suggestion, but would like for you to think about it and discuss it at the March meeting. Matt Andel, the new president of CHIPS is also a NorthCoast member and will be at our meeting and will know at that time if CHIPS can meet on May 13 instead of May 20. CHIPS normally meets on a morning instead of afternoons, but I understand they do not have a limit on the time they have their room, so if some of us got there a little later, I think we could still work it out so that all could have a good time. At least give it some thought.

Lexington, Ky's loss will soon be Cleveland's gain. Wes Richardson (who has been a friend and NC member for some

time now) has relocated to the Cleveland area. If you go through our exchange newsletters and find the BYTEMONGER from Lexington, KY, you will know what a prolific programmer and writer of newsletter articles we have acquired in Wes. He has compiled about 8 disks he calls the BLUEGRASS series, mostly of programs and articles he has written for his newsletter. Hopefully, we will soon have a similar collection of CLEVELAND disks by Wes. He has also been instrumental in helping us add volumes of new programs to our libraries the past couple of years. He hopes to have his family here and start contributing on a regular basis in March.

If you were not at the February meetings for either CHIPS or NorthCoast, you missed the addition to our library of close to 80 disks in FREEWARE, XB GAMES, MACPAINT files, GRAPHICS. I still have a shoe box about half full of disks to distribute to the various sublibraries. Much apologies to Les Kee in that I still didn't get to his CLUBLINE disks he worked so hard to catalog for me. We still have a long way to go before we run out of new stuff for our machine!

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## EXECUTIVE NOTES - NorthCoast 99er's 02/18/89

The meeting was great but it wore me out. I did the demo and they couldn't shut me up, again! We had a large group with quite a few new joiners and several renewals. There were many comments and ideas from the members and committee heads. I think everyone had a good time, I know I did. The last of us left the meeting hall at 6:35. Bernie Zuckerman and I are probably both in trouble with his wife because he had an appointment that evening and didn't make it. His first mistake was to let me disassemble his PE Box to look at the disk drive. Once I had the system all apart on the table he wasn't going anywhere. By the way, to change the subject, Bernie brought his system in for the Novice Group Meeting which was held simultaneously with a portion of our regular meeting in the other half of the hall. Several people attended and I hear that they got some real quality time in experimenting with different programs. Don Owen was there with the catalogs and catalog updates, and there was quite a bit of activity at his table. Our new treasurer, Frank Jenkins, gave a very encouraging report, and with all the members joining and renewing, plus other income, we definitely have a good looking future.

## THE TOP QUALITY DISKS ARE HERE!

At last month's meeting I announced that I would make a bulk purchase of DS/DD top quality disks in February. The disks come 25 to a pack with write protect tabs and sleeves for 30 cents each, which is \$7.50 for the pack of 25. For those of you who signed the list I had the disks at this meeting and will have them there again at the next meeting. Also, for anyone else, I have a couple hundred extra disks to sell. If you're interested, come to the meeting. I cannot mail them out, it's too expensive.

## TO OTHER USER GROUPS

I have some bad news. I have stated above that we have ample funds to keep our group going for the next year. Along with this good news, there is some bad news. We must continue to conserve our financial resources whenever possible. This means that we will probably need to carefully scrutinize our newsletter exchange list. Although we see a great need to exchange and communicate with other groups, printing and mailing the newsletter is currently our greatest expense. If these monetary problems preclude the exchange of newsletters between our clubs, I suggest that you have one of your members join the NorthCoast group. The cost is only \$15.00. Your group could then share the newsletter and have access to the NorthCoast disk library through that member. I am very sorry about this situation but we must keep our group financially sound in order to provide our members with the services they need.

## THE NEXT NORTHCOAST MEETING

Jim Mekeel will demo one or more utility programs at the next meeting. As you know Jim has authored several utility disks and has given several great demos in the past. This should be very interesting.

See you all at the next meeting. Marty

## EXECUTIVE NOTES - TI-CHIPS MARY PHILLIPS

Attendance at February's meeting was down compared to the past months, but enthusiasm was high. Demonstrations were again the highlight of the meeting.

Glenn Bernasek was happy to report that the collection of past newsletters is now complete, thanks to former members of the Solon group. New president Matt Ansel also presented a large box full of newsletters collected from other groups around the country. The local newsletters revealed that TI-Chips first meeting was on October 22, 1983. First minutes of a meeting were kept for the meeting the following month, November 19.

Our membership continues to hold its own with nearly fifty members. Please keep your dues paid up so that you don't miss any news and information.

There was discussion regarding the upcoming TI conference in Lima, Ohio. Glenn will be selling three of his program disks. A VCR tape of last year's conference is still available for viewing.

Glenn's demonstration for February was about Miniwriter II+, which is now called Word Writer by its manufacturer, DataBiotics. Glenn recommended it highly for anyone who would like to do word processing and who does not own TI-Writer. It can be used with a cassette-based system just as easily as disk systems.

Young member John Hanna showed off Milton Bradley's MBX game system. With the help of Matt Ansel and William Phillips, John demonstrated the action and sound of Championship Baseball.

The final demonstration was accomplished by Les Ke with another Extended Basic program which he had written. His program used sprites and showcased the use of coincidence in program execution.

Some of TI-Chips' newest members are people who have owned a 'closet sitter' TI and are now newly involved in its operation. Such a new member is Virgil Thomason. It was his good fortune in February to be the winner of the raffle. He took home ten program-filled disks to enjoy. Congratulations, Virgil! See everyone in March.

-----  
THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU!

By Glenn Bernasek TI-Chips

This is just a short note to say, "Thank you - thank you - thank you!" to every one of my fellow Chips and the super people of the NorthCoast 99ers. Each and every one of you made my term as President of the TI-Chips one of the most pleasant experiences of my life. It was through your enthusiastic co-operation and assistance that we were able to accomplish what we did! I could never thank you all enough.

The position of President can become a "bear" of a job, but with the membership that we have, the "bear" became a "pussy cat". All I ask is that you continue to support Matt Ansel as well as you supported me. I have nothing but the greatest confidence in Matt's ability to lead the TI-Chips to new heights.

One last project report. The GREATER CLEVELAND 99/ USER GROUP newsletter album for the CHIPS is now complete from October 1983 thru February 1989. Thanks to the efforts, help and interest of both the TI-Chips and Marty Swoley and his fellow Northcoasters. This album is history, and I for one am proud to be a small part of it!

```

*
-T E X T   D R A W I N G   !-
*
          TI99/4A
          Euclid Mall
          * * * * *
*

```

To: Northcoast Users  
From: Paul Newmeyer  
Subject: Drawing With Plus!--Part 2

How do we get "TEXT DRAWING !" in enlarged print without pulling the box apart? Simple--put the enlarged code immediately before the "T", and then place the turn off code right after "!". Then follow the dash with four carrots. Since the enlarged print takes up more space than the regular print, you must compensate for this. So, four carrots after it will actually fill up the line.

Since we have the AD and FI commands active, how do we keep the left margin straight? If we don't do something this left margin will pull irratically to balance out the right margin. To stop this put a carrot between the end of the code and the start of the line.

How do we keep the right margin from wrapping around and messing everything up? Here you must be careful. Do not type beyond the right margin, which in this case is 76.

In my first article on this letterhead I employed numerous PLUS! codes: underline, enlarged print, italics, margin settings, font type, and IFFing. As you can see, PLUS! is a helpful addition to our word processor.

Many people are scared of the codes, and true, they are somewhat complicated. However, once they are mastered, they open up vistas of functions you can perform with your computer. While PLUS! can't do it all for you, it can help simplify the process.

```

          Try Your Hand At Opening Up Power With PLUS!!!!!!
          Draw Something And See What Your Printer
          Will Do

```

How did I make this box without breaking the left solid line? Since the line length extended beyond the LM 75 then everything will pull and tear this box apart. To solve this, between each letter in the box, place a carrot.

We have only scratched the surface regarding the drawing you can do with your FunnelWeb, PLUS! and creativity.

**TI-BASE - From INSCEBOT  
TUTORIAL 7.1 By Martin Smoley  
NorthCoast 99'ers - Feb. 12, 1989  
Copyright 1989 By Martin A. Smoley**

I am reserving the copyright on this material, but I will allow the copying of this material by anyone under the following conditions. (1) It must be copied in its entirety with no changes. (2) If it is retyped, credit must be given to myself and the NorthCoast 99ers, as above. (3) The last major condition is that there may not be any profit directly involved in the copying or transfer of this material. In other words, Clubs can use it in their newsletters and you can give a copy to your friend as long as its free.

**\*\*\* Miscellaneous Information \*\*\***

This month I'm going to try to answer some questions and include some new information from the new TI-Base manual. The first thing I'd like to say is "read the manual several times". There is a lot of information in it that you will probably miss the first or even the second time you read it, "I know I did". Make the two readings at least a day apart. If you read it twice in a row, you'll read in mistakes the first time through and rather than find the mistakes you'll reinforce those mistakes the second time through. It is very apparent from letters I receive that some people try to start using TI-Base after just skimming through the manual. TI-Base is too complicated for you to bluff your way through. I have been working with it for many months and I still keep the manual close at hand, and refer to it or the new QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE constantly. As far as programming problems go, typo's are my biggest. If you enter LOCAL BLNK C 30, and later in the program you try REPLACE BLANK WITH " Good morning", TI-Base will not match BLNK with BLANK. The next big mistake I make is to try and concatenate too many characters together. I then try to jam them into a variable with too little space. If BLNK has 30 spaces available you must add up the characters you have in the fields you want to stuff into BLNK. It's easy to say REPLACE BLNK WITH FN ; LN. FN and LN don't look like much but they may represent 25 characters each, for a total of 50. You must keep these things in mind or written down, the system will not give you any help with these problems. One important thing I try to remember is "don't try to write a big program in one chunk". You should be creating a library of small CFs or programs. Each of these programs should do a fairly specific job, like printing labels or writing screen messages. Work on an individual CF until it works well and then use a bunch of these small programs together to do a larger job. If you are having problems with a CF, or a group of CFs you are trying to use, leave the TALK ON. All the lines will scroll up the screen as you watch. If TI-Base cannot execute a line for some reason, it will place an asterisk at the very beginning of the line for you to see. If you can't get the hang of this method, Version 2.01 has a TRACE command. It is simply TRACE ON/TRACE OFF. If you enter TRACE ON, all lines which TI-Base can execute will be sent to your printer. You can then compare that printout to your original CF and the lines that didn't print out did not execute. When you find lines that won't execute, check them for variables first. See if you are trying to put too much data into a variable, or possibly the data is the wrong type. With version 2.0 and up I can't seem to mix those C)haracter and N)umeric fields the way I could with 1.02.

I hate to admit it but on several occasions I found that I was trying to put things into a variable that I had not created or initialized at the beginning of the CF. If you are attempting to use a command or function for the first time and you do not understand how to phrase the statement, work small. Create a very small CF that does little more than test your new function. If you need to use a database with this function, use one with only a few names in it. "I use T NAMES, it contains only six names." That speeds up the test time and allows me to try the maximum amount of variations in the least amount of time. When you are having problems with a CF and you'd like a hard copy to look at, there is a new command called LIST. If you type LIST DSK1.filename/C at the dot prompt, TIB will go to the disk number you entered and try to find the filename you want, remember the /C is needed. If it can find that filename, it will LIST it to your printer. I find this command and SNAP, which is the new TIB screen dump, very helpful. I seem to be able to find many small errors on a printer page that I overlook on the monitor.

**\*\*\* Printer Controls \*\*\***

Since I am already talking about printing hardcopies, I'd like to throw in some printer information. TIB Version 2.01 has built in printer control codes. They are present in the form of a database on the PRGDISK, named PRINTER. If you LIST or EDIT the SETUP CF that comes with TIB you will see \* PRINTER EPSON in that file. Because there is an asterisk at the beginning of that line, TIB ignores the command and none of those control codes are available to you. That's because of the wide variety of printers on the market today. You must set up your own printer control codes in this system and make them available for TIBs access. Here's a little help on approaching this utility. We will look at the EPSON section because I am familiar with EPSON printers. Type USE DSK1.PRINTER (E). The name PRINTER should come up in the bottom line across your screen as a normal database in use. Next type DISPLAY STRUCTURE. Now, with your printer turned on, type SNAP (E) and hopefully the screen will be dumped to your printer. It should look like the screen below.

CREATED	CHANGED			
FIELD	DESCRIPTOR	TYPE	WIDTH	DEC
1	NAME	C	010	
2	FF	X	002	
3	LF	X	002	
4	CR	X	002	
5	DS	X	004	
6	UL	X	006	
7	EX	X	002	
8	CM	X	004	
9	IT	X	004	
10	B	X	004	
11	SPS	X	006	
12	SBS	X	006	
13	HT	X	002	
14	ST	X	020	
15	NM	X	026	
16	BLANK	X	030	

. SNAP

000 1 PRINTER 00006/00007

Continued Next Page.

**TI-BASE - From INSCEBOT  
TUTORIAL 7.2 By Martin Smoley  
NorthCoast 99'ers - Feb. 17, 1989  
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You will notice that we are looking at a database structure, even though it is a little abnormal. It's abnormalities are what make it so useful. TIB recognizes this database as the place where it will find the control codes for your printer. The first field must be NAME. In the NAME field you would store your printer name, such as Epson. The next three fields you should recognize as Form Feed, Line Feed, and Carriage Return. These must stay exactly as you see them for TIB to work properly. The rest of the fields are Double Strike, Under Line, Enlarged Print, Condensed Mode, Italics, Bold, SuPerScript, SuBScript, Horizontal Tab, Set Tab, Normal Mode (NM cancels all of the previous commands), and a Blank line 30 characters in length. One item of great importance is the X type field designation. The X type tells TIB that the item stored in this field is specifically a printer control code. It also tells TIB that it should interpret the normal numbers and characters you type into the X field as Hexidecimal. If you USE DSK1.PRINTER and type EDIT, you will see the screen below. DIABO, "I assume for Diablo", is the first screen you will encounter. Pressing FCTN 5 will move you to the EPSON screen.

**EDIT**

NAME	EPSON
FF	OC
LF	OA
CR	OD
DS	1B47
UL	1B2D01
EX	OE
CM	000F
IT	1B34
B	1B45
SPS	1B5300
SBS	1B5301
HT	09
ST	1B440A0A0A0A0A0A0A00
NM	1B481B2D3014121B351B461B5>
BLANK	000000000000000000000000>

000 1 PRINTER 00000/00007

Any of these screens can be edited to your needs. You can change the names to your own liking. For example you can change EX to ENL, for ENLARGED. You can also change the data in the fields to match the codes your printer expects, if they are not already set properly. This part is a little confusing, but not really hard. NOTE: If you change the length of a data field the data will be lost and must be re-entered. Make sure you understand what you are doing before you change any lengths. Changing the data and thus changing the control code as simple as typing over what is currently in a particular field. Lets look at DS, which stands for Double Strike for Epson or Bold on the Star NX-10. The printer command for DS or Bold is <ESC> "6". What you see in the field is 1B47. If you wish to change this, you would merely type over it with normal characters and numbers. TIB, however, will interpret these to be Hexadecimal numbers.

The code for <ESC>, escape, is decimal 27, and in <Hex> or Hexadecimal, it is 1B. So the first two characters in the DS field stand for Escape (1B). The second half of the command is "6" or 6. The decimal for 6 is 71 and the Hex for 6 is 47, so 1B47 is Hex for <ESC> 6. In every printer handbook I can remember seeing, the ASCII, the Decimal and the Hexadecimal are given for the printer commands. You may have to search through your printer manual, but you don't have to figure these out, just look them up and type them in. One more example would be B for Bold, which actually produces Emphasized on my NX-10. My book says <ESC> "E" turns on Emphasized. Just below that it says 27 69 and below that it says 1B 45. If you check the EDIT screen, you'll see that the B field contains 1B45. OK, how do you use this stuff. Well in most cases it's easier and more convenient than you might think. First EDIT the SETUP file. Remove the asterisk in front of the PRINTER EPSON. If you have an Epson, Gemini Star or a similar printer, try the EPSON command first. After using FCTN 8 to save the new CF, type DO DSKn.SETUP to rerun the SETUP file. As SETUP runs watch the bottom of your screen and you will see PRINTER come up while the EPSON commands are being installed. After SETUP finishes all traces of this operation will disappear, but the results will still be usable. Open the TNAMES DB by typing USE TNAMES. With your printer turned on type PRINT (B) <E>. If everything worked, you just set you printer to TIB Bold. Type PRINT ALL FN,MI,LM <E>. This should print out ALL of the names in TNAMES, in Bold Faced print. Typing PRINT (NM) <E> should return you to normal print, or DRAFT MODE. Try PRINT ALL (B) FN (CM) MI (NM) (IT) LM (NM) <E>. This should PRINT ALL the First Names in Bold, the Middle Initials in Condensed and the Last Names in Italics. Notice that the printer controls are enclosed in parenthesis and that a delimiter (comma or blank space) is needed between the fields or control codes. The <E> represents Press Enter. This type of control code use is very helpful when you are dumping a complete database to the printer. You can type PRINT (CM) <E> and then PRINT ALL <E>. With TIB version 2.01 that troublesome line crawling that produced a printout that looked like a printer test pattern has been eliminated. Condensed mode now produces a nice neat columnar type page. I hope this is enough to get you started. Remember, read that manual. There is more on printer controls in the manual and I'll probably slip some of them into the tutorials in the future.

**\*\*\* Geneve Myarc \*\*\***

Here's an important tip from Bob Stevens of Battle Creek, MI. Bob says he had some disasterous results on his Geneve with a Myarc Disk Controller when he tried to run CFs off the PR6DISK. The cure he found was to initialize some new disks using 16 rather than 18 sectors and reset the interlace to 10. He then copied his TI-Base files to the new disks and lived happily ever after. Thanks for sharing that with us Bob, it will probably save someone in Florida a lot of aggravation.

**\*\*\* THE LIME FAIR \*\*\***

This is a little early but I'd like to start plugging the Lima Fair. Quite a few people from the Cleveland area will be going to the Lima Fair this year. The fair will be held on May 20, and I hope to give a Demonstration of TI-Base at that time. I am also looking forward to meeting some of the people I have corresponded with and talked to over the phone.

Continued Next Month.

## Control Codes?

This article is designed to answer questions I received on TI-Base and FunnelWeb (TIW). This is not new information, but it has apparently slipped past a number of users. The information concerns Control Codes. The Control Codes listed below will help you change the types of characters being produced by your printer. They can also change the spacing and margins. They do the same task as transliterates in a letter or text file, but are not the same. Transliterations are strings, or lines, of numeric conversions, whereas Control Codes are one, two, or three character commands. These small but powerful commands can be placed between words in a letter to make a specific word or phrase different in size shape or density. Although Transliterations are just as powerful and useful as Control Codes, Transliterations must be run through the Formatter to work. Control Codes will work with the Formatter and they will also work when using the PF or Print File command from FunnelWeb. Another very important use for Control Codes, as far as I'm concerned, is TI-Base. When I first started using TI-Base I desperately wanted to control my printer from the CF mode. TI-Base had no printer controls at that time, however it was noted that you could create Command Files using TI-Writer. After some experimentation I discovered that Control Codes could be embedded in character strings and fed into variables to be sent to the printer. The processor did not distinguish between Control Codes and normal characters so they went right through.

The Control Codes are those strange little characters people have written to ask about, which you may have noticed in the Command Files in my Tutorials. I should have explained them in greater detail at the time, but I didn't think about it. I hope this helps everyone. To use the chart below you hold down the CTRL key and press U. At that point the cursor will change to a flashing underline symbol. You then release the CTRL key and hold down the next key, such as FCTN, and press the character needed. The symbol you need will appear at that moment. You must then hold the CTRL key and press the letter U to get the normal cursor back. On the screen the character would look like those below and in the column to the lower right side of this page.

This is `ENLARGED PRINT`, would produce.

This is **ENLARGED PRINT**.

In TI-Base you must sneak the Control Code into a variable with other data to be printed by using Concatenate to stick them together.

```
LOCAL TEMP C 75
REPLACE TEMP WITH "e ENLARGED PRINT" ; LM
PRINT TEMP          would produce
```

**ENLARGED PRINT <LM>**

NOTE: The LM represents the Last Name field in a database. Therefore the persons last name would also be in enlarged print.

The list below will get you started. There is more information on ASCII values etc. in the original TI/Writer manual around page 145/146. You must get the rest of the information from your printer manual.

## Control Codes For Gemini and some Epson Printers

Enlarged Print	CTRL U	SHIFT N	CTRL U	< e >
Cancel Enlarged	CTRL U	SHIFT T	CTRL U	< '4 >
Condensed Print	CTRL U	SHIFT D	CTRL U	< 'r >
Cancel Condensed	CTRL U	SHIFT R	CTRL U	< '2 >
Skip To Top-Of-Page	CTRL U	SHIFT L	CTRL U	< '3 >
Underline On	CTRL U	FCTN R	CTRL U SHIFT - CTRL U SHIFT A CTRL U	< 'b-1 >
Cancel Underline	CTRL U	FCTN R	CTRL U SHIFT - CTRL U SHIFT 2 CTRL U	< 'b-0 >
Doublestrike On	CTRL U	FCTN R	CTRL U SHIFT G	< '6G >
Cancel Doublestrike	CTRL U	FCTN R	CTRL U SHIFT H	< '6H >
Emphasized Mode On	CTRL U	FCTN R	CTRL U SHIFT E	< '6E >
Cancel Emphasized	CTRL U	FCTN R	CTRL U SHIFT F	< '6F >
Italic Print On	CTRL U	FCTN R	CTRL U 4	< '64 >
Cancel Italics	CTRL U	FCTN R	CTRL U 5	< '65 >
Elite Print On	CTRL U	FCTN R	CTRL U SHIFT M	< '6M >
Cancel Elite	CTRL U	FCTN R	CTRL U SHIFT P	< '6P >
Superscript On	CTRL U	FCTN R	CTRL U SHIFT S CTRL U SHIFT 2 CTRL U	< '6S0 >
Subscript On	CTRL U	FCTN R	CTRL U SHIFT S CTRL U SHIFT A CTRL U	< '6S1 >
Cancel Super/Sub	CTRL U	FCTN R	CTRL U SHIFT T	< '6T >
6 Lines Per Inch	CTRL U	FCTN R	CTRL U 2	< '62 >
8 Lines Per Inch	CTRL U	FCTN R	CTRL U 0	< '60 >
Double Space	CTRL U	FCTN R	CTRL U SHIFT A CTRL U SHIFT T CTRL U	< '6A'4 >
Set Skip-Over Perf.	CTRL U	FCTN R	CTRL U SHIFT N CTRL U SHIFT F CTRL U	< '6N'6 >
Set Left Margin	CTRL U	FCTN R	CTRL U in small L then ASCII	< '6L >
Set Right Margin	CTRL U	FCTN R	CTRL U SHIFT On see note below	< '6Q! >

NOTE: n is the numeric value of a character.

CTRL U SHFT T = 20, CTRL U SHFT 6 = 30, != 33, (=40, 2=50, <=60, F=70 etc.

Good Luck. Marty.

ED NOTE: Following is a letter I received from an out-of-town member of TI-CHIPS. I debated on the best way to let John know of Mr. Wachter's appreciation. Then I decided that ALL of our members should be aware of the time and effort that John Parken devotes to the TI-CHIPS members, both locally and out-of-town and decided to publish it verbatim in the newsletter. It's nice to know you are appreciated, and I know that everything Mr. Wachter says is true about John.

February 5, 1989

Cleveland Area 99/4A UG  
C/o Deanna Sheridan

Dear Deanna:

I have been a member (TI-CHIPS) for almost a year now. As you mentioned in your January newsletter, your group is truly blessed by good members and officers. You deserve a pat on the back for your efforts with the newsletter.

One member in particular, Mr. John Parken, has, in my estimation been outstanding, active and very helpful to me.

You see, my sons went off to college and left me with a TI99/4A, cassette and printer, about which I knew nothing. I couldn't get them away from it long enough to find anything about it. Now they have their computers, I wanted to show them what the TI can really do.

John has and still continues to be a big help. Since it is a cassette system, he has been sending me tapes. Also with that, information on how to use it, etc.

Now, we all know that takes time and effort. I truly appreciate what he has done for me.

My reason for writing this, is that someone on my behalf in the group, give John a round of applause for all he has done for me in your of your meetings.

I feel I was very fortunate in having him as my contact. He has become a valued friend.

Again, since I cannot at this time be able to attend your meetings, I would like someone to surprise him by showing my great appreciation for a job well done.

Sincerely,

(signed) Clyde C. Wachter, Jr.  
7317 Ridge Road  
Frederick, MD 21701

ASK C.T.  
By C.T. Tibs  
Cleveland, Ohio

An interesting question came to my attention last month. It went, so I understand, something like this, "Just what are all those HCHARS, GCHARS and VCHARS I see in many of the programs I've been running?" The way it was put to me,

this person would like to know just what these things do, and he would like the explanation to be given in the simplest of terms.

Well 99'ers, I'll try my best. Actually, these commands are TI's version of the well known PEEKS and POKES that we've seen in many programs written for other computers. The big difference is that we don't have to go around poking commands into memory addresses to do what we need to be done on our 99/4A. Thanks to TI, all we have to do is CALL up a built-in sub-routine in our TI-99/4A's Read Only Memory (ROM) and our machine will do the rest. Not only is this much simpler to do, but it is less risky (in that sometimes the wrong command can be accidentally POKED into a machine's memory, messing everything up!).

Enough of that! Let's get down to the question at hand. First off, please get out your TI-99/4A USER'S REFERENCE GUIDE, and open it to Page II-80. (The basics of what I'm going to talk about can be found on pages II-80, II-81, II-82, II-83 and II-86.) It might be a good idea to give these pages a good "once-over" at this time. Pay attention to the illustration on Page II-81. This is your "Screen Map".

In order to avoid typing these pages over again, I'm going to give you a "thumbnail" definition of HCHAR, VCHAR and GCHAR.

CALL HCHAR: Tells the TI that you want to print something on the screen, starting at a certain position, and print it HORIZONTALLY across the screen.

CALL VCHAR: Tells the TI the same thing, except it will start at a certain position on the screen and print it VERTICALLY.

CALL GCHAR: Tells the TI to look at a certain place on the screen, and remember what it found in the form of a simple numerical value.

However, these commands can't do much without some form of directions. These directions tell the TI where, what and (in HCHAR/VCHAR) how many. The "where" is in the form of ROW number and then COLUMN number. (These can be assigned though numerical variable names.) The "what" is in the form of another numerical variable that can stand for the character you want to print or the character you want to find. The "how many" works with HCHAR and VCHAR only, and it tells the TI how many times you want the character to be printed. If this seems confusing to you, just take a deep breath, relax, read this paragraph again and think about what you've just read. If you're still in doubt as to what I'm getting at; then the following should help you develop the "ah-ha" factor.

Let's say you want to place an "X" in the upper-left corner of the screen. To be exact, you want it in the second row and the "first" screen column. Type in and RUN the following:

100 CALL HCHAR(4,3,88,1) !The ROW is "4", the COLUMN is 3 (because columns 1 and 2 can't be seen), the character code for "X" is "88", and you only want ONE "X" to be printed.

CALL VCHAR will do the SAME thing because we only call for one "X" to be printed. Try it with VCHAR instead.

Now let's say you want ten (10) X's to be printed HORIZONTALLY in the Upper-right corner of the screen in the second row, but starting in the sixteenth screen column. Type in and RUN the following:

```
100 CALL HCHAR(4,16,88,10) !The ROW again is "4",
the starting COLUMN now
is "16", the character
code is "88" again, and
we are doing it ten
(10) times.
```

Now replace HCHAR with VCHAR and see what happens! Get the idea?

What we've just done is the TI equivalent of a computer POKE! Only it was easier and relatively "proof-proof".

Let's see what the TI "PEEK" equivalent will do for us. It's called: GCHAR (or get character). DO NOT CLEAR THE SCREEN! Now type in and RUN the following:

```
100 CALL GCHAR(1,16,Y) !We're going to look at the
first row and the sixteenth
column, and place the code
number for the character we
find there in the variable
"Y".
```

Now type the command PRINT Y and press <ENTER>. You should get an "88" in the bottom left corner of the screen. What we did was to look (PEEK) in a certain spot on the screen and remember what we found by placing it in a variable. We then put that variable to use by printing it on the screen. Use your imagination, and you'll come-up with many ways to make use of this sub-routine.

You may have heard of a way to do a DISPLAY AT without using Extended Basic. The key to this lies in either the HCHAR or VCHAR sub-routine. Type in and RUN the following short routine, and you'll see just how this is accomplished.

```
100 CALL CLEAR !Clear the screen.
```

```
110 MSG$="HELLO" !Put the word HELLO into the
string variable MSG$.
```

```
120 FOR J=1 TO LEN(MSG$) !This is a loop that will
```

do something from one to the length of the word in MSG\$ (5).

```
130 CALL HCHAR(12,11+J,ASC(MSG$(MSG$,J,1)),1)
```

!This line will print the word "HELLO" in the middle of the screen by printing the string variable MSG\$ one character at a time HORIZONTALLY using HCHAR and SEGS.

```
140 NEXT J !Do the loop again until it's past "5".
```

```
150 END !That's enough. Stop!
```

I hope I've been of some help. As you can see, the TI-99/4A's real power is in its ROM base sub-routines. If you have any questions about what I've just covered, or anything concerning TI-Basic, please let me know.

C.T. Tibs  
13246 Harper Road  
Strongsville, Ohio 44136

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FUN GAMES WITH YOUR TI  
Steve Bagstad - NorthCoast 99ers - Cleveland, OH

I'd intended to make this a bit more regular article, so here goes with #2. The club has received two new disks of assembly language games that includes a total of 12 games. These will no doubt be in our library listings soon, so watch for them when available. The top one probably is THE MINE, a German game in which you explore a great variety of caverns loaded with challenges. The best I've managed so far is to complete about 15 of the 25 caverns before losing my last miner. In the commercial arena, I have purchased several games from Asgard Software, including Legends, Balloon Wars, and Game-Pack. Legends (\$22.95) has been reviewed in many places before, and I don't know what to add except that even at this relatively high price for a TI game, I think it's well worth it. A challenging, addictive adventure with enough twists and turns for anyone. Balloon Wars (\$4.95) is a simple concept but fun game of piloting your balloon across hostile desert to deliver a crucial message. Drop sandbags, bombs, stop for repairs. Game-Pack (\$5.95) includes both Missile Wars, similar to the old arcade Missile Command where you launch missiles to protect your cities against incoming missiles (joystick response could be improved?) and Haunted Mine II in which you guide robot miners through a long-deserted haunted mine, a real toughie to get very far. These and other Asgard software had recently reduced prices, which convinced me to order. I



don't think you could touch the quality of these on other machines for the price. In the next column, I will review other recently acquired fairware games and comment on disks 1A-1D in our Basic Games section. Have fun!

## FORMSHOP

By Deanna Sheridan - NorthCoast 99ers - Cleveland, OHIO

We reviewed Rodger Merritt's JIPPY CARD last winter, and in the past have also reviewed other programs by him, namely, PRINT\_IT AND PICTURE\_IT. Rodger has another great graphics utility with FORMSHOP.

FORM SHOP came about after Gene Robot observed the characters used to make borders in PRBASE (but you could only look at them, not print or use them in your reports). Rodger took this one step further and redeveloped the CHARAI file of TI-WRITER/FUNNELWEB so that certain characters would emulate the graphic set above ASCII 127 so that you could actually see on the screen what you would be printing. The same results could be achieved by your painstakingly redefining all the characters through transliterate codes. Then, on the screen, you would not be seeing the actual lines, blocks, etc as they would print, but the ASCII "(", ":", or whatever other letter you had used for transliteration. With Rodger's method, this is another WYSIWIG (What You See What you Get) package. As such, you can use it to develop any kind of form, or document that requires lines, bars, etc. and see what they will look like before printing.

In fact, you can rename his PSPORT file to CHARAI to replace the one on your TI-WRITER/FUNNELWEB and have FORM SHOP at hand at all times. All you do is hit CTRL U and put yourself in the mode with the underline cursor. Then, with the key provided, you can draw, at will. For instance:

A (when in CTRL U mode)	-	B	-	C	-	D	-
E	-	F	-	G	-	H	-
I	-	K	-	Q	-	etc.	

These lines can be combined to make frames, boxes for invoices, calendars, organization charts, basketball or baseball playoff schedules...whatever your imagination can support as you can see by the examples we have included.

Rodger offered to let us "sell" his software with a small kickback for the clubs. FORM SHOP retails for \$15, a bargain for such a software package. We have 10 copies on hand between the two clubs. For each package we sell, the clubs retain \$3.00 and \$11.00 goes to Rodger.

In addition, we have copies of PICTURE\_IT which retails for \$10. With this package, we keep \$2.00 and we have a small amount of PRINT\_IT which sells for \$15.

We will also have available in the near future, JIPPY FLYER with even more features than when we reviewed it and demo'd it last winter. At that time we will also be getting JIPPY CARD which is a WYSIWIG card-making program. JIPPY FLYER has been selling for \$10, but I am not sure what JIPPY CARD will be retailing for.

This is an excellent opportunity for you to get some very professionally written software and help out the club at the same time. You can call me at 333-5986 or see me at the next NorthCoast meeting, or Matt Andel at 676-9759, who has the packages for Chips.

## T. I. Writer (Part 2) Stan Katzman

Errors. This part is about error corrections. I don't know about you but I am one of the words worst typists. On a normal typewriter I make so many typing errors it is pathetic. The ability to correct errors before the text is put to paper is one of the greatest assets of word processing. So let's talk about some of the ways to correct errors.

If you are typing along in T. I. Writer and you see that you entered the wrong letter just use fctn S(---) and retype the correct letter. That's easy enough.

Sometimes you will notice an entire word misspelled. Just take the cursor back to the word and type over it correctly.

Sometimes you will leave out a letter or letters in a word or even a word or words in a sentence. This correction is a little more complicated but easy enough. Place the cursor one space after the place you want to start and then press fctn 2 (Ins Char). You will see the line split and then type your insert correction. Now you want everything closed up again and normal. You do this by pressing Ctrl 2 (Reformat). This will put everything in order. Reformatting is very handy for adding words, phrases and even sentences. Try it out, you will find it very convenient.

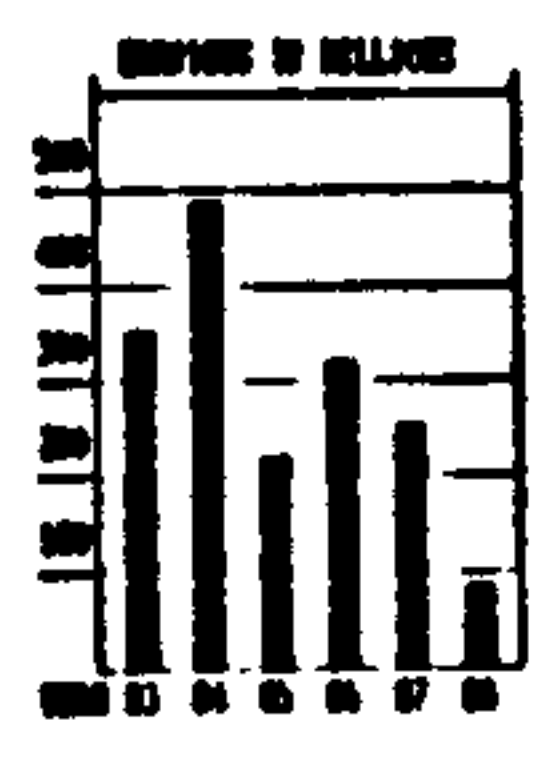
You can remove letters or words by putting the cursor over the character to be removed and pressing fctn 1 (Del Char).

Sometimes you will not like a line of text. To correct this just press fctn 3 (Del Line) and the entire line will be erased.

Another more complicated method of correcting errors or making changes is with the Search directive in Command Mode. To do this go to the Command Mode (fctn 9) and press SH and then <enter>. You will now see "FindString or ReplaceString". Now press RS and <enter> and you will now see "Replace enter /old string/new string/:". Let us say you misspelled Brown as Brawn. to correct this enter "/Brawn/Brown/" and press <enter>. The cursor will then stop at the first instance of "Brawn" and you will see "REPLACE STRING (Yes,No,All, Stop)?". If you want this word replaced with "Brown" press "Y" and the cursor will go to the next instance and repeat as above. If you want all instances of "Brawn" replaced with "Brown" press "A". No and Stop are self explanatory.

T. I. Writer has what is known as a Screen Editor. Which means that any mistake can be corrected anywhere on the screen. Just get the cursor on the error anywhere on the screen and make the appropriate corrections. There are word processors that are only line editors. Which means that you can only correct one line at a time on the screen. I feel that a screen editor is more convenient.

Try these processes to correct errors and more next time.



WHAT U SEE IS WHAT U GET  
NO MENUS EASY  
CREATE ON SCREEN  
INSTANTLY

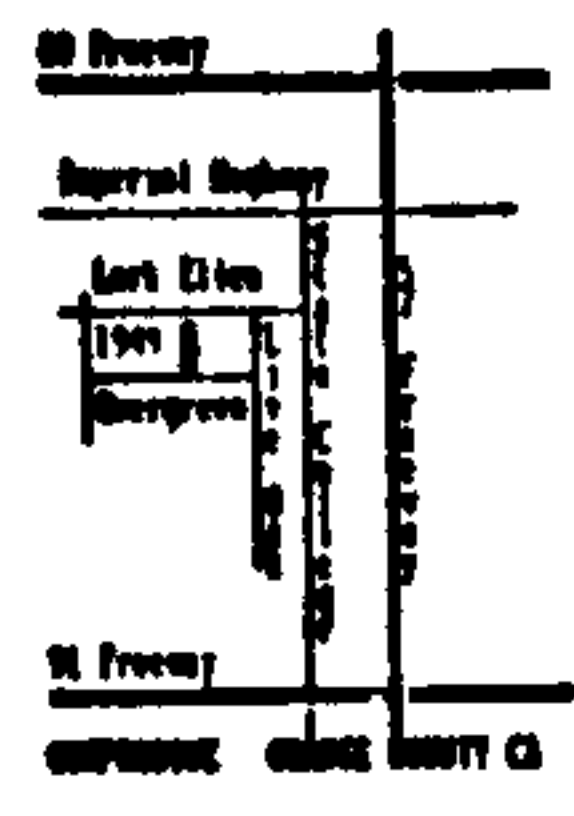
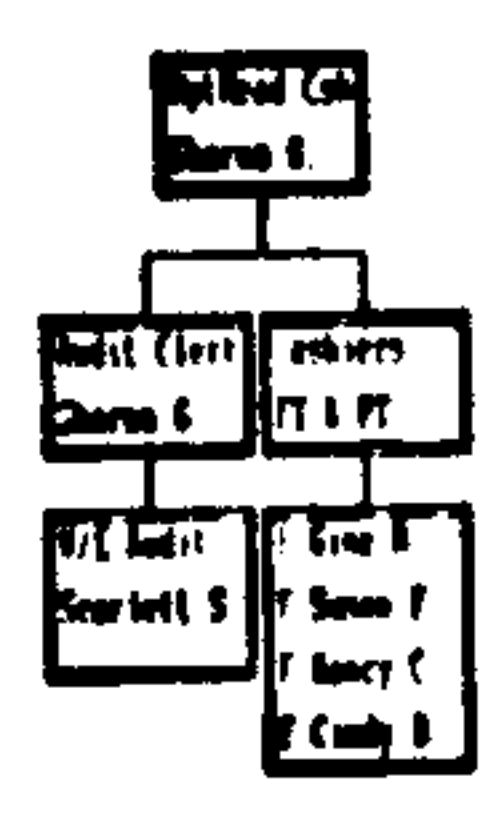
**JIFFY FLYER**

- 2 PAGE STYLES
- 2 LARGE FONTS
- 45 BORDERS
- LOADS CSGD IN 15 SEC
- FULL 2 SCREEN EDITOR
- 7 SMALL FONTS
- SAVE LOAD FULL FLYERS  
CATALOG TO PICK & SEND
- PRINTS DOUBLE DENSITY  
UNDER 5 MINUTE
- SUPPORTS 8X1000 COLOR

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1345 S. HERRITT AVE  
FULLERTON CA 92635

USES \$18 \$1 POSTAGE

PRICES AS SHOWN  
PRIZE



Above is a full page reduction of JIFFY FLYER  
Match for JIFFY CARD, a 4 fold card, by Dec. 91.

Left are actual samples printed on an NX1000  
and surrounding a TI-ARTIST drawing.  
You see these exact forms on the screen.

Below are 2 instances converted together and  
printed from the TI-WRITER formatter in  
1 minute.



### PICTURE IT



TI ARTIST INSTANCES + TI WRITER + BANNERS + KBOARD

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TYPE OF SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ MACHINE: \_\_\_\_\_  
MODEL: \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIAL # \_\_\_\_\_  
CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE	WORK OR PARTS	MILEAGE	HOURS

### SWIMMING POOL INSPECTION REPORT

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ BUILDER \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PRIVATE POOL  COMMERCIAL POOL   
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ SPA YES  NO

**POOL WATER CONDITION**

FREE CHLORINE	1.0-1.5	<b>EQUIPMENT CONDITION</b>	PUMP	<input type="checkbox"/>	OK	NEEDY	NONE
RESIDUAL CHLORINE	1.0-1.5		FILTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PH	7.4-7.6		HEATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONDITIONER	100 PPM		POOL SWEEP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL HARDNESS	300 MAX		CHLORINATOR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL ALKALINITY	80-120						
TOTAL DIS. SOLIDS	1500 MAX						

TILE  PLASTER  DECK SEAL

**ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT**

DIVING BOARD	YES	NO	OK	AIR RELIEF VALVE	YES	NO	OK
SLIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PRESSURE GAUGE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LADDER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FLOW METER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
POOL COVER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SIGNS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TIME CLOCK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LIFE PRESERVER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
S. F. I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SAFETY ROPE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BACKWASH VALVE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SAFETY HOOK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FOUNTAIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SKIMMER BASKET	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIREMAN'S SWITCH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PUMP BASKET	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
POOL LIGHT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

REMARKS: \_\_\_\_\_

This inspection report is of the general condition of the swimming pool and equipment only and is not to be construed as a warranty of any type - it is for general information.

Inspected by \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

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CUSTOMER NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PREV. NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE ENTERED / / PART. DEL. / / DEL. DATE / /  
JOB TYPE  B/D  LITHO  PRESS. SENSITIVE  OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

**SALES DETAILS**

UNIT NAME	COLOUR	FR	MATCH
UNIT SIZE	1.		
MATERIAL	2.		
SHEET SIZE	3.		
BHT. QTY.	4.		
LANSUMBS	5.		
NO. UP	6.		
QTY. ORD.	7.		
OVERS	8.		
TOTAL	9.		
SHIP	10.		
	11.		
	12.		
	13.		
	14.		

**FINISHING**

DIE CUT  FOLD   
LABEL  SIZE   
OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

**PRE-TEST**

MATERIAL  COLOUR   
COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

**PACKAGING INSTR.**

**PRODUCTION DETAILS**

ADDITIONAL DETAILS INSIDE Y/N? \_\_\_\_\_

**SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS**

SHIP TO	DATE
ATTENTION OF	COLLECT
	PREPAID HSP.
	PREPAID CUST.

TITLE	DATE	DESCRIPTION
=====	=====	=====
1000 WORDS	06 88	A review of 1000 words to print graphics from TI-Writer
4TH PLOT	01 88	How to use the disk called 4thPLOT
A LITTLE FAIR	08 88	Jack Sughrue's comments on the Lima Fair
ALPHA LOCK DOWN	06 88	How to fool computer into accepting upper or lower case commands
ARCHIVER	06 88	Review of Archiver utility
ASK C.T.	09 88	TIPS ON USING PRINTERS AND PROGRAMMING CODES
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C.T. TIPS	12 88	Using the RANDOM NUMBER GENERATOR
C.T. TIPS	04 88	Using the IF-THEN-ELSE statement
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MINIWRITER TECHNIQUE	02 88	How to use MiniWriter II and II+
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