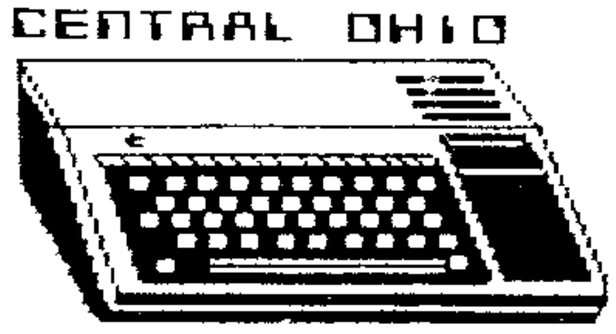
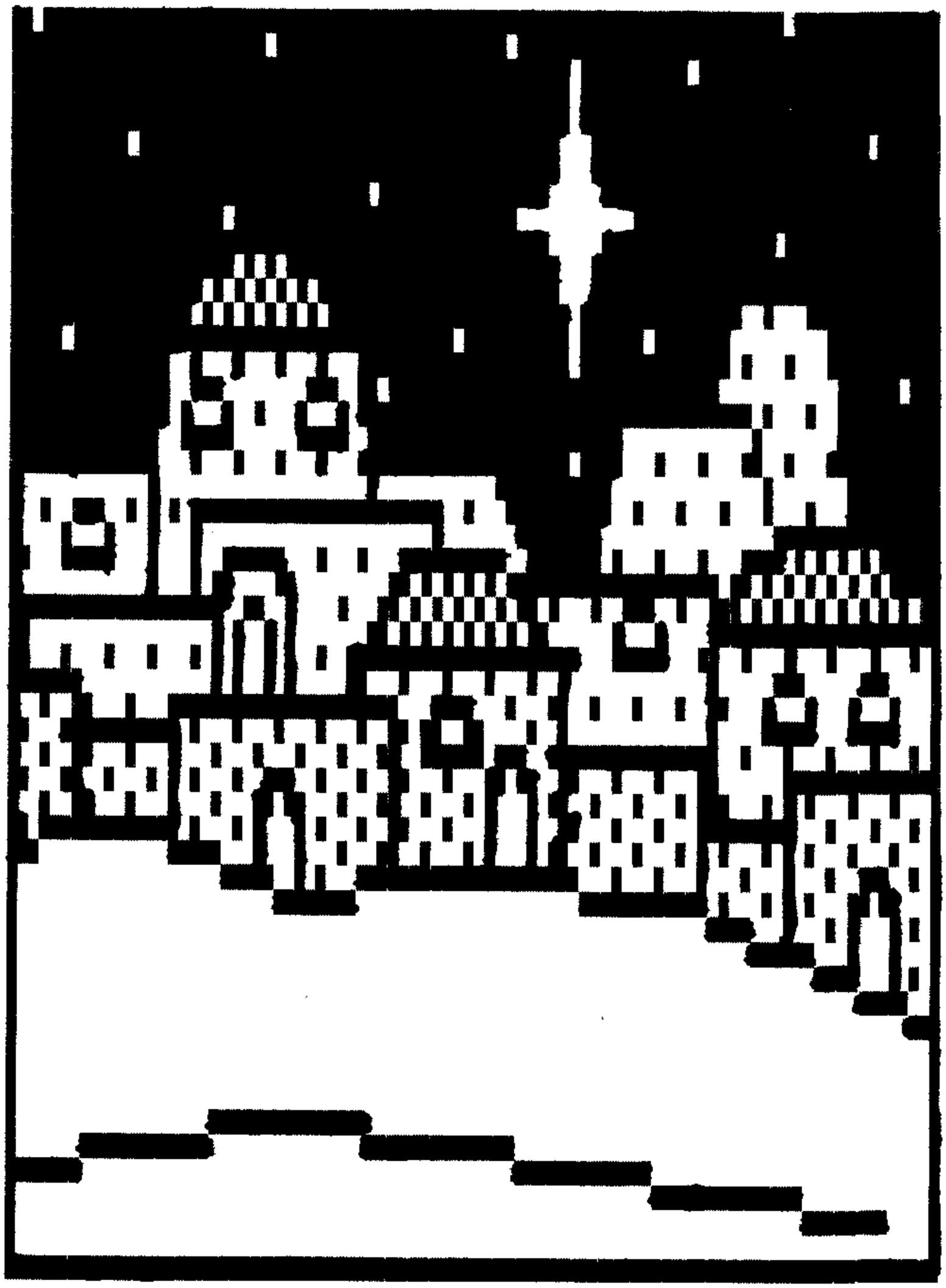
Texas Instrument 99/4A and Myarc 9640 Computers

Spirit of 99



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL OHIO NINETY-NINERS INC.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY IN COLUMBUS OHIO



Merry Christmas

$1.50 VOL.9 NO.12 DEC 1991

Spirit of 99

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CENTRAL OHIO NINETY NINERS

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Central Ohio Ninety Niners Inc. is a non profit organization comprised of MEMBERS who own or use the TI99/4A computer and it's related pro-ducts and have paid a yearly membership fee of $28.00 and whose main objective is the exchange of Educational and Scientific information for the purpose of computer literacy.

C.O.N.N.I. meetings are held the 3rd Sat-urday of each month at Chemical Abstracts, 2540 Olentangy River Road Columbus, OH. Meeting time is 8:30 AM til 2:30PM. Meetings are open to the public. Membership dues ($28.00) are payable yearly to C.O.N.N.I. and cover the immediate family of the member. (An application has been placed in this newsletter for your convenience) Please address it to:
Robert DeVilbiss
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All ads should be submitted (camera ready) to advertising address above,payment enclosed. Members ads are published at no cost. (Limit of 25 words and must not be commercial please.)

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NEW MEMBERS

Clyde C. Wachter,Jr
John A. Maul

DUES ANNOUNCEMENT

Dues are usually paid at or before the March meeting, and are $28 per year for full membership, library and voting privileges, plus the newsletter. You may also pay your dues in two installments if desired: $14 in March and $14 in September. If only the newsletter is desired, then payment is $15 per year. Those who join during other months of the year pay a lesser, pro-rated amount:

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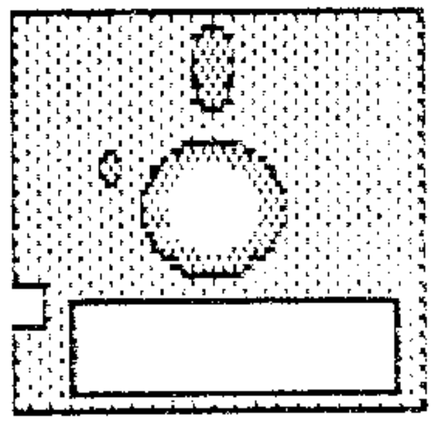

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Now you can have the best of both worlds--
Keep up to date on the latest news from
the TI-99/4A world with a subscription to
the Spirit of 99 Newsletter AND get an
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CONTACT

HARLEY RYAN, Membership
Central Ohio Ninety-Niners, Inc
4178 Chandler Dr, Whitehall, OH 43213
(614) 231-1497

C.O.N.N.I. MINUTES

Saturday, November 16,1991.

Before the business meeting, Chuck Grimes demonstrated Midi Master 99 with his Yamaha PSR-300 keyboard, and discussed the features of both. He also demonstrated Barry Boone's new Sound F/X.

President Chuck Grimes conducted the business meeting. Treasurer Everett Wade gave the treasurer's report.

Chuck reported on the Chicago Faire and the Milwaukee Faire. Only three of our members went to Chicago and only Chuck went on to Milwaukee. Chuck mentioned all the vendors and their products.

Procedures for access to the Clearing House BBS were discussed, and it was decided to hold a teleconference of the officers to finalize these details.

Dick Beery introduced a motion to commemorate the 10th anniversary of C.O.N.N.I. with a special celebration meeting at the Martin Janis Senior Center. The motion was approved.

Dick Beery was appointed to organize a nominating committee for the election of officers.

After the business meeting, John Parkins demonstrated Danny Michael's fairware program Neatlist.

Respectfully submitted by co-secretary Jim Peterson

Wednesday, November 27, 1991.

I am not sure what time the meeting opened, as your secretary arrived late. Dick Beery gave the Treasurer's report for Everett Wade, who could not attend. He also sold blank disks and Micropendiums. President Grimes reported many details of the recent Chicago Faire. A lengthy question-and-answer period followed. Another lengthy discussion centered on the exact management of the Clearinghouse portion of our Spirit of '99 BBS.

To save time, President Grimes appointed a committee, which has since met at Dick Beery's home on December 5th, to make final decisions regarding the Clearinghouse.(for the result, see the information elsewhere in this issue). Irwin Hott will send letters to those who have already signed on. Other publicity will be generated so that others may be made aware of the opportunity. Discussion followed regarding a possible disk exchange for educators using the 99/4A with their classes. Interested educators should write to the editor. After the business meeting was adjourned, Chuck Grimes demonstrated Barry Boone's F/X program and Dick Beery demonstrated the same programmer's Gif-Mania program. The meeting broke up at approximately 10:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Beery, Wednesday Secretary

"Love is blind; friendship tries not to notice."

December 1991

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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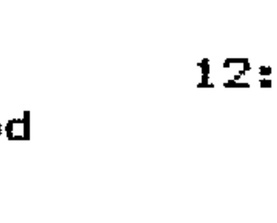
22	23	24		26	27	
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SATURDAY MEETING 21 DEC 1991
Chemical Abstracts Building -- Columbus

8:30AM Setup, coffee, and doughnuts

9:00AM Disk of Month,
Micropendium,
Beginners help,
Libraries open

9:30AM Question and
Answer Period

9:45AM TI-Writer class
Jean Hall
Recent changes

10:30AM Business
Meeting

11:15AM Demos:
Dick Beery
TI Casino

12:15PM Assembly SIG

WEDNESDAY MEETING -- 25 DEC 1991
McDONALD'S -- Cleveland and Main -- Westerville

MEETING CANCELED DUE TO CHRISTMAS.

VAPORWARE, SLOWWARE AND NO WARE AT ALL

by Jim Peterson

When Texas Instruments was still selling the TI-99/4A, and producing new peripherals and software, they tended to be extremely secretive about what they were working on - thus effectively discouraging any third party developers who would have faced financial disaster if TI came out with the same product.

After Black Friday, all such restraints disappeared. Third party hardware, software and publications began to appear. Others were announced but never did appear - and thus the term "vaporware" was coined, although perhaps it did not originate in the TI world.

One of the foremost early examples of vaporware was the fabled Phoenix computer announced by CorComp, which never did arise from the ashes as did its equally mythological namesake.

And a more recent example was PRESS, the long-awaited program that would make the TI as good as the I-word computer.

Sometimes the vaporous mists did finally blow away to reveal a new and valuable product, such as Myarc's 9640, the Geneve - but then its promised support again became enveloped in the mist.

And so the TI world became very wary of any announcements of new products. I have been contacted a few times by hardware hackers and programmers who envision some great new product and want to know what the market might be, or just want to talk about it. The advice that I give is - don't even tell your mother about it until you are ready to ship!

Almost all new hardware products are still being announced long before they are ready to sell, although nowadays most of them do eventually come on the market. There are many reasons, I am sure. Some developers want to test the market reaction before they commit time and money in the shrinking TI market. Some perhaps want to discourage competition, as Texas Instruments did. But most, I believe, just can't wait to tell the world what they have accomplished, or expect to accomplish. I can't blame them - they are doing some fantastic things with this long- obsolete computer.

Once the vaporware has become reality, and is actually on the market, all too often the vaporware becomes slowware - the customer sends his order, his check is cashed, and he waits - and waits - and waits!

Again, there are probably many reasons. The person is in most cases working a full-time job or going to college, and marketing his product in his spare time. Perhaps he is swamped with orders - although, after 8 years of trying to sell to the TI community, I find that unlikely!

More likely, he is being swamped with questions and complaints regarding the products he has already shipped. Some of the customers try to call collect, and those who write seldom give enough information. If it is software, some of the complaints are on the level of "it says to push any key - my computer doesn't have any key". If it is hardware, it probably requires some technical knowledge to install and any technoklutz - like me - is bound to need some help. And, with so many independent hardware developers, compatibility problems are enormous.

Also, maybe the fellow has become aware of a serious bug that needs fixing, or has almost completed a major improvement, and is trying to find time to take care of that before filling any more orders.

I can sympathize with all of these reasons, and others. Those who are still developing hardware and software for the TI are doing it largely as a labor of love, and their remarkable knowledge and ingenuity could probably be more profitably directed toward a computer which has an expanding rather than decreasing user base. We owe them our gratitude. HOWEVER! -

ANY VENDOR WHO CANNOT SHIP HIS PRODUCT WITHIN TWO WEEKS OWES HIS CUSTOMER A POSTCARD EXPLAINING THE REASON FOR THE DELAY AND THE ESTIMATED DATE OF

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SHIPMENT!

And another postcard, with offer of refund, if that date is not met! Postcards cost 19 cents, and take a minute to write - no one is too busy to do that.

The same applies to items sent for repair - if they cannot be repaired in two weeks, or within whatever period is specified in advertising, the customer deserves a postcard!

About this business of cashing checks before shipping merchandise - on a very few occasions I have waited for a check to clear the bank before shipping an unusually large order to an unknown customer. Otherwise, I ship by the next working day, except for my annual 10-day fishing trip to Minnesota. In 8 years of business, I have had two bounced checks, and both of them were made good.

If I was selling a product that cost a considerable amount and required a considerable investment in time and material to produce, I might wait for the check to clear before shipping. The bank can tell you within ten days if a check has cleared, so there is no reason to wait more than two weeks.

Among those who have currently been accused of slowness and/or lack of response to inquiries are Myarc, Bud Mils, Gary Bowser of OPA, Mike Maksimik of Crystal Software, and Pike Creek. Asgard Software was a notorious offender but Chris Bobbitt has now taken on a partner and claims to be giving prompt service.

In fact, this article was inspired by my experience with Crystal Software. I ordered Midi Master on 25 August, and my check was promptly cashed. I sent an inquiry on 29 September. I gave a friend a letter addressed to Mike, authorizing the friend to take delivery for me at the Chicago Faire on 2 November. Mike told him he had just shiped it to me. As of 15 November I have still not received it!

And finally, to the subject of no ware at all - when checks are cashed but no merchandise is received and inquiries are not answered. There have been quite a few incidents of such over the past several years, mostly involving software companies which went out of business without filling some of the orders for which they had received payment - and publishers going out of business without filling or refunding subscriptions.

The most recent examples involve JP Software, and there are many who are wondering whether the item they returned to Myarc for repair will turn out to be very very slowware or no ware at all.

Now, J. Peter Hoddie is a fine young man and a programming genius whom I greatly admire. He contributed a great deal to the TI community. Later, he and Paul Charlton set up JP Software to market a few of his products, and some fine products produced by others. Not long after, he secured employment with Apple, and it is reported that he was required to sign a contract which made it impossible for him to continue selling to the TI world.

Somewhere along there, something went badly astray. There seems to be no doubt that checks were cashed, but software was never shipped. I am sure that Peter would never cheat anyone, but it is equally certain that some users did not get what they had paid for. Fortunately, Jerry Coffey has been able to contact Peter and arrange to take over distribution of at least some of his titles, including shipment of those which were purchased but never received. Beery Miller has made arrangements to distribute the Mike Dodd programs which were being offered through JP Software, but is not responsible for previous unfilled orders. More recently, I have read a complaint that Baker Software, which formerly advertised game programs in Micropendium, has cashed checks without shipping merchandise or responding to inquiries. However, I wrote to them and they assured me they were still in business.

If a vendor wants to go out of business, It would take only a few minutes to scribble a postcard to John Koloen, who would certainly publish it in Micropendium. If they are operating from a postoffice box, they need only close the box to have all further orders returned to the sender. If they are

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using a home address, as many are, they can mark the letters "no longer at this address" and drop them in a mailbox.

If a programmer has written and marketed a useful applications or utility program unlike any other, thereby discouraging anyone else from writing a similar program, and no longer wishes to sell it, I do think that he has a moral, although not legal, obligation to license it to another vendor or to release it as fairware (why bother!) or public domain. I have been the TI world's most outspoken opponent of piracy, but I would find it hard to criticize anyone who copies, or allows to be copied, such a program which has been left in limbo.

In fact, if I find myself in need of a program marketed by someone who is notoriously slow and unreliable, I may just obtain a copy from someone and then mail the author his asking price, thereby saving him the cost of a disk and postage and saving myself a great deal of frustration.

****

This next article comes from Tarrant, Alabama. Our friend, Allan Cox who experienced a ribbon problem with his Gemini 10X. Allan had a article published in our May/91 issue dealing with a printing problen with the Gemini 10X and how he solved it. Thanks Allan for your articles. -ED.

MORE ON GEMINI 10X PRINTER

By Allan Cox

I have been reading several articles regarding problems with the Gemini 10X printer ribbons or printhead, and thought you might be interested in how a computer friend of mine solved his problem.

Last year he noticed the ribbon was hanging at the printhead. He carefully took the printhead from the carrier, and upon examination found that the ruby pin guide was loose in the head. Evidently, in operation the ruby created a wedging effect against the ribbon because of being loose. He used a contact cleaner to remove the ink residue. Then, using a toothpick, he applied a small amount of Super Glue around the outer edge of the ruby after he had aligned it in the head.

After the glue had set, he continued to remove the other ink residue from the head, and then remounted the printhead on the printer. When he tested it, it worked fine.

You might recall that I wrote an article about cleaning the printhead on my Gemini 10X, and it helped. The quality of the printing dropped quite a bit, so I replaced it with a new one last summer. It was like having a new printer. I got it from a local distributor for $75.00, and was glad to get it.

I print and sell family genealogical books, that average 45 to 50 pages each, in addition to many articles, so over the last five years my printer has printed millions of characters. What a reliable, versatile machine.

Asgard's Reflections has resumed publication with Volume 2 No. 4, but new subscriptions are not being accepted and only two or three more issues are planned. Chris Bobbitt promises that all subscriptions will be satisfied one way or another.

Asgard Publishing has now began publication of Asgard Brief, a shorter publication devoted to news of upgrades and new products from Asgard Software. User groups can get a free copy by sending a postcard to Asgard Publishing, PO Box 10306, Rockville MD 20849, and copies can be purchased for 25 cents, but it is not available by subscription. The same information is available by download from Delphi and Genie. Asgard Publishing also publishes Page Pro Times for users of Page Pro. Issue 6 was released in October.

Asgard Software is retrenching somewhat, in order to give better service, and will deal primarily in software rather than hardware. Plans for the reintroduction of the Mechatronics 80-column card have been cancelled. Chris reports that since he took on Harry Brashear as a partner, orders are being filled in 3 or 4 days rather than 3 or 4 weeks, and products returned for repair are being completed in 2 to 4 weeks.

Asgard has released 4 new games (TI-Pei, Classic Checkers, Colors and Starbase Raiders), and has made arrangements to offer three Comprodine games (War Zone, Living Tomb and Boxsteine), one from Notung (TI Casino) and 6 never-before-released Infocom Adventure titles. The new Asgard Software 1991-1992 Entertainment Catalog is available free from Asgard Software, PO Box 10306, Rockville MD 20849.

Disk Only Software (PO Box 244, Lorton VA 22079) will soon be offering Tony Lewis's "Interface Standard and Design Guide", a compendium of some of the most important references on TI hardware design.

The following report on the Berlin TI Faire is condensed from a report by Jim Fetzner in Reflections and a letter from Alexander Hulpke published in the Lima newsletter. One of the features was a new P-System for the TI-99/4A and Geneve, not requiring the P-Code card. It was rewritten from scratch, supports 80-column cards and more disk drives, and runs 3 or 4 times faster. It is still in the process of final debugging and testing.

The Berlin User Group was selling, for about $60, a device to install a Speech Synthesizer in the P-Box. Unlike the Rave card, this device contains the ROMs from the TEII cartridge, thereby allowing unlimited text to speech in any programming language and without the memory limitations of the disk-based Text-to-Speech.

TI Club Leipzig was demonstrating a true video digitizer for the P-box which accepts a video input through standard ports and digitizes it in real time (on the fly!) into a My-Art/YAPP format picture suitable for display on an 80-column card. It uses very expensive new chips and therefore costs about $350. The same group demonstrated modified routines for disk access which allowed direct controller programming, avoiding the TI file system overhead, thereby achieving speed comparable to a hard drive. They also discussed an AT-Bus hard disk, but had not written a DSR for it.

Another group was demonstrating, and expects to have available soon for about $100, a TI Hex-Bus interface which allows the TI-99/4A to be used with the many peripherals which Texas Instruments released for the CC-40 hand-held computer.

Also displayed, and costing about $14, was a simple chip and motherboard for the Mechatronics 80-column card which expands the number of available colors from 256 to 256 out of 256,000. Alexander Hulpke suggests that it could be adapted for the DIJIT card or the Geneve if an unused 8-byte area could be found to decode.

Also released was XB3, a complete rewrite of TI Extended Basic which is 16k larger, offers dozens of new commands, is 100% compatible with existing XBasic programs and runs them an average of 2 to 4 times faster! However, it requires a

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GRAM device. It will soon be released on disk by Asgard Software, and will later be available as a module. I am not sure if this is the same as Winfried Winkler's new XBasic described by Alexander Hulpke, because Alexander says that the module consists of 3 ROM banks at >6000 and will therefore run only on the Mechatronics GRAM card, not on the Geneve or Gram-Kracker or other simulators with just two banks.

New software included a CAD program by Henrik Wedekind, described as very user friendly, for the TI with 80-column device; CRASH by Peter Muys for the Geneve, a stock market program claimed to be equal to very expensive PC programs; and an XBasic compiler for the TI, written in Basic (and not able to compile itself into assembly) which compiles everything but SUBs, DEFs and arrays, but takes hours to do so.

The Lima User Group has booked space at the Ohio University Lima Campus for the next totally free all TI/Geneve show from 4 PM Friday May 15 through 8 PM Saturday May 16 1992.

A couple of user group newsletters have mentioned that Baker Software, which formerly advertised game programs in Micropendium, has cashed checks without sending merchandise, and is not responding to inquiries. However, when I wrote to them they replied promptly and said they were still actively in business.

Texaments (53 Center St., Patchogue NY 11772) has issued a new catalog which is free on request. Their products include TI-Artist PLUS! and supporting programs including 13 Companions, 3 volumes of Starfleet Technical Drawings, Fonts Frames and Fun, Designer Labels, Guidelines, and Artoons; GIF Mania to view GIF pictures on a TI; TI Base Version 3.0; 9 games for the Geneve; TI Sort; C.S.G.D. Graphics; The Missing Link; Sound F/X; Rapid Copy; XB Detective, and Exec. They also offer the Geneve ($419.95) as well as the Myarc Hard Disk Controller, Floppy Disk Controller and RS232 Card.

Bruce Harrison of Harrison Software has released two new programs. Scud Buster is a unique assembly game based on Patriot missiles shooting down Scuds in the Gulf War. The joystick is used to set an aiming point on the screen, and the fire button launches a missile toward that point to cross the trajectory of the Scud and meet it. There are several degrees of difficulty.

Code Breaker is a cryptogram program in assembly, therefore lightning fast. It contains 380 puzzles and has a feature where you can make your own. The standard level is difficult, the advanced level is for experts only.

Beery Miller (PO Box 752465, Memphis TN 38175-2465) has received permission from Myarc to distribute the P-System for the Geneve, and will provide the disks for $10. It requires a DS/DD system.

DELPHI has announced the establishment of Custom Forums. Any subscriber can open a Forum for a set-up fee of $39.95 and a monthly fee of $15, and then has complete control over who can post and read messages on his forum. DELPHI offers up to 20 hours per month of evening/weekend access via Tymnet for $20 per month.

For several years, Texas Instruments conducted a mail survey of TI user groups each year, and provided an address listing on request. I recently inquired whether they had made such a survey in 1991. They did not reply to the question, but sent me a copy of the listing they had distributed in 1990, which was out-of-date even then.

I have repeatedly urged user groups to register with FOG, so that they would be listed in Computer Shopper and Computer Monthly. Fewer and fewer have kept up their registration. Now I hear that FOG is charging $25 for new registrations and $15 for renewals.

THE TIGERCUB REFORMATTER+
Reformatter - CR Adder
LF Stripper - Blank Strip
Hyphenater - Dehyphenater
Justifier - Unjustifier
Marginater - Unmarginater
Version 1.2

by Jim Peterson

The TI-Writer or Funlweb Formatter can be used to reformat D/V80 text files to a greater or lesser line length, but it can garble the text while doing so, and I have seen many examples of such in newsletters.

To use the Funlweb Formatter for this purpose, the text must have carriage returns.

If the ampersand, the "at" sign, the caret, the asterisk followed by two numeric digits, or the period at the beginning of a line, are present in the text, printing througth the Funlweb Formatter will delete them and in some cases delete or garble the text.

When text is printed back to disk with the Formatter, it will contain large blocks of lines with nothing but a line feed, which must be manually deleted.

It will also place a line feed after every line, and convert carriage returns to line feeds. These can be stripped out by printing back to disk with the C option but, contrary to the manual, they are not really stripped out - they are converted to ASCII 32 blanks, which can cause problems in some applications. Also, the carriage returns will have been stripped.

Because of all these complications, I have never been satisfied with the Formatter. Therefore I wrote this program.

My program will reformat text which does not have carriage returns - such as the many files which are now being ported over from IBM - and will add the carriage returns, providing that headers are either indented or followed by blank lines and paragraphs are indented. It will strip the trailing blanks left by printing with the C option from the Funlweb Editor, and will strip line feeds caused by printing to disk from the Funlweb Formatter. It also strips the tab line.

It will of course also reformat text which does have carriage returns, to any greater or lesser length.

It will automatically edit and correct hyphenation that is no longer at the end of a line due to reformatting.

It will offer you the option (which Funlweb does not!) of hyphenating words. If you select this option, it will display the text and the farthest position at which a word could be hyphenated, whenever a word would be broken after two or more characters. If you elect to hyphenate, the maximum number of characters followed by a hyphen will be presented as a default.

This section features two innovations - my CALLKEY with blinking cursor (just press Y or y or N or n, no need to press Enter) and Bruce Harrison's STRACC routine. You can press Enter to accept the default, or type your own shorter string and the default string will be erased so you do not need to delete the extra characters.

An input here which is not followed by a hyphen will be rejected as a presumed error, but sometimes you will want the input to be without a hyphen, if the break is at a predetermined hyphen. In this case, just enter your input again and it will be

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accepted the second time.

If you select the option to justify, extra blanks will be inserted between words to align the right margin, just as TI-Writer does.

The program will optionally strip blanks inserted by previous justification, and will automatically strip them before justifying.

Text with a preset left margin cannot be properly reformatted, but the program will strip such margins. It will also optionally add a left margin to reformatted text.

The program checks the first 20 lines to find the left margin and the present line length. It is presumed that at least one of the first 20 lines will be a full line.

You can also hyphenate and/or justify and/or add carriage returns, and/or strip blanks and line feeds, and/or add or strip margins, without otherwise reformatting, by selecting a new line length the same as the old.

The program is intended primarily for reformatting back to disk, for use with multiple-column printing programs, but it will offer the option of output to the printer, and will then let you enter printer control codes.

You can even reformat to line lengths greater than 80. In this case, the printer or output file will be opened in the necessary record length.

Program listings, in any language, should never be reformatted. They will be garbled and impossible to key in correctly.

This program also cannot properly reformat columnized text, text containing graphics or ornamentation, etc. I don't think any program could.

This program is released to the public domain with no restrictions except that no one except myself (Tigercub Software) and non-profit user groups may charge a copying fee for it.

However, if you do find this program useful, I would be grateful if you would spend a few pennies for a postcard to tell me so. I am getting very tired of contributing programs to the TI world and never hearing a word about them again. I don't want money, just a word of thanks to encourage me to keep on writing.

And, of course, if you find any bugs please let me know.

Jim Peterson (Tigercub Software) 156 Collingwood Ave., Columbus OH 43213

The above is a direct printout of the documentation file - I used the program itself to reformat it from 28-column to 40-column width. I think it says about all that needs to be said.

When you boot the program, you are asked if you want to read the documentation on screen. Then you are asked for the name of the file you want to reformat. Next you are given the option of outputting to disk or to printer and, depending on your choice, you will be asked for an output filename or the name of your printer.

Next you are asked if you want to set a left margin and, if so, of how many spaces. You are then asked what line length you want to reformat to.

Now the program can open the output file or the printer. If your left margin setting plus line length totals more than 80, they are opened for the necessary record length. You could dump to the printer in lines of elite condensed print 160 characters

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long, or save to disk in lines 254 bytes long - but you would have to write your own program to retrieve the data.

At this point, if you elected to output to printer, you will be asked how many printer codes you want to enter. If none, just press Enter. Otherwise you will be asked for them one at a time and you will have to know the numeric of their ASCII - for example, 15 27 71 for condensed double-struck.

Then you are asked if you want to hyphenate, and if you want to right justify. If you want the latter, any existing justification will be stripped automatically; otherwise, you will be asked if you want to strip it.

The program now reads in 20 records and measures them to find what length it is reformatting from - it needs to know whether it is going to a greater or lesser length. It also scans these records to find the length of any existing left margin, which must be stripped.

The file is then restored and records are read in 60 at a time, reformatted and saved or printed. During reformatting, the program looks for words which were hyphenated at the end of a line but are now in the middle of a line; it deletes the hyphen and closes up the word.

If you elected to hyphenate, whenever a word will not fit at the end of a line but could fit two or more characters, you will be shown the entire line being worked, the maximum part that could be fitted, and the maximum point at which a hyphen could be inserted. If you choose to hyphenate, you will be offered that maximum as a default.

I especially like Bruce Harrison's STRACC link to assembly which I used here. You can just press Enter to accept the default, or type anything shorter - you don't have to delete the extra characters. That is the way Texas Instruments should have programmed ACCEPT AT in the first place.

This program was written to reformat normal text files, primarily for use in multiple-column printing. It cannot handle files which have neither carriage returns nor indented paragraphs, and it cannot reliably reformat columnized files or other specially formatted files. If the file contains CTRL U codes or transliterated printer controls, they will be counted as characters in measuring line length.

I think I have stomped out all the bugs that could be stomped, but it takes forever to test a program like this and, since I'm giving it away, I don't have the time! The archived file which I have uploaded and distributed contains a completely commented copy for the benefit of anyone who wants to further debug, modify or improve the program - or maybe add some assembly links to speed it up.

NOTE: This version contains an XBasic default accept rather than Bruce Harrison's assembly link which many would find difficult to key in and assemble. The full version is available by download from the Spirit of 99 BBS.
When using this version and typing over the default to hyphenate, type the first character and be sure it appears on screen before you continue typing.

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```
100 DIM I$(61),O$(250),T$(20
)
110 GOTO 140
120 LL,R,H$,J$,J,M,CFLAG,M$,
P$,L,Z,C$,P,X,A$,Q$,CF,IF$,O
F$,CR$,SET,K,S,U$,LM,LM$,SL$
,LMS,SLM$,WO,T$(),Y,PC,CC,RC
,@$
130 CALL CLEAR :: CALL SCREE
N :: CALL COLOR :: CALL HCHA
R :: CALL DEFAULT
140 !@P-
150 CALL CLEAR :: CALL SCREE
N(5):: FOR SET=0 TO 12 :: CA
LL COLOR(SET,2,16):: NEXT SE
T :: CR$=CHR$(13):: ON WARNI
NG NEXT
160 GOSUB 800
170 DISPLAY AT(8,1):"Input f
ilename?":"DSK" :: ACCEPT AT
(9,4)BEEP:IF$ :: ON ERROR 18
0 :: OPEN #1:"DSK"&IF$,INPUT
 :: GOTO 190
180 RETURN 170
190 DISPLAY AT(17,1):"Output
 to 1":"(1) Disk":"(2) Print
er" :: ACCEPT AT(17,11)SIZE(
-1)VALIDATE("12")BEEP:WO
200 IF WO=2 THEN DISPLAY AT(
17,1):"Printer? PIO":"":"" :
: ACCEPT AT(17,10)SIZE(-18):
OF$ :: GOTO 220
210 DISPLAY AT(17,1):"Output
 filename?":"DSK":"" :: ACCE
PT AT(18,4)BEEP:OF$ :: OF$="
DSK"&OF$
220 DISPLAY AT(20,1):"Do you
 want to set left     margin
? Y/N" :: ACCEPT AT(21,13)SI
ZE(1)VALIDATE("YN"):SL$ :: I
F SL$="N" THEN 240
230 DISPLAY AT(23,1):"Left m
argin how many spaces?" :: A
CCEPT AT(24,1)SIZE(2)VALIDAT
E(DIGIT):LMS :: SLM$=RPT$("
",LMS)
240 CALL CLEAR :: GOSUB 800
250 DISPLAY AT(10,1):"Reform
at to length?" :: ACCEPT AT(
10,21)SIZE(3)VALIDATE(DIGIT)
BEEP:R :: Y=MAX(80,R+LMS)
260 ON ERROR 270 :: OPEN #2:
OF$,VARIABLE Y,OUTPUT :: ON
ERROR STOP :: IF WO=1 THEN 3
00 ELSE 280
270 RETURN 210
280 DISPLAY AT(10,1):"How ma
ny printer codes? 0" :: ACCE
PT AT(10,25)VALIDATE(DIGIT)S
IZE(-2)BEEP:PC :: DISPLAY AT
(10,1):"" :: RC=1
290 FOR J=1 TO PC :: ACCEPT
AT(10,RC)VALIDATE(DIGIT)BEEP
:CC :: PRINT #2:CHR$(CC);::
RC=RC+LEN(STR$(CC))+1 :: NEX
T J
300 DISPLAY AT(12,1):"Hyphen
ate? Y/N" :: ACCEPT AT(12,16
)SIZE(1)VALIDATE("YN")BEEP:H
$
310 DISPLAY AT(14,1):"Right
justify? Y/N" :: ACCEPT AT(1
4,20)SIZE(1)VALIDATE("YN")BE
EP:J$ :: IF J$="Y" THEN U$="
Y" :: GOTO 330
320 DISPLAY AT(16,1):"Strip
extra blanks? Y/N" :: ACCEPT
 AT(16,25)SIZE(1)VALIDATE("Y
N")BEEP:U$
330 DISPLAY AT(18,5)ERASE AL
L:"READING RECORD" :: DISPLA
Y AT(20,2):"REFORMATTING REC
ORD" :: DISPLAY AT(22,6):"SA
VING RECORD"
340 FOR J=1 TO 20 :: LINPUT
#1:T$(J):: LL=MAX(LL,LEN(T$(
J))):: IF EOF(1)=1 THEN 360
350 NEXT J
360 RESTORE #1 :: FOR J=1 TO
 LL :: FOR K=1 TO 20 :: IF S
EG$(T$(K),J,1)<>" " THEN LM=
J-1 :: J=LL :: K=20
370 NEXT K :: NEXT J
380 LINPUT #1:I$(1):: IF LM>
0 THEN I$(1)=SEG$(I$(1),LM+1
,255)
390 FOR J=2 TO 61 :: IF EOF(
1)THEN 440 :: LINPUT #1:I$(J
):: DISPLAY AT(18,20):J :: I
F ASC(I$(J))=128 THEN 440 EL
SE IF LM>0 THEN I$(J)=SEG$(I
$(J),LM+1,255)
400 IF POS(I$(J-1),CR$,1)<>0
 THEN 410 :: IF ASC(I$(J))=1
3 OR ASC(I$(J))=32 THEN I$(J
-1)=I$(J-1)&CR$
410 NEXT J :: M=J-2
420 IF (ASC(I$(61))=13 OR AS
C(I$(61))=32)AND POS(I$(60),
CR$,1)=0 THEN I$(60)=I$(60)&
CR$
430 IF R>LL THEN 620 ELSE 45
0
440 CLOSE #1 :: M=J-1 :: CFL
AG=1 :: IF POS(I$(M),CR$,1)=
0 THEN I$(M)=I$(M)&CR$ :: GO
TO 430 ELSE GOTO 430
450 FOR J=1 TO M :: DISPLAY
AT(20,22):J :: GOSUB 810 ::
IF U$="Y" THEN CALL UNFILL(I
$(J))
460 M$=P$&I$(J):: P$=""
470 CALL HSTRIP(M$)
480 L=LEN(M$)+(POS(M$,CR$,1)
<>0):: IF L<=R AND POS(M$,CR
$,1)<>0 THEN Z=Z+1 :: O$(Z)=
M$ :: GOTO 590 ELSE IF L<R T
HEN P$=M$&" " :: GOTO 590
490 IF L=R THEN Z=Z+1 :: O$(
Z)=M$ :: GOTO 590
500 C$=SEG$(M$,1,R):: CALL L
ASTPOS(C$," ",P)
510 IF P<>0 THEN 520 ELSE Z=
Z+1 :: O$(Z)=C$ :: M$=SEG$(M
$,R+1,255):: GOTO 480
520 IF R-P<3 THEN C$=SEG$(M$
,1,P-1):: CALL JUSTIFY(R,C$,
J$):: M$=SEG$(M$,P+1,255)::
Z=Z+1 :: O$(Z)=C$ :: GOTO 48
0
530 X=POS(M$," ",P+1):: IF X
=0 THEN X=LEN(M$)ELSE IF X=R
+1 THEN Z=Z+1 :: O$(Z)=C$ ::
 M$=SEG$(M$,R+2,255):: GOTO
480
540 IF H$="N" THEN 580
550 GOSUB 760
560 DISPLAY AT(12,1):"Hyphen
ate?" :: CALL CALLKEY(15,12,
"YNyn",Q$):: IF Q$="N" OR Q$
="n" THEN CALL HCHAR(2,1,32,
352):: GOTO 580
570 GOSUB 770 :: GOTO 480
580 GOSUB 790 :: GOTO 480
590 NEXT J
600 FOR J=1 TO Z :: DISPLAY
AT(22,20):J :: PRINT #2:SLM$
&O$(J):: NEXT J :: Z=0
610 IF CFLAG=0 THEN I$(1)=I$
(61):: GOTO 390 ELSE CLOSE #
2 :: STOP
620 FOR J=1 TO M :: DISPLAY
AT(20,22):J :: GOSUB 810 ::
IF U$="Y" THEN CALL UNFILL(I
$(J))
630 M$=P$&I$(J):: P$=""
640 CALL HSTRIP(M$)
650 IF POS(M$,CR$,1)<>0 AND
LEN(M$)<=R+1 THEN Z=Z+1 :: O
$(Z)=M$ :: GOTO 750
660 IF LEN(M$)<R THEN P$=M$&
" " :: GOTO 750
670 C$=SEG$(M$,1,R):: CALL L
ASTPOS(C$," ",P):: IF P=0 TH
EN Z=Z+1 :: O$(Z)=C$ :: M$=S
EG$(M$,R+1,255):: GOTO 650
680 IF P=R THEN C$=SEG$(M$,1
,P-1):: CALL JUSTIFY(R,C$,J$
):: Z=Z+1 :: O$(Z)=C$ :: M$=
SEG$(M$,R+1,255):: GOTO 650
690 IF R-P<3 THEN C$=SEG$(M$
,1,P-1):: CALL JUSTIFY(R,C$,
J$):: Z=Z+1 :: O$(Z)=C$ :: M
$=SEG$(M$,P+1,255):: GOTO 65
0
700 X=POS(M$," ",P+1):: IF X
=0 THEN X=LEN(M$)ELSE IF X=R
+1 THEN Z=Z+1 :: O$(Z)=C$ ::
 M$=SEG$(M$,R+2,255):: GOTO
650
710 IF H$="N" THEN 740 :: GO
SUB 760
720 DISPLAY AT(12,1):"Hyphen
ate?" :: CALL CALLKEY(12,12,
"YNyn",Q$):: IF Q$="N" OR Q$
="n" THEN CALL HCHAR(2,1,32,
352):: GOTO 740
730 GOSUB 770 :: GOTO 650
740 GOSUB 790 :: GOTO 650
750 NEXT J :: GOTO 600
760 DISPLAY AT(2,1):M$ :: DI
SPLAY AT(6,1):SEG$(M$,1,R)::
 A$=SEG$(M$,P+1,R-P-1)&"-" :
: DISPLAY AT(10,1):A$&SEG$(M
$,R,X-R+1):: RETURN
770 CALL DEFAULT(14,1,A$,@$)
:: CF=CF+1 :: IF POS(@$,"-",
1)=0 AND CF=1 THEN 770 ELSE
A$=@$
780 CF=0 :: C$=SEG$(C$,1,P)&
A$ :: M$=SEG$(M$,P+1+LEN(A$)
-1,255):: CALL JUSTIFY(R,C$,
J$):: Z=Z+1 :: O$(Z)=C$ :: C
ALL HCHAR(2,1,32,416):: RETU
RN
790 C$=SEG$(C$,1,P-1):: CALL
 JUSTIFY(R,C$,J$):: Z=Z+1 ::
 O$(Z)=C$ :: M$=SEG$(M$,P+1,
255):: RETURN
800 DISPLAY AT(2,2):"TIGERCU
B REFORMATTER+ V1.2":"":" Re
formatter  *  Hyphenater  Ri
ght Justifier * CR Adder  Un
filler * Marginater" :: RETU
RN
810 IF SEG$(I$(J),LEN(I$(J))
,1)=" " OR SEG$(I$(J),LEN(I$
(J)),1)=CHR$(10)THEN I$(J)=S
EG$(I$(J),1,LEN(I$(J))-1)
820 IF I$(J)="" OR I$(J)=" "
 THEN I$(J)=CR$ :: RETURN EL
SE RETURN
830 !@P+
840 SUB HSTRIP(M$):: X=1
850 P=POS(M$,"- ",X):: IF P=
0 THEN SUBEXIT ELSE IF P=1 T
HEN 870
860 IF SEG$(M$,P-1,3)<>" - "
 THEN M$=SEG$(M$,1,P-1)&SEG$
(M$,P+2,255)
```

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```
870 X=P+2 :: GOTO 850
880 SUBEND
890 SUB LASTPOS(A$,B$,Y):: X
,Y=0
900 X=POS(A$,B$,X+1):: IF X>
0 THEN Y=X :: GOTO 900
910 SUBEND
920 SUB JUSTIFY(R,C$,J$)
930 IF J$="N" OR LEN(C$)=R O
R C$="" THEN SUBEXIT
940 P=1
950 X=POS(C$," ",P):: IF X=P
 THEN P=P+1 :: GOTO 950 ELSE
 Y,P=X :: IF POS(C$," ",P)=0
 THEN SUBEXIT
960 C$=SEG$(C$,1,X)&" "&SEG$
(C$,X+1,255):: IF LEN(C$)=R
THEN SUBEXIT ELSE P=X+2
970 X=POS(C$," ",P):: IF X=0
 THEN P=Y :: GOTO 970 ELSE G
OTO 960
980 SUBEND
990 SUB CALLKEY(R,C,V$,K$)
1000 CALL HCHAR(R,C+2,30)::
FOR T=1 TO 3 :: CALL KEY(0,K
,S):: IF S<>0 THEN 1030
1010 NEXT T :: CALL HCHAR(R,
C+2,32):: FOR T=1 TO 3 :: CA
LL KEY(0,K,S):: IF S<>0 THEN
 1030
1020 NEXT T :: GOTO 1000
1030 IF POS(V$,CHR$(K),1)=0
THEN 1000 ELSE K$=CHR$(K)
1040 CALL HCHAR(R,C+2,32)::
SUBEND
1050 SUB UNFILL(M$):: P=1
1060 X=POS(M$," ",P):: IF X=
P THEN P=P+1 :: GOTO 1060
1070 X=POS(M$,"  ",P):: IF X
=0 THEN SUBEXIT
1080 M$=SEG$(M$,1,X)&SEG$(M$
,X+2,255):: GOTO 1070
1090 SUBEND
1100 SUB DEFAULT(R,C,M$,R$):
: R$="" :: X=ASC(M$)
1110 DISPLAY AT(R,C):M$
1120 CALL HCHAR(R,C+2,ASC(SE
G$(M$,1,1))):: CALL HCHAR(R,
C+2,30)
1130 CALL KEY(0,K,S):: IF S=
0 THEN 1120 ELSE IF K=13 THE
N R$=M$ :: SUBEXIT ELSE DISP
LAY AT(R,C):CHR$(K):: ACCEPT
 AT(R,C+1):R$ :: R$=CHR$(K)&
R$
1140 SUBEND
```

CLEARING HOUSE

What: a means of sharing text files between clubs, so that more can enjoy the best articles, and to cut down on newsletter costs.

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SUPPORT YOUR AREA TI99/4A USER'S GROUP!!

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER No. 11

by Jim Peterson

The hard part of learning to program is not in learning what the various commands do - it is learning how to put them together to do what you want them to do! Key in this little routine, run it to see what it does, then read the explanation of how it does it.

```
100 DISPLAY AT(12,1):"Input
filename?":"DSK" :: ACCEPT A
T(13,4):IF$
110 DISPLAY AT(15,1):"Output
 filename?":"DSK" :: ACCEPT
AT(16,4):OF$
120 DISPLAY AT(18,1):"Put bl
ank lines between     paragr
aphs? Y/N" :: ACCEPT AT(19,1
7)SIZE(1)VALIDATE("YN"):Q$
130 OPEN #1:"DSK"&IF$,INPUT
:: OPEN #2:"DSK"&OF$,OUTPUT
:: C$=CHR$(13)
140 IF EOF(1)THEN 170 :: LIN
PUT #1:M$ :: IF Q$="Y" THEN
160
150 IF M$="" THEN PRINT #2:C
$:M$;:: GOTO 140 ELSE IF ASC
(M$)<33 THEN PRINT #2:C$:M$;
:: GOTO 140 ELSE PRINT #2:""
:M$;:: GOTO 140
160 IF M$="" OR M$=" " THEN
PRINT #2:C$ :: GOTO 140 ELSE
 IF ASC(M$)<33 THEN PRINT #2
:C$:C$:M$;:: GOTO 140 ELSE P
RINT #2:"":M$;:: GOTO 140
170 PRINT #2:C$ :: CLOSE #1
:: CLOSE #2
```

This program will add carriage returns to a file, such as those which are nowadays being ported over from IBM. However, the file must have indented header lines and indented paragraphs, to give a clue as to where the CRs should be. You are also given the option of putting blank lines between paragraphs.

The first two lines get the name of the file to be worked on, and the filename to be used for the revised file. Note that the ACCEPT AT cursor is placed right after DSK, to make it plain that the input should be a drive number, period and filename.

In line 130 the files are opened and ASCII 13, the carriage return, is defined as C$ so it can be more conveniently referred to hereafter.

In line 140, the EOF end-of-file check is placed before the input, because execution keeps returning here until all the file is read. Records are read in by LINPUT rather than INPUT because if the record contains a string INPUT will stop reading it at that point. If the option to put blank lines between paragraphs was selected, execution jumps to line 160. All the work is done in 150 or 160.

A blank line may be a null string, containing nothing at all, or it may contain a single ASCII 32, the space character, depending on how it was created. In line 150, if the input record is a null string, a CR is printed to place a CR at the end of the previous record, which has always been left open. The colon starts a new record and the null string is printed to it, followed by the semi-colon to hold the record open. If the first character of the record is less than 33 (i.e., the space character 32), it is either a blank line or the first line of an indented paragraph, and the same action is taken. It is a peculiarity of XBasic that this cannot be written as IF M$="" OR ASC(M$)<33 - in spite of the OR, the program will attempt to find the ASCII of a null string and will crash.

If the line is not a null string and does not begin with a blank, it is the second or subsequent line of a paragraph. A null string is printed to close the previous open record, then the record is printed and held open in case it turns out to be the last line of a paragraph and needs to have a CR added next time.

Line 160 is similar. If the record is a null string or a single blank, a CR is printed to close the previous record. If the first character is a blank, the CR is followed by another CR, to place a blank line between paragraphs.

In all cases, execution goes back to line 140 for another input but first checks to see if the end of the file has been reached. In that case it jumps to 170 where a CR is printed to close the final pending record before the files are closed.

TI-Base

- By - Inscebot, Inc.
P.O.Box 291610, Pt.Orange, FL 32129

Version 3.01 Tutorial 23.1.1 By *Martin A. Smoley*

NorthCoast 99`ers User Group - July 14, 1991

WHAT A MESS

My wife, who corrects my atrocious spelling and punctuation, said that the last Tutorial was by far the most *confusing I had written to date. It's a good thing that the* main point of that tutorial was to get you to read the original TI-Base Manual (I think). Because of my wife's comment I am going to attempt to change my approach to this tutorial. I hope it will help.

Once Again

If you need or want a Database (Db), you should start with some information you already have (Name + Address list, etc.) and a pencil and paper. Think about your new Db. Consider the information to be placed in it and what you will do with it afterwards. You don't have to be complete or specific, but just toss some ideas around and jot down notes. I do this for several days before I CREATE a Db. I will CREATE a membership list for the combined but separate clubs of the NorthCoast 99'ers and TI-Chips (sound familiar). The main use of this Db will be for the monthly mailing of the combined club newsletter. The second (important!) use will be to keep track of when each member's dues are due. I'd like to print all my data across one page so I keep in mind that I can print 132 columns in condensed print. Now I take the old list and visually scan it for the longest last name, first name, street address and city. I then add 2 or 3 spaces to the length of the longest item in each catagory. That will hopefully become the length of my FIELDs. In a DB each complete unit of Data would be a Record. In TI-Base (TIB) each Record can contain 17 FIELDs. So a FIELD might contain a persons last name, the next FIELD might contain that same persons first name, the next could be the street address, the city, etc. All these items (or FIELDs) together would make up one Record. In TIB each Record (REC) is given a number (REC 0001, 0027, etc.) do not confuse Record numbers with FIELD numbers (which you see below).

CLUB91 STRUCTURE

CREATED 07/08/91 CHANGED 07/10/91

FIELD	DESCRIPTOR	TYPE	WIDTH	DEC
1	NM	C	006	
2	LN	C	015	
3	FN	C	015	
4	MI	C	002	
5	NL	N	003	00
6	SA	C	025	
7	CT	C	020	
8	ST	C	002	
9	ZP	C	005	
10	PH	C	012	
11	XP	D	008	
12	GP	C	002	
13	LTS	N	002	00

Now that I've wet your appitite for the first Db, we're not going to do that yet. In the last Tutorial I hit the ground running with a bunch of stuff on Command Files, Printouts and a lot of confusing junk. You should be able to think about our first Db (CLUB91 or whatever) and jot down notes about it while I re-explain TIBs startup. When you put your COPY (not the original) of TIB in drive 1 and select Extended Basic (from the TI power up screen) TI-Base will automatically load and run. After you watch the little load bar crawl across the screen TIB will print MM/DD/YY on the screen and ask you for the date. Enter the date as Month/Day/Year, and don't leave out any zeros or slashes. For example July 10, 1991 would be entered as 07/10/91. The system will use this date and we will want to use it also, so enter it carefully each time you start up TIB. After you enter the date and TIB finishes loading you will be left with a period (the Dot prompt) with the cursor flashing next to it. "That's all!" You must enter all your direct Commands at the Dot prompt (Dp), so get used to it. If you type something at the Dp and press Enter (<E>), TIB will either accept or reject your Command, drop down one line and give you another Dp. The only Commands TIB will accept and act upon are those in the manual, under the conditions given in the manual. Enter a Command TIB doesn't recognize or break a rule and all you get is an error message. "Sounds like about as much fun as dropping a brick on your little toe." Any Command that can be typed and executed at the Dp can also be place together with other Commands in a Command File. A Command File (CF) can then be executed with the Command DO and all the Commands in that CF will be executed. "If you're trying to figure out what the heck I just said, glance through that manual again." The reason I dragged you through all this is because, if you made it to the Dp, TIB has already executed a CF. The CF I'm refering to is SETUP and it's quite important. It contains the information TIB needs to SET itself UP for your system. This means that SETUP can help or hinder you greatly with the use of TIB, so you must put the right information or Commands in the SETUP file.

Original TIB SETUP CF

```
*
*       Welcome to TI-BASE
*    QUIT will terminate TI-BASE
*
* PRINTER EPSON
SET CURSOR 2
DO DSK1.RESET
DISPLAY STATUS
*       FUNCTION (7) for help.
RETURN
```

The printout you see above is of the original SETUP file I received with TIB except for the line that reads DO DSK1.RESET. I added that line, as you will, later, but first we need to CREATE the CF named RESET. Note: If you managed to fight your way through the last Tutorial, with all of the Printout CF stuff, this should be familiar. Let's try to CREATE the RESET CF. But first, another confusing but necessary side track. We need to make some needed room on the TIB disk in drive 1 (or make another copy).

Next Page

TI-Base - By - Inscebot, Inc.

P.O.Box 291610, Pt.Orange, FL 32129

Version 3.01 Tutorial 23.1.2 By *Martin A. Smoley*

NorthCoast 99`ers User Group - July 14, 1991

What I did was copy LOAD, LOADTI, MAIN, MSGS, OVERLAY/P, PRINTER/D, PRINTER/S, SCRN, SETUP/C, TIBASE and TIBASEB to a newly initalized disk. This is all you need to autoload TIB and it should give you about 100 free sectors on the disk. You could erase all files other than the ones I just listed, but I feel it's always better to make another copy. Note: Whenever you initalize a disk for use with TIB always verify the sectors. A problem disk can give you big headaches later. While you're at it initalize a couple extra disks for drive 2. Name them something distinct like DAT01, DAT02, etc. and label the jackets so you can identify them. Then put TIB in drive 1 and load it again. If everything went well it's time to make a Command File (CF). At the Dp type MODIFY COMMAND DSK1.RESET and press enter. If later you do a directory of the disk, you will see /C after the RESET. You do not enter these characters. TIB will do that for you. After entering the command TIB will give you a blank screen (with no Dp) and wait for you to type in the command file (CF). "Once again TIB gives you no help." Just type in the file I have listed below as RESET. On the first line start with an asterisk, which signifies a comment line. "Do not type in my heading. The first line you type is the one with the asterisk (*). Type in all the lines as you see them, pressing enter <E>, after each line, as in Funnelweb. You will not see a CR at the end of each line because TIB doesn't use CRs in the same way Funnelweb does. If your printer is serial, not parallel, enter RS232.CR.LF in place of the PIO.CR.LF, in my example. This is not the only chance you have to get this right, we can change RESET to do something else, later. After it is all typed in, press Fctn 8 to have TIB save the CF to disk.

MODIFY COMMAND DSK1.RESET <E>

RESET/Command File

```
*     07/11/91                    RESET
CLOSE ALL
SET DATDISK=DSK2.
SET PRGDISK=DSK1.
SET PRINTER=PIO.CR.LF
SET PAGE=56
SET HEADING=ON
SET TALK=ON
SET SPACE=01
SET RECNUM=ON
SET LSPACE=256
CLEAR LOCALS
SET CURSOR=02
SET CRLF=ON
SET INVERSE=OFF
CLEAR
RETURN          (Fctn 8)
```

DO DSK1.RESET <E>

After completing all those tasks RESET should be ready to go, so let's see if it will run. At the Dp type DO DSK1.RESET <E>. The CF should scroll up the screen and finish with a blank screen except for RETURN and the Dp at the bottom left, and hopefully no error messages. RESET should not do anything noticable. It's main function is to SET or RESET TIB to your system. If it acts weird or you got an error message, you probably typed something incorrectly. Just go back to MODIFY COMMAND DSK1.RESET to correct your problems. This time through you will not be given a blank screen, but the original RESET will appear for re-editing. The keyboard overlay you received with TIB will be indispensable for CF creation and editing. After you get RESET to run with no apparent problems type DISPLAY STATUS at the Dp. This should cause the TIB current STATUS to scroll up the screen. It should be identical to the printout of RESET, with your changes of course. You can get a printout of the screen by typing SNAP <E> at the bottom of the STATUS screen. If all these things work, you are making good progress. Now type MODIFY COMMAND DSK1.SETUP and when the SETUP file is presented insert a line and add DO DSK1.RESET as you see in my previous printout. I also made three other changes to my SETUP CF. I addèd "Vr 3.01" after TI-BASE, I changed QUIT will terminate TI-Base to "Type QUIT to terminate" and I changed FUNCTION (7) for help to "(Fctn 7) help not available". "Why?" Because I like to know which version of TIB I am using, you type QUIT to quit, you never never use (Fctn =) or (Fctn QUIT) from the TI keyboard and last, I removed all my help files from disk 1, "That's why!" Now when you, or TIB, run the SETUP file RESET will run automatically. You can also run RESET at the end of other CFs to RESET the system. "OK!" Now that you are totally experienced at CFs let's CREATE that Database.

The Database

In order to CREATE the CLUB91 Db I described earlier, you type CREATE DSK2.CLUB91 <E>. TIB will then give you the top two lines of the CLUB91 STRUCTURE printout, with nothing below that. It's your job to fill in the rest. The second line contains FIELD, DESCRIPTOR, TYPE, WIDTH and DEC. These are column headings. As you enter the FIELDS you want, TIB will number each of them in the FIELD column. DESCRIPTOR is where you will enter the name or title of a particular FIELD, for instance LASTNAME (LN) or FIRSTNAME (FN). The TYPE column is where you place one character to tell TIB what TYPE of data it will find in that FIELD. The only choices you have are C, N, D or X for this entry. C denotes (C)haracter and tells TIB that it might find almost anything in that FIELD. If you place an N in this spot TIB will expect (N)umerical data in this FIELD, meaning things it can perform math on (+-.0123456789). If you select D for (D)ate, TIB will expect you to supply a date in the form of MM/DD/YY as I described on startup. The WIDTH would be set at 8, and slashes are automatic (07/14/91). X TYPE FIELDs are for printer control codes and will be converted by TIB to Hexidecimal before transmission. If you don't know exactly what you're doing, DO NOT USE ANY Xs AS FIELD TYPEs.

CREATE DSK2.CLUB91 <E>

Next Page

TI-Base

- By - **Inscebot, Inc.**
P.O.Box 291610, Pt.Orange, FL 32129

Version 3.01 Tutorial 23.1.3 By *Martin A. Smoley*

NorthCoast 99`ers User Group - July 14, 1991

The WIDTH column is where you will tell TIB the maximum number of characters you will be putting in that particular FIELD. You will probably be doing math operations on your (N)umeric FIELDs so add one extra space to each of those TYPEs where TIB can keep track of the signs (+-). The DEC column is for decimal places. Here you enter the number of decimal places from the right (of the total) you want TIB to place the decimal piont. This applies to (N)umeric FIELDs only. So type in all the stuff I have listed in the CLUB91 STRUCTURE printout. You will see that pressing enter moves the cursor from item to item. The arrow keys also work for moving back and forth. When the cursor has dropped to line (or FIELD) 14, pressing (Fctn 8) will cause TIB to complete and save the Db. You will then be asked if you would like to enter data now. You can enter (Y) for yes and start entering the information I supplied at the bottom of this page. Note: The CLUB91 printout may look a little off because I still had to chop a few spaces from the Db printout after I brought it into Funnelweb. It wouldn't fit across the page as it was. The names (DESCRIPTORs) I use are normally two characters long. This lets me guess what item I have stored in that FIELD and still remain short enough to type several FIELDnames on one line in a CF. The NM FIELD is a unique number. I created it from the Month that person joined, the persons first initial, the year they joined, their last initial and a number relating to the order in which people joined during that month. All of which is irrelevant, any number will do. Then I have Last Name, First Name, etc. NL is a (N)umeric FIELD which will hold the persons Name Length (NL), and LTS holds a record of the number of letters sent at renewal time to each person.

Data Entry or APPEND Screen

```
NM      _____
LN      ____________________
FN      ____________________
MI      __
NL      ___                    000
SA      ______________________________>
CT      ________________________
ST      __
ZP      _____
PH      ____________
XP      __/__/__
GP      __
LTS     __                     000
```

CLUB91

REC	NM	LN	FN	MI	NL	SA	CT	ST	ZP	PH	XP	GP	LTS
0000	4A83S1	Smithsonian	Arthur		0	1142 Lemon Drive Apt. 246	Los Angeles	CA	91234	303-221-8943	04/00/91	CH	0
0001	2G85A1	Aardvark	Grant	E.	0	9995 State Rt. 84	Geneva	OH	44014	1-465-9876	02/00/92	NC	0
0002	2M83S4	Smoley	Martin	A.	0	6149 Bryson Drive	Mentor	OH	44060	216-257-1661	02/00/92	NC	0
0003	4Q86J2	Jones	Quincy	W.	0	37285 Burgandy Lane	Mentor-on-the-Lake	OH	44060	257-1029	04/00/91	NC	0
0004	9R88W1	Whitman	Slim	A.	0	2574 East 254th St.	Eastlake	OH	44094	951-2345	09/00/91	CH	0
0005	8E84V1	Vivannovitch	Elexxie	I.	0	111 E. 98th St.	Cleveland	OH	49023	541-5415	08/00/91	NC	0

If you're working on your own Db, use any FIELDs you think you will need. You just have to remember to fill in the right names when you whip up the CFs. If you're new at this you should CREATE several Dbs with no purpose in mind, just for the practice. After that, try out the commands, PRINT ALL and DISPLAY ALL, to see how they work. Refer back to the manual frequently for guidance. The entries for DISPLAY are listed below.

```
USE DSK2.CLUB91    <E>
DISPLAY ALL    <E>
CLOSE ALL    <E>
```

If you have struggled along this far, try typing in the GETLEN CF, listed below. Its purpose is to check the number of non-blank characters in LN and FN. Then it looks to see if MI is blank. If it is blank, TIB adds one to the total for the blank space needed between names. If MI is not blank TIB will add MIs' length plus two spaces to the total length which is stored in Name Length (NL). GETLEN will USE CLUB91 and perform this task on each RECORD as it MOVEs through the Db. When it reaches the End Of File (EOF), it will DO RESET, which we created earlier to CLOSE ALL Dbs and reset all parameters. If GETLEN runs without any problems, type USE DSK2.CLUB91 <E> and EDIT <E> to check the results, or DISPLAY ALL LN NL <E>. If it didn't work, keep at it, don't give up until you figure out what went wrong. Read the manual!

```
MODIFY COMMAND DSK2,GETLEN <E>

*     07/14/91                GETLEN
CLOSE ALL
USE DSK2.CLUB91
WHILE .NOT. (EOF)
REPLACE NL WITH (LEN(LN)+LEN(FN))
 IF MI = "  "
  REPLACE NL WITH NL + 1
  ELSE
  REPLACE NL WITH (NL + LEN(MI) + 2)
 ENDIF
MOVE
ENDWHILE
DO DSK1.RESET
RETURN  Copyright Martin Smoley 1991
(Fctn 8)

DO DSK2.GETLEN <E>
```

I'll try and continue next month. Good luck. Marty.

I'm REC 0002 **Write Letters.**

MEETING DATES FOR 1991-1992

3RD SATURDAY
21 DEC 1991
18 JAN 1992
15 FEB 1992
21 MAR 1992
18 APR 1992
16 MAY 1992
20 JUN 1992
18 JUL 1992
15 AUG 1992
19 SEP 1992

4TH WEDNESDAY
----25 DEC 1991--- NO MEETING
22 JAN 1992
26 FEB 1992
25 MAR 1992
22 APR 1992

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