THE DATA BUS

Issue : VOL. 6 NO. 2 - - - - MAR. 1988

THE DELAWARE VALLEY USERS GROUP

P.O. BOX 6240 STANTON BRANCH, WILMINGTON DE 19804-9998

DEDICATED TO THE TI AND COMPATIBLE HOME COMPUTER FAMILY

WELCOME NEW DVUG MEMBERS:
David Whyte (New Castle, Delaware)

RENEWING DURING THIS MONTH:
Marie and Thomas J. Sullivan, Jr. (Delaware)

THE COMPUTER THAT WILL NOT DIE:

A Little Sand and Sea, Gas and Hot Air, and a "Free" 99/4A is Yours for Only $39.95. Can't beat those 1:1 Odds ...

U.S. Family Promotions, not even furnishing a return address, offered this Editor (and a bunch of other Carrier Route-sorted recipients several hours away) the absolutely Final Notification to make a trip to Cape May County, NJ's Lake & Shore Resort this month. We could win a Ford Escort or $1,000, or Compact Disk player, or even a TI Personal Computer! for an apparent time-sharing resort opportunity, if we responded by the following week.

If it WERE passed out there, we might be able to give a little backup support to winners with follow-up material on our Atlantic City or other area DVUG members. Alas, we were advised that "due to inventory and security reasons", redemption certificates were necessary for "some" awards - the ONLY one explicitly mentioned being the TI computer, which is provided by Bentley Industries on Grosvenor Blvd. in Los Angeles, at a cost of $39.95. Since the odds for a prize other than the TI ranged from 1:10,000 to 1:150,000 (while odds for the "$360" TI were 1:1), guess which one you'd get free for $39.95?

I don't earn $39.95/hour, and I'm not going to pay it in order to get yet another TI console in my house thanks. But it's interesting to know what fascinating attraction a five-year dead computer continues to have ...

If you were planning on donating your old console to a worthy non-profit group, you'd better think twice before trying to claim the $360 value suggested by Land & Shore; that price hasn't applied since Fall,1982 (before rebate)!

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ORPHANED INSTRUMENTS
SMART COMPUTER

READY-PRESS ANY KEY TO BEGIN

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MARCH/APRIL MEETINGS OF DVUG AFFILIATED GROUPS:

CHRISTIANA, MARCH 24 - "THE OPENING GAMBIT"; What happens when you open a file, hardware or software, to access the extra workspace or equipment available to you?

Christiana's April Meeting on the 28th at 6:30.

SCULLVILLE - APRIL 7th at 7:30; DOVER - April 11th at 7:00

DVUG EXECUTIVE OFFICERS FOR 1988

PRESIDENT..Jack Shattuck....302-764-8619
V. PRES....Jim Davis.....302-478-7529
SECRETARY..James Dreibelbis.215-623-8772
TREASURER..Norm Sellers.....215-353-0475
SGTatARMS..Bill McLean.....302-366-1721
DOVER.....Oscar Dawson.....302-697-6343
SCULLVILLE.Harvey Adams.....609-641-2105

NORMAL MEETING SCHEDULES

SCULLVILLE,NJ	1st Thurs.	7:30-9:00
DOVER,DE	2nd Monday	7:00-9:00
CHRISTIANA,DE	4th Thurs.	6:30-9:30

MEETING PLACES

JERSEY SHORE: Scullville Firehouse #1 County Rte. 559 (on left, between mile markers 4 and 3), in Atlantic County, NJ. Ignore Station #2 on right en route.

DELMARVA CHAPTER: Kent County Courthouse, Basement Conference Rm. #25, The Green and State Street, Dover, Delaware. Use entrance on The Green side.

CHRISTIANA: Delaware's Christiana Mall on Rte. 7 at I-95, Exit 4-S, Community Room. Enter inside Mall, between J.C. Penney and Liberty Travel.

DVUG BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEMS (BBS)

No. Delaware: (302) 322-3999 24 Hrs. 300 & 1200 Baud

So. Delaware: (302) 674-1449 24 Hrs. 300 Baud

A Delaware Valley Users Group membership includes monthly newsletter, library and software privileges, plus other special benefits. Annual membership rate: $15.

Articles appearing in THE DATA BUS may be reproduced on BBS, disk or newsletter as long as DVUG source is acknowledged; unsigned work is by THE DATA BUS Editor. DVUG encourages exchange newsletters.

ADVERTISING RATES IN THE DATA BUS

1/4 Page = $ 5/issue, or $ 45/12 issues
1/2 Page = $ 8/issue, or $ 75/12 issues
Full Page = $15/issue, or $125/12 issues

THE DATA BUS goes to over 110 local DVUG families, and over 65 other User Groups.

Paid-up DVUG members may place a short notice of their used computer equipment for sale in THE DATA BUS without charge.

TRANSMIT YOUR NEWSLETTER COPY TO EDITOR Jack Shattuck, (302)764-8619 or reach us at the DVUG mailing address, as shown on Page One of this newsletter. NEWSLETTER COPY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR AN ISSUE AFTER THE 2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH.

An annual index appears in February each year. Single copies of THE DATA BUS are available to inquirers who write to the Editor at DVUG's mailing address.

NOTICE TO OTHER USER GROUPS, ON MAILINGS TO THE DELAWARE VALLEY USERS GROUP:

We ask that you use the P.O. Box on THE DATA BUS mast to reach us. In past years, mail sent to changing individuals in the organization provided undesirable delays in reaching others. Thank you.

THE FOLLOWING ARE FOR SALE BY MEMBERS OF OUR SCULLVILLE AFFILIATE -

FROM GUY LEWIS (609)927-5601:

TI XBasic Cartridge (New)	$ 45
Box of 10 DS/DD Floppy Disks	$ 5
Various TI Game Cartridges	$ 5 each
Two SS/SD Teac Disk Drives	$ 50 each
Stand Alone Disk Drive with Enclosed Power Supply	$ 50
300 Baud Anchor Volksmodem	$ 35
Scotch T-120 EG VCR Tapes	$ 3.25 each

FROM MAURICE TREMBLAY (609)226-4675:

Dual Cassette Cable	$ 3
TI Statistics Cartridge	$ 3

MINUTES FROM DVUG,SCULLVILLE - So.Jersey TI Computer Club Meeting, Mar. 5,1988:

Meeting was called to order by President Harvey Adams at 8:00 p.m.

At the roll call of officers, President Harvey Adams, Vice President Brady Moore, Treasurer Randy Reeves and the Secretary, Maurice Tremblay, were all present.

Neither correspondence nor bills were reported as having been received between meetings.

The Treasurer's report was then discussed among the membership.

President's Report: Harvey noted that the Deptford group members voted to separate themselves from DVUG as an affiliated group. Those present then discussed the possibility of a similar action. As there were many questions to answer, the issue was tabled until there was more information available.

Committee Reports:

LIBRARY - Brian reported his BBS will be running shortly. Anyone who donates a non-copyrighted program will receive a free program from the *Library*.

MEMBERSHIP & ADVERTISING - Brady has had one response to his advertising.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Nominating Committee members are Harvey Adams, Brady Moore, Randy Reeves, Maurice Tremblay, and Ben Flynn.

Good and Welfare: Mark moved to adjourn, and Pete seconded.

Brian demonstrated the Disk of the Month, a collection of Load Options.

Pete demonstrated the CorComp word processor.

MINUTES OF DELAWARE VALLEY USERS GROUP MEETING OF FEBRUARY 25, 1988 - Recorded by James Dreibelbis, DVUG Secretary:

1) Jack Shattuck, Tom August and others led a discussion of the separation of the Deptford Chapter of DVUG to form their own group.

2) After some discussion of past policies, DVUG affirmed that future information on membership statistics and the Treasury balance would be announced at meetings and were available for members' information, but would not be given public dissemination through inclusion in THE DATA BUS.

3) Former Editor James Folz advised that he had many back issues of THE DATA BUS, and it was agreed by the members that there should be no fees charged for back copies under present circumstances. Information in THE DATA BUS to the contrary would be revised.

4) Jack Shattuck announced that we've dropped from DVUG's mail list User Groups that have ceased sending us exchange newsletters.

5) Don Newsom announced that he's working on a master catalog for DVUG's Software Library.

6) Chris Lang from the Baltimore Users Group visited DVUG this meeting. He informed us that his group has about 80 members, and utilizes the MANNERS newsletter which prints approximately bi-monthly. He brought some Fairware to offer, some of which he subsequently demonstrated for the meeting.

7) Jack Shattuck announced that Central Westchester 99ers User Group sent a (compacted) floppy disk full of material which they will issue quarterly to other groups instead of costly more frequent printed newsletters.

8) Chuck Bower of the Delmarva Chapter in Dover announced they'd added a new member. They've been financially in a tight bind there. An invitation had been received for the Dover group to affiliate with the Deptford group, but was being held in abeyance for the moment; current feeling was to remain with DVUG.

The Dover area's a toll call away from DVUG's 322-3999 BBS, and they are now faced with relocating their own BBS. The group has remained active. DVUG's membership accepted a motion to absorb costs up to $100, so this DVUG chapter could continue to have an active BBS in their area, which they could not afford on their own.

9) Tom August discussed contacts with DUMPS, other local computer User Groups in Northern Delaware.

10) Jim Folz, for the TIBBS Committee, announced that the TIBBS will get a change of programs to download in March.

11) The group celebrated DVUG's five years at Christiana Mall with the traditional birthday cake.

12) Tim O'Neill demonstrated his light pen on the TI, and offered to assist whoever wanted to build one.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Printer Graphics Incompatibility

New member Greg Miller of the Scullville area has the following concern:

"My printer, a Seikosha GP100 with AXIOM interface, does not do graphics - either with TI Artist, Paint and Print, or any others even with the RS232 interface.

"A. Is there any fix for this condition?

"B. Do I need another printer?

1. What kind?
2. What kind would work with the AXIOM interface?
3. Does anyone have one for sale or trade?

"C. What solution do you offer for graphics capability? I have the "P" Box with one drive and 32K."

Greg purchased his system recently as a complete unit when he came to this area. Axiom, 1014 Griswold Ave., San Fernando, CA 91340 (818) 365-9521, does - or did - provide a separate interface where the speech synthesizer or cable to the Peripheral Expansion Box connects to the console. It allows (PIO) printer use without the P-Box, and is very popular with members without disk drives. ($44.95)

However, in this case, the problem lies instead with the Seikosha GP100 printer. Similar, if not identical, to the GORILLA Banana, it is designed to print limited ASCII text material only, and - as Greg indicates - will not do graphics since there is no flexibility in the print mode.

For solutions to myriad problems with the TI, whether hardware or software (but more often the latter), you can contact Dr. Guy Stephan-Romano of the AMNION Helpline, 116 Carl Street, San Francisco, CA 94117 between 9 am - 4 pm, (415) 753 - 5581 Pacific Coast Time. He suggested that in looking for a Epson compatible printer (including Star and Gemini series) as an alternative, since 95% of TI programs will use those code, you consider the following source as well stocked and able to ship out in 24 hours, as well as very interested in discovering YOUR needs, not THEIR sales priorities:

Printers Plus, P.O. Box 3069, Chesterfield, MO 63006. 1-(800)-562-2727. Even the Epson LX/RX 80 series are now under $175. Older Star NP-10's are around $150; the older but very popular Gemini 10X/15X are under $125. Printers Plus advertises in Computer Shopper; a local DVUG member may be a good source for a Gemini 10X/15X.

SUPERTRACE: By Jim Peterson

For Extended Basic Debugging
For Use in the Public Domain

This program TRACES the line numbers, to either your printer OR screen (in lower right-hand corner) as they operate ... or if you prefer you can check slowly line by line with pauses, or merely stop at any particular point you wish.

You RESequence your own program first, save to MERGE format, then RUN Supertrace. (Recommended: RES 100, 20. Whenever you've RESequenced, it's a good idea to LIST the new sequence at that point.) Keep following SUPERTRACE's prompts. Eventually you can RUN your program, and TRACE lines will appear.

The program operates by using a subroutine SUB A(X), wherein X equals the line in question, to be displayed or printed. To avoid a problem with lines awaiting CALL KEY input, delete the CALL A(x) from the beginning of those lines, after SUPERTRACE has added the CALL to all lines.

This emerged in public domain, courtesy of a Barry Traver Genial TRAVelER disk. Tigercub Jim Peterson may be contacted for an appropriate acknowledgment, by using the address in line 190 of his SUPERTRACE program, which is printed here now:

```
100 GOTO 140
110 SET,C$,END$,Z$,E$,K$,S$,
K,S,IF$,OF$,Q$,FL,TL,M$,LN,L
N2,P,T,LN$,A$,R,P$,QQ,PD$,KC
,KC$
120 CALL CHAR :: CALL CLEAR
:: CALL COLOR :: CALL SCREEN
 :: CALL KEY :: CALL SOUND
130 !@P-
140 CALL CHAR(94,"3C4299A1A1
99423C"):: CALL CLEAR :: FOR
 SET=1 TO 14 :: CALL COLOR(S
ET,13,15):: NEXT SET :: CALL
 SCREEN(13)
150 C$=CHR$(157)&CHR$(200)&C
HR$(1)&"A"&CHR$(183)&CHR$(20
0):: END$=CHR$(255)&CHR$(255
):: Z$=CHR$(131)&CHR$(147)&C
HR$(154)&CHR$(163)
160 E$=CHR$(0):: K$=CHR$(182
):: S$=CHR$(130)
170 DISPLAY AT(2,5)ERASE ALL
:"TIGERCUB SUPERTRACE": :"^
1988 by Tigercub Software!":
 :"Other than publication in
":"the Genial TRAVelER, this
" !programmed by Jim Peterso
n  1/88
175 DISPLAY AT(8,1):"program
 is intended for free":"dist
ribution and no price orcopy
ing fee may be charged." !pr
ogrammed by Jim Peterson  1/
180 DISPLAY AT(12,1):" Howev
er, if anyone should  feel m
oved to send me a few bucks
 for the use of this  progra
m, I would not be":"offended
!"
190 DISPLAY AT(18,1):"Jim Pe
terson":"156 Collingwood Ave
.":"Columbus, OH 43213"
200 DISPLAY AT(23,8):"PRESS
ANY KEY" :: DISPLAY AT(23,8)
:"press any key" :: CALL KEY
(0,K,S):: IF S=0 THEN 200
210 DISPLAY AT(2,1)ERASE ALL
:" Will break each program":
"line into single statement"
:"lines, unless they contain
"
220 DISPLAY AT(5,1):"an IF,
and add a CALL to a":"subpro
gram which will":"display ea
ch line number in":"the corn
er of the screen as"
230 DISPLAY AT(9,1):"it is b
eing executed, or":"will out
put it to a printer."
240 DISPLAY AT(13,1):" Progr
am must first be -": :"RESeq
uenced to greater in-":"crem
ents than the number"
250 DISPLAY AT(17,1):"of sta
tements in any one":"line. (
recommend RES 100,20)": :"an
d SAVEd by":"  SAVE DSK(file
name),MERGE"
270 DISPLAY AT(23,8):"PRESS
ANY KEY" :: DISPLAY AT(23,8)
:"press any key" :: CALL KEY
(0,K,S):: IF S=0 THEN 270
310 DISPLAY AT(23,8):"PRESS
ANY KEY" :: DISPLAY AT(23,8)
:"press any key" :: CALL KEY
(0,K,S):: IF S=0 THEN 310 EL
SE CALL CLEAR
320 DISPLAY AT(3,1):"INPUT F
ILENAME?":"DSK" :: ACCEPT AT
(4,4):IF$ :: ON ERROR 330 ::
 OPEN #1:"DSK"&IF$,INPUT ::
GOTO 340
330 CALL SOUND(300,110,0,-4,
0):: DISPLAY AT(6,1):"CANNOT
 OPEN FILE!" :: RETURN 320
340 DISPLAY AT(6,1):"OUTPUT
FILENAME?":"DSK" :: ACCEPT A
T(7,4):OF$ :: ON ERROR 350 :
: OPEN #2:"DSK"&OF$,VARIABLE
 163,OUTPUT :: ON ERROR STOP
 :: GOTO 355
350 CALL SOUND(300,110,0,-4,
0):: DISPLAY AT(9,1):"CANNOT
 OPEN FILE!" :: RETURN 340
355 DISPLAY AT(9,1):" Progra
ms of more than 50":"sectors
 in length may become":"too
long to run if you break":"a
nd trace all lines."
360 DISPLAY AT(15,1):"Break
all lines? (Y/N)" :: ACCEPT
AT(15,24)SIZE(1)VALIDATE("YN
"):Q$ :: IF Q$="Y" THEN 390
370 DISPLAY AT(17,1):"From l
ine?" :: ACCEPT AT(17,12)VAL
IDATE(DIGIT):FL
380 DISPLAY AT(17,18):"To?"
:: ACCEPT AT(17,22):TL
390 DISPLAY AT(15,1):"TRACE
to 1":"":" (1) Screen":" (2)
 Printer":" (3) Both" :: ACC
EPT AT(15,10)SIZE(-1)VALIDAT
```

(Continued on Next Page)

SUPERTRACE Listing Continued

```
E("123"):QQ :: IF QQ=1 THEN
405
400 DISPLAY AT(21,1):"Printe
r? PIO" :: ACCEPT AT(21,10)S
IZE(-18):PD$
405 DISPLAY AT(3,1)ERASE ALL
:" Key code 1 allows the pro
-":"gram to run until you ho
ld":"down any key. It will b
e"
406 DISPLAY AT(6,1):"difficu
lt to execute CALL":"KEYs in
 the program.":"":" Key code
 2 requires a key":"to be pr
essed to execute"
407 DISPLAY AT(11,1):"each p
rogram line. You can":"step
 through the program":"line b
y line, but this may":"be ve
ry slow if all lines"
408 DISPLAY AT(15,1):"are be
ing traced.":"":" Key code 3
 does not allow":"pausing th
e program."
409 DISPLAY AT(20,1):"Key co
de? 1" :: ACCEPT AT(20,11)SI
ZE(-1)VALIDATE("123"):KC410
IF KC=1 THEN KC$=CHR$(191)&C
HR$(192)&CHR$(200)&CHR$(1)&"
0" ELSE KC$=CHR$(191)&CHR$(2
00)&CHR$(1)&"1"
411 DISPLAY AT(12,7)ERASE AL
L:"Working line"
420 LINPUT #1:M$ :: IF M$=EN
D$ THEN 570
430 LN=ASC(SEG$(M$,1,1))*256
+ASC(SEG$(M$,2,1)):: IF Q$="
Y" THEN 440 :: IF LN<FL OR L
N>TL THEN PRINT #2:M$ :: GOT
O 420
440 IF LN>LN2 THEN 460
450 DISPLAY AT(12,1)ERASE AL
L BEEP:"ERROR! RESEQUENCE PR
OGRAM TO":"GREATER INCREMENT
S AND TRY":"AGAIN." :: CLOSE
 #1 :: CLOSE #2 :: STOP
460 LN2=LN :: IF POS(Z$,SEG$
(M$,3,1),1)<>0 THEN PRINT #2
:M$ :: DISPLAY AT(12,19):LN
:: GOTO 420
470 P=POS(M$,S$,3):: T=POS(M
$,CHR$(161),3):: IF T=0 THEN
 500
480 IF P=0 THEN PRINT #2:SEG
$(M$,1,LEN(M$)-1)&S$&C$&CHR$
(LEN(STR$(LN)))&STR$(LN)&K$&
E$ :: DISPLAY AT(12,19):LN :
: GOTO 420
490 PRINT #2:SEG$(M$,1,P)&C$
&CHR$(LEN(STR$(LN)))&STR$(LN
)&K$&E$ :: DISPLAY AT(12,19)
:LN :: LN=LN+1 :: GOSUB 690
:: M$=LN$&SEG$(M$,P+1,255)::
 GOTO 430
500 IF P=0 THEN PRINT #2:SEG
$(M$,1,2)&C$&CHR$(LEN(STR$(L
N)))&STR$(LN)&K$&S$&SEG$(M$,
3,255):: DISPLAY AT(12,19):L
N :: GOTO 420
510 A$=SEG$(M$,1,P-1):: R=PO
S(A$,CHR$(132),3):: S=POS(A$
,CHR$(201),3)
520 IF R=0 THEN GOSUB 750 ::
 GOTO 560
530 IF S=0 AND R<>0 THEN GOS
UB 700 :: GOTO 420
540 IF S<>0 THEN IF S-R<3 TH
EN GOSUB 750 :: GOTO 560
550 GOSUB 700 :: GOTO 420
560 LN=LN+1 :: LN2=LN :: GOS
UB 690 :: M$=LN$&SEG$(M$,P+1
,255):: P=POS(M$,S$,3):: GOT
O 500
570 LN=29999 :: GOSUB 690 ::
 PRINT #2:LN$&CHR$(131)&CHR$
(64)&CHR$(80)&CHR$(43)&CHR$(
0)
580 LN=30000 :: GOSUB 690 ::
 PRINT #2:LN$&CHR$(161)&CHR$
(200)&CHR$(1)&"A"&CHR$(183)&
"X"&K$&E$ :: IF QQ=1 THEN 63
0
590 LN=30001 :: GOSUB 690 ::
 P$=LN$&CHR$(132)&"F"&CHR$(1
90)&CHR$(200)&CHR$(1)&"0"&CH
R$(176)&CHR$(159)&CHR$(253)&
CHR$(200)&CHR$(3)&"250"
600 P$=P$&CHR$(181)&CHR$(199
)&CHR$(LEN(PD$))&PD$&CHR$(13
0)&"F"&CHR$(190)&CHR$(200)&C
HR$(1)&"1"&S$&CHR$(156)&CHR$
(253)&CHR$(200)&CHR$(3)&"250
"&CHR$(181)&CHR$(214)
610 P$=P$&CHR$(183)&CHR$(200
)&CHR$(2)&"27"&K$&CHR$(184)&
CHR$(199)&CHR$(1)&"N"&CHR$(1
84)&CHR$(214)&CHR$(183)&CHR$
(200)&CHR$(1)&"6"&K$&E$ :: P
RINT #2:P$
620 LN=30002 :: GOSUB 690 ::
 PRINT #2:LN$&CHR$(156)&CHR$
(253)&CHR$(200)&CHR$(3)&"250
"&CHR$(181)&"X"&CHR$(180)&E$
630 IF QQ=2 THEN 650
640 LN=30003 :: GOSUB 690 ::
 PRINT #2:LN$&CHR$(162)&CHR$
(240)&CHR$(183)&CHR$(200)&CH
R$(2)&"24"&CHR$(179)&CHR$(20
0)&CHR$(2)&"22"&K$&CHR$(181)
&"X"&CHR$(180)&E$
645 IF KC=3 THEN 670
650 LN=30004 :: GOSUB 690 ::
 P$=LN$&CHR$(157)&CHR$(200)&
CHR$(3)&"KEY"&CHR$(183)&CHR$
(200)&CHR$(1)&"0"&CHR$(179)&
"K"&CHR$(179)&"S"&K$
660 P$=P$&CHR$(130)&CHR$(132
)&"S"&KC$&CHR$(176)&CHR$(201
)&CHR$(INT(LN/256))&CHR$(LN-
256*INT(LN/256))&E$ :: PRINT
 #2:P$
670 LN=30005 :: GOSUB 690 ::
 PRINT #2:LN$&CHR$(168)&CHR$
(0):: PRINT #2:CHR$(255)&CHR
$(255)
680 CLOSE #1 :: CLOSE #2 ::
DISPLAY AT(12,1)ERASE ALL:"E
nter NEW": :"Then Enter":"
MERGE DSK"&OF$ :: END
690 LN$=CHR$(INT(LN/256))&CH
R$(LN-256*INT(LN/256)):: RET
URN
700 IF LEN(M$)>150 THEN 720
:: PRINT #2:SEG$(M$,1,2)&C$&
CHR$(LEN(STR$(LN)))&STR$(LN)
&K$&S$&SEG$(M$,3,255)
710 DISPLAY AT(12,19):LN ::
RETURN
720 PRINT #2:SEG$(M$,1,2)&C$
&CHR$(LEN(STR$(LN+1)))&STR$(
LN+1)&K$&E$
730 DISPLAY AT(12,19):LN
740 LN=LN+1 :: PRINT #2:CHR$
(INT(LN/256))&CHR$(LN-256*IN
T(LN/256))&SEG$(M$,3,255)::
DISPLAY AT(12,19):LN :: LN2=
LN :: RETURN
750 PRINT #2:SEG$(A$,1,2)&C$
&CHR$(LEN(STR$(LN)))&STR$(LN
)&K$&S$&SEG$(A$,3,255)&E$ ::
 DISPLAY AT(12,19):LN :: RET
URN
```

ABUNDANCE OF RICHES: NEW/UPDATED SOFTWARE (before TICOFF!)

Two years ago, Chris Faherty drove up from the lower Chesapeake to present TI-Artist at a DVUG meeting, and was able to sell 34 copies that evening. Must be something in the water that makes people congenial, because February's Christiana meeting received another visitor from Baltimore who had some delightful goodies to present.

Chris Lang of 1906 Jackson Rd., Balto., MD 21222-3021 is a member of the MANNERS' Baltimore User Group, creator of some delightful Fairware (User Supported Software) now available to all DVUG members. The partially-dumped title screen from ORPHAN (see page 1) is his creation - but NOT Fairware. It's not for sale, but available when you obtain two of his other offerings, about which more in a moment.

Chris warns it's extremely User-Unfriendly, but it's all in fun. Unexpected results emerge when you try using commands and Functions from the Orphaned Instruments setup that emerges suddenly, and with the nasty little friend on the screen, after what appears to be the normal TI title screen (the program uses an XB autoload). It would spoil the fun to go into detail, but try to RUN or LIST or BEGIN (FCTN 5), etc. and see what comes forth. If you feel that you're stymied, try CONtinue and away you'll go again. All clean fun, as a certain nameless 10-year old discovered as he typed in a command he heard in school, outside of TI's established lexicon. An appropiate jerk-trap awaited. In the case of DVUG, Chris was so pleased with responses to his other items, he allowed ORPHAN to go into the library, for members not there that night to enjoy as well. We will use OPRPHAN as an attention-getter as TICOFF.

Most of Chris' programs use 32K XB, and should be run with color to appreciate his attractive work, accompanied by appropriate pleasant sound effects. Chris ran "Lucky Lang's Latest Legal Lottery Licker" which selects "Lotto", Pick 3 and Pick 4 winners with neat air-puffed tennis ball selections ($5).

Segregation, which I purchased ($5) along with a word game group of programs known as The "Wit" Series ($10), is a Rubik-type game in which the user faces an entire series of multiple striped boxes (2-dimensional blocks), able to use with key or joystick input. It's fast, very colorful, and enjoyable, with multiple difficulty levels.

The "Wit" Series includes The Game of Wit, Wit's End, Wit or Wit-Out, Nit-Wit and Wittle Tags. These offer some excellent Scrabble-type games, Jotto-type auto license tag activity, and some other pleasant variations of word games less easy to summarize quickly. Joysticks can be used, so it's not all type, type. The 3-Disk "Wit" Series is that extensive only because Chris uses SSSD disks and provides complete documentation for each game. The latter can be run from TI-Writer Format mode.

A Flip-Flap Fact-Filled Floppy-File Fun Folder (i.e., a disk sleeve program) is available ($5) and special cover sleeve for each of these games is included with the game. A shipping/handling fee of $2.50/order will be asked; size of the order irrelevant. DVUG members can get copies from our Librarian, save the shipping fees, and send a proper Fairware reimbursement directly to Chris, thank you.

NEATLIST UTILITY UPGRADE

J. Peter Hoddie made a few changes to Danny Michael's Fairware NEATLIST program, which now allow that organized listing of the program you want to analyze to be sent to a disk (or Winchester Hard Disk) in D/V 80 format. Such a change permits use of TI-Writer editor commands like FS or RS (find, Replace String).

Listings sent to printer will retain Danny's original D/V 254 format. Hoddie also used a Barry Traver XBALSAVE (A/L special XB call) routine to decrease loading time. If you take this from our DVUG library next month, remember that Fairware rewards should be acknowledged to the author - this version will appear as NEAT/JPH. It uses 32K, and XB autoloader.

ARCHIVER II VERSION 2.4

Described at the February Christiana meeting, and now in each DVUG Chapter software library, this rapid expanded A/L Archiver runs out of 32K XBasic. Short, adequate docs are included for info.

This Barry Boone improvement to Barrry Traver's first Archiver lets you save mucho space by not only packing but then further compressing your files to save *sectors*. (If you're unpacking, go in reverse order.) Originally used on BBS operations to keep files together and save on download time, it's beginning to spread to disk-a-zine newsletters. For example, the Central Westchester 99ers uses quarterly compacted files to send to other User Groups instead of a monthly printed paper (for cost savings), and the GENIAL TRAVelER uses this most efficiently.

Packed files are D/F 128, Squeezed (packed) Archives use I/F 128 formats. The Utility menu lets you catalog from a normal, packed, or squeezed file listing, and tells you on the screen what it's doing. A great program to keep all related files together so no *one gets omitting* in copying. Barry Boone's address is in the docs to forward a Fairware donation.

There has been some discussion about agreeing to one common compacting standard (there's also a Fortran version in use), so all TI users will be united.

RECENT HARDWARE DEVELOPMENTS:
ProtoBoard to upgrade 4/A; Avatex 1200 Baud Modem Changes

John Willforth and his colleagues from the West Penn 99'ers have been selling a "Proto-Board" to upgrade the TI console possibilities. (Their December, 1987, issue has a legend saying it's for PEB installation, but the text says it's for the TI-99/4A console.)

In three months before Christmas, over 200 items were shipped to customers, and at that time descriptive comment said:

"We expect about three more projects to be documented and published by Christmas holidays, and several more by the latter part of January. We expect a redesigned sound board (FORTi card), DSR, Super Cart, A/D, and the speech interface in the next couple of weeks [of 1987].

"There is also the possibility of an 80-column text only card. A bank-switched memory, print spooler, new RS232/Modem, digitizers, are only a few of the other projects mentioned for the Proto-Board. If any of the above excite you, and you have the ability or interest to attempt the design, let us know."

Quantities from 1-4 are available from: The Computer Bug, 5075 Clairton Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15236 @ $35 each, plus shipping and handling [unfortunately, exact amount is not specified]. Call (412)882-3374 for info.

For larger quantities, reach Scott Coleman, 823 North Avenue, N. Braddock, PA 15104, (412)271-6283. A footnote to that article adds that User Groups buying in quantity may be eligible for price breaks.

John Willforth, the design genius, can discuss your technical concerns, at (412)527-6656.

AVATEX 1200E/ 1200HC MODEMS - Comments excerpted from R. Lumpkin, Houston's HUG Newsletter, 2/88:

The Avatex 1200E ("Economy Model") modem upgrades the 1200HC ("Hayes Compatible") modem, with some variations in switches. Software commands in the "AT" command mode allow changes from default DIP switch settings. Prices are lower and has been noted going for $85 from one source.

The 1200HC is available, but upgraded. It includes many features of the 2400 baud models, having all 17 Hayes registers (S0 to S16) plus a Register 18 (S17), to control speaker setting, call progress status and speed selection.

Be explicit in ordering, since the box and picture on the manual were not changed. The new version has different front panel switches. These are Data/Voice; Orig/Answer; Syn/Asynchronous; and a new location for the power switch to the back panel and DIPs to the bottom.

The new 1200HC also has different LED indicators that now match the front Hayes LEDs except for Hayes having an "MR" Modem Ready instead of just a "Power" LED.

POWER	TR	SD	RD	HS	CD	OH	AA
"on"	"DTR signal active"	"sending data"	"receiving data"	"high speed 1200"	"carrier detect"	"off hook"	"auto answer"

Since the Messages that can be displayed include "NO DIAL TONE", "BUSY", "NO ANSWER", "CONNECT", "NO CARRIER", and "RING" for incomining ringing, a fairly complete call progress status can be maintained even without turning on the speaker. The only disadvantage I felt with this unit was in not having a speaker "on" all the time with volume control -- you can change the speaker activity and volume only by COMMANDs. Also, the front panel for "speed" is gone. You probably won't miss it, since the unit adjusts automatically to the speed of your RS232 signal whenever the first "AT" command is entered, OR adjusts to the distant terminal's speed when in Answer mode (either auto or manual).

The 1200HC I purchased works nicely in all "modes" I have attempted ... clearly and directly ... available from some Computer Shopper sources for less than $100.

The Avatex 1200E is probably as much modem as most TI users (and even PC users) need or can even find a use for, in terms of features and usefulness, and "compatibility". If you want to be a little more sure of never "needing" a feature or compatibility OR if you ever expect to need Synchronous operation into a mainframe, you could consider the 1200HC. ... the 2400 bps arena is not yet well stabilized as to "standards" ...

ADDITIONAL NEW COMMERCIAL SOFTWARE: "CALENDAR MAKER 99"

From Asgard Software, P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 10850 (301)559-2429:

A full-page monthly calendar, with text or small pix (TI Artist instance) available for daily boxes; or 2-month 2 page calendar; or a 1/2-page picture along with a 3 1/2 line message; or a monthly 1/2 page calendar can be gotten from the new "Calendar Maker 99" program. Some type fonts, borders and pix samples are included.

Allegedly covers years 1600-2400 (Gregorian change?)

Requires 32K, XB, 1 disk drive (or 2 for convenience) and an Epson-compatible printer. (Ad copy indicates a NEC printer can be used but that refers to newer versions, and NOT the NEC 8023A-C/C.ITOH PROWRITER.) Price: $19.95 plus .$75 shipping and handling.

COMPATIBLE WITH MYARC'S GENEVE 9640 AS WELL.

The following survey was done in Summer/Fall of 1987. Two copies were reportedly sent to Delaware TI User Groups, but no one sent it back (nor got it?!), so DVUG isn't included. Only 73 of 220 known UG addressees returned it. However it provides an interesting response anyway, and since nobody recently polled DVUG, and show of hands at meetings indicate few MICROpendium subscribers (this also has been up on the national BBS lines), it's repeated below for all to see. The poll originated from the Northeast UG newsletter to get some sense of common direction for the future among TI users.

The author notes that two of his questions seemed misconstrued; since 94% of respondents were User Group members and most UG's issue newsletters, most understood the question to be about subscription to ANOTHER rather than to ANY U.G. newsletter, which wasn't intended.

Also the question about third party cards was supposed to relate to Turbo XT buyers, but that was understood more broadly instead.

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TISURVEY87: 73 UG's, 753 TI OWNERS

WHAT IS YOUR SEX?

MALE	650	86.3214%
FEMALE	103	13.6786%

WHAT IS YOUR AGE GROUP?

17 OR UNDER	23	3.0544%
18 - 24	28	3.7185%
25 - 34	114	15.1394%
35 - 44	249	33.0677%
45 AND OVER	339	45.0199%

HOW MANY YEARS OF EDUCATION?

11 OR LESS	39	5.1793%
12 YEARS(hi sch)	155	20.5843%
13 - 15	291	38.6454%
16 YEARS	108	14.3426%
17 AND OVER	160	21.2483%

YOUR OCCUPATION?

STUDENT	32	4.2497%
BLUE COLL(homkr)	187	24.8340%
WHITE COLLAR	137	18.1939%
PROF (slf-emp)	246	32.6693%
RETIRED	151	20.0531%

DO YOU USE A COMPUTER AT WORK?

YES (or school)	439	58.3001%
NO	314	41.6999%

WHICH BRAND of computer at work?

N/A	307	40.7703%
IBM	182	24.1700%
APPLE	24	3.1873%
DEC	27	3.5857%
SPERRY (unisys)	17	2.2576%
NEC	4	0.5312%
UNKNOWN	9	1.1952%
OTHER	183	24.3028%
(wang,ti,itt,hp)		

HOW MANY TI994 OR 4As DO YOU OWN?

1	236	31.3413%
2	369	49.0040%
3 OR MORE	148	19.6547%

HOW MANY PE SYSTEMS DO YOU OWN?

0	114	15.1394%
1	472	62.6826%
2	136	18.0611%
3 OR MORE	31	4.1169%

WHICH MEMORY EXP. DO YOU HAVE?

NONE	56	7.4369%
TI	458	60.8234%
CORCOMP	80	10.6242%
FOUNDATION	24	3.1873%
MYARC	63	8.3665%
MECHATRONIC	4	0.5312%
OTHER	69	9.0305%
(hor,cons32,tachyon,ucomp,doryl)		

WHAT SIZE memory?

N/A	54	7.1713%
32K	543	72.1116%
128K (104K)	42	5.5777%
256K (192K)	28	3.7185%
512K (640K)	78	10.3586%
1024K	8	1.0624%

WHICH DISK CONTROLLER CARD?

NONE	71	9.4290%
TI	420	55.7769%
FOUNDATION (?)	2	0.2656%
MYARC	53	7.0385%
CORCOMP	187	24.8340%
OTHER(percom,ics)	20	2.6560%

HOW MANY 5-1/4" DISK DRIVES?

NONE	77	10.2258%
1	167	22.1780%
2	307	40.7703%
3 OR MORE	202	26.8260%

CONFIGURATION (disk drives)?

N/A	79	10.4914%
SS/SD	265	35.1926%
DS/SD	158	20.9827%
DS/DD	235	31.2085%
DS/QD	16	2.1248%

DO YOU OWN A HARD DISK SYSTEM?

YES	16	2.1248%
NO	737	97.8752%

WHAT SIZE HARD DISK SYSTEM?

N/A	734	97.4768%
10 MEG OR LESS	8	1.0624%
20 MEG (11 TO 29)	10	1.3280%
30 MEG OR MORE	1	0.1328%

DO YOU OWN A MODEM?

YES	524	69.5883%
NO	229	30.4117%

INDICATE HIGHEST BAUD RATE?

N/A	227	30.1461%
300	291	38.6454%
1200	224	29.7477%
2400	11	1.4608%

WHICH PRINTER DO YOU OWN?

N/A	74	9.8274%
TI (inc.thermal)	71	9.4290%
EPSON	149	19.7875%
PRWRTR/NEC/LDEDG	39	5.1793%
OKIDA/C ITOH (microln)	38	5.0465%
STAR MIC(gemini)	187	24.8340%
COMREX/TOSHIBA	3	0.3984%
BROTHER/CANNON	10	1.3280%
JUKI/CITIZEN	18	2.3904%
OTHER	164	21.7795%
(panasonic,ids,mpi)		

DO YOU OWN A MONITOR?

YES	455	60.4250%
NO	298	39.5750%

ARE YOU USING A TV?

YES	399	52.9880%
NO	354	47.0120%

WHICH MONITOR BRAND?

N/A	290	38.5126%
TI	117	15.5378%
AMDEK	32	4.2497%
SANYO/TAXAN	28	3.7185%
NEC	32	4.2497%
TATUNG/SAMSUNG	13	1.7264%
MAGNAVOX/SONY	51	6.7729%
EPSON/PRNSTON	7	0.9296%
HITACHI	5	0.6640%
OTHER	178	23.6388%
(bmc,comdr,pansnc)		

IS YOUR MONITOR?

N/A	305	40.5046%
RGB	65	8.6321%
RGB/COMPOSITE	291	38.6454%
MONOCHROME	92	12.2178%

DO YOU HAVE THE GRAM KRACKER?

YES	82	10.8898%
NO	671	89.1102%

HOW MANY SOFTWARE CARTRIDGES OR MODULES DO YOU OWN (INCL. CASS)?

LESS THAN 9	131	17.3971%
10 TO 24	319	42.3639%
25 OR MORE	303	40.2390%
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(TI SURVEY 87 Continued)

HOW MANY SOFTWARE DISKS HAVE YOU?		
9 OR LESS	118	15.6707%
10 TO 24	124	16.4675%
25 OR MORE	511	67.8619%

HOW DO YOU USE YOUR TI?		
ENTERTAINMENT	290	38.5126%
BUSINESS(WdPrcs)	137	18.1939%
EDUCATION	125	16.6003%
PROGRAMMING	201	26.6932%

WHAT LANGUAGE DO YOU PROGRAM IN?		
N/A	200	26.5604%
BASIC	69	9.1633%
XBASIC	364	48.3400%
ASSEMBLY	68	9.0305%
FORTH	20	2.6560%
C	25	3.3201%
OTHER(logo,pascal)	7	0.9296%

EVER WRITE A COMMERCIAL PROGRAM FOR TI (INCLUDING FREEWARE)?		
YES	89	11.8194%
NO	664	88.1806%

IN WHAT LANGUAGE?		
N/A	657	87.2510%
BASIC	12	1.5936%
XBASIC	54	7.1713%
ASSEMBLY	17	2.2576%
FORTH	6	0.7968%
C	5	0.6640%
OTHER (pascal)	2	0.2656%

DO OTHERS USE YOUR TI?		
YES	516	68.5259%
NO	237	31.4741%

HOW MANY OTHERS?		
N/A	235	31.2085%
1	184	24.4356%
2	217	28.8181%
3 OR MORE	117	15.5378%

DO YOU OWN ANY OTHER COMPUTER?		
YES	209	27.7556%
NO	544	72.2444%

IF SO WHICH BRAND?		
N/A	540	71.7131%
IBM	60	7.9681%
APPLE	18	2.3904%
COMMODORE	48	6.3745%
ATARI	19	2.5232%
OTHER (tandy,hp,timex)	68	9.0305%

HOW MANY HRS/WEEK USING YOUR TI?		
4 OR LESS	230	30.5445%
5 TO 9	257	34.1301%
10 TO 14	117	15.5378%
15 OR MORE	149	19.7875%

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF A USERS GROUP?		
YES	717	95.2191%
NO	36	4.7809%

HOW MANY MEMBERS?		
N/A	36	4.7809%
33 OR LESS	282	37.4502%
34 TO 49	209	27.7556%
50 TO 74	106	14.0770%
75 TO 99	67	8.8977%
100 TO 150	28	3.7185%
151 TO 199	14	1.8592%
200 OR MORE	11	1.4608%

ARE YOU COMMERCIAL NETWORK MEMBER?		
YES	248	32.9349%
NO	505	67.0651%

WHICH ONE?		
N/A	507	67.3307%
COMPUSERVE	117	15.5378%
SOURCE	31	4.1169%
GENIE	56	7.4369%
OTHER (delphi,frenet,plink)	42	5.5777%

HOW MANY DOLLARS/MO. DO YOU USE?		
N/A	501	66.5339%
29 OR LESS	150	19.9203%
30 TO 49	76	10.0930%
50 TO 74	17	2.2576%
75 TO 99	6	0.7968%
100 OR MORE	3	0.3984%

DO YOU HAVE/PLAN TO PURCHASE THE MYARC 9640 (GENEVE)?		
YES	226	30.0133%
NO	527	69.9867%

SOFTWARE YOU'D LIKE FOR THE 9640?		
N/A	340	45.1527%
CAD/GRAPHICS	69	9.1633%
DESKTOP PUBLSH	118	15.6707%
DATA BASE MGR	137	18.1939%
WORD PROC or SPREADSHEET	70	9.2961%
TRUE BASIC	7	0.9296%
ASSEMBLY LANG	11	1.4608%
C LANGUAGE	1	0.1328%

WHAT ABOUT HARDWARE FOR THE 9640?		
N/A	335	44.4887%
APPLE COMPATIBLE	17	2.2576%
IBM COMPATIBILE	171	22.7092%
RGB MONITOR	43	5.7105%
3.5" MICRO DISK	66	8.7649%
CD ROM	16	2.1248%
SPEECH RECOGNITION	9	1.1952%
INTERNAL MODEM (intelligent)	96	12.7490%

DO YOU HAVE/PLAN TO PURCHASE TRITON'S TURBO XT?		
YES	43	5.7105%
NO	710	94.2895%

HOW MANY EXTRAS DID YOU BUY WITH THE TRITON TURBO XT?		
N/A	733	97.3440%
1	10	1.3280%
2	5	0.6640%
3	4	0.5312%
4	1	0.1328%
5 OR MORE	0	0.0000%

WOULD YOU LIKE AN AT UPDATE FOR THE TURBO XT?		
YES	177	23.5060%
NO	576	76.4940%

DO YOU PLAN TO PURCHASE CARDS BY OTHER VENDORS?		
YES	272	36.1222%
NO	481	63.8778%

DO YOU HAVE/PLAN TO PURCHASE RAVE'S KEYBOARD?		
YES	107	14.2098%
NO	646	85.7902%

DO YOU HAVE/PLAN TO PURCHASE A MOUSE?		
YES	246	32.6693%
NO	507	67.3307%

DO YOU SUBSCRIBE TO MICROPENDIUM?		
YES	420	55.7769%
NO	333	44.2231%

SUBSCRIBE TO SMART PROGRAMMER?		
YES	125	16.6003%
NO	628	83.3997%

SUBSCRIBE TO COMPUTER SHOPPER?		
YES	249	33.0677%
NO	504	66.9323%

SUBSCRIBE TO GENIAL TRAVELLER?		
YES	107	14.2098%
NO	646	85.7902%

SUBSCRIBE TO UG PUBLICATIONS?		
YES	308	40.9031%
NO	445	59.0969%

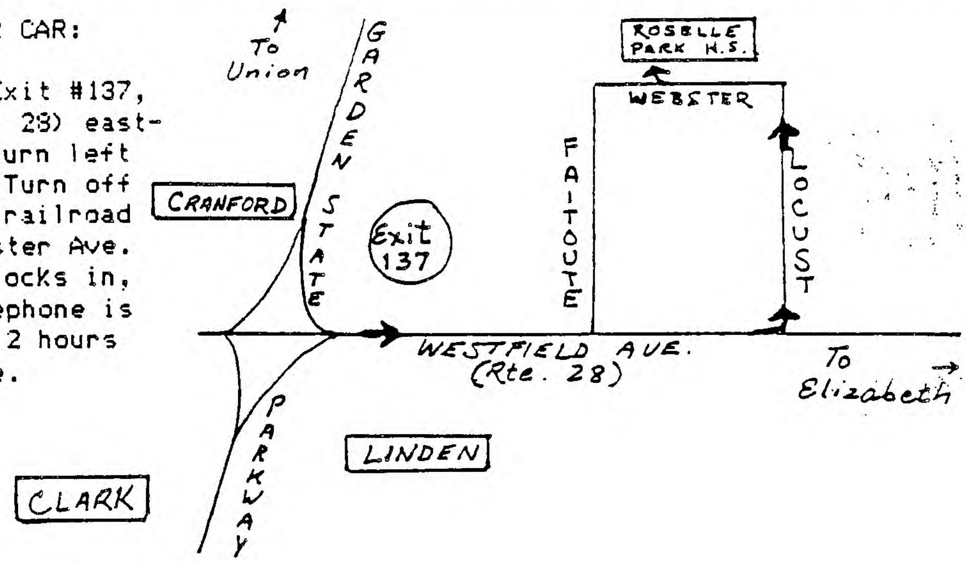
YOUR OPINION OF THIS SURVEY?		
VERY POOR	14	1.8592%
POOR	27	3.5857%
OKAY	307	40.7703%
GOOD	284	37.7158%
VERY GOOD	121	16.0691%

Survey created, compiled, and placed in public domain by

ALI ULGEN, 952 E. PARKHAVEN DR., SEVEN HILLS, OHIO 44131-3918
(216) 741 - 4951

IF YOU HAVE TO DRIVE YOUR CAR:

Use Garden State Pkway. Exit #137, onto Westfield Ave. (Rte. 28) eastbound. At third light, turn left (north) onto Locust St. Turn off Locust immediately after railroad underpass, left onto Webster Ave. Roselle Park H.S. is 2 blocks in, 185 W. Webster Ave. Telephone is (201) 241 - 4550. Allow 2 hours from Wilmington, Delaware.



INFORMATION UPDATE ON THE TI COMPUTER OWNERS FUN FEST 1988

TICOFF '88 opens doors to the public at 9 a.m., March 26th, Saturday, at Roselle Park High School in New Jersey. Park wherever neaby you can find space. DVUG's table was tentatively scheduled to provide information on Robotics, Charles Lang's Orphan Computer screen (attention-getter), and some other items to be determined. DVUG President Jack Shattuck will be there the evening before, and is looking for help staffing the booth. Call him, 302-764-8619 if you can assist. The program runs 'til 4 p.m.

In the past, this has been a big boost for us both in the area of membership from Pennsylvania and New Jersey as well as a terrific opportunity to pick up the latest in software or hardware for your TI.

While we exchange techniques and information with our fellow User Groups, we also become more than just a bunch of names, or even faces.

There are seminars on every subject imaginable, from graphics to languages to the Geneve, etc., by those people who are the real movers and shakers in the TI world. Host clubs in the North Jersey area are the New Jersey Users Group, NJUG North, North Jersey TI UG, Central Westchester 99'ers from N.Y., Long Island UG, and TI-Tex, also from out on Long Island.

20,000 sqaure feet of vendors; SIG meetings; used and new TI equipment (and this year some IBM/clone materials), and the opportunity to get on a million lists while seeing the latest materials on display. Please don't miss it!

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WILMINGTON, DE 19804-9998

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