

VAST NEWS

for the VAST Computer User Group

Volume 7 Number 8

August 10, 1991

TI World and Local News

(Compiled by Jim Ely
mostly from MICROpendium Magazine)

Publishing Ceases for TI-Base User

A newsletter aimed at TI-Base users has folded. According to its publisher, Bill Gaskill, *TI-Base User* is no longer being published. The newsletter ended its run with Volume 2 Number 4. Gaskill says that refunds have been sent to all subscribers and that the newsletter is no longer available.

Gaskill added that all products offered by PRK DataBasics and Junction Softworks are no longer available.

FunnelWeb to be Revised

A new version of Funnelweb is in the works. Tony McGovern is working on V4.4 of the program. The current version is 4.32.

Reportedly, McGovern is rewriting the editor from scratch for V4.4. Also, the Disk Review segment of the program may be able to view GIF pictures, as well as being expanded into a complete disk manager. The editor may also incorporate the formatter, instead of being handled as separate functions as is currently the case. A print preview function may also be added.

Texaments Releases New Product and Revises Prices on Others

Texaments has released several new graphics

products and reduced the price of its Artist Companion disks.

Fonts, Frames & Fun is a 3-disk package of 11 fonts, 39 frame borders and 22 instances for use with TI Artist and TI Artist Plus. The price is \$12.95.

The Missing Link Font Pak consists of 29 display fonts for use with The Missing Link. The price is \$7.95.

The price of most TI Artist Companion disks has been reduced from \$9.95 to \$7.95. This price in effect for companions disks numbers 2 through 13, all two-disk sets. Companion Disk No. 1 is a five-disk set priced at \$17.95.

Buyers should add \$3.95 shipping charges in the U.S. and Canada and \$8 for overseas.

For more information, contact Texaments at 53 Center Street, Patchogue, NY 11772; 516-475-3480, BBS 516-475-6463.

Accelerator Available From Bud Mills and OPA

The 99105 accelerator for the TI-99/4A manufac-

See **NEWS** on page 8

INSIDE INFORMATION

ITEM	PAGE
Editor's Desk	2
Secretary's Slate	3
New-Age/99 #14	4
4/A Foray	6
Q & A	9
Speak Out!	12
V.D. ClipArt	14
VAST Information	16

From the Editor's Desk

I hope you are all enjoying the Summer, and I apologize for this issue being so late that you are having to pick it up at the meeting. My work schedule in July and early August has left little time to get it out on time.

IN THIS ISSUE

On page 4 is the **LAST** installment of the *NEW-AGE/99* articles we have received from Jack Sughrue. This one talks about a gentleman in the TI community that has given so much! Our own Ralph Rees' *FORAY 4/A* column this month is about some of the possibilities and changes he has made to his system by the use of the Gram-Kracker. That article is on page 6. On page 9 is a letter recently received by the board members of VAST from one of our members. Please read it closely and see what you think. Agree or disagree? Mike Grogan has written a response to this letter expressing his viewpoint which follows on page 10. On page 13 is an open letter to all Tiers about some trouble one of our members is having obtaining an article from a mail order firm. Beginning this month, and continuing until **FEST WEST**, we will be featuring scanned clip art by Virginia Davis as our Disks of the Month. On page 14 are some samples of the clip art available this month. There is some pretty interesting reading in this month's issue

On the down side, **I HAVE NOTHING FOR NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE!** Ralph may have his *FORAY* column, but that will be it. That

having been said, the rest is up to **YOU!** I'm tired of looking for articles to include, tired of having to do **ALL** the work, tired of trying to find things you are interested in when I don't even know what you are interested in. So now it is up to **YOU**. This could be the last issue of this newsletter as you have come to expect it to be!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

This month's meeting will be held in the **GREEN ROOM** at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center (PARC). If you missed the last meeting, please check out the minutes on page 3 for some important information about a possible change in next year's meeting location.

Below is the calendar for the next 2 months with our meeting dates indicated...

SEPTEMBER 1991							OCTOBER 1991						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

END OF SUMMER PICNIC??

Last year we had our annual group picnic in September. Mike Marfisi graciously hosted the event at his home and we had the use of his pool. Are we going to have a picnic this year? This is the time to get the ball rolling and all the arrangements made. We need a **PICNIC** Committee to co-ordinate the effort. How about a volunteer? This is something we will discuss at the August meeting.

Jeri

SECRETARY'S SLATE

MINUTES

VAST COMPUTER USER GROUP

July 13, 1991

The July meeting of the VAST COMPUTER USER GROUP was held at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center in Tempe. It was called to order at 10 a.m. by president Mike Grogan. All officers were in attendance. There were a total of 14 members and officers present.

The Minutes of the June meeting were accepted as published in the newsletter. The treasurer's report was approved as read by Mike Marfisi.

No special reports were forthcoming from the Newsletter or BBS committees.

Tom Pfeffer reported that we were mentioned in *Computer Monthly* by Barry Traver who announced Fest West.

Mike Grogan reminded everyone that there would be a computer swap meet held next Sunday and that he would be hosting a table. He will be featuring TI equipment and publicizing the club. Anyone wishing to join him is most welcome.

The Knights announced that we had added 3 video tapes to the library from the Lima UG featuring the demos from the MUG fest. Also we have added a complete collection of music disks compliments of Virginia Davis. Also from Virginia we have added a complete group of graphic disks in Page Pro format. These are the disks that will be sold at Fest West. Also it was pointed out that

a copy of last years MUG video had been lent to a member and not returned. If anyone has them, please return them ASAP.

The club authorized the purchase of 500 blank disks at \$.25 ea. Mike Marfisi will order them. Anyone else that would like to place an order may do so by paying Mike at today's meeting.

Mike Marfisi read a letter received from the City of Tempe that pointed out that for the year beginning June of 1992, the city may have to prioritize use of rooms in the Pyle center. The criteria used to determine who will get rooms will be on a first come, first served basis. If there are conflicts, priority would be given to those groups having a majority of Tempe residents. We may have to give this idea some thought when it comes to planning for the next year.

Ralph Rees and Hazel Knight reported on progress with Fest West '92. A short discussion was held on the form and substance of a "vendor forum." Ralph mentioned he was in contact with the hotel and there had been little or no response yet, which is not unexpected at this early stage. Ralph is waiting to hear from the Convention and Visitor bureau about getting some material to mail out with reservation packs.

Ralph asked for volunteers to be in charge of hardware organization. We need someone to find out just what equipment is available within our group that can be used at

See **MINUTES** on page 7

~~~~~  
W-AGE/99 \* NEW-AGE/  
99 \* NEW-AGE/99 \* N  
EW-AGE/99 \* NEW-AGE  
/99 \* NEW-AGE/99 \*  
~~~~~

by JACK SUGHRUE,
Box 459, East Douglas, MA 01516

#14

GENTLEMAN GENIUS

Of the two tags, Gentleman and Genius, I think the former gets my approbation concerning the best way to describe John Willforth. My wife, Elaine, agrees. For John is first a real gentleman; and that is what you think of before realizing he's also a genius. Gentlemen, I think, are rarities today, even among Tiers; though I've discovered more in the 99er ranks than in other walks of life. People like Charlie Good, Jim Cox, Jim Peterson, Barry Traver.

Geniuses, though, are a dime a dozen in the computer world, and most of them are far from civilized.

An example, small but significant: lots of Tiers have been to my home, all of them treated to Elaine's gracious welcome, her extended hospitality in the matters of food and lodgings, so they get to know her and discover, too, that we two rattle alone around our hut, now that our four tykes have leapt into the grownup world, returning us to "couplehood" these past two years. So any female voice answering our phone will be Elaine. But John is the only "adult TI person who will acknowledge Elaine's existence on the phone. He always says, "Hi,

Elaine, this is John Willforth," when she answers, just as if she's not a non-person. Sometimes they converse so long I have to pry the phone from her fingers so I can get to talk to John.

With others who've been here, however, it's usually "Jack there?" when she answers, without mentioning who they are.

I don't know. Maybe I'm old fashioned, but I still believe a lot in courtesy and friendliness and the acknowledgement of the existence of someone I've met.

Anyway, John's old fashioned in this way, too, and I like it: 19th Century values in a 21st Century mind. It's fun being in tune to someone as family oriented as he is. He talks about his wife (Fay) and his three daughters with such joy that you know love and sensitivity are a VERY LARGE part of his nature.

My wife and I talk about John so much that my son Matthew and his wife (Carolyn) wanted very much to meet him. The last time he came over for dinner, we had the "kids" over, too, and all of us enjoyed his pleasant, witty company all evening.

John's a talker. That's a compliment. And he can converse about almost anything but literature (as he claims he doesn't have time to read novels, thus lending to the time-worn argument in THIS house that all the major social changes in the world have been brought about by fiction... and so on). It's fun arguing with John because the conversation is stimulating and he's still your friend in the end.

See **NEW-AGE 14** on page 5

NEW-AGE 14, from page 4

John's logical. He even tries to use logic with his teenagers (which probably makes him illogical, when you think about it).

He's hardworking (to a workaholic degree, I think) at some pretty heavy duty electronic wizardry. John even has a calculator on his watch, which he uses.

He writes well. His articles on printers, as well as the long term articles on hardware (and software) are lucid, practical, and scary: SCARY in the sense that he takes apart consoles and P-boxes and anything else mechanical, electrical, and electronic that he can get his hands on and performs vivisectionist surgery on their innards. He seems to be able to radically modify anything, from computer chips to his backhoe and assumes everybody else should be able to do so.

Whew! Not me. My hands shake when I have to dump my pencil sharpener or fill my stapler.

But John's made me a believer. One evening he came up to my computer room still chatting about his family, and, while carrying on the conversation, took apart my working P-box. Completely! Screws, nuts, bolts, fans, stuff, whachamacallits, and thingamajigs. Then he reversed my fan, explaining that it would keep my box cool (maybe even cooler) while it would cut down the noise to one-third. It did. We turned on other P-boxes in the room and compared them to the fix.

He also told me where and how to order floppy drives and how to install them (5.25

and 3.5 operate with no cable modification on the TI). I learned that I could buy any IBM compatible half-height disk drives and put them in my TI. [ERM Electronic Liquidators (1-800-776-5865)] for fully warranted reconditioned drives. I called, bought two Panasonic DSDD (\$29 each!!!!), installed them myself, just like a computer grownup. Though they also sell cables and disks (for as low as .15 each DSDD), I ended up getting a power Y cable for internal power connector (99¢) and an AT-HDDR cable set for double connector to controller (\$2.89) and a whole lot of other things from another company he recommended: National Computer Accessories (916-441-1568). So, thanks to John, I was able to convert my setup on my school system from one SSSD to two DSSD at a cost of around \$60! And does that make a LARGE difference in my ability to do TI things in my classroom. As a matter of fact I'm writing this at school on my quiet P-box, DSSD system and ♥ it! Everything works great. (Remember, we're talking about John teaching me, the man who has to use a manual to open a jar of peanut butter.) You readers are chuckling over this "big" hardware deal but John opened up new worlds to me. I plan to confidently upgrade another system soon and maybe even do a user group demo.

Which brings me back to John's generous spirit. While at a training session in Connecticut some months ago, John willingly came to our M.U.N.C.H. in Worcester, Massachusetts, one evening and shared some great insights and answered all kinds of questions, including some about things he

See **NEW-AGE 14** on page 6

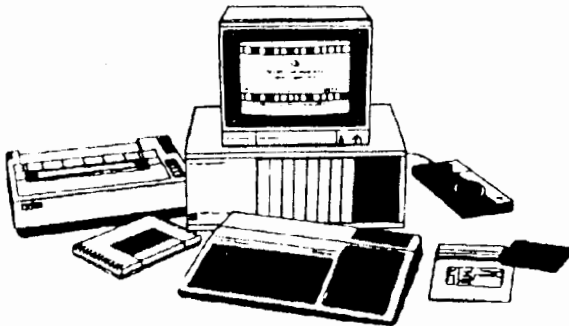
NEW-AGE 14, from page 5

had written as newsletter editor of the West Penn user group, which he founded many years ago to reach out to users outside the Pittsburgh area.

He was also the hit of the New England Fayuh that same week. Everyone there was thrilled to meet the man they all knew through his writings and references to his work by others. He ended up being the biggest TI star at the whole event. People at the fair were in awe of him and still talk about his visit, yet I've met very few humbler men.

Now, back at my desk at home, I'm using a console John modified a while ago and recently gave to me. It has a plexiglass cutaway of the interior housing of a Zenoboard containing a clock, speech, 32K, E/A, XB, ADVENTURE, TIW, DM, and a system Pause button. All switchable. I feel as though I died and went to TI Heaven.

The man's a genius, no doubt, but more important, he sure is a warm and sensitive friend. To me, it's worth owning a TI just to have met John Willforth. j.s.



4/A Foray

by Ralph Rees

▷ GRAM DEVICE DEPARTMENT

For those of you in our group who may not know, A GramKracker is a device that was designed to do a multitude of wonderful things with the TI computer. You can dump the contents of most cartridges to disk, modify the contents, and then load it back into the GK. This device also allows modifying the operating system of the computer and utilizing GRAMS 1 & 2, which is where TI BASIC normally is.

Now that I've had my GramKracker for 6 months or so, I don't know how I got along without it. At powerup, My main Title screen no longer has colorbars top and bottom, the screen color is dark blue with light blue characters. The TI logo and copyright symbol are light yellow (these colors can be easily changed as the mood suits me, as can the TI logo graphic). The line that reads "PRESS ANY KEY TO BEGIN" now reads "TI99/4A LEGENDARY COMPUTING." I can disable the Title screen so that on power-up the computer will go straight to the Menu screen, bypassing the Title.

My Menu screen can contain 16 choices now, which before modifying would only allow 9. I have on this menu all of the utility program files I use frequently which are available with a single keypress. The Menu is stored in GRAMS 1 & 2, which TI BASIC normally occupies (in GROMS 1 & 2). The

See FORAY 4/A on page 7

FORAY 4/A, from page 6

operating system now contains a TRUE upper and lower case character set with descenders. My Extended BASIC has been heavily modified with the help of GK utility disk I and some things I've added. I have 2 main cartridges loaded that are GK Extended BASIC as described above and a highly modified Editor Assembler. A project I am slowly working on (when I have time) would allow a complete menu access of most all of the TI modules that I own (I have around 100). These would all be stored on approximately 11 DSDD diskettes.

If there is any interest in a demonstration of the GK, let me know. I would be glad to do it.

☞ DISAPPEARING INK DEPARTMENT

Last month I was neglect in getting an article written up for our fantastic newsletter. Some of you may have noticed but I'd bet most didn't. The time has come to brow-beat members again. When I first joined this group I was highly motivated to learn all I could about the computer I have come to love, BUT if a vote was called on for volunteers to do something for the group, I.E. give back something in return for the help I'd received, my hand remained down. I always told myself that I was too busy, or didn't know enough about the matter or whatever else excuse I could come up with. Here, back about a year or so ago, I could see or FEEL the demise of this group and did NOT want that to happen! So I gulped a couple of times and decided I was going to help out (HORRORS!). At this point in

time, I am writing articles for our Newsletter, Co-chairing our FestWest '92 and most probably going to take over planning demonstration activities. I admit this isn't much, but it's something. TALK is cheap. For this group to really grow and be GREAT again we ALL need to quit TALKING and start DOING. There are too few members doing this and it ain't right. WRITE an article for the newsletter, DO a demonstration on some software/hardware that you like, POST a few of our flyers to all the computer/electronic stores by you. Help this group to help serve you better! —Ralph...

MINUTES, from page 3

the Fest.

There was no new business. A general discussion then took place including a report from Virginia Davis on her trip to Tucson and demo at SW99's meeting. She was asked to put on the demo for us next month. She agreed. We will be video taping the demo.

The meeting was closed at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Marfisi,
Secretary, VAST Computer User Group.

NEWS, from page 1

tured by Bud Mills Services was scheduled to be available to end users in late July, according to Bud Mills. The device is also available from OPA.

The card, priced at \$250, dramatically increases the power of the TI. The standard TI uses a 9900 chip with a clock speed of 3.3 Megahertz. The 99105 upgrade operates at a clock speed of 12 Mhz. The upgrade is installed in the TI console and requires no soldering. According to its designer, Don O'Neil, the 99105 accelerator increases the speed of the TI by a factor 5. This improvement increases to a 10-fold gain in speed when used with a 16-bit RAM card that fits in the Peripheral Expansion Box.

According to O'Neil, the accelerator is invisible to the TI system.

The PEB RAM interface card is expected to be available in late October or early November. This card is priced at \$90 and will serve as a functional replacement for the TI PEB cable. It features battery backed static RAM DSRs. (Device Service Routines) for easy upgrading, a smaller, 1 1/2-inch cable connection between the PEB and TI console, uses a 16-bit data bus, has 8 SIMM (Single In-line Memory Module) slots for up to 8 megabytes of RAM expansion, 32K static RAM with zero wait state operation built-in (this replaces existing in console 32K RAM expansions) and 1 "processor direct slot" for future expansion.

Update on Asgard Software

Chris Bobbitt, owner of Asgard Software, has announced that Harry Brashear has joined the firm. The addition of Brashear is expected to result in significant improvements in the operation of the company, Bobbitt said.

"Since Asgard Software was founded in 1984, I have been responsible for all aspects of the business-end of things. The vast majority of all

marketing, manufacturing, distribution, service, and much product conceptualization, and testing, and some development, have been done by just one overworked person."

"The crush of managing the business has resulted in extensive delays in order fulfillment, product service, our magazine, and every other project and task related to Asgard. Add to this the burden of keeping track of everything, and it's plain that something had to be done or soon nothing would get done."

Bobbitt said that Brashear will be responsible for almost all order fulfillment, and acting in the capacity as a limited partner.

"Lengthy delays in getting orders and update requests filled has been the biggest problem most people have had in dealing with Asgard. It has cost us many orders and a few friends over the years but just couldn't be helped. Currently, orders take anywhere from 2 weeks to 8 or more to be filled. Our goal is to have all orders - both new orders, as well as service and catalog requests, and updates, out the door within a week of receiving them," Bobbitt said.

Bobbitt said that he expects to turn his attention to resuming publication of Reflections/Asgard News. The periodical suspended publication last fall.

Bobbitt said that "all customer service will still be handled by me directly and I will remain Asgard's spokesman. Other than that I expect nothing less than a complete transformation of what has become one of the largest TI software companies."

2 & A

Questions & Answers

To: VAST Board Members
c/o Mike Marfisi, Sec./Treas.

Dear Mike,

You can see by the date above that this is being written the day AFTER the VAST meeting(?). I made the comment one day a couple of weeks ago that I tend to be a bit "aggressive"... the comment was made as I was discussing "last month's meeting" with a friend and I had commented that I thought we shouldn't "pussyfoot" around when trying to get some of the manufacturers, distributors or agents to "donate" items for FEST WEST. There is no doubt that THEY will benefit from FEST WEST and therefore should be willing to GIVE "something" to be used as prizes. BUT I never sensed this attitude at last month's meeting... all I sensed was... "Oh no, we can't expect them to GIVE us something." BS!!

I related the "above" to help me justify WHY I am writing this letter to you and the other officers of VAST. I was one of the first to arrive for yesterday's meeting. WHY? Because I look forward to the meeting every month. But I have yet to be impressed with anything that transpires at the meetings. Maybe "impressed" is not the right word...let's try "interested." I was shown a membership list that was almost three pages long, and was astonished when I asked what "happened," and there was no reason for the demise. I CAN TELL YOU what happened! Lack of excitement, lack of

interest, lack of training, lack of sharing, lack of almost everything...NOTHING HAPPENS AT OUR MEETINGS!!!!!! You may have noticed that I "disappeared" immediately after we adjourned yesterday. NOW I have to decide... DO I REALLY WANT TO WASTE THE TIME TO GO TO THE MEETINGS?

Mike, by this time you must be in total shock, BUT you guys are "so close to the problems that you can't see them." Let's discuss yesterday's meeting... that's all it was... a meeting! A lot of time was "wasted" on going over things that already were covered very proficiently in the newsletter, ie: FEST WEST...MONTHLY MEETING ROOM...ROOM RATES FOR FEST WEST...ETC...ETC. Hey Mike, we have a very efficient FEST WEST COMMITTEE, let's allow them to do their job and report to the newsletter... we don't have to re-hash it all twice. I was admonished by a member, and rightly so, for "talking" DURING our president's segment of the meeting...YES, I WAS TALKING... but at least about something... I was showing the semi-completed artwork for the production of "buttons" and possibly T-shirts for FEST WEST (which I HAD introduced LAST MONTH (and have NOT been approached about))... oh well... We also were looking over the wonderful selection of artwork for Page-Pro (which WAS NOT GIVEN ENOUGH TIME at the meeting). Reference the 4/A FORAY column in the June 8th VAST newsletter where Ralph had the idea... HELP! DEPARTMENT. Did anyone read that

See Q & A on page 10

Q & A, from page 9

item? Did they understand what he was trying to say?... **THIS IS A USERS GROUP** and those of you that have been TI users for years tend to "forget" to share with members who have not had their TI's very long. **HE'S RIGHT... YOU'VE ALL FORGOTTEN!!!** **MAYBE** the column should be republished in all capital letters!

I "purchased" the DM-1000 Disk from our "library." Wally brought it to the meeting, handed it to me and "tried" to explain what it does for me. **I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THIS DISK CAN DO FOR ME!!!!** He did say that I could call him... that's fine **BUT** wouldn't the meeting be the place to give this information to us "newbies"?? I also purchased a reconditioned TI Modem (because I want to avail myself of the BBS) but the only information I could extract from anyone at the meeting was that I probably had made a bad purchase. Hey, come on... TI made this damned thing to be used with the TI-99/4A... so I'm sure that instead of "degrading" the item, someone could have taken the time to **SHOW OR TELL** me the procedures it would take to use **OUR BBS**. Thanks to Wally Knight for informing me that **YES, IN FACT, I HAVE 2 DOUBLE-SIDED, 1/2 HEIGHT DRIVES** built into my expansion box, I thought they were only **SS/SD**. So here I sit with my **MODEM...** maybe I'll find someone that can tell me how to "go on line" with it, and even **IF THERE'S A FEE...** even that has never been explained. Mike... do you understand where I'm coming from??? You guys have forgotten more than I'll ever learn... **BUT**

WE would sure like to see things turned around at the meetings... and maybe re-contact the past members and tell them that **NOW** they will find things more interesting. Wouldn't it be nice to have a large membership **AGAIN????** (and by the way, I feel the dues are **MUCH** too low... they barely cover the printing and postage for the newsletter).

Your question to me, **WHY DON'T YOU BRING THIS UP AS 'NEW BUSINESS'!!** Because, Mike, it's **NOT** new business... it's **OLD** business that you guys have forgotten.

I feel that **VAST** is due for a re-vamping to gain back the "prestige" that I'm sure it **HAD** at one time, by looking at the past membership!!!

Dare I face you guys... or do you have the feeling you don't need a "rabble-rouser" like me in your group? Honestly, I learn a hell-of-a-lot more **READING** at home than I do from my fellow users! **I WILL BE AT THE NEXT MEETING** (maybe red-faced), **BUT I HAVE TO KNOW THAT VAST IS GOING TO BE WORTH MY TIME!**

Respectfully,
(signed),
(a **VERY** concerned member)

THE PRESIDENT RESPONDS:

Who?? Can't be our president, he can't write!!

Yes, it's me, your club president. I can write sometimes, but, as most of you know, I started a new job a few months back and I

See Q & A on page 11

Q & A, from page 10

want to put the blame on that. But that's really no excuse for not doing a job I should have doing all along. Sometimes I think I'm just a member, and members don't write for OUR newsletter, do programs at the meetings or tell others what they want to see at the meetings. Or do they... A few days after the last meeting I got a letter from one of our members that tells it all!!

First I want to thank that member for speaking up, even if it was in a letter and not at a meeting. I feel I need to respond here so all will know just what I think about all this.

Let me say that I agree with almost all your points. The fact that you see nothing worth going to the meetings for did upset me at first, but as I read I realized that you are right. Since we started working on the FEST WEST '92, we have been going over everything more than we should and this does not leave much time for any program. But in all fairness let me say this... I thought most of you wanted the FEST here instead of in another town that you would have to drive 150 miles to attend. So in going over what the committee is doing I was hoping that more of you might speak up and help out the committee. After all it's YOUR club that is putting this thing on. But I guess I was wrong again.

The next thing is the programs. You said in your letter that we never do any and that you can not get the help you need. We had one person on the program committee, but he has been unable to make the meetings

for the last several months. One of the reasons is that I have heard him say to the club, What do you want to see? No answer again. Now we have 2 people on that committee and the same question, "WHAT DO YOU WANT?"

You said that you got a copy of DM-1000 from our library. Good for you. But then you said you didn't know how to use it and NO ONE would help you. You didn't ask me. In fact you said that you left right after the meeting. I can't help you if you are not here to ask. I don't think there is anyone in the group that could not have helped you. When I asked about any new bussiness, you could have spoken up and gotten the help you needed. After I called you, you said that you worked on it and found out how to use it. Super! You have not had your TI very long and have not used computers in the past, yet you got it worked out. That's what most of us had to do all along. That's not to say we would not help you, but you never asked.

Don't get me wrong here. I don't blame you for being upset. and I'm not here to tell you that you are wrong, just that you haven't been here long enough to know what we HAVE done the past 2 years since I was the only one that stepped up to run for this post in OUR club. (Run for a post ((grin)), I was the only one that didn't mind being the president.) Anyway, what I mean is that before me, we almost NEVER had a system at the meetings so we never had a demo. Same for the library but it did make more meetings than the TI computer did. Again,

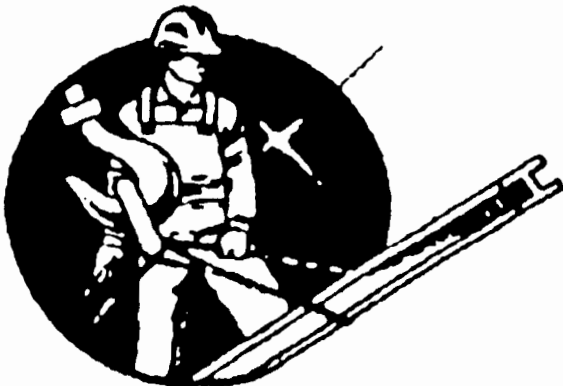
See Q & A on page 12

Q & A, from page 11

this letter is aimed at ALL MEMBERS, not you. Maybe it will start a trend.

As for the "past membership," you are right. We have lost a lot of good people. But not for the reasons you state. Most of them have out grown the TI. Maybe as new to computers as you say, you don't see this. We tried to keep them but as a TI only group they just could not stay in a club that was of no help to them with their "other" computers.

Your comments are always welcome and will never be covered up. All I ask is that you speak up at the meetings and join in one of the many committees we have. The same for all of you out there, It's YOUR turn to run for a post and do something for YOUR club.
m.k.g.



FOR SALE

1200 baud Uniqmodem 1200HC Hayes Compatible MODEM with Manual. Asking \$50 OBO. CALL JIM 275-8018 or leave message on VAST BBS in FORSALE Conference.

P-Box, TI Disk Controller Card with SS/SD Disk Drive, 32K Memory Card, RS232 Card. \$250 obo...as a full unit. CALL Mike Grogan (602) 272-4315

WANTED

PLATO Cartridge. I have several other carts I will trade you for or sell to you. I WANT YOUR PLATO CART. CALL Mike Grogan (602) 272-4315

This space is available FREE for VAST members use. If you have items for sale or are looking for certain items for your TI, contact the Editor to include those items here.

SPEAK OUT!

AN OPEN LETTER TO FELLOW TIERS:

I have a problem that I am sure some of you have heard me talking about. I ordered, and paid for a "GIZMO" from OPA in February. They are located in Toronto, Canada. It sounded like a great piece of hardware to have, so I went for it.

You may have also read in MICROpendium and *Computer Monthly* that OPA had some other new hardware and software on the market. There was even a story in our last newsletter about "TIM." This is all well and good but don't you think that a responsible and dedicated vendor would do everything possible to see that older orders are filled before newer ones? In a reasonable amount of time?

I have not heard from OPA once since February! NO letter of explanation. NO postcard. NO notice. NO phone call. NO refund. NO GIZMO.

No more mister nice guy! I have called Canada 3 times since I placed the order. I spoke with Gary and was promised "you'll have it by the end of the month" all three times. WHERE IS IT?

At this point in time, I don't recommend that anyone order anything from OPA!

Gary seems to get to a lot of fairs, so the best thing to do is to buy what you can see and hold. I think that it is time for OPA to either put up or shut up! Don't advertise what you can't deliver! I am tired of the hassle and am going to contact the POSTAL

AUTHORITES in the near future if this is not resolved.

I will keep you posted.

Thanks, I needed that.

Tom Pfeffer



VAST Computer User Group
salutes America's working force on
Labor Day, September 2, 1991

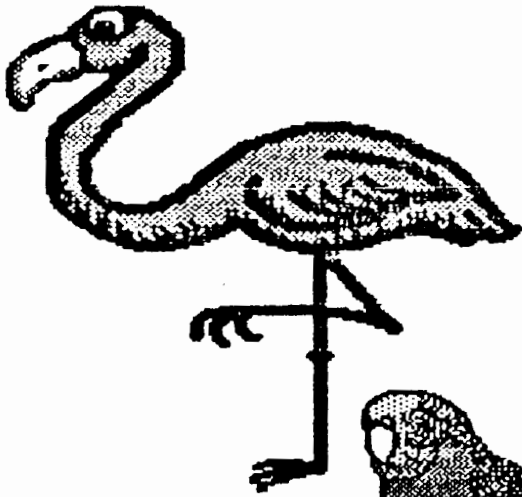
Just a reminder...

The **VAST BBS** has changed its telephone number. You can now reach it 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at **(602) 233-0790**.

This is a local call for most area residents.

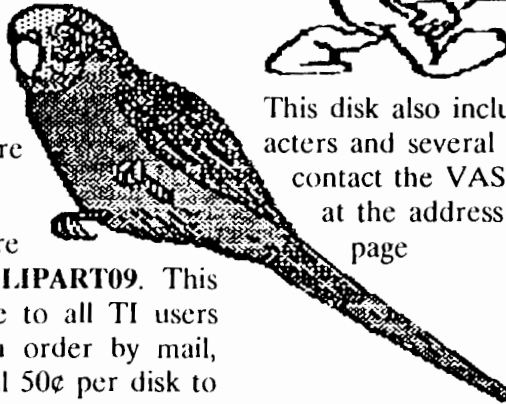
Give it a call for the latest information about the VAST Computer User Group!



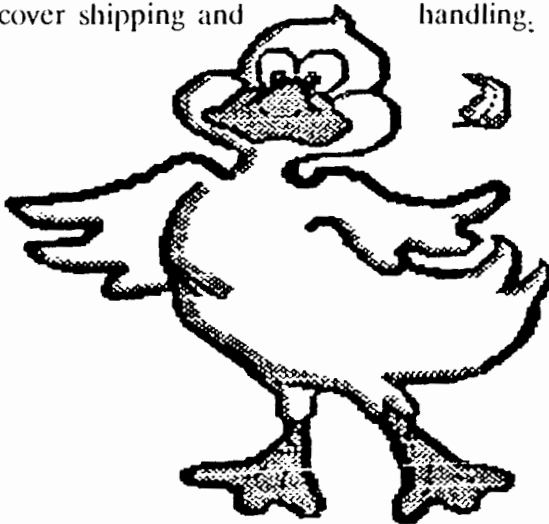


The images on this page are scanned images by

Virginia Davis and are available from package **CLIPART09**. This VAST *exclusive* is available to all TI users for \$2.00 per disk. If you order by mail, please include an additional 50¢ per disk to cover shipping and handling.



This disk also includes several Disney characters and several other birds. To order, contact the VAST Computer User Group at the address on the back information page

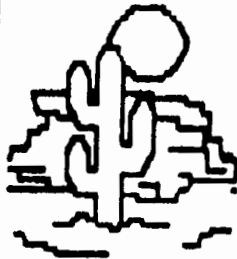


A COMPUTER USERS CONVENTION

FOR THE TI 99-4A

and the

MYARC GENEVE 9640



LOCATION: Days Inn-Phoenix/Comelback
502 W. Comelback, Phoenix, AZ 85013
(602)264-9290 or 1-800-688-2021

DATE/TIME: Sat Feb 15, 1992-9am to 5pm
Sun Feb 16, 1992-9am to 3pm

**PRIZES
COLOR PRINTER**

**Other prizes to be Announced
there will be some door prizes, Too!**

**Fest tickets are on sale now (\$5.00
for both days). Any one under 15, is free
if with an Adult.**

**Why not plan your THREE DAY weekend now!
FESTWEST RATES \$54.00 (1 TO 4 PEOPLE per
Room per Day).**

**TI FEST WEST '92
THE BEST YOU CAN GET**

**Presented by: THE VALLEY OF THE SUN TI
USER GROUP (VAST)**

**For more information: Call BBS 233-0790 or
H. KNIGHT (602)-938-5446 or
R. REES (602)-869-8145**

**VENDOR'S MEETING WILL BE HELD.
TIME WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.**

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**SOFTWARE
HARDWARE
&
ACCESSORIES**

VAST User Group Information

The VAST Computer User Group is a support group for the TI-99/4A Home Computer and compatibles.

CURRENT OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Mike Grogan 272-4315

VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Ely 275-8018

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Mike Marfisi 491-1552

LIBRARIANS

Hazel & Wallace Knight . . . 938-5446

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jim Ely 275-8018

BBS SYSOP

Mike Grogan 272-4315

Send any correspondence to the address below.

The VAST Computer User Group operates a BBS 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The phone number is (602) 233-0790.

ADVERTISING RATES

There is **NO CHARGE** to **MEMBERS** for **PERSONAL** advertising. Non-members will be charged \$1.50 per ad.

Please contact the Secretary/Treasurer for **COMMERCIAL** advertising rates.

DISCLAIMER: The VAST Computer User Group can assume **NO** responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this newsletter or for programs or construction projects tried by its members or others. **YOU** try them at your **OWN RISK!** Any material herein may be republished by other user groups so long as credit is given to the **ORIGINAL** sources.

VAST NEWS

c/o MIKE MARFISI
1425 E. DEL RIO DRIVE
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