THE PRESIDENTS LETTER

In an effort to better inform our members the International 99/4 Users-Group has instituted a new publication titled "THE PRESIDENTS LETTER". As you can see from this first edition "THE PRESIDENTS LETTER" will contain hard-hitting, up-to-date news on computing with the TI Family of Personal Computers.

"THE PRESIDENTS LETTER" will be published bi-monthly and serve as a fill-in during the months of Feb., Apr., June, Aug., Oct., and Dec. Beginning in May we will discontinue our Newsletter format and replace it with an expanded version entitled "ENTHUSIAST '99", to be published on alternating months. Next month you will receive our last Newsletter which will contain reprints of our most popular articles over the past 2 years.

We certainly hope you enjoy "THE PRESIDENTS LETTER" and would enjoy hearing your comments.

POSSIBLE SHOCK HAZARD

Texas Instruments has announced that there is a possible defect in the AC9500 power transformer of their 99/4A Home Computer, which is supplied by a third party vendor. "We are discussing proposed distribution of an adaptor cord with the Consumer Product Safety Commission to all known 99/4A owners," a spokesperson for TI told the IUG Tuesday Feb. 22. "The adaptor cord would be a 'consumer fix' rather than requiring owners to take or mail their transformers to a TI Service Center," the spokesman went on to say.

TI stated that it recently determined that "UNDER CERTAIN UNUSUAL CONDITIONS THERE IS A REMOTE POSSIBILITY THAT TRANSFORMER FAILURE COULD GIVE RISE TO AN ELECTRICAL SHOCK HAZARD FOR THE COMPUTER OPERATOR OR DAMAGE THE COMPUTER ITSELF." "THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF AN ELECTRICAL SHOCK TO ANY KNOWN OWNER!"

TI will also implement a 'GREEN LABEL SAFETY CHECK' program with all retailers to either install the adaptor cord or replace the transformer on existing inventory.

Members who have questions regarding this matter should contact Texas Instruments Customer Relations at the following phone numbers. (800) 858-4565, (800) 527-3550, (800) 527-4069, (800) 858-1802

TI SET TO TAKE ON THE IBM PC WITH ITS PROFESSIONAL COMPUTER

Texas Instruments Inc.'s new Professional Computer will be pitted squarely against the IBM Personal Computer, with communications, storage capacity and price being among TI's strongest selling points.
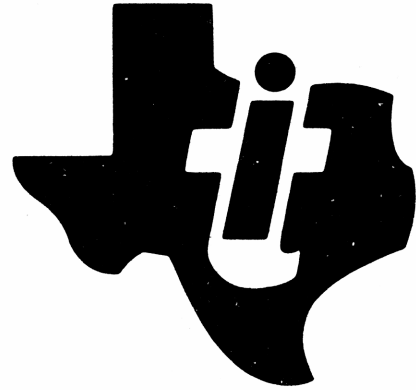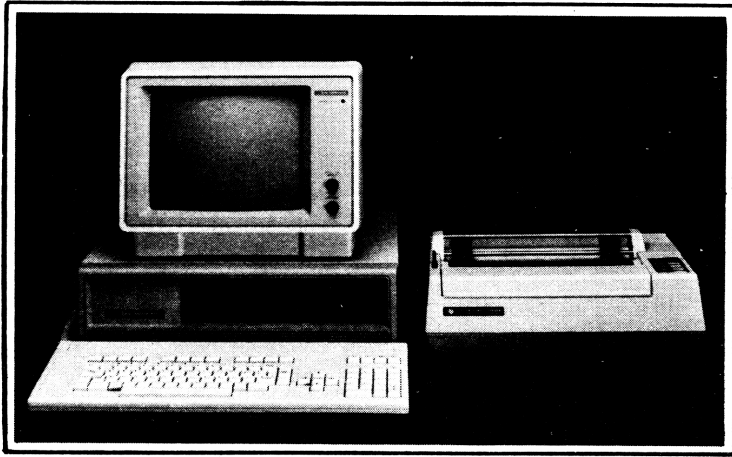
The machine also will offer a feature that the IBM PC doesn't—voice management and natural language capabilities, which TI said will be available by this year's third quarter.

"The 8088-based Professional (code named the Pegasus) will sell for a suggested retail price of $2595 for a basic system consisting of a monochrome display, a keyboard, a system unit with 64k bytes of RAM, and an integral 320k-byte floppy disk drive. Main memory can be expanded to 256k bytes, and space is provided for a second floppy drive of a 5-Mbyte or 10-Mbyte Winchester disk.

"The Professional's price is $490 below a comparable IBM PC configuration of 64k bytes of RAM, a 320k-byte floppy disk drive and a 12-inch monochrome display. While IBM does not offer a Winchester disk drive, TI is already delivering its 5-Mbyte drive and will begin shipments of its 10-Mbyte Winchster later this year," executives said.

TI is making a big play with the Professional's voice management and natural language features, which allow the user to enter commands orally without use of the keyboard and will perform telephone answering and dialing functions.

These features are accomplished by the use of two add-on boards that occupy one of five option slots on the machine.

"Early entry and reputation is not enough to sell a product today, as it was in the past," said Adam Cuhney, vice-president of research at Salomon Brothers, a New York brokerage firm. "The market has finally entered the state where product differentiation is a critical marketing feature. Voice recognition is a nice little toy, and the competition doesn't have it."

Other analysts said that the voice management capabilities coupled with strong price/performance value, the TI reputation, IBM-PC compatibility, the wealth of application software programs already on the shelf, and the unit's high-resolution monitor will place the Professional as a strong contender within its class of computer.

It is predicted that TI will become price-aggressive down the road with the Professional once it has secured high visibility among the Fortune 1000 companies. This strategy would be similar to the one TI is using with its 99/4A home computer against such competition as Commodore International Ltd. TI also introduced a new low-cost dot-matrix impact printer, the OMNI 800 Model 850, as a companion printer to the Professional. The Model 850 prints at up to 150 cps and offers a variety of fonts and print options such as compressed and enhanced print. The printer retails at $599 or $659 with a tractor feed. IUG sources have been told that this printer will replace the current PHP2500 dot-matrix which is currently being supplied by Epson.

TI also announced a broad range of software for the Professional. Among them are offerings from Ashton-Tate Inc., Digital Research Inc., Information Unlimited Software, Lifeboat Associates, MicroPro International Inc., Microsoft Corp., Peachtree Software Inc., Softtech Inc. and Software Publishing Corp.

The Professional will be marketed through a one-tier network consisting of nearly 200 authorized computer stores and office machine dealers in the 25 largest metropolitan areas, TI said.

Kevin Ellington, program manager for the Professional, said that TI will be seeking systems houses that can bring added value to the product and that address vertical markets.

TI's service program has been set up so that users can either choose maintenance by selected dealers or by the company's own service centers.

The Professional is built and sold by TI's DSG division in Austin, TX and software and hardware products are not compatible with the 99/4A.

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS INC. FILES SUIT ALLEGING USE OF TRADE SECRETS
HOUSTON — Texas Instruments, Inc. has filed suit against Compaq Computer Corp. and 10 former TI employees, charging that the Compaq personal computer uses TI trade secrets.

The charges were made in two suits, one filed in a Texas state court in April and one filed in a federal district court this month in Houston.

Compaq denies the charges, and company president Rod Canion called the matter a "nuisance suit." Compaq said it is preparing a countersuit against TI.

WIZWARE'S MICROZINE LETS KIDS MAKE UP STORIES, QUIZZES

Microcomputer software that trick kids into learning something when they think they are playing video games is beginning to catch on.

Wizware, recently introduced by Scholastic, Inc., is just such a series of programs.

The first Wizware packages include an adventure game, a computer magazine that contains different computer application programs instead of feature articles, a Logo-like turtlegraphics package and an interactive introduction to computers.

"Wizware will cost about $40 per package and will be available in April for the Atari 400 and 800 home computers and the Apple II Plus. Versions for the Texas Instruments 99/4A and the Commodore VIC 20 will be announced later," a Scholastic spokesperson said.

One of the more innovative ideas in the Wizware series is Microzine, an electronic magazine for 8- to 14-year-old children. Just as Scholastic's educational newsletter provides a weekly dose of written puzzles, games and quizzes, the company believes Wizware Microzine will do the same thing electronically.

Wizware games do not rely on the alien-zapping, gun-slinging formulas of the majority of microcomputer game software.

In Nerd Alert, the nerds, who have oblong faces and wear thick-rimmed glasses, have a football filled with nerd gas. The game's hero, Jocko, a regular one-of-the-boys type, has to prevent the nerds from taking over Nerd High by intercepting the football.

No one gets injured, and the worst that can happen to Jocko is that he turns into a nerd if the football explodes.

The Wizware library of programs will be sold in consumer outlets nationwide. Scholastic plans to advertise the products extensively in its own publications.

GLICH FOUND ON MASTER TAPE

We have recently discovered a glich on our master tape for Owner-Written Program #1041, Star-Fight. We know that we have shipped several copies of the program to our members which will not RUN. If you received a copy of this program and find that it will not operate properly on your 99/4 or 99/4A please notify us and we will be happy to replace this program for you. You do not need to return your tape.

NEW ASSEMBLY PROGRAMS RIVAL COMMAND MODULE QUALITY

Two new "Arcade Style" programs are now available to 99/4 owners with a disk system, memory expansion and either the Editor/Assembler or Extended BASIC Command Modules. "ARTHROPOD" and "AsTIroids" programmed by fourteen year old Bill Bies, rival the quality of any current Command Module.

"ARTHROPOD", which is a Centipede look-a-like, contains all of the action and speed of the coin-op version. While being tested at the 99/4 Users-Group, staff members played until they could no longer hold a joy-stick.

The game has three levels of difficulty which provides new excitement levels for all players. "Changing screen colors and total arcade features make this the finest game that we have tested to date", stated Terry Heim, Administrative Assistant for IUG. Chad LaFara, 16 year-old son of the IUG President, says, "It is a shame that the program is not provided on Solid State Module, so that all IUG members could have the opportunity to play it."

"AsTIroids" also contains all of the features one would expect from an Arcade game. Large meteors are blasted into small particles which must be avoided by the ships commander. The overall graphic quality combined with assembly language speed and the special attention paid to sound effects, make AsTIroids" a program that must be owned by anyone who is serious about game playing.

Both "ARTHROPOD" and "AsTIroids" are currently available for purchase from the International 99/4 Users-Group at $24.95 each. Please remember that the programs do require a disk system, memory expansion and either the Editor/Assembler or Extended BASIC Command Module.

PRICE LIST ADDITIONS AND CHANGES

The following items were accidently omitted from our Jan. 30, 1983 Price List. Please be sure to write them in using the space provided on the back cover of your price list.

MODEL	NAME	Reg. Mem.	Pres. Club
PHM3114	Alligator Mix	34.00	31.75
PHT6010	Mystery Melody	9.00	9.00
PHT6015	Oldies But Goodies I	9.00	9.00
PHT6017	Oldies But Goodies II	9.00	9.00
PHT6025	Sat. Night Bingo	9.00	9.00
PHT6037	Draw Poker	9.00	9.00
PHT6004	Programming Aids I	9.00	9.00
PHT6007	Teach Yourself Basic	24.00	19.25
PHT6019	Teach Yourself Ex. Basic	17.50	16.25
PHT6067	Beginner's Basic Tutor	24.00	19.25
PHT6046	Adventureland	24.00	19.25
PHT6047	Mission Impossible	24.00	19.25
PHT6048	Voodoo Castle	24.00	19.25
PHT6049	The Count	24.00	19.25
PHT6050	Strange Odyssey	24.00	19.25
PHT6051	Mystery Fun House	24.00	19.25
PHT6052	Pyramid of Doom	24.00	19.25
PHT6053	Ghost Town	24.00	19.25
PHT6054	Savage Island I&II	34.00	31.75
PHT6056	Golden Voyage	24.00	19.25
WIC1755	WICO 6ft Ext. Cord	4.95	4.95
WIC1756	WICO 12ft Ext. Cord	7.95	7.95
WIC9714	WICO Joystick	26.75	26.95
WIC9730	WICO "Redball Joystick"	31.95	31.95

Also Please change the following prices to read:

PHD5019	Teach Yourself Ex. Basic	22.00	19.25
PHD5005	Programming Aids II	22.00	19.25

International 99/4 Users-Group

EDUCATION • ENTERTAINMENT • PERSONAL ENRICHMENT

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73008

RETURN REQUESTED