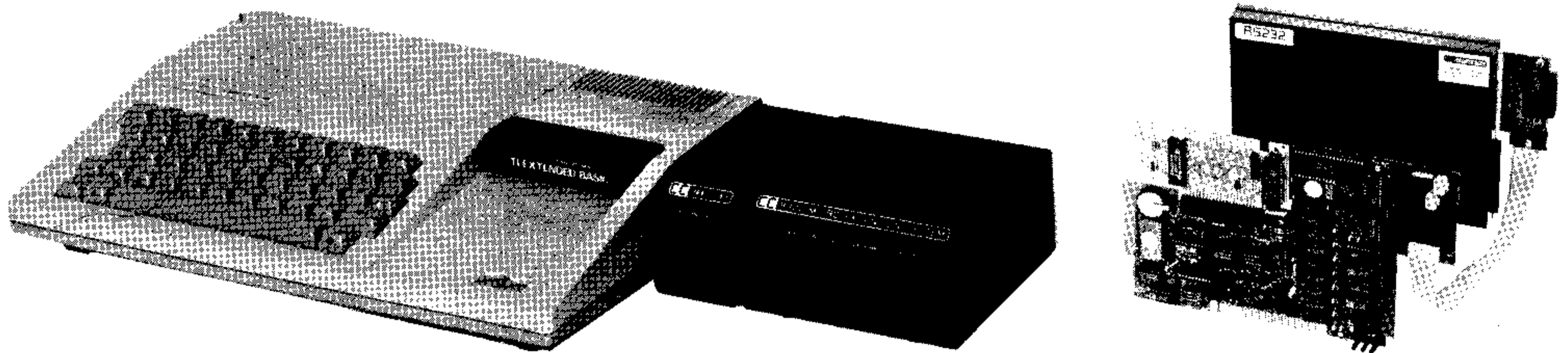


# CORCOMP CURSOR

ISSUE 4

AUGUST 1985

**CORCOMP CELEBRATES ITS 3RD ANNIVERSARY**



## **CORCOMP INTRODUCES 5 NEW PRODUCTS FOR 99/4A**

CorComp has five new products for the 99/4A enthusiasts. They are practical products that will enhance your computing capability. They are products that will save you time and effort and make your data recording more efficient. The five new members of the CorComp family of products are: 9900 Clock/Calendar Stand Alone, 32K Micro Memory Stand Alone, TRIPLE TECH card, 9900 Load Interrupt Switch, and the 83 Module Adapter (for 1983 consoles that need the GROM "busted" so third party software such as Atarisoft may be run). They are reasonably priced and can be purchased through any authorized CorComp dealer throughout the world.

### **THE CORCOMP 9900 CLOCK/CALENDAR**

"When I joined CorComp the clock/calendar was one of the first products I suggested for development," stated Mike Norton CorComp's project engineer. "My hunch changed to conviction with the many phone calls I received from 99/4A users who were having difficulties with a kit clock that was available. These calls verified that there

was a market for a true straight forward clock/calendar. And that is exactly what we have designed in CorComp's 9900 Clock/Calendar Stand Alone and the clock feature on TRIPLE TECH."

#### **HOW YOU CAN USE THE CORCOMP CLOCK/CALENDAR**

The CorComp Clock/Calendar provides a simple means of accessing in real time the: YEAR, MONTH, DATE, DAY, HOURS, MINUTES, AND SECONDS.

It is easily accessed through TI Basic or Extended Basic without any additional hardware or software by using OPEN, PRINT, INPUT and CLOSE statements. It is an excellent way to time and date your documents and truly an aid in time management.

#### **BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEMS**

Since the CorComp Clock/Calendar can be accessed from Basic and Extended Basic, it is ideal for beginning and skilled programmers. Programs can be created to provide the user with a wide variety of individualized uses. Also the Clock/Calendar is a must for anyone running a bulletin board system. This unit will record the date and time when a user logs on, tell him when he last called and how much time he has left as well as

record the time when he logs off. This information will benefit both the bulletin board operator and the end user.

### **DESIGN FEATURES**

The CorComp Clock/Calendar is a stand alone unit about half the size of the Micro-Expansion System. It is housed in a CorComp black box measuring 5" x 2" x 2½". The unit draws its power from the console. It has been designed using high speed CMOS components. It is also equipped with a crystal controlled oscillator that is accurate to .0002%. Its battery back-up will run for over 6 months even with the power turned off! The Clock/Calendar is built to "daisy chain" with other stand alone units and makes a perfect addition to your equipment. The clock feature is also available on our TRIPLE TECH Card for the TI P-Box.

### **LOAD INTERRUPT SWITCH**

The 9900 CLOCK/CALENDAR includes a "load interrupt switch" to implement the newest screen dump programs from the leading software companies featured in this issue. For example, the SDUMP program from Quality 99 Software prints a screen in seconds by just pressing a button when used with the CorComp Clock/Calendar or Load interrupt switch.

**Due to the design of the TI P-Box, there is no way of building a Load Interrupt Switch onto an expansion card. Therefore, CorComp is making this feature possible by designing an independent Load Interrupt Switch. This new product will be available the end of August through our dealer network.**

## **CORCOMP 32K MICRO MEMORY**



This product is a MICRO duplication of the CorComp 32K card. It offers dependability and 100% compatibility with existing TI and third party software. It is small, compact, does not need an external power supply, and it can "daisy chain" with the TI Speech Synthesizer and CorComp's RS232 Stand Alone, and the 9900 Clock/Calendar. This unit began shipping in June.

## **83 MODULE ADAPTER**

The expanse of third party developers of TI 99/4A software includes many highly successful module programs that will not run on all 1983 TI 99/4A's. These computers, which are the grey consoles have a GROM program which will inhibit the use of such modules as the AtariSoft 99 series and some other third party programs.

CorComp sees no reason why an owner of one of these SPECIAL 1983 computers should not be able to take advantage of these excellent programs. We are now beginning production of the **CORCOMP 83 MODULE ADAPTER**. You can tell if your computer is one that will need the CORCOMP 83 MODULE ADAPTER if the title screen says 1983 Texas Instruments V2.2."

## **THE CORCOMP TRIPLE TECH CARD**

The CorComp TRIPLE TECH Card is causing excitement throughout the 99/4A circles. TRIPLE TECH is a single card for the TI-P Box that has the POWER of 3 cards! It is the first TI expansion card that is ready to run IMMEDIATELY. NO WORRIES ABOUT SYSTEM COMPATIBILITY!

The TRIPLE TECH has a second distinction, that of being the first 99/4A expansion card NOT TO HAVE A CLAMSHELL! Like peripheral cards made for the other computers, IBM, Apple, Compaq, Tandy, etc., the assembled PC board is plugged directly into the expansion slot. The TRIPLE TECH Card was designed with quality and performance in mind. In doing so, we have been able to eliminate the metal enclosure. Since the speech synthesizer and clock battery may need to be accessed, all that is needed is simply to pull the card out and replace the components. NO TOOLS REQUIRED!

The TRIPLE functions of the card are: 1) REAL TIME CLOCK/CALENDAR, 2) 64K PARALLEL PRINTER BUFFER, 3) A PORT FOR THE TI SPEECH SYNTHESIZER BOARD.

### **REAL TIME CLOCK/CALENDAR**

Installed it will provide easy access to the: YEAR, DATE, DAY, HOURS, MINUTES, and SECONDS. This feature of TRIPLE TECH will provide the same convenient capabilities as described in the article about the CorComp 9900 CLOCK/CALENDAR.

### **64K PARALLEL PRINTER BUFFER**

The second feature of the CorComp TRIPLE TECH Card is the 64K parallel printer buffer. With this feature, you can reduce the time you spend working on documents or articles tremendously. If you were printing a one page document using TI Writer, you would have to wait about 40 seconds in order to free up your computer. With TRIPLE TECH'S 64K buffer, it would only take 5 seconds! Keeping that in mind, imagine having to print out a 20 page user group newsletter composed of a multitude of articles, graphs, programs, etc. plus, having to print the mailing list and all of the other details that go along with this assignment. Your work might seem endless but, with the 64K buffer, you can begin to print the information and go back to your screen in seconds while the printing continues.

There's more features in this innovative card to make your computing tasks even easier. When the system is powered up, you can activate a "self test" on the memory by simply depressing the copy button. In an instant, you will have a print out of the information recorded. To get a second copy simply press the "copy button". The second button is the "clear button". This button is used when you want to make several copies of a print-out. By pressing it you "clear" the buffers memory.

### **SPEECH SYNTHESIZER PORT**

The TRIPLE TECH Card comes equipped with a port to connect your TI Speech Synthesizer. All you need to do is remove the speech synthesizer from the TI enclosure and plug the board on to TRIPLE TECH, plug TRIPLE TECH into an empty slot! Voila! Three stand alone attachments are now housed in your P-Box!

## **THE 99/4A SECOND GENERATION**

### **THIRD PARTY INNOVATORS EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE 99**

CorComp is looking forward to beginning its third year designing and building expansion hardware for the tenacious owners of the TI 99/4A. Sources outside the 99/4A circle of loyalists refer to the 4A as an orphaned computer. Little do they realize that Texas Instrument's retreat from the home computer market brought about the birth of a strong group of third party manufacturers. The fact is that support technology for the 99/4A has flourished during the last two years! The limits of the TI 99/4A console have been surpassed by a second generation of innovation professional developers of expansion peripherals and creative software programs.

For CorComp, Navarone Industries, Quality 99 Software and Video Magic, the 1983 announcement by TI was viewed as an open door to opportunity. Without technical support from TI, it has been imperative that open lines of communication be maintained between companies and, that we create our own support network. In this issue of the CorComp Cursor, Chuck Humphries, of Navarone Industries, Larry Hughes of Quality 99 Software, and Video Magic will be telling their stories and discussing their excellent software products.

CorComp's fine line of hardware products have played an important role in each company's development tasks. Not only have they designed programs specifically to take advantage of CorComp technology also, they have used CorComp products in their computer systems while developing programs. Software and hardware products are **interdependent**, and it is cooperative working relationship such as these that have kept the 99/4A in use throughout the world.

## **A CHANCE TO GROW... A CHANCE FOR LIFE...**

by John Phillips

Those were the dark days. November and December of 1983 were grim months for all of us. What a shock to hear that the mighty Texas Instruments was pulling the production plug of the /4A. For me, it meant finding alternate work and leaving the "ideal" position of a games programmer. For the millions of /4A owners, it meant unanswered questions and little hope.

The expansion growth of the /4A was minimal at that point. People were just getting around to purchasing their first home computer. The thought of expansion was too far away. When the bottom dropped out, those people who purchased their /4A computers began thinking their tiny investment was a giant mistake. There was no life after the /4A.

Frantically, people were calling the TI-CARES number to locate expansion boxes. Many stores simply could not get these now-valuable products from TI. Discouragement set in and it looked as if the /4A was truly on the "dead-list", joining the ranks of the VIC-20, Atari 400, and Timex/Sinclair. There was not supposed to be life for the machine. . . there was no room for expansion.

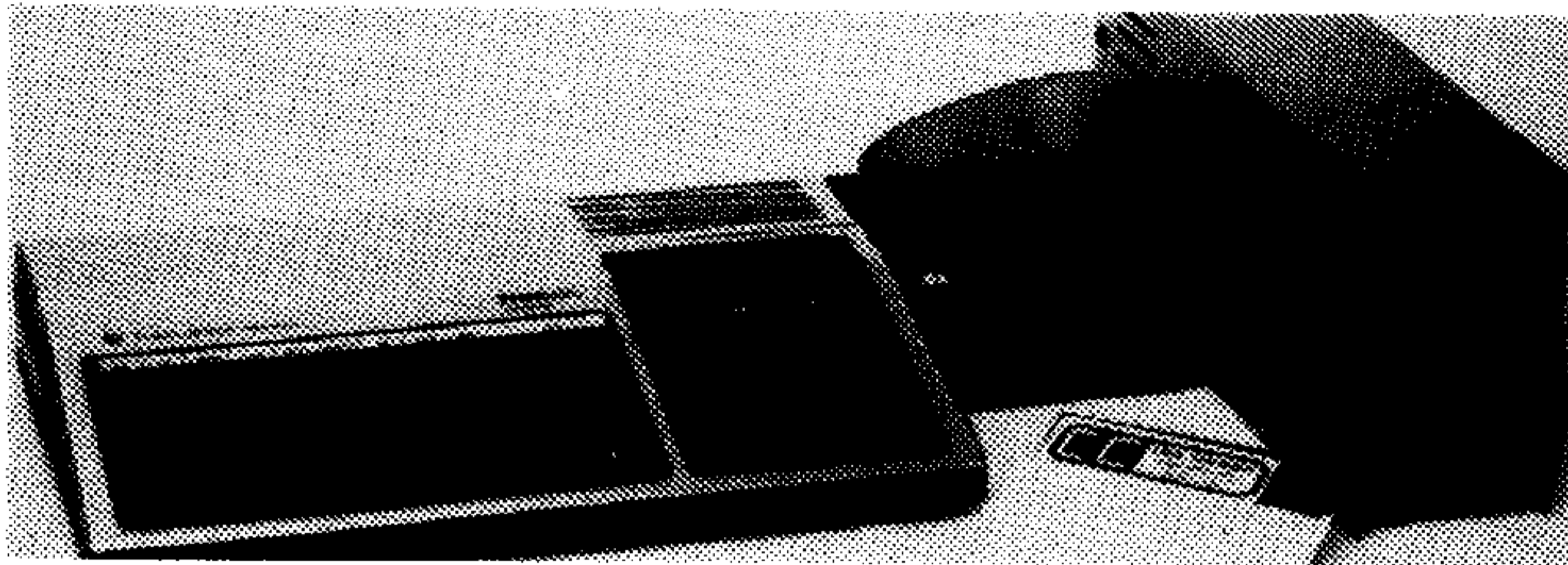
One company changed all that. You know who I am talking about. **CORCOMP** took the bewildered masses of TI owners and gave them a chance for expansion. . . **CORCOMP** gave the /4A a chance for **life!** The three and one-half million consoles had the chance to find mates and produce offspring of incredible software! The grim months slowly became lit with the soft glow of **CORCOMP**.

I know of dozens of people who purchased the **CORCOMP** equipment: cards for their expansion boxes and, now, the powerful micro expansion system. These individuals still continue to dwell into their Extended Basic and Editor/Assembler manuals. I receive letters daily from people who are now using their TI-Writers because **CORCOMP** gave them that hope, that chance to perform things they thought would be impossible.

The machine lives! Utility programs are being generated every week for the serious computer users. No other computer in history had a following like the /4A and no other computer probably will. This company, **CORCOMP**, is giving you that opportunity. Explore the world of computer science to its fullest. You are not limited to the 16K of VDP RAM anymore. There is hope!

Although I own several brands of computers, I still treasure my /4A and it is enthroned on my main computer desk. This machine is not a toy once it is expanded. It is a powerful, productive machine which can manage a household, entertain a party, help with homework (even graduate school, for me). It is a living, breathing organism thanks to the organs available from **CORCOMP**.

# THE EXCITING REPLACEMENT FOR TI'S PE BOX CORCOMP 9900 MICRO EXPANSION SYSTEM INCLUDING EXTERNAL DISK DRIVE . . .



COR 107  
**\$499.95**  
COMPLETE!

## . . . THE ULTIMATE 99/4A UPGRADING!

The reviews are in and the critics are convinced . . . CorComp's 9900 Micro Expansion System is one of the most exciting products ever introduced for the TI Home Computer.

The 9900 will initialize double-sided, double-density disks for 1450 sectors in approximately the same amount of time the old TI disk controller card would initialize a single-sided, single-density disk. Just look at these rave reviews:

- "The 9900 works like a charm!" — Micropendium
- "The lights on the CorComp box flickered, the power indicator remained on, and I had unleashed the power of the 9900 Micro Expansion System. Unbelievable!" — Mid-Hudson User Group of Kingston, New York
- "Once I had my disk drives ready, I was ready to test the MES and find out just how compatible it was. The real test to me was how well it would perform on an assembly of an 8K game. This assembly needed over two dozen files from two disks. . . . After initializing, I transferred all the files of the two source diskettes to the new disk. All source files, object files, and miscellaneous files were copied beautifully and I arrived at the same results. What a system!" (Rating ★★★★★ out of 5!) — Brent Kropf, newsletter author of the Mid-Hudson Users Group.

Avid users all over the country are buzzing about the CorComp system. Unisource Electronics has put together this special package deal designed to upgrade your TI 99/4A to its maximum potential. Here's how our package deal stacks up against the TI peripheral expansion box:

TI PE BOX	CORCOMP & EXTERNAL DRIVE(S)
Disk Controller card (SS/SD) 32K Card RS232 card not included Drive not included	Disk Controller Card (DS/DD) 32K Card RS232 card included DS/DD slim line drive
Over \$700!!	Only \$499.95

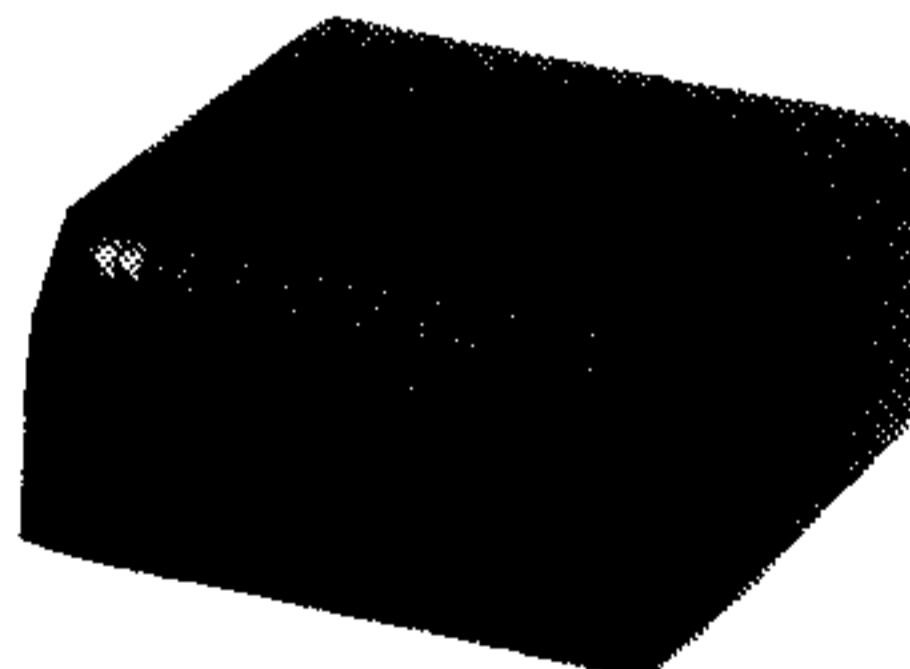
The CorComp 9900 Micro Expansion system truly turns the TI Home Computer into the TI Portable Home Computer. No more annoying PE box "hum" and wasted space with blank slots for nonexistent cards. **Order COR 107, UNI 102X1, CBL 101.**

## PRINTER INTERFACES FOR EVERY TI SYSTEM

**UNISOURCE  
ELECTRONICS, INC.**  
7006 UNIVERSITY  
P.O. BOX 64240  
LUBBOCK, TX 79464  
CALL TOLL FREE  
**1-800-858-4580**  
IN TEXAS CALL  
**1-806-745-8834**



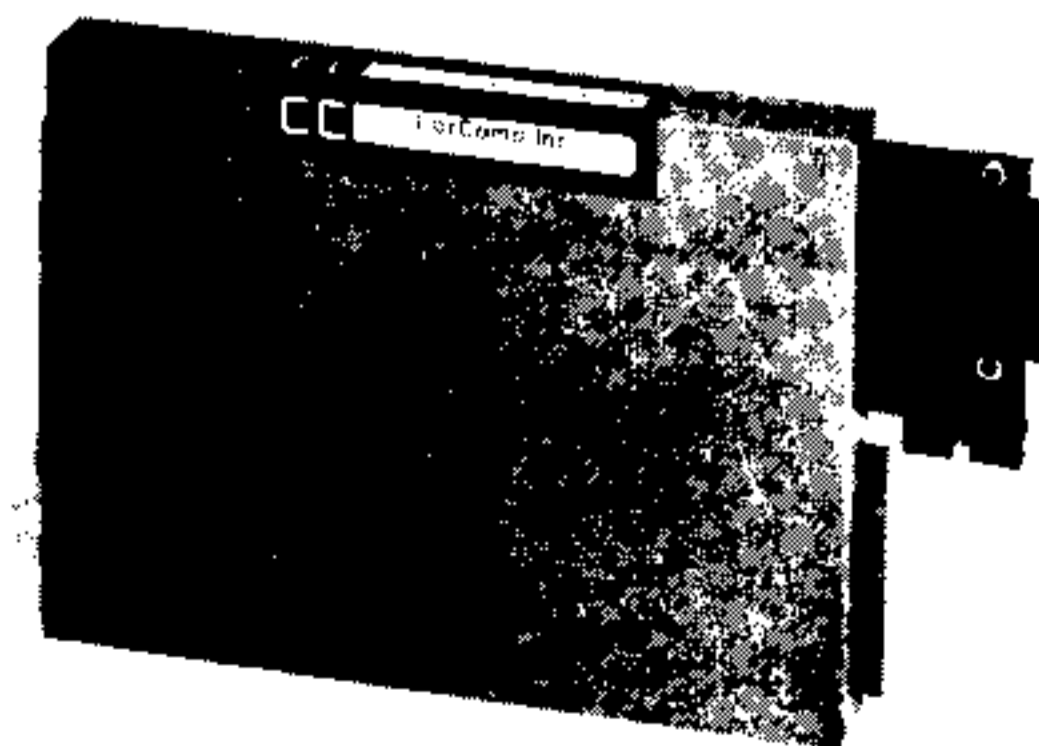
### RS232 STAND-ALONE



This RS232 stand-alone device (COR 103) serves a dual purpose. It provides the necessary interface between your computer and the printer and also has a serial port for a modem hook-up for telecommunications. Once you've mastered the new world a printer brings to your 99/4A, you may want to get involved with the Source and "talk" to mainframe computers via a telecommunications link. This device has the modem serial port already built in. Telecommunications is a natural outgrowth of having a printer system!

Requires custom printer cable. (UNI 110)  
UNISOURCE PRICED (COR 103) . . . . . \$124.95  
CUSTOM PRINTER CABLE (UNI 110) . . . . . \$29.95

### RS232 CARD



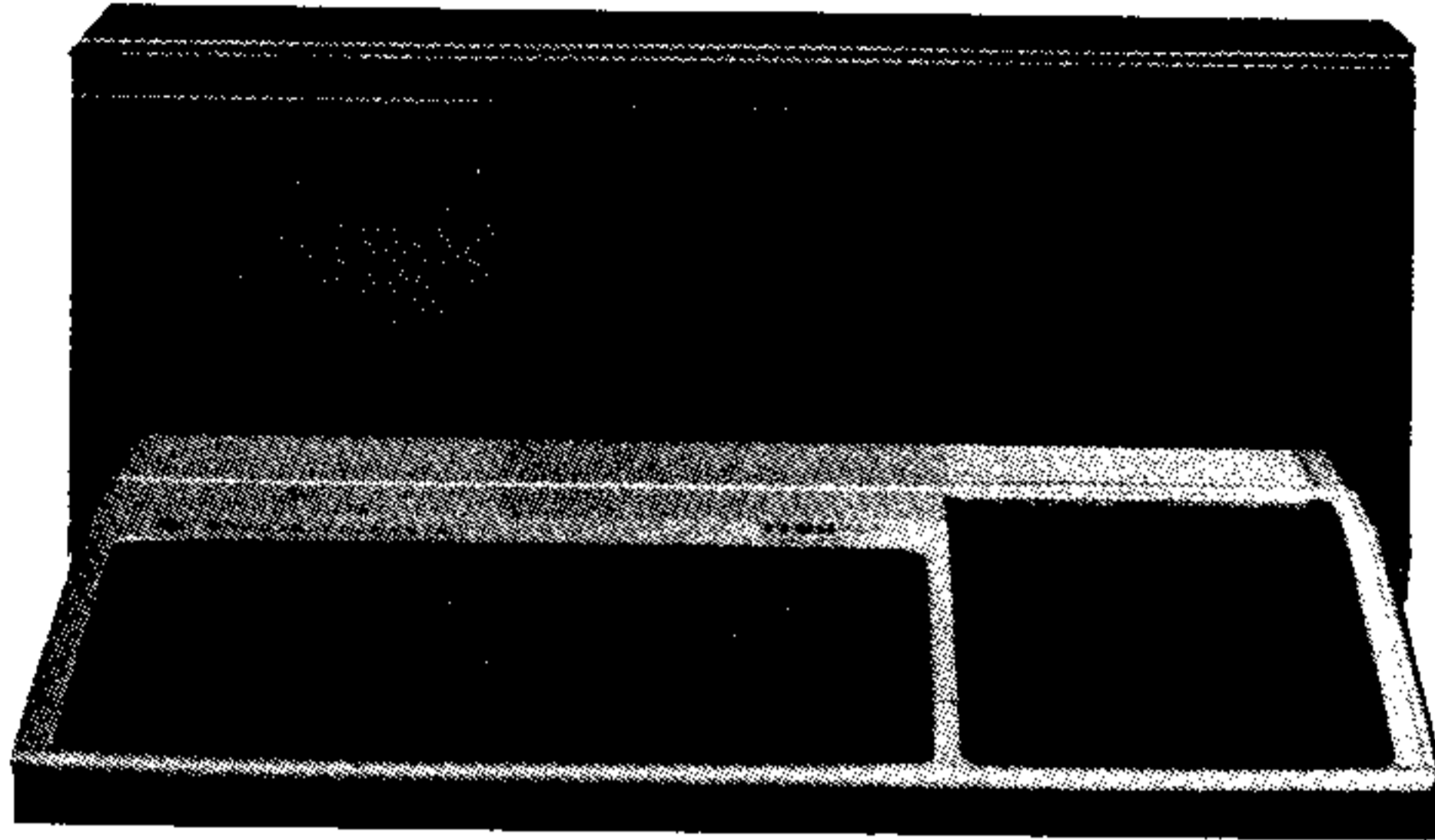
The RS232 card (COR 101) provides all of the capabilities of the free-standing device listed above in a configuration that fits inside a TI Peripheral Expansion Box. It also provides a separate serial port — for telecommunications.

Requires custom printer cable. (UNI 110)  
UNISOURCE PRICED (COR 101) . . . . . \$89.95  
CUSTOM PRINTER CABLE (UNI 110) . . . . . \$29.95

# EXPANSION PERIPHERALS

## For the Texas Instruments Peripheral Expansion Box

### DISK DRIVES FOR THE PE BOX



(Shown with 2 Slim Line Drives. Console not included.)

**Disk Drive** — All disk drives sold by Unisource are guaranteed to be 100 percent compatible with the 99/4A Home Computer. All of these drives are ideally suited for the Peripheral Expansion system as well. Drives may be purchased either as a single drive "bare"—ready for insertion into the PE box—in single sided, single density or double sided double density if your disk controller card will control DS/DD, or the drives may be purchased "slim line bare"—meaning two drives will fit into the same opening of the box. These slim line drives may also be purchased single sided, single density or double sided, double density, again depending upon your disk controller card and do require an electrical conversion kit.

Required disk controller, peripheral expansion box or disk drive power supply, cabinet and external drive cable.

**UNI 106 Single Sided Single Density (Full Height Drives)**

(Please specify if this is a second drive) . . . . . \$169.95

**UNI 102 Double Sided Double Density (Slim Line Drives)**

(Please specify if this is a second drive) . . . . . ea. \$179.95

### DISK CONTROLLER CARD BY



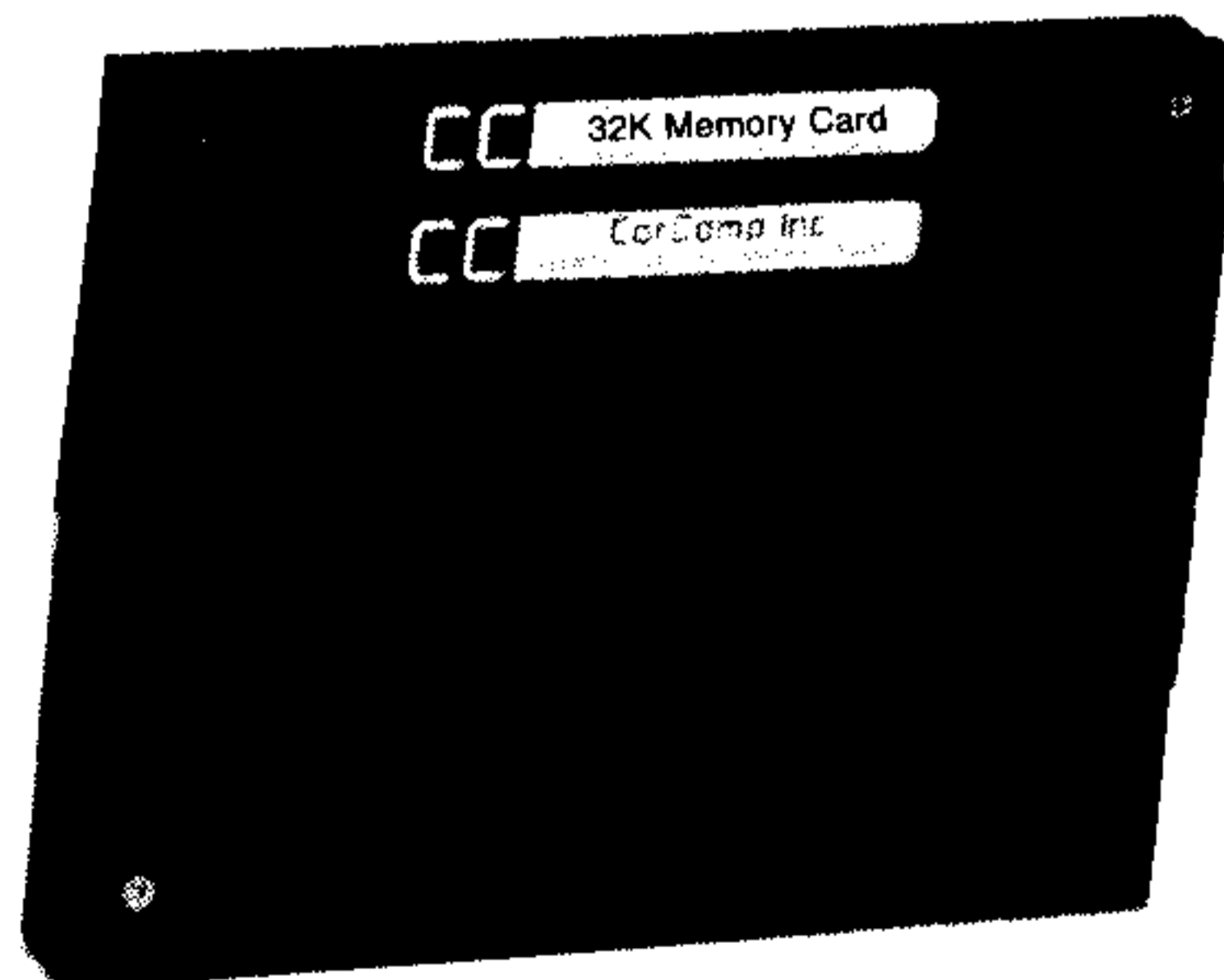
**Disk Controller Card** — Manufactured by CorComp, this disk controller card will handle up to 4 double sided, double density disk drives and allows for multiple disk drive configurations. Requires Peripheral expansion box, internal disk drive cable, 1-4 disk drives. Unlike the old Texas Instruments disk controller card, our CorComp manufactured card will initialize disks double-sided, double-density. The CorComp card will also handle more drives simultaneously than its TI counterpart.

### 32K MEMORY CARD BY



**32K Memory Card** — Add 32K bytes of additional computing power to the console's 16K random access memory (RAM). This a must for fully expanding the 99/4A's capabilities to run software like Extended BASIC, Mini Memory, Editor Assembler, TI-Writer and Microsoft Multiplan. Requires: Peripheral Expansion Box.

COR 104 . . . . . \$109.95



**CORCOMP** opened the door to the future for the /4A. Without their help, the /4A will die. They stood by the turmoil and have emerged shining. Don't waste the life of your /4A. Expand, grow, challenge your machine. **CORCOMP** has given you the chance for this growth and, nearly two years later, the chance for life for the /4A. Don't let the opportunity pass you by. Support **CORCOMP**. . . . they're supporting you!

## VIDEO MAGIC

Among the VIDEO MAGIC programs authored for the TI 99/4A by John Phillips are:

### ENTERTAINMENT-modules:

D-Station #1 and #2	Face Chance
Star Trap	Boxer
Beyond Space	Tile Breaker

### EDUCATION-module:

Great Word Race-vocabulary building educational game

### "EDUTAINMENT"-module:

STAR GAZER no1, no2, AND #3 - an astronomy series of programs for entertainment and education.

CONTACT LEADING TI SOFTWARE DISTRIBUTORS FOR INFORMATION ON VIDEO MAGIC SOFTWARE.

## QUALITY 99 SOFTWARE STANDS BEHIND THE 99

by Larry Hughes

QUALITY 99 SOFTWARE is pleased to join with CorComp Inc., your dealer, and other companies supporting the TI-99/4A, in welcoming the reader to this issue of the CorComp Cursor.

I founded QUALITY 99 SOFTWARE in 1983, to provide the TI-99/4A community with reliable, useful, professional quality programs which stress speed of execution and extreme user friendliness. Since its founding, we have grown continuously, and today, our programs are carried by every major U.S. dealer and many local dealers. They have many customers all over the world.

I have been a professional computer programmer for 26 years. I have assembled a group of five full-time professional programmers, each with at least 20 years programming experience, who have, use, and love the TI-99/4A. Together, we have written and marketed seventeen programs. Most of our programs are written in Assembly Language (12 out of 17).

The programmers at QUALITY 99 SOFTWARE work closely with the CorComp designers and engineers to insure that all of their programs make full use of all the capabilities of the CorComp hardware.

For example:

1. SDUMP, is a fast, easy, resident, Assembly Language screen dump program which prints a screen in only seconds, merely by pressing a key, will also print the screen of certain modules, when used with the new CorComp 9900 CLOCK or Load Interrupt Switch.

2. DISK MANAGER III, is a resident Assembly Language disk manager program that can initialize disks in the double-sided, double-density format of the CorComp 9900 Disk Controller Card and 9900 Micro-Expansion System.

3. Data Base 99, is fast, friendly, easy to use Data Base System can store up to 700 records per file and up to 1400 records per disk, when used with the CorComp 9900 Disk Controller Card or 9900 Micro-Expansion System.

4. QUICK-COPYER II, the original 3 pass disk copier, can read, write, and initialize disks in any format the hardware is capable of, including the double-sided, double-density capability of the CorComp 9900 Disk Controller Card and 9900 Micro-Expansion System.

QUALITY 99 SOFTWARE is currently developing several new programs to take advantage of the features of the new CorComp 9900 CLOCK and the Triple Tech Card.

We are also working on programs to make the maximum use of the newly announced CorComp 128K card.

We feel the capabilities of the TI-99/4A have barely been scratched and, we intend to continue to support it in the foreseeable future.

For more information on any of the seventeen QUALITY 99 SOFTWARE programs, please contact your dealer.

## ALIVE AND KICKIN'

by Chuck Humphries

Several years ago Texas Instruments (TI) developed a home computer called the 99/4A. It didn't have all of the bells and whistles of something like the Macintosh or IBM-AT, however, at one point you could buy fifty 99/4As for the same price as one Macintosh. Consequently, TI sold quite a few of them (over 2.5 million in the United States alone.) TI, as you probably know, is a very large, diversified corporation with many divisions and a wide range of products and services. Because of competition and continued loss of revenue, TI was forced, in early 1983, to abandon its interests in the home computer market and to act as though the 99/4A had never existed. This left the 99/4A without a parent company for support - an orphan computer. This is where my story begins!

This was such an abrupt occurrence that no one had any idea what would happen to the 99/4A and its over 2 million users. The obvious possibilities were that 99/4As would become dust collectors in users' closets or flea market specials for a dollar. However, because the machines were very reliable and the market penetration was so widespread, the 99/4A survived its infancy and is coming of age in 1985.

Since TI did not encourage third party development of products for the 99/4A, the transition was not an easy one for its users or developers. Large companies like AtariSoft and Imagic continued to develop new products for a short time, but few of the smaller companies were able to survive the landslide effect of unsold TI products being dumped at below cost prices.

As the dust settled over the next 8 to 10 months, a second generation of TI developer began to emerge. CorComp gained recognition as a quality manufacturer of advanced expansion products for the 99/4A. Navarone Industries, who had weathered the storm with products like Console Writer, the Cartridge Expander, and Disk Fixer is still a major force in the development of new products for the TI.

99/4A owners began developing a network of dedicated user groups, sharing ideas at monthly meetings and passing the word around that the TI was still alive and growing. The number of user groups grew to over 300 with some metropolitan clubs reporting memberships of over 2,000. As the word spread, international users were brought into the network.

With such a revival taking place in the TI community, against what would seem to be incredible odds, you would think that computer magazines would be having a hayday with news stories, editorials, product reviews, and advertising. However, every major publication that had supported the 99/4A abandoned it almost as abruptly as TI had done with little notification or reason. As new developers emerged so did new magazines. MICROpendium and Mini-Mag 99 along with the numerous newsletters generated by local user groups have become the communication medium for the 99/4A.

The TI-99/4A user base is one of the largest and most dedicated of any computer today, and their numbers are continuing to grow. People are awakening to the fact that the \$50 computer they bought a few years ago is more expandable and powerful than ever before. Not only have the users pooled their efforts, but some developers have been working together to provide better, more compatible products for the 99/4A. CorComp and Navarone have, for some time, been developing companion hardware and software products that make the best use of both products' capabilities.

Another exciting, and unprecedented event taking place in the TI community is a program developed by Navarone whereby user groups can participate as a major contributor in the development of new products. This program allows TI users an opportunity to let developers know, first hand, what they want developed for their machine. They even get to see new products before they are released and can offer suggestions for enhancements and improved design. Some clubs have even initiated their own development projects that, when completed, will distribute their finished product through Navarone.

The TI-99/4A is definitely alive and kickin' and coming out of the closet. There's a groundswell of support for the computer that promises to make it an exciting and productive tool for years to come. So, if you have one sitting in your closet you might strongly consider dusting it off and putting it to work. Just a modest investment today will return you years of enjoyment and satisfaction and it just may turn out to be the computer that you've always wanted.



### **SPEED READING**

Improves reading speed and comprehension. Versions for children, teens, and adults. Cartridge Software, no extra equipment required.

### **HOMEWORK HELPER**

Makes homework fun, develops basic computer skills.

### **CONSOLE WRITER**

Turns your console into a word processor without disk-drive memory.

### **DATA BASE MANAGEMENT**

A customized transaction, filing and reporting system for the small business.

### **PRINT & PAINT**

Creative graphics program.

CONTACT LEADING TI SOFTWARE  
DISTRIBUTORS FOR INFORMATION ON  
**NAVARONE SOFTWARE.**

## MARITZA'S CORNER

Hello again,

This is Maritza in customer service and I want to take this opportunity to say "hi" to all my friends out there and let other TI users know who I am. As head of CorComp's service department, I'd like to assure you that CorComp stands behind its products and carries out a very efficient warranty repair service program. Below are sample comments made by some very satisfied customers.

I'm sure you have read about all our new products. We are really excited about them. If you have any questions or need more information about any of them or other CorComp products, please do not hesitate to call Customer Service.

Sincerely,  
Maritza Hasty

• • •

"A company that stands behind their products like you do will have many satisfied customers and will grow. I am proud to use your products."

William Friesen  
Hutchinson, KS.

"I really appreciated your collective efforts to be of help to me and you were. Without your help I would have no idea where to turn. You and your company have been friendly as well and I enjoyed the courtesy you extended me. There aren't too many companies willing to go out of their way to be helpful and the effort is appreciated."

John J. Klein  
Palatine, IL.

"I received my Disk Controller card Tuesday and it works great. I really appreciate the quick service. I have told several TI people at work about your card and your service, and I hope I have gotten you some more business. Thank you again for your help. I wish you well with everything you do."

Daryl Woodward  
North Webster, IN.

"Thank you very much for my RS232 card. Your quick response was super! This says a lot for CorComp customer support. I assure you I'll pass along my good experience to others on the CompuServe TI forum in my role as technical SYSOP."

Mack McCormick  
Fort Lee, VR.