

# FOR THE TI-99/4A COMPUTER

# JANUARY 1986

THE THIRE USERS GROUP

29 INGLESIDE DR. DOWNSVIEW, ONTARIO M3K 1V2



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All memberships are household memberships. An newsletter subscription is only for those who do not wish to attend meetings, but wish to receive our newsletter and have access to our library. You are welcome to visit one of our general meetings before joining the group. If you wish more information contact our president in writing at the club address on the front cover or call and leave a message with his answering machine.

#### NEXT MEETING

The meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 1986 at the Downsview Public Library in Downsview, starting at 7:30 pm. The library is at 2733 Keele Street just north of Wilson Ave. The entrance to the library is on Keele Street.

#### COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING

Any business wishing to reach our membership may advertise in our newsletter. The rates are as follows. (width by height):

FULL PAGE (6" x 7 1/2") \$40.00 'ALF PAGE (6" x 3 1/2") \$20.00 QUARTER PAGE (3" x 3 1/2") \$10.00

Please have your ads camera ready and paid for in advance. For more information contact the editor.

Don't forget, that any member wishing to place ads, may do so free of charge as as long as they are not involved in a commercial enterprise.

## NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Members are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter in the form of articles, mini programs, helpful tips, jokes, cartoons and questions. Any article may be submitted in any form by mail or modem. We welcome the reprinting of any article appearing in this newsletter providing credit is given to the author and 919. If more information is required, call Emile Verkerk.

## DISCLAIMER

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and are not necessarily those of the 9T9 LBEFS' GROUP. 9T9 cannot assume liability for errors or omissions in articles, programs or advertisements.

Hello again and welcome to a new year. Hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year.

In this newsletter, to start the year off right, we have an article written by one of our members, Steve Mickleson, about OSCAR, the bar code reader for the TI. Amazingly enough, Steve is

bringing OSCAR to the meeting to

give a demo.

As well, our centrefold this month contains the list of all our paid up members as of the Sunday before the January meeting. If you're not on the list, see the treasurer, Peter Sandford, pay your dues and get on the list.

You won't get your newsletter until you do. (If you're reading this I guess you must have paid your dues.)

The art that graces our pages this month comes courtesy of

GRAPHX, one of the best graphics packages I have seen for the TI. Well worth getting.

50 REM \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

OF": YEARS, THE PEGERAM CALCU-": "LATES THE MON THLY FARMEN

TS": "AND THE TOTAL REPAYMENT

For those of you interested in the corporate jungle, Foudation computing has gone out of business, but from what I hear

they will still honor warranties.

As most of you have been following my printer follies, from the DMP-105 upwards, you will be happy to hear that I have recently acquired a ROLAND DG 1212A printer. 65 characters per second faster than my other ROLAND

features. When will this ever stop. (Probably when I find a letter quality printer that does 5,000 cps and costs less than \$10.)

As of this writing, there are

nine working days til my final

exams and graduation. Finally

finished. After two years, I

(1111A) plus about 1 million extra

think my wife is the happiest.

Running out of time, space and

month.

Нарру

next

mind, til

:::::" PRESS ENTER TO CONTIN UE" 200 CALL SOUND(150,1397,5) 210 CALL KEY(0,K,S)

240 GUSUB 810 250 PRINT: 260 INPUT "CAR PRICE: \$": CP 270 REM SALES TAX & LICENSE FEES

230 IF K=13 THEN 240 ELSE 210

220 IF S=0 T-EN 210

280 PRINT 290 INPUT "SALES TAX: (%): ": T1 300 T=(INT(100\*((T1/100)\*CP)+.5)) /100

310 PRINT 320 INPUT "LICENSE FEES: \$": 330 PRINT 340 INPUT "INTEREST RATE (%):

350 PRINT 360 INPUT "DOWN-PAYMENT: \$":

380 INPUT "OTHER FEES: \$":

370 PRINT

F
390 PRINT
400 PRINT "WHAT IS THE SHERTEST L
OAN": "YOU WANT TO CONSIDER?"
410 INPUT " (YEARS)":S

OAN": "YOU WANT TO CONSIDER?"
410 INPUT " (YEARS)": S
420 PRINT
430 PRINT "WHAT IS THE LINGEST LO
AN": "YOU WISH TO CONSIDER?"

440 INFUT " (YEARS)":Y
450 CALL CLEAR
460 PRINT TAB(6); "AUTO LOAN ANALY
SIS": " -----"::
470 PRINT "AUTO PRICE \$";
CP
480 PRINT "SALES TAX \$";
T
490 PRINT "LICENSE FEES \$";

520 PRINT TAB(21); "-----"
530 Q=CP+T+L+F
540 PRINT "SUBTOTAL \$";
Q
550 PRINT "LESS DOWNPAYMENT \$";
D
560 PRINT TAB(21); "-----"

500 IF F=0 THEN 520

570 N=Q-D

510 PRINT "OTHER FEES \$";

580 PRINT "AMOUNT FINANCED \$";
N
590 PRINT TAB(21);"\_\_\_\_\_":TAB(
21);"-----"::
600 FOR J=S TO Y
610 A(J)=(N+([\*N\*J/100))/(12\*J)
620 NEXT J

630 PRINT TAB(15); "PAYMENTS" 640 PRINT "YEARS MONTHLY T OTAL" 650 PRINT "----- -

670 B(J)=A(J)\*J\*12

+.5))/100; TAB(20); (INT(100±\_ J)+.5))/100 : 690 NEXT J 700 PRINT : "ANOTHER ANALYSIS? ! N)" 710 CALL E3:ND(150,1397,5) 720 CALL KE:(0,K,S) 730 IF S=0 THEN 720

680 PRINT J; TAB(10); (INT(100\*ACT)

#### 

Open Bal. Total Inc Total exp	1543.87 3455.86 3923.50	84 exec	Bank Balance Cash on Hand Accounts rec. Accounts pay.	1075.22 1.01 0.00 0.00	as of 31/12/85
ASSETS	\$1076.23		TOTAL MISC. INCOME	\$1076.23 0.00	

EXPENSES Total to Date \$3923.50

	newsletter. orinting and paper	postage and supplies	equipment	library and software	miscellaneous
SUBTOTALS to Date	1231.45	720.68	322.25	251.47	1397.65

INCOME Total to Date \$3455.86 OPENING BALANCE \$1543.87

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SUBTOTALS to Date	2140.00	59.00	538.50	718.36

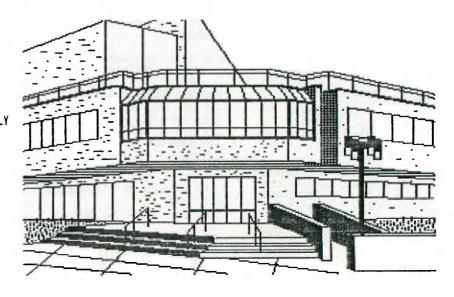
Misc. expenses includes: \$609 for T-shirts

\$392 for Mtg. hall rental

740 IF K=78 I=EN 760
750 IF K=89 THEN 240 ELSE 720
760 CALL CLEAR
770 PRINT " GOODBYE"::::
780 FOR PELAY=1 TO 400
790 NEXT TELAY
800 END
810 LALL CLEAR
820 PRINT TAB(6); "AUTO LOAN ANALY
SIS": "-------------------------

830 RETURN







Product Review: OSCAR for the TI-99/4A (c) 1986 by Steve Mickelson

OSCAR is the acronym for "Optical SCAnneR" device which permits the reads software that has been encoded in a bar code format. The bar code looks like those funny verticle Universal Product Code, (UPC), symbols on most items sold by food and department stores. The OSCAR. like the store's UPC readers scans the bars and translates the code to a useful format, name and/or orices in the case of the store's cash register: audible tones that are read by the TI through the cassette port via adapter cable.

The same unit can be used by early Atari and Commodore computers. The difference is they use different cable and program sheets. As for the sheets, a typical program fills about four letter size pages. The lines are alternately scanned left to right then vice-versa. The first data tells the OSCAR which kind of computer-format the data must be made into.

DESCRIPTION: The unit isn't large, 9" x 3-7/8" x 3", but is relatively heavy in that four D-size batteries power it. The scanner head has a combination LED, (source), and photoelectric cell, (sensor), attached by a coiled cable to the main unit. The cable plugs into the OSCAR via a aodular phone-type plug. That there is no provision for an A.C. adapter is probably due to the added cost CSA and UL approval would add to the product.

OPERATION: Picking up the scanner head from its cradle activates the OSCAR, this is confirmed by three tones, as well as the indication from a LED attached to the head. With the CSCAR comes a plastic template to be placed over the data sheets. This makes for faster, more accurate line scans. A good scan is indicated by two tones from the oscar. A misread by a lower tone. Data can only be accepted a rate proportional to that of the cassette port of the TI-99/4A. If after a set period of time no data has been read by the OSCAR a built in battery saving circuit shuts off the unit. To re-activate: the reader must be placed back in its cradle. which depresses a micro switch. Lifting the head releases

the switch and re-activates it.

LIMITATIONS: The unit has certain limitations. All of the programs are in console basic: need I say more? Also the lack of battery eliminator is a pain not because the battery drain is high, my Duracells have lasted 20 months with the unit still going, but the weight of the batteries makes the unit about as heavy as the TI

cassette program recorder. well, DATABAR Corp. discont the OSCAR almost as soon as 1 introduced.

GOOD POINTS: The programs in a medium which is suscentible to typical haz Leaving the unit near speake in direct sunlight is no proc. Back-ups are easily made using good quality photocopier. The loading of data is quick. tvoical program takes minutes, a great relief for us two-finger typists! Data could se sent in the mail without fear of being X-raved or scanned. You own programs could be written into bar code by any good dot-matrix orinter.

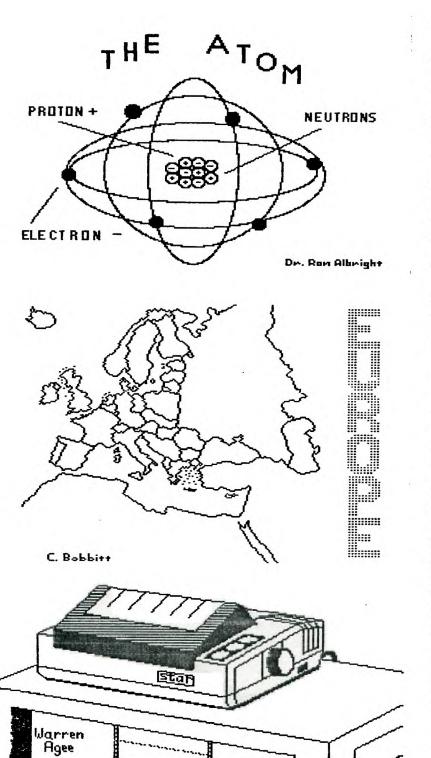
CONCLUSIONS: I thought the MSCAR was a good buy for the money and I said roughly four times the current \$9.95 + manditory \$12.95 for the software. This was before I found DATABAR had pulled out of the home computer market. A letter to them resulted in a reolv that returning my OSCAR + \$100.00 U.S. would get me the new DBR 100 unit which looks identical to an OSCAR but this unit inputs to the RS232 port at up to 1200 BPS. There are other models which a even faster with larger memory huffers.

As a hoobjist, the unit, whils currently being sold by Texco without warranty at the siprice makes for an attrac piece of computer hardware. address to write is Texcor Box 33064, Granaca mills, CA (1-818-366-6631) USA. By the I didn't take DATABAR up on offer as I never quite computating my software libr

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\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*



## HANDY TIPS from Ralph Landrom

After loading a program requiring the use of CALL FILES(1), type CALL FILES(3) and press ENTER. Then save the program to disk. The program will be saved in DIS/VAR 254 form and will load as any other Extended Basic program.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*

Here's a short routine to clear the screen instead of using CALL CLEAR in your Extended Basic program: J=33:: k=0:: FOR I=1 to 16:: J=J-1:: K=K+1:: CALL VCHAR(1,J,32,24):: NEXT I

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*

So you think that TI BASIC has only 16 colours, huh? Wrong! Run this demo program in Basic or Extended Basic:

100 REM COLOR BONANZA BY ED YORK

110 REM CIN-DAY USER GROUP

120 REM TI BASIC

130 CALL CLEAR

140 FOR A=40 TO 136 STEP 8

150 CALL CHAR("55AA55AA55AA55AA" )

160 NEXT A

170 FOR B=1 TO 14

180 CALL COLOR(B, 1, 1)

190 CALL VCHAR(1,2\*8,24+8\*8,22)

200 CALL VCHAR(1,2\*B+1,24+8\*B, 22)

210 NEXT B

220 FOR C=2 TO 14

230 CALL SCREEN(INT(16FND)+1)

240 FOR D=2 TO 14

250 CALL COLOR(D, D, C)

260 NEXT D

270 CALL KEY(0, E, F)

280 IF(1 THEN 270

OV TIXT THEN 2

290 NEXT C

300 GOTO 220

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Tired of that cyan color screen while programing? Try this Extended Basic routine.

FOR I=0 TO 9 :: CALL COLOR(I,16,
1):: NEXT I :: CALL SCREEN(14) ::
ACCEPT AT(1,1):A
Press ENTER. Press FCTN 4 (CLEAR)

VALLAL

The foreground color can be changed by changing the CALL COLOR number and the number in CALL SCREEN.

## \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Tired of using the same old CALL CLEAR command to clear the screen? Try this command instead.

10 CALL HCHAR(1,1,32,768) It will clear the screen by sweeping from top to bottom.

Now try this: 10 CALL VCHAR(1,1, 32,768). This one clears the screen from left to right.

## 

black white TV? Add this line at the start of your program: CALL SCREEN(15). This will disable the color generating circuit in the computer and remove the vertical lines often seen on BW TV's. It also increases the

sharoness of the characters.



TERRY'S RAMBLES with more Call Loads by Terry Atkinson.

These LOADS apply to XB with EXPMEN only, except where noted, and may repeat may work for the E/A module. and/or MINI/MEN.

Ever wish you could determine the amount of memory available to you in BASIC, using the E/A or MINI/MEM? Try this.

THEN.....PRINT A6+B-1776.....

This is roughly the equivalent of the SIZE command in XB. The 1776 figure is the approx. overhead in TI BASIC. XB has slightly more.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*

This one is a bit tricky, but if you have ever had a very very long program and are unable to run it with your disk drives, this is for you. It is much easier with MIN-MEM, and that explanation follows.

CALL LOAD((-31888, 255)....

Then...NEW....

This is equivalent to CALL FILES(0) in XB (which of course you can't do.) This has the effect of completely disabling the disk drives, and freeing up the memory allocated to the disks. Any calls to the drives, once the LOAD has been invoked, will FREEZE THE COMPUTER, and you will have to turn it off to restore. Invoking this command prior to loading your long program via cassette, will negate your having to turn your PES on and off again.

With the MINI-MEM installed, it's even neater and you can save your long programs on disk and use them again WITHOUT having to turn your PES on and off. Here's how.

1..Use the CALL LOAD command above.

2. Load your long program via cassette. Then save EXPMEM2.



3..Restore your disk by typing CALL FILES(1)..NEW..then OLD FXPMFM2.

4..Save to DSK!. under whatever name you desire.

5..When you wish to use the long program, merely CALL FILES(1), OLD DSK1.PROGRAM, SAVE EXPMEM2 CALL LOAD(-31888,63,255), NEW, OLD EXPMEM2.

6.. Run your program.

7...If you still get a MEMORY FULL message at that point...sorry, I can't offer any more than that.
To restore the PES without turning the PES off and on, use the same location with number 55. CALL LOAD(-31888,55)::NEW or RUN

## \*\*\*\*\*\*

If you are designing programs with optional speech, here is a convenient way to detect whether or not your speech synthesizer is attached, without having to resort to PROMPTS.

Variable A returns a value of 255 if the speech synthesizer is attached, and 127 if not.

I have received info from other sources that, depending on the system, the return will be 96 if attached and 0 if not attached. Fool around with this location to determine what value is returned on YOUR system.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*

Here are three loads which I will group together under one title. I use the third one as a protection device against my children using a certain few programs without my permission. (I have a good protection system, but as any programmer knows, there isn't one yet that can't be broken or bypassed in some way or other, but that's for another story.)

```
return you to the Title Screen,
                                      consequently, faster action????
                                                                            key.
but the screen will not be
                                      Take it for what it's worth.
                                                                            CALL LOAD(-31806,30)Stops sprite
                                                                            motion, disables Quit key.
recognizable as the title screen
because the graphics are
                                                                           CALL LOAD (-31806, 32) Disables Sound
                                               MORE CALL LOADS
restored.
            Once the command is
                                                                           chip.
invoked, press any key, as per
                                                                           CALL
                                                                                   LOAD(-31806,-32)Continuous
                                      Call
                                              Loads
                                                      require
                                                                 Memory
normal, and then press I for Basic
                                                                           sound.
                                                       either Extended
                                      Expansion and
or 2 for XB.
                                                                           CALL LOAD(-31806,48)Disables Sound
                                      BASIC or the Editor/Assembler.
                                                                           chip Quit key.
CALL LOAD(-31961,149) (MIGHT HAVE
                                                                           CALL LOAD(-31806,64)All
                                                                                                       sprite
                                      **NOTE: You must first use CALL
TO FOLLOW WITH 'END').
                                                                           motion stops.
                              This
                                      INIT prior to using CALL LOAD. **
                                                                           CALL LOAD(-31806,96)Stops sprite
performs much like the above, but
                                                                           motion disables Sound chip.
will go to the reset position for
                                      CALL LOAD(-31740, X, Y)Loads Sound
                                                                           CALL
                                                                                     LOAD(-31806,128)Disables
a program called LOAO on DSK1. If
                                      Chip. X Y=-255 to 255.
                                                                  Sound
found, will load and run that
                                                                           Sound chip, Quit key sprites.
                                      continues until Call Sound, Input
                                                                           CALL LOAD(-31060,4) or
program. If not found, will be in
                                      or Error.
the XB Command Mode.
                                                                           CALL LOAD(-32116,4)Go from XBASIC
                                      CALL LOAD(-31744,X)Continue last
                                                                           to Console BASIC after New.Can NOT
                                      sound.
                                               X=0 to 15. 0=Loud.
                                                                           use Memory Expansion.
CALL LOAD(-31961,51)-FOLLOWED BY
                                      15=Quiet
'END'.
                              CALL
                e.g.
                                                                           CALL LOAD(-31860.8) or
                                      CALL LOAD(-31745,0)Freezes screen
LOAD(-31961,51)::END
                                                                           CALL LOAD(-31961,149) or
                                      then blanks screen. Restore Title
                                                                           CALL LOAD(-31962,255)Automatic Run
                                      screen with FCTN -
This staement, when invoked, will
                                                                           of "DSK1.LOAD". Restarts XBASIC.
                                      CALL LOAD(-31748,X) and
reset to the Title Screen.
                                                                           CALL LOAD(-31866.X)Does not access
                                      CALL
                                             LDAD(-31804.X)Set
                                                                 Cursor
including graphics.
                       As stated
                                                                           full 32K. X=1 to 159.
                                      blink rate. X=1 to 255.
earlier. I use this in
                                                                           CALL LOAD(-31868,0)No "RUN"
                                      CALL LOAD(-31788,160)Blanks screen
programs, and if the proper code
                                                                           "LIST" after "Fctn 4" is used.
                                      when next key is hit.
is not given. branches to this
                                                                           CALL
                                                                                      LOAD(-31868,0,0)Memory
                                               LOAD(-31788,192)Disables
                                      CALL
statement and returns to the Title
                                                                           Expansion off.
                                      Sprite motion Automatic
Screen. QUITE EFFECTIVE.
                                                                                   LOAD(-31868, 255, 231) Nemory
                                                                           CALL
                                      CALL
                                                 LOAD(-31788, 224)Normal
            *****
                                                                           Expansion on.
                                      operation.
                                                                           CALL LOAD(-31873, X)Start PRINTing
This one, I'm sure most everyone
                                      CALL
                                              LOAD (-31788, 225) Magni fi ed
                                                                           at column X. X=3 to 30.
knows already. It's the much
                                      Sprites.
                                                                           CALL
                                                                                  LOAD(-31878, X) Turn
                                                                                                         off
heralded "sprite" location.
                                      CALL LOAD(-31788,226)Double size
                                                                           sprites. X=# of highest sprite.
say it is only good for the older
                                      sprites.
                                                                           I f X=O them all sprites off.
version of XB, but that is for you
                                      CALL
                                              LOAD (-31788, 227) Magni fied
to decide.
                                                                           CALL LOAD(-31884,X)Change keyboard
                                      double size sprites.
                                                                           mode. X=0 to 5.
                                      CALL
                                             LOAD(-31788,232)Multicolor
                                                                           CALL LOAD(-31888,63,255)Disk Drive
CALL LOAD(-31878, X) Where X is the
                                      Mode in 48 by 64 squares.
                                                                           off. Type NEW to free mem.
highest number of sprites you are
                                      CALL LOAD(-31804, 0, 36) or
using, or 0 if you are using no
                                                                           CALL LOAD(-3188855.215)Disk Drive
                                      CALL LOAD(-31961,51) or
                                                                           on. Type NEW for buffers.
sprites.
            Apparently, if the
                                      CALL LOAD(-31962,32) or
                                                                           CALL LOAD(-31931,0) or
program is not using sprites, the
                                      CALL LOAD(-32730,32) or
older version of XB still tries to
                                                                           CALL
                                                                                    LOAD(-32699,0)Unprotect
                                      CALL LOAD(-31730.32)Quits from
                                                                           XBASIC program.
update all 32 sprites, thereby
                                      XBASIC to Master Title screen.
slowing action down. If you load
                                                                           CALL LOAD(-31931,2)Set Command "On
                                      CALL LOAD(-31806.0)Enables sprite
                                                                           Warning Next".
a 0 into that location, no sprites
                                      motion, Quit key and Sound chip.
```

will be checked

for

and,

CALL LOAD(-32630,128) This will

CALL LOAD(-31806,16)Disables Quit

```
From A9CUG CALL NEWSLETTER
 REPEATING WORTHWHILE TIPS
From Ed York of the CIN DAY
```

Users Group:

Some of the speech that is listed in the back of the Extended Basic in the back of the Extended Basic Manual (Appendix L) are phrases and not just single words. It is not well documented in that the speech which the Synthesizer knows as phrases, must be preceded and followed by a pound sign # before it can be properly spoken in Extended Basic. Examples of the proper ammand format are: CALL SAY: BPE-57: TO STAFTB), and CALL SAY: BTHAT IS RIGHT#).

SAY THAT IS RIGHT#). Here is a tip for Terminal Emulator II users from Mike Kelly, 4013 Honeycutt Street, San Diego, CA 92109, TIBBS phone 619-276-3173. If you are tired of the TEII screen colors, the next time you are ready to go on-line, enter all the default values and have your modem on the type have your modem on, the type CTPL, EHIFT 6, FCTN VC CTRL., EHIFT 9, EHIFT = and then choose a foreground and background color

with:
Black 'Cyan ? Dk.Green
M.Green (M.Red - Magenta
Lt.Green ) Lt.Red . Grey
Dk.Blue \* Dk.Yellow / White
Z.Dk.Red + Lt.Yellow. 7. Dk.Red + Lt.Yellow. (The symbol for Dk.Green indecypherable in the original MS.-Ed.)

Warning Stop\*. CALL LOAD(-31931,16)Set Command "Trace". CALL LUAD(-31931,64)Set Command "On Break Next".

LOAD(-32699,128)Protect

CALL LOAD(-31931,4)Set Command "On

XBASIC program. CALL LOAD(-31952, X) If x=55 then "Mem Exp is off" Else "Mem Exp is on".

CALL LOAD (-31931, 128) or

characters on screen.

CALL

CALL LOAD (-32114, 2) Random garbage. CALL LOAD(-32114,13)Screen goes wild. CALL

CALL LOAD (-32112, 8) Searches disk.

MULTIPLAN HINT

From The Suncoast Beeper, St. Petersberg, FL

If you use PIO with your printer, this should work to enable you to prinr your worksheet out in condensed print, or any way you want it.

When your worksheet is done and you want a hard copy, type P then press the space bar once, then hit ENTER. Now, if you have your Multiplan main disk in drive 1, remove it. Place in drive 1 a disk you would like to have your worksheet on. Next type in the name you will give to your worksheet. Don't type DSK1 in front of the name. Press ENTER. Now the worksheet is on your disk front of the name. Press ENTER. Now the worksheet is on your disk in drive 1. Take the disk out if

you have a one disk system. Load TI-WRITER into your system now then bring up the Multiplan worksheet with the Editor in II-Writer. You will see the first TI-Writer. You will see the first 7 lines of the worksheet as being empty. Hold down CTRL and press 0 to take you out of word wrap and place you in fixed mode. On the first line (where your cursor appears) type: TL 92:27,15 then press ENTER. (This coding applies to ESECN

compatible printers) You can now print out your Multiplan spreadsneet, with Multiplan spreadsheet with TI-Writer's FIFMATTER and it will print in condensed print. CALL LOAD(-32187,9)Zeroes line #.

CALL LOAD(-32188,127)Change color,

LOAD (-32188, 1) Change

up

receive a Breakpoint. CALL LOAD (-32572, 1) Produces "Mushy" keyboard with improper characters.

color, receive Syntax Error.

CALL

disabled.

CALL LOAD(-32572,128)Disables keyboard. CALL LOAD(-32639,0)Master Title screen withouy graphics, Shift key

CALL LOAD(-32639,16)Locks computer.

THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT PERSONAL RECORD KEEPING

(From RND 99er's)

Subtitle: Commands you never you had.

This article is directed to th. of you who do not have : EXTENDED BASIC module but woul

like to use its two most usefo commands - DISPLAY AT and ACCEP AT. If you have the PERSONAL

RECORD KEEPING module (PHM 3013) your problems are over. Unknown to most, there are several commands in this module that can be accessed through TI BASIC. Two of these routines. CALL D and CALL A are the subject of this article.

First, insert the PRK module into

the module port of your computer, press any key to get the menu screen and select 1 for TI BASIC. Before getting too involved with examples, let me explain what I am uo to.

The first command is DISPLAY AT.

This command is emulated through the use of the subroutine CALL D(R.C.L.V) for numerical data and CALL D(R.C.L.S\$) for string data. (There are two variations on this will command that explained later. Let's look at

CALL D(R,C,L,V) R=row number of first character of print line. C=column number of first character of print line. L=maximum length of print li: must be>=1.

each command separately.

LOAD(-32116.1)Random

CALL LOAD(-32699,16)Start Trace.

CALL LOAD(-32699,14)Stop Trace.

V=variable for the value which is to be printed.

R C Please remember the print field is 24x28 so R must fall between 1 and 24 and C between 1 and 28. There are error handling routines built in that will handle numbers outside this range and

will eliminate program halts due to the "BAD VALUE" statement. You can experiment with these

yourself.

You can use either a fixed value(maximum value of 28) or a variable value.

This is the variable to which the value being displayed is assigned. Again, a specific value can be used here if you wish.

For string data, the rules are basically the same except S\$ is the string to be printed. other versions also work.

CALL D(R.C.L. "RND 99er's") here,

the string between quotes is orinted. CALL D(R.C.L.CHR\$(X))-this is comparable to CALL HCHAR(R.C.X) and will give the same results.

Now, let try a couple of examples to illustrate how all this works.

10 CALL CLEAR

Example 1

20 V=1234 30 CALL D(12,10,5,V) 40 GDTO 40

You should find you have number 1234 displayed on the 12th row beginning in the 10th column. Experiment a bit and see if you It should be noted that CLEAR will can display larger and smaller numbers at different locations on the screen.

10 CALL CLEAR 20 W#="THIS IS MID-SCREEN"

Example 2

30 CALL D(12,4,19,W\$) 40 GOTO 40 Change the value of R and C and se if you can move the string around

the screen. Substitute your name for W\$ - don't forget to alter the value of L accordingly. (Remember, L is the maximum length of the string to be displayed so make sure you include spaces.

Now that you have the idea, let's try the second command - ACCEPT AT. This one is emulated by the CALL A command of PRK. CALL A(R,C,L,F,A,MN,MX)-numerical

R,C,L are the same as above. F = function variable - depends on

which key is pressed.

data

of 7

of 1

FCTN 5 (BEGIN) - returns a value of 6 FCTN 8 (REDO) - returns a value

of 4 FCTN 7 (AID) - returns a value of 3 FCTN 9 (BACK) - returns a value

of 2 FCTN 6 (PROC'D) - returns a value of 5 ENTER - returns a value

FCTN 4 (CLEAR) - returns a value

be used when typed input is not vet ENTERed and should be changed. !!WARNING!! If you are continually

do two things. First, it will

assign a value of 2 to F and

second, it will clear the input

field on the screen. This should

looping back to a CALL A statement, you will effectively disable the CLEAR key. With this in mind, one might like to include an escape sequence such as IF F=3 THEN 10000. With this, you can press AID (FCTN 7) to divert the program to line 10000 which reads: 10000 END

the value you type in. MN= minimum value to be entered. MX= maximum value to be entered.

A = accept variable. This accepts

NOTE: If L=3 and MX=10000, A will still not accept anything larger than 999 since the screen will not accept more than 3 digits. +.- and E(for scientific notation) can also be entered this way but

Example 3 10 CALL CLEAR 20 CALL D(3,3,28, "ENTER 1,2 OR 3\*)

30 CALL A(10,25,1,F,B,1,3)

40 IF F=3 THEN 130

string data cannot.

50 CALL CLEAR 60 FOR T=1 TO 500 70 NEXT T 80 CALL D(15,3,28, "YOUR CHOICE WAS") 90 CALL D(15,20,2,8)

100 FOR T=1 TO 500 110 NEXT T 120 GOTO 10