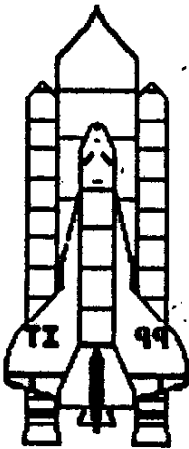


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B. U. G.

P.O. Box 1402

Palm Bay, Florida

32906-1402

BUG VOLUME 2 NUMBER 2

MAY 1984

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Starting off, I want to extend to Kean Computing our thanks for sharing our April meeting with us. Janet and Gregory put on a good demonstration, and I'm sure the night was very productive for both them and all of us.

As you probably know by now, Tex Micro failed to appear. I still don't know why. I would suggest to the members of this user's group, and to all the user's groups we exchange newsletters with, to approach Tex Micro with reservation. The rumors I hear indicate that Tex Micro does not yet have a working system, and I suppose that rumor is reinforced by their absence in April. Until the system is demonstrated to a TI User's Group, it remains an "idea". Moreover, we can only judge a company's reputation by the way they support their product. Need I say more?

Now for the bad news! Art Green has resigned as Secretary. Art was the first secretary of the BUG. At the same time, he also served as secretary for the Geneological Society of South Brevard. Its been a tough job for Art as secretary of two big groups, but he has devoted many hours to us and given us a big boost in getting started on the right track. I'm sorry to lose him as secretary. On behalf of the Brevard User's Group, I thank you for all you have done.

All is not bleak, however. To fill the void created by Art's resignation, I've asked Linda McCormick to take over as Secretary until the elections. We all know Linda as the Chairman of the Refreshment Committee. She was directly responsible for keeping our batteries charged during those long, thirsty

meetings. She has already devoted many hours of her time (not to mention money) to the BUG, and I know she is devoted to seeing our group "Live long and prosper," as Spock would say.

A "special" thanks to my wife Dianna for spending many hours at the computer this month -- she categorized, tested, and documented over 150 programs for the software library by herself! Those of you who have helped in this effort know how time consuming this task is.

Next month we have our elections, as you should already know, and you will find the election questionnaire in this newsletter. Please take a few minutes to fill out the questionnaire. This questionnaire will be used to not only indicate your nominations for the various offices, but also to create interesting programs for meetings. Also, the information will be used by the software library committee to determine the types of software to concentrate on and on what media. The hardware committee will use the information as a guide to the types of equipment needed to support you and the meetings. The list of uses goes on but it all comes down to the fact that the questionnaire is extremely important. Please fill it out and return it at your earliest convenience. For the other user's groups, if you will drop us a note as to the general interests of your group, we will try to provide articles in the Newsletter you may be interested in.

For members, you will find some proposed changes to the Constitution and Operating Procedures in this issue. Please study them carefully while reviewing your copy of these documents. These will be discussed and voted on during the May meeting.

EDITOR'S NOTE

I want to Thank everyone who submits articles to our newsletter. These articles not only bring TIPS to other members but also share experiences.

I would also like to notify everyone that all materials received are subjected to editing in order to meet BUG newsletter standards, therefore the material may not be printed exactly as you have submitted it. Please do not be offended.

We are now going to be mailing our newsletter BULK mail. If you do not want your newsletter mailed in this matter then please make other arrangements with the treasurer.

AMOS BROWN will be teaching in the Oleander room. This session will be on DATA statements, sequential and relative files, restore, and any other statements that are relative to data statements. Look in your TI Extended Basic manual pages 70, 71, 99, and 183; you might even want to bring your manual, pencil, and paper with you to the class.

BILL WHITMORE from Washington U.G. asked about a utilities program for TI-WRITER that would automatically bring up the editor portion of the TI-WRITER. This question was directed to Dr. Acree; he stated that there were no plans to release such a utilities program at this time. Sorry Bill, but we tried!

Don't forget the upcoming elections. Included in this newsletter is a nomination ballot. After completing the ballot either bring it to the meeting or mail it by June 1 to the B.U.G. address. In next months newsletter will be the voting ballot. It must be completed and either mailed or brought to the June 18th meeting. Any ballot received after that date will not be accepted.

For all you subscribers to HOME COMPUTER magazine, I called and the April issue is 2 weeks behind schedule. It should be coming to your home SOON (hopefully!).

B.U.Guide defines DIP as an abbreviation for dual in-line package. This describes many types of integrated circuit packaging. DIP packages resemble long, flat wafers with pins extruding the longer edges.

QUESTIONS TO THE EDITOR

Question:
Why doesn't someone say somewhere what all you need for a system and what the things do?

Answer:
The TI Basic manual does go into the different peripherals on page I-8. A very basic system will consist of a console, cassette interface cable, and a cassette recorder. If you want to play games then joysticks are advisable. Further expansion will depend upon personal preference. If you want speedy program loading then you need a Peripheral Expansion Box (PEB), Disk Drive, Disk Controller Card, and the Extended Basic module. From that point you could add a RS232 card which controls both a printer and a modem, a 32K memory card which is needed to use TI WRITER, a P-code card if you are interested in Pascal. For a more complete description of these peripherals please refer to your Basic manual.

Question:
How can I use a modem and what does it take?

Answer:
A modem requires a RS232 card, the Terminal Emulator II, and a telephone. It opens up another world so to speak, because you then can not only contact other modem/TI owners and transfer programs via the telephone but also belong to various different computer bulletin board services such as the SOURCE. Mike Walker belongs to one of these so please direct further questions about modem service to him.

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VOLTAGE GREMLINS AND GNITCHES

by Kathy Frye

Although Ben Franklin discovered electricity back in the 1700's, FPL still has not managed to control it completely. The fact that power variances could seriously damage my computer system was recently brought to my attention. It seems there are three major types of trouble:

SURGES, UNDERVOLTAGE, and ELECTRICAL NOISE.

A surge is a strong burst of AC power up to thousands of volts. The common causes of them are lightning, the on/off action of electrical motors (i.e. air conditioner), and utility company load switching. Despite the fact that surges last only a millisecond -they can destroy microcircuits, cause contact pitting in disk drive relays and even erase entire memory blocks.


The next culprit comes in two forms: Blackouts and Brownouts. Blackouts are common visitors during a storm, and brownouts flicker in frequently too because of malfunctioning utility equipment or peak-period overloads. Both can wipe out valuable data stored in console memory but neither are easily or cheaply corrected.

The third hazard is electrical noise- carrier signals from radio and television broadcasts, fluorescent lights, nearby computers, and the on/off switching of equipment. This noise can either wipe out stored data or produce false data output. It is usually corrected with a filtering device.

4SP 1 The BASIC answer to the problem is to simply buy and install a surge protector. Sounds easy doesn't it. Well folks, nothing is easy! Now YOU have to decide which one of the hundreds of different ones to buy. To help you make that decision here are some guidelines and suggestion. First think of your location. If it's in a high industrial area or on the beach side, your protection needs are greater so you may need the deluxe model that dissipates 200+ volt pulses, handles 40db of noise, and has a 10 amp fuse or a circuit breaker (\$89.-\$150.00 at INMAC). On the other hand if it is just occasional spikes or surges then you may be able to use one that handles 150 volt surges with a 5 amp fuse. Next think about the number of plugs you want and the amount of money you want to spend.

In case you don't know where to purchase a surge protector, here are a few suggested retailers. Radio Shack on Babcock Street in Melbourne has a 1 plug models for \$9.95, 3 plug models for \$21.95, and 6 plug models for \$49.95. Inmac (5600 Oakbrook Pkwy, Suite 290, Norcross, Ga. 30093) has the more deluxe models that range in price (\$27.-\$150.00) according to the number of plugs and protection. At Tedco you can purchase the parts and do it yourself or get a 1 plug model for \$7.95.

Irregardless of what you buy remember that a surge protector is good insurance for your computer invested dollars.



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President.....Mike Walker
 Vice President.....Jim Baker
 Treasurer.....Dick Taylor
 Secretary.....Linda McCormick
 Member at Large.....Rod Williams

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Hardware.....Rod Williams
 Newsletter.....Kathy Frye
 Program/Education....Amos Brown
 Refreshments.....Linda McCormick
 Software Library.....Jim Hilley

VISITOR'S REVIEW

by Kathy Frye

Hope you all enjoyed the April meeting. Unfortunately TEX-MICRO did not make it. However KEAN computing did make it and had a very nice demonstration of their software.

The programs created by young Greg were made even more interesting to me after hearing a little bit of his history.

It seems that he started off with an Atari game console and found the games so very fascinating that he wanted a programmable computer. After purchasing a TI 99, he had to teach himself Basic and Ext. Basic because there was no one around who could help him. His mother, seeing his interest in computers, enrolled him in a computer camp and some school computer courses. These classes didn't help him very much because he was ahead of the course material and sometimes the teacher.

Prior to starting their own business, many of Greg's games were (and still are) sold by EXTENDED software. The programs were such a success that they decided to start their own business.

Quite a success story isn't it.

BUG Hall of Fame

Again with this issue we will be honoring our supreme game players. This hall will recognize those members who have the talents and patience to master TI games. Due to space limitations, only the games available in cartridge form will be considered.

The score must be verified (a picture is best) and submitted to the BUG. To be fair, two categories have been established: Children (15 and under) and Adult. Once listed, your score will remain on the list until another member beats it.

ADULT:

Gail Hilley - Munchman - 257,420 Level 75
Gail Hilley - Burgertime - 580,000 Level 143
Mike Walker - Parsec - 45,800
Mike Walker - Tombstone City - 290,700

CHILDREN:

Christi Walker - Car Wars - 26,910
Brenda Walker - Tombstone City - 22,300
Julie Walker - Attack - 29,550

KATHY'S KORNER

If you will look on the table by the entrance you will see a black notebook. In it is copies of many other clubs newsletters that I bring every meeting for you to look at. If you see something that interests you or that you would like to see reprinted in our newsletter tell me and I will put it in the next months newsletter.

PASCAL NOTE

(information from A9CUG Feb.84 issue)

There is a PASCAL user's group which has TI 99 pascal software available for their club members. Their library contains many utility programs that aid in PASCAL programming, business programs, and games. Please be advised that the material in their newsletter is very technical and intended for the serious p-code user/programmer. The address is:

USUS

P. O. BOX 1148

LA JOLLA, CA. 92038

ATTENTION:USUS SECRETARY



EQUIPMENT REPORT

by Rod Williams

The B.U.G. owns three TI 99/4A systems. One system includes the computer console and expansion system with a 32K memory card, RS232 card, disk controller, and disk drive. The other two systems consist only of the consoles. There are also two Samsung color TV sets which are used for display. One speech synthesizer has been placed on permanent loan to the group by Amos Brown.

The systems are used at our meetings for software demonstrations, programming classes, and software library functions. The systems are available for general use by members and visitors at the meetings. These systems belong to you as B.U.G. members and you are encouraged to use them at the meetings.

SOFTWARE LIBRARY

The software library report this month is encouraging. Due to the unselfish efforts of Mike Walker and especially his wife, Dianna, our library is almost completely updated with the programs we received from the Atlanta User's Group. Not only has Dianna expanded our library directory but she has also expanded our description file considerably. Many of those additional programs are represented in the description book that I keep at the software library table. This book is available at each meeting for review. Use it to help choose the programs you want. At the time of this article we have 34 disks and 466 programs in our library. The addition of the programs from the Atlanta User's Group has greatly increased our variety of programs. There is a representative program for just about any category you can think of. (Entertainment, Business, Finance, Education, etc.)

I am still continuing to add programs from the Atlanta User's Group and hopefully by the time of the May meeting the library will grow even more.

FUTURE PROPOSALS

We are playing around with the idea of providing a mailing service. This service will enable our out-of-town members to benefit from our software library selection. In order to provide this service we must produce a catalog of the programs available. This will be a considerable undertaking and I will be looking for volunteers to help me produce the catalog. I still have a list of individuals to call upon and will be doing so in the near future. For those individuals who have contacted me to volunteer in the past I must continue to apologize for not using you yet. Our efforts to-date have re-quired a centralized operation and was not conducive for many hands. Our future endeavors with the software library will be conducive for many volunteers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many individuals who borrowed "FORTH" manuals. They have provided us with a very comfortable library of these manuals with their duplications. Look for a new set of procedures for the future borrowing of these manuals now that we have a good supply of them.

JIM HILLEY

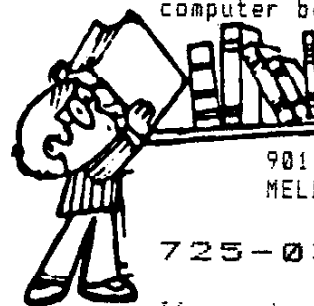
PROGRAM OF THE MONTH

This is the second installment of our 'Program Of The Month' report. This month's program will interest all those individuals who have spent many hours working on word search puzzles. The name of this program is exactly that, "WORDSEARCH". You will need a printer to really get the full benefits from this program. It will run with any basic and does not require an expanded system other than the printer and an interface device for the printer. Your imagination is the only limitation to this program. If you can think of a few words and typed them into your computer you can create a word search puzzle. Twenty rows, twenty columns, and twenty words are the maximum capability. The program will prompt you for all information, which means that it is extremely user friendly. I have successfully created a word search puzzle with the theme "ANIMALS" that has twenty animal names hidden in a 20 by 20 character matrix. Solving this puzzle would be a challenge for just about anyone. For the author of these puzzles the program provides a solution, which is a copy of the puzzle without the extra letters.

This program is truly a professional piece of software that we can thank the Atlanta Users Group for providing for us. I plan on using this program a lot. It will provide a valuable teaching tool for me for my eleven year old son. I would like to provide a sample of the output of this program in this article but in the interest of space I will have a copy available for review at our next meeting.

Till then! JIM HILLEY

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USER'S GROUPS HELP
by Arthur Green

User's Groups do help, and nobody knows it better than the TI owner who tries to get help from the place he bought his outfit. I had real qualms as I made my next large investment in the peripheral box, control card, disk drives, and moved into disks. If I had felt that I could get support from a local dealer, I would have bought the outfit here. I did buy the box from a local dealer. It was on sale for not much more than mail order. But I soon knew that I would get very little help from that dealer or any other local dealer. So I screwed up my courage and bought mail order. Things went fine for a while. TI directions are very good and if followed, will usually work. The Orlando Exchange Center has done a good job of helping a bit, and exchanging parts under warranty.

However, when I tried to change one of my single disc drives for a double drive, I ran into my first real problem. The double disk drive did not work. Without help, I would have sent it back for replacement--and it would have come back unchanged because it was OK. Being a User Group member, I was able to find another member who owned a similar unit. We replaced his unit with mine and found it was OK. Eventually we found the problem with my unit. The connection from the disc drive controller to the disc drives was not seated properly. The connections were OK for the two single drives, but one connection was not completed and this one was needed for the double drive.

The first time I tried to print out a catalog label for my disk, I could not get the printer to run! The Disk Manager menu asks "WHERE DO YOU WANT THE INFORMATION" and gives several choices. I dutifully indicated the printer. When it asked "TYPE", I gave the standard answer "PIO". I worked over this a long time with no results. In my frustration I finally called another member, his solution was a period after the PIO. I did it and the printer minded perfectly.

Multiplan does a fine job and can print up to about 135 characters per line on 8 1/2" paper- IF in condensed type. But I did not know this until I talked to another user of Multiplan.

Another tip I got outside the organization, but worth passing on, involves the printer ribbon. Sewing machine oil put on a worn typewriter ribbon will make it type in good black again--and this works for a printer as well. But I went this one better by using rubber stamp ink, daubing it here and there while winding the ribbon around and then let it dry a few days. But of course, with discounts and group purchases, ribbons are not a big item of expense to BUG members anyhow.

There is nothing more frustrating than to do everything perfectly according to the book, and then get nothing or get an ERROR message. The best relief is not spelled the way some folks think. It is spelled B.U.G.

I have a lot of dandy games that I have copied from other members, or obtained from the library. For many members, this is the big reason for joining. On the other hand, I have found mutual assistance to be another big reason. I have been able to help other members--often just a word or two will save hours of frustrating effort. This doesn't mean give up your effort, try your best at first--it is the way to learn. But when everything you do leads nowhere, call someone you met at a BUG meeting. Try friends or acquaintances first as the officers tend to get overloaded with calls. Which is the reason why I frequently say "another member" rather than naming the person. But if you can't find a friend who can help, one of the officers may be able to help you.

Yes, the games are nice, the reduced cost of games and programs are nice, and the discounts help. However for me--the big reason for being a member of BUG is the first hand contacts that fill in the gap between book learning and experience. BUG membership and attendance at meetings may give you more than a \$150 course in computers. Therefore when your friends ask, "What do you get out of a User's Group?". Let them know!

B.U.Guide defines a MODEM as an electronic device that performs the modulation and demodulation functions required for communications. A modem can be used to connect computers and terminals over telephone circuits.

BORED MEETING

APRIL 15 Board meeting:

This meeting was held at Dick Taylor's home. The entire board was present and so were chairpersons Hilley and Frye.

The MINUTES of previous meetings were reviewed, revised, and accepted.

The TREASURER reported a checking balance of \$823.10 with checks for \$30.00 to be deposited and no outstanding bills. Dick Taylor also reported that letters expressing an interest in our club were coming from all over the world as well as the U.S.

MOTIONS made:

The editor of the newsletter reviewed the postage problem with the April newsletter. The motion was made and carried to mail the letter as Bulk mail and thereby get the reduced rate.

CorComp Inc. literature was read and it offered a solitary discount on their new disk Drive controller, if our group would analyze and report to them about the equipment. The motion was made and voted on that Mike Walker would, at no cost to the club, purchase and receive this equipment.

MAY 5 Board Meeting:

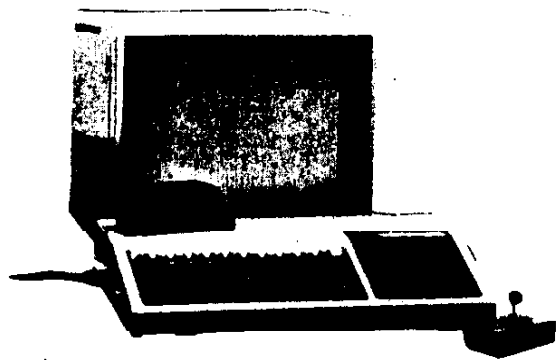
The MINUTES of the previous meeting was reviewed, revised, and accepted.

The OLD BUSINESS reviewed included the acceptance of Art Green's resignation as club secretary and the appointment of Linda McCormick as club secretary.

MOTIONS made:

The motion was made and carried to purchase a box of printer paper for club business.

The motion was made and carried to purchase 100 diskettes for library usage and for resale to BUG members at meetings.



EQUIPMENT REPORT

by Rod Williams

The B.U.G. owns three TI 99/4A systems. One system includes the computer console and expansion system with a 32K memory card, RS232 card, disk controller, and disk drive. The other two systems consist only of the consoles. There are also two Samsung color TV sets which are used for display. One speech synthesizer has been placed on permanent loan to the group by Amos Brown.

The systems are are used at our meetings for software demonstrations, programming classes, and software library functions. The systems are available for general use by members and visitors at the meetings. These systems belong to you as B.U.G. members and you are encouraged to use them at the meetings.

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* $14.95/box*
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B.U.Guide defines EDITing as the deletion,
insertion, and rearrangement of data.
*****

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CONSTITUTION and OPERATING PROCEDURES CHANGES

In accordance with the Constitution Article 8 A and the Operating Procedures Article 7 A, two weeks written notice is required to vote upon changes to these documents. The changes proposed below will be voted on in accordance with the schedule described below.

The following changes in the Constitution are being recommended by the Board of Directors and will be voted on during the June 18th meeting in addition to the election of officers.

ARTICLE 1

CURRENT WORDING:

This User's Group shall be known as "The Brevard User's Group" (hereinafter referred to as "BUG"). Texas Instruments does not hereby consent to the use of its corporate name, logo, other tradenames or trademarks, abbreviations of any of the above or any other proprietary marking in the name, newsletter or in any other way by any User's Group.

PROPOSED CHANGE:

This User's Group shall be known as "The Brevard User's Group" (hereinafter referred to as "BUG"). No computer manufacturer hereby consents to the use of its corporate name, logo, other tradenames or trademarks, abbreviations of any of the above or any other proprietary marking in the name newsletter or in any other way by any User's Group.

ARTICLE 2 Paragraph A

CURRENT WORDING:

To encourage all efforts and activities in connection with Texas Instruments Home computers.

PROPOSED CHANGE:

To encourage all efforts and activities in connection with Home computers.

ARTICLE 2 Paragraph B

CURRENT WORDING:

To promote a better understanding and appreciation of the versatility and usefulness of Texas Instruments Home Computers.

PROPOSED CHANGE:

To promote a better understanding and appreciation of the versatility and usefulness of Home Computers.

ARTICLE 5 Paragraph A

CURRENT WORDING:

(The current wording of A and B would be the same. However the present A would become B and the present B would become C.)

PROPOSED CHANGE:

Except as provided by law or in this constitution and operating procedures the concerns, direction, and management of the affairs and funds of the club shall be vested in the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 6

CURRENT WORDING:

Committees:

A. Standing Committees shall be:

1. Program Committee
2. Recruitment Committee
3. Library Committee
4. Equipment Committee
5. Education Committee

PROPOSED CHANGE:

1. Program/Education Committee
(#5 would then be deleted.)

ARTICLE 7 Paragraph C

CURRENT WORDING:

A Quorum for the transaction of business at the regular monthly meeting shall consist of one-third of the active members, present in person or represented by proxy.

PROPOSED CHANGE:

Paragraph would be deleted.

(This PROPOSED CHANGE would naturally include resequencing so that the old 'D' would be the new 'C', and the old 'E' would be the new 'D', ect...)

ARTICLE 7 Paragraph E

CURRENT WORDING:

An individual to chair a Nomination Committee shall be appointed by the President of the BUG not later than one (1) month prior to the Annual Meeting.

PROPOSED CHANGES:

An Individual to chair a Nomination Committee shall be appointed by the President of the BUG not later than two (2) months prior to the Annual Meeting.

The Board intends to vote on the following changes within the Operating Procedures during their Board meeting on June 10th.

ARTICLE 1 Paragraph D

CURRENT WORDING:

TREASURER - The Treasurer shall have charge of the funds of the BUG, shall conduct its banking business and audit all accounts. Checks drawn shall be signed by the Treasurer and one other member of the Board of Directors.

PROPOSED CHANGE:

TREASURER - The Treasurer shall have charge of the funds of the BUG, shall conduct its banking business and audit all accounts. Checks drawn shall be signed by any two members of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 2 Paragraphs A and E

CURRENT WORDING:

A. The Program committee shall provide an interesting and helpful program for every regular meeting and shall cooperate with those in charge of such social or additional meetings as may be held.

E. The Education Committee shall have charge of all matters pertaining to the education of the members including the dissemination of literature and beneficial information to the members.

PROPOSED CHANGE:

A. The Program/Education committee shall provide an interesting and helpful program for every regular meeting and shall cooperate with those in charge of such social or additional meetings as may be held; and shall have charge of all matters pertaining to the education of the members including the dissemination of literature and beneficial information to the members.

ARTICLE 2 Paragraph D

CURRENT WORDING:

The Equipment Committee shall have supervision of all matters relating to the physical machinery of the BUG such as TI Home Computers and peripherals, and facilities of the meeting place, and shall have charge of such social functions as may be held from time to time at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

PROPOSED CHANGE:

The Equipment Committee shall have supervision of all matters relating to the physical machinery of the BUG such as computers and peripherals, and facilities of the meeting place, and shall have charge of

such social functions as may be held from time to time at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 3

CURRENT WORDING:

At a meeting to be held not later than one (1) month prior to the Annual Meeting, The President shall select a Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) members. The chairperson of this committee, who shall be chosen by the President from among the committee members, shall promptly call a meeting of this committee to consider nominations for the various offices to be filled. To assist the Nominating Committee in selecting candidates, a questionnaire shall be given to all members. This questionnaire shall explain the function of the Nominating Committee and shall request members to enter the names of those whom they consider desirable as candidates for the respective Offices. After giving due consideration to the suggestions made in the answers to the questionnaire, the Nominating Committee shall proceed to nominate one (1) candidate for each Office to be filled. These names, together with the names hereinafter provided for shall be presented to the BUG membership at the Annual Meeting. Names of other candidates may be placed in nomination from the floor at the Annual Meeting. Nominees must consent to their nomination.

PROPOSED CHANGE:

At a meeting to be held not later than two (2) months prior to the Annual Meeting, The President shall select a Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) members. The chairperson of this committee, who shall be chosen by the President from among the committee members, shall promptly call a meeting of this committee to consider nominations for the various offices to be filled. To assist the Nominating Committee in selecting candidates, a questionnaire shall be given to all members. This questionnaire shall explain the function of the Nominating Committee and shall request members to enter the names of those whom they consider desirable as candidates for the respective Offices. After giving due consideration to the suggestions made in the answers to the questionnaire, the Nominating Committee shall proceed to nominate one (1) candidate for each Office to be filled. These names, together with the names hereinafter provided for shall be presented to the BUG membership at the Annual Meeting. Nominees must consent to their nomination.

PROTECTION.....WHY?

Since publishing the February issue of the BUG Newsletter, I have received many comments concerning software protection. Some of the comments were supportive of disclosing the information and some were adamantly against disclosure. All of them were valid!

Some people are refusing to pass this information on, like Bruce Sonderegger, the Editor of Northwestern Florida "99er Lines". That's ok. I admire Bruce for taking a stand and sticking with it.

However, I don't agree with that side of the issue. The Brevard User's Group, like all other computer user's groups, was started with one main goal in mind: to share information and to help each other learn more about computing in general, and the TI99/4A in particular. Notice, however, I said share information - not copyrighted software. The BUG does not knowingly accept copyrighted material into its library nor does it condone the illegal swapping of copyrighted materials.

Copyrights and software protection are two different issues. On the issue of copyrights, I support the right of the author to collect what the consumer is willing to pay for his product. As an author and software producer, I don't like others copying the product of many hours, weeks, or months of my efforts and giving it away free to their friends. I consider that stealing, and so do the courts!

BUT, software protection is a different issue altogether. Would you, buy a book (copyrighted) and pay good money for it to find out when you get home that all the pages are stuck together because the author is afraid you might copy it?

Software protection is a farce! When I first started writing software for the TI, I wanted to protect it because it was, at that time, the thing to do. No one would tell me how to protect my software, however, because it was "proprietary information". In other words, if you didn't have a large, established software house or belong to the "in group" of people already making and selling software (most of it was junk) you

didn't have a need to know.

The more I thought about that, the madder I got. After, all, what gave them the right to know more about my computer than I do? I paid good old American greenback dollars for mine-did they pay in gold?

Reviewing software written by others is one of the best ways of learning more about your computer and how it works. Besides, I have a right to protect my investment by backing up my software. If I zap my only copy of a \$39 program through my own negligence, I have no one to blame but myself. If, however, I am prevented from backing it up, I get pretty mad if I lose it through no fault of my own. Florida Flicker and Flash will help you out too! That's the primary reason why I don't like "cartridge" programs.

Also, I hate cassette - based programs with a passion. The first thing I want to do is move it to disk where its more convient to use.

My last gripe about "protected" software. Protecting software is only good for keeping honest people honest. There's an old saying: "If you can write it, I can copy it". I believe that. Those people who are determined to copy protected software will do so - there's mailorder places that you can get any disk copied, as many copies as you like, for a minimal charge. Software protection is a "sales gimick" to make John Q. Public think that your software is worth protecting, therefore it must be good stuff - horsefeathers!

My advice to all computer consumers is don't buy copy protected software. If you do, you are risking a loss of your investment. If you really need a function provided by copy protected software, there are programming professionals in the club that can write it for you or teach you how to write it yourself. It will cost you less in the long run and you will receive a much better product.

Register your vote through the almighty dollar.

Mike Walker

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Persuant to the Operating Procedures of the BREVARD USERS GROUP Article 3, BUG President Mike Walker has selected a Nominating Committee consisting of Jim Baker (Chairman), Amos Brown and Jack O'Brian. This committee has met and selected candidates for the five (5) Board of Director positions for the 1984 - 1985 year. These names and any other candidates, as provided for as explained below, will be placed on the ballot for the elections to be held during our annual meeting in June. This committee has carefully reviewed the current BUG membership, considering individuals dedication, willingness to serve, general leadership abilities and overall knowledge of our TI computer; and nominates the following persons for the particular position as follows:

PRESIDENT:	Mike Walker
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Dick Taylor
SECRETARY:	Linda McCormick
TREASURER:	Don Collins
MEMBER AT LARGE:	Rod Williams

In addition to the above candidates, the Operating Procedures requires that a questionnaire be provided to each current membership for the purpose of soliciting additional names you consider to be desirable as candidates for the respective Office. These nominations will be considered as additional names for the ballot if any one person is suggested for a particular office by ten percent (10%) of the active members. (Of course, the candidate must consent to his nomination.) In order to provide a final ballot in the next newsletter, any nominations must be received by the BUG no later than June 1, 1984.

Please complete the following questionnaire to nominate any person not currently on the ballot.

PRESIDENT:	_____	
VICE-PRESIDENT:	_____	
SECRETARY:	_____	
TREASURER:	_____	
MEMBER AT LARGE:	_____	
NOMINATED BY:	_____	(REQUIRED)