

(102) Charlotte
8803

TI READER

The Newsletter of the
Charlotte TI-99/4A User Group

MARCH 1988

LAST ISSUE?

There is a Time in the Tides of men... We wish we could send our newsletter to every TI owner in Charlotte. In fact, we would, if every TI owner were a member. However, not only is this not true, but some who have BEEN our members have let their membership drop by not paying annual dues. Some intended this. Others--you, perhaps?--didn't. They just let it slip up on them. In any event, if you have not paid dues for 1988, this IS your last newsletter. That is, it is unless we receive dues from you before the April issue is mailed.

Maybe you are one of those who has debated whether or not to expend the paltry sum of \$15.00 for another year's membership. Inability to attend meetings regularly may have suggested to you that you are not getting your money's worth. (Com'on!--\$15?) Perhaps you would be interested in the fact that we have one member who lived in California last year, has moved to Kansas, and thinks our newsletter itself is worth the membership price. We are prejudiced, but we think he's right. Or maybe it would help to know about another member we have whom no one has met, who joined by mail, but lives right here in Charlotte--he simply works out of town all week and cannot attend meetings. Yet he was the first to renew his membership this year. Perhaps you have not made use of the software library, which is FREE. We have over 1,500 programs in that library, with the best that has ever been written for TI. As a member, all you have to do is ask, and any program there can be yours. (Who needs a genie?)

Finally, you may have bought or are thinking about buying a clown (drone? android? cronie? oh, yes, clone...) and are thinking to yourself that it's time to give TI up. But there it is, like an old girlfriend you can't quite forget. May we suggest you pitch in the dues for another year and (1) Let her retire gracefully, and (2) Help the club that has helped you get to know her so well.

That's it, get out the checkbook. Now write: Charlotte TI Users Group, \$15.00. Send it to the address listed for this newsletter. We'll take it from there. Now, thank yourself. You have just taken advantage of a really good deal.

FUNNELWEB FLOW CHARTS

This issue contains flow charts for Funnelweb version 4.0. These charts will be of great help to those who have Funnelweb but may not have gotten the most out of it. An explanatory word is in order:

(1) First, the charts have been in several newsletters circulating the country right now. The information used in our version was gleaned from the Lima, Ohio users group. It appeared on four pages. We have reformatted it and used boxes to help clarify and further organize. We are grateful to the original author(s) of this flow chart, for it is very helpful.

(2) Second, we have reproduced this chart for our members user groups with which we exchange, on white paper, rather than our usual tan, so that copies may be easily made.

(3) Third, we have managed to fit the charts onto a single sheet of paper, front and back, without our page headers, so that it may be removed from this newsletter and kept for reference near your computer.

We hope this is helpful to you. The editor has spent a great deal of time formatting these charts, which explains the shorter newsletter this month. If you do not yet have a copy of Funnelweb 4.0, you should acquire one immediately. Call our club librarian at the number listed on page 2. And, enjoy.

ELECTRONIC VIRUS??

An article in the KC 99er and then a reference in another newsletter which comes to our club warn of a "computer virus" which is spreading rapidly. This is no joke, but a real threat, especially to anyone who uses electronic bulletin boards.

The "virus" is a self-propagating computer program. It is a set of orders devised by a saboteur and will automatically copy itself from one computer diskette to another, gradually taking up more and more disk memory space. There are apparently several of these viruses around.

One virus, programmed to wipe out thousands of files and years of research on Friday the 13th in May of '87, was inserted into Hebrew University

(Continued on page 2)

CLUB INFORMATION

THE CHARLOTTE TI-99 USERS' GROUP meets the second Monday of each month at the Mary Eliza Computer Learning Center (at the Department of Social Services, 301 Billingsly Road, Charlotte, NC). Visitors are invited to enjoy our meetings without obligation. Membership is only \$15 per calendar year per family or individual. Privileges of membership include borrowing from the software library, monthly newsletters, special interest group meetings, and low rate ads in the newsletter. For more information contact any of the officers.

THE USERS GROUP NEWSLETTER is printed monthly, and includes news concerning the Charlotte TI-99 Users' Group, as well as items related to the TI-99/4A computer system in general. Product reviews and announcements should not be considered endorsements or the official stand of the users' group as a whole, but only represent the opinions of the authors. Articles from this newsletter can be reprinted freely, in whole or in part, by any other bona fide computer users' group if credit is given to both the original author and to the Charlotte Users' Group. Articles from other users groups' publications may be included in this newsletter to help broaden our range of topics. Full credit will be given to any reprinted articles. Submissions for the newsletter are welcomed. We need long or short programs, technical tips, software or hardware reviews, problems, etc. Credit is given to the author of every item printed. Copyrighted material will be not be accepted without the author's permission, and articles may be edited for reasons of space. Newsletters are also available to other TI Users Groups on an exchange basis. Any group interested in this arrangement should contact the secretary at the address below.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE, submissions, ads, changes of address or other requests should be sent to: The Charlotte TI-99/4A Users Group, P.O.Box 9353, Charlotte, NC 28299-9353

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UPCOMING MEETING DATES

April	11
May	9
June	13
July	11

FROM THE EDITOR...

This month's newsletter is going to be very short, for a couple of reasons. First, I worked on the enclosed flow charts for Funnelweb 4.0 most of the time I had to work on the newsletter this month. Second, as the end of the month approached, so did the final day for 22 cent first class rates. I had a roll of 100, and didn't especially want to add 3 cent stamps to every piece I mailed this month. Result, a hurriedly mailed newsletter which is very helpful, I think, if a bit shorter than usual.

SUMMARY OF LAST MEETING: For the sake of those who missed the last meeting, the minutes in brief:

The treasurers report indicated that the club is in fairly good financial standing, considering the decrease in revenue for this year. The secretary reported that the Texas Instruments Direct Marketing office had been contacted about a listing of local, registered TI owners; no response has come yet. He moved that the club adopt the name "TI Reader" for its newsletter, and the motion passed. Last minute arrangements for the Hamfest booth were made. A new member was greeted, Mark Peters of Charlotte. A demonstration of Picasso, a new graphics program, was included in activities at the close of the meeting. Various helps were given.

SURVEY: Perhaps we ought to take a survey of

our members in the next month to determine just what demonstrations, mini-classes, helps, etc., would make the club meetings most helpful to all. Until we work such a survey up, feel free to give me a call to express your opinion. It could be anything from understanding different file types to using TI Writer to using databases to operating a graphics program to programming in BASIC to getting the most out of your printer to....?

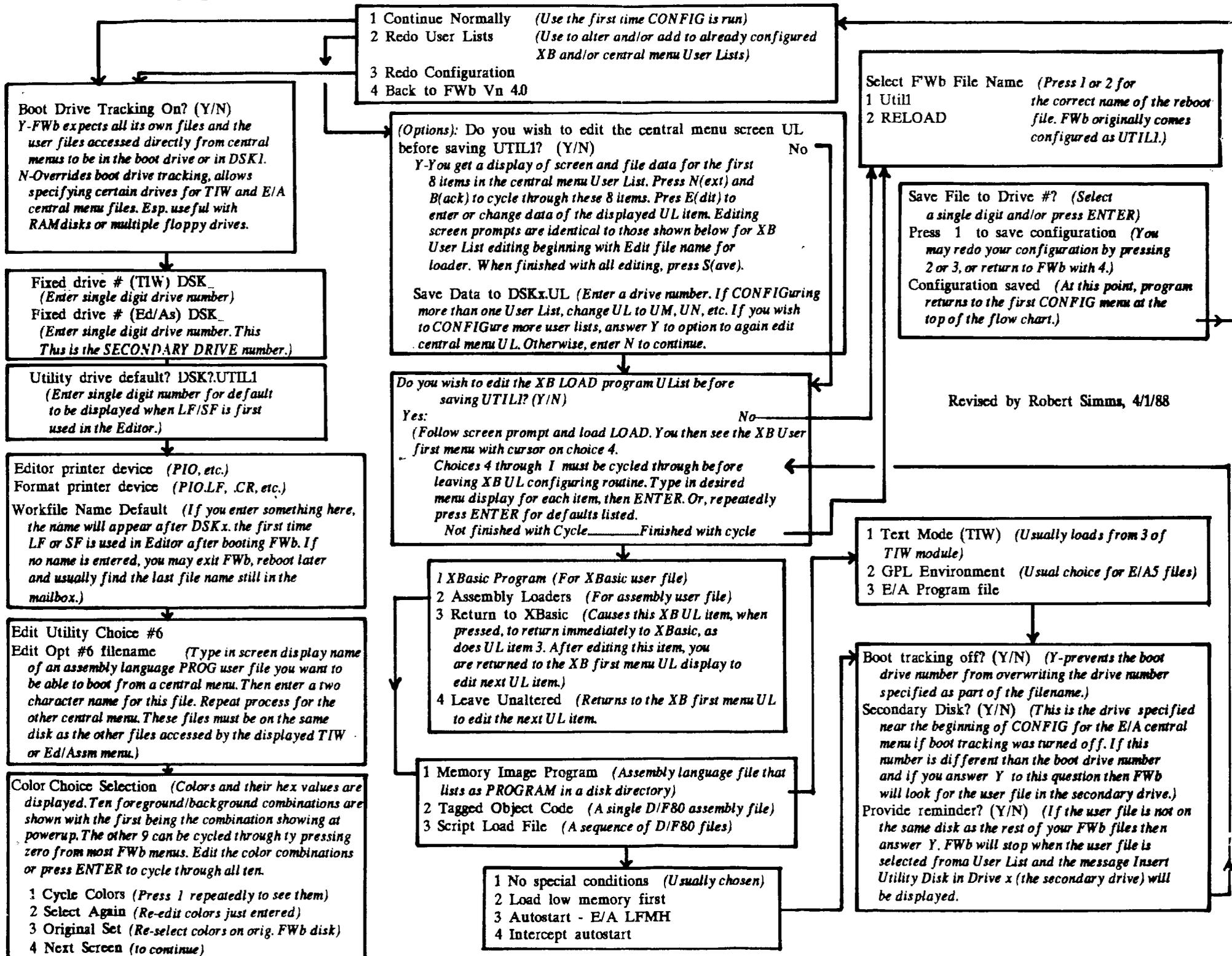
(VIRUS, Continued from page 1)

computers in Jerusalem, according to Israel Radai, a senior programmer at the university's computer center.

The Tampa Tribune reported that experts say they do not yet know what sort of damage the virus can cause to previously stored programs or stored information. But it quoted one expert as saying the version of the virus that infiltrates users' groups was similar to the one found in Israel.

Hebrew University experts have devised two programs which detect the virus and apply an antidote. Information we have at the present time does not verify that such a virus has yet infected the TI community.

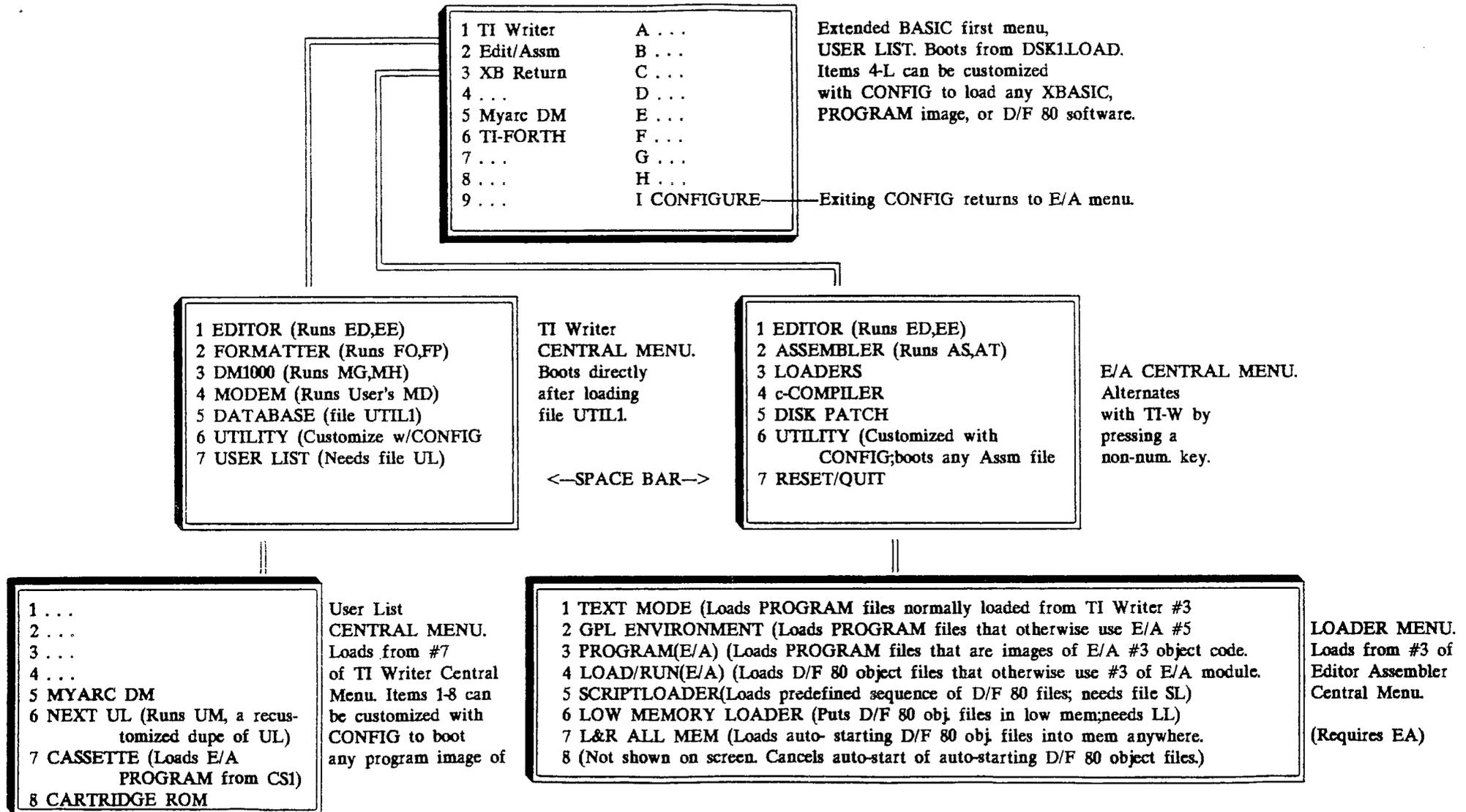
FUNNELWEB 4.0 CONFIGURE PROGRAM FLOW CHART



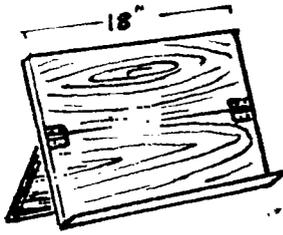
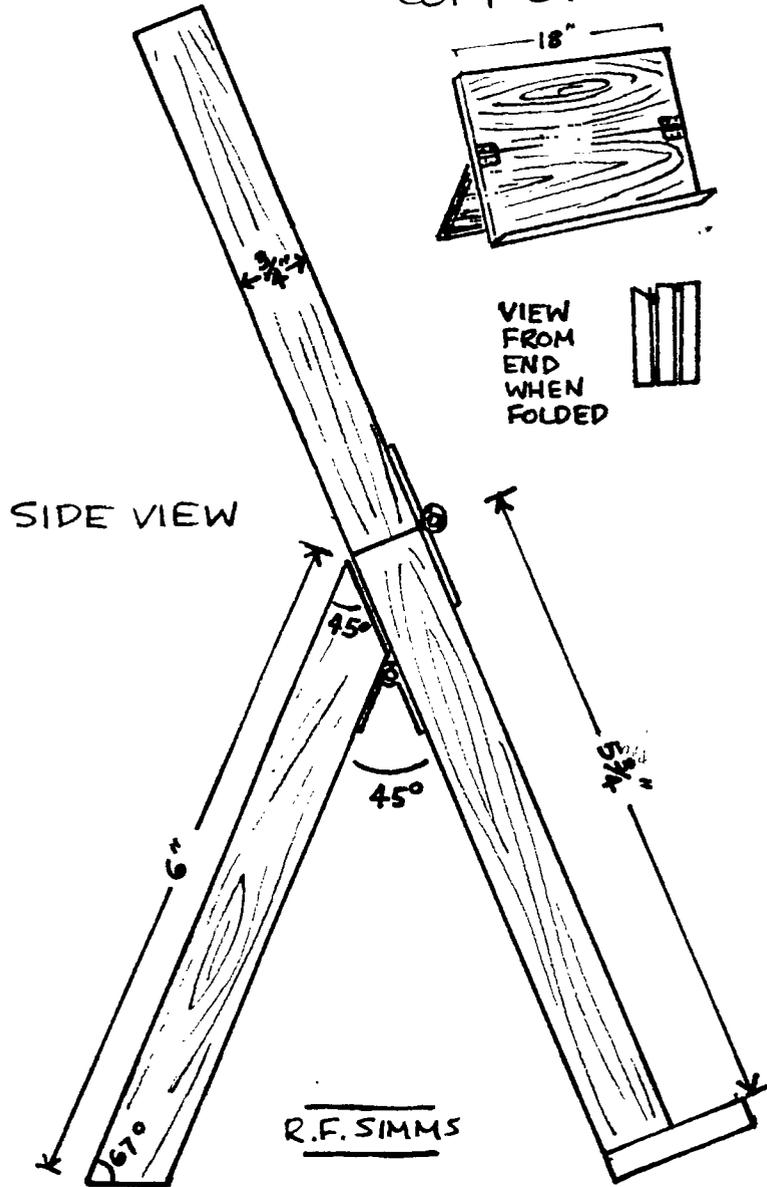
Revised by Robert Simms, 4/1/88

FUNNELWEB 4.0 MENU FLOW CHART

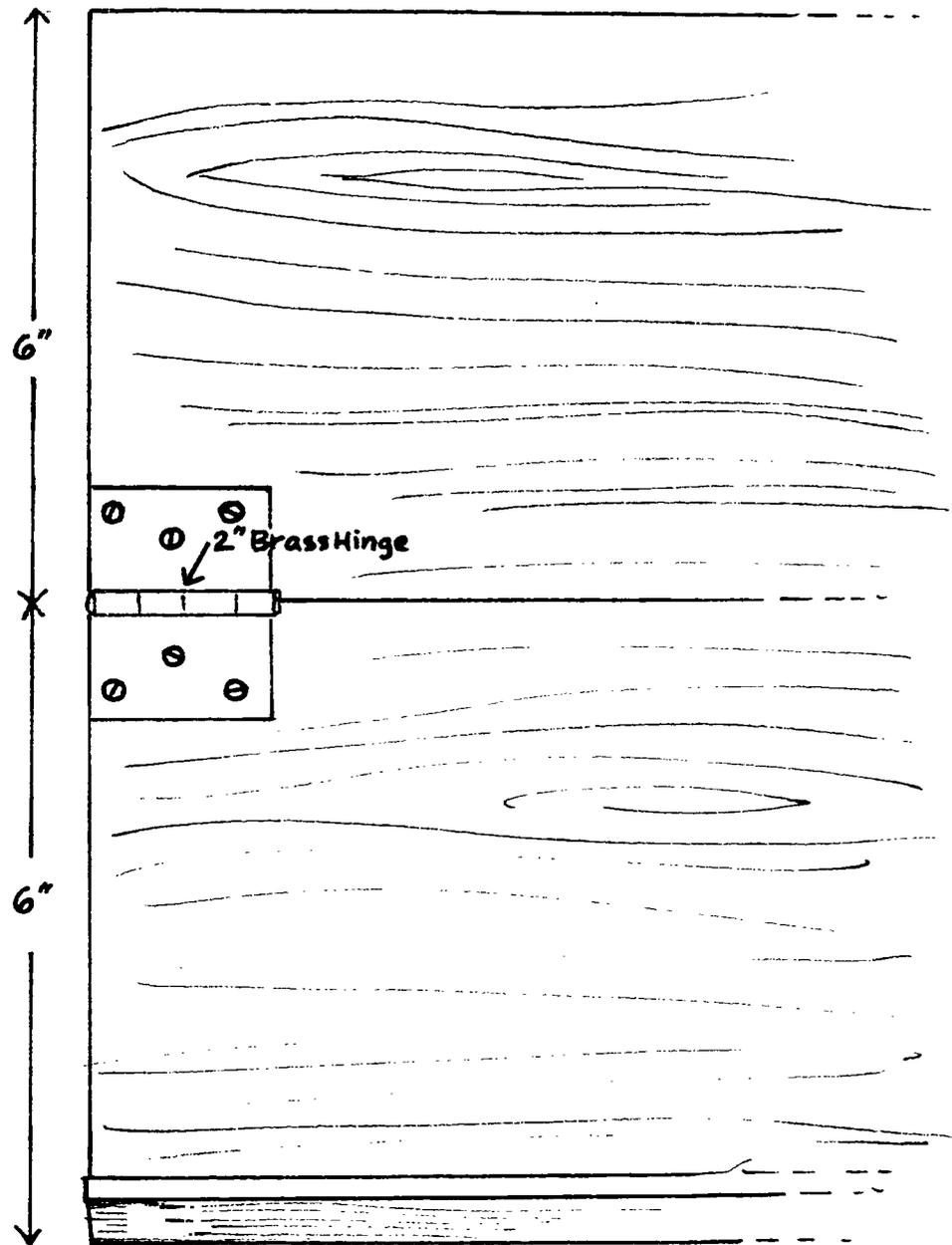
FCTN-7 (AID) from any of these menus gives a disk directory.



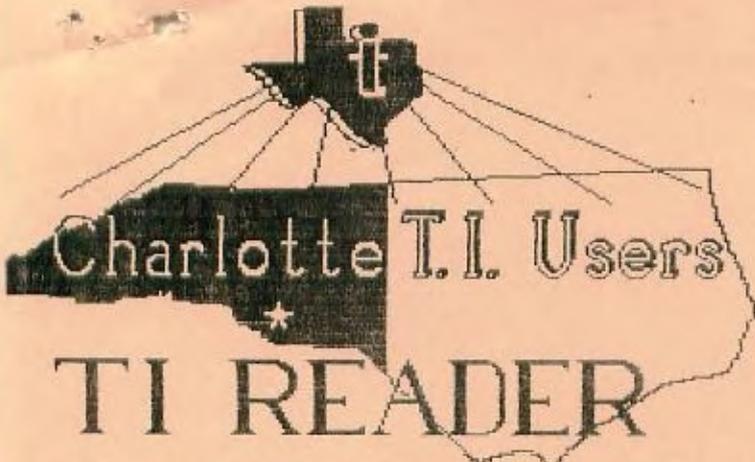
DESIGN FOR COPY STAND



FRONT VIEW, DETAIL, END



DESIGN CALLS FOR 3/4 INCH SOLID OR PLYWOOD. STAND TAKES MINIMAL SPACE ON DESK OR TABLE. FOLDS TO 6X18 INCHES AND APPROXIMATELY 4 1/2 INCHES THICK. VARY LENGTH ACCORDING TO SPACE AND NEEDS. ROUTING OR CHISELING OUT FOR THE HINGE TO MAKE IT FLUSH WILL FURTHER REDUCE FOLDED THICKNESS.



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