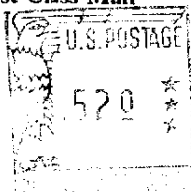


Chicago TI User's Group  
P.O. Box 578341  
Chicago, Il. 60657

Address Correction Requested



First Class Mail



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Dallas TI Home Computer Group  
c/o: Walter Pearson  
P.O. Box 29863  
Dallas TX 75229

#### Editor's Notes...

It HAS been a long dry summer. Not enough rain and not enough computing. Summer is about over and it's time to get back to those things we do and don't enjoy. Time to go back to or start school. Time to go back to work. Time to hit those books. Time to get back to our TIs and compatibles. And, time to see our old friends and mutual acquaintances at a TI meeting. As usual, we meet right after Labor Day. This year it's the 7th. Our normal 1st Saturday meeting.

This summer issue of the Chicago Times brings some good and some bad news. Don Jones has reported he will step down as the group's troubleshooter. This has been brought about by the fact that Don has taken care of most or all problems within our group. All should be well within our control of the TI world. Don has also decided not to write his Geneva Support Article any longer. Those non-believers and non-supporters of the 9640 may applaud while those users may sigh as his articles will be missed. Myself, I have mixed feelings. Don's Geneva articles have filled these pages for many years. His insights, investigative reporting and software reviews have been greatly appreciated by the 9640 community. But Don has put many long hours into group activities. I have asked Don numerous times to slow down. Having had a heart attack from lack of sleep I knew where he was headed. I am glad to see him finally admit he is tired. I am glad to learn he will try to enjoy other things in life. There are many other things besides a computer and a user group. Don, I will miss your long winded sentences, your numerous underlines and all your transliterations. But I am glad to know you are taking a much needed break. Your health is the most important issue now. I am happy you will keep it and be with us for many years to come. Your Friend..... Big Bob

# CHICAGO TIMES

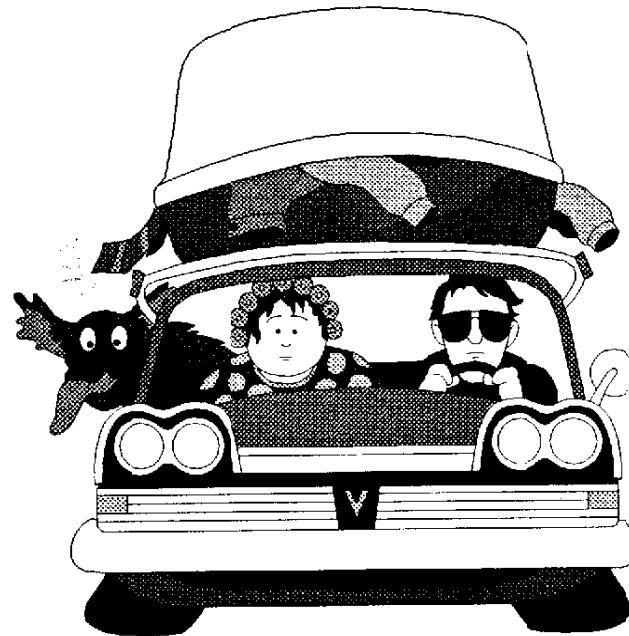
Newsletter of the Chicago TI-99/4A Users Group

Sept 1991

Editor: Bob Demeter

September means Back to school  
and back to your TI

TI doesn't mean Trade In. It means Totally Interested.



September Meeting.....

The September meeting will be held Saturday September 7th

The General meeting starts at 1 pm.  
Executive Board meets at 11 AM SHARP



The Chicago Times is published 10 Times a year from Sept. to June. Chicago Times is in no way affiliated with Texas Instruments. We are supported solely by our membership and advertisers. Subscriptions are free with membership to the Chicago TI 99/4A User's Group. The Chicago Times is also distributed freely to any User's Group that wishes to reciprocate. Original articles within these pages may be re-printed by other User's Group publications provided proper credit is given the Chicago TI 99/4A User's Group as the source of the article. Comments and letters are always welcome. **We also accept submissions of original articles and programs.**

## Where it's at this month...

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Group #'s BBS 708- 862-0182 Hot Line 708-869-4304

### Meeting Dates...

This month's meeting will be held on Saturday September 7th.  
 The October meeting will be Saturday the 5th.  
 The November meeting is our Annual Faire on the 2nd.  
 Our December meeting & annual Swap Meet is Saturday the 7th.

Our group meets monthly from Sept. to June on the 1st Saturday of the month. Meeting times are from 1 to 3 pm. Meetings are held at the St. Nicolai Church 3002 N. Kedzie Chicago, IL.

Annual Dues is \$21.00. Overseas members please add \$3.00



## THE PREZ SEZ...

Where, oh where did the summer go?! It seems as if it has just begun, and now it is almost over. Every year we seem to suffer through ten months of winter, and then we have two weeks of summer. Ah well, the autumn brings its own rewards, chief among them the fact that the Chicago TI Users Group meetings resume, and that means seeing old friends again. The summer hiatus has not been totally devoid of happenings for the CTIUG, so let's talk about them.

In June we had our traditional picnic at the Gross Point Lighthouse, in Evanston. We had great weather, hot in the sunshine, cool in the shade. Those who attended had a good time seeing old friends, visiting the lighthouse and the Evanston Art Center, playing on the beach, and just talking computers in general. A number of last-minute cancellations thinned our ranks a little bit, but that just meant more Polish sausage that I had to eat! A bunch of our members drove for up to two hours to attend the picnic, so it must have been worth it.

After the picnic, the usual shady band of buccaneers retired to my house to continue the festivities until the wee hours. I learn more about my computer at these sessions than I could by reading manuals. The downside is I can never remember all that I learn later on.

The Chicago TI International World Faire has not taken a vacation this summer. Plans are being made, calls and letters are being sent out, and the details are being readied for the biggest and the best Faire that we have ever had. We have a new location, and they have worked with us to make sure that our new home removes all the "bugs" that plagued our last location.

Unfortunately, there have been a couple of setbacks. Some of the letters that were sent out to vendors came back to me in a plastic bag. I should say parts of some of the letters. On one letter the only unshredded and therefore legible portion was the return address. I have no way of knowing which of the more than forty vendors actually received their letters, or even if they were able to decipher the contents, so a replacement letter is being sent out. In the same post I received back a letter, also to a vendor, that I sent out for last year's Faire, almost eleven months ago! It had a 23-cent stamp on it, and I suppose that I should consider myself fortunate that they didn't dun me for the extra postage!

This has been a very busy summer for the Sysop of the CUG BBS. In the middle of June the board did a swan dive in a rather spectacular fashion, and Mike Maksimik has been rebuilding it, while incorporating some additions and enhancements. When it crashed and burned the board took out a hard drive (or vice versa) on which were resident all the TI files. Mike is asking that those who have copies of any files that were there re-upload them to the BBS as soon as possible. Of course, all new uploads are welcome, as always.

Mike has been a busy boy this summer. In addition to his work on the BBS (not to mention going to college and working full time), he has produced a series of updates for what seems to be the hottest product to hit the market for several years: MIDIMASTER 99. Since its first release in May, Mike has produced so many new versions that it has been suggested he number them not just with the month or day, but with the hour, minute, or second of their release! When I finish this column I am going to take my family on a short vacation, and I know full well that there will be a new version, or two, when I get back. And speaking of my family, they are already addicted to MIDIMASTER 99. My wife Almut and my daughter Margaret have commandeered my computer until 3

a.m. for the past three nights in order to transcribe the Canon in D, by Johann Pachelbel. (That's why my article is late, Bob, honest!) Time to get another system, I hear you say. Forget it, the kids have already taken systems two and three for themselves. I am left with my CC-40. If you think I am kidding about the addiction value of MM99, just ask Don Jones, Bruce Harrison, or Ken Gilliland, or better yet, their wives. 'Nuff said. Speaking of Bruce Harrison, he has once again won the unofficial contest by being the first vendor to sign up for the Faire. I really appreciate those who make my job easier. He will debut many new products, and a ton of new music for MM99. On a personal note, I would like to take a few seconds to thank all those who took the time to call or write while I was in the hospital. It sure brightened my day to hear from anyone who didn't have a needle. I was in for twelve days when I developed a blood clot after I tore the ligaments in my left foot while executing an unplanned one point landing in a pothole. And I was stone-cold sober! A special thanks to Jim McCulloch, who stopped by and brought me a game module for my CC-40. That made me the most-visited patient on the floor. All the nurses stopped by to play Black Jack and Backgammon. Everyone asked me where they could buy a CC-40. And I replied, "At the Ninth Annual Chicago TI International World Faire!" It will be nice to see them all again in November, provided, of course, that none of them have any hypodermic syringes in their hands. Brrrrr!

And it will be nice to see as many of you reading this as can make it to the Faire, or even to the meetings. I am looking forward to it. See you soon.

--Hal Shanafield

\*\*\*\*\* 1 YEAR FREE MEMBERSHIP \*\*\*\*\*

## CHICAGO TI INTERNATIONAL WORLD FAIRE.

As you know, our annual all TI FAIRE is fast approaching. You may also be aware that we rent systems to those vendors who request them. In order to do this, we need our members to donate complete systems and/or monitors or televisions. This practice will again be repeated This year. We will give three(3) pieces of software and waive payment of your next years dues for the use of either an expanded system or a color television or monitor. If you are able to donate BOTH, we will give you seven(7) pieces of software and a one(1) year membership renewal.

### PLEASE NOTE:

The maximum reward is one (1) year membership and seven (7) pieces of Software from the groups library to any one person.

Anyone wishing to donate the use of their system should send the equipment form directly to the EQUIPMENT CHAIRMAN.

Forms will be available at meetings or may be downloaded from the BBS <TI section Filename is DONATE>.

THE FORM MUST BE FILLED IN AND RETURNED, to the equipment chairman, AT LEAST 7 DAYS PRIOR TO THE FAIR

On the day of the FAIRE, we request that you be present with your system by no later than 08:00.

## MARK YOUR EQUIPMENT!!!

If you want to drop your equipment off the night before, we will be responsible for it, if it is left with the EQUIPMENT CHAIRMAN DAVID CONNERY. He will be in the hospitality or they will know where he is.

When your equipment is checked in, we will indicate exactly which vendor will be using your system, if possible. This will simplify the problem of responsibility for condition of the system. At the end of the Faire, you are to report to the vendor who has your system. It will be returned to you, and your application form will be validated by the EQUIPMENT CHAIRMAN. You may then use your validated form as a voucher to receive your free software from our library and also for a free membership for your next year.

This a very important service which the group performs relative to the execution of the Faire. We need the cooperation of our members to make this work.

We stress that we will indemnify all donors for any losses relative to lost, damaged, and/or stolen equipment, whose use is donated to our Faire.

Equipment Chairman  
DAVID A. CONNERY  
420 Franklin Blvd.  
Elgin Il 60120  
(708)883-8120



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS AND VIEWS

by JAMES BROOKS

First of all I wish to greet and Welcome all of the 7 New members to the Chicago TI99/4A Users Group from the membership chairman. Your joining the group shows that TI is not dead YET! One of our new members has written a letter containing some information that may be very useful to some of the members so I AM SUBMITTING IT AS A NEWS ARTICLE OF INFORMATION under his name.

I hope that everyone enjoyed the Summer to the best of their ability, it was hot at times (as were Com-Ed Bills.). I had shut down my BBS for a much needed rest from May 31 to August 1. On that day, I turned it on with the new hard drive version which is now working fairly well (except for the Myarc HFDCC Clock which runs faster than anything else).

Our last meeting was very interesting in that we held the Annual Auction. This years Auction was pretty well attended but I myself did not luck upon anything new that I did not already have or want. With all of the years with the TI, I have about everything for the TI that I want to acquire. I still don't have a Horizon Ramdisk because I did not have the money to spend on it at the time and when the Hard drive became available, I forgot the Horizon altogether. For the price, the storage is tremendous not to mention the speed.

We will be looking forward to the Chicago International World Faire coming November 2, 1991. More details will be available next month.

For the last three months, I have been mailing out the Newsletters to the members and I hope I did not miss any. If anyone is missing their newsletter for any month longer than 5 days past the meeting date, please inform us at once so that arrangements can be made to replace it.

We are still looking for experienced leaders of some of the S.I.G.'s. There are still some new members that need some help getting the most out of their TI99/4A machines.

PS: Have you called the CTIUG BBS lately? If not, Why not? You do have the number don't you? For those that have Modems ranging from 300 to 2400 baud, you may call 1(708)862-0182, 24 hours a day to get the latest news about the Group's activities.



## HELP!!!

(It's on the way!)

### MISSING NEWSLETTERS

Some of our members have, as I requested, written in to indicate exactly which newsletter(s) they are missing from last year and earlier this year. Relative to this problem, what I have done is this: I have compiled the list of names and the missing issues. I then addressed a set of envelopes with the names and addresses of those members who are missing newsletters, and on the lower left hand corner, I have listed the newsletters which need to be sent. I have placed return address labels on each of the envelopes and stamped them all "FIRST CLASS MAIL." I have sent the list of newsletters which need to be reprinted to our editor of this fine publication. As soon as they come from the printer, and as soon as I receive them, Mr. Jim Brooks and I will stuff the envelopes with the appropriate newsletters and put the proper postage on them. I believe that I have done all that I am able to at this time, relative to this problem.

### PROBLEMS ARE SOLVED...

At this time, I feel confident in saying that there are no outstanding problems relative to our beloved organization. You may remember that, in the past, I have often pleaded for people to send me problems to solve. Well, I feel that I have addressed ALL problems which were directed to me. I have tried to act as the group's "problem solver" and "coordinator." I no longer feel that such efforts are necessary, and, for that reason, I shall step down

from the two, above self-assigned positions. In the future, all problems will be handled by the team that constitutes the CTIUG. I hope that I have been able to be of some small service to a few individuals out there, and I thank those who have worked with me to help make the operation of our group efficient and smooth. I feel very happy to have been able to "work myself out of a job!!!" In closing, I would like to thank the entire executive board of our fine club for their total support for my efforts in the past. I extend to all of you all of the blessings that I have to offer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Don Jones  
Vice-president  
Chicago TI Users' Group

enditenditendit

## TRADIN' TIMES

### WANTED!!!

Don Jones is looking for a RAVE speech card at a REASONABLE price... If you have one which you wish to sell, please let him know...

### WANTED!!!

Steve Eggers is the owner of a TI-99/8. He also has a hex-bus RS-232 for it. He is now looking for a hex-bus disk drive, modem and printer/plotter. If you have one to sell, or if you can give him information leading to his acquisition of the above items, you may contact him at the following address: PSC Box 7037, Dyess AFB, TX 79607. His phone number is (915)692-3662.

### FOR SALE!!!

Ernie Pergem has the following items for sales: a.) one P-Gram Card (\$130), b.) 384K RAM disk(\$125), c.) one P-Code card, d.) miscellaneous software and magazines, etc. You can contact him on our bbs, or you can call and leave your number on our "hot-line."

If you want to buy or sell something, or if you are looking for something specific, please drop a line to our newsletter. Your needs will be printed here. We only ask that you inform us when your system has been sold. You might also consider donating your system as part of our "Computers to Teachers Program." If you think that you may be interested in doing this, please call or "hot-line" or drop us a line to request a prospectus. If you have one to donate, also please leave a message on our "hot-line.")

Also, if you have any equipment which you feel is damaged beyond repair (and this includes metal, card "clam shells"), rather than throwing it away, please donate it to our group for parts. There would be no tax incentives for doing this, but it would help to keep our group going..

# GENEVE SUPPORT ARTICLE...

Howdy doody there again, sports fans! How has the summer been treating you and Genny??? It sure is good to be back here again. I am going to try to tie up all loose ends which I may have left hanging from any of my previous articles so that I can wrap things up!

## LEGENDS II IS A REAL WINNER!

Remember my short review regarding this program? Well, over this summer, I sort of found the time to put some time in on this game. It is truly a winner. Now that I have had a chance to really play it, I am even more confident that my initial impressions of the game were correct. It's available from Asgard Software. Try it; you'll like it!!!

## REMEMBER MY HARD DISK PROBLEMS???

You may remember in my last article that I was having some pretty hairy problems with the formatting of my second hard disk. I was therefore just about to send it back to the firm from which I had purchased it. Well, thanks to my friend, Mike "Wetsuit Warrior" Maksimik, I found out that the problem was NOT my hard disk. Rather, the problem was with my HFDC card. Fortunately, I had purchased an extended warranty with my HFDC. It is now with Myarc for repair. Thank you, Mr. Frogman, for your help in finding out what the problem really was.

## I FINALLY AGREED TO LET MY DAUGHTER HAVE MY TYPEWRITER!!!

Why is this so significant? Well, it's a big thing for me, as heretofore, I have always needed a typewriter to address envelopes, to write short notes, for which it wasn't worth invoking a full word processor, and for some other small, incidental, and occasional tasks. I now feel comfortable letting my daughter have it because of two things: a.) I have purchased a copy of TYPEWRITER 99, by Jim Reiss. (This program is very handy and useful, and I use it when a full word processor program would be a matter of "overkill." I have lately seen that a new version has emerged for Genny, and it's called TYPEWRITER 9640. It runs out of MDOS, and, though I don't know this for sure, I bet that it has an 80 column display! Though I haven't had the chance to play with this new piece of software, I can say that if it is anything like TYPEWRITER 99, and it definitely is, then TYPEWRITER 9640 is a real winner, and I recommend its purchase. It too is available from Asgard Software.) b.) I have a new printer that which is so flexible and so neat that I no longer need to use my typewriter any more!!!

## AND IT'S A DARN GOOD PRINTER!!!

This last year, I finally invested in a new printer. My choice was the Panasonic KX-P1128, and I'm truly glad of it. This is a current technology, 24-pin printer. I love the output; it's very clean and crisp. In addition to that, it's easy to use. (I love this printer so much that I actually purchased a second one!!! That's right, sports fans, but I use my second one exclusively with my mere "klone!" [BARF!!!])

In addition to being easy to use, this printer has some features



which I find most endearing: a.) The ability to access ALL of its various fonts from a touch panel, which is located on the front of the printer, b.) the ability to load paper either, 1.) from the top, 2.) from the back, 3.) from the bottom, or 4.) from the front, c.) the ability to do a tractor feed or a friction feed, or both at the same time, d.) the ability to run paper either forward or backwards, e.) a near letter quality output, f.) NO dip switches to set, whatsoever, g.) besides being able to be invoked from the front touch panel, all of this printer's functions may be invoked through software commands, h.) the ability to print either continuous fanfold feed paper or single sheets, i.) the option of purchasing and using a cut sheet feeder, j.) a speed of 192 characters per second, in the Draft Elite pitch, k.) the ability to begin printing from the top of the FIRST sheet, and l.) by combining fonts, pitches, and enhancement modes, such as double height, double width, underline, etc., you can create more than 5,550 different print styles. One very nice thing about this printer is that it has the ability to save in its own memory any three combinations of fonts, pitches and/or enhancement modes as "macros." It also has its own 6K buffer; this means that once the contents of my print spooler have been dumped to my printer, I can ever turn off Genny, and my printer will continue to print, until the contents of its buffer is empty. This printer is a real winner! It was one of my best related computer purchases, ever!

How did I find out about this beauty? I read a very glowing review of it by Mr. John Koloen in MICROpendium Magazine. He has one too, and he also loves it. I was also fortunate to find that the price on this baby has been going down, as is the case with all technology, once it has become established. If you want to buy this peripheral, shop around. You should be able to get it at a very competitive price by now.

### CAN I GIVE AN UNQUALIFIED RECOMMENDATION FOR THIS PRINTER???

YES, I can definitely say that if your computer printer work is just plain text, then this is the printer for you. In the case of graphics, there is a small problem which can, in most cases be addressed: I found that when I tried to print out some graphics, they were elongated. In other words, they were a bit longer than they were when I would print them out on a standard 9-pin printer. For a long while, there was nothing that I could do to solve this problem. One day, in the midst of my dilemma, I left a message up on Delphi Information Services, and my questions, regarding the use of this printer were answered by none other than Mr. Edward Johnson, the creator of the fine program Page Pro! Thanks to him, I was able to find out what to do in order to get my new printer functional. Here is the correspondence that took place:

FORUM>Reply, Add, Read, "?" or Exit> 19627

19627 8-DEC 10:23 General Information

24-pin printers

From: DONJONES To: ALL

I have recently purchased a Panasonic KX-P1124 printer, and I love the heck out of it. It really has some nice features and a very clear print. Still, I am having some difficulty in getting it to print out graphics the same size as my 9-pin printer. I find that there is a SLIGHT horizontal elongation when I print out graphics, in Epson mode. Also, these same graphics take up about 20% more vertical space. I have tried playing around with some printer drivers and printer routines for some problems, and I am totally unable to get fully satisfactory results. I was thinking that I would have to have a 2nd 9-pin printer for all of my graphics work, but

then I remembered that Page Pro 99 has a program designed for 24 pin printers that works perfectly, though slowly, with my 24 pin printer. This tells me that a proper driver CAN be written and HAS BEEN written. Can anyone give me ANY help in solving my 24-pin printer dilemma??? Any help would be deeply appreciated and printed, with proper credit, in my Geneve Support Article, in our users' group's newsletter. Thank you in advance. kdj

FORUM>Reply, Add, Read, "?" or Exit> 19798

19798 15-DEC 21:51 General Information

RE: 24-pin printers (Re: Msg 19627)

From: EDJOHNSON To: DONJONES

Don, I think I can offer some help here. I also own a KX-P1124 (and Love it!) and have done quite a lot of playing around. In a nutshell, if you're lucky, you can get the 1124 to "squeeze" it's graphics to the size of a 9 pin printer by simply changing the initial setup to one of the IBM Proprinter modes and making sure "AGM" is set to off. (Here, Ed means ON, not off. kdj)

Now here's the "hitch"! Most programs that do graphics use ESC;"A".CHR\$(8) to set the line spacing to 9 lines per inch. I did this with Page Pro to keep it compatible with the "lowest common denominator" Epson printer, and I think most others do so as well. The problem with this and using the 1124 in IBM proprinter mode is that you must also send an ESC;"2" right after the ESC;"A" sequence for the line spacing setting to kick in. It will stay at 6 lines per inch unless it sees the ESC;"2". If you check your manual for the Epson LQ mode, you will see that ESC;"2" is the command to RESET the line spacing to 6 lines per inch! Can you see why guys like me are screaming wildly at times? <grin> What I'm saying here is that you're kinda screwed if ESC;"A" was used to set up line spacing.. However, I tested TI-Artist Plus and found that it works

as you like simply by changing the printer's initial setup (the driver uses ESC;"3";CHR\$(23) to set up the line spacing which is compatible with both emulations. I personally changed the "23" to "24" since I have a "reverse venetian-blind effect" with it set to "23"). I would guess that a bit of playing with a sector editor with other programs may help solve this dilemma for you. If you use DSKU, search for "1B4108" and replace it with "1B3318".

One other little tid-bit you may be interested in: When the 1124 is in Epson LQ emulation, normal single density graphics are perfectly proportional (60 dots per inch in both directions). Most 9 pin printers are 60dpi horizontally and 72dpi vertically. If you are interested, I can send you 2 patched versions of >Page Pro< that specifically are written to support 24 pin printers without messing with changing emulations.

Finally, (sorry for rambling on here!) I may clean up my "driver" used in the HiRes print utility and start spreading it around so others can see how easy it is to support the 24 pin printers. Basically, it just expands the 8 pin data to fill all 24 pins and then squeezes that down to 20 pins so it is the same size vertically as 9 pin printers. Hope this helped!

-Ed Johnson

Alright, sports fans, you have seen the problem and heard the solution from the mouth of an expert. I found that by putting my KX-P1124 into the IBM Proprinter mode, I am able to now have a perfect printer output when I use either TPA4MDOS or TI-Artist or Page Pro! All of these program have their printer routines written in assembly, and when this is the case, the IBM Proprinter mode works perfectly. (You know that I am partial to TPA, but I still find uses for Page Pro. You should also know that I have the greatest respect for this program and now for the programmer.

Thank you, Ed Johnson; I deeply appreciate your help. It's people like you that make it an honor and a pleasure to be a member of the 4A/9640 community. (And in addition to all that, Ed is a heck of a fine programmer!!!)

In conclusion, the Panasonic KX-P1124 is a fine printer, and a fine choice for you to consider. It can be used right out of the box without any special modifications, interfaces or E-PROMS; it uses the standard 4A interface. Try it; you'll like it!!!

And to you programmers out there, I would like to say something regarding the above printer: The cost of the average 24-pin printer is definitely down, and they are becoming more common within every computer community. This is because the output is definitely superior to that of the standard 9-pin printer. The 9-pin printer is now OLD TECHNOLOGY! For this reason, I urge all programmers, who are involved in the writing of programs which have some sort of printer output, to please write 24-pin printer drivers in addition to the standard 9-pin printer drivers. A 24-pin printer will give a much better idea of what your program can do. Please consider this...

#### A LITTLE PLUG FOR HQ STACKS AND FOR McCANN SOFTWARE...

Before I begin this part of my article, I would like to urge you sports fans to please patronize the work of Mr. Mike McCann, of McCann Software. His fine program, TPA4MDOS is one of the few existing programs that will really show what your Genny can do, and it operates totally in MDOS mode. In addition to TPA, for both MDOS and the 4A. Mike has come out with a new software package; it's called, HQ STACKS. This is a fine piece of software that does essentially the same thing that HYPERCARD does on a Mac. What is HYPERCARD??? HYPERCARD is

software for the Macintosh Computer, and it has become so popular in the Macintosh demesne that a copy of it comes with every new Mac! What does it do??? Think of a stack of blank cards at your disposal. You can put anything on these cards that you want, and you can show them in any way that you may want. On a Mac, you can "draw" or "write" on any of your cards. The cards can then be displayed one-at-a-time for a "slide" presentation. You can even put graphic animation on them, and you can run them through very quickly, and this makes for some very effective animation effects. You can also set up cards with "point and shoot" features; that is to say, you can set up cards so that you can move your mouse driven cursor to a certain position, and, at that position, the clicking of a mouse button will cause for the enablement of a certain effect. This is all hard to explain, but, if you are interested, I urge you to order a demonstration disk. The demo disk costs \$10.00, and this price is deducted from the cost of the full program, if you later choose to purchase it. The cost of the full program is \$49.95, and I feel that it is well worth it. It's worth it not only because of what this software will do, but because it can do it with such great ease to the programmer. You can do your work without a great deal of abstruse code. I therefore think that the ease of use and this program's general user friendliness is what makes it so valuable. Please support this company and this software. It is some of the best stuff to become available for Genny!!! (All McCann Software products can be ordered from McCann Software, 4411 North 93rd Street, Omaha, NE 68134. And please don't forget McCann Software's TI-Forth for MDOS and The Geometer's Apprentice.)

#### IT'S TIME TO RETURN TO THE LAND OF TPA4MDOS!!!

Ok, sports fans, now it's time to return to the land of

&TPA4MDOS. I started my tutorial on this fine piece of software back in November of 1990. I have had installments on it in the January and March 1991 issues of this newsletter. I would like to return to that subject in this last and final article. By now, you should know what to do to get started with &TPA4MDOS. Set your screen and cursor colors, set your mouse speed, and load in some text into your Jotter domain. Once you have done this, let us practice printing it to the front of your worksheet. Why did I say front? I said front simply because you have what can best be described as a work area with two buffers. It's just like having a page, that you are working on, and, as with any page that you are physically working on, you can work on one side, and then you can turn it over and work on the other side. (When ever you load a page of TPA graphics into TPA, it is always loaded onto the "back page." This is also true of TlArtist pictures and instances and Macpaint pictures. Text, which is loaded into the Jotter domain is loaded onto the "front page.") More on this a little further on.

### LET'S LOAD IN SOME TEXT, YA'LL!!!

Now that you have some text loaded into the Jotter domain, hit the F9 key and return to the main menu of your Jotter domain. Hit it a second time, and you will be returned to your main or initial menu. In this position, please press the D)raw key. You will then see another screen. This screen is ONE side, the "front page," of your worksheet. At the bottom you will see the following items listed: Ray, Kline (Konnected line), Box, Poly(gons), Ellipse (also for circles), Fill, Curve, Hflip (Horizontal flip), Vflip (Vertical flip), Invert (Invert), Row xxxx, Col xxxx (these last two refer to the current position of the cursor on the screen), Magnify, Getpic (Get picture), A/Dalpha (for alpha-numeric input from the keyboard directly to the screen - if you press "A", you will be able to write

horizontally, across the page - if you press "D", you will be able to write vertically, down the page), Objmov (Object move), Zapobj (Zap objects), Text (to input text from the J)otter domain, Look (does essentially the same thing as the T)ext command), 3 angle (for the creation of triangles), +90, -90 (the last two commands will rotate a designated section of a screen 90 degrees to the right and to the left, respectively). Well, sports fans, that's a lot commands, but with the mnemonics indicated on the bottom, it's quite manageable. A lot of the commands are self explanatory, if you have used some other drawing program like TlArtist. Others will require some study of the documentation, and, most important of all, PRACTICE. (Remember, sports fans, Krome Dome sez, "Familiarity breeds CONTENT!" There is within the computer world a phenomena called the 80-20 syndrome. It means that 80% of the people using computers never learn to fully utilize ALL of a given piece of software's potentials and capabilities, and only 20% will, and this applies to mere "klones" and Macs also. Which group do you fall into, Bunky??? Reading the documentation and experimentation are the only ways to get into the 20% group...) At this current screen, press T)ext, and we will continue.

### NOW, SPORTS FANS, IT'S TIME TO LAY DOWN SOME TEXT!!!

You will now have a blank screen with the following menu commands: Text, Goto, Ray, Box, Zap. Press the T)ext key. Your cursor will move from the lower left corner of the screen to some other portion on the screen. Now, move the cursor to the upper left hand corner of the screen. (In order to move the cursor, you must use either the arrow keys or the Myarc mouse.) At this point press the Insert key or the left mouse button to anchor the upper left hand corner of your text block. Now, move the cursor to the right

to column 400 and down to row 764; you can determine where you are by reading the Row xxxx Col xxxx counters, which are at the lower right hand corner of your screen. After you have moved to this position, press the "enter" key to print the text. (If you are using a Myarc mouse, just press the right key to print your text.) If you have a lot of text, it will take a few seconds for it to be printed. After your text is printed, hit any key on your keyboard. You will find that you will not see the entire page that you were just looking at. Instead, you will see only a portion of it, and that portion will be 191 rows and 510 columns in area. You will now be able to read your text. The reason that you could not read your text when you were looking at the full screen of the text mode was that in that mode, only every 2nd pixel in the horizontal direction is displayed and only every 4th pixel in the vertical direction is displayed. When you leave the Text, Goto, Ray, Box, or Zap mode, you will see ALL of the pixels displayed.

### PUTTING TEXT INTO A COLUMN OR ANY A BOX OF ANY SHAPE IS EASY!!!

Now, let's do something else: press the F9 key until you arrive at the main/initial menu. Now, I want for you to press the S)wapic key. This will give you your second work space buffer. It's like turning your worksheet over and looking at the backside. Now, press the D)raw key, and return to the T)ext mode. You will find that the entire screen is blank. You are looking at the other side of your worksheet! Now that you are in the text mode, move your cursor to the upper left hand corner of you screen. Anchor the text box, by pressing the Insert key. Then move the cursor to row 292 and to column 1020, and press the "Enter" key. This time, the text will be printed in a very different configuration. This last exercise is significant, because it shows you how you can place text into as

many columns as you may desire, and these columns can be of whatever rectangular dimensions that you may choose for them to be. Try experimenting by placing the same text into different "box" configurations. It's really very easy.

### LET'S CHANGE THE SHAPE OF OUR PIXELS!!!

For our next step, we must return to our main/initial screen. Here, I want for you to press the K)pixel key. You will see a grid with the upper left hand square darkened in. I want for you to press the "Insert" key and move the cursor two squares to the immediate right. Then, press the "Delete" key, and follow this by pressing the F9 key to return to your main/initial mode. Now, I want for you to return to the text mode. I want for you to lay down some more of your text either below your original work or next to it. You will then notice that your new text is twice as wide as the original; this is because you have changed the shape of your pixels! Now, go back and do some other alterations of the shape of your pixels. You can get some very interesting effects by playing around with this particular feature.

### HOW ABOUT A DIFFERENT FONT FOR MY WORK???

For our next exercise, I want for you to return to the main/initial menu screen. Here, I want for you to press the W)ipefront key. TPA4MDOS will ask you if you are sure; say Y)es. Then return to the D)raw and then to the T)ext mode. You will find that the screen has been completely wiped clean. Ok, sports fans, I want you to return to the main/initial menu, and from here I want you to enter the F)onts domain. When you arrive there, you will see a screen that is different from anything that you have seen so far. At the bottom, you will find the following menu options: Dir(ectory),

Rdfnt (Read font), Edchar (Edit character), Ptnedit (Pattern edit), Kpixel, Ldstdfnt (Load standard font), Getcur(rent cursor). At this point, I want for you to place a disk with either a TPA font or a TLArtist font on it. (Your program disk, for TPA4MDOS, comes with three TPA fonts on it; BAUHAUS, COURIER, and TYPER. If you are going to load in an Artist font, you must first press the A)rtfon: key. If you are going to load a TPA font, you can leave things alone. If you have already loaded in an Artist font, then you will have to press the T)PAfont key, before you can load in a TPA font.) After you have placed your font disk into a drive, press the D)ir key. It will ask for a device; the default will be DSK1. Make sure that your storage device name is correctly entered and then press the "enter" key. You will then get a listing of all of the files on the designated storage device. By using your up and down arrow keys, move the cursor until it is in front of the font which you wish to load. Then press the A)ctive key. This puts your font name, with the proper storage device on the bottom of the screen. Now press the R)dfnt key, and your chosen font will be automatically loaded. After you have accomplished this, return to the text mode, and lay down some more of your text. If you don't have any space remaining, use your W)ipefront key stroke at the main/initial menu. You will now notice that your text is now displayed in the in the font which you chose. One of the best aspects of this feature is that it allows you to have text in as many different font styles, on the same page, as you desire. This is REAL DESK TOP PUBLISHING sports fans! It just shows that you should NEVER underestimate the power of a Genny or a 4A!!! There are a lot more things that TPA4MDOS can do, and it would be worth your while to go through your documentation and exercise each of the different features. I find the documentation to be pretty good, but there are a couple of errors; here are some corrections: a.) White out the very top line of page 2, column 1,

right above the box with the word, "Sample." This is not supposed to be there. b.) On page 9, after the box with "-90," take the 1st word on the 4th line, the word "right" and change it to the word "left." These are the only errors that I can think of at this time, so they are probably the only ones that I could find. A careful reading of the documentation is extremely important with this powerful piece of software. I urge anyone with a Genny, who wants to do some real DTP to purchase this fine piece of software. It will change you Genny into a very powerful tool. (The Chicago TL-99/4A Users' Group's EOG is a good example of what TPA4MDOS can do for you.)

#### IT'S TIME FOR KROME DOME TO RIDE OFF INTO THE SUNSET...

When the Geneve first emerged into our community, I started writing this article. I started writing it because there were some individuals who were going to great trouble to give Genny an unfavorable reputation. They claimed to be having all sorts of problems which I wasn't. In such a situation, Genny was clearly the "underdog," and I resolved to support the "underdog" by writing this support column. By now, things have changed; Genny has endured and had the opportunity to establish herself. Those of us who use her have come to love her. She is a fine machine with a great potential, and I do not regret my choice to go for a Genny rather than a mere "klone."

In the current situation within our community, the need for my support column no longer really exists. Other more qualified persons have taken up Genny's cause. I am speaking of Berry Miller and the many other fine programmers and hardware experts who know a heck of a lot more than I ever will about any machine.

Realizing this, I understand that it is time for Krome Dome to stop writing this trash. This article will therefore be the last "Geneve Support Column" to be written by me. I have enjoyed doing it, and, as a result of my research, I have learned a great deal, but now, I'm tired; I need a break, and I want to give the other members of our users' group and our larger community the opportunity to express their feelings on Genny and other related subjects. I will therefore only write an occasional article, if and when requested, or if I feel that there is a need. (If I ever do another regular column, it will be on Pascal programming.) I really need some time to do some things for myself, as computing isn't the only thing that I am involved with. (Instead of putting in so much time at my computer keyboard, I want to put more time in at my piano and synth keyboards and on my violoncello and viola da gamba fingerboards.) Before I go, I would like to thank the entire executive board of the CTIUG for their support of my efforts here. I would also like to thank those of you who have expressed some degree of appreciation for what I have attempted to do. I would also like to thank Mr. Bob Demeter, the fine editor of this fine newsletter for his support and willingness to print all of the garbage which I have submitted to him for publication. Well, Big Bob, no more of these over-long, rambling articles. Thanks for printing my STUFF...

Well, sports fans, bye now. I guess that it's really time to

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## PEB POWER PROBLEM

by DAVE SWARTZ

It happened in the middle of a file transfer from our club bulletin board. I suddenly noticed that no sectors were being transferred. Examination of the peripheral expansion box (PEB) revealed all LED indicators were dark. Turning the console power off and on again caused the system to act as if it had no 32K memory, disk drives or printer when these peripherals were addressed. After opening up the PEB, an ohmmeter check found the primary winding of the transformer had opened. Checking the diodes on the power supply board with my ohmmeter I found D3 to be a dead short. D4 was OK. These diodes form a half wave rectifier and supply the TI with +8 and +5 volts for the various circuits and boards in the PEB.

Finding a replacement transformer was not easy. My son, living in Lubbock, TX, (home of TI) called their parts department and was informed they no longer had a supply of transformers but had sold them to a store in California, and gave my son the 800 number. He relayed the info to me and I called, only to find they had resold the components to stores in California and Texas, and they gave me the 800 numbers of both places. A call to the Texas number revealed they had the transformer and could send it by UPS within 2 days. Joy Electronics, P.O. Box 542526, Dallas, TX 75354-2526, phone 1-800-528 7438, was the store sending me the transformer for \$54.00, which included shipping costs. Very good service from Joy as the transformer arrived as promised.

This was the second time I have had a transformer blow out on

me. The first time I replaced the diodes (one had shorted), but had replaced no other components except the transformer. At \$50.00+ per replacement, I don't want to buy any more transformers, so I decided to put some protection in the power supply.

To effect this I put fuses in the circuit between the transformer and diodes D3 and D4. To do this it was necessary to drill two half inch holes in the back panel of the PEB. I placed one just to the left of the regular fuse and the other above the first new one. I bought two fuse holders from Radio Shack, part number 270-362, and installed them in the holes after I had soldered about 12 inches of parallel plastic speaker wire to the fuse holder terminals, one wire to each terminal. The cathode ends of D3 and D4 were soldered into their normal holes, but the diodes were angled about 45 degrees up from the printed circuit board. The anode ends were each soldered to one lead of the wire from the fuse holders, and the other wire of each pair was inserted and soldered into the hole where the anode of the diode had been soldered originally.

I installed 2 amp fast acting fuses and opened one of the anode-wire connections and inserted a milliammeter to check the current. Current flow was about 60 ma with everything installed in the PEB and disk drives running. [I should point out my disk drives do not use PEB power.] The other diode in the circuit was checked out in the same manner, with about the same current flow. While checking this part of the circuit, the milliammeter needle suddenly pegged maximum on the 100 ma scale and the fuses blew. I decided that the 7805 (+5 volt) regulator was intermittently breaking down, so I replaced it also. I then checked the current flow again and found each leg of the circuit supplying about 60 ma of current. Radio Shack has a .315 amp fuse as their smallest value in the 5 x 20 mm size I had selected to use. I tried that size,

as well as a half amp, slow-blow fuse. Evidently initial current flow is greater than the current carrying capacity of these sizes as both sizes immediately blew out. I had on-hand 3 amp fuses, so I installed them and they have been working satisfactorily for over 50 hours. [As of June 91, over 8 months.] I plan to try 1 and 2 amp fuses to see which size will give me the most protection. Unless you are an experienced technician in sheet metal and electronics, I recommend you do not attempt this modification. Be advised that work done on a power supply can result in the total destruction of the unit if you make an error in voltages or polarity. I am providing this for information only and will not be held responsible for work you do on your equipment.

(Originally printed in Rocky Mountain 99'ers TIC TOC, Jan 1991.)

## PEB COOLING

by Dave Swartz

Texas Instruments must have turned a deaf ear to the PE Box and the egg-beater type cooling fan they installed in the box. There have been many articles written by many people on how they reduced the noise and improved the cooling of their PEB.

I don't know if my PEB runs unusually cool, but a thermometer placed inside the box read 87 deg F after the box had been in use for several hours. (Ambient temperature was 71 deg F).



The box temp was read beside the Myarc RS-232 card, the warmest one in my PEB. Noise was a greater problem than temperature in my system.

To reduce the noise level, I made the following modification to my PEB. **CAUTION!!** Unless you are skilled in electronics do not try to do this mod yourself. Get someone with electronics savvy to help. Also, any outstanding warranty will be voided by the changes to be made.

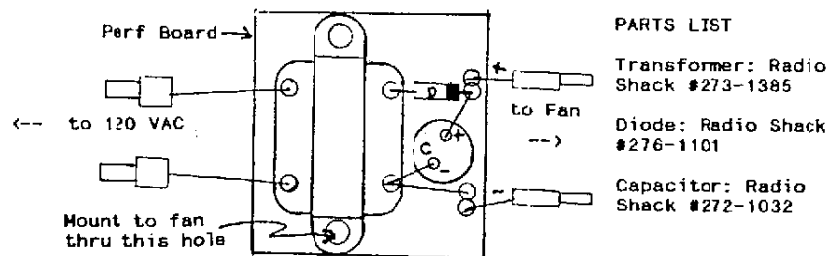
At a local surplus store I obtained a 24 VDC muffin or quiet fan. The distance between mounting holes is approximately 2.75 inches, the same as the TI fan. On a 2 inch square of perf board I built a small power supply for the fan. I used the smallest 12.6 VAC transformer Radio Shack sells, a 1 amp, 50 V rectifier diode and a 1000 mfd, 35 VDC capacitor. The components were soldered to each other through the board to make a half wave power supply, as shown in the diagram. The 120 VAC terminals that were connected to the original fan were retained and mating connectors were fastened to the input of the 12.6 VAC transformer. DC output voltage from the power supply should be connected to the fan with some form of disconnect in the line. This connector will depend on the fan terminals, etc.

After assembly of the power supply, it is a good idea to check the circuit out before installing in the PEB. Connect the fan to the power supply and temporarily connect the 120 VAC to the primary of the transformer. Check to see which way the air is flowing through the fan. If it is going the wrong way, reverse the leads to the fan. When all is ready, open up the PEB and remove all cards after waiting for the minimum 2 minutes after power has been switched off. Disassemble the box by removing practically every

screw you see on all sides of the box, and separate the inner part from the outer shell. This then should disclose the power supply area.

Disconnect and remove the original fan and save it for reinstallation in case you should have to send your PEB back to TI for repair. Using the same hardware, install the muffin fan. This is the most difficult part of the mod, but it can be done with perseverance. The fan power supply was mounted on the muffin fan by a screw and nut with a half inch spacer between fan and power supply board. The mounting screw should go through one of the transformer frame mounting holes so that looking from the front to the back of the PEB, the power supply will be mounted through the lower right hole of the fan. Exact spacing will depend on the placement of the main PEB power supply components. Connect the power leads to the source and the fan, and reassemble the PEB. You should now have a quieter running system. Because the fan is running on less than it's nominal voltage, it runs at a slower, more quiet speed. Approximately the same results could be achieved if you used a 220 VAC fan and ran it on 120 VAC without the above described power supply. The biggest problem is that 220 VAC fans of a size to fit the PEB are very hard to find.

(Originally printed in Rocky Mountain 99'ers TIC TOC, April 1991.)



# Close-Ups with Non-SLR Cameras

by Owen Mayer

```

5 CALL CLEAR
10 PRINT "CLOSE-UPS WITH NON
-SLR":TAB(10);"CAMERAS"
20 PRINT "*****"
***"
30 PRINT "By Owen Mayer"
40 PRINT "THIS PROGRAM FIGUR
ES THE CORRECT FOCUS SCAL
E SETTING WHEN USING CLO
SEUP LENSES ONNON-REFLEX CAM
ERAS."
50 PRINT "SELECT 1 TO FIGUR
E FOCUS SCALE SETTING ON
FOCUSABLE CAMERAS WHEN
DISTANCE AND CLOSEUP LENS
KNOWN."
60 PRINT "SELECT 2 TO FIGUR
E LENS TO SUBJECT DISTANCE.
"
70 PRINT "SELECT 3 TO FIGUR
E CLOSEUP LENS STRENGTH NEE
DED."
72 PRINT "SELECT 4 TO EXIT
PROGRAM."
73 INPUT SEL
75 ON SEL GOTO 85,300,500,70
0
85 CALL CLEAR
88 PRINT "There is an error
due to center of fccus of
multiple element lenses
"
90 INPUT "LENS TO SUBJECT DI
STANCE IN INCHES? ":I
100 INPUT "CLOSEUP LENS DIOP
TERS? ":D
110 U=I/39.37
120 S=3.280833/((1/U)-D)
130 IF S>100000 THEN 140
135 IF S<0 THEN 140 ELSE 160
140 PRINT "USE LOWER DIOPTR
CLOSEUP LENS."

```

```

150 GOTO 90
160 IF S<.2 THEN 170 ELSE 19
0
170 PRINT "USE HIGHER DIOPTE
R CLOSEUP LENS."
180 GOTO 90
190 PRINT "SET FOCUS SCALE T
O ":INT(S*100+.5)/100;"FEET"
195 CALL SOUND(500,1000,5)
200 PRINT "Rerun this sectio
n? Y/N"
210 CALL KEY(5,K,STAT)
215 IF STAT=0 THEN 210
220 IF (K=89)+(K=21)THEN 90
230 IF (K=78)+(K=10)THEN 40
240 GOTO 210
300 REM FIGURE LENS-SUBJECT
DISTANCE
305 CALL CLEAR
310 INPUT "Close up lens dio
pters? ":D
315 INPUT "Focus scale setti
ng, ft.? (enter 18 if fixe
d) ":S
320 A=3.280833/S+D
330 U=1/A
340 I=U*39.37
350 PRINT "Lens to subject d
istance will be ";INT(I*1
00+.5)/100;" Inches."
360 FR=(I-INT(I))*16
370 PRINT "Or";INT(I);INT(FR
*10+.5)/10;" /16 Inches."
380 PRINT "Repeat this secti
on? Y/N"
390 CALL KEY(5,K,STAT)
400 IF STAT=0 THEN 390
410 IF (K=89)+(K=121)THEN 30
0
420 IF (K=78)+(K=110)THEN 40
430 GOTO 390

```

```

500 REM FIGURE DIOPTR LENS
NEEDED
505 CALL CLEAR
510 INPUT "Lens-subject dist
ance, decimal inches? "
:I
520 INPUT "Focus scale setti
ng, feet? Enter 18 if fixed
.":S
530 U=1/39.37
540 D=(1/U)-(3.280833/S)
550 PRINT "Closeup lens diop
ters would be ";INT(D*100+.5
)/100
560 PRINT "If number is nega
tive or very high, rerun
section with new cond
itions."
570 PRINT "Use closest power
you have. Lens powers may b
e added, such as +2 an
d +3=+5."
580 PRINT "Put strongest len
s closest to camera lens. R
efigure scale setting
or working"
590 PRINT "distance using se
ctions 1 or 2 of this program
. Repeat this section?

```

```

Y/N"
600 CALL KEY(5,K,STAT)
610 IF STAT=0 THEN 600
620 IF (K=89)+(K=121)THEN 50
0
630 IF (K=78)+(K=110)THEN 40
640 GOTO 600
700 END
710 REM additional info
720 REM This program will b
e useful if you ever need to
take closeups and a slr
camera is unavailable.
730 REM It is best to use
daylight and a small lens
opening as it is diffic
ult to measure precise dist
ances
740 REM High focus distance
s may be regarded as infinit
y-use your judgment with
yourlense's focus marks.
750 REM Allow for differenc
ein point of view of viewfin
der and lens (parallax).
760 REM This is a public
domain program by owen mayer
r hoffman estates, illin
ois.

```