

HUG

HOUSTON USERS' GROUP

APRIL
1986

HUG TIBBS - (713) 475-8909
24-hour BULLETIN BOARD

MEETING SCHEDULE
FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH
(2nd Sunday if 1st Sunday
is on a holiday weekend)

THE NEXT MEETING IS ABOUT

The next meeting will be SUNDAY, APRIL 06, 1986 at 2:00 P.M. The program will be the demonstration of some of the more popular business software written for the TI 99-4A from Futura Software by Wayne Lewis. Mike Matula of M&S Computer Systems will demonstrate GraphX, a graphics program from Australia

IN THIS ISSUE

ADDENDUM

A LETTER FROM TEX-COMP

TI FORTH SCREEN DUMP

1986 HUG OFFICERS

President --- MARK CRUMP unlisted
VP/Membership DON LEWIS 353-5295
VP/Program -- DAVID SHOLMIRE 482-0186
VP/S.I.G. --- ROGERS MILLS .. 930-0810
Exec. Asst. - TOM JAY 850-0222

Secretary - JIM HUMPHREY . 465-6525
Treasurer - JERRY ILLING . 664-7059
Librarian - LARRY PIPKIN . 499-9991
TIBBS/SysOp BILL KNECHT .. 473-5713
Editor ---- PHIL POXON .. 973-2362

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE HOUSTON USERS' GROUP. ANY OPINIONS OR ENDORSEMENTS ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHOR, AND MAY NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE OFFICIAL OPINION OF 'HUG'. PERMISSION TO REPRINT GRANTED TO OTHER USER GROUPS. SUBSCRIPTION IS FREE WITH MEMBERSHIP.

A LETTER FROM TEX-COMP

This is a copy of a letter sent by Jerry Price, Vice President, Tex-Comp TI Users Supply Company to Mark Crump, President of Houston Users Group. It is a response to several comments made by a previous guest speaker, Dr. Ron Albright, a system operator on Comuserve. This letter, and the comments which were made by Dr. Ron Albright represent the personal feelings of those people, and do not necessarily represent the beliefs of this editor or the other officers of this organization.

Mr. Mark Crump, President
Houston Users' Group
Houston, Texas

January 27, 1986

Dear Mark,

While we have not met personally, I am sure you have heard of our company, Tex-Comp, which has been supporting the TI-99/4A user since the introduction of the original 99/4. As you may be aware, we also support legitimate regional dealers including Mike Matula of MS Computers in Houston. In fact, if I remember correctly, Mike I worked together to get your Bulletin Board a modem at a special low price.

The reason I am writing you, is that it has been recently brought to my attention from several sources who attended your last monthly meeting on Sunday, January 5, 1986, that the scheduled speaker Ronald Albright, a

system operator (sysop) on Comuserve, deviated from his presentation about Comuserve and made a number of defamatory and untrue remarks of and concerning myself, my business and one of my suppliers.

Since I was not present to respond to Dr. Albright's remarks nor did he ever make a prior effort to contact me to confirm the truth or accuracy of the statements he made of which he has absolutely no first-hand knowledge, I would appreciate your reprinting this letter in your next newsletter so that your members can have the opportunity to hear both sides and form their own conclusions.

1. Dr. Albright accused Tex-Comp of misappropriating DM-1000 from a Canadian users group and urged your membership to stop dealing with Tex-Comp until it stopped giving this program away.

The true facts are that this program was provided to Tex-Comp by a Canadian customer early last summer with the request that it be "freely distributed". Notwithstanding the request that the program be "freely distributed", we also confirmed that the program had been placed into the public domain by the author which means absolutely no claim of copyright or any other proprietary right can legally be made nor can the program be reclaimed from the public domain at a later date. At the time we received this program it was being handed out and passed around at just about every user group meeting or gathering in the country and also appeared for free downloading on many local and national boards. In fact I am informed that even the Houston board and the Comuserve board

had it on at one time or another.

Apparently, the fact that we started giving it away upset a small group of individuals who feel that they have the right to dictate and control who can freely distribute this public domain program. Since the program is public domain, the attempt to control, limit or monopolize its distribution by conspiring to bring about a boycott or by interfering with the relationship of Tex-Comp with its customers, prospective customers and its suppliers, is a clear and willful violation of the United States Anti-Trust laws which contain appropriate criminal and civil sanctions. Tex-Comp, with the help of many of its customers and user groups in both the U.S. and Canada, has identified the culpable parties, and the matter is currently in the hands of our legal counsel for appropriate action. There has also been false inferences made that Tex-Comp removed the name of the author and his group on the version it is freely distributing. Please check this out with any copy MS has in stock or any copy any of your members have purchased from us and you will see that it this assertion, like the others, is simply untrue. We also have written proof that many of our customers did in fact send contributions to the Canadian group. Unlike DM-1000, there are a number of so called "freeware" programs, such as Fast Term and Mass Copy, that make a legitimate claim of copyright, which would enable the author or owner to make a legal claim of unauthorized use.

2. Dr. Albright accused Tex-Comp of improperly taking the name "Explorer" from Millers Graphics for a program of its own.

The true facts are that Tex-Comp has been selling a disk editor program licensed from a young man in Virginia (who also wrote the Nibbler) under the trademark "Explorer" since December of 1984 and has records such as cancelled royalty checks, invoices, etc. to establish this date. I first learned of Miller planning to call a forthcoming program "The Explorer" in mid-summer of 1985 at a local users group meeting and after promptly verifying that Miller had not sold or introduced his program I put him on notice so he could change his proposed name before introduction and avoid the possibility of any conflict or confusion. He never responded to this letter or changed the name even though he had more than enough of an opportunity to do so. Millers Graphics is a small firm which is actively supporting the more advanced 99/4A users and I have no desire to injure him financially.

Accordingly, when Triton asked my permission to sell his program which infringed my California trademark registration, I agreed providing the name in the Triton catalog was changed to MS Explorer. The story Dr. Albright related to your group about my midnight trip to a typesetter to beat Miller to the marketplace with the name has absolutely no factual or truthful basis. Even Dr. Miller himself stuck to the true facts as reported in the January issue of Micropendium.

3. Dr. Albright advised your group that the new CorComp diagnostic module (PDM) that Tex-Comp is currently advertising is nothing but an old worthless program that CorComp had used internally for its own testing. He also implied that CorComp and its

dealers were ripping off the public on its load interrupt switch since it could be built and hard wired with a couple dollars worth of parts from Radio Shack.

The true facts are that the PDM contains a brand new program that CorComp has developed for this module product. It is the only product of this type that we know of that enables a user to test the system even when the drive is malfunctioning. The information Dr. Albright provided to your group about it being a old program is false and constitutes trade libel against both CorComp and its many retailers including Tex-Comp. In addition, while owners are not and do not wish to build their own hardware or make internal connections to their equipment, the plans for many pieces of TI hardware, adapters, cables, etc including load interrupt switches, have appeared in the various 99/4A magazines and user group publications through the years and we at Tex-Comp have always provided them to our customers. However, to publicly attack a company and its retailers which make an investment in research, design, testing, tooling, component parts, packaging, overhead expense, and advertising to bring a product to market at a price higher than what one could throw it together in his backyard, is not only blatantly unfair, but is totally inconsistent with the economic principles which underlie our democratic society. Apparently Dr. Albright fails to realize that many 99/4A users are not as talented as he is and would prefer to pay extra to get a unit complete with tested software that plugs right in with no hassle.

4. Dr. Albright also advised your group that CorComp is in serious financial trouble and would most likely be out of business by the end of the year.

As one of the many retailers which market and support CorComp products, I take particular offense to this defamatory statement which was made with absolutely no first-hand knowledge of the true facts. I personally know of no situation where CorComp, under its current management, has failed to deliver product as promised or has failed to meet its current legitimate financial obligations. As a mail order company, Tex-Comp could not sell a product that was unreliable. CorComp's outstanding record of delivering what it promises should be compared by contrast to other firms that have either gone out of business or keep promising to introduce products that are either delayed, introduced with serious problems or not introduced at all.

On the advice of legal counsel, I cannot at this time go into Dr. Albright's motives for using the platform your group gave him as a CompuServe spokesman to make false and defamatory remarks against Tex-Comp and CorComp, or the legal effect this may have on pre-existing contractual relationships. I can assure you however that Tex-Comp takes any and all unfounded and malicious attacks on its reputation very seriously and is more than willing to provide anyone making false and defamatory statements about it an appropriate forum to be properly heard.

In closing I would like to point out several interesting

facts for your membership to consider in forming its own conclusions in this matter.

1. Mr. Boone, the Canadian who along with Dr. Albright and Theresa Masters has been actively engaged in a smear campaign against Tex-Comp in an attempt to limit and control the distribution of DM-1000, have attacked this free distribution of a public domain software by Tex-Comp ostensibly on the grounds that Tex-Comp is a dealer as opposed to a user group. It should be pointed out however, that Mr. Boone is listed in the current Millers Graphics catalog as a Canadian dealer. Theresa Masters has in the past year converted the LA users group from a club to a dealership and has purportedly obtained a business and resale license. Products from firms such as Millers Graphics and Myarc are advertised for sale by her group in the LA 99er newsletter and are sold by her at a profit at other users group meetings and computer selling shows throughout the area. Dr. Albright himself is currently receiving profits from commercial software that he partially wrote and sold to Tex-Comp through his partnership, Heritage Software.

2. At your last meeting (January 5), Dr. Albright advocated that software for the 99/4A should be issued as freeware with the ultimate user being the sole judge of what should be paid. If Dr. Albright feels so strongly about this freeware concept, I question why his book, which was originally written on disk, was distributed commercially rather than being distributed on disk as freeware.

Thank you for your anticipated co-operation in

presenting our position in this matter. Your group can count on Tex-Comp for support in the TI 99/4A marketplace and we thank you all for making 1985 a very successful year for a firm supporting a computer that has not been made for almost two and a half years.

Very Truly Yours,

Jerry Price, VP
Tex-Comp TI Users Supply
Company

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

This month's program will begin with a demonstration of some of the more popular business packages written for the T.I. 99/4A by Futura Software. A past president of the Houston Users Group will present this segment of the meeting. Wayne will also be available for a question and answer session on this software. If you have questions about the General Ledger or Accounts Receivable feel free to ask at this time. Mike Matula of MS Computers will round out this month's program with a demonstration of Graph-x. This is an exciting print graphics program written for the 99/4A by one of our neighbors from the deep south, Australia is about as far south as one might care to go. Anyone wishing more information about this program may ask Mike following the demonstration.

David Sholmire Program
Vice-president

TI 99/4A SCREEN DUMP

Howard H. Rogers
Torrance, California

Reprinted with permission from *FORTH Dimensions*, published by the Forth Interest Group. Volume VI, Number 6; March/April 1985

Forth, as written for the Texas Instruments 99/4A computer, permits a simple implementation of bit-map mode. The Forth program described below prints a full-size replica of the screen on a compatible printer. This technique should be adaptable to other computers, if changes make the scanning procedures specific to the particular video display processor (VDP). The printer used was a Star-Micronics Gemini 10. The resolution attained is identical to that of the screen, 256 x 192 pixels.

The program operates in the following way. The particular bit-map mode, as stored in **VDPMODE** (the word for VDP control; screen 12, line 9), selects the addresses which determine the limits of the specific mode in use. VDP RAM (Figure One) is scanned (screen 12, lines 2-5) to correspond to the first row of pixels starting at the upper-left hand corner of the screen. The data is stored in the variable **SCRDATA** until the line is complete (screen 12, line 5). At this point, the method used by **PRT** (screen 11, lines 13-15) to achieve the desired resolution in the final printout will be described. The bit-map modes available in the printer have too many dots per inch to be useful (sixty or

120), since a print would result which is much smaller than the image on the ten-inch monitor screen. The greatest resolution available in character mode was seventeen characters per inch, which was not enough (136 characters total in eight inches). The problem was solved by selecting three characters, ASCII 225, 227 and 231, which print as follows. An ASCII 225 prints a 3x3 square in the upper-left hand corner of a 6 x 6 field; ASCII 227 prints a 3x3 square in the upper-right hand corner of the field; and ASCII 231 prints a 3x6 rectangle in the top half of the field. Hence, a maximum of 272 3x3 squares in eight inches resulted. A linefeed of 2/72 inch gives the proper ratio between height and width, and also provides some overlap of characters. The printer codes are shown on screen 11, lines 3-4.

PRT starts with do loops that read data for each line of the screen. Each two bits of data are stored sequentially in **STDATA** by **SCAN** (screen 11, lines 9-12). Upon completion of the loop, printing begins with **SWCH**, which turns on the interface to the printer. After the line has been printed by the print loop (screen 11, lines 13-15), the process continues line by line, using the three do loops in screen 12, lines 2-8, until the entire screen has been copied.

A sample use of the graphics program (screen 13) and the printed results are in Figure Two, a simple three-dimensional box. The lines were first plotted on the monitor screen with the word **.LINE** (available on the TI 99-4A) and then were printed with **SCREENDUMP**. The last step usually requires about ten minutes partly due to the

.SCR #11

```
0 ( SCREEN DUMP - BIT MAP MODES      HHR  1984 ) BASE->R  DECIMAL
1 0 VARIABLE SCRDATA 256 ALLOT SCRDATA  256 ERASE ( VDP data )
2 0 VARIABLE STDATA  128 ALLOT STDATA   128 ERASE ( Printer data )
3 SWCH 15 EMIT 27 EMIT 65 EMIT 2 EMIT    ( Printer codes GEMINI 10)
4 27 EMIT 77 EMIT 4 EMIT UNSWCH ( 2/72 LF, 4 LH margin, 17 CPI)
5 : SELECT CASE  0 OF 32 ENDOF ( Choose printer character)
6     128 OF 225 ENDOF      ( Binary-ASCII  0- 32 01- 227)
7     64 OF 227 ENDOF      ( Binary-ASCII  10-225 11- 231)
8     192 OF 231 ENDOF  ENDCASE ;
9 : SCAN 32 0 DO SCRDATA I + C@ ( Read data, 32 bytes per Line)
10  4 0 DO DUP 192 AND SELECT ( Select 2 bits for each character)
11  STDATA J 4 * I + + C!      ( Store data to be sent to printer)
12  2 SLA LOOP DROP LOOP ;    ( Shift left 2 bits each loop)
13 : PRT SCAN SWCH 128 0 DO STDATA I + ( Begin print & fetch data)
14  C@  EMIT8 LOOP CR          ( Send CHR 32, 225, 227, and 231)
15  20000 0 DO LOOP UNSWCH ; --> ( Time delay for printer)
```

SCR #12

```
0 ( SCREEN DUMP - BIT MAP MODES  HHR  1984  Continued)
1
2 : SCREEN_DUMP  DO 8 0 DO 256 0 DO ( Reads VDP RAM and )
3   R> R> R> R> R  SWAP  >R OVER + ( stores in CPU RAM )
4   SWAP >R SWAP >R OVER + SWAP >R ( adds 3 loop indices)
5   SCRDATA I 8 / + 8 VMBR 8 +LOOP ( transfers from VDP to CPU)
6   PRT ?TERMINAL IF SWCH CR UNSWCH
7   QUIT ENDIF LOOP              ( press CLEAR to stop printing )
8   256 +LOOP BEEP ;             ( signals completion of printing )
9 : SCREEN/DUMP  VDFMODE @  CASE
10  4 OF  14336 8192  ENDOF ( Selects Graphics2 mode )
11  5 OF  12288 8192  ENDOF ( Selects SPLIT mode )
12  6 OF  14336 9216  ENDOF ( Selects SPLIT2 mode )
13  HONK CR ." ERROR- REQUIRES BIT-MAPPED MODES " QUIT ENDCASE
14  SCREEN_DUMP BEEP : R->BASE ( if none of above modes )
15
```

SCR #13

```
0 ( EXAMPLE OF BIT MAP MODE DRAWING)
1 ( RECTANGULAR BOX)
2
3 GRAPHICS2  DRAW
4  20 171 205 171 LINE      205 171 205  40 LINE
5 205  40  20  40 LINE      20  40  20 171 LINE
6 205 171 235 151 LINE     205  40 235  20 LINE
7  20  40  50  20 LINE      50  20 235  20 LINE
8 235  20 235 151 LINE     50 151 235 151 LINE
9  50 151  50  20 LINE     20 171  50 151
10
11
12
13
14
15
```

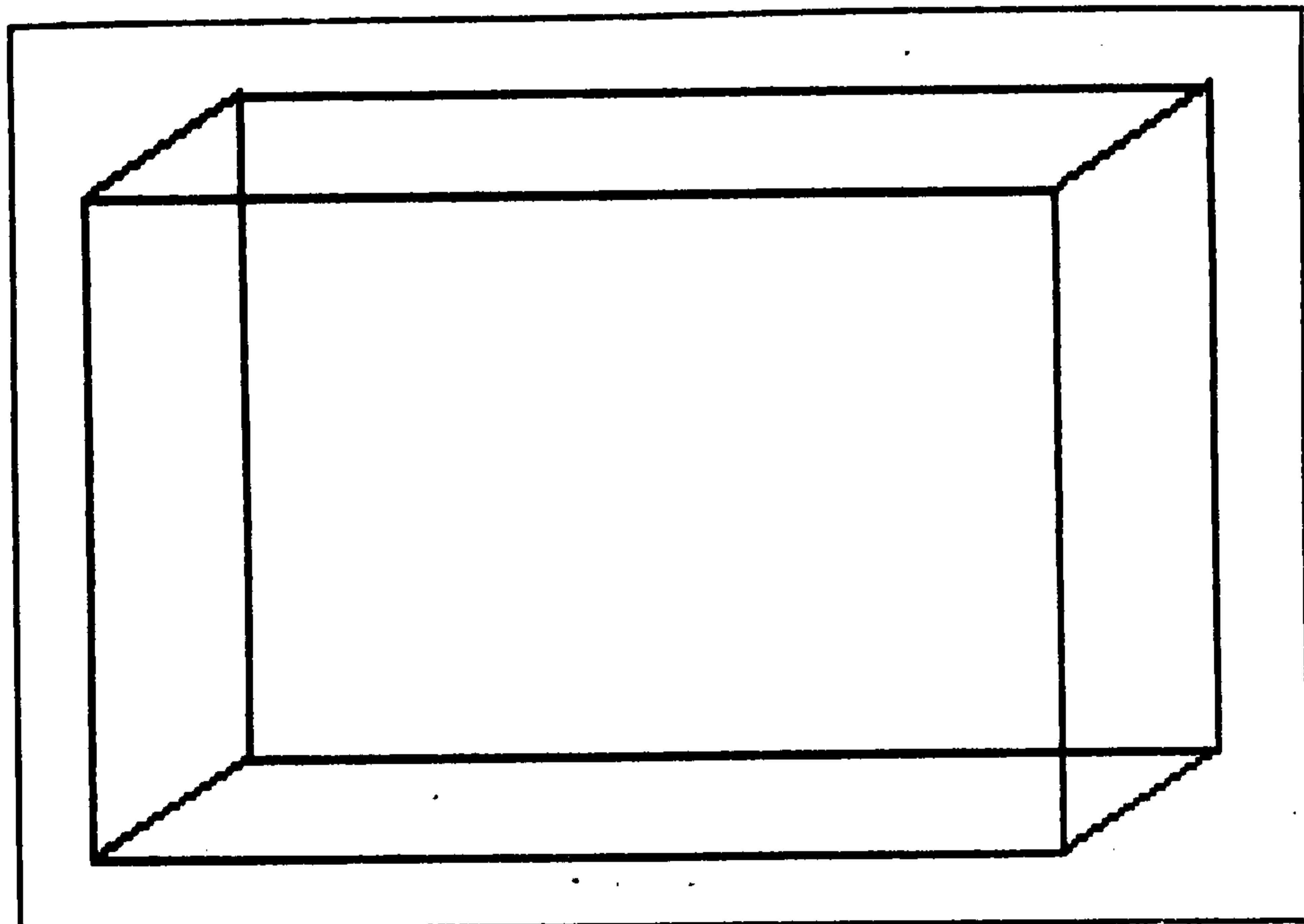
unidirectional print mode used for the greatest precision when plotting graphical data.

[ED. I saw this program in FORTH Dimensions, published by FORTH INTEREST GROUP P.O. Box 8231, San Jose, Ca 95155. While it looks to be an interesting program, I hav not been able to make it work with the example shown (using .LINE as the author suggests) maybe one of our members can figure out how it works LET the rest of us know.]

ROWS	COL. 0-7	COL. 8-F	COL. 10-17	COL. 18-1F	...	COL. A0-A8	...	COL. F8-FF
0	2000	2008	2010	2018		20A0		20F8
1	2001	2009	2011	2019		20A1		20F9
2	2002	200A	2012	201A		20A2		20FA
3	2003	200B	2013	201B		20A3		20FB
7	2007	200F	2017	201F		20A7		20FF
8	2100	2108	2110	2118		21A0		21F8
F	2107	210F	2117	211F		21A7		21FF
B0	3600	3608	3618	361F		36A0		36FB
BF	3707	370F	3717	371F		37A7		37FF

PARTIAL MEMORY MAP OF SCREEN IN BIT-MAP MODE

FIGURE ONE



HUG LIBRARY CATALOG ADDENDUM
March 1986

- 0185 TRIDON**TI-B Joysticks optional
A 3-D version of Tic-tac-toe by Paul Pagel. A very challenging game. 27 sectors
- 1074 COORS CAN**D/V80 EA or TI-Writer Printer rqd
A Print Art program by Robert Davis that prints out a Coors can. Can be printed using E/A or TI-Writer. 44 sectors
- 1075 SOLARFLARE**XB
A cute graphics program by Mike Lowe showing a solar explosion. 12 sectors
- 2047 FM 1040/85**Multiplan & Printer rqd
A program by Robert Davis to help you with your 1985 Federal Income Tax forms. 54 sectors
- 4151 C-COMPILER**EDITOR ASSEMBLER
A C-Compiler for the TI. Comes complete with documentation that can be printed out. 733 sectors
- 4152 ACCOUNTANT**XB Printer rqd.
A program by Blaine Streeter to balance your checkbook. 10 sectors
- 4153 JACKET**E/A 5 Printer rqd.
An assembly language program that prints out disk sleeves. A "Freeware" program by Chris Morgan. 41 sectors
- 5232 MOONLIGHT SONATA**XB
Paul Sherrill's version of the "First Movement of the Moonlight Sonata" by Bach. Very pretty music. 55 sectors

NOTICE: There are many programs currently in our Library which fall under the category of "Freeware". These programs are not "free" as the authors usually request a small fee for their programs. Please honor these requests so we will continue to have programs of this caliber. This money is over and above the copying fee charged by HUG Library.

Larry

