

# HUG

HOUSTON USERS' GROUP  
[FOR THE TI-994A & COMPATIBLES]

MAY  
1987

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

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

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## AT THE NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 1987                      2:00 P.M.

St. John's School - 2401 Claremont

APPEARING "IN PERSON" - the MYARC 9640. In what will be a very special program, we will have a Myarc 9640 demonstrated. There will be a question and answer session following. Plan to attend and get there EARLY. The DEMO and Q&A session will probably last until 5pm.

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## 1987 HUG OFFICERS

President --- LARRY PIPKIN... 499-9991	Secretary - TERRY LeFEBVRE 660-8776
VP/Membership BOB McCARTHY... 955-7939	Treasurer - RUTH HERMAN .. 271-4171
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Exec. Asst. - TOM JAY .... .. 850-0222	Editors --- KIM PETERSON . 498-3047
	SCOTT MEDBURY 277-6266

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## TO ALL FELLOW HUG MEMBERS

Beginning with the upcoming meeting, we will be asking each member for that attends a meeting to "pitch in" \$1.00 to help pay the utility costs at St. John's School. Hopefully we will be able to get some prizes donated so you might win something for your \$1. St. John's has been very generous in the past to donate the space for our meetings and it is only fitting for us to do something for them at this time.

It is being said by some that the message base on our bulletin board system is being under utilized. Well, it is. Many people who frequent the board only use it to download files. This is all fine, however the other file areas on the board are worth the effort. Visit the other information areas in the "N" section. The message base can be a wonderful forum for exchanging ideas and help for those who may need it.

Sincerely  
Scott T. Medbury for  
Larry R. Pipkin  
H.U.G. PRESIDENT

Ziggy

### HUG MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

HUG MEMBERSHIP FEES are .....\$15.00.  
Initiation Fee (New Members Only) \$10.00

New members receive 6 free programs of their choice from the Library Catalog.

Please send renewal and/or new membership fees to:  
Houston Users Group c/o Ruth/Sandy Herman 6219 Sanford Road, Houston, Texas 77096. Membership applications are available from Ruth or on the club BBS, HUG TIBBS (713) 475-8909.

### EDITORS SOA-pBox

And they say that there is "no such thing as a free lunch." YOU can now receive a library credit of six (6) programs for each ORIGINAL article accepted by the editors. So, write a review of a piece of hardware, software, printer, etc. and get a credit for six of some of the best software available for the TI 99/4A. The media (disk or cassette tape) must be furnished or there will be a nominal charge for HUG to supply the media. Whenever possible, please submit articles to us in D/V 80 format on disk or upload them to us. This will save us the time necessary in typing. Also, try to check the spelling. (I have a hard enough time with what I write without making errors for someone else to get the credit.)

We welcome Bob McCarthy who has graciously taken over the unexpired term of Frank Reidy as V.P. of Membership. A thankyou is in order for the job that Frank did while he served. I can well understand how obligations to family and occupation take priority over other activities. Hopefully, Frank's interest in HUG will remain for he has our gratitude.

During last month's program assistance was given to the group by Dolores Landrum who receives my "Hats Off" award in helping with the CompuServe Demonstration. Those in attendance who are not familiar with CompuServe received several tips on using this service. I, for one, now need to spend more time on CompuServe to become more comfortable without breaking the bank.

In future issues of the HUG NEWSLETTER you will be seeing more articles on using: printers; MS Multiplan; P-box fan replacement; Cables for printers, disk drives, modems, cassette, etc; and more.

Scott Medbury  
Editor



## IN CASE OF TROUBLE

We all know it happens sooner or later. Our TI 99/4A system is reliable, but every now and then, it needs repair or service. Where to go? And which components are at fault?

With some thought and the proper diagnostic equipment, you can pinpoint the problem and know where to take or send a defective component for service.

I bought the CORCOMP PDM-99 for \$24.95 from our own M&S Computer Systems. This Peripheral Diagnostics Module (PDM) will test your Disk Controller, 32k Memory expansion and RS232 cards. It will do the same for a defective diskette or disk drive. It's worth its weight in gold.

Once the PDM-99 localizes the defective component, there is no need to take or send your entire system for repair. Just remove the defective component.

If the defective component is manufactured by TI, call their toll free consumer hotline number, 1-800-TI-CARES. Tell them the model number and name of the defective part. Ask them the cost of replacing the unit with a good rebuilt one. The price is quite reasonable. I paid \$53.63 for a replacement PHP 1240 Disk Controller Card. Send the component to be replaced to:

Texas Instruments  
Repair Dept.  
2305 North University Ave.  
Lubbock, Texas 79408

The replacement unit will arrive by parcel post at your home in 3 to 4 weeks. You can check the status of your repair order by calling the same toll free number as before. The TI people on the HOT LINE are quite courteous. What if the manufacturer of your component is no longer in business? Try telephone yellow pages under the name of the component to find a repair facility.

For example, I had a Remex RFD480 2/3 height disk drive which my PDM-99 told me was defective. Remex is out of business. In the yellow pages under "COMPUTERS - SERVICE REPAIR", after a little digging, I found DISKTEC CORP., 4545 S. Pinemont, Houston, Texas 77041, (713) 460-9650. They are on the northwest side of town off of Hwy 290. They took one week to repair my disk drive. You can pick it up when they notify you the repairs are complete or they will ship it C.O.D. to your door. I paid \$37.49 to have my drive aligned. If parts were required, the cost would have been \$49.50. Service was extremely courteous and efficient. Repairs are covered by a 180 day warranty from the date of shipment or pickup.

So, HUG members, there is help out there when you need it. However, get the PDM-99 module first. It will make the whole process a lot easier.

Sandy Herman

## HUG CLASSIFIEDS

HUG MEMBERS with hardware/software for sale may place an AD in this section for FREE.

### FOR SALE

COMPLETE SYSTEM -- Black Silver Console, PEB, RS232, TI CONTROLLER  
2 SS DRIVES, 32K, TI Modem, Printer, Joysticks, Cassette, Zenith  
Monochrome Monitor, spare console, books, disks. -----400.00  
-- Gary Hux (713) 991-0979 or leave Msg on HUG TIBBS

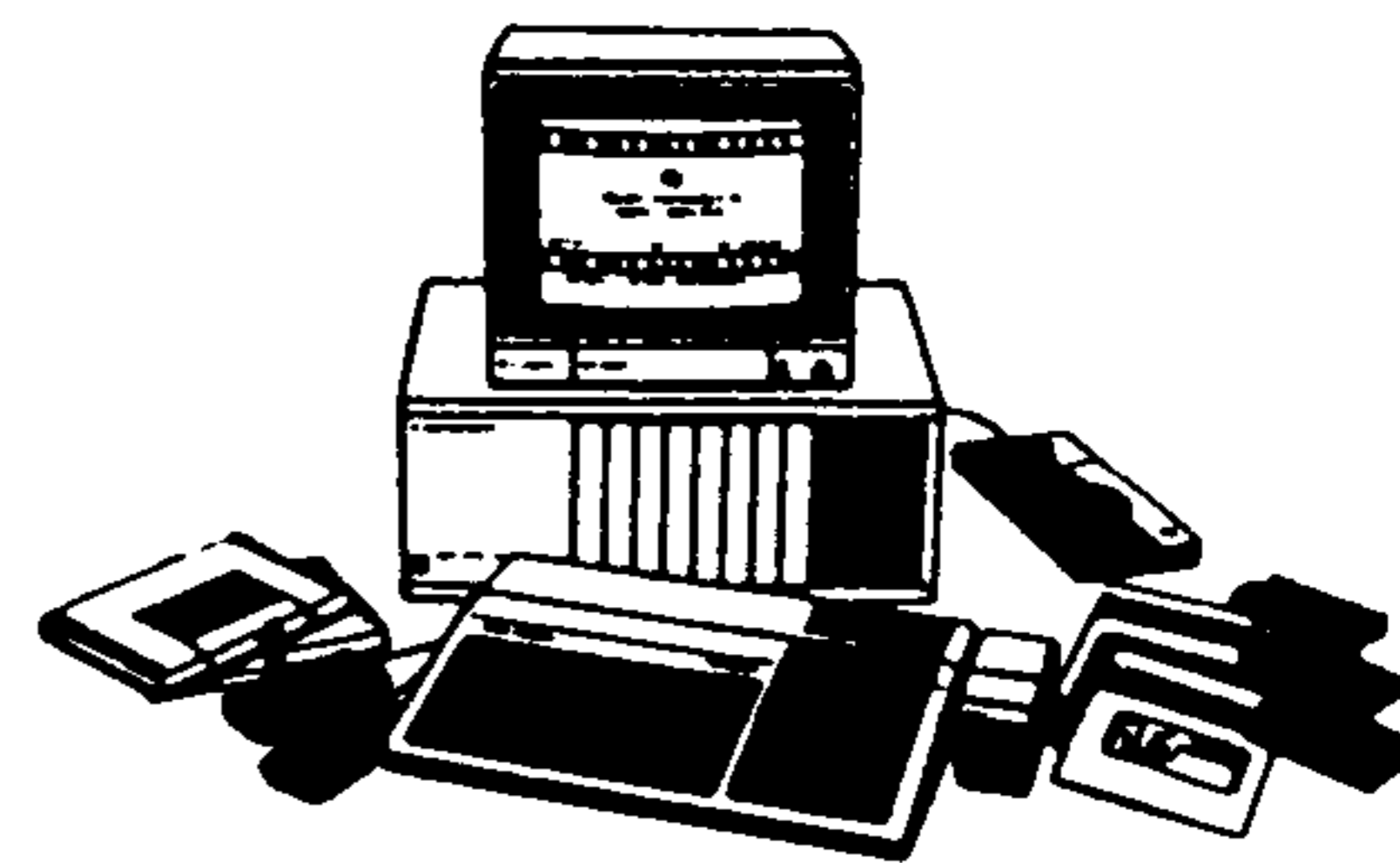
KNOW YOURSELF (cassette software from Creative Computing) -- \$4.00  
-- Scott Medbury (713) 277-6266 or leave message on HUG TIBBS

USED BOOKS : Best of 99er - \$10.00; BASIC TIPS by Amlist - \$12.00;  
SAMS Tool Kit Series - \$2.50; SAMS BASIC Ref. Manual - \$3.50;  
SAMS Graphics and Sound - \$2.00; SAMS Basic Programs - \$2.00;  
SAMS 51 Fun Educational Programs - \$2.00  
-- Bill Knecht (Leave Message on BBS) -----

### WANTED!!

MINI-MEMORY MODULE w/line by line assembler lines program  
-- Frances Nussbaum (713) 960-8525

Line by line assembler for MINI-MEMORY MODULE  
-- Bob Floyd (713) 455-1467 or leave message on HUG TIBBS



## TIPS 4A PAGE

### FILE NAMES

(HUG TIBBS 06/27/84)

While working on a program include the following line as the first line of the program. Updating the program is made easier in that you do not have to worry about backing up over another program should you forget what you called it.

```
1 !SAVE DSK1.FILENAME
```

(EX-BASIC ONLY) When you are ready to backup, PRESS 1, FCTN X (DOWN ARROW) ENTER, FCTN 8 (REDO), SPACEBAR THREE TIMES AND PRESS ENTER. Your updated file will be saved with the right filename.

### SCREEN ROUTINES

1. Tired of the same old CALL CLEAR command to clear the screen? Try these instead.

10 CALL HCHAR(1,1,32,768) - This will clear the screen from top to bottom.

10 CALL VCHAR(1,1,32,768) - Clearing the screen from left to right is what tis one does.

Other screen routines are possible and will be published later.

2. For a sharper display on a black and white TV add this line to the beginning of a program. CALL SCREEN(15)

This will disable the color generating circuit in the computer and remove the vertical lines often seen. It also increased the sharpness of the characters.

### CASSETTE TIPS

If you accidentally enter OLD CS1 when you mean to enter SAVE CS1, DO NOT PANIC... All is not lost. Type SHIFT "E" and hit ENTER. You will get an I/O error message but the program will still be in memory and you will get a second chance to save.

### LONG FILE LOADING

(Extended Basic Only) To load and run long files that were originally saved without the memory expansion and disk drives try this:

(Perform the following in this order.)

```
CALL FILES(1)
```

```
NEW
```

```
OLD DSK1.FILENAME
```

```
SAVE DSKn.FILENAME//,MERGE
```

```
TURN OFF COMPUTER, THEN BACK ON
```

```
MERGE DSKn.FILENAME//
```

```
SAVE DSK1.FILENAME
```

This will convert the file to one which will be able to access the memory expansion and may be run from a menu or "LOAD" program.

(Steven Foster 8/85)

### PERSONAL RECORD KEEPING

If you have numerous files on cassette created for the PRK where each page was used and you have tried to load them with the Expansion System turned on giving you an error message when loading, try this. Load the file from cassette, then delete several pages. Then save the file on a different cassette. Turn everything off, then turn on the expansion system and console. Now try to load the new file from cassette. If you deleted enough from the original file, you should now be able to save the file to disk. It seems that when a PRK file is full that it uses all available memory thus making it necessary to delete "Pages" because you cannot do a CALL FILES(1) from the module.

(Scott Medbury 4/87)

HUG LIBRARY CATALOG ADDENDUM  
April 1987

- 0223           SIMON SAYS\*\*EA/5  
A cute assembly language version of "Simon Says". 19 sectors
- 0224           MOSAIC PUZZLE\*\*XB  
Play the old hand-held game of a Mosaic Puzzle on your computer. Plays with either numbers or letters. 34 sectors
- 1126           RLE-CHIPS\*\*DF/128 Printer required  
A picture of IC chips that can be printed out using Program #1079. 25 sectors
- 1127           RLE-FERRARI\*\*DF/128 Printer required  
A picture of a Ferrari that can be printed out using Program #1079. 25 sectors
- 3059           PLOTTER\*\*EXTENDED GRAPHICS BASIC  
This program, written by Maurice Slot, will plot 2 points on X-Y axis to determine distance and slope between them. 5 sectors
- 3060           ROMAN-ARABIC CONVERTER\*\*XB  
This program, submitted by Richard Lumpkin, will convert Roman Numerals to Arabic and visa-versa. 10 sectors
- 4266           FILEREAD 7\*\*XB  
A file reader that will read any format file. 16 sectors
- 4267           FORECAST\*\*XB  
This program will store weather information and forecast the weather. 32 sectors
- 4268           HACKMASTER\*\*XB Printer recommended  
A file reader that will read and print a file at the same time. 13 sectors
- 4269           MENU-LOADER\*\*XB  
This program will load and run up to 19 XB programs per disk. Submitted by Richard Lumpkin. 7 sectors
- 4270           TEXT PRO 2\*\*XB Printer recommended  
This program displays or prints various types of files. Submitted by Richard Lumpkin. 11 sectors
- 4271           XB-LOAD/64\*\*XB  
This program can load and run up to 64 programs from 2 disks. Submitted by Richard Lumpkin. 13 sectors
- 4272           LOADER 100\*\*XB  
This program will make a catalog program which can be merged to a load program. It will make a 100 program loader. Submitted by Paris User's Group of Paris, Texas. 28 sectors
- 4273           KEEPER\*\*XB Printer recommended  
EZ Keeper Data Base by Doug Lee. Rename disk "PRICING". 79 sectors
- 4274           UNPACKER 2\*\*EA/3  
A "Fairware" program by Barry Boone that will unpack "ARCHIVED" files very quickly. Works with multiple drives. 15 sectors
- 4275           1987-1988 CATALOG UPDATE\*\*TI-WRITER Printer recommended  
Update of catalog that can be printed out and added to present catalog. Will be updated on a monthly basis. 557 sectors

4276 SC/LOAD\*\*SUPER CARTRIDGE  
A Super Cartridge utility that has the ability to use TI-Writer without a module. Has TI-Writer and Editor Assembler Editor along with modified version of Fast Term. Will also load a Mvarc Hardisk. 179 sectors

5266 BACH\*\*EA/5  
A nice A/L program of Bach music. Submitted by Gary Higgs. 23 sectors

#### HAVING A PROBLEM?

The following are examples of some of the help YOU can receive on a problem if you use the message base on any of the TI BBS. These messages were taken off of our HUG TIBBS recently.

Message 5735 09:58:05 03/17/87  
Re DRIVES  
To ALL  
By STEVE FINDLAY-AURORA,ONT,CAN

THANKS FOR THE POINTERS JOHN, BILL R, AND BILL K ... I APPRECIATE THEM.

HAS ANYONE EVER HEARD OF THE FOLLOWING: run 2 or more drives from 1 power supply by applying 12 vdc only to the selected drive when called by the disk controller card. TI (Shugart SA400)...scratch/cut the trace from pin 8 at bottom of the main card edge connector. next, insert a jumper between pins 7 8 of the drive- select shunt pack.

ANY COMMENTS ANYONE? PLEASE LEAVE MESSA- GE.

STEVE FINDLAY

Message 5745 20:37:54 03/17/87  
Re DRIVE MODS  
To STEVE FINDLAY(RETRIEVED)  
By JOHN GUION-LUBBOCK, TEXAS

I've heard of the mod that only runs one drive at a time, and agree that it looks great on paper, but I wouldn't do it myself. First, copying from disk to disk will be greatly slowed down due to the fact that the disk controller gives each drive 1/2 seconds of spin up time before it does anything, so back-and-forth disk access becomes awkward. Also, it would seem to be an added burden on the disk controller circuits which weren't designed to be used in such a manner. Lastly, it is more strain on the power supply and drives to repeatedly start drives from a standstill, as that is when they consume the most current due to overcoming static friction and inertia. Some drives (Shugarts) cont>> have built in jumpers which allow the option of only running the motor when accessed, but this simply solves the disk controller strain situation. I'd recommend as a better alternative that one upgrade the existing power supply or add a second power supply and use the normal wiring. If you are planning on installing a pair of high power drives (Quae or CDC) in your P-Box, I'd be glad to give you the info on beefing up the P-Box power supply to handle it. It's easy and only takes about \$5 in parts and 30-45 minutes of your time.

Re (R)DRIVES  
To STEVE FINDLAY(RETRIEVED)  
By GARY CURRY-JACINTO CITY TX

Yes, I have done that to operate two drives from the PBox power supply. It works OK for the most part, but I found that certain copy programs apparently had some critical timing constraints and could not stand the wait for the drive to get up to speed when it switched from one to the other. Also note that this does not change the overload condition on the +5volt supply for the logic boards on the drives. An additional supply is SO CHEAP! it is not worth the aggravation to run two drives like that. BUT, whatever lifts your spirit.

Bless you,

Rev.6

PS. Please note the "place of origin" of a few of these messages. The source of available information on our TI's is not restricted solely to users in Houston, or Texas, or the continental U.S. for that matter. We've got half a hemisphere to draw on, and in all likelihood a lot more!

Kim Peterson "Co-Ed".

QB MONITOR ~ QB-99'er NEWSLETTER

QA/TALK

DELETE FILE: TE-II | | | | | HELP | | | | |  
 PRINT ON | PRINT OFF | HALF/FULL DUP | BUFF ON/OFF | SAV/CLR BUFF | SEND ASCII | CATALOG | CONFIGURE | XMODEM XFER | AUTO-DIALER | QUIT

CGBI-ICDD

MODEM BAUD: PRNT ON/OFF | MODEM PARITY | MODEM PORT | PRINT PARITY | PRINT PORT | PRINT BAUD | | | | | SCR'N WIDTH | QUIT  
 N,=SND FILE | B=DUMP BUFF | Y=CLEAR LOG | CANCEL | WINDOW RIGHT | K=SET TIMER | TEXT COLOR | SCREEN COLOR | =LOG ON/OFF | FREEZE TOGL | QUIT

F-TERR

TOGGL PRNTR | LOAD BUFFER | XMIT NXT LINE | XMT X/ONOFF | RESET BUFFER | DUMP BUFFER | RESTRT PROG | | | | | QUIT | |  
 E=TOGL ECHO | | | | | | | | | | | SCR'N COLOR | | | | |

TE-11

SPEAK | OUTPUT | CANCEL | TRANS | WRAP | CASE | PAGE | | | | | EXIT | |  
 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | QUIT

BASIC

DELETE | INSERT | ERASE | CLEAR | BEGIN | PROC'D | AID | REDO | BACK | | | | QUIT

TI-WRITER

OOPS! | REFORMAT | SCREEN COLOR | NEXT PARA | DUPE LINE | LAST PARA | WORD TAB | NEW PARA | NEW PAGE | WORD WRAP |  
 DELETE CHAR | INSERT CHAR | DELETE LINE | ROLL DOWN | NEXT WINDOW | ROLL UP | TAB | INSERT LINE | COMMAND/ESC | LINE #'S | QUIT

MULTIPLAN

HOME | TAB | NEXT UNL CELL | FORM'D CHAR | FORM'D WORD | CHNG WINDOW | REL/ABS REF | | | | | CANCEL  
 LOWER RIGHT | | | | | BACK CHAR | BACK WORD | | | | HELP | RECALC | BACKSPACE | DEL FORWARD |

RAVE\_KYBD

OOPS | REFORMAT | SCREEN COLOR | NEXT PARA | DUPE LINE | LAST PARA | WORD TAB | NEW PARA | NEW PAGE | WORD WRAP | LINE #'S  
 LOWER RIGHT | REL/ABS REF | FORWARD CHAR | BACK CHAR | BACK WORD | FORWARD WORD | HELP | RECALCULATE | NEXT WINDOW | XMIT UNL CEL | RAVE 99/101

EDIT/ASM

DELETE CHAR | INSERT CHAR | DELETE LINE | ROLL UP | NEXT SCREEN | ROLL DOWN | TAB | INSERT LINE | ESCAPE | | | QUIT  
 DELETE | INSERT | ERASE | CLEAR | BEGIN | PROCEED | AID | REDO | BACK | | | QUIT

FORTH

| | | | | | | | | | | INSERT LINE | | | | | FORTH  
 DELETE | INSERT | ERASE | NEXT SCREEN | NEXT WINDOW | LAST SCREEN | DEL>ENDDLIN | COPY LINE | EXIT EDITOR | |

RIBSD

| | | | | FCTN E=UP | FCTN X=DOWN | FCTN S=LEFT | FCTN D=RGHT | | | | | DISKO  
 HEX DISPLAY | ASCII | DISPL | LEAVE PROGRAM | BACK | SCTR | RSTRT SUBPRG | FRWRD | SCTR | | | | REWRITE SCTR | RSTRT PROGRM | | | QUIT

ADV/DIAG

E=PG/BUF UP | X=PG/BUF DN | | | | | | | | | | | ADV DIAGNOS  
 DELETE | INSERT | ERASE | NXT SCTR/TK | EXIT PROGRM | PREV SCTR/TK | HELP | RETES BADMEN | ESCAPE | SCREEN DUMP | ASCII/HEX

GRAPHX

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | GRAPHX  
 SLOWER | FASTER | DRAW | ERASE | NO HELP | ZOOM | COLORS | LINES | CIRCLES | COPY | MENU

CHESS

NO CONTROL | KEY PRESS | REQUIRED | | | | | =MODE CHANG | | | | | <=HELP | | | | | CHESS  
 WITH FUNCTN | D=OFFR DRAW | J=TIME OUT | 4=ERASE | E=RESIGN | P=ARANG POSN | S=SWITCH | 8=REPLAY | I=BACK UP | X=SAVE GAME | ==QUIT

CREDITS

COMPILED BY: | ED MACHONIS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
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o      31      o
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o      21 22 23 24 25 26 27 o
o      28 29 30      o
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<x>: HUG Meeting date

HUG Newsletter  
c/o Kim Peterson  
13107 Bafing  
Houston, Tex. 77099-2244

<\*><\*> HUG CLASSIFIEDS <\*><\*>

Commercial Advertising Rates  
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Full Page: \$15.00/mo  
Half " \$10.00 "  
1/4 " \$ 7.50 "  
1/8 " \$ 5.00 "  
minimum \$ 3.00 "

(inq. about Multi-Mo. disc.)

Individual HUG Members  
-----

List your "PERSONAL"  
hardware/software ITEMS  
for sale for FREE in  
in this section

↓ DON'T MISS THE NEXT MEETING!!! ↓  
=====

Come see a Demo of Myarc's latest  
offering to the 99/4A community:  
The Myarc 9640

FIRST CLASS  
-----

DATED MATERIAL  
DO NOT DELAY  
-- -- --

----- PLEASE SLOW DOWN -----  
/\ /\ FOR A MEMERSHIP CHECK /\ /\  
CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL EXPIRATION DATE  
(4-digit code left of YOUR first name)

.. /00\ .. - - - -  
'-0--0-' - - - -