



BITS BYTES & PIXELS



LIMA 99/4A USER GROUP
HAPPY THANKSGIVING
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COMMENTARY

This month's commentary is, in part, economics, ethics and legal. It is because we want to talk about copying that all these factors come into play.

Illegal copying hits us all in the pocketbook because almost all of the software producers build into their prices a cushion to cover the losses they suffer from illegal copying.

From a legal standpoint when one illegally copies a piece of software one is taking a big chance that they will get caught. The copyright laws of our country provide for a fine and/or imprisonment for their violation. Additionally, a copier faces civil damages for the act.

Ethically we as members of a user group should not do this and we have an obligation to advise all our associates not to. We have a lot at stake in preventing this kind of illegal activity from happening.

It is a deterrent for any person who has a piece of original work to share it with other computer users if he feels that it is going to get copied and circulated. In addition to the reasons cited in the foregoing it can be a deterrent to creativity.

Your User Group Library has many works that are considered to be Public Domain and as such they can be copied freely.

Lets obey the law and be ethical users!

TIPS

Thanks, again, to Jim Peterson the prodigious provider of piquant programs for the 99/4A for another of his "Tips form the Tiger Cub". This is appended to the current issue of the Bits.

USEFUL INFO.

Maybe you never thought about it but if you own a kerosene heater you should read this.

The sulphur content of most kerosene is high enough to create sulphur oxide levels that are technically in violation of the EPA's clean air regulations.

From the standpoint of a computer owner you should take note.

The presence of Sulphur oxide in the air, in addition to being unhealthful to you is unhealthful to your computer. These oxides can corrode metal contacts and cause problems in the performance of your computer. Since the combustion products of kerosene are gases and not particulates an electrostatic air cleaner will not be effective.

In short when your silverware corrodes easily, so will your computer only you can't polish your computer to correct the problem.

Therefore, a kerosene heater is not indicated as a heat source in a home that has a home computer.

LAST MONTH

Last month's meeting was well attended with some 14 members present. Despite the handicap of a shortage of equipment Charlie did well in demonstrating some utilities through the use of a tape version. We missed you if you weren't there.

CHARLIE SAYS . . .

PIRATE ADVENTURE WORDS

The Scott Adams PIRATE ADVENTURE, which comes with each Adventure module purchased, usually responds to two word commands. The first word is a verb. The second word is usually a noun (Some verbs will cause a response if used by themselves, such as ATTACK). The computer actually responds to only the first three letters of the two words (the first four letters in some of the other Scott Adams adventures). These first three letters may be used by themselves as an abbreviation for the entire word. Any letters typed after the first three letters are ignored. For example, ATT, ATTACK, and ATTAK will all produce the same response.

Each Scott Adams adventure has a different vocabulary of acceptable words. If you type in a verb that isn't in the vocabulary, you get I DON'T KNOW HOW TO "XXX" SOMETHING. An unrecognized noun produces the message I DON'T KNOW WHAT "XXX" IS. Both of these mean that the computer can't recognize or use the word XXX. If you enter a verb and noun that are both in the adventure's vocabulary, you will get I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR COMMAND if the two words are in an illogical order. An example would be CLIMB RUG. Words that generate this message can be successfully used somewhere in the adventure, but in another context.

Below is a list of ALL the first and second words in PIRATE ADVENTURE vocabulary that will be accepted by the game without giving I DON'T KNOW HOW TO "XXX" SOMETHING or I DON'T KNOW WHAT A

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"XXX" IS error messages. Capital letters are the letters the computer responds to. Small case letters are what I believe the rest of the word to be. If there is nothing after the third letter, that means the word is a three letter word. A question mark means I haven't figured out what the rest of the word is.

I developed this list after reading a similar article by John Floyd in the Oct 95 NEW HORIZONS/OH-MI-TI user groups' newsletter. John somehow developed a word list from the cartridge based RETURN TO PIRATES ISLE. I got my list by reading disk sectors with DISKO. My list has been very useful in helping me to ALMOST solve PIRATE ADVENTURE. If you don't want any outside help with this adventure than don't read on. Just put the following list out of sight in a safe place. Ultimately you will probably want to refer to it. Unless the membership objects to this type of disclosure, I intend to publish similar lists for the other Scott Adams adventures in future news letters.

FIRST WORDS	SECOND WORDS
(verbs)	(nouns)
Attack	ANChor
BREak	ANY
BUIld	AROUnd
BURy	AWAy
CAST	BAG
CATch	BEAch
CLImb	BOAt
DIGes	BONes
DRI?	BOOK and
DROp	BOOKcase
EAT	BOTtle
EMPTy	BOX
ENTet	BUNK bed?
EXAmine	CAVE
FEEl	CHEst
FINish	CRAck and
FLY	CRAckers
FOLLow	CROckodile
GET	DEStroy
GIVe	DOOr
GO	DUBloons

HELP	DOWN
INVENTORY	DUFFLE bag
JUMP	EAST
KILL	FISH
LEAVE	FLOTSAM
LIGHT	FLYER
LISTEN	GAME
LOOK	HALLWAY
MAKE	HAMMER
OPEN	HILL
PACE	HOLE
PICK	INVENTORY
PULL	JETSAM
QUIT	KEEL
REACH	KEYS
RELIGHT	KQF?
REMOVE	LAGOON
RUN	LUMBER
SAIL	MAP
SAVE	MAY
SAY	MONGOOSE and
SCOP	MONASTERY
SET	NAIL
SHUT	NORTH
SMASH	NOTE
SWIM	OFF
TAKE	PACES
THROW	FARATE
UNLIGHT	PASSAGE
WAIT	PATH
WALK	PIECES
WATCH	PIRATE
WEAR	PIT
WEI?	PLANS
	RUG
	RUM
	SACK
	SAILS
	SALT
	SAND
	SHACK
	SHED
	SHIP
	SHOVEL
	SIGN
	SNAKE
	SNEAKERS
	SOUTH
	STAMP?

TIDE
 TORCH
 TREASURE
 UP
 UPSTAIRS
 WATER
 WINDOW
 YOHO

MONTHLY PUBLICATIONS THAT
 SUPPORT THE TI/994A

COMPUTE magazine (but not COMPUTE'S GAZETTE) has at least one "how to" article each month by well known TI99/4A programmer C. Regina. Each monthly issue also usually has a game or two for the TI. Although this publication has advertisements, almost none of them are for TI products. Available at local magazine counters monthly for \$2.95 per issue.

HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE is the current incarnation of what used to be 99er MAGAZINE. HCM is presumably published 10 times per year, although as of Oct 25 I have only seen five issues for 1985. This publication has no advertisements at all although there are listings and descriptions of new products. There are excellent reviews of current TI products, technical articles, and excellent software to type in. The software is this publications' specialty. If you purchase the magazine (\$3.50 per issue) you can also purchase all of that issue's software on disk or tape for \$4.95 plus \$1.00 P&H. This is really quite cheap when you consider what similar programs from other computer magazines cost when ordered on media. HCM is available at many local magazine counters.

COMPUTER SHOPPER has a monthly technical TI column with news and reviews of very recent products. It also has TI classified ads and large display ads of discount dealers and liquidators selling all sorts of hardware and software for many different computers. If you want to buy disks in bulk (from DISK WORLD among other dealers), printers, monitors, non-TI disk drives, or parts and chips by mail, this is the place to look. Prices are great in these ads, and some real gems can sometimes be found. However, sure you know what you are purchasing, since much of the advertised equipment is not TI compatible. Available at most local bookstores monthly for \$2.25 per issue. This publication tends to sell out fast, so keep looking for the next issue if you don't see the current one on the shelf the first time you look for it.

MICROPENDIUM "covering the TI99/4A Home Computer and compatibles" is in my opinion absolutely the BEST SINGLE SOURCE of TI information. This magazine covers only the TI/994A, whereas all the other publications listed above cover a variety of different computers. MICROPENDIUM contains news items, excellent reviews of new software and hardware, short type in programs, and lots of advertisements. Almost anything currently available for the TI can be found offered for sale in these ads. Unfortunately, this publication is not available

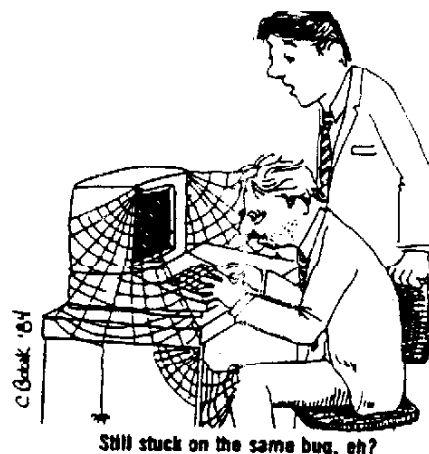
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locally, and can only be obtained by subscription (\$15 for 12 issues via 3rd class mail or \$18.50 by first class mail). A subscription form is attached to the end of this newsletter. I strongly recommend that you use it.

Charles Good

MISCELLANY

On the back page of Bits is a painting that comes from a new program in our library called "Print Art 3" We are lead to believe that Leonardo Da Vinci would appreciate it. He, as you may remember, was a bit of an inventor and in the 20th century he would have been a computer expert, too. Although the original hangs in the Lourve this comes under the realm of Public Domain.



THE END. SO HAL BEHNERT

FROM TIGERCUB SOFTWARE
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2 November 1985

A LETTER TO THE TI-99/4A USER GROUPS

I am operating a kitchen-table software business on a shoestring. My advertising therefore consists of about \$20 worth of small classified ads on the back page of Micropendium, another \$20 worth of classified ads buried in the hundreds of pages of Computer Shopper, and a newsletter which I mail to about 120 user groups at a cost of about \$45 plus many hours of work.

Recently in Computer Shopper, Randy Holcomb quoted a letter from me, stating that I received more business from the Computer Shopper ad than from all those newsletters.

These are the facts. I use different spellings of my address in different ads, so I know that in the last two months my catalog requests and direct orders have been 43 from the Computer Shopper ads, 37 from the Micropendium ads, and 20 as a result of newsletters, BBS publicity, word of mouth and everything else combined!

My newsletter is being reprinted every month in about 40 newsletters. Other user groups tell me they are reproducing it and passing it out at their meetings. It is being placed on some BBS's. The officers and editors of many user groups have done everything they could think of to help my business - a couple of them even sent me cash contributions, a few others reprinted my entire catalog in their newsletter, I was voted a lifetime honorary member of one group, etc., etc. I do greatly appreciate all of this - but it hasn't done me much good!

The reason that I am writing now is because I have been receiving a few requests that I take out paid ads in user group newsletters, and one letter suggesting that I had a responsibility to take out advertising, and to offer substantial discounts as well, to the users groups who were "keeping my business alive" (!)

Now, a \$2 ad in each of 120 newsletters would cost me more than my net profit in an average month - and I have no reason to think that it would bring me any business whatsoever!

However, I will make an offer. If anyone sends me an order before 1 January 1986 and mentions the name of his user group, next January I will send directly to that user group a rebate of 10% of the order, not including PP&M charges (the PP&M portion of postpaid full disk collections is \$1.50). This is not a discount to the individual; it is a payment to the user group for whatever advertising, promotion or support that you choose to give me.

I am not suggesting that you have any obligation to support my business. I know that many of you are only interested in business and financial programs, which I do not offer. I know that most of the user groups have large libraries of public domain software - although some of you charge your members quite a bit for those programs. I also know that too many of you get all the software that you want by piracy. That is why most of my business is now coming from those who do not belong to user groups, who do not have access to all the public domain and freeware and piracy. I put some of my Basic programs on cassette in a local retail store, and sold more cassette programs in that one store than I did by mail order worldwide. It seems that it is time that I divert my efforts to finding those who still want what I have to offer.


Jim Peterson