MID SOUTH 99/4A
USERS GROUP

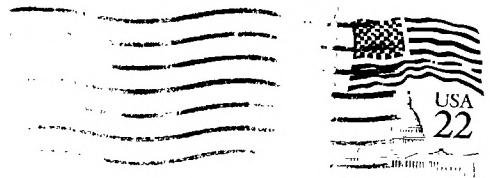MEMPHIS TENNESSEE

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 38522, Germantown, Tn 38183-0522

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TIDBITS

PRESIDENTS BIT

Well another year has about come and gone and it's time to elect new club officers. I really hope that all members realize how important the officers are. They have the responsibility of keeping the club operational. The club president also has the responsibility of assigning the different club functions to those chosen and known to be diligent workers. The club runs like a well oiled machine not by accident. There are many people behind the sidelines who give a great deal to make this club successful. This year has been great for the club. It has even gone international with the addition of our member from South Africa. Many members are distinguished enough in TI circles that their names are becomming common to all TI users. Our group has been written up in many national magazines and listed as one of the best clubs in the country. This club has gone from about 300 members around Christmas '83 to our current membership of about 100. I think all of our current members really want to see our club continue to grow and succeed, but in order for that to happen, the right people have to be nominated and then elected. Those people I speak of are those who really have the desire for our club to be the best, because if we can't succeed at being the best we won't succeed at being one of the rest. Sure our equipment is not the latest thing, but even TI didn't know what they had created until Users Groups and third party vendors started showing them. The nominating committee has the dubious task of selecting the candidates for the club officers positions, and a dubious responsibility it is. No matter who they select I'm sure all of you will give the new officers the same support that has been given to the current officers. Now that I have said all I want to about the coming elections, let's talk about your place in the club. Good workers are always needed by any club and our's is no different. Come forward and take your place with those of us who enjoy giving our time so that others can become as convinced about our equipment as we are. It doesn't require that you spend a great deal of time. It only requires a little dedication. It requires determination and a little "How does that work", Trial and Effort. There is nothing special about how many of our members got as good on our computer as they are, THEY PRACTICED. You are only going to get out of our club what someone has put in it. Be that someone. Lend a hand and you will be amazed at all the things our computer can do and you will learn a valuable lesson... "THOSE WHO THINK THEY CAN, CAN". Think about that one. We can only go forward if people want to go forward. It takes many people to put together an organization like our's, be one of them and you will find yourself learning and enjoying your computer and your club much more.

Did you know that with the arrival of CHARACTER SETS AND GRAPHICS DESIGN III that there are 70 different fonts that can be used to

produce banners. There are also several hundred graphic pictures that can be included in those banners. Dave Rose has joined up with the people who have TI-ARTIST and now have one of the finest packages on the market for our computer. My astonishment never ceases when I use the packages of Dave Rose. He really is an asset to 3rd party vendors. His work is very professional and enlightening.

Al Doss has received from TI the diagnostic disk. One program runs from Extended Basic and the other runs in Mini Memory. Both are really good and will give you confidence knowing your equipment checks out alright.

Well I got all my equipment back working and now I have started experiencing problems with my TEAC 55B's. Using the CORCOMP disk controller leaves me with all kinds of posibilities for failure. I guess after talking to Gary Cox, I am just going to have to find the culprit through trial and error. I sure hope it's not anything really bad.

I hope everyone had a big Thanksgiving and everyone is well. I seem to have gotten over my Kidney Stones. I hope I never see (or feel) any more of those. My bank account has suffered drastically from my hospital stay but the money doesn't count now that the pain is over...Gerald Smith

NEWS

In case you have not already heard Millers Graphics recently announced that they will be going in with another computer firm to manufacture a card for the Expansion Box that will make the TI MS-DOS compatible (IBM/PC compatible). The price for the card is expected to be less than buying a MS-DOS computer system. Expected release date for the card is early 1987. According to my information it is already substantially completed. Atari and Commodore, don't you wish you could say that?

I forgot to mention on my CHICAGO TI FAIRE article last month about a new program for the Gram Kracker called GRAM Packer from GEnial Computerware. It allows the user to pack programs like DM1000, TI-Artist etc... into the GK. I will have a review of it soon.

The group has received an offer for group discounts on TI Artist and companions, XB detective, Rapid Copy, CSGD and Myarc PEB cards. Those interested should contact me. The more we buy the more the discount.

MICROpendium is offering a FREE sample issue just for writing in and asking for one. With Home Computer Junk flaked out and Compute dropping TI coverage they want everyone to know that they are around supporting us and will continue to do so as long as we are around... Also Regina who wrote for the old 99'ers and for Compute will now be writing for MICROpendium. I always enjoyed her articles in 99'er and welcome her to MICROpendium. Their

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address is: MICROpendium, P.O. Box 1343, Round Rock, TX 78680.

According to the K-Town 99er newsletter who got their information
from the Greater Akron 99ers of Houston Texas, various parts for
our system can be ordered directly from TI to do your own repairs.
By taking the part number from the part you wish to replace and
calling TI Dealer parts at 1-800-741-3067 you can order the part
you need. For example, you can order the "Grom port extension"
(cartridge port 90 degree connector to the mother board) part
number 1049693-1 for $5.84 + SH. This is cheaper than exchanging
the console for $30 when you only have a bad GROM connector...

German company is negotiating with an American company to market
turbo pascal for the TI99/4A without having to use the P-Code
card.

Myarc will soon be releasing their Hard Disk controler card for
the TI99/4A. Expected price for the card is under $200...

A new programming language for TI has been developed by
DataBioTics called Pilot. We will have a review in the newsletter
soon and we will try to demonstrae it at this months meeting.
Thanks goes to DataBioTics for the complementary copy for review.

IF you are looking for an Expansion Box Ryte Data of 210 Mountain
St., Haliburton, Ontario KOM 1SO, Canada is marketing what they
call the 99AT expansion system. It has 5 slots for standard TI
size cards, smaller connector cable than TI's and up to 4 drives
can be conected to the system. Advance orders are now being taken
for the 99AT as the project is just now being completed. Price is
$210 Canadian funds or $155 U.S. funds. Please note you will
still need to buy drives and cards for the box as it comes empty.

Just when you think TI has totally forgotten about us we received
a package from them with some dianostic software. This software
could help you determine what is wrong with your system when you
have trouble. The dianostic programs are available out of our
library.

In the November 1986 Micropendium I see a Flight Simulator is set
for January release for the TI! The manufacturer says the program
is set in World War I France and includes full screen line graphic
views in 3-d perspective, a 360-degree panorama of the area while
in flight, mathematic algorithms of the physics of flight for
complete acrobatic control of the plane and a battle mode for the
expert pilot. The flight simulator called "SPAD" will retail from
Not-Polyoptics for $29.95 and requires the E/A, 32K and a disk
system. For further information write to Not-Polyoptics, P.O.
Box 4443, Woodbridge, VA 22191 or (703) 491-5543.

The "Orphan's Survival Handbook" by Ron Albright, described as
"the one-stop information source for the TI user," has been
published by Disk Only Software. The 200+ page looseleaf book
contains an anthology of material gleaned from hundreds of user
group newsletters and hundreds of hours of downloaded files from
BBS's. The book has material such as schematics, hardware hacks,
programs, tips, tutorials and much more. Registered purchasers of
the book will receive updates which they can insert into the book.

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Ron also wrote the Orphan Chronicles published my Millers Graphics which was an excellent book and I will be one of the first in line to buy his newest publication. For more information contact, Disk Only Software (DOS), P.O. Box 4170, Rockville, MD 20850; (301) 369-1339 or 1-800-446-4462 plus 897335 at the tone (touch tone required). Projected retail price is $16.95...

The Boston TI99/4A Computer Society of One Center Plaza, Boston, MA 02108 is offering a TI Writer Tips and Tricks book for $5 plus $1 shipping. I purchased the book in Chicago and found it to be a very valuable asset in learning to use TI Writer to it's maximum potential. Many features which are unclear in the TIW manual are explained as well as a few tips the TIW manual does not mention. I reccommend it to anyone who uses TI Writer or any of it's clones (like Funlwriter...)

David Johnson has sent to me a great autodialer program for people who have 100% Hayes Compatible modems. The program is SHAREWARE and those who are interested should check with our library.

The TI is far from dead especially with all these new programs available. Among some of the best that I have seen recently is a super graphics drawing program (like GRAPHIX) is Joypaint 99, Font Writer, Pre-Scanit and the new Megatronics Extended BASIC.   The Megatronics is 100% compatible with all TI programs that run in TI Extended BASIC plus you have the additional graphics capabilities that you might have seen demonstrated in the Apesoft demonstration disk that we have in our library.   Mac Swope purchased the cartridge in Chicago and demonstrated it last month. Hopfully he will have a review for us soon. However, from what I have seen looking through the manual it looks super and what's more it only requires standard 32K memory and nothing else to operate. However, it will operate with out the 32K but you do not have the expanded GRAPHICS capabilities. I believe the cartridge also has further programming capabilities besides the expanded graphics in which every pixel on the screen can be accessed!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year...Gary Cox

PRESCAN

Pre-Scanit is a new program available from Asgard Software of P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20850 (301) 345-2492. Pre-Scanit does just what the name says it pre-scans your programs so your computer does not need to or almost does not need to.

Most people who use the TI and other computers probably have noticed that only the TI hesitates when "RUN" is typed.   What is happening is the computer is scanning the program for errors and setting up variable space and whatever else it needs to do before it actually begins executing the program.   However, by using special statements within the program you can cause the computer not to prescan parts of your program. But, when you do this you run into problems. If all the variables being used are not prescanned an error will occur. Therefore, all variables must be referenced once outside the portion of your program that a pre-scan does not occur. (The pre-scan is turned off by using a

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!@P- and turned on by using an !@P+.)

With programs you are just starting to write it is not too
difficult to incorporate the on and off commands into the program
and keep the first references to your variables at a place in the
program that is still being pre-scanned (usually the first lines
in the program is the best place to reference all your variables).

What Pre-Scanit will do is rewrite already written programs for
you incorporating the on and off commands into the program and
putting all references to variables and whatever else needs to be
prescanned at the begining of the program. So time for the
computer to prescan a program will at least be cut in half if not
eliminated.

Pre-Scanit does take a while to rewrite a program like maybe 10
minutes for a 40 sector program but nothing like what it would
take us to rewrite the program with the on and off commands! PSI
is very user friendly and easy to use even to the amature who just
wants to cut down the prescan time on his existing Extended BASIC
programs. I ran PSI on one of my programs which originally took
11 seconds for the prescan. After PSI rewrote it the prescan was
4 seconds and it even added a few more bytes of program space
available instead of taking up more space. After Pierre and I ran
Pre-Scanit on TIBBS the prescan was cut from almost one minute to
about 10 seconds!

Pre-Scanit, written by Peter Hoddie, is a very good value for only
$10 and will prescan programs written in Myarc XB, Megatronics, MG
and TI Extended BASIC. More files will be created for
compatibility other versions of XB as necessary...Gary Cox

PROGRAM

6:00pm - Doors open.

6:30pm - Library Opens.

7:00pm - Meeting Begins.

7:00pm - 7:20 General discussion and election of officers for the
offices of President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary.

7:20pm - 8:00pm Demonstrations. The demonstrations have not yet
been determined but possible demonstrations include the new Pilot
programming language of which a copy was provided to our group for
review purposes by DataBioTics. Then the new Character Sets and
Graphics Design III may be demo'ed...

8:00pm-10:30pm [('CHRISTMAS PARTY])\ complete with food, punch
etc... This will be a great opportunity to get to know your
fellow TI'ers better while we sit around and talk, eat and have
fun! This will be our first social get-together and if it goes
over well we might want to have more in the future. Everyone is
welcome!

11:00pm - Doors close.

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The demonstrations will be short this month in order to party but
as usual newsletters from other groups will be available for
reading as well as the library will be open so don't miss it!
However, the library may close at 8:00pm so Pierre can join the
party too but we might possibly have it setup where you can serve
copy library programs yourself (self-service).

I would would like to take this opportunity to welcome to the
group several new members (local and out of town) as well as
several new prospective members. Some may think that interest in
the TI99/4A is dying but I see more and more interest building.
Right now our group has more interest and participation than ever
and we now have two TI bulletin boards in Memphis as well, both
equipped with the latest hardware and constantly updated software.
I think the TI is here to stay for a long time to come!

For those who are new in the group the number for the two boards
are (TIBBS) 901-357-5425 and (Risky Business) 901-726-5623. Make
sure you call the first time with TE2 or FAST-TERM. The BBS's
provide the latest news and information as well as a means of
communications with people across the country who call into the
system and other members locally. The boards carry a big list of
software which can be downloaded directly to your computer at
home. Any computer brand may call into the systems but a TI is
needed for access to the special features. To call the system you
need at least an RS232, modem and TE2 but a disk drive, 32K and an
XMODEM terminal program (available from our library) is almost
necessary for good results and mandatory in order to download
programs. Just call either of the two numbers using a 300 or 1200
baud modem 24 hours a day. I think you will find it very
interesting.

Those interested in what is available in our groups library may
see the list at the meetings for programs on disk or call Adolph
Butler for a listing of what we have on cassette. Programs are
available FREE of charge. Blank disks are usually available for
purchase at the meetings but sometimes we run out so it is best if
you can bring your own disks to the meeting for copies of
programs.

One program every new member with a disk system will want to get
is FUNLWRITER. It is a word processor, disk manager,
Editor/Assembler and various other utilities on 2 convenient
disks. You no longer need to switch between XB, TIW and E/A! It
is available FREE of charge from our library as SHAREWARE. Even
if you already have TI Writer this program is much more convenient
and better and works just like TI Writer because it is an enhanced
TI Writer! You will also want to obtain the TI Writer manual if
you do not have one from TI. Cost is $3, call 1-800-TI-CARES.
The Funlwriter disk comes with some additional documentation.

If you have suggestions on what you would like to see in the
newsletter or just any suggestions about the group please speak up
as this group is your group and for the benefit for all.

COMMING SOON: David Cotner wrote how to build a numeric keypad for
the TI and comming soon will be how to build your own robot for
you TI for under $50! Look for it in a future newsletter when the

design is finalized (that is if it works?) ... *Gary Cox*

XB TUTORIAL 3
By Funlweb Farm, Australia

(continued from last month)

Our next example will be a good start on a non-trivial utility
program for printing out TI BASIC or XB listings on a 80 column
printer in two side by side columns which preserve the normal
screen listing format. If you just LIST "RS232.BA"...." then the
computer sends it out in DIS/VAR 80 format and it is up to you to
tell the printer how to handle it. Something approaching screen
image format is only obtained (with extra paper consumption) with
the printer margins set way in. 80-col printout beats none at all
by miles but let's try to be fancier. If you don't have disk or
printer then this lesson won't be of immediate use, but will still
be a good example to work through as a programming exercise. We
might as well do something useful.

First we figure out what needs to be done, and work out a set of
procedures that can be CALLed as needed. The program will do only
the minimum necessary to do the job properly. Bells and whistles
can be added later. In one or two places we shall make provision
for adding extras (bells and whistles have nothing on speech) by
dummy subprograms which can be filled in later. For a good
discussion of the use of such "stubs" see the excellent book by R.
Mateosian, "Inside Basic Games". The detailed coding examples in
this book are in Apple or Trash-80 Basics, but Mateosian develops
ideas in a form much more in tune with a TI XB subprogram
realisation than with these less capable Basics.

So let's start designing our program by deciding what we want it
to do. We want the output nicely formatted on the page with top
and bottom margins, in 2 columns each in screen image (28
char/line) format. More columns (assuming the output device will
handle them) are no problem -- once you can count to 2 then 3 is
easy. Lines of Basic are not to be split from from one column to
the next or from one page to the next. Some things commonly
encountered in printed listings, such as indenting of FOR-NEXT
loops don't fit at all well with the multi-statement lines of XB
(but might with TI Basic listings) so will not even be thought
about here. On the other hand insertion of spaces before REM or
SUB statements greatly improves the readability of XB listings,
without doing violence to the idea of being screen list
compatible. Page numbering is no big deal to add (a console only
XB program can fill 6 pages).

At the other end of the business the LISTing to be printed is
assumed taken from a disk file such as DSK1.LIST where it has been
written by LIST "DSK1.LIST". A trivial difficulty easily taken
care of is the blank first record written by LIST. The real
problem is that LIST doesn't care about preserving XB lines as
distinct entities. Each XB line starts out as a separate print
record and if it is less than 80 characters long stays in one

piece. XB lines can easily extend into 2 print records and more
(Basic lines much less frequently), but LIST places no markers to
show which print records contain the start of XB lines. So if we
are going to meet our specification that XB lines be treated
exactly as in a screen list then something more subtle than a
simple LINPUT is needed. There's one of our most important
building blocks identified --- SUB BASICLINE(...).

Any utility program needs title and advice screens so there's SUB
TITLES to keep all the details from cluttering the main program.
The program will also need SUB OPTIONS(...) to handle file and
device name entry and print options which might be offered.

Now the real core of the program is the way in which it must
assemble a whole page before printing anything because line feed
moves ever on (at least it does on our TI-99 printer). So we need
SUB PAGEBUFFER(....) to take the output of BASICLINES, chop it
into screen format hunks and decide where these are to be located
on the page. Then we need SUB PRINTPAGE(...) to massage the
completed pages and ship them off to the printer. That about sums
up the sub-programs that are called directly from the main
program, and all that is necessary is to figure out the
initialisation -- DIMs, default filenames etc etc, and to write
the logic for program flow.

Before we start writing any code we should decide what utility
sub-programs are to be used by those already defined. As the list
is written into columns SUB WRITECOL(...) is a good candidate for
repeated use, and SUB WRITEPAR(...) to take a line of BASIC and
return it chopped up into 28 character lines to WRITECOL. Since
BASICLINE fetches the input records it is the appropriate place to
detect End Of File. We might as well use PRINTPAGE to wipe the
slate clean before writing a new page.

Let's dress up the input of filenames and Yes/No responses a
little as SUB FILENAME(...) and SUB YN(...) , with SUB MORE(...)
to end it all. Other useful utility sub-programs which will be
included are SUB TXTCOL(..) to change display colors in one CALL,
SUB KEYCON to carry the burden of "press any key to continue", and
SUB DELAY(..) is always handy.

That about finishes the roster of procedures necessary to make up
the listing program, and now the detailed coding can start after
some thought on the necessary chains of parameter passing. The
principle that you should plan your programs from the top down and
code them from the bottom up is just as valid in Extended Basic as
it is in TI-LOGO or TI-FORTH where the form of the language makes
it difficult to do otherwise. Sub-programs make it possible to go
the same way in XB with ease. Less capable dialects of Basic make
it a lot harder to keep your thoughts organised and your code on
the rails.

The actual program will now be listed piece by piece and commented
on in detail. The listing has been transferred into this
TI-Writer file from a working copy of the program using a more
elaborate version. The present program is actually a simplified
version of the one originally written, but is powerful enough to
do a useful job.

```
100 REM ** SIMPLIST **
110 REM * PRINTER LIST *
120 REM ** FROM DISK **
130 REM -FUNNELWEB FARM-
140 OPTION BASE 1 :: DIM PRLN$(66,2)
150 REM * DEFAULT VALUES *
160 CALL TITLES :: SFIL$="DSK1.LIST" :: PDEV$="RS232.BA=4800"
170 CALL KEYCON
```

The first part of the main program shown here sets default values
and Dimensions the string array PRLN$ for two columns of 66 lines
each. The top and bottom few lines will be left blank so that
page format is obtained without sending printer control codes. A
66 line/page, 80 col. printer is assumed.

```
180 REM * NEW FILE ENTRY *
190 CALL OPTIONS(SFIL$,PDEV$
):: ENDFILE=0 :: LINPUT #1:NEW$
200 REM * NEW PAGE ENTRY *
210 CALL PAGEBUFFER(PRLN$(,),ENDFILE)
220 CALL PRINTPAGE(PRLN$(,),PDEV$):: IF ENDFILE=0 THEN 210
230 REM * END OR NEXT *
240 CLOSE #1 :: CLOSE #2 :: CALL MORE(NM):: IF NM THEN
C ALL SPEAK("GOODBYE"):: GOTO
250 ELSE 190
250 STOP
```

OPTIONS returns file and device names as entered there, and the
remainder of line 190 resets the End of File flag, and throws away
the first line of the list-file. At new page entry the page
buffer is filled and then printed out repeatedly until it runs out
of listing, and then it asks if you are finished. That's all
there is to the main program folks. And now to the sub-programs
that do all the work.

```
260 SUB TITLES
270 CALL CLEAR :: CALL SCREEN(11):: DISPLAY AT(12,6)BEEP
:"PRINTER LISTING"
280 SUBEND
290 SUB OPTIONS(S$,P$):: DISPLAY ERASE ALL
:: CALL TXTCOL(16,5)
300 CALL FILENAME(1,2,"Edit as needed and ENTER","N?")
310 CALL FILENAME(4,4,"Source file for listing",S$)
320 CALL FILENAME(8,4,"Printer devicename",P$)
330 CALL YN(" Change mind ?","N",22,5,I):: IF NOT(I)THEN
CALL HCHAR(22,1,32,64):: GOTO 300
340 DISPLAY ERASE ALL :: IF S$="" OR P$="" THEN DISPLAY
AT(1,2)BEEP:"NO INPUT/OUTPUT POSSIBLE" :: CALL DELAY(500)
:: GOTO 300
350 OPEN #1:S$,DISPLAY ,INPUT ,VARIABLE 80 :: OPEN #2:P$
,DISPLAY ,OUTPUT,VARIABLE 80
360 SUBEND
```

TITLES here is little more than the barest stub, but you can fill
that out to your own fancy. OPTIONS takes down the file names,
does some checking, and opens the files.

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```
370 SUB PAGEBUFFER(PRLN$(,),EFL)
380 REM * NEW COL ENTRY *
390 PLN=6 :: COL=COL+1 :: IF COL>2 THEN COL=0 :: SUBEXIT
E LSE PRINT "":"** Reading column #";COL:"":""
400 REM * NEW PARA INPUT *
410 IF EFL THEN PRINT "":" *":"*** END of FILE ***":" *"
:"" :: SUBEXIT ELSE CALL BASICLINE(NEW$,EFL):: PRINT NEW
$:""
420 CALL WRITECOL(PLN,COL,PRLN$(,),NEW$)
430 IF NEW$="END of COL" THEN 390 ELSE 410
440 SUBEND
```

The new column entry in PAGEBUFFER resets the line counter PLN to
top of page with a margin, increments the column count, and exits
back to the main program if the page is full. If not it tells
BASICLINE to fetch a new program line and WRITECOL to enter it in
the page buffer. If BASICLINE says it has read the last line it
exits and lets the main program worry about that, otherwise it
gets another Basic line or starts a new column. A stub here, CALL
SKIPLINE(NEW$,SK), could have uses.

```
450 SUB BASICLINE(N$,E)
460 N$="" :: IF NX$="" THEN LINPUT #1;NX$
470 N$=N$&NX$ :: IF LEN(NX$) <80 OR EOF(1)THEN NX$="" ::
E=EOF(1):: SUBEXIT ELSE LINPUT #1;NX$
480 PX=POS(NX$," ",1):: IF PX<2 OR PX>6 THEN 470
490 P=POS(NX$," ",1):: IF PX<P THEN 470
500 NR=-1 :: FOR I=1 TO PX-1 :: C=ASC(SEG$(NX$,I,1)):: N
R=NR AND C>47 AND C<58 :: NEXT I :: IF NOT(NR)THEN 470
510 IF SEG$(N$,LEN(N$),1)=" " THEN 470
520 IF VAL(SEG$(NX$,1,PX-1))<VAL (SEG$(N$,1,P-1))THEN 470
530 REM ** CHECK QUOTES
540 N Q,I=0
550 I=POS(N$,CHR$(34),I+1):: IF I THEN NQ=NQ+1 :: GOTO 5
50 ELSE IF NQ<>2*INT(NQ/2)THEN 470
560 SUBEND
```

The procedure BASICLINE which retrieves complete lines of Basic
code from the LIST-file is the only part of the program with
decision flow complex enough to warrant drawing out a flow diagram
beforehand. I am not going to reproduce this here, but you can
work out your own and see if it leads to similar code. The
problem comes when the procedure has read in a line exactly 80
characters long. Does the next LIST record then represent a
continuation of the same line of Basic or is it the start of a new
Basic line ? This difficulty can't be ignored if screen list
format is to be preserved since 28 into 80 does not go exactly.
The procedure provides a cascade of tests each of which checks
whether the record being scrutinised should be appended as a
continuation of the previous Basic line. A few more rare cases
could be tested for along the same lines. There is at least one
(that I know of) unlikely case which BASICLINE cannot resolve even
in principle. Can you spot it ? It does seem to work well already
though. The intricate input code is needed since a VARIABLE file
can only be read sequentially, and if the battery of tests says
that the last record LINPUTted does start a new Basic line, then
this must be saved till BASICLINE is called the next time.

Just be thankful for static variables in XB subprograms ! You also
have to take care not to set off the End of File alarm
prematurely.

```
570 SUB WRITECOL(P,C,P$(,),N$):: IF NC THEN P=6 :: NC=0
580 IF P>=57 THEN N$="END OF COL" :: NC=-1 :: SUBEXIT
590 CALL WRITEPAR(P,C,P$(,),N$)
600 SUBEND
```

Now that WRITECOL has the line of Basic it sends it off to be
formed into a paragraph. This simplified program handles coming
to the end of a column in a slightly wasteful way that is very
simple to program. A normal XB program line lists at most on 5
screen lines, and no matter how tricky you are in entering longer
lines the program has already limited it to a string variable (max
length 255 or 10 screen lines) or has crashed with an error. The
simple minded solution is to exit with End of Col message if the
proposed starting line for the new paragraph is past a fixed place
somewhat short of the end of the column. The value entered, line
#57, is a compromise between making the program totally
bulletproof or wasting space. A better approach is to print as
far as possible, testing each new paragraph to see if it fits, and
if not, holding it over for the next column. If you wondered why
the string was called NEW$, then spare a thought for OLD$ which
which vanished without trace during program simplification for
tutorial purposes.

```
610 SUB WRITEPAR(P,C,P$(,),N $)
620 P=P+1 :: IF LEN(N$)>28 THEN P$(P,C)=SEG$(N$,1,28)::
N$=SEG$(N$,29,LEN(N$)-28):: GOTO 620 ELSE P$(P,C)=N$ ::
N$=""
630 SUBEND
```

Sub-program WRITEPAR almost was called SALAMI as it slices up NEW$
and assigns the slices to successive printlines. Once entered
line 620 loops on itself recursively until the remaining piece
fits on a screen line. It assumes range checking has been done
before entry.

```
640 SUB PRINTPAGE(P$(,),O$)::PRINT "":"** Page print started"
650 PRINT "":"** Assembling printlines":" and printing to" ::
PRINT "":" ";O$
660 FOR I=1 TO 66 :: PRINT #2:TAB(9);P$(I,1);TAB(45);P$(I,2)::
P$(I,1),P$(I,2)="" ::
NEXT I
670 SUBEND
```

Not much needs be said about PRINTPAGE beyond noting that line 660
formats a single print record from the two column entries and
erases the page buffer as it goes.

```
680 SUB YN(A$,B$,R,C,X)
690 DISPLAY AT(R,C)BEEP:A$&" (Y/N) "&B$ :: ACCEPT AT(R,C
+LEN(A$)+7)VALIDATE("YN")SIZE(-1)BEEP:A$ :: X=A$=B$ :: R
=R+2 :: SUBEND
700 SUB KEYCON :: DISPLAY AT (24,6)BEEP:"ANY KEY TO PROCEED"
710 CALL KEY(3,I,ST):: IF ST=0 THEN 710 ELSE DISPLAY ERASE ALL
720 SUBEND
730 SUB FILENAME(R,C,M$,D$)
740 DISPLAY AT(R+1,C):RPT$("-",LEN(M$)):: DISPLAY AT(R,C
```

~~~~~~

```
):M$ :: IF D$<>"N?" THEN DISPLAY AT(R+2,C):D$ ELSE SUBEXIT
750 ACCEPT AT(R+2,C)SIZE(-15)BEEP:D$ :: SUBEND
760 SUB MORE(NM):: DISPLAY ERASE ALL :: CALL TXTCOL(3,12
):: CALL YN("More listings","N",16,2,NM):: SUBEND
770 SUB DELAY(A):: FOR A=1 TO A :: NEXT A :: SUBEND
780 SUB TXTCOL(A,B):: CALL SCREEN(B):: FOR I=0 TO 12 ::
CALL COLOR(I,A,B):: NEXT I :
: SUBEND
```

The FILENAME routine writes an underlined heading, DISPLAYs the
default response, and ACCEPTs the reply. If it is asked no
question, "N?", it expects no answer. The other SUBs just do
their job when called. YN acts like input routines familiar in
other TI modules.

```
790 SUB SPEAK(A$):: CALL PEEK(-28672,SP):: IF SP=96 THEN
CALL SAY(A$) ELSE CALL DELAY(5*LEN(A$))
800 SUBEND
```

This is a last little goodie tagged on so that you may add speech
prompts to your program where desired. A bald CALL SAY has the
annoying behaviour that it seems to take forever in giving up the
attempt if no speech synthesizer is attached. Line 800 checks
that speech is connected and line 820 substitutes a controlled
delay if not. CALL SPEAK("....") can then be inserted anywhere it
is wanted in the program.

So there we have it, a worked out example of a non-trivial and
useful program that makes essential use of the sub-program
facility of XB. It shows that the XB programmer can, with a style
that finds natural expression in the language without undue
contortions, follow the general principles of "structured
programming" without getting hung up in the Swiss straight-jacket
so beloved by some proponents. The program as presented is a
cut-down version of the all-singing, all-dancing model, COLIST,
which has now grown to >22K and uses 48 subprograms. In all the
versions, subprograms have been an essential tool for program
development. Now it's time to take retrospective look at what at
what we have done and chase a few more subtleties

(To be continued...)

SOAPBOX

I think it is about time I get on my soap box and say a few words
about some things I see going on now in the TI World.

I want to first start off talking about FREEWARE (also called
SHAREWARE). For most of our meetings we have been taking up a
collection for a particular FREEWARE autor and sent him the money
to show our support and I want to encourage other groups to do the
same. I have heard from some FREEWARE authors that they have not
received anything from some of the major groups and this goes for
me too. Still I have received more response than I expected and
am happy with the response I have received but many others are

13

just not going to continue unless they receive some support. Even
if you can not send any money just send a thankyou note or
something to say thanks. I am just happy to get a thankyou note
from someone saying that they enjoyed my programs. These FREEWARE
authors and a few third party vendors is all that we have left
supporting us and we are going to have to support them if our
computer is going to survive! Sure there is many computers that
are way beyond our capabilities but just because something gets
old it does not mean it is no longer any good. My car is 11 years
old and just because it is old I am not junking it. It is still
in good shape and runs good as well as it still looks good. My TI
is still in good shape, it can do more than what it was designed
for and it is much more friendlier than many other machines. I
have used IBM's, Apples, Commodore's, Atari's... and out of all
of them I enjoy none more than my TI.

FREEWARE authors is not the only people that we should support but
we should support third party vendors as well. Pirating is
causing large losses for these third parties who are trying to
support us while we just don't care and copy their software and
complain when the vendor try to protect it! Some vendors have
thought about getting out of the TI market because of pirates
coping their software but were talked out of it. I know many
people also complain about about these companies announcing
products before they are in production and delays in getting their
products out etc... Many times these delays are not the fault of
the third party vendor. All of them are only very small companies
and have to get their parts from many suppliers. When just one
part is on back order the product must wait until that part comes
in and is not the fault of the vendor. I had much rather wait for
an item to be fully tested and assembled in a moderate manor
rather than just slapped together and shipped full of bugs.
However, if it was IBM or TI following these practices I would
complain but these vendors are only as I said very small so they
are doing the best that they can. All I am asking is give these
people the benefit of the doubt, your patience and try to
understand their posisition. I grant you some out there just want
to grab your money and then give you the shaft and by all means
you should warn everyone about these people (does the letters NAG
or HCJ ring a bell?). If we continue to give constant negative
feedback to these companies who are truely trying to support us,
they are not going to stick around too long and then who do we
have?

To further illistrate my point I read some very negative comments
in a newsletter directed toward Millers Graphics because MG
refused to send an unprotected copy to an individual who claimed
he just wanted to see how one of their programs worked. Of course
MG had to refuse as if they sent out one unprotected copy they
then why protect any of them? Then the article went on to say that
they could write their own software to do the same thing and that
the Gram Kracker is useless and that they could build one
themself! If comments like that keep up they will no doubt soon
have the chance to prove if they can do just that. I have had
nothing but support from Craig Miller and I have purchased many
products from them and found all them all to be of the best
quality possible. Craig has always been there with help anytime
that I needed it. I will certainly buy anything from Craig

without wondering if it worked or if it had bugs in it!
Furthermore without my Gram Kracker I could hardly function on my
computer!

I hope no one if offended by what I am saying and if so I
apologize but I am just making my observations known as a   neutral
observer.   Although membership in our group is growing I see
national interest dropping to the really dedicated   people.   This
just means that we must give even more support to the vendors and
FREEWARE authors.   Price on TI software compaired to other
computers (try pricing IBM software!) is very reasonable and in
some cases almost too low. Many vendors are still developing new
software and hardware though for our TI99/4A so all is not lost
and I plan on keeping this club going for a long time to come as
is the feeling of many others in the club. We have still much
potential and support left in this computer which was and still is
ahead of it's time.   The next time you receive a FREEWARE program
or a friend offers you a copy of a program just think about what I
said. Comments are most welcome...Gary Cox

CONVERTER

This comes to us from Bytemonger the Bluegrass 99 Computer
Society, by Wesley R. Richardson.

ED's note: This is quite a nice program that I have run
successfully...Ed

```
100 !****UNIT CONVERTER****
110 !**** T.I.99/4A,32K****
120 !****Wesley R.Richardson ; Oct.1986****
130 !**Bluegrass 99 Computer Society **
140 !VARIABLES D$,I,S,S$,T,T$,U$(,),V(,),W,W$
150 CALL CLEAR
160 DIM U$(15,14),V(15,14)
170 D$="..............."
180 CALL SCREEN(5)
190 FOR I=0 TO 14
200 CALL COLOR(I,16,5)
210 NEXT I
220 GOSUB 700
230 DISPLAY AT(14,8):"..LOADING DATA"
240 FOR S=1 TO 15
250 READ U$(S,0),V(S,0)
260 FOR T=1 TO V(S,0)
270 READ U$(S,T),V(S,T)
280 U$(S,T)=SEG$(U$(S,T)&D$,1,13)
290 NEXT T
300 NEXT S
310 GOSUB 700
320 FOR S=1 TO 15
330 S$=" "&STR$(S)&" "
340 S$=SEG$(S$,LEN(S$)-2,3)
350 DISPLAY AT(S+4,0):S$;U$(S,0)
360 NEXT S
370 DISPLAY AT(21,3):"CHOICE ? (1-15)";
```

```
380 ACCEPT AT(21,19)VALIDATE(NUMERIC)SIZE(2):S
390 IF (S<1)+(S>15)THEN 380
400 IF S=15 THEN END
410 !MAIN LOOP
420 V(0,0)=1
430 IF S>1 THEN 450
440 V(0,0)=273.15
450 GOSUB 700
460 GOSUB 730
470 FOR T=1 TO V(S,0)
480 GOSUB 660
490 IF S>1 THEN 510
500 GOSUB 750
510 DISPLAY AT(T+4,0):T$;U$(S,T);W/V(S,T)
520 NEXT T
530 DISPLAY AT(20,4):"X TO EXIT P TO PRINT"
540 DISPLAY AT(21,4):"KNOWN ? (1-";STR$(V(S,0));")";
550 ACCEPT AT(21,19)VALIDATE(NUMERIC,"XP")SIZE(2):W$
560 IF W$="X" THEN 310
570 IF W$="P" THEN 810
580 T=VAL(W$)
590 IF (T<1)+(T>V(S,0))THEN 550
600 DISPLAY AT(22,4):"INPUT ";U$(S,T);" ?"
610 ACCEPT AT(23,6)VALIDATE(NUMERIC):W
620 V(0,0)=W*V(S,T)
630 IF S>4 THEN 650
640 GOSUB 750
650 GOTO 450
660 T$=" "&STR$(T)&" "
670 T$=SEG$(T$,LEN(T$)-2,3)
680 W=V(0,0)
690 RETURN
700 CALL CLEAR
710 DISPLAY AT(2,8):"UNIT CONVERTER"
720 RETURN
730 DISPLAY AT(3,15-LEN(U$(S,0))/2):U$(S,0)
740 RETURN
750 !TEMP K->
760 W=-1*((V(0,0)-273.15)*(T=1)+V(0,0)*(T=2
)+(V(0,0)*9/5-459.67)*(T=3)+(V(0,0)*9
/5)*(T=4))
770 RETURN
780 !TEMP ->K
790 V(0,0)=-1*((W+273.15)*(T=1)+W*(T=2)+(W+459.67)*5/9*(T=3)+
(5/9)*W*(T=4))
800 RETURN
810 !PRINT
820 OPEN #1:"PIO"
830 PRINT #1:TAB(8);"UNIT CONVERTER"
840 PRINT #1:TAB(15-LEN(U$(S,0))/2);U$(S,0):""
850 FOR T=1 TO V(S,0)
860 GOSUB 660
870 IF S>1 THEN 890
880 GOSUB 750
890 PRINT #1:T$;U$(S,T);W/V(S,T)
900 NEXT T
910 PRINT #1:"":""
920 CLOSE #1
```

```
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

930 GOTO 550
940 DATA TEMPERATURE,4
950 DATA CELSIUS,1,KELVIN,1,FARENHEIGHT,1,RANKINE,1
960 DATA TIME,9
970 DATA NANOSECONDS,1E-9,MICROSECONDS,1E-6,
MILLISECONDS,1E-3,SECONDS,1
980 DATA MINUTES,60,HOURS,3600,DAYS,8.64E4,MONTHS
(MEAN),2.628E6,YEARS (MEAN),3.1536E7
990 DATA MASS,14
1000 DATA GRAIN,6.479891E-5,CARAT(METRIC),0.0002,
GRAM,0.001,SCRUPLE(APOT),.00129597862
1010 DATA PENNYWEIGHT,0.00155517384,DRAM(AVOIR),.0017718452,
OUNCE (AVOIR),.0283495231,OUNCE (TROY),.0311034768
1020 DATA POUND (AVOIR),0.45359237,KILOGRAM,1,SLUG,14.5939029,
TON (SHORT),907.18 474,TON (METRIC),1000
1030 DATA TON (LONG),1016.0469088
1040 DATA LENGTH,14
1050 DATA ANGSTROMS,1E-10,KR86 WAVELENG,6.0578021E-7,
MICRONS,1E-6,MILLIMETERS,1E -3,INCHES,0.0254
1060 DATA FEET,.3048,CUBITS,0.4572,METERS,1,FATHOMS,1.08288,
FURLONGS,201.168,KIL OMETERS,1000
1070 DATA MILES,1609.344,LIGHT-YEARS,9.46055E15,PARSEC,3.08374E16
1080 DATA AREA,14
1090 DATA BARN,1E-28,CIRCULAR MILL,5.0670748E-10,CM 2,1E-4,
INCH 2,6.4516E-4,FOOT  2,0.09290304
1100 DATA YARD 2,.83612736,METER 2,1,ARE,100,
ACRE,4046.8564224,HECTARE,10000,KIL OMETER 2,1E6
1110 DATA MILE 2,2589988.11,SECTION,2589988.11,
TOWNSHIP,93239572
1120 DATA VOLUME,14
1130 DATA TEASPOONS,4.92892159375E-6,TABLESPOONS,
1.478676478125E-5,INCHES 3,1.63 87064E-5
1140 DATA OUNCE (FLUID),2.95735295625E-5,
CUP,2.365882365E-4,PINT (LIQUID),4.7317 6473E-4
1150 DATA QUART(LIQUID),9.4635295E-4,LITERS,
1.000028E-3,BOARD FEET,.002359737216 ,GALLONS(LIQU),.003785411784
1160 DATA FOOT 3,.028316846592,YARD 3,.764554856984,
METER 3,1,CORDS,3.6245563
1170 DATA SPEED,12
1180 DATA FEET/HR,8.4666666E-5,FEET/MIN,5.08E-3,
INCHES/SEC,0.0254,KILOMETERS/HR, 0.27777778
1190 DATA FEET/SEC,0.3048,MILES/HR,0.44704,KNOTS,
0.5144444444,METERS/SEC,1,MILES /MIN,26.8224
1200 DATA KILOMETER/SEC,1000,MILES/SEC,1609.344,
TIMES C LIGHT,2.997925E8
1210 DATA ACCELERATION,5
1220 DATA GAL,0.01,INCH/SEC 2,0.0254,FEET/SEC 2,0.3048,
METER/SEC 2,1,G'S,9.80665
1230 DATA DENSITY,5
1240 DATA KILOGRAMS/M 3,1,POUNDS/FT 3,16.018463,
0,POUNDS/IN 3,27679.905
1250 DATA FORCE,8
1260 DATA DYNE,0.00001,POUNDAL,.138254954376,
OUNCE (FORCE),.27801385,NEWTON,1,PO UND (FORCE),4.448221615
1270 DATA KILOGRAM-FORCE,9.80665,KILOPOND-FORC,
9.80665,KIP,4448.221615
1280 DATA PRESSURE,14
1290 DATA DYNE/CM 2,0.100,NEWTON/M 2,1,PASCALS,1,
```

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```
KGF/M 2,9.80665,LBF/FT 2,47.880258
1300 DATA MILIBARS,100,TORR (O C),133.322,
MM HG (O C),133.324,INCH (H2O),249.082 ,FEET (H2O),2988.98
1310 DATA PSI,6894.7572,KGF/CM 2,98066.5,
BARS,100000,ATMOSPHERES,101325
1320 DATA POWER,14
1330 DATA FOOT-LBF/HR,3.766161E-4,CALORIES/HR,.0011622222,
FOOT-LBF/MIN,.02259696 6,CALORIES/MIN,.0697333333
1340 DATA BTU/HR,.292875073,WATT,1,FOOT-LBF/SEC,1.3558179,
CALORIES/SEC,4.184,BTU /MIN,17.572504
1350 DATA KILOCAL./MIN,69.7333333,HP550FT-LB/SEC,745.69987,
HP (ELECTRIC),746,KILO CAL/SEC,4184
1360 DATA BTU/SEC,1054.350264
1370 DATA ENERGY,11
1380 DATA ELECTRONVOLTS,1.6021E-19,ERG,1E-7,
FOOT/POUNDAL,.04214011,JOULE,1,CALOR IES,4.184
1390 DATA FOOT-LBF,1.3558179,BTU,1054.350264,WATT-HR,3600,
KILOCALORIES,4184,KILOWATT-HR,3.6E6,TONS TNT,4.2E9
1400 DATA PREFIX,14
1410 DATA ATTO,1E-18,FEMTO,1E-15,PICO,1E-12,NANO,1E-9,
MICRO,1E-6,MILLI,1E-3,CENT I,1E-2,DECI,1E-1,UNIT,1
1420 DATA HECTO,1E2,KILO,1E3,MEGA,1E6,GIGA,1E9,TERA,1E12
1430 DATA END,0
```

This typed in by Marshal Ellis

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Looking for something that is TI related to subscribe to? Since
many of the major magazines have forgotten about TI's many others
are available. Listed below are some of the most well known of
thest publications. Subscription prices listed are U.S.A. rate
in U.S. dollars.

MICROpendium
P.O. Box 1343
Round Rock, TX 78680
(512) 255-1512 ($20.50 year)
The largest TI only publication. Write for a FREE sample issue.

The Computer Shopper
407 S. Washington Ave.
P.O. Box F
Titusville, FL 32781
(305) 269-3211 ($21 year)

The name describes the magazine. It is a huge publication with
mostly ads but with very informative articles for most computers
including a good section on TI by Ron Albright! This one can be
sometimes be found in major bookstores.

Genial TRAVelER Diskazine
835 Green Valley Drive
Philadelphia, PA 19128

($30 year published every other month)

This is a VERY good magazine on disk with great programs written by Barry Traver.

The Smart Programmer
171 Mustang Street
Sulphur, LA 70663
(318) 527-0025 ($15 year)

A very technically oriented publication with memory maps etc...

Ryte Data computing newsletter
210 Mountain Street
Haliburton, Ontario KOM 1S0
Canada
($14 year)

Chicago-Area TI99/4A Users Group
Don Jones - Dept M2
P.O. Box 578341
Chicago, Illinois 60657

They are offering a non-attending membership which includes the newsletter (published 10 times a year with a super summer issue), library access, sample disk or cassette (please specify when subscribing), free password to their BBS for initial membership of $21. I decided to join myself to get their GREAT newsletter! I would like to mention a big THANKS to Chicago UG member Grant Schmalgemeier who has called me on several occasions in answer to my questions. They currently have well over 600 members, WOW!

Clubline-99
P.O. Box 1005, Station A
Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3R1
Canada
(Subscription $25)

Most user groups offer out of town memberships. For other newsletters take a look at what we receive at the newsletter table. Some of the newsletters we receive are as big as magazines!...Gary Cox

SUPPLIER LIST

Tenex
P.O. Box 6587
South Bend, IN 46660
1-800-348-2778

Triton
P.O. Box 8123
San Francisco, CA 94128
1-800-227-6900

Millers Graphics
145 W. Cypress Ave.
San Dimas, CA 91773
(714) 599-1431

Texcomp
P.O. Box 33084
Granada Hills, CA 91344
(818) 366-6631

DataBioTics
P.O. Box 1194
Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274

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Asgard Software   Texaments
P.O. Box 10306   53 Center Street
Rockville, MD 20850   Patchogue, NY 11772
(301) 345-2492   (516) 475-8480

Ryte Data   Great Lakes Software
210 Mountain Street   804 E. Grand River Ave.
Haliburton, Ontario KOM 1SO Howell, MI 48843
Canada

Rave 99   Horizon Computer Limited
23 Florence Road   P.O. Box 554
Bloomfield, CT 06002   Walbridge, Ohio 43465
(203) 242-4012

Disk Only Software (DOS)
P.O. Box 4170
Rockville, MD 20850
(301) 369-1339 or 1-800-446-462 plus 897335 (touch tone)

Not-Polyoptics   Tigercub Software
P.O. Box 4443   156 Collingwood Ave
Woodbridge, VA 22191   Whitehall, OH 43213
(703) 491-5543   (614) 235-3545

Pilgrims Pride
5 Williams La.
Hatboro, PA 19040
(215) 441-4262

Pages and pages of of more third party vendors and dealers exist,
so many so I can not list them all here but above is some of the
major suppliers.   Many of the above are dealers with major
companies   such as Myarc, Corcomp and others...   The TI still has
full support!...Gary Cox

SHOPPERS

The December Computer Shopper had an ad from Rocky Mountain Micro
of P.O.   Box 1693, Sandy, Utah 84091 (801) 572-6272 had a small
add listing a standalone Multicom 32K memory with Centronic Port
and RS232 Port all in one unit for $99.95.   A 32K memory card for
the PEB was listed as $49.95 and a standalone RS232 and parallel
port unit was listed for $69.95.   Sounds like a pretty good
deal...

If you have something you would like to buy, sell or trade call Al
Ooss to place a FREE ad (non commercial) in the newsletter to
members of the group. Commercial ads may be placed for $10 for a
full page ad (5" by 8") and $6 for a half page ad (5" by 4"). Ads
will be placed in the newsletter as soon as possible depending on
when received and available space. Our newsletter is mailed out
to between 160-190 people and user groups each month.

For sale by Beery Miller the following, TI Acoustic Moden 35.00,
TE 2 10.00, Minimem 40.00, Multiplan 40.00, Adventure 10.00 see
him at meeting or call at 726-5551 or try out your moden and call

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Risky Business at 726-5623.

ELECTIONS

Listed below are the nominees for officers to be elected for the
term of 1987. The election will be held at this month's meeting.
The candidates were nominated by the nominating committee and
nominations from the floor at the November meeting. The election
is by secret ballot.   Write-in votes are permissable.   The
cadidate recieving the most votes for an office will be declared
the winner.   There are no run-off elections. The following have
been nominated for office:

	OFFICE	CANDIDATE
	President	Mac Swope
		Dick Vandenberg
	Vice President	Michael Dorman
		Richard Miller
	Secretary	Gary Cox
	Treasurer	Gerald Smith

The officers elected this month will be sworn in at the January
meeting.   They will attend the next board meeting prior to the
January meeting in order to have a smooth transfer of duties and
responsibilities.

Please make it a point to attend this month's meeting and vote for
the candidate of your choice. Be sure your dues are paid up.
They may be paid at the meeting before voting...Richard Miller

THINKING

When I sit down to work with my TI-99/4A. I first make sure I am
free of static electricity, and then I turn on the power switch.
Magically, like in H.G. Wells' novel "THE TIME MACHINE", I find
myself transported through time into the future. I begin to work
on my computer and all of the trials and tribulations of daily
life seen to slip away to the mystical hum of the fan in my P.E.
Box.   I am elevated from reality into the world of fun and games.
YES! It's a game of me against the computer, and after it's 'over,
I find we have both won. It's great to be able to experience a
dimension where time stands still. Where the only human being is
me.   I am the master of my environment. I make all the rules. I
make all the decisions. I set all the guidelines. Anything that
happens is because of me. I take all the credit, I take all the
blame. Just me and my computer. My computer becomes an extension
of my thoughts. A tool! That's right! Just a tool to help me in
my daily life, both business and pleasure. My computer has become

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a part of me. My thoughts are it's thoughts. My abilities are
it's abilities. My shortcomings are it's shortcomings. My
successes are it's sucesses. My failures are it's failures. This
one on one environment is one in which I thrive. I perform my
best when I am in this dimension. I am truly free to do what I
want knowing I control my surroundings. I am confident that each
escape into the future returns new knowledge and that I am blessed
with a constant thirst for knowledge. Also that I will return
with a higher understanding of the computer that we are all trying
so hard to understand.

But Then! Almost sadly, I have to slip from this unique dimension
and return to the reality that each of has to face daily.
Immediately my eyes scan the room to my clock. "Where have I been
for all that time?", I ask myself. And then I smile. No one can
take that feeling away from me.

Now you know why I cherish my TI-99/4A so much. My dream is that
each and every one of you learn to enjoy your computer as much as
I enjoy mine. I really hope this feeling is not unique to me
only, because if it is, I have great sadness for you.

I could go on forever, but newsletter space is limited. So let me
leave you with this thought. Each and every day, I specifically
set aside time to sneek off into my computer room, shut the door,
and turn my computer on. Why, you ask... Because It's my magic
carpet ride to the future. It's my ticket back to FantasyLand,
and I've always been a kid at heart. "KEEP THE FAITH"......
Gerald Smith

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PROTECTION

There are strong FEDERAL LAWS against duplicating copyrighted
programs. Please do not break these laws!

24hr TIBBS BULLETIN BOARD
901-357-5425 300/1200 baud

DISCLAIMER

The Mid-South 99 Users Group is not affiliated, sponsored by or
has any relationship with any company implied or otherwise.   Any
mention of a company or product is not an endorsement of either
the company or the product.

NEWSLETTER INFO

Visitors and potential members may receive 3 free issues of
TiDbits while they decide if they wish to join (no obligation).
A GREEN newsletter and/or dollar signs ($$$) indicate that your
dues are due.   Please pay your dues to be able to continue to
receive the newsletter and other benefits of the group. You will
note a letter and date on the top of your address lable. The
letter indicates if you are a member and the date indicates the
last time you paid your dues. One year from the date your dues
are due!

PLEASE NOTE LARGE TYPE IS AVAILABLE PH. 743-6781

CALENDAR

MEETINGS: December 18, January 15, February 20th (3rd Thursday!)
WORKSHOPS: December 27, January 24, February 28th (4th Saturday!)

OFFICERS

Gerald Smith	President	901-363-6273
Dick Vandenberg	Vice-President	901-274-1892
Ralph Wilson	Secretary	901-382-0795
Mac Swope	Treasurer	901-363-3880
Pierre LaMontagne	Chairman - Library and Sysop	901-357-8110
Adolph Butler	Chairman Cassette Library	901-948-0732
Al Doss	Editor #1 - Newsletter	901-743-6781
Gerald Smith	Editor #2 - Newsletter	901-363-6273
Gary Cox	Chairman - Program	901-358-0667
Gary Cox	Information and Assistance	901-358-0667
Mac Swope	Chairman - Equipment	901-363-3880

GROUP MAILING ADDRESS

Mid-South 99 Users Group
P.O. Box 38522
Germantown, Tn. 38183-0522

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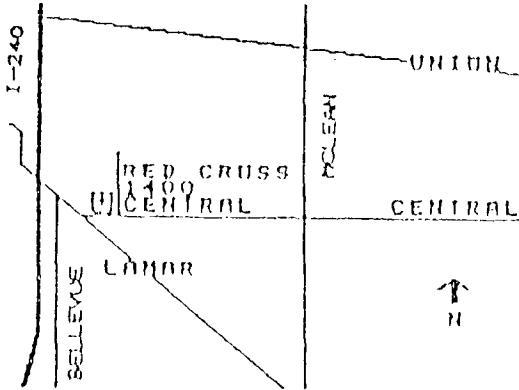
NOTICES

MEETING
7:00 P.M.
Thursday, DECEMBER 18th
Red Cross Building
1400 Central Av.

WORKSHOP
9:00 - 12:00
NONE THIS MONTH
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ |_| $15.00 FAMILY
ADDRESS_____ |_| $10.00 JUNIOR (under 15)
CITY_____ST__ZIP_____ |_| $10.00 ASSOCIATE (N/L only)
PHONE(___)___-_____:INTERESTS_____

EQUIPMENT,ETC. _____

Detach and mail with check payable to: Mid-South 99 Users Group,
P.O. Box 38522, Germantown, Tn, 38183-0522.