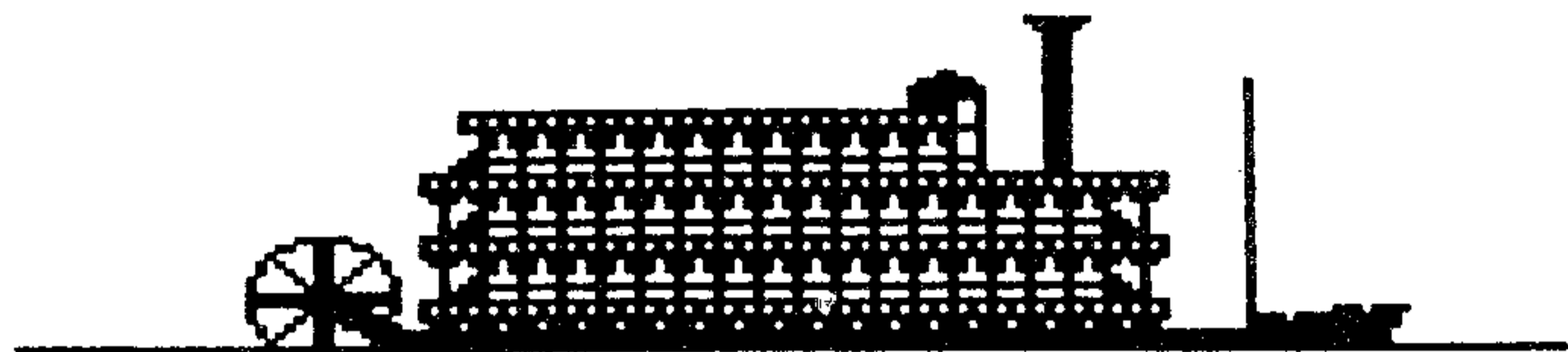
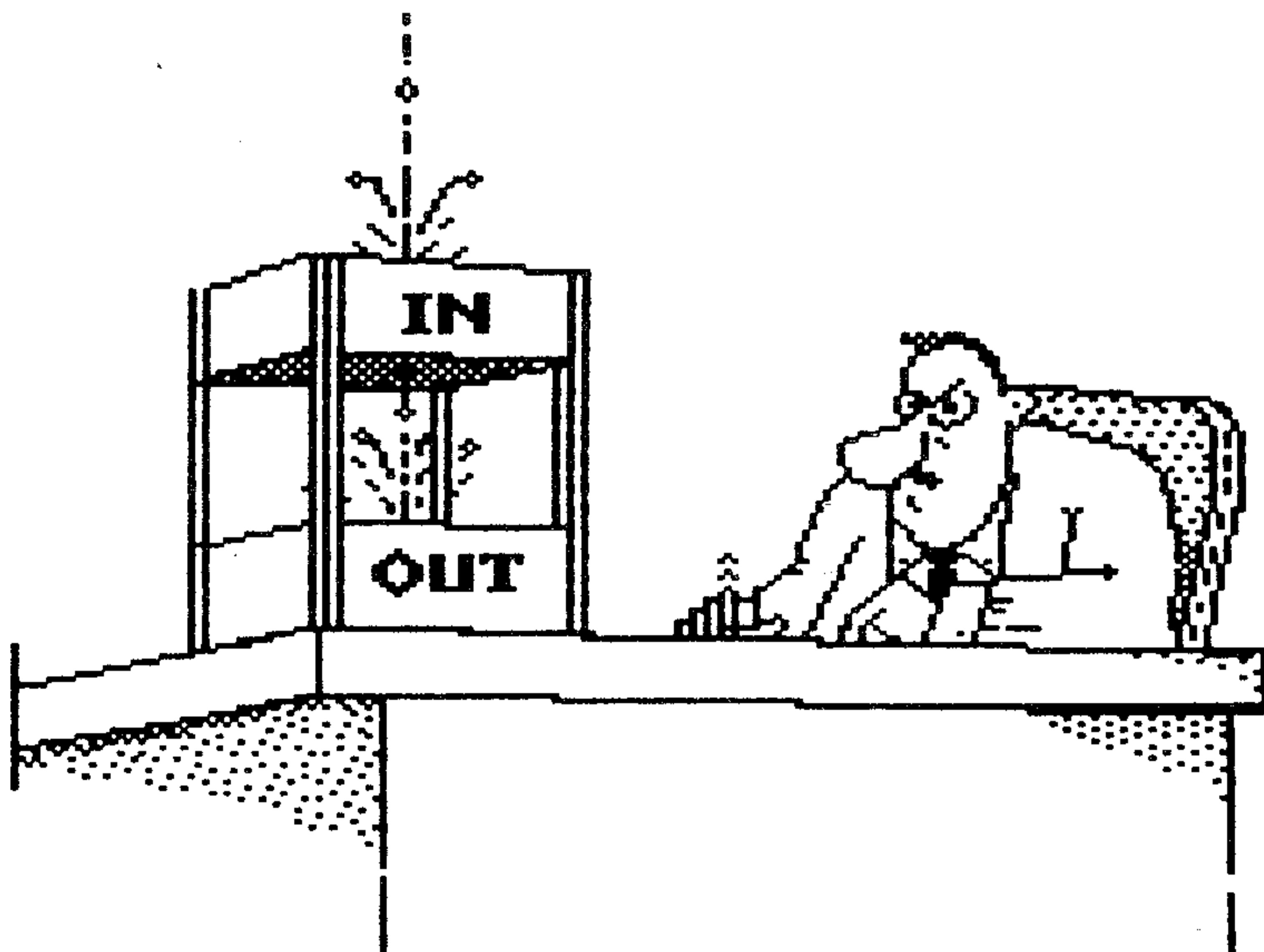


# '11 DBITS

MID SOUTH 99 USERS GROUP



MEMPHIS TENNESSEE



MAY 1991

# TIDBITS

## OFFICERS

Gary Cox	PRESIDENT	901-358-0667
Richard Hiller	VICE-PRESIDENT	901-794-9945
Beery Miller	SECRETARY	901-368-1169
Bob Jones	TREASURER	901-363-9213
Jim Saemanes	Technical Support	901-476-7011
Jim Saemanes	Disk Librarian	901-476-7011
Pierre Lamontagne	CO-Librarian	901-386-1513
Gary Cox	Program Chairman	901-358-0667
Mac Swope	Chairman - Equipment	901-363-3880
Marshal Ellis	Editor - TIDBITS Newsletter	901-327-2506
Marshal Ellis	Editor-Technical Interface	901-327-2506
Beery Miller	9640 NEWS BBS Sysop	901-368-0112

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## PRESIDENTS BIT

By Gary W. Cox

The last meeting went very well with nearly 30 people attending our BBQ/meeting. I appreciate those who brought out deserts namely Beery Miller, Tim Brayman and Andrew Freeman, they each receive a 1 month extention on their dues for their generosity.

Plans for a computer fair are still in the works and it will be held in late September or early October (exact date pending). This is a computer fair for all local computer user groups which will be like the MACC fairs that we had years ago. Our TI Users Group will have a room to ourselves at the fair and I will have a setup there but we still need someone to volunteer to organize the TI portion of the fair (no one volunteered last month!) as I am Fair Chairman so I am unable to do that portion. The participation level of our group will be up to the person who organizes the TI portion of the fair. James Bennington has volunteered to help that person but he can not take on the responsibility of organizing it.

C ya at this months meeting...

## IN THE NEWS

By Gary W. Cox

If you haven't tried reading the TI Echo here are a few messages of interest which was recently posted:

Message #1500 "TI-ECHO"  
 Date: 17-Apr-91 18:04  
 From: Kevan Coleman  
 To: Mid\_south\_99\_users\_group  
 Subj: Thank You

All,

I'd like to thank you for sending me a copy of your newsletter! I was impressed with the content of the information contained inside, not only that, but the presentation was very professional looking. Your club projects class in the first degree. Keep up the good work!

--- EZPoint V2.0  
 \* Origin: Far POINT Station! (1:105/642.15)

Message #1584 "TI-ECHO"  
 Date: 21-Apr-91 14:13  
 From: Ray Dyer  
 To: All  
 Subj: TI 99 emulator for IBM

From the Unix TI conference is a message from Germany about implementing a TI in an IBM. (Message has been edited for -'s and origin line)

Message #3762 - Unix TI conference!

Date : 16-Apr-91 20:04  
 From : Thomas Opheys  
 To : All  
 Subject : Info about TI-99 emulator  
 - - - PTH 1:250/98.0 FidoNet

Newsgroups: comp.sys.ti  
 Organization: University of Passau, W-Germany  
 Message-ID: <1991Apr16.200420.26467.forwiss.uni-passau.de>  
 Date: Tue, 16 Apr 91 20:04:20 GMT

Information about my TI-99/4A emulator. I would have answered all the mails received but at my university I am not allowed to mail that much outside of Germany because of the costs. So I try to answer all questions in comp.sys.ti hoping not to bore those who aren't interested.

The emulator will require the following hardware: an IBM PC, any DOS version, and a standard VGA card capable of the 640x480x16 mode. The faster the machine, the better...

The emulator is 100% written in Assembler, for speed reasons. Someone asked me if it was possible to port it to the Amiga. Now you know the answer: naturally I could give you the source code but it will be a full time job to rewrite it for an Amiga or any other machine. You won't get a good TI emulator written in any higher language, not even C.

How will the emulator work? You'll see the original TI screen on your PC monitor. While the TI graphics only uses 256x192 pixels, there is enough space to display more information on the PC screen. When running in debug mode, the emulator displays the processor data like registers, status, debugged assembler instruction, VDP and GROM addresses and lots more. In addition, there is a display of the current GPL instruction being executed by the GPL interpreter. The rest of the screen is reserved for some switches (ON/OFF, Load Interrupt) and Lamps (access of the peripheral cards, interrupts).

Naturally, the performance of the emulator isn't too good with that huge amount of data displayed. So you can switch it to speed mode which just displays the TI screen. As I see it now, the emulator will be only slightly slower on a 20 MHz 386 than the original TI. But I can get it faster...

The whole hardware is supported: Keyboard, Video Display Processor with all modes (text, graphics, bitmap, multicolor), Sound Processor (in the moment, only one sound channel (of four), because of the restrictions in PC sound, but SoundBlaster owners will get the full TI sound), 32k memory expansion, Mini Memory, GROM/ROM modules like Extended Basic, Editor/Assembler and peripheral cards like the P-code card, RS232 and Disk Controller.

RS232 and Disk Controller can be the only sources of incompatibilities. Because of timing problems, the Disk Controller and RS232 hardware can't be emulated correctly on the hardware level. So the DSR ROMs will be patched so that every software level call of the card routines are handled by DOS. That means that you can print to "RS232.BA=9600.CR.LF" without problems, but terminal software like Telco won't work because they access the hardware directly.

Even more complicated will be the disk controller access. I will provide a patch of the ROMs that enable you to access every file name on your PC hard disk just by giving the normal DOS name (i.e. RUN "C:TILOAD" in Extended Basic). And whenever accessing "DSKx" or using programs that read sectors of these DSKs (like Disk Manager 1000), the emulator accessed special files on your PC hard disk that represent a TI disk. A utility to copy whole TI disks to the PC will be provided. Again, software that directly accessed the hardware of the controller won't work (COPY-C, Turbo-Copy and RapidCopy).

Another thing you can forget is the speech synthesizer... But I sure hope that you didn't even expect that. SoundBlaster owners can perhaps play the words in ROM, but I think I can never emulate the Speech Synthesizer due to lack of hardware information...

In the moment, the emulator is absolute not ready. The processor is nearly ready (only three instructions are missing) and the TMS9900 instructions, registers and status and the GPL code are correctly displayed debugged on screen. If anyone wants to play a little with the program in its actual state, the only way in the moment is to send me a disk and money for mail return (poor student...) because they kill me if I post it to comp.binaries.ibm.pc... And, as I said before, I CAN, but I am not allowed to E-mail outside Germany.

Any suggestions, hints, hardware information (NEEDED!) and testers are welcome! Everyone can get the source and I don't want any money. I am just loving that GREAT machine...

Thomas Opheys, Franz-Stockbauer-Weg 1, App. 88, W-8390 Passau, Germany

- Fred-Uf 1.7(L)(BETA)  
 ! Origin: EGSGate UseNet <=> FidoNet Gateway (1:250/98.0)  
 @PID: FredMail 1.7-BETA

\* Origin: Tibm Wizard 4167436703HST. We Are.Canada's Connection (1:250/518)

The TI Echo is available locally on the 9640 News BBS, Full Moon BS and the HUG BBS. Note that all the garbage that you see at the end of TI Echo messages indicate the message origin (what BBS it was transmitted from) showing the BBS, node etc....

The following is a press release from John Hopkins University:

The Johns Hopkins University is conducting a nationwide search for Computing Applications to Assist Persons with Disabilities which will run through February 1992. This Program is made possible by grants from The National Science Foundation and MCI Communications Corporation.

The National Search is a competition for ideas, systems, devices and computer programs designed to help the more than 25 million Americans with disabilities. The competition is open to all residents of the United States. Amateurs, computer professionals and students are invited to compete for hundreds of prizes and awards including a \$10,000 Grand Prize. Entries may address any physical, mental or learning disability and are due by August 23, 1991.

Regional events, competitions and exhibitions will be held across the country throughout 1991. Regional winners will compete for the grand prize at the national exhibit to be held at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. February 1-2, 1992.

"Putting ingenuity and technology to work for people is our primary goal," says Paul Hazan, Project Director of the National Search. "Through this Search computer professionals have a unique opportunity to apply their creativity and expertise to address urgent human needs and make a significant difference," he said. "Applications are only limited by the imagination of the designer."

To obtain a flier giving details of the competition and how you can participate, write to:

Computing to Assist Persons with Disabilities Johns Hopkins National Search, P.O. Box 1200 Laurel, MD 20723

The following edited from the April 1991 issue of Micropendium:

Asgard Software has released Page Pro Banner Maker, which uses Page Pro pictures and headline fonts, according to Chris Bobbitt of the company. He says that Page Pro Banner Maker allows the user to enter up to 280 letters and 32 pictures in a single banner. Banners can be created and saved and the program gives a clear on screen representation of how the banner will turn out. He says that the program is faster than most banner programs, has 80 column support and works with a hard drive and has an interface that allows the user to select pictures and fonts directly from catalog listings. Page Pro Banner Maker requires a TI99/4a with 32k, a disk system, RS232 and an Epson compatible printer. The package includes a 16 page manual, an example disk, reference sheet and 7 Page Pro Headline format fonts and 9 Page Pro format pictures. Suggested retail price is \$12.95 plus \$2.50 shipping. Write to Asgard Software, P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20849 or call them at (703) 255-3085.

Richard Lynn Gilbertson of Portland, Oregon, has developed a new version of Extended BASIC, called RICH GKXB. The GRAM version, usable with devices such as the Gramulator, GRAM Kracker or the P-GRAM card, is available through CaDD Electronics, 81 Prescott Rd., Raymond, NH 03077. Gilbertson says the he expects a cartridge version to be available through another company in May or June. The new Extended BASIC runs Extended BASIC and BASIC programs "with no problems, no crashes," Gilbertson says. Other features of the Extended BASIC are "tacked on," he notes. He says that the program is 100 percent compatible with TI Extended BASIC and TI BASIC but is much faster. In addition, he has added 157 commands to Extended BASIC. Most commands are special syntax for saving memory, he notes, calling up more than one command function at once, but the regular XBASIC or BASIC commands may be used if desired. With the next XB he notes, "you don't need a Supercart or Editor/Assembler module, it does the work of three cartridges." E/A #3 and E/A 5 program will run from Extended BASIC program mode or command mode, Gilbertson notes. The loader can be set up by typing in the name as a string variable or a string. The

program will also load and run Advanced Diagnostics. A user can CALL COINC as many times as desired in the same command. A joystick auto repeat function is available and the user can scan up to four joysticks at once and scan all key modes with one command, JOKE (Joystick-KEYs). He expects to incorporate a number of commands from the GKXB source code with the permission of Craig Miller, he notes. He says that character sets 15 and 16 can be used, providing sprites are not used, without using an assembly program, and that windows are included in his program.

According to an item in the PUG Peripheral, newsletter of the Pittsburgh Users Group, all warranty and out of warranty repair of CorComp products is being done as of Feb 1 by David Lynch as an independent technician. The item says Lynch was the lead technician with CorComp and the service technician for CorComp products since 1987. Address is 99 Computer Repair, c/o David Lynch, 2101 W. Crescent Ave., Unit A, Anaheim, CA 92801. Phone number is (714) 539-4834.

The International Computer Products Remanufacturing Association will hold its spring convention at the Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C. May 16-18. Organizers say that all businesses involved in recycling computer products may attend. Registration is \$75 for members and \$195 for non-members. For agenda and speakers, contact Geri Ethen, (503) 222-3215.

Ken Gilliland of Notung Software has announced that the company has updated several of its programs. Filmlib v3.01 has enhanced display and menuing system. TI Casino v2.03 has minor bugs cleaned up and now has a "Bouncer" to rid the casino of deadbeats who don't pay their bills off. The Star Trek: Next Generation Calendar is now also available in a fiscal year version (June 1991 to June 1992) all updates are free provided that the user returns his original disks and proper return postage with a mailer. The address to Notung Software is 7647 McGroarty St., Tunjunga, Ca 91042.

Bill Gaskill, owner of PRK DataBasics of Grand Junction, CO has announced that his company is changing names and refocusing its product line more toward the support of TI Base and TI Base applications. The new company name is Junction Softworks, with a new address of 2310 Cypress Court, Grand Junction, CO 81506. As part of the new focus, Junction Softworks has bundled its Membership Manager program with Newsletter Exchange. According to Gaskill, together they provide tools for automating the recurring tasks user groups face in managing membership rosters and in keeping track of their newsletter exchange program. Price for the three disk set is \$25. Gaskill also announced the availability of the TI BASE User, a bi-monthly newsletter for TI Base owners. Volume 2, the second year's issues, is now offered at a subscription price of \$20. six issues of a least 12 pages per issue and at least one program disk during the year are guaranteed. volume 1, which consists of more than 80 pages of newsletters from 1990 and several programs on disk, is available for \$22. Junction Software also offers Timeline 99, a book that Gaskill says chronicles significant events in the life of the 99/4a and 9640 computers and the community that has supported them. The price of the book is \$18, which includes shipping and handling. The

company has also retained its sales and support for Personal Auditor and MICROdex 99.

The TI Orphan Reunion is scheduled to be held May 11 in the Innisfail Lions Hall, Innesfail, Alberta, Canada, according to Fred Kessler. For information, contact Kessler at Box 20, Sundre, Alberta, Canada, T0M 1X0 or call (403) 638-3916.

The sixth International TI User Treffen is scheduled for September 13-15 in Berlin, Germany. For more information contact Henry Hillsberg, Uhlandstr. 70, (W) 1000 Berlin 31, Germany.

The Multi User Group Conference is scheduled for May 18th 1991 in Reed Hall on the Ohio State University Lima Campus. For more information contact the Lima users group at P.O. Box 647, Venedocia, OH 45894 or phone Dave Szippel evenings, at (419) 228-7109. At this time we do not know if anyone from our group will be going but Beery Miller is hoping too...

That's the news for this month c ya at the meeting...

## ASGARD NEWS

The following was downloaded from Compuserve:  
ASGARD NEWS ON-LINE UPDATE  
No. 4 - March 27, 1991

### >>>INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this issue of the "Asgard News On-Line Update". This, hopefully, regular feature contains a synopsis of Asgard Software/ Peripherals and Publications new releases and news for on-line publication. If you have any comments or questions please send electronic mail to:

On CIS - 72561,3241  
On GENie - C.BOBBITT  
On Delphi - C\_BOBBITT  
On B.B.B.B. - User #95

Written letters should be sent to:  
Asgard News/Reflections  
P.O. Box 10697  
Rockville, MD 20849

### >>>ASGARD EGI NEWS

We are pleased to announce that Asgard intends to go ahead with production of the Asgard EGI 80-column card for the TI-99/4A.

This stand-alone, side-car style device provides 80-column support for composite and Analog RGB monitors, as well as an IBM-compatible mouse port, on a standard TI-99/4A. Easy to install, the EGI (Extended Graphics Interface) can be put into your computer with nothing but a screwdriver, and moved easily between different machines. The EGI is virtually 100% compatible with all TI-99/4A software, as well as all of the growing library of 80-column software (3 new products from Asgard alone this year!). Finally, the EGI is very reliable -

It is based on the proven Mechatronics 80-column device with over 1000 installed units world-wide, and has its own power-supply shielding it from the 99/4A.

The EGI is available in a variety of forms:

#### THE BASIC KIT

Includes:one (1) EGI circuit board  
one (1) V9938 VDP chip  
one (1) custom built case  
one (1) standard EPROM DSR (includes Extended Basic programming support)  
one (1) set schematics, parts list and parts vendors list, and construction tips.  
Documentation for DSR software.  
Suggested retail price: \$95.00  
Order item #P03a

#### THE COMPLETE KIT

Includes:All items in the Basic kit  
All other parts necessary including miscellaneous ICs and RAM chips  
Source information for power supply  
Coupons for 20-40% off of Asgard Software 80-column compatible products  
5 disks of 80-column software  
Suggested retail price: \$160.00  
Order item #P03b

#### READY-TO-GO EGI

Includes:All items in the Complete Kit  
Power supply  
All labor for construction and testing  
One (1) year warranty on all parts and labor  
One copy of YAPP 80-column paint program by Alexander Hulpke (suggested retail \$30)  
Suggested retail price: \$250.00  
Order item #P03c

Options:Enhanced EPROM software by Barry Boone - \$20.00  
Order item #P04  
Extra internal interface cables - \$20.00 each  
Order item #P05  
Custom monitor cables - \$24.00 each with specs  
Order item #C01  
Yamaha V9938 Programmers Reference Manual-\$35.00  
Order item #T04  
9938 Programmers Package(a collection of over 4 disks of example programs with all source code in a variety of languages) - \$5.00  
Order item #S04

Asgard Peripherals is currently taking orders for all of these items. We expect to begin shipping products in May of 1991. Some items are available right now.

To place an order, send a check or money order to:  
Asgard Peripherals

P.O. Box 10697  
Rockville, MD 20849  
(703)255-3085

There is a 7% charge for credit cards -  
Mastercard/Visa accepted - U.S./Canada please add \$5/order - S&H  
Airmail please add \$7.99/order S&H

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>>>CATALOG AVAILABLE

Asgard Software is pleased to announce the 1991 Asgard  
Software Page Pro 99 catalog.

This 12-page catalog features over 45 different Page Pro 99  
compatible products, from support utilities to packages of  
art-work, template pages, and fonts. This package contains 7  
products not listed in our Fall 1990 general software catalog,  
as well as 37 products not listed in our 1989 general software  
catalog. The items described are of interest to anyone who uses  
graphics on a TI-99/4A and/or Geneve.

This catalog is available free by sending a postcard to:

Asgard Software  
P.O. Box 10306  
Rockville, MD 20849

Send an email request to:

Delphi: C\_BOBBITT  
Genie: C.BOBBITT

CompuServe: 72561,3241

Or phone (703)255-3085.

-----  
>>>NEW PRODUCT RELEASES

**BANNER MAKER 99 ANNOUNCED**

There are lots of banner making programs for the TI-99/4A -  
why bother making another one? Well, over the years we've made a  
number of observations:

\* Other banner programs produce lousy looking banners

If you actually look at the banners produced with other  
banner programs up close, the letters are universally blocky and  
crude, and if they allow artwork at all it is often enlarged  
beyond recognition.

\* Other banner programs use incompatible art

Most banner programs have their own font and picture  
formats - and make you go through contortions to create new art.  
Page Pro Banner Maker lets you use Page Pro pictures, and a  
rapidly growing library of Page Pro Headline fonts (of which a  
sizable collection of both is included).

\* Other banner programs are limited

You can forget about pictures in most banner programs - and  
did you really want more than a few characters of text in your

banner too? Page Pro Banner Maker allows you to enter up to 280  
letters and 32 pictures in a single banner - where the pictures  
and the letters can be interspersed virtually any way  
imaginable. You can also create and save banners, and then edit  
and re-use them again later - something lacking in other banner  
makers. Finally, the Banner Editor in Page Pro Banner Maker  
gives you a clear on-screen representation of how your banner  
will turn out - eliminating guesswork.

\* You have to baby-sit other banner programs

No one uses banner programs for big jobs because you have  
to punch a lot of keys for every banner. Because of Banner  
Maker's unique design, you can produce as many banners as you  
need at one sitting with the Banner Editor, tell the Banner  
Printer to print them all, and walk away.

\* Other banner programs are slow

Banner Maker is one of the fastest banner programs  
available. Even on a 4A the program spends most of the time  
waiting for the printer to finish printing a line.

There are other reasons that Page Pro Banner Maker is the  
best banner printing program: it has a 80-column support; it  
works with a hard drive; it has an easy-to-use interface that  
allows you to select pictures and fonts directly from catalog  
listings; etc. BUT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS WHAT MATTERS MOST IS  
THE QUALITY OF THE BANNERS, HOW CREATIVE YOU CAN GET WITH THEM,  
AND HOW EASY IT IS TO GENERATE THEM. On all three counts, we  
believe Page Pro Banner Maker is the best banner program for the  
TI-99/4A and the Myarc Geneve 9640 - period.

Page Pro Banner Maker requires a TI-99/4A with 32K, a disk  
system, an RS232 and an Epson or Compatible printer. The  
package includes a 16-page manual, a program and an example  
disk with 7 Page Pro Headline format fonts and 9 Page Pro format  
pictures, and a reference sheet for the artwork.

**SCREEN PREVIEW SHIPPING**

Screen Preview is the remarkable replacement for the  
TI-Writer formatter by Joe Delekto.

This easy-to-use program will format your text file, with  
embedded TI-Writer formatter commands, to the screen in a  
miniature format. For the first time you can view an entire  
page at a glance, checking margins, page breaks and other  
formatting. If you see an error you can point to the line that  
needs correction, and change the text on the fly. Finally, when  
the page is done to your satisfaction, press a key and it's  
printed on your printer, and you can move onto the next.

Screen Preview is fast, and provides support for almost all  
TI-Writer formatting commands. If you aren't familiar with  
using the formatter, this program will allow you to experiment  
with the commands easily and pain-lessly - and without wasting  
paper. Run it directly from the TI-Writer Utility option and

it's up and running seconds later.

Screen Preview is compatible with TI-Writer and all variations (Funnelweb, BA-Writer, etc.), and requires 32K a disk system, and a printer. Fast and friendly, it includes a 12-page manual that describes the operation of the program as well as the formatting commands supported. It is also compatible with hard drive systems and most RAM-disks.

The suggested retail price is \$12.95.

>>>ORDERING INFORMATION

To order send a check or money order plus \$2.50/order S&H to:

Asgard Software  
P.O. Box 10306  
Rockville, MD 20849  
(703)255-3085  
(credit cards please add 7%)

>>>NEW VERSIONS

SIDEWAYS PICTURE PRINTER UPDATED

Asgard Software is pleased to announce Version 2.0 of Page Pro Sideways Picture Printer. Sideways Picture Printer is a utility that allows you to generate certificates, small signs, newsletter masters for booklet-sized newsletters, and sideways calendars using Page Pro 99.

The new version adds some substantial new capabilities to the program, as well as makes it much easier to use. The following aspects of the program have been enhanced:

- 1) You can now select pictures to print in "batch" (meaning all at once). This is particularly useful if you would like to produce a newsletter as described in the manual.
- 2) The program now accepts and stores default values - you don't have to re-enter the printer name every time, and you can now run both versions in 40 or 80 columns (hardware permitting) as well as specify permanent screen colors.
- 3) The program is now more hard-drive friendly - particularly on the Geneve.
- 4) Finally, the program will now let you enter vertical and horizontal enlargements directly - you can specify any number of enlargements in both directions (well, up to the width of the paper in one direction at least).

The program also now accepts default values at all prompts.

The upgrade includes a manual addendum. To obtain the new version owners should return the program disk and \$3.00. Registered users will be notified shortly by mail.

The suggested retail price of Page Pro Sideways Picture Printer is \$12.95. It includes a packed example disk full of templates for certificates, signs and calendars, as well as

example pictures and borders.

PIX PRO ENHANCED

Jim Reiss and Asgard software are pleased to present version 1.01 of the McPix utility included with Pix Pro, Asgard's popular conversion utility. The new features in this version are as follows:

- 1) The Mac-to-Page-Pro converter no longer truncates a picture at 60 columns. A full page MacPaint pic can be fully represented in Page Pro 99 format.
- 2) Single density printing ability is now provided for people who don't have bit image printing.
- 3) An alternate bit image mode is provided for 24-pin printer owners. This allows people with 24-pin printers that don't feature a 100% compatible 9-pin graphics print mode to print a full width pic without resorting to the awful double density mode.

Version 1.01 of the program can be obtained by returning the program disk and \$3.00. For \$3.00 extra Asgard will also include 2 disks full of example MacPaint pictures in archived format.

The suggested retail price of Pix Pro is \$14.95. It includes a lengthy manual and a small collection of example files.

YAPP UPGRADED

Alexander Hulpke and Asgard Software are pleased to announce version 1.1 of the popular YAPP, Yet-Another-Paint-Program, drawing package for the Myarc Geneve 9640 and 80-column equipped 99/4As. YAPP 1.1 is an incremental update that makes the package more friendly and makes a few much needed changes.

The major change is that the "Hardcopy" printout utility is now included within YAPP. It has also been re-designed to make selecting patterns, print quality, and other printing factors easier and more comprehensible. Finally, the program will let you select the area to print just as you would select an area to move or copy - by simply drawing a box around it after selecting the "printer" icon from the command line.

A few minor changes have been made in the way the built-in GIF decoder works - the program will now work properly with Digi card users, and can be made to detect the proper display mode for a GIF.

Finally, the program sports a vastly improved joystick driver that functions properly on all systems.

The price of the update, which includes a manual addendum,

is \$14. To obtain the update, users should return the program disk and a check or money order. Include an additional \$3.00 for a disk of YAPP format pictures and TI-Artist fonts.

The suggested retail price of YAPP is \$29.95. It includes an extensive hard-bound manual and example disks.

BATCH IT! 2.0 RELEASED

Batch It! 2.0 is a substantial upgrade to the original Batch It! batch programming language for the 99/4A.

As with the original program, Batch It! 2.0 allows you to create programs that run behind and interact with other programs. Using Batch It! 2.0 you can create custom menus, operating system shells and "make" files for software development, add macros to dozens of different assembly programs, and even use it as a tool for changing character sets, modifying screen colors, and patching your programs to your heart's content.

Version 2.0 contains a number of substantial enhancements.

A major one is that it is now user extensible in assembly - which potentially makes it as capable as any other language for the 99/4A. You can now create extensions to the Batch It! language to handle custom devices, graphics, sound, and so on. An extension library is provided with the package that allows you to interpret Asgard Mouse commands into key-strokes - which would enable you to add mouse support to dozens of previously text only programs (for instance, have it convert moving the mouse forward into a "up" key-stroke). This library alone makes dozens of games and utilities compatible with the Asgard Mouse.

The package now includes numerous example batch files, as well as an extensive (16-page) tutorial that provides examples for each Batch It! 2.0 command.

Finally, the suggested retail price of Batch It! has been reduced from \$19.95 to \$17.95 - a 10% savings. As with previous versions, Batch It! 2.0 requires a TI-99/4A with 32K, a disk system and either a Super-Cart (8K or 32K), or a Mini-Memory.

Users of Batch It! 1.0 can update to the current version for \$5.00 by returning their program disk.

>>>ORDERING INFORMATION

To order an update, follow the above directions and send a check or money order:

Asgard Software  
P.O. Box 10306  
Rockville, MD 20849

----->>>PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

While it is Asgard's policy not to announce programs that

aren't available, sometimes we get ahead of ourselves and announce those that are almost fully developed. This is usually because we want to get a product in a catalog before the deadline that we think will be out shortly. Usually we're right (about 90% of the time), some-times we are off.

The following Asgard Software products have been announced but are not available at this time:

ITEM	AUTHOR	RELEASE DATE
MIDI Master	Mike Maksimik	unknown
Link	Jim Reiss	4/30/91
Headline Fonts 2	various	4/15/91
Page Pro Effects	Ed Johnson & Paul Scheidemantle	4/30/91
Page Pro Fonts 4	various	4/30/91
Page Pro Templates #13	Mel Bragg	4/15/91
Page Pro Templates #14	Mel Bragg	4/15/91

The programming and testing are completed for the majority of these items - they are only awaiting documentation. Note that a number of other products are in development which may be released at or around the same time as these items.

NOTE REGARDING MIDI MASTER

At this time Mike Maksimik, despite a stated obligation to Asgard, has expressed some interest in publishing this item himself. We have given Mike a formal offer we believe would be in the best interest of himself, the TI community, and Asgard, but have not received any reply one way or the other. Because all of our authors work on royalty basis, they are not formal employees of Asgard, and have the option of going elsewhere with a product they have developed. While we have an oral agreement with Mike, it is not in our interest to force him to let us publish his software - the support and good will of our authors is ultimately very important to the success of an item.

Therefore, at this time, we are placing all of the orders we've received for this item on "hold" until such time as we receive a response. We will of course keep everyone apprised of the situation as it develops.

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# TELECOMMUNICATIONS

## PART NO. ONE

by Richard Lumpkin  
Houston User Group  
August, 1990

The following article is compiled from several sources:

1. Joe White, K-Town 99er, Communications, 2/88.
2. Danny Nelson, L.A.99ers, Understanding the Modem, 5/88.
3. Fred and Amy Mackey, Pittsburg U/G, Feb 87, series.
4. Jon Hodges, Dallas 99er Interface, On RS232.
5. TI-R8232 Card Manual and Schematic. Note: Editors comments/additions/changes are in [ ..... ]

### PART ONE : Joe White : COMMUNICATIONS:

The two biggest uses for Modems are probably ELECTRONIC MAIL and DATA TRANSFER. Either one can be very exciting if you have the capability. A few things you need are: Computer, RS-232 interface, Modem, Phone, Telecommunications program, and perhaps a program to archive and de-archive.

For electronic mail (sending and receiving messages) you do not need the archiver. You send messages locally by calling one of the many bulletin boards around town. When you first call you will have to be verified before you have full access to the board. Some boards allow you to post and receive mail without being a verified user and some do not. The verify process differs with the board and the host program. Some will have you hang up and immediately call you back, others may allow (limited) use the first time and verify by phone or mail at a later time.

Some reasons for verifications: Some boards have different sections for computers other than the host system. Some have adult sections. Some allow game playing with a specified number of calls or plays per day. Some have an upload/download ratio that must be watched. More importantly, the sysops (are) using their time and equipment and fully have the right to know who is using (or abusing) it.

Be prepared to give your real name, city, state and phone number. And you will have to have a password ready. Don't use your initials or something simple, but remember it -- you will have to use it each time you "log on". Some boards also assign you a number and you will have to use both to gain access. And SOME boards (allow you to) use a "handle" too. When you post a message, it automatically affixes your name or your handle to it. On boards which use handles, the system operator (sysop) is the only one who knows who you are. It is best to use the same Handle on local boards -BUT- always use a different password. I keep a list of the boards I call with my number, password, and handle: it's easy to get them mixed up. Using the same "handle" lets others leave messages to you on different boards. These boards stay pretty busy and it's sometimes difficult to get through. When you leave a message, you have the option of making it public or private. Private ones sometimes have the

option of a password too. If someone has left a message for you, you are told when you log on. Some boards remind you to kill old messages while others rotate them off automatically when the message base gets full.

Most boards offer expert and novice levels with the latter having menus to choose from, rather than just a row of letters at the bottom of the screen. You can toggle them usually by pressing "X" or "/", etc. If you want to Get Off, try "G" or "O". If you really panic, just sit there. After 60 or 90 seconds of inactivity, the board will automatically cut you off.

You will find some boards "friendly" while others are sort of "Stuffed shirt" type. They also use a lot of graphics that you will not be able to see with the TI, therefore, some of the messages may look a little 'funny', BUT, there is information and knowledge to be had on both types. Subjects of conversation run the gamut. And you CAN just read the messages and log off but before long you will want to join in on something or another. These people are just trying to make use of their computers, JUST LIKE YOU.

[Ed. NOTE : Joe is referring to the Boards run by non-TI-orientated groups. There are many, many boards and Databases NOT dedicated to or run for (or by) a particular Computer group. These are subject- or use-oriented Boards of which there are about 400 in the Houston area, plus about 50 computer-dedicated boards.]

[On some of the boards.] after verification, there are "doors" you can go through. Some lead to "game rooms" with chess, D and D, etc., others to conferences on topics like Forth and Desktop publishing and the like. You might want to try some of these. [end excerpts of this article.]

## TI - BASE

-----Editor : Mike Curtis  
East Anglia U.G. United Kingdom : February, 1991

A tip that you might have come across while having the odd experiment with TI-Base, really it is something I thought about but never tried until today! Do you know that the names of PRGDISK and DATDISK can be set to your disknames? For example, with a data disk named MYFILES, you can SET DATDISK = DSK.MYFILES. This has the advantage that you can set the names and load the disks into whichever drive suits you and let TI-Base find the disk when needed. I have yet to find out if a file can be spread over 2 disks, I have yet to write a database that needs that much storage. Perhaps it might benefit a SSSD drive user? Might this also affect other programs such as DM1000 or Copy File? If you know, please write to share your knowledge with us.

[Extracted from Cornish TI Users]

Mike.

# Editor's bit

May, 1991  
----- Marshal Ellis

\* "A Brief History of the World: Certifiably Genuine Student Bloopers" written on essay questions and collected by teachers throughout the United States, from eighth grade through college level, 1987.

In midevil times most of the people were alliterate. The greatest writer of the time was Chaucer, who wrote many poems and verses and also wrote literature. Another tale tells of William Tell, who shot an arrow through an apple while standing on his son's head.

The Renaissance was an age in which more individuals felt the value of their human being. Martin Luther was nailed to the church door at Wittenberg for selling papal indulgences. He died a horrible death being excommunicated by a bull. It was the painter Donatello's interest in the female nude that made him the father of Renaissance. It was an age of great invention and discoveries. Guttenberg invented the Bible. Sir Walter Raleigh is a historical figure because he invented cigarettes. Another important invention was the circulation of blood. Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100-foot clipper.

The government of England was a limited mockery. Henry VIII found walking difficult because he had an abcess on his knee. Queen Elizabeth was the "Virgin Queen." As a queen she was a success. When Elizabeth exposed herself before her troops, they shouted, "hurrah." Then her navy went out and defeated the Spanish Armadillo.

\* Previously titled "A HISTORY OF THE WORLD, by Richard Lederer and supplied by John Beyea.

## PROGRAM BIT

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MAY 1991

- 6:45 pm - Doors Open, Thursday, May 16, 1991.
- 7:00 pm - General Discussion, library open.
- 7:15 pm - Demonstration by Jim Saemenes of various programs.
- 9:15 pm - Cleanup period, library closes.
- 9:45 pm - Late dinner at location to be announced at meeting.

# NOTICE

Information contained in Tidbits is accurate and true to the best of our knowledge. Viewpoints and opinions expressed in Tidbits are not necessarily that of the Mid-South 99'ers. We welcome any opinions/corrections from our readers. Articles may be reprinted elsewhere as long as credit is given to the author and newsletter.

## GROUP INFO

Visitors and potential members may receive 3 free issues of Tidbits while they decide if they wish to join (no obligation) On the top of your label is a code. A Y means you are a member, M means 3 free list, UG means user group and B means a business. Beside the Y is a date, one year from that date your dues are due. A dollar sign (\$) on the label will indicate that your dues are due. The library is open only to members. Library list is \$1. Mail order disk library access is \$2 for the first disk and \$1 for each additional disk - max of 5 disks per month. Order by disk number only. At meetings, library access is FREE if you exchange your disk for ours or \$1 per disk for our disks. Send all mail order library requests to librarian's address! Send dues and correspondence to group address.

## CALENDAR

MEETINGS: MAY 18, JUN 20, (3rd Thursday!)  
WORKSHOPS: TO BE ANNOUNCED

## 24HR TI BULLETIN BOARD

The 964# NEWS BBS 300/1200/2400 Hayes. 901-368-0112

The Full Moon BBS 300/1200/2400/9600/14400 HST 901-386-1760

## GROUP MAILING ADDRESS

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

## LIBRARY ADDRESS

Jim Saemenes  
46 Higgins Road  
Brighton, Tn., 38011

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  \$15.00 FAMILY  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  \$10.00 JUNIOR (under 15)  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_:INTERESTS \_\_\_\_\_

EQUIPMENT, ETC. \_\_\_\_\_

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

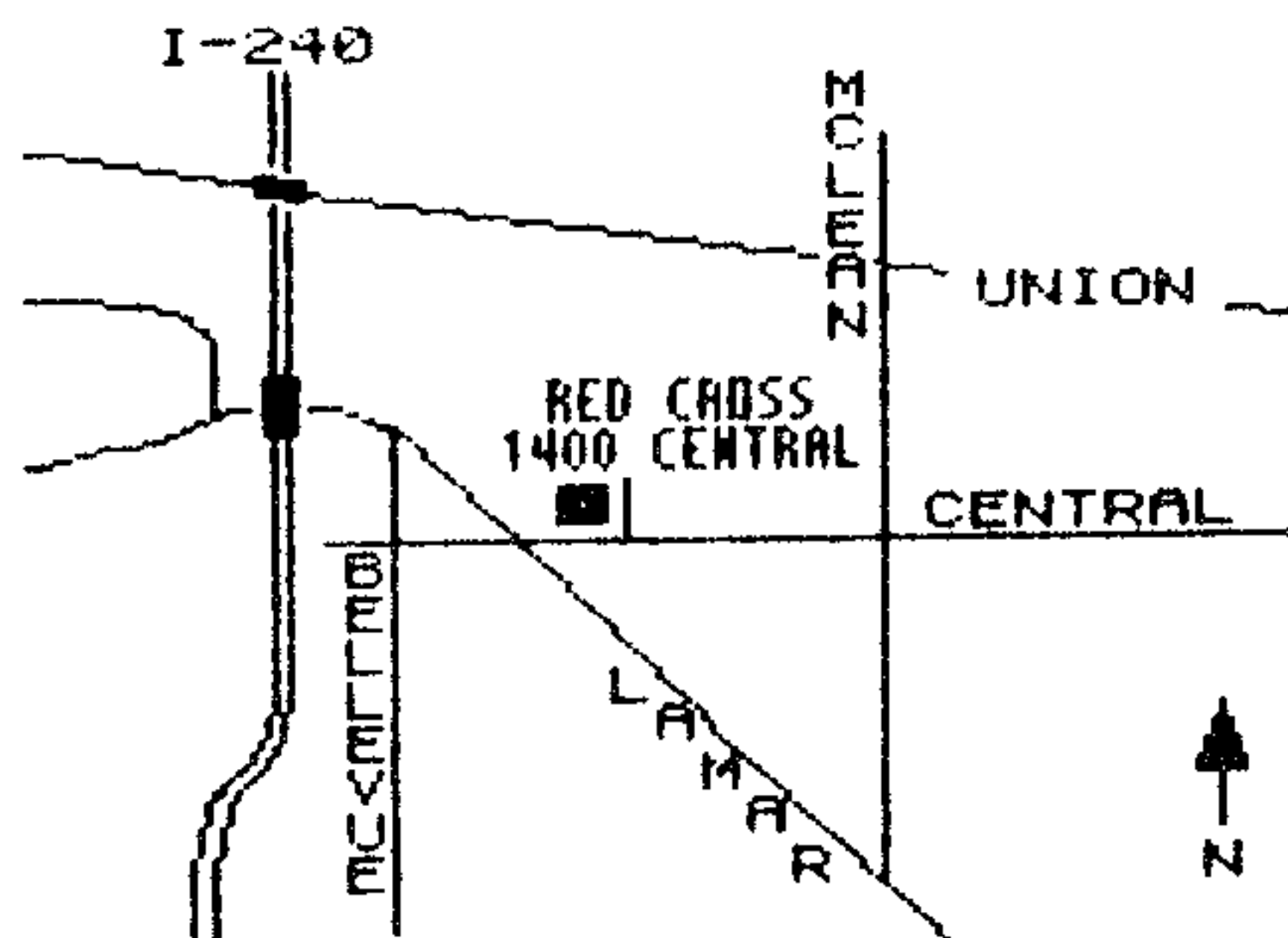
## NOTICES

### MEETING

7:00 P.M.  
Thursday, MAY 16 th  
Red Cross Building  
1400 Central Ave.

### WORKSHOP

To Be Announced



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

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