

```

*      *      #      #      @      @      %%%      $      $
**     **     #      #      @@     @      %      %      $      $
*      *      #      #      @      @      @      %      $      $
*      *      #      #      @      @      @      %      $$$$$$
*      *      #      #      @      @@     @      %      %      $      $
*      *      ###     @      @      %%%      $      $

```

Mass Users of the Ninety nine and Computer Hobbyists

December, 1986 Monthly Newsletter Version 5.12



MUNCH OFFICERS AND NUMBERS (all in 617 area)

President	Wm. Corson Wyman	839-4134
Vice President	Don Mason	754-6630
Vice President	Hector Beaudreau	
Secretary	Al Cecchini	
Treasurer	Jim Cox	869-2704
Editor	Jim Murphy	799-2335
Hardware Chair		
Programs Chair		
Adv Prog. Chair	Dan Rogers	248-5502
Club Reviewer	Jack Sughrue	476-7630
Library	Al & Lisa Cecchini	
Software Library	Don Mason	754-6630
	Hector Beaudreau	
Mail & Messages	Direct to Editorial Staff	

Editors notes:

The updated list of new officers is included in this newsletter. Congratulations to all of them and our best wishes for the success of their efforts on behalf of the club. Also, we wish to thank on behalf of the club the outgoing officers Bruce Willard and Norman Norman Abare for their contributions and for a job well done.

The Editorial staff extends its apologies for the lateness of the November Newsletter which was due to the printer's requirement of a full week for processing which we were not aware of in time. In order to meet these scheduling requirements all materials for publication should be sent directly to the editors by the first of the month. This will require a little discipline and judicious planning but is essential to meet deadlines and avoid such delays as occurred last month. Your cooperation and effort in this will be greatly appreciated.

Jim Murphy, Editor
21 Annisquam St.
Worcester, Ma. 01602

Brad Clark, Assoc. Editor
Paddock Rd.
Rutland, Ma. 01543

Bruce Willard
1 Marmion Ave.
Worcester, Ma. 01606

Bob Doyle
210 Sewall St.
Boylston, Ma. 01505

The November meeting started with a viewing of a video tape of the Chicago Fair. Corson Wyman went to the fair and produced this fine tape of the goings on. Included are tapings of the various vendor's tables, the crowds, and most importantly, the speakers, such as Lou Philips of MYARC, Barry Traver publisher of his Diskazine, Paul Charlton, author of FASTTERM and Peter Hoddie from BCS. As usual, the new 9640 compatible computer from MYARC stole the show. Corson said he would make a copy of the video for anyone who provided him with a good quality blank video tape, mailer, and return postage. (A little something extra for him wouldn't hurt, since it requires a considerable amount of his time to make one copy. Ed.)

There was then some discussion regarding the format of the MUNCH newsletter. It was felt by all in attendance that we should change our format to the straight 8 1/2" X 11". This would facilitate a quicker and easier paste-up for the editorial staff by allowing them to transfer, directly, copies of parts of other user group's newsletters into ours. As a matter of fact, about 95% of the newsletters we receive from other user groups are in this format. Back in 1983 we had this format. This will be the last issue of the MUNCH newsletter you will receive of the booklet format. January will start the new format, with the cover being the same for mailing purposes.

Jim Cox, our Treasurer, reported an income of \$13.00 from the October raffle, \$4.00 for equipment sales, and one membership renewal. Expenditures were \$50.00 for newsletter printing and \$??.?? for postage, thus, leaving us with a balance of \$503.00.

Bruce Willard then gave a demonstration of William Warren's work of art, PR-BASE. Bruce showed how quick to respond this database management program was, along with a brief tutorial of how to create a database. He used Version 1.1 because the latest version, 2.0, gave him much trouble with system lock-ups. Once you know the first version, you would have no trouble working with the latest one. He offered to work with anyone in a Special Interest Group at the meetings or outside of the meetings if necessary. Perhaps in January another brief tutorial could be shown regarding the Tabular Report Format.

After the demo more of the Chicago Fair video was shown.

It was noted that there would be an error in the November newsletter pertaining to the officers. The officers are as follows: Wm. Corson Wyman, President, Don Mason, Vice President, Hector Beaudreau, Vice President, Al Cecchini, Secretary, and Jim Cox, Treasurer.

Al Cecchini, Secretary

AGENDA for December 9, 1986

7:00 - 8:00 Open Demonstrations
New Member Registration
Software Exchange (members only)
Special Interest Group meetings
 Basic Programming -- as required
 Assembly Language -- by Dan Rogers
 Kids Corner -- with (to be announced)

8:00 - 8:20 Raffle
Business Meeting:
Approval of Minutes
Treasurers Report
Committee Reports
Old Business
New Business
Announcements

8:20 - 9:30 CONTINUATION of:
 Special Interest Group Meetings
 and Open Demonstrations and Discussion

Plan for January meeting:

" . . . RAFFLE . . . RAFFLE . . . "

The Dec. raffle will be for a 10 pack of Qani diskettes donated by Qani

Resources of Millbury

The raffle is open to all who attend. The drawing will be held just prior to
the business meeting. Remember:

!!!! YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN !!!!

RAMBLINGS

by

JIM COX

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!!!

For most members December is the month their membership expires. A bill has been inserted into this month's newsletter as a reminder. If you could renew your membership at the December meeting it would be a great help to the group. Please make checks payable to MUNCH.

DECEMBER MEETING TO FEATURE CHRISTMAS SALE

At this month's meeting we will expand our sale table. If you want to buy, sell or swap any items for your computer this is the place to do it. You should find software, hardware, books and magazines that will make great gifts for the holidays. For this meeting only, bumper stickers will be on sale for \$1.00 each.

BRING A FRIEND TO THE NEXT MEETING!

Why not? If you have a friend who is interested in computers, or owns a TI but has put it on a shelf bring them to the meeting. We can show them our program library with thousands of items our book and magazine library and some of the wonderful things our computer can do.

TI REMEMBERS US!!

The group has received two disks from Texas Instruments that will run trouble-shooting tests for your computer. See Don Mason to copy these disks. Copies of the documentation will also be available.

MYARC 9640 Update

The word off the BCS bulletin board is that MYARC has received the last components for the 9640 computer as of 11/25/86 -- the gate arrays. According to Lou Philips they were all testing perfectly. If all continues the way it is now, he might be able to start shipping as early as next week.

Disk Only Software (DOS) now has a Fall/Winter catalogue for the TI-99/4A. To acquire a copy, just dial 1-800-446-4462 and at the tone dial 897335, or dial 1-301-369-1339. If you prefer, you can write to Disk Only Software, P.O. Box 244, Lorton, Virginia 22079.

All Electronics Corp. of Los Angeles, California has available hardware designed for use with the TI-99/4A. They carry a combination power supply and transformer, sound and video modulator, 48 key unencoded keyboard assembly, connectors, serial RS-232 Y cable, dual cassette/computer cable, miniature toggle switches, potentiometers, cooling fans, and ribbon cables. Write to All Electronics Corp., P.O. Box 20406, Los Angeles, CA 90006, or call 1-213-380-8000 for particulars on this equipment.

THIS AREA IS RESERVED

FOR ANYONE'S COMMENTS.

HOW ABOUT YOURS SHOWING

UP HERE NEXT MONTH???

TEXTWARE, SOFTWARE, and ELSEWHERE

by Jack Sughrue

TI HAPPENINGS

.F.R.A.U.D.?.

Box 459

E. Douglas MA

01516

July 8, 1985

Dear National Assistance Group,

Re: Membership # 12016

Since my original orders and membership at Christmas time (1984), I have received no further bulletins, flyers, price lists, or anything from you.

On May 2nd I mailed a disk containing four original programs for the club files and 26 club dollars for cassette versions of Packages 3, 7, 19 and 23.

I also asked at that time (and I had requested this also in a letter in February 1985) if you would send some flyers, pamphlets, brochures, whatever for me to hand out at user group meetings for people interested in taking out memberships.

At present I write for a few user-group newsletters and do some freelancing; hopefully serving many of the 2-million 99ers with articles and reviews on options available to them. I would like to include National, as I am a member, but I need to be updated. Apparently, I was mistakenly left off your mailing list for your materials.

Would you please let me know if my four programs have been accepted by the club and would you please forward the cassettes and literature as soon as possible.

Thank you very much for your kindness in this matter.

Sincerely,
Jack Sughrue

NOTE: ENCLOSED IS MY LETTER TO YOU DATED MAY 2, 1985.

XX

May 2, 1985
#12016
Box 459
East Douglas MA
01516

Dear National Assistance Group,

I have been a member for quite a while (since Christmas, in fact) and have yet to receive a newsletter or order form or update of your program listings.

I wish to participate in the group and to spread the 99 support around. We Tiers need more groups to help and to share.

Would you be kind enough to send some flyers I can hand out at our user groups in hopes of increasing your patronage and service.

Enclosed is a disk of four programs: Animal Multitudes, State Caps, Artificial Intelligence, and Wordaround. I would like to add them to your (hopefully) growing list of programs and earn some swap "dollars" to get more programs. As you can see, all the programs are my own originals. I have programs included in the IUG library (about 20), in the MUNCH library

(about 45) and in Title One Projects (where TIs are used in the school labs) (about 80). I also write TI programs and articles and reviews for user-group and educational newsletters and magazines. I would like to do a review of National Assistance, if you would be kind enough to send me some information and your catalog updates and newsletters.

Also enclosed are the 26 club dollars you sent for the purchases I made of equipment and programs from your magazine ad. I had been waiting for a listing update, as most of the programs listed really don't appeal to me. But! I will use up these dollars before time runs out on them and get more from purchases and programs for future exchanges. Would you please send Packages 3, 7, 19, and 23 on cassettes to me at the above address.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Jack Sughrue

XX

July 24, 1985

Mr. Jack Sughrue

Box 459

E. Douglas, MA 01516

Dear Mr. Sughrue:

There apparently has been a computer error. We have printed several months' updates and a new Newsletter. We have recently put you back on our list and have given you credit towards your membership. A new Newsletter will be on its way to you with a complete catalog within 10-14 days.

Again, we apologize for any inconvenience we have caused you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard D. Kurtz

President

RDK:ff

(AN ASIDE: Even the signature had Dr. in front of the name. I had never seen that before in a letter signature.)

XX

Nov. 1, 1985

#12016

Box 459

E. Douglas, MA

01516

Dr. Richard D. Kurtz

President

National Assistance Group

PO Box 290812

Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33329

Dear Dr. Kurtz:

There apparently is still a computer error somewhere. I am enclosing a copy of your July 24 letter to me and my May 2 and July 8 letters to you.

Believe it or not, except for your letter I have received nothing at all from the National Assistance Group: no newsletters, no catalogs, no listings, no receipts, no letters. Nothing at all.

I would really appreciate being put back on membership (as it is about to expire without my having ever received anything). I would like any back issues and any future issues of the newsletters and catalogs. I would also like the cassette packages I ordered (or a return of the 26 club dollars and an updated catalog for reordering) and, if possible, credit for my four original programs.

Sincerely,
Jack Sughrue

??

In the letter to me from Dr. Kurtz mentioned above, he said he would rectify the computer error. (There must be a lot of PhDs in that retirement area in Florida, by the way. All the club officers go by "Doctor" even in informal articles in the one newsletter I got along with my original, large order of equipment I mailed-ordered through their ad along with a year's membership into the "World's Largest Computer Assistance Group.") I must be doing something wrong, however, as the claim was over 20,000 T.I. owner-members as of January, 1985. I assume by now, with that many members and a year-and-a-half of newsletters under their belts (and even longer with developing programs from that massive membership), that the quality and quantity of the programs in their library must be astounding. The programs I received (in January 1986) are pitiful. Old IUG rejects that most user groups would not keep in their club libraries. The skimpy, one-sheet "catalog" (which is the same one that was put out over a year before with promises of updating) contained such overdone items as check handler, keno, grow dots, jingle bell music, color guess, disk lister, maze game, and so on. The cost is \$3 per program on disk. You are required to buy the whole disk of three or four programs (\$6-8). Many of the programs have the same titles as those copyrighted by 99er and COMPUTE!, such as TEX-THELLO and MYSTERY/SPELL, respectively. There is a total of 67 of these sets on their total catalog (about 200 files) (for 20,000-plus members, remember). I was hoping to see some improvement when (if) I got a catalog update and the latest newsletters.

Today is Sept. 22, 1986. I have received no further communication, though the group still exists. Weird, eh?

Originally I added to the final letter that I was carbon-copying letters to some magazines and newsletters carrying the ads. Then I put them aside, hoping to hear. Then I forgot.

Oh, I ended up with my 26 dollars spent on some 13 cassette programs (thus saving 13 dollars when I transferred them all onto one side of one 5.25 disk). Some of them were, indeed, typed from COMPUTE! and 99er and other magazines carrying copyrighted T.I. programs. MYSTERY/SPELL is an example. (The NAG version is identical to the COMPUTE! version, but no credit is given to the author or magazine; not even in REM statements.) AND ONE PROGRAM, PRESIDENTS, WAS ONE I HAD WRITTEN FOR PD!

IT WASN'T EVEN THE IMPROVED VERSION! I WAS THANKFUL THEY HAD TAKEN MY NAME OFF IT!

However, I wanted SOLAR SYSTEM for my class. It is pathetic. One of my fifth-graders did a better program than that. I was astounded. And I had to buy MYSTERY/SPELL [which I had long ago typed up for use in my class] and PRESIDENTS which was MINE to begin with and drearier and more inefficient than one I had released into the Public Domain a few months after this one (and, in hindsight, that was pretty dreary). And on and on. More than 20,000 members and this was all they could come up with in more than a year and a half!!!! Jim Peterson of TIGERCUB software has produced five times as many files all by himself, including his excellent TIPS disks and NUTS and BOLTS disks. And every single one of his programs that I have used [and I own many] are a 100 times better than any of these. For good quality, inexpensive software Peterson's TIGERCUB SOFTWARE can't be beaten, even if you don't have Extended BASIC or a disk drive. Your other best bet is getting software from your user groups. I belong to one user-group which has only 39 members. Of those, a dozen are really active. This active membership puts out a monthly 16-page newsletter/magazine, creates about a hundred files (mostly programs) each year, operates a disk and tape library of about 1000 files, conducts workshops, participates in faires, has field trips, writes for other periodicals, shares in technical and non-technical expertise. I just can't imagine what we'd do with more than 20,000 members. That's more than \$200,000 a year, just on dues. (Probably 10 times that in sales of equipment and non-royalty software!)

Our club's disks are full. About 360 sectors each disk. Full of good programs: games, utilities, tutorials, graphics, music, you name it. They are free to members who copy them or \$1.50 to members who want to buy a disk already filled. And we operate all our workshops and systems and libraries (text, disk, tape, equipment) on our memberships (39) and disk/tape sales. If each of those 20,000 NAGs joined our group and bought a couple disks each, we could provide the most extraordinary services ever dreamed of for a computer society.

But we're still doing pretty well as it is.

And when you figure that NAG sells computers and equipment for another source of income - I would assume a total at least equal to membership - the whole prospect is mind boggling.

(I KNOW I should have asked for my money back; just as I should have from the HCM ripoff and the MINIMAG ripoff and SOFTWARE EXCHANGE ripoff and so on. But I didn't.)

The second thing that astounds me about NAG is that I don't know of a single, solitary person who belongs to it or anyone who knows anyone who belongs to it. I have been using the T.I. since one of the old 99/4s was in its pre-production stage and I tried it out for a year in my classroom. I've had TIs since. I've travelled a lot, written a lot, gone to lots of faires, carry on prolific correspondence - all with a large section of the TI community world-wide. And in all those years up to the present, I

never met a NAG member. Yet there were over 20,000 of them as far back as January 1985.

That is even more astounding to me than the pathetic, boring programs.

POST SCRIPT: About a week after I'd written this column I received the following from Annion Helpline:

*WARNING! After checking with various sources, there is no doubt that a mail order company, "National Assistance Group", is a fraud operation a la the former IUG. It is NOT a Users group yet for a "membership fee", you get the privilege to buy items at prices no lower than those of reputable mail order firms like Tenex. They appear to be a one or two person operation deceiving the public with fanciful claims. The program pkgs. the sell are all Public Domain programs that have been around many years. Other programs they sell are Shareware of Public Domain items, etc. For example, what they list as "Super Colossal Graphics" is really the Apesoft demo; their "Super Disk" is version 1 of Lawless' Shareware Masscopy program. Many have filed mail fraud complaints with the Post Office. NAG is selling BIZWARE programs (\$60.00). According to Bizware owners, these copies are illegal! This is the same type of scam used by the former IUG (recently reappearing as LaFara Computer Service) and still used by the Software Exchange ADA the Internation'l Software Club (another scam). AVOID any items from MENTOR Computer Systems selling deceptively advertised "Power Pak" disks, sold by Triton (who promised to stop last Nov.). They are Pub.Dom. right from this [Annion] library or updates to TI-Writer and Multiplan that TI released FREE. If you have bought these disks, DEMAND your money back. Don't help crooks to flourish by allowing them to masquerade as clubs, etc. and sell Public Domain. You are urged to shun them, complain to postal authorities and DEMAND your money back if you've been cheated."

For those people still interested in joining NAG, the complete address

is 99/4a NATIONAL ASSISTANCE GROUP, P.O. Box 290812, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 33329. The "membership" was \$10 annually.

Please enter my subscription to the M.U.N.C.H. newsletter, enclosed is \$10.00

Please send me _____ bumper stickers at \$1.75 each.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

This very interesting and sad but true article was spotted in the LA-99ers Topics Newsletter. Please take heed and don't sour any more good FAREWARE programmers.

EDITORIAL

=====

(or how to kill the TI-99/4A in one easy lesson)

Those of you who read this newsletter regularly will know that we have long taken a public stand against software piracy. Up to this time Terrie has been the most vocal (or most read) but she has full support. It is now time for me to publicly state my position, borne of bitter personal experience.

I had never touched a computer before I got my TI. It was originally a toy for me as it was for many of you, but such a toy! It quickly became a learning tool, and was not only a means to other ends, but an end in itself, as I learned the joy of programming. I am largely self-taught, through a lot of HARD work, and the help of my friends, and I have achieved a position I never thought possible just a few years ago.

My first "extensive" venture a few years ago was a combination XBasic and Assembly graphics utility called EASYSPRITE. I vainly tried to market it, without any real financial backing and therefore limited success. When I first heard about FREWARE (which I now think of as "STEALWARE") I decided to go that route. For your information, I have received payment for LESS THAN one out of TWENTY copies that I have sent out.

My last venture was DISKASSEMBLER. Since I thought that my main problem was public awareness of my efforts (i.e. advertising) I felt that going with Miller's Graphics would be more successful. Let me tell you that I worked long and hard on that program (11 months, the gestation of an elephant), trying to make it perfect ON THE FIRST VERSION to be released. I have a wife and two children who wish they had never heard of it. and wondered if they would ever really have me back again.

Now I know what the TI community thinks of efforts such as mine. It wasn't long before DISKASSEMBLER was in the trading routes and even on BBS's. What do those of you using pirated versions really think you are accomplishing?

And I am by no means the only victim of this vicious practice! The TI-99/4A, being an "orphan", is in a peculiar position. Currently manufactured computers have an ever-expanding market, as new users come on line. Therefore software authors can count at least on sales to those who do not yet have access to pirated versions. The TI, on the other hand, since the rush of new users who bought at the "close-out" sales, has a relatively stable market. It has been said that there are several million 99/4A's out there, but I recently heard an estimate that there are probably only 250,000 or so actually in use, rather than in the closet. Many already know where the good sources of software are. I strongly believe that those who are trying to make even a little money on this computer, and the VERY few who are trying to MAKE A LIVING with it, will shortly be getting out of the market, unless the piracy stops.

You may have noticed that there really isn't that much software being produced anymore. There are a lot of good programs that are constantly being revised, as the bugs are noticed and worked out by the users. You need umpteen disks and a lot of patience to get a properly working version. Software of serious commercial quality takes TIME, and the motivation to make the time comes from rewards, both monetary and personal. It really galls me to see the pirates not only steal the programs, but even take the author's names off them, so the unwitting recipient doesn't even know who to thank! And here's another amazing idea to consider. Even when you BUY the programs being marketed for the TI, you are paying 1/3 to 1/10 the cost of similar programs for other computers! In other words, you are already getting a bargain - why destroy it???

Recently a major software producer announced that he would stop producing for the 99/4A because of piracy, in particular because he had found his programs on bulletin boards. A great hue and cry went up and he did rescind his decision. But I have still seen his programs on BBS's for free downloading. You sysops MUST police your boards better!

Now let me sum this up. As implied by the statement under the title, the continued well-being of the 99/4A is UP TO YOU. Unless you are willing to support the continued production of quality software by paying the very reasonable amounts that authors and software companies charge for their programs, you will soon see the market disappear. PLEASE DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN!

Happy computing anyway.

Tom Freeman

Editor's note:

The following is self-explanatory and says it all. MUNCH members should take heed.



TIGERCUB
SOFTWARE

156 COLLINGWOOD AVE.
COLUMBUS OH 43213

26 June 1986

Dear Editor,

I couldn't resist writing a response to the editorial by Dick Dunbar, who believes that "copy protected software is an abomination and an insult to honest users or potential users", and who resolves "in the future, I will not knowingly purchase or use copy protected software."

I would like to invite Mr. Dunbar to join me in also boycotting any and all products in the stores which are packaged in a blister pack on a card which is too large to slip in my pocket. This is obviously an insult to the great majority of shoppers who are not shoplifters!

I do not bother to protect my Extended Basic programs, because every user who has learned to type OLD and SAVE is proud of the fact that he knows three CALL LOADs to break protection - thanks to their being widely published in user group newsletters. And I do not have too much sympathy for software companies who sell protected software but also sell copying programs and devices which will defeat any protection except their own.

However, I am puzzled and bothered by the vitriolic attacks on those who protect their software because they are, to quote again, "obviously under the impression that they are dealing with thieves." Of course they are! Anyone who does not have his head in the sand knows that 9 out of 10 computer users will pirate anything they can get their hands on. They won't buy commercial software if they can steal it, and they won't pay for their fairware either.

Software is not protected to prevent making backup copies. It is protected to prevent shoplifting, to enable the author to possibly sell enough copies so that he will continue to write for our orphan. And, it is protected to keep amateur hackers from attempting to modify it and then distributing bugged copies which ruin its reputation.

So, if you can't make yourself a backup copy, don't get mad at the copyright owner who is legitimately protecting his property. Get mad at the pirates who made the protection necessary. And if you find your finger pointing back at yourself.....!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Peterson".

Jim Peterson

The Tigercub

"COMPUTER QUERIES"

Question:

Answer:

If any of you have any problems or questions about our computer, this is where to find the answers to them. Send your question to one of the editorial staff or drop it at the Video Connection on Lincoln St. and it will be printed in the newsletter with an answer. If, in the unlikely event, we cannot find the answer in a reasonable amount of time, we will print it here looking for the answer out there in TI land. I know that I don't have all the answers. How about you???



"Forget about building a better mousetrap — what we need is a better mouse."

M. U. N. C. H.

P. O. Box 7193

560 LINCOLN STREET

First Class

WORCESTER, MA. 01605

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Next meeting will be on Dec. 9, 1986
at University of Massachusetts Medical Center
(Come to the VISITORS entrance and follow the signs for MUNCH...)