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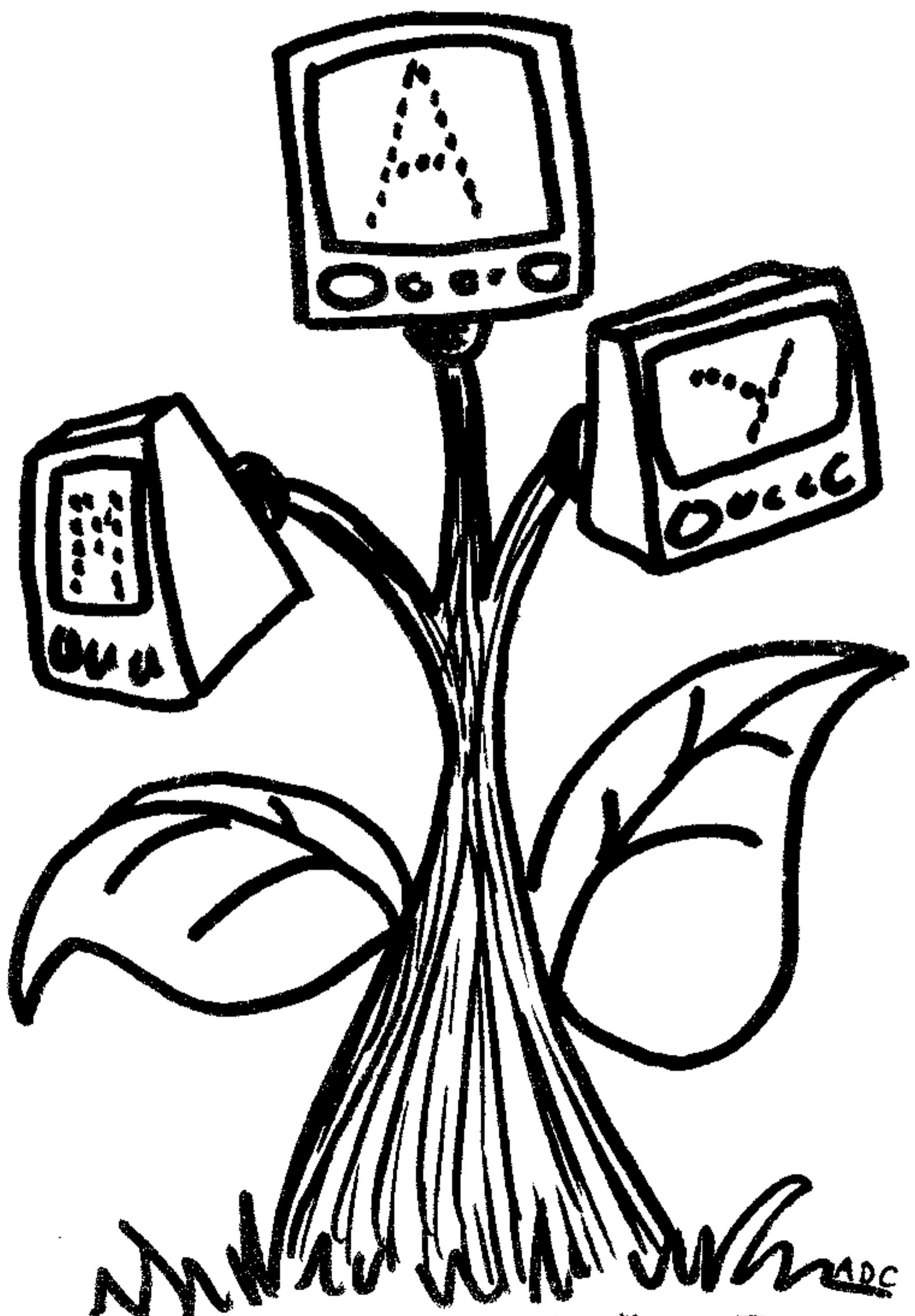
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Mass Users of the Ninety nine and Computer Hobbyists

May 1986

Monthly Newsletter

Version 5.5



MUNCH ^{ADC}
MUNCH.86

MUNCH MINUTES APRIL 15, 1986

THERE WAS A SMALL TURN OUT OF MEMBERS AT OUR PAST MEETING AND I WOULD EXPECT THAT THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT PEOPLE DIDN'T RECEIVE THEIR NEWSLETTER IN TIME FOR THE MEETING TO REMIND THEM WHEN IT WAS. THE NEWSLETTER WAS DELAYED FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST, THE TI FAIR HAD QUITE AN IMPACT ON US AS A GROUP. MOST OF THE CLUB OFFICERS, LIKE MYSELF, WERE RECOVERING FROM THE ORDEAL. SECOND, WE WERE STILL SHORT ON PERSONNEL TO HELP PUBLISH THE NEWSLETTER. IT WASN'T READY UNTIL JUST A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE MEETING. THE COPIES OF THE NEWSLETTER WERE PASSED OUT TO THE ATTENDING MEMBERS WHICH MEANT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR POSTAGE TO THOSE PEOPLE, AND THE REST, AS YOU KNOW ALREADY WERE MAILED. NEXT MONTH IS EXPECTED TO BE ON SCHEDULE AS LONG AS WE HAVE A NEWSLETTER EDITOR.

THE LAST MONTH'S MINUTES WERE ACCEPTED. OUR TREASURER, JIM COX, WAS NOT PRESENT TO READ THE TREASURERS REPORT BUT IT IS AS FOLLOWS:

INCOME

MEMBERSHIP FEES	15.00
RAFFLE	9.00
ADVERTISEMENTS	25.00
DISK SALES	15.00
TI FAIR INCOME	\$140.00

EXPENSES

POSTAGE	20.00
(POSTAGE MAYBE LESS...)	
NEWSLETTER PRINTING	60.00
MONITOR RENTAL	25.00

BALANCE ----- \$450.00

WE EXPECT MORE MONEY TO BE ADDED TO OUR CHECK BOOK BALANCE AS A RESULT OF THE FAIR.

JACK SUGHRUE ANNOUNCED A NEW PROGRAM TO THE GROUP CALLED "FUNNELWRITER". HE HAD LOCATED A COPY OF IT AT THE FAIR. IT WAS WRITTEN BY TWO BROTHERS IN AUSTRALIA NAMED MCGOVERN. THEY HAVE BEEN WORKING ON IT FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS. THE NAME OF THE PROGRAM IS OF COURSE VERY STRANGE. THE NAME COMES FROM WHERE THE PROGRAM WAS ORIGINATED. THE NAME OF THE TOWN IS CALLED FUNNELWARE FARM. WHAT THE PROGRAM DOES FOR YOU IS ALLOW YOU TO HAVE THE AVAILABILITY OF A DISK MANAGER, WORD PROCESSOR, EDITOR ASSEMBLER, SCREEN DUMP, FORTH LOADER, AND A FEW OTHERS ALL ON ONE SINGLE SIDED, SINGLE DENSITY DISK WHICH USES THE X-BASIC CARTRIDGE. ALL OF THESE SUB-PROGRAMS ARE SAID TO BE EVEN BETTER THAN THE RESPECTIVE MODULES. IN ADDITION TO ALL OF THAT, YOU CAN ADD UP TO THREE MORE UTILITIES OF YOUR OWN TO THE MAIN MENU IN THE PROGRAM. THIS WOULD GIVE YOU MUCH GREATER FLEXIBILITY, ESPECIALLY IF YOU USE IT FOR A LOADER TO READ A DIFFERENT DRIVE THAT HAS SEVERAL OTHER PROGRAMS. AND SO ON. THE DISK COMES WITH EIGHTY SECTORS OF DOCUMENTATION ON HOW TO USE IT. THE PROGRAM IS IN THE MUNCH LIBRARY AND IS CONSIDERED FREWARE WHICH MEANS THAT IF YOU LIKE IT AND YOU FEEL IT IS OF VALUE, SEND THE AUTHOR WHAT YOU FEEL IT IS WORTH TO YOU. I RECOMMEND IT HIGHLY. READ THE COMPLETE REVIEW BY JACK SUGHRUE IN THIS NEWSLETTER

~ ~ ~

BRUCE WILLARD ANNOUNCED THAT AS OF RIGHT NOW, MANY THINGS ARE COMING DOWN. THE NEWSLETTER IS LACKING HELP. WE NEED HELP IN HAVING A MEMBERSHIP CHAIR PERSON. WE NOW HAVE ONLY FORTY PAID UP FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS AND THAT IS IT!!! THERE ARE SIXTEEN PEOPLE UP FOR RENEWAL THIS MONTH AS WELL AS NEXT. MUNCH WILL FADE AWAY UNLESS WE CAN SALVAGE SOME OF THESE PEOPLE BY HAVING A MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON. THERE ARE OTHER GROUPS THAT HAVE ONE AND THE RESULT OF IT IS EITHER HOLDING ITS OWN OR GROWING. WE HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITY TO GROW AND WE ARE NOT TAKING THE INITIATIVE. THERE WERE OVER FIVE HUNDRED PEOPLE THAT CAME TO THE TI FAIR, WHICH SHOWS THERE IS STILL A GREAT INTEREST FROM THE NEW ENGLAND AREA.

THE RAFFLE WAS HELD AND WAS WON BY A RENEWED MEMBER (?). A CHOICE OF SOME EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE OR THE CARTRIDGE GAME "ATTACK" WAS OFFERED.

THERE WERE T-SHIRTS AND BUMPER STICKERS ON SALE AND WILL BE AGAIN NEXT TIME.

A TALLY WAS TAKEN OF THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS THAT HAVE MODEMS TO USE WITH THEIR COMPUTERS. IT TURNED OUT TO BE ABOUT ONE THIRD. WORCESTER WILL SOON HAVE A PROFESSIONAL BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEM WHICH HAS BEEN OFFERED BY PETER HOODIE WHO IS THE DESIGNER OF THIS PARTICULAR VERY USEFUL SYSTEM. THE SYSTEM HOWEVER, WILL COST OUR CLUB SOME MONEY. WE MUST BUY A 1200 BAUD MODEM THAT IS AN AUTO ANSWER WHICH CAN BE BOUGHT FOR \$170.00 FROM DAK INDUSTRIES. THE RS-232, WHICH THE CLUB DOES NOT HAVE, I AM LOANING TO THE CLUB. THE CLUB HAS A PRINTER THAT WAS DONATED TO US BY JIM COX LAST YEAR. THERE IS A COST OF \$12.00 EACH MONTH FOR A TELEPHONE LINE. THE SYSTEM WILL HAVE THE USE OF FOUR DS/DD DRIVES FOR MEMORY STORAGE. THAT IS PLENTY! THE ONLY THING THAT WE WOULD NOT HAVE IS A 24 HOUR OPERATIONAL SYSTEM. IT WOULD RUN FROM 5:00PM UNTIL 9:00AM THE NEXT MORNING. HECTOR BEAUDREAU IS PROVIDING THE SYSTEM AND HE NEEDS TO USE IT DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS.

WHAT DO YOU GET OUT OF A BULLETIN BOARD? THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE OPTIONS... ELECTRONIC MESSAGING, ELECTRONIC MAIL WHICH IS PRIVATE, HELP ON PROBLEMS, DOWN LOADS OF PROGRAMS FROM OUR LIBRARY AND A FEW THAT HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO BE ADDED, UP LOADS (PROGRAMS THAT YOU MAY WANT TO SEND TO SOMEONE ELSE, NETWORKING OF OTHER BOARDS WITH OUR OWN SO ANY OTHER SYSTEMS SUCH AS BCS AND THE NORTH EASTERN 99'ers OF RHODE ISLAND OR OURSELVES CAN BENEFIT FROM THEIRS. A SYSTEM LIKE THIS CAN BE UP AND RUNNING BY MID-SUMMER IF THERE IS ENOUGH INTEREST IN IT.

JACK SUGHRUE SUGGESTED TO THE GROUP THAT WE HAVE A SUBSCRIPTION RATE FOR THOSE THAT DO NOT WANT TO BECOME MEMBERS BUT WOULD RECEIVE THE NEWS LETTER ONLY. THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE THAT WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS AND RECEIVE THE SOFTWARE BUT BECAUSE THEY LIVE TOO FAR AWAY THEY CAN'T ATTEND. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF MEMBERS WHO ARE FROM OUT OF STATE. THE CHICAGO USERS GROUP, WHICH IS ONE OF THE LARGEST GROUPS, IS DOING THIS NOW, AND IT SEEMS THAT IT IS A GREAT BENEFIT FOR BOTH THE USER AND THE USER GROUP.

NEXT MONTH WILL BE JACK WITH THE FUNNEL-WRITER DEMO, AND BRUCE WITH CONSOLE CLEANING LESSON.

///// VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE \\\

Yes, VICE president's message! In an effort to more evenly distribute the workload of the President, I'm writing a message this month. I'll bet you can guess what I'm going to talk (or rather write) about. How can YOU, as a member help carry some of the load of making this group operate in a way that is beneficial to you (and us all)??

Three guesses as to step #1! You got it!! WE NEED AN EDITOR!! It wasn't too nice not to have a newsletter at a nice regular time last month, was it?? Well don't misinterpret that. The "staff" (Bruce & Corson constitute the staff usually) was very busy (to say the least) with the highly successful faire. It was not any type of demonstration or demand for an editor, but it should serve as an example. These two (whom I am sure have less time than me) never were appointed as editors. It is not right that they be handed this task for lack of a true editor. This is my effort to ease some of the burden, but I'm sure it doesn't even begin to make it easy. It is time someone steps forth out of our ranks to (at the risk of sounding too biblical) deliver us.

We all benefit from group newsletters, and have the benefit of having one of the best around, but we are soon going to find that without proper participation and assistance, all things must die. Keep in mind also, the member only gets out what he puts in. Perhaps a more active hand in group activities could translate into a broadened overall learning experience. I know this has been the case with me. I am not one to beg, and I will not start now. I warn all, though, the day is soon approaching, I fear, that the great MUNCH dynasty will fall, and the cause of it all will be lack of member participation. There is NO free lunch.

Respectfully Submitted

Norman Abare, Vice Pres.

LIBRARY NOTICE

With the increased demand for the newer TI-99/4A related books we must request book loans to be only one month. If you have any books on loan please bring them to the next meeting. If you can't make it to the next meeting please ask a friend to return the book(s). Thanks! This gives everyone a better chance to see one they haven't seen yet.

AGENDA for May 20, 1986

7:00 - 8:00 Open Demonstrations
New Member Registration
Software Exchange (members only)
Special Interest Group meetings
Console Cleaning -- Bruce Willard
Funnel Writer -- Jack Sughrue
New Horizons RAM Disk -- by Peter Hoddi
(BCS)
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

Gleaned from the North Eastern 99'ers
Newsletter, April issue, under Sandi's
Bits & Pieces.

SPEEDIER MULTIPLAN?....

(Excerpts taken from WINDY CITY 99 CLUB/February 1986)

If the Multiplan files are stored in a special order, the speed may improve. First, initialize a disk. Using the file copy options of any Disk Manager, copy the files in this order: OVERLAY, MPHELP, MPCHAR, MPDATA, MPINTR, and then MPBASE. The Directory of the disk will always show in alphabetical order, but the files are actually on the disk the way you stored them. Another tip is that if the program is stored in line number order it will run faster. All BASIC programs are stored in memory image format. To store in line number order, save it in MERGE format. Saved in this manner, the program is stored correctly. When loaded back into the computer, it is in line number order. Now you may DELETE the MERGE file on disk. Remember to backup all your disks.

NOTE: Many programs and files can be lost when you are creative. So always backup before you make any changes to your diskette.

SOFTWARE/TEXTWARE REVIEWS

by Jack Sughrue

FUNLWRITER

Where do I begin?

Funlwriter is the most profound disk ever made for the TI/99-4A. I guess that about sums it up.

I have many useful disks; some extremely useful. I have data bases and spread sheets and educational programs and tutorials. I have programs that shrink programs, programs that identify and list variables from programs, programs that can be merged into other programs, and even programs that make programs. I have word processors for Extended BASIC, for MiniMem, for Editor-Assembler (including that editor itself).

And, yet....

I, like so many of my brothers and sisters in this gigantic TI/99 family, am always looking for the perfect program.

It's here.

Take out your checkbooks and immediately send a \$15 or better check to Tony and Will McGovern, 215 Grinsell St., Kotara, NSW 2289, Australia. And pop down to your nearest user's group for the *Funlwriter* disk to make a copy for yourself. (It's a "Fairware" item, offered to the public under the terms of personal trust: if you like it and plan to use it, send the money; if you don't like it, pass it on. And, like so much of the "Fairware" things for TI, it's the best stuff available.)

As I said at the beginning, *How do I begin?*

First, I'll leap back a couple years. I had written a letter to Chris Bobbitt, the general manager of Asgard Software. It was an informal letter discussing the things I wish were available for the TI. As a writer, my wishes centered mostly around improvements for the *TI Writer*. On my list I wished for the ability to read Dis/Var 80 and Dis/Fix 80 files quickly on the screen. (Think about that one for a while.) I wished to be able to load automatically from Edit or Format into my PIO printer. I wished to be able to

develop a better Utility system and to go from Editor to Formatter and to reformatting (for the printing of multiple *different* files) without going back to the title screen or without reloading. I thought it would be wonderful to be able to have an environment operating off (I felt then) the E/A cart which would access the TIW cart and the DM cart somehow. The Widget, I guess, was a little move in that direction. But it wasn't an environment.

Well, all of the above is part of this extraordinary venture from The Land Down Under. Notice I said *part*. This program does all of the above from the Extended Basic module. It does all of the above from a menu (Yes, including loading up the 2.3 version of DM1000, the Editor/Assembler, the TI Word Processor, and, for the fun of it, Forth!). You are reading it right. It does all this with versions of each which are better than the originals or other updates. (A couple examples might be in order here: from the DM1000 section of the menu you can draw up the file section and get as Option 3 an instant screen read of ANY Dis 80 file; or from the word processor menu you can press SWITCH to leap instantly into the Assembler and load up an assembled file (or create or edit, just as with the cartridge AND disks).

All this, as the authors explain, "without loss of functionality." The memory banks maintain their same buffers.

As for my own all-night testing the day I got it from Barry Traver at the New England TI Faire in Lexington, I found every aspect of it improved from the individual pieces from which *Funlwriter* evolved. The McGovern geniuses seemed to have covered everything (and provided some booklet-length docs on the same side of this single-sided disk). The docs are excellent and take up 80 sectors, which is also excellent. After you make a copy to pass on to others who will also pass it on, you may then erase the docs and fill up your 80 sectors with TL and other Format codes for IFFing SAVEd documents. I also had plenty of room left to put my banner, calendar, and label-maker programs all on the same side. Now I have a blockbuster word processing disk which is also a Forth disk which is also an Editor/Assembler which is also a Disk Manager which is also etcetera.

And everything is FAST and ERROR-PROTECTED and truly USER-FRIENDLY.

I did everything I could possibly think of to mess up this program (actually it is an environment, a series of truly related computer activities), and, though I'm usually very good at messing

up programs, I couldn't defeat this environment. It did (does) everything I thought could only be on a TI owners wish list.

Am I glad I'm a TI owner. Besides having the best in-residence abilities of ANY home computer (automatic numbering, resequencing, CALL subprogramming, color, speech synthesis, and so on), my computer now has an XB cart in port that will bring to my machine what would cost IBM or Apple owners 500 dollars or more to buy (and, particularly, in the case of the Apple II computers, couldn't get at any price because of their inferior capabilities).

Like all good tools, *Fun!writer* is also a great toy. I don't think I've had as much fun playing with anything since I got my first set of Lincoln Logs on my seventh birthday.

You can get inside. You can change things. The McGoverns even guide you into this in their docs. You can (I did) change the environment's screen/character colors within the XB load program (which may later be changed at EVERY menu in this profound creation. You can (I did) put in printer specifics (PIO and PIO.LF for the Editor and Formatter. This is also done in the loader which can then be saved forever and overrides all assembly defaults.

Although I always manage to come up with "If only this program had...." to every piece of software (and textware) I've ever reviewed, I was stunned by this software into a state of blankness and quietude. (My wife and kids appreciated *that!*) But it didn't last long. I couldn't wait to write about *Fun!writer*. But, three days and much use and abuse (including this report) later, I still cannot think of a single change I would make in the design of this software. It is efficient, allows for considerable flexibility, does all the things I've dreamed of for a few years and many things I never even thought of.

The McGoverns, in entrusting us with this marvelous piece of work, are hoping they'll make enough money to get some additional TI equipment in order to do many more things, apparently. I hope they become rich beyond their wildest dreams and make great software for the TI forever.

Let's support ourselves by supporting them. Get *Fun!writer* as soon as you can, test it out, write out the most generous check you can afford, mail it to the McGoverns, and hurry back to your new, large, exciting TI environment.

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

Thanks again to a generous donation from OMNI Resources, we will have for the May raffle a ten pack of diskettes or a twelve pack of C-30 cassettes, donated by Bailey's Audio Visual (Hector Beaudreau - Proprietor) on Chandler Street, Worcester.

I have forgotten who won the April raffle. Perhaps our Secretary, Wm. Corson Wyman has it listed in the minutes, for those of you who are interested.

Your M.U.N.C.H. officers have found a void in the Worcester area in the lack of a TI Bulletin Board System. We are presently putting efforts forth, in research and Sysop training, to bring a high quality, quick response BBS to the Worcester area.

Why am I telling you all this in the RAFFLE column? Because the Group had donated to it, by Wm. Corson Wyman, a 300 baud modem and cable, strictly for the raffle. Lets crowd the meeting room so we can raffle off the modem. It will be brought out as an extra item for the winner's choice ONLY if we have a large enough turnout to make it worth while.

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 *****

Bruce Willard, Pres.

MUNCH OFFICERS AND NUMBERS (all in 617 area)

President	Bruce Willard	852-3250
Vice President	Norman Abare	297-2100
Secretary	Wm. Corson Wyman	839-5116
Treasurer	Jim Cox	869-2704
Editor		
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	Video Connection	852-8213

This comes from Jim Peterson's TIPS FROM THE TIGERCUB #31. Mr. Peterson is one of our longtime die-hards and loyal supporters of the 99/4A. Most of his programming is done in Extended Basic, and he does a fine job. He has a catalog of educational, utility, and games software. I have purchased some of this very nice software. Why not drop him a line? He's at TIGERCUB SOFTWARE, 156 Collingwood Avenue, Columbus, OH 43213.

For a one-handed BREAK, if you can't reach FCTN and 4, try FCTN with J and the space bar together.

RANDOM BYTES

WANTED: Upgrades on 1984 TI Tax Plan put out
by Ardvard Software (now owned by McGraw Hill).
Write to Al Cecchini at the MUNCH Group address.



NEWSLETTER STAFF

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30 Princeton St.
Worcester, Ma. 01610

Bob Doyle
210 Sewall St.
Boylston, Ma. 01505

Bruce Willard
1 Marmion Ave.
Worcester, Ma. 01606

M.U.N.C.H.
c/o Vid. Con.
560 Lincoln St.
Worcester, Ma. 01605

DISK DRIVES

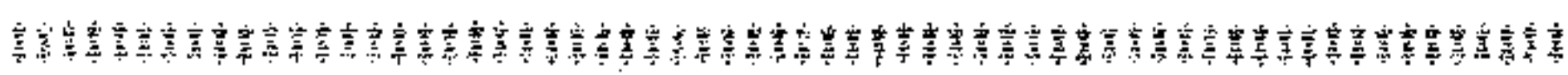
(from the A9CUG CALL newsletter, by their editor MARSHAL)

MANUFACTURER:	MODEL:	HEIGHT:	SIDES:	POWER REQ
NPI	51	FULL	SINGLE	FULL
NPI	52	FULL	DOUBLE	FULL
SHUGART	SA-400L	FULL	SINGLE	FULL
SHUGART	SA-405L	FULL	DOUBLE	FULL
SHUGART	SA455-2	HALF	DOUBLE	HALF
TEAC	FD-FFA	HALF	SINGLE	HALF
TEAC	FD-55B	HALF	DOUBLE	HALF
TANDON	TM100-1	FULL	SINGLE	FULL
TANDON	TM55-1	HALF	SINGLE	FULL
TANDON	TM100-2	FULL	DOUBLE	FULL
TANDON	TM55-2	HALF	DOUBLE	FULL
Control Data Corp.	9409	FULL	DOUBLE	FULL
Control Data Corp.	9428	HALF	DOUBLE	FULL
QUME	142	HALF	DOUBLE	FULL
PANASONIC/MATZUSHITA	JA551-2N	HALF	DOUBLE	FULL
MITSUBISHI	4851	HALF	DOUBLE	FULL
TOSHIBA	ND04D	HALF	DOUBLE	HALF

NOTE: Where the drive is half height and the power is also half, two drives can "generally" be used in place of one of the full height drives.

There are more than these, of course, but in general, those that are compatible with Apple, Commodore, and Atari, will not work on the TI-99/4A. Those that will work on the P.C.'s are good (except those that are 96 T.P.I., or say 80 track drives).

Rewritten and added to by John Willforth, West Penn US.



ADVERTISING RATES:

Double Page	(10.5" by 8")	\$50.00	per insertion
Full Page	(8" by 8")	\$25.00	per insertion
Half Page	(8" by 4")	\$15.00	per insertion
Quarter Page	(5" by 2" or (2.5" by 4")	\$10.00	per insertion

Classified (non-commercial) ADs are FREE for MUNCH members.

M.U.N.C.H.

560 LINCOLN STREET

WORCESTER, MA. 01605

First Class

IMPORTANT NOTICE

May meeting will be on May 20, 1986
at University of Massachusetts Medical Center
(Come to the VISITORS entrance and follow the signs for MUNCH...)