

TIWRITER FORMATTER OVERVIEW

by Tom Kennedy

Nov I want to cover the Text Formatter, which prints out the document. Most importantly, the special symbols, called Format Commands, that the formatter uses to alter the print-out of the document, which are installed in the Text Editor.

In other words, you put these commands into the text when you write it and as the formatter comes across them it changes the text accordingly but doesn't actually print the symbols.

There are six groups of formatter commands that are all applied in a similar manner. All commands must be in caps and must be on a line that starts with a period. The use of these commands in your text is what separates the word processor from a typewriter. They allow you to get the most out of your printer.

So, now you've written your document, and inserted all the format commands, now how do you print it out? First, save the document and exit the Text Editor. At the title menu, select Text formatter, (make sure the program disk is in the drive) and the screen will blank with the prompt "ENTER INPUT FILENAME". Enter the name of the file you just saved, (ex. DSK1.MYFILE) and hit enter.

Next, the prompt "ENTER PRINT DEVICENAME" appears after the file is loaded. If you use a serial printer, the device name would be RS232.BA-xxx with xxx being the baud rate. If you're using a parallel printer, the device name is PIO. Also, you must add either .CR or .LF to the end of the device name. This tells TI-Writer whether your printer will handle the carriage return or the line feed. Check your printer manual and the TI-Writer manual in detail to find out which you use.

The next prompt is "USE MAILING LIST?". If you aren't printing "form letters" just hit enter to accept the default of N(NO).

Next is "WHAT PAGE(S)? <ALL>". If you want to print the whole document, accept the default for all pages. Otherwise, you can print any of the pages or groups of pages.

The prompt "NUMBER OF COPIES: 1" tells how many copies of each page are to be printed.

The last prompt is "PAUSE AT END OF PAGE? N". The main purpose of this function is if you are using separate sheets of paper it will stop and wait for you to align the next sheet.

Nov, about the Mailing List Option. Let's say you've written a form letter to send out to various individuals, maybe a resume'. You write the letter like normal, but when you come to a name or address or something that will change with each letter, you put in its place a variable in the form of *n*, where n is a number to identify the order. So instead of starting off with: "Dear Mr. Smith" you would have "Dear Mr. 1*" and so on. When you're all through with your letter, save it and purge the memory. Now you must create what is called a Value File, which is your mailing list where TI-Writer will draw the variables from. A value file consists of a list of values to be inserted into the letter, listed one to a line, preceded by the number of the variable and ending with a carriage return symbol. Groups of values must be separated by a line with just an asterisk and a carriage return. For example:

```
1 John Smith
2 123 STREET
3 Seattle, WA
```

```
*
1 Jane Doe
2 456 STREET
3 Seattle, VA
```

At the top of your letter you insert the .ML f command where f equals the filename of your value file. After selecting the mailing list option the computer will use this command to fill in the variables. If there is no .ML command in the letter then when you are prompted for "MAILING LIST NAME:" you supply the filename. This allows you to call on a number of files for different groups.

Text Dimension commands, as the name implies, move or shape the words in the document (margins, linespacing, right justify, etc.)

```
.FI : FILL : PUTS AS MANY WORDS ON A LINE AS WILL FIT.
.NF : NO FILL : CANCELS FILL.
.AD : ADJUST : ALIGNS THE TEXT TO THE LEFT AND RIGHT MARGINS. (RT. JUSTIFY)
.NA : NO ADJUST: CANCELS ADJUST.
.LM n : LF MARGIN: SETS LEFT MARGIN TO "n".
.RM n : RT MARGIN: SETS RIGHT MARGIN TO "n".
.IN n : INDENT : CREATES AN AUTO-INDENT FROM LEFT MARGIN.
.LS n : LINE SP : SETS LINE SPACING TO "n" LINES.
.PL n : PG LENGTH: DEFINES NUMBER OF LINES TO A PAGE.
.BP : BEGIN PG : DEFINES FIRST LINE OF NEW PAGE.
```

Internal Format commands control the spacing of characters on a line.

```
.SP n : SPACE : SIMILAR TO THE TAB FUNCTION.
.CE n : CENTER : CENTERS NEXT "n" LINES BETWEEN MARGINS.
```

Highlighting commands control functions such as underline or bold and allow you to redefine characters to use them to send CTRL codes to the printer.

```
. : REQUIRED : JOINS WORDS TOGETHER WHEN REQUIRED TO PREVENT SPLITTING IN
. : SPACE : REFORMATING, UNDERLINE, ETC.
. : UNDERLINE: (UNDERSCORE) UNDERLINES ALL TEXT FOLLOWING UNTIL NEXT PAGE.
@ : BOLD : (OVERSTRIKE) REYPES FOLLOWING TEXT FOUR TIMES.
.TL xx: TRANS- : ALLOWS REASSIGNMENT OF ONE CHARACTER TO REPRESENT A NUMBER.
.CO t : LITERATE : OF CHARACTER VALUES TO SEND CODES TO THE PRINTER.
.CO t : COMMENT : SIMILAR TO REM IN BASIC--ALLOWS NOTES THAT DON'T PRINT.
```

Page identification commands print notes in the upper or lower corner of each page, either headers or footers.

```
.HE t : HEADER : PRINTS TEXT (t) AND PAGE NUMBER AT TOP OF EACH PAGE.
.FO t : FOOTER : PRINTS TEXT (t) AND PAGE NUMBER AT BOTTOM OF EACH PAGE.
.PA : PAGE # : RESETS PAGE NUMBER IN .HE AND .FO
```

File management commands

```
.IF f : INCLUDE : MERGES A FILE TO PRINT A DOCUMENT TOO LARGE FOR ONE FILE.
```

```
. : FILE :
```

Mail Merge option commands are used to supply values to the variables in a letter that has been set up for the mail merge option

```
.ML f : MAIL LIST: IDENTIFIES VALUE FILE (f) FOR MAIL LIST.
*n* : VARIABLE : INSERTED IN TEXT AS VARIABLE FOR ASSIGNMENT FROM VALUE FILE.
.DP n:t:DISPLAY : PROMPTS YOU USING TEXT "t" TO ASSIGN TO VARIABLE (*n*).
```

```
: PROMPT :
*****
```

Another way to insert values is to use the Define Prompt command. With this command you do not insert a .ML command calling a value file and instead you insert lines containing the format: .DP n:t - where n is the number of the variable and t is the prompt text. Now, when you come to the prompt "USE MAILING LIST?" you select "N" for NO and as the document is printed when a variable is encountered the printing stops and the text you chose appears on the screen asking you for the appropriate value. If you don't include a ".DP n:t" command in your text, the computer responds with "ENTER DATA FOR VARIABLE *n*" and it can get confusing trying to remember which item you're on. This method is handy for letters which you only want to print one copy at different times to different people.

Let me tell you, this is why I bought a computer. I'm sure we all went through that period of time before buying a computer when we would ask: "what am I going to use a computer for, anyway?". Well I decided there were two things I wanted to do: 1) Store files of data (recipes, albums, etc.) and 2) Use my computer as a typewriter. I didn't know about TI-WRITER when I bought the 99/4A, but now I know that I made the best choice possible. I hope you will all find TI-WRITER as easy to use and as powerful as I have.

Become a member or a subscriber today. Call Jim Cox (869 - 2704) or come to our May meeting.

by Brad Kinne (BITS & BYTES)

The more I use TI-WRITER, the more I discover about it. The exciting thing I just learned to do (I know some of you already do it but I just figured it out) is how to use .TL (transliterate) to control printer commands.

For those of you who didn't know, the .TL command forces the formatter to redefine any key OR KEYS you want to any specified key. For example, you could have a '!' in your text. That could have been defined to print out as a "HELLO!" so every time the formatter sees a '!', it will print "HELLO!" The command would look like this:

```
33
.TL 42:72,69,76,76,79,33 F
```

It must be on a line by itself. The .TL tells the formatter to accept a new definition. The 42: means that the '!' (ASCII 33) will be redefined as the following ASCII codes strung together. The rest of the numbers separated by commas are the h,e,l,l,o,! Here's what I did with it:

```
.TL 91:27,45,1F
.TL 93:27,45,0F
```

What this does is redefine the '!' to mean: turn on the printer underline code. The ']' turns off the printer underline code. My text might look like: [Now is the time to begin]. When the formatter prints that, it will be underlined! Works great!

The other thing I do is have formatter files that I can .IF in my letter or report. An example:

```
.FIF
.ADF
.RM 75F
.LM 5F
.IN 3F
.TL 91:27,45,1F
.TL 93:27,45,0F
'bEF
```

What this set does is set up the right and left justify, fill as many words as possible in a line, set the right margin to column 75, right margin to 5, indent new paragraphs 3 spaces, enable the '[' and ']' for turning on and off the underliner and print in enhanced (darkened) mode. I save this file under a name such as 'FORMAT'. When I write a letter or report, the first line at the top looks like this:

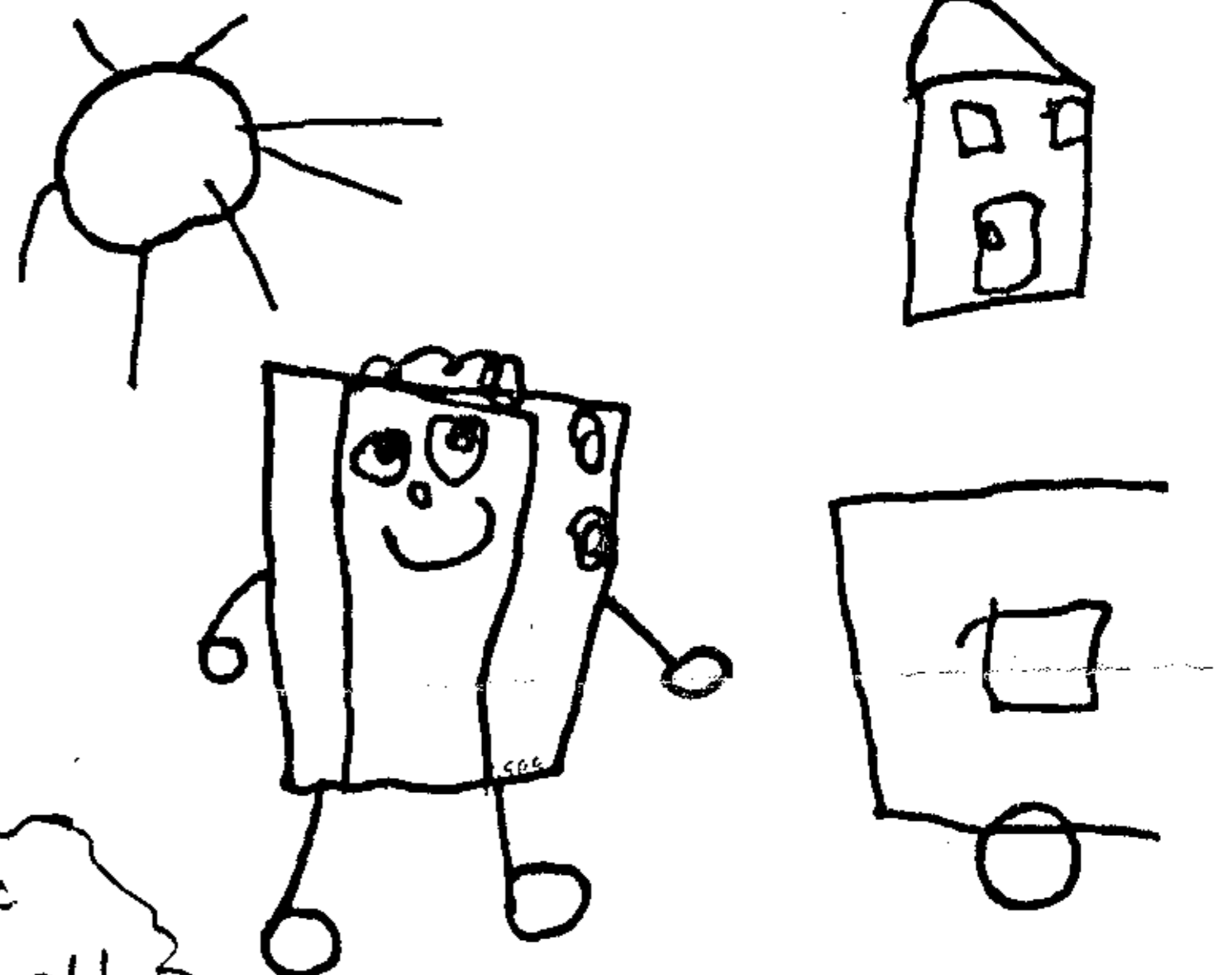
```
.IF DSK1.FORMAT F
```

When you run the formatter, it loads up your 'FORMAT' file and sets up all the desired commands. That's basically what is done with all the articles for this newsletter. Right now I'm just typing away at 80 columns and not worrying about spacing. The formatter will take care of it. Here is the 'FORMAT' file I use for newsletters:

```
!b@F
.FIF
.ADF
.LM 0F
.RM 60F
.IN 3F
!bE!b'FF
```

The first line initializes the printer (the Club has Gemini 10X) and erases all previous settings. The last line causes the condensed size (ASCII 27, 15) and emphasized print (ASCII 27, ASCII 69 [E]).

Renew!



Become a part of the exciting "NEW" world of the T.I. 99/4A. More software. More hardware. More computing fun!

A CHILD'S PERCEPTION

By Bruce Willard

The above picture is by a five year old who, given the chance, would play on the computer all day. She likes some of the available games, but hasn't quite got the dexterity to handle all of them yet. God knows I certainly can't excel playing many of them.

Why are we displaying a hand drawing instead of computer graphics? The reason is very simple. She loves to draw using TI-ARTIST, but it wasn't available at the time she really felt the need. She will show her capabilities, using TI-ARTIST, later.

By the way, just in case you are not into art, this is a computer walking along the street on a sunny day to his van, just ahead. A house is across the street. (She is the daughter of our resident artist who draws our newsletter covers.)

Renew!



TEXTWARE, SOFTWARE, and ELSEWHERE
Happenings in the T.I. World Community
by JACK SUGRAUE

F R E E ?

FREENARE has grown many limbs since its original releases on the 99er public. It is a concept whose time should have come but probably didn't.

The owners of the 99 needed software and experimentation and risk-taking on the part of many persons who were dedicated to this superb machine. It also needed supporters of these people. And although 99 owners generally paid from $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ less than other computers for the same or similar pieces of software (and in recent years considerably less than that: LOGO and Multiplan being excellent examples), it did not seem low enough for many owners. So the prices continued to drop. Now \$39 cartridges sell for as low as \$3.95. So it is little wonder that new developers of materials for TI hesitate putting in that initial investment of time and money. The low selling prices to a demanding audience, coupled with the immense amount of piracy, has simply been too much for the commercial companies to try and make a go of it. (A few exceptions of commercial enterprises that sell excellent, unprotected, inexpensive software would be companies like Asgard and Disk Only Software.)

ENTER THE FREEWARERS! This is a small group of dedicated programmers and distributors who want the TI to remain in robust competition with the lesser machines (which had the broader commercial base). Thus DM1000, PRBASE, FUNLWRITER, CFS, SCREEN DUMP, etc.

A new and exciting era for the 99 buff had arrived! But every silver lining has its dark cloud.

Gather round the fire, get yourself a glass of hot, mulled cider, and let me tell you a story.

When I was a young man in the hearty spring of '86 I met a genius in person with whom I had carried on a small correspondence. His name is Barry Traver, and he had just begun a diskazine for the TI. It was (and remains) a unique and wonderful venture. We met at a TI Faire in Lexington. He happened to have with him FUNLWRITER. We had all heard of this wonderful program developed by Will McGovern and his father Tony in Australia and how it included Bruce Caron's Canadian DM1000. We didn't know at the time how profound an environment it was and is.

That night and the next I stayed up until four (though I had to be up at 5:30 to get ready to teach school). I could not resist playing and testing and changing and adapting this incredible environment. It was something I had not dreamed would be possible for the 99.

Within a week I had begun to devise a companion for this masterpiece: a single master word-processing disk, a SSSD disk which would include automatic IFing by containing templates. It would have to have new codes and a master catalog and a desk calendar program and a screen dump and a banner program and lots of printer-oriented programs (like Pig Latin and Key Graphics and and and and). And probably a display-type program explaining all these sources. And some quickref charts and some mnemonic coding for quick understanding. And a complete operation manual ready to be printed off disk. And some more and and ands.

Was this possible with the already-condensed FUNLWRITER? Well, taking out the docs on my backup gave me 80 sectors. But my Banner and Calendar programs alone were over 130 sectors. No good. And my Load/Cataloguer was 43! The Minidump was 14 (not TOO mini). And on and on. Plus I wanted a whole pile of new files and templates and codes that would access the control keys PARTICULARLY the TL key which I had been using in a mnemonic way for three years and had never set up a template for IFing. Four sectors was the maximum I was going to allow for ANY coding, ANY screen dump, and basic graphic-key structuring. It seemed an impossible task but after a few late nights I got into the groove. I thought of creating and condensing the environment during every free moment. I produced and reduced all the above to 2 or 3 sectors. Now my coding and basic templates were done and running smoothly.

The Load/Cataloguer - essential if I were going to continue operating within the given environment - was next. I scrunched it down to 11. Just about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the original.

(I might pause here and mention that my original programs and the original PD programs I used did not have to be restricted when they were all on separate disks. So each of them operated okay. But slower than the final results. And slower, still, because of all the disk switching and hunting for the right program from the right disk.) But not the new versions! Surprising as it seems, as I reduced I added more and more features. I didn't realize how inefficient and sloppy my files had been until space became an essential if I wanted an enhanced and very advanced word-processor. (And I did!) And still have access to my DM1000 and Editor/Assembler and my Danny Michael's screen dump through load interrupt. And a Debugger. And, I suppose Forth and c99 (though I have yet to use either and would probably have an even more efficient disk without either and certainly one that would operate everything with greater speed while providing greater space for more TIW files).

I keep a log of my time actually working on the computer (not of the thinking, reading, note-taking, etc. off the

computer). To date I have put in just over 550 hours (actual computer time) to get the version I want and use. (MY version is new again today! Tony McGovern sent me another complimentary copy of his further updated version of 3.4 (which includes 3.5 DM1000).) I have been updating my own FUNLPLUS! files anyway, so I immediately reduced this new McGovern disk to just the word processor and DM and removed all the docs and even the E/A. (This is for my own personal use, remember.) This gives me immense room for two disk sides of favorite files. The one I released to FAIRWARE, however, because it contains free distribution of the complete FUNLWRITER, absolutely needs the docs (so the buyer doesn't get as many of the files which he or she probably would not use with the frequency I use them, but they are nice to have). (The PD "Gothic"-type program, for example, or the three-column condensed envelope cataloguer.)

I called the multi-filed environment FUNLPLUS! and sent copies out to acquaintances and friends and user-groups for debugging, help, improvements, criticisms; including, of course, one to the McGovern and one to Ottawa. The feedback was excellent, and I made Version 4. (I had sent #3, had worked on and changed #1 and 2 alone.) I sent out the Freeware requests to user groups by mail and to which I spoke showing examples. I left copies with some user groups and was given space on "send postpaid mailer and initialized blank disk. If you like the full two-side floppy of files send \$7 to author."

I never received a single cent from the user groups where I left a copy in the library after demonstrating it. (Though I found out it was dubbed by many members and even used as demos and workshops because of its popularity.)

Because of the flyers and newsletter ads I received 43 blank disks (not all initialized and not all with sufficient return postage and not all usable!). I sent FUNLPLUS! to all, paying costs myself when needed.

Dear, Patient Reader, I must pause here to tell you a little about how I put out FUNLPLUS! Because I am a full-time teacher and husband and father involved in lots of things: town politics, local educational committees, user groups, writing conference and workshops, garden, dogs, and so on (a normal life, in other words) - it is not always easy to get out these FUNLPLUS! disks. It takes about an hour to complete each disk. First, I have to make a floppy. Then I load up my system and make a verified initialization. I don't want disks returned by frustrated users because of some fault that could have been avoided.

Then I [did] write a personal note to the user to show the buyer he or she is not dealing with a machine; take out my paper from the printer and load up the labels and load up my label program and make a label for the disk; prepare the mailer with another label and with (in indelible marker) a "Magnetic Media: Do NOT Xray or Bend" statement; put in the disk and the letter and seal it with brown package tape; I put on my return address label and the stamps; and mail it off.

The process takes about an hour for each. The cost for everything (disks, electricity, labels, mailer, notepaper, stamps, permanent marker, etc.) is about \$3.10 per disk, according to my accountant son.

Thus, I spent 43 hours and \$133.20 and got nothing in return on that one particular batch. This does not count the 550+ hours it took me to create and edit and put together the flippied disk for the environment in the first place; nor does it count the disks I sent to supporters, nor the dozen copies I sent out to area newsletters for reviews, nor the copies I left in user-group libraries. So I'm out about \$220. (I had a dream that I would make enough on this companion to possibly purchase a GENEVE, if and when it came out.) Eleven months later I still haven't gotten a single comment or penny from the unflippied disks sent to me with the (in many cases insufficient) return postage. Nor from any that I gave away (except to other FAIRWARE programmers, who have been tremendously supportive).

This is bad. Not good for my ego or pocketbook.

I decide to make up a flyer and charge \$8, including mailing and buying the disk and flippy. That way, at least, I'll receive the money and be able to buy the disks and labels and stamps beforehand to prevent the mounting debt. I make up 500 flyers: \$24.20.

I go to my regular user group (M.U.N.C.H.) in Worcester and demonstrate FUNLPLUS! Positive response and 6 people buy at \$7 (reduced for members). Now I'm feeling better and my debt is back to about \$200.

I pass out the flyers at an October 99er Fair in Pawtucket, RI. A friend allows me to sell these FAIRWARE disks at his table. One man gets angry. "How can you call this Freeware?" (I had long since stopped calling it Freeware.) I said, "Just \$7 for a 720-sector disk is hardly Unfairware." He picked up the disk, looked at it disgustedly, and threw it back on the table and walked away. He was not the last to give me the "Freeware pitch," though I told each hostile antagonist that I thought what I was doing was more than fair.

I sell two (to other programmers), trade one, give four away to programmer friends with whom I correspond but only get to meet at fairs (They, in turn, have readily sent their FAIRWARE items to me.), and hand out lots of flyers which later results in sales.

Meanwhile, I send the disk to a friend who owns a software company. After looking over my disk to see that it was legitimate and did all it claimed in the flyer, he willingly distributes my flyers FREE (He knows I'm a teacher with three kids in college at the moment.) with his orders. This means that I would get the orders directly. If any.

If any! Wow!

The \$8 checks start coming in from the real, dedicated 99 crowd I felt was out there somewhere: Montana, New

Jersey, Ottawa, Belgium, Ohio, Texas, Australia, Massachusetts, Louisiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan. On and on. With supportive letters. Within weeks many of these same people send AN ADDITIONAL \$5 or \$10, with very positive comments. Some even buy for relatives or friends. *And this is a program that is totally unprotected.* I had also send MICROpendiam a copy. They write a short FREEWARE review. Very positive. And the checks started flowing from that direction, too. Though difficult, I am still getting them out within 24 hours.

The comments have been the greatest reward (though the reduction of that debt isn't so bad, either?)

I guess I would really prefer FAIRWARE or SHAREWARE or PAYWARE or CHEAP-THOUGH-GOOD-WARE or GREATSTUFFWARE or anything to FREEWARE.

People really believe it is Free and they are WRONG! Nothing is Free! Everything costs somebody something! So, hurry to your nearest box of disks - the ones you use frequently - and pull out the ones you got "free" and look up the author and, if you've never sent a donation and an encouraging note, whip out checkbook and pad and go to it. It may be one of the best investments you could ever make.

~~~~~  
[NOTE: This rewrite is done in March, 11 months after I wrote and edited the FUNLPLUS! companion and three months after I wrote the original draft of this article. I received two \$8 checks today. I am now completely out of debt and have made a total profit of \$26 and lots of new friends. I may get that GENEVE yet. ★

Would I do it all over again? Yup. But not the same way. I'd do it as I'm doing now. No more free in advance. I'd do it over because of the wonderful friends I've made, because of the things I have learned about computing, because of the fun of putting together something a lot of people like. Very rewarding. For my next project ....]

~~~~~  
Please send comments about FAIRWARE/FREEWARE or any of your FAIRWARE materials you'd like me to review to Jack Sughrue, Box 459, E.Douglas MA 01516.

Renew
Membership!

~~~~~  
BY THE WAY...

Except for the heading (which was done with CS6D III), all of this article was written with the FUNLPLUS! companion to FUNLHEB v 3.4. All of the italics and block lines and super/sub-script (as in 2/5) and the switching from 140-column condensed to 80-column elite is all done automatically through IFFing the FORMATTER with the FUNLPLUS! codes and templates.

this  
to this  
to this  
to ~~this~~  
and even  
to this combination

is but a matter of keystrokes within the editor. Not many processors (even those costing hundreds) allows you the flexibility we're given with FUNLWRITER.

\* I was asked by a FAIRWARE friend in Florida to write this column about our frustrations. Done. Next time (as a result of a lot of requests) I will explain the whole step-by-step of IFFing (it may take two columns), and list all the coding to let you begin immediately. THEN I'll finish the series on graphics programs  
~~~~~

★ Further note: I ordered my Geneve. Since (and during) the T.I. FAIRE in Waltham, FUNLPLUS! sales pushed me into the filthy rich class. I may even buy a villa on Majorica.

JS

Membership!

from:

JANUARY 87 PACUG CRL NEWSLETTER

CALL PEEK
BY DANNY MICHAEL
FROM SHOALS TIDINGS

Hello again! Boy, have things been going in the TI world lately jumping in the TI world lately! I continue to be amazed at the new products and support available for our "dead" computer. The new catalog from tenax arrived the other day, and there are plenty of new hardware and software items to wish for. I feel like a 6 year old who just got a new Sears toy catalog! One new toy that I did get recently is a ramdisk card from Horizon Computer, Ltd.. What follows is a review of this exciting new peripheral for our computer.

The Horizon Ramdisk is a FE box card that acts like a disk drive. The advantage that the card has over a regular disk drive is speed. Since the data are stored in solid state memory chips instead of on a magnetic disk, there are no mechanical parts to slow down the reading and writing process. The card has on board rechargeable batteries that keep files intact while your computer is off. You can buy the ramdisk ready to plug in and use or for those handy with a soldering iron, it's also available in kit form. You can choose between a card with 104K of memory that acts like a single sided, single density disk (\$180 for the assembled version), or one with 192K of memory that mimics a double sided, single density disk (\$230 for the assembled version). The ramdisk in kit form cost \$50 for the circuit board and an additional \$72 for parts for the single sided version or \$105 for parts for the double sided version. I choose the 192K version in kit form. The parts kit is not available from Horizon Computers, but can be bought from Bud Mills services at the prices stated above. Of course you can buy the parts from other sources, but by buying the parts in a package you get a price break.

I was impressed with the ramdisk kit from the time it arrived. First of all, delivery from both Horizon and Bud Mills was very prompt. I must admit that I got more than I expected when I opened the packages. The circuit board is of the highest quality with parts placement clearly marked on the board. Much better than you usually get with a kit. The parts kit yielded the same quality throughout, and included sockets for all the integrated circuits. The only thing I had to supply was solder and some epoxy to glue the battery holders onto the card. The

assembly instructions (9 pages) were complete and guide you through each step of the assembly process. Assembly time was less than 3 hours, including testing. The only touchy part of assembly was the piggybacking of the memory chips. (For those not up on electronics lingo, piggybacking means to place two chips together, one atop the other, and solder all the pins together.) Since there are 11 sets of chips with 27 pins to solder on each pair, and the chips are static sensitive, it takes a steady hand and good soldering technique to do the job without damaging the chips. The piggybacking step is only necessary on the double sided version.

After assembling the card there are some test programs (provided on disk) to run before beginning to use the card. After everything checks OK, you're ready to load the operating system and use your new ramdisk. It's here that the major difference between the Horizon Ramdisk and others show up. While most other cards have their operating software in ROM, the Horizon operating system is stored in RAM on the card (battery backed of course). This is an advantage in that new versions of the operating system can be sent on disk instead of having to replace a ROM chip on the board. It also means that the operating system can be modified by the user to add additional features to the card. Full source code to the operating system is supplied with the card for those wishing to modify the code, or just understand how it works.

The 25 page reference manual that comes with the card explains use of all the cards features and includes an advanced section for those wanting to modify the operating software. The following subprograms are added to basic when the card is installed:
CALL DN Sets the drive number that the ramdisk will respond to. This can be any number from 1 to 6 CALL DN(6) will allow the card to be accessed as disks.

CALL MS Sets the maximum number of sectors available on the ramdisk. The single sided version has 360 sectors, the double sided version has 720 sectors.

CALL WQ Turns on write protection for the ramdisk. This is like placing a write protect tab on a floppy disk.

CALL WF Turns off the write protection.
CALL EX Allows the direct execution of an assembly program.
CALL CD Enables the DSR ram on the card.
(For use by experimenters)

CALL CF Turns off the DSR ram space.

CALL DM Loads Disk Manager 1000 (supplied with the card) from ramdisk.
CALL NF Sets the maximum number of floppy drives in the system. This call is needed only when the card is used in the same PE box with some other cards such as the Myarc ramdisk or hard disk controller.

The above descriptions are short and general. Use of the subprograms is explained in detail in the manual. Using the ramdisk is exactly like using a regular disk drive except for the speed. The time loading and saving programs and files is greatly decreased. My ramdisk card has performed flawlessly since building it 2 months ago.

There are other ramdisk cards on the market, but so far the Horizon card has some unique features that set it apart from the rest. First of all, is the battery backup. Any files stored on the ramdisk are retained while the computer is off. I see this as an advantage over other cards. Another big plus is the ability to change the cards CRU base address (the space it occupies in the memory allocated for peripheral cards). This makes it possible to have more than one Horizon ramdisk in your system, and assures compatibility with other peripheral cards. The major advantage that this card has over the others is having the operating system in RAM. This makes updates a snap, and presents the possibility of using the card for something other than a ramdisk. I see no reason why the card couldn't be used as a print spooler with the proper software. Horizon Computers plans to make available other software enhancements in the future.

Millers Graphics gave us the ability to program the GROM space in the computer with the GRAM KRACKER, and now Horizon Computers gives us the ability to program the DSR space. With these two products in your system, only the BK ROM in the console remains untouchable! I think the Horizon ramdisk is a great addition to your computer system. For ordering information, contact Horizon Computers Limited at P.O. Malbridge, Ohio, 43465

GENERAL INFORMATION

CONSIDER THIS RUMOR. In other words I think it is true but do not have any verifiable details yet so don't go quoting me as fact.

I have heard that MG (formerly Millers Graphics) has a new project going that has just reached fruition stage. I hope it is not true because it sounds awful. The rumor is this:
Some device will plug into the TI 99/4A keyboard and hook up to make the keyboard work on IBM clone.

Don't miss out!
Subscribe!

Gary Matthews

Maybe the way I heard it is wrong but so far all I can think about it is NO! NO! NO!
Before you think that I am just narrow minded and have thought patterns made of concrete, let me explain myself.

As I heard it.... this is essentially using the 99/4A keyboard as nothing more than a keyboard for what really is just an IBM clone. There is absolutely NO WAY for you to use any of what there is good about the TI with the MG product, such as the TI sound, speech, colors, sprites, programs, or data files.
For the price I heard it was going to cost, you could buy an IBM clone itself that would come intact with a lot more features (drives, monitor, memory, RS232). This way you would really have two computers that can run simultaneously. Everyone should know that under those circumstances you already CAN transfer text files between the two. No one should EVER EVER think that a program that runs on the TI will run on an IBM or vice versa.

All right already, why am I being so loud about what I don't even know is true yet? Part of this reaction is attributed to MG having stopped producing the Gram Kracker. I still believe that MG will make a deal for someone else to do so. I also really believe that MG stopped making it because it was too hard in terms of cost and parts availability to continue to produce it.

Again, why this tirade over this rumored new product? I guess it is because along with that rumor I also heard that MG is moving into the IBM market away from the TI trade.
Craig Miller is one of the revered geniuses of the TI world in my opinion. He is also a big fish in a little pond. If he goes away from the TI arena, then we have lost a lot. Craig would also become one of the VERY many trying to make money in the IBM market.

I am making a fuss too because there really is not a reason to make such a product as I described. By being so noisome so early, a few people may either come back and yell at me or if they agree; take up the cry and perhaps get MG to change its mind and get back on track.

I am very happy to have a Gram Kracker and I hope it does not become a valuable RARE item.

Renew your Membership!

I just got a correction to a file on CS6D3 on the CWRITE/PGM program. Change on the Ejsun version:

560 PRINT #2:ES :: NEXT U :: IF K THEN GOSUB 580 ELSE PRINT #2:IS
:: X-1

Subscribe!

Membership!

MINUTES

Most of the meeting was taken up by President Corson Wyman and Editor Jack Sughrue.

Mr. Wyman spoke extensively about the new software and hardware his company (Genial Computerware) has developed and is developing. These included a new P-Box, XBASHER, and XBUG. The President also donated temporarily a disk drive to the club system until another drive for the system could be purchased. It was voted that Don Mason be asked to contact the best source for purchasing a drive and purchase it.

Mr. Sughrue provided a copy of PRINTIT (4 disks) to the club. He explained that this is a FAIRWARE item and should be paid for. The program is an extraordinary text/graphic environment with over 100 different graphics from sentence size to banner size and includes a TI WRITER script writer. He also made available his updated FUNLPLUS! free to all members who had purchased the original. The club would receive \$1.00 from the \$7.95 cost for any persons who had not yet purchased a copy.

It was voted to put out a 10-page newsletter this month and to print additional copies to mail to former members. It was hoped that when former members would see how much is now contained in the new newsletters that some members might return. All former members are welcome back. We are still active and rising.

Since the advent of the full-page, condensed-type newsletter there has been almost half again the actual wordage of news and information than has appeared in issues over the past few years. In spite of the loss of ads, this has been a boon to regular subscriber/users.

It was nice to see (and was mentioned at the meeting) Tony Falco's incredible one-liners being reprinted in so many newsletters across the country. Tony, our resident genius, continues to do some wonderful programming. A former programmer for the old 99er, Tony is undoubtedly the club's best XB expert and one of our mainstays. A teacher at North High in Fraaingham, Tony has written some excellent programs in math (his specialty), as well as some superb programs for much younger students. Over the years Tony has written more programs for our newsletter than all other members combined. He deserves the accolades given by the members at the April meeting.

Because the club's system was down we did not have some of the scheduled demonstrations. At the May meeting Jack Sughrue will demonstrate the FUNNELWEB (the latest version is in the club library and is incredible). All you word-processing freaks come with some blank disks and pencil and paper. Jack will give every participant in the workshop a special handbook and an opportunity to dub the newest FUNNELWEB.

MUNCH OFFICERS AND NUMBERS (all in 617 area)

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

Subscribe!

Membership!
Call Jim Cox!
Come to our next meeting!

LIBRARY NOTICE

PLEASE RETURN ANY ITEMS BORROWED FROM OUR LIBRARY. We are still missing a considerable number of books, tapes, disks, and so on belonging to YOUR CLUB. Do a little cleaning around your computer area (or any places you'd be apt to set things aside. If you locate any library materials (or if you'd like to donate any you no longer use) please come with them to the next meeting. We don't care how long you've had them out. There is no fine. But it would be fine if other members could have a chance to borrow these things.

ADVERTISING RATES:

Double Page	(10.5" by 8")	\$25.00	per insertion
Full Page	(5" by 8")	\$13.00	per insertion
Half Page	(5" by 4")	\$ 7.00	per insertion
Quarter Page	(5" by 2" or (2.5" by 4"))	\$ 5.00	per insertion

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

Membership!

Renew!

RAFFLE

This month we will have a choice of either a ten pack of OMNI diskettes donated by OMNI Resources in Millbury or a the very latest version of FUNLPLUS! donated by the author. 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

