

USER GROUP

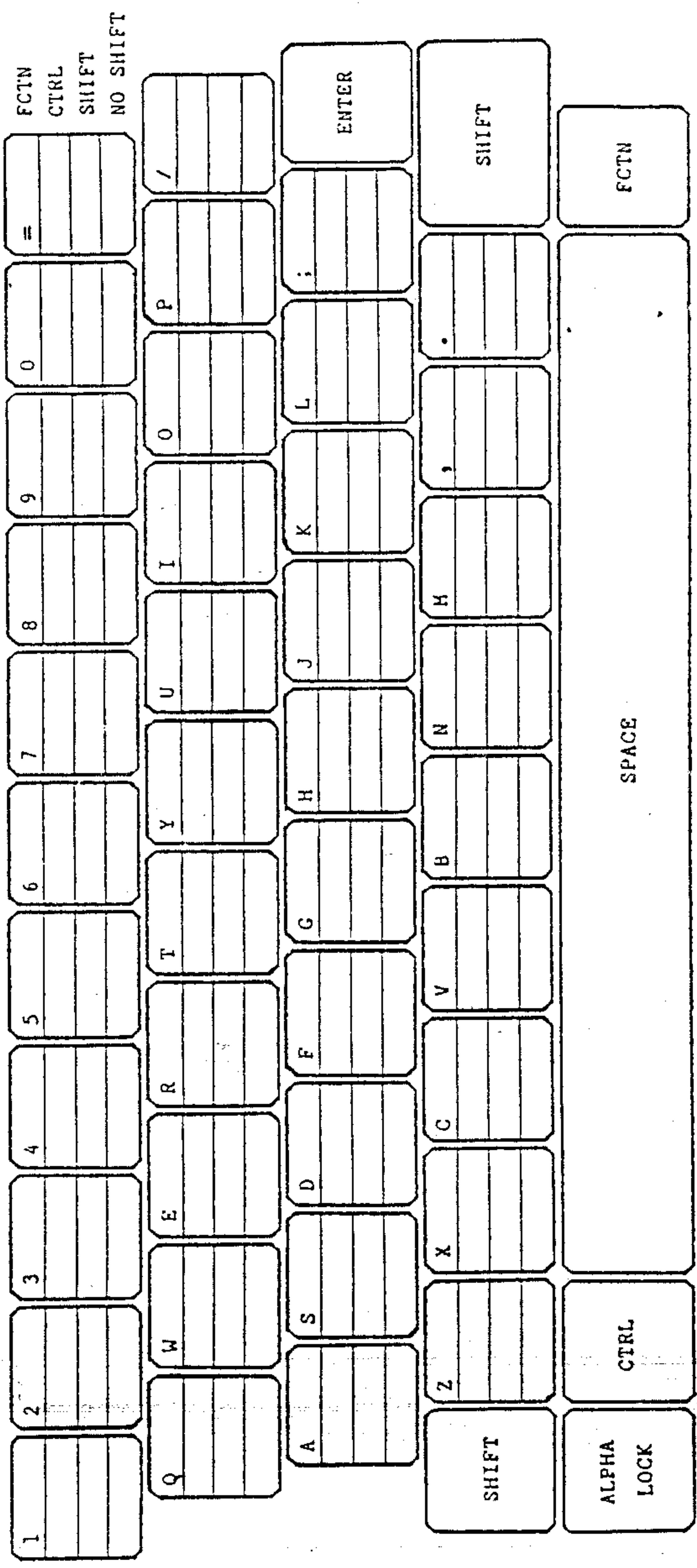
416 Pinewood Avenue
Piqua, OH 45356



TI-99/4A KEYBOARD LAYOUT

PROGRAM NAME: _____

LANGUAGE: _____



NOTES: _____

THE TIGERCUB NUTS & BOLTS DISKS

What are they? The Nuts & Bolts disks are collections of 100 or more subprograms in merge format, ready to merge into your own programs.

And what does that mean? Well, TI-99/4A Extended Basic allows the use of user-written subprograms. And what are subprograms? You know them well. CALL COLOR, CALL SOUND, CALL HCHAR - those are all subprograms which are built into the Basic language. You can write your own subprograms, to do anything that Extended Basic is capable of, and tack them onto the end of your program to be CALLED whenever you need them.

To put it in another way, using a subprogram is almost like running one program from another - except that you can access it much faster, you can pass along any values that you want to, and you can return to where you left the first program.

Also, with a disk drive you can save programs in MERGE format and then MERGE them into a program in memory. Providing that the line numbers are different, the program which you MERGE in will be added to the existing program.

The variables used in a subprogram are entirely separate from those used in the main program, therefore libraries of utility subprograms can be developed in MERGE format, and MERGED into any program without conflict.

The Nuts & Bolts disks are libraries of such subprograms. The first disk contains 100 such subprograms, plus a tutorial on using them. Disk No.2 contains 108, and No.3 contains 140 of them in 114 files. Nothing like them has ever been offered by anyone else for the TI-99/4A computer.

These 348 subprograms have been consecutively line-numbered with high line numbers so that they will not overwrite your program line numbers, and so that any number of them may be MERGED into a program without overwriting each other.

Advanced programming techniques have been used to make these routines as compact as possible, averaging hardly more than 3 sectors each, so that a hundred or more could be crammed onto a disk and so that they would add very little to the length of a program. If you are learning to program, you might learn a great deal by studying these subprograms.

Each disk is accompanied by several pages of printed documentation, explaining the use of each subprogram and giving a short demo routine which you can key in, run, and experiment with.

Many of these subprograms can be used by persons with almost no programming knowledge, to modify existing programs. For instance, a program written in Basic, which crashes with BAD VALUE when run in XBasic, will run with a simple CALL BXB, and CALL KILLQUIT will disable the infernal QUIT key. Many different screen character styles are available, as well as colorful wipes to replace CALL CLEAR.

However, it is the programmer who will find these disks truly invaluable. Even if you have the skill and ingenuity to develop these routines for yourself, wouldn't you rather just pay fifteen cents apiece for them?

The three Nuts & Bolts disks are available for \$15 each, postpaid, from Tigercub Software, 156 Collingwood Ave., Columbus OH 43213.

COLUMN TOTALS FOR .TL

80 238 242 126 242 238 112

BIT MAP VALUES

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YES! IT'S STILL GOING STRONG!

- DID YOU EVER DREAM OF OWNING A COMPUTER THAT WOULD HAVE
- A POWERFUL DATABASE?
- A SPREADSHEET EQUIVALENT TO THE BIGGEST COMPUTERS?
- AN EXTRAORDINARY WORD PROCESSOR THAT COULD OPEN UP ALL THE POSSIBILITIES OF YOUR PRINTER?
- A HIGH-RES GRAPHICS SCREEN FOR DYNAMIC ARCADE GAMES?
- A DISK-MANAGER THAT COULD DO ALL THE DISK AND FILE MANIPULATIONS USUALLY ONLY FOUND IN MAINFRAMES?
- AN ABILITY TO RUN FORTH AND C AND PASCAL AND LOGO?
- A BUILT-IN LANGUAGE THAT WOULD INCLUDE SUBPROGRAMS AND AUTOMATIC ITEMS NOT EVEN INCLUDED ON THOSE EXPENSIVE MACHINES?
- UNTAPPED "HIDDEN" FEATURES CONSTANTLY BEING UNCOVERED?
- UPDATINGS WITH ALL NEW PERIPHERALS, HARDWARE, SOFTWARE, LOTS AND LOTS OF UNDREAMED-OF FILES AND PROGRAMS FROM MANY SOURCES? AND BE INEXPENSIVE?

If you own a TI-99/4A you ALREADY have that Dream Machine!

Since TI drifted out of the Home Computer market a lot has happened to our powerful machine. For example, there are over 700 companies world-wide now making materials for the TI. Software items are in the tens of thousands! Each month new "discoveries" about the TI are made.

TI user groups continue to flourish, providing the networking for this great, international TI Family.

As a TI owner YOU are a part of that large community of almost 2 1/2 million families. And these families include educators, kids, business people, writers, artists, truck drivers, cooks, parents, cowboys, pilots - in short, just about every kind of human from just about anywhere on Earth. And the software being created almost daily reflects this universality. It is very exciting right now to be a TI owner and watch with amazement to see how much other computer owners pay to achieve what our machine does at 1/100 of the cost (or even less in many instances). We have probably the largest base of Fairware, Public Domain, Groupware, and Freeware programs and files in existence for ANY computer. This, alone, makes the 99 the most affordable, most adaptable, most powerful home computer still around. And the commercial ware gets better and better for you. But only if you take advantage of your ownership!

To find out about your "NEW" TI-99/4A come to a user group meeting on the third Tuesday of every month at the U.Mass Medical Center. Enter the main entrance and follow the yellow M.U.N.C.H. (Massachusetts Users of the Ninety-nine Computer for the Home) signs. We start at 7 PM. We have workshops; demonstrations; new materials; sales tables; libraries of disks, books, tapes, magazines; monthly raffles; lots of family and professional activities. Everyone is welcome. Come along. See if you'd like to join (or rejoin if you've been away for a while). If you do you will receive our monthly newsletter filled with up-to-date info and -FREE! - a choice of disc or tape: The Best of M.U.N.C.H., a collection of unusual programs.



MAKE YOUR OWN FLASH CARDS

by Tony Falco

Last summer a friend came to me with a programming problem. He wanted a program to display arithmetic flash cards, with any numbers, and problems in text book format. It was not as easy a task as I thought it might be, but the string commands in BASIC coupled with T.I. Extended BASIC's DISPLAY AT and ACCEPT AT commands did the job.

The user picks one of three operations. Then he picks his own numbers. Entering <Q> for the first number will end the program. The program works best if the child and parent work at the computer together.

In a future article, I will show how to adapt the program so the computer generates the problems.

```

10 CALL CHAR(104,"FF80808080
BOBOFFFF0101010101FF")
20 DISPLAY AT(12,6)ERASE ALL
:"PICK ONE-->+-x +"
30 ACCEPT AT(12,22)SIZE(-1)V
ALIDATE("+-X")BEEP:OP#
40 CALL CLEAR :: CALL FLASH
:: CALL CHAR(95,"0000FFFF")
50 DISPLAY AT(3,4)SIZE(-6)BE
EP:"RIGHT:" :: DISPLAY AT(3,
15)SIZE(-6):"WRONG:"
60 DISPLAY AT(5,10)SIZE(-6):
"SCORE:"
70 FOR J=12 TO 15 :: DISPLAY
AT(J,1)SIZE(-25):" " :: NEX
T J
80 DISPLAY AT(13,7)SIZE(-1)B
EEP:OP#
90 ACCEPT AT(12,9)VALIDATE(D
IGIT,"Q")SIZE(-4):A#
100 IF A#="Q" THEN 280 ELSE
ACCEPT AT(13,9)VALIDATE(DIGI
T)SIZE(-10):B
110 A=VAL(A#)
120 C=-(A+B)*(OP#="+")-(A*B)
*(OP#="X")-(A-B)*(OP#="-")
130 B#=STR$(B):: C#=STR$(C):
: M=MAX(LEN(A#),LEN(B#)):: N
=MAX(M,LEN(C#))
140 DISPLAY AT(13,1)SIZE(-5)
:" " :: DISPLAY AT(13,7-M+LE
N(A#))SIZE(-10):OP#
150 DISPLAY AT(13,9+LEN(A#)-
LEN(B#))SIZE(-10):B#
160 DISPLAY AT(14,8+LEN(A#)-
N)SIZE(-10):RPT$(CHR$(95),N+
2)
170 ACCEPT AT(15,9+LEN(A#)-L
EN(C#))SIZE(-LEN(C#))VALIDAT
E(DIGIT,"-")BEEP:D
180 IF D=C THEN R=R+1 :: CAL
L SAY("#THAT IS RIGHT"):: CA
LL DELAY(200):: GOTO 250
190 DISPLAY AT(12,19)SIZE(-L
EN(A#)):A#
200 DISPLAY AT(13,17-M+LEN(A
#))SIZE(-1):OP#
210 DISPLAY AT(13,19+LEN(A#)
-LEN(B#))SIZE(-LEN(B#)):B#
220 DISPLAY AT(14,18+LEN(A#)
-N)SIZE(-9):RPT$(CHR$(95),N+
2)
230 DISPLAY AT(15,19+LEN(A#)
-LEN(C#))SIZE(-LEN(C#)):C# :
: W=W+1
240 CALL SAY("#THAT IS INCOR
RECT"):: CALL DELAY(700)
250 S=INT(100*R/(W+R)+.5)
260 DISPLAY AT(3,10)SIZE(3):
R :: DISPLAY AT(3,21)SIZE(-3
):W
270 DISPLAY AT(5,17)SIZE(-4)
:STR$(S)&"%" :: GOTO 70
280 CALL SAY(STR$(R)):: CALL
SAY("CORRECT AND"):: CALL S
AY(STR$(W))
290 CALL SAY("NOT CORRECT"):
: CALL CLEAR :: END
300 SUB DELAY(X):: FOR D=1 T
O X :: NEXT D :: SUBEND
310 SUB FLASH :: CALL SCREEN
(12):: FOR Z=1 TO 8 :: CALL
COLOR(Z,2,15):: NEXT Z
320 CALL COLOR(9,2,2,10,12,1
2):: CALL HCHAR(1,1,104,768)
330 FOR Z=2 TO 6 :: CALL HCH
AR(Z,5,32,22):: NEXT Z
340 FOR Z=10 TO 18 :: CALL H
CHAR(Z,3,32,27):: NEXT Z
350 CALL HCHAR(7,6,96,22)::
CALL VCHAR(3,27,96,4)
360 CALL HCHAR(19,4,96,27)::
CALL VCHAR(11,30,96,8):: SU
BEND

```

from the center in any direction for 15 minutes you are in flat farm country, a scattered house every few miles. It is a hundred miles to the nearest airport (Dayton) and many hundreds of miles from a lot of Ohio's biggest cities. (Ohio has Akron, Toledo, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus and lots of other cities larger than Lima.)

The Lima Group formed in 1984 and, after almost four years, has 15 local members and five corresponding members. There are only family memberships with full privileges (home or away) at \$15. This entitles each member to a newsletter that contains ONLY new material. Disks of the latest PD and Fairware software are often mailed with the monthly issues. Several new disks of material are usually added to the library at each monthly meeting. They still have an active tape library over over 450 very full tapes for those members without drives. The Lima disk/tape catalog is descriptive, rather than just number and/or title, so you can get what you want without guessing.

Dr. Charles Good (paleobotanist and Associate Professor at the Lima Campus) is the spearhead of this very close, hard-working organization. He keeps in direct touch with active Tiers around the world. He, along with President Dave Azippl, organized the Lima Confab (which they call "The Multi-User Group Conference" but everyone else calls the "Lima TI Fair.")

This model user group is unusual in more ways than just bringing the mountain to Mohamed, so to speak. First and foremost, even after spending a weekend with them, I saw no signs of in-fighting, no struggle for power, no pretension. Everyone takes turn being president or another office. The libraries of disks and tapes and newsletters are kept at members' houses. Only a call is needed to pick up the whole shebang. So everyone gets to read all the newsletters (BB&P has a growing exchange.) or dub the tapes or copy the disks. Calls let members know what's new and available. Dropping off and picking up stuff at each other's homes just adds to the overall comradeship of this tight-knit group.

When I asked Charlie why Lima, as host of this event, didn't use it to make lots of money for the group, here is what he said:

"People and groups keep sending stuff to us. I really believe that this free exchange of software and other information is the way to keep our user groups alive and healthy.

"This same philosophy of minimal cost is why we

didn't charge for our conference. At many TI Faires across the country it seems to me that the organizers feel they are doing the attendees and exhibitors a favor by setting up the show. We feel that those who attend our show are doing US a favor by sharing with us their expertise and bringing to us in Lima their software and hardware to sell. So we will try to make it as convenient as possible for those who attend."

What an attitude!

TI PRIDE!

If what I saw of the people in Ohio is any test, the TI world is in good hands for a long time to come.

The really good news is that a second annual event is scheduled for next year. For those who can make it, I'd recommend going. If you can't make it, do the next best thing: join this great group by mail. It's one of the best TI investments you and the exchange librarian of your user group could make. (\$15 a year for the monthly issues and disks and lots more: Charles W. Good, Box 647, Venedocia, OH, 45894. And tell him IMPACT sent you.)

HELPFUL HINT OF THE MONTH

This is from the new ASGARD NEWS magazine (Asgard Software, P.O.Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20850 - quarterly - \$6 per year):

"Print Help For Gemini Users

"Do you have a Star printer?. To be more to the point - do you get ugly white horizontal lines on your screen dumps of GRAPHX or TI-Artist?"

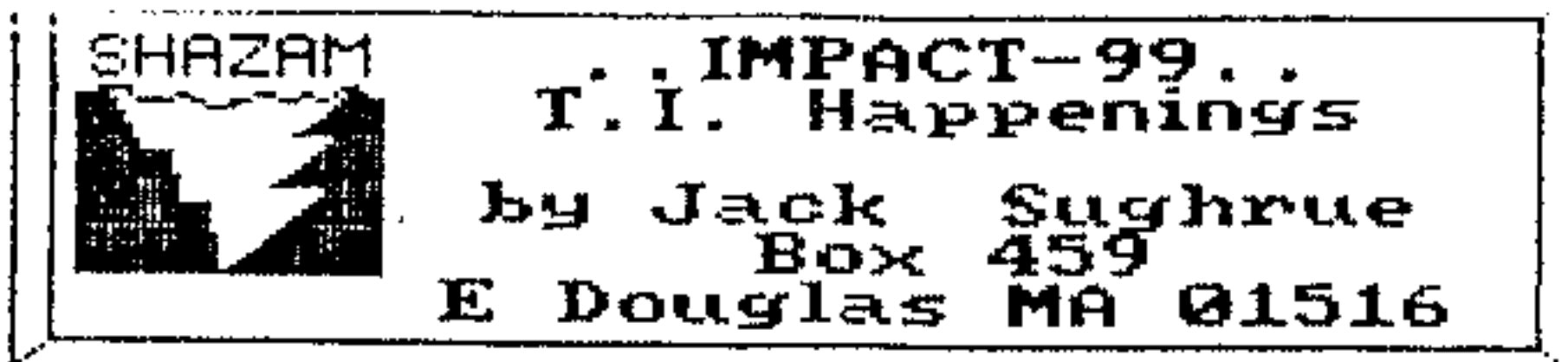
Type in the following program, save it, and run it with your printer on before using your artist programs.

```
10 INPUT "TURN ON PRINTER AN
D PRESS ENTER..":A$
20 OPEN #1:"PIO",OUTPUT
30 PRINT #1:CHR$(27);"A";CHR
$(6)
40 CLOSE #1.
```

Problem solved. I load it before using MAX-RLE and dumping stuff for our newsletter. Just great!

FOR SALE: Epson MX-80 printer with both serial and parallel inputs and full-graphics capability. Get the Epson quality and durability. In excellent condition. Paid \$400 new. Asking \$197. Call Bruce Willard at 617-852-3250, or write to 1 Marston Ave., Worcester, MA 01606.

FOR SALE: Bill Dougherty, our Bolton member, is offering the following for sale: P.E.Box, 32K, RS232, Model 850 Epson Printer, Console, Joysticks, Monitor. Prefer to sell all, but will sell individual items if offer is reasonable. 779-5003.



A "LITTLE" FAIR

I had an interesting TI experience a couple weeks ago. In a way it was unexpected, though I certainly don't know why.

The event was the Free TI Fair in Lima, Ohio. It was sponsored, organized, and run by a dozen or so men who comprise the Lima User's Group.

The EVENT was the best TI faire I have ever attended, and it succeeded beyond everyone's wildest dreams. (There were between 350 and 400 who attended, about the same number who attended the N.E. Fayuh this year.) But it was not the numbers, alone, that made Lima such a success. Nor the fact that the participants came from all around the U.S. (Chatting with me at my table were people from Louisiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Canada, Indiana, Illinois, New York, Michigan, and many others I can't recall.) And Lima was an event that did not get the usual hoopla and hype that often attends the big fairs in Chicago, Boston, Dallas, L.A., Las Vegas, etc.)

What really made this a great success was the fellowship. Everybody was there for a good time. There were no luminaries (in the sense that superstars were created for the occasion), though there certainly were a lot of talented and interesting people demonstrating and sharing. I guess "sharing" was the secret word. Though I listened to a lot of people that day, I did not hear a single complaint. No one talked negatively about anyone else. There was no deviousness; there were no ripoffs. Instead, there were positive vibes rippling throughout the halls of ivy the entire day. Lima gave to all who attended a real TI charge.

The place - Ohio State University, Lima Campus - had to be physically the most ideal place for such goings-on. The huge, clean, artistically beautiful hall provided more than ample room for all the user groups and vendors. It was light and airy and devoid of the squeezing crunch so common to these fairs. The classroom/auditorium had a podium, comfortable seats, a large, easy-to-see monitor, and excellent lighting. The food service, the clean tables to eat at (far from the madding throngs), the additional service machines, all added to the enjoyment.

And the day! It was a perfect, blue-sky, warm Ohio spring day. Attendees drifted in and out the the main building to stroll around the beautiful campus or sit on the numerous benches in sun or shade and delight in just being there.

It was grand! It was recuperative therapy just participating in all that had been provided.

What had been provided?

Everything!

The small Lima group had provided all the tables any group (or individual) needed with ample outlets. They provided signs already up and in place at every single table. And complete systems in many cases, for at-table demos (which went on all day, too). These hosts seemed to be everywhere, on call, to provide the myriad tasks required of well-organized events.

There were excellent demos every half hour: things like Irwin Hott's remarkable setup of TIing for the blind, Jim Peterson's normally wonderful demo (this time his latest NUTS 'n BOLTS), Bud Mills's Horizon Ram, and so on. These events were announced through a system everyone could hear clearly, so there couldn't be a chance of missing anything. Plus, there were ample signs and posters everywhere of all the upcoming events.

For many who were so busy they couldn't fit all the demos in, the Lima Group again provided: FREE videos of the entire five hours of demonstrations and talks!

Not surprising. Everything else was also free. There was no admission charge, so people could come and go freely. There were no charges for tables for user groups, individuals, or commercial outfits. And these people could have as many tables as they wished. No charge, either, for the many signs. There wasn't a charge, either, for the raffles of soft and hardware drawn every half hour. The Lima entourage didn't even charge people for getting ANYTHING they wanted from the vast Lima library (probably one of the biggest in the country).

Two "World Premier" were made at the fair: the very latest 4.1 of FUNNELWEB sent directly by Tony McGovern and the newest DISK UTILITIES of John Birdwell. Charles Good, who acted as host of the affair, demonstrated both. Both disks will be released to the public soon.

Ohio seems to have more active TIers per capita than any other state in the Union. For me to have an opportunity to go there and meet all these people with whom I had corresponded (some for years) was a thrill I did not want to miss: Charlie Good, editor of the marvelously unique (and decidedly eccentric) BITS, BYTES & PIXELS; Jean Hall, editor of the classy SPIRIT OF 99; Deanna Sheridan, editor of the fresh and informative CLEVELAND AREA TI99-4A USER GROUPS NEWSLETTER; Irwin Hott of CONNI (and his seeing-eye friend, Tonka); and, of course, Gentleman Jim Peterson, "Mr. T.I." There were many, many others I got to see again (people like the legendary Mickey Schmitt, who will probably become to TI Adventurers what Larry Bird has become to basketball).

"How did all this TI excitement take place in the middle of nowhere?" as one of my friends who has never been to Ohio asked when I described the event.

Some background was definitely needed to explain this happening in this particular place.

Lima is a city of 48,000. When you drive straight

JULY 12, 1988 / IN OUR NEW CLUBHOUSE!

MUNCH OFFICERS AND NUMBERS (all in 617 area)

President/Mail	W.C. Wyman	839-4134
Vice President	Helen Holmes	
Secretary	Al Cecchini	
Treasurer	Jim Cox	869-2704
Editor/Lugger	Jack Sughrue	476-7630
Adv Prog. Chair	Dan Rogers	248-5502
Fronners	Non-members of M.U.N.C.H.	
Library	Al/Lisa Cecchini	
Disk/Nwsltr Lib	Louis/Helen Holmes	
Tape Librarian	Walter Nowak	
Hangerrounder	Munch Man	323-5464
Funny Lists	Dripping Dracula	
Swell Gang	Our Neato Membership	

PRIMETIME BBS (617) 397-9563
Helen Holmes, SYSOP

>message base
>on-line golf game
>downloads
>info files
>soon to have IMPACT/99
>list of government agencies
>and much more

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 clearing 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. Godzilla is watching you!

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.

....RAFFLE....

Every month we have this peachy-keen raffle of all kinds of neat stuff given by our generous members and friends. All kinds of software and sometimes hardware are given away free each meeting. The dollar donation helps to defray some of the costs of our monthly rent at the clubhouse, so all members who participate help a lot. Donations are happily accepted. Remember: YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!

JULY SALE

Another chance to sell any used consoles, P/Boxes, cards, tape recorders, interface cables, ANYTHING related to your computer system. Also bring any original tapes, cartridges, disks, texts, or other soft/textware. Be prepared to buy a lot and sell a lot. Please come with prices marked on the items. Call Jack Sughrue to let him know what you will be selling. Next month you may find that TI thing you've been needing.

NEWSLETTER

BECOME IMMORTAL! We are looking for articles, cartoons, love letters, programs, lists, old banana peels: in short, anything from the members which can be printed in our newsletter. Text items preferred on SSSD disk through TIW. Printed items also accepted. Share your interest or expertise with other members. Mail all items by the 3rd Tuesday of each month to Jack Sughrue, Box 459, E. Douglas MA 01516. Disks will be returned at the next meeting.

NEWSALS + RENEWALS

NEWSALS are \$15/year plus a one-time \$10 initiation fee (which includes a choice of ANY club disk free); RENEWALS are \$15/year. Members have full use of disk/text libraries, free workshops+assistance, 12 full issues of M.U.N.C.H., voting privileges + more! Subscription alone is \$10/year. Mail check to address on cover.
