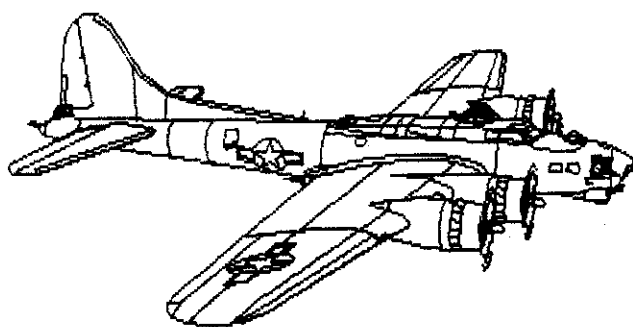


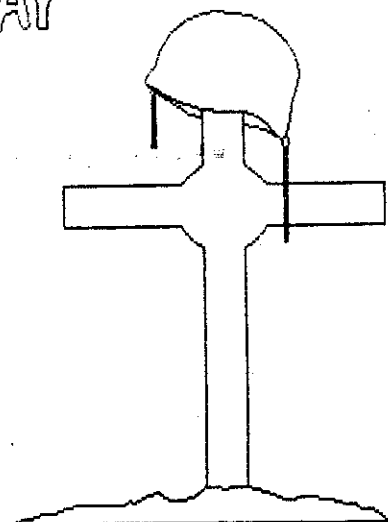
SLAVES AND OTIUG NEWSLETTER



HAPPY MOTHERS DAY



ARMEDFORCES DAY



MEMORIAL DAY

MAY

1992

What's Happenin'

by

Joe T. Masarone
(Pres. TI SLaves)

Excuse...I need an excuse! I'm sorry I have none. I've been a baddd boy! Wait! I have several; I took some time to investigate several hotels in the metropolitan Salt Lake City area for our Users' Group hosting of Fest West '93 (North). I have also been to Philadelphia for my younger brother's wedding. I was best man. REAL reason: I've been a baddd boy!

Okay. I'm three articles behind and I have very little new "news". As you all should be well aware of by now, we are proud to be hosting the West's major TI event of next year; Fest West. As you should also know we need all the help we can get. Hopefully you are all on at least one committee. For a select few, you may be supporters "at-large". Our sister group OTIUG is a co-sponsor

(regardless of how the newsletter makes it sound!) O.K. It was their idea, but we're (TI SLaves) in. So Mel, (editor) remember this when you go to print the next Newsletter.

Membership Stats

Did you know..... our current membership role has only 17 active dues-paying members, but our attendance for the March '92 meeting was 76%. Our attendance for 1992 averages 77%. Last year, our average membership was 23 with a 52% attendance. These numbers don't appear very good. But, if you add that in August 1986 we had 68 paid members. The attendance for that month was 18! That equates to 26%. (8/86 oldest stats of record. Our group is several years older.) Now those first numbers don't look that bad. We have a definite hard core

group. I know many of the guys (SLaves doesn't have a female member at this time) have other machines but our Group is as much social oriented as it is Tier. Another good reason why the next Fest West will be great! Party... Party... Party...

I'll furnish more pieces on Fest West '93 (North), for our readers, as they become available. Or, should I say, as soon as we put the pieces together. The hotel is set. The date is set.

Other Stuff...

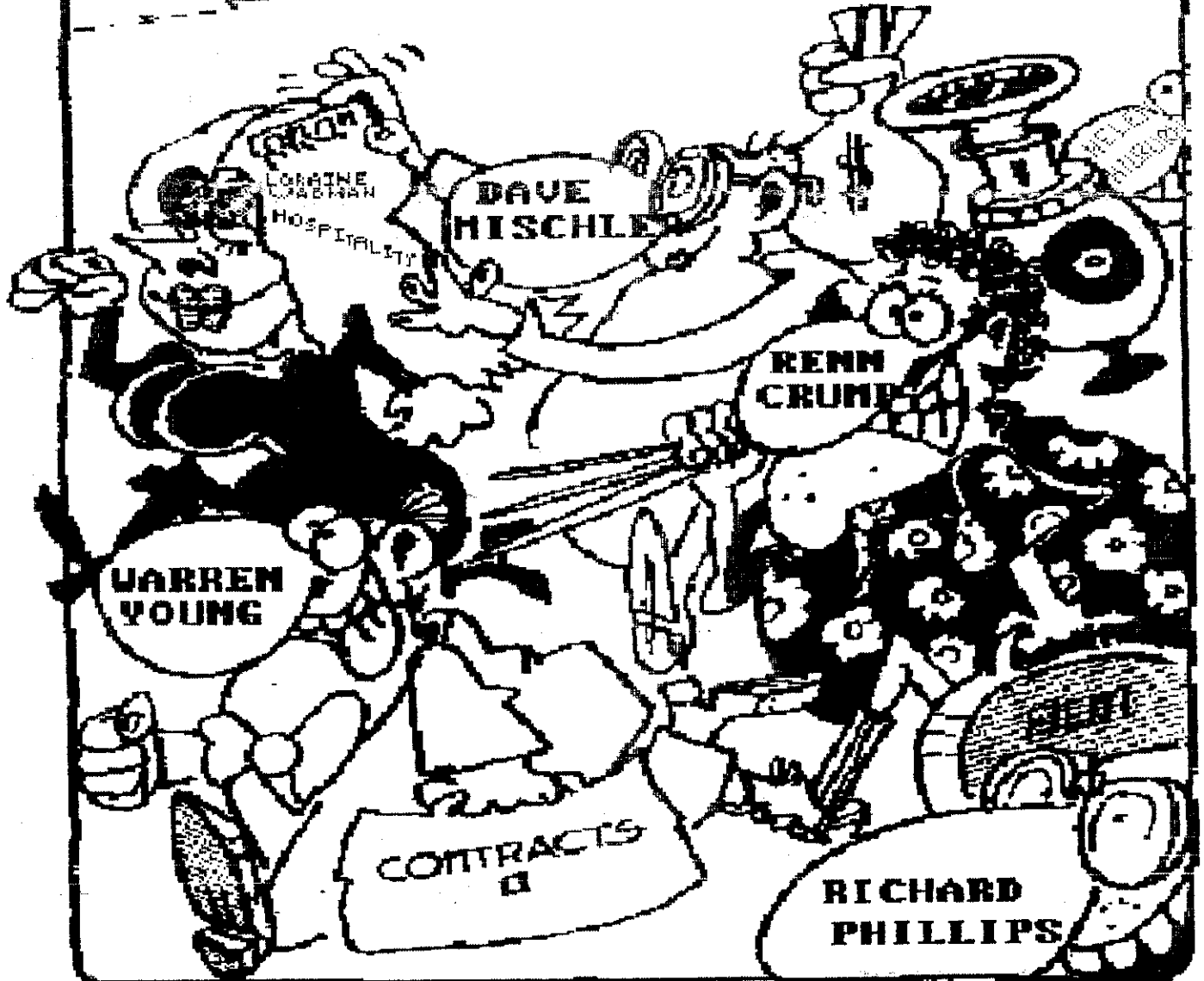
Bill McConnell, that is, W.F.X.M, is laid up with an old war wound. He has the only legitimate excuse for missing the last couple of meetings. In April, You, missed our "Best Games" demo and committee assignments for FW. May...who knows...

...Paving the way for FEST WEST "NORTH" 93

Producers, Directors, And
Agents are moving in!

there goes
the fest west
gang...

MEL
BRAGO
DAVE
DEEER
JOE
MISARNE



FEST WEST "NORTH" '93

The Best Fest in the West!!!

Ten months from now, on February 13th and 14th will be the TI Festival event of the year. Fest West "NORTH" '93.

The event is scheduled to be held at the Howard Johnsons Hotel located at 122 West South Temple right in the downtown community of Salt Lake City, Utah. The hotel is offering us discounted rates on the rooms of \$55.00 for one or two people and \$62.50 for three to four people. The event will begin at 9:00 AM Saturday morning. But, let's not forget Friday night the 12th. We will have a Hospitality room set up for everyone to come to and pre-register, have a snack and just lounge around and meet new people in the TI community from around the world.

Vendors will be allowed to set up their displays and systems on Friday. Door prizes will be given away on both Saturday and Sunday during the event with a drawing for grand prizes on Sunday evening. There will be lectures given by various people of the TI community along with "How to Do It" seminars throughout the weekend.

The Howard Johnsons Hotel is located just one block away from the famous Mormon Temple, the first one built, and the LDS Genealogy library, the largest genealogical library in the world. Plus, you will be within a short walking distance to downtown Salt Lake, one

block away from one of the largest shopping malls in Salt Lake and just a couple of blocks from the DELTA center, home of the Utah Jazz.

We are checking into other activities that may be scheduled during the same weekend, but we don't want you to forget your skiing equipment. Utah has some of the most fabulous skiing anywhere and this may be the opportunity that you've been waiting for to try out Park City, Alta or one of the many other ski resorts located within the beautiful Wasatch mountain range. You can also rent ski equipment at all of the resorts or any of the downtown sports shops.

The weather in February is still very cold in Utah, so don't forget to bring a warm coat and gloves. We don't normally receive alot of new snow that time of the year, but do expect some snow flurries. You can be assured that the road conditions will be very good and the friendship here in Utah to be very warm.

We only have 40 rooms reserved at the Howard Johnsons so please make your reservations soon as February is still well within Utah's ski season and the rooms may go real fast. There are several other motel/hotels within a short walking distance to the Howard Johnsons and any of the Fest West "NORTH" '93 staff will be willing to assist you with your needs.

There will be a consignment table set up where you can sell your excess TI stuff for just a small fee. If you desire to take advantage of this table,

please bring or send us your items along with your asking price and your lowest acceptance price and we will be glad to try and market your products for you.

The event for '93 is being hosted by the Ogden TI Users Group (OTIUG) and the Salt Lake and Valley Users Group (SLaVES). You can receive current and up to date information from future Newsletters published as a joint effort of both groups or you may call the Salt Flats PBBS in Ogden, Utah at 801-394-0064 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We operate at 3/12/2400 baud and, if you sign on using a TI-99/4A, you will receive full access to the BBS.

Please plan on joining us next year for the "Best Fest in the West" at Fest West "NORTH" '93 in beautiful downtown Salt Lake City.

To make reservations, call toll free 1-800-366-3684. For more information call or write to "The Fest West "NORTH" '93 Committee", % Mr. Mel Bragg, 1396 Lincoln Ave. Apt B, Ogden, Utah 84401 (801-393-9605) or Dave DeHeer, 1775 22nd Street, Ogden, Utah 84401 (801-394-6815).

SCREEN PREVIEW FIX

Current owners of Screen Preview can quickly modify their version of Screen Preview to allow formatting of Bold and Underline statements by doing the following:

1. Load the CONFIG stored on the program disk into TI-Writer's editor.

2. Modify the lines so they appear as follows:

```
71
0
45
49
72
0
45
48
0
```

3. Save the file to disk with the same filename using the PF option.

The program will now process & and @ characters in your text with no difficulty. For TI-99/4A users who implement this change, the upgrade announced above is unnecessary. This suggestion is courtesy of Brad Snyder.

ttc the taylor company
hardware software

1233 N Mesa Drive #2118
Mesa, AZ 85201 (602)464-0354

Dear Computer Enthusist,

On 16 February 1992, in Phoenix, Arizona a new era in computing will begin. On that day ttc will introduce the "aTI", "xTI", and "mTI" which represents an advanced expanded and multimedia respectively version of Texas Instruments 99/4A home computer which was discontinued in October 1983. The 99/4A was chosen because many of its powerful capabilities lay dormant until this event. More importantly, the 99/4A is a concept computer, ttc is developing this concept herewith to be known as "Concept 99". Like any new business I must have customers to survive but the dwindling base of 99/4A users may prevent Concept 99 from developing fully. I need your support.

The majority of Concept 89 software is under the trademark "t_ware" and is easily recognisable. I have developed core modules (usable but in no way user friendly) for the following t_ware:

t_draw (a drawing program)	t_chess (a chess program)
t_font (a bit map font program)	t_sked (a schedule program)
t_base (a dbase manager)	t_write (a word processor)
t_learn (language tutor program: Nid-East, European, slavic, asian)	

I can use these programs but to make them marketable, they must be completed, tested and most importantly have manuals written. To accomplish the above task I must know where to concentrate my resources. Please let me know for which program you would be willing to make a deposit in order to support continued development. Use the address above to correspond.

Also, if you are aware of any group willing to pay for custom software (especially, educational), I'm available to discuss terms.

Thank You,
Chris Taylor

owner, etc

Myarc working with consumer office

By LAURA BURNS

A New Jersey county consumer office has been working with Myarc to help resolve customer complaints.

Lou Phillips of Myarc Inc. responded Feb. 28 to a summons to appear in the Somerset County, New Jersey, Consumer Affairs Division office, according to Georgette M. Rooney, investigator for the office.

Rooney says she has had four complaints regarding Myarc in her office. As of April 4, three complaints had been resolved and one was pending. The complaints included three from United States customers and one from England.

As of April 10, Richard Arthur of Florida, with the outstanding complaint, says his Hard and Floppy Disk Controller has still not been returned from Myarc. He says he had received an HFDC card Jan. 13, 1992, which was an older version of the one he had sent for repair in March 1991, without the streamer tape connections his card had. Arthur returned the card March 2, 1992, he says, including \$7 for second-day air shipping of the original card.

Rooney says Phillips was subpoenaed along with all his records. She says that the postmaster at the Basking Ridge, New Jersey, post office where Myarc maintains a post office box told her that the box is still open, but that the mail is not being picked up. Myarc maintains a telephone listing at which a recorded message directs customers to send inquiries to the post office box and repairs to 50 Darren Woods Dr., Martinsville, NJ 08836.

Rooney says Phillips had brought in a stack of unopened mail to Myarc to her office. However, she says that since he was subpoenaed, he provided her with a list of about 30 persons with outstanding repairs and has continued to update her as to the status of the persons on the list.

From persons dealing with Myarc, she notes, "I've heard nothing, but good reviews about the product. The fact that they can't get the service is what is bothering them."

As long as Myarc remains in business, she says, persons with complaints about the company's consumer service can contact her at County of Somerset Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 3000, Somerville, NJ 08876 or (908) 231-7000, ext. 7402. Fax (908) 707-4127.

Rooney says she has not found out whether Phillips expects to continue selling and repair of Myarc products. She says she has told Phillips he needs to consult a lawyer and come up with a decision about whether to stay in business.

"As far as I am concerned, he is still in business at this point in time," she says.

She notes that Myarc is basically a one-person operation, with Phillips working on the business when he has time apart from his other work.

A message was left on a recorder on a number listed for Phillips, and a certified letter sent to the Martinsville address, but MICROpendium had received no comment from him as of press time.

"Life and Times"

spread the word
Copyright © 1992
by Richard P. Phillips
and the SLaVes & OTTUG UGs

It was shortly after Texas Instruments announced that they were getting out of the home computer business that I joined my first user group, the TI SLaVes of Utah. It's now many years later, and I've been an on and off member at best, but I *am* a member.

Judging from the sheer number of people that joined the group soon after *Black Friday*¹, I'm certain I wasn't the only one worried about the future of the TI-99/4A. You see, our meetings were held in a *LARGE* conference room within the Mountain Bell building, and the place was always packed to the rafters.

At that time I can't remember anyone asking, "how do we find new members?" Membership simply wasn't a concern. At least not enough of a concern to openly voice at the meetings. Although at the time we might not have known it, we had a big advantage. Even after TI called it quits, many merchants still had 99/4A's they wanted to sell. Furthermore, Texas Instruments had a repair center in Salt Lake. These places, willingly or unwillingly, acted as

¹ the day that TI announced their retreat from the home computer market has come to be known as 'Black Friday.'

information dissemination centers for our user group. This became clear to me when I discovered that most of the new members found out about the group from either local TI merchants, or the SLaVes notice posted at the TI repair center

Here in the 90's these options are virtually gone. Almost everything sold for our TI must be purchased via mail order. And while I can't speak for any other cities, the TI repair center in Salt Lake has closed up shop. For most of us, there is no longer a central gathering place outside of our user group.

None of this is inherently bad unless you consider that as a community, we no longer have a way of letting other TIers know of our existence.

Imagine this scenario... Somewhere in your city, someone at a local thrift store or yard sale has just picked up a 99/4A. Is there any chance at all that he or she will find out about your user group? Probably not. And without help, what happens when our hypothetical user tries to make their TI work? Bear in mind: manuals probably didn't come with the machine, I doubt it had a cassette cable, and certainly there was no software. I'll consider our user lucky if a power supply and RF modulator were bundled with the console. What does he or she do? Probably give up!

And saddest of all is that I'm certain this very thing happens all the time.

If the rules of the game have changed then we must to adapt to survive. And the rules *have* changed.

OTTUG member Mel Bragg came up with a good idea. He created a UG promotional flyer that is designed to be posted at any public gathering place². It's a shotgun approach to advertising, so it must be posted in a *lot* of locations before you can hope to see any results. But if the flyer is an eye catcher, it will work.

Also, consider obtaining permission to *jam* a copy of the flyer into each console at your local thrift store.

I visit the local thrifts about once a month in hopes of finding a gem³, and I usually discover that there are far more consoles available than I can use. But when I make my rounds the following month, the inventory of TI stuff has usually changed. Somebody's buying the consoles! And these *somebody's* need our help. We can either reach these people, or watch our membership decline. It's our choice.

—Rick

² such as supermarkets, parks, sports arenas, any place that has a public bulletin board.

³ I've picked up printers, cartridges, spare consoles, hard drives, even a damaged laser printer.

MDOS Buy-Out

by Beery Miller, 9640 News

Let's Buy MDOS!!
Let's Buy MDOS!!

At the urging of many people, discussion is presently underway with Lou Phillips and Paul Charlton to buy the rights to MDOS source code.

Many people will wonder WHY!!! There are many answers, some of which you are probably already aware. To begin with, it has been over two years since any version of MDOS has been officially released. Those versions that have been released, 1.14F and 0.97H have several, if not many, bugs that must be programmed around to function properly with other programs. There have been many bugs that have been patched, modified, etc. so that the system will "run". This is not acceptable and we, the users and owners of the Geneve must act now to keep our machine alive and growing.

Nearly a year ago, discussion was initiated with Paul Charlton concerning the possibility of buying MDOS. At that time, the cost was \$10,000. This was too large of a sum for any individual to pursue. It still is too much for any single individual to pursue. As a group (Geneve owners and TI-99/4A enthusiasts), we have in our grasp the potential to buy the rights ourselves and complete the development we desire. This will not be a cheap or easy task to perform.

Currently, many people have voiced support by offering to donate \$25, \$50, \$100, \$200, and up to \$250 to aid in the purchase of MDOS. Myself, I am "kicking-in" \$100 plus my personal time for these acquisitions and negotiations. I want to improve the Geneve and I hope you do too.

On March 12, 1992 Lou Phillips returned my latest phone call regarding the acquisition. He felt things would work out if the money was raised on my end and felt the price tag may be less than originally estimated. How much less, I don't know.

I plan on negotiating for the following from Lou Phillips and Paul Charlton:

- 1) Latest fully commented source to 1.14F and 0.97H on floppy diskette and modifications if they are available.
- 2) All utilities (assemblers, linkers, debuggers, scripts, etc) required to compile and run the operating system.
- 3) Insure that source I receive works with existing applications and versions of MDOS.
- 4) Require "hand" delivery. This will probably require a personal trip to meet with Lou Phillips and Paul Charlton to receive files. I do not want to depend upon the mail service to handle negotiations. This will protect me, and it will protect your investment.
- 5) Routines (>2x) that need de-bugging for HFDC support.

Where will the source code go??? Good question. There are many programmers that have expressed

desire in developing or finishing where Paul Charlton left off. I will coordinate (and program too) the development with several of the talented programmers that exist to finish what should have been finished many years ago. This will be a group and cooperative effort. At this time, I see no reason why contributors shouldn't have access to the source code. For some, the code will be useless. For others, it will aid them in their knowledge of assembly language and creating other new and exciting applications. Not knowing the volume of interest in diskette copies of the source, I will say that once I receive the source, if you send me floppies and return postage or equivalent, I will send you a copy of the source code (this assumes you made an initial contribution for the purchase of MDOS). DON'T SEND DISKETTES NOW!!! Wait until it is in hand.

There are several things that will need to be discussed. First and foremost, is the release of official MDOS's from those writing the code in the development group. Unofficial releases will probably be released by different people, but we must do our best as a group to identify these copies.

In the next 30 to 60 days, I expect negotiations and a possible contract to be "in-hand". In order for me to pursue an agreement, I need your support now. This will be the last opportunity we have before it's too late. We must make this an open operating system for the Geneve to survive.

As a side issue, and something some people are going to think is "Why should I pay for something I should already have received from Myarc?" Short of suing Myarc AND Paul Charlton, this is the other alternative. Any lawsuit against Myarc will probably crumble and dissolve Myarc, leaving nothing for us except for empty pockets. The route of buying the rights to the operating system gives us hope and a longer future. If I have convinced you, then please do the following:

- 1) Write a check out for what you feel is appropriate.
- 2) My address is as follows: Beery Miller / 9640 News PO Box 752465, Memphis, TN 38175-2465.
- 3) Enclose a stamped self-addressed return ENVELOPE. This will be used to notify you of the acquisition and/or where we stand.
- 4) Once your check is received, it will be deposited into a special account separate from any other personal or business account so that I will receive no "surprises" once acquisition takes place. Any interest that is made from here will support some of the necessary phone calls and travel expenses that are expected to take place in acquisition.

Once MDOS has been purchased, numbers will be crunched tallying people's contributions and returning unspent money, if contributions exceed purchase price and expenses. DON'T DELAY!!! Be THE FIRST ON YOUR BLOCK TO OWN AN OPERATING SYSTEM TO A COMPUTER. (grin) If you are able to support this, please send your check as soon as possible. A delay could inhibit or cancel these plans and forever keep us with our current operating system.

91/92 Financial Account for Ogden TI Users Group:

1991/1992 Income	1991	1992	
Memberships Income	\$208.35	20.00	228.35
Telephone Income	190.00	132.76	322.76
Discs sales	119.50	37.00	156.50
Book sales	26.50	-- --	26.50
Calendar sales	56.00	13.00	69.00
Misc. Income	\$321.15	---	321.15
	-----	-----	-----
Total	921.50	202.76	1124.76

1991/1992 Expenses

Telephone (incl. instal. 66.50)	\$290.12	99.14	322.76
Equipment	157.90	-- --	157.90
Disc	95.00	-- --	95.00

Misc:

1st 4 checks '91	141.75		
Picnic	130.00		
New checks	8.00		
Annual State report	15.00		
Intern'l Users Ad	15.00		
Calendars	80.00		
Newsletters	70.00	45.00	45.00
Postage		6.09	
	459.75		
	-----	-----	-----

TOTALS

1002.77 150.23 1153.00

1990 Balance	\$227.38
1991/1992 Income	1124.76

	\$1352.14
Checks written in 1991	1153.00

Balance	199.14
Difference to balance	9.28

Check book balance as of 4/20/92	208.42

Submitted by:

Helen Hilburn. Sec/Treas.

TI SLAVES AND OGDEN TI USERS GROUPS OFFICERS

TI SLAVES

PRESIDENT-----JOE MASARONE 966-3694
VICE PRES-----WARREN YOUNG 278-1052
SEC/TREAS-----RENN CRUMP 966-7144
LIBRARIAN-----RENN CRUMP 966-7144
ASST. LIB.-----
NEWSLETTER EDITOR FOR BOTH GROUPS-----

OGDEN TI USERS GROUP

LORRAINE WADMAN 825-7690
DAVE MISCHLER 782-1004
HELEN HILBURN 773-0622
LINDA ROBINSON 621-8975
MEL BRAGG 393-9605
MEL BRAGG 393-9605

MAY 1992 NEWSLETTER

TI SLAVES

OUR NEXT MEETING IS MAY 16TH
1992 AT 9:00 am WE MEET IN
THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
HALL AT 273 E. 800 S. PLEASE
BE THERE PROMPTLY.!!

WE COULD USE YOUR HELP WITH
FEST WEST "NORTH" 93.

OGDEN TI USERS GROUP

OUR NEXT MEETING IS MAY 2ND
AT 9:00 am and MAY 19TH
AT 7:00 pm.

WE MEET AT THE OGDEN
MUNICIPAL AIRPORT IN THE
FIRST BUILDING JUST EAST OF
THE NEW TOWER. HELP!!! US
WITH FEST WEST "NORTH" 93

OKI FOLKS, WE ARE HOSTING FEST WEST "NORTH" 93. SO WE
REALLY DO NEED HELP FROM ALL USER GROUP MEMBERS, FROM BOTH
GROUPS. COME ON OUT TO THE MEETINGS AND GET AN ASSIGNMENT
IT'S GOING TO BE A LOT OF FUN AND HARD WORK. BE PART OF
FEST WEST "NORTH" 93.

Slaves & Oting
1386 Lincoln APT B
Ogden, Utah 84404

