

QB Monitor



QB99er's User Group Newsletter

MAY & APRIL 1991

The OB99'ers meet on the second Saturday of each month, September through May, at Queensborough Community College, Bayside, Queens, New York. Meetings begin at 2 P.M. Calendar at right shows next meeting date...

MAY 1991						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

CONTENTS:

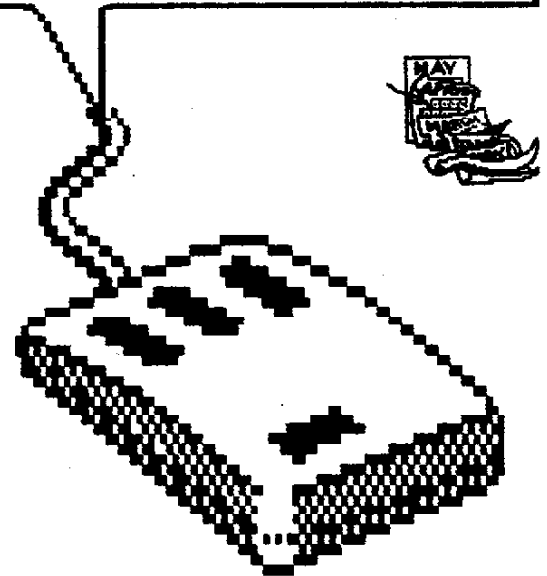
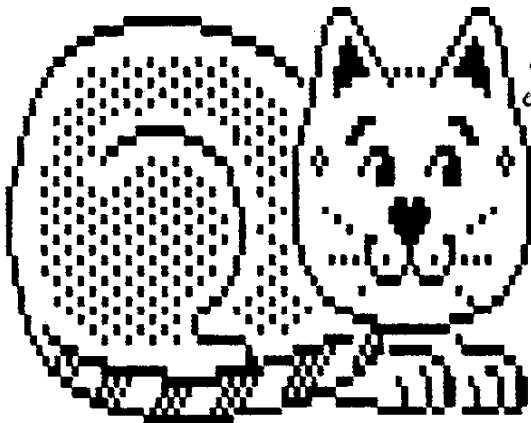
THE DARK THEORY.....Pg 2
 TEX TALKER.....Pg 3
 ARE YOU GETTING OLDER?.....Pg 4
 BURMA SHAVE SIGNS.....Pg 5
 MIND READER.....Pg 6
 WORD TEST FUN.....Pg 7
 DEAR JOHN LETTER.....Pg 8
 TICOFF '91 PHOTOS.....Pg 9
 ARE WE HAVING FUN YET?.....Pg 10
 FREE SUBSCRIPTION OFFER.....Pg 11



THEY CAN'T FOOL ME



WITH A CALICO CAT!



The QB-MONITOR, the Newsletter of the QB-99ers' Groups in exchange for their User Group Newsletter, Queensborough Community College, Bayside N.Y. 11364.

DEAR USER GROUP:

PRODUCTION & EDITORIAL PROBLEMS FORCE US TO DISCONTINUE OUR NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE. THIS IS NOT AN APRIL FOOL JOKES! WE HAVE ENJOYED THE EXCHANGE AND FOUND IT REMARKING. WE HOPE YOU HAVE ALSO. HOPEFULLY WE WILL EVENTUALLY SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS AND RESUME PUBLISHING AND EXCHANGING NEWSLETTERS. UNTIL THEN MAY THE GOOD 4'S BE WITH YOU.

it to other Users
 nsborough
 stings.

THE DARK THEORY

By Earl Raguse

New Armstrong, Consult'g

From ROM - UBOC Newsletter



Dark is the natural state of things. To make anything visible to the human eye, you must remove Dark. If you doubt this, go into a windowless dark-tight room, where no Dark can escape. You will not be able to see anything. Now if the sun is up, and you open a small crack in the room, some of the dark will leak out and you will be able to see large objects. If you make the crack large enough, the sun will suck up all the dark and you can then see things clearly.

Many people subscribe to Light theory; we will show how foolish that is, and how much more reasonable Dark theory is.

Our sun is the largest darksucker in our solar system. That's how it gets the energy to radiate all that heat and ultra-violet rays. The early Greeks had discovered that lighted candles had some dark sucking capacity, but it took Thomas Edison to invent a good artificial darksucker.

Dark travels in straight lines. Dark cannot penetrate opaque objects and thus they make good dark shields. To prove this, look under any car, at high noon, with the sun directly overhead, and you will see a patch of dark that the sun is unable to suck up. Stand with your back to the sun, and you will see that you too are a good dark shield. You will have trapped a patch of dark which can't get around your fat frame to one of the universe's best dark suckers, the sun.

Dark travels at 186,000 mi/sec. That's why, when you switch on the artificial darksucker (sometimes erroneously called a light) it sucks up the dark so fast that you can't really time it, after all in a 30 foot square room with the darksucker at center ceiling, its less than 22.67 feet to the most remote corner, and with a velocity of 186,000 mi/sec, it only requires about 23 pico seconds for dark to go from the corner to the darksucker. Most people hardly notice the delay.

There are three primary shades of dark, black, dark gray and light black. Using these three primary components one can make any shade of dark. Pure white is total absence of dark, that takes a powerful darksucker like the sun or a good arclamp. The frequency of true dark is zero (ie dc). Some artificial darksuckers have a frequency bias, and do not suck up all dark, and hence appear to have color. Certain darksuckers, like

neon, argon, sodium, and xenon, although they are, apparently, quite energy efficient, are primitive with respect to frequency efficiency. Old fashioned candles and "light" bulbs also have a frequency bias.

The proliferation of outdoor artificial darksuckers in our cities, eg Los Vegas, make it very difficult for astronomical observation, they pollute the night sky, which in its natural state is void of darksucking, thus enabling high powered astronomical telescopes to detect faint points of dark loss caused by far off galaxies of darksuckers like our sun.

One of the most remarkable darksuckers is modern television; the best of which have a normally black (very dark) screen when unpowered. They incorporate electronics modules, and computers in some cases, and have the ability to sense minute invisible radiated signals and to convert them so as to suck dark from discrete points on the screen in varying amounts and frequency bias such that a colored picture appears on the normally dark screen.

What will they think of next. We have heard that a new super-computer will use dark logic. This device does not require perfection of superconductivity or the expense of supercooling as is the current state of the art. This new computer will be very fast, extremely energy efficient and so cheap that you can afford one for every program you use, hence saving boot up time.

Dark logic is very simple. The basis of which is:

Dark = Not Light
Light = Not Not Not Dark

See how much simpler Dark logic is.

We know that Light theory is a lot of bull, and probably a conspiracy also. Astronomers speak of Black Holes. Now you know this is a big fat lie, how an anything with so much mass be a hole? Actually these things are just Dark Radiators, (light suckers, to the under educated) and are the true source of dark in this universe.

Newt Armstrong, a scientific and computer wizard, has graciously offered to promulgate this obscure branch of dark knowledge at the weekly Garage SIG, along with other sagacious information. Call the author for exact time, address and directions for getting there. Like the true academician that he is, Newt will charge no fees before you are hooked on the theory.

This may be a continuing series.





TEX TALKER

By Ed Machonis

QB-99ers, Bayside, NY

One of the great features of our computer, too often overlooked, is speech. The TI can still talk circles around most other computers. Yet few User Groups take advantage of this feature when demonstrating the TI at Malls and Fairs where other computers are also being shown. I can tell you from experience, speech can be a real crowd stopper.

Last year when the QB-99ers were asked to put on an exhibit at the college, we decided to show off the 4A's speech capabilities. I wrote a little extended basic program which performed the same way that TEX TALKER does but used the Text To Speech disk. It worked fine and did stop whoever happened to wander down to the sub-sub basement where we were located. The only problem, if we wanted to show something else, subsequent reload of the Text To Speech files took forever and a day.

TEX TALKER has since been rewritten in console basic so that the Terminal Emulator module can be used instead of Text To Speech. A speech synthesizer is also required, as with Text To Speech.

Using the program is quite simple. With the Terminal Emulator module plugged in, select TI Basic. Type OLD DSKN.TEXTALKER. At the cursor prompt, type RUN. The program will read the first DATA statement, display it on screen and speak it. If you press ENTER, the speech will be repeated. If you enter a period, the next DATA statement will be read, displayed and spoken.

At any time, you can type in anything you or the crowd desires and it will be spoken. It's a good idea to have the keyboard positioned so that onlookers may use it and interact with the computer. Again, pressing enter will cause the last speech to be repeated.

Enter your own DATA statements, using commas for short pauses and a period for longer ones. The use of commas requires that each DATA statement be enclosed in quotes. Be sure the last DATA statement is ZZZ.

90 REM **** TEX TALKER ****
By Ed Machonis, QB-99ers
Requires TERMINAL EMULATOR
MODULE & SPEECH SYNTHESIZER

```

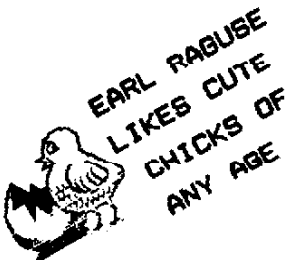
100 OPEN #1:"SPEECH",OUTPUT
110 READ A$
120 IF A$="ZZZ" THEN 130 ELSE 150
130 RESTORE
140 GOTO 110
150 PRINT "A$:"
160 GOTO 190
170 IF B$="" THEN 190
180 A$=B$
190 PRINT #1:A$
200 INPUT B$
210 IF B$="." THEN 110 ELSE 170
220 DATA "HELLO. I, AM A TEX
IS INSTRUMENTS T I 99, 4A CO
MPUTER. I KNOW HOW TO TALK,
BUT SUM PEOPLE THINK I, HAV
E. A FUNNEE ACCENT. "
230 DATA "SUM COMPUTERS CANT
TALK. WE CALL THEM. DUMB. C
OMPUTERS. . YOU CAN CALL ME,
TEX. "
240 DATA "THE, DUMB, COMPUTE
RS SAY I TALK JERKEE, BECAUS
E I, WAS TAUGHT TO TALK BY A
, JERK. "
250 DATA "I, SAY, HOW. CAN Y
OU BELIEVE ANYTHING SAID BY
A, COMPUTER THAT CAN NOT TAL
K. "
260 DATA "I CAN ANSWER THE TE
LIPHONE. WOULD YOU LIKE TO H
EAR ME?"
270 DATA "HELLO. I,CANT CUM,
TO,THE,PHONE,RIGHT,NOW. BUT,
IF,YOU,WILL,LEAVE,YOUR,NAME,
AND,NUMBER,I,WILL,GET,BACK,T
O,YOU, AS,SUNE,AS,I, CAN. "
280 DATA ZZZ
    
```





How to know you are growing older

- Everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work....
- The gleam in your eye is from the sun hitting your bifocals....
- You feel like the night before, and you haven't been anywhere...
- Your little black book contains only names ending in M.D.
- You get winded playing cards...
- Your children begin to look middle aged...
- You join a health club, and don't go...
- A dripping faucet causes an uncontrollable bladder urge...
- You know all the answers, but nobody asks you any of the questions...
- You look forward to a dull evening...
- You need glasses to find your glasses...
- You turn out the light for economic, rather than romantic reasons...
- You sit in a rocking chair, and can't get it going...
- Your knees buckle, but your belt won't...
- Your back goes out more than you do...
- You have too much room in the house, but not enough in the medicine chest....
- You sink your teeth in a steak, and they stay there...
- You are wondering why more people aren't using this size print...





I REMEMBER, I REMEBER
BURMA SHAVE SIGNS

By Ed Machonia
QB-99ers, Bayside, NY

If you don't remember, a bit of Ancient History. Before there were Interstates, there were two lane highways. Before there were Remington Micro Screens, there were shaving brushes. Before there were television commercials, there were Burma Shave jingles and before there were Golden Arches there were Burma Shave signs!

Burma Shave was a brushless shaving cream introduced around the late 20's and advertised by means of jingles on small signs along the side of the road. The wooden red signs were about 3 feet wide and a foot high with a line of the jingle lettered in white on each sign. (Sometimes the letters were black on orange signs.) They usually came in sets

of 6 signs, strung alongside a couple of hundred feet of highway, and the last sign always read Burma Shave.

Of course you had to get away from the cities to see them, but that's what Sunday Drives were all about - a leisurely drive through the countryside - perhaps a picnic by a lake - and the driver alerting the car's occupants to "Burma Shave Ahead!" People actually looked forward to reading them.

Earl Raguse, a member AND officer of SEVERAL California User Groups, has combined many of the TIPS Animal images with witticisms reminiscent of some of the old signs. Some of Earl's creations may be spotted elsewhere in this issue.

When I looked over the TIPS collection of images and saw nary a Burma Shave sign, I knew a bit of Americana had slipped away unnoticed. Here are some of my favorites, illustrated with TIPS images. (The originals were not illustrated.)



SHE KISSED THE HAIRBRUSH
BY MISTAKE,
SHE THOUGHT IT WAS
HER HUSBAND JAKE!

BURMA SHAVE



DON'T TAKE A CURVE
AT 60 PER.
WE HATE TO LOSE
A CUSTOMER!

BURMA SHAVE



AT RAILROAD CROSSINGS
BE PREPARED,
TRAINS DON'T WHISTLE
'CAUSE THEY'RE SCARED!

BURMA SHAVE



WHEN YOU DRIVE,
IF CAUTION CEASES,
YOU ARE APT
TO REST IN PIECES!

BURMA SHAVE



SOME CURVES AHEAD
REMEMBER, SONNY
THAT RABBIT'S FOOT
DIDN'T SAVE THE BUNNY

BURMA SHAVE



TWINKLE, TWINKLE
ONE-EYED CAR,
HOW I WONDER
WHERE YOU ARE!

BURMA SHAVE



ANGELS WHO GUARD YOU
WHEN YOU DRIVE
USUALLY RETIRE
AT 65.

BURMA SHAVE



OF ALL THE DRUNKS
WHO DRIVE ON SUNDAY,
FEW ARE STILL
AROUND ON MONDAY!

BURMA SHAVE



PAST SCHOOLHOUSES
TAKE IT SLOW
LET THE LITTLE
SHAVERS GROW!

BURMA SHAVE



IF YOU DON'T KNOW
WHOSE SIGNS THESE ARE,
YOU CAN'T HAVE DRIVEN
VERY FAR!

BURMA SHAVE

QB MONITOR ~ QB-99'er NEWSLETTER
 Reprinted From LA TOPICS - The LA 99ers Newsletter

THE MAGIC OF JIM PETERSON

This is the kind of stuff I really enjoy. As Jim says, "Here's a program that can actually read your mind.....
Ed [LA 99ers]

I wanted to play
 with the Cardinals,
 but I wasn't in the
 right pecking order.



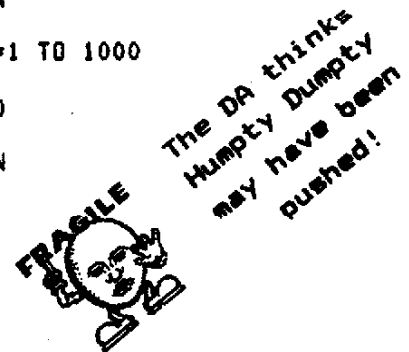
```

100 CALL CLEAR
110 PRINT "TIGERCUB MIND READER PROGRAM": ;
120 PRINT "I'll bet you a dollar I can guess what you are thinking.": ;
130 GOSUB 440
140 PRINT "And I'll bet another dollar I can tell if what you are thinking is correct.": ;
150 GOSUB 440
160 PRINT "And I'll bet another dollar I'm right BOTH times.": ;
170 GOSUB 440
180 PRINT "And I'll bet one more dollar I can guess what you'll be thinking a minute from now.": ;
190 GOSUB 440
200 PRINT "OK.....": ;
210 GOSUB 480
220 PRINT "You're thinking that a computer can't possibly know what you are thinking.....right?": ;
230 GOSUB 480
240 PRINT "So I told you what you were thinking.....right?": ;
250 GOSUB 480
260 PRINT "You owe me a buck.": ;
270 GOSUB 480
280 PRINT "And you are absol
    
```

utely right.....I can't read your mind.": ;

```

290 GOSUB 480
300 PRINT "So I told you correctly that what you were thinking was correct.....right?": ;
310 GOSUB 480
320 PRINT "You owe me another buck.": ;
330 GOSUB 480
340 PRINT "So I was right both times...right?": ;
350 GOSUB 480
360 PRINT "That makes three bucks you owe me.": ;
370 GOSUB 480
380 PRINT "And now it's a minute later and you're thinking you've been played for a sucker....right?": ;
390 GOSUB 480
400 PRINT "...so you owe me four bucks.": ;
410 GOSUB 480
420 PRINT "NEVER EVER bet against a computer!!"
430 END
440 PRINT "Want to bet? Type Y(yes)": ;
450 CALL KEY(3,K,ST)
460 IF (ST=0)+(K<>89)THEN 450
470 RETURN
480 FOR D=1 TO 1000
490 NEXT D
500 RETURN
    
```



WORD TEST FUN

By Earl Raguse

The original source of the strange test below is completely unknown. I encountered a shorter list on the Parsons (ES, Pasadena computer van. No answers were provided, but after many trips, we worked out answers that fit, not the right ones maybe, but they worked per the instructions below.

No one seems to know WHAT the test tests: certainly not intelligence, or engineering skill, but getting most of them may carry a message about your personality, I would rather not say what. I added at least half of the following in an attempt to use all the numbers from 1 to 100, as you can see, I did not succeed. If you are able to supply additional ones please contact me. My answers will be supplied on request.

Earl Raguse
 17161 Edwards Street
 Huntington Beach,
 CA 92647.

INSTRUCTIONS: Each quotation below contains the initials of the words of a saying, song etc related to the preceding number. Your job is to figure out the words. For example, 3 L P would be 3 Little Pigs, the number is part of the solution and is not related to the number of letters or words. Good Luck! You will need it.

- 1 W on a U
- 1 H on a U
- 1 H F the R
- 1 F O the C N
- 2 M I T T T
- 2 P in a P
- 3 B M (S H T R)
- 3 S to the M
- 3 M in a T (RADD)
- 3 F in a Y
- 3 C in the F



- 3 S (L M and C)
- 4 S in a C D
- 4 W the B T
- 4 S and S Y A
- 4 O in a B
- 5 D in a Z C
- 6 H a B D-I
- 6 D D H D (of the D)
- 6 Y G E R (W)
- 7 W of the W
- 7 C E o 7 C in a R
- 7 B F S B
- 8 N in a M D
- 9 P in the S S
- 10 D in a D
- 11 P on a F T
- 12 S of the Z
- 12 I in a F
- 13 C in a B N
- 13 is a B D
- 13 S on the A F
- 14 D in a F
- 15 X V in R N
- 16 S S and N Been K
- 16 S and M B K (tricky)
- 16 D in a P and a P
- 16 M on a D M C
- 17 B by M T
- 18 H on a G C
- 19 D L T a S
- 20 N in a D
- 21 A of C for M
- 21 G S t 31 F at B R
- 22 P on a F F
- 23 S
- 24 B B B in a P
- 24 H in a D
- 25 Y of the S M A
- 26 L of the A
- 28 D in F
- 29 D in F in a L Y
- 30 D H S
- 31 D is W the R H E F
- 32 D F at which M F
- 32 T in an A M
- 36 is a D of a G
- 38 C R
- 39 A of J B
- 40 D and M of the G F
- 40 T has A B
- 41 Y of P H A
- 42 G in a B of O

- 45 C of a C F F R
- 48 C in a P D
- 49 S T S
- 50 W T L Y L
- 50 S in the U
- 51 P is a M
- 52 W in a Y of the G C
- 53 C in a P D M D J M
- 54 C in a D (with J)
- 55 is the G L
- 57 H V
- 62 Y O to C S S
- 64 S on a C B
- 65 Y O to be a S C
- 66 R to get Y K O
- 68 D to D P
- 70 P is a P G
- 72 is H a G
- 76 T in the B P
- 77 S S
- 80 D A the W
- 87 F S and S
- 88 P K
- 90 D in a R A
- 99 B of B on the M
- 99 B of B (DTN)
- 100 P P in a M
- 101 D
- 110 C C B
- 144 P in a S
- 200 D for P G in M
- 300 P S in B
- 360 D in a C
- 500 S in a R of P
- 1000 W that a P is M
- 1001 A N

DON'T WORRY
 BE HOPPY
 DON'T BE
 SO JUMPY



[If the above list looks familiar, it's because we ran a similar list in the QB Monitor back in April of 1987. I got it from a non-computer related East Coast source about twenty years ago and it consisted of only 24 teasers. Earl Raguse dates his file as of 7/26/86 and portions of the above were published last year in LA Topics. I have combined two lists of Earl's, the QB Monitor article and some I recently devised. This should keep you busy until next April, when we may or may not publish the answers.....ESH]



I LIKE UNICORNS
 IN SPIKE OF
 THEIR POINTED
 HEADS

Some time ago, I shared a cute story that went something like this:

Did you hear about the computer programmer who went to the refrigerator for a drink and found a note from his wife saying, "I've decide to leave you:" ... and it was dated a month ago!

I believe that the following is a copy of the original document! cdm

TO MY DARLING HUSBAND

I am sending you this letter in a bogus software company envelope so that you will be sure to read it. Please forgive the deception, but I thought you should know what has been going on at home since your TI computer entered our lives two years ago. The children are doing well. Tommy is seven now and is a bright, handsome boy. He has developed an interest in the arts. He drew a family portrait for a school project. All the figures were good but yours was excellent! The chair and the back of your head are realistic. You would be very proud of him.

little Jennifer turned three in September. She looks a lot like you did at that age. She is an attractive child and quite smart. She still remembers that you spent the whole afternoon with us on her birthday. What a grand day for Jen, despite the fact that it was stormy and the electricity was out. I am also doing well. I went blond about a year ago and was delighted to discover that it really is more fun! Lars, I mean Mr. Swenson, the department head, has taken an interest in my career and has become a good friend to us all. I have discovered that the household chores are much easier since I realized that you didn't mind being vacuumed but that feather dusting made you sneeze.

The house is in good shape. I had the living room painted last spring. I'm not sure if you noticed it. I made sure the painters cut air holes in the drop cloth so you wouldn't be disturbed. Well, my dear, I must be going. Uncle Lars, Mr. Swenson, I mean is taking us all on a ski trip and there is packing to do. I have hired a housekeeper to take care of things while we are away. She'll keep things in order, fill your coffee cup and bring your meals to your desk, just the way you like it. I hope you and the TI have a lovely time while we are gone. Tommy, Jen and I will think of you often. Try to remember us while your disks are booting. Love, Mary

It turns out
that
Humpty Dumpty
was pregnant!



**I'D LIKE
TO NIBBLE
ON YOUR
EAR, BABY!**



SIGHTS and SOUNDS of TICOFF '91

Actually it was called the FAMILY COMPUTER EXPOSITION and HAM RADIO
FESTIVAL



THE KIDDIE KORNER

Jack Youngs, Ed Machonis
and Bernie Goldberg held
down the Fort for the
QB-99ers.



HEY, AREN'T
YOU THE
FOXY ONE
THOUGH

John McDivitt of Rave kept
busy, selling each of the
above QB-99ers a Speech Card
for their PE Boxes.



Lots of TI equipmen for sale
at fire sale prices. One
QB-99er took home a carload.

Photos and digitizing by Mike H1

ARE WE HAVING FUN YET?

By Ed Machonis

I am! Earl Raguse and Newt Armstrong are. Ray Kazaer is. So is Sister Pat. Jim Peterson gets his kicks asking, "What Happened To The Fun Of It?"

I don't know whether these people are having fun because they are deeply involved with their computers - or if - they are deeply involved with their computers because of the fun they are having. I can't even tell in my own case.

April is the month devoted to Tom Foolery with even a day set aside for All Fools. It's a good time to step back, look your computer in the eye and ask, "Are we having fun yet?"

If the answer is in any way less than positive, ask yourself, "Why not?" Are you doing your BIT? It takes Two to Tango, you know.

Are you involved? Have you volunteered for an office in your group? Submitted an article to the newsletter? Even READ some of the other newsletters? Attended a TI Fair or Deeded a program for your group?

Even if all your answers are "NO", Cheer Up! There is hope for you yet. The mere fact that you are reading this indicates sufficient involvement to provide a base for a start. It's up to you, what you'll get out of you computer depends on what you're willing to put in. Like they say, "Garbage In is Garbage Out!"

If your just "Fooling Around" with your computer, be careful. The Fool Killer is on the loose.

I think there is some very FAWNY BUSINESS going on here



Pg-10



QB-99ers User Group % F. Cotty
Queensborough Comm'ty College
Bayside, NY 11364-1497



FIRST CLASS MAIL

DALLAS TI HOME COMP. GROUP
P.O. BOX 29863
DALLAS, TX 75229



DEAR USER GROUP:
PRODUCTION & EDITORIAL PROBLEMS FORCE US TO DISCONTINUE OUR NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE. THIS IS NOT AN APRIL FOOL JOKE! WE HAVE ENJOYED THE EXCHANGE AND FOUND IT REMARKING. WE HOPE YOU HAVE ALSO. HOPEFULLY WE WILL EVENTUALLY SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS AND RESUME PUBLISHING AND EXCHANGING NEWSLETTERS. UNTIL THEN MAY THE GOOD 4'S BE WITH YOU.

THE QB-99ers