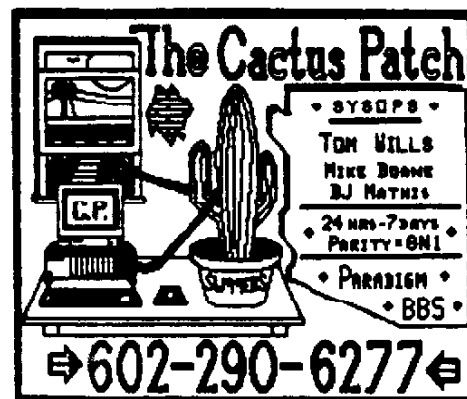




## SouthWest Ninety-Niners October 1992

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Newsletter Editor-BJ Mathis

Library Chm-BJ & Jack Mathis

Newsletter Librarian-W. Leonard Taffe

Disk Librarian-Richard Baron

Lending Librarians-Richard Baron & Dale USSery

### Disk of the Month - 10/92

by Mike Doane

This month's DOM consists mainly of Archived files. I have included ARC303. This is THE best archiver program for the T.I. Archiver is a \*FAIRWARE\* program so if you use it, send the author his money.

The program "UTILITIES" consists of labellers and cataloggers from the files of the Mathis family (or the Mathii as I prefer to call them). It un-arcs to about 157 sectors, so make sure you have a disk handy for it (SW99ERS can buy disks from the group at the low cost of 25 disks for \$7). This file has a program named "LOAD" on it, so if you are un-arc'ing it to a disk that already has files on it make sure you do not overwrite your original load program.

The file "PLATO/CAT" is an archived file containing the library of disks available to SW99ERS members. This program un-arcs to several DV-80 files and 2 program files. The program files print the entire catalog for you. Make sure you have paper in your printer as I believe the catalog is apx. 20 pages long. You can "view" the DV-80 files with any Wordprocessor or from "BOOT". These files were made accessible to us due to the efforts of the Mathii. Jack and sons copied, re-wrote, and wrote a program for over 500 disks. How about a nice thank you and a "job well done" for their efforts.

These disks are used in conjunction with the PLATO module available from the SW99ERS lending library. Contact Richard Baron or Dale USSery for the module.

There are two GIF files on this disk. They are "Enterprise" and "Laser". They may be viewed using the GIF program or TI Artist or a similar program.

The program "COLOR16+" is a program to show more than 16 colors are available on the TI.

No puzzle this month due to space limitations. If you want them I will put two on next month.

### Treasurer's Report - 9/92

by Mike Doane

Beginning Balance 8/23/92	\$1205.28
Income	
Memberships	\$65.00
Library Sales	\$29.00
Ribbons/Disks	\$39.00
Equipment Sales	\$40.17
Misc.	<u>\$10.00</u>
Total Monthly Income	\$183.17
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$1388.45</b>
Expenses:	
Newsletter & Postage	\$150.13
Misc. Expenses	\$36.34
Aid to Broward Group	<u>\$200.00</u>
Total Monthly Expenses	\$386.47
Ending Balance 9/23/92	\$1001.98
	=====



I reviewed the group liabilities and found there are less outstanding debts than I had estimated. I make this statement because I told you last month I would be clearing them off the books and to expect more activity in the Expense column. The Southwest 99'ers owe less than \$110.00 and we do not owe any one person more than \$40.00.

I would like to mention we have only taken in \$234 for Fairware Authors this year. I feel this is a poor response. I hope we improve upon this in the few remaining months of 1992.



# President's Corner

by BJ Mathis



With all the input from SW99ers for the newsletter, I seldom find it necessary to write a President's Corner. However, this month I am going to include it, not because I need to fill space, but because there are some things I want to write about.

SW99ers receives nearly 50 newsletters, including MICROpendium, every month. Ed McCullough and I both read all those newsletters. Ida used to read them, now Leonard is reading and indexing them. The information that is available in these newsletters is overwhelming. I try to include some of it in our newsletters, but there is no way I can even scratch the surface. Leonard Taffs and David Ormand are beginning to review a few of them each month, but they can't get all the information out to you either.

SW99ers, you need to take advantage of the exchange newsletters. Let Leonard know you want to look at a packet of them, I know he will be glad to put together a folder for you. You are missing out on a lot of good information in these newsletters, if you don't. The indexing Ida did in the past, which Leonard is now continuing, will benefit you when you want to find articles about a specific subject. If you don't take advantage of that, you are also missing out on a lot of ideas. When members tell me the TI can't do something they need to do with a computer, I often find they have not explored all the possibilities. There are some things we can't do, like run IBM programs which are sometimes necessary for those using IBMs at work. However, the average home computer user will find the TI Home Computer can do just about everything they need or want to do. Read some of the exchange newsletters. You'll find a whole new TI world opening up for us. The information in the newsletters each month would take a book nearly every month, if I were to reprint all of it!

SW99ers also need to support the only publication left for TI/Geneve - MICROpendium. MICROpendium is full of ideas, programs, products, and reports on new hardware/software. The price is minuscule compared to the amount of information available. You can borrow MICROpendiums from the Lending Library, but if you want to help make sure MICROpendium continues, and you can get your hands on the latest copy, subscribe today! I will have copies of the subscription form available at the meeting or you can write: MICROpendium, PO Box 1343 Round Rock, TX 78680.

Speaking of the Lending Library - why don't you use it? We have put a lot of time, money, and equipment into stocking it. The size of it has grown to where there are problems with storing it. No one would mind the space and time it takes to maintain it, if they felt it was appreciated by the membership. The Lending Library is not meant to be a museum, it is meant to be used!

Jack and I are often asked for information. When we know the answer, it is not because we are smarter than others. We have done our research. I read all those newsletters, Jack and I both read MICROpendium, and Jack is very interested in computer hardware. We have an extensive collection of books, modules, newsletters, MICROpendiums, etc. of our own. We are not magicians, we take advantage of the information available to us. Why don't you take advantage of the benefits that have been set up for you - the members!

# September SW99ers' Minutes

Tuesday September 1, 1992

1. Al Armstrong conducted the Question & Answer period.
  - Q. Is it possible to transfer data between the 99/4A and the CC-40?
    - A. The best way to get an answer to that question is to contact Kip Wagner or Ed Hallett. Ed did some experimenting with a CC-40. Kip still has one. One of them should be able to help you. Kip's phone number is on the membership phone list. If you wish to contact Ed Hallett get his address from BJ, the phone number listed is no longer valid.
2. Our Newsletter lists a number of for sale items. Not everything is brought to meetings due to the quantity. If you are interested in a particular item, please ask for it, in advance so we can make sure it is brought to the meetings. Be aware, some items that are brought to the meetings for sale are not in the newsletter, due to time constraints.
3. We are all aware of the devastation created by hurricane Andrew in the southern Florida area, and at Homestead city and Air Force Base in particular. The Broward County UG has requested monetary donations to be administered by the UG for distribution to the needy UG members in the stricken area, as appropriate. A motion was made and approved to donate \$200.00 from the group treasury to the Broward County UG. Any individual of our group, who wishes to add to that donation, should contact our Treasurer Mike Doane or President BJ Mathis.
4. Now is the time to make your plans for FESTWEST93 in Salt Lake City, UT. We will have Hotel/Motel info in the next Newsletter.
5. We have received Eunice Spooner's video, showing how to use TI Logo. As soon as it has been copied, it will be available for checking out of our library.
6. We are looking for someone to be responsible for the Lending Library. Richard Barron took it over from Ida McCargar, however, he is overloaded with trying to do it as well as doing the Cassette of the Month and the Diskette Library. Obviously, he needs help and would be quite willing to relinquish the Lending Library to some eager person. The line forms to the right and PLEASE don't trample one another trying to be first in line.
7. The group sent flowers for Ida McCargar's funeral.
8. The Chris Taylor portion of the Fest West '92 videos was the demonstration for the meeting.

Ed McCullough, Secretary



## On Proof-Reading

by W. Leonard Tabbs



As I struggle to follow the late Ida McCargar as Newsletter Librarian, I have the privilege of reading or scanning newsletters from other TI User Groups across our country and Canada. The number of editorial errors is fairly substantial, all newsletters being viewed as a whole. Before starting to complain, one must consider that the world's TI Newsletter editors are among the unsung heroes of our remaining TI world!

Ideally when anyone has turned in an article to the newsletter editor, it would be nice for that author to have the opportunity to proof-read the article before it "goes to press". This, though ideal, simply proves to be impractical logistically. As anyone involved with producing newsletters for our TI friends well knows, a tremendous amount of work is thrust upon the editor (and unfortunately--more often than not--at the last minute!). Some of the newsletters from around the country I have seen are pretty clearly the sweat and toil of one person alone!

Think about the work your Newsletter Editor does. How many of us take for granted what they do? When they ask for help, how many in your group volunteer? How many writers understand the editorial pressures created by lackadaisical fumbling on getting articles in to the editor on time? If writers are not good spellers, how many take the time to get a spouse or friend to check the article for grammatical or spelling errors so your Newsletter Editor will not be stuck with this extra chore(!)? Remember, too, newsletter editors have families, jobs, and other community obligations besides their editorial duties! And yet, many of them find the time to do beautiful work dressing up their newsletters with really neat graphics as well!

So the next time you wince at errors in your newsletter, remember to be thankful you have a newsletter at all and that you are lucky enough to have a person dedicated enough to serve as editor. After all, not only has the editor given all those countless hours to produce the letter but probably has also (often single-handedly!) had to go out to have it copied and then spends more hours collating the pages, stapling them, folding them, sticking on address labels, and putting on stamps (not many groups have large enough membership to use metered mail). And who takes them to the post office?... These editors have to rank very close to Saints!

From the advantage I have of seeing so many different newsletters from the TI world, I can tell you our own SW99er newsletter certainly appears to be among the best. This is not a boast but a thank-you to our own editor! (Personally, I am glad to see newsletters regardless of how well they are put together. I would rather see a newsletter full of typos (though hopefully not too many in program listings!) rather than no newsletter at all!) As many newsletters have folded in recent years--sadly including some outstanding ones--we (the TI newsletter world) are unmistakably a shrinking world. In many cases of the surviving newsletters, it appears that only a loyal few people in each group keep the current newsletters coming. Let us give thanks and doff our hats to all of them!!

## October TI Personality

by Mike Doane

This is the last column on this subject I am going to write. I do not feel there has been sufficient response either from the members or the authors.

I suggest we all just go on in our own merry ways until the few authors that are left decide to band together and go commercial. Perhaps THEN we will realize what a golden goose we had.

If you want to hear some horror stories, talk to some IBeeMers about their software. Ask them about Windows "Updates" that still do not meet their needs. You can bet they paid more than \$5 or \$10 for their "new and improved" CAD programs. What is the number of the "latest" version of Wordperfect? I believe they are on ver 5.0 or so by now.

We are on ver 4.0 of TIWriter and I guarantee you that even if you have paid ALL the fairware fees you have barely even cracked a hundred dollar bill yet.

Our authors as a rule do not charge for "fixes" on their programs. Hey, Tom and Ed and Larry, what was the last free update you got for your IBM's? I mention their names because I know they go both ways NOT because they don't support our authors.

Well, I guess it is time to get off my soapbox and come down to Earth.

This month's personality is a fitting one for my last column. This person is the one that has kept the SW99'ers going.

I am talking about BJ Mathis (I prefer the spelling of B.J., but she keeps telling me there are no periods in there. Sheesh! Editors, what do they know!)

She has served as our president, edited our newsletter (no easy task trying to get articles out of the motley crew of lazy ne'er do wells she has as writers), published our newsletter, delivered it to our door if needed, helped us with problems, answered our questions, guided us onto the right track, maintained the disk library, been the Treasurer (notice how I capitalized that office!), is a co-sysop of the Cactus Patch, keeps in touch with other groups, ensures that we have a newsletter exchange, written programs, fixed computers (you better watch it there, you are getting into Jack's territory), and cooks a really mean turkey!

It would be nice to pass around the hat and present her with a token of the esteem we hold her in. We can either present her with our appreciation at the next meeting, or at the General user's SIG (which she also happens to host!) or the officers can present it to her at the exec. meeting (minus OUR cut of course).

BJ, we really appreciate all that you have done, are doing, and will do for us!!!!



# Newsletter Library Update

by W. Leonard Tabbs

SW99er's Newsletter Library is gradually being updated--there has been quite a bit of catching up to do. For those of you in our group who may be new, our group exchanges copies of newsletters with many TI groups across America. As yet I have not seen any list but, so far, I have 37 different newsletter folders I am indexing.

Since becoming your newsletter librarian, I have had to learn PRBase, the data base that was used by previous librarians. Progress in my resuming the indexing was delayed because the file header format required by PRBase had some 'invisible glitches' hidden in the file header sectors of the data base disks given me. As a newcomer to PRBase I thought I was doing something wrong. After hours of trying to find out what I might be doing wrong, I went for help. Thanks to BJ Mathis, the problem was found. It was her conclusion that, as the previous librarian had used a Geneve on some of the later PRBase file disks, that somehow the Geneve messed up the file headers. (These file headers are sectors 2 through 11 on the newsletter data disks).

The 'glitch' (or 'glitches'?) caused the file printout to suddenly fill the page with nonsense or a perpetual repetition of a letter 'E' or somesuch. Therefore an accurate and complete printout of the work I had done was not possible. (I wanted to catch my errors in indexing early!). A library list full of errors helps no one. Experienced PRBase users know that once you have sorted a data base file for printout that you start the printout with the first alphabetical item. PRBase kindly shows this as a default value when you select the 'Print a Report' option. I did not understand this, so a lot of time was wasted getting incomplete printouts. Well, live and learn!

It is taking some time to acquire all the newsletters that have not been indexed. They have become unintentionally scattered around during the past year or so. Your patience is asked during this transition period! What happens when a newsletter is received by SW99er's? First, they are delivered to our P.O. mail box, then circulate among officers of our group, and then filter down to me for indexing. As I have no log of how many are received I cannot tell you how many are coming in.

The incoming newsletters vary in content, format, style, size and number of pages. Topics literally cover the gamut of TI knowledge. Some have really original material. Because of this variation, an up-to-date index of articles should take top priority in my judgment. The various data files (going back to the early 80's) are gradually being located. I have received 18 data file disks of previous indexing and I am told more will be given me. Some of these files were done with an earlier version of PRBase, meaning that some of them will have to be converted to the later PRBase format before a massive complete update on newsletter articles will be possible. The checking and double checking required in this research is considerable. In the meantime I am focusing on 1992 and 1991, working my way backward in time to catch up to where the earlier indexing was interrupted.

This article explains why you have not seen newsletters on display at User Group Meetings lately. I have to be selfish to be sure that articles are indexed in our Data Base before risking inadvertent or accidental loss of any issues. In

the meantime, any member looking for any information on TI related topics (which includes an incomplete listing of Geneve articles) should feel free to call me (795-4148) and I will run a search on what articles have been indexed. You might be lucky enough to find the solution to a bug you may have!

This update will be continued in our next issue, naming some promising products due to be released soon. It will also mention more about what can be found in these newsletters for those who have not seen them!

## Graphics: TI vs IBM

by Larry Newman



Later we will review some of the difficulties that must be all too familiar to TI users. Now I'd like to describe some of the problems I'm having to work with in using the IBM I have. I already hear some TI people thinking 'See I told you so! It wouldn't be worth it!'. That conclusion is for you to make after you evaluate the differences. It never is the case with things that they are problem free. You just trade problems for an expected reward. Some who are content never see the greener grass on the other side of the fence, but I never met anyone like that. In our Madison Avenue driven society we are constantly being exposed to the other side of the fence.

The other side of the coin driving the itch to change is related, of course, just maybe coming before we start the search for the 'new'. This is the dissatisfaction with old. For me it was the Jagged edges of TI graphics. Now as I'm typing this I see the blurriness of the Magnavox RGB monitor, compared to VGA. This was once the best I'd ever seen, and still 'works'. But my example is that for some computer users they may find eyestrain, or difficulty with the screen a reason to look for a better monitor, even if they never saw a VGA screen 'over the fence'. There are other ways this works: a programmer might be frustrated with memory limitations, or a writer might get tired of looking up words in his thesaurus, or dictionary, but you get the idea.

Recently I installed a program called Double Disk on my 40 meg hard drive, and was using all my graphics programs with my NX-1000. Then I ordered a power supply for the HP Quiet Jet + I bought at auction, missing a power supply. In a few days I had it set up and working fine. Except one of the programs, Windows Draw, didn't have a driver for a Quiet Jet +. Well this was a new problem. I heard of a few different printers being used in the TI community, I have an Axiom daisy wheel, besides the NX-1000, myself. Some of us are using 24 pin printers, but the concept of driver never came up. It either worked or didn't in the TI world. In the IBM world you may have to choose from a big list of drivers, and heaven help you if you have no driver! There are ways to fool the computer into thinking you have another printer, but which one will work? Not an impossible problem, just an example of the difference in TI and IBM. If I was into easy solutions I could just reconnect the NX-1000, and reset all the drivers in the programs that work with the Quiet Jet etc or I could look at that Damark ad for that Lazer printer... You can go broke, or crazy if you don't know where to stop. But that's what this series is all about isn't it?

# From the Editor

by BJ Mathis



Tom and Mike have expressed a desire to know how to set up their articles in a way to save me time when editing the newsletters. The following is my attempt to do that. If you don't understand any part of this please let me know. I'll try to explain it better.

If you wish to have an idea just how much room your article will take in the newsletter, the formatter command I use is : LM0;RM51;FI:AD;PL88 . You can save paper by printing back to disk to view your text as it will be formatted. The Article Title can not be more than 26 characters long or I will have to shorten it!

I set the line spacing to 1/8 inch ("ESC 0"), set up slashed zeros, Letter Quality, and semi-condensed pitch (15cpi). Semi-condensed print pitch is only available on 24 pin printers. To make things fit, I sometimes change line spacing or use condensed pitch.

## In Editors:

Set Left Margin to 0  
Set Right Margin to 52  
Please do not indent paragraphs  
Leave a blank line between paragraphs



When the formatter encounters a period (.) it will automatically insert an extra space. If you are using a period as part of an abbreviation that is NOT at the end of a sentence or immediately followed by another character, please use a caret. For example, "W. Leonard Taffs", NOT "W. Leonard Taffs".

When the formatter encounters an exclamation (!) or question mark (?) it doesn't double space afterwards as it does after a period (.). Please use a caret (^) and space after ! and ?, before going on to your next sentence. Like this "?^ Next sentence...."

Use & for underlining  
Use @ for double striking

Note & and @ will underline or double strike until the next space character, if you wish to underline or double strike more than one word use ^ in all spaces. It is not necessary to put another & or @ at the end of the group of words or characters you wish to underline or double strike.

Use two @ or & if you wish them to print.

Use "ESC4" (CNTRL U FNCT R CNTRL U 4)  
to turn on Italics  
Use "ESC5" (CNTRL U FNCT R CNTRL U 5)  
to turn off Italics

Please make sure carriage returns are used ONLY when needed, and ALWAYS when needed.

If you are including a chart, for instance the Treasurer's Report, please use carets (^) in all blank spaces, or include a .NF before the chart and a .FI after the chart (before any additional text).

If you include a program listing in your article, please set it up as it appears on the screen when programming. Use carets to indent the program listing ten spaces, and make sure there is a carriage return at the end of each "screen" line. This will make it easier for readers to copy the program, for you to check accuracy, and saves me a lot of time. Once you have the program set up with the proper margins, it is easy to use RS (replace string) to double the ampersands (&) and at (@) signs.

I have transliterated the following characters to allow insertion of printer commands, quickly and easily. Please don't use them, except as indicated. If you MUST use them, please leave me a note at the beginning or end of your article so I can accommodate your need.

| Sends codes for article title  
\ Cancels codes for article title  
~ Sends block characters for Page footer  
{ Send codes for by/from-line  
} Cancels codes for by/from-line  
[ Sends type style change and underline command  
(used for sub-titles sometimes)  
] Resets type style and cancels underline command

If you would set up the following for your article, it would save me a lot of time:

.SP3  
|Article Title\  
.SP2  
(by author's name)  
First Paragraph  
Second Paragraph  
Etc.



## That's That!

If you use the word "that" check your text. Would the sentence read just as well without it? I take out "that" a lot from your articles. "That" might have been an advantage when you had to write a two thousand word essay, but not when we are trying to get all we can into the newsletters.

## "Group" vs. "Club":

When you are referring to SW99ers, please do not use "club", use "group". When I first took over as newsletter editor from John McCleary he said it was important to use the word "group". It had something to do with our "Not for Profit" status. I don't remember the particulars, but I do remember it was important.



## Putting it all together!

After I receive your articles I pull them into a newsletter file. (It usually takes 2 files to keep from getting the TEXT BUFFER FULL! error.) After making sure each article title and by/from-line is properly set up, I print the newsletter and proof read it. (I do get re-imburged for printer use.)

Once I am happy with the way it is printing out in this preliminary print, and I have corrected the typos, etc. I print the ENTIRE newsletter to disk in several different files (to allow me to set up the pages more easily).

I return to the Editor and disable word wrap, then load the first of the files I printed to disk. With word wrap OFF (hollow cursor), I use RS (Replace String) to remove the line feed symbols that now appear at the end of each line.

I set up each page, telling the printer to reverse page feed and change the left margin at the bottom of the first column, then print the second column.

Again, I print each page to the printer, making sure it fits on the page properly. When satisfied, I add the graphics, print the page again, making sure the graphics are where I want them and not being over-written. I do the same with each of the rest of the pages. Then I put a new ribbon in the printer and print all the pages. Sometimes I have to redo a couple because I still find a mistake somewhere!

# Tom's Observations

by Tom Wiles



## A vendor to avoid

The following article is my opinion, and does not necessarily reflect those of the South West Ninety Niners User Group officers or members.

Oasis Pensive Abacutors arrived on the TI scene with lots of promise for the entire community a few years back, but time has seen that promise vaporize. Oasis Pensive Abacutors, more commonly known as O.P.A., made all kinds of promises, some which seemed too good to be true. Maybe they were too good to be true.

As of this writing, O.P.A. seems to have gone the route of Home Computer Magazine, RYTE Data, & Myarc, Inc. to mention a few. What has happened here? To this question I have no answer, except to speculate.

My speculation is that O.P.A.'s owner, Gary Bowser, bit off more than he could chew. All of Gary's promises seemed aimed at making the TI-99/4A and the Geneve 9640 computers the kind of computers we all knew they could be. Did Gary make these commitments before having the products in hand? Possibly.

Another possibility is mis-management. I believe this to be the real case. O.P.A. has had problems delivering its products since the inception of the company. Last year I and Jack Mathis ordered 2 mice from O.P.A. for use with our Geneve computers. It took months of waiting, including many letters to O.P.A. Just as I was ready to throw in the towel, Gary called me and explained there had been a delay, but the mice were going to be delivered. About 6 weeks later they arrived. In many ways, the mice are the best mice I have yet to use.

This year, O.P.A. advertised a Geneve Eprom to boot Geneve straight into GPL (TI-99/4A) mode. It was also to include the Son of a Board (S.O.B. - O.P.A.'s term, not mine) in the eprom. A computer with this chip could go from GPL mode into MDOS very easily. The price was a reasonable \$45. Wow, I wanted one of these chips!!!

Gary Bowser represented O.P.A. at the Lima TI Fair in Lima, Ohio this past May. Ida McCargar attended the fair, I asked her to pick up the Geneve Eprom for me. Gary didn't have any Eproms with him, but he would send me one once he got back to Canada.

Here it is, four months later, and no eprom. This despite repeated efforts to contact Gary Bowser. I have written several letters, including a legal form demanding either the eprom or my money back. I have even tried calling Gary personally. All to no avail.

I appear to be out \$45, and O.P.A., or should I say Gary Bowser, seems to be \$45 richer. I'm not calling Gary a thief, but his honesty, in my eyes, has become suspect.



I have been informed that due to the fact O.P.A. is a Canadian company, there is nothing I can do to redress this grievance. I have a friend who had the same experience with RYTE Data when they disappeared from the face of the Earth. I lost a few dollars at that time also by subscribing to their newsletter. The TI community also remembers the saga of Home Computing Journal, in which many Tiers were "taken to the cleaners", myself included. The most recent example is Myarc, Inc.

What can we do about such companies? Not much I'm afraid. If it is a company based in the U.S., we have some recourse as most states have good consumer protection laws. I'm not certain about Canada, or even where to find out. In the U.S. we can petition the appropriate agency for compensation on a claim.

My suggestions are as follows:

- 1) Always use a credit card when dealing with a foreign company. With a credit card, you have some means to reclaim your money. With a check, money order, or cash, there is no real effective way to recover them.
- 2) If there is any doubt about the foreign company's integrity, DON'T do business with them at all.
- 3) If you are cheated or otherwise defrauded, make it known to the rest of the TI community. There are plenty of reliable companies out there, why should we tolerate one that isn't!
- 4) If you have a problem with a company, continue to contact them. Maybe you can wear them down. Who knows, they may send your money back just to get rid of you, but I wouldn't count on it.
- 5) Above all, never give cash to ANY company unless you get the product at that time. Don't rely on them to send it to you at a later date.
- 6) When doing business via the mails, be absolutely certain that your name, address, and Zip Code (use the Zip+4 if you know it) are correct and legible! Also include your daytime and home phone numbers if possible.

My best advice is not to do business with Oasis Pensive Abacutors at all!!! Gary Bowser has shown his company to be unreliable, and possibly even fraudulent. Gary has given me no reason to believe otherwise. If I ever hear from O.P.A. or any of its representatives, I will be sure to publish the contents of that contact. In the meantime, protect yourself by NOT doing any business with Oasis Pensive Abacutors!



## Cactus Patch update

As of this writing, there have been almost 10000 calls to Cactus Patch and about 14200 messages left on-line. There have been a number of new files uploaded recently also. Currently, there are about 325 files in 13 libraries available. Our base of Tiers continues to grow with callers from out of state. There are 64 TI-99/4A users and 16 Geneve users logged onto Cactus Patch, over two-thirds of the 115 users currently logged onto the BBS.

As of late, however, financial support for the operations from those who use the BBS has fallen off, or should I say stopped altogether. There is no set amount of donations, no one will be denied access to Cactus Patch. Those who do contribute are given additional time and access capability. The amount of donations are up to each individual, their conscience, and ability to donate. If you wish to donate to the daily operating costs of Cactus Patch, which runs about \$45 a month, give your donations to the User Group Treasurer, Mike Doane. Make your checks out to the User Group and make a notation the funds are for the BBS.

One additional comment. Thanks to the efforts of Jack Mathis, we have implemented a modification to the software to better handle the way the messages in the message base are accessed. We have passed one major hurdle in finding out if the fix will work properly and are awaiting the next big milestone, the complete cycling of the message base, which should occur around the beginning of October. A problem seemed to occur when the messages reached a number evenly divisible by 1000 and when message #1

(relative number 1) was to be accessed. There are about 400 messages online at any one moment, so until we have completely cycled thru the message base, we can't be certain the fix is correct. It appears to be working so far, and we have our fingers crossed.

Cactus Patch is one of the benefits of belonging to the SouthWest Ninety Niners User Group. Support this highly visible activity by calling Cactus Patch at (602)290-6277 and joining other Tlers in interesting discussions. While you are online, feel free to download as many files as you want. That is why Cactus Patch is here!

## Feedforth Oct '92

by W. Leonard Tabbs



-> CORRECTION! TO DV80 FILE MAKER - 9/92 Newsletter

MURPHY'S LAW at it again! Somehow, in spite of great care, errors crept into the listing of the "Create DV/80 Disk Catalogs" article in last month's newsletter. Line 370 should have read: IF LEN(X0)=0 THEN 490. Also Line 390 is missing an ending parenthesis in its first string. The double ampersands in lines 490 and 500, of course, should be single ampersands (&). INPUT lines (250 and 360) were meant to begin with: ON ERROR 230 ::

If line 320 is edited to read PRINT #2: "1 "&FAPS, then when multiple DV/80 disk files are assembled with a TI-Writer type program, when the group of files is sorted, the disk title headers will not be mixed in with the files list but shunted to the top of the sorted list where they can be easily deleted if wished.

In the final part of line 330, there should be no space after the ampersand. The author of this program sincerely regrets any frustration this may have caused anyone who tried to enter this program. It emphasizes the importance (BEFORE you submit a program to a newsletter) of taking time to copy the program EXACTLY as it appears in your Formatter print-out and running the program to catch any mistakes. Running the program will usually find errors much quicker than visually trying to check your print-out against the original program listing. In using a TI-Writer type utility to enter your program, it is easy to make mistakes. Unfortunately, the author was unable to do this at the time this program had to be submitted. (See "PROOF-READING" article elsewhere in this issue.)

In AMAZEGRACE (Amazing Grace) in last month's Disk-of-the-Month, you probably found that when the tune is finished, the computer comes up with an I/O error in line 410. (This line was "RUN DSK1.LOAD"). You can REMARK this line or replace it with: "RUN DSK1.AMAZEGRACE" which will repeat the program. Or if you want to bypass the opening graphics, then substitute "GOTO 210". Fctn/4 will stop the program in either case. More elaborate would be: CT=CT+1 :: IF CT>4 THEN STOP ELSE GOTO 4. This would repeat the program 4 times or changing the GOTO part to 210 would repeat only the music (without graphics) 4 verses.

### For TI BASIC: ROBOT SOUND

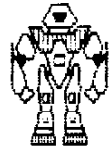
The idea for this short program came from my seeing "ROBOTSOUND" in the Feb. '92 issue of the NOVA newsletter. (Note: Since finishing this column I stumbled across almost the exact program below in

Orange County's User Group ROM newsletter of Feb. '92 p.8. There it is credited to George J. Clark of Pointe Claire, Quebec, who certainly gets the credit for this program!) The loop in line 120 sets the number of tones to be heard. The GOTO in line 190 keeps repeating the loop until you stop it with Fctn/4. Variables D, F, and V select random durations of sound, frequency and volume.

```

100 REM ROBOTSOUND
      from NOVA 2/92 p. 2
Adapt for TI BASIC by W.L.T.
110 CALL CLEAR
115 PRINT "ROBOT MUSIC (TI V
      ERSION)"
120 FOR I=1 TO 10
130 RANDOMIZE
140 D=INT(100*RND)+1
150 F=INT(2000*RND)+110
160 V=15-(INT(10*RND)+5)
170 CALL SOUND(D,F,V)
180 NEXT I
190 GOTO 120

```



If you are the experimenting kind, you might enjoy varying the numbers used. If you get a "\* BAD VALUE IN LINE 170" crash message, in Command Mode, enter: PRINT D:F:V which will show you the values at the time of program crash which enables you to see the random combination that caused the crash. Usually this is because of a random frequency chosen below TI's sound limit. (If you want to avoid such a crash, you could enter as line 155: IF F<120 THEN 150). I was surprised to find that this program runs faster in TI BASIC than in Extended Basic!

As a curiosity, to be able to interrupt this program I inserted a CALL KEY routine. I had no idea that doing so would slow down the program execution so much. If you are also curious, copy the following lines to be inserted after line 170:

```

172 CALL KEY(0,K,S)
173 IF S<>1 THEN 180
174 CALL KEY(0,K,S)
175 IF S<>1 THEN 174

```

The number 2000 in line 150 sets the range of random frequencies chosen by the computer. By varying this number you can test the limits of your monitor speaker as well as your hearing. This random number represents sound frequency wave-length in HERZ (what used to be called "cycles per second"). The higher this number is set the more you approach sounds that are inaudible to humans (or un-reproducible by your monitor speaker).

### For EXTENDED BASIC:

Here is an idea I was inspired to create from seeing a program in the ROCKY MT (TIC-TOC) newsletter of June '92. I frequently wish I didn't have to waste so much paper when printing out lists of programs, particularly when the majority of the program lines are not long.

The following allows you to select any width column you would like to print out. When you are ready to list your program, first merge this program. Then run (RUN 32000) and set your desired margins. Then list your program selecting enough lines to fill a page. Then rerun this program (RUN 32000) and set your margins for the next desired position. For example on the first run, you could set your margins to 0 (column 1) and 38. On the second run (after again re-running RUN 32000 and rolling your paper back up!) set margins for 40 and 80. (If your printer is capable of Reverse Paper Roll, you could add the appropriate command to this program).

(continued pg.9)

# Use Days

The following information is provided as a service to our members. The items listed are for sale by the individuals indicated and are subject to prior sale. The group assumes no responsibility for items listed and makes no claims as to their condition or interface compatibility with the TI-99/4A computer. Only computer related items will be accepted for publication in this newsletter.




Star Micronics  
NX-1000 II w/3 ribbons  
\$100  
Ed Chase (602)299-6511 or #118 on CP

\$200 Complete TI System  
Includes: Expansion Box w/SSSD Drive  
TI Disk Controller, Memory & RS232  
Plus: C.Itoh Printer, Console, Speech,  
ExBasic, Multiplan & TI Writer  
Norma McCargar (602)889-8401

\$150 Complete TI System  
Includes: Expansion Box w/SSSD Drive  
TI Disk Controller, Memory & RS232  
Plus: Beige Console w/dust cover,  
ExBasic, Tax Investment Record Keeping,  
Home Financial Decisions, & TI Writer  
Larry Newman (602)299-2092 or #10 on CP

Entec external power supply box. Has  
enough power for a hard disk and two  
full power floppies. Light toggle  
switches on front to control 3 outlets  
on the back of the box. Asking \$50.

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Red Heart  
\$5 Mesh Style  
\$6 Golf Style  
plus \$1 shipping  
Tom Wills (602)886-2460 or #1 on CP

\$15 TI 99-4/A Console  
\$15 Speech Synthesizer  
\$100 Expansion Box w/SSSD Drive  
TI Disk Controller, Memory & RS232  
\$10 Cartridge Expander (Widget)  
\$4 Prostick II - joystick  
\$1 TI Joysticks (as is)  
\$35 Stand Alone Disk Drive & Case  
\$2 300 BAUD Modem w/cable & power  
\$4 Replacement keyboards  
\$4 Replacement Console Power Supplies  
\$5 TI to Atari Joystick Adapter(single)  
\$5 TI to Atari Joystick Adapter(dual)  
\$4 Printer Stand (Plastic Coated Metal)  
\$10 Cassette Player/Recorder  
50/\$1 Disk Labels  
500/\$1 Mailing Labels  
Tractor feed 1-across  
Jack or BJ Mathis (602)747-5046

TI Keyboard Overlays \$3ea or 5/\$10  
Disk Storage Flip Files \$3 each  
Printer Cables 4'=\$8 6'=\$10 10'=\$12  
Modem Cables 6'=\$8 (Telco ready)  
\$3 Cassette Cable  
\$5 RGB Monitor Cable

Modules

- \$2 Addition & Subtraction 2 (5-7year)
- \$2 Adventure (on cassette)
- \$2 Alligator Mix (math) (8-9years)
- \$2 Beginning Grammar (8-9years)
- \$3 Big Foot (speech req.)
- \$3 Burgerline
- \$1 Car Wars
- \$4 Centipede
- \$1 Data Base Man. Entry (Navarone)
- \$1 Data Base Man. Sort (Navarone)
- \$2 Divison 1 (5-14years)
- \$2 Early Learning Fun (2-5years)
- \$2 Early Reading (5-7years)
- \$5 Editor Assembler
- \$25 Extended Basic
- \$2 Fractional Numbers (10-11years)
- \$1 Home Financial Decisions
- \$2 Hopper
- \$1 Household Budget Management
- \$2 Meteor Multiplication (8-9years)
- \$2 Microsurgeon
- \$4 Moon Patrol
- \$1 Munch Man
- \$2 Multiplication 1 (8-9years)
- \$5 Multiplan
- \$2 Number Magic (5-7years)
- \$2 Numeration 2 (10-11years)
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- \$4 Pole Position
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\$2 Epson MX-80 \$3.50 NX-1000

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(Critical Path Method Planning)

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School, & Office  
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\$3 Basic Programs for Business Vol. 1  
\$3 Basic Programs for Business Vol. 2  
\$3 Basic Programs for the Home  
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\$3 Executive Computing - How to  
Get It Done on Your Own  
\$10.50 Home Publishing on the TI-99/4A  
Supplement #3 w/disk  
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\$2 Kids & the TI-99/4A  
\$3 Pascal from Basic  
\$3 Practical Basic Programs  
\$2 Programs for the TI Home Computer  
\$3 Programming Basic w/the TI Computer  
\$1 Sams TI-99/4A Basic Programs  
\$3 Some Common Basic Programs  
\$3 The Word Processing Book  
\$3 The Writers by Harry Brashear  
\$2 TI 99/4A User's Guide  
\$3.25 User's Reference Guide  
\$2 Using & Programming the TI-99/4A

Home Computer/99er Magazines  
\$1 each or 6 for \$5  
Nov '82 thru Nov '83  
Vol 1, #5 and Vol 1, #6  
Vol 4, #1 thru Vol 5, #6  
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**Feedforth**

(cont. from Pg.7)

```
32000 REM (ALTRPRNPIO)
9-12-92 Idea Adapted from
Program Listings Adjuster
from ROCKY MT 6/92 P.6
32010 OPEN #2:"PIO" :: PRINT
#2:CHR$(27)&"@
32020 CALL CLEAR :: DISPLAY
AT(16,1):"Reminder: First Co
lumn=#" :: INPUT "Enter LEFT
and RIGHT Margins: ";L,R
32030 ESC$=CHR$(27)&"I"&CHR$
(L):: ESCI$=CHR$(27)&"Q"&CHR
$(R)
```

```
32040 OPEN #6:"PIO"
32050 ! PRINT #6:ESC$:ESCI$:
"This STARTS at";L;"and ENDS
at";R;"for Length of";R-L;"
Characters" ! This is Test
Line
32060 PRINT #6:ESC$:ESCI$:
32070 CLOSE #6
32080 CALL CLEAR :: DISPLAY
AT(16,1):"Don't FORGET to Tu
rn Printer" :: "Off when fini
shed Listing to": : "CLEAR Pr
inter for Next Job!"
```

Printer commands used are for an NX-1000 printer. You may need to check your own printer commands, if they are not the same, to edit this program. Line 32050 is a "test line" you can un-REMark (remove the ! sign). This test line gives you an opportunity to experiment finding the left and right margins you want. You could easily adapt lines from this program to incorporate in any program you have where you want to have the option of specifying your columns. Without too much work this could be made adjustable for different column widths according to the data being processed. A real paper-saver for long lists of short items!

If you wish to convert this Ex-Basic program to TI BASIC, separate the multiple statement lines into separate individual lines, substituting "PRINT" or "DISPLAY" for the DISPLAY AT lines. If you're not certain how to do this, give me a call!

**Members Meet**

First Tuesday, October 6th, Devon Gables Health Care Center (Exec Dining Rm) at 6150 E. Grant across from the Price Club at 7:15pm. Mike Doane will demo CAD from the September Disk of the Month.

**TI-Base Workshop**

Second Tuesday of this month, October 13th, 7:00pm. Tom Wills 6925 E Kingston Dr. - 886-2460.

**Exec Meeting**

Third Monday of each month, October 19th - 6:30pm, Perkins Restaurant at Grant and Swan, NE corner. All SW99ers are invited to help with planning for our Users Group.

**General Users**

Third Tuesday of each month, October 20th, 7:30pm. Mathis' home - 5941 E 26th - 747-5046.

**Advanced Languages**

Fourth Tuesday of each month, October 27th - 7:00pm. Rod Stallard's home - 7575 E Logan Dr - 745-6071.

**Membership Report**

We had a very small turn out at the August meeting. Sure nup the summer vacations are over soon! Ernie Chavier, zip code 85741, phone 744-7856 joined our group this month. Membership renewals included Mike Doane, John Boyajeon, Jim Chapman, and Wm. McKinley Jones. SW99ers now has 53 members. We mail out 54 exchange newsletters (5 companies & 49 groups. This month we will send notices to one company and six groups we have not heard from since 1991.

**November Newsletter  
Deadline**

October 23rd, 1992



**Fest West North**

February 13 & 14th 1993



Where: Howard Johnson Hotel  
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For More Info Write: FestWest North Committee  
1396 Lincoln Apt B  
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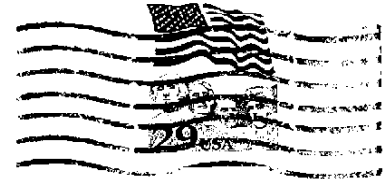
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