

VAST NEWS

for the VAST Computer User Group

Volume 7 Number 7

July 13, 1991

TI World and Local News

(Compiled by Jim Ely from various sources, mostly MICROpendium Magazine.)

OPA To Produce RICH GKXB Cartridge

Oasis Pensive Abacutors will produce the RICH GKXB cartridge, according to program author Richard Gilbertson (see April 1991 MICROpendium). Gilbertson says the cartridge version is expected to be available in December.

He says he has added several enhancements to the program, including a MOVE command which allows the user to edit programs while they are running rather than using a MERGE file.

The program will be compatible with the TI-Image Maker (Tiny TIM) or a VDP card. The user will be able to change VDP mode and go to bitmap graphics and switch back.

The input/output working with the CRU address of the machine is on a machine language level, with the same control as assembly language. When this is completed, the user can use it for playing music, Gilbertson says. He notes that the new utilities are "mostly for people who are good at

programmning," and he predicts lots of future software resulting from them.

The cartridge version will run with a standard TI99/4A. A disk version which will work with a GRAM device or the Geneve 9640 is now available from CaDD Electronics.

OPA is at 432 Jarvis St., Ste. 502, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M4Y 2H3, (416) 960-0925 (8 a.m. - 11 p.m. EST, voice) or (416) 921-2731 (24-hour BBS).

CaDD Electronics has announced that it is selling the RICH GKXB disk for \$24.95 plus \$2 for shipping and handling, according to Mark Van Coppnolle of CaDD.

A demo is included on the disk with the GRAM files, and the price includes a manual of approximately 90 pages.

For further information or to order, contact
C a D D

Electronics, 81 Prescott Rd., Raymond, NH 03077 or call (603) 895-0119.

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From the Editor's Desk

HOPE YOU ALL HAD A NICE FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY!

IN THIS ISSUE...

As you can see, there isn't much news to report this month. Page 4 has number 13 of the *NEW-AGE/99* articles by Jack Sughrue. This month he talks about the wonderful videos that are available from various sources on just about everything from demos to configuring Funnelweb. Page 7 has an imported *4/A FORAY* column (guest authored). It is called the **Parable of the TI**. I grabbed this one from the *TiSHUG News Digest* from Australia (thanks to Curt Mavity). There are two other articles from other newsletters. On page 12 is an editorial about what a user group really is by Jan Knapp of the St. Louis 99'ers. I don't think I could have said it better myself, which is why I included it. And on page 13 is an interesting article by Carney Mimms of the Central Westchester 99'ers about FAX machines. What, as usual, I didn't get for this issue is a single article from a member of our group. I guess I'll just have to keep trying...

EQUIPMENT SURVEY

On page 9 is an equipment survey. Please fill it out and return it at the meeting or mail it to the address on the form. The page has been designed to be taken out of your

newsletter WITHOUT the lose any of the other IMPORTANT content of your newsletter. You will still have all the articles intact.

UPCOMING MEETINGS...

First, let's beginning by saying that this month's meeting will be held in the **ORANGE ROOM** at the Plye Adult Recreation Center. The calendar for the next 2 months is below...

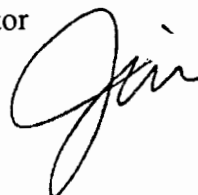
AUGUST 1991							SEPTEMBER 1991						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

VAST USER GROUP EXCLUSIVE!

On page 14 of this issue are several scanned images from a collection of clip art done by Virginia Davis. Several disks of this type have been donated to the VAST Software Library. As I understand it, ALL of the disks will be available for sale at **FEST WEST '92** by VAST and some are available now by contacting the librarians. All are in Page-Pro format and some are in TI-Artist format. If you are into graphics, you NEED these collections.

That's all I have for you this month. See you at the meeting, July 13th.

Jim Ely, Editor



SECRETARY'S SLATE

MINUTES

VAST COMPUTER USER GROUP

JUNE 8, 1991

The regular monthly meeting of the VAST COMPUTER USER GROUP was held on Saturday, June 8, 1991 at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center in Tempe, AZ. The meeting was called to order by President Mike Grogan at 10 a.m. All officers, 14 members and 2 guests were in attendance.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved as published in the June newsletter. The treasurers report was approved.

A motion was made by Mike Marfisi, seconded and approved to open a checking account in the name of the *FEST WEST '92* Committee at a bank of their choice. The account would require the signature of Ralph Rees, Hazel Knight or Mike Grogan. The club would deposit the sum of \$200 to this account as a loan to the *FEST WEST '92* Committee to be paid back from proceeds of the *FEST*, as they become available.

Another motion was made by Mike Marfisi which was seconded and approved to purchase a DSDD disk drive for the club system. Bud Barnes would be assigned to make the purchase.

Jim Ely reported that a conference has been set up on the BBS for *FEST WEST '92*. All *FEST* business should be conducted here. The conference will be available to anyone that calls as long as they register.

Wallace Knight reported that TIPS 1.8 and

Funnelweb 4.31 have been added to the library. Mike Grogan announced that Virginia Davis had donated her entire collection of music disks to the library. This includes some 50 disks of songs.

It was also noted that Virginia has donated a 300 baud modem to the club. Anyone who would like to try BBS'ing can borrow the needed equipment from the club.

There was no old business.

At this point the meeting was turned over to Ralph Rees for a *FEST WEST '92* report. Ralph reported that the contract had been turned over to him for signatures. We are locked into a room rate of \$54 per room for up to 4 people per room. We would have to guarantee an occupancy of 20 rooms per night for 2 nights. There was some question as to which nights we had to guarantee. Ralph will clarify this and sign the contract.

It had been suggested that we hold a vendors forum on Friday or Saturday night. This would be a chance for vendors to get together to discuss common problems. The idea was well received and will be included in the activities if enough vendors are interested.

The subject of a raffle came up. We decided that we would buy a Star NX 1000 Rainbow color printer as the first give away item. Then we would solicit vendors for donations or reduced purchase prices on items to be given away.

See *MINUTES*, on page 6

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W-AGE/99 \* NEW-AGE/  
99 \* NEW-AGE/99 \* N  
EW-AGE/99 \* NEW-AGE  
/99 \* NEW-AGE/99 \*  
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by JACK SUGHRUE,
Box 459, East Douglas, MA 01516

#13

the VCR CONNECTION

I think one of the most exciting things to happen in our 99 world is the advent of tutorial and conference videos.

Almost everyone has a VCR, the ownership of which can now open new worlds to 99 and Geneve users. Now that VCRs are coming down in price, more and more groups and individuals are using this tool to enhance their computer activities and share their computer knowledge.

The unquestioned master of this new genre is Dr. Charles Good of the Lima, Ohio, group. Videos have been around for some time and made their first TI existence about five or six years ago at the Chicago Fair. Some of the big-wiggies were interviewed and some screens were shown of different pieces of software. This amateur tape circulated for a year or so around lots of user groups. We (then still in the millions, it seemed) watched transfixed as new and exciting things were explained and shown to us.

Then drought.

Well, even though there were some other videos around here and there, the drought

really ended when Charlie took up the cause with a vengeance. Not only does the Lima group make a monthly tape of the demos of their meetings, but they have amassed a vast TI tape library. I have on my desk (all from Lima) the following: NEVER RELEASED OFFICIAL TI MODULES, TI MULTI-USER GROUP CONFERENCE 1988, CONFERENCE 1989 (2 tapes), CONFERENCE 1990 (3 tapes), MBX REQUIRED GAMES, FUNNELWEB v4.2 DEMO, and DON ALEXANDER'S GENEVE SOFTWARE DEMO. These 10 tapes run about 50 hours! They are filled with all sorts of people demonstrating (or discussing or teaching) all sorts of TI things. I'll list a few.

Karl Romstedt - friendly general loader and label printing software in XB with assembly routines; Harold Hoyt - useful applications of Steve Karesek's SUPER BASIC; Irwin Hott - using ALSAVE to imbed assembly code with an XB program; Bill Hudson - an assembly language prescan for XB; Multiplan Tutorial - presented by Great Lakes Computer Group; PLUS! - demonstrated by Jack Sughrue; Geneve - demonstrated by Edu Comp; Horizon Ramdisk - discussed by Bud Mills; Home Control 99 - demonstrated by Paul Wheeler; The Future of User Groups - discussion led by Charles Good and Dave Szippel of the Lima Group; A Blind Person Using the TI - demonstrated by Irwin Hott; NUTS & BOLTS - demonstrated by Jim Peterson; GENE III - demonstrated by Dick Berry; Output to a VCR - shown by John Perkins; 1000

See **NEW-AGE 13** on page 5

NEW-AGE 13, from page 4

WORDS - author Norman Rokke demonstrates this Artist/text conversion file; Barry Traver - contents of Genial Traveler and linking XB to assembly via CALL LINK; Chris Bobbitt - recent and future releases from Asgard; Andy Frueh - music programming on the 4a; Ron Markus - the DIJIT AVPC 80-column card; Jim Horn - services on COMPUSERVE; Martin Smoley - TI BASE tutorial; Paul Scheidemantle - converting from one Artist format to another and tips and tricks; Steve Karasek - SUPERBASIC 2.0; Karl Romstedt - Panorama, a new artist program; Milo Tsukroff - MX-DOS v3.0 an icon/joystick based program loader with disk management features; Beery Miller - future software for the Geneve; Jim Peterson - using Don Shorock's Kana Filer that speaks and writes (with TEII) Japanese and drills vocabulary; Bruce Harrison - secrets of assembly language programming to make TI music; Gary Bowser - Rambo review module library box; Gary Taylor - demonstration of TI's Compact Computer 40, TI's Hex Bus peripherals, and Mechatronics Hex Bus Drive; and lots more.

This should give you a good idea of the kinds of things available each May just from the annual Lima Fair (called "T.I. Multi User Group Conference," for some unknown reason). Each of these six-hour tapes use cameras on the tutor while cutting into the screen electronically when something is being shown. These tapes get better and better each year, and the editing techniques are superb. Although I haven't been able to attend the last two years, I felt I got a big

part of the fair sent to me. I know a lot of other homebound TI acquaintances feel the same. It's no real substitute for being at the fair, of course, but it's a great second best. The TI experts are at your beck and call in your home any time you want them.

In addition to all these fair tapes, there are numerous "single theme" jobs also available. Don Alexander of Macon, Georgia, for example, does a fine job with the Geneve. I think this one is better for someone who has used the Geneve for awhile, though. I hope someone eventually does a truly step-by-step basic tutorial of the Geneve, maybe even a full six hours. It is sorely needed.

Charlie has also done theme tapes, such as MBX (where he steps through all the MBX modules) and UNRELEASED (where he plays and discusses all the delightful unreleased TI modules). I found both these tapes fascinating, particularly the UNRELEASED, as I could load them onto my SUPERCART or my GENEVE. Charlie's FUNNELWEB 4.2 DEMO is a classic. The viewer is taken through every step of the FWB configuration process that (for some strange reason) frightened so many people. Though the tape is similar to Charlie's tutorials in the BITS, BYTES & PIXELS newsletter he edits for Lima, it is far more extensive and much clearer, as you can see and hear everything being done live. I can't imagine anyone not being able to perform FWB magic after viewing this tape.

To get more information about these tapes (and/or join the Lima Group by mail which

See NEW-AGE 13 on page 6

NEW-AGE 13, from page 5

I would HIGHLY recommend), contact Charles Good, PO Box 647, Venedocia, OH 45894.

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**ANOTHER GOLDEN GOODIE**

There is another great video now available to TI owners: the full-length LOGO video done by Eunice Spooner (RFD 1, Box 3720, Webb Road, Waterville, ME 04901). It is wonderful! It also comes with a disk full of lots of the items she demos and a hardcopy listing of the items and footage for easy tape locations.

Eunice is a certified elementary teacher and it is obvious on this tape. She's terrific: kind, patient, step-by-step logical, no panic; and she makes everything seem easy and fun. Which it is, if you do the things she suggests.

I always liked LOGO. Then I put it away for a long time. After viewing this tape and trying her programs, I discovered I ♥ LOGO.

If you own LOGO, get this package instantly. At \$10 it is a total steal. And it is used as a fundraiser to support the only ALL KIDS TI USER GROUP IN THE WORLD! If you don't own LOGO, buy it instantly. (It's on sale everywhere CHEAP! I paid \$119 for my first and recently bought an unboxed one for \$15.) But, new or used, pick one up for this video/disk set alone. You'll rediscover the joys of computing and the real fun (and learning, which is why it is fun) of your remarkable 4a. Don't delay.

j.s.

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**MINUTES, from page 3**

We will need to establish a pool of available equipment. This would be those items that may be needed by vendors. Mike Marfisi will develop some kind of equipment survey to find out just what kind of stuff is available within our group.

There was no other business so the meeting was closed at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully  
Mike Marfisi  
Secretary  
VAST Computer User Group

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**NEWS, from page 1**

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**Texaments releases TI Artist Plus! Pak**

Texaments has released the TI Artist Plus! Pak, a combination package of five programs for TI-Artist and TI Artist Plus! users.

Also, prices on all Character Sets and Graphic Design (CSGD) have been reduced.

The TI Artist Plus! Pak consists of five software packages - GuideLines, Display Master, Artoons, Designer Labels and the Artist's Companion of choice (Nos. 2 through 13; Artist Companion No. 1 is excluded from this offer) - at \$49.95. Purchased separately, the same software would cost almost \$60, Lamberti says.

New reduced CSGD software prices are: CSGD I (The Beginning), \$9.95; CSGD II

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# 4/A FORAY

## The Parable of the TI

by Dick Warburton

(from the *TISHUG News Digest*, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia)

Once upon a time there were some little computers who lived with their parents in America. One of them became an orphan because his parents did not want him any more. Lots of people tried to look after him, but because they did not get much help, they had to work things out for themselves, and people did not ever expect them to grow up. Their parent companies had lots of other new computers whom they trained to take the places of the older computers. The little computers were very smart, but the old ones grew lazier and lazier because their parent companies did lots of things to keep them happy. They just kept on doing the same old things, and because they had slick advertising to support them, they just kept on going as they were. People who looked after them paid lots of money for the privilege, and bought them all sorts of expensive toys to play with. Some of these toys were very old, and were hard to operate.

People kept on looking after them, and these machines paid for their keep by performing for their masters. Some of them could only really play games and amuse people, but one of them was very good at school, and came to have lots of friends. Unfortunately, his parents died too, and he

became an orphan. Then almost nobody wanted him because he was only good at schoolwork. The other one went to work in an office, and he learned lots of things to do. Unfortunately, he was not very versatile, and even though people spent lots of money writing simple instructions for him, he didn't always do what he was told, and some people wished that he would grow up. He was also hard to look at, and did not have nice colors. He was very slow and some people thought he was stupid. Most of his owners got fed up with him and locked him away in a cupboard, and bought a shining new model with lots of new functions and shiny new color monitors and things. These new machines were called DOS machines. DOS stands for Damned Orrible System. DOS machines are very good at making their owners feel really helpless and frustrated, and are often used as paperweights or typewriters.

The little orphan had a hard time, and had to work hard to survive. He was able to do lots of things. He was not very big, but he was very intelligent and learned quickly. He was very efficient for his age and size, and because he was only small, he had to learn lots of tricks to get the jobs done properly. People who looked after him, liked him, and helped him grow up into a very sophisticated computer. He could do almost everything that the other three computers could do, and was much more obedient. His instructions were much easier to give, and he had users who liked him. They did lots of things to make his job easier. Some of his users gave him a beautiful color monitor,

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**4/A FORAY, from page 7**

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while others liked to see how fast he could work by providing a RAMdisk. He kept on growing stronger, and stronger, and better. The other computers almost stopped growing. Because he is made so well, he can be fixed up if he gets sick, and hospital bills are small. His friends like to help each other, so they are able to do things to expand him much more cheaply than other computers. This makes them happy in a time when costs are high, and there is not much money. This little orphan expects to live for a long, long time. He has friends all over the world who care for him, and who help to keep him growing. They keep making things for him which give him bigger muscles, and let him run much faster. His owners are very proud of what he can do when all the costs and comparisons are made.

A simple story, but with much truth. The TI can do so many things well. With RAMdisks and EPROMS to help it along, it is efficient, user friendly and will do almost everything you could want of your computer. It is cheap to run, cheap to expand, and has a great bunch of users world wide who help each other. It is a fun machine for real computer users. Through club membership, owners can become proficient in a number of ways. They can get help with programming, using a wide range of software, buying up-to-date software, and getting help for hardware problems. Costs for club members are kept to a minimum. Members can learn about computer hardware, add accessories cheaply, and expand their machines at minimum cost. When your membership falls due, RENEW so our orphan can continue

to grow, and we can continue to provide the range of services to club members. d.w.

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(The Banner Maker), \$7.95; CSGD III (The Continuation), \$12.95; CSGD User Disk 1, \$2.95; CSGD User Disks 2 through 7, \$5.95 each; CSGD Cataloger, \$3.95. In addition, any two CSGD User Disks can be purchased for only \$10.90 and any three for \$15. The entire CSGD Software Series, consisting of all the CSGD programs and User Disks which originally sold for more than \$127, can be purchased for \$65.

For further information, or to order, contact Texaments at 53 Center St., Patchogue, NY 11772 or call (516) 475-3480 (voice) or (516) 475-6463 (BBS). Mail orders should include an additional \$3.25 for U.S. and Canadian shipment and \$8 for foreign shipment.

A free spring/summer catalog will be provided on request to the above address or by voice or modem phone request, Lamberti says.

Texaments now buys, sells and trades used TI99/4A and Geneve 9640 hardware, software, resource materials and accessories directly with end users, according to Steve Lamberti, president of Texaments.

Unless otherwise noted, all used hardware purchased from Texaments is guaranteed to be in good working condition and comes with a 30-day warranty, Lamberti says. In addition, the company also has a 15-day

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**See NEWS on page 14**

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# COMPUTER AND ELECTRONICS SWAP MEET

## LOCATION:

**ELECTRONIC MATERIALS AND  
COMPUTERS PARKING LOT  
3102 W. THOMAS, PHOENIX, AZ  
272-3200**

Individuals and Dealers are welcome to come and sell. Booths will be one standard parking space in size and will cost \$10.00. All proceeds will go toward *ADVERTISING*. Booths are limited so reserve early by contacting **BILL** or **BUD** at the store. Admission will be **FREE** for buyers. Sellers are limited to Computer and Electronic items (Bring tables and shade!). As this is a "CO-OP" Swap Meet, sellers will be expected to lend a hand cleaning up afterward, spreading the word, etc...

**SUNDAY  
JULY 21, 1991  
8:00 a.m./3:00 p.m.**

## FOR SALE

1200 baud Uniqmodem 1200HC Hayes Compatible MODEM with Manual. Asking \$50 OBO. CALL JIM ELY 275-8018 or leave message on VAST BBS in FOR-SALE Conference.

P-Box, TI Disk Controller Card with SS/SD Disk Drive, 32K Memory Card, RS232 Card. \$250 obo ...as a full unit. CALL MIKE GROGAN (602) 272-4315

## WANTED

PLATO CARTRIDGE. I have several other carts I will trade you for or sell to you. I WANT YOUR PLATO CARTRIDGE! CALL MIKE GROGAN (602) 272-4315

## Just a reminder...

The **VAST BBS** has changed its telephone number. You can now reach it 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at **(602) 233-0790**.

This is a local call for most area residents.

Give it a call for the latest information about the VAST Computer User Group!



## WHAT IS A USER GROUP?

by Jan Knapp,  
Newsletter Editor, *The Computer Bridge*  
Newsletter, St. Louis 99ers

I can hear the mumbles now, "What, we've been a user group for how many years and now she wants a job description?" No, I don't need one, but I think some of our members do. You see the operative word is USER. We do not call ourselves the "Programmers Group" or the "Happy Hacker Hobbyist." We are a USER GROUP! A well balanced group needs the above, but it is not inclusive. We should be directing our attention to USING our computers, but are we? Many of our members think not. They might not say something to you verbally, but they are saying it. They say it by coming to a meeting and NOT joining. They're saying it by not renewing their memberships. Some of us are seeing this trend and it makes us worry about our future.

Some of you might say "Well let them go. They don't contribute anything." If you're thinking it, don't say it yet. Let me tell you something you might not know. Most of your valued officers are "COMPUTER USERS;" not programmers, not hackers, USERS. Your NEWSLETTER EDITOR is a computer USER. Your TREASURER is a computer USER. Your SECRETARY is a computer USER. Do they contribute to the club? YES! Would you like to see them be the next to go? I really don't think so. If you think we're over rated, try doing our job and still have time to play with your computer. To us it is a tool and only a tool. The ridiculous part is that we are all

USERS, we just use them differently. It doesn't make us any better or worse than someone else. It's unfortunate that some PROGRAMMERS look on USERS as parasites and some USERS look on TECHIES as being hopelessly out of touch with reality.

As Newsletter Editor, I get to meet many of our club members, some of whom you've never met. Their only contact with our club is through the newsletter. I get to see first hand the range of knowledge within. They range from those afraid to turn the computer on to those who take it apart, modify it, and put it back together again. I think it's safe to say that these people have trouble relating to each other. In the newsletter we TRY to have a little something for everyone. Newspapers are often criticized by some for writing at an 8th grade level. But I ask you, what would happen to their circulation if they were written only for intellectuals? It wouldn't last long. The same could be said for our club. Not in the form of our newsletter, but our monthly meetings. They need to be BUSINESS meetings directed to ALL the members. Reports should be as short as possible. "Just the facts, Ma'am." Address the issue and offer a further disclosure after the end of the business portion of the meeting. If we do this, everyone will get more out of the meetings. They will be shorter and we will have more time to share our experiences with those interested and help those that need it. If we shorten the meetings enough, we can spend the extra time for demos and SIG meetings. What do you think? Want to give it a try? Come to the July meeting and voice your opinion!

j.k.

## JUST THE FAX, MA'AM

by Carney Mimms

*Central Westchester 99er's Newsletter*

Want to know what modem communications could have, and may yet, become? Just look at the FAX! Only a few years ago, facsimile machines were massive, specialized pieces of machinery seldom seen outside the back rooms of Fortune 500 companies. Now you can spot FAX machines just about anywhere – your dentist's office, the corner gas station, the public library – although some, like those packaged with a telephone handset are so small and inconspicuous that they pass un-noticed. And like any other consumer electronic device, they are getting smaller almost daily. Some catalogs offer a car FAX that plugs into the cigarette lighter, and, who knows, we may even see the wrist FAX — perfect for sending post-it notes to our friends.

Now take another look around. How many modems do you see? Even if there were one out there for every computer and terminal, it would be a small fraction of the number of FAX machines. This highlights the first major advantage of the FAX machine - all you need is the FAX itself and a telephone line. This would cease to be an obstacle, of course, if every home and office had a computer or terminal. Remember the Home Computer (read TI-99/4A)? Since this millennium is still a ways off, perhaps we should consider the French alternative. When the French government decided, about fifteen years ago, that dial-up reference service should replace printed phone books, it distributed terminals to every subscriber at

below cost. Although attacked by some as a costly boondoggle at the time, this subsidized system ultimately evolved into the highly successful Minitel telecommunication network, offering not only phone number reference, but also information services of all kind, including its most highly publicized feature, sexual chit-chat on-line.

An inspiring idea, but now that Ma Bell has been disintegrated, don't look for the U.S. government to start giving out free terminals, let alone computers, any time soon. For that matter, don't look for major private enterprises to start subsidizing the use of terminals and computers by consumers, either. The giants of the publishing and electronics industries still have vivid memories of the great videotext debacle and can be expected to move cautiously where the retail distribution of on-line services is concerned.

And even if terminals and real home computers started sprouting everywhere like weeds, the FAX machine would still have some other crucial advantages, at least temporarily. These advantages are in the things the FAX doesn't have: no protocols, no stop bits, no parity, no dialing commands, and no keyboard. Just stick a piece of paper in the machine and dial a phone number. Until modem communication begins to approach this level of simplicity, its use is going to be limited to people who are at least willing to cope with a certain level of technical arcana. As an industry spokesman put it recently in a different context, most on-line systems are at best "expert-tolerant," never mind "user-

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See **JUST THE FAX** on page 14

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**JUST THE FAX, from page 13**

friendly" (whatever that means). Finally, even when these obstacles are removed by a simpler, less obscure interface - and there are already on-line systems, mostly using the Macintosh that have done this - there is still the keyboard itself. Although we seem to be living in a sea of keyboards, the sad truth is that any machine, even a typewriter, that requires people to type rather than simply speak, point or insert is going to be something less than a household appliance.

So despite all this, does the modem or its successor still have a future in the emerging world of instant communications? Watch this space and find out. In the meantime, feel free to disagree. c.m.

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refund policy for all used hardware. All non-defective returns are subject to a 20 percent restocking fee; all shipping costs are the responsibility of the customer.

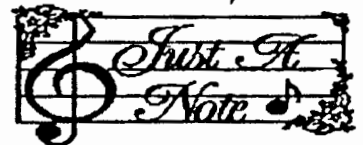
Texaments also offers a free, no obligation quotation service to persons wishing to sell all or part of their current TI99/4A or Geneve 9640 system. To take advantage of this service individuals should mail in a listing of the equipment they wish to sell. Within two business days, the company will send a formal offer to those requesting a quotation.

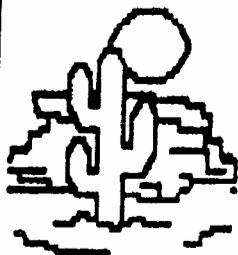
The program is available only within the United States and Canada. Availability of items offered for sale is limited and items are sold on a first come, first served basis.

Individuals who wish to obtain a free listing of used TI hardware, software, resource materials and accessories available from Texaments should send a self-addressed, postage-paid envelope to Texaments, at the address above or call the BBS.

Complete instructions for placing an order or requesting a quotation are included in both the printed and on-line equipment listings, Lamberti says.

Clip-art by *Virginia Davis* available from the VAST Computer User Group Library...





A COMPUTER USERS CONVENTION

# FOR THE TI 99-4A

and the

# MYARC GENEVE 9640

**LOCATION:** Days Inn-Phoenix/Camelback  
502 W. Camelback, Phoenix, AZ 85013  
(602)264-9290 or 1-800-688-2021

**DATE/TIME:** Sat Feb 15, 1992-9am to 5pm  
Sun Feb 16, 1992-9am to 3pm

**PRIZES**  
**COLOR PRINTER**

Other prizes to be Announced  
there will be some door prizes. Too!

Fest tickets are on sale now (\$5.00  
for both days). Any one under 15, is free  
if with an Adult.

Why not plan your THREE DAY weekend now!  
FESTWEST RATES \$54.00 (1 TO 4 PEOPLE per  
Room per Day).

TI FEST WEST '92  
THE BEST YOU CAN GET

Presented by: THE VALLEY OF THE SUN TI  
USER GROUP (VAST)

For more information: Call BBS 233-0790 or  
H. KNIGHT (602)-938-5446 or  
R. REES (602)-869-8145

VENDOR'S MEETING WILL BE HELD.  
TIME WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

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SOFTWARE  
HARDWARE  
&  
ACCESSORIES

# VAST User Group Information

The VAST Computer User Group is a support group for the TI-99/4A Home Computer and compatibles.

The VAST Computer User Group operates a BBS 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The phone number is (602) 233-0790.

## CURRENT OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Mike Grogan . . . . . 272-4315

### VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Ely . . . . . 275-8018

### SECRETARY/TREASURER

Mike Marfisi. . . . . 491-1552

### LIBRARIANS

Hazel & Wallace Knight . . . 938-5446

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jim Ely . . . . . 275-8018

### BBS SYSOP

Mike Grogan . . . . . 272-4315

Send any correspondence to the address below.

## ADVERTISING RATES

There is **NO CHARGE** to **MEMBERS** for **PERSONAL** advertising. Non-members will be charged \$1.50 per ad.

Please contact the Secretary/Treasurer for **COMMERCIAL** advertising rates.

**DISCLAIMER:** The VAST Computer User Group can assume **NO** responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this newsletter or for programs or construction projects tried by its members or others. **YOU** try them at your **OWN RISK!** Any material herein may be republished by other user groups so long as credit is given to the **ORIGINAL** sources.

## VAST NEWS

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