



West Penn 99'ers



Supporting the TI-99/4A Home Computer

Established 1985

ISSUE #81

May 1992

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FOR THE RECORD

by: Frank Zic

The April meeting started at 7:15 PM. The meeting may have started on time but she said she was not too well organized. But then, when is she? Uh,Ha, I got the right one there baby. Just kidding of course--Not. The first order of business, as usual, was Mickey giving her personal thanks. Dick Ohi for his newsletter article, Art Gardner for his tireless efforts with the concession stand, selling club wares and re-inking ribbons. He turned in another \$100 for his re-inking work. Paul Brock provided us again with his fine graphics and text sheets. Paul has also done a nice job of cataloging the newsletters received from other clubs. Make it a point at the next meeting to come up and look over this good reading material and take a few home to read. Mickey's 1992 TI club theme is "Use your TI". The demos, West Penn club Dollars, raffles and other activities are all a part of the "Use your TI" program. MICROpendium references this month include; p15 Lima Faire, p28 Texcomp and p28 Adventure games. Comments were made on the happenings at the Boston Faire. The Chicago Faire will be held Oct. 30 & 31. They will have a Halloween theme this year since it coincides with this costume day. Demos were, Disk of Horrors - Paul Brock and YAPP & TI Artist Plus - Mike Seally. These were offered later as raffle prizes. Other nice prizes were 2 Recepte books and a pack of tracter feed computer labels.

Many greeted back an old friend and member, Scott Coleman. Also a special welcome to Emile Barco who joined our club this evening. If you missed the free give away, Mickey gave everyone in attendance a \$1.00 gift of West Penn money that is redeemable on the purchase of disks from the library. Two separate funny stories were read by Judy Muir and myself. At least we thought they were. In general a good time was had by all. I know the minutes are short this time but I think I covered most everything. Oh, well if I didn't I'll surely hear about it at the next meeting. Chris, here is some extra space for you.

May the good 4's be with you.

NEXT MONTH...

Full coverage of the Lima Conference!

WEST PENN 99'ERS CLUB INFORMATION

NEXT MEETING DATE

MAY 19, 1992
7:00 P.M.

MEETING LOCATION

PENNS WOODS
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

JUST OFF ROUTE 30
N. HUNTINGDON, PA

LIST OF WEST PENN OFFICERS FOR 1992

PRESIDENT:	Mickey	412-335-0163
VICE PRESIDENT:	Norm	614-264-6442
TREASURER:	Lynn	412-835-4304
RECORDING SEC:	Frank	412-751-6065
CORRESPONDING SEC:	Paul	412-478-2754
LIBRARIAN:	Bob	412-863-5672
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	Chris	703-415-3964

GENERAL ITINERARY OF THE CLUB'S MEETING

6:45 P.M.	DOORS OPEN
7:00 P.M.	GENERAL MEETING
7:45 P.M.	DEMOS AND NEW INFO
9:45 P.M.	ONE ON ONE HELP
9:45 P.M.	SOCIALIZING
11:00 P.M.	DOORS CLOSE

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR THIS MONTH

- * LATEST T.I. NEWS AND SOFTWARE DISCOUNTS
- * REPORT ON THE 1992 LIMA T.I. CONFERENCE
- * "DISK OF THE OLD WEST" -- BY PAUL BROCK
- * "MINEFIELD GAME" - DEMO BY LYNN GARDNER
- * "SCREEN DUMPS" - DEMO BY MICKEY SCHMITT
- * "ON-LINE GRAPEVINE" DISK #9 BY VONRICKY

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES!

\$15.00 PER YEAR FOR INDIVIDUAL / FAMILY
\$10.00 PER YEAR FOR ONLY OUR NEWSLETTER

From the Editor...

The Multi-User Group Conference in Lima, Ohio is May 15th and 16th. I will be able to attend again this year so I will have a full report of the show in the next issue. I hope to include not only coverage of the entire show, but also photos to spice up the page (a picture is worth 1000 words you know). Hope to see a few of you there too!


Spring is here! I hope all of the nice weather will not keep you from our monthly meetings.

I've changed the "footers" at the bottom of each page of the newsletter this month. I think the new format is a better "fit".

Also, I just want to remind everyone that our newsletter is printed (the original copy that is) with a Texas Instruments MicroLaser laser printer.
CDP

--WP♦

PANDA



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Specifications

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- Room for 1 hidden 3 1/2" hard disk drive

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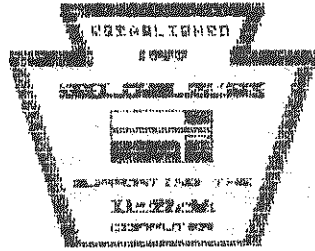
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Power	Green LED
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Turbo Status	Yellow LED

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WEST PENN 99'ERS

This is April all ready and it seems that there isn't much time left to get the MAY artical out. I have been behind and it seems like I will never get caught up with all the work. I don't know how you did it John!

The last few articals have been written with Picasso utility. After all I am just a new kid and I have all of these different softwares and want to see which one will work best. I guess that is one reason that I don't have much time.

This month I am using Art Gibson's NEWSLETTER PRINTER. I seen this on the LIMA tapes and got a copy from the library. I like to try anything at least once.

So much for that now to get to business. I went over most of the news letters and found some important items that I would like to mention. I am puting this information in this artical and telling you where to find it. The NEWS LETTERS will be at the meeting.

Turbo Speech How to speed up the spoken word. From the HOCUS 99 - Dec. 1991. (No page number).

Music For those that like to program. Programing music the easy way, by Jim Peterson. From the BYTE-LINE Oct-Nov 1991 (no page number). Also There is a nce flow chart of FUNNELWEB 4.0.

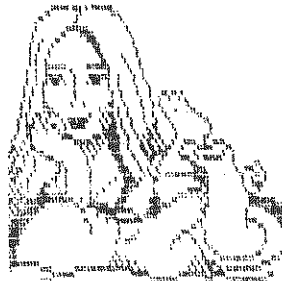
WOMEN and COMPUTING An intersting artical by Jan Knapp. From the COMPUTER BRIDGE Aug 1991 (page 6)

HARDWARE For sale, check it out in the HUGers Newsletter March 1992 (page 9) - Delbert Wright is selling Disk drives for TI & CROCOMP.

HISTORY ISSUE, A special ancient on the TI's 99/2-99/7-99/8 computers. BITS, BYTES & PIXELS OCT. 1991 (no page number)

MAKE A DISKETTE CASE, How to tip for those who like to RE-cycle. From the OZARK 99'er NEWS July 1991 (page 6)

Thanks to Chris Pratt for getting Art's N.P. into our library.



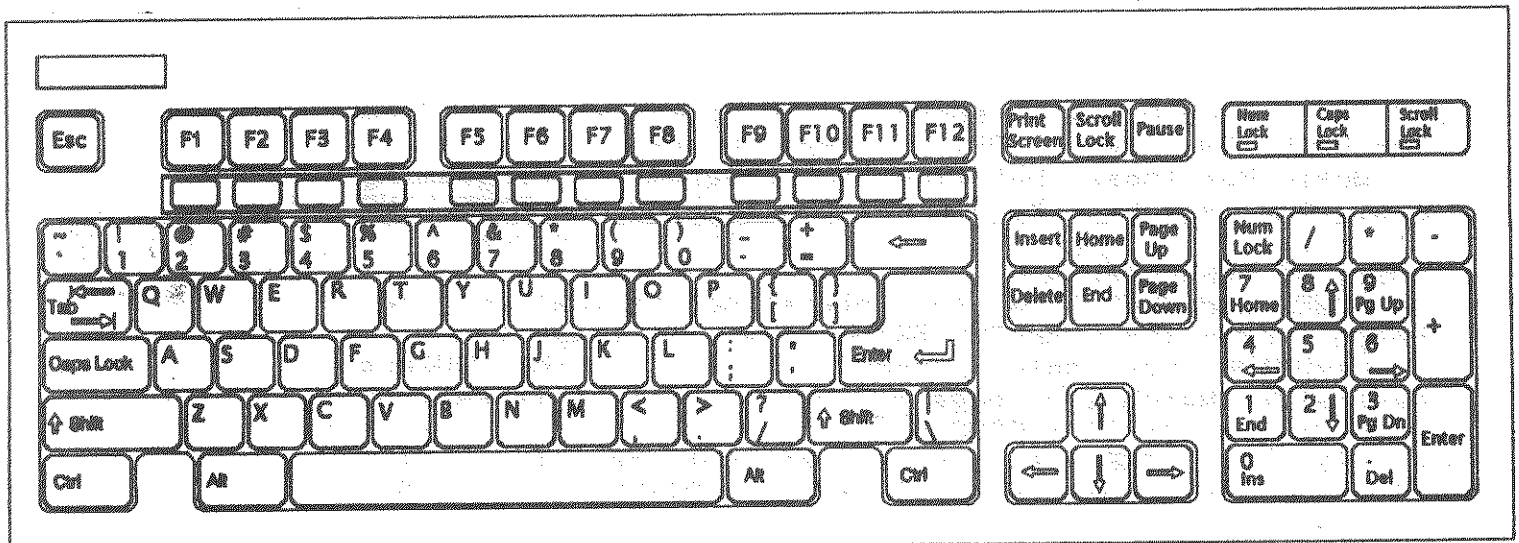
H A P P Y M O T H E R S D A Y

Paul Brock

MADE IN U.S.A.

UPGRADING YOUR SYSTEM - RAVE 99 KEYBOARD Model XT/101
By Dick Ohi West Penn 99er's

If you are tired of having to make multiple keypresses to move the cursor, delete characters, insert characters, type double quotes, or any of the FCTN + number key combinations, or would just like to have a bit more room on your keyboard then the RAVE 99 Keyboard kit may be the answer to your problems. The IBM Style Keyboard Enhancement Model XT/101 package comes with an interface board and an AT style 101 key keyboard. The installation of the interface board requires opening up your TI console and removing the TI keyboard and mounting the interface board in its place. The instructions provided are generally clear and should guide you through the process without much difficulty. When you have completed installing the interface board and put every thing back together you will have a big hole in the console where the keyboard used to be. It is not a good idea to leave this area uncovered, because any thing that is dropped in there could short out the board with unpredictable and almost certainly undesirable results. There is an optional cover plate available (at extra cost) from RAVE that solves the problem nicely. Another option allows a COMPUTER RESET or LOAD INTERRUPT from the keyboard. This requires the opening of the metal case that encloses the motherboard and soldering two wires of a preassembled cable to two points on the motherboard. The cable assembly is also an extra cost item.



OK now that we have all these extra keys, what do they do?

ALT This key performs the same as the FCTN key on the 99/4A keyboard.

CTRL This key works the same as the CTRL key on the 99/4A keyboard.

CAPS LOCK This key works the the same as the ALPHA LOCK key, but with some enhancements. The joysticks will perform normally when in the CAPS LOCK mode. While in the CAPS LOCK mode you can obtain lower case letters by pressing the SHIFT key and the desired letter, also the double quote (") is in the unshifted key position. This last feature is very handy to those who write or key in programs.

The number keys on the number pad on the right side of the keyboard have two functions controlled by the NUM LOCK key. When the NUM LOCK is on the keys act as a number pad. With the NUM LOCK off the keys perform cursor control functions.

ARROW KEYS (2,4,6,8) Cursor direction(FCTN+S,D,E,X)

HOME (7) TI Writer "HOME" (CTRL+L)
PgUp (9) TI Writer "ROLL UP" (FCTN+6)
PgDn (3) TI Writer "ROLL DOWN" (FCTN+4)
INS (0) INS CHAR (FCTN+2)
DEL (.) DEL CHAR (FCTN+1)

The NUM LOCK mode can be temporarily reversed by using the SHIFT key; e.g. with NUM LOCK on, the cursor can be moved right by pressing SHIFT and the number pad "6" key (right arrow).

TAB/BACK TAB This key performs a TAB (FCTN+7) when pressed and a BACK TAB (CTRL+T) when pressed with SHIFT when using TI WRITER, EDITOR/ASSEMBLER, or compatible software.

BACKSPACE This key returns a FCTN+S (LEFT ARROW) to move the cursor to the left.

FUNCTION KEYS (F1 through F10) These provide the following response:

One key entry of 99/4A FCTN+1 through FCTN+0 commands.

When SHIFTed, inputs 99/4A CTRL+1 through CTRL+0 commands.

(Pressing SHIFT and F4 returns CTRL+4)

When used with the ALT key, provides the following functions when the optional cable assembly mentioned above is installed.

ALT+F1 LOAD INTERRUPT

ALT+F9 COMPUTER RESET

CAUTION - USE OF THE LOAD INTERRUPT WITHOUT PROPER SOFTWARE WILL CAUSE THE COMPUTER TO LOCK UP. THE COMPUTER RESET WILL OCCUR AT ANY TIME THE ALT+F10 KEYS ARE PRESSED. POSSIBLE LOSS OF DATA MAY OCCUR.

The IBM style keyboard upgrade can be purchased in several forms.

1. IBM Style Keyboard Enhancement XT/101 - Includes the interface card and a 101 key IBM style keyboard with hinged dust cover, installation and operating instructions. Price about \$225.00

2. IBM Style Keyboard Interface Card Model 99XT - Includes the interface card and instructions. Keyboard is not included. Can be used with any IBM PC/XT (83 key) compatible keyboard. A switch selectable XT/AT (101 key) keyboard can also be used. Keyboards that "Auto select" between XT and AT compatible computers will not work. Price about \$150.00

3. Model 99XT Kit. Includes printed circuit board, instructions, custom chips and hard to find parts. Requires assembly and between \$10.00 to \$15.00 in easy to find components to complete. Keyboard in not included. Same keyboard restrictions apply. Price about \$92.00

Options:

Custom Cover Kit Price about \$12.00

Load Interrupt/Computer Reset cable Price about \$7.00

Everything works as advertised if you remember to press the ESC key after power up. As I said at the beginning of this article if you spend a lot of time entering data at the keyboard this upgrade will make it a bit easier and/or more enjoyable even if it is expensive. One last comment - I believe the optional cover kit should be included in all all three of the keyboard enhancement products.

Let's Buy MDOS !!!!

By Beery Miller and 9640 News
P. O. Box 752465
Memphis, TN 38175-2465
(901) 368-1169 Home
(901) 368-0112 BBS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5) Routines (2x) that need de-bugging for HFDC support. Where will the source code go??? Good question. There are many programmers that have expressed desire in developing or finishing where Paul Charlton left off. I will coordinate (and program too) the development with several of the talented programmers that exists to finish what should have been finished many years ago. This will be a group and cooperative effort. At this time, I see no reason why contributors shouldn't have access to the source code. For some, the code will be useless. For others, it will aid them in their knowledge of assembly language and creating other new and exciting applications. Not knowing the volume of interests in diskette copies of the source, I will say that once I receive the source, if you send me floppies and return postage or equivalent, I will send you a copy of the source code (this assumes you made an initial contribution for the purchase of MDOS). **DON'T SEND DISKETTES NOW!!!** Wait until it is in hand. Foremost is the release of official MDOS's from those writing the code in the development group. Unofficial releases will probably be released by different people, but we must do our best as a group to identify these copies. In the next 30 to 60 days, I expect negotiations and a possible contract to be "in-hand". In order for me to pursue an agreement, I need your support now. This will be the last opportunity we have before it's too late. We must make this an open operating system for the Geneve to survive.

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

If I have convinced you, then please do the following: 1) Write a check out for what you feel is appropriate.

2) My address is as follows:

Beery Miller / 9640 News P. O. Box 752465 Memphis, TN 38175-2465

3) Enclose a stamped self addressed return ENVELOPE. This will be used to notify you of the acquisition and/or where we stand.

4) Once your check is received, it will be deposited into a special account separate from any other personal or business account so that I will receive no "surprises" once acquisition takes place. Any interest that is made from here will support some of the necessary phone calls and travel expenses that are expected to take place in acquisition.

Once MDOS has been purchased, numbers will be crunched tallying people's contributions and returning unspent money if contributions exceed purchase price and expenses.

DON'T DELAY !!! BE THE FIRST ON YOUR BLOCK TO OWN AN OPERATING SYSTEM TO A COMPUTER. (grin)

Please, if you are able to support this, please send your check as soon as possible. A delay could inhibit or chance these plans and forever keep us with our current operating system.

Beery Miller

--WP♦

GEN-TRI Upgrade

From : JERRY COFFEY
To : ALL
Subject: GEN-TRI v1.02
Folder : B, "9640 Message Folder"

GEN-TRI VERSION 1.02 (FOR THE GENEVE) IS SHIPPING SINCE OCTOBER 3, 1991
Version 1.02 of GEN-TRI includes the spellchecker that was an integral part of the original design and has several changes in response to bug reports and user suggestions. Minor changes include: --- correcting the MACRO function of the word processor to perform as designed; --- correcting the handling of blank lines by the reformat command in WP; --- adding the ESC character to those that can be passed to the remote host in terminal mode (useful for some PC BBSs); --- adding some delay loops to the ymodem routines to offset the slow performance of some clones (direct transfers now work up to 19,200); --- temporary fix for a directory bug on very large program files; and --- improved Find and Replace functions.

The spellchecker is a completely original approach with extremely quick response. The standard word list (or "dictionary") is about 30,000 common words written in compact form in a 718 sector file. This file can be expanded on a hard drive or 720k disk to three times this size and filled with additional words. A utility program is provided to add new words in the efficient coded form developed by Wayne Stith. The utility accepts words from the keyboard or any DV80 file, scans the dictionary for them and adds them to the dictionary if not found. If your file and dictionary are on ramdisk the dictionary can be searched in one fifth of a second (300 searches per minute). This also means that it takes only a fraction of a second to check a single word in a document you are writing or editing. If you are checking an entire document, words not found will be highlighted and then you have the option to "Ignore" (if you aren't sure of the spelling) or "Add" them to the dictionary. The basic dictionary takes up all of a DSSD disk, but Wayne will provide an abbreviated 358 sector dictionary on request.

To order send \$49.95 to Jerry Coffey 9119 Tetterton Ave. Vienna VA 22182. To upgrade your v1.0 program, send your original disk and \$1 for postage to the address above.

In either case please indicate if your system can handle 1440 sector disks (DSDD), otherwise it will be shipped on single density 720 sector disks (DSSD). SSSD disks require a special order because of the size of the dictionary.

--WP♦

(THERE WAS TALK OF THIS AT THE LAST WEST PENN MEETING)...

9640 BBS PHONE 901-368-0112 (RUNNING AT 300/1200/2400 BAUD 8N1)
UGOG99BBS PHONE 714-751-4332 (RUNNING AT 300/1200 2400 BAUD 8N1)

MS EXPRESS SOFTWARE has the following software items for sale...

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- Sliding Block Puzzles III (\$7.95)
- Sliding Block Solutions I (\$7.95)
- Sliding Block Solutions II (\$7.95)
- Sliding Block Solutions III (\$7.95)

Anyone needing more info on any of the above items can contact me via the BBS or you can write directly to our office at...

MS EXPRESS SOFTWARE
P.O. BOX 498
RICHMOND, OHIO 43944

Please note all items must include \$1.00 shipping and handling for each item ordered. In addition, we are currently putting together a catalog of all of our products which should be ready in mid-May. Anyone wanting a catalog, please write to the above address to get on our mailing list.

Reprint of a recent letter from Texas Instruments...

Dear Customer:

Thank you for your recent inquiry concerning Texas Instruments CC-40 accessories.

We have a limited supply of CC-40 accessories available at the following prices plus applicable tax and \$3.00 shipping and handling:

HX 1010	PRINTER 80	\$ 70.00
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SS 1000	16K RAM	\$ 40.00
SS 2000	8K CONSTANT MEMORY	\$ 30.00
A9201	ADAPTER	\$ 18.95

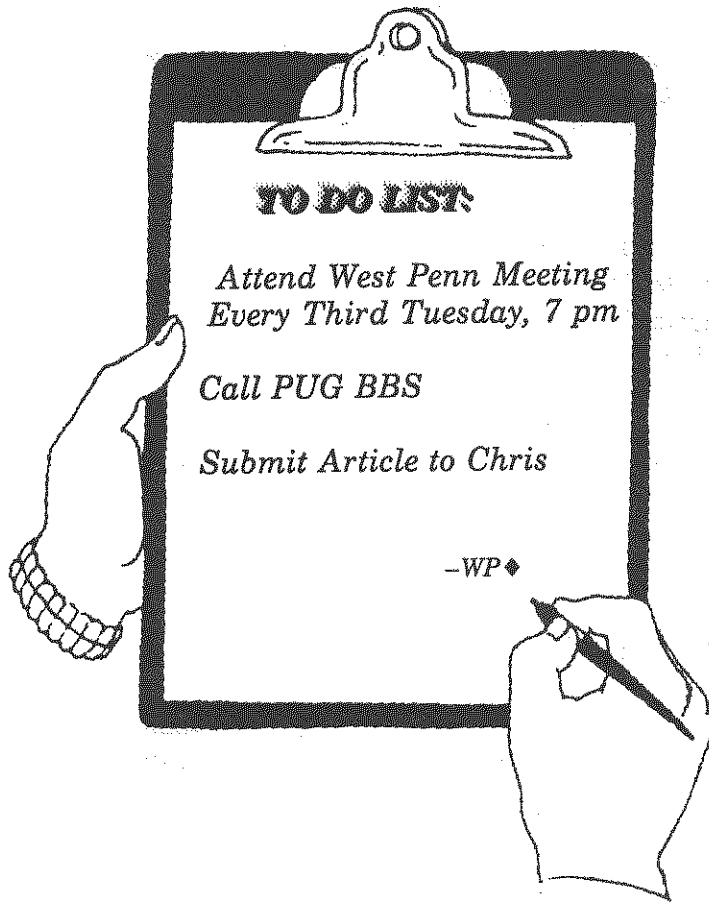
APPLICATION MODULES

SS 3004	MEMO PROCESSOR	\$ 20.00
SS 3006	FINANCE	\$ 20.00
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SS 3008	STATISTICS	\$ 20.00
SS 3009	MATHEMATICS	\$ 20.00
SS 3024	GAMES	\$ 20.00

The CC-40 accessory order address is:
Texas Instruments Incorporated
Attn: Order Processing
P.O. Box 53, M/S 5828
Lubbock, TX 79408-0053

If we can be of further assistance, please write to the letterhead address or call a consumer representative at 800/842-2737.

Yours truly,
Evelyn Jones, Consumer Services



Oh, Wow!

WEST PENN 99'ERS

% Mike Sealy
RD #1 BOX 184
Toronto, OH 43964-9719

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Address Correction Requested

ISSUE NUMBER 81

May 1992

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