

N.Y.

99er



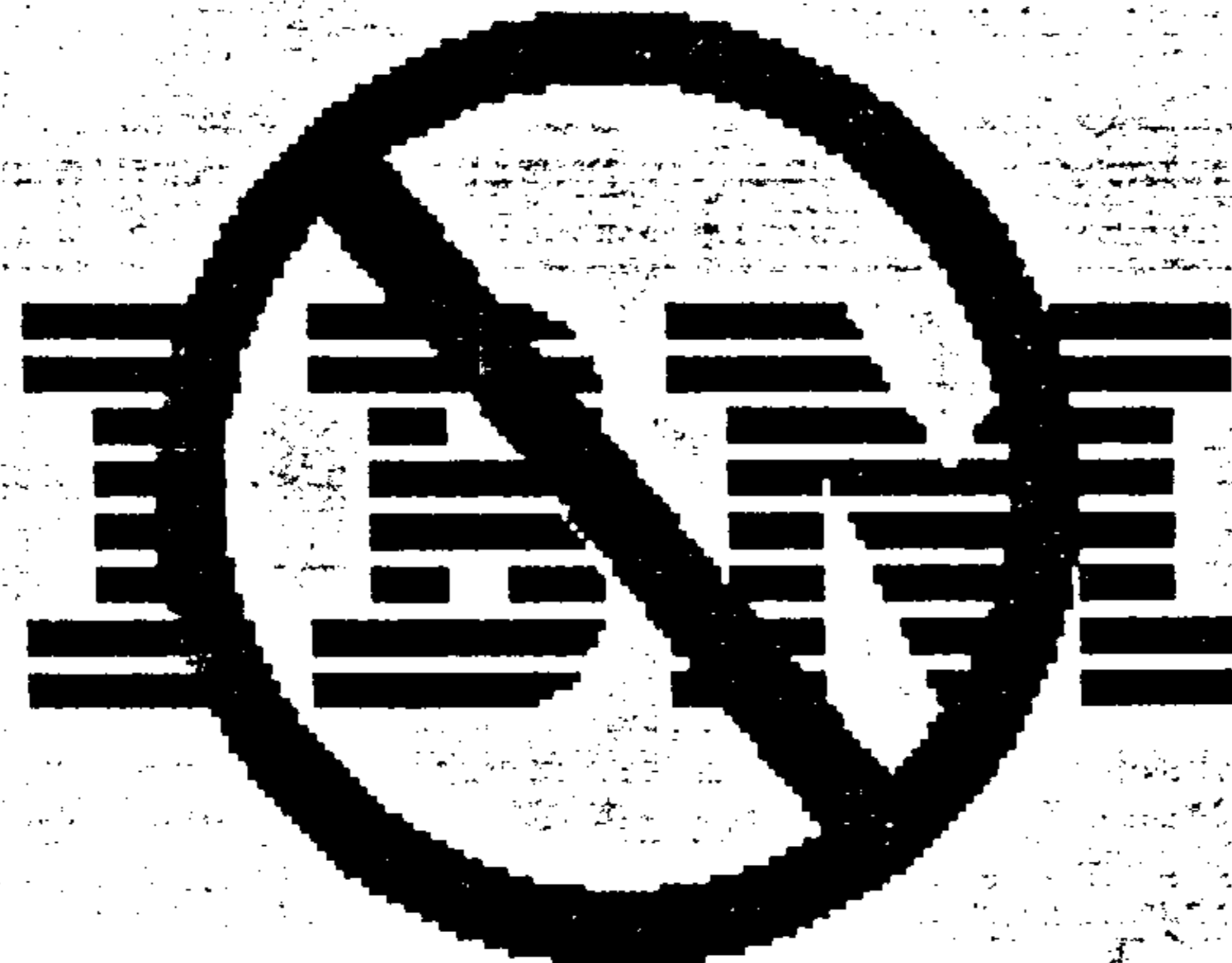
INTERFACE

JUNE 1988

1.25

WELCOME, TO THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE WNY99ers!

(WHOEVER HE/SHE MAY BE)



JUST SAY NO!

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INTERFACE is a publication of the WESTERN NEW YORK 99'ers USERS GROUP. It is intended as a source of news, information and instruction. Articles and opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either the editorial staff or members of the users group.

INTERFACE will appear monthly except bi-monthly from June to September, and will be available to all paid members of the users group.

Articles submitted for publication must be received by the second week of the month to be included in the following month's issue. For those submitting articles prepared by the TI-Writer word processor package, please submit a disk containing the file to be published. The disk will be returned to you. The inclusion of articles will be solely at the discretion of the editorial staff. The editors further retain the right to edit any article submitted.

Advertising space is available at modest rates. For information on rates, write to the INTERFACE at the address below. Classified ads must be limited to eighty (80) characters including spaces and are free of charge to all paid up members. Address all inquiries to:

WNY 99'ers USERS GROUP
c/o 84 Glenhaven Dr.
Amherst, NY 14120

The WNY 99'ers USERS GROUP meets on the second Wednesday of every month. For information call Harry Brashear, President, at (716)778-9104. Yearly Dues are \$20 per family and \$12 for an associate (Will attend no more than three regular monthly meetings).

Members are entitled to receive the monthly newsletter, have access to the software library and attend all general meetings, seminars and workshops sponsored by the Group.

INTERFACE EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL:

This is it gang, my last editorial! I'll still be shooting my mouth off, but it will be under a new title starting in this newsletter, "NEWS VIEWS". This page is, and should be, reserved for the president of the group. (I always did think that the "Editorial" title was mis-named... another one of my little boobos.)

This group needs fresh blood, young blood, with new ideas, new ways of doing things! As a matter of fact, this whole damn community needs some of the same. (Enter subject title... stage left!)

I am not ungrateful for fairware, any kind will do so long as it keeps coming, but I do have a complaint with some of the subject matter in two areas; Artist files and music. This was brought on by a compressed file of pictures that I spent almost forty minutes downloading called "Summerpak". I discovered after de-arc-ing them that it was umpteen pictures of "The Long Hot Summer". In disgust, I deleted the whole mess, and cursed my phone bill. I am sure there are some people out there that will love having this file, but not me. It's not my intention to inflict my taste on the rest of the community, but I would prefer to see some shots of Springsteen or the hot little redhead that sings backup for him.

And while we're on the subject, how about a few bars of "I'm on Fire", those Wagner operas are wearing a little thin on my nerves. Better still, drag out a Kingston Trio album and copy that to those CALL SOUND(A,B,C)s.

Please don't get me wrong, I am not knocking the fact that Tier's are a bit older than some (I fall right into the average forty-five plus group myself), it's just that I and most of my group would like a little spice in our lives. A lot of us have one foot in the grave and the other on a banana peel, but we'd rather not be reminded of it every time we turn the computer on. I.e. The best games we get these days are versions of solitaire! Come on, programmers, we're a lot younger than we look.

Speaking of things new.. I'm hoping to change this around a bit in the fall in this old newsletter, too. One of the big things will be more type in programs... big elaborate type-ins. Whether you know it or not, you need these, and most of the people seem to like them. I'm going to go back in archives and dig out some old Xbasic stuff for this. There were a lot of neat programs in the old days that taught people as they typed them in. If you want to learn to program, this is the way. I'm going to make sure they aren't on the DCF if you want em, you're gonna have to type!

Another new column I'm looking forward too will be a hardware project section. Many of the group have professional interest in this, so let it be so.

(CONT. PAGE 7)

- BASIC BASICS -

GETTING STARTED IN PROGRAMING

NAILING A RELATIVE FILE

Last month we discussed the use of a relative file to gain information over and above the program that created it. Now I'm going to tell you how to "hack" out a "R" file that you know nothing about.

Let's assume that you have an accounting program that makes up a relative file for the figures you input. You know what goes into the file, but not in what order. If you are going to use it for your own work, you have to know what comes first, second, etc.,.

You can get the name and size of the file via your disk manager. It would probably say something like, I/F 254, or I/F 80. The size could be anything from 10 to 255, depending on how much information was put into it, and you will also need the file name. I'll call this filename, "STUFF", and open it up as such:

```

100 OPEN #1:"DSKn.STUFF",RELATIVE,INTERNAL, FIXED 80
110 IF EOF(1) THEN END
120 INPUT #1:A
130 PRINT A
140 PRINT RPT$( "=",28) 150 GOTO 110

```

There is a fifty-fifty chance that you will get a message, "FILE ERROR IN 120", otherwise you will get a batch of numbers printed out down the screen. If a file error occurs, change the "A" to an "AS" in both lines 120 and 130. Run the program again and you should get something printed, if you didn't before. You will also get the dotted line to separate the records.

Now, go to line 120 and change it to "INPUT #1:AS,BS". Change line 130 to, "PRINT AS:BS". If a file error occurs again, change the "BS" to a "B" in both lines. Keep this up until you get a file error on both a numeric and a string variable. i.e. "FS" and "F". When this happens you have gotten the data from all of the fields in the record. The file error occurs because there is nothing left to read.

Your only problem now is to determine what figures or text means what. There isn't much I can tell you about this because it's strictly a common-sense affair. For instance, you may find that a dollars and cents figure is too long of a figure. There may have been some portion of a penny that took the decimal place too far out. In such a case you will have to use an image statement to round off.

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I should point out that the same type of thing can be done with a sequential file. Things are a lot easier to find out with one of these, though. All you have to do is LINPUT AS, instead of INPUT. The LINPUT will bring in the entire record and put a coma between the fields. You can then break the record down and set up separate inputs accordingly.

Try it out. Pretty soon you can get your hackers license.

24K OF DATA STORAGE

=====

If you need to work with quite a bit of data or would like to change programs, but save the data after you press CALL QUIT, then you can set up the 24K of High-Memory in the PEB as a single data file called "EXPMEM2". You open this file just as you would a disk file with one exception - you must PRECEED the OPEN statement with a CALL LOAD to the location -24574 as follows:

```
For INT/VAR files - 24
For DIS/VAR files - 16
For INT/FIX files - 8
For DIS/FIX files - 0
```

Here's an example: If you want to open up the Expansion Memory for Display Variable 80 files, this is what you'd do:

```
100 CALL INIT
110 CALL LOAD(-24574,16)
120 OPEN #1:"EXPMEM2",RELATIVE,UPDATE,DISPLAY,VARIABLE
    80
```

Then continue on as you normally would.

If you want to store both data and assembly language routines at the same time, do this:

```
100 CALL INIT
110 CALL LOAD(-24574,-16)
120 OPEN #1:"EXPMEM2"
130 CALL LOAD ("DSK1.ASSM1")
140 CALL LOAD ("DSK2.ASSM2")
150 CALL LINK ("START")
160 REM CONTINUE REST OF PROGRAM
```

In the above example, the 24K of high-memory was saved for use as a DATA file (DIS/VAR 80 format), then the assembly routines were loaded. The computer will look for the best place to put the routines and will adjust the pointer accordingly. After the routines are loaded, a LINK statement starts the first routine and off we go.

If that's not enough for you, you can also use the MINI-MEMORY for 4K more of storage of assembly routines! No that's 16K of program space, 12K of assembly routine space!

HOT TIPS

IN SHORT PARAGRAPHS

By now, everyone on the 39 STEPS has run across a mention of the TELCO terminal program, plus read a few rave reviews about it, and certainly, it is one of the best of the numerous term programs available. Charles Earl, out of Ottawa, Canada, wrote this for both the TI-99/4A's and for the MYARC 9640, and has included some features previously unseen. ANSI, DG 410, and ADM3A, are the included emulations, along with the expected print spooler and auto-dialer, but beyond that, a few surprises... A status line pictured continually at the bottom of the screen, displaying elapsed time, current baud-rate, parity, log status, and spooler status. All nice touches. My favorite option was the CATALOG, which in addition to what the name implies, also protects, unprotects, and deletes. Finally, for those who appreciate an extraneous "do-hickey," (and for those who hate the "beep" function used by many term progs), you can select a 4 note chime instead! Remarkably, the chimes are pleasing to the ear and are welcome after many years of the "beep." The only drawback I found with TELCO was the large amount of disk space it occupies, 257 Sectors. Apparently the author concurs, but explains "I bought a modem and didn't like what was out there (Terminal Programs), so I dove in over my head, and was forced to dig myself out." The resulting size of TELCO can be worrisome, yet one can appreciate the author's thoroughness while he was "digging his way out." See our illustrious and intrepid Librarian, Bob Coffey, for a copy of this program

* * *

Looking for additional hard and software for the TI can be a frustrating experience, especially when you are looking for something like Yu-Can's BUSINESS MANAGER, or Moonbeam's STRIKE FORCE 99, or the unlikely, TI's TINY LOGO. Well, Texas Instruments and a few other manufacturers have left some pockets of TI-oriented inventory; and a surprising number of cartridges, hardware, and disk-related software still exist. A few of these "pockets" are conducting an active business. Here are a few, along with a brief descriptive note:

CHILDREN'S TI SOFTWARE- Send large SASE for brochure.

KIDware
1380-156th NE
Suite H2
Bellevue, WA 98007

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GENERAL TI HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE- \$1 for catalog
Competition Computer
2629 West National
Milwaukee, WI 53204
Ph: (414) 672-4010

DISK ONLY TI SOFTWARE- Free catalog
Disk Software
PO Box 244
Lorton, VA 22079

EXTENSIVE TI HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE- Call or write for
info.

Darrell Ingold
6107 Olive
Bakersfield, CA 93308-2836
Ph: (805) 399-5945

GENERAL TI SOFTWARE, (TI Artist, Others)- Free catalog.
Texaments
53 Center Street
Patchogue, NY 11772
Ph: (516) 475-3480
BBS: (516) 475-6464

GENERAL TI SOFT AND HARDWARE- Call or write for catalog.
L.L. Conner Enterprises
Computer and Electronics
1521 Ferry Street
Lafayette, IN 47904
Ph: (317) 742-8146
Ph: (317) 423-4879

GENERAL TI (INCLUDING THE 9640), HARD AND SOFTWARE- The
owner is a "TI Evangelist Extraordinaire." Use the listed BBS
number for more details. BBS boasts of 168 Geneve users,
including 3 from Italy.

Queen Anne Computer Shoppe
Seattle, WA
Ph: (206) 522-6558
BBS: (206) 361-0895
* * *

Computer retailers are gearing up for the introduction of
the Compact Disk hardware, as many manufacturers seemed to have
embraced optical ROM technology. Some of the "buzz" words
around include terms like CD-ROM, (Compact Disk Read Only
Memory), and WORM, (Write once, read many). Apple has a
planned introduction of their CD-ROM drive and it won't be long
before other computer manufacturers will be ballyhooing their
own CD-ROMS. You can look for IBM and Hewlett-Packard systems
in the very near future. (Note: Since the 3 1/2 inch disk is
available to TI'ers, CD-ROM is not far behind). For the
unencumbered, here are a few facts to consider:

-A CD-ROM disk is lightweight and rugged, being slightly
under 5 inches in diameter, yet can store up to 600 megabytes
of permanent computer data. It means that one CD-ROM could
potentially hold the Encyclopedia Britannica, Rogets Thesarius,

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and Webster's Dictionary, (about 250,000 pages of text), in one fell swoop.

-CD-ROM's are easy to store. Every telephone number in the U.S., for example, could be contained on five disks and be kept in a desk drawer.

-Despite the density of data, the error rate for a CD-ROM disk is lower than that of magnetic media.

-CD-ROMs are capable of storing digitized data from many sources, including audio, images, text, and graphics.

-Duplicates can be stamped out mechanically at a much faster rate than magnetic media can be reproduced.

-Random access make CD-ROMs ideal as reference book replacements because they provide quick and easy access to specific information.

* * *

AWARD OF THIS MONTH'S FREE DOM is being made to Axel K. Snodgrass of Waxahatchie, Texas, who has conducted massive research into new 99/4A frontiers. He has found that the round Eggo waffles do not make good substitutes for the floppy disk, (especially if butter and syrup are used). Now see... if you had submitted a better suggestion, old Axel might have been left out in the cold! Insure that this won't happen again by sending in a helpful TI hint or worthwhile suggestion, (and if we use it in this column, a free DOM will be yours). Use either U.S. Mail, (address on page 1), or leave your suggestion on 39 Steps, using the PRIVATE mode.

GDM-6/88

EDITORIAL CONT.

To conclude, I want to say once again, a very heartfelt thanks to my super staff. Rich D, Bob Coffey, Liz Seib, JoAnne Suttner, and Mary Ann Robson. I couldn't have made it through these last three years without you and your predecessors.

Respectfully Submitted
Harry T. Brashear; President (Retired)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Harry has been promoted from copyboy to editor effective immediately.

FOR SALE: DMP 300 PRINTER CAN BE USED WITH IBM OR TI. LITTLE USED, FINE NLQ MODE. ORIGINAL COST \$300.00. ASKING \$100.00! CALL 837-2934 AND ASK FOR HARRY SANDERS

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE WESTERN NEW YORK 99ERS WILL BE JULY 13TH PAYNE AVE CHRISTIAN CHURCH AT 7 PM. FOOD AND GOODIES WILL BE ON THE HOUSE THAT NIGHT. IT WILL BE THE LAST MEETING FOR THE YEAR UNTIL SEPTEMBER 14TH.

TYPE IT IN...

PROGRAM OF THE MONTH

This months type-in is a TV test pattern and color check. It's no big deal but I use it from time to time to set my monitor colors, so it's a handy utility to have around. The idea is to give you programming practice, and this one is very well constructed. Let me know what you learned!

=====

```

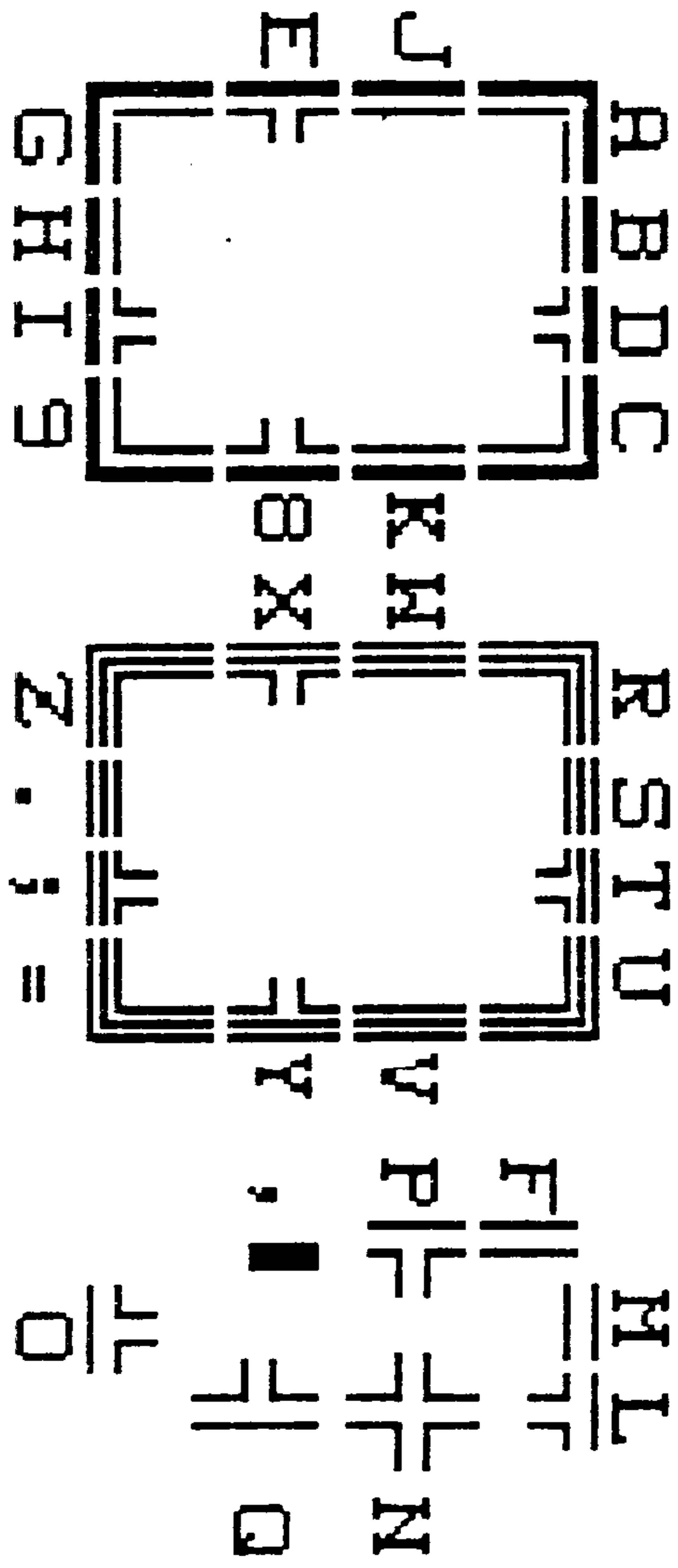
100 CALL CLEAR :: DISPLAY AT(1,4):" Television Alignment
    Generator" :: CALL CHAR(131,"0000001800000000")::
    CALL CHAR(128,"000000FF00000000")
110 CALL CHAR(129,"1818181818181818"):: CALL
    CHAR(130,"181818FF18181818"):: FOR A=1 TO 500 :: NEXT
    A
120 CALL CHARSET :: CALL SCREEN(8):: CALL CLEAR ::
    DISPLAY AT(05,1):"Select Function..." :: DISPLAY
    AT(09,1):" 1)Center Dot 2)Cross Hair"
130 DISPLAY AT(13,1):" 3)Vertical lines 4)Horizontal
    Lines"
140 DISPLAY AT(17,1):" 5)Crosshatch 6)Color Subset" ::
    DISPLAY AT(21,1):" 7)End..."
150 CALL KEY(0,B,C):: IF C=0 THEN 150
160 CALL CLEAR :: CALL SCREEN(2):: CALL COLOR(2,16,2)::
    CALL COLOR(13,16,2):: IF B<49 THEN 120 :: IF B>55 THEN
    120
170 ON B-48 GOTO 180,190,200,210,220,230,330
180 CALL HCHAR(13,15,131):: GOTO 150
190 CALL CHAR(128,"000000FF00000000"):: CALL
    HCHAR(13,1,128,32):: CALL VCHAR(1,1 5,129,24):: CALL
    HCHAR(13,15,130):: GOTO 150
200 CALL VCHAR(1,1,129,900):: GOTO 150
210 CALL HCHAR(1,1,128,900):: GOTO 150
220 CALL HCHAR(1,1,130,900):: GOTO 150
230 CALL CLEAR :: CALL CHARSET :: CALL SCREEN(8)::
    DISPLAY AT(5,1):"Select Subset" :: DISPLAY AT(10,1):"
    1)Gated Rainbow 2)Red Purity"
240 DISPLAY AT(14,1):" 3)Green Purity 4)Blue Purity"
250 CALL KEY(0,B,C):: IF C=0 THEN 250
260 IF B<49 THEN 150 :: IF B>52 THEN 150
270 ON B-48 GOTO 280,300,310,320
280 CALL SCREEN(2):: CALL CLEAR :: CALL COLOR(7,7,7)::
    CALL COLOR(6,11,11):: CALL COLOR(5,13,13):: CALL
    COLOR(4,5,5):: CALL COLOR(3,14,14)
290 CALL VCHAR(1,1,83,96):: CALL VCHAR(1,8,73,96):: CALL
    VCHAR(1,15,67,96):: CALL VCHAR(1,22,59,96):: CALL
    VCHAR(1,29,52,96):: GOTO 250
300 CALL CLEAR :: CALL SCREEN(7):: GOTO 250
310 CALL CLEAR :: CALL SCREEN(13):: GOTO 250
320 CALL CLEAR :: CALL SCREEN(5):: GOTO 250
330 END

```

PR-BASE DATA CHARTS

The two following pages are based on an article from the LA 99ers group. Working with the borders in the PR-Base Create program can be a little confusing for everybody. This chart is based on a square, logical configuration, so selecting the pieces you need should be a lot easier. Press <CTRL> and the corresponding letter for the part you want.

CONTROL KEY REFERENCE CHART
FOR PR-BASE "CREATE" PROGRAM



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PR-BASE EDITING COMMAND KEYS

<FCTN>	KEY	OPERATION
	E	UP CURSOR
	S	LEFT CURSOR
	D	RIGHT CURSOR
	X	DOWN CURSOR
	1	DELETE CHARACTER
	2	INSERT SPACE
	3	*DANGER ERASE SCREEN
	4	OUTPUT TO PRINTER
	6	PROCEED
	9	*DANGER RETURN TO TITLE NO SCREEN SAVED
<ENTER>		CURSOR TO NEXT LINE
[]	UPPER CASE INPUT
{	}	UPPER/LOWER CASE

SCREEN COLOR CHOICE AT TITLE
PRESS "F" FOR FOREGROUND
PRESS "B" FOR BACKGROUND

=====

DATA MANAGEMENT COMMANDS

A=ADD RECORD	L=PRINT LABELS
B=BOOT DATA BASE	N=GOTO SCREEN #
C=CONTROL CODES	O=PROGRAM OPTIONS
D=DELETE RECORD	P=PRINT SCREEN
E=EDIT RECORD	Q=QUIT PR-BASE
F=FIND STRING	R=REPORT PRINT
G=GLOBAL SEARCH	S=SORT INDEX
H=HELP COMMANDS	U=USE INDEX

FCTN X=SCROLL TO NEXT SCREEN
FCTN E=SCROOL TO PREVIOUS SCREEN
FCTN D=NEXT ALPHA SCREEN
FCTN S=PREVIOUS ALPHA SCREEN
CTRL X=RAPID SCROOL SCREEN 1 TO END
CTRL E=RAPID SCROOL SCREEN END TO 1
CTRL D=FIRST ALPHA SCREEN

NEWS + VIEWS (SCANDAL:OPINION)

Well, here I am in a new corner, News and Views. I'm not sure what you're going to find here yet, but you can count on wild rumors, slanderous commentary, and whatever other little niceties I happen to think of. As a matter of fact, since I no longer lead this group, I can talk about things that I couldn't before... this could get interesting!

WHAT'S NEW? The PICASSO Publisher should be available from Tenex by now. This one will be an exclusive from them since it was their copyrights that were compromised by Arto Heino when he wrote the thing. The Picasso Utility Pack will probably be another thirty days. I recommend the program highly to anyone that does any publishing, but do get both Picasso and the Utilities. They really need each other.

FIRSTBASE, the new data base from Genial Computerware is supposed to be coming out by the time you read this. I am looking forward to this program, but at the same time, I have some doubts, too. I really have to question the need for 32000 records of 3000 bytes each, with 75 fields allowed in each record. Do they really plan on competing with DBASE III? I guess the idea is to allow us to say, "We have it too!". If it really does what they say it will do, then the \$49.95 asking price is ok.

The new version of WRITEREASE from Corcomp isn't out yet. It's not CorComp's fault though. I called them about a week ago, and the nice lady president told me in a roundabout way that they were having author problems. That seems to be everybody's excuse these days. (Think I'll save that for "Views") I am a registered owner of WriterEase and my biggest complaint was that I couldn't add to the dictionary, now I can... soon I hope.

There's going to be a new newspaper coming out of Asgard real soon, The Asgard Newsletter. Subscriptions are at a prepublication cost of \$6.00. There will be news in it from all over the TI community, and it will also be used as a method of keeping you up on all the great releases from Asgard. Send your money to: Asgard Software, P.O. Box 10306, Rockville Md, 20852

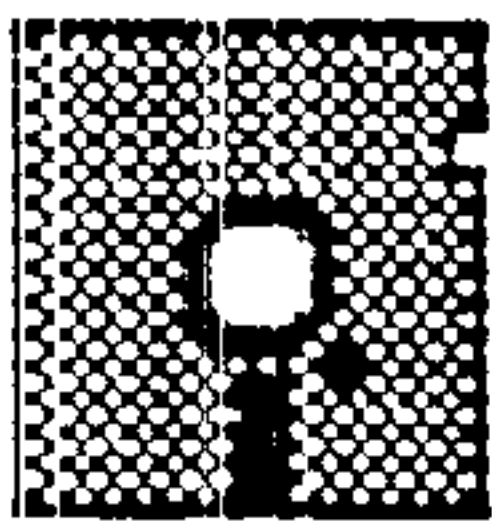
VIEW FROM THE POINT: Every single hardware company is having software author problems. I know there's two sides to every story but there's something wrong somewhere. Myarc is blaming every problem they have on their M-DOS author. They say that they can't release all their other software because the DOS isn't finished, that the author went to Florida for two weeks and wouldn't finish the product.. etc., etc. They also claim it is costing them hundreds of thousands of dollars to have this software completed. Would you go to Florida if

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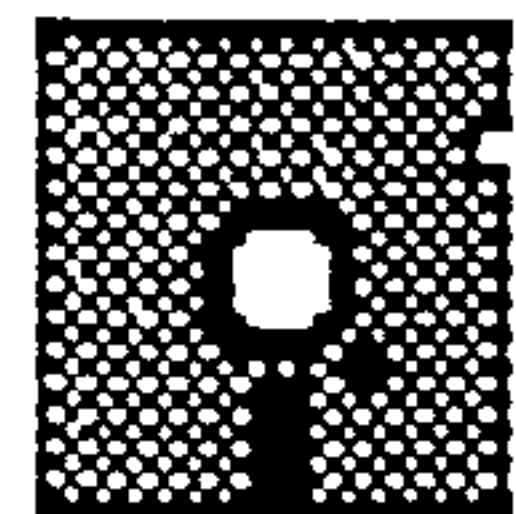
someone was paying you all that money? Somebody's full of it!!!

On the other hand, how come so many of these guys that are the pillars of the community become such prima-donnas as soon as they make a few bucks. The software egos are the biggest in the world. You wouldn't believe the stories I could tell you about people that are sweet as sugar... until they get behind the computer. Let me tell you folks, the guys that are coming out of the woodwork, the humble first timers, are the ones that are getting the jobs done, not the old timers. They seem to be more wrapped up in their reputations than proving the TI can get the job done.

I think everybody's wrong. It would be better if the hardware companies put out a call for programs that they need and put a price tag on them. Then let the authors do their thing. First finished product AND source code gets the prize. The competition would be keen and the companies could get the products. Everybody would be happy, including us, the end users.

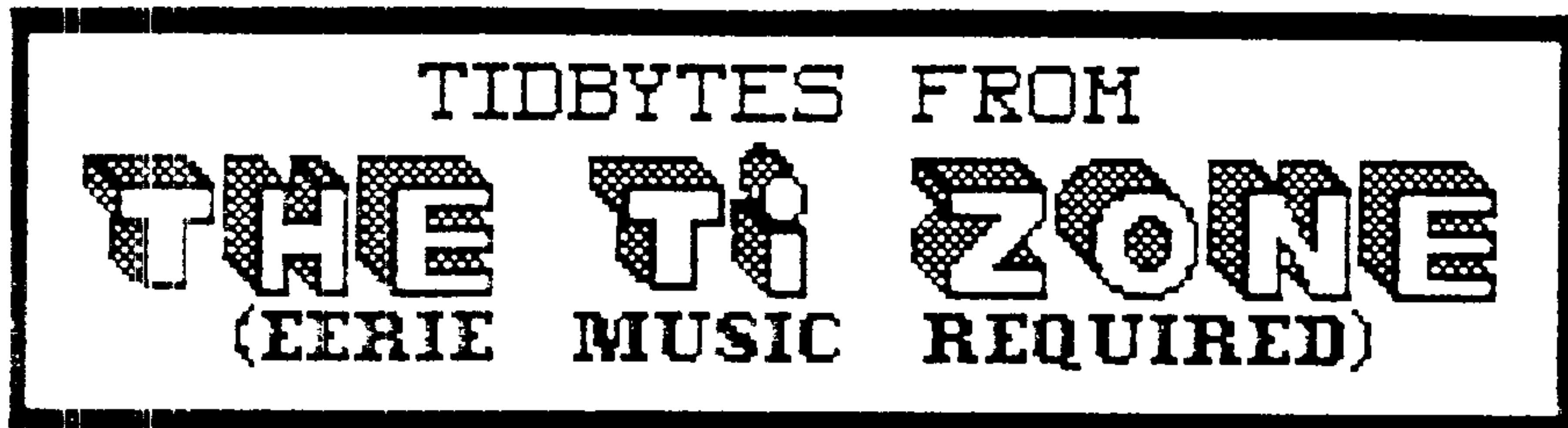


Disk ^{OF} THE Month



Diskname DOM:06/88 Total Sectors 358 Files 21

Filename	File Type	Size	Comment
!READ-ME!	D/V	80	4 Read this text file!
BANKEBOOK1	PGM	8192	33 Bank Accounting pgm, part 1
BANKEBOOK2	PGM	700	4 " " " , part 2
BOOT	PGM	6656	27 Main Menu
BUZZARD1	PGM	8192	33 Buzzard Bait, part 1
BUZZARD2	PGM	768	4 " " , part 2
BUZZARD3	PGM	512	3 " " , part 3
CHARA1	PGM	1030	6 Character set for BOOT
GCHARS	D/F	80	4 Object code, GCHARS
GCHARS/S	D/V	80	21 Source code, GCHARS
GCHARS/XB	PGM	293	3 XB demo of GCHARS
HEAR/TEST	PGM	8886	36 Test your hearing
KABOOM	PGM	3322	14 Kaboom, old favorite
LOAD	PGM	798	5 Loads BOOT
MORSE	PGM	3554	15 Morse code generator, fast!
NEAT/DOCS	D/V	80	4 Docs for NEATLIST
NEATLIST	PGM	7327	30 Fast load of classic NEAT LISTER
PRINTWIZ	D/V	80	17 Review of Printer Wizard
STAR3	PGM	8192	33 Star Gazer III
YEST/LOAD	PGM	31	2 Loads YESTERDAY
YESTERDAY	I/V	254	51 Beatle's YESTERDAY song



THE BLUE LIGHT SPECIAL
(VARIATION ON A THEME)

I was standing at the check-out register of the store behind a tall young man that had a satin bed cover in his arms. When it was his turn at the register, he turned the parcel over to the girl at the counter with a pleasant "Hi" and a smile.

The comforter was packaged in a clear plastic bag with a zipper across the top, and the girl opened the zipper and began to run her hands down between the folds of cloth.

"What are you doing?" the man inquired.

"We are required to check anything packaged like this," the girl told him.

"Check for what?" the man returned.

"Stolen items," she answered.

The look on the girl's face clearly stated that she really didn't want to do this but her job would be in jeopardy if she didn't.

Suddenly, the man's nice disposition did a complete about-face, and he screamed right into the poor girl's face, "I RESENT THAT! HOW DARE YOU ACCUSE ME OF STEALING SOMETHING!"

"I'm sorry, sir," she said, "but I HAVE to. It's nothing personal."

"I take it VERY personally!" he said, yanking the package from her arms. "Let's be absolutely sure I haven't stolen anything. YOU'RE NOT DOING IT RIGHT!"

This guy tore open the zipper that the girl had already closed up, pulled the comforter out of its container and shook it out all over the counter.

"THERE, DID YOU SEE ANYTHING THAT I STOLE?" he shouted again.

The girl was fast turning into jello and everybody in the front of the store was now watching the confrontation.

"Please sir, I'm sorry, I'm sure you didn't steal anything. It's just something that they require me to do. We have had problems with people putting clothing and other articles into these kind of packages and walking out."

"YOU SHOULD BE SORRY, BABE, BUT WE HAD BEST MAKE ABSOLUTELY SURE I HAVEN'T STOLEN ANYTHING, HADN'T WE!"

The guy emptied his pockets and threw everything on the counter, then he ripped off his shirt and threw it on top of the pile.

"SEE, NOTHING IN MY POCKETS AND NOTHING UNDER MY SHIRT!"

Then he reached down and took off his shoes and socks.

"UNLESS THIS STORE NOW SELLS SOCKS WITH PRE-FORMED HOLES, THOSE ARE CERTAINLY MINE, AREN'T THEY!"

Heaven knows, I KNEW what was coming next. The sales

girl's face had turned bright red by this time and she was just standing there with her hand on her hip, and a "why-me" expression on her face. Many people that were just watching before now began to gather around the end of the counter with big grins on their faces. I was a bit embarrassed myself, but at the same time, I was enjoying the show and getting a good laugh at some of the younger female shoppers that were egging this guy on. The only person that wasn't paying attention was a short, fat guy next to the door busily pounding out something on his calculator.

Yep, shore enough, off came the guy's pants. There he stood, in nothing but a pair of blue bikini underwear.

"I THINK WE HAVE CARRIED THIS FAR ENOUGH!" the guy shouted at the girl. "YOU MAY KEEP YOUR BLANKET, AND REST ASSURED THAT I WILL NEVER MAKE ANY KIND OF PURCHASE IN THIS STORE AGAIN!"

With that, he put his pants back on, picked up the rest of his clothes, and walked out of the store in his bare feet. Of course, the lady customers gave him a round of applause as he left. The sales girl stuffed the comforter back into its plastic wrapper, gave me a bewildered look and checked me out.

As I left the store I noticed a car pulling out of the parking lot with the little fat guy driving and our showman in the passenger seat.

The next day, I caught a little newspaper article in the bottom corner of the back page.

March 21, 2192: KAYMART REPORTS THEFT OF CLASS C ANDROID. ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLAR LOSS WILL BE PASSED ON TO CUSTOMERS BY MERCHANDISE PRICE INCREASES. SALESGIRLS TO BE BETTER INFORMED OF NEW PRODUCTS TO PREVENT FUTURE LOSSES.

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REVIEWS

WHATS NEW IN HARD AND SOFTWARE

CONCERNING YOUR PRINTER....

I am not a techie. That's obvious, I own a TI99 instead of an AT clone or a super deluxe, 2000K laptop with a built in 100meg hard drive that runs on a penlight battery. On the other hand, I have gotten to be a real printer snob. "Gemini", that's the only printer name I recognise when reading through my various catalogs and magazines. Frankly, if you don't have at least an NX-10, you're missing a lot, particularly if you are doing more than just writing the occasional letter on your TI.

I owned a Gemini 15 for over five years, dumping literally millions of characters through it, and it never let me down. However, as all things must do, it finally wore out, and with much unhappiness, I sold it's lifeless hulk for parts. To make a long story short, I went right out and bought myself a Gemini NX-10 from Midwest Micro-Peripherals (\$159.00). The fact is, that this printer is no longer made by Star Gemini, but there are quite a few of them still available through Computer Shopper. The NX-10 has been updated by the NX-1000, which is essentially the same machine except that the front panel font access has been expanded.

So what's changed over the years that I owned my old reliable "fifteen"? First of all, a lot of the graphics characters that were once considered a part of the ANSII code, are now considered IBM code. In order to get to these characters, you now have to change a dip switch in the printer. If you never go into graphics mode for TI-Artist or equal, that's fine, but if you do..., well, you're going to find out how long a dip switch will last. This is my only complaint with the printer. They should make the dips accessible from the outside, like they did on the old Gemini. They are now under the print head track, so you have to raise a little plastic cover to change them. No big deal, just a pain in the fanny.

What makes the printer so great is the many new things it will do. All of the old commands are still there and are pretty much the same... condensed - CHR\$(15), emphasized - CHR\$(27);CHR\$(69), etc. But now you also have NLQ (near letter quality) that is the most magnificent font you've ever seen, barely a dot shows up. There is micro-reverse and page reverse, for backing the document up. There's quad-density for super dark graphics, and how about this...

DOUBLE HIGH TRIPLE HIGH

Yep, those lines were done with a command, CHR\$(27);CHR\$(104);CHR\$(1 or 2). Here's a few other items:

1. You can set both left and right margins with a single command.
2. All character styles can be set to print in BOLD.
3. Proportional spacing can be had in pica or elite.
4. You can set a single master print mode for combinations of print styles.
5. You may add dot spaces between characters to spread them out.
6. You may dump new character definitions to the printer.
7. Sixteen character macros are allowed.

That's most of the important commands, but there are many other minor ones that will greatly enhance your document printing.

There is no way that either of the NX's are going to win any speed races. The best you get is 120 CPS, 30 letter quality, but really, who needs it. It's my belief that the faster you go, the sooner you're going to wear out. If you need speed, I suggest you go to one of Gemini's 24 pin wonders.

There's one other minor detail I would like to bring up, though, and that's the ribbons. I cried a river when I thought of giving up those \$1.95 spool ribbons the older Geminis used, but I find that with a little shopping, \$3.60 will buy the cartridges that these machines use. Sorry, no gain in usage time, but they do seem to last just as long. I think it is a small price to pay for this versatility.

REVIEW: AVATEX MODEMS

There are as many modems out there to pick from as there are printers. However, just as the Gemini family of printers has made it's mark in the TI community, so has the Avatex modem. We go with what works! I'm not saying that there aren't any other good modems, it's just that Avatexes tend to outnumber the others by at least two to one. (That's my observation, not official.)

I personally own an Avatex 1200, and our board, the 39 Steps, is running on an Avatex 1200hc. The "hc" means Hayes Compatible, and it really is! In case you don't know, the Hayes standard is the one we all go by when checking out the mechanics of modems. If it's not Hayes compatible, don't buy it, it's just that simple. There are degrees of compatibility, though. The 1200 that I own is "almost",

WESTERN NEW YORK 99ER'S INTERFACE

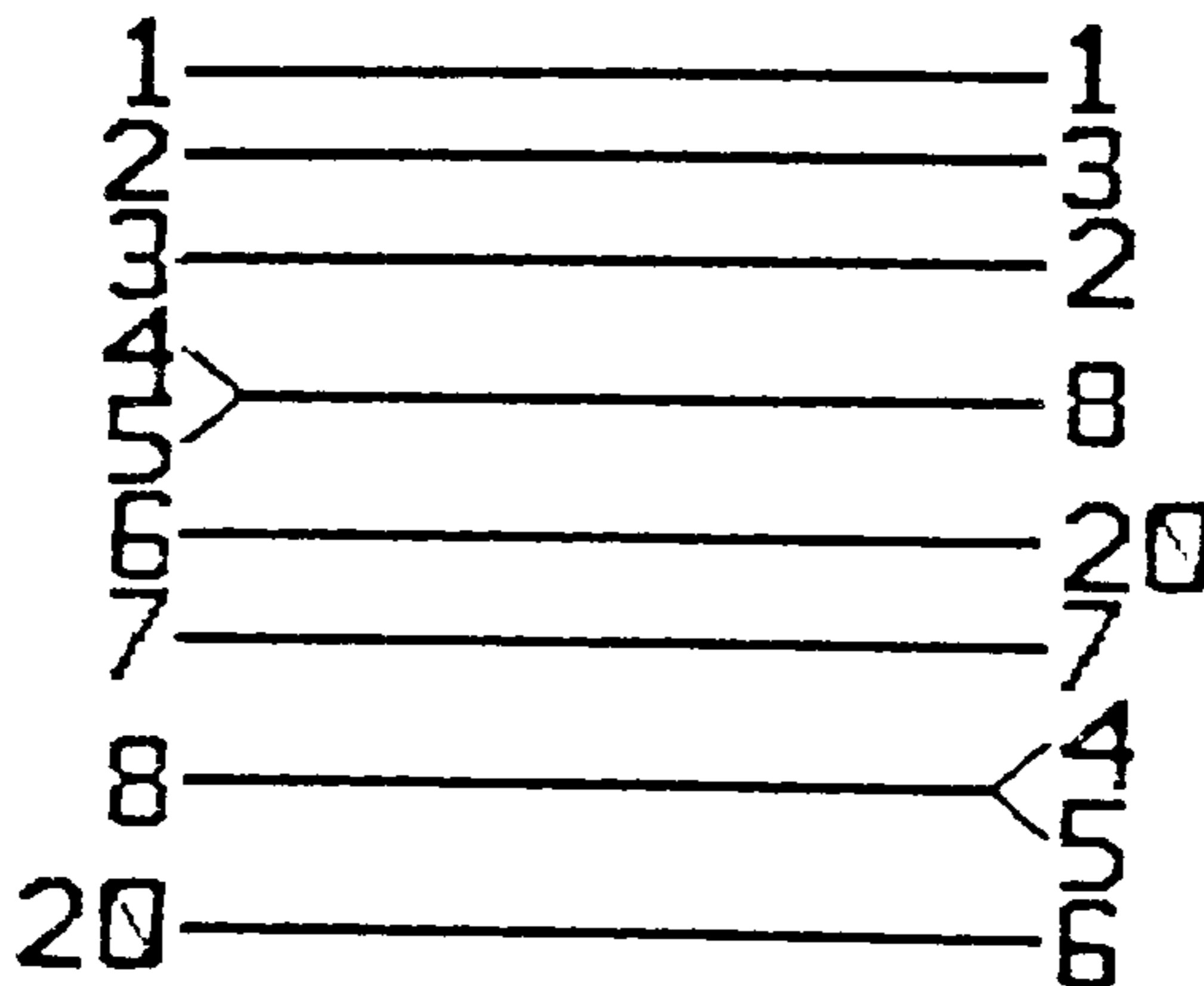
because you can't get to the "S" registers in it and it doesn't have a speaker. The lack of these two items has never slowed me down or been a problem in any way.

Both Avatexs are 300/1200 baud, have a full compliment of dip switches on the back, and activity lights on the front. Also, there is a voice/modem switch on the front for quick access. This comes in real handy when you use your term program to dial voice like I do. I will tell you that if you have the remotest idea of ever running a bulletin board, the 1200 won't do the job because of the lack of "S" register control.

My Avatex has been running flawlessly for almost two years now. I originally paid about \$125.00 for my unit, but I have seen them in Computer Shopper for as little as \$69.00. The "hc" runs around 25% more and it may be worth it to you for the universal compatability. I happen to know that the "hc" works equally well on most other computers.

The only drawback to any modem you buy today for the TI is that you can't get a cable to attach it to your RS-232 card, so you have to make your own. This is not a hard job, but if you don't want to tackle it, there are lots of folks around that will do it for you. The following drawing shows the pin outs that I have used on many different setups. It requires eight wire cable, and I DO NOT recommend using flat stuff. Go to an electronics store and get round cable. It's a lot easier to solder and is more flexable. You will need two male RS-232 "D" connectors and the shields that go around them. These can be had at Radio Shack for \$4.95 each, connector and shield in one pack.

Use the following diagram and you won't go wrong.



TI RS232 TO HAYES MODEM

SCROLLS AND BITS

First, I'd like to put a call out to anyone who might know how to control the "Epson" and "IBM" modes for a Star NX-10, without having to change those darn dip switches. I saw in the Feedback section of April '88 MICROpendium that someone found how to do this for a Star Gemini 10 printer, but unfortunately it doesn't work for the newer NX-10 series. Any help would be greatly appreciated!

Those of you who use the BOOT program from any DOM on other disks may have found that they sometimes need more options than are available on the 2-page menu. The proper way to get another 2-page menu on that same disk is to copy BOOT to another disk, rename it BOOU (or another 4 character name), and then copy it back to your original disk.

Also you'll need to go into a sector editor and search your 2nd menu program for "DSK1.BOOT" and change it to the new filename, "DSK1.BOOU". As you can see, you could have the 2nd menu in your 2nd drive.

After changing the filename with the sector editor, you should go into your 1st menu, and make the last option your 2nd menu. That way you can go directly into your 2nd menu from the 1st.

I have not needed to do this on the DOM because we haven't had more programs on the DOM than BOOT can handle, but if you have more than 358 free sectors on your own disks, or if you want to run a 2-disk menu, you can do it without going through the TI title screen again.

Oh, before I forget, the reason you need a sector editor to change "DSK1.BOOT" to "DSK1.BOOU" is because you want to save your changes to the new menu, not the 1st one!

Oh, I set out to try and sector edit Archiver v2.4 so it would go back to the BOOT menu through the Funnelweb loader, but I didn't have any luck, so I guess you'll have to keep sweating it out by going through the TI title screen. I tried all the tricks I know to get it to work, but I just couldn't get it to recognize the BOOT program. It was a nice thought, though!

I talked about the PIC-PACKS last month and they were mildly successful. I have archived 3 more, PIC-PACKS #4, #5, and #6. Like before, they all contain 14 full-screen pictures in Artist format, and can be converted to Graphx format with MAX-RLE.

A new library catalog will not be available until September, but at least there were update lists in the Dec '87 and April '88 issues of the Interface, so you know most of what is new in the library. I really wanted to have a new catalog ready for handing out at the June meeting, but it just isn't going to be ready.

I have recieved a few orders by mail, and I'm grateful to those people. I hope all of you were satisfied with your orders. For the rest of you, "Isn't there something in those new lists that interests you?" I know it isn't cost-effective to get everything on the list that you want, but I'm sure you will find some real gems in there.

I'm more than willing to explain the programs to you if you'd like to know more about them before you order. For those of you who don't have it, my address is: Bob Coffey, Jr., 102 Woodgate Road, Tonawanda, NY 14150.

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