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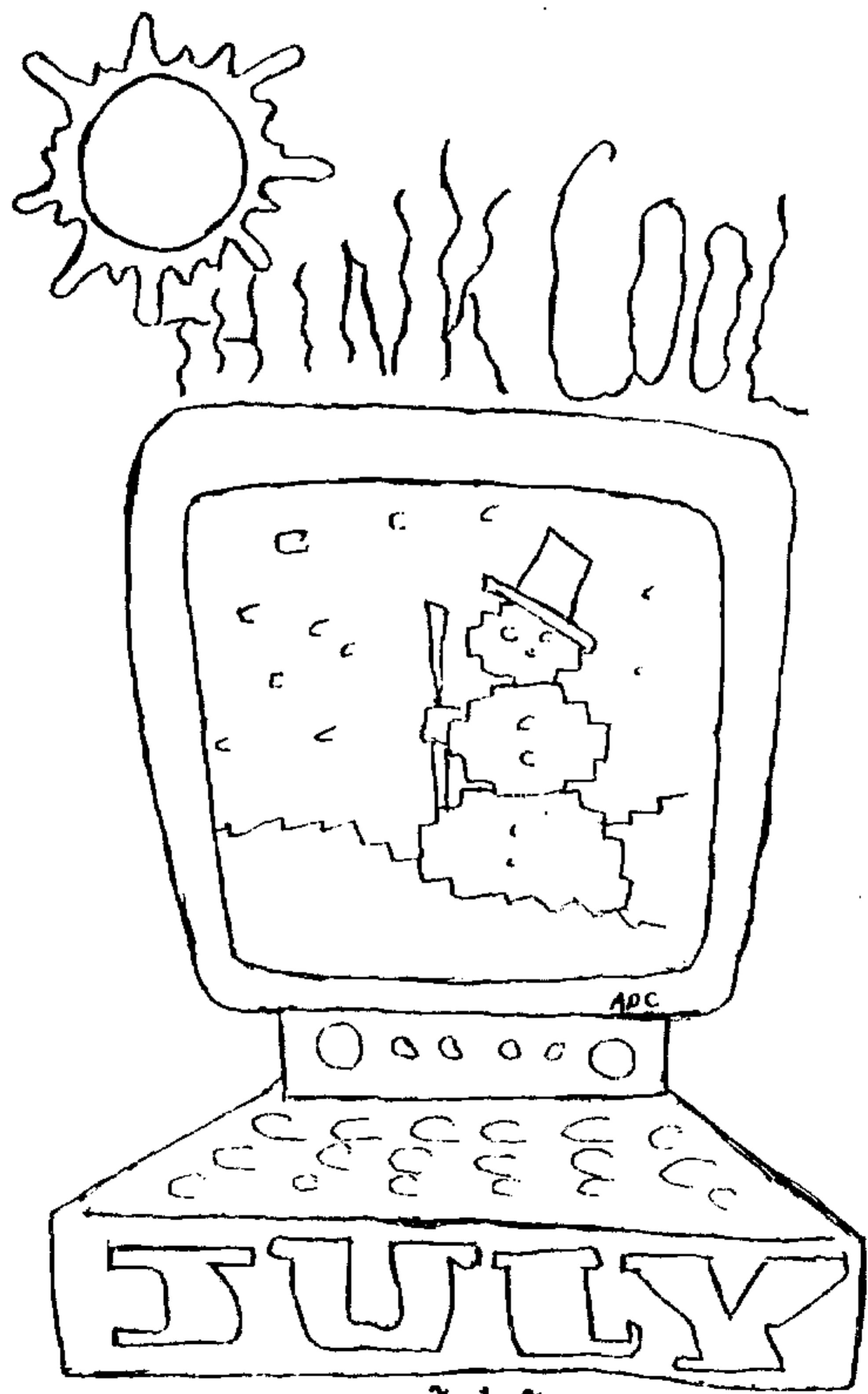

Mass Users of the Ninety nine and Computer Hobbyists

July 1985   Monthly Newsletter   Version 4.7

JUNE 16,1985

The meeting was called to order by Bruce Willard at 7:25 PM. There were 32 members present.

The SECRETARY'S REPORT was accepted as published in the newsletter.

TREASURERS REPORT

Jim Cox is ill so no report was made.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TEXTWARE: Jack Sughrue is hospitalized so no report was available.

HARDWARE: Bernie Miller was unable to attend the meeting. William Wyman updated the status of the 99/8. He will forward information he has received to Bruce. RIGHT DATA is working on the market research for the 99/8.

TEX-COMP is advertizing a new expansion system priced at $450-1300.

LIBRARY: Al Cecchini requested donations or loans by members for any material they no longer need. There are still some outstanding material on loan by members and it is requested that they be returned to the library.

OLD BUSINESS: There has been a disappointing response from the flyers for our membership drive. Members are requested to recruit any TI owners that they know. SUPER SKETCH will be raffled off tonight.

The program orginally scheduled for tonight will not be presented by COMPUTER SENSE of Westboro because of illness.

NEW BUSINESS: The large generic raffle is still being formulated by Mike Miller, Al Cecchini and Bruce Willard. *John Dowd has volunteered to take over and index the newsletters from the other users groups. He also procured a gift certificate from BARBERS CROSSING as one of the prizes for the raffle.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Hector Boudreau of AUDIO VISUAL AIDS has volunteered to take over the master disks for anyone who wishes to copy their own programs. Don Mason still has disks and cassettes of the programs for sale.

The Medical School cannot insure the use of the room after the July meeting as they have priority for the room. Any member with knowledge of a area centrally located for future meetings please notify the group.

The July meeting will feature games and members are requested to bring their children. It should be noted that the all family members are included in the membership. Prizes will be given for the total game scores and there will be a raffle.

Copies of the MUNCH constitution are still available. The TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT GROUP catalogue was submitted to the library for members to use.

The SUPER SKETCH was won by the Cecchini family. $33 was realized from this raffle item.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

John Dowd conducted the BASIC class and Bruce Willard demonstrated the EXTENDED BASIC BUSINESS GRAPHS.

Respectfully submitted,
V.Foster-Erlandson

A warm welcome goes out to new members Raymond Ekberg of Millbury and John Down, Jr. of Worcester.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The July meeting will go on as planned in the Southeast Conference Room at the U of M Medical Center. At this time I am still trying to get a commitment from the Medical Center regarding reservations for the August meeting. Look for further updates at the July meeting or in the next newsletter.

The M.U.N.C.H. Constitution requires that we have a Nominating Committee to handle election proceedings. The Annual Meeting is in October. Please come to the July meeting prepared to help out on this committee. It will only require a small amount of your time. If you don't have a copy of the Constitution, I will get you one. I will also explain what is required by this committee. Also, start thinking about who you think will do a good job in each office. The offices requiring nominees are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Since last month Technologies Support Group, Inc. has had a change in its business operations. It seems they are dumping all of their TI hardware and software at very good reduced prices. It's too bad, but for them, like the Video Connection, the market just isn't there. Several large mail-order houses are working on volume sales and undercutting their prices. One thing you must consider before buying by mail-order is that you don't get that personal service you'd get from a local computer store. The Video Connection does have a little stock left. I think they will be stocking adventure games, at least for a while. These two stores, however, will special order hardware and software. The only store that I know of in the local area that is still "hanging in there" with a real good supply of software and hardware is The Computer Sense Center in Westboro. When you need equipment consider your local stores first. I know that sometimes the mail-order prices are just too good to pass up.

NEW TI-99/4A COMPATIBLE COMPUTER --- I talked to the President of the company and he said "...... !" Come to the July meeting to find out the latest info on this marvelous machine.

The June meeting didn't go quite as planned. Our Treasurer, Jim Cox, was out with pneumonia, our Textware person, Jack Sughrue, was in the hospital, and our Demo person from The Computer Sense Center was quite sick. Hence, no Navarone Data Base Management System demo. At this writing the demo has not been rescheduled, but we are trying. Watch your newsletter agenda for the rescheduling of this event.

---------------------------- Bruce Millard, Pres. -------------------

AGENDA for July 16, 1985

```
7:00 - 7:15 Open Demonstrations
            New Member Registration
            Software Exchange (members only)

7:15 - 7:45 Business Meeting:
            Approval of Minutes
            Treasurers Report
            Committee Reports
            Old Business
            New Business
            Announcements
            Raffle
7:45 - 9:00 Special Interest Group Meetings
            and Open Demonstrations and Discussion

                Game playing contest
                Assembly Language -- by Dan Rogers

            Plan for August meeting:

            Regular and advanced programming to
            continue.
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" _ _ _ RAFFLE _ _ _ RAFFLE _ _ _ "

The raffle prizes for July are GAMES, GAMES, GAMES, donated by The Video
Connecton on Lincoln Street in Worcester. They are HEN PECKED, ANTEATER, and
PICNIC PARANOIA. See the write-up elsewhere in this newsletter.

The winner of the June raffle of the Super Sketch was Lisa Cecchini.
Congratulations Lisa!

For all you "hackers" out there who need a medium for program storage, the
August meeting will have either a ten pack of OMNI Resources diskettes in a
library case or a twelve-pack of C-30 cassettes. It will be the winner's
choice.
The raffle is open to all who attend. The drawing will be held immediately
after the business meeting before we break into the various Special Interest
Groups. Remember:
        !!!!! YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN !!!!!

                                        Bruce Willard, Pres.

THE VIDEO CONNECTION.

"The Chain That Has No Equal!"

PRICE BREAK!!

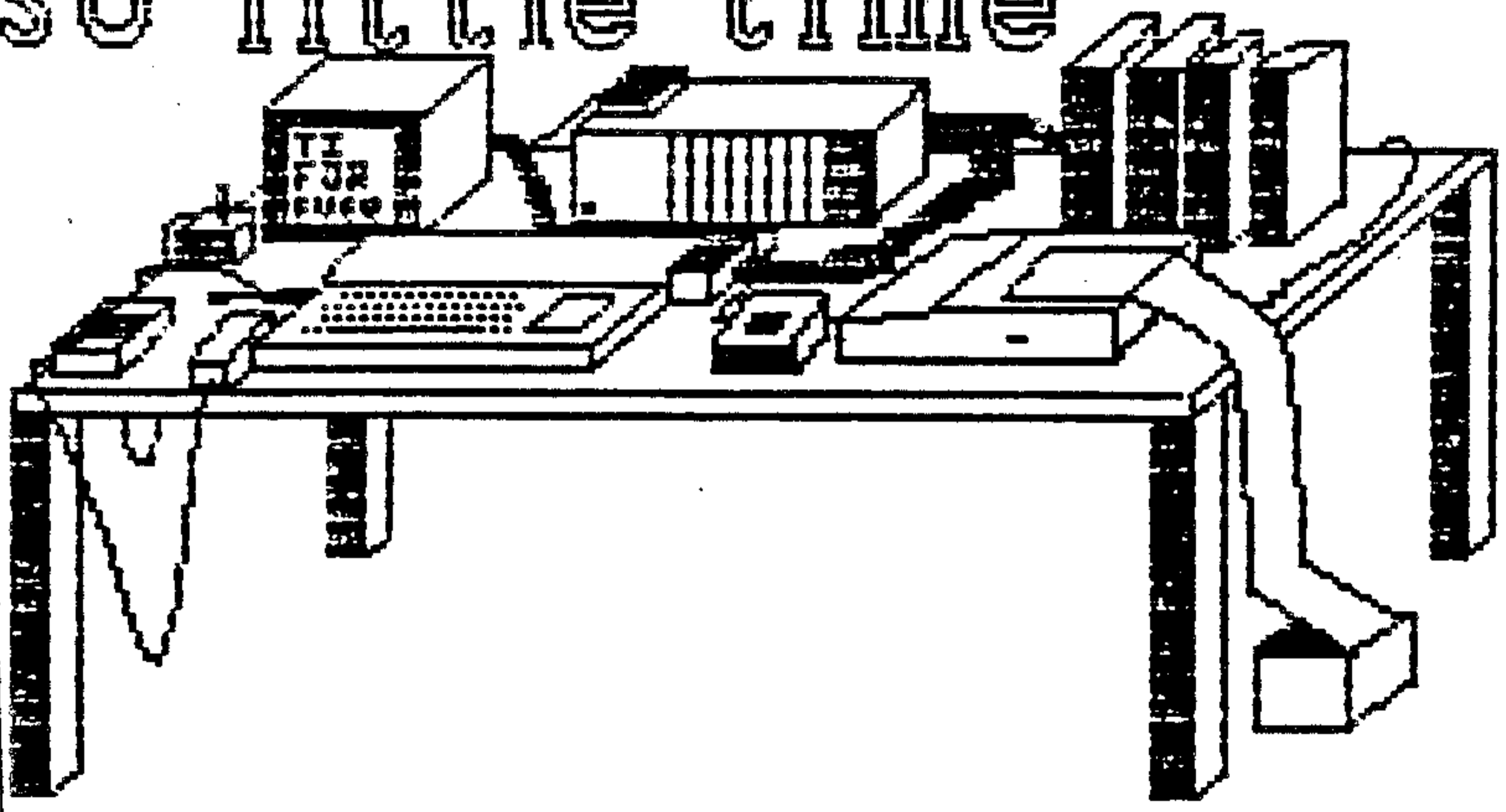## ALL EDUCATIONAL AND GAME CARTRIDGES NOW $9.95*

*M.U.N.C.H. DISCOUNT DOES NOT APPLY

560 Lincoln St.
Worcester
next to McDonald's

852-8213

SO MANY PROGRAMS
so little time

FOUND IN PITTSBURGH
U.G. NEWSLETTER

LOOK AT THE
DETAILS IN
THESE PICTURES.

SEE THE
COMPARISON
REVIEWS IN
THE AUGUST
NEWSLETTER

TI FOR EVER

SO MANY
PROGAMS
SO LITTLE
TIME

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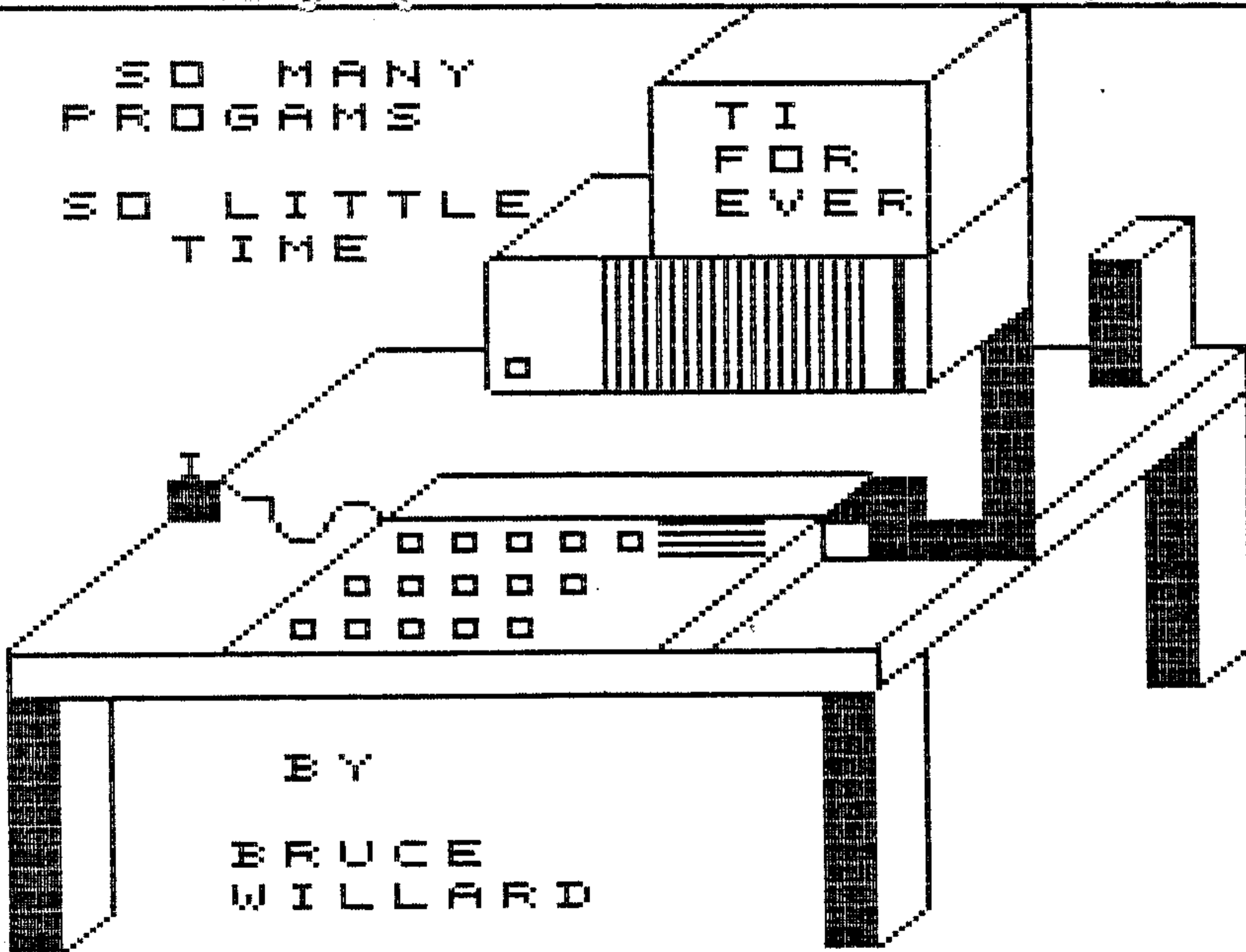
GRAPHX
COMES FROM
AUSTRALIA.

SKETCHIT
COMES FROM
TECHNOLOGIES
SUPPORT GRP.
IN SPENCER
MASS.

BY
BRUCE
WILLARD

USING SKETCHIT

FUN AND GAMES AT JULY MEETING

Bring the kids to the July meeting on July **16th**. This meeting has been planned as an evening of fun and games for the young members of MUNCH and their friends.

There will be a raffle of an ATARISOFT game cartridge called PICNIC PARANOIA. This game finds armies of ants aided by stinging wasps and poisonous spiders trying to ruin George's outing. The player must try to swat the little buggers or they'll push point-laden food right off the screen. One has to be careful because the insect bites are paralyzing. This game is usually sold for 19.95. All children attending will be given one complementary ticket for the raffle.

The games to be played that night are true games of contest and skill. They will be:

Car Wars   Buck Rogers   Parsec

REMEMBER, BRING YOUR OWN JOY-STICKS IF YOU WANT TO PLAY.

The boy or girl in the under 11 age group who is the highest scorer will receive the ROMOX game called Hen Pecked. The game rooster has the choice of ruling the roost or becoming henpecked. Also, the boy or girl in the above 11 age group who has the highest score will win the ROMOX game called ANTEATER. The object of this game is survival and avoiding the Anteater. Both of these games usually sold for 34.95.

MUNCH would like to thank the Video Connection on Lincoln St. for donating the prizes for this evening. Hope to see everyone there and having fun.

RANDOM BYTES
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WANTED: A couple of used Pro-Stick II joy sticks. Call Bruce Willard -- 852-3250.

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T E X T W A R E   R E V I E W
by   JACK SUGHRUE

The optimism running rampant in the dedicated T.I. community is well-founded in the area of software and hardware. There are new items to plug into our little marvel coming out weekly. And better, more sophisticated software hitting the counters (mail-order) almost daily.

All of this stuff continues to make our remarkable machine constantly more remarkable. (As a fifth-grade teacher I hear the word "awesome" used to modify the most awesomeless nouns that I hesitate using it. But! Our trusty T.I. is truly awesome. Who among us would have dreamed two years ago that our computer would be capable of doing the things we take for granted today?) I fell in love with the 99/4 and used it in my classroom for a year (courtesy of T.I.). Then we got Apples and Commodores and TRS things. The teachers (more than half the staff) went out and bought their own 99/4As. And used them. And continue to use them. We just got used to a good thing, and none of the others held up. Better marketing on the others; true. More software; true. Friendlier machine; false.

All the stuff we take for granted: automatic line numeration, resequencing, built-in sound/graphics subprogramming (None of those lengthy Peek-Poke procedures.), tape/disk/cartridge options, speech synthesis, music, and so on, were too good to give up. The other computers gathered dust, while the T.I.s whirred along through primary and intermediate classrooms. And still do.

There isn't a program most of us can think of that hasn't been already created for our computer. Educationally it is superb. Home use it is superb. Arcade use it is superb. Business use it is superb.

So what happened in the publishing business? Forget PERSONAL COMPUTING, CREATIVE COMPUTING (The T.I. has proven to be the most creative, ingenious computer still in existence.), BYTE. They never bothered with us anyway. COMPUTE! almost did us in until they received a zillion letters from irate 99ers. And FAMILY COMPUTING (which is an inane magazine to begin with, along with Scholatics K-POWER and other dead mags) has done us in, too. This, despite the fact that their advertisers were still doing stuff for us (Atarisoft, Parker, Infocom, Unisource, etc.) and we were still purchasing the printers, disks, cables, monitors, tapes, and so on from other advertisers. So, to hell with them. I began purchasing stuff from other sources and wrote to tell the advertisers why. Scholastic's so big they don't give a damn.

Our text sources haven't dried up yet, but they will without support. We need COMPUTE! and MICROPENDIUM and HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE and MINI-MAG 99. And they need us. The best way to protect your thousands of dollars of hardware and software is to spend the (comparatively) miniscule amount of money to subscribe to these supporting magazines. And to keep up

active memberships in users groups. That supportive attitude is what
keeps the market alive for developers of more software and hardware. It's
essential. Our computer hasn't died because WE make it live! We are its
life-support system.

Whew!

A "friend" once told me I should take my act to Hyde Park in London,
where diatribe is as essential as breathing.
So I'll step off my soapbox and get on with this review.

There is a crazy little (I MEAN "little") book that was published
last September called SPEED WALKER: FUN TO PROGRAM YOUR TI-99 SERIES by
Howard Budin and illustrated by Cris Hammond (Pinnacle Books, Inc., 1430
Broadway, New York, N.Y. - $2.95) which impressed me in rather an unusual
way. It seemed to be written like a novel. Not one of those MICRO
ADVENTURE types that throw in decoders that have no relevance, but a
novelish kind of thing. The comic-strip sequences are definitely
plot-oriented. The text is program-oriented. Extremely lucid. Very
simple. My fifth-grade class loved it.
Each section, each subroutine of each program in described in detail
as you lay the program in. Step by step. Clear. Intelligent. Full of
humor. Then the program, in its entirety, is given at the end of each
chapter to check against your listing to date.
Nice.
The six chapters are entitled WHAT'S YOUR FORTUNE, A SECRET CODE, AN
INITIAL RACE, BURST THE BALLOON, SCRAMBLED STATES, GLOSSARY & INDEX. For
anyone in for a night of light programming entertainment or for anyone
with kids at home or in a classroom (quantity discounts are given to
schools) this book is fun and extremely educational. But mostly fun.
Anyone who follows the entire course of this marvelous tutorial and
doesn't immediately write his or her own program has either died in the
interim or has the mentality that thinks an Apple is superior. Both lost
causes. The book's worth buying. And $2.95 is the price.
It's 3 X 5, ring binder (I will buy any T.I. book that has a ring
binder.), large type, newsprint paper, 90 pages.
But it is the concept of the thing I like best. I hope it starts a
trend of a thousand T.I. owner/thinker/programmer/writers making little
books of their T.I. specialties. Little gems.
Maybe a book on Multiplan sponsored by some user group. Or maybe a
book on TI Writer put out by a guy with a copier. Or maybe someone who
did a dozen programs that he or she really likes and wants to share with
hopes of making a buck or two.
Wouldn't that be great. More people with the Tigercub one-man-show
approach who care and work at it and want to share in the Great T.I.
Adventure.

LIBRARY NOTICE

With the increased demand for the newer TI-99/4A
related books we must request book loans to be
only one month. If you have any books on loan
please bring them to the next meeting. If you
can't make it to the next meeting please ask a
friend to return the book(s). Thanks! This
gives everyone a better chance to see one they
haven't seen yet.

****

~~~~~GEMINI - 10 USERS~~~~~

If you own a Star Micronics Gemini-10 dot matrix printer,
and you have had problems with the printer not completely
printing the first character or two after start-up, read on.
The problem only seems to occur after the printer has been
off for a while. The problem is in the print head and can be
corrected by replacing it. Call Star Micronics California
Support Group at 714-768-4340 and they will send you a new
head (no...for your printer, silly!).

Installation instructions are in the owners manual.   You
only have to pay return postage for the old one.

Information from Dick Carraro and Mike Walker of the
Brevard Florida Users Group but reprinted in the Sept/Oct
issue of the Call Newsletter from Atlanta. (REPRINTED FROM
SOUTH BAY U.G. IN SAN JOSE, CA. (ED.))

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MUNCH OFFICERS AND NUMBERS (all in 617 area)

President	Bruce Willard	852-3250
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	John Doon	852-4295
Secretary	V. Foster-Erlandson	481-8060
Treasurer	Jim Cox	869-2704
Editor	Pete Blackford	892-4946
Hardware Chair	Bernie Miller	
Programs Chair	Pete Rauktis	799-6035
Adv Prog. Chair	Dan Rogers	248-5502
Club Reviewer	Jack Sughrue	476-7630
Library	Al & Lisa Cecchini	
Mail & Messages	Video Connection	852-8213

M.U.N.C.H.

560 LINCOLN STREET

WORCESTER, MA. 01605

TO:

FIRST CLASS

****
IMPORTANT NOTICE
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July meeting will be on July 16, 1985
at University of Massachusetts Medical Center
(Come to the VISITORS entrance and follow the signs for MUNCH....)