TI World News

From the April, 1989
MICROpendium...

Disk of the Month

Starting this month, all program listings that appear in the pages of MICROpendium magazine will be available on disk. No more long hours of typing only to find that the program won't run because you typed a "." instead of a "," somewhere. Cost will be $4 per disk or $40 for a one year subscription. Sounds like a good deal to me. How about our UG subscribe as a source for our Disk of the Month program?

TENEX Update

Last month we reported from the pages of *ASGARD NEWS* that *TENEX* may be planning to drop its support of TI. Well this month Roger Dooly of *TENEX* tells MICROpendium this is not true. While they may indeed drop some of the not so popular TI items, they will continue to support TI and are looking for new items to carry. Good News! I only hope it is true.

TI Enters Dictionary Business

Well, not really. I'm sure most of you have seen the **Franklin Spell Checker** that has a dictionary of 80 thousand words. You enter the spelling of a word and this handy machine tells you that you spelled the word wrong and then gives you several choices for correct spelling. TI has introduced what is termed the *second generation* of this machine which

has the ability to find a word based on the spelling of the word the way it sounds to you. It will even show you correct spelling for common endings to words such as adding "ed" or "ing" to words. This one has a dictionary of over 93 thousand words. It has a retail price of $95. *TEX-COMP*, P.O. Box 33064, Granada Hills, CA 91344, is selling this for $69.95 + shipping and handling. (*I could have used this last month with my spelling of "sophisticated" - I spelled it "suffisticated" in the newsletter. -Ed.*)

TI-Writer Version 4.01

R.A. Green, *RAG Software* (1032 Chantenay Dr., Gloucester Ontario, Canada K1C 2K9), has an upgrade to the popular **TI-Writer**. Most of the changes are in NEW dot commands that the formatter understands. You can now specify what character, for example, you wish to use to indicate underline text, bold text, etc. It also has a Quick Exit (QQ) from the Command line that stops the program without all the safety prompts you would normally get. You can run a configure program to set up such default settings as starting margins, printer, tabs, colors and even what file to load after the program is loaded. This sounds like a really great update to **TI-Writer** and *RAG Software* is asking only $10. Contact them direct.

Myarc Updates Programs

In April, a hard-disk version of **MDOS** was uploaded to the major BBS'. This is an unfinished version which was put up basically for beta testing by the users! Not a

bad idea and something rather unique. This version is incompatible with the **Myarc Disk Manager V**. Progress is also being made on **Myarc Advanced BASIC** with several new CALL's being added, however, a distribution copy is not available.

Archiver III Revised

Barry Boone has again revised **Archiver III** to version 3.03. The new version changes screen colors when functions are completed, has the ability to list files to a printer and to designate any floppy or RAMdisk from 1 to Z. A version is in the works to give full support to hard disk users....

VAST USER GROUP INFORMATION

The *VAST USERS GROUP* is a support group for Home Computer users. We primarily support the TI-99/4A Home Computer and compatibles, but all computer users are welcome. We will be meeting at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center in Tempe on the 3rd Saturday of this month (May 20). In coming months, the meetings will be scattered between the second and third Saturdays. A two month calendar showing the meeting dates for June and July is included on the Editor's page so you will have some idea of when the next meetings will be. The meetings will start at 10:00 AM and continue until 11:00 AM with socializing starting at 9:00 AM. Please see the address page for additional meeting information. The yearly membership fee is $15.00 and now includes the newsletter mailed to your door!

All meetings are open and anyone may attend. Only dues paying members may vote in elections and obtain programs from the Users' Group Library.

****

CURRENT OFFICERS
President
Mike Grogan.........272-4315
Vice-President
Bill Wedmore........998-1821
Secretary
Mike Marfisi..........491-1552
Treasurer
Mike Marfisi..........491-1552
User Group Librarian
Earl Bonneau.........269-3802
Newsletter Editor/BBS SysOp
Jim Ely....................921-3375
****

The date that appears in the upper right hand corner of your mailing label is your membership expiration date. Address renewals to the return address on page 10. Newsletter *O N L Y* membership is available for $12.00/year, First Class Mail.

The User Group's BBS is in operation 24 hours a day. Contact it at (602) 437-4335. There are 3 message bases, a TI specific download section, and a lot of interesting conversation and information available here so why not give it a try.

Deadline for submission of articles or advertising for the Newsletter is the last Saturday of every month. Articles may be submitted in any form, however, the preferred method is by phone transfer directly to the Editor.

****
Advertising rates are as follows:

COMMERCIAL:
Full Page
$10.00
Half Page
$7.00
Quarter Page
$4.00

PERSONAL:
Four lines,
30 Characters/line
$1.00
$.20 per line over four.

All rates are for *ONE* issue only!
****

Programs are available from the USERS' GROUP LIBRARY at the following rates:
SS/SD Disk $2.00
DS/SD Disk $4.00

If copying of documentation is required, it will be at the rate of $.10 per page. If the User Group supplies the disk, please add $1.00 to the above charges. An exchange program for free programs is also in effect. Please contact the librarian for further information. A complete list of what is in the library is available on 2 disks free of charge if you supply the disks or for $1.00 per disk if the User Group supplies the disks.

DISCLAIMER: Information in this newsletter is gathered from other user group newsletters from around the world and original articles by members of our user group. The information is believed to be correct and accurate as published. Where possible, original sources and authors are stated. Errors should be brought to the attention of the editor of this newsletter. This user group is not responsible for programs and construction projects tried by its members. YOU try them at your **own risk**. Permission is hereby granted to other user groups to republish articles appearing in the *VAST News*.

Meeting Minutes
VAST User Group
April 15, 1989

The April meeting of the VAST USER GROUP was held on Saturday, April 15th at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center. We were called to order at 10:00 am by Vice President Bill Wedmore in the absence of President Mike Grogan.

The minutes of the March meeting were accepted as published in the newsletter and the Treasurer reported a balance of $387 in our account.

Jim Ely, speaking as the BBS Committee, apologized for the delay in getting things updated during the last month. His time is rather limited due to the fact that he is starting a new enterprise which has a nasty habit of taking him away from club business.

Earl Bonneau, reporting as the Library Committee, announced that our good friend Stephanie Bannon has agreed to serve as the club librarian for the foreseeable future and perhaps longer.

Dan Shell, reporting for the Program Committee, pointed out that only 11 survey forms were returned during the last month. This is a very disappointing response. The type of demos and programs that will be available from the Program Committee during the next year will be very heavily based on the results of this survey. So if members want input, get the forms to Dan as soon as possible.

Next month Dan has agreed to demo and compare some of the data bases available for the TI, including TI BASE and FIRST BASE. Should be a good program.

Everyone welcomed two new members to our group. Say hello to Jack Workman and Ian McGregor both TI users. Welcome Guys.

A discussion as to the direction of the club began once again. The question of how to attract new members was the focus of the discussion.

The Program Committee agreed to meet during the month as an Ad Hoc Membership Committee to see if they could come up with some ideas. They will report in May.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am.

Respectfully

Mike Marfisi

TI STILL CARES...
TI-CARE FORUM

(Reprinted from *The SNUGLETter*, newsletter of the Southern Nevada Users' Group. Credited to the *Net99er News* of the Hurst (Texas) Computer Users' Group. No author stated.)

As part of a continuing effort to enhance support services, TI-CARE has introduced an on-line bulletin board that gives customers technical assistance and the latest news about TI-CARE and TI.

The board, called the "TI-CARE Forum," is a multi-line system which permits simultaneous access by multiple users. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and can be accessed using almost any Bell 212a compatible modem at baud rates of 300, 1200 and 2400.

Any user who dials up the forum can peruse general information about TI, its products and services; view product demonstrations; and read important announcements.

Users who have purchased TI-CARE Support Services for specific software or hardware products may access technical information for those products. The technical material includes direct responses to the user's questions and answers to technical questions asked by others. It also allows the user to download files from the Forum to a remote system. The Forum has been designed for ease of use with on-line help and menu driven functions. Special features help maximize the user's time. For example, there are separate file areas for each product. Also, a key search can be run in background mode while the user performs another task.

TI-CARE expects users to enjoy the Forum's advantages of immediate access to information, instead of waiting for assistance over the phone. In addition, the Forum allows customers to obtain selected TI owned software product updates electronically, saving the mail time of conventional distribution.

There is no connection charge or users fees for access to general information on the Forum; the only cost is the phone call. The technical assistance is available through subscription to TI-CARE Support Services.

For more information, you may dial directly into general information section of the Forum at (512) 250-6112 - modem. Or if you would like to discuss the forum, please call (800) 847-5757 - voice.

TI-CARE "Forum" - (512) 250-6112

NEWS... Continued from Page 1

And here is some info downloaded from CompuServe....

Asgard Announces New Programs

Here are two new goodies from our friends at *ASGARD*. We really should give these folks a lot of support, they sure are giving a lot to us.

MUSIC PRO

Asgard Software, David Caron, Lucie Dorais, and the Ottawa TI-99/4A Users Group are proud to announce the release of a new concept in music creation software for the TI-99/4A - Music Pro!

Music Pro is very much a word-processor for music (or, a MUSICal PROcessor). Music Pro has a full-featured editor that will allow you to create music by typing notes on a staff.

After entering in the music, you can compile the music into assembly language data for rapid playing. Or, you can save or load in pieces for editing at any time.

Finally, Music Pro is the only music program for the 99/4A that will allow you to print out your work in sheet music form (one voice at a time) on your Epson or compatible printer!

Music Pro includes a detailed, well-written manual by Lucie Dorais, and includes many sample songs and a keyboard overlay strip and keyboard note map in TI-Writer format. It requires a TI-99/4A with 32K, disk and Extended BASIC (*Note* will NOT function with the Geneve 9640 due to differences in the key-scanning routines). It is available for a suggested retail price of $17.95.

PAGE PRO 99

Asgard Software and Ed Johnson are pleased to announce the release of Page Pro 99.

Page Pro 99 is an extremely powerful but very easy to use page-making program for the TI-99/4A

From the Editor's Desk

The Treasurer informs me of the following...

COMINGS AND GOINGS

A BIG VAST WELCOME to our 3 newest members. Say hello and welcome to:

Cochise Robinson
Jack Workman
Ian McGregor

Welcome back for another year:

Walt Brown & Dan Shell

A reminder, May is our big renewal month. The following folks are past due:

Jim Ely
Terry Naddy
Harold Thomas

These folks are due to renew in May and in keeping with our policy of January to December membership terms, they will owe $8.75 which will include a newsletter through 12/89. If you wish to renew for the next year make your check out for $23.75.

Earl Bonneau
John Clanton
James Cronk
Rene La Blanc
Mike Marfisi
Robert Peterson
Gloria Randle
Ralph Rees
Tom Sharp

Ike Van Kampen
Gayle Zickefoose

For those of you that like to be one step ahead of the crowd, here is the list of those due to renew in June. These folks will owe $7.50 for the remainder of 1989 and $22.50 if they wish to pay through 1990.

Erik Anderson
Gerry Kennedy
Hazel & Wallace Knight
Bill Lage
Fred Ruppert

The breakdown on dues and newsletter subscriptions works out to $1.25 per month. That's $.50 for dues and $.75 for newsletter. So if you do not want the newsletter adjust your amount due accordingly.

If you don't think you will make it to a meeting, you can pay by mail. Send checks to:

Mike Marfisi
1425 E. Del Rio Dr.
Tempe, AZ 85282

MEMBERSHIP LISTS AVAILABLE

I will have available for anyone who wants them, a current membership list. This list will be yours for the asking at each meeting and will be kept up to date. It will list name, address and phone number for each member along with membership status. If for some reason you do not wish your phone number listed, please let me know.

In This Issue...

Mike Marfisi has written a review of a nifty new program called Typewriter and that is on page 9. Page 5 has part 21 of Elements of BASIC, this month starting a 2 part discussion of the CALL SOUND

COMPUTER TUTOR

The Elements of BASIC

by Dave Howell

(Courtesy Erie 99er User Group Newsletter)

Part 21

CALL SOUND (Part 1)

The TI-99/4A computer has a remarkable voice. Its musical range is greater than any pair of musical instruments other than electronic devices, of course. Producing sound is a specialized job of the sound chip known as the TMS9919 Sound Generator Controller chip. This is not the same chip that produces speech found in the Solid State Speech Synthesizer - a peripheral that attaches to the TI-99/4A. The Speech Synthesizer chip is much more sophisticated since producing speech is much more involved, obviously.

The sound chip can produce two distinct kinds of sound - music and noise.

MUSIC. The computer can generate up to three tones simultaneously for a specified time at a selected volume. The standard form for causing sound is:

```
              duration tone volume
CALL SOUND(   1000,    262,   1   )
```

The first value in the parentheses tells the computer how long the sound is to be played. The duration can range from 1 millisecond to 4250 milliseconds. The 1000 in the above statement is about 1 second. Try these CALL SOUND statements to hear the difference in the duration:

```
CALL SOUND(100,262,1)
CALL SOUND(2500,262,1)
CALL SOUND(4250,262,1)
```

The second value in the parentheses causes the tone or pitch of the sound. Tones that can be reproduced on the TI are the electronic variations of the frequencies ranging from 110 to 44,733 Hertz. Hertz is a term used by technical people in the electronics industry. It means Cycles per Second. Actually, most of this range is beyond human hearing. Our hearing cops out around 14,900 Hz. Try these CALL SOUND statements on the computer to hear the 3 different tones.

```
CALL SOUND(4000,110,1)
CALL SOUND(4000,392,1)
CALL SOUND(4000,4186,1)
```

The table on the next page provides the frequency values for some selected musical notes.

The last value in the parentheses controls the volume of the sound. The volume ranges from 0 (loudest) to 30 (softest). The value of 30 is barely a whisper and may be difficult to hear. The monitor's volume may have to be turned up to hear this tone:

```
CALL SOUND(3000,262,30)
```

To play the notes Middle C, E, G and High C, use this series of sound statements:

```
10 CALL SOUND(1000,262,5)
20 CALL SOUND(1000,330,5)
30 CALL SOUND(1000,392,5)
40 CALL SOUND(1000,523,5)
RUN
```

Experiment using the following program by changing the duration, tone, and volume values as requested.

```
10 INPUT "DURATION":D
20 INPUT "TONE":T
30 INPUT "VOLUME":V
40 CALL SOUND(D,T,V)
50 GOTO 10
RUN
```

NOISE. To create noise, choose a tone that is one of these negative numbers: -1, -2, -3, -4, -5, -6, -7, -8. The numbers from -1 to -4 produce "periodic" noise and the numbers from -5 to -8 produce "white" noises. Try this program to hear the differences in the noises:

```
10 FOR T=-1 TO -8 STEP -1
20 CALL SOUND(4000,T,0)
30 NEXT T
RUN
```

Here are some simple sound routines:

```
10 T=226
20 FOR X=1 TO 8
30 CALL SOUND(3000,T,1)
40 T=T+18
50 NEXT X
```

Computer Tutor
Continued from Page 5...

```
10  REM POLICE SIREN?
20  CALL SOUND(500,-2,5)
30  CALL SOUND(500,-1,5)
40  GOTO 20


10  READ T
20  IF T=999 THEN 140
30  CALL SOUND(500,T,5)
40  GOTO 10
50  DATA 262,262,392,392,440
60  DATA 440,392,349,349,330
70  DATA 330,294,294,262,392
80  DATA 392,349,349,330,330
90  DATA 294,392,392,349,349
100 DATA 330,330,294,262,262
110 DATA 392,392,440,440,392
120 DATA 349,349,330,330,294
130 DATA 294,262,999
140 END


10  REM BLASTING OFF?
20  FOR N=-3 TO -1
30  CALL SOUND(1000,N,5)
40  NEXT N
50  FOR N=-7 TO -5
60  CALL SOUND(1000,N,0)
70  NEXT N
80  CALL SOUND(2000,-1,1)
```

Frequencies for Musical Notes			
FREQ.	NOTE	FREQ.	NOTE
110.00	A	739.99	F Sharp, G Flat
116.54	A Flat, B Sharp	783.99	G
123.47	B	830.61	G Sharp, A Flat
130.81	C [Low C]	880.00	A [above High C]
138.59	C Sharp, D Flat	923.33	A Sharp, B Flat
146.83	D	987.77	B
155.56	D Sharp, E Flat	1046.50	C
164.81	E	1108.73	C Sharp, D Flat
174.61	F	1174.66	D
185.00	F Sharp, G Flat	1244.51	D Sharp, E Flat
196.00	G	1318.51	E
207.65	G Sharp, A Flat	1396.91	F
220.00	A [below Middle C]	1479.98	F Sharp, G Flat
233.08	A Sharp, B Flat	1567.98	G
264.94	B	1661.22	G Sharp, A Flat
261.63	C [middle C]	1760.00	A
277.18	C Sharp, D Flat	1864.66	A Sharp, B Flat
293.66	D	1975.53	B
311.13	D Sharp, E Flat	2093.00	C
329.63	E	2217.46	C Sharp, D Flat
349.23	F	2349.32	D
369.99	F Sharp, G Flat	2489.02	D Sharp, E Flat
392.00	G	2637.02	E
415.30	G Sharp, A Flat	2793.83	F
440.00	A [above Middle C]	2959.96	F Sharp, G Flat
466.16	A Sharp, B Flat	3135.96	G
493.88	B	3322.44	G Sharp, A Flat
523.25	C [high C]	3520.00	A
554.37	C Sharp, D Flat	3729.31	A Sharp, B Flat
587.33	D	3951.07	B
622.25	D Sharp, E Flat	4186.01	C
659.26	E	4434.92	C Sharp, D Flat
698.46	F		

```
10  FOR N=1 TO 7
20  READ T
30  CALL SOUND(1000,T,1)
40  NEXT T
50  DATA 262,294,330,349,392,
440,494
```

To get a different tune in the above program, change the values in the DATA to these: 523,587,659,740,392,440,494.   d.h.

EXTENDED BASIC EXECUTION SPEED

Frank Aylstock

It seems that as we get more involved in programming and the use of different programs, we seem to wish that we had more speed.

We should first determine which version of Extended BASIC we are using. This can be done by placing the module in the cartridge slot, resetting the computer and selecting X-BASIC from the menu. Now type in:

CALL VERSION(X) :: PRINT X

If 100 is displayed on the screen, you have an early version.

You can speed up this version of XB by proceeding to type in the following statements.

- 1. If your program does not make use of SPRITES, add the following line to your program:

  1 CALL INIT :: CALL LOAD(-31 878,0)

  This disables the SPRITES and increases your execution speed considerably.

- 2. If the program includes SPRITES then use the following statement:

  1 CALL INIT :: CALL LOAD(-31 878,n)

  where n = the highest SPRITE value used in the program. Now, if the program uses the statement:

  CALL DELSPRITE(ALL)

  replace this statement with:

  CALL DELSPRITE(#1,#2,#3,....#n)

  where n equals the highest SPRITE value used.

This will increase the execution speed which in turn will make computing more enjoyable to the user and therefore increase the usefulness and value of your system.

f.a.

Another Tiny Gram

TIny LOTTO

A TIny GRAM

by Ed Machonis

The first program I ever wrote on my newly purchased TI-99/4A was a random number generator for NY State Lotto games. When I finally got the program to generate 6 numbers between 1 and 40, I was elated. Not having any way to save the program, I copied the code on to paper with a pencil.

Knowing I was on my way to my first million, I decided to splurge on a cassette recorder. Leaving the computer turned on, I embarked on a two hour trip into the city to purchase a recorder. Upon my return about five hours later, I saved the program. The first number generator eventually grew to 46 sectors with nearly every conceivable bell and whistle, and took over 3 minutes to load from cassette.

Here I am, 5 years later, still writing Lotto programs and still chasing that first million. Hope also springs eternal in the compulsive programmer's [Gambler's?] breast! If nothing else, I did learn to write them smaller.

But don't let the small size fool you. This screen full of code does a lot of work and once again proves the power of the TI-99/4A. It will generate random numbers for any of the popular lottery games, WIN 3, WIN 4, Pick 6 LOTTO and WIN 10 or Keno. The low number can be a zero or a one. The high number can be what ever is being used, 40, 48, 54, 80, 999 or 9999. It should work in any state.

The same RND statement, in line 4, borrowed from son Michael's BASIC 10 liner LUCKY LOTTO, is used to generate the random numbers for all games. It's a clever piece of code well worth your study.

Where multiple numbers are generated for a game, as in Lotto or Keno, duplicate numbers are discarded and the numbers are sorted in ascending order to make it easier to fill out your bet slip. Output can be directed to screen or printer. When several games are played, the hard copy is easier to check for winners than the individual tickets.

Leading zeroes are inserted where required to keep the columns neatly aligned and to reduce the possibility of transcription errors. A total of ten Lotto games (the bet slip capacity) can be displayed on the screen without any scrolling off.

The N.Y. State Lottery states "...if you are playing LOTTO for the big prize, pick your numbers randomly." Early on, I distrusted the randomness of TI's RND function, and in my niavety visualized having to split that first million with half the TI owners in NY State. Dispite a RANDOMIZE statement, the computer often generated identical series of numbers.

TI's User's Reference Guide states on page II-96, "The random number function gives you the NEXT PSEUDO-RANDOM number in the current SEQUENCE of pseudo-random numbers." Page II-95 states: "When the RANDOMIZE statement is used ..... a different and unpredictable SEQUENCE of random numbers is generated ..... each time the program is run." RND generates numbers in accordance with a built-in sequence. The RANDOMIZE statement merely insures that a program does not ALWAYS start with the same sequence. But it can, HAS and will.

The RANDOMIZE statement in line 3 can be placed in three different positions. Placing it before the start of the G loop will cause an unpredictable sequence to be selected each time the program is RUN. Placed before the start of the K loop, a new sequence is used for each game. Placing it after the start of the K loop, as it is, causes an unpredictable sequence to be selected for each number that is generated. As only one number is used from each sequence, we are no longer governed by the built-in sequence and the program generates truly random numbers.

WIN 3 numbers can be selected with TIny LOTTO in one of two ways. We can use a Low Number 0, a High Number of 999 and 1 number per game. Or one can use a Low Number of 0, a High Number of 9, and three numbers per game. The same two methods are available for four digit numbers using 9999 and 1, or 9 and 4, as required. In the first case, a three digit number is selected, in the second case each digit of the three digit number is separately selected. Just a little user friendliness to conform to the way the user thinks of the numbers.

If you find that you only play one type of game, and are always entering the same information in response to the prompts, line 2 can be changed to permanently assign values to the variables. Suppose your regular selection is for 10 games of Pick 6 Lotto, with a low number of 1 and a high number of 54, with output to a printer. Line 2 would read:

```
2 L=1 :: H=54 :: T=6 :
: Q=10 :: P=1 :: OPEN
#P:"PIO"
```

Due to sale of public domain programs by some software distributers, a copyright notice has been placed on this program. It may be freely distributed provided no fee of any kind is charged. This article and/or program may be published in Newsletters of non-profit user groups.

e.m.

```
1 !$$$$    TIny LOTTO    $$$$
  $     Copyright 1988     $
  $      by Ed Machonis     $
  $ QB-99'ers, Bayside NY $
  $$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$

2 CALL CLEAR :: INPUT "LOW N
UMBER? ":L :: INPUT "HIGH NU
MBER? ":H :: INPUT "NUMBERS
PER GAME? ":T :: INPUT "HOW
MANY GAMES? ":Q :: INPUT "SC
REEN=0 - PRINTER=1 (0/1)?":P
 :: IF P THEN OPEN #P:"PIO"

3 H$=STR$(H):: FOR G=1 TO Q
:: FOR K=1 TO T :: RANDOMIZE

4 N(K)=INT(RND*(H+ABS(L=0)))
+L :: FOR D=1 TO K-1 :: IF N
(K)=N(D)AND H>9 THEN 4

5 NEXT D :: NEXT K :: U=T-1
:: IF H<10 THEN 9

6 F=0 :: FOR K=1 TO U :: IF
N(K)<N(K+1)THEN 8

7 M=N(K):: N(K)=N(K+1):: N(K
+1)=M :: F=1 :: U=K

8 NEXT K :: IF F=1 THEN 6

9 FOR K=1 TO T :: N$(K)=STR$
(N(K)):: PRINT #P:RPT$("0",L
EN(H$)-LEN(N$(K)))&N$(K)&" "
;:: NEXT K :: PRINT #P:;:;:;:
:: NEXT G ! GOOD LUCK
```

The Lighter Side

We can all relate to the following from Sister Pat Taylor:

IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK....

¤ If you remember ages ago when boot referred to footware, not a program coming on a computer.....

¤ Or the days when a bulletin board was simple school equipment and not electronically sent messages.....

¤ Or times when we spoke of animation in reference to a person's enlivened spirit, not a screen imitating life.....

¤ Or those eons ago when conversations were political or religious, not binary or ASCII.....

¤ Or utilities were electric bills, not terrific helpers to aid a floundering computer novice.....

¤ Or when default referred to a failure to meet an obligation instead of a comfortable choice made for you......

¤ Or another century when alpha and omega were companions in speech instead of alpha and lock.....

¤ Or a time in the past when dip referred to a condiment and switches were a tool for chastisement......

¤ When strings were musical instruments, not a sequence of characters.....

¤ When terminals were bus and train depots, not input/output devices.....

¤ When a buffer shined one's floors, and was not a temporary storage device.....

¤ When bugs were insects, not errors in a computer program.....

¤ Or when monitors watched school halls and lavatories instead of you watching a screen performance.....

¤ When emulation was striving to excel, not computer imitating computer....

¤ Or a bus was transportation, not a circuit.....

¤ When call meant to phone, not to branch to a subroutine......

¤ When a dump took care of waste material, and was not a lovely print-out.....

¤ When address was where you lived, not an operand portion of a computer instruction.....

¤ When memory belonged to people, not computers.......

Those belonged to another day, another year, and even at times, another century!!! Is it later than we thought or is it simply a question of the past not quite yet converted to the future!!! Can it be only a year ago when computerese first overwhelmed me!!!

THE COMPUTER WIDOW
SURVIVING WIDOWHOOD

By Annette Davies

Semi-single life (willing or not) gives you a golden opportunity. Now you can do all those things your Puteaholic would never do. Before you sign up for that "Learn to Knit Car Seat Covers" class, I'd recommend learning the new rules of your home.

In order to save other "C.W.s" the agony of discovering them, I've listed a few of the more important ones below.

1. NEVER dust the computer! Accidently spraying an open disk drive with Pledge causes sever apoplexy in the user.

2. Wiping the adjust buttons on the monitor creates squiggly lines on the screen. This will cause your user to spend hours trying to "de-bug" a program. (Great revenge tactic!!)

3. No matter how bad they get, NEVER, NEVER spray the computer for cockroaches. This creates sever withdrawl symptoms in your user when the computer is sent out for repairs.

4. Don't throw anything away! That sales slip covered with what looks like a list of curse words from the comics is, in reality, the first line of a program for stopping world hunger.

5. Even if it has been three days since your user has eaten, don't bring him food! When his shaking hands drop a tuna sandwich on the keyboard, you might as well start packing as he'll never forgive you.

6. Never tell him anything important while he is "-puting!" He won't remember it and he won't believe that you really told him.

7. Never attach a loose disk to the machine with a kitchen magnet. If you do this, try not to laugh too hard when he begins screaming in panic over his "lost" programs.

8. Don't allow the cat to sleep on the keyboard. Cat hair can gum up a keyboard almost as fast as Pledge.

9. Don't put his disks in a three-ringed binder by punching holes in them. (This is another packing offense.)

10. Invest in a comfortable sofa and set it up in the computer room. (It's for you!!)

Now get out there and enjoy those classes!!

a.d.

VIEWS AND REVIEWS
TYPEWRITER 99

(From Asgard Software)

Reviewed by Mike Marfisi

Ever just want to sit down and jot a quick note, address an envelope, type up a label or just write a letter? Do you find yourself pulling out the old typewriter because it is too much trouble to fire up the word processor? Well maybe I have the solution for you in a fine little program from Jim Ross called **TYPEWRITER 99**. It is the perfect program to use when a word processor is simply too much. All you have to do with **TYPEWRITER 99** is run the 17 sector program and start typing. The program is available on disk or cassette. The disk version loads from Editor/Assembler or TI Writer Utility menu.

Once booted, you select your printer port by pressing the up or down arrow until your printer port shows, then hit enter to select. Next set your right and left margin (the defaults of 10 and 70 are pre-set) by moving the pointer (<FCTN S> or <FCTN D>) and press enter.

Now you arrive at the main program screen. A cursor will appear at the lower left corner of a 7 line box on the screen, the margin bar will appear above it, and a list of commands at the bottom of the screen. Under the box is another box that shows you where your tab stops are. The box on the screen is where you type. Just type away, and when you reach the end of the line press enter and your line will print out on your paper.

In effect what we have done is turn our printer into a typewriter with all its versatility and simplicity. But there is more. You can auto center, right justify, set bold printing, underline, select line spacing, etc. as you type and see, on screen, exactly what will appear on paper. Here is the only disadvantage of the program. Once you hit enter, you are stuck with what you got. No editing allowed after enter is hit. But then we said this was simple, right?

This may not be one of the most dynamic programs ever written for the TI. There aren't a lot of bells and gongs. But what it does, it does well. At $19.95 from Asgard Software, I think it is a good buy.

See this program and last months feature program, FORMSHOP, demoed at the May meeting.

m.m.

NEWS...
Continued from page 4

and Myarc Geneve 9640. The program is written on the principal of "what-you-see-is-what-you-get" - the printed page will literally look exactly like what is on the screen. Page Pro 99 is the only page-making software for the TI-99/4A or Geneve that has this feature.

Written in assembly language, Page Pro 99 will allow you to create an entire 8 1/2" by 11" page at once. You can place up to 28 pictures of any size, anywhere on the page. Page Pro 99 permits you to type in either of two fonts at once - a small 8x12 pixel font for regular text and a large 16x24 font for titles. The program will also allow you to draw lines anywhere on the page with any of two line styles at the same time.

Page Pro 99 contains many features to help making your page easier. It includes a full-complement of text editing features for inserting and deleting characters and lines. It will also let you import text files from TI-Writer or other word processing programs - so you can use your favorite text editor to create text. Page Pro 99 will allow you to type in any direction (up, down, left or right) for easily making vertical titles. It will also let you delete pictures at will, as well as load pictures at any time at the cursor location. You can also load in new fonts and line styles at any time (though you can only have 2 fonts and two line styles in memory at once).

After you've created your page, you can print it out in any of three dot-densities on your Epson or compatible printer - single-density "rough draft" up to "reproduction-quality" quad-density.

Included are utilities for converting TI-Artist[tm] fonts and instances easily into Page Pro 99 format, and a utility which turns a text file into two-column text for Page Pro 99. Also included are example pictures illustrating various points of the program, and a disk full of pictures and fonts you can use in Page Pro 99 right out of the box.

The program includes an extensive manual, a tutorial, and even an advanced section for programmers interested in making Page Pro 99 compatible utilities.

Page Pro 99 includes a version optimized for the Geneve 9640 and one for the 99/4A. It requires either a TI-99/4A with 32K, disk and either Extended BASIC or Editor/Assembler, or a Myarc Geneve 9640 with a single disk drive. Multiple disk drives, all RAM-disks and even the Myarc Hard & Floppy Disk Controller are supported.

The price is only $24.95 for one of the most capable, and by far the easiest to use, page making program for the 99/4A and Geneve.

For more information, or to order:

ASGARD SOFTWARE
P.O. BOX 10306
ROCKVILLE, MD 20850
(703)255-3085

Editor's Desk Continues from Page 4...

Statement. Do you think X-BASIC is sometimes a bit slow? There are a couple of tips on how to speed it up on page 6. Page 8 is the Lighter Side with 2 short articles to tickle your funny bone. With all the money available in some of the State lotteries (like Pennsylvania and New York), I thought a program to select random lottery numbers would be appropriate. You'll find a rather flexible one in the form of a TIny Gram on page 7. And that's it for this months newsletter.

Our BBS...

I really hate to do this but something has got to go. Therefore, I am hereby giving notice that someone else is going to have to take over the responsibility of the BBS. As you all know, I have started a printing business here in Tempe and the time I would normally have to take care of the BBS is being otherwise taken up. I will continue to operate the BBS for the next 30 days at which time it will have to go, either to someone else or down. I don't think you people want it to go down so I am hoping that someone will step forward to take it over. I guess you could say that the choice is now yours. I will continue the VAST News as long as time permits as it is somewhat related to the business I am in.

Disk of the Month...

In an effort to try to bolster the dwindling User Group Treasury, Mike Marfisi and I have put together a DOM for this month. It includes a disk jacket making program, the latest version of Archiver III, a program to enable your Epson compatible printer to print in a Gothic type font and several other goodies. The price is $1.50 at the meeting or, if you want it mailed to you, it is $2.00. I think this is a great way for the User Group not to go broke and an opportunity for the Library to get some new use. If this goes over, and I hope it does, there will be other Disks of the Month. I think we should set up a library committee to handle this function.

Upcoming Meetings...

Normally, I would print a calendar for the next 2 months to show you the meeting dates. As of this writing, we have not been notified by the Pyle Adult Center of the new dates. The only one I have is for the next meeting and it is on June 17, 1989, again the 3rd Saturday of the month. Don't worry, I'll keep you posted as to the new dates. After all, isn't that what a newsletter is supposed to do?

TI Faires of Interest...

There is only one TI Faire of interest any time soon and that is the Multi User Group Conference in Lima, Ohio on May 20. If interested, contact the Lima User Group, P.O. Box 647, Venedocia, OH 45894.

That's about it for this month. I'll see you all at the meeting on May 20.

Jim Ely
Newsletter Editor

VAST News
c/o 2120 S. Los Feliz Dr.
Tempe, AZ 85282-2905

First Class Mail

TO:

09/89

RALPH REES
18815 N. 19TH AVE.
PHOENIX, AZ 85027

First Class Mail