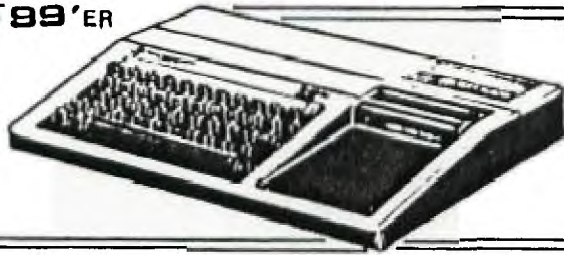


89'ER



NEWS

ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA
NOVEMBER, 1984

Editor/Assembler: B.DeJarnette

ELECTRONIC BULLETIN-BOARD NEWS BY: R.CRAMPION

DAVE WALLEY'S board is temporarily down. His recorded message says that it will be back up in about a month. He is taking a little holiday.

RICHARD PITTS has a local bulletin board now, using a TRS Model 4 with four disk-drives attached. It seems to be very fast, and while it is emphasizing HAM radio amateurs, Richard says that anyone is welcome to sign on and use it. To add your name to the authorized users list, just take option "A" and you'll be instructed to pick your own password and set your own line length. The phone number is 598-6079. I've been using Rich's board for a few days now with my TI-99/4A, and have found it interesting. It works perfectly with the Ti-99, using either the TE-11 module, or the disk-based TE-1200 emulator program with Editor/Assembler module. Try it out, you'll enjoy it.

Ed Hayes, Our Esteemed Librarian Leaving For Assignment in Mexico City

BY: R.CRAMPION

Ed Hayes is leaving us. He and his family are heading for Mexico City where Ed will attend the Mexican Command and General Staff College for a year. He will then be assigned to diplomatic duty for another year or so. According to Ed, "It's a dirty job, but somebody's got to do it." The membership at the last meeting voted to declare Ed a Life-Long Honorary Member, and directed the secretary to procure an appropriate memento as a token of our gratitude. (We're going to get him a quart of tequila) Good luck Ed, and Salud!

The membership also voted to convert our library to a disk based system. More about that in the library column later in the newsletter.

DON'T FORGET THE
NOVEMBER MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13th
ENTERPRISE STATE COLLEGE
7 P. M. Room S-100

WIREGRASS **99/4** USERS-GROUP

AN EPISTLE AND PROPHECY

by Roger Cranpton

In the beginning TI created the 99/4 in its own image.
And TI said "Let there be a multitude of software."
And we looked and we thought that it was good, and TI prospered as
its creation became loved by the multitudes.

But the software was not fruitful, for TI refused to share its
secret data,
And cleaved only unto itself lest The Third Parties earn shekels
that were TI's.
So TI languished and suffered and finally departed in shame and
dishonor.

Suddenly, with TI departed, the light shone, and multitudes of
software appeared, and The Third Parties began to prosper as the
heavens smiled upon them.
And Lo!, with prosperity the software became exceedingly fruitful
and begat even more software.
Until even TI was astonished!

Still the TI-99/4 lives and flourishes, snatched from the depths of
hell to which it had descended, a resurrection rightly and
richly deserved.
But soon the Third Parties became spook-ed, and began also to
languish, for in their haste they committed many of TI's sins.
For with great secretiveness they protected their programs and
miserly hoarded their knowledge unto themselves, as TI had done
before them.

Then appeared the pirates and the heretics, who inscribed the
secrets, and broketh the codes.
With glee and great enthusiasm the hackers rejoiced,
And the Users' Groups proliferated and became many, as the Third
Parties gnashed their teeth and despaired.

As their wailing became louder, their sorrow grew mightily,
And one by one they abandoned their idol called the TI, and cleaved
unto the Commodore and the Atari.
Until one day many of their numbers partook of the Apple of evil
called the Iie.

Of a sudden, a new idol appeared, which was called (and not very
creatively), the Iic.
As by the Apple they were proselytized, their beliefs and their
souls were wrenched from the TI,
And the TI-99 became wretched as a leper, and was left to expire by
the wayside.

But the Apple and its clones became complacent, after the style of
TI.
And the scribes who had earlier blasphemed the TI began to abandon
likewise the Apple.
Until in its perversity, the public began to cry for a greater
power.

Though the Apple resides in the Valley of Silicon, from whence came
the first of its kind,
Far to the east, in the direction of the rising Sun, a new creature
began to stir, and was borned.
And the Apple's place was taken by the Peanut, which greatly pleased
the neophytes.

So it is written and shall come to pass,
That in the days of the future, one idol will triumph and reign over
all others,
And it will be called The PC Jr., and IBM will bask in the warmth of
its victory.

SECOND DISK DRIVE WOES

BY: R. CRAMPTON

Many of you are planning to add a second drive to your TI-99 system, and are you ever going to enjoy it!!! No more swapping diskettes in and out of your drive, and now you can set it for copy and go get a cool Miller's while it merrily chugs along copying the whole thing.

But fair warning, the TI instructions are anything but clear when you start to hook up #2. You can get a giant case of aggravation that will last till you throw the book out the window, like I recently had to do. Let me tell you about it.

I bought an outboard SSSD drive with case and power supply for \$199 from Software Support of Framingham, Mass. And I've got no complaints about them at all. Only the instructions for hooking up another drive. When I tried to make it work, it would sit there and click and whir around, but nothing productive would happen. So I packed up the #2 drive, case and all, and sent it back. A couple of weeks later, it arrive UPS, and I eagerly hooked it up again--- With the same results as before. It made plenty of noise, but wouldn't work. Naturally I called Software Support and hollered, but they insisted that it had worked fine on the test bench (and it turns out that they were right).

Rather than embarass myself by sending it back in again, I tried to use a little deductive logic and isolate the program. So Ernie came down and brought his disk controller card, which we put into my expansion box. Voila, the same trouble! Couldn't be that both controller cards are bad, especially since Ernie's card works fine with his two drives.

So now I'm more convinced than ever that it has to be the drive. Se Bubba came over and brought his #2 drive. When we plugged it into my controller card, it worked fine. Now I knew (I thought) for sure that it had to be my #2 drive. So I got back onto the phone to Software Support, and a sweet lady told me to try just one more thing-- Take my #2 drive to someone else's house and try it out on their machine. So off I went to Lloyd's house to give it one last chance before it went back to Massachusetts. And sure enough, it worked fine!! Well, that proved my theory 100% wrong, and the nice yankee lady right!

So what to do now? Well, if it won't work when I follow TI's installation instructions, then I'll just dismantle the works and put it back together, only this time I'll do just the opposite of what TI says. The part about the "termination resistor" was always a little confusing to me anyway. So when TI said to take the termination resistor out of drive #1, I put it back. And guess what? It works perfectly!! Just proves that old adage, if all else fails, read the instructions-- and do the opposite of what they say!

NEW PROGRAM LIBRARY PROCEDURES BY: R. CRAMPTON

With the conversion of the library to all disk configuration, certain changes are necessary in the operation of the library. First of all, if you're a cassette operator, don't worry, we're not forgetting you! In fact, we'll be able to serve you even better under the new procedures. Here's how it will work:

We still are using our five-for-one exchange system, and you can get five free programs for each unique program you turn in to the library-- as long as it is not already in our library.

If you want to exchange a tape for five programs, bring your taped program and your cassette recorder to the meeting. We'll put your program on diskette, and download 5 programs onto your tape. If you're operating from disks, bring an initialized disk to the meeting.

Some of you don't care anything about keying in programs out of magazines etc, so we're going to a new system. You can download programs, onto your own initialized disk, or with your own cassette recorder, for one buck per program. Obviously, we are talking about public domain programs here, and the librarian and his venerable assistants will monitor the operation to see that no hanky-panky goes on. We hope and believe that this system will work better than the old system. It got kind of weary for the librarian to drag those two suitcases packed with 600 cassette tapes to each meeting. And his mailbox was about worn out from people dropping programs off at his house and stuffing them into his mailbox.

If you have suggestions for a smoother operation, please let us know. In the meantime, we'll try out the new system, and are selling the taped library to the highest bidder.

TOYS 'R US LOADED WITH TI PRODUCTS BY: R. CRAMPTON

While in Montgomery shopping this weekend, we stopped by Toys 'R Us near Eastdale Mall (shopping for the granddaughter, not myself), and I was astounded by the wealth of TI-99 hardware and software on sale. They are loaded with stuff, including TI-Writer, Logo, etc. And the prices seem pretty good too. If you need something for your TI to complete your set-up, try Toys 'R Us.

Attention Modem Users BY: R. CRAMPTON

Chip Weekley is our resident expert on using modems to communicate with other computers and with bulletin boards. Since we haven't been able to have a demonstration at our meeting, Chip has agreed to hold a special meeting at his house on Saturday morning, October 27th (10 A.M.), to demonstrate connecting to a bulletin board and passing programs to your friend down the street (or even in the next state.) Since Chip is going to be making several long distance calls, we've agreed to chip in a couple of bucks apiece to pay for the calls, seems only fair. So if you have a modem and would like to know more about telecommunicating, come to Chip's house on Saturday the 27th of October. He lives near Enterprise State College, his address is 102 Auburn Drive. See you there.

Diskettes for sale

Ernie Howell has a terrific bargain in DSDD diskettes. He has some boxes that he will sell for \$17.10 per box. Let him know how many you want at the next meeting.

Newsletters now mailed

Have you noticed that you've received the past couple of newsletters in the mail? Remember that in the past we distributed the newsletter at our monthly meetings. One of our members suggested that we mail them, and at first our immediate reaction was that it would be too expensive. But upon reflection we decided, what the hell, it's only money! And besides, we're in pretty good financial shape right now.

But remember, our only source of funds are our membership dues (Still an amazing \$6.00 per year for a family membership), and advertising in our newsletter (which has averaged only about \$5.00 per month.) So try your best to recruit new members. It's the only way we'll be able to continue serving our membership. There are still a lot of TI-99 owners who don't know about our Users' Group and our program library. Help them by telling them about our group, and you'll be helping yourself at the same time.

PEN PAL WANTED

HOW ABOUT A PEN PAL IN AUSTRALIA? She is 33, has two young'uns (that's southern Alabama for kids), is interested in LOGO and early learning. She'll exchange TI-99 computer program listings with you, and also games and graphics. Write to:

Cheryl Bailey
P.O. Box 396
Nundah, QLD 4012
Australia

A NOTE TO OTHER TI-99 USERS' GROUPS

(Or Hello out there, are you still alive?)

We are happy to continue exchanging newsletters with you. But our mailing list is becoming rather large, and is probably pretty badly out of date. We plan to reduce our mailing list. Here's how we'll do it-- If we don't hear from you for over 60 days, we'll take you off our list. A red asterisk on your mailing label of this newsletter will notify you that this is the last issue you'll receive unless we hear from you. (Don't worry if you see a black or blue dot on your mailing label, that just means we've heard from you lately.)

NOW FOR SOME BUSINESS

It's time for nominations again... The officers' terms expire in December, and we need to elect a new Vice-President/President-Elect and a new Secretary/Treasurer. Please volunteer to run for one of these offices, or feel free to nominate someone. You can of course nominate yourself. We really need the help!!!

So again, we must ask (plead, beg, implore, supplicate) for everyone's cooperation and assistance. Be active, be helpful, be famous! Be an officer of the Wiregrass TI-99 Users' Group. We are going to ask for nominations at the November meeting so we can have our election at the December meeting.

BY: R. CRAMPTON

FROM THE MAILBAG.....

.....THE INTERNATIONAL USERS GROUP

A letter landed on the HUG desk today from Charles La Fara of the 99/4 International Users Group. He says he's continuing to pledge support of the TI market in spite of his deteriorating financial position.

Some of you might not know that his organization is not a club, but a business that has solicited donations from 'members' and that those donated programs were later copyrighted by La Fara and sold as his own property. No doubt his deteriorating financial position was enhanced somewhat by the 5 figure judgement he received against a users group out west for copyright infringement. The Atlanta group is facing a similar suit (and they don't sell programs out of their library as I understand). If any of you have donated programs to La Fara in the past, be careful who you give copies to, if it's in his catalog, he owns the rights.

MODEM BIT

by Gary Cox

"ONLINE" is a new BBS type of system. It is a free service that lists ads for computer related products from companys, computer Newsletters and for a small fee you may place ads in it.....

"ONLINE" is just getting started so there will be more improvements in it as time goes along. I also noticed there were some TI users on it as well so give it a call and see what it is for yourself. Be sure to sign up to get their free monthly Newsletter in the mail. One of the good things is that the "ONLINE" has a toll free number! Call 1-800-428-2438 only during the following hours:

Monday thru Thursday: 5pm to 1am

Friday thru Monday: 5pm to 5am

(Central Daylight Time)

They have several lines but "ONLINE" is still busy a lot. Just keep trying to get through.

This article was taken from the September, 1984 issue of Tidbits, Newsletter of the Mid-South 99 Users Group, Germantown, Tennessee.

TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS

OF A FLOPPY NATURE

(or how to make a backup)
(copy of a cleaning disk)

by Jerry Trinkl

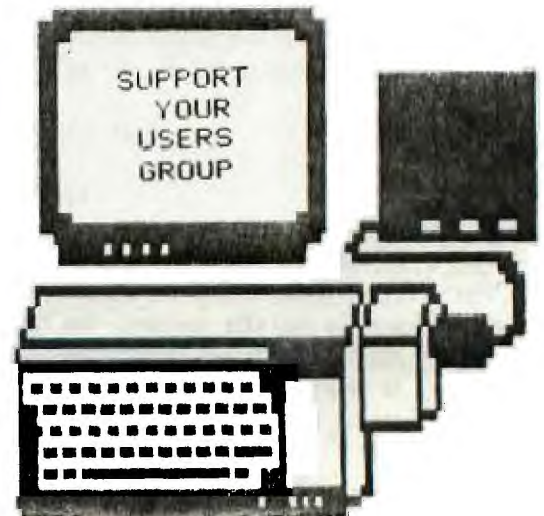
The other day I had the unfortunate experience of losing a disk full of programs. It didn't happen all at once, I occasionally couldn't load a program here and there and sometimes got the error message, "06", the error for no disk drive. In the end, all I got was a no disk drive error. Looking at the disk I found two circular gouges, one on the inside track closest to the hub and one towards the outer most track. I tried to move the disk inside it's jacket and ah ha! The problem was that of a cheap disk that jammed up. It could not even be turned by hand.

Well I had some very good programs on that disk and wasn't about to throw it out just yet. My first thought was to try Disk Fixer, after all that's what it was designed for, right? But if the disk would not turn, then Fix could not even read a sector. OK so now what?

I carefully cut out the bad disk from it's jacket and inserted it into an empty Verbatim cleaning jacket. And Voila! It worked! I quickly backed up my makeshift cleaning disk on an good disk and was tempted to turn ei-cheapo into a frisbee. But I decided to save it anyway as a backup and a reminder of a great idea that actually worked.

So dig out that old frisbee and give it a try. Your trials will not turn into tribulations and you will occasionally find a use for your old useless cleaning jackets.

This article was taken from HOCUS, Newsletter of the Milwaukee Area 99/4 Users Group, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.



THIS PAGE CREDITED TO: HOOSIER USERS GROUP
P. O. BOX 2222
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206-2222

POKING AROUND WITH FORTH AND DISK-FIXER

Several members at the May PUG meeting expressed the strong desire to create personal backup copies of disk-based programs they had purchased. Increasing numbers of these programs are "protected" against such copying. However, there are several methods available to make personal back-ups. REMEMBER!! COPYRIGHT LAWS FORBID UNAUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH COPIES FOR FUN AND PROFIT. (ed. note...piracy only benefits the pirates until the last treasure ship is sunk.)

METHOD #1 FORTH

FORTH contains the simplest, most general utility for copying disks screen by screen (4 sector groups) without regard to contents. It will even copy disks which the Disk Manager does not recognize as being formatted. The key FORTH word is SMOVE. The following sequence should work in any two-drive set-up. Actual screen numbers can be used instead of DISK_SIZE (i.e. 90 or 180 if you modified FORTH for double sided disks). After loading TI-FORTH, place disk to be copied in first drive and back-up disk in second. Then...

```
0 DISK_LO ! (to enable copying of first sectors)
0 DISK_SIZE 1+DISK_SIZE SMOVE
```

Disk drive light should start on first drive, then alternate between second and first eighteen times for single side transfer and thirty-six for a double sided disk. When copying a ss disk on a system set up for ds, use 90 instead of second DISK_SIZE in SMOVE command. Leave or place WRITE-PROTECT TAB on original disk to prevent any accidental changes to originals.

METHOD 2 DISK-FIXER

DISK-FIXER is a utility available from Navarrone Industries, previously on disk and now only as a module. It is available through some local outlets. It provides the facility to easily inspect, list, or change byte-by-byte any sector on a disk. A map to some of the standard format structure is provided but not the protection code. That is an exercise "left to the student". I have completed the exercise: to change a disk from "protected" to "not" for copying with Disk-Manager 2, byte 10 on sector 0 must be changed from 50 to 20. This is easily done following DISK-FIXER instructions, but does require removing the WRITE-PROTECT TAB and changing the original disk. ANY ERROR AT THIS STAGE COULD BE FATAL TO THE CONTENTS OF THE ORIGINAL DISK!! Such vulnerability can be avoided by sector-to-sector reading from one disk and writing to another but this is tedious, error prone, and much inferior to the FORTH equivalent method.

DISK CUSTOMIZATION - MULTI-PLAN

One of my hobbies is customizing programs I use frequently to my own system and needs. MULTIPLAN normally requires initialization for dual disk drives and PIO each time it is booted. Poking around with DISK-FIXER fixed the default configuration right on my back-up TIMP disk. The I/O parameters are set up on the MPINTR program file which interpretation of the disk directory shows beginning at sector 010F on my disk. Sector 0110 contains the only recognizable (ASCII interpreted) information, namely the disk and printer names. To change the default data file disk from DSK1 to DSK2 use DISK-FIXER to change the word beginning at address 0058 from 4B31 to 4B32. Likewise, to change the printer change the words beginning at 00BE to the ASCII code for PIO.EC: 5049 4F2E 4543 2020 2020 2020. A similar change can be made on DISK-FIXER itself (on disk only) at sector 23.

As you can see, poking around disks with DISK-FIXER can be a great adventure..I'll report more in a later issue. Meanwhile, I'd like to hear from anyone who can achieve printer control codes from within MULTIPLAN or through SYLK files.

TED ANDERSON, MEMBER PUG 881-7416

THIS PAGE
CREDITED TO:



PITTSBURGH
P.U.G.
USERS GROUP

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE

Now you can get a checking account from a money-market fund, a credit card from a broker, buy stock from an insurance company, have a savings account at a Sears and Roebuck. Maybe the day will come when you can get change from a bus driver.

Re-Inking Printer Ribbons

BY: R. CRAMPTON

Is your ribbon getting a little dim? Haven't got a spare hanging around? If you're like me, you've saved the last one that wore out on you and have it hidden away in a drawer as a spare. Here's a way to restore it to good dark impressions without a lot of bother or expense.

First, pry the plastic top off the ribbon cartridge. It's not hard to do, but you'll probably want to go out in the garage or somewhere just in case. Use a screwdriver to pry it up in several places all around the case. You'll feel it sort of unsnap when you pry near one of the many little notches that hold the thing together. (I'm talking about the Pro Writer ribbon now, but the same principle applies to any ribbon.) When the top comes off, be sure to hold the thing right-side-up, or you'll dump the ribbon out onto the floor. I doubt if you'd have the patience to stuff it back in in its strange refolded manner. Now that you've got it uncovered, and sitting on something that you don't mind messing up (I used an old cardboard box), take a can of WD-40, a penetrating spray lubricant, and spray the ribbon as evenly as you can. Don't worry about being too neat, its an old ribbon anyway, remember? I let mine sit a few hours to absorb the WD-40 before I put the top back on the ribbon cartridge, which is easier even than getting it off. It just snaps back on. I also try to wait until the next day to use the ribbon, cause it's likely to smear the first couple of times you use it.

Some of our members are using a ribbon five times before discarding it by rejuvenating the ink supply this way. Give it a try, you'll be surprised at how easy it is.

Years ago, they didn't put up signs reading "Men Working." Back then you could tell what they were doing.

FOR SALE

BOB HVARVEN has a TI Acoustic Modem for sale for \$60.00. Bob has purchased a Columbia PC and is selling much of his TI stuff. Give him a call at 598-3029

FOR SALE:

Blue and Gold MACAW, approximately 3 1/2 years old. \$700.00 or best offer. Wrought Iron Cage w/Stand for Macaw Size Bird. \$350.00 or best offer. -Bubba DeJarnette 347-1708 after 5:00.



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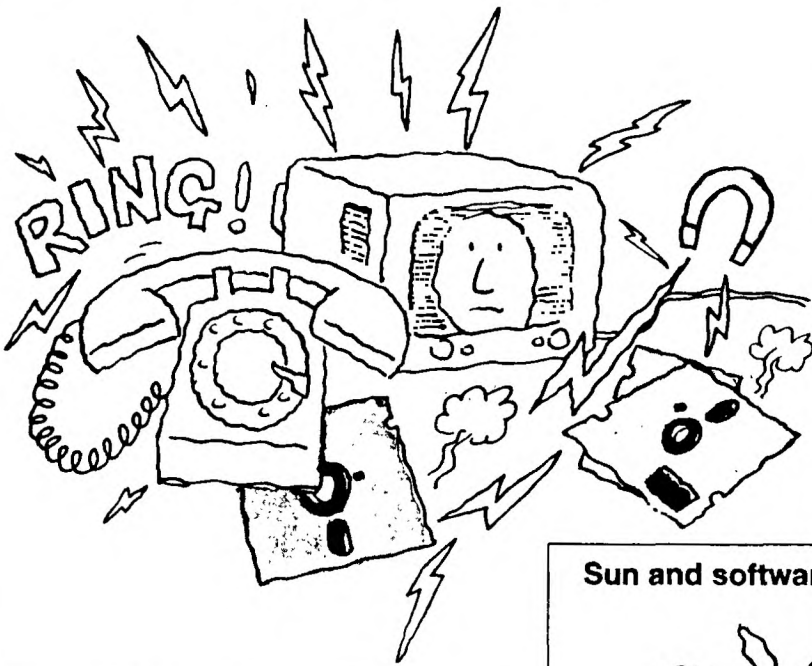
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LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79415

Magnetic devices can zap your software



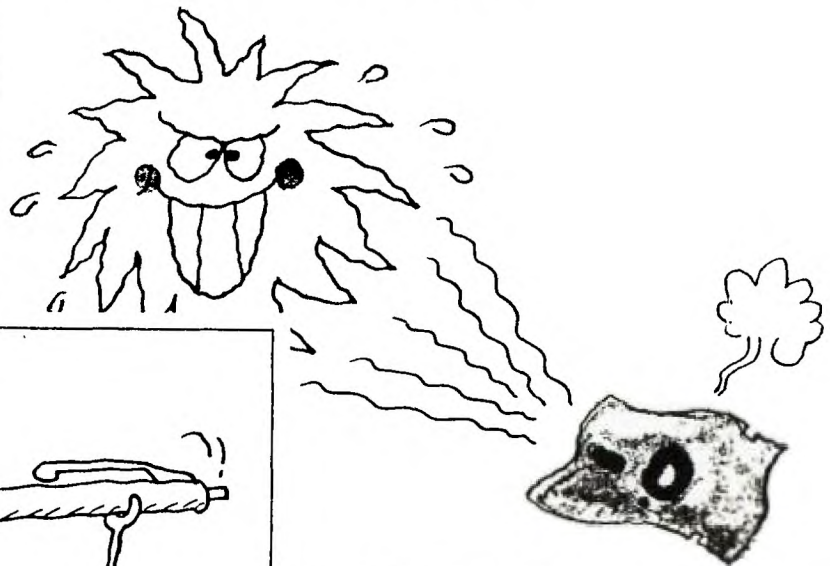
Your magnetic personality can make you a hit at parties, but a walking disaster around computer disks.

Erase not, want not

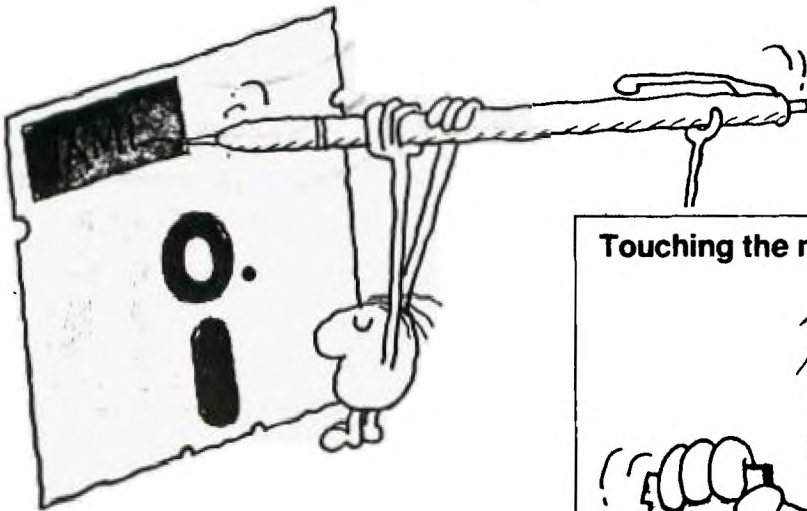
Some reminders:

1. Don't buy software if the jacket's ragged.
2. Be sure you know whether to turn your computer on — or leave it off — before you insert a disk.
3. Make a backup.
4. Use a felt-tip pen to label your disks.
5. Store disks in a jacket, then in a safe place.
6. Avoid temperature and humidity extremes.
7. Smoke, eat, and drink somewhere else.
8. Avoid magnetic fields.
9. Try for a constant power source.

Sun and software don't get along



Don't press your disk with a pen



If you're really heavy handed, you can even deform the disk with a felt-tip pen.

Touching the magnetic surface is a no-no



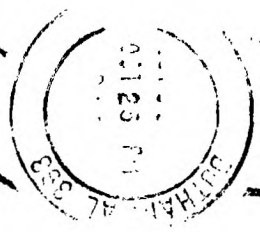
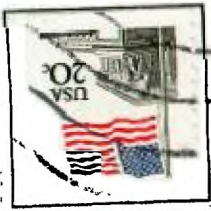
WIREGRASS
99/4
USERS - GROUP

- JOIN -

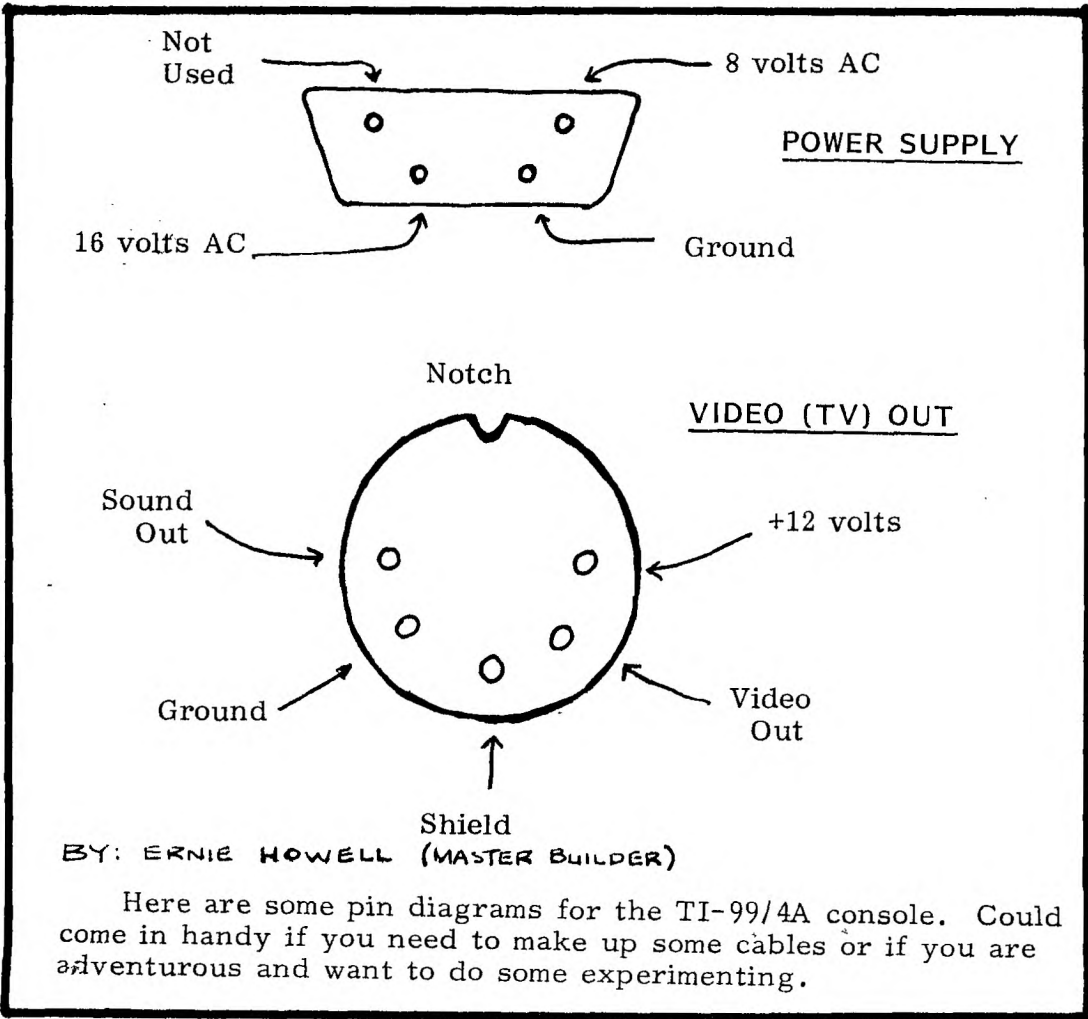
RECORDING
PROBLEMS...
DEBUGGING
PROBLEMS...
TROUBLED
WITH
SOFTWARE...



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EDMONSON, ALBERTA
CANADA T5S-3L1



WIREGRASS 99/4 USERS GROUP
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ENTERPRISE, AL. 36330



.....FOR SALE.....

Wrought Iron Cage and Stand for Cockatiel Size Bird. \$125.00 O.B.O.

55 Gallon 1" Glass Octagonal Aquarium w/W.I. Stand and Acc. \$350.00 O.B.O.

Diatom Aquarium filter and Acc. \$40.00

Diatom Aquarium filter (needs new tubing) \$10.00 (this is not the same filter as above)

SANSUI REVERB \$40.00

BUBBA DEJARNETTE
347-1708 after 5:00.