C.E.S. & N.C.C. WHAT A WEEK!

After spending three hours at the office on Saturday morning, June 5, I made a mad dash to Will Rogers World Airport to catch our American Airlines flight to Chicago, IL; the sight of the 1982 International Summer Consumer Electronic Show. With nearly 50,000 out of state people expected to attend, even catching a cab from O'Hare to the Richmont Hotel, in downtown Chicago, was a real task.

On the way in from the airport you could tell readily that this was C.E.S. week in Chicago. City taxies and buses were all sporting new billboards singing the praises of such manufacturers as JVC, Atari, Pioneer and other electronic companies. The cab driver said, "I sure hope you have a room, this town is full!" I assured him I did, and we unloaded what I hoped was a weeks worth of clothing packed in my two tattered, and well traveled, Hartman bags. As the bellman picked up my bags from the sidewalk on the corner of Ontario and St. Clair streets, and took them into the hotel lobby, I could already tell this was going to be a long week.

After a little programming session on the new Sharp Handheld Computer, which my children had given me for my birthday a week earlier, and a quick shower, I hailed a cab to take me to one of my favorite restaurants on Rush Street. Those of you who know Chicago know that Rush Street is within walking distance from the Richmont, but after almost 20 years of motorcycle riding I finally had one get the best of me, so rather than walk I decided to ride. (Without going into great detail about my motorcycle accident, I will just say that my right ankle suffered a massive 2nd degree burn, and the calf of my leg was 30 shades of purple.)

1982 INTERNATIONAL SUMMER CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW

1982 National Computer Conference
Astrodomain, Houston, Texas
June 7-10, 1982

After a lovely dinner it was back to the hotel and off to bed, for in the morning the opening of the show was to take place.

Sunday morning the weather was crisp and cool, the overnight low was a new record at 46 degrees. As I boarded one of the free shuttle buses that were providing transport to McCormick Place I could hardly wait to see what surprises TI would have in store for visitors to their booth. Once inside McCormick I was sure glad that I had pre-registered for the identification badge that all who attend must wear, the crowd of dealers, distributors, and exhibitors were already beginning to gather awaiting the 9:00 a.m. opening. Toshiba had set up some of their personal computers at the entrance way to the main hall and were allowing people to use them to locate booths they might be interested in visiting. A novel idea I thought as I typed in > COMPUTER HARDWARE. Almost immediately the disk drive started and the dot matrix printer next to the computer started it's report format . . . Atari Inc., Lobby D-25 . . . Commodore, Lobby 2003 . . . Casio Inc., Lobby 2007 . . . NEC (USA), Mall

4600 . . . Sinclair Research, Lobby 1857, but nothing on TI. Now I know that TI is sure here because just a few minutes ago I saw Bill Games (he is the guy who is in charge of the VCR Controller project) and he said "I'll see you at the booth Charlie". I asked one of the ladies who were attending the computers why TI was not listed and she informed me that only companies who had registered with them for this free service were listed in the data-base that was running on the computer. Just an oversight I thought as I checked my official directory to find that TI was in Booth 2100 on the Lobby level.

Once inside the Lobby level it was not hard to locate the TI booth, nestled in the Southwest corner of the buildings lower level, one could see the familiar TI logo on display cases, some of which were 15 feet high. As I approached the booth I could see several familiar faces, Blaine Crandell was at his Texnet demo position, Allen Acree, John Yantis and John Acker (the Lubbock brain trust) were poised and ready to demonstrate the P-Code System, Donna Walker was already showing off some of the new e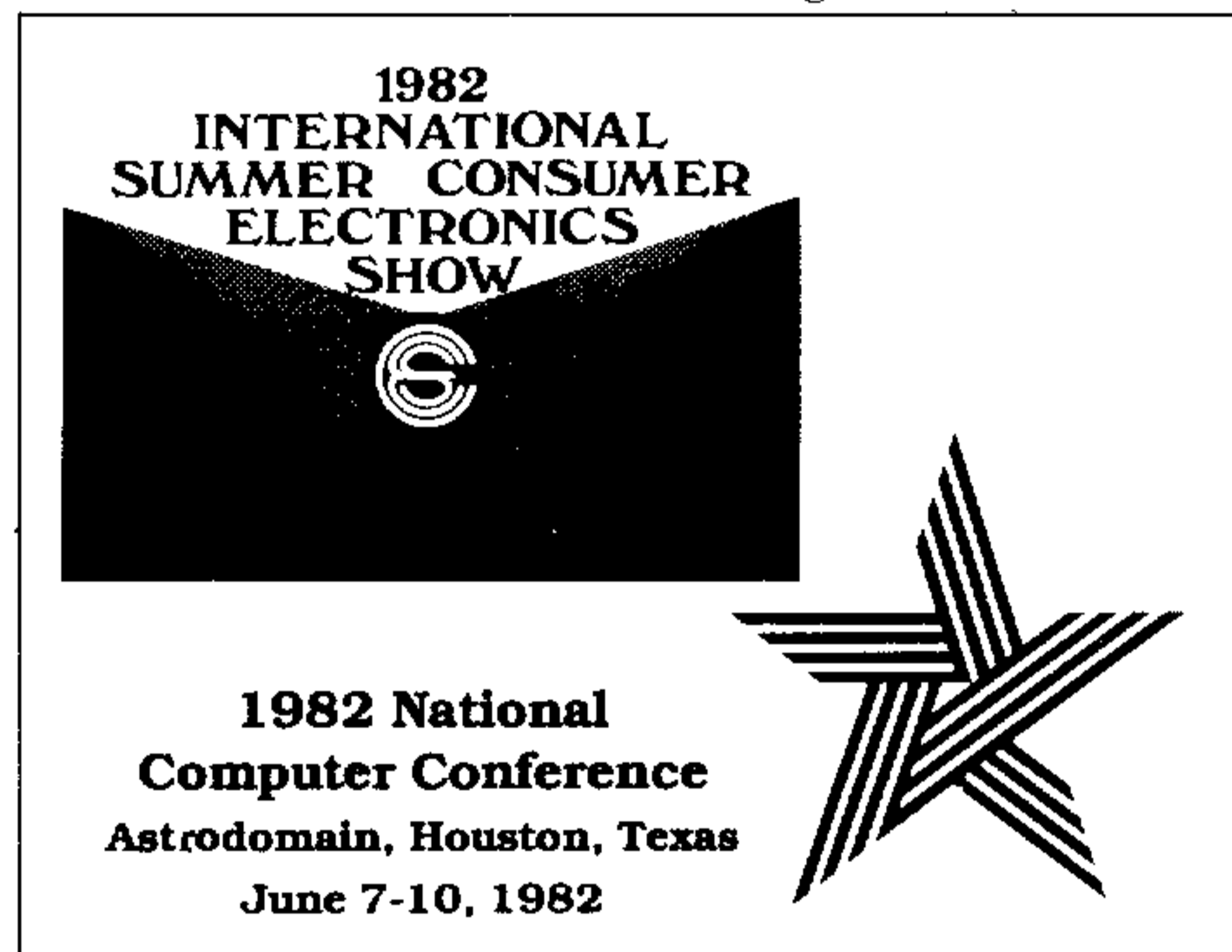ducational Modules, Susan Bailey was busy printing out a demo letter on the new TI/Epson printer which she had composed using TI-Writer and right in the middle of the booth was newly appointed VP Don Bynum playing with a new space game named "Parsec".

This year's booth was quite different than the one used at the first C.E.S. I attended in June of 1980. At that show the 99/4 occupied only a small section of the total booth space. I remember that the "big deal" that year was Don Bynum (at that time he was still in Dallas at TI's Corporate Engineering facility) showing off the graphic and speech capabilities of the 99/4 while it was hooked up to a remote computer in Texas. This year however the 99/4A and the new Perhiperal Expansion Box were center stage. Even the long overdue TI-88 calculator was shoved into a small section completely overshadowed by all of the Personal Computer Divisions products.

Within a half hour the TI booth was packed with distributors, dealers and press people. Gary Kaplan of 99'er was there as well as Jody Black from Tronics, badges with familiar names such as A Ace Computers, Best, K-Mart and CBM soon began to surround me as I went from one display section to another. During the next three days I would spend nearly 4 hours each day in the TI booth looking at the new software products that they were displaying and talking with many of TI's sales people who less than a year ago could hardly spell computer let alone sell one. Many of these new products we will explain throughout this newsletter.

Monday morning I was picked up by Len Kelley of Scott, Foresman and Co. and driven to their national Headquarters in one of the Chicago suburbs. This trip is most interesting as I will explain later in

this newsletter.

Tuesday I met with several of the large TI distributors and planned our strategy for purchases for the remainder of the year. (We prefer to buy from distributors rather than direct from TI. It gives us greater purchasing power and they are much easier to work with.) It was no secret that product is going to be tight for the rest of this year and only large volume distributors and direct accounts would get enough product to fill the ever increasing demand. Many of the distributors we talked with feared that with Bill Turner (one of the best men TI has, but.....) romancing several of the nations largest retailers in an effort to get them to carry the line loyal dealers and distributors who helped during the lean times would be forgotten or forsaken. (TI is not noted for loyalty when potential volume is at stake).

Tuesday evening is the time TI chose to entertain everyone. The hospitality suite this year was located in the Westin Hotel, right next door to the famous John Hancock Building. This is the function where everyone has an opportunity to have a one-on-one session with the TI people who are staffing the booth. This is the first time that I can remember that there was no guest speaker, which was nice. It gave everybody a little more time to chat with TI'ers who comprised almost half of the crowd. In addition TI's President, J. Fred Bucy was not in attendance this year which gave Bill Sick, Bill Turner and Don Bynum more time to spend with those who were invited. (At past shows these guys have formed a protective shield around Mr. Bucy that is tougher than floride. This action keeps vocal Users-Group Presidents and other villians out of ear-shot) Gee, I wonder if they know that Mr. Bucy is a dues paying member of the International 99/4 Users-Group?

On Wednesday at 6:00 a.m. I checked out of the Richmont and headed back out to O'Hare to catch another plane. This time I was off to Indianapolis to have lunch with my mother who I had not seen in over a year. After a great Roast Beef sandwich at an outdoor restaurant located on Indy's famous Monument Circle, Mom and I checked out two computer stores in town that she knew who sold the TI 99/4. It seems that the computer stores there are experiencing the same problems we are. Great demand but little product. Although I had not planned to spend the night in Indy, some old high school

freinds of mine, many of whom I had not seen in 15 years, decided that they would throw a party at one of the local pubs in honor of my homecoming ...Hello Delta, what you got to Houston in the morning...7:00 a.m., Okay I'll take it.

I have never been able to sleep on airplanes, and the 3 hour trip to Houston seemed like 10. Arriving at Inter-Continental I checked the Hertz counter to see if they had saved the car I had requested to be ready the night before, sure Mr. La Fara the young lady said. Will you be returning it here she asked. I will try to catch a flight out of Hobby.

This was a day of 90's...90 degrees, humidity 90 percent, NCC attendance 90,000. This was only my second NCC visit. Last year it was in Chicago at McCormick, this year Houstons Astro Hall, next year L.A. After 15 minutes of registration, it was off to the TI booth. What a surprise! The booth was the same one I had seen at the COMDEX show in Las Vegas last fall, a fantastic two story job that almost takes your breath away. I could see on the ground floor the guys from TI's DSG division (they make the big TI mainframe equipment and printers) standing around with their hands in their pockets. It looked to this observer as if they were trying to sell each other something. All of the real action was on the second level. After a 15 minute wait to reach the top of the stairs I finally saw what all of the commotion was about. There they were...4 TI 99/4A's. I couldn't believe it. Last year they didn't show a single

99/4A at the NCC. I decided not to fight the crowd since I had seen all of the new products at the C.E.S. anyway and I could see the public being well taken care of by several of the software guys Lubbock had sent up for this show.

As I walked around the floor of the NCC I couldn't help but feel that this is the year of the Micro. Maybe not the lower end "Home Computer" micro but certainly the year of the micro. Everybody was showing a micro! Sony, HP, Apple, NEC, IBM, ICL (one of Britain's largest computer companies), and literally scores of other manufacturers all showing micro's. Most calling themselves "Personal Computers". Although most of these "Personal Computers" are selling in the $3,000 to $5,000 price range the consensus of opinion is that many will become more affordable in the near future. (I paid $1050 for the first 99/4 we bought...monitor included.) What is the future for all of these new micro's? I'm not really sure, but one thing you can bet on is that they will not all be used in offices.

Luckily I made the standby call on the 6:50 Southwest flight back to Oklahoma City. On the flight home I couldn't help but think of all of the things that I needed to tell our members about in our Newsletter. I hope you enjoy our review of many of the new and exciting products that TI will be releasing in the upcoming months. We here at the Users-Group think that many of these new items will add a wonderful new dimension to your personal computing.

New Products From Texas Instruments

Coming Attractions

As promised here is a short review of the new software products that will be available for your 99/4 and 99/4A personal computer during the remainder of this year.

Computer Math Games II

Developed by Addison-Wesley, Computer Math Games II is designed with progressive levels of difficulty for grades one through nine. This module has five individual games incorporting basic functions and exponents into games including color graphics and music for one to three players. The games are Your Number's Up, Math Basketball, Match Up, Tic-Tac Math, and Horse Race.

Computer Math Games VI

Computer Math Games VI was created for students in grades two through nine using whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and integers in four individual games with color graphics and sound. Math Asteroids, Around the Schoolyard, Math Baseball, and Math Triangles require up to two players to accomplish basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division calculations to perform the tasks necessary to win the game. Both computer games modules are due for release in July or August.

Scholastic Spelling

One of the more impressive educational software series we saw at the C.E.S. came from Scholastic Publishing Company. The Scholastic Spelling series

of four modules (levels 3, 4, 5, and 6) is for use by children in grades three through six and require TI's Speech synthesizer. Each of the four separate modules -- one for each grade -- has text-to-speech capability using allophones, which allows the computer to pronounce words as recommended in the *American Heritage Dictionary.* Each module has a separate vocabulary with 30 new lessons, six review lessons, and at least 16 words per lesson. The modules are interactive, and each comes with an activity book to familiarize children with computer use and synthetic speech. Although no exact date has yet been set for the release of the Scholastic Spelling series, our sources tell us that it may be ready as early as mid August. Suggested retail price for each of the four modules is $54.95.

Milliken Math

Although announced, yet not shown, at the C.E.S., Milliken Math is a series of eight command modules that will provide drill and practice for children in grades one through eight. Each of the eight modules -- Addition. Subtraction. Multiplication, Division, Integers, Fractions, Decimals, and Percents -- has 75 different problem levels to allow students drill and practice. The program includes some color graphics and reward sound effects for correct responses.

MECC Software

Also not shown at the C.E.S. is a new line of educational learning aids on diskette, they are eleven math and science programs developed by the Minnesota Educational Computing Consortium (MECC) for grades one through eight. These programs, which are the standard, in-school computer programs, include Metric and Counting, Elementary Ecomonics, Elementary Math and Science, Astronomy, Word Beginnings, Exploring, Math Practice, Science Facts, Social Science, and Teacher's Tool Box. Much of the MECC software is currently available on Apple and Atari computers, and should add an additional dimension to the 99/4. Users-Group sources have been informed that the MECC software should be available in late August of this year.

Several new items were introduced in the Personal Enrichment category. They include the following:

Microsoft* Multiplan*

Long overdue, TI and Microsoft Corporation have developed a Visi-Clone product which will perform on the 99/4A equipped with the 32K Memory Expansion and Disk System. Although the proto-type version, which was brought to the C.E.S., was inoperative we had an opportunity to see this program run on several other computers at the NCC. The Multiplan command module and diskette package are an aid for both personal and business needs, and is an extremely productive tool for data analysis. Multiplan can be used to put together data and information for family budget, personal investments, or can provide capital budgeting for a small company. Although Multiplan will not be available until late in the fourth quarter, it is certainly a step in the right direction. Suggested retail price for Multiplan is $99.95.

TI Writer

Probably the most impressive piece of software we saw during our trip to the C.E.S. and NCC was a new word processing program which will be available sometime during the fourth quarter. The TI-Writer Solid State Software word processing command module was designed to provide many of the features of larger, more complex word processing systems to users of the TI-99/4A Home Computer. (TI Writer can not be used on the old style 99/4) Text editing and formatting features include inserting and deleting text and lines, automatic paragraph indentation, right margin justification, automatic word wrapping, overstriking and underlining, moving and copying text, and document reformatting. Users can create, edit, save, and print documents with the Text Editor Option, in either Word Wrap or Fixed mode - Word Wrap mode for documents in paragraph form. Fixed mode for charts, tables, etc. Documents can be printed directly from the Text Editor Option, or Text Formatting commands can be inserted into the document, stored on diskette, and printed through the Text Formatter Option. The TI-Writer command module requires the use of a 99/4A console, TI monitor or R.F. modulator with a monitor, a TI memory expansion unit, disk memory system, RS-232 interface, and any RS-232 compatible printer. TI anticipates fourth quarter availability for the package, which has a suggested retail price of $99.95.

*NOTE

At our suggestion TI is currently working on a program that will interface their Mail List Program with the TI Writer so the user may use the Mail List data for form letters.

Personal Tax Plan

Developed by Aardvark Software Inc. and marketed by TI, Personal Tax Plan is designed specifically for the home user. Personal Tax Plan performs comprehensive, tedious tax planning calculations within seconds, and with computer accuracy. Available during the third quarter of 1982, Personal Tax Plan will allow a variety of income and expense items to be input, isolating tax effects attributed to changes in one or more of the items. The program will allow the display of results in screen form, or in hard copy format when used with a compatible RS-232 printer. Written in pascal, the two diskette programs will require the use of TI's p-Code system, memory expansion unit, and disk memory system. Personal Tax Plan also allows the user to save all information entered on diskettes for later change or review.

Additionally, TI introduced three new Solid State game modules to be released later this year. They include:

Chisholm Trail

With graphic effects similar to those used in Tombstone City, Chisholm Trail promises to be a fast and exciting new game. The user is required to move a steer through a maze on the screen in order to kill four brand monsters, and one very special monster, named the Wrangler. Chisholm Trail should be available late in the third quarter.

Parsec

Without a doubt, the most exciting game module shown at the C.E.S. was Parsec. In this Space Age game, the user battles alien ships on a planet in outer space as they attack in waves of different sizes. Based on the same general theory as the popular arcade game Defender, Parsec is sure to become a top seller. User controls movement, landing, and refueling of the vessel as it goes through several sectors, and three types of attack: 1) Non-intelligent ramming; 2) Intelligent ramming; and 3) Intelligent

ramming and firing. The player must also avoid ground missiles and withstand a final "frontal assault" from a mother alien ship. Probably to most observers, the most intriguing aspects of Parsec is that for the first time TI has used digitized speech synthesization. Instead of the normal speech patterns TI has used on previous command module products, Parsec digitized speech is in the form of a female voice, and does not interfere with graphic action on the screen.

Tunnels of Doom

Least impressive of all of the software we saw was the new role playing adventure games entitled Tunnels of Doom. Utilizing GPL programming, Tunnels of Doom left this observer somewhat flat. Although TI suggests that the player is not just a spectator, but an active member of a party entering dark, mysterious depths, Tunnels of Doom is certainly is not one of TI's best game packages when put up against Munch Man, TI Invaders, or Car Wars. Tunnels of Doom, like the Adventure series, requires both a Solid State command module and either additional cassette or disk based software. Two games, Pennies and Prizes and Quest of the King, are included with the module which is now available.

T.I. Math

For those of you who own the new T.I. 99/4A personal computer, we think you may be interested in an article we noticed in the April 1982 issue of Microcomputing. Staff writer Walter Koetke asked readers to perform this simple program on their micros.

```
10 FOR C=1 to 100
20 IF SQR(C) <> INT(SQR(C))
   THEN 40
30 PRINT C
40 NEXT C
```

The program ran on a 99/4A produced 10 percent squares between 1 and 100. TRS-80 Model III, Apple, and PET personal computers produced only 6 perfect squares. Microsoft Basic, which drives most CP/M microprocessors, found only nine of the answers, and only Basic-Plus, used on a $100,000 = PDP 11/70 microcomputer, calculated all 10 correctly.

Although this feature is not used all that often, it is certainly nice to know that it is there in case you need it.

TI-LOGO II

Texas Instruments, the company that continues to apply computer technology to advances in education, has added some new features to its revolutionary TI-LOGO, the children's computer language for use with the TI-99/4A Home Computer.

The updated TI-LOGO II, a discovery-oriented approach to learning, gives users twice the memory space of TI-LOGO, plus mangnified sprites, or image producing capacity, for clearer and more varied graphic reproduction, turning the trial-and-error process of learning into a natural system of positive reinforcement where each mistake creates new avenues of discovery for children.

TI-LOGO II, while retaining all the features of its predecessor, also has added music to the LOGO program with three distinct voices and one noise generator. The improved software also has the ability to print procedures using the TI RS232 Interface and a compatible printer, thus giving the system the capacity to print on an 80-column printer.

A basic benefit of TI-LOGO II, as with TI-LOGO, is that it allows students to talk to the computer in everyday English. Even without an understanding of computer language, students can use the standard typewriter-like keyboard to create a variety of clearly-defined and versatile graphic and geometric displays. As with TI-LOGO, however, students must still present the computer with a logical step-by-step approach for each task.

The TI-LOGO II software is stored in a plug-in Solid State Software command module. Users will need a TI-99/4A Home Computer equipped with a monitor (or an ordinary TV set with RF Modulator), and a memory expansion unit. Suggested retail price for TI-LOGO II is $129.95, and TI anticipates delivery in the fourth quarter.

Peripheral Expansion System Will Not Meet Second Quarter Release

Shown for the first time in early January, and announced to owners in TI's February 1982 Users Newsletter, the much sought after Peripheral Expansion Box apparently will not make its debut as promised during the second quarter. Although TI is planning

to ship a very limited supply of Peripheral Expansion Systems in early July, many consumers may have to wait until August or September, or even later to find them on dealers shelves.

The Peripheral Expansion System, like so many of TI's previously released products for the personal computer, is experiencing one delay after another. Although the demand of the new Peripheral Expansion System exceeds TI's greatest expectations, it is you, the consumer, who is suffering the frustration.

TI's quest for additional dealers only adds to lower allocations of product for everyone. At the recent Consumer Electronic Show, dealers and distributors shared their anger and frustration over the impending shortages expected for the Peripheral Expansion System, and feared that this new product was being used as a "carrot on a stick" gimmick to entice major retailers to take on the entire product line.

We here at the Users-Group feel very strongly that TI's marketing approach of products, which they know will be in extremely short supply, should be overhauled and scrutinized by top level management. I personally know of no other consumer product line which has left so many promises unfulfilled. We here at the Users-Group feel that it is deplorable that other divisions of Texas Instruments, Inc. can help launch the Space Ship Columbia on precise and exacting schedules, yet the Consumer Products Division can seem to only deliver HIPE on time.

Compatible Tape Recorder Now Available

Through a special arrangement with a local Panasonic distributor, we are now able to offer a tape recorder that is 100% compatible with both the 99/4 and 99/4A personal computers.

The Panasonic model RQ-2309A features auto stop, easy-matic recording, one touch recording, condenser microphone, tape counter, and both tone and volume controls.

Tested on twenty different consoles over a two month preiod, the RQ-2309A loaded cassette programs produced by various sources including T.I. and Third Party products.

The suggested retail price of the RQ-2309A is $59.95. Users-Group price is $47.55.

TI Sponsors Computer Camps

Summer computer programs are not new. For several years, Computer Camps International has offered residential summer camps for children interested in computers. What sets TI's computer Advantage Club apart is accessibility and affordability. For only $65 per child ($50 for each additional family member), the club offers a Computer Awareness Program covering computer terminology, programming in two computer languages, TI LOGO and TI BASIC, and use of solid state software in music, education, and arcade quality entertainment. The sessions, to be held from mid-June through August, will include two and a half hours of instruction per day for four days in an informal classroom setting.

In addition to the four-day Computer Awareness Program, club membership will provide a quarterly newsletter, a membership card, and the club t-shirt. Parents of members will also be invited to a Parents' Night where they can learn how to help their children expand their computer skills.

TI's Education and Communication Center in Dallas, Texas, developed the curriculum and activity book for the program in conjunction with Computer Camps International. The acitvities were specifically designed for use with the TI-99/4A Home Computer, a system with unique capabilities for use by children, as well as the entire family.

For example, TI LOGO, the computer language for children, simplifies programming, builds basic computer skills, develops spacial relationship skills, and strengthens hand-eye coordination. The TI-99/4A also provides color graphics, sound, music, and speech to enhance a child's ability to interact with the machine and receive positive feedback during the experience.

"The rapid advancement of technology has made practical knowledge of computers a virtual necessity," Chuck Digate, Director of The Computer Club Program for TI's Consumer Products Group, said. "Computers affect us from early childhood throughout our adult lives, and TI Computer Advantage Clubs provide opportunities for young people to take advantage of new electronics technology."

For information on the camps, parents outside Texas can call 1-800-858-4069. In Texas, the number is 1-800-692-1318.

TI Supply Closes Six Retail Outlets

Texas Instruments Supply Company, (TISCO), has announced that they will close six of their retail operations in major U.S. cities. Retail outlets in Seattle, Denver, Thousand Oaks, San Diego, St. Louis, and Pittsburgh will cease operation June 30th, according to a TI spokesman. This move by TISCO reduces its nationwide retail base in half. Only TISCO stores in Texas will remain true retail outlets.

Several stores, including the downtown San Francisco location, will be transformed into TI Learning Centers.

The new TI Learning Centers offer demonstrations and workshops so that the consumer has an opportunity to learn the advantages of TI computers, calculators, learning aids, and other electronics, either before or after the sale. The primary focus of the Learning Centers, according to a TI spokesman, is to bring together members of the community for learning and sharing information of mutual benefits as it relates to computer and calculator problems.

The Learning Center concept is the sale of Courseware, rather than Hardware. This new and exciting concept has been applauded by both consumers and dealers as an innovative alternative in consumer education.

Although the Learning Centers in Chicago and San Francisco serve as a base of operations, many of the consumer workshops are held in schools, libraries, and locations throughout these cities and their surrounding areas.

For additional information on courses being offered through the TI Learning Centers, you may call 1-800-858-4069. In Texas the number is 1-800-692-1318.

TI Announces New Promotion

TI has just announced that 99/4 owners who purchase six Solid State command modules between September 15 and January 1 will receive a free Solid State Speech Synthesizer.

Each purchaser will have until February 15, 1983 to return necessary coupon and proof of purchase to TI to obtain a free Speech Synthesizer. Users-Group members who plan to participate in this promotion please let us know at the time you order.

Proposed Federal Legislation To Give Personal Computer Owners Tax Break

A house bill, submitted as the Family Opportunity Act by Rep. Newt Gingrich of GA., would provide tax credits to give more people a chance to work and learn at home. The act gives a $100 tax credit each year for every member of the family for up to five years or up to half the price of the computer or the computer programs you buy.

In his address to the House floor, Rep. Gingrich said, "Mr. Speaker, as more industries become part of the information age and use computers for regular business, more Americans have the chance to enjoy the new freedoms of the modern cottage industry.

Stockbrokers, computer programmers, stenographers, accountants, and engineers are just some of the professionals who are working in home offices all over the country. With a computer terminal and a telephone, any job that used to depend on a calculator, typewriter, or filing cabinet can now be conducted from anywhere - five blocks from the main office or 500 miles away.

The new cottage industry means increased freedom from commuting traffic, day-care centers, and tyranny of punching a time clock. I am excited about these new freedoms and what they mean for Americans."

We here at the International Users-Group endorse and applaud Rep. Gingrich efforts and sincerely hope that each of our members will write him in support of his measure.

Rep. Newt Gingrich
1005 Longworth Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Summer Vacation Schedule

The International 99/4 Users-Group offices will be closed from Friday, July 23 until Monday, August 2, 1982, so our employees may enjoy a week of summer vacation.

This will not interfere with any product shipment during that week, as our distributors will be open during this time period.

Stop In And See Us

If your summer vacation has you traveling on Interstate 40 through Oklahoma please feel free to stop in and visit with us. We are located just 2 miles North of I-40 in Bethany Ok. (a suburb just West of Oklahoma City) and always like to see our members when they are in our area. Our office address is:

7908 N.W. 23rd Street
Suite #5

and should you need directions please feel free to call us at (405) 787-8521.

Disk Drives

Through an exclusive arrangement with a Texas O.E.M. the International 99/4 Users Group is proud to offer all of it's members a lower priced Disk Drive. 100% compatible with the TI disk controller, these Tandon drives carry a full 120 day warranty. To assure the highest quality all drives go through a 48 hour burn-in period and then are tested on a 99/4 system before shipping.

We are currently offering the TM100-1 (single sided) drive in 2 styles.

Bare Drive (for use with the Peripheral Expansion Box)
Reg. Member Price 260.00
PC Member Price 241.00

Drive w/chassis & cable
Reg. Member Price 330.00
PC Member Price 310.00

Additionally we will offer a TM100-2 (double sided) drive for the Peripheral Expansion Box as soon as we can get one (PEB)* for testing.

*TI has informed us that the new Solid State Disk Controller Module that will be used with the double sided drives will not be produced until late Sept.

Scott Foresman Visit

As we mentioned in our covery story, while attending the C.E.S. in Chicago, we accepted an invitation to visit Scott Foresman Company. Located in the Chicago suburb of Glenview, Scott Foresman is one of America's largest and most successful educational publishing companies.

Several years ago innovative management people at Scott Foresman decided to venture into the electronic publishing business. This was a very risky decision

on their part, as most computer manufacturers had not yet considered the educational values of their products and many underwent drastic changes after product sales were far less than expected. Despite these manufacturing and marketing problems, Scott Foresman decision to enter the eucational software arena is a blessing to both educators and consumers.

During the visit, I was very impressed with the overall commitment on the part of Scott Foresman and its management to educational computer products. Currently working with TI, Apple, IBM, and Atari computers, Scott Foresman is developing quality Courseware which will be useful not only in the classroom, but also the home.

In addition to Solid State software products, which you are currently familiar with such as Early Reading, Addition and Subtraction I & II, and Multiplication I, Scott Foresman is currently in the final stages of development and distribution of the following educational products for the 99/4 and 99/4A personal computers.

Reading Fun

Developed for children in grade two, this command module allows your child to learn more about the world as they practice basic reading skills.

Reading On

This command module is developed for the third grade level. Reading On teaches skills required to understand maps, graphs, and schedules. Reading On should be available early in the fourth quarter of 1982.

Reading Round Up

Created by Scotts Foresman, and distributed by TI, Reading Round Up provides learning opportunities for students in the fourth grade. Three separate reading skill areas are approached in this Courseware, figures of speech, word meanings, and idioms. Reading Round Up and Reading Fun should be available within the next few weeks, and have a suggested retail price of $54.95.

Reading Rally

Scheduled for release in November, Reading Rally is designed for students with a fifth grade reading level. Reading Rally provides students with practice on basic reading skills with stories about the more sophisticated topics of fact and opinion, author's purpose, and bias and connotation of words.

Reading Flight

Developed for children at the sixth grade reading level, this module presents students with three stories for the purpose of teaching classifying information, summarizing information, and outletting information. Reading Flight is scheduled for release in mid September.

Division I

Scheduled for release within the next sixty days, this software module combines creative computer graphics and sound with nine activities for children grades three through six. Suggested retail for Division I is $39.95.

One of the most impressive elements of our visit to Scott Foresman was the personnel we met in their electronic publishing division. Their total concern for quality products coupled with their well trained field representatives, was a true inspiration. This sincere concern should propel Scott Foresman to great heights in the electronic publishing industry.

International 99/4 Users-Group members who feel that they would like to input suggestions for future educational products are invited to write Scotts Foresman with their ideas.

WRITE:
Mr. Larry Sink
Marketing. Elect. Publishing Div.
Scott Foresman Company
1900 E. Lake Ave.
Glenview, IL 60025

Texas Instruments Announces Magic Wand™ Speaking Reader

"Texas Instruments, pioneer in space-age computer technology like microprocessors and synthetic speech, has developed the Magic Wand™ Speaking Reader. The new device utilizes both fiber optics and 'miracle chips' to provide talking books designed to encourage beginning reading."

Designed for beginning readers ages four to seven, the hand-held product features a "magic wand" that contains an optical scanner to read Talking Tracks™ bar codes, which are translated into human-like voice. The wand is connected by a flexible cord to the main unit, which houses the speaker and the microelectronics.

The Magic Wand™ Speaking Reader has an extensive vocabulary of more than 200,000 words and is used in conjunction with colorful Speaking Reader books. The user slides the Magic Wand™ across the Talking Tracks™ bar codes, which correspond to printed words, phrases, or entire sentences, to produce synthesized speech complete with proper inflection. In addition, the product creates sound effects, music, songs, and a variety of voices.

The Talking Tracks™ are bar codes printed just below the text. They contain a code for voice inflection and a code for the sound elements, or allophones, needed to produce the words. Inflection is achieved through the coding of the individual allophones, and the pronunciations of words change with their position in a particular sentence. Thus, different kinds of sentences are possible: exclamations and questions as well as statements can be uttered.

The product has only one child-operated control: an on/off button. All other controls are included in the bar codes printed in the books. To operate the Magic Wand™ Speaking Reader, a child simply presses **On**, activating a voice that says, "I am your Magic Wand Reader. Come read with me." From that point on, the book's Talking Tracks™ prompt the child and the product through story and activity sequences.

"The Magic Wand™ Speaking Reader will allow beginning readers to extend the important parent-child read-along activity to times when the parent is not available."

A result of advanced microcomputer technology, the new product uses a unique integrated circuit that talks with natural inflection. The speech circuit is essentially an electronic model of the human vocal tract.

TI is a leader in the application of electronic technology to education. Beginning with Little Professor™ and extending through Speak & Spell™, the first talking learning aid, the company has committed the efforts of its educational experts at the TI Learning Center to developing a family of educational products aimed at strengthening the skills taught in school. Preceded recently by Speak & Math™, Speak & Read™, and Touch & Tell™, the Magic Wand™ Speaking Reader is the latest member of the family.

Texas Instruments will introduce seven series of books designed for beginning readers ages four and up to use with the Magic Wand™ Speaking Reader. The books will vary in difficulty and content to match children's ability levels and interest areas. The *Early Readers* series, aimed at young readers, are easy to read, with very wide Talking Tracks™. The *Basics* series introduces letters, numbers, words, and ideas. Other series include *Sprites' Adventures*, Information, *Fun and Laughter*, Classics, and *Magic Creatures*. All series make extensive use of sound effects. One of the 1982 books features *E.T.*™ *The Extra-Terrestrial* from the new Steven Spielberg movie.

"In addition to interesting stories, each book contains a variety of skill-building reading activities to improve phonetics, comprehension, vocabulary, and grammar," Turner said. "The product also contains a variety of praise phases to reward correct responses and words of encouragement in response to incorrect answers, for reinforcement. Because entertainment is combined with learning, children may be inclined to spend longer times with the reading practices activities than they otherwise might."

"Designed to encourage reading success, the books promote listening comprehension and sight-word vocabulary development, both important elements in reading skill growth. The user learns to associate sounds with the printed word. The books, which have been created and reviewed by educators, have hard covers for duarbility and each includes 48 pages or more of full-color excitement. All are printed on heavy stock, varnished to ensure long life. A special binding allows the books to lay flat when open for use," Turner said.

The TI library will be supplemented by books by books from other well-known children's publishers. The new technology is available to companies who want to produce speaking versions of their popular children's titles. Ordinary printing equipment can be used.

"The technology can be extended to other printed materials such as cards, game boards, and posters. In fact, a colorful talking poster that is four feet long is available free to purchasers of the product."

"The Magic Wand* Speaking Reader was designed by educational experts including four specialists in reading education, and has been extensively child-tested for ease of use and durability in both homes and schools. The product package includes the Magic Wand* Speaking Reader, which measures 11 inches in diameter by 1 7/8 inches thick, and an 8 1/2-inch by 11-inch hardcover Magic Wand* Speaking Book entitled *Mac's Big Surprise.* A coupon for the free talking alphabet zoo poster also accompanies the product.

"Additional books are available at a suggested retail price of $12.00 each. The suggested retail price for the product, including the first book, is $120.00, and delivery to dealers is expected in the fall.

P.S.R.'s Hit The Road

Texas Instruments has developed a nationwide Home Computer Demonstration Network to provide consumers with hands-on experience with the TI-99/4A home computer.

The Demonstration network comprises 1000 product support representatives, many with educational credentials, who will demonstrate the Texas Instruments 99/4A home computer at point-of-sale locations in 50 major cities.

The majority of the representatives will present in-store demonstrations in the electronics departments of major retail outlets, showing potential buyers the how-to's of home computer use, the capabilities of the TI-99/4A and the solid state software and peripherals available. This same team of people will provide retail sales personnel training.

Another group of representatives will engage in special projects involving TI's new Home Computer Demonstration Vans. The two vans, which are actually 30-foot customized motorhomes, will provide training and demonstrations of the TI-99/4A home computer to retailers and consumers in retail outlet and shopping mall parking lots.

Home computer demonstrations will also be conducted in premiere shopping malls across the country. Demonstration exhibits will be set up in the centers of the malls, and the computers will be programmed with gift suggestions and other information pertinent to shoppers.

Mini-Memory Delay

For those of you who are still awaiting the delivery of the Mini-Memory command module, either from us or from other dealers, we feel that it is time someone gave you an explanation as to why you have not received it.

Although some Mini-Memorys were shipped to dealers during the first week of May, we here at the International Users-Group were somehow overlooked for our shipment. After an investigation on our part, we have found that all of the units shipped in early May contained a manufacturing rework correction, which is not up to T.I.'s normal quality standards. This rework change is not a defect, nor should it impair overall operational ability of the Mini-Memory; however, due to this situation, T.I. did not release sufficient quantities to satisfy the overall demand. Engineers at T.I. felt that this situation called for an additional production procedure which would assure quality, but delay production.

We have been in constant contact with Texas Instruments regarding the availability of Mini-Memory modules, and they assure us that product will ship from Lubbock to dealers during the last week of June. This means that we should have an ample supply to fill all of our back orders during the first or second week of July.

We are extremely sorry for the delay, and feel that Texas Instruments should have informed their consumers and dealers of delays of this product through their Users and Marketing Newsletters.

TI's Speak & Spell™ Learning Aid Goes To Hollywood

When Steven Spielberg, director of *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *Close Encounters of a Third Kind,* decided to do a movie about kids, he wanted kids to do most of the acting. Spielberg, an electronics buff, envisioned a space-age scenario that would include space travel and advanced communications. So when he cast the movie, entitled *E.T.* * *-the Extra Terrestial - in His Adventures on Earth,* the Speak & Spell™ learning aid from Texas Instruments joined the other members of the cast.

For Texas Instruments, the result is the Educational Products Division's first venture into licensing. The company has developed a special plug-in module for Speak & Spell™ based on characters and events from the movie. The "E.T. Fantasy Module," as it has been named, provides additional spelling activities similar to other modules already available for use with the famous Speak & Spell™ learning aid. Many of the spelling words in the module are accompanied by explanatory examples based on events and characters featured in the movie.

As an attractive addition, TI has included with the E.T. Fantasy Module a special activity book which includes many colorful photos from the movie. Also, a movie poster and an iron-on T-shirt decal are included.

The special "E.T." module will appear on the market this summer. Two versions of the module package will be available. For Speak & Spell™ owners, the E.T. Fantasy Module can be purchased alone, packaged with its activity book, poster, and T-shirt decal.

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Texas Instruments Announces TI-88 Portable Computer System

Texas Instruments, inventor of the integrated circuit and recognized leader in the technology of calculators, home computers, and compatible software, introduces its new generation of hand-held calculators with the TI-88 Programmable Calculator.

The TI-88 was designed for use by several groups: engineering professionals; university students and instructors in engineering, science, and math; and hobbyists. With its accessory peripheral devices, the TI-88 provides a keystroke programmable portable computer system with non-volatile memory features. Users will be those who require sophisticated programming capabilities who want solid state software applications written either by TI or by experts in specific fields.

"The TI-88 adds the capability for advanced programming to the functions of the TI-58 and TI-59. Users of the preceding products will find it both easy and beneficial to move to the upgraded system." "By adding the PC-800 Printer accessory, printed tape can provide records of all calculations. In addition, the optional CA-800 Cassette Interface and a cassette recorder make unlimited data storage available.

"Not only is the TI-88 easier to use

than previous models, it is also 'friendlier' than other programmable calculators because of its easily-read dot matrix alphanumeric display and its unique built-in User Prompting Response function. This function allows the user and the calculator to work through difficult programming questions step-by-step," "The prompting feature facilitates use of application software modules and reduces errors. The User Prompting Response feature also allows those unfamiliar with programming to use many software applications."

The TI-88's 16-character alphanumeric liquid crystal display represents each of 128 characters by a 5 x 7 dot matrix that provides higher-level definition than segmented display formats afford. Upper and lower case letters, punctuation, superscripts, common Greek letters, and other special characters enhance the product's flexibility and applicability.

The TI-88's unique display capabilities provide numerous benefits to the user. Prompting messages are available to guide the user through application programs, for instance. System error messages are displayed in plain English, and program execution can be

traced in the display. In addition, current calculator status, special functions, and function definitions are available with a few keystrokes.

To facilitate accuracy in advanced computations, the display shows 10 digits plus sign in standard format and 7-digit mantissa, 2-digit exponent, and 2 signs in scientific notation.

The new calculator incorporates an enhanced AOS™ algebraic operating system, whereby the user can enter formulas as written on paper, thus eliminating the need for more intricate computer-oriented notation. The Equation Entry System™, an additional feature, makes it possible for formulas to be entered quickly into the system and for answers to be updated repeatedly as new variables are plugged into the operation.

Besides having many of the functions found in earlier models, the TI-88 has two module ports to accommodate Constant Memory™ modules that allow memory expansion or Solid State Software™ modules for fast access to professionally-written programs.

The basic unit has a built-in soft-portionable memory of 960 program steps

or 120 data registers. By adding one snap-in Constant Memory* module, capacity is increased to 2,144 steps or 268 data registers. Add another module and memory increases to 3,328 program steps or 416 data registers. The Constant Memory™ modules provide a new feature not available before - the ability to store program material three to five years on each module, even when the modules are removed from the calculator. A button-cell battery housed in each module makes this long life possible.

The TI-88 is fully compatible with a library of professionally-written programs from TI's Solid State Software™ Library. Each ready-to-use module contains up to 20 programs that can also be used as subroutines in new programs written by the user.

Another unique built-in feature is the TI-88's time-keeping function, which allows time to be used as an integral part of programs. The time-keeping feature makes it possible for the TI-88 to be utilized to regulate and monitor reactions and operations of various small systems, according to Turner.

Added features include a 200-hour rechargeable battery that eliminates the need for expensive battery replacements and a tone beeper to signal important events in a program.
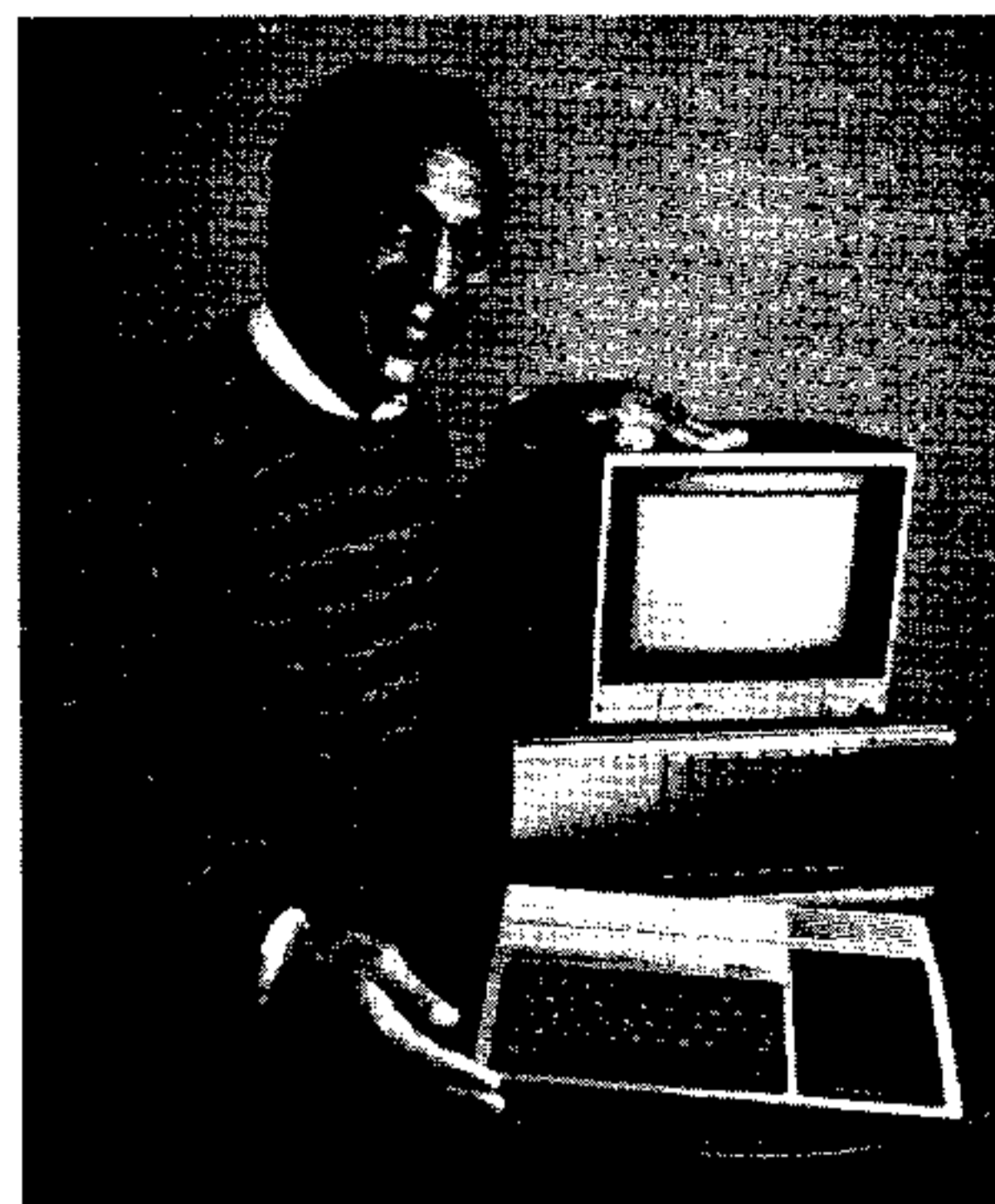
Designed to serve as a component in the TI-88 portable system, TI's PC-800 thermal printer is capable of fast, quiet printing. The PC-800 connected to and contents of the calculator display, traces controlled by the calculator prints all calculation or program sequences, plots data, and lists program or data memory. The printer can also print program labels, hierarchy registers, OP codes, calculation settings, and alpha entry positions.

The CA-800 Cassette Interface provides economical, large capacity storage for programs or data files on audio tapes. By connecting a cassette recorder to the TI-88 calculator, the user can record calculator memory on tape, record programs and data, and record the contents of a numbered Constant Memory™ module, thus freeing the module for other use.

All components of the TI-88 system come with a comprehensive users' manual. Also included with the product are a Master Library with 12 programs in three languages (English, French, and German), an Application Wookbook for beginning programmers, a carrying case, and a Quick Reference Guide with a brief overview of the system's many functions.

Suggested retail price of the TI-88 Programmable Calculator is $350.00, with each additional Constant Memory™ module $50.00. Suggested retail price for the CA-800 Cassette Interface is $60.00 and the PC-800 Printer is $185.00, suggested retail price. Solid State Software™ modules are listed at an average suggested retail price of $40.00.
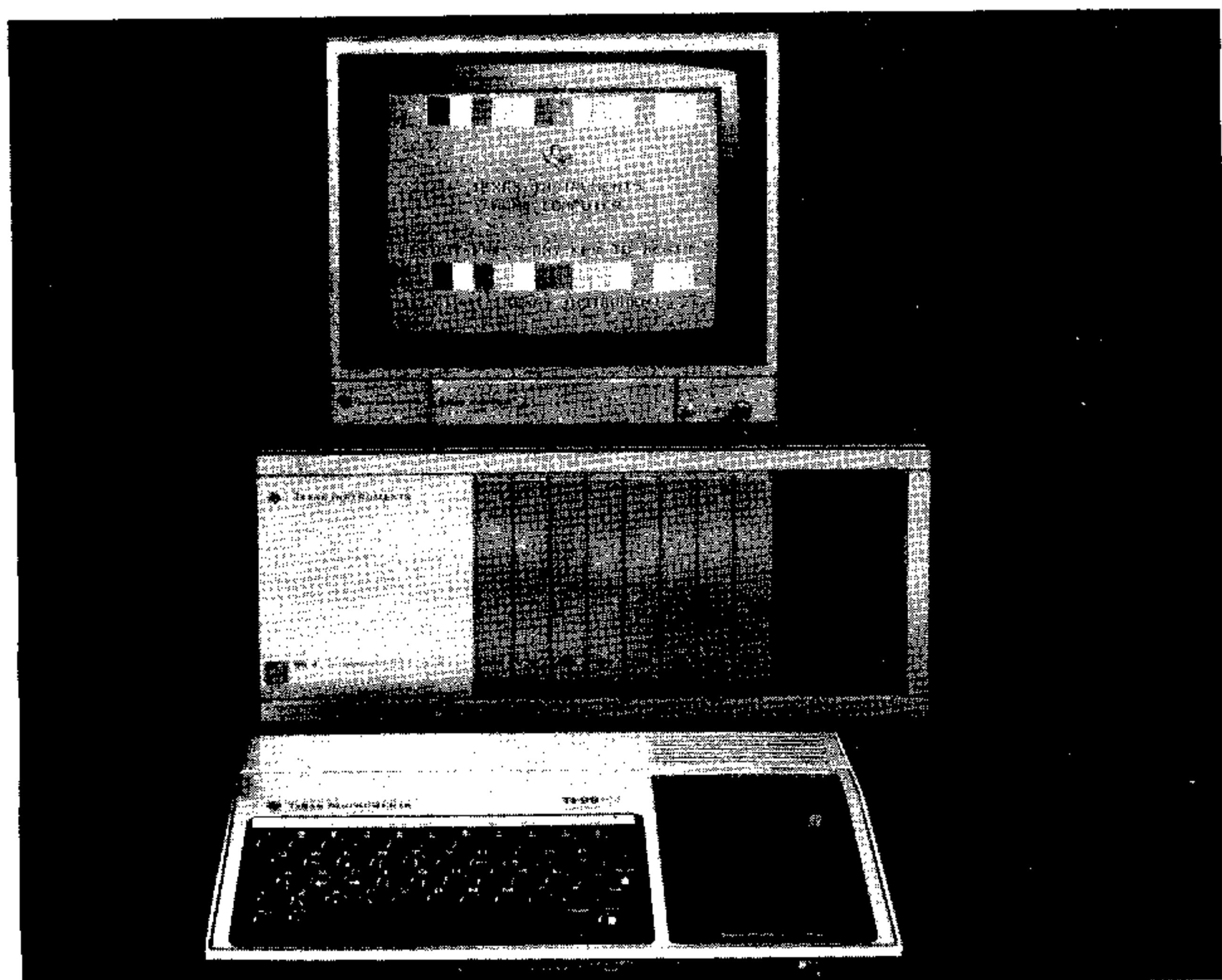

TI Bolsters Ad Budget

Announced at the Consumers Electronic Show, TI Personal Computer Division will increase it's overall advertising budget for the remainder of this year.

According to Bill Turner, newly appointed Vice-President of TI's Consumer Products Division, TI will spend an access of $20 million advertising the 99/4A personal computer during the rest of this year. Entirely new radio, television, and newspaper advertising programs have been designed featuring the familiar face of entertainer Bill Cosby touting the advantages of the 99/4A personal computer.

Some of the new advertising is based for the first time on a comparitive advantage of the 99/4 over other computers such as the Atari 400, VIC-20, and TRS80 color computer. Expanded advertising and additional retail outlets should expose 99/4A to a greater segment of the population than ever before, and give TI a much better market position in the future.