

WHILLEY 99685 BRA205 eox -P.O. MACO, TX 76714-7053

PISTEYE'S

******* NEXT MEETING ******

AUGUST 23, 1988 at Connally High school Vocational Education 7:00 P.M. See map! Department. A demo of the "PRINT WIZARD" program will be given by Frank Cross.

A door prize will given out in a drawing held at the next meeting. Amy Bates will decide before the meeting what will be awarded. The names in the drawing will be the attendees of the August meeting, of course. Last coffee, a visitor from Copperas Cove won a cover for a T1 console. Come visit with us and join in on the fun.

Vocational Ed Connally B1ds Hi sk School DO THERE 1-35 HHY 71 . . . Rita Northerest

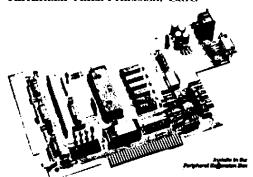
THE SYSTEM MAY BE COMPLETE! (DOES THAT EVER HAPPEN?) AFTER FINALLY GETTING THE SONY RGB COMPOSITE MONITOR-TV KV-2511 CR RUNNING, WE CONTACTED TOW SPILLANE AFTER READING ABOUT HIM IN MICROPENDIUM. HE SENT US A DIJIT WHICH INTERFACES THE T1994A TO THE RGB MONITOR. NOW ME'VE ADDED AVPC WHICH INSTALLS IN THE PERIPHERAL EXPANSION BOX. (SEE THE AD FOR OTHER FEATURES) IF YOU WANT TO TALK COMPUTERS AND STUFF, CALL 619 295-3301. FOR SERIOUS TALK, ONLY. NOW WHAT CAN ME ADD?

ANY BATES EDITOR-IN-CHIEF WHATS-IN-CHARGE! **NOTICE TO OTHER USER GROUPS**

The BRAZOS VALLEY 99ERS' didn't publish a newsletter in June or July. We meet at a school and the meeting place was not available and so our normal menting schedule was cut short for the summer. We greated this with the decision to publish a large (for our small group) newsletter at the end of the sugmer. We hope you have still kept us on your mailing lists and find this larger issue worth the wait. Thanks for sharing your newsletters with us.

Frank Cross Newslatter co-editor

Advanced Video Processor Card



- 80 Column Word Pr
- Crisp Vivid RGB Video
- 512 Color palette
- High resolution bit mapped are
- 192 K of fast video RAM
- Up to 8 Sprites per line
- · Mouse and Light Pen port
- Supports video overlay and titling also re

EAST Systems 3540 Adams Avenue

Suite B San Diego, CA 92116 619/281-2667

DIJIT Systems

***************************** UNIVERSAL MAC INKER is a product which I have on loan. It came from COMPUTER FRIENDS, 6415 SW CANYON CT. PORTLAND, OR. 97221. It is a re-inker device for ribbons for printers. Most of the printers of today use ribbon cartridges that cost from pennies to \$25 each. If we get the full use of a ribbon(fabric) until it really wears out, we get can save many dollars over the life of a printer. It takes about 30 minutes to re-ink a ribbon but most of that time you are doing something else in the same area as the re-inker. (Playing 4A FLYER or TI-RUNNER!) I have a cartridge for a Toshiba 351 printer re-inking right now, while I write this article. I have re-inked several Epson ribbons, a C. Itoh ribbon, a NEC P3 ribbon, T199/4A impact printer -ribbons, and a couple of miscealeous cartridges and all have worked fine. The ribbons that go one spool to another may be done by them but I don't know how. Cartridge ribbons seem to lend themselves best to reinking because they are a continuous piece of fabric. The model that I am using is an Epson 70/80/100 model #271. It costs #68 plus postage. If I added all of the ribbons that I have saved by using the re-inker, I have saved twice the cost of a re-inker already! It is a bit messy to use. I keep a tube of automotive handcleaner in the box so when I am through, I can clean my hands of the inevitable residue. I can reccommend the zip-loc bags and plastic bags your newspaper comes in, to keep the re-inked ribbons in until you are ready for its use. It seems to work best to re-ink the ribbon and wait at least a week to use it. The time allows the ink to permeate the rest of the ribbon and make the print uniform. Most of us have heard of how ribbons will dry out if opened before use and even dry out sometimes before we get to use them. This problem is eliminated with the use of the re-inker.

I attended an Apple Computer show in Dallas Infomart last apring. One of the exhibitors was using a ribbon that he said had been re-inked over 50 times. He said that the theory was, that you don't have to use the hardest presure of your printer if you remink when the print gets light and you swap to the next ribbon in your rotation. Overall, I give the UNIVERSAL MAC INKER and "A" for usefullness, "A" for economy, and "D" for Dirtiness(unavoidable even if you are careful!).

Frank Cross

THE DALLAS TI FAIRE
by LOUIS GUION
FROM THE DALLAS 99 INTERFACE May '88

Jackie, John and I all attended the April 30th running of the first Texas TI Faire put on by five area user groups headed by the Forest Lane TI User Group. This convention, conceived and nurtured by F.1.U.G.'s Richard Fleetwood, certainly ranks as one of my most enjoyable TI experiences. He and Faire chairman, Roy Willis, are to be congratulated for this fine outing. I certainly enjoyed the hours I spent there and really had a ball ambling through the vendor area and attending the seminars. There is no need of my boring you with a list of the sponsors, activities, and vendors are they were thoroughly outlined in the TI Faire advertisements carried in this newsletter (and here on Delphi) last month.

Software Vendors were plentiful as was hardware that ranged from museum stock like the 99/4. 99/2 and the 99/8 all the way to Bud Mills new Horizon 1-meg RAM disk. Rave-99 was showing their newest Memory Enhancement System which retains memory for four or five days by using a 1-farad capacitor: Myarc Inc continued their lack of suppport for Myarc products in the Dallas Area by failing to show up due to personal emergency on the part of their representative. Myarc's only known previous Dallas efforts had been to send two half-baked prototype computers which either did not work or which were not supported with demonstration instructions. It would seem that they are trying to commit suicide in onee of the nation's top-ten largest marketing areas, wouldn't it??

I found out how nice it is to be able to nut faces with the names I have been reading about in Micropendium and in BBS files from coast to coast. I always thought it sort of corny that every review one reads mentions this fact, but it is really one of the nicest aspects of this international gathering. From

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Bob Boone (Can a) all the p through Dave Miller (Seattle), it was a pleasure to come face to face. And SURELY you can imagine the pleasure it gave all of them to finally meet ME. What? you can't imagine that?

There was one visitor that gave a good impression of being glad to see me, hwoever! I was really pleased to find that Gary Taylor, now president of one of the three Pittsburgh, PA TI user groups, had managed to fly down for the Faire. Gary, an old DTIHCG member, carried down some of the Willforth Prototype Cards for the P-box. Much to John Guion's satisfaction, I was able to purchase another card. Having designed the P-Box GROM emulator card on one of the Willforth products, John is now loking for new fields to conquer. After the show, Gary was able to slip off for a while and relax with a slice or two of pizza while telling me of his user group's progress within the last year or so.

I must say the atmosphere at the Texas TI Faire was most certainly right in step with what is considered true Texas hospitality. The nicely carpeted and airconditioned Vendor area had just the right amount of crowding for atmosphere and the correct amount of Aisle space for traffic. Nicely covered white draped tables held the wares. Two registration stations despensed name tags and made for a no-wait ticket experience.

The seminars were conducted in an atrium-like setting close to the swimming pool area as well as in some smaller rooms up on the second floor of the hotel. The only time I dealt with the hotel staff they were courteous and helpful. The TV tapes were being made in the seminar rooms and in the vendor area, so I assume that a video experience can be relived at will in the future.

The volunteer support was in evidence everywhere one turned. From the many systems supporting the seminars and registration to the people operating to TV cameras to the design of the name tags to the good printed material: the stamp of the volunteer worker was to be found everywhere. Of course the co-sponsor groups had tables manned by more of these hearty volunteers. There were even special extension cord sets that had been made by more of these volunteer folks. These cords were used to get power to all of the many running systems that dotted the vendor area.

What with this being my only experience at a II faire, I asked around to a couple of the more experienced people and from both I got affirmative assessments of the gethering. They, as I would, rated the Texas II faire as an enjoyable sucess. Congratulations go to the hard workers that presented this faire for our enjoyment. Their efforts will indeed "help lengthen the life of the II 99/4A Computer" they in their dvertisement

** NEWS OF THE BULLETIN BOARDS ** GENIE, Most popular of the nation wide bbs's, has over 2000 files or programs for the TI99/4A or 9640. These are free for the down-loading and most are really worth looking at seriously! The members meet on their modems at 8:00 P.M. on Sunday evenings and chat about things TI-ish or 9640 subjects. Senie costs \$5.00 an hour for on-line time. Uploading one of your files for all to share is free. That is, they turn off the charge clock and you get the upload time free. Frank Cross and Ken Finto have both uploaded programs to Senie. The SOURCE is another national BBS that is on the move! It has recently gone through several changes. It also now has free time on the uploads. The number of files for downloading, while not as great in number as Senie, are increasing and worth looking into. Sign on fees are currently being waived and the instruction book is reduced in price. CONNECTION 80, most popular of the local bbs's has been hit by lighning twice in the last few months and lost two 1200 baud modems in about a months time. Tom Kilbride, SYSOP, reported that a hard disk and several other pieces of equipment were also lost. There are only two TI-ers that check in regularly on the bbs. Frank Cross uploaded a couple of TI files and they were removed to make room for active users. Make use of the boards. Try them out and look around. Some of the Discussions are very stimulating and thought provoking. Some are downright provoking!! See you on the boards!

Frank Cross
Newsletter contributor

***** ABOUT OUR MEMBERS! ****

DAVE EISFELDT recently was notified of a promotion in the FAA. He will be working in Rogers and living in Temple. He stated that he would be still active in the BRAZOS VALLEY 99ERS' and commute to our meetings. Great news on both

D.L. MILLER has reported a serious illness which he will continue to receive treatments for. We will all include him in our prayers and hope he will stay strong and come to enjoy meetings with us. BOB LEINWEBER has been back in town for visits. We hope he will come through on one of our meeting nights and stop for a visit with us. AMY BATES finished her first year as Vocational supervisor at Connally High School and, as she puts it, survived. We all know she has survivied quite well and we are proud of her!

> Frank Cross Newsletter co-editor

****** 4 Sale..four sale...er
FOR SALE!!!! *****

STEVE ADAMS 666-7170, HAS SOME TI CONSOLES, 2 P.E. BOXES, SEVERAL PIECES OF SOFTWARE AND OTHER TI THINGS FOR SALE. CALL HIM.

FRANK CROSS IS STILL SELLING DISKETTES, CONSOLES, CARTRIDGES, P.E.BOXES, AND SEVERAL PRINTERS. IF YOU NEED A MODEM, EXTENDED BASIC, E/A, TI-WRITER, PAPER, OR ALMOST ANY OF THE TI STUFF, GIVE HIM A CALL AT 848-4589 EVENINGS.

****** DISKETTE DRIVES *******
Would you like to double the

capacity of your diskettes? Of course you would! Most of the folks using their original TI systems are only using one side of their diskettes (unless they are making "flippies") and are very limited on the use of some program because of the size of available space. If you are interested and still reading, then consider the cost of a good DS/DD disk drive. Now, be aware that you will only have single-density by jeut changing drives. You CAN get true DS/DD if you also change to a Corcomp or Myarc Disk controller for you P.E. Box. Right now we will discuss the gains to be had by having a double sided drive only.

I enjoy using TI-Writer but quickly tired of the swapping diskettes required for using the Editor, Formatter and them the Files on separate diskettes. If you have double sided drives (one or, better yet, two!) You can have both the TI-Writer programs(editor and formatter) and your own files all on the same disk. You have 720 sectors to store programs and files on on one diskette and no swapping. Another great use is the Funnelweb Farms utility diskette from Australia. It is a large group of great pieces of software put together and accessed by a nice E/A menu program. It is fast and easy to use. It uses a lot of disk space and really needs to be on a DS/SD diskette to be its best for you, functionaly. There are lots of other reasons for having the double mided ability. If you are having drive trouble and are looking for a corrective action, look at getting a double sided drive for your P.E. box. Frank Cross

From the Mailbox of the CW 99'ers:

It is with no little regret that I reprint the following notice received 5/23/1988:

"CLUB CLOSING NOTIFICATION
TRI-CITIES 99'ER COMPUTER GROUP
BY MAJORITY VOTE OF ATTENDING MEMBERS
AT THE APRIL MEETING.
FOR LIBRARY USE CONTACT DENNIS
ELLISON AT 783-1083
RESPECTFULLY YOURS, GARY CLEVELAND"

This group had members in Kennewick, Pasco and Richland Washington. We had exchanged newsletters with them since December of 1985. At the time of their disbanding the membership list was 24, though we do not know what the attendance was at the final meeting.

My Comment:

There are quite a few active and functioning clubs with the same number or fewer members — so the membership count is not really very important. One of the NJ clubs that has accomplished the most, has done so with less than a dozen active members. I cannot help but wonder what prompted this decision.

-Art BYERS

From Call Sounds!

NEWS BULLETING FROM THE TI MORLD. New bulletins are at the top of the stack, older ones at the bottom.

OB/05/88 NYARC MOVES

MYARC has moved from Basking Ridge to Hartinsville, NJ. New Telephone number is 201-805-0006

OB/O5/BB ASSARD announces a new magazine for the TI-99/4A.

It will be issued quarterly and have from 16 to 32 pages. In a publicity release, it's described as: "an indispensible source of tips, update notices" - "New product information" "unbiased -reviews" and the latest NEWS from the TI world.

Price: \$6.00 for four issues. Write Asgard News c/o Asgard Publishing, P 0 box 10697, Rockville, MD 20850

08/05/88: PAUL CHARLTON, MIKE DODD_AND PETER HOBDIE JOIN DELPHI's TI NET SIG.

PAUL CHARLTON, the well known programmer (Fast-Term for the 99/4A and HDOS for the 9640) is now EXCLUSIVELY available on the BELPKI TI NET sig. He has been answering questions on technical topics for both computers and has had 3 lengthy conferences where everyone has been able to "talk" to Paul on line.

Paul has graduated college and is now living and working in Denver. Paul's Delphi username is T1994A.

Mike Dodd, who has been working on several programming projects for MYARC's 9640, some in collaboration with J Peter Hoddie, is also now on Delphi's TI NET and available to help you. Mike's username is MY9640.

Last, J. Peter Hoddie, author of MYMORD, PRESCANIT, and currently working on running software for the Myarc HFDC (Hard Floppy Disk Controller) is available under the username SENEVE.

07/20/88 TIBASE being shipped.

TIBASE data base has been shipped to 9/4A owners. See June Micropendium in the club lending library for an extensive review. Even though announced long after FIRST BASE, TIBASE has reached market first. That is a coup for TEXAMENTS, the publisher.

FIRSTBASE - now long delayed, supposedly is awaiting the 9640 version (possibly being worked on by Mike Dodd and J Peter Hoddie) so that the 99/40 and 9640 versions can be released at the same time.

07/12/88 BILL KNECHT dead at age 41.

Bill Knecht, best known for his Faire-ware disks of music for the 99/4A has passed away after a long illness. He was a member of the Houston UG and had been sysop of their BBS. He is missed by the TI community.

07/15/88 TURBO PASCAL for the TI-99 Now Being shipped.

L L Conner Enterprises has announced that they are the exclusive North American distributor for TURBO-PASC 97 AND THAT THEY ARE SHIPPING: Cost 59.95 It runs out of EA option 5 or TIN opt. 93. For more info, write L L CONNER at 1521 Ferry St., Leyfayette, IN 47904 of phone 317-742-8146

06/12/88 TICOFF sets '89 date.

Saturday March 18th, 1989 is the date for TICOFF'89. This year Art Byers will be in charge of speakers and events, including classrooms for the IBM as well as 99/4A. As in the past, Carney Mians will be TICOFF's legal advisor. More news of TICOFF will follow closer to fair date.

05/15/88 Chicago TI Fair Set for Nov 12

Place: Holiday Inn. 3505 Algonquin Road Rolling Meadows, Ill. 312 259 5000 Chicago Ti Club hot line fair phone: 312 775 0051

312 775 0051
Schedule: Social Mixer Friday Nov 11
Epm to 12 pm \$4.00 admission
FAIRE Sat Nov 12. 9am to 6pm
DINNER Sat Nov 12 7pm to 9:30 pm
admission \$10.00
Hotel rates \$55.00 single/double
65.00 tower
Limosine service: FREE to and
from airport.

from airport.

REVIEWING PRINT WIZARD -By Blair MacLeod, Associate Editor, Toronto's Newsletler 979

Print Wizard consists of several programs which gives the user the ability to design and print cards, signs, letterheads and banners. The author and distributor is Barb Berg of TRIO+ SOFTWARE.

Print Mizard comes with three disks, one program disk and two data disks. one program disk and two data disks, which data disk you use depends on the printer you have. On the data disks are eleven borders, six fonts and about 28 pieces of artwork. Personally, I would like to see more artwork available. Basically the only drawbacks to the program is its speed and the positioning of text where graphics appear, as the user has to be careful to place grapics and text if they don't want them to overlap one another. another.

The program loads and gives an attractive screen, where the user selects the type of printer (Prowriter/Epson FX or Gemini). All selections are made from the keyboard and are menu driven. Print Mizard is so user friendly that I found it easy to step through the menus without reading the documentation. However, the documentation is a comprehensive manual which includes the various borders, fonts and artwork thats available on the data disk.

I use the GENEVE 9640 solely for my computing pleasure and PRINTWIZARD runs flawlessly on it. With the BENEVE's added speed, the project being printed is not so painstakingly consisting of; 2 pieces of art, 1 border and a seven word greeting took 17 minutes to print in TI mode. It was considerably less at speed five on the GENEVE.

As an example, the menu for designing a greeting card you would have on the screen >DESIGN PRINT EXIT on the first line. The second line contains FRONT and INSIDE and along the left margin you have ART, FONT and BORDER. Then the drive where the data disk is. From there you just make your selections, your artwork, the border and the font for your text. Your artwork can then be orientated in four ways, up leftside. upright, inverted, rightside or leftside. You also have the availability to have four sizes and the ability to place your artwork in specified areas. You have the option specified areas. You have the option of having the artwork printed normally or in mirror aspect. Fonts can be selected from a base of six, you can toggle the size from single to double. toggle the size from single to You can have centered text, left or right aligned text. The number of You can have centered text, left or right aligned text. The number of characters that is printed depends on the font selected. The menuing is very well done and there is even a shadow on the indicator to add the effect of depth. Included with the programme is a utility to convert artwork & fonts created from TI-ARTIST. This area will not be reviewed as I'm not a TI-ARTIST user. Also, when positioning the artwork the area you selected turns blue. All this adds a very pleasing and professional touch to the program.

Finally, in my opinion this program is worth it, available at \$25.00 (US) (from TRIO+ Software, Box 115, Liscomb, IA 50148) the friendliness of the program is fantastic and the final product is just great! Definitely

In closing, I would like to mention that this is the first time I've reviewed a program (officially in writing to a newsletter). It surely gives the writer the opportunitity to test the program in order to report its performance (hopefully as accurately as possible) and you know what? It was FUN!

Blair Ma 109-2356 _MacLeod, c/o Newsletter THE US ROBOTICS SPORTSTER 2400 HODEM By Carney W. Mimms

Those of you who are old-timers in the telecommunications field (in other words, you've been on-line for more than a year), will have already recognized that 2400 baud is well on its way to becoming the new standard for everyday microcomputer telecommunication, just as the 1200 bd standard replaced 300 baud not so long ago. One happy result of this transformation is the explosion of low-cost 2400 baud modems now reaching the market. You could of course choose on price alone, but as we all know, many of the companies in the peripherals business have about the same half-life as a minute of the companies about the same half-life as a minute of the companies of the companies about the same half-life as a minute of the companies of the comp microgram of einsteinium. This car be particularly distressing in the case of modems, since there is basically no way to assess the quality or reliability other than to rely on the reputation of the manufacturer. And the list of reliable manufacturers is a short one. There is, of course, Hayes, the company that created and defined the smart modem and still the maker of top-flight modems at top-flight prices. At the same level of price and quality is US Robotics, whose courier 2400 helped define the 2400 baud modem is a solid, durable device, basically no way to assess the modem is a solid, durable device, but at \$450.00, it is not within the budget of most of us.

Fortunately, US Robotics has recently decided to change this situation by offering a low-price version of the Courier, the Sportster 2400. This model, which lists for \$250.00 and can be found by mail order for less, uses the same chip set as its more expensive bruther. For this reason, it supports the entire haves command set. as well as US Hayes command set, as well as US Robotics' highly-'regarded proprietary error-correction protocol, called MNP. To produce the Sportster at a lower cost, US Robotics has changed to a smaller (about the size of a paperback book) case, cheaper switches, a cheaper speaker, and included a much less comprehensive, but still adequate, comprehensive, but still adequate, manual. By way of compensation for the reduced manual, however, the complete command set has been placed on a label on the bottom of the modem—much tougher to misplace. All in all, the Sportster represents an outstanding combination of quality and value, backed by one of the few stable bid name companies in the stable big name companies in the modem business.

We can only hope that its presence will raise the standards of the low-priced 2400 baud modem market generally so we can all start uploading and downloading at 2400

CREATE YOUR OWN CURSER By Bob Turner New Horizons-Northwest Ohio 99'ers

I don't quite know how to give the proper credit to this routine, but whoever discovered this way to modify the cursor is an unsung hero.

While I have experimented with TI Extended Basic, I have learned many ways to make it do the things about which the manual never told you. Also, I have learned not to forget the clever programmers who offered their information and discoveries to the TI community.

Creating a cursor is rather easy, and once done, the cursor routine can always be used in other programs. If you understand how to define a character then understanding how to create a cursor is just as easy.

First, here is the TI Extended basic code to re-define the cursor:

Carried Commences

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Line 130 defines the cursor description (what is looks like). Defining the cursor is made rather easy because you are not using HEX but decimal.

and the state of t		-		C.					
Terinal >	128								
RUM 1	X	X	14	X	X	X	X	X	*255
-ROW 2	X							X	=129
	Χ							X	=129
ROW 4	X							X	=129
ROW 5	X							X	=129
RDW 6	X							X	=129
ROW 7	χ							X	=129
ROW 0	X	X	X	X	X	X	ı x	i X	-255
	T	r	F	F			T	T	_

As you can see, the values come from adding the total value across each row to define the segments in the cursor. (Note X's in the figure and the weighted value that was totaled.)

After defining your custom made cursor, save it to disk and you are ready for your first run.

Run your program and look at your cursor. If you don't like it merely make some changes and run again. repeat this process until you are satisfied with your new cursor. The new cursor will stay until you turn off the console.

FIRSTBASE - Warren Agee's long worked upon and long awaited data base. The following is from a publicity release and is NOT a review:

- -IBM style query commands
- -Batch processing with four-function floating point math
- -Multiple keyword searches
- -Extremely large capacity
- -Handy Macros

With FIRSTBASE, the new data base manager from Diympys Technologies, you can organize, manipulate, and report data like never before. Me listened to what users missed in other database managers, and what we've created is quite impressive. Me increased record size to 3000 bytes, allowing you to store much more information than ever before. We allowed you to search for data using powerful query commands, similar to ones used on IBM compatible programs, so you can find exactly what you are looking for with a single command. We added a batch-processing capability, so you can perform "search and replace" functions or delete a group of records at once. You can ever perform MATH on any field. We added a MACRO feature so you can store frequently used commands on disk for quick recall.

SPECIFICATIONS

720 bytes/fields 3000 bytes/record 75 fields/record 32,767 records/databases 100 megabytes/file

- -Search on aultiple fields using AND and OR, or on keywords
- -Search on multiple keys
- -Quiries sent to screen, printer, new database, existing database
- -Flexible report generator
- -Written in c99
- -Requires 32k, disk and either XB, E/A, or TI-WRITER Cartridge.
- -Myarc Geneve 9640 Compatable SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$49.95

Available exclusively through GENIAL COMPUTERWARE, P.O. Box 183, Grafton Ma. 01519

Developed by Olympys Technologies, Advancing software technologies.

Scheduled release date: Late June or early July, 1988.

FIRSTBASE written by Warren Agee. c99 language by Clint Pulley.