

KENTUCKIANA 99/4 COMPUTER SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1983

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LAST MEETING:

Our last meeting was held on July 24, 1983 at U of L, Shelby Campus. Our Vice President Bob White was the only officer that was able to make the meeting and from what I have been told did his usual superb job. The program included discussion of the Milliken Math Series, Mini Memory and Inner Memory, and Third Party Hardware w/ Non Volatile Memory. Thanks for going it alone Bob. I also want to thank Gary Morrison for arranging for the use of the U of L facilities.

Please accept my apologies for not being able to attend. My son was participating in an All-Star tournament and I was one of the coaches. It was a tough decision (I wrestled with myself for at least 10 seconds) but in matters like this my son comes first. Just for the record we went through the regular season and tournament undefeated in order to participate on that All-Star team. We also went through the all-star tournament undefeated.

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NEXT MEETING:

AUGUST

Our next meeting will be held:

Sunday-August 28, 1983
Time-2:00 PM
Place:
University of Louisville, Shelby Campus
Founders Union Hall, Room 218A
9001 Shelbyville Rd.
Louisville, KY

DIRECTIONS:

Leave I-264 (Matteson Expressway) at Exit 20A and follow US60 East (Shelbyville Rd.) about 3 miles. Look for Shelby Campus on the left (if you reach Hounstbourne Lane you are approx. 1/4 mile too far). When you turn in the entrance you will be headed toward a building with a large open area in the middle of it. Founders Union Hall is th building to the right.

ASK TREBOR

I want to know what printer I should consider buying. Can you recommend one?

Printers are proliferating with incredible speed. If you are not sure what you want, and more importantly what you need, you may be disappointed with your first purchase. In an earlier meeting this year we went into the pros and cons in some detail. Here I want to give you a list of some of the top printers for under \$600 suggested retail.

AXION/SEIKOSHA CP-100 and CP-250X

Dot-Matrix, 72x72 graphics 30 cps and 50 cps, RS-232C Interface, \$299 and \$339, character quality 5x7.

DATA IMPACT PRODUCTS DIP-81A

Dot-Matrix, no graphics, 100 cps, RS-232C, \$369, character quality 7x7.

EPSON MX-80

Dot-Matrix, 120x216 graphics 80 cps, character quality 9x9, RS-232C, \$499.

IRWIN/OLIVETTI JP-101

Solid ink-jet, 110x110 graphics, 80 cps, character quality 7x7, RS-232C, \$499.

OKIDATA MICROLINE 82A

Dot-Matrix, 99x66 graphics, 120 cps, character quality 9x9, parallel or serial interface, \$549.

PERSONAL MICRO COMPUTERS DMP-85

Dot-Matrix, 160x144 graphic 120 cps, 7x9 character quality, parallel interface \$595.

RADIO SHACK CGP-115

Ball-point pen, 127x127 steps/inch, 4 colors, 12 cps, character quality-vector plot, RS-232C, \$250.

STAR MICRONICS GEMINI 10

Dot-Matrix, 120x144, graphics, 100 cps, 7x9 character quality, RS-232C interface, \$399.

TRANSTAR/SEIKOSHA 315

Dot-Matrix, 80x80 graphics, 4 colors, 50 cps, 7x8 character quality, RS-232C, \$599.

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FOR SALE

Smith Corona T.P.1, letter quality (daisy wheel) printer, RS232 serial port. Includes cable and two cartridges. \$600.
Call 896-2938, Diane Carlin

TIDBITS

- 1) INSTALL SPEECH SYNTHESIZER AND TERMINAL EMULATOR II
- 2) LOAD PROGRAM IN BASIC
- 3) TYPE IN LIST "SPEECH"
- 4) PROGRAM WILL THEN BE SPOKEN

Don Randolph

WALLS AND BRIDGES

Walls and Bridges is a new arcade game featuring hi/res graphics. Each player must build a wall, trying to avoid collision while forcing the other players into collision. Obstacles like quicksand, trees and castles add to the challenge. Requires joysticks. Tape cassette is \$20. Timagination, Box 2885, Fairfield, CA 94533.

FREE PERIPHERAL EXPANSION BOX

Offer has been extended through Jan. 31, 1984. For anyone who might not be aware of it you can obtain a free PEB if you purchase any three of the following items at one time.

- * Disk Controller Card
- * Disk Memory Drive
- * 32K Memory Expansion Card
- * RS-232 Card
- * P-code Card
- * TI-Writer, word processing package
- * Microsoft Multiplan, a computerized spreadsheet

Don't forget to ask the dealer at the time of purchase (all three items must be purchased at one time) for your free PEB.

FREE SPEECH SYNTHESIZER

Free speech offer good through Jan. 31, 1984. Get yours when you purchase any six solid state command modules or two software albums or one Entertainment Value Pak plus three additional software cartridges.

TI REPAIR POLICY

For those of you who are curious about TI's repair policy, this short summary should help.

TI operates 46 exchange centers around the country and a repair center in Lubbock, Texas. When your TI unit needs repair, you have three options. You can take it to an exchange center in your area or you can send it to Lubbock for repair. In addition, if the unit has been bought within 30 days of the unit failure, then 99% of the retail outlets will exchange it for you if the following conditions exist:

- You purchased it at that store.
- You have the sales receipt.
- It does not appear to be damaged or abused.

Exchange Centers

You may exchange any faulty unit at an exchange center for a reconditioned unit. You immediately have a unit that works, however, it is not your original unit. Here's what it will cost you:

- 0-30 day warranty period; no charge
- 30-90 day warranty period; \$7 exchange fee
- Out of warranty; \$45 charge

You can locate your nearest exchange center by calling the toll free assistance line at 1-800-858-4565.

Lubbock Repair Center

You may elect to send your defective unit to the Repair Center in Lubbock. You must then mail your unit prepaid to Lubbock at a cost of \$5-\$8. It will take an average of three weeks from the time you ship your unit to the time it is returned to you. Here's what it will cost you:

- 90 day warranty period; no charge
- Minor charge: \$25 plus \$2.50 postage and handling
- Major charge: \$45 plus \$3 postage and handling

The address of the Lubbock Repair Center is:
Texas Instruments Repair Center
2305 North University
Lubbock, TX 79408

As you can see, it is possible to spend less if you return your unit to Lubbock. However, it is also possible to spend more and be without your unit for an additional three weeks by sending it to Lubbock.

There is no current upgrade program for the 99/4 to 99/4A.

The TI Home Computer Business

July 27, 1983

On June 10, 1983, TI announced that, because of recent and unexpected developments in its Home Computer Operations, the company would report an after-tax loss of as much as \$100 million for the second quarter of 1983 (ending June 30). On July 22, 1983, TI announced that the actual net loss for the company was \$119.2 million.

The recent quarterly loss has led some people to speculate about the possibility of TI getting out of the home computer business. It has also produced fear and apprehension within users groups. Hopefully, this article will put these fears to rest.

The question most often asked: "Is TI getting out of the Home Computer business?". That question was answered in the same news release mentioned above which states, "TI will continue aggressive cost reduction measures, development of new hardware, vigorous software expansion, and emphasis on merchandising and dealer support for the approximately 20,000 retail outlets around the world now carrying 99/4A Home Computers, software and peripherals."

Even though TI is remaining in the home computer business, our commitment to that market is being questioned. Some people, who own the 99/4A, feel that although they now have an excellent computer, TI will not be committed to the business and thus, service and software support for the 99/4A will collapse. This concern was also addressed in the press release of July 22 quoted here:

"To support our worldwide network of retail outlets, we are emphasizing increased marketing programs that will highlight the capability and value of our home computers. We are continuing aggressive development of new cartridge software and have recently signed contracts with major software firms including Imagic, Broderbund Software, Spinnaker Software, and Sega Enterprises. In-house we are continuing cost-reduction efforts.

In the longer term, we believe that the continually decreasing costs of semiconductor logic and memory will result in a stream of high-performance computing and other electronic products in the under-\$1000 category. Increasing volumes of these products will move through mass distribution channels that TI has pioneered with its home computer."

As you can see, we are solidly in and committed to the home computer business. Furthermore, we care about you. This is evident through our support of your users group. By the way, the TI network of users groups now contains over 170 groups. So, as a TI Home Computer owner you are not alone, but are part of a very large community that is growing everyday.



Ed Wiest
Users Group Coordinator

NEWS BRIEFS

July 7, 1983...TI and Spinnaker Software Corporation have announced a relationship whereby TI will manufacture and market certain titles developed by Spinnaker. The first two titles will be the best selling FaceMaker 1* and Story Machine 1*.

FaceMaker is an educational program that allows children ages 4 to 12 to make a variety of faces and animate them while learning the rudiments of computing. Story Machine is an educational tool that helps children ages 5 to 9 learn to write sentences, paragraphs, and simple stories, then allows them to watch the stories come to life on the screen through full color graphics and sound.

Both FaceMaker and Story Machine software packages will be available on Solid State Software cartridges in the fourth quarter of 1983 at a suggested retail price of \$39.95.

July 7, 1983...In a joint announcement released today, TI and Broderbund Software have announced a relationship whereby best selling software from this outstanding independent software developer will be available for the TI-99/4A Home Computer on Solid State Software cartridges. The first two titles under this agreement will be Choplifter 2* and David's Midnight Magic 2*.

In Choplifter, players command a daredevil rescue chopper while fighting off enemy jet fighters, air mines, tank fire, and air-to-ground missiles. David's Midnight Magic is an award winning high resolution pinball game with dual flipper controls and many special effects. Both titles will have a suggested retail price of \$39.95 and are planned for fourth quarter availability by TI.

July 21, 1983...TI and Sega Enterprises, Inc. today announced a long term agreement under which Sega will supply certain video game software designs for TI to manufacture and market for TI home computers. The initial offering for the agreement includes three titles: Congo Bongo 3*, Paramount Pictures' Star Trek 4*, and Buck Rogers 5*: Planet of Zoom.

Congo Bongo takes players into the jungle in a cartoon like adventure. Star Trek Strategic Operations Simulator gives players a birds-eye view of what it would be like to command the Starship Enterprise. In Buck Rogers: Planet of Zoom, the player IS Buck Rogers and must guide the ship through a host of alien enemies.

Price and availability of the three packages will be announced at a later date.

- 1* Trademarks of Spinnaker Software Corp.
- 2* Trademarks of Broderbund Software
- 3* Trademark of Sega Enterprises, Inc.
- 4* Trademark of Paramount Pictures Corp.
- 5* Trademark of the Dille Family Trust

programming challenge #3

by robert shall

Type in the following program and run it.

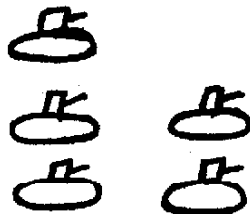
```
100 CALL CLEAR
110 A$="00183F187EFFFF7E"
120 CALL CHAR(71,A$)
130 CALL CHAR(91,A$)
140 PRINT "US  USSR"::::
150 PRINT " TANKS"
160 CALL VCHAR(5,4,71,7)
170 CALL VCHAR(5,9,91,8)
180 GOTO 180
```

This program is a graph showing relative strengths of US and USSR military components. The graph is untidy as it is; the challenge is for you to improve it. The coding for the tank picture is given in 110. Then in lines 120 and 130 two identical characters are defined using the code from line 110. You will see later why the character is defined twice. The graph labels are printed in lines 140 and 150, and finally in lines 160 and 170, the Russian and American tanks are displayed. Line 180 is a loop with a definite purpose. If you don't see its purpose, try running the program without it.

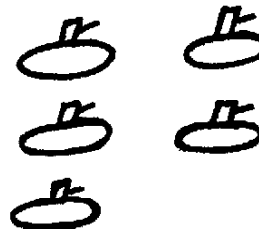
Modification 1:

Center the labels by changing lines 140 and 150. I suggest you use PRINT() statements as described on page II 68 of the reference manual.

Also center the columns of tanks over the labels by changing lines 160 and 170. Finally, change lines 160 and 170 to put the bottom tank of both columns on the same row.



Right



Wrong

Use the Quick Guide to TI Basic on the inside front cover to find the right page for a review of CALL VCHAR instructions.

MODIFICATION 2:

Change the screen color to white. see CALL SCREEN.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

NUTRI DATA TI SOFTWARE

* A nutritional analysis program written specifically for the TI 99/4A.

* Program incorporates a 1400 food data base.

* Does three day analysis of intake and vitamins comparing to the recommended daily allowances plus update and sources features.

* Requires Peripheral Expansion Box, RS-232, 80 column printer, 32K Memory Expansion, double sided disk drive, and Disk Manager 2 to operate.

PRICE \$250.

CARLIN INSTITUTE OF WEIGHT CONTROL AND HEALTH, INC.

PHONE 502-896-2938

DON'T FORGET

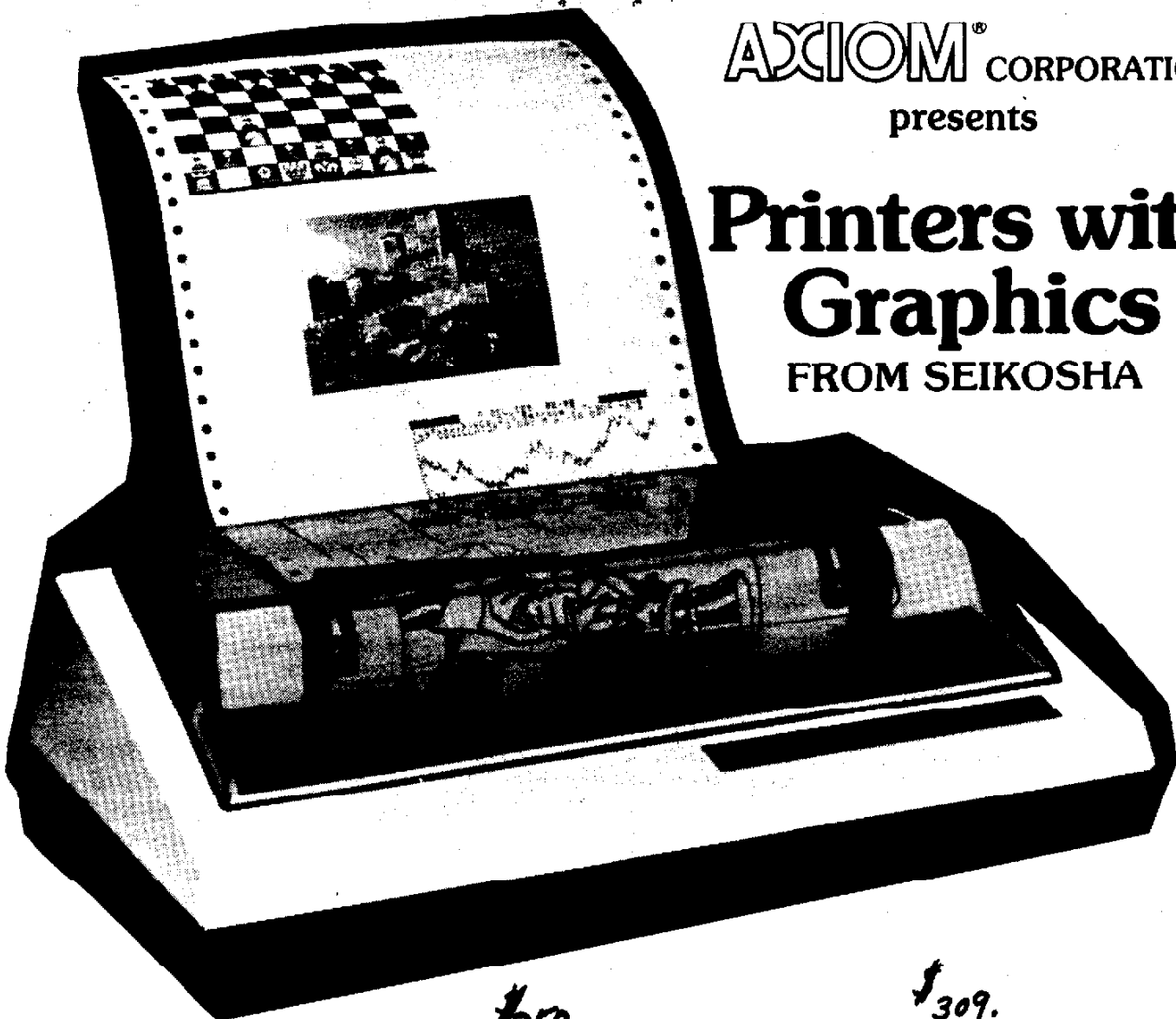
If you have TI software (Command Modules) that you have grown tired of and want to turn your money over we will buy them from you. For those of you who may not know about this program and would like to know more contact one of the officers. Some time ago we decided to buy used software from members and resell same to other members. This makes for an opportunity to either turn your money over or to get a good deal on software, or both. So far it has worked well. We currently have no Modules in stock.

ASK TREBOR

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE IN A SERIAL AND A PARALLEL INTERFACE?

A serial interface is a method of sending printing codes from a computer to a printer or other device by sending one bit of information at a time. It is usually slower than parallel interfacing, and commonly makes use of an RS-232.

Parallel interface sends data one byte at a time. Most microcomputer printers use this type interface.



AXIOM[®] CORPORATION
presents

Printers with Graphics

FROM SEIKOSHA

AT-100

- \$299 List Price
- Direct Connect to ATARI†
Serial Port
- HI-RES Screen Dump Software
Included
- Can be Daisy Chained
- No 850 Interface Required
- Cable Included
- Cartridge Ribbon
- Standard Width Fanfold Paper

~~\$250.~~ GP-100A

- ~~\$259~~ List Price
- Full Graphics Capability
- Centronics Parallel Interface
- Double Width Characters
- Cable Available
- Cartridge Ribbon
- Standard Width Fanfold Paper

~~\$309.~~ GP-250X

- ~~\$359~~ List Price
- Full Graphics Capability
- Parallel and Serial Interface
- Double Width Characters
- Double Height Characters
- Cable Available
- Cartridge Ribbon
- Downloadable Character Sets
(user defined)
- Double Pass Capability

2-YEAR USER WARRANTY!

WE REPAIR AND SHIP WITHIN 48 HOURS OR SEND YOU A NEW PRINTER — FREE!

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THE FRAME MASTERS

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Louisville, KY 40222

502-423-1125

†ATARI is a trademark of Atari, Inc., a Warner Communications Company

*Product nomenclature, configuration, pricing and warranty subject to change without notice.

SEIKOSHA GRAPHIC PRINTER SPECIFICATIONS

The Seikosha Graphic Printers share a modern case and have the same dimensions and weight throughout the family. The specifications for the AT-100 are the same as those for the GP-100, except the AT-100 comes with a cable and plugs directly into

the ATARI† serial (user) interface, without the need to have an ATARI† interface box.

Dimensions: 9.2 (D) x 16.5 (W) x 5.4 (H) in.
234 (D) x 420 (W) x 136 (H) mm
Weight: 10 lbs. 4.5 kg.

GP-250X GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

PRINTING	Print Method	Uni-hammer
	Print Format	5 × 8 dot-matrix impact type
	Character Set	128 characters, with descenders (in ROM), plus 64 user definable characters (in RAM)
	Printing Speed	50 characters/sec
	Maximum Width	80 characters (equals 480 dots)
	Character Code	8-bit ASCII
	Printing Modes	Graphics, double width and/or double height character, standard character
	Multiple Copies	Original plus 1 copy
SPACING	Character Size	Standard 5 × 8 dots, Double width 10 × 8 dots, Double height 5 × 16 dots, Double width and height 10 × 16 dots
	Character Spacing	10 characters/inch
	Line Spacing	1/6, 1/9, N/18 (0 ≤ N ≤ 255) inches
	Linefeed Speed	5 lines/sec (6 lines/inch), 7.5 lines/sec (9 lines/inch)
PAPER	Paper Width	Adjustable up to 10 inches
	Paper Feed	Tractor feed
RIBBON		Single color, special self-inking cassette
POWER SUPPLY	available for either 117, 220, 240 VAC ± 10%, 50/60Hz	
POWER CONSUMPTION	25 watts (printing regular characters) 9 watts (standby)	
STANDARD INTERFACES	Parallel (Centronics compatible), RS-232C	
OPTIONAL INTERFACES	Serial TTL, 20 mA current loop, RS-232C, IEEE-488, etc.	

- Double width and/or double height character printing is standard. (Enlargement interpolation).
- Programmed printing (80 bytes of program memory, full dot addressable graphics printing, repetitive graphics data printing, all standard).
- 64 user definable characters (384 bytes) may be stored in the printer's memory.
- Print position is addressable in character or dot units (positioning control).
- Intermixed printing of all print modes within a line is possible.
- Linefeed spacing is software selectable.
- RS-232C serial and Centronics compatible parallel interfaces are standard.
- Number of linefeeds per LF command is selectable.
- Paper empty function and buzzer are standard.
- Space between characters is selectable.
- Self-test printing is standard.

GP-100A GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

PRINTING	Print Method	Uni-hammer
	Print Format	5 × 8 dot-matrix impact type
	Character Set	ASCII standard, 116 characters
	Printing Speed	30 characters/sec (180 × 7 dots/sec)
	Maximum Width	80 columns (equals 480 dots)
	Character Code	8-bit ASCII
	Printing Modes	Graphics, double width character, standard character
	Multiple Copies	Original plus 1 copy
SPACING	Character Spacing	10 characters/inch
	Line Spacing	6 lines/inch, 9 lines/inch
	Linefeed Speed	5 lines/sec, 7.5 lines/sec
PAPER	Paper Width	Width is adjustable up to 10 inches
	Paper Feed	Tractor feed
RIBBON		Single color, special self-inking cassette
OPERATING ENVIRONMENT	Temperature	5°C ~ 40°C
	Humidity	20% ~ 80% (no condensation)
POWER SUPPLY	available for either 117, 220, 240 VAC ± 10%, 50/60Hz	
POWER CONSUMPTION	25 watts (printing regular characters) 8 watts (standby)	
STANDARD INTERFACE	Parallel interface (Centronics compatible)	
OPTIONS	Interfaces	RS-232C, serial TTL, 20 mA current loop, IEEE-488, APPLE II
	Cable	PC-8001 cable

- Full graphics capability.
- In the graphic mode, a column of graphic data can be repeated as many times as you want with a single command.
- Double width character output under software control.
- Print position addressable by character or dot (positioning control).
- Graphic, character, and double width character modes can be intermixed on a single line.
- Automatic printing. When the text exceeds the maximum line length no data is lost due to overflow.
- Self-test printing is available.
- Centronics type parallel interface.
- Paper width is adjustable up to 10 inches.

The Frame Masters
8203 SHELBYVILLE ROAD
LOUISVILLE, KY 40222
PHONE 502-423-1125

MODIFICATION 3:

Color the US tanks blue. The US tanks are the 7 tank characters that line 160 places over the US label. Notice that line 160 uses character number 71. Page II 74 shows you that character 71 is a part of character set 5. So you could color the US tanks with:
90 CALL COLOR(5,11,1)

The 5 tells the computer we are dealing with character 71 (but not 91); the 11 is a color code; and the 1 means that all parts of the character that aren't tank will be the same color as the rest of the screen. Try some different codes in place of 1 to see what happens. Also I goofed. Code 11 is the code for yellow. You will have to look on page II 75 to find the code for blue.

MODIFICATION 4:

Color the Russian tanks red.

MODIFICATION 5:

Change the program to show rockets instead of tanks. Add the following line:

```
115 B$="01060E1C78F03020"
```

Add the word ROCKETS to line 150. There are only two more small changes to make and you will have a neat program.

ASK TREBOR

WHAT IS A BUFFER AND WHAT IS IT USED FOR?

A buffer is a type of memory storage device used between your computer and your printer. Without it you have to wait for the printer to catch up with your computer. With a buffer you can go ahead using your computer while the printer is printing. The computer sends data to the buffer where it is temporarily stored until the printer gets it all printed.

For word processing, you need a buffer with at least 16K of memory. The slower your printer, naturally the more time you save with a buffer.

Before you buy a buffer, be sure it is compatible with your equipment. Also check out the features it offers. Buffers come as either plug-in modules or as stand alone units. Stand alones are more expensive, but they also have more features.

LATE NEWS FLASH

There is now a one year warranty on new consoles purchased after 8-1-83.

There is also a new package offer for a free Peripheral Expansion Box in addition to the one previously mentioned. Buy a TI Disk Drive and Disk Drive Controller Card and get the PEB free. Richard Gardner will tell us more about this at the meeting.

This newsletter is published through the efforts of the:

KENTUCKIANA 99/4 COMPUTER SOCIETY
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