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NORTH ALABAMA TEXAS INSTRUMENTS 99/4A USER'S GROUP VOL 3 NO 10  
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P. O. BOX 11204, Huntsville, AL 35814  
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FROM THE EDITOR: Cindy Kirby

Hello from your editor and know that now you have read my first newsletter. Here is number two, I know you haven't recovered from number one as yet. I have some good news and some bad this month.

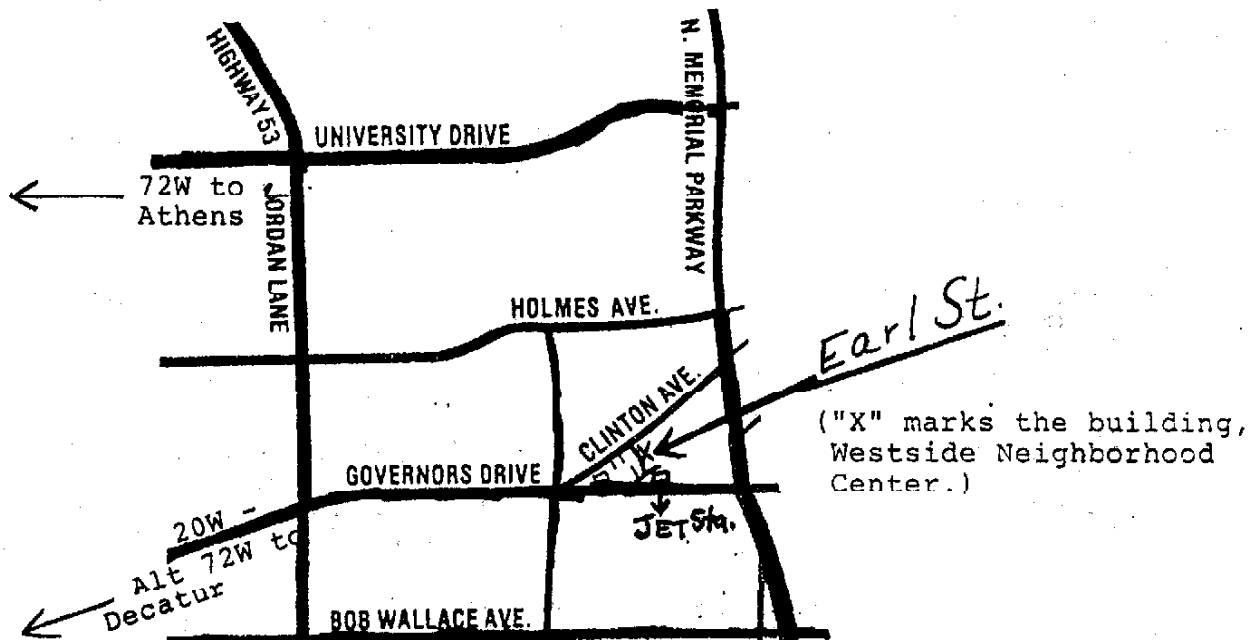
Be sure to read the newsletters we receive from the other groups. They have a lot of information in them.

MEMBERSHIP DUES: If you have to ask why the big headline you are out of touch! We currently have 7 members who are receiving their last newsletter this month, and there are 4 more who will get one more newsletter. If you have a yellow line over your date you are now owing dues. Remember to check those address labels.

Newsletter: All comments and suggestions need to be in at the April meeting, concerning the newsletter. We always need information on new products for our other members.

Minutes of the March meeting: 18 members were present for the elections. The meeting was opened for more nominations, there were none, so casting of ballots was next. Results as follows: PRESIDENT: Cindy Kirby VICE-PRESIDENT: Jim Smith SECRETARY: P. J. Lux TREASURER: Charles Becraft Please take the time to welcome them into office next month. Our drawing was held as usual, the winner for March was Albert Boyett. Meeting adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 10, 1986 at 7 p.m. See you there.....



**OFFICERS:**

President	Terry Kaylor	772-3327
Vice President	Bill Elliott	859-1238
Secretary	Glenn Allen	536-2663
Treasurer	Charles Becraft	534-9796

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:**

Hardware	Albert Boyett	852-7673
Youth/Software	Thackery Douglas	536-6565
Library-Cassette	Cindy Kirby	882-3599
Library-Disk	Earl & P.J. Hux	881-5760
Education	Eric Steenburn	533-0299
Program	Paul Gindhart	776-2586
Technical	Brian Kirby	882-3599
Documentation/ Publicity	Virgil Burrer	772-9597
Editor/ Recruitment	Cindy Kirby	882-3599

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**TI 99/4A Surplus listed in this months Computer Shopper**

Lolir Electronics Corp  
13933 N. Central Expressway  
Suite 212  
Dallas, TX 75243  
214 234 8032/8056

Video Modulators	3.50
Keyboards	3.75
Console Power Supplies	?
AC Wall Transformer	3.50
Dual RS 232 Cable	4.00

Wolff Electronics Inc  
901 E. Plano Parkway #117  
Plano, TX 75074  
214 423 8097

Keyboards	5.00
99/4A Computers New	89.00

Arnold Company  
214 Hill Lane  
Red Oak, TX 75154  
214 576 2291

Keyboards	5.99
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Electronics Parts Outlet  
2275 S. Federal Hiway  
DelRay Beach, FL 33444  
305-265-1206/1207 or 602-941-9357

Keyboards	2.95
Power Supplies	1.25

Rocky Mountain Micro  
PO Box 1693  
Sandy, Utah 84091

Multicom 32K Card for P Box	49.95	New
" 32K Standalone	119.95	New
" RS 232/PIO	119.95	New
" RS232 + 32K	199.95	New

## A REVIEW OF BASIC RULES

By Don Veith

The Home computer era has passed into memory for many people who purchased their computer to evaluate what the media hype over this device was all about. A few diehard nuts refuse to allow our "Orphaned Computer" to quietly fade away into the sunset like a Hollywood B movie cowboy hero. Two full years have passed since Texas Instruments dumped equipment onto the Christmas market place at fire sale prices. Some of the battles to obtain a particular cartridge at what we thought were bargain prices would qualify the survivor for combat pay. Paratroops have earned their nickname as "Those Baggy Pants Devils From The Sky". Even one of these well trained "Devils" would have paled at the combat present to "get my hands on an extra Black/Silver console, What I would give for a P-Code Card, They have how many Expansion Systems left?"

Yes, we all remember those days in the trenches two (2) years ago locating our own hoard of goodies while trying to aid the uneducated masses. It was not a good time to be President of a Users Group! The phone calls for assistance came at all times of the day. Questions, answered a thousand times before, were answered a thousand times once more. Remember, we were the experts who had all the answers for the masses. Oh yes, do any of you who were officers remember the scout teams we had out in the field to determine how much inventory each local dealer had left and where the best prices were. Yes, we maintained a sheet of inventory lists based upon quantity and price. Callers either simply WANTED the software/equipment, forget the price; or wanted the best price and did not worry about selection. How many of you thought prices for Logo, TI-Writer, and Multiplan at \$74.95 were fantastic bargains. A newsletter I read this week had featured an advertisement for each piece of software for \$19.95. Cast aspersions upon your inability to wait and truly pick up a bargain in computing power.

My purpose here was not to ramble on incessantly but to share a list of items from a "Computer Education" article in the October 2, 1984 issue of WOMAN'S DAY. Read each item on the two lists and actually check if you have done any of the listed items with your computer or applied the advice prior to purchasing a new piece of equipment. The results will prove intriguing. Boy did we all tell some tall whoppers when we justified that new \$249.95 gizmo that runs twice as fast with less on line expense. Who the devil is kidding whom ??

### 12 THINGS A COMPUTER CAN DO FOR YOU

1. **EDUCATE YOU** - From drill and practice to tutorials and simulations, there are educational programs to enrich every member of a family.
2. **ENTERTAIN YOU** - There are thousands of arcade-style games and intellectual simulations available for all ages.
3. **MAILING LIST AND BIRTHDAY REMINDER** - Never miss another birthday or anniversary. Mailing lists are available in every form conceivable. Most also print labels or lists of their contents.
4. **WRITE LETTERS-HOMEWORK** - Any type of correspondence may be written in a quick and efficient manner. It may even be save for reuse at a later date.
5. **BURGLAR PROOF YOUR HOME** - Control lights and sensor units with the computer when you are both home or away.
6. **BALANCE YOUR BUDGET** - All your personal financial information may be stored in one place. Balances may be calculated for tax purposes as they are incurred.
7. **MAKE SMARTER INVESTMENTS** - Money management programs aid in investment selection and keep track of profits.
8. **BANK FROM HOME** - Plug into your bank's computer via your home telephone and a modem to handle all your banking needs.
9. **COMPARISON SHOP** - Shop from home and compare prices on your monitor.
10. **PLAN MEALS** - Plan your meals a week or two in advance. Convert recipe ingredients to fit the number of persons you are feeding.
11. **RUN A SMALL BUSINESS** - Home based businesses lend themselves well to computer related activities. Control your inventory, maintain customer records, and mail billings on accounts receivable.
12. **MAKE YOUR OWN PROGRAMS** - If you cannot locate that piece of software that exactly fits your needs, create an original program or modify another program to suit your specific demand.

### 8 QUESTIONS TO ASK THE COMPUTER SALESPERSON BEFORE YOU BUY

1. **What equipment is included in the price of the computer?**  
Determine exactly what you will receive for the quoted price. Take notes on all items offered in the basic price by the salesman. If items are noted as discounted from list price, request the manufacturer's SRP (Suggested Retail Price). Take the time to verify this information in a catalog, magazine, or another dealer. Many times the salesperson is working on a sales commission basis. The greater dollar volume progressed, the larger his level of remuneration on payday.
2. **If the price does not include a disk drive, how much more will that cost me?**  
Once more, verify the costs involved by checking with other sources of disk drives.
3. **What is the personal Computer's memory capability?**  
Computers on the market today should possess a minimum of 64K memory. Purchase prices vary between \$300-\$500.
4. **If the cost of a monitor is not included, can I use the computer easily with my regular television screen?**  
Most computers can be connected to a television set. Check the price and quality of the monitor in case you desire to add it later.
5. **How much do compatible printers cost?**  
Request a demonstration of a letter-quality printer (like typewritten letters) and a dot-matrix printer (computer letters formed from dots). You will pay a premium price for an extra wide 15" carriage on a printer.

6. What is the computer's word processing like?

Try the keyboard for size. How many letters or functions are entered through special key combinations. Does the monitor have an 80 or 40 character screen. You will have to make adjustments on a 40 column screen to do word processing.

7. What kinds of software are available for this computer?

The programs available for the computer are as important as the computer itself. If you are viewing a demonstration, ask about the software being ran on the computer. You may like the software better than the computer.

8. Does your store offer any help with installment or setting up of the computer.

Request to review the computer manuals that explain installation and use---and decide whether you can follow the directions or not. If things appear complicated, inquire whether setup assistance is available from the salesperson or another staff member.

Some very interesting suggestions are contained within the article. Many of us purchased our computers in discount department stores. We definitely had more knowledge about the 9974A than any of the salespersons we encountered. A few exceptions did exist and we all gained additional information from a knowledgeable person. Good luck on your next foray into the market to purchase some new goodies for your system.

### How To Kill An Organization

1. Do not attend meetings; if you do, arrive late.
2. Be sure to leave before the meeting is over.
3. Never offer your opinion at the meeting; wait until you get outside.
4. When at meetings; vote to do everything, then go home and do nothing.
5. The next day, find fault with your officers and fellow members.
6. Take no part in your organizations affairs.
7. Sit in the back and start your own meeting with one or more members during discussion periods; if you keep it low no one will notice.
8. Get all the organization can give but give nothing in return.
9. Talk cooperation but never cooperate.
10. Never ask anyone to join the organization.
11. Threaten to resign at every opportunity; especially when things are not going your way.
12. If asked to help, always promise to do so but be so busy when called upon.
13. Never read anything pertaining to the organization in case you learn something on your own.
14. Never accept an office, better to criticize than to be criticized.
15. If in a moment of weakness you find you have gotten yourself on a committee apply all of the above rules and let the chairperson do all the work.
16. Do not do anything more than you have to, and when others give freely and willingly of their time and talents to help the cause, be the first to leap to your feet to remind everyone: **WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS GROUP IS IT'S BEING RUN BY A CLIQUE.**

### A Terrible Loss...

" We were saddened to learn recently of the death of one of our most valued members, Someone Else. Someone's passing created a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else had been with us almost since our club was formed, and during that time, Someone did far more than a normal person's share of work. Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration, as well as results.

It was often said, "Someone Else can work with that group or committee." Whenever there was a job to be done or a meeting to attend, one name was on everybody's list-- "Let Someone Else do it."

Someone Else was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing superhuman. But a person can only do so much. Where the truth be known, everyone expected too much from Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone, and we wonder what we are going to do.

Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things that Someone Else always did?

-from the Portland User's Group