# BUG NEWS

This is the first issue of Bug News, newsletter for the Texas Instruments Birmingham User's Group. We plan to make it a regular monthly feature of the group.

TIBUG was formed in July of this year by a small group of enthusiastic 99/4 owners. Most of us had recently bought the computer. and were eager for the positive reinforcement and sharing of ideas that would be generated by a user's group. Our membership has grown with each meeting, especially since the rebate announcement in September. TIBUG now has almost 50 active members.

Committees were recently organized to help keep the meetings running smoothly. The Program-Education Committee determines the content of group meetings, and is especially involved in the planning of our tutorials, brief lectures explaining different aspects of computer programming. The Recruitment Committee has two primary functions; bringing in new members, and the publication and distribution of this newsletter. The Library Committee controls our club software pool, keeping a record of all material checked out, and providing members with a list of all programs available. The Equipment Committee makes sure we have enough computers and monitors at each meeting.

These committees have all been doing a tremendous job, and we would like to commend them on their enthusiasm and dependability. We would like to encourage each group member to join a committee, not only because we need your help, but also because you get so much more out of the group when you become actively involved. We also need your contributions to this newsletter. Let us know what you would like to see in future issues. Each member is invited to contribute articles, programs, cartoons, or anything else you think might be of interest to the group. We would especially like to thank Ron Council for his help in printing

this newsletter, we are very grateful

to him.

## TI COMPUTER AWARENESS CLASSES

A Christmas offer you can't refuse! A 15% discount has been announced on TI Computer Awareness classes, for all groups of six or more during the month of December. The last classes for adults and children begin December 6. The regular fees are \$25 for the adult introduction to computers; \$75 for the 10 hour adult level 1 classes; \$65 for children's classes, level 1 or 2. The classes are held at the Northeast Y.M Y.M.C.A. in Roebuck. For details and group registration, call 833-7616.

## TIBUG TIPS

Getting a little bored with your Munch Man game, or losing hope of ever reaching the mystery maze? This is guaranteed to add some spice to your game. As soon as you see the Munch Man title appear on your screen, hold the shift key down and punch 8 3 8 in rapid succession. This must be done very quickly. You can now choose your screen or level number, the number of munch men, and your speed, up to a point. Happy munching!

If you are having trouble finding a cassette recorder that is compatible with your computer, the group has simple instructions for making your own TI-sette adapter, which renders almost any recorder compatible with the 99-4/A. We also have directions for making cassette cables for those of you who have been unable to find any, and instructions for making a joystick adapter which will make the WICO, Atari, and most joysticks compatible with the TI.

A quick editing technique in TI basic is to type the line number to be edited, then press the function key and either the up or down arrow keys. The lines will then scroll up or down the screen.

## TI BUYING INFORMATION

The following is a list of TI hard-ware and software dealers:

- 1. The Bach Company 715 Ensign Way Palo Alto, CA 94303 PH: 1-800-227-8292
- Brooke Dist., Inc. 1782 Marietta Blvd. N.W. Atlanta, GA 30318 PH: 1-404-351-9816
- 3. Elek-Tek, Inc. 5344 West Devon Ave. Chicago, IL 60646 PH: 1-800-621-1269
- 4. Dhein's True Value Hardware 7 W. Airline Hwy. Waterloo, IA 50701 PH: 1-319-236-3861
- 5. Olympic Sales Co. 216 So. Oxford Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90004 PH: 1-800-421-8045
- 6. Tam's, Inc. 14932 Garfield Ave. Paramount, CA 90723 PH: 1-800-421-5188
- 7. Unisource Electronics, Inc. Box 64240 Lubbock, TX 79464 PH: 1-800-858-4580

Local Birmingham stores that carry the TI and equipment include K-Mart, Pizitz, Goldbro, Service Merchandise, Standard Distributors, Video Concepts, and Tayre.

## TI BITS

The \$100 rebate and Speech Synthesizer offers have been extended from January 31, 1983 to April 15, 1983.

The TI Service Center in Riverchase is now open at 2125 Data Office Drive. It carries a large selection of software at retail prices, and their people can help you with any problems you might have with your equipment. The phone number is 988-4369.

## INPUT/OUTPUT

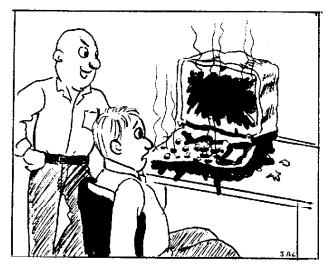
- Q. How can I determine how many bytes I have free when programming in Basic?
- A. Type the following into the beginning of your program: 1. A=A+8 2 GOSUB 1 RUN PRINT A
- Q. How can I make the computer "speak" the listing of the program?
- A. With the Speech Synthesizer attched and the Terminal Emulator II inserted, type: LIST "SPEECH" The listing of the program will be "read" to you, including the line numbers.
- Q. How can I get a subscription to the 99-er Magazine?
- A. The quickest way is to call them at 503-48**5**-8796. The mailing address is:

99-er Magazine P.O. Box 5537 Eugene, Oregon 97405

The 99-er is now published monthly, at a cost of \$25 a year.

The Irondale Public Library will soon be getting the magazine each month.

- Q. I have been getting an error message when trying to use CALL CHAR statements. What am I doing wrong?
- A. The most common mistake made in the CALL CHAR statement is the use of lower case letters. Only upper case letters can be used in TI Basic. It is best to always keep the alpha lock pressed down when programming.



"SYSTEMS CRASH, EH?"

#### "Deck the Halls"

Christmas carols are especially fun to program and play. Try the following program to play "Deck the Halls."

#### WORDS:

Verse 1: Deck the halls with boughs of holly, Fa la la. Tis the season to be joily, Fa la la la la. Ia la la la. Don we now our gay appare! Fa la la la la. Ja la la la. Troll the ancient Yufetide carol, Fa la la la la. (a la la la la.)

Verse 2: See the blazing yule before us. Fa la la la la, la la la la. Strike the harp and join the chorus. Fa la la la la la la la la. Follow me in merry measure. Fa la la la la, la la la la. While I tell of Yuletide treasure, Fa la la la la la la la la la la.

Verse 3: Fast away the old year passes. Fa la la la la la la la la la. Hail the New Year, lads and lasses. Fa la la la la, la la la la Sing we joyous, all together. Fa la la la la, la la la la, Heedless of the wind and weather, Fa la la la la, la la la la.

100 CALL CLEAR	460 CALL SOUND (120,440,1)
110 CALL SOUND (360.523.1)	470 CALL SOUND (240,466.1)
120 CALL SOUND (120,466,1)	480 CALL SOUND (240,392.1)
130 CALL SOUND (240,440.1)	490 CALL SOUND (360,440,1)
140 CALL SOUND (240,392.1)	500 CALL SOUND (120,466,1)
150 CALL SOUND (240,349,1)	510 CALL SOUND (240,523.1)
160 CALL SOUND (240,392,1)	520 CALL SOUND (240,392.1)
170 CALL SOUND (240,440,1)	530 CALL SOUND (120,440,1)
180 CALL SOUND (240,349.1)	540 CALL SOUND (120,494,1)
190 CALL SOUND (120,392,1)	550 CALL SOUND (240,523,1)
200 CALL SOUND (120,440,1)	560 CALL SOUND (120,587,1)
210 OALL GOUND (120 466,1)	570 CALL SOUND (120,659,1)
220 CALL SOUND (120,392,1)	580 CALL SOUND (240,698.1)
230 CALL SOUND (360,446,1)	590 CALL SOUND (240 659.1)
240 CALL SOUND (120,392.1)	600 CALL SOUND (240,587,1)
250 CALL SOUND (240,349,1)	610 CALL SOUND (480 523,1)
260 CALL SOUND (240,330,1)	620 CALL SOUND (360.523.1)
270 CALL SOUND (480,349.1)	630 CALL SOUND (120,466,1)
280 CALL SOUND (360,523,1)	640 CALL SOUND (240,440,1)
295 CALL SOUND (120 466.1)	650 CALL SOUND (240,392,1)
300 CALL SOUND (240,440,1)	660 CALL SOUND (240,349,1)
310 CALL SOUND (240 392.1)	670 CALL SOUND (240,392,1)
320 CALL SOUND (240 349.1)	680 CALL SOUND (240,440.1)
330 CALL SOUND (240,392,1)	690 CALL SOUND (240,349,1)
340 CALL SOUND (246 446 1)	700 CALL SOUND (120,587,1)
350 CALL SOUND (240,349,1)	710 CALL SOUND (120,587.1)
360 CALL SOUND (120,392 1)	720 CALL SOUND (121.587.1)
370 CALL SOUND (120,440,1)	730 CALL SOUND (120,587,1)
380 CALL SOUND (120,466.1)	740 CALL SOUND (360,523,1)
390 CALL SOUND (128,392,1)	750 CALL SOUND (120,466,1)
400 CALL SOUND (350,440,1)	760 CALL SOUND (240,440.1)
410 CALL SOUND (120.392.1)	770 CALL SOUND (240 392,1)
420 CALL SOUND (240.349.1)	780 CALL SOUND :480.349.11
430 CALL SOUND (240,330.1)	790 GOTO 110
440 CALL SOUND (480,349.1)	800 END
450 CALL SOUND (360,393,1)	

# INTERNATIONAL 99/4 USERS-GROUP

The International User's Group was formed in September of 1980 and now has over 10,000 members. The group offers its membership several services. These include a software library of over 600 programs written in TI Basic, TI Extended Basic, or TI LOGO. A member may receive software by submission of programs or by paying a duplication fee of only \$3.00 per program copy. In addition to the library there is a newsletter filled with information and programming tips which is published 8 times a year. Members regularly receive newsletters and Software catalogs. Call in information and referral services are available. Product discounts and new product bulletins are other services offerred.

Regular membership is only \$12.00 annually. There is a President's Club Membership available with extended benefits for \$50.00.

For more information contact:

INTERNATIONAL 99/4 USERS-GROUP P.O. Box 67 Bethany, OK 73008 (405) 787-8521

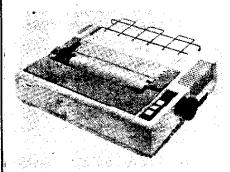
## PERSONAL COLUMN

Does anyone know the address of, phone number, or have back copies of a newsletter called TAP (Technology Assistance Program)? Eddie Sanford would like information at 956-5044.

FOR SALE: RS 232 Interface (PHP 1700) to connect your TI to a printer or to a modem. I presently use it to connect my TI to a Heathkit H14 printer, and it works perfectly. I'm updating my equipment and will sell the RS232 interface (lists for \$224.95) for \$135.

Dr. Roger B. Crampton Home 347-1619 106 Harwood Place Work 347-2623 Enterprise, AL 36330

Users can print in text or graphics mode with the option for varied character sizes such as normal, enlarged and condensed.



The printer offers printing widths of 40, 66, 80 and 132 column widths at a maximum speed of 80 characters per second, bi-directionally.

Features include: normal (480 dots/line) and real [960 dots/line] density modes; 40, enlarged, 66 mixed, 80 normal and 132 condensed characters per line; 11 or 12 inch paper lengths from perforated, continuous length paper; programmable line, spacing; vertical and horizontal tabulation; capability: RS-232 interface adapter with 2K buffer; interface cable; pre-set dip switches; and user's manual.

The printer is 16% inches long, 20% inches wide, 81% inches high and weighs 16

Graph tracks, which offer higher resolution graphics, can be bought separately at stores which carry products from Foson America, Inc.

# PROGRAMMING THE TI-99/4A

The following books cover understanding and programming Home Computers. The books are available or can be ordered through most bookstores.

- Introduction to TI BASIC-by D. Inman, R. Zamora and R. Albrecht, 1980. \$12.95, 384 pages. The 14 chapters and appendices teach you to program and operate the TI Home Computer.
- Practical Basic Programs-Edited by Lon Poole, 1980, \$16.50, 200 pages. Especially useful for Small Business Applications.
- Game Playing with Basic-by Donald Spencer, 1977. \$11.50, 176 pages. Challenge the computer by playing such games as Knight's Magic Tour, Roulette and Baccarat.

### TI WRITER

Ti's word processing package, Ti Writer, is undergoing final testing and is expected to be available to retail outlets in the 4th Quarter [4Q82].

The package requires use of a console, monitor for TV and TV adapter), memory expansion unit, disk memory system, RS-232 interface and any RS-232 compatible printer.

The package consists of a command module, diskette and user's manual. The suggested retail price is \$99.95.

The system allows users to create, edit,: save and print documents in paragraph, chart or table form.

Text editing and formatting features include: inserting and deleting characters, lines and text; automatic paragraph indention; margin justification; word wrapping; overstriking, and underlining; moving and copying text; and document reformatting. Programs can be saved, loaded and printed from diskettes. Material can also be printed from the screen.

Programming Basic with the TI Home Computer-by Herbert D. Peckman, 1979. \$14.50, 306 pages. An intermediate level book for further programming the TI Home Computer. Available by sending check or money order to TI, P.O. Box 3640, MS 84M, Dallas, TX 75285. Include state and local tax for every state except AK, DE, HI, MT, NH and OR.

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