

6 R O U P IISER





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## listen

by Justin Dowling

Martin Smoley, of TI Base fame, apparently drives a laser printer with his 99/4A. I have reprinted his page full size so you can see the text he does with Funnelweb and a 99/4A. Notice he includes his phone number. Instead of calling him, I looked in Computer Shopper. You can pick up your own Canon LBP-8mk III for around \$1,500 bucks!!!

There's also an article inside about GRAM devices and the Super Extended Basic command module sold by TexComp. (My SEB catalogues drives on my spare console so I never need the DM2 cartridge. If I can plug a local producer, notice the Gramulator's maker is in New Hampshire.)

In addition to a P code program and article by Ron Williams for all you P code enthusiasts, we have Deanna Sheriden evaluating the version 1.7 TIPS (We only have v 1.6 in the library so far.)

Speaking of the library, thanks to Donald for V4.30 of Funnelweb. The McGovern's have added a disk review function to FW that vies with the BOOT program by John Johnson those of you with a Horizon Ram Disk use (unless you maybe bought a version of BOOT for physical drives from the Miami User Group). They've also added an 80 column editor and disk review for those of you with an 80 column device (more on that below) column device (more on that below).

New in the library is also SIDEWRITER, V2.1. SW is written by Mauro Tomietto of the Ottawa Users Group. This bit of Fairware turns any Display Variable 80 file sideways. Multiplan print to disk a D/V 80 file; TI Writer [or a clone] will, also.

SIBEWRITER is very flexible. You can manipulate fonts, line spacing, character spacing. margins—— left, right, top and bottom. (With Wayne Stith's CHARA1-FIX (GOTO P 8)

### NTRODUCTION TO THE UCSD P-CODE SYSTEM



by Ron Williams

This month I will cover a little more on setting up your system. Last month I got a chance to help someone set up his system and I learned a few things about the differences between the Myarc and Corcomp disk controllers using the P-system. When I got over this person's house he said that all he gets is very strange looking characters on the screen. After booting up the system and looking at this I never had seen this before, so I looked at the boot-up disks. After a while I noticed that these disks were formatted double sided double density but at 16 sectors per track and his drive controller is a Corcomp controller. The Corcomp controller will not work with these sectors per track as it uses 18 sectors per track for all its double sided double density disks. The Myarc controller on the other hand will work with either number of tracks. To play it really safe if you are not sure which controller a person has use single sided single density this format will work with the TI, Corcomp, and Muarc controllers.

Another thing that I should say concerns the Myarc controller after booting the p-system with a double sided single density disk in drive one or p-system drive #4 you must poll the drives to get the Myarc controller to read and write double sided double density drives in the 18 sectors per track format. You could also boot using a single sided disk in drive #4:. But you cannot boot with a double sided double density disk in drive #4: at 18 sectors per track. And you can boot double sided double density with 16 sector per track disks with the Myarc controller.

Polling the drives is done with a program called check on the disks by Jerry Coffey. If I want double sided double density with 18 sectors per track I run this program. If you want this disk format all the time while working in the p-system with a Myarc controller you put in drive #4 a double sided single density disk just to boot then have the SYSTEM STARTUP program run the polling program, have the program pause for you to switch your original boot disk with a double sided double density disk with the same volume name. The system will be fooled into accepting the double density format.

The other thing I did was to install unit #10: or drive 4 into the system. This was done with a slightly modified program found in the p-system disks by Anders Persson. The program he had on the disks would not run as is. It was missing some called units. I just took out the good code from his program and recompiled it to run without the units. After the program is run to set up drive #10 you must then go to the filer and use the "V" command to verify to the system that you now have drive #10. This will input the volume name of the disk into the system. I have included in this article the source code for the check program to poll the drives below.

P2

```
PROGRAM Check;
WAR BUFFER: PACKED ARRAY[O., 255] OF CHAR:
     UNUM: INTEGER:
                                                 Gramulator
                                                 Price: about 6185 from:
CoDU Electronics
BEGIN
  WRITELN;
                                                  B1 Prescott Rd
  YRITELN (*
               Polling Units...'):
                                                  Roymond, NH 83877
  WRITELN:
  WRITELN (
                  Unit#
                          Sect / Trk Tracks');
  UNUM: =4;
  WHILE UNUM < 12 DO
   BEG! N
    IF UNUM=6 THEN UNUM: =9;
     UNI TRE AD (UNUM, BUFFER, 256);
     WRITE (UNUM: 8);
     IF ORD (BUFFER [O]) = O THEN WRITELN ('
                                                 --- not used ---')
     BEGIN
      WRITE (ORD (BUFFER [12]): 8);
      WRITELN (ORD (BUFFER [17]): 9):
                                                      FAIR
                                                     Apr
    UNUM: =UNUM+1:
                                                      E
    BUFFER[0]: =CHR(0):
   END:
END.
```

# G (\*)

PASIC Expanded and Expounded

## By Borry Ensley

(Reprinted by permission of the Hampton Roads TI 99/4A User Group)

Some brilliant minds figured out-- more or less-- Tl's secretive Graphics Programming Language (GPL), which was the foundation of much of what makes the 4A work. By breaking this language, a new world was made available to us.

A device was designed that allowed the GPL coding in the console and modules to be modified. Of course this was the famous GRAM Kracker developed by Miller Graphics, now known simply as MG. This magical black box lead to the development of what became known as GK Extended Basic.

(Many doors besides the building of GKXB were opened through the use of the GK, but I will stick to that feature alone or this article will become way too long besides being off the topic.)

a disk came with the GK that allowed the addition of several new CALLS such as CALL CLSALL (to close all open files) and CALL CAT (to catalog a disk). This was just the tip of the iceberg however.

MG soon released a disk, GK utility I, which really provided for some super modifications to our ole XB module. With the use of this, not only were a number of new CALLs made available, but commands were modified and added.

(GOTO P 5)

### SING TIPS VI. 7

by Deanna Sheridan

(Reprinted from the newsletter of the NorthCoast99ers in Cleveland, Ohio)

I have been playing with the TIPS V1.7 this week, especially with the card-making mode. The more you work with this program, the more you will start to like it, especially if you have a color kit for your printer.

I talked with Ron Wolcott this week (he will be in Chicago at the Faire), and he stated he is still working on some improvements. One, he is trying to make the MENU more user-friendly, and also would like to develop a way to use his graphics with TI-Writer. He is also working on a way to store your creations for multiple or subsequent printing. In the meantime, remember that you can print them to disk and then print them out with the XBASIC program we gave you a few months ago.

Since I would use TIPS for printing greeting cards, or mailing labels (the mailing label function can also be used to make a nice letterhead), I will guide you through the steps for creating a card.

After loading, the first line is more or less an instruction of what you will be doing. Just press <ENTER> here.

On the next set of options, choose FUNI. You can choose from 1 to 9. When the font loads, it will print the characters available, whether all UPPER, or UPPER and LOWER, and what others are available, such as numbers and symbols.

At the next prompt, IMAGE and you will be asked on which drive it is located. This is a nice addition in that your images no longer have to be in Drive 1. They can be on a RAMDISK and up to disk 9. You will be asked to choose a 2-char prefix for the image file you want to access.

Next choose PROCESS. You will be asked for the image name. It helps to have previously printed your file with the TIPS VIEW feature so that you won't have to guess which image you want. It would be nice, if I understand the program being described, if there were a catalogue feature—but remember the size and price of this program. Let me preface my criticism with "thanks."—ed. I You can always view the images one at a time on the screen until you find the one you like, but I would strongly suggest that you work from a pre-printed page.

This would be a good time to acces the new feature <CTRL #>. We want the option menu, and would hit <CTRL 0>. If necessary, you could select separate drives for your FONTS, VERSE, and INSTANCES. But the feature, you really want at this time is DARKNESS. You can set the printer to overstrike from 1 to 4 times. If you are using a color printer, you can also set your colors at this time. TIPS has a nifty feature called ALTCOLOR. You can choose 'one' (GOTO P6)

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I won't list them all, however I will give a glimpse of what GKXB was becoming. New CALLs included CALL PEEKG and CALL POKEG for peeking and poking around in GRAM, and CALL PEEKV and CALL POKEV for peeking and poking into VDP RAM.

RESequence was modified so portions could be renumbered. TRACE now allowed for the output to be sent to a device such as a printer. New commands COPY, DEL, and MOVE were added that provided for the copying, deletion and moving of blocks of program lines. Anyone who has done any XB programming can see just how useful (necessary?) these are.

Last, but not least by a longshot, was the addidtion of four new editing functions. The cursor could be moved up and down a program's line one row at a time. It also could be sent to the end or beginning of the line with just one key press. (Actually, three keys needed to be pressed simultaneously, but that was no big deal for what was gained.)

A few other new helpful CALLs and features showed up in publications. Then MG discontinued the manufacturing of the GK. I figured that would essentially mean the end of anymore major mods for GKXB. The version of XBasic many other GK owners and I were using provided for such a first rate "upgrade," I couldn't complain, too much.

Of course the major problem was this super Extended Basic was only available for owners of the GRAM Kracker. What a shame, until . . Super Extended Basic, the module.

Yep, all those great features I have discussed, and more, were packaged into a module. Triton Products and MG got together and produced an even more power-packed upgrade of GKXB. With SEB all Tiers had access to what I had been using for a couple of years.

SEB added a number of new CALLs, some of which are very productive for the XB programmer. More cursor controls, like word tabbing, deleting from the cursor to the end or beginning of a line, were included. And they even found room to fit in Quality (( Software's Draw'N Plot. What a module!

I shouldn't forget to mention that a copy of the original version 110 (SEB is version 120) XB manual is included along with a supplement that covers the new features.

This is one module that is a "must." Old XB seems very pale in comparison. And if you have a GK, you can load SEB into it and even modify the coding further, besides taking advantage of all the other features provided by the use of a GK.

An aside, of sorts. Since the GRAM Kracker is no longer produced, it might seem like I have gone on about it too much. Not the case. There are

(Continued from P 5) alternatives: The Gramulator and the P-GRAM card. One or two other GRAM emulating devices have been manufactured, but I don't believe any are still being made.

If you want such a device, and can't obtain a used GK (which would be my first choice), I highly recommend the Gramulator over the P-GRAM card. I won't go into the reasons here, but I have strong feelings for why I would go that route.

If you haven't gotten a SEB module yet, then watch your pennies closely. It really is a must for any serious 99er.

\* \* \* \* \*

(Continued from P4) color here for your printing, or several colors. If you wanted to use all of the colors available with your printer, you would choose 0123456. Thus, each successive printing function will be printed in a different color. You could use just 2 colors by typing 121212 and each printing function would alternately be printed in red and blue. Thus when printing the 3X4 graphics, if you pause between rows, one row would be red and the next blue, the next red, the next blue, etc. This gives your imagination a workout because there are many possible combinations.

To duplicate the card displayed elsewhere, you would then choose MESSAGE any type "GREETINGS" (which prints out immediately).

Since you have already chosen your graphic, choose 3X4. If you want to use more than one graphic, choose PAUSE at this time. The first row will print and you can hit <CTRL

O> again to choose another image, or color if you have a coloroption RETURN and the process will repeat until all four rows have printed.

After printing the 3X4 rows, again choose MSG and type "SEASON'S" which well immediately print.

Next choose, INSIDE. You have a comple of choices here, you can print a verse you have previously saved in TI Writer format, on the left side while the image prints on the right side. This can be the image printed on the front, or a different one, or the 3X4 feature. I prefer to just have a greeting of my own choosing.

Thus, I chose 'MSG'. In order for it not to start at the very top of the page, I just hit the space bar and <ENTER>. I repeated this a

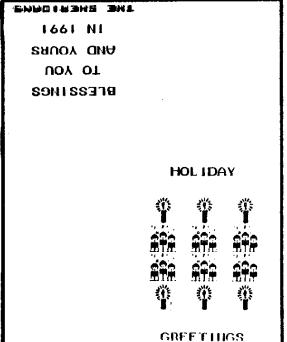


FIGURE ONE



(CONTINUED FROM P1)
program, you can turn ASCII text into whatever you need
and print it out mideways.

SU is about as User Friendly as TPA, but I figured it out.

onguous. (I suspect some of the problem is my own
obtusity. I hate to pay attention to printing details
like the number of characters wide on a page; the number
of columns, rows, margins, page length, text length.) Have
you ever wondered how some Newsletters, like Mid-South, or
Houston, cram two nice columns of text sideways on a page?
You can do that with SU, as well as turning your Multiplan
spreadsheets sideways to avoid the cutting and pasteing
disfigurements to your longer reports.

Speaking of 80 column Funnelweb, it addition to ASGARD's 80 column cord. Dasis Pensive Abacutors is producing TIM, on upgrade to the console's VDP chip from the TMS 9918 to the TMS 9050. TIM will access 192K VDP memory in your console. Not only one these devices for 80 column text; they show larger pictures with a much cleaner and higher resolution than the 4A now has. I have written to OPA and begin to have more information about their products by the January Newsletter. ESD hasn't shipped their hard drive controller yet either, so maybe Next January will also tring product news from them. Our ear is to the ground.

You should see the April 6 fair we published in MICEOpendium. We will send out more news as it becomes firm. We have a firm maybe from Eunice Spooner in Waterville, Maine. Perhaps she can demonstrate for fairgoers what her students do with LOGA this coming April 6.

### \*\*\*\*\*

(CONTINUED FROM P6) second time, and the third time, I typed the first line, etc., on down.

If you want to 'sign' the card, at this point, you can choose (CIRL B) to get a new font for the signature.

You have just created a very nice greeting cord (see Fig Une), especially if you have a color printer!

I on sure there ore many tips and tricks which one can pick up the more they use this program. With a little potience and practice, this can become one of your foverite graphic printing programs!!! PRTICLE ARBE

LISTEN 1
P-CODE TEXT 2
P-CODE PGM 3
SUPER XB 3
TIPS 4

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