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THE FRENCH CONNECTION by Thierry Weber

September, the end of summer, the start of long (quiet) school days. More time to spend on pet projects forgotten since spring. Also, with the soon arrival of fall, will come the time to think about lining up the names of those who will be leading the club for not-so-far-away 1991.

This year, it is particularly crucial that we start early, so that we may achieve the goals that this executive committee has set for itself. It is now time, I believe, that those goals be made public.

Recognizing our shortcomings and analyzing our problems, we were able to recognize some facts that, although not evident in our concerns for the well-being of the club and our dedication to always keep DTIHCG in the forefront of the TI community, do affect the way we feel towards the TI 99/4A.

Let's be honest, it is hard for these officers to keep the same excitement towards our little machine when most of us also own and use a DOS-based machine and use it much more than our TI. Don't get me wrong now, none of us would give up our TI for anything in the world. But still, the fact of the matter is such that we believe that it would be best for the club that new people were to come forward to fill the key positions at the head of our club for the coming year.

Although the situation is not desperate, it is urgent enough that I send this appeal at this time. If you care about the club, please come forward. Show your support and help us keep the future of the club be the brightest of all.

Now, on the lighter side, this month is, of course, the month we welcome Chris Bobbitt from ASGARD for our last quest speaker of the year. If his presentation is only half as interesting as it promises to be, we're in for a real treat...

I want to thank everyone involved in making this possible, and most making this particularly Ron Ferguson and his family who will be sharing their home with him. Ee sure to come early to INFOMART as this promises to be a really good meeting...

See you Saturday.... Remember, come early.

TML FOR BEGINNERS by Jim Lesher

I wish I could take credit for this one. It was leached out of the DEMO disk and modified to make this continous display. The delay time can be changed by changing the 300 in line 90. Notice that the colors change for each flower. You can change the size of the petals by changing 064 in line 30 and the coarseness of the petal by changing the 8 in line 30.

- ! LOAD THE MISSING LINK PROGRAM BEFORE RUNNING THIS.
- ! FLOWR6
- 30 FOR C=0 TO 068 STEP 4
- A=A-1-14*(A<4)
- FOR Z=-1 TO 1 STEP 2 FOR Y=-1 TO 1 STEP 2 CALL LINK("CIRCLE",96+Z*C*.7, 120+Y*C*.7,C,12,7.5-Z*2.5-Y*72,A,1) 60
- 80 NEXT Y :: NEXT Z :: NEXT C
- 90 FOR D=1 TO 300 100 NEXT D
- 110 CALL LINK("CLEAR")
- 120 GOTO 30
- 130 END

LATCHKEY By Jim Stewart

Not one new member joined the DTIHCG last month! This is a trend we can't live with...very long. Please start thinking how YDU can encourage other TI 99/4a owners to visit our meetings to find the kind of rt and help we have support and help you have received. September will be a fine time to bring a friend with you to hear Chris Bobbitt. As publisher of Asgard News he is an informed and articulate spokesman for our favorite computer. computer.

We started a new advertising campaign of sorts last month. We took a table in the Vendor area, and displayed our own billboard, extolling the virtues of our computer with only some minor exaggerations. We'd like to display graphics or any visual work you are proud enough of to bring in, so that real output tells the whole truth.

This is a direct appeal to all REMOTE DTIHCG members. There is quite a bit of discussion going on how best we could provide more help and services to the members who can't attend our regular meetings. Since our dues just barely cover direct printing costs of our newsletter, some feel new remote members add costs but no revenue. But others add costs but no revenue. But others fear the real danger is burn-out of our experienced members.

There are only two facts I am really sure cf: we have people who care and want to help our remote members, but other than one phone call from Ray Russell for help cn the latest TI BASE Version...I haven't received a single request or letter ASKING for any kind of assistance. The DTIHCG has been and is meant to be a helpful rescurse. The DTIHCG has been and is meant to be a helpful rescurce. If you are here, speak up and ask; but if you are remote, write to our PO BCX 29863, Dallas, TX 75229 and let us know what kind of help you need, and whether or not you'd be willing to pay special postage, packaging, and/or costs of disks to obtain such assistance. Let us hear from you..... that is, if you want to hear from the D T I H C G!!!



Transition System

by

David R. Axberg

CHRIS BOBBITT

This program could easily be called the best of our "1990 Guest Speaker" series. Chris Bobbitt is known not only as the owner, manager, and chief executive of Asgard Software; the publisher of Asgard News; and board member of CompuServ and GEnie; but he is also given credit for the sponsoring of such projects as "SPELL IT", and "PAGE PRO".

This young man has been one of the leading-edge thinkers of the TI 99/4A community. he has been constantly striving for new and innovative ways to use our computer, and endeavoring to provide application software that addresses the current user needs and preferred access methods. methods.

In my previous conversations with him, he has been informative, interesting and entertaining. I am locking forward to hearing and seeing this young man in action at our next meeting on Super Saturday at the INFOMART!!!

80-COLUMN CARDS

I have been informed that DIJIT Systems production of the (A)dvanced (V)ideo (P)rocessor (C)ard has come to an end; however, support of the existing AVPCards will continue -- but for how long I don't know. This is unfortunate. I consider the 80-column modification one of the top 3 modifications any 99er user can make to his modifications any 99er user can make to his machine. It is, by far, the most productive in terms of word processing. The 80-column version of Funnelweb 4.31 is as functional as any word processor on the market today. When used in conjunction with the 1 MEG RAMDisk, Funnelweb is as good as you can get using the TI 99/4A. The 80-column version of Telco, version 2.3, is at least in the 3 star category. The ANSI format feature allows for access to many DOS-format BBS's that we would not normally be able to enjoy. The graphics on these boards are truly amazing (The IMAGE Factory, Oyster Stew, and DFWUG). The "F7 HELP" feature that allows you access to the 'pull-down menu" is also nice for those times when you are unable to remember the proper commands. Eighty columns on CompuServ and GEnie also provides for faster reveiws of E-Mail and for entering "Quick Quotes".

I promise you that if you use MULTIPLAN, once you have worked with it in 80 columns... there is no way that anyone can convince you that 40 columns is acceptable. You can see more of your work at one time and you can easily maneuver through the document much faster and more easily.

The least productive but the most entertaining of the 80 column advantages is the GIF display characteristics. Viewing graphics that approach the clarity of 35mm slides on your TI 99/4A is an experience that even your IBM friends will envy. I have downloaded GIF files from CompuServ, GEnie, IMAGE Factory and other BBS's that are truly fascinating are truly fascinating.

I am glad to see that ASGARD is now taking orders for 80-column cards. More and more software is being written to address the 80-column card characteristics. You will not believe what is in store for you when oy u see Funnelweb's "DISKREVIEW" option in 80-column format. It is impressive.

See you on Super Saturday! David Axberg.

The next logical choice may be an RS232 adaptor. If you don't have a PE box, you will have to go with a sidecar- style device. These are also in abundant supply and should be very reasonable to obtain. The RS232 device will allow you to access the world by a modem, or drive a printer to create lists, letters and screen dumps.

I will probably continue my discussion of the unexpanded TI next month. Until then, remember to buy those raffle tickets and support your club with donations of unused equipment! I am presently working on some double disk drive cables and hope to have them available by the next Super Saturday meeting. We still have much hardware available to our members. Don't forget to check out the stock at Next Step for that special little something you need. Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

Using TI. "Butch" Spill

MEMBERSHIP DATES CHANGED

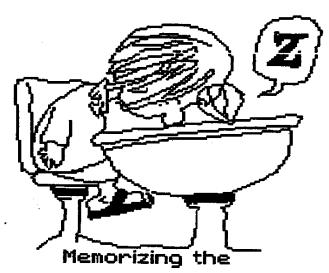
How long has it been since you really looked at the label on your DALLAS 99 INTERFACE? Quick, ncw---without peeking, what information is on the label in addition to your name and mailing address?

There's one line above your printed name, and it contains two pieces of information. At the left, you'll see either "MEMBER" or "GUEST". At the right is "EXP:", followed by a date.

The date is when your membership in DTIHCG will expire. If you lock at your past issues and compare them to August and September, you'll see a difference. In July, your Executive Committee voted to simplify our record-keeping by changing all membership dates to the first day of the month. Each member's date was moved forward to the first of the *NEXT* month, giving each member anywhere from 1 to 30 days of free membership. Please help us by renewing your membership promptly when due!

As usual, the activities of the evening were as varied as our members, fulfilling the promise of the name of this meeting, that of working on any member's "NEXT STEP" in computing. At these gatherings, we almost always have people on hand who can help with almost any problem you may be experiencing—and if not, we can at least point you in the right direction!

If you're not attending NEXT STEP, you're ontinuing to miss one of the best benefits of being a DTIHCG member! Plan to join us September 28 at the Morton Hospital Cafeteria at the Blood Center at Wadley, anytime after 5 PM. Remember, we quit about 8:00 and go to Dunston's for those great hamburgers and Blue Bell Ice Cream and more talk—we'll have a place for you! for you!



command lanuage for TI-Base is just too much for me todau ..

HARDWARE AND HACKING: From the Hardware Chairman

Hello to all the happy folks using the TI/994a. This month's article will focus on subjects. One ${\tt will}$ telecommunications, and the other will be using an unexpanded system. There may be some question why I chose these topics that seem so different from each other, but read on and find out how I will tie them together.

As everyone knows by now, one of the prime uses for your system can be talking to other users via the modem. A direct connection can be made, using a simple extended basic program and RS232 card, but also more conveniently by using a telecommunication package and a BBS. Using just an extended basic program to communicate may be simple. basic program to communicate may be simple, but that is the primary weakness, it is simple! Features such as file transfers, online picture viewing, timers, and auto dialers can wreck havor to your simple extended basic program and make it bulky and complex to handle. So let's just leave these types of programs out of the picture for the moment and talk about using some of the common E/A type programs that are available. available.

The intent of this article is not to rate one telecommunication package another, rather it is to raise the awareness that these programs do exist. I realize that most people within the group have used Fast-Term, Telco and Mass Transfer at one time or another. I will only touch on the broad details and outstanding features of each one.

Let's begin with Fast-Term. Fast-Term is a simple to use full-featured terminal emulator. You will find that after learning all the keypress routines, this program is fast, reliable and takes up a limited amount of disk space. X-modem file transfers are supported, along with the more common logfiles (spooled to disk or printer) and an interrupt driven timer. I learned to communicate to BBS's with Fast-Term and found it to be a satisfactory program that anyone can use. I feel the outstanding feature of Fast-Term to be the actual size of the program and the speed at which file transfers may be made.

The next program I would like to discuss is Mass Transfer. Mass Transfer supports much of the same features as Fast-Term, but has the unique ability to que up multiple downloads and view RLE pictures while online. One of the other nice features involves the ability to program keys to your liking. One of the drawbacks, or rather a real difference about Mass Transfer, is that the logfiles are stored in a DF128 format that must be converted to DV80 to be directly viewed or used through Funnelweb or directly viewed or used through Funnelweb or TI-Writer. The program does come with a stand-alone conversion program that can perform this task.

To wrap up this section of the article I would like to say a few words about Telco. This program is larger and slightly slower to use in terms of loading. It supports different segments of the program structure through overlay techniques that require the appropriate drive to be accessed during the actual use of the program. A boot path configuration setup is provided to ease this access. Telco offers more emulation type choices and also supports not only X-modem transfers but also Y-modem. One of the other nice features of Telco is the help screen that may be invoked at virtually any time. This is the program that I personally use now, with Fast-Term as my second choice. use now, with Fast-Term as my second choice.

I hope that everyone supports the fairware concept of these programs and supports the authors. If there is an interest in any specific program or a desire for greater detail of the programs, please let me know and I'll include it in the upcoming articles.

There are still some members of the TI world that use an unexpanded system. I, for one, used the console, tape recorder and various cartridges for a long time before going to the system I presently have. So I decided to say a few words to this group about stand-alone accessories that are available. One of the first things you may want to pursue is the expanded memory. This presumes that you already have the Extended Basic cartridge and want to access the Editor Assembler style programs that the console and expanded memory can run. The sidecar memory expansion is a cheap and readily available piece of gear that can make your TI seem to sprout wings and fly! There are still some members of the TI world

Our NEXT STEP group this month was a bit smaller than usual, but it was a very busy evening for everyone. Here are a few of the things that were going on at the 5 or 6 systems and 2 printers we had set up and running:

1. Worked on diagnosing and repairing sick modems. 2. Ate cookies, chips, salsa, and cheese curls. (Tom Hall has joined forces with Jim Lesher in the effort to keep us all eating!). eating!).
3. Distributed the "missing" September DOM's and sold some back issues.
4. Purchased blank disks from Earl--black ones, colored ones!
5. Fixed a PE Box disk controller cable.
6. Terry apparently assisted Butch in blowing a ROS.
7. Conied some transliterate files for 7. Copied some transliterate files for members. 8. Gave Rip some new materials for use in future DOM's. 9. Learned how to sector edit ARCHIVER to change DSK*.UTIL1 to DSK*.FW. 10. Enjoyed meeting the Melville family, visitors who plan to join our group next month. Talked about using MULTIPLAN to compute class averages in school.

12. Assisted with a new system setup.

13. Discussed using TI-99/4A-generated graphics as iron-on designs for T-shirts.

14. Learned to run TASS (TI-Artist Slide chow) Show). 15. Bought the latest "STAR TREK" disks.
16. Packed bulk-purchased disks into packs of 10/20 for sale to members.
17. Watched a demo and bought a computer! 18. Fixed a printer cable so a print buffer will work.

19. Discussed ways of using TI-WRITER for high school book reports, etc.
20. Explained benefits of belonging to DTIHCG to visitors. 21. Discussed the PYRAMID POWER phone list.
22. Tom took additional picture for his "Rogue's Gallery" album.
23. Discussed creating additional borders for "JIFFY CARD".