

Bayou 99 Users Group, P.O. Box 921, Lake Charles, La. 70602

BAYOU BYTE

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THE TALKING HEAD

Being the editor and chairman of this user group does have its upside as well as its down side. One of the things I really enjoy is scanning the other user group newsletters. It gives you a good insight into the T.I. community and the direction things are going. Also, once in awhile, you find good bargains for sale. So begins such a tale. I've been trying to set up a second system for my daughter to use for her school work. There were two major items I lacked: an RS232 card and an economical printer. I still need the RS232 (Contact me if you have one you'd be willing to part with & state your minimum price.)

Now about the printer: I was looking through the "WEST PENN 99'ERS" May issue and noticed article on page 6. It read "TERRIFIC PRICE ON PRINTERS" and explained how a local store in Greensburg, PA had Smith-Corona FASTEXT 80 printers for \$79.90! I tried calling John Willforth (their newsletter editor) to have him see if he would get me one. He must have been at work as I didn't get an answer on the his phone number listed. Well, not one to let a bargain slip by, I called directory assistance and asked for the phone number of the store. She said there were two listings, a mall store and a downtown store. I took the mall number. You guessed it! It was the other store! The mall store operator gave me the other number. When they answered, I requested talking to someone in computer sales. I asked the salesman if they still had any Fastext 80 printers in stock and were still just \$79.90. He said yes & my heart skipped a beat! Now to really blow him away, I asked would they hold one for me and ship it to me if I sent a check to cover the total cost. He said they could hold one for me but wanted to know where they would need to ship it. "Lake Charles, LA ", I said casually. "WHERE?" he said. So I explained the situation to him and he said he would have to check with the store manager if I'd hold. So I held. They said "Yes" and I now have a brand new printer for my daughter's system!

Two of our members have this same printer and have had some problems (not the printer's fault!) because the standard PIO cable does not work with this printer and the TI 99/4A. That's an easy problem to over come-- just build a custom cable. The other problem is getting all the print codes right to make the

printer work to its fullest ability. McWARE to the rescue! Robert M. McKechnie (P.O.Box 2764; Fairfax, VA 22031) has written some programs to set up the printer commands for the Fastext 80 and even has a tutorial to help learn how to set up your own programs. We haven't ordered anything yet, but when we do, I'll review it in the newsletter.

See you at the meeting!

THE LIBRARY SOAPBOX
by Pete Still

I'm the evenest tempered person in the world, mad all the time, but I really feel I've got a reason to be upset this time. John, Richard, and I work hard and give up much of our lesiure time so that we can prepare interesting meeting programs, newsletter articles, and monthly disks from the library for your convienence, education, and enjoyment. I am sure that none of us feels sorry for himself as we all volunteered to do these jobs, but while I can't speak for the others, it makes me damn mad to see all of our efforts TOTALLY IGNORED by the membership of the Bayou 99 Users Group. You out-of-town members seem content to read your newsletter each month and ignore the fact that you COULD be a tremendous asset to the group if you would only offer a few suggestions or comments to guide the officers in setting group policy. (For those that this doesn't apply and you know who you are, please ignore, THE REST read on.)

I don't want the out-of-towners to feel that all of the problem centers on them because it doesn't. Every meeting I see a majority of the members who attend looking bored or wandering off into the corners to talk with their buddies about things that have no relationship to what is going on in the meeting. WE ARE A COMPUTER USERS GROUP, NOT A COFFEE KLATCH! If you are really that bored with what the officers are presenting at the meetings, why don't you open your mouth and give us a few hints or suggestions about what you feel we should be presenting at the meetings. IF WE ARE BORING YOU, THEN IT IS YOUR OWN FAULT FOR NOT SPEAKING UP AND TELLING US ABOUT IT! (For those shy of heart, you can mail your comments to our address: P.O.Box 921; Lake Charles, LA 70602.)

In case all of you are wondering what brought on this tirade, I'll tell you. At the last meeting I presented Funlweb 3.4.4 as the fairware of the month. I went to considerable trouble to obtain this version so that all of our users, whether single or double sided/density, would be able to run it. (Thanks to Rob Halvorson, one of our members in Del Rio, Texas, for getting it to me in time for the meeting.) This program allows you to access Editor/Assembler, TI-Writer, and many other options WITHOUT removing your extended basic and changing cartridges. I had versions available for anything from SSSD to DSDD. THE RESPONSE TO THIS FANTASTIC PIECE OF SOFTWARE WAS UNBELIEVABLE. NOBODY WANTED IT. The same was also true of the May Disk of the Month. If no one wants the type of software I am putting on these disks, I wish you would tell me what you do want. I am not a

mind-reader. If the responses to the Disk of the Month and Fairware of the Month don't indicate some group interest and support, I am going to discontinue the series.

Enough screaming, as I think I've made my point.

I'll do a review of Funlweb 3.4.4 in next month's column.

FAIRWARE OF THE MONTH NOTES:

This month's fairware offering is **Creative Filing System**, a user written database program which has gotten rave reviews from user groups across the country. Demonstration will be done at the meeting as usual.

THINK ABOUT WHAT I'VE SAID IN THIS COLUMN. IF EACH MEMBER DOESN'T SUPPORT THE GROUP, THEN THERE WILL COME A DAY WHEN THERE IS NO MORE GROUP, NO MORE NEWSLETTER, NO MORE LIBRARY, ETC. WE ARE THE **ONLY** TI USER GROUP IN LOUISIANA. IF OUR GROUP DIES, THEN THERE IS NOBODY ELSE TO TAKE IT'S PLACE.

THINK ABOUT IT!

JUNE DISK OF THE MONTH NOTES:

Following is a listing of this month's Disk of the Month (# 8) and a brief description of each program. These disks are available for \$4.00 each and may be obtained at the meetings or by sending a request to:

BAYOU 99 USERS GROUP
ATTN:LIBRARIAN
P.O. BOX 921
LAKE CHARLES, LA. 70602

99ERDOM/8 Free:007 Used:353

FILENAME	SIZE	TYPE	P	COMMENTS
01 ARROWZAP	43	PROGRAM	N	Electronic Pinball Game.
02 BARTENDER	45	PROGRAM	N	Program for drink recipes.
03 CAT/CAPERS	25	PROGRAM	N	Math problems on stationary and falling targets.
04 JSTICKTEST	30	PROGRAM	N	Test program for your joysticks.
05 MAINSCREEN	17	PROGRAM	N	Music Program. Plays Mainscreen Symposia.
06 PG/COMPACT	7	PROGRAM	N	Use to compact basic and x-basic programs.
07 PROJ/PROB	46	PROGRAM	N	Math problems dealing with projectiles.
08 RECIPES	6	PROGRAM	N	Add recipes in data statements at end of prog.
09 SPACEBATTL	14	PROGRAM	N	Space War Game. (2 players-requires joysticks)
10 TAPE/FILES	20	PROGRAM	N	Cassette data base program. (req. 2 cassettes)
11 TEXTHELLO	30	PROGRAM	N	Computerized version of Othello game.
12 TIME-DATA	12	INT/VAR	N	Data file for "Time in a Bottle".
13 TIME-IN-AB	28	PROGRAM	N	Plays the song "Time in a Bottle".

Happy Computing.

PROGRAMMING A PRINTER

EXCERPTED FROM VICTORIA 99'ERS DEC 1986, WHO EXCERPTED FROM CALL SOUNDS the newsletter of the Central Westchester 99'ers Mar 1986. Originally written by Art Byers as "PROGRAMMING A DOT MATRIX PRINTER". (These EXCERPTS written up by LESLIE M. LOWERY for the BAYOU 99'ERS have only the essentials included and none of the humour in the interests of saving space.

Due to limitations in most printer control manuals, the following is being printed to assist us in controlling our printers from BASIC or X BASIC programs.

(1) The TI99/4A handles the printer as an outfile. Therefore it is opened as a file. Example:

```
100 OPEN #6:"RS232" or
100 OPEN #6:"PIO"
```

The computer looks for the printer connection. If not found, an error message will follow and the program crashes unless you have built in an XB error trap. If all is properly connected, and the computer has found the called for Device (in this case, a printer) you are ready to proceed.

(2) Let's assume we want the printer to print a line reading like this:

```
"Ajax Gen Perpetual Motion Co."
```

The line to program it would read:

```
110 PRINT #6:"Ajax Gen Perpetual Motion Co."
```

Simple Enough??

NO! Because at the time of this writing, printer manufacturer's have not gotten together and settled on a uniform standard. Printer commands vary from machine to machine. Following this you will find a comparative chart of printer commands which may prove useful, in case you have one of those inadequately documented printer manuals, or, worse yet no manual at all!

The commands listed for the rest of this article are for the original author's TI-99/4 Impact Printer. To print that line in Enlarged type the program line would read:

```
110 PRINT #6:CHR$(14);"Ajax Gen Perpetual etc."
```

For Condensed:

```
PRINT #6:CHR(15);"Ajax etc."
```

Now those are simple commands. Many printer commands require multiple commands. For example, to program the printer to: Skip the perforation on pin feed paper, oh say four lines at the bottom and four at the top of the next page, (4 plus 4 =8), the line would read:

```
100 OPEN #6:"PIO"
```

```
110 PRINT #6:CHR$(27);CHR$(76);CHR$(8); "Ajax etc"
```

(3) Now let's try to answer two questions typical of those most often asked when the topic of programming printers comes up:

(a) How do you list a program to a printer in 28 columns to match the screen listing: First go into immediate mode and key in and enter these lines:

```
OPEN #6:"PIO"  
PRINT #6:CHR$(27);CHR$(81);CHR$(28)  
LIST "PIO"
```

This works because the printer "remembers" most commands until they are cancelled or the printer is turned off. If you wanted a 40 col listing, the last number should be 40 instead of 28.

(b) How can one emphasize or double strike in the middle of a line, printing for example a line reading:

Attention: James Joyce Computer Supply Buyer

While this answer may not be true for other brands of printers, on the TI-99/4 impact printer it must be done like this:

```
100 OPEN #6:"PIO.CR.LF"
```

This cancels automatic carriage return and line feed.

Because the printer will no longer return the carriage at the end of each line or roll up fresh paper, we must program it to do so. CHR\$(13) is the carriage return code, CHR\$(10) the line feed. 27:69 is for emphasized print and 27:70 cancels emphasized print. Example as follows is:

```
105 PRINT #6:"Ajax and Gen Perpetual Motion  
Co.";CHR$(10);CHR$(13)  
110 PRINT #6:"Attention:"  
112 PRINT #6:CHR$(13);TAB(12);CHR$(27);CHR$(69); "James  
Joyce";  
114 PRINT #6:CHR$(27);CHR$(70); "Computer Supply Buyer"
```

Why does one have to cancel the carriage return? The manual that came with the author's printer says:

"To combine two types of character designations on one line you need to disable the automatic addition of a carriage return at the end of each line by adding .CR to the OPEN statement. Then use the TAB command to move the printhead to the proper position for the second type of character designation."

It is not necessary to remember all this, one just has to know where to find the information. (Usually included with the printer documentation).

The following chart includes several Dot Matrix and Daisy Wheel printers as well as the bargain printer floating around that was formerly made by Canon for IBM called the Big Blue (Thermal, Dot Matrix). Also included is the Smith Corona Messenger 300/Deville III Messenger Type writer/printer.

COMPARISON LIST OF PRINTER COMMANDS

To save space, CHR\$();CHR\$();CHR\$() will be abbreviated. for example: 27;81;n where n equals the variable value one must insert. Where an Alphabet letter is enclosed in quotes, omit the 'CHR\$()' for example: 27;"E" equals CHR\$(27);"E".

"NOTICE"

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 OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00 PM IN THE
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 801 E. SCHOOL ST. (JUST WEST OF
 LOUISIANA AVE. BEHIND HENRY
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 ***** 1987 *****
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