

DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP
 PO BOX 29863
 DALLAS, TEXAS 75229

+ +

+ +

FIRST CLASS

+ +
 1
 - - -
 1
 + +



Volume 8, Number 11

November 12, 1988

This newsletter is the official publication of the DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP, a non-profit organization serving member/users of the Texas Instruments 99/4A HOME COMPUTER. For more information you are invited to attend our next meeting or send a BASE to:

DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP
 P O. Box 29863
 Dallas, Texas 75229

NEXT MEETING:
 Saturday, November 19, 1988
 The Dallas INFOMART

99er Connection BBS
 24 Hours, 300/1200 baud
 214-233-1750

*** Note *** BBS Phone Number CHANGE ***

----- November Highlights -----

Meeting Day:
 Hardware SIG: Mailorder Buying
 Main Meeting: RAMDisk Comparison
 Special SIG: Garage Sale/Swapmeet

Inside the DALLAS 99 INTERFACE:
 Coming Events
 The Fat Cat's Tale
 Heard on the Bus
 Member Profile
 Library Swap/Dinner Report
 99/4A - Geneva Considerations
 Program Chairman's Report
 Garage Sale/Swapmeet Preview
 TIB-DITS - TI-Base Feature
 MiniSig Report
 Next-Step Workshop Report
 Uncle Mikey's Furneyweb Farmz
 99 Interface Mailbox
 CEOTICS
 Officers and Chairpersons
 Unclassified Ads

Next-Step Workshop,
 December 2, 1988
 TI-Base Minisig,
 December 4, 1988

*** SPECIAL NOTICE ***
 The 99er Connection BBS has moved
 to a new home. The new number is

(2 1 4) 2 3 3 - 1 7 5 0

Schedule of Coming Events

Event	Date	Time
SUPER SATURDAY meetings at INFOMART	11/19/88	
MAIL ORDER BUYING - Louis Guion		9:00 am
Main Meeting - RAMDisk Comparisons - John Creviston		10:00 am
Annual DTIHCG Garage Sale and Swapmeet - Richard Roberts		12:00 Noon
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	11/24/88	
Executive Committee Meeting, at Dowlings'	11/26/88	
DTIHCG Officers		1:00 pm
Committee Chairmen		2:30 pm
Newsletter Deadline	11/30/88	6:00 pm
NEXT-STEP Workshop	# 12/ 2/88	5:15 pm
Held at Wyatt's Cafeteria, Josey and Beltline in Carrollton.		
MiniSiG Classroom	+# 12/ 4/88	2:00 pm
Workshop covering TI-BASE at the Dowling's home in Arlington. Jon Hodges and Jim Stewart as gurus.		
SUPER SATURDAY meeting at INFOMART	12/17/88	

NOTES:

\$ = Attendance Fee
 # = DTIHCG Membership Required
 + = Reservations Required

FATCAT'S TALE by RIP DOWLING

The biggest bash of the year for DTIHCG has come and gone. The attendees have struggled home loaded down with armfuls of new software and filled to the gills with some of the finest chili this side of Terrlingua. Many, many thanks to you folks who worked so hard to make this event a super success and special thanks to Charlice Althar for this and another whole year of dedicated hard work to keep our library up to snuff.

Coming up this Saturday at INFOMART is another very special event. In addition to the fire programs which are scheduled we will be having our annual swapmeet. All members are invited to bring anything of a computer related nature to sell or swap. There is no cost to anyone involved for tables or such. Everyone, member or no, is invited to come and bring money to spend on all the goodies which will be for sale.

As if all that weren't enough to get your blood a'bubblin', we'll also be having the drawing for the right to buy two more of the systems belonging to the club. This month we will again be giving a slight edge on one of the systems to any member who does not own an expanded system. Their names will go in the pot for a special drawing among themselves. All the names entered will be in on the chance for the second drawing. Of course anyone who has been a winner in any of the system drawings will not participate. As a reminder the systems will be sold to the winners for \$250.00. The systems will be on hand to be carted off or the winners may put them on a three month layaway.

O.K. What else is preying on the shadows of my mind, not that my mind throws much shadow. A long delayed response to a thoughtful and sincere message to me on the 99er Connection concerning the possibility that we are losing some of our newer members because they feel left out. They, the new members, may be not staying in the group because they feel they would like to participate and serve more but were afraid they wouldn't know enough or would do something wrong. Some were dropping out because they felt there was an inner circle or clique of knowledge-able people and little or no real effort was made to help those with lesser ability. Some folks may be leaving the fold because they have transportation problems and/or because they don't have the time for Sunday and Friday meetings, Mini-sigs, and Nextsteps in addition to the INFOMART meetings. There was also a concern that there are folks who have seen programs or demos of products and who have bought them, and who then have had trouble with them and do not know who to turn to for help.

I took this problem to the inner circle and with one or two notable exceptions we agreed that we exist. Unlike the gods on Mt. Olympus, however, we are most anxious to increase our ranks. We would love for everyone to be part of the clique. With this goal in mind the club will be distributing a list of all the jobs which need to be done, all the ways in which someone could help, all the areas of expertise which can be tapped, all the areas where one could volunteer to help another either individually or in groups, and a space for anyone to suggest needed help or to volunteer aid in some area not suggested.

If each member will complete the sheet by noting any areas where they might be of assistance then the group can compile that information and make it available for use by individuals or the group when someone can help in a needed area. We are trying to create a data base of talent and means to be of use to any member who needs help in any area and information for the club on ways in which the members will feel comfortable in helping the group.

There will also be an area in which each member could express his wishes on the time and date and place of any Nextstep or Mini-sig meeting and a poll on the popularity of changing the 1:00 o'clock INFOMART meetings to more of a hands-on, one-on-one aid type of environment.

Please study and complete the form. Let us know how you can help and what help you need. I like the notion of having an insider clique composed of 100% of the membership, each one giving and taking something of value from each other.

HEARD ON THE BUS: Louis Guion

We sure are doing something right as the DTIHCG continues to grow in numbers while some other 99/4 groups are in decline. Our membership now stands at 125, and this does NOT include the people on "family" memberships. If we were to get a handle on these folks, we'd probably top 150 souls! One of the nicest things is that around half of you, usually somewhere in the low sixties, turn out for the INFOMART meetings. Then there are others that make the Next-Step or MiniSig meetings scheduled later in the month.

I believe that the thing which separates DTIHCG from the declining groups is that we have the finest group of volunteers in the 4/A-world. Just take a look at the listing of committee chairmen and other officers in the back of this issue. Then there are others that do plenty of work, but are not listed. What it adds up to is a vibrant group with a great place to meet and minimal financial worries. We have a newsletter that has been mailed the week before the meeting (or earlier) without fail for at least four years that I know of. We have an excellent BBS [(214)233-1750 is the new number] and a full schedule of activities and programs for 'most any taste. There is a new, slightly reconstituted group of volunteers that have been recruited by the nominating committee for next year.

DTIHCG has three different hour-long programs on different topics each month at the INFOMART meeting. We have a self-help repair and diagnostic session each month. We have smaller meetings on special topics, like the one I attended on November 1st, covering the GrandRAM. In short, we try to have something for everyone and we don't sit back and always let someone else do it. We are involved, and a result we are a growing club. I love it and I love all of you for being a part of it! Thank you... Thank DTIHCG...

As those of you attending the Library Pillage and Chili Cookoff last week discovered, DTIHCG has a social side as well as a technical side. This social side is also in evidence at the Next-Step meeting, of course, but a big gathering like the Disk 'N Dinner deal at TDI really is a success more for the social aspects than for the more material aspects.

I know such pleas usually fall on deaf ears, but I want to urge those of you that seem to always flit around in the background to come on in and join the crowd. There is definitely 127% more fun to be had by participating than there is to be had by staying home and fighting your problems by yourself. In fact, come on out and sit in the first rows at the meetings. Have you ever noticed how much fun Jim Stewart has at the meetings? Notice that he sits in the first or second row and that he asks questions when he doesn't understand. You'll ought to be jealous of his getting more than he paid for while you stick-in-the-mud types don't get full value.

Grapevine has it that, at last, there is a new, full featured, word processor coming out for our machines. It is called "Press", and is

initially being distributed by Asgard Software. One of the features I like is that it'll let you set up a page in newspaper-style columns! How about that? It doesn't have a "formatter" like *TI-Writer* does, and all the stuff you see on the screen is what you'll get on your printed copy. That is called WHAT-YOU-SEE is WHAT-YOU-GET, or WYSIWYG. "Press" also has the ability to generate very long text files. The length of the file will be limited only by the amount of disk space you have available.

"Press" has a 100,000 word spell checker integrated into the program, and will accept your present *TI-Writer* files. It'd appear we have a real challenger here for the venerable *TI-Writer*. Maybe someone will volunteer to learn and demo a copy for the group at an INFOMART meeting next year.

If you think that our programs are not getting very sophisticated, just look at the latest trend. You have all seen articles about how to USE *TI-Writer*. How to USE *Multiplan*. How to USE *Fast Term*. Well, the McGovern's have finally gotten such a complicated program written that we are now seeing articles on how to CONFIGURE *Funnelweb*. Speaking of articles, the reviews on *TI-Base* are all coming up roses. Universally good. And we were in the forefront of demonstrating and ordering the program.

As one of the early subscribers to THE SOURCE, I was chagrined to see that their TI user base has dropped to only 453 members, while GENIE has over 2000, and COMPUSERVE leads the pack with more than 7000. Yes, this does include other TI computers as well as the 4/A, but the figures still tell a story. THE SOURCE used to be the leader, but their excessive monthly minimum charge has apparently dropped them from the front to the back of the pack.

All sorts of changes in the local BBS scene this month. First, of course, the DTIHCG's 99'er Connection changed a few things. The correct digits for the 99'er Connection are now (214)233-1750. John Guion is the new SysOp. FLUG's BBS changed over from TIBBS software to Texlink, changed their number to Metro (214)263-7648, and got a new SysOp, Marty McCain. A new BBS appeared on the scene, called the Orphan 99. It can be found at Metro (817)261-7466. DTIHCG member Jim Louis is the proud SysOp. I'm sorry I can't get a number, but DTIHCG'er Lawrence Casadevall is also running a singles-only BBS on his 4/A. Get up at the meeting and plug your service, Larry!

That does it for this month. I've gotta flag down a bus, and get out of here!

MEMBER PROFILE - TOM HALL

Tom Hall has been a faithful member of the Dallas TI Home Computer Group since 1985. He has served the group in the capacity of MiniSig Chairman and NEXT-STEP Chairman for the past two years, in 1987 and 1988. Tom was also "Member-at-Large" on the club's Executive Committee for 1988. He served on the Nominating Committee in 1987, and was the Nominating Committee Chairman in 1988.

Born in Ballinger, Texas (in Runnels County), Tom has lived in Euless for the past 12 years. He is employed by General Dynamics as a Logistics Specialist in the Logistics Department. Tom describes his job in this way: "In reality, I am a Systems Engineer. In addition to Systems work, I oversee Department Training, deployment of work stations (including PC's) and Department Indirect Budgeting."

Although Tom doesn't use his TI-99/4A at work (he uses a XEROX PC Clone), he does work with his 4A at home and uses the results at the

workplace. He creates schedules and uses CERTIFICATE MAKER and CALENDAR MAKER for work-related projects. Tom also has outlines set up in TI-Writer format to perform translations, and he uses his 99/4A to create mailing labels.

Tom has had his TI-99/4A since 1982, although he has been programming (COBOL) since the '50s. He also says that, with the reference manual in his hands, he can program in BASIC.

About the DTIHCG, Tom says he enjoys most the club's openness and the enthusiasm shared by its members.

Tom has a CDP (Certificate in Data Processing) and says that "My computer is my hobby". Tom is also a member of the NET99ers computer group.

LIBRARY SWAPMEET / CHILI COOKOFF REPORT

by Louis Guion

The absolutely biggest event of the DTIHCG year has come and gone. I'm referring to the huge crowd that enjoyed and participated in the fantastic pair of events at TIIndustries on Sunday, November 6th. Here is a brief report, prepared with special dispensation from Editor Greg Justice since the activity was a little past his closing deadline for the newsletter.

The Library "Swapmeet":

I use quotation marks around the swapmeet label because the last thing we do is swap disks. Well, we swap copies from the club's fairware library onto club member's diskettes, but that isn't a swap by most standards. Maybe someone will yet invent a name for the activity which really allows any club member to copy an almost unlimited number of library diskettes for his own home library. Any suggestions?

Long suffering, hard working, Charlice Althar, our Software Diskette Library Chairman, had eleven systems set up with a system held in reserve for contingencies which did not materialize. A separate system was set up for copies from the newly arrived (and enthusiastically received) Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, User Group diskette library. Charlice had divided our main library into different classifications and Tom Hall had pre-printed special signs identifying each system and the material to be copied from that machine. Volunteers manning each machine accepted blank diskettes stuffed with a special cherry colored 3X5" card identifying the particular diskette to be copied for the particular person identifying him/herself on the card. I know that at least one member, who's face would also be cherry colored if I identified him, made 70 copies for himself. There were rumors that others did, too, but they are unconfirmed at press time!

Charlice didn't have an exact count put together yet, but the number of remaining "ration cards" indicate that 1055 copies were made for the assembled "swappers." We began at 1:00 p.m. and copied straight through until 5:00 p.m. This year Charlice's cherry-colored-card rationing system made for a much more equitable distribution of the copies, and it prevented the last minute copying frenzy experienced last year when late arrivals overwhelmed the copiers at the close of the affair.

Since an informal head count showed about 75 club members and relatives showed up during the course of the afternoon, we don't have any averages for copies, but you can get a good idea of our success for yourself, I bet!

Now, there could be several problems that commonly plague swappers. Here is what to do if you have a problem. If your disk is blank or if it is damaged in some way, just furnish Charlice a new blank diskette and she'll make you a new copy. If a particular program won't run and you suspect that you don't know how to run it, then the NEXT-STEP is the place to get assistance. The first thing you should do, of course, is check the "notes" in the library catalog to see if there is some help there. Next, make sure you are trying to run from the proper language. The disk name contains the clue, such as an "X" in the 6th position when Extended BASIC is required. An "A" for Assembly language, a "B" for BASIC. You get the idea. These things are all outlined at the first of the catalog. In the case there is a real problem, then Charlice'd like to hear about it so she can correct it for all those to follow in the future. In any case, please remain calm and unruffled in the case of such a "crisis." After all, we're a volunteer organization trying to make use of the 4/A more enjoyable. We are not selling professional programs for high prices here!

One more thing, please. The fairware you obtained requires a payment if you use it. Please check to see if there is a fairware notice in the documentation or on the screen when you run your new programs. Fairware is a concept that allows the computer community to have access to programs on a trial basis without making high payments for programs they may not like or may not use. Honor requires that you pay when the author requests payment. Common sense says you must support your software authors if you hope to continue to receive continuing new releases of fairware. If you have any question at all about whether you need to make payment, ask Charlice at the next meeting. She'll put you on the right track.

Charlice wants to thank all of the people that made signs, made phone calls, brought systems, printed library catalogs, handed out "ration cards", sold diskettes, set up the room, and, most of all, those that gave of their time to actually run the systems so that the whole club could benefit. Yeah, you're right, neither of us could remember ALL of the names. Thank you, from all of us that benefitted so much.

The Chili Cook Off:

Two disasters struck our second double-header event. The chief architect, President Rip Dowling came down with an abscessed tooth and Hostess-In-Charge, Joyce Justice, had to go to bed sick with a virus illness. Never fear, Chili Cook Off Chairman, Jackie Guion, decided to push on. The alternative, a lynch mob, was not to reckoned with! Jackie and Rip had about fifteen chili cooks supplying the Texas Red for the meal, which also came with everything from chips to chiles but didn't include my potato chili, which Tom Hall had wanted to taste! During the long afternoon of copying I had made several plates of nachos which were dispensed to the people doing the copying so they'd have the energy to answer the 5:30 dinner bell.

When the bell rang, 53 of the "swappers" managed to put away their new diskettes and sit down to dinner. Those who's reservations had been secured with a \$5 cash deposit (checks were also involved) got their deposits returned in the form of 50-cent coins. I'd tried to obtain silver dollars for the refunds, but the bank told me they'd have to order \$500 worth, so I let that idea slide. I'd hoped for a little gambling action after the meal. You know, flipping 50-cent coins in the corner. Well, just like I suspected, the kids and wives had gotten to them first. No coins - no flipping! And we ALL know that NO ONE spends 50-cent coins! We just save them. This time y'all will REALLY get to keep your deposits for use next year!

Anyway, each pot of chili had been numbered and we made a survey to determine the best and the hottest chili. It was a real race between #2 and #6 for the hottest. The winner, by one vote, was Jim Stewart's #6. Although he was a little red-faced, Jim accepted the applause. Red-faced? Yes, that was the chili he had eaten; #6 itself.

When it came to the best, things weren't so clear. A lot of votes, scattered over the whole range of possibilities, were cast here. The winner was finally determined to be Dr. Robert Smith's entry. Robert had put a lot into his pot by stirring and tending it all afternoon so that it arrived, ready to serve, at the peak of perfection. Congratulations to Robert and to Jim!

Just as an army had made the kitchen a mess through the long afternoon, a veritable army scrubbed it down after we were through. I saw Julie Pearson elbow-deep in the sink for the better part of a half-hour! Cleaning up after chili makes her a real heroine. Jimmie Kennedy, Diane Roe, and Sharon Reddick were invaluable helpers. Robert Smith, and his son, tending their boiling cauldrons all afternoon, were cornea into several tasks. Why, I even swept the floor after the kitchen cleaners had polished the counters. Greg Justice and John Creviston removed the bagged trash. EVERYONE pitched in to set all the dozens of tables and chairs back in place. We have never before had so many people to volunteer help; it really made things easier for everyone.

Thanks to TDIndustries and to the Justice family for the perfect facility for this event. I wish I could name each and every one that made this event a success, but that'd require naming everyone in attendance. Why? Because without you as volunteers, without you as copiers, without you as helpers, without you as members, we couldn't put these events on. Thank you ALL.

I'm sure sorry those of you that didn't make it weren't able to join us. Free access to the club's diskette library, free food, and good fellowship. What is it going to take to get the rest of y'all to join us next time?

99/4A - GENEVE CONSIDERATIONS

by Richard Roberts

My recent comments on the 99'er Connection BBS about the alleged "anti-9640 bias" have probably been misunderstood by most readers, due in large part to the unusually restricted ability to express such feelings within the narrow confines of a BBS message. Also, typing "live" messages doesn't allow time for one to develop their thoughts in a timely manner, so that what goes down in print is the intended meaning. This message, uploaded to the BBS for interested parties to download, is intended to set the record straight, and at the same time, provide "food for thought" about the future of our user group.

Right up front, let me state that I have some "anti-something" biases, just like most everyone does. Most prominently, I am anti-Corcomp, period. I am also anti-DataBioTics, but then, who isn't? I have my own reasons for being anti-Corcomp, some of which others may or may not agree with, but they are my own feelings. I have a great tolerance for the feelings that different people express, even when they don't agree with mine. I understand that some people are anti-Myarc, or anti-9640, and that is fine, no matter how ridiculous they may seem to me. I understand that some people are upset with Myarc because of broken promises, or because the machine doesn't do the things, or come with the software, that was advertised. I even share these same feelings, perhaps more deeply than those who haven't purchased a 9640.

In a BBS reply, a loyal 99/4A user seemed to be saying that the 9640 shouldn't be looked upon in any other way except as "another computer". To him, it falls into the same "outsider" category as an Apple or a Commodore. While I understand and respect this specific opinion of his, it cuts to the very core of what I see as a problem that our user group faces. The comparison to the problem faced by such groups as the Apple II - Macintosh factions, or the Atari 8-bit - Atari ST factions was a very intuitive comment, but it's one that's too "cut and dried" to apply to the 99/4A - Geneve factions.

If that's the way our user group chooses to view the 99/4A - Geneve consideration, then we will be succumbing to what I would refer to as the "David and Goliath" syndrome. If we, as a group, decide that any encroachment on the domain of the 99/4A is one to be dealt with by "violence" (read total rejection), then we may end up slaying the "white knight" instead of the "evil Goliath". Myarc may not be the white knight, but likewise, they are not the horrible monster that deserves to be cast into oblivion.

The similarities between the 99/4A and the Geneve are closer than any 99/4A owner realizes, and no amount of investigation by a 99/4A owner could ever prove otherwise. The Macintosh and Atari ST comparisons just don't apply to the Geneve, because despite the Geneve's different operating system, it still mimics the 99/4A operating system, while the Macintosh and the Atari ST are totally incompatible with their older counterparts. Since purchasing my Geneve, I still use TI-WRITER and MULTIPLAN. I still play Munchman and Parsec. I use Archiver 3.02, just like any 99/4A owner does. I know that this fact is obvious to any 9640 detractor, but it's a fact that is ignored, if one claims that the Geneve is somehow creating an unhealthy division within the 99'er community.

While I admit that many brilliant 99/4A programmers have purchased 9640 machines, I don't see this as a problem for the 99/4A world. Rather than causing an erosion of support for the 99/4A, these programmers will end up providing software for the 99/4A that will be more sophisticated than we would ever have seen, otherwise. Just like the space race has caused a technological trickle-down effect that has benefitted our lives in ways far removed from outer space, so the migration to the Geneve operating system will generate many software programs that will run on BOTH machines. It would be folly for any 9640 programmer to do otherwise. One outstanding example already exists, albeit a hardware item, and that's the fact that the 99/4A can now use and benefit from hard drives made for the IBM - MS-DOS world. Were it not for the Geneve, this advancement would likely have never been possible.

Is the Geneve a "techie" machine? Obviously, some people think so. I don't use it as a techie machine, but I am just one example. I use it for it's 80 column screen, something that many 99/4A owners would kill for! I use it for its larger buffer for word processing and spreadsheet applications. And that's all. Nothing more and nothing less. If these were not my needs, I would have never considered buying the machine. And, most importantly, these needs have been provided by the Geneve since the day I received it. The only enhancement that all of the many upgrades to MDOS and GPL have provided me, besides being less buggy, is the hard drive I now use. I have never once modified a program to work on the Geneve, either by re-assembling the source code or modifying the machine code with a sector editor. I don't use John Johnson's wonderful MENU program for the Geneve, because it DOES require some sector editing, something I am capable of doing, but don't wish to. Even if the Geneve is thought of as a techie machine, that's not all bad. Frankly, we 99/4A owners are the greatest techies in the world -- no other computer around has been more of a techie machine than the 99/4A, and we're generally very proud of that heritage.

<<< continued on page 17 >>>

FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIRMAN Jim Stewart

November 19th, Louis Guion will share with us his accumulated wisdom about buying from Mail Order Catalog Suppliers, and I suspect will motivate just a few of us to buy some extra bargains at our Computer Swap Meet! It will be great fun, won't it?

John Creviston will bring us a new understanding of the many RAM Disk features now available to the 99/4A community. Thank you Louis and John, for excellent jobs as always.

We can also look forward to our December 17th meeting. There are many new products and activities going on that might effect our program, but we have invited Robert Jones to teach us about DSR's (Device Service Routines) and to discuss methods useful in repairing blown disks. He just might have some remarks about the GrandRAM software now available. Jon Hodges has promised to review the TI CARE PACKAGE sent to the DTIHCG on Test Programs. This should help us all understand what these tests were designed to accomplish.

We are hoping to present a review on the new Hard Disk Controller, including formatting, directories, and user techniques, but we're not sure if Saint Nick might have some other plans. Please be there anyway, and enjoy the fellowship plus moral and technical support we receive from the Dallas TI Home Computer Group.

GARAGE SALE AND SWAPMEET by Louis Guion

October and November are truly the most active months this year what with the Library Pillage, the Chili Cook-off, and now the clubs annual **GARAGE SALE AND SWAPMEET** at the November 19th INFOMART meeting. The whole afternoon session will be replaced by this activity. We will not be holding our usual SIG at 1:00 o'clock! Let me tell you how all this works.

The objective is for both our DTIHCG members and non-members as well to be able to have the opportunity to buy and sell their computer related items in a friendly, convenient atmosphere. Sellers, who may be guests, and do not have to belong to DTIHCG, will have a regular meeting room table (or more) on which to display their computer related wares. These items do not have to be TI-99/4A related, but can be for any computer. I'd even expect to find a non-computer related item or two, but there will be no t-shirts or cute cut glassware!

Just as guests may sell, so may guests buy from the sellers. Some concept, eh? It is called the concept of, "money talks."

We have tried to secure a first floor room this month so that you won't have to carry your stuff on those glass elevators, but since rooms are not always assigned as requested, we'll have to wait and hope that we can indeed get a ground floor room. Now, we want the regular meeting to come to a normal close, and we want to have some time for the sellers to go out and get their goodies, and we want to have some time for lunch, so the sale won't start until about 12:30 or 12:45. No problem here, because we can go for as long as there are customers and as long as their are goodies!

Please, please, please, don't (that means DO NOT) haul your sale items up and conduct little private sales over in the corner all during the morning meetings. There's plenty of time for the sale in the afternoon. After the main meeting closes, there will be time to grab a bite of lunch and time to stroll out to your car, truck, van, or 18-wheeler for the stuff you have brought to sell. Bring it in and

Dallas TI Home Computer Group

Program Schedule - INFOMART

November 19, 1988

09:00 - 09:55 Special Topic SIG:

MAILORDER BUYING ADVICE from Louis Guion.

10:00 - 11:55 Main Meeting

10:00 - 10:30 Business Meeting

10:30 - 11:30 John Creviston reviews some of the RAMDisk offerings for the 99/4A.

11:30 - 11:55 New Member / Guest Orientation Session

12:00 - 12:30 LUNCH BREAK / SWAPMEET SETUP PERIOD

12:30/12:45 - ??? Annual Garage Sale/Swapmeet

Meeting room numbers can be obtained at our booth, or check the master list posted on the two overhead projectors, located just past the Registration booths. Children under age 16 MUST remain with their parents at all times, in accordance with INFOMART regulations!

All meetings will begin promptly on the hour, since other groups may be scheduled to use the room after us. Please be on time.

ask the Swapmeet Chairman, Richard Roberts, for a table. Lay out your stuff and PUT PRICES ON THE ITEMS. Yes, please use some sort of price tag system. You'll find that it removes a lot of talking, sets a starting price if your sales style leans toward haggling and bargaining, and that in many cases the plainly posted price moves someone to an impulse buy that would have been lost otherwise.

When the sale gets under way, please buy as much as you can. This makes the sellers happy. It makes the club happy. The club is doing this for the benefit of the members, and is not charging any sales commission on the items sold. What you have here is a free, no-fee sale for members and guests.

Now, pay attention here. A most important point. BRING YOUR OWN CHANGE FOR both silver and for paper money as well. The club treasury can't be making change for all you guys!

O.K., Chairman Roberts will be on hand to answer any questions. Tables are free. No commission. No hurry. No hassles. Buy and sell your computer related material in comfort. The November INFOMART meeting! Will I see you there?

TIB-DITS by Jim Stewart

On December 4th, a TI BASE Mini-Sig will be held at Rip Dowling's led by Jon Hodges and myself. Next to Super Disk and TI-Writer I find TI BASE my most useful program for address lists, prospects, quotations, inventories, team schedules and scores.

First some TIB news. Jon Hodges and only two others in the entire United States were chosen by Dennis Faherty to field test the new Version 2.0. (We're not the only ones to appreciate Jon's intuitive analytical evaluations.) We can look forward to such new functions as SUM, LIST, MEMORY and TRACE. The original sorts only on one field, but the new version will sort by levels 8 deep! It will also communicate with the printer, load much faster, and will print the screen. We also understand it will convert non-TI BASE files to usable TIB data files, which really sounds great to me. More about updates next month.

Can you guess how many people spotted the error in last month's Count "Hello" program? None. I'm sorry to say. If you will try this program, LOCAL COUNT should have been N for numeric BUT 3 spaces wide instead of 2. As written the program would count only to 9, and never reach 10, since each N variable requires one extra space for its "sign".

Load TI BASE and type in the DATE. Let's try updating the Setup file, and if you haven't added the 2 patches from last month's TIB-DITS this would be a good time. Call this file up at the dot prompt by typing .MODIFY COMMAND DSK1.SETUP and enter. Use the Function (4) to enter 8 new lines, and carefully enter the 8 CHANGE statements. You can customize TIB easily from this screen. For example: .COLOR white dark-green will change the screen color. Printer should be set to .PIO or .RS232.BA=4800, depending whether Parallel or Serial. Set DATDISK=DSK1, if only a single drive is available. Otherwise set it to DSK2. Before leaving the SETUP command file, REMEMBER to use Function (8) and then Function (9) to save the file and return to the dot prompt.

In my beginner instructions, I suggested using Mike Stanfill's Tiny Printer program to pre-set the printer and load the TIB program. Since TIB fills an entire 9550 disk there is not enough room on DSK1 to do this until you use DM-1000 and copy the overlay file and all the

Help files (ending with H) to DSK2. Once there, they can be deleted from DSK1. NOW there is room to add the TINY Printer load program to DSK1. To use a Data Base on the second disk, while DSK1 is in the drive, simply type .SELECT 1 and then .USE FILENAME... BUT at this point substitute the second disk, and THEN hit enter. You should be able to do almost everything without changing disks again, except FORMAT that does require the PRGDISK. A couple of other suggestions. If your data base requires less than 80 spaces wide, you can SET SPACES=1 TO 5, and LINE to match the total width required by your data layout. To experiment, just type .PRINT 3, which allows you to see how it will print out 3 records. Experiment with SPACES if the report does not quite line up.

If you expect to do much editing, set the .RECNUM=ON. To correct an error in say record 13, one would just type .EDIT 13. Or one could type .TOP and then .EDIT, followed by repeated Function (5) until you reach the record needing correction. If you .SET PAGE=0 this will bypass all automatic form feeds, which you can initiate manually by .EJECT.

It's time to try entering a Command file. At the dot prompt type in .MODIFY COMMAND DSKn.LESSON2. You will get a bare screen. Type in the following:

```
* Command file LESSON2
* By Jim Stewart-DTINCG
CLEAR
SET TALK=OFF
SET RECNUM=OFF
LOCAL COUNT N 3
REPLACE COUNT WITH 0
LOCAL SUM N 4
REPLACE SUM WITH 0
LOCAL AVG N 5 2
REPLACE AVG WITH 0
WRITE 2 2 "OBJECTIVE: COUNT, SUM & AVG"
WRITE 3 2 "THEN WRITE A MESSAGE TO SCREEN"
WHILE COUNT <> 5
  REPLACE COUNT WITH COUNT + 1
  REPLACE SUM WITH SUM + COUNT
  REPLACE AVE WITH SUM / COUNT
  PRINT COUNT SUM AVG
  WRITE 7 9 "COUNT IS " COUNT
  WRITE 9 10 "SUM IS " SUM
  WRITE 11 12 "AVG IS " AVG
ENDWHILE
WRITE 18 10 ".....but TI BASE"
write 19 10 "WON'T DO WINDOWS"
RETURN
```

Remember to use Function (8) to save this and then Function (9) to return to the dot prompt. ALSO you must remember to have your printer turned on, since there are print routines in this command file.

Hope you get a chance to try TIB out, and find my remarks helpful. Please do two things for yourself. Sign up for the Dec. 4th Mini-Sig, but bring with you the elements of a DB you have needed. Consider the field names, number of spaces required, and whether the field is a date, number or alphanumeric name. It is our intention to have each person create one simple data base and write one command file before they go home from this mini-sig. That's all until next month's TIB-DITS.

MINISIG REPORT - Tom Hall

The MULTIPLAN MINISIG at St. Mark's was a great success! Many thanks to our hostesses, SIG Leader and the many folks who contributed time and effort to make this MINISIG the learning experience that it was. Plans are to have another MULTIPLAN MINISIG sometime in 1989.

TI BASE is the subject of the December 4 (Sunday) MINISIG. Attendance will be limited to 10. Considering that more than twice that number of TI BASE Programs were purchased on the Mass Buy, we will have a repeat of this MINISIG - Date to be determined. Jon Hodges is the SIG Leader. Rip Dowling is the Host. The MINISIG will start promptly at 2pm. So, if you are one of the first 10 to sign up be sure and get there early. The address is 3012 Barrington Court. Take Collins (South of Arkansas and North of Interstate 20) to Custer. Go West on Custer. Custer takes a little jog and becomes Thomas Chapel. Keep going Westerly, until you come to Barrington Court. Go South on Barrington Court.

In the afternoon of the January SUPER SATURDAY at INFOMART, we will have a MINISIG dedicated to novices. I want all you guys with expanded systems, dual drives, ram disks, etc. to stay around and be available for those who may have questions. I hope that this is a motivator for those of you who don't have a fully expanded system.

NEXT-STEP - Tom Hall

The last NEXT-STEP Workshop in 1988 will be held on December 2, at Wyatt's on Josey and Beltline. Folks will start arriving sometime after 5pm. But there is really no pressure to get there early. However, we MUST be out of there by 8:30. We've found that a little difficult the past few months. I guess everyone was just having too much fun to go home. Plan to eat, as that is how we "pay" for the large room that Wyatt's lets us use. This is THE place to get your problems diagnosed (and maybe fixed). If you want some one on one instruction for a particular program, let me know and arrangements will be made to have someone there with the program. If you just want to eat and enjoy the fellowship, that's OK, too.

NOMINATIONS

There are still a few Committee Jobs open. Namely, the MINISIG Chairman. I sure do hope some kind soul will step forward to head up this Committee.

UNCLE MIKEY'S NOVEMBER FUNNYWEB COLUMN

Funnyweb Farmz by Mike "Love means never having to say 'Geez! Your breath is just awful! Have you been seeing Jack Tramiel again?'" Stanfill

Hiya kiddies! Sorry I was unable to contribute to the inevitable erosion of the American mind last month. Instead of sitting down and writing my Funnyweb column like a good TI-boy, I chose to attend a mini-Bacchinalia where those attending assisted in burning my wife's lawyer in effigy. I'm secretly hoping he'll burn elsewhere. Which brings me to this month's tasteless bon mot: What do you have when you have two lawyers buried up to their necks in a fire-ant mound?

Answer: Not enough ants.

Now let me say, right now, what a great bunch of folks you lawyer-types are. I think it's great that you can take these knee-to-the-groin jests, time after time after time, and still never feel the obnoxious obligation to file suit against the poor, I mean REALLY poor, soul who happens to wax mirthful in a form which might possibly be used as evidence against him in what we so colloquially refer to as a "court of law".

Did I mention that I was poor? Okay. Good! I think we all know what we're dealing with here so why don't we just get to what this column is really all about, which is: Why are more people stopping at 7-11 and who is that ghoulish-looking individual who keeps insinuating that the competition is selling us hog-swill and laboratory-samples instead of good-old American junk food? I don't have the foggiest notion either, but he sure does look like he's badly in need of a large dose of Ex-Lax, if you know what I mean and I think you do. Three stars. Uncle Mikey says "Check it out".

Looky, looky, looky! I managed to bring along a Tinygram for you this month! Wowers! Are we gonna have fun now! Or is it, "Are we gonna have fun now?" That's up to you. But first I wanna tell you I'm trying something new. At the insistence of Dan "Ooh! My foot's asleep!" Johnson, I'm from here on in incorporating the instructions for every Tinygram into the program itself. Now, Dan didn't actually lean over me and say something like, "One more lousy T-gram without instructions and you'll be sleeping with Cynthia Becker!", which is scary enough, but a few off-hand comments, from his erstwhile mouth, convinced me I should either take this simple step or re-name this column "User Hostile". I think you get the point. So, just type it up, read the on-board instructions and have fun.

See you next month (If Dan doesn't get me first!).

```

+-----+
+ 1 GOTO 10 !
+ *****TINYTRATE*****
+ *****A TINYGRAM*****
+ *****BY MIKE STANFILL*****
+ **DALLAS TI USERS GROUP**
+-----+
+ 2 GOSUB 9 :: DIM G(81),P(28)
+ ,S(28):: FOR X=2 TO 14 STEP
+ 2 :: FOR Y=12 TO 18 STEP 2
+-----+
+ 3 C=INT(RND*14)+65 :: IF G(C
+ )>1 THEN 3 ELSE G(C)=G(C)+1
+ :: P(N+1)=C :: CALL SPRINT(#
+ N+1,79,2,X*8-7,Y*8-7)
+-----+
+ 4 N=N+1 :: NEXT Y :: NEXT X

```


99/4A - GENEVE CONSIDERATIONS - continued

In summation, if anyone thinks that my opinion is that everyone should have a 9640 on their desk, then you've got it wrong. My opinion is that our user group should accept the Geneve as an equal partner to the 99/4A, that one can enhance the other, and that the two can peacefully co-exist within our group, without any fear of division or domination by the Geneve. And, it is my opinion that judgmental, biased anti-Myarc-Corcomp-whatever comments should not appear on our BBS. I'm certainly not for censorship, nor would I desire to stifle negative Geneve comments just because they are negative, but the former type of comments serve no purpose other than to fuel the "racial hatred" attitude that should not exist among our community. It is also my opinion that if you disagree with me, you have the right to say so, in any decent manner you might choose. I invite anyone to do so, in a message on the BBS, or in person at our meetings. And, if you get me off in the corner somewhere, I'll even tell you why I am anti-Corcomp!

A Big Thank You to the TI Group

To all of you who have so generously given of your services, equipment, expertise, programming talents and encouragement Carolyn and I wish to say thank you. The TI Group has truly been a blessing to us at St. Mark's School in Plano. There is no way to repay the many of you that have lent your assistance in the many various ways. What you do is so special because it is done so willingly and graciously. We just want to say it is most appreciated and we are very happy to be associated with you all. You have made our jobs so much easier and more productive because of all you've given and done.

God Bless You,
Many Thanks,
Angela and Carolyn

C E O T I C S

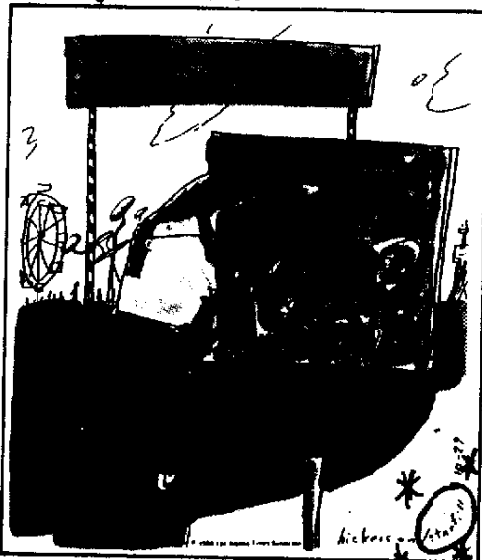
Cutting Edge Of Technology In Computer Science
Jim Leshar

I.S.D.N. is Integrated "Services Digital Network". The efforts of a dozen years by communications experts in several nations working with the International Telephone and Telegraph Consultive Committee, usually known as the CCITT. After reading 5 pages in the magazine RADIO ELECTRONICS, this is their purpose. Using the telephone lines already installed over the last 100 years, and performing some technological magic, they intend to create a worldwide information network. Some of the amazing things ISDN will be bringing us are, data transfer and voice communication at the same time, fax capabilities, and video transmission. We computer enthusiasts are already equipped to hook up to this system or "subscribe to it" with the exception of an ISDN module to link between the modem and the telephone line. Does this sound like some futuristic dream? To go on line with a worldwide information network? It is already here. Maybe not for you and me right now, but McDonalds restaurants are using the ISDN technology to link all their stores together. Also Intel, Chevron, Pratt and Whitney and about 20 more firms around the country. The question is what is it going to cost to go online with ISDN?

```

+-----+
+ 5 FOR Q=1 TO 2 :: GOSUB 8 ::
+ CALL PATTERN(#N,P(N)):: S(Q
+ )=N :: NEXT Q :: T=T+1
+-----+
+ 6 IF ((P(S(1))=P(S(2)))+(P(S
+ (1))>43)+(S(1)<>S(2)))=-3 TH
+ EN H,P(S(1)),P(S(2))=43
+-----+
+ 7 GOSUB 9 :: CALL PATTERN(#S
+ (1),H,#S(2),H):: GOTO 5
+-----+
+ 8 CALL KEY(1,K,D):: CALL COL
+ OR(#N,2):: H=79 :: N=N-(K=2)
+ :: N=N+((N=29)*28):: CALL CO
+ LOR(#N,5):: IF K<>18 THEN 8
+-----+
+ 9 RANDOMIZE :: DISPLAY ERASE
+ ALL:"TRIES=":T:"S TO MOVE,
+ Q TO CHOOSE" :: FOR J=1 TO 5
+ 00 :: NEXT J :: RETURN
+-----+
+ 10 CALL CLEAR :: PRINT "TINY
+ TRATE IS A GAME WHERE:"YOU
+ MUST MATCH PAIRS OF:"LETTER
+ S (A-N). WHEN YOU:"START TH
+ E GAME, YOU'LL SEE"
+-----+
+ 11 PRINT "A 7X4 MATRIX OF 0'
+ S ON THE:"SCREEN. BENEATH E
+ ACH IS A:"LETTER. USE THE S
+ KEY TO:"MOVE THE FLASHING
+ CURSOR."
+-----+
+ 12 PRINT "PRESS Q TO SEE THE
+ LETTER,:"THEN MOVE THE CUR
+ SOR TO:"ANOTHER SPOT ON THE
+ MATRIX:"AND PRESS Q AGAIN.
+ "
+-----+
+ 13 PRINT "IF THE LETTERS MAT
+ CH THEY'LL:"BE REPLACED BY
+ A PAIR OF:"+' SIGNS. CONTI
+ NUE UNTIL:"ALL PAIRS HAVE B
+ EEN MATCHED."
+-----+
+ 14 PRINT "DO NOT ATTEMPT TO
+ MATCH THE:"PLUS SIGNS AS TH
+ EY WILL BE:"REPLACED BY 0'S
+ WHICH WILL:"CONFUSE YOU. H
+ AVE FUN.:"
+-----+
+ 15 PRINT "PRESS ANY KEY TO S
+ TART."
+-----+
+ 16 CALL KEY(0,K,W):: IF W=0
+ THEN 16 ELSE 2
+-----+

```

THE QUIGMANS

Club Officers

President	Rip Dowling	(METRO)	(817) 467-0369
Vice-President	Louis Guion		(214) 239-6829
Secretary	Robert Jones		1-214-875-7096
Treasurer	Greg Justice		(214) 240-6647
Member at Large	Tom Hall	(METRO)	(817) 267-5987

Club Chairpersons

Adventure Librarian	Carol Tapis		(214) 442-5022
BBS SysOp	John Guion		(214) 239-6829
Cartridge Librarian	Doug Garretson		(214) 475-7580
Cassette Librarian	Billy Monroe		(214) 285-5397
CCD Representative	Louis Guion		(214) 239-6829
CCD Alternate	Lynn Nidiffer		(214) 228-4820
Disk-Of-the-Month	Chris Slenker		(214) 340-2463
Diskette Sales	Thierry Weber		(214) 686-8737
Hardware Custodian	John Creviston		(214) 594-0721
Historian	Richard Roberts		(214) 579-7822
Material Distribution	David Martin		1-214-370-3268
Membership Chairman	Mike Chapman		(214) 255-5643
Mini-SiG Chairman	Tom Hall	(METRO)	(817) 267-5987
Newsletter Editor	Greg Justice		(214) 240-6647
Newsletter Librarian	Mike Starrfill		(214) 320-2293
Program Chairman	Jim Stewart		1-214-902-8686
Recruitment Chairman	Walter Pearson		(214) 943-2439
Software Librarian	Charlice Althar		(214) 337-4840
Special Projects	Bill Pry		(214) 247-8909
Volunteer Chairman			

These people are the club's officers and chairpersons. They all are invited to, and most attend, the two and a half hour Committee Chairmen's meeting (the officers meet for an hour and a half before that!) on the Saturday one week after the INFOMART meeting. In addition to just belonging, they serve themselves and you by giving freely of their time to make this a better club for us all. Thank them individually if you have the opportunity.

NAME OR ADDRESS CHANGE?

The mailing label on the back of this page is prepared from the official roster of members of the Dallas TI Home Computer Group. If your name or address is incorrect, please:

1. Indicate corrections in the space(s) provided below.
2. Remove this ENTIRE page (so that we get a copy of your current mailing label) from this newsletter.
3. Mail it to the group return address shown on the back cover.

Name.....

Address.....

City..... STATE..... ZIP.....

UNCLASSIFIED ADS

DTIHCG members are invited to submit advertisements to buy or sell their personal computer equipment. Ads must be received by the normal newsletter deadline and will be published at no charge, on a space available basis.

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!