

# DALLAS 99 INTERFACE

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Volume 10, Number 12      DECEMBER 1990

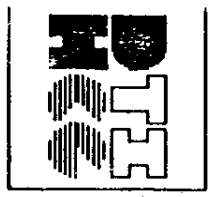
This newsletter is the official publication of the DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER USERS GROUP, a non-profit organization serving the member/users of the Texas Instruments 99/4A HOME COMPUTER. For more information you are cordially invited to attend our next meeting or send a S.A.S.E. to:

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

Reprints of our articles are allowed, but must give credit to DTIHCG & be complete.

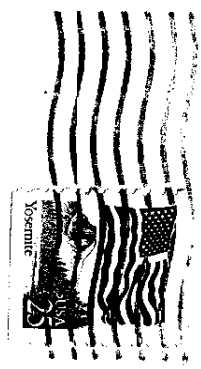
\*\*\*NEXT MEETING\*\*\*  
Saturday, December 8, 1990  
at the Dallas INFOMART  
Oak Lawn Avenue and I-35 East

Phone the 99er Connection BBS  
24 Hours, 300/1200/2400 baud  
214-233-1750



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P.O. BOX 29863  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75229  
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Member of the  
Computer Council of Dallas

CCD Information Line: 746-3297

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 \* DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER USER'S GROUP \*  
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\* December 1990 \*

1 Saturday  
 05:30 1st Saturday Sidewalk Sale  
 8 Saturday  
 09:00 SUPER SATURDAY at INFOMART  
 09:30 Business meeting- Officers'  
 Election  
 09:50 Open Forum  
 10:15 Main Meeting - David Axberg  
 Comparison between  
 TI Artist And YAPP  
 12:00 Social Hour, Activities  
 sign up, Lunch  
 13:00 5th Annual DTIHCG Garage Sale  
 10 Monday  
 19:00 CCD Corporate Directors'  
 Meeting  
 12 Wednesday HANUKAH  
 21 Friday NEXI-STEP will not be held  
 December  
 22 Saturday WINTER BEGINS  
 25 Tuesday CHRISTMAS  
 28 Friday  
 22:00 Newsletter Article Deadline  
 22:00 Infomart Room Requests Due CCD  
 \* January 1991 \*

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1 Tuesday NEW YEAR'S DAY  
 5 Saturday  
 05:30 1st Saturday Sidewalk Sale  
 09:00 SUPER SATURDAY at INFOMART  
 12 Saturday  
 02:30 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
 18 Friday  
 05:15 NEXI-STEP MEETING  
 21 Monday MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

THE FRENCH CONNECTION  
 By Thierry Weber



### The French Connection

Hello and welcome again to this year's last installment of The French Connection. Yes. This is the last French Connection I will write as President of the Dallas TI Home Computer Group. On Saturday, a new slate of officers will be installed and it will be time for me to step down. I will not be going away completely though since there is a good chance that I would take over as Disk of the Month Chairman and MiniSig Chairman. So I'll still be around.

This year has been a good one for the Dallas TI Home Computer Group. I will spare you a month by month review of all that happened, but one of our most successful programs has, by far, been our Guest Speaker Series. We learned a great deal about our computer from the very people who are the lifeblood of today's TI/99 community. People like Barry Boone, Chris Fagherty, Bud Mills, Chris Bobbitt, all household names in the TI community, kindly took time out of their horrendous schedules to visit with us. We also had a glimpse of the behind the scenes story of the TI99/4 with John Yantis. They all shared with us their view of the past and present of our machine as well as their vision of the future.

This year, we also finished a project started last year, to upgrade our members from single to double sided disk drives. Of course, last month, we made one lucky winner, the proud new owner of the club's Horizon Ram Disk. For those not present, Mary Leard was that happy winner.

One more achievement I would like to claim for the DTIHCG, is the change of direction this year's executive committee was able to implement. For this, I must recognize the extraordinary efforts of this year's nominating committee, Mattie Bush, John Creviston, and Butch Spill. Their achievement was to get new people involved in the running of our club. The "Old Guard" will still be around, of course, in a supporting role but will be less involved with the actual running of things. I don't like to think of it as the end of an era. But rather, I'd like to think of it more as a new beginning for our club, our members, and our machine. I know for sure that next year will be as exciting as this year, with new programs, new ideas and new products to review for our orphan.

When retiring, General Douglas McArthur said "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away!". Well I think it is time for me that I do the same and fade a bit into the background. It has been good year. I, for one, learned a lot. I have no regrets, just a feeling that our TI is by far a better machine now that it has ever been in the past, and with your support it can still rise to untold heights.

As we get ready to celebrate the Christmas Holiday, I would like to thank you all for the support you have shown for our club. To show our appreciation we will have a free disk for all of those that joined our club since January of 1988. To my fellow officers and chairpersons I would like to extend my gratitude for their help and support during some trying moments, and to every one a Merry Christmas and a Happy New TI Year.



## The 80 Column

— by David Axberg

1990 Program Year - an important year for me!

Could it be that this year is already over! Since this will be my last article as program chairman for 1990, I would like to take this opportunity to say a very sincere "Thank You" to all the members of the DTIHCG that made this year a super year for me. The program presenters: Hugh McKnight, Billy Monroe, Jim Stewart and Butch Spill. The time and guidance of John Creviston, Jackie Guion, Charlice Althar made my job much more fun.

The initiation of the "Guest Speaker Program" this year gave new interest and excitement to our programs on Super Saturdays at the INFOMART. But without the assistance of many of our members those programs would have never happened. I feel very fortunate that I have had the occasion to work with them.

One of the most important things this year's programs have done for me is to re-enforce the usefulness and the continued expansion of the 99/4A. I, like many of our members, have a "two (2) computer family". And have spent more time with the DOS machine than the 99er recently. However, this year I have expanded my 99er with a DIJIT (A)dvance (V)ideo (P)rocessor (C)ard, a RBG/analog monitor, upgraded my RAVE keyboard interface card for use with the IBM 105 keyboard, and added a mouse (via AVPC). And most recently I have installed additional memory to the AVPCard in order to utilize the "split screen" capabilities of FunnelWeb version 4.3 and 256 color editing of GIF pictures with the new 80 column Y.A.P.? program.



**LATCH KEY**

By Jim Stewart



November was a busy month for all of us, and we were fortunate to add four valuable new DTIHCG members, Robert H. Moyer and Walt Todd during our last Infomart meeting, and Kathie and Wayne Melville joined at our Next Step meeting at Wyatt's Cafeteria in Carrollton. We had such a full agendas at both meetings, we were not able to spend much time becoming better acquainted, but hope to correct that during our December meeting. Please remember to bring money to buy with, and your unused computer equipment to sell, and be sure to tag each item with an asking price. Our nominating committee has done a fine job, and we are fortunate to have really capable and dedicated people willing to assume the responsibilities for the DTIHCG during 1991. However there is one responsibility each and every one of us should share. As we talk to other people each day...it takes only a moment to ask them if they have a TI 99/4a computer at home. We know there were over 55,000 sold in the DFW area, and many are sitting unused on the closet shelves our your neighbor and mine. Let's find these closet 99'ers and bring them to one of our meetings. It's a Personal favor that will benefit ALL of us!

MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
FROM ALL THE  
OFFICERS AND  
VOLUNTEERS  
OF THE  
DALLAS TI HOME  
COMPUTER  
USERS GROUP

*BRING YOUR EXTRA EQUIPMENT AT*

*1 : 0 0 P M*

*AND BRING YOUR CASH FOR THE*

*Fifth ANNUAL DTICUG SWAP MEET*

## NEXT STEP by Charlice Althar

This month's NEXT STEP was held on Friday night, November 23, at Wyatt's Cafeteria. We'd been concerned that many people would be either out of town for Thanksgiving or busy shopping, but we were happy to have a very good turnout. Here's some of what was accomplished:

1. Changed the default disk drive number on a Multiplan disk.
2. Changed the printer default on a Multiplan disk.
3. Discussed material for future DOM's.
4. Bought and sold blank diskettes.
5. Accepted a membership renewal - welcome back, FRED!
6. Discussed the PLATO educational software.
7. Talked about items to be offered for sale at the December ANNUAL COMPUTER GARAGE SALE!
8. Assisted a member with printer difficulties.
9. Showed another member how to access different fonts on his printer.
10. Clarified SUPER DISK for a member.
11. Let Butch Spill know that we will miss him while he out of town for the next few months.
12. Wished Thierry Weber and his parents a nice visit to Florida while Thierry's brother is visiting them from France.

For the past several months, I've been urging you to attend NEXT STEP in order to RECEIVE the help you need with your 4/A. Perhaps I've over-emphasized that--because in actuality, all DTIHCG members should attend NEXT STEP in order to SHARE--in other words, to GIVE as well as to RECEIVE help. Maybe you think you are a novice and therefore unable to help anyone else--but you may be just a small step ahead of someone else! When another member reports a difficulty of some sort, \*YOU\* may have just solved the same problem for yourself, and be able to tell them what you did. That's how most of us (especially me!!) in DTIHCG have learned what we know---from the sharing help we've received from the others in the group. So, whether or not you have a particular need for help on January 18, 1991, come join us at Wyatt's at Belt Line Josey Lane in Carrollton. This may be your big chance to "GIVE BACK" a little of the help you've received! We'll be looking for you, starting at 5 PM.

Don't forget to bring your appetite, and your family, too!

"THE PROTECTION METHOD"  
"Foolproof or not?"

By Jonathan D. Guidry, 731-H Creighton Dr.,  
New Iberia, LA 70560  
Phone: (318) 369-9087

Have you ever started up your XB Tape, loaded a program, and tried to list it? If it was protected, it would give you a \*PROTECTION VIOLATION error. If you made a 400 line program, saved it protected, and found a bug in it, it would probably be lost. NOT NECESSARILY. This is where your TI Expansion Memory comes in. In the past, software makers have sold a program that did this. But you can unprotect an Extended Basic program right from Extended Basic. Power up your console and load the protected program. (NOTE: The Memory Expansion must be attached and turned on.) Then type: CALL INIT and press enter. Then type: Call Load (-31931,0) and press enter. List the program. Viola! It is now unprotected. To save it unprotected permanently, resave it as "DSK1.filename" (your file).

Technical note: To protect an unprotected program in the console only and not save it to the disk, type in:  
CALL INIT  
CALL LOAD (-31931, 128)

Coming next month: A "new" command from inside a program.

Note: Jonathan is 15 years old. He called to ask for more information about our group. He also sent us the above article before he got a reply. Isn't it great to see such interest from someone new?

FROM ONE OF OUR "REMOTE TERMINALS"..

Hi!

Thought I would drop you a line. I was wondering if any of the recent INFOMART meetings have been videotaped? I miss seeing the demos and question/answer sessions. From the newsletters I can see I have missed some good ones.

Well, I attended the TI International Fair in Wiesbaden a while ago. I saw Alexander Hulpke (author of TI-TRIS and various other programs) demonstrate YAPP! (Yet Another Paint Program!). It beats the heck out of MY-ART. I also saw German-built EEPROM programmers, Midi-interfaces, as well as an excellent drawing program patterned after the Mac-like user interface (point click).

I also had a chance to meet Beery Miller (9640 News). I didn't have a chance to talk to too many others since my German is pretty bad. I wish I would have had a camera. They also had a display of rare TI items. (I finally got to see the Armadillo--99/8 computer).

All in all, I was very impressed. It was obvious that the TI is still alive and well!

'Til later,  
Jeff

Jeff, it's great to hear from you, and we're glad you had the chance to attend the International Fair! We appreciate your giving us your impressions and reassurances that our orphan is still doing well around the world. No, we haven't been able to successfully tape any of our INFOMART meetings yet, although this has been discussed several times. Maybe 1991 will be the year we will get it done. Please stay in touch; we miss you!

## OFFICERS

### TEOTICS: The Cutting Edge Of Technology by Jim Leshar

In Computers THE ULTIMATE COMPUTER The laser computer may be closer than that originally thought. At Bellcore Labs scientists have achieved surface lasers the size of a grain of sand. If you think that is incredible, 30 individual laser beams can be emitted from the same surface. A new kind of electronics using "Quantum Devices" is the heart of the above achievements. First we had miniture several years ago, then came subminiture, at the present we could say we were in the micro miniture era. Next, will be the Quantum era. This stuff sounds like science fiction, like a device they have for counting individual electrons, can trap an electron in a 2 dimensional space or trap and make it a laser. They can even control the size of the box the electron is in, which in turn determines the wavelength or the color of the laser beam. So using such molecular sized devices to build computers, the possibilities are enormous.

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NEXT-STEP CHAIRMAN	ROSS WHITMORE	(214)-352-3889
REGISTRATION CHAIRMAN	MATTIE BUSH	(214)-637-4937

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These people are the Club's officers and chairpersons. They all are invited to, and most attend, the three 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.

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