



**FLUG99ER**

NOV 1988  
 VOLUME 3, ISSUE 08  
 EDITORS: Oscar Smith/Roy Willis

**OFFICERS FOR 1988:**

PRESIDENT	Oscar Smith
VICE PRESIDENT	Roy Willis
SECT.	Al Herring
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MEETING PROGRAM CHAIRMAN	James Carson

**Committee Chairman for 1988:**

TIBBS Committee	Richard Fleetwood
NEWSLETTER Librarian	
MEMBERSHIP Committee	Lee Dellenbaugh
SOFTWARE LIBRARIAN	Sam Lee

Next meeting of the Forest Lane Users Group is:

NOVEMBER 6, 1988-- PROGRAM : Trio Software  
 HARDWARE : Disk Care &  
 Preventive Maintenance

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NOVEMBER MEETING INFORMATION

By - Oscar Smith

Below are the planned activities for the October 2, 1988 meeting of the Forest Lane TI Users Group.

- 2:00 - 2:30-BUSINESS MEETING
  - Reading of the last Minutes
  - TIBBS report
  - ANY NEW BUSINESS
  - Newsletter help and update
  - Officers Meetings
  - Merger
- 2:30            END OF BUSINESS SECTION
- 2:30 - 2:40-QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION
- 2:40 - 3:15 TRIO SOFTWARE
- 3:15 - 3:25 BREAK
- 3:30 - 4:00 TRIO SOFTWARE
- 4:00 - 5:00 LIBRARY SWAP--QUESTIONS, HELP, DISK TRADING;ETC.

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U.S. Consumer Products  
Suggested Retail Price List  
June-December, 1982

Model	Name	Suggested Retail
OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES		
PHP 1100	Wired Remote Controllers (Joysticks) (Pair)	34.95
PHA 1950	Thermal Paper (2 Pack)	7.95
PHA 2000	Dual Cassette Cable	14.95
PHA 2010	Monitor Cable	19.95
PHA 2020	Audio Adapter (Headphone Jack)	19.95
PHA 2310	Panasonic Video Controller Cables	99.95
PHA 2320	Sony Video Controller Cables	99.95
PHA 2330	Pioneer Video Controller Cables	99.95
PHA 2605	Blank Overlays (4 Pack) (for TI-99/4)	7.95
DOCUMENTATION		
PHA 2600	Beginner's BASIC Manual (TI-99/4 only)	9.95
PHA 2601	User's Reference Guide (TI-99/4 only)	9.95
PHA 2602	Beginner's BASIC Manual (TI-99/4A only)	9.95
PHA 2603	User's Reference Guide (TI-99/4A only)	9.95
PHA 2606	Creative Programming Computer Competency Series - Volume I	9.95
PHA 2607	Creative Programming Computer Competency Series - Volume II	9.95
PHA 2608	Creative Programming Computer Competency Series - Volume III	9.95
PHA 2609	Creative Programming Computer Competency Series - Allstar Projects	9.95
PHA 2611	Logo Curriculum Guide	49.95
PHA 2612	Editor/Assembler Manual	14.95

## Meeting Minutes—

October 2nd, 1988

by Marty McCain

The meeting was called to order at 2:24 p.m. by President Oscar Smith with 16 members and four visitors in attendance. Oscar mentioned the return of several of our newsletters sent to sister clubs in Canada due to a lack of sufficient postage. Richard Fleetwood then gave a report on the TIBBS. He touched on the drive problem and mentioned that the TIBBS PBox power supply couldn't handle the load placed on it from all the cards. Richard further assured that TEXLINK would be online by the end of the week or shortly thereafter. Oscar noted the lull in board usage and commented on members use thereof. Richard indicated that a new sysop needs to be found as he will be unable to contribute as much time as he has in the past. He suggested Richard DeNamur, Sam Lee, and Jim Louis as possible nominees to fill the position. Marty McCain volunteered, expressing his availability to fill the role.

A discussion of long distance charges and a metro number was directed to the floor with regards as to where the board should go. Further emphasis was made by Mr. Fleetwood that the board should be moved by the first of November. Ron Kuhlman remarked about his progress in beefing up a power supply for the PBox, and cited that he currently has some of his drives on loan in the system and is repairing others. Ed Harp asked about the Super Cart usage with TexLink, and Ricky Morgan offered to donate the 6264 chips necessary for the cartridge if the group decides to implement one.

Jim Louis again voiced the issue of a metro line, and made a motion that the TIBBS be located in a metro area. This was seconded by Sam Lee. A vote was taken, with unanimous consent. Richard motioned that Marty fill the sysop position. Ricky Morgan seconded the motion, and the vote carried unanimously. Oscar then discussed the mailbox key, alluding to the responsibility of the treasurer for guardianship. Richard Fleetwood relegated possession thereof to Mr. Kuhlman. Lee Dellenbaugh, membership chairman, was addressed for any input from his committee, and mention was made of the presence of officers Smith and Herring, and persons Louis and Lee, at the officers' meeting at Mr. Louis' house.

Oscar invited any suggestions for demonstrations, with Telco, Disk Utils, TI Base, Press, Legends, TI Count, Turbo Pascal, and Fweb 4.12 being voiced. Ricky Morgan specified a paging system for PBox addressing, SuperCart, and a GramCracker simulating circuit as possibilities. Ron Kuhlman suggested demonstrations of familiarization, cleaning, and connecting power to disk drives. Oscar mentioned the club purchasing particular programs for the library, and that a discussion at the officers' meeting about downloads would be held. Jim suggested a cyclic method of downloads online. A break was taken at 3:23. The meeting resumed at 3:39.

Richard again demoed the TexLink BBS, explaining features and operation. Sam Lee exhibited Panic, an exciting and fast-paced level-jumping game written in c99. Oscar opened the floor to entertain any questions, followed by Sam Lee with a showing of this, and last, month's disk, a graphics designer program. President Smith called for an adjournment, with Al Herring seconding at 4:26 p.m. Several people lingered thereafter to swap software and discuss issues of inviting nature.

\* \* \* \* \*

## THE TEXLINK BBS -- Version 5.31

A software review

By - Richard A. Fleetwood

SysOp - FLUG TIBBS/TEXLINK

BBS Phone Number - (214) 328-4880

As a prelude to switching the long running FOREST LANE TI USERS GROUP TIBBS software over to the TEXLINK package, I would like to discuss the many features and functions of the TEXLINK system so that we can better understand and appreciate the program. While TIBBS has served our needs well for almost four years, a real need for speed and hardware support sent me in search of a more powerful bbs package. TEXLINK meets the needs in both of these areas.

TEXLINK is a product of the Ottawa T.I. 99/4A Users Group, the same people who have brought us DM1000 and TELCO. The groups first BBS was written in xbasic and assembly by Bruce Caron and Bob Boone. Benoit Tanguay later came up with the idea of an all assembly program, and began the process of writing it, supported by members of the Ottawa group. Lloyd Galenzoski took over the project, and with Tom Bentley added paul Charltons XMODEM file transfer protocol. Charles Earl, author of TELCO, has recently taken over the reigns of updating and supporting the program. This info comes from the introduction to the program documentation. It must be mentioned that TEXLINK is a COMMERCIAL software package, and must be purchased for use. The cost is \$50.00 Canadian. It is not, and never has been, a fairware or shareware program. It is only available from the Ottawa Users Group. The address is at the end of this article.

TEXLINK is one of two TI BBS programs written in 100% assembly code, the other being the AFTER HOURS bbs, which I have not had the chance to see in operation. There are another two dozen or so TI BBS programs available that are written in xbasic with some kind of assembly language support for their major string handling routines and transfers. Of all these, TEXLINK stands out as one of the most powerful, easy to manipulate, and fastest programs around. Version 5.31 offers the capability of running the system at 2400 baud, if your hardware supports it.

### LOGGING ONTO TEXLINK FOR THE FIRST TIME:

The user end (what callers see when they log on) is impressive. For new users logging in for the first time, the program will ask them to enter GUEST as the username. This will then give them a short file that describes the purpose of the system they are calling, whether its for a users group or not, for example, and how full access may be obtained. The new user then enters his name and phone number for verification, and may be asked if he is a TI 99/4A user. If the answer is YES, verification of this must be made by typing in the product code for the TI Extended Basic module, PHM3026. Once logged on in this manner, the user is presented the main menu. Choices available are BULLETINS, EXCHANGE/SALES listing, HELP ONLINE, LAST 10 USERS, OTHER BBS SYSTEMS, YOUR PARAMETERS, CHAT WITH SYSOP, FILE TRANSFERS, INFOMART, MESSAGE BASES, and USERLIST. If higher access is later

granted, then the SYSTEM UTILITIES may be shown.

The BULLETIN area is a series of six bulletins that may be edited online by the sysop, co-sysop, or advanced user. This is done in the SYSTEM UTILITIES area. Meeting info, late breaking stories, or important news should be used here. The EXCHANGE/SALES file is a file that the sysop can place listings in for users wanting to sell or buy computers and related equipment. The LAST TEN USERS is simply that, a list of the last ten callers prior to your call and the times and dates that they called. YOUR PARAMETERS gives a mini-menu allowing the user to modify their password and help level. CHAT WITH SYSOP pages the sysop to come to the bbs and chat via keyboard with the user. It sends bells to both the user and sysop.

The FILE TRANSFER section sends the user to the menu of file areas. To upload or download, the user must have the proper access for that section. Users who do not have enough access will be denied entry, and returned to the main menu. If a section is not available to a user for download, that choice will not be displayed. Uploads to an area will immediately be available for download, as they update the catalog when complete.

The MESSAGE SECTION is very nice indeed. Upon entering [M] at the main menu, TEXTLINK loads an overlay containing more code for the message functions. If the system is set up for more than one message base, then a menu of all message bases is displayed. If a user's access is not hi enough to access any specific message base, then that base will not be displayed on the menu. TEXTLINK allows up to ten full, complete message bases, with each self supporting and not requiring any maintenance by the sysop. Reading messages can be by PREVIEW, READ, or SELECTIVE READ. PREVIEW will display the subject of each message in that base, and if it is to or from the user. READ allows the user to read all mail, starting at and including the last message read. SELECTIVE READ allows the user to specify which message to start at. A new choice, available in this version (5.31) allows the user to THREAD thru the message base. This choice only appears if the message the user is reading is a reply to another message still in the message base. You can follow back as far as the thread will allow. Once the thread is complete, the user is returned to his former point in the message base.

Users can choose several options while reading, like ALL NEW MAIL or YOUR NEW MAIL, and CONTINUOUS or PAUSE AFTER EACH MESSAGE. If PAUSE is used, NEXT, REPLY or EXIT will be displayed after each message. EXPEDITE MAIL allows the user to enter messages. The message editor in TEXTLINK is one of the nicest, most user friendly I have seen. While entering text, wordwrap is automatic, so the user does not have to go back and retype lines that were split in the middle of words. Exiting message entry is done by typing a period at the beginning of a blank line. The message can then be [E]dited, [S]laved, [T]yped, [C]ontinued, or [A]borted. Typing a message displays the message exactly the way it will be viewed by other users, with the header displayed as well.

Messages can be public or private. If private, the mailbox (or username) must exist in the userbase for the person to receive it. To make sure, the user needs to keep up to date with the USERLIST function from the main menu. If the message is public, and to no one in particular, the mailbox ALL should be used. Messages may not be

addressed to GUEST. For everyone's information, the SysOp can and does read all private mail on any system, to avoid legal problems that could arise from illegal activities. Since the system containing the information is in their home, SysOps will and have been held liable should problems come along.

The SYSTEM UTILITIES area provides for adding or deleting bulletins, System Notes, changing the date, or resetting the System Log.

The INFOMART is for viewing a selection of up to ten text files. Each file has its own access level, and the user's access level must be equal to or greater than to view the file. Again, if user access is too low, the choice will not be displayed.

#### THE SYSOPS POINT OF VIEW:

TEXLINK offers several nice features for the SysOp that have been missing in other TI BBS programs until recently. The sysop may log in the bbs from the keyboard, and do everything a user can do, except up or download files. Messages can be entered, bulletins updated, and files read while the system is online. TIBBS requires offline programs to accomplish this. The sysop screen is 40 column, just like the user sees when online. Between calls, the word "WAITING" appears on the top of an otherwise blank screen. Once the caller connects, or a key is pressed, the login procedures start, as discussed above.

Setting up TEXLINK for use is not difficult. Requirements for hardware are 32k memory, RS232, Hayes compatible modem (300, 1200, or 2400 baud), at least one double sided single density drive, and e/a or TI writer cartridge. Optional hardware supported include ramdisks, additional drives (recommended), hard disk, clock card, and supercart. With 32k only, 120 users are supported. Using the 8k supercart, 408 users can be counted.

Several utility programs are included with the BBS software. The INIT MANAGER is used to set up the variables the program uses. File paths for all files within the program are set up here, as well as clock type, bbs operation mode, and all filenames. TEXLINK can be operated in PUBLIC, SEMI\_PRIVATE, or PRIVATE mode. Public mode allows all to log on to the system without extra questions. In Semi-private mode, the user is prompted for the X-Basic PHM number mentioned above. If not answered correctly, the user is given non-ti status (lower access). If the system is set up in Private mode, again the XB PHM number is requested, and if not known, the BBS denies them access.

The USERLOG MANAGER provides for editing user entries, making new message bases, and renumbering message bases. For some reason the highest message number in any base can only be 9999. Hopefully this will be fixed in the future. User names, passwords, access levels, and phone numbers may be updated. I would like to see this area expanded to allow for printing reports for record keeping purposes and for easier updating. There should also be a way to allow the sysop to update users online either in local or remote mode, so that the BBS does not have to come down all the time for updates. A change that should also be implemented is for the user information at login to be automatically placed in the next open slot in the userfile, instead of manually entered at the sysops convenience, as well as a flag within the BBS to enable or disable this function.

The TEXTLINK FILE MANAGER allows the sysop to easily manipulate the upload and download sections. Options here are to COPY/MOVE/DELETE files, or SORT FILE SECTIONS. Screen layout of the C/M/D function is somewhat similar to the well known DM1000 screen layout. Sorting prompts for the catalog to sort, and then sorts alphabetically and in ascending order.

XMAKE and CONVERT are two small programs that respectively generate new xmodem file transfer areas, and convert files to and from transfer format. Because of the XMODEM code used, all files that are set up for download must be converted by the sysop to a new file format, that when downloaded by a user is in ready to run format (unless it must be unarchived first). Any upload must be converted from the same format to the proper file type for program operation. CONVERT is pretty simple and fast. The file transfer file format used by TEXTLINK is mainly to allow use of harddisks as up/download devices, a feature very few other BBS programs have ever attempted to support.

Overall, as a SysOp, I find that TEXTLINK has to be one of the best BBS programs written so far for the TI 99/4A. The faults mentioned in the text of this article are not critical, and are only suggested as ways that TEXTLINK could possibly be improved. If you want to be a BBS sysop, and believe me when I say there are many benefits, then this program is for you. Set up is simple, operations on a day to day basis are quick and unobtrusive, and the utilities really do make it a joy to run. If you just want to maintain a lurker lifestyle, then TEXTLINK may make your telecommunicating faster and easier.

For a report card, I give TEXTLINK the following scores for both SysOp and User Ends:

SysOp Report Card		User Report Card	
Hardware Support	A+	System Speed	A+
Message Functions	A+	Ease of movement in BBS	A+
Transfer Protocols	A-	File Transfer Area	A
Security Features	A+	Online Help	A-
Setup Requirements	A+	User Set Parameters	B
Maintenance/User Func.	A-	Text File Utilities	A-
Documentation	A++	Overall score	A
Support From Author(s)	A+		
Value (cost vs ability)	A		
Overall Score	A+	COMBINED SysOp/User Score = A	

Please forward any questions about TEXTLINK or the FLUG TIBBS to me on the system, or contact the authors.

=raf=

SOURCE for the TEXTLINK BBS program:

The OTTAWA T.I. 99/4A Users Group  
P.O. Box 2144, Station D  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada  
K1P 5W3

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Footnote:

I am in the process of gathering information and various facts over the next several months to put together the first ever book on the world of TI-specific Telecommunications. I will be including large sections on TI 99/4A Terminal Emulator programs; Reviews of TI BBS programs and information about their authors; interviews with many well known SysOps; listings of TI BBS phone numbers with facts about what each system offers; information on the TI areas of the national databases like Genie, Comuserve, Delphi, and the Source; Info on programming BBS systems; How and Why to be a TI BBS SysOp; Hardware/Software/Modem Info; and lots, lots more. I started this project slowly many months ago, and offer this information to you, the reader, now in hopes of gathering unique, and timely, information to share with the rest of the TI community when this project is finished. If you are a BBS author, a SysOp of a BBS (either now or in the past), a frequent caller of TI BBS systems, interested in staying abreast of the TI world, or can offer any help in gathering names, addresses, phone numbers, authors information---please take this opportunity to contact me and let me know.

This book could bring us a whole new generation of TI Enthusiasts who can prolong the life of the TI 99/4A. If you are an author, a set of programs, documentation, a detailed history of your program and your TI lifestyle, and any other info you care to share with the world would be appreciated and very helpful. Contact me at the following address. All mail will be answered and all credits recognized. Please note where you obtained this information. I look forward to hearing from many of you in the near future.

Richard A. Fleetwood  
1125 Easton Road  
Dallas, Texas  
75218  
Attention: TI BBS Book

\* \* \* \* \*

#### A NEW BBS

There is a new BBS in the metro plex, It's called the ORPHAN TI-99 BBS. It is located in Arlington at metro (817)261-7466. Open 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

The board runs at 8N1. Your first call will be for logon only. With the metro number this also makes the BBS able to use PCP, When you get into Dallas just add (817) to 261-7466 This will bring you to the ORPHAN BBS.

Remember this is a FREE\_BBS, All I ask is that you U/L as much as you D/L. The U/L's and your useage of this BBS will keep it going.

Thank You From the MASTER SYSDOP  
JIM LOUIS

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THE LIBRARY CORNER  
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THE FOLLOWING IS THE LIST OF UPDATES TO THE LIBRARY TO DATE. I AM IN THE PROCESS OF CHANGING OVER TO FLIPPIS AND CONDENSING THE PROGRAMS IN THE LIBRARY. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL DUPLICATE PROGRAMS FOUND ALREADY. I AM ALSO IN THE PROCESS OF MAKING A BACKUP OF THE LIBRARY.

THE SOFTWARE LIBRARY CATALOG IS AVAILABLE AT CLUB MEETINGS IN HARDCOPY FOR \$2.00 EACH, IT IS NOW OVER 25 PAGES LONG.

PROGRAMS ARE PROVIDED BY COMPLETE DISK ONLY FOR A SERVICE CHARGE OF \$2.00 PER DISK (YOU PROVIDE THE DISKETTE) OR \$3.00 PER DISK (WE PROVIDE THE DISKETTE).

I WOULD LIKE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION INCLUDED WITH ANY DONATIONS THAT WE RECEIVE FOR THE LIBRARY. TYPE OF PROGRAM, LANGUAGE AND LOAD, A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM.

I HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED SEVERAL DOZEN DISKS OF PROGRAMS THAT I AM HAVING TO GO THROUGH AND CHECK OUT.

THATS ALL FOR NOW.

SAM

THE FOLLOWING FILES/DISKS HAVE BEEN ADDED OR UPDATED.

AUGUST, 1988

DSKU, COMMUN7000, COMMUN7001, DOCS1000, DOCS1001, DOCS1002, XBSCUT2003, XBSCUT2004.

DISK OF THE MONTH, AUG88DOM, SEPT88DOM, SEPT88DOM-.

SEPTEMBER, 1988

DOCS1001, BASCUT1002, XBSCUT2001, XBSCUT2002, XBSCUT2003, XBSCUT2004, DOCS1000, XBSCMU2600, XBSCMU2601, XBSCMU2602, XBSCMU2603, XBSCMU2604, BASCMU1200, BASCMU1201, BASCMU1202, FUNNELWEB V4.12.

OCTOBER, 1988

XBSCMU2606, XBSCMU2607, BASCMU1202, BASCMU1203.

AS OF OCTOBER ALL OF THE MUSIC DISKS HAVE BEEN UPDATED. THERE HAVE BEEN QUITE A FEW NEW ADDITIONS TO THESE DISKS.

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## \* \* E/A Revisited \* \*

Having almost finished my first large Editor Assembler program, I feel that a list of errors, omissions, and explanations of the E/A book would be useful to others starting such an endeavor. I can only list what I have found to be true on my system. So please double check these findings before you take them as true of yours. I found relatively few errors considering the size of the book.

Page# Sect# Item

3 2.1.2.2 The Command Mode of the Editor (edit,find,replace, etc.) is not listed here. It starts on page 26.  
 9 16.1 The VDP RAM Access Utilities are VMBW,VSBW,VMBR,VSBR, etc.  
 9 16.2.3 For more information on Floating Point Numbers see page 404.  
 24 2.1.2.1 This may be trivia but <return> on the TI means enter.  
 27 2.1.2.2 In the Find mode the computer starts its search at the lines you have on the screen when you go to that mode. If you are at the last screen of lines of a source code listing those are the only ones that will be searched.  
 33 2.2.1 1. On my system the source code must be in DSK1. 2. If you want a list file at PIO. include a period after it to give the program enough chars to work with.  
 53 3.7 The \$ symbol represents the address in memory of itself.  
 226 14.3.4 Contrary to what the manual says I can only get about 46 chars on one line of TEXT before I get an error message when I assemble the program.  
 252 16.2.2 Most GPLLNK routines need an address placed in VSPTR (>836E) to tell the routines where to place the stack values it uses. This is a VDP RAM address. >1000 is usually a good place for it. If you do not do this you will have mysterious symbols flash across the top of the screen while the GPLLNK routines are working. (The stack will be at >0000 and this is the start of the screen image table.)  
 255 16.2.2.2 Involution routine- The base number must go into the VSPTR stack and not the ARG. Also addresses FAC+12 thru FAC+19 are destroyed per the Mini Memory book. I found this to be true.  
 260 16.2.3.1 Floating point compare- Be careful to compare the status byte the right way. I move it to a workspace register and COC (compare ones corresponding) to what I am looking for.  
 261 16.2.3.1 Convert floating point to integer- This conversion rounds off the number. Examples- 1.4=1, 1.6=2.  
 348 21.7.3 I think the first line should read LI R0,>71E1  
 354 22.1.6 A delay of at least >3FFF is required between words if sprites are moving while the words are spoken. (Also needs LIM1 2, LIM1 0).  
 378 23.10 The example in the last paragraph is wrong. Addresses in the >4000 range are peripheral ROMs and can not be changed.

For long programs I used AORG to modify the DEBUG program to load at >2700, my Disassembler program at >E000 and the program I am working on at >A000. (Where else?). This allows all three programs to be available at the same time.

Bye. John Johnson (Cedar Rapids version)

162 Lorann Drive  
Naugatuck, Ct. 06770  
May 14, 1988

President,  
TEX-COMP  
P.O. Box 33064  
Granada Hills. Ca. 91344

Dear Sir,

I would like to share with you some concerns that have been expressed by several members of our Texas Instruments TI-99/4A user's group regarding your public offering of "Demo Disks". We believe that one of them is a fairware offering generated by our members. The program in question is the "Astrology Demo Disk" (MICROpendium, March, 1988, page 9).

Your description would be an accurate portrayal of our program that was released under the title ZODIAC Wheel of Fortune. It was specifically created to raise money for the user's group and debuted at the Boston TI Faire last year. We are not a large group by any means and depend on our creativeness to generate a bare minimum of income to sustain ourselves as an active, contributing member of the TI community. We strongly suspect that this income producing capability is severely eroded when others, such as you, have already charged a significant amount of cash (\$7.95 (\$4.95 + 3.00 S&H)) for the program. Although ZODIAC states that it is released with the intent of raising money for the group, I doubt that anyone will consider sending the suggested donation (\$6.00) after already having spent \$8.00. (Let me confirm this suspicion - no one has sent us any money to date).

We feel that there are certain inequities associated with your packaging and description. In particular, the author should be identified and the original title should be used in your ad copy. If for no other reason, people might procure any one of your "Demo Disks" under the false impression that they are something different than what they already own. From either our own parochial viewpoint, or that of any other programmer, we deserve to be recognized in print when a program is defined as being desirable (as you certainly have in your writeup).

Finally, your ad copy states that "All submitters warrant and represent that the software submitted is their property". We have problems with this statement. We don't know what the term "is their property" means in the context of being able to submit someone's

material to you. A poll of our group indicates that no one submitted the program to you for consideration as a "Demo Disk" candidate. As a result, we seriously doubt your ability to properly assess the material on the public market with respect to true ownership.

In summary, we, as a TI user's group, object to the sale of public domain software under an altered program title and where no accreditation is given to the author. We also disagree with the sale of fairware programs as it deprives the author of his due income.

We would appreciate hearing of your viewpoints regarding our above mentioned concerns. It would be most gratifying to see our suggestions implemented. It would not only satisfy our desires, but also better serve all TI-99 users.

Very Truly Yours,

John A. Bulakowski  
President,  
Nutmeg TI 99er's Users Group

162 Lorann Drive  
Naugatuck, Ct. 06770  
September 4, 1988

Mr. Jerry Price  
President,  
TEX-COMP  
P.O. Box 33064  
Granada Hills, Ca. 91344

Dear Mr. Price

We would appreciate a response to the attached letter.

Very Truly Yours,

John A. Bulakowski  
President,  
Nutmeg TI 99er's Users Group

\*\*\*\*\*  
TI-BASE  
Report Card

Performance.....A+  
Ease of Use.....B+  
Documentation.....A  
Value.....A+  
Final Grade.....A

Cost \$24.95 + 1.50 Postage and  
Handling  
Manufacturer: INSCEBOT Inc.,  
P.O. Box 291610, Ft. Orange, FL 32029

Requirements: Disk system, 32 K,  
Extended Basic, Editor-Assembler or  
Mini-memory. Printer optional. A  
RanDisk is optimum storage.

Shipped with 2 SSSD disks, manual and  
overlay strip.  
\*\*\*\*\*

TI-BASE ver 1.01

A review by,  
Barry Long, CPUG  
Harrisburg, PA

Recently our Users Group was  
contacted by INSCEBOT with an inquiry  
as to whether we might be interested in  
demonstrating their newly released  
TI-BASE. As the Secretary for the  
CPUG, I replied back that yes, we  
would. To my surprise, Dennis Faherty  
responded almost immediately by return  
mail with ver 1.0 of TI-BASE. (That's  
plus #1)

I have used or tried many of the  
'other' TI related Data-bases over the  
years since I purchased my machine, and  
I was a little skeptical when I read  
the letter, but, I am always on the  
look-out for the "perfect" Data-base,  
boy was I surprised!

The program comes with a very good  
documented manual, as manuals go. It  
comes with two disks. The first is the  
actual program disk while the second is  
a TUTOR disk.

I read the "Start-up" introductions  
and proceeded to load the main program  
disk. It did seem to take awhile to  
load, but, I guess all good things are  
worth the wait.

The first item is a Title Screen  
after which the program prompts you for  
the date. Once the date is entered, it  
loads the first command file called  
"Setup". This displays your system  
parameters. If you have only one disk  
drive, or a serial printer, you will

have to MODIFY the Setup to work  
properly.

The manual instructed me to load the  
"TUTOR" disk and follow along with the  
program. This lasts about 20 minutes  
or so, depending if you want to 'Pause'  
or not. Pause is controlled by  
depressing the 'Space Bar'. Resume is  
done by pressing the 'S' key. The  
TUTOR program is well done and it shows  
the author spent some time on it.  
After the TUTOR is finished, you will  
be sent back to the main program.

TI-BASE is a very complex,  
inter-relational data-base. That's  
right, I said "inter-relational". You  
can open up to 5 different data files  
at one time and move from one to the  
other with the "SELECT" command. This  
allows you to scan different data-files  
for common related data and print or  
display it as you so choose.

This alone was impressive! But,  
there's more! (That's plus #2)

You have the ability to create a  
"COMMAND" file with a DV80 text editor.  
The "COMMAND" file will "run" and  
operate your data base for you. (up to  
a point). Similar to the "batch" files  
on the "other" system. (That's plus  
#3)

You "CREATE" your own data-fields.  
The prompts let you know how much space  
is available for the field title, etc.  
You may have up to 17 fields, and 255  
characters in each field. The optimum  
storage will allow 16,129 records in  
one data-base. Note Ver 1.01 will only  
hold 8,192 records. (only, gee!)

You can SORT on any field (this can  
be slow if the Data-base is large),  
FIND any item in the Data-base in rapid  
time. You have 12 mathematical  
functions available, including SCR,  
LOG, SIN and ATAN to name a few. You  
can Concatenate the characters, TRIM  
trailing blanks, 5 BOOLEAN commands as  
well as several LOGICAL commands. The  
DATE is preset for Month, Day and Year.  
ie: 06/21/88. This is handy for  
entering dates in your assigned field  
(if you create one). (Plus #4)

You can MOVE data from one slot to  
another at your will. EDITING is fast  
and you can EDIT either by record or by  
Paging forward and backwards. Or,  
using the FIND command to locate a  
particular file. You may DELETE an  
individual record or the entire  
Data-base with one keystroke (warning,  
it is FAST).

Continued next page.

The APPEND mode allows you to input data and will add the data into the file as quickly as you can hit either Enter after the last field or F-8 (EXECUTE). F-9 (ESCAPE) will ignore your last input and return you to the master command prompt. You may MODIFY your fields as you choose, but, like any good data-base, you could lose data if your field length is different than originally created. A warning prompt will respond if this can happen, and the decision will be up to you to proceed. (Plus \$5)

My demonstration of this unique and exciting new program appeared to go well with our Users Group and I did place several orders with INSCBOT for the package.

In closing, I must state that TI-BASE is definitely not for the 'Novice' TI user. You must have 32K, RamDisk (optional), several disk drives (preferred), with a printer (optional). It will work out of Extended Basic, Editor-Assembler or Mini-Memory.

Some of the drawbacks are:

1. Slow loading
2. Slow sorting
3. Manual could be improved both in content and choice of print.
4. A sample data-base included with the program might help to illustrate the various features in actual use. The TUTOR file is nice, but an actual hands-on file would be better.

The pluses are:

1. Speed of the actual search and commands.
2. The ability to sort on any field.
3. The ability to find your particular data FAST!

3. Automatic saving of your data prior to quitting.

4. The large (extremely) storage capacity.

5. The interaction between up to 5 data-bases at once.

6. The large mathematical capabilities. (CFS is the closest).

7. The inter-relational capabilities.

This is the first I have ever seen for the TI. (ACORN 99) was too complex and slow. TI-BASE is FAST!

For the small investment that INSCBOT is asking, \$24.95 + SH, I would highly recommend it to anyone who needs a GOOD Data-Base. If Texas Instruments would have introduced this back in the beginning, there would not have been a 'Black Friday'. This has anything that I have seen on the '64' put to shame.

The service that I received from Dennis Faherty has been superb. I discovered a mild 'bug' in ver 1.0. I called INSCBOT the following morning and Dennis returned my call that evening. Version 1.01 was shipped out the very next day. I talked to INSCBOT today (6/21), placing my order and giving him my gripes and pleasures. He indicated my suggestions were very welcomed. I like dealing with INSCBOT and would recommend them to any and all.

Now, if only the authors of FIRSTBASE would respond to my earlier request, I could make a fair comparison.

Respectfully yours,  
 Barry Long  
 Central PA 99/4A Users Group  
 P.O. Box 14126  
 Harrisburg, PA 17104-0126

## The 5th Wave

Richard Tennant



"ALRIGHT, STEADY EVERYONE. MARGO, GO OVER TO TOM'S COMPUTER AND PRESS 'ESCAPE'...VERY CAREFULLY!"

## ZIGGY

"JUST MY LUCK! I'M A 512K, RANDOM-ACCESS MEMORY, DUAL FLOPPY... DISK-DRIVE, STATE-OF-THE-ART COMPUTER... AND THE MOST CHALLENGING THING YOU'VE GIVEN ME TO DO IS FILING YOUR BEAN DIP RECIPE!"



PLEASE SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE AND  
EXCHANGE NEWSLETTERS TO THE CLUB AT:

The Forest Lane Users Group  
P.O. Box 743005  
Dallas, Tx 75374-3005

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FOREST LANE USERS GROUP TIBBS INFO.  
(214) 328-4880 24 HOURS A DAY  
300 OR 1200 BAUD

**THE "ULTIMATE" TIBBS** -Possibly the most advanced and useful bulletin board in the country for the serious TI 99/4A user. We support QUAD DENSITY with two quad density/double sided drives and two double sided/double density drives. It is based around our own designed disk controller card. We also have one Horizon Ramdisk card, and the MPB clock card. The program itself is possibly the most advanced, most changed TIBBS around, and it makes use of all TI features--Graphics, Sound, and Color. We also support XMODEM transfers, with over 130 files to download at this time, with many more to come. To log on, just call the number posted above with your modem, hit 'N' and press enter. Follow the prompts after you have gotten your user number, you will be upgraded to regular user level within 24 hours.

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#### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

A Forest Lane Users Group membership includes a monthly newsletter mailed to your home, full access to the FLUG TIBBS, access to the FLUG software library of public domain and fairware programs, and many other benefits. Annual membership is \$15. For more information Please contact the BBS or drop a card in the mail to the membership chairman.

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#### MEMBER NEWSLETTER INPUT

Please send all newsletter input, articles, copies, pictures, files, or letters to the Editors to Oscar Smith/Roy Willis at the FLUG PO BOX. Disk files are appreciated and they can be uploaded to the BBS. All input must be received by no later than two weeks before meeting date in order to make the deadline.

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#### FLUG MEETING

FLUG meetings are held on the First Sunday of every month at the main TI plant on Central Expressway and LBJ in North Dallas. To get to the plant, take LBJ east from Central Expy, take the first exit which will be Floyd Rd. Follow Floyd Rd. around to the stoplight. This will be Walnut, go through this light unto the next one and turn left into the entrance of TI. You will pass the Texins Activity Center on your right after you have turned off of Floyd Rd. After another 100 feet or so you will come to a stop sign, go straight ahead and you will see a covered walkway on your immediate right. A sign hanging off the end of the covered walkway will read Employment Center. Just park across the street from the covered walkway and follow the covered walk to the SC Cafeteria building. It also contains the TI Health center, the TI Employment center, and other. Take the door on the left, and follow the signs to the conference room in the back of the Cafeteria. The meeting starts promptly at 2 PM, so try and get there on time.