lucas

for Jackson Mac Low

program to "conduct" performances of Mac Low's "Lucas 1 to 29"

usage: lucas textfile
where textfile is any DOS file in ASCII format

lucas scans the textfile for the letters "f" and "r"

when lucas finds an f
it displays a sequence of 7 left-to-right expanding bars
each expansion lasting a different number of seconds: 1 3 4 7 11 18 29

when lucas finds an r
it behaves the same except that the sequence of expansion durations
is reversed: 29 18 11 7 4 3 1

note that form is irrelevant to lucas
frfr == fr fr == f   r   f   r == f
                                         r

                                            fr
etc.

lucas also responds to the charcter ";"

";" is interpreted as the COMMENT charater, i.e.
; this line is a comment - even r's and f's are ignored
comments remain in effect till the end of a line
(if you need a 2 line comment, use a ";" at the beginning of each)
comments can begin in the middle of a line   ;like this

the last class of things lucas responds to are the strings
"del", "row", and "cls"
BUT ONLY IF THEY ARE THE FIRST NON-WHITESPACE CHARACTERS ON A LINE
(tabs and blanks (' ') are the whitespace characters)

a new line that begins with "del" causes lucas to delay - kill time -
for the value that immediately follows it
the format is:
del ticks
where ticks is a quantity of system clock ticks: 18.5 units per second
e.g. a line that reads
del 37
will produce a pause of 2 seconds

a new line that begins "row" causes lucas to print text
the format is:
row x y "string"
where x is the row (0-24) and y is the column (0-79) at which to begin
displaying string, a string of characters
e.g. a line that reads
row 24 62 "lower right corner"
will cause lucas to display
lower right corner
where you'd expect it to be
if you leave out string, lucas will simply position the cursor

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NOTE THIS:
row 24 80
will hide the cursor, very useful right before the del command

finally, if lucas encounters
cls
(again, at the begining of a line)
it clears the screen

all other characters/strings are ignored

when lucas finds no more f's or r's, or new lines beginning with
del, row or cls
it quits

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19jan92
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