Imperial

SPECTRUM USER FANZINE

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EXCLUSIVE

NEW SPECTRUM PC TO BE LAUNCHED IN THE U.S.A. SOON!

Yes it's true, and you read it here first. Believe it or not but there is still a large Spectrum user base in the U.S.A. . Many of these users are constantly improving existing software and creating new and won-
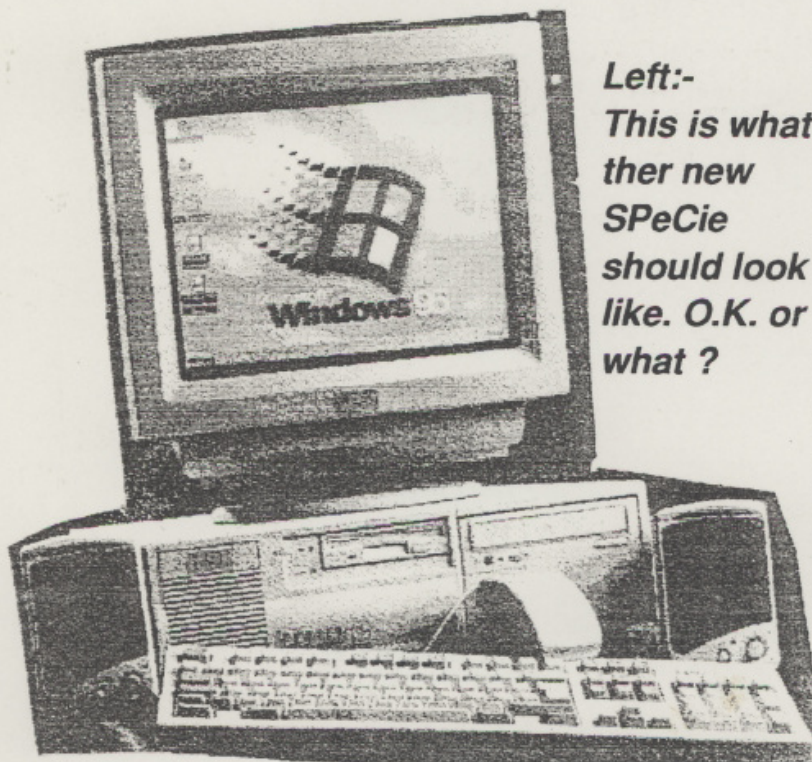

Left:-
This is what ther new SPeCie should look like. O.K. or what ?

derful hardware. There are still a lot of Spectrum programmers working out there aswell.

One of these many users have formed a small but steadily growing company called Zircom Computer Technologies. Zircom are basically a PC dedicated company but as a side-line they have ventured into the small but valuble Spectrum market.

On the grapevine Imperial has heard from one of its many contacts in the U.S.A. that Zircom have purchased the copyrights of the Spectrum computer

range. This includes everything that has been produced by Sinclair Spectrum and for Spectrum by Amstrad. A rough figure was mentioned by our contact. He said it was sold for just under $700,000 or about £933,000 if you want to be fussy. This doesn't sound much but it is a large sum of money when it comes to the Spectrum scene. Although the Spectrum market is worth a lot more than the amount paid, I think that Alan Sugar and his crony board of directors just wanted to get rid of it, as it wasn't one of they're greatest assets.

Now back onto the subject of the all new Spectrum PC fro Zircom Computer Technologies. The new Spectrum PC nicknamed then SPeCie has many new and old features. Here are a rundown of the specs.

Pentium 133 processor
Z80 co-processor
8 Mb of PC memory
128k of Spec. memory
800Mb IDE Hard disk
3.5" 1.44 Mb FDD
PCI Motherboard
4 PCI & 4 ISA Slots
256k Ext. PC cache
PCI IDE & I/O Controllers
PCI 4 Mb Video card
Hex Speed CD-ROM
SB Pro Sound Card
2 Ext. 60W speakers
Cassette tape facility
Optional Microdrive
Optional 3" FDD
Spectrum keyboard overlay
Windows 95 Keyboard
Microsoft Mouse
Windows 95
15" Svga Colour moniter
specWIN software
specSOFT demo tape
specSOFT demo disk

As you can see that's a lot of hardware. I suppose in the end it's going to be worth the money you pay for it. Our contact mentioned a price of around $1,500 that's about £2000 sterling. That's a really good price compared to some of the prices you see for 'normal' PC's on todays market. Personally I'm going

to save up and buy one. The new SPeCie computer works in three ways:-
1. Dedicated PC mode
2. Dedicated Speccy mode
3. Both
1. Dedicated PC mode
Well there's not much to say on this topic as all PC's are alike and work all in the same way.
2. Dedicated Speccy mode
This works by pressing a 'MODE' button on the front of the computer. This switches you between PC and Spectrum. Once you have switched it to the Spectrum mode then your away. (So I've been told). When in the Spectrum mode you can do anything that you can do on a normal Speccy. All the functions of a +3 are there. The tape facility works like a normal tape deck, the hard disk works like a Microdrive but uses different drive identities. On the SPeCie you have about 70 Megabytes of hard disk set aside for your Speccy programs.
3. Both
This is just the Speccy mode in a window. It works perfectly aswell as the dedicated mode. Whilst in this mode you can change Speccy bits.

Madam Divines' Game Boutique

Well this is a reletively new section. This page was formerly known as 'Games Galore'. It's exactly the same but with Madam Divine hosting the show.

'Bombed' is under the hammer this month. This looks like a old game, and looks rather crap, but theres' just one thing about it that keeps you playing. It's basically a maze game but there isn't a maze! On the screen there is a little map of an unknown area of the world. In the top left hand corner there is a little house, in the bottom right corner there is you. You are a little stick man which is contro- lled by the usual keys. The rest of the screen has little trees and rocks strewn all over the place.

The aim of the game is to get yourself to to your house. But the problem is that it's not that simple. There are little hidden bombs strategically placed on the screen. You have to dodge them aswell as getting home (obviously!). It took about a minute and a half to load 'Bombed'. After loading I was insta- ntly addicted. Mr Bondage had to rip me away from the computer. I even had to cancel my 'French Polishing' appointments bec- ause of it.

There are a few down sides to this games aswell as good ones. Such as the speed, this is quite slow. Also the sound, I mean come on Mr 'Programmer' can't you do any better on the sound side of things. If future gam es are going to be like this then you

better piss off whilst you've got the chance. It better be soon as there is'nt enough room in this town for the both of us. It's gonna' be guns at high noon'. (Only joking, i'm a real big softy at heart. I think two words could describe me 'Julian Clarey' !).

Overall I think that the games a real big hit. With me anyway, if it was up to my clients they'd burn it at the stake!

'Bombed' is available from Fountain PD. See free ads for address.
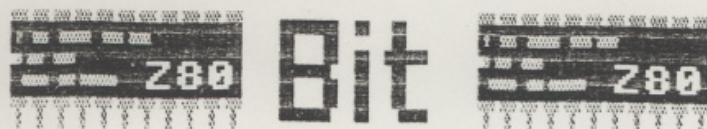
GRAPHICS ☆
SOUND ☆
PLAYABILITY ☆☆☆☆☆
LASTABILITY ☆☆☆
OVERALL ☆☆☆

Technical Bit

Z80 Z80

How to surf the net with your Spectrum!

Yes we at Imperial think that it is possible to surf the net with your Speccy.
Well why not ? . I mean you can get a Commodore 64 on-line so why can't you get a Speccy browsing the Web ?
In theory this is possible. But in practice is it ?
All you can do is try.
What you need to get on-line with your Speccy:-
* A modem
* A Hard disk (Microdrive !?)
* Internet software
* A subscription to a provider
This doesn't sound like much, but it is
It costs a bomb to subscribe to someone like Compuserve but they'd probably say something like "Oh go away, we don't want you low-life scum in our Pentium dominated company."
One good place that I recommend is Demon Internet Services. They provide a good service for ANY computer. That's right not just PC's ANY computer, even a VIC 20 (Maybe not !). One draw back of the Spectrum on-lie would be that you would only be able to use 'Talk-groups' and 'E-Mail', or any text-based subjects. This is down to the graphic capabilities of the Speccy. Well anyway, I'll research into this area a bit more, and report back to you.

Competition Results

Last months compo was a real corker. The question was:-
Who was the first man on the moon ?
And the answer was Neil Amstrong (Or was he ?)
The winner was a Mr Tirrel from Glasgow. So 6 months subscription is winging its way to him.
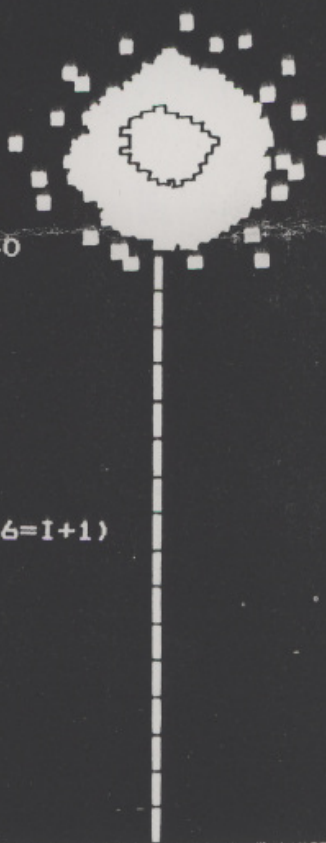Sorry no competition this month but maybe next time.

Mysto Listo

Mysto Listo predicts that this months listing is called Lander.
Oh my god she's actually got it right for once!
This listing comes in two versions. The ZX81 version and the
ZX Spectrum version. We are only listing the ZX Spectrum
one as they would take up to much space. If you would like
a copy of the ZX81 listing then send 50p to Imperial at the
usual address.

```
10 CLS
20 DIM Y(3)
30 DIM F(3)
40 LET N=1
50 LET P=INT(RND*19+2)*2
60 FOR I=1 TO 48
70 PLOT I,P
80 PLOT I+1,P
90 UNPLOT I-1,P
100 LET B$=INKEY$
110 IF B$="" OR N>3 THEN GOTO 140
120 LET F(N)=1
130 LET N=N+1
140 FOR J=1 TO 3
150 IF F(J)=0 THEN GOTO 190
160 UNPLOT J*16,Y(J)
170 IF Y(J)=42 THEN GOTO 210
180 LET Y(J)=Y(J)+1
190 PLOT J*16,Y(J)
200 IF P=Y(J) AND (J*16=I OR J*16=I+1)
    THEN GOTO 260
210 NEXT J
220 NEXT I
230 CLS
240 PRINT "MISSED"
250 STOP
260 CLS
270 PRINT "HIT"
280 STOP
```

For Sale

Advertising in 'For Sale' is for FREE Just send your list to Imperial at the usual address. (See 'Regulars').

The following goods are available direct from:-
Mr K.Gurd,
21 Ladycross Road,
Langdown,
Hythe,
Near Southampton,
Hampshire,
S045 3JR

All prices shown do not include postage & packaging. Please add £1.00 per order & £5.00 per computer

Spectrum software
Items marked "*" in double cassette or boxed.

1985 The day after (Mast) 50p
3D Spawn of evil (DK'Tron) 50p
ACE (Gamebusters) 50p
Action Biker (Mast) 50p
Adder Attack (Mogul) £1.00
Agent X (Mast) 50p
Amaurote (Mad) 50p
Arcade Flight (Code Mast) 75p
Ballblazer (Mast) 50p
Batman (The Movie) (Ocean) *£1.00
Biggles (Silverbird) 50p
Brain Storm (Bubble Bus) £1.00
Bounty Bob Strikes Back (Big Five) £1.00
Cabal (Hit Squad) 50p
Chase HQ (Ocean) *£1.50
Chequered Flag (Sin) 50p
Chuckie Egg (A&F Soft) £1.00
Commando (Elite) £1.50
Crash Smash 2 (Sweevos world, Monty run, Starquake, Bounder) *£2.00
Crazy Cars (Titus) *£1.00
Cyberun (Ultimate) *£1.50
Dandy (Winner Soft) 50p
Devils Crown (Mast) 50p
Dragon Ninja (Imagine) *£1.00
Fall Guy (Elite) £1.00
Finders Keepers (Mast) 50p

Formula 1 (Mast) 50p
Full Throttle (Zep) 50p
Gemini Wing (Mast) 75p
Gulp Man (Campbell Systems)£1.00
Heavy Metal (Acc soft) No free Beach Head *£1.00
Hijack (Summit) 50p
House of the living dead (Phipps) £1.00
I Ball (Firebird) 50p
Jet Bike Sim (Mast) 2 Tapes *£1.50
Jetpac (Ultimate) Cartridge boxed but no instructions *£3.50
Jet Set Willy (Soft Proj) £1.00
Jump Challenge (Martech) *75p
Korth Trilogy (PK McBride) Three Books and Three tapes £3.00
Kung Fu (Bug Byte) 75p
Level 5 (Mast) 50p
Legend of the Amazon woman (Mast) £1.50
Make a Chip (Sin) *50p

Utilities
tasword Two (Sin) *£1.00
Designers Pencil (Act) *£1.50
Lazer Compiler (Ocean) *£3.50
Lazer Basic (Ocean) *£3.50
Hardware for sale
Kempston Joystick Interface (Rubber keyed model) £2.00
Kempston Joystick Interface (ZX model) £2.00
Quick Data drive for C64 (Never been used with two waffers) £8.00
Phillips G7000, fully working. Early game console with rubber keyboard, PSu, all leads, 2 controllers, and 5 cartridges (9 games in all). £12.00
ZX81, fully working. Early model, manual, PSU, all leads. £10.00

Send a S.A.E. to K.Gurd for a full list of software & hardware available.

Regulars

The usual address:-
Imperial Spectrum User Fanzine,
c/o Robert Hedley,
168 Broadway,
Dunscroft,
Doncaster,
DN7 4HR

If you would like to submit any articles, listings, and 'For Sale' lists then send them to the usual address.

Any articles or listings printed will award you with a 25% discount on your next six month subscription.

FREE ADS FORM

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Postcode _____

Advert (No more than 25 words)

Declaration

I am not selling anything that is not Spectrumish.

Signed _____

Declaration

I _____ swear my undying alliance to the Spectrum range of home computers and will never ever leave the path of righteousness that is the Spectrum scene. People with PC's may call us inferior just because we dont have the latest 'Ninja PC' but we will never falter in the ongoing struggle for the recognition of 8-bit computing as a viable hobby. If I am ever tempted to buy a so called more "advanced" computer I must sit in a dark cupboard for three days with no food and water and chant "long live the Speccy, long live the Speccy" non stop. And if I ever buy a 16/32/64 bit computer then full know that I will be called scum in the street and spat at and I also know my windows may be smashed by a flying 16k speccy. Have a nice day.

Subscription Form

Subscription is available as follows:-

1 Issue   - £1.00

6 Issues - £5.00

12 Issues - £10.00

Dear Mr Imperial bloke,
Please sign me up for   issue(s) of Imperial. I enclose Cash/Cheque/P.O. to the value of £   .

Name

Address

Date