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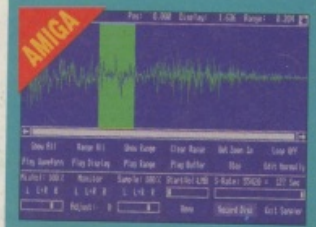

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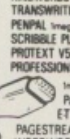

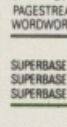

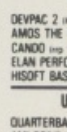

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A Snowball in hell?

Amstrad's new PC5286 is pitched as the perfect package for PC gaming. But can it compete against the Amiga, ST and consoles? – pages 4 & 5

• **Brand new but all set to go the same way as the PC200?**

THIS WEEK

News: All the latest updates – page 4-7

• **Wyse's top-notch 33MHz 486 PC. Power with the price - at a mere £3,500!**

What's New

Floppies guaranteed for 20 years, 36 gigabyte optical storage and bargain joysticks – page 8

COVER DISK 1

Express software: Turn to page 9 right now to find out how to get your tri-format disk up and running

THE EXPRESS FEATURE

Desktop video comes of age

How the Mac is setting the standards in low-cost, high-quality video production – pages 14 &15

• **Turn on and tap into tomorrow's interactive Mac video**

INSIDE INFORMATION

The Amiga, ST & PC pages

All the hottest gossip about your machine plus the most valuable previews and tips – pages 53, 55 & 56

• **Exclusive! - ProPage 3 for the Amiga**

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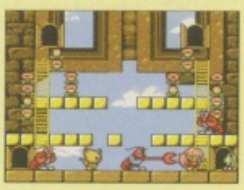
PLUS: *Darkman* for the Speccie – glorious or grim? – pages 62 &63



• **Rodland - looking all set to be one of the biggest hits of the year**

SHOPPING EXPRESS

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Open all ours

What is being claimed as the first World Video Games Open Championship is to be held in Bath during the weekend 21-22 September.

According to the organiser, Mr G Morgan, the event is totally independent of the computer industry and is '... promoted in the interests of the players...'

Qualifying rounds start at 10am on 21st Saturday at the Community Centre, New King St, Bath. The final rounds begin from 1pm on 22nd Sunday at the same address. Competitors pay £2 to enter plus £5 which goes towards prize money. Spectators also pay £2.

For information call G Morgan on 0225 482590. ■

Hoots away!

Sad news for PD freaks this week. We have been contacted by Peter Gunning of ScotSoft International, purveyors of Public Domain to ST users, who tells us that he has had to shut down the PD operation.

However, the library is up for sale to anyone interested in starting up their own effort. It is valued at £375 and comes with a customer list of over 200 names, and more than 400 disks including 50 clip art compilations which were put together by the company.

Contact Peter Gunning on 031-441 7952. ■

"The market is ready for us to move" says Amstrad as it

AMSTRAD GAMES

Amstrad is to launch what could be the first of a new range of PCs.

The new computer will be a 16MHz 286-based PC called the PC5286 Games Pack. It comes with a 40Mb hard drive and 1Mb of on-board memory. It will not, however, be aimed at the business community but rather at the home user who wishes to run business software and also indulge in games playing. It will be priced at £1,050.

A three game bundle of *Prince of Persia* from Domark, *F-15 II* from Microprose, and *Links* from US Gold will be included with the PC.

The PC5286 will have no options for expansion and it is probable that it will be forcefully targeted at the first time buyer. To this end, Amstrad has bought in a menu driven front end called Counterpoint, a colour icon-driven graphical user interface(GUI).

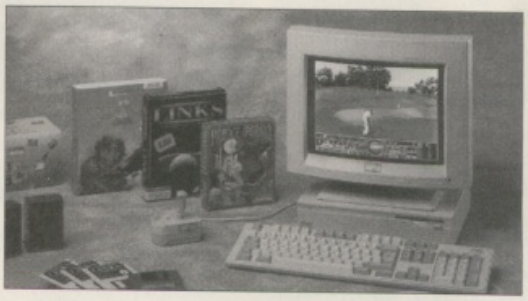
SIGN OF THE TIMES

On behalf of Amstrad, sales and marketing director, Malcom Miller said: "Recently, the signs are already here that the (PC) market is ready for us to move – recent surveys have shown that in the UK, entertainment software on PC format is already outselling ST versions and is closing fast on the Commodore Amiga".

LEADING THE WAY

Speculation within the industry, however, maintains that the games machine will not be a one-off. It is thought that it will be the first PC in a new series, possibly to be called the PC5000 range. The 5000s will eventually replace the third generation PC3000 series currently being pushed by Amstrad. The new series of PCs are expected to lead the way in a major restructuring of Amstrad's DOS-based machine range.

Amstrad's last games-based launch was the ill-fated CPC console, the GX4000 and the 6128 Plus machines, neither of which has sold in great numbers. The arrival of a new PC-based system which also takes on the games bundle ethic pioneered by Commodore and Atari places Amstrad in direct competiton with the two games hardware giants. ■



• ***F-15 Strike Eagle II, Links Golf* and *Prince of Persia* make up the bundle with the new 286-based PC**

Get tooled up for virtual business

Dimension International, a UK-based company, will be launching its *Virtual Reality Toolkit* at the Time Europe '91 Exhibition which runs from 15 to 17 October.

The toolkit is PC-compatible software based on the Superscape system. It enables business users to create virtual environments in which to experiment with their product ranges.

According to the company, users can make 3D environments within which realtime interaction can be carried out. Four kits are currently being beta tested with businesses throughout the country. These companies include a waste management, robotics and educational project design. In order to produce the virtual worlds you make use of three modules:

- Visualiser: this provides the user with the ability to see the environments and 'intelligent' objects.
- Shapes Editor: this module allows the creation of objects to be used for interaction within the chosen environment.
- World Editor: create your environment.

In order to run the software you will need a healthy bank balance, and the following system requirements: a 486-based PC running at 33MHz, an SPEA FGA graphics board with TMS 34020 graphics processor, an SPEA high resolution GDA 20-inch monitor and a Spaceball 2003 controller. Due to the fact the images are calculated in real time, the company claims that memory requirements are low.

The software editors and visualiser cost £15,000. There are also plans to create drivers for interaction with VR headsets, gauntlets and other paraphenalia of true virtuality. Call Dimension International on 0734 810077. ■

Little helpers

***Prompt* and *Dragnet* are two new utilities which are aimed at making the Windows-user's life that bit easier.**

Prompt shows all the files and subdirectories on your hard disk as a tree and you can search the disk for a filename. If you're not sure you've found the right file, you can view the contents, whether it is a text file or a PCX image.

If you know what's in the file but you can't remember what it's called, *Dragnet* will search your files looking for a section of text. *Prompt* costs £119, and *Dragnet* is priced at £129. ■

Amiga users – you can have it all with Sybil

Sybil is the name of a new hardware/software utility for the Amiga. According to the company the device enables Amiga owners to achieve the following tasks:

- Amiga, ST, PC, and Mac files can be transferred to 'any DOS format'
- Amiga drives can now be used to read Mac format disks
- High density disk storage enables users to format standard double sided double density disks (DSDD) to 1.12Mb. These disks can still read by users who are not using Sybil according to the company.
- Data compression. An entire disk can be reduced to two Amiga DOS files. The data still retains copy protection .
- A Supercard AMI-style backup system which can also make multiple copies.

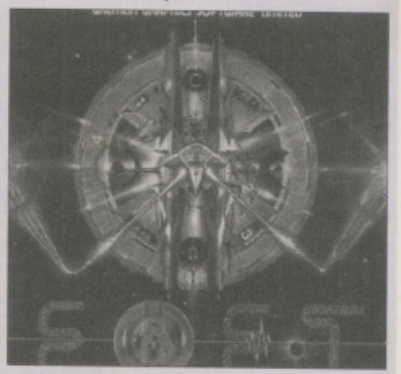
Sybil will cost £89 when it is eventually released later this year. For more information call Blitsoft on 0908 666265. ■

Need a bit of FOFT Touch?

Gamers get ready, two re-releases are winging their way to you via Mirror Image, the budget arm of Mirrorsoft.

***King of Chicago* is the first, a gangster bash set in the Chicago of the 1930s. You get to play Pinky Malone, your quest is to gain control of the city anyway you can. Formerly a Cinemaware release which never really caught the public's imagination in the UK. The graphics are reputedly of a high standard.**

Second on the list is the legendary *Federation of Free Traders* or *FOFT* for short. Gremlin was the power behind this supposed *Elite* beater back in the distant past. Remembered for its heavily delayed release, obtuse manual, excrutiating gameplay and general dullness, this is *FOFT*'s second re-release. It was also bundled with *PSS Jane Seymour*. Both games are £9.99 and are available for the ST, PC and Amiga. ■



• **FOFT as was in its initial Gremlin release. It's out again but this time from Mirror Image. Will there be any changes?**

enters the battle against the ST and Amiga

PC GAMBLE

cover feature

IT A FUNNY OLD GAME

Just exactly will the new machine offer potential users? Here are the details in full:

- 16MHz 80286 processor
- 1Mb RAM
- 40Mb hard drive
- 1.44Mb 3.5-inch floppy drive
- 14-inch VGA colour monitor
- DOS 3.3
- Analogue joystick
- Three games: *Prince of Persia, Links, F-15 II.*
- Ad-Lib compatible soundcard with joystick port
- PS/2-type mouse
- Two external speakers

The price has been set as £1,056.32

HOW DOES THIS COMPARE WITH A SIMILAR AMIGA PACK?

- 1Mb Amiga £399
- 40Mb hard drive £350
- 14-inch monitor £250
- joystick (analogue gravis) £47
- two external speakers £40
- *Prince of Persia* £25
- *F-15 II* £25
- *Links Golf* N/A

Total: (Approx) £1,136

AND THE ST VERSION

- 1Mb ST £399
- 40Mb hard drive £330
- 14 -inch monitor (Philips CM8833/11) £245
- joystick (analogue) (Gravis) £47
- Two external speakers £29.99
- *Prince of Persia* £25
- *F-15 II* £25
- *Links Golf* N/A

Total: (approx) £1,022

NB *All prices are approximate*

• **Suicidal? *Lemmings* will be on the Atari Lynx next year. Spookily, the game from publisher Psygnosis also features in the current Commodore Amiga bundle**

More Lynx for Christmas

Atari has announced even more software support for its Lynx colour hand-held.

It claims that 20 games will be available for the machine in time for the festive period. These will include *Hard Drivin', Ishido, STUN Runner, Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure, Pacland, APB,* and *Chequered Flag* among others.

Following the rush for Christmas titles, Atari is also planning to release conversions of three of this year's most respected games: *Lemmings* (already on the latest Amiga bundle, *Cartoon Classics*), *Pitfighter* and *Shadow of the Beast.* ■

EXPRESS ...

Microsoft chairman, Bill Gates, has donated $1m to the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre in the US. The money will be used to help build a new campus.

..SNIPPET

Double disc collection

• ***Midwinter* – one of the six highly acclaimed Microprose games now available on *The Games Collection Vol 1* CD**

Microhaus Limited has announced two CDs containing vast numbers of files in the form of demos and full games.

Disc one is called *Sampler Software Collection* and contains 13,000 files. The CD includes games, spreadsheets, word processors and databases. To track down files there is a full search facility by name, category and description. A file can then be decompressed straight to floppy. There is also a bulletin board system, a library of Soundblaster files and an audio tutor.

The second disk is *The Games Collection Vol 1* and contains *Midwinter, Gunship, Rick Dangerous, Microprose Soccer, 3D Pool* and *Savage.* You also get all the relevant keyboard overlays and manuals.

Microhaus is also offering a GenStar 2000 External CD-ROM player for the PC to play the games on for £350. The disks cost £88. Call 0452 371707. ■

Let your home take the strain out of training

A new training system for Amiga owners has just be launched by High Wycombe-based JJc. Instead of hacking off the day-long seminars with people you don't like, you get to study from the comfort of your own home.

The training consists of waiting for the postperson to deliver one Amiga disk per month. The disks carry regular sections relating to such areas as computer terms glossaries, questions and answers, AmigaDOS operation. There is also a personal question and answer option, and even a free digitising service.

The fee for a month is £5, the annual subscription will cost you £50. For more information contact JJc on 0494 883347. ■

It's a gas!

Come friendly chips and drop on Slough! For this picturesque Berkshire town is the testbed for a new computerised system of gas meter reading.

Some 30 businesses in Slough are the first in the country to do without conventional meters. Instead they have had chips fitted which don't just measure the gas used, they can also tell the gas-board if anyone has been tampering with the equipment.

The major change, however, will be the disappearance of the gasman. The new meters can be read over the phone or using an ultra-sound option, from a van. ■

Golden upgrade

Golden Image has launched a RAM card for the Amiga which is compatible with both *Kickstart* versions 1.2 and 1.3.

It enables the Amiga 500 to be upgraded to 2.5Mb of fast RAM or 1Mb of chip RAM and 1.5Mb of fast RAM. The card is bundled with 'RAM Test' and 'Extra Fast RAM' test programs, and costs £140. Call 081-365 1102. ■

EXPRESS ...

Microprose is to join the New York stock exchange in order to try and raise $16m. The company plans to sell two million shares at $8 each in order to pay off debts.

..SNIPPET

Arc prepares for battle

The Acorn Archimedes fight on, this time with a new game. *Waterloo*, the simulation of the battle which put the word Merde into popular military useage, is now available for Acorn's RISC-based machine.

The game was programmed by Dr Peter Turcan, who was responsible for the *Borodino* and *Gettysburg* sims. *Waterloo* has already reputedly sold ober 30,000 copies on other formats. In its latest, Archimedes guise, it comes with 3D battlefield views, a strong parser and sound effects. In fact the publisher, Turcan Research Systems, is even claiming that *Waterloo* accurately captures, among other things, the '....courage and timidity of men in battle'. Rich claims indeed.

The game costs £24.95 plus £1 P&P. Call 071-625 8455. ■

Shoot from the lip

"In a few years time, Bob Gleadow and I will probably look at each other and say 'Well one of us was wrong'". Jim Mackonochie of Commodore talking about Atari UK's MD's recent statement that CD-I rather than CDTV is the route to take.

"It is certainly a good piece of marketing, but I don't think that the public will take it up". A Commodore spokesman talking about Amstrad's new games PC.

"In today's more discerning economic climate, the end user needs as many computing options as possible for his money. The head of the house wants to make a wise investment for his family..." Malcom Miller of Amstrad talking about the same machine while attempting to keep up with late 20th Century sexual politics.

'In Amstrad's latest press release there was a mention of new PCWs. Locomotive Software found that Amstrad's product offer needed some help' The introductory blurb to Locomotives' latest press release.

'The (six-a-side) teams will have the unique chance to play on the full-size Old Trafford pitch... ' Sega appears to have the world's 12 fittest youngsters.

• Howard Fisher, Locomotive's commercial director, moving with the PCW

PCW Plus printer package

Locomotive has announced a range of products and bundles to take advantage of the launch of Amstrad's new PCWs.

LocoFont BJ is a printer package for PCW9512 Plus users. Specifically designed for those who purchase the BubbleJet option, LocoFont BJ provides Plus users with an additional 12 fonts and enables the printing of the entire LocoScript 2 character set including Greek, Cyrillic and special scientific characters. LocoFont BJ costs £34.44.

The company has also launched the LocoScript 2 and LocoMail User Guides two books to help PCW users take full advantage of these programs. Both come with sample disks and cost £19.95

Other existing Locomotive products that will be bundled with the new machines include LocoScript 2, LocoMail and LocoSpell with the PCW9512 Plus. The 9526 will come with a special LocoScript 2 and LocoFile demo offer, by which users will be able to send for a free demo disk, a free copy of Sprint, the LocoScript user magazine and a product guide.

Call 0306 740606. ■

Colour your crystal ball

The Crystal Trackball from Golden Image features a transparent ball which lights up red or green depending on which button you press.

Switchable for use on either the Amiga or the ST, it supports auto fire and key lock functions and is designed for sensitive fingertip operation.

So if you need a visual aid to help you remember which finger to twitch, the Crystal Trackball will set you back £39.

Contact 081-365 1102. ■

Viglen launches 486 machines

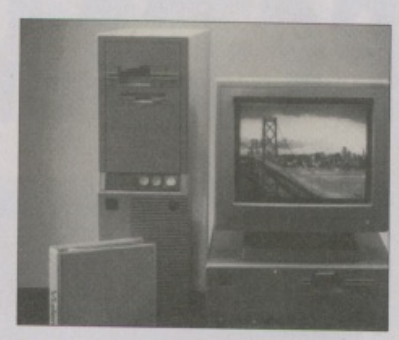
Viglen has launched its Vig IV range, two high performance 486 PCs.

The Vig IV/33, at £1,799, is a 486DX running at 33MHz. It has a 100Mb hard disk and 4Mb of RAM which can be upgraded to 32Mb. The lower level Vig IV/SX runs at 20MHz which costs £1,499. It features 2Mb of RAM upgradable to 32Mb, and has an 80Mb hard disk capacity.

Super VGA versions of both are available for £1,949 and £1,599 respectively.

Both models have eight expansion slots and one parallel and two serial ports. They can be used as either desktop or mini tower computers and come supplied with MS DOS 5.0 and *Windows 3.0*.

For further information contact 081-997 3000.



• The new Vig IV range comes in either desktop or mini tower configurations

Patents to stop manufacturing 3.5-inch disk drive

RECEIVERS SHUT DOWN RODIME

Rodime, the firm which patented the 3.5-inch disk drive has gone into receivership.

It was founded in 1980 in Glenrothes as a breakaway group from the American Burroughs company, which later went on to become Unisys. And for a while it was lauded from the west coast of America to the Far East. However, since those heady days it has been a consistent non-profit maker. In fact 1984 was the last time its bank balance showed a black tinge.

LEGAL WRANGLINGS

It will cease to exist as a manufacturer as soon as the legal wranglings have finished, probably within the next few weeks. Following this however, it will begin a new life as an intellectual property holder – it will begin by sueing 30 other companies which make 3.5 inch drives. Rodime is able to do this because of a 1988 US Patent Office ruling which upheld the exclusive copyrights which the company had taken out on the drives.

AFTERSHOCKS

IBM has already felt the aftershocks of this judgement. In November last year Big Blue was forced to pay out $13m (approx £9m) in a settlement which went in favour of Rodime.

If all goes well for the company, and its patents run until 2004. It is more than likely that it will be making more money by not manufacturing anything than it ever did when it was in business.

Peter Bailey, the president and chief executive, told the *Financial Times*: "It's unlikely that people will be able to produce a 3.5-inch drive without infringing our patents."

SHARES SUSPENDED

However until the law suits begin to pay off, it still remains the fact that Rodimes shares were suspended at 4p each, half of the 620 staff will be laid off, the Bank of Scotland is still owed somewhere in the region of $35m (£29m). There are also several other share holders including the 3i Group waiting to see what happens to their money. ■

Digital download from camera to your PC

Fotoman, from Logitech is the latest digital camera which can be connected directly to a PC.

The unit works in a similar way to the Cannon Ion. The user takes photographs in the conventional manner, but instead of trekking down to the developers, the data is simply downloaded to the PC. The photos, at this point merely blocks of data, are then treated using *FotoTouch*, a dedicated Windows-based image editing software.

Unlike the Cannon Ion, however, there is no magnetic media used to store the images. Instead, the camera comes with an internal RAM chip capable of storing up to 32 images. Fotoman comes with a camcorder screw-mount lens, built-in flash, base unit with power supply, six feet of serial cable, a NiCad battery and a neutral density filter and adaptor for use outside. It is also expected that add-ons such as extra lenses and filters will be made available via standard camera shops.

Each images takes up an average 90-100K of disk space. Once the images have been run through *Fototouch* the pictures can then be output as PCX or TIFF formats.

According to Logitech, the system will be available in the United States from October with a probable price of $799 (approx £500). ■

The colour of money

A new printing bureau has emerged which caters specifically to the needs of Amiga users.

Called Studio 101, the bureau will take images created using such packages as *DPaint IV*, *Pro-Page* and *Photon Paint*, and laser print them to colour hard copy at a resolution of 300x300 dots per inch (dpi). The printer used by the company is also Pantone registered and so will accurately reproduce Pantone colours.

All you need to do is send in your disk and £5 for each A4 page to be printed. A charge of £2.50 is made for each additional copy made. Users of the system are also advised to ensure that all disks are virus free. In the event that a virus is found, you will be charged but not printed.

Contact Studio 101 on 0827 280884. ■

• The *DPaint III* monkey is given a new lease of life and so could your images if you decide to take your Amiga produced page layouts to a new bureau

All the fun of the unfair

A weird element of enjoyment entered the world of the computer hacker when it was uttered by a US assistant district attorney last week.

"Computer crime is fun" said Kenneth Citarella of Westchester county, New York. He followed this with: "Computer criminals are smart" as he spoke at the National Conference on Computing and Values.

He was obviously speaking from the law enforcer's side of the fence, implying that the hunt for hackers was more stimulating than tracking down shoplifters or even crack dealers. He also went on to deny that there is a case of 'hacker hysteria' sweeping through local prosecutors. ■

Sega drops 16-bit console price in response to grey importers

MEGADRIVE IN £20 PRICE CUT

For the second time this year, Sega Europe (formerly Virgin Mastertronic) is to cut the price of its Mega Drive games console.

The cut takes the machine from its previous £149 price point to £129. Effectively this takes into account the rise in VAT which occurred in the March budget.

For its part however, Sega is claiming that the move will repel the advances of grey importers – companies which independently import products and sell them to the public without the need to pay licensing costs to the manufacturer.

READY FOR ACTION

According to Alan Sharman, Sega's UK managing director: "We know that with the last drop a lot of people pulled out of the (grey) market. £129 will make things very uncomfortable. We've already ordered more stock for Christmas, so we're ready." He continued: "Promotion for the new price point will be in the TV campaign which starts in September..."

Whether Sega will follow up the Mega Drive announcement with additional news relating to the 8-bit Master System and the hand-held Gamegear has not been confirmed.

Finally, following the announcement, Sega released details of the number of units it has officially sold so far in the UK. 175,000 Mega Drives totalling £11.5m, and 325 Master Systems totalling £12m were the figures released by the company. ■

• Will Mega Drive's price cut scare off the grey importers as Sega would wish? Or can the unofficial dealers meet the challenge. The 16-bit price guerilla war starts here. Official

THE PRICE IS ROT

Sega is maintaining that its imminent price cut is being made in order to counter the grey importers. However, with the console market becoming more profitable with each passing day, and with other players in that grey market, what kind of challenge does the Mega Drive face? We look at the price differences and at possible challengers to the console crown:

Mega Drive (new official price)
£129 Mega Drive (available selection)
£135 (from Megatronix)

£99 (SCART) £139.95 (PAL) (Dream Machines)
£75. (SCART) £75 (PAL) (Studio Software)

Nintendo Super Famicom (Super NES)
£125 (Studio Software)
£275 (MegaTronix)

PC Engine £119.95 (Dream Machines)

GREY IMPORTS: WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

On the surface, buying hardware such as the Sega Mega drive, Nintendo Super Famicom, NEC Neo Geo and PC Engine to name a few, from grey importers could save you money.

However what you do not get if you purchase your equipment from non-licenced dealers, many of which are reputable companies, is as follows:

- **Manufacturers' guarantees**
- **Manufacturers' service agreements**
- **Access to upgrades which are issued to licenced owners**
- **Repairs services**

While grey importation is not actually illegal, it is frowned upon by the hardware manufacturers and their official dealers.

Apple minds its own language

Apple is working with a number of other major companies (including Claris, Frame Technologies, Quark, Microsoft and WordPerfect) to create a new text transfer standard.

The new standard, called Rich Text, will allow users of programs from all of the above companies (and many more) to transfer text between applications and even between different types of computers without losing any of the formatting information.

It will retain such information as line lengths, spacing, paragraph styles, tab positions, embedded objects such as pictures, and the fonts used in the document. This will theoretically allow a document written in a future version of Microsoft *Word* to be read into *WordPerfect* with no loss of formatting information.

The Rich Text standard is similar to Microsoft's own Rich Text Format (RTF), which other programs use. However, RTF has never really become as industry-wide as it was hoped; in particular, not many programs running on the IBM PC use it – and that is where the new format comes in handy.

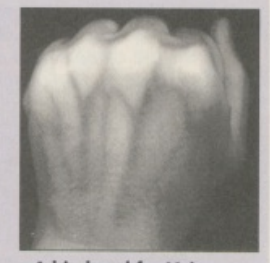
Applications which support it won't be around for a while, but if Apple has its way it could become a standard in the next few of years maybe even replacing the dated ASCII.

Vein Glory

Vein Check, the revolutionary security system featured in *Express* issue 144, has just won the divisional heat of the Toshiba Year of Invention Awards.

Inventor, Joseph Rice, came up with the idea for the system which makes use of the unique patterns formed by the veins on the back of human hands, while sitting in his car in a traffic jam.

The award which qualifies Mr Rice for the national finals to be held in December, consisted of a Toshiba T1000LE, a camcorder and, more importantly for the future of Vein Check, funding to continue development of the device.



• A big hand for Vein Check. *Express* covered the early stages of its development, and now Toshiba has rewarded it

If Vein Check wins the grand final, Mr Rice stands to gain national recognition and a share of the £100,000 overall prize money. ■

Innovative awards

The British Innovation Award is a major monthly competition designed to encourage the 'innovative talent of British companies and individuals'.

Sponsored by *The Sunday Times* and the control systems company Honeywell, the Award culminates in an annual presentation for the best innovation of the year.

It is separated into six categories: medical, - transport, construction, telecommunications and computing, consumer products and helping the disabled.

Each monthly winner receives £300, while the annual prizes are £700 for each category and £2,000 for the overall best innovation.

A recent monthly winner, for example, was a credit card sized map system which came a special magnifier for people involved in outdoor activities.

For further information telephone 071-379 0304. ■

EXPRESS...

US Wireless is to launch a mobile credit card verifier. The POS5 has two RJ11 phone jack sockets so that a laptop and fax machine can be connected to it.

So now even the icecream man can take Amex.

...SNIPPET

Close down

Schneider, the German PC manufacturer and one time Amstrad companion, has announced that it is to close down its UK offices.

The company has switched all UK distribution of its PC range to Greyhound Marketing. According to Monica Worlfe of Schneider's German headquarters, the move had been underway since April.

A Greyhound director, Phil Arlot explained that his company had been importing its Schneider equipment from Germany rather than making use of the UK supplies. ■

EXPRESS...

Ashton Tate has announced a software amnesty in the United States. All users of unlicenced *Multimate*, *Applause*, and *dBase IV* will be allowd to register the programs at reduced prices.

...SNIPPET

WHAT'S NEW

Details, details, details! That's what you get plenty of here. *Express* brings you the latest hardware and software news and releases in an easy to digest form....

Wyse offering

PRODUCT: i486 PC
NAME: Decision 486/33
COMPATIBLITY: PC

• Another 486 PC hits the stores this month. Although it is not aimed at the user in the street, there is no reason why you should not consider trashing that PC1512 and having a gander at the upmarket systems

PCs using the Intel 486 are becoming as common as suicidal Soviet hardliners at the moment, and Wyse's offering sits well with the pack.

Running at 33MHz, the machine is aimed at computer aided design (CAD), computer aided software engineering and computer aided manufacture (CAM) applications. It comes with 2Mb of RAM as standard expandable to 16Mb, and a 128K memory cache and is based on an Industry Standard Architecture data bus (ISA).

The unit has seven ISA expansion slots including one Centronic parallel, and two serial ports. There are also four half-height storage shelves and the ability to take a Weitek coprocessor.

System software, unusually in this era of the graphic user interface, is in the form of MS-DOS 5.

Both 5.25 and 3.5-inch drives are available, as are three hard disks ranging from 110Mb, 200Mb or 300Mb ESDI.

Price: Entry level single floppy drive, and interface for two IDE hard disk drives: £3,445. Model 300E ESDI hard drive system: including 300Mb ESDI hard disk: £5,435.
Availability: Now
Target users: CAD, CASE and CAM users
Contact: Wyse Technology: 0734 342 200
Perceived competition: IBM, DEC, Tandon

Optical storage

PRODUCT: Optical storage system
NAME: Pinnacle range
Compatibility: PC, Mac, Sun, Sparcstations, Vax

Before too long, the notion of storing your hard worked for data on a conventional floppy disk, with storage capabilities rising from a measley 173K to 1.44Mb, will be laughable. Optical storage is here to stay. And one company which is heavily involved with the new media is Microsystem Mainboard. It has just gained UK distribution for its re-writeable optical storage devices.

These include the Pinnacle range

• Hey good looking! The optical storage revolution up and running, and more successful than others we could mention. Now an American firm has distribution of its wares in the UK. Could this be a boon to you?

which the company claims includes the "world's first" 3.5-inch optical drive and the world's best selling 5.25-inch version as well. Storage capacity begins at 128Mb and moves up to a more than respectable 36Gb (giga-bytes).

Price: Starts at £2,200 for the 128Mb version, rising to £45,000 for the 36Gb drive.
Availability Now
Target users: Anyone who requires large capacity data storage or who wishes to be involved in the optical upsurge.
Contact: Microsystem Services: 0494 441661
Perceived competition: IBM, Philips, Hitachi, DEC and Motorola.

Cure your computer calamities

PRODUCT: Floppy disks
NAME: Polaroid DataRescue
Compatibility: Amiga, ST, PC, Mac

Some users have been know to wake up at night screaming "Don't bring that coffee near my data!" in agonies of panicked worry. In order to guard against such accidents as spilt beverages, errant magnet wielding children, viruses and the like, Polaroid is introducing a range of disks which it claims are 100 per cent error free and are protected by a 20 year guarantee.

In the event that a computer calamity does occur however, the company is backing a protective warranty with a service agreement; you damage the disk, and then send it to DataRescue HQ in California, and the company will '...make every attempt to recover 100 per cent of data free of charge...'. It further claims that this reclamation process will be carried out with 48 hours of receiving the disk.

Both 3.5 and 5.25-inch formats are covered by this plan, and what's more the disks come with an anti-static liner

• The name Polaroid is enough to inspire confidence. Combine this with a 20 year guarantee and free data recovery and you could have an excellent deal

which cleans the surfaces of the disks.
Price: Starting at approx £8.40 for 10 double density 5.25 inch, rising to £22.80 for 10 3.5 inch PS/2 high density 3.5-inch versions.
Availability: Now
Target users: Anyone who uses floppy drives and is concerned about data loss.
Contact: Sternstat: 081-991 1666
Perceived competition: According to the company: "No one else is providing this kind of service...".

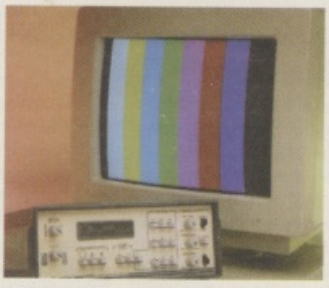
Testing times

PRODUCT: Monitor tester
NAME: Black Star 14010 Video Monitor Tester
Compatibility: PC

Black Star, the company responsible for this PC add-on, claims that 'dedicated (video) testers are either expensive or limited in performance' and that it has solved this problem with its latest low-cost device.

The 1410 produces patterns on screen which can then be used to align most PC monitors. Patterns available include raster, colour bars, horizontal and vertical lines, dots and a test card among others. It even comes with its own 16x2 character LCD monitor upon which the system operation details are displayed.

It is compatible with CGA, MDA, EGA, PGA, VGA, 8514/XGA and SVGA, and even standard TV monitors. Black Star also maintains its system can be factory set to meet the needs of many other monitors. Connection to the outside world is achieved with a BNC and 9, 15-way D connectors.



• Feeling a little out of alignment? Having problems with your vertical hold while attempting some heavy duty *1-2-3* work. Get your monitor tested now and save your eyes.

Price: £527.57
Availability: Now
Target users: Engineers and technicians
Contact: Black Star: 0480 62440
Perceived competition: None known

• A new range of microswitched computer hardware leisure devices interfaces (joysticks to you) is about the for the Amiga, ST and even the humble CPC. The Jet line-up boasts what its manufacturer calls 'comfort grips'

Go jet 'em

PRODUCT: Joysticks
NAME: Mega, Super and Micro-Jet
COMPATIBILITY: ST, Amiga, CPC

When attempting to navigate around rebel empires, power up the line in a cup final match, or negotiate murderous platform levels you could use the keyboard. However a joystick cuts down on wear and tear.

This new range of three microswitched sticks from Cheam-based Product 2000 comprises three models: the basic is the Microjet which comes with two fire buttons and contoured grip. Next up the line is the Superjet with four buttons and autofire. Top of the range is the Megajet which comes with four fire buttons, autofire, speed controls and an LCD stop watch for those tricky levels.

Price: MicroJet: £10.95. SuperJet: £12.95. MegaJet: £19.95
Availability: Now
Target users: 16 and 8-bit games players (available soon for Sega and Nintendo console ranges)
Contact: Product 2000: 081-644 0033
Perceived competition: Konix, Spectravideo, Cheetah.

COVER DISK

Here it is at last – *New Computer Express* brings you a totally new experience – the world's first ever tri-format cover disk!

Welcome to the *New Computer Express* Cover Disk, a milestone in computer magazine publishing history. Not only is this the first time that a cover-mounted disk contains software for three different computers, but *Express* is also the first ever magazine to publish a cover disk every week.

The *Express* Cover Disk features software for the most popular 16-bit computers: the Amiga, Atari ST and PC compatibles. In the coming months we'll be putting together disks that you'll all find useful, and if you let us know what you want: we'll do our best to include programs that appeal to as many people as possible.

Quantity and quality are the names of the game, and we'll be packing the disk with as much software as possible. Not rubbish, mind you, but the best programs we can get our hands on. These could be demonstrations of commercial programs (of *all* types, not just games), Public Domain and shareware, as well as contributions from you, our valuable readers.

So sit back, relax and enjoy this wonderful new addition to your favourite computer magazine, *New Computer Express*.

TRI-FORMAT TECHNOLOGY

Some of you might be wondering how we can put software for three different computers on a single 3.5-inch floppy disk.

Basically, it's a very clever process. Using a special utility developed by Rob Northen Computing we can determine just how much disk space we want for each machine. Given this flexibility, we can use what software we want to, depending on how much software we get in for each machine, and how much space it takes up. So, for example, one week we could dedicate 60 per cent of the disk to the Amiga, and 20 per cent each for the ST and PC; and the next week we could change the balance completely. This means that all computers are catered for, fairly and squarely.

We'll be trying to pack as many good programs as possible on to the disk, using the best compacting techniques around. At the same time, we'll also be trying to ensure that the disk is as easy to use and as fault-free as possible.

All this sounds quite simple on paper, but in reality the format is quite complex. The disk will be tested to make sure it works with as many configurations as possible, but it's almost inevitable that some problems will arise.

If they do then write in and tell us, explaining what went wrong, what type of system and set-up you have, and whether you've been able to solve the problem. Write to: Cover Disk Problems, *New Computer Express*, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW.

That way, if we get a lot of letters about a problem we can let other readers know about it in the next possible issue. And since *Express* is a weekly magazine, you'll all be informed of these problems (and, possibly, solutions to them) much sooner than any other publication.

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM A COVER DISK?

We think *Express* readers are the most active computer users around – you want details of all the latest events and products in the weird and wonderful world of computing, and we provide them. Every week.

Now we want the Cover Disk to be just as up to date and exciting. And while we're pretty confident that we can make it the best in the business, we'd like to hear what *you* want from it.

Write to us with your ideas and together we'll push this magnetic media to its limits. Send your ideas, opinions, praises, complaints and anything else concerning the Cover Disk to: Cover Disk Feedback, *New Computer Express*, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW.

BACKING UP

These days it should almost go without saying that you need to keep backups of your most valuable software.

In any case, we'll say it again: you need to keep backups of your most valuable software.

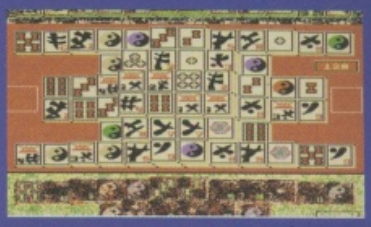
This includes your *Express* Cover Disk.

We have dedicated a page to each of the three machines – the Amiga, Atari ST and PC – and all the copying instructions are on each page.

Be warned that because the disk is a complicated format, some of these instructions could be a bit tricky.

DISK CONTENTS

AMIGA

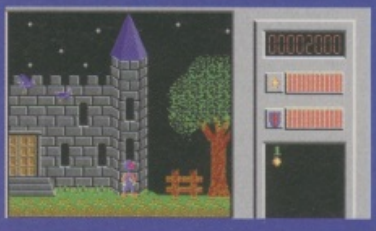


China Challenge
•bBase II

ST

Robotz •ViewGIF

PC



Captain Comic •Canary

EARN UP TO £1,000

By now you will have seen what the first *Express* Cover Disk is like. It won't be like this every week, but what we put on it is largely up to what we get sent by you, the readers.

If you think you've written something that other *Express* readers would find useful, interesting or just plain fun then send it in! We're on the lookout for any software for the Amiga, ST and PC, and if we use it, we'll pay for it – up to a maximum of £1,000!

As you all know, *Express* is a weekly magazine which means we come out at least four times more often than the monthlies. So now you've got that many more chances to contribute your creation, earn some money and see your name in print.

GUIDELINES TO FOLLOW

1 Please document the software as much as possible. We'll be getting heaps of programs and to have to work out how to use them all will take up what little time we have to put together a great disk.

2 Check for big mistakes in the program such as (any) bugs, errors, or file corruptions. If you find any, fix them and send the program in some other time. Just think: if it works, then we might even use it.

3 Check for little mistakes in the program such as misspelled words. This may take a little extra time, but it will look that much more professional.

4 Test everything before you send it in. If it's a duff disk then we won't be able to do anything with it, will we?

5 In the case of PC software, try to use CGA as well as EGA and VGA graphics, and even MDA (monochrome) if possible. Also, if the program uses a mouse, try to make it so that it is an option and not an absolute necessity. Basically, try to accommodate as many PC users as possible.

NB: Unfortunately we won't be able to return any disks sent in to us. Not even if you include a SAE. The monthly magazines can do that, but because we put out a disk every week there is simply no time to arrange anything along those lines.

Once you've done all that and filled in the form on page 11, send all your contributions to: Cover Disk Contributions, *New Computer Express*, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA12BW.

COVER DISK AMIGA

•All the tiles in *China Challenge* are based on ancient Chinese symbols

•China Challenge brings the age-old board game Mah Jong into the 20th century

CHINA CHALLENGE

The thought of two Chinese men moving little white tiles around a board is hardly going to excite the world, but the game they're playing, Mah Jong, has proved pleasureable for hundreds of years.

China Challenge recreates the game on the Amiga, but in a far more up-to-date way. Amiga game players could well be familiar with Activision's *Shanghai* which was an early, but very popular version of the game. *China Challenge* is also a good implementation of the game, and it's free!

LOADING THE GAME

To load *China Challenge*, turn your Amiga on, insert the Cover Disk in your disk drive and wait for the Workbench screen to come up.

When the disk icon appears (it's called Tri-Format), double click on it with the mouse pointer. This opens up a window with two folders – one which is labelled China_Challenge. Double click on that folder, and when the next window appears, double click on the China_Challenge icon. The game will then load.

To see the documentation, double click on the English icon in the same window.

HOW TO PLAY

To start the game, click on the right mouse button and move the cursor to the right menu, then click on 'New Game'.

Playing the game is simple in concept, but difficult in practice. You can see a pile of 120 different tiles and it's up to you to get rid of them.

There are a couple of guidelines to follow, however. To remove the tiles, just click on a pair that match. They disappear from the pile, leaving you with two fewer tiles in the pile. And you can only remove tiles that don't have another tile to their right or left.

From there it is just a matter of continuously matching tiles until they've all gone. It may sound like a simple game, but it's very addictive and absorbing.

AMIGA BACK-UP COPY

1 Start your Amiga with your Workbench disk.

2 Take a blank disk and initialise it (instructions in your user manual).

3 Now enter the CLI, by double clicking on the CLI icon that is in your System draw on a standard Workbench disk.

4 Then enter the following CLI commands to set up our working environment (remember to press <RETURN> after each):

```
MAKEDIR RAM:C
COPY C:COPY|DIR|DELETE RAM C:
COPY C:MAKEDIR|INSTALL RAM C:
PATH RAM:C ADD
PROTECT RAM:C RWE
PROTECT RAM:C/COPY RWE
PROTECT RAM:C/DIR RWE
PROTECT RAM:C/DELETE RWE
PROTECT RAM:C/MAKEDIR RWE
PROTECT RAM:C/INSTALL RWE
```

5 Once you have entered the commands and the drive light has gone out, take out your Workbench disk and put your *New Computer Express* Cover Disk in the internal drive (DF0:). To start copying, enter the following CLI command:

```
COPY DF0:#? RAM:
```

6 During copying, the machine will display a list of the files being copied. Once copying has finished, remove your Cover Disk and insert your newly formatted disk into the internal drive and enter the following commands:

```
COPY RAM:#? DF0:
DELETE RAM:#?
```

7 That's the first part of the Cover Disk copied. The next step is a bit more tricky.

Firstly, remove your copy disk and insert the Cover Disk into the internal drive. Enter the following:

```
DIR DF0: OPT D
```

The Amiga should then display a list of all the directories on your Cover Disk which will looking something like the following:

```
China_Challenge (dir)
c (dir)
bBaseII (dir)
devs (dir)
l (dir)
libs (dir)
s (dir)
```

Write down this list onto a piece of paper (the '(dir)' extension is not needed).

8 With your Cover Disk in the internal drive, each directory that was listed has to be copied individually from the Cover Disk onto your copy disk.

So, as an example, to copy the China_Challenge directory you would enter:

```
COPY DF0:China_Challenge ALL RAM:
```

Now, remove the Cover Disk and insert your copy disk and type:

```
MAKEDIR DF0:China_Challenge
COPY RAM: ALL DF0:China_Challenge
DELETE RAM:#? ALL
```

9 Now repeat stage 8 for all the directories on the Cover Disk master. (So, in the CLI commands above, replace each instance of 'China_Challenge' with the name of the directory to be copied). Once all the directories have been copied you will have a successful copy of the Cover Disk.

10 The final step in backing up the Cover Disk is to install it to make it bootable:

```
INSTALL DF0:
```

DISK INFORMATION

PROGRAM: China Challenge
DESCRIPTION: Game
DIRECTORY: China_Challenge
FILE (S): China_Challenge, English

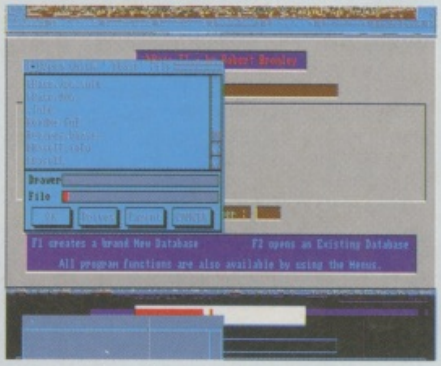
PROGRAM: bBase II
DESCRIPTION: Database
DIRECTORY: bBaseII
FILE (S): bBaseII, bBase.Doc, Readme.fnf, Recipes.bbase

For further instructions, read the document file, called 'English', which is in the same directory as *China Challenge* itself.

BBASE II

Wouldn't it be handy if all you had to do to hunt down a magazine article in *Express*, for example, was to load up a program? No need to flick through hundreds of magazines – it would all be there on your computer. (Of course, you would have had to enter the information in beforehand).

bBase II is a database that does all that for you. Simple to use, it can store and sort all kinds of data in a structured and informative way.



•BBase II is really easy to use – just click on the file to load it

HOW TO LOAD BBASE II

To load *bBase II*, wait for the Workbench screen to come up after you have put the Cover Disk into the computer's disk drive.

When the disk icon appears (it's called Tri-Format), double click on it with the mouse pointer. This opens up a window with two folders – one is labelled *bBaseII*. Double click on that folder, and when the next window appears, double click on the *bBaseII* icon. The program will then load.

To see the documentation, double click on the bBase.doc icon in the same window.

USING BBASE II

Full documentation for *bBase II* is provided on the Cover Disk, but the program is very simple to use. Here is a brief run-down of its capabilities, best explained by what the different function keys do:

F1 – Creates a new database.
F2 – Opens an existing database.
F3 – Saves the database you are working on.
F4 – Sorts any data incrementally, from A to Z.
F5 – Sorts data decrementally, from Z to A.
F6 – Searches the database fields for data.
F7 – No function
F8 – Prints the record that is displayed on your printer
F9 – Prints the whole database on your printer
F10 – Deletes the record that is displayed.

There are also a number of file and sort functions accessible from the traditional Amiga menu screens. A good idea would be to test these functions with the demonstration database included on the disk: Recipes.bbase.

ST

• Pinned against the wall, can the hero in *Robotz* possibly survive?

ROBOTZ

Why do these things always happen? There you were, enjoying a quiet Saturday afternoon on the deep space exploration ship Darwin 8, when all of a sudden it was invaded by a hoard of hostile alien robots.

So far, they've killed everyone on the ship but you, and it is now up to you to save the ship – and, of course, your own skin – by destroying all the robots on the ship with your trusty rifle.

LOADING THE GAME

Insert the Cover Disk into your disk drive. Open the ST folder by double-clicking on the icon labelled ST, and then double-click on the ROBOTZ icon to open the program's folder.

From there it is just a matter of double-clicking on the ROBOTZ.TOS icon to run the program.

To see the complete documentation for the program, double click on the ROBOTZ.DOC icon. When the ST displays a requester saying that ROBOTZ.DOC is a document file, click on SHOW and the document appears on-screen.

• Here the hero has to shoot the red generator before he can destroy the two enemy robots

HOW TO PLAY ROBOTZ

The idea behind *Robotz* is to get through all the screens. This isn't easy though, as there are always at least two robots patrolling each level.

Because each of the robots gets power from a positronic generator, until you destroy the generator on each level your shots will only stun the robots. Fire 10 shots at the generator to do the trick.

At the same time, you have to avoid the robots and their fire power, as well as the walls of the maze which are electrified. Some of the gaps you have to move through are pretty narrow, so some deft joystick manoeuvres are needed to survive each level.

The faster you complete each level, the greater your time bonus will be. For more details, and hints and tips on how to play the game, look at the document file also included on the Cover Disk.

CONTROLS

Robotz is controlled by a joystick.

The joystick controls are: Joystick left – move left; Joystick right – move right; Joystick up – move up; Joystick down – move down. The fire button shoots a projectile out of your rifle. Press Q during the game to return to the title screen.

VIEWGIF

For all you budding graphics artists and programmers out there, here is a utility that will make the manipulation and conversion of different graphics standards easier.

While the name of the program – *ViewGIF* – implies its sole purpose is viewing GIF-standard images, it is also capable of loading and converting images from other well-known graphics standards (for details of these, see the 'Using *ViewGIF* section below).

LOADING VIEWGIF

Insert the Cover Disk into your disk drive. If you have put the disk in your internal drive, double-click on the DISK A icon to access the disk.

Then, open the ST folder by double-clicking on the ST icon and then double-click on the VIEWGIF icon to open its folder.

From there it is just a matter of double-clicking on the VIEWGIF.PRG icon to run the program.

To see the complete documentation for the program, double click on the VIEWGF12.DOC icon. When the ST displays a requester saying that VIEWGF12.DOC is a document file, click on SHOW and the document appears on-screen.

USING VIEWGIF

Full documentation for *ViewGIF* is provided in the VIEWGIF.DOC file, as mentioned above.

However, here's a brief rundown on what the program is capable of:

- IFF (Interchangeable File Format) picture loading.
- Atari ST images can be converted into GIF format for exchange with other systems.
- *ViewGIF* operates in all three of the ST's screen resolutions.
- A loaded image can be saved can be saved as NEO, Degas, Macpaint (in mono) or FL Format.
- GIF images can also be transformed into AIM (the Atari Image Manager) and Spectrum 512 pictures. The Spectrum 512 mode enables the ST to display 256 colour VGA graphics.

DISK INFORMATION

PROGRAM: Robotz
DESCRIPTION: Game
FOLDER: ROBOTZ
FILE(S): ROBOTZ.TOS,ROBOTZ.DOC

PROGRAM: ViewGIF
DESCRIPTION: Utility
FOLDER: VIEWGIF
FILE(S): VIEWGIF1.PRG, VIEWGIF.NIC, VIEWGIF.RSC, VIEWGIF12.DOC

SHAREWARE ADDRESS

ViewGIF is a Shareware program. This means that if you find the program useful or use it a lot then you are obliged to send the program's author a contribution to enable him to issue updates and make other programs.

To register as a user of *ViewGIF*, send US$20, Canadian $20 or £10 of Marks & Spencers Gift Certificates to: Craig S Buchanan, 4-319 Mackay Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1M 2B7, Canada.

ST BACK-UP COPY

Be warned that because the disk is a complicated format, some of these instructions could be a bit tricky.

1 Format at least one blank disk.

2 Write protect the original *Express* Cover Disk (with the notch open so you can see the hole through the disk) and insert it into the drive. If you've got two drives, insert the Cover Disk into drive B. Double click on the drive B icon to open a window showing the contents of the Cover Disk. If you've only got a single drive a message appears asking you to put disk B in drive A. Just click on OK.

3 Insert one of the blank formatted disks into drive A (removing the Cover Disk if you only have one drive). Double click on the drive A icon and open up another window. You may be asked to insert disk A in drive A - you already have, so do nothing and just click on OK.

4 Highlight each folder in the drive B Cover Disk window and drag them all into the drive A window, one at a time.

5 If you only have one drive, you're asked to insert disk A and disk B at regular intervals. Be careful not to mix the two disks up! Remember, Disk B is the original Cover Disk and disk A is the newly formatted blank disk.

FANCY CONTRIBUTING? THEN FILL IN THIS FORM

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

.....

TELEPHONE: ..... (day) ..... (night)

COMPUTER: Amiga Atari ST PC The name of the program is:

SIZE OF FILE(S): [ ] K

TYPE OF SOFTWARE:
- ☐ Business application
- ☐ Game
- ☐ Music program
- ☐ Novelty
- ☐ Technical utility
- ☐ Art program
- ☐ Educational
- ☐ Other

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: .....

.....

CHECKLIST:
- ☐ README.DOC file included on disk
- ☐ Printout of README.DOC (if possible)
- ☐ Disk is labelled with your name, address, phone number
- ☐ Disk is certified virus free

DECLARATION: This program is submitted for publication by *New Computer Express*. I have totally written it myself, and I agree to indemnify Future Publishing against any legal action that may arise due to copyright problems.

SIGNED: .....

DATE: .....

COVER DISK PC

• Able to leap tall platforms in a single bound – meet Captain Comic

CAPTAIN COMIC

As Captain Comic, your mission is to recover three treasures from the planet Omsoc which have been stolen and hidden on the planet Tambi.

On your journey, you will have to pick up different weapons and tools to help you overcome the numerous obstacles you will encounter.

It won't be easy though, and to get the treasures will require all of your dexterity.

Captain Comic received a very good review in the PD column, *Express* Issue 144.

TO START THE GAME:

First, the file has to be copied. Go to the COMIC directory on the Cover Disk and copy COMIC3.EXE to a blank formatted disk or a directory on your hard drive.

HARD DRIVE INSTRUCTIONS

To make a directory on your hard drive, enter C:\ and then type MKDIR COMIC. This will create a directory called COMIC.

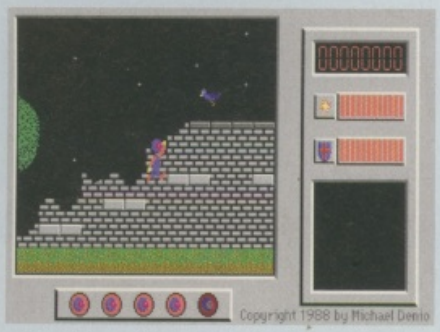
Now, go back to the A:\ drive and copy COMIC3.EXE across to the hard drive by typing: CD A:\PC\COMIC, then COPY COMIC3.EXE TO C:\COMIC\.

FLOPPY DISK INSTRUCTIONS

To copy it to another floppy disk, insert the Cover Disk and go to the A:\ drive (type A:\). To copy the file, enter CD A:\PC\COMIC and then type COPY COMIC3.EXE TO B:\. The computer will ask you to swap disks once, and the file will be copied.

NOTE: COMIC3.EXE is a self-extracting archive. This means that when you run it, it will decompact itself into a number of files. These will take up much more space than the original file did, which is why it had to be compacted it to fit on the disk, and is also the reason why you have to copy it to its own disk.

Once you have copied the game, type COMIC.EXE and the game will load. After seeing a text screen and redefining the control keys (if you want to, that is), press the space bar to start the game.



• **Life isn't easy for *Captain Comic*: not only does he have to jump across platforms; he has to dodge the creatures in his way as well**

CONTROLS

Captain Comic is played from the keyboard.

The standard controls for the keyboard are: Cursor left = LEFT, Cursor right = RIGHT, Cursor up = UP, Cursor down = DOWN, Space = JUMP. To shoot a fireball press the Insert key, press Alt to open a door, and Caps Lock is used to teleport to another place on the screen. The Esc key can pause or quit the game, and the in-game sound can be turned on or off by pressing the F1 and F2 keys respectively.

HOW TO PLAY

Guide Captain Comic through the scrolling platform levels. During your journey, you encounter many other different creatures, and contact with them steadily depletes your limited supply of energy.

As you go, you can pick up objects to help you fight the creatures, as well as other items which restore your energy levels.

You have five lives, and extra lives are awarded every 50,000 points.

To complete the game, all three stolen treasures have to be collected: a bag of rare gems, a sack of rare coins and a jewelled crown.

For more details about *Captain Comic*, read the documentation file included in the COMIC3.EXE archive; it's called COMIC.DOC and can be easily viewed by entering TYPE COMIC.DOC when you are in the COMIC directory on the disk that you copied the game to.

SHAREWARE INFORMATION

Captain Comic is a Shareware program. So, if you like this program and find you play it a lot, you're obliged to send the author of the program a contribution – in this case US$10 to $20 – to thank them for their troubles and to enable them to program more quality creations.

Those who do become registered users will be able to receive the latest news on further programs featuring Captain Comic.

Send your Shareware contribution to: Michael A. Denio, 1420 W. Glen Ave #202, Peoria, IL 61614, USA.

CANARY

Canary is a virus alarm program for the PC which detects changes to .EXE, .DAT and COMMAND.COM files.

The program works by checking itself, its documentation file and the COMMAND.COM file for changes in length or content. It uses a proprietary system that identifies where changes to files have been made on the disk, in order to help solve problems if viruses should infect your system.

The version of *Canary* on the Cover Disk is an evaluation copy of the program. This means that it basically works as the full version does, but occasionally prints a message reminding you to register the program.

TO START THE PROGRAM

Go to the CANARY directory and copy CANARY.EXE to a blank formatted disk or a directory on your hard drive.

HARD DRIVE INSTRUCTIONS

To make a directory on your hard drive, enter C:\ and then type MKDIR CANARY. This will create a directory called CANARY.

Now, go back to the A:\ drive and copy CANARY.EXE across to the hard drive by typing: CD A:\PC\CANARY, then XCOPY CANARY.EXE TO C:\CANARY\.

FLOPPY DISK INSTRUCTIONS

To copy it to another floppy disk, insert the Cover Disk and go to the A:\ drive (type A:\). To copy the file, enter CD A:\PC\CANARY and then type COPY CANARY.EXE TO B:\. The computer will ask you to swap disks, and once that is done, the file will be copied.

NOTE: CANARY.EXE is a self-extracting archive. This means that when you run it, it will decompact itself into a number of files. Overall these take up much more space than the original file did, which is why we had to compact it to fit on the Cover Disk; and is also the reason why you have to copy it to its own disk.

DISK INFORMATION

PROGRAM: Captain Comic
DIRECTORY: COMIC
FILE(S): COMIC3.EXE

PROGRAM: Canary
DIRECTORY: CANARY
FILE(S): CANARY.EXE

Type GO.BAT to see the contents of the disk.

NOTE: MS-DOS must be loaded on your system before you use the Cover Disk.

***Captain Comic* requires a PC, XT or AT compatible machine equipped with an EGA display adapter and 256K of video memory.**

USING CANARY

To run *Canary*, type CANARY.EXE. The program will run and will automatically link itself to the COMMAND.COM file on your hard disk.

Basically, there is not much else you can do. The program's advantages include:

- *Canary* detects the effects, rather than the signature, of a virus, so the software does not have to be constantly updated to find new viruses.
- *Canary* is not memory-resident, and so does not take up memory. And since it needs to scan only a few files to keep track of what's going on, it takes up less processor time compared to other virus programs that scan all the files on a disk to match with a table of viruses, for instance.
- Because *Canary* will only sound an alarm if its data file or COMMAND.COM is changed, which is most likely to happen if a virus appears, so there won't be false alarms when other files or data is changed on the disk.

SHAREWARE REGISTRATION

If you use *Canary* for more than 90 days, according to the principles of Shareware you are legally obliged to register as a user of the program.

Registration will entitle you to the full documentation for *Canary*, a copy of the latest version of the program and free support.

To register, send US$19.95 (£12) to: Compass/New England, Post Office Box 117, Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03802-047, USA. .

PC BACK-UP COPY

Be warned that because the disk is a complicated format, some of these instructions could be a bit tricky.

1 If you've only got a floppy drive-based system, format at least one blank disk. Otherwise use your hard drive.

2 Write protect the original Express Cover Disk (with the notch open so you can see the hole through the disk).

3 Use the XCOPY command to make the backup. If you have only one floppy drive, load XCOPY from the system disk from drive A:\ with the /S option to copy the files across. So, to copy the files across type: XCOPY A:\PC*.* B: /S.Then it is just a matter of swapping disks in and out of the drive until the Cover Disk is copied. Don't worry if you think you must have two drives – the XCOPY command will treat your single drive as both, or it will copy to the B:\ drive if, in fact, you do have two drives.

4 If you have a hard drive, put the Cover Disk in drive A:\, then type: XCOPY A:\PC*.* C: /S to copy all the subdirectories to the hard drive.

CITIZEN PRINTERS

Silica presents some great offers on the award winning range of high quality dot matrix printers from Citizen. Each Citizen printer is built in the UK to exacting standards, ensuring superb reliability and a very high quality of output. Our confidence in the quality of Citizen printers is such that we are pleased to offer a unique two year guarantee with every printer. Plus, if you purchase your Citizen printer from us, we will give you a Silica Printer Starter Kit (worth £29.95), *FREE OF CHARGE!*

FREE DELIVERY
Next Day - Anywhere in the UK mainland

FREE STARTER KIT
Worth £29.95 - With every Citizen printer from Silica.

FREE COLOUR KIT
Worth £39.95 - With Swift 9 and Swift 24 printers.

2 YEAR WARRANTY
Silica offer a 2 year warranty (including the printer head) with every Citizen printer purchased from Silica.

WINDOWS 3.0
Free Windows 3.0 driver - In the Silica Starter Kit.

FREE HELPLINE
Technical support helpline open during office hours.

MADE IN THE UK
Citizen printers are manufactured to high standards.

144 CPS DRAFT 9 PIN

CITIZEN 120D+

The Citizen 120D+ is one of the UK's best selling printers. It has a stylish appearance and excellent features and performance for such an inexpensive printer. The 120D+ is available with either a serial or parallel interface and is an ideal first printer.

- *9-pin Printhead*
- *Print Speed 144cps Draft*
- *30cps NLQ*
- *Epson & IBM Graphics Emulation*
- *Pull Tractor & Bottom Feed*
- *Superior Graphics - 240x216dpi*
- *FREE Starter Kit*

RRP £233.83
STARTER KIT £29.95
TOTAL RRP: £263.78
SAVING: £112.20
SILICA PRICE: **£151.58**

£129 +VAT = £151.58

144 CPS DRAFT 24 PIN

CITIZEN 124D

The award winning Citizen 124D brings high quality 24-pin dot matrix printing within every computer users reach. It is the ideal choice where high quality printing is required at a budget price.

- *24-pin Impact Printer*
- *Print Speed 144cps Draft*
- *2 LQ Fonts (48cps)*
- *8K Buffer*
- *Epson, IBM & NEC P6+ Emulation*
- *Advanced Paper Parking*
- *Superior Graphics - 360x360dpi*
- *FREE Starter Kit*

RRP £292.58
STARTER KIT £29.95
TOTAL RRP: £322.53
SAVING: £112.20
SILICA PRICE: **£210.33**

£179 +VAT = £210.33

192 CPS DRAFT 9 PIN

SWIFT 9 - COLOUR!

The Citizen Swift 9 is perfect for those who require high quality dot matrix black or colour printing at a budget price. The print quality of Swift 9 rivals that of other manufacturer's 24-pin models.

- *9-pin Impact Printer*
- *Print Speed 192cps Draft*
- *3 NLQ Fonts (48cps)*
- *8K Buffer*
- *Epson & IBM Graphics Emulation*
- *Advanced Paper Parking*
- *FREE Starter Kit*
- *FREE Colour Kit*

FREE! COLOUR KIT

RRP £280.83
STARTER KIT £29.95
COLOUR KIT £44.65
TOTAL RRP: £355.43
SAVING: £133.35
SILICA PRICE: **£222.08**

£189 +VAT = £222.08

192 CPS DRAFT 24 PIN

SWIFT 24 - COLOUR!

The Citizen Swift 24 is one of Europe's best selling printers and has won awards including Printer Of The Year 1990. Its rapid print speed, quality and black or colour options, make it a natural choice.

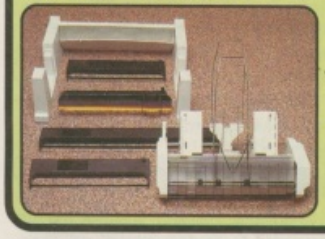
- *24-pin Impact Printer*
- *Print Speed 192cps Draft*
- *4 NLQ Fonts (64cps)*
- *8K Buffer*
- *Epson, IBM & NEC P6+ Emulation*
- *Advanced Paper Parking*
- *FREE Starter Kit*
- *FREE Colour Kit*

FREE! COLOUR KIT

RRP £428.88
STARTER KIT £29.95
COLOUR KIT £44.65
TOTAL RRP: £503.48
SAVING: £199.15
SILICA PRICE: **£304.33**

£259 +VAT=£304.33

PRINTER ACCESSORIES



SHEET FEEDERS
PRA 1200 120D £71.38
PRA 1215 124D/Swift 9/24 ..... £88.70
PRA 1228 124D/Swift 9/24 ..... £42.00

SERIAL INTERFACES
PRA 1189 120D+ £56.45
PRA 1209 Swift 9/124D £32.25
PRA 1709 Swift 24 ..... £26.38

PRINTER STAND
PRA 1242 124D/Swift 9/24 ..... £24.03

ORIGINAL RIBBONS
RIB 3520 120D/Swift 9 Black £4.11
RIB 3924 124D/Swift 24 Black £4.70
RIB 3936 Swift 9/24 Colour £15.63

COLOUR KITS
PRA 1236 Swift 9/24 ..... £39.65

All prices include VAT and Free delivery.

FREE! STARTER KIT

Every Citizen printer from Silica, comes complete with the Silica Printer Starter Kit, including everything you need to get up and running with your new printer immediately, FREE OF CHARGE!

- *3½" Dual Format Disk with Amiga & ST Printer Drivers*
- *3½" Disk with Drivers for Microsoft Windows 3*
- *2 Metre Parallel Printer Cable*
- *200 Sheets of High Quality Continuous Paper*
- *200 Continuous Address Labels on Tractor Feed*
- *5 Continuous Envelopes on Tractor Feed*

If you already own a printer, and would like a Silica Printer Starter Kit, you may order one (ref: KIT 5000) for the special Silica price of £24.95 - £5 off RRP!

NORMAL RRP **£29.95**

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- ***THE FULL STOCK RANGE:*** All of your PC requirements from one supplier.
- ***FREE CATALOGUES:*** Will be mailed to you with offers and software/peripheral details.
- ***PAYMENT:*** By cash, cheque and all major credit cards.

Before you decide when to buy your new printer, we suggest you think very carefully about WHERE you buy it. Consider what it will be like a few months after you have made your purchase, when you may require additional peripherals or software, or some technical help and advice. And, will the company you buy from contact you with details of new products? At Silica Systems, we ensure that you will have nothing to worry about. Silica Systems is one of the UKs leading independent computer dealers and provides a quality service to users at home, in education and in business throughout the nation. Silica have been established for over 12 years, and have an annual turnover of £13 million. With our unrivalled experience and expertise, we can now claim to meet our customers requirements with an understanding which is second to none. But don't just take our word for it. Complete and return the coupon now, for our latest Free literature on the Citizen printer range and begin to experience the "Silica Systems Service".

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LONDON SHOP:	52 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1P 0BA	**Tel: 071-580 4000**	
Opening Hours:	Mon-Sat 9.30am-6.00pm	No Late Night Opening	Fax No: 071-323 4737
LONDON SHOP:	Selfridges (1st Floor), Oxford Street, London, W1A 1AB	**Tel: 071-629 1234**	
Opening Hours:	Mon-Sat 9.30am-6.00pm	Late Night: Thursday until 8pm	Extension: 3914
SIDCUP SHOP:	1-4 The Mews, Hatherley Rd, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 4DX	**Tel: 081-302 8811**	
Opening Hours:	Mon-Sat 9.00am-5.30pm	Late Night: Friday until 7pm	Fax No: 081-309 0017

To: Silica Systems, Dept NCE 0991 - 55, 1-4 The Mews, Hatherley Rd, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 4DX

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Mr/Mrs/Ms: ..... Initials: ..... Surname: .....

Address: .....

.....

..... Postcode: .....

Tel (Home): ..... Tel (Work): .....

Company Name (if applicable): .....

Which computer(s), if any, do you own? .....

E&OE - Advertised prices and specifications may change - Please return the coupon for the latest information.

NEW HORIZONS

DESKTOP VIDEO

The Macintosh is arguably the machine best suited to video work and points the way to its desktop future. Express takes a look at the pioneering work being done by Cambridge's Ellis Partners...

For several years desktop video has been written about with the same maniacal fever that lauded the introduction of desktop publishing. But, as with DTP in the middle eighties, its commercial use in the current decade has been minimal.

However, a design group in Cambridge has been using a Macintosh-based system commercially for eight months now, fighting bravely and successfully to make a living from it. The Ellis Partners entered cautiously into DTV only when it had captured its first commission, a ten minute animated programme for Bayer Pharmaceuticals describing how the body's cardiovascular system worked. The company discovered that despite the constant hype over the last couple of years, desktop video production represented something of a challenge for the personal computer.

However, it felt from the beginning that DTV's future had a parallel with the history of desktop publishing, where all the machinery and skills of typography are delegated to a program running on the desktop. Back in 1986, when Ellis launched into DTP with similar bravado, the Mac was scorned and referred to as Mickey Mouse technology. Now of course, apart from typography and page layout, it handles far more: integration with database software, sophisticated type manipulation and colour separations.

Ellis would argue that DTV has a similar future. Previously, television animation has been produced using traditional techniques, but computers have been used for more than a decade to speed up the production of animated sequences, 'in-betweening' different frames to create movement. However, these dedicated machines have been complex, extremely expensive and strangely inflexible.

Ellis discovered that the MacIIfx – and some associated soft and hardware – meant that the production of these images could be handled very quickly by a designer, who for the first time could work in time as well as space. As with the popularisation of desktop publishing, video will no longer be an elite process in the hands of a few professionals, but a tool available to every businessman, academic or artist.

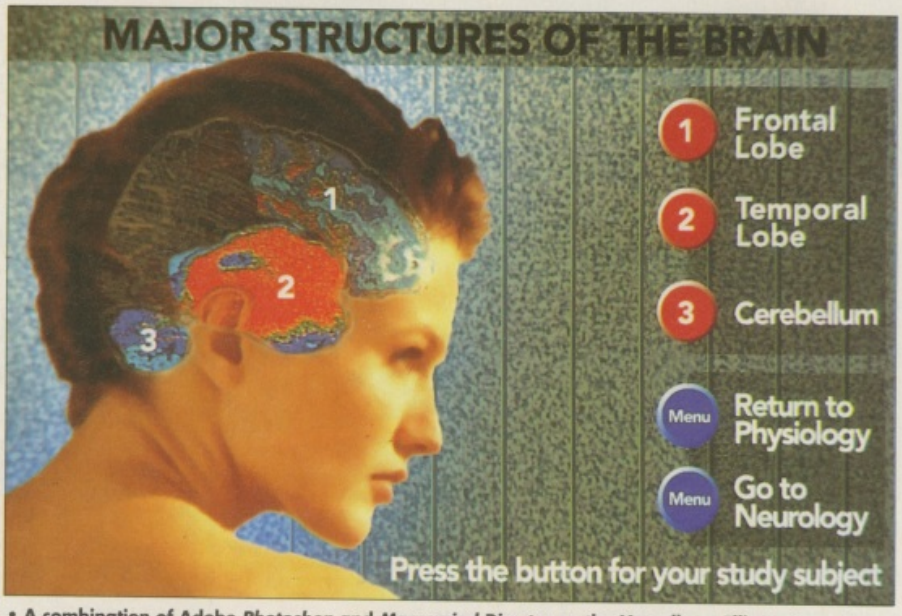
But is desktop video just a method of producing video quickly and cheaply? In a sense the answer must be yes, because the cost and speed of video production can be radically reduced. However, as DTV has developed it has become obvious that it delivers more facilities than were ever offered in the advertisements in the audio visual press: new 'real' objects could be constructed and new ways of seeing things experienced. Ellis found creative directions that simply never existed before, and incidentally discovered a real threat to the world of post-production.

THE 5 WEEK, 10 MINUTE VIDEO

The first Ellis desktop video was ten and a half minutes long and took just five weeks to produce, thanks to the Mac interface and the integration of the various programs. Much of the time was naturally spent learning the various programs required. The nature of the material – it was a support video to a training programme on cardiovascular disease for pharmaceutical reps – meant that much of the visual material already existed.

These images, mostly technical illustrations, were scanned in by a JVC three chip video camera using the image capture facility of the NuVista card and then manipulated under Adobe *Photoshop* before being transferred to *Macromind Director* for animation. The simpler sequences were eventually downloaded in real-time, but the more complex material in 32-bit colour had to be sent down frame-by-frame on to the Hi-band Umatic tape, using the Diaquest animation controller.

This was the only process that caused real problems. The machines were set downloading overnight, but when the material was viewed, dropouts were found on the tape. Later downloads on to Betacam video format proved more successful.



• **A combination of Adobe *Photoshop* and *Macromind Director* on the Mac allows Ellis Partners to produce high-quality yet low-cost interactive training programs**

DTV allows many expensive elements of video production to be handled within one computer

From the first it was decided that the most pragmatic way of mixing visuals and sound was to record the soundtrack on DAT first and then to time the visual sequences to it, a technique which gives the video pace and has been used successfully ever since.

• **After scanning in a real background, a prototype product can be drawn over the top**

THE LOW-COST VIDEO BROCHURE

Certainly desktop video can be an inexpensive way of producing video and one particular area in which radical cost-cutting is possible is the video brochure. By retaining all the action inside the computer, it is possible to avoid the expense of a live action crew and traditional post-production. The video is a linked series of still and animated graphics, with a separate soundtrack. The programme is downloaded directly on to VHS; in other words, true desktop production.

This process does mean, however, that the action is restricted to visuals which can be scanned into the computer and very short sequences of live action, routed through the machine. This 'moving slide show' technique is extremely useful for corporate presentations (moving slide shows) or in-store videos, and can cost very little indeed.

But DTV can help to reduce costs in traditional, broadcast-quality video production too. Previously, only companies with sumptuous budgets could afford to commission programmes to demonstrate or sell their products or services. A typical project involves writing a suitable script, organising sets or locations, the production of a storyboard, the hiring of actors, producers and technicians, the commissioning and production of music and soundtrack, live action direction and shooting and the graphic design and animation required for titles and diagrams.

As DTV develops, the technology will influence the processes of video production, forcing traditional techniques to change and become more accessible.

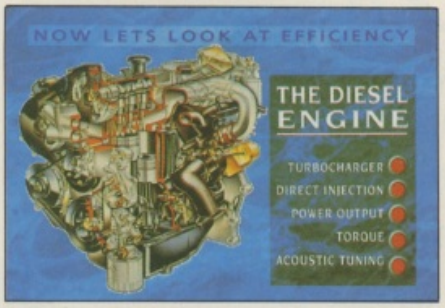
Now in 1991, DTV allows many of the expensive elements to be handled within the one computer. These processes include some of the special effects (such as flip and zoom), the titling and diagrams and the synchronisation of audio. However, it is in the automation of animated graphics, including 3D, that DTV really comes into its own. Three-dimensional hypothetical objects can be constructed and then made to change and move in hypothetical 3D environments.

COMES OF AGE

ANIMATED ACTION!

This radical reduction in the cost of animated graphics (in most cases one fifth and in some up to a sixtieth!) made the normal costs of live action and post production seem out of step to Ellis.

IT tackled the dilemma by forming a relationship with a conveniently-placed local educational institution with a fully-equipped video studio, post-production facility and a subsidised brief to 'go forth and be commercial'. Anglia Polytechnic's media production department has developed a comprehensive video production facility: a three camera, fully-rigged studio, and a three machine Hi-band Umatic editing suite complete with effects and all facilities.



•Images scanned in using a rostrum-based JVC video camera are captured by a 32-bit NuVista frame grabbing board and imported into *Photoshop* for fine tuning. The results speak for themselves

POST PRODUCTION

Post production is the compilation of sequences on video tape, using cuts, mixes, fades and dissolves. Now many of the effects, transitions and titling can be handled inside the computer. The future implications for this must be worrying for people involved in post-production. Apart from transitions and effects actually handled inside the computer, the Mac has the ability to control the time code of any format of video tape as the images pass from one editing machine to another.

Post production has traditionally relied upon great technical frame control, and this is possible on the Mac, but the machine can also handle most of the standard transitions, especially between graphic elements. Ellis still uses traditional editing techniques but is developing its technology to handle all post-production on the Mac. Keeping the amount of expensive post-production down, whether it is on or off-line, makes commercial and creative sense.

INTEGRATION WITH PUBLISHING

Ellis' background is the production of high-quality printed material and one of the primary motivations for taking up desktop video was the need to include moving imagery or processes in marketing or training projects. Because of the integration of all the programs on the Mac, sequences of animation can be extracted and single frames sent to a laser printer for checking. But these same images can also be put into a page layout program and colour-separated for full-colour printing.

THE FUTURE

But what use is video production in a sales-hungry, budget-cutting economy? As far as marketing is concerned, video lacks the immediacy of a full-colour brochure or a well-conceived, designed and printed/produced artifact.

A decade ago it seemed that the Sony Walkman was going to change all that by appearing on every executive's desk. It didn't quite come off, somehow the critical mass of acceptance was not reached Why, we will never know but perhaps video suffers from the same problem as audio: the reluctance of an audience to put a cassette into a machine and sit and watch (or listen to) it. It will take a video screen in every piece of office furniture or perhaps the improvement of the IBM visual standard to change matters.

The 'video brochure' is financially viable, however, especially when a client's customers are abroad. (It is more sensible to produce and send an exciting promotional video than send sales or technical staff on a long distance visit.) The process can explain complicated messages in an entertaining way or even make 'dull' products seem exciting.

Applications also include 'top 'n' tailing' or revamping existing video footage, giving it a new lease of life for relatively little extra cost.

Another growing market for desktop video production is the newly-freed world of local broadcasting. Just like the States, the UK is witnessing a revolution in broadcasting techniques and a decentralisation of production. Cable and satellite networks are springing up everywhere, but currently there is something of a monopoly in the supply of high quality programmes: cable networks buy most of their material from the satellite producers and the traditional broadcasting networks.

As television becomes decentralised, there will be a need for local programming at relatively low cost, as with local radio. In the States, every local television company produces its own links, its own local weather forecasts, its news and its own local interest programmes. All of these can be handled or enhanced with desktop video.

INTERACTIVE MULTIMEDIA

With the advent of DTV, Ellis has found itself becoming involved in a number of other projects, loosely described as multimedia. One area is the interactive encyclopaedia or learning module, an application of the same equipment, software and techniques. The technology is growing in importance as a teaching, educational or reference tool, but has been stunted in its growth because of the turbulent economic times.

Essentially, programs exist to allow the computer – with the use of large scale storage devices such as CD ROMs or CDI – to store huge amounts of information in a database format and display them in an exciting way so that the student can travel through a logically-organised route; the technique is ideal for museums, training, education and technical documentation.

Ellis has developed the interactive programs available on the Mac – Director and Hypercard – to promote these facilities. The image capture capability of the Nuvista board and the JVC camera means that full-colour imagery can be digested in seconds.

The Director program has only been developed for the Mac, but as Ellis has found, most users have decided on the IBM standard, so Macromind has released a Director 'player' which runs on IBM compatibles. This means that interactive programmes authored on the Mac can be translated for use on the PC. Ellis has purchased a top-spec IBM to translate its material and to work with some of the simpler interactive programs developed explicitly for the PC. ■

A MACINTOSH-BASED DTV CONFIGURATION

There are three major technical developments which have transformed desktop video for Ellis from a toy into a professional money-earning system. These are the advent of the MacIIfx, with just enough processing power to handle most video images, the Truevision NuVista 32-bit colour board which provides top-quality colour imagery, and the Director program from MacroMind, which is the definitive idiot-video program.

MAC MAKES IT EASY

The MacIIfx has 8Mb of on-board RAM and an 80Mb SCSI disk. Inside is a 32-bit Truevision NuVista colour card (with image capture and genlock capabilities) and a RasterOps 32-bit colour card to run the working screen, a standard 12-inch Apple monitor. Also linked are a Taxan 14-inch monitor, which can display interlaced or PAL signals and, through the items mentioned below, a high-quality VHS video player/monitor for proofing.

Linking up the computer to the video elements is a VidI/0 box, a PAL encoder/decoder. A JVC three-chip colour video rostrum camera sits to one side, ready to scan in images. Also plumbed in is a Syquest portable hard disk drive, for loading and saving large files and transporting them to bureaus or customers on 45Mb 'cartridges'.

IMAGE WATCHERS

Very often the images that Ellis needs to use as a reference material or as a starting point are printed or photographic matter and these are scanned into the system using under the image capture programme available as firmware with the NuVista card. The JVC KY-F30, often used by television companies as a caption grabber is ideal for scanning colour images, but for more detailed line and general monochrome work, Ellis use bureaus with flat-bed scanners.

3D SOFTWARE SUITE

Ellis uses a suite of basic software and has learnt to exploit these, rather than work with more risky programs. These standard packages include *Swivel 3D, Freehand 3, Photoshop, Pixelpaint, Director* and *Accelerator.*

Much use is made of *Swivel 3D* to produce logos and other three-dimensional objects. It creates 3D objects using wire frames in three views, cloaking them with a surface, smoothing and then giving them a light source, before 'tweening' their movements, 'camera angles', orientation and direction. These automatically-tweened movements are saved as as a series of PICS (series of PICT) files which are then pulled into *MacroMind Director.*

***Freehand* is still used to construct pictures before converting to *Photoshop* or *Pixelpaint* with their more sophisticated paint capabilities.**

Very often, the same images from an animated movie are needed in print, so a picture is grabbed from *Photoshop* or *Director* and loaded into *Quark Xpress 3*; so far the best page layout program for colour separations. This can result in phenomenal cost savings, but although Ellis has found the separations suitable for producing advertisement film, where the resolution required is 150 lines per inch; the machine still has problems with the 300 lpi required for quality colour printing.

Capital North Ltd.

W E S

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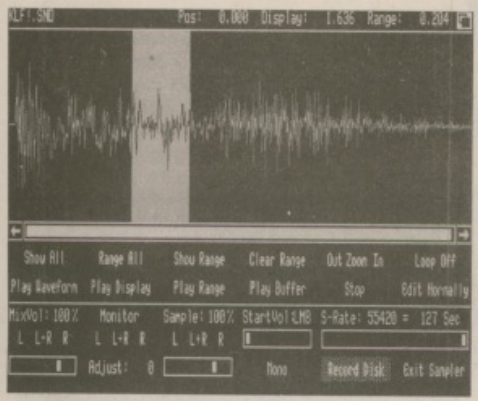


• ***Audition 4*'s powerful editing and easy to use interface can improve your samples**

PRODUCT: Audition 4
COMPATIBILITY: Amiga
FROM: HE Marketing
CONTACT: 0753 686000

Like *DPaint*'s dominance of the paint package market, Oxxi/Aegis' *AudioMaster* has become the industry standard package for sampling sounds on the Amiga. With it's powerful editing features and simple to use interface, *AudioMaster* has remained the choice for grabbing high quality samples on the Amiga.

However, Oxxi's market monopoly may be brought to an end with the release of *Audition 4* from US-based SunRize Industries. Like *AudioMaster*, *Audition 4* doesn't come with its own sampler. Most samplers do come with their own editors, so packages like *Audition 4* have to be something special if they wish to compete.

Audition 4 supports a wide range of samplers including SunRize's own range of Perfect Sound units and Oxxi's recently released *SoundMaster*. If you own a sampler that supports it, *Audition 4* can sample in both mono and stereo with sampling rates of up to 55 KHz. Obviously such rates eat large amounts of RAM, so sampling time is reduced to a couple of seconds when *Audition 4* is used on an unexpanded Amiga.

Editing is impressive. There's the usual cut, copy and paste, plus an impressive realtime zoom which works a bit like the zoom lense on a camera. Extra editing features include echos, delays, smoothing, waveform tuning, fade, filter, lift bass, lift treble, flange. All these are performed at an impressive rate – certainly much faster than similar functions within *AudioMaster*.

Audition 4 is also the first Amiga sampler to support direct to disk recording, although this is limited to its own custom floppy disk format. It would have been nice to have been able to record direct to hard disk, allowing for digital mastering. *Audition 4* is a solid, reliable and powerful sample editor that matches *AudioMaster 3* feature for feature. In all, *Audition 4* comes highly recommended – especially when you consider it is £30 cheaper than *AudioMaster*! ■

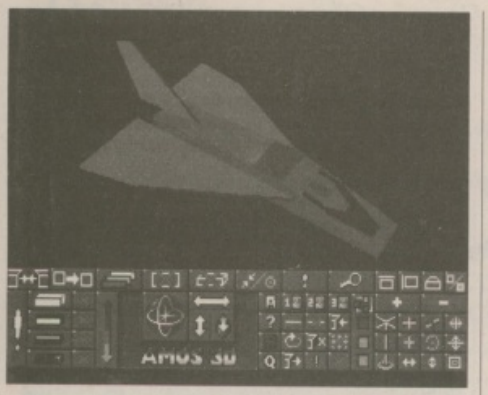
HOW DOES IT RATE?

FOR
▲ Supports a wide range of samplers
▲ Very powerful editing functions
▲ Easy to use

AGAINST
▼ Doesn't come with its own sampler
▼ Won't sample direct to hard disk

COST: £49.95 **VALUE:** Super

COMPETITION: Audiomaster



• **Add stylish 3D graphics to your AMOS programs with *AMOS 3D***

PRODUCT: Amos 3D
COMPATIBILITY: Amiga
FROM: Europress Software
CONTACT: 0625 859333

3D graphics programming has always been something that most home users could only dream about, but all that has changed with the release of *AMOS 3D* from Europress Software. It's a powerful extension to Europress' acclaimed *AMOS BASIC* that will allow even complete novices to enter the world of 3D graphics with ease.

The *AMOS 3D* packages consists of an AMOS language extension and a powerful 3D object editor. The heart of *AMOS 3D* is OM (Object Modeller), a sophisticated, yet easy to use, utility which is used to create all the 3D objects which will inhabit your 3D universe. All objects are created from a set of five basic primitives which must be pieced together to form the objects you require. These range from flat faces to a cube and a pyramid. The primitives are limited, but they can be glued together to form more complex objects. In turn, individual primitives or objects can be manipulated in many ways, including pulling out points or faces.

Another powerful facility is Surface Detailing, which allows you to apply a user-defined pattern to any face. This can give the illusion of a far more complex object. The language extension contains no fewer than 30 new commands to the already extensive AMOS command set. These have been specially designed to allow 3D objects to be manipulated in true 3D, taking much of the drudgery out of maintaining a 3D display.

The speed of *AMOS 3D*'s 3D system is all important and thankfully the package isn't let down in this department. It's perhaps not as smooth as something like the 3D systems used with such games as *StarGlider 2* and *Mercenary*, but it's impressive nonetheless. If you're an AMOS user, then you'd be a fool to ignore *AMOS 3D*. If you don't own AMOS and would like to get in on the act, then now is the time to do so. In all, *AMOS 3D* comes highly recommended. ■

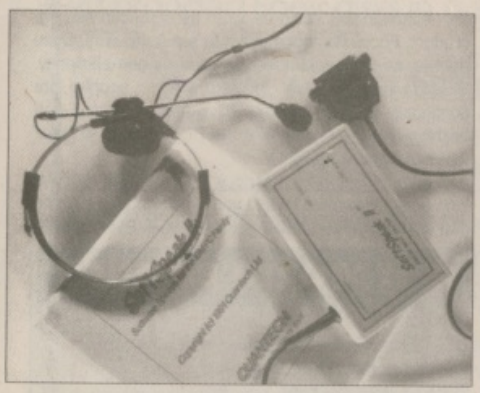
VALUE FOR MONEY?

FOR
▲ Object editor is easy to use
▲ Language extension takes out the hard work of working in 3D

AGAINST
▼ The complexity of objects is limited to only primitives

COST: £34.99 **VALUE:** Good

COMPETITION: None known



• **Listen to the sound of your own voice through your IBM speakers with *SoftSpeak II+***

PRODUCT: SoftSpeak II+
COMPATIBILITY: PC
FROM: Quantech
CONTACT: 091 2280513

Many PC owners have looked at Amigas with envy. Not only do Amiga displays scroll better, but they talk nearly as clear as a human. A PC could never do this. Well that's what too many Amiga owners will lead you to believe.

A VGA card will make your computer scroll with the best of them; but speech, is a different matter. One of the major problems with speech on a PC is that of the IBM internal speaker and its driver. So you would think, ripping it out was the only option. In the past that may well have been true, but as there are people out there that are pretty nifty when it comes to programming, the 'wrecking the speaker' option no longer applies.

SoftSpeak II+ is a purely software based sound sampler and play-back facility. This program, with the aid of the microphone provided, can record any sound that you feed it. But it doesn't stop there, *SoftSpeak II+* can compile a recorded sound sample so that it becomes an EXE file. This means that you can include this file in your batch files and alike. For example, when running a program, the computer can tell you what program you are running.

The joy of using this program has to be the GUI. Although to the novice it may seem a little daunting, it soon becomes apparent what each icon does. Add to this the excellent on-line help facility and well structured manual, and the package just seems to get better.

After sampling a voice a few times the quality of the sound output generated from the IBM internal speaker was excellent.

This is a gizmo supreme for any programmer. The applications that you could put this to are endless, it just a matter of whether you want to spend the money. ■

WORTH EXTRA DOSH?

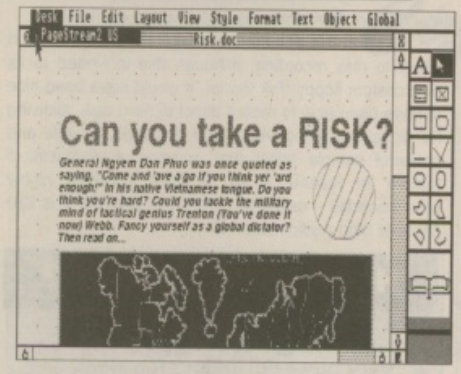
FOR
▲ Extremely easy to use
▲ Great sound performance

AGAINST
▼ Overpriced (with microphone kit)

COST: £59.90 software only
£139.90 with headset/ Input unit

VALUE: Good

COMPETITION: None known



• *Pagestream 2.1* – its vast range of new features are well worth upgrading for

PRODUCT: PageStream 2.1
COMPATIBILITY: ST
FROM: Soft-Logik/Silica
CONTACT: 081-309 1111

PageStream finally gets its upgrade in the shape of *PageStream 2.1*. Physically, it's similar to its earlier (and troubled) incarnation, but underneath there are many differences. For starters, the range of useable fonts has expanded astronomically. It's now possible to use AFGA Compugraphic Intellifonts. These are hinted outline fonts, one of the most popular non-PostScript formats. Three families are supplied –Times, Truimvirate and Garamond, all in various styles.

But PostScript is not overlooked – the Compugraphic fonts have PostScript versions supplied with them, while standard PostScript Type 1 can be used on PostScript and non-PostScript printers. There are eight *PageStream* format fonts to play with too.

PageStream 2.1's other new features include an increased library of printer drivers and import export modules. 218 printers are supported using re-useable drivers. 20 picture file formats can be loaded, including Degas, Encapsulated PostScript (EPS) and Adobe *Illustrator* files. Five text file types can be flowed on to *PageStream* grids, including *1stWord* and *WordPerfect*.

Major improvements have been made in the use of on-screen fonts and now *PageStream*'s display is on a par with *Calamus*. The font rescaling routines are now much more legible, even in medium resolution.

Other improvements concern the use of colour. While the screen colours are limited by your monitor, the printable colours have been extended. Full 4-colour separation and the use of Pantone palettes is supported. Other enhancements include the loading speed, font management and object rotation functions. But some functions, such as font-caching, only take affect when you have 2Mb or more of RAM installed.

If you're thinking of investing in low-cost DTP, *PageStream 2.1* is good value and it's capable of fine work. If you're upgrading from *PageStream 1*, it feels like a minor task but its benefits are well worth it. ■

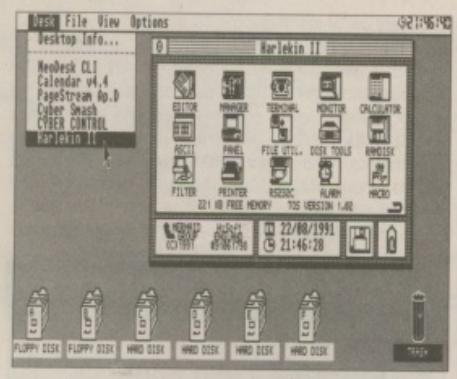
IS IT WORTH BUYING?

FOR
- ▲ Good value for money
- ▲ Excellent manual
- ▲ Vastly improved screen fonts

AGAINST
- ▼ WP editing is slow
- ▼ Some macro functions are awkward

COST: £199.95 **VALUE:** Best buy

COMPETITION: *Calamus, Timeworks*



• Tucked neatly into *Harlekin 2* are 15 immediately accessible, often-used utilities

PRODUCT: Harlekin 2
COMPATIBILITY: ST
FROM: Mermaid Group/HiSoft
CONTACT: 0525 718181

Harlekin, the multi-faceted desk accessory, gets a facelift in this second version. Useful functions are neatly packed into one auto-loaded accessory and there are 15 icons to access functions.

The text editor is a word processsor which creates automatic backups and enables you to search and replace text. The *Harlekin* Manager is a day-to-day database. You can store events here to organise your time. Filtering commands display and print specific types of event from hour, day, month or year grids.

The terminal program enables you to connect via modem directly to a host computer with a capture buffer that enables re-reading off-line using the text editor.

Harlekin 2's macro processor strings together keyboard sequences reducing them to one keypress. Macros can be auto-loaded when *Harlekin* boots.

A group of file utilities enables you to copy, rename, move and delete files. The disk tools copy and format disks using a variety of disk formats and sector lengths. There's a reset-proof RAM disk which can be auto loaded complete with contents.

Harlekin's control panel replaces the standard Atari control panel. Here you can set the mouse speed, keyboard repeat rate or edit and use screen fonts and change keyboard layout.

Harlekin's newest feature is the use of HPG modules which can be appended to the main program. Six are supplied for converting old *Harlekin* scrapbook files, editing icons, changing language, re-assigning memory distribution, defining sorting order and changing the vectors used by *Harlekin* to maintain compatibility with other programs and accessories.

Now it's possible to integrate *Harlekin* into your working environment, regardless of the other programs you use. In fact many programs are made redundant by *Harlekin*, reducing the accessories you need to load. Well worth investing in, as it will save you time, frustration and effort and is good value for money. ■

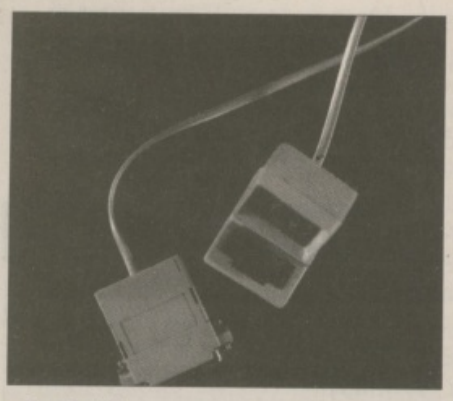
HOW DOES IT RATE?

FOR
- ▲ Absolutely packed with features
- ▲ Works on all STs

AGAINST
- ▼ Won't work in low resolution

COST: £59.95 **VALUE:** Best buy

COMPETITION: None known



• Eye-Gard keeps an eye on your PC, sounding an alarm if an intruder tries to tamper with it

PRODUCT: Eye-Gard
COMPATIBILITY: PC
FROM: Focus Research
CONTACT: 071-839 4572 8608

Safeguarding data on a personal computer is a serious business. And when things get serious, they get boring. That's where Eye-Gard from Focus Research comes in to save your sense of humour.

Once Eye-Gard is installed on the a PC, it will display a screen of your chose when not being used. This could tell people where to find you, or just display something down-right daft. But should a hacker, thief or the guy from the next office sit down at this computer, alarm bells ring and a stupid screen miraculously appears.

Eye-Gard is essentially a light sensor and supporting software that monitors the lighting level in front of the PC. When someone passes in front of the sensor, the light received varies and triggers the alarm and screen change. Once triggered, the computer can only be operated again after typing a password known only to the legitimate user.

The sensor is cunningly disguised as a miniature plastic PC, to be stuck in a convenient place. But the real fun is in the screens to be designed. All of the display screens are in a standard PCX format, so with a little imagination and access to the likes of *Windows*; silly, ridiculous or just plain insane pictures and messages can be displayed.

Although this could be seen as a serious security product, Focus has seen fit not to sell it this way. Quite right to, as this could never be used as one efficiently. Should your PC be located where people are continually passing by, the PC would be ringing and flashing all day. And what if the PC is placed in room that has a changing light level?

If your looking for a serious PC protection product, look again. However, should you be looking for a gizmo that will raise a few smiles, get yourself an Eye-Gard.■

IS IT WORTH BUYING?

FOR
- ▲ Stops other people using your machne casually
- ▲ Entertainment value

AGAINST
- ▼ Cannot be used for 'serious' security

COST: £19.99 **VALUE:** Good

COMPETITION: None known

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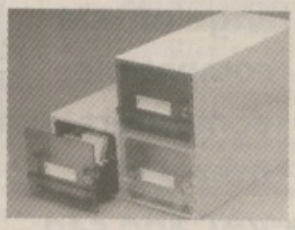

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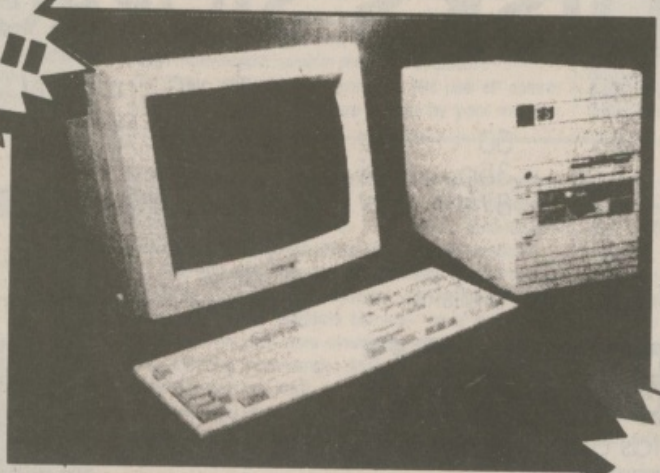

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EXPRESS MAIL

Protection for PD users, services for STE users, software copying – what's all the fuss about?, pen-pal proposals, virtual reality on TV? Haydn listens to your views and adds a few ideas of his own...

Crack This...

Why is there so much paranoia about copy prevention?

1) Programs on tape can easily be copied tape to tape, so software houses only really have two options there, don't sell tapes or don't complain when they get copied.

2) Programs on disk can be copied by using software. Some are more difficult than others, but copiers do exist. I never use the original disk of any program in case I corrupt it. The only program I have been unable to backup is *DB1* by Cobrahsoft, but I am sure that Cobrahsoft knows how to back that one up. Therefore others, more expert than myself, would be able to work it out.

3) Programs on cartridge are usually too expensive or impractical for software houses and their customers alike.

4) Any other media. To run a program you have to load it into the computer's RAM. If this can be done then the data can be copied.

Cobrahsoft has partially solved these problems by forcing the user to insert the original disk at a crucial stage in the program, effectively disabling it unless the original disk is available:

The disk cannot be copied by normal means because it shows corruption on the first track. The program itself can be copied easily but will not load unless the original disk is in the machine. Magic buttons don't work because the program configures the ROM/RAM pages in a non-standard way.

It doesn't matter too much if you can't back up games. It doesn't really matter if you can't zap your favourite aliens. Serious software is a different matter. For example, I regularly use CP/M. If my boot disk became corrupted and I hadn't got a back up then about 90 per cent of my programs and files would be useless even though I have backed them up. Obviously the software house encouraged me to make a copy and tuck the original safely away.

Neil Morgan via Aspects

BACKING UP 'serious software' is always the bug-bear in the copy-protection debate isn't it? It seems to me that on buying such software you should be able to do just that. I still think the solution Apple's developers are proposing is the best I've heard for a while, though. This involves coding the application in such a way that if it is copied to more than one hard drive or floppy, the new version progressively slows down to the point where it's unusable. This removes the need for any master disks, manual checks and code-wheels and just let's you get on with job quickly. Or not so quickly depending on whether you're a pirate or not.

And this...

In NCE issue 145, Roy Chambers claims that he wrote to 30 or so PD companies suggesting controls to protect the user. We, for one, did not receive a letter. While I appreciate that he would have expected a reply, it is after all only polite to reply to letters. It sounds like he had only thought of the idea of controls and not on what type or how to implement them.

We get rather a lot of 'junk mail' of this type and if we answered all of them we would never be able to satisfy our paying customers. We would probably go bust by spending too much on postage as well.

Earlier this year Paradise contacted most of the Budgie licence holders to discuss such a body. After all ideas had been examined it was decided by all parties involved that the cost of the idea was far too high and the controls needed were impractical. The idea was therefore dropped.

If anyone does come up with a practical idea then Paradise will be quite happy to support it. I would imagine most Budgie dealers would too. In the meantime a good guide to a reasonable library is if it holds a Budgie Dealers Licence. Budgies don't give them out to any Tom, Dick or PDL. While not a solution, this could well help protect users.

Ian Slater, Paradise PDL, Brighton,

PERHAPS THIS kind of ad hoc solution is the way forward as I can well see costs and impracticalities making a straightforward regulatory body a waste of time and money. I'd also like to take this opportunity to stress that 99 per cent of PD libraries are above board.

Porn again

I am writing on the subject of Computer Pornography. Everybody says "Disgusting!", "Filth" and "It should be banned". Who the hell do they think they are to tell others what they should and shouldn't do? England is a free country! (err...sorry? – H.F-W)

What would they rather people did? Go out and sexually molest the next person they see for their kicks? Or how about going out and having sexual intercourse with someone who is HIV+ and get AIDS or with a minor?

Besides, as long as they do what they do in the privacy of their own house I don"t see what it has to do with anybody else!

Call me a pervert or a bender, I don't care, at least I'm not an interfering busybody who sticks their nose where it isn't wanted!

Richard Burman, Harrow

I THOUGHT about passing this over to the lady who inhabits the column on the next page, but I had second thoughts when I realised the ensuing barrage I'd have to endure. Sorry,.Richard, but yours is the kind of liberalism that borders on the disturbing. It's precisely what people need protecting from.

PD like CB?

On the subject of PD filth and illegal copying, the situation is not dissimilar to the situation on CB Radio. What seems like a good idea eventually becomes infested with every kind of pervert and foulmouth in Christendom.

People who are unable to communicate become obnoxious so that people will notice them. Such is their pathetic lives I'm afraid it is something that will not go away.

P.O.Dea, Old Hall, Warrington

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ON THE COUCH

This week it's the turn of PAUL BLAKELEY of SHEFFIELD to jump on to the couch with our resident *Express* psychiatrist Dr Clare Anthony. And you could be next – send in the name of the machine you own, your favourite software and the machine you most desire to: Leather Couch Clare, *NCE*, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW.

OK Paul, let's begin the probing shall we? Now, just lay your head down, lean back and relax...

- MACHINE OWNED: Atari ST
- FAVE SOFTWARE: *Pagestream*
- DESIRED MACHINE: Canon CLC500

Paulie, Paulie, you lovable little ball of static fluff, oh how I feel for you! Your problem is that, well I'm sorry, but you're a potential serial killer.

I took one look at the machine you most desire and thought 'my poor, poor sweetie'. You see, as we Freudians know only too well, there's one essential point about the Canon CLC500 to bear in mind. It costs £45,000. Although its undoubted pleasures include full file and scanner inputs, coupled with photo-realistic image manipulation and output, don't you think the upgrade path is a little too steep? Probably not, since you are obviously expressing your unbridled desires, but you nevertheless have an unresolved desire to murder your bank manager in the most horrific way imaginable. How do I know this?

Well, *Pagestream* is an interesting choice of software. Potentially it's the most powerful DTP pack for the ST, I seem to remember it suffered from memory problems. Now Paul, a lot of people suffer from memory problems don't they? But it's not as though they can just go out and buy some extra RAM, is it? Well not yet anyway. But in that big meantime, you've taken out your frustrations on the unfortunate father figure who sits behind the big desk in your local Lloyds. And when it's impossible to borrow £45,000 for the Canon what will you do? Why, you'll batter him beyond recognition, transfer your account to another bank and begin the whole sorry cycle again.

PROGNOSIS: You need to do two things. Visit your bank manager and ask him for £800 to buy an Atari laser printer and Cameron Scanner. Then buy *Silence of the Lambs*. Scan in the entire text, change all the details to include computer references and re-release it as *Error:This human is unrecognisable*

YEP, THIS follows on from the last letter. If you have areas that offer uncensored opportunities to air whatever it is that takes your fancy then they are bound to get abused.

Fortunately with PD it's only a small minority, but I can't speak for CB radio. The problem is that as soon as you try and protect people's liberties in these areas you get accused of denying them the very same. You have to draw the line somewhere – a point which Richard Burman seems to think is simply too heavy handed.

STE problems?

First, the letters page – letter headed *Service*. I have been the proud owner of an STE for about a year and have experienced many problems using the machine – no problems at all from PD suppliers.

Unlike many users, I am not a techie – I use the ST as a tool and *hate* CLI's – so try and stay clear of them wherever possible! As a result, some programs are hard to come to grips with. But, I run a large area on Compunet devoted to ST Software (about 1,000 files now available) and ST problems.

I would be happy to extend the service I offer here to any other ST users with problems – basically, Compunet allows me to share my problems with other users and come to a pooled understanding and solution!

Finally, all this tosh about porn, etc in the Public Domain. Certainly it needs regulation – but I have yet to come across anything on an on-line system which is offensive – with the possible exception of *What the butler saw* which is advertised by one PD library in your pages anyway! Ah well, five pen'orth over! Keep publishing – and for my part, I'll keep reading.

Aidan Heritage, Stevenage, Herts

JUST TO clarify Aidan's offer, any modem-owning ST readers out there who require help with their machines and software, Compuserve is on 071-437 4393. But if you fancy paying a lot more than the price of a stamp and/or if you don't have a modem then why not just send in your queries to Tech Tips?

Page 6 demos

Have you *actually* seen any of the demos (page 6 disks #129, #150, #151, #156, #158, #159, #161, #1162, DS#51) available for the XL/XE? No?

Then maybe you should before you jump to the conclusion of what the XL/XE is capable of.

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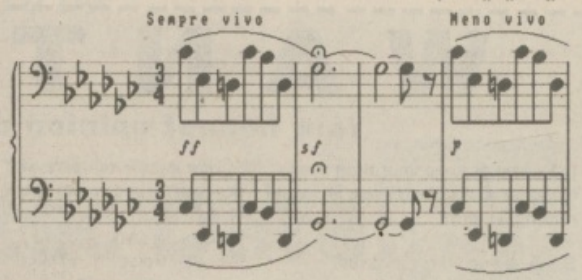

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Only then will you see what Richard Kilpatrick (Issue 146) was going on about.

Christ Roberts, Prestatyn, Clywyd

BUT HAVE you seen some of the latest demos for the Amiga? If you had then you'd realise that the Atari XL/XE is technically incapable of getting anywhere near them.

I thought the whole point about that letter in issue 146 was to argue that the Amiga, and not the ST, was the rightful descendant of the Atari 8-bit. Now don't let's start a 'My XL is better than your Amiga' debate or I'll start banging my head against the wall.

Write Now

Write and tell Haydn Fitz-Williams what you think! Reach him at: Express Mail, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW. Sorry, no personal replies, even with an SAE and remember, only SOME letters win a fiver

On-line mail

Own a modem? Then squirt us a letter. *Express* has its own area on Aspects bulletin board (061 792 0260) where you can leave mail and upload/ download files.

We also have our own conference on CIX. Give this on-line service a ring on 081-390 1244 and talk to us direct! You can also leave E-mail for us on Prestel and Micronet @ 011112623, or on Telecom Gold @84:txt152

Digital pal

I am a 14-year-old male who is interested in M/C for the Atari ST. Are there any programs, books, etc, from which I could learn M/C?

Or would any reader like to be my pen-pal? If they would could they teach me M/C? Or have any readers got books on the Atari code? If they have could I buy them? (Must be in good condition.)

So if you know 'some code' and want to be my pen-pal then write to Richard Macdonald, 188 Coalburn Road, Coalburn, Lanarkshire. All letters will be replied.

Richard MacDonald, Coalburn

SO THERE you go...does anyone out there know 'some code'? Or is this in fact some sort of code? (I included this letter just to show that deep down I am not a cynical hack and in fact have a heart of gold. Moreover, I am prepared, without any consideration of financial remuneration whatsoever, to act as a national introduction service for anyone who wants a machine code mate Just send in your requests to 'Haydn's DataMate', NCE, 30 Monmouth St, Bath BA1 2BW (enclosing a small fee of £30 to cover admin costs))

Pedant's Point

(strictly not a point but a subset of two-dimensional space)

I feel I must write to point out that the last time you printed a Pedant's Point wasn't two years ago, as you incorrectly stated in last week's re-appearance of Pedant's Point, but one year, 11 months and 17 days ago.

You see, if you take a nominal year to equal 365 days, then you should have last published a Pedant's Point 730 days ago for your claim to have been correct. But 730 days before the new Pedant's Point there hadn't been a Pedant's Point for at least 14 days depending on whether you're counting the cover date or on-sale date as the absolute term of reference.

This discrepancy may have resulted because you failed to take into account the fact that in any one year, *New Computer Express* is published only 51 times and not 52 because you bring out a double issue to cover the Christian-appropriated pagan religious festival period known as Christmas and thereby over a two-year time-frame effectively lose 14 days of high-street profile. I hope this is of use.

Chris Tucker, Seven Oaks, (only one oak now actually)

WELL, I STAND CORRECTED there Chris and thanks for that valuable contribution (phew!)

VR is here

I read somewhere the other day that Cambridge is to get a cable TV station. It seems that the cables will be able to take phone and ethernet connections too and so a city-wide network will be possible.

Given the TV involvement, I would have thought that this will provide the perfect opportunity for some form of interactive television, which with networking, could one day spell real virtual reality. Apparently some guy who used to work at Sinclair Research is involved in it. Know anything more?

Colin Thomas, Richmond

NO I DON"T but the VR angle would seem a little far-fetched because you'd need networks that make ISDN and the like look like a snail track in order to pump realistic images fast enough to give you a convincing sensation of virtuality. But then cambridge could be some form of testing ground.

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MACHINE SPECIFICS

MACINTOSH

- **Microsoft *Word 5.0* due for Christmas**
- **Getting exactly what you see in System 7**
- **Speaka da lingo with the help of CD-ROM**

THE WORD ON WORD

Rumours have been strengthening that a new version of Microsoft *Word* – called either version 4.5 or 5.0 – will arrive late this year or in the first quarter of next.

The PC Windows version of the program has undergone a couple of major revisions recently, and now has a number of facilities not available on the Mac incarnation of the program. The word goes that the new Mac version will be very similar to the Windows product in operation, easing life for those who use both Macintoshes and PCs.

One standard word processor across both platforms will mean that people no longer have to learn two different ways of editing documents and so on.

And, incidentally, it should also help Microsoft sell even more copies of *Word* on both the Mac and PC.

DISPLAY POSTSCRIPT?

Apple sent out a rather interesting press release the other day, informing us that, "Apple and Adobe have signed a letter of intent to implement a co-operative font strategy."

In plain English what this means is that they have made an agreement to include of Adobe Type 1 font technology within a future version of System 7.

The release goes on to say that the agreement calls for "the development of the software necessary to support the Type 1 rasteriser and Type 1 fonts within the Apple Macintosh System software."

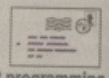
I think what this means is that Apple will include an *Adobe Type Manager* (*ATM*) work-alike in a future version of System 7, giving users a high-quality screen display of Type 1 fonts, as it does TrueType at the moment.

Although this will not mean that the display of PostScript graphics on screen is possible, it does mean that you will get an absolutely true 'What You See Is What You Get' (WYSIWYG) display of all text, rather than the somewhat jaggy bitmaps which occur at present when PostScript screen fonts are enlarged.

Of course, the agreement means that Adobe will no longer receive revenue from selling *ATM* – no-one will need to buy it – but then perhaps the company feels that with the advent of TrueType not many people would want to buy it anyway.

The other great advantage of a PostScript font rasteriser built into the System software is that users of QuickDraw printers, such as the

POSTCARD FROM AMERICA



I'm going to take this opportunity to vent a brief diatribe, so please don't freak out!

MacHack is the leading Macintosh technical conference. It's a combination of a fraternity reunion (90 per cent guys) and a mutual admiration society for silicon jocks. There's a shared sense of the digital world view and an abundance of common programmer pastimes; mostly sitting for hours coding at the computer, staying up all night nursing a piece of code and talking deep shop. But newcomers to the digital side of the street might not understand that these are the good guys!

The Hackers Dictionary (an electronically published dictionary of computer slang from MIT, Stanford, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute) gives the following definitions for hacker:

Hacker [originally, someone who makes furniture with an axe] n. 1. A person who enjoys learning the details of programming systems and how to stretch their capabilities, as opposed to most users, who prefer to learn only the minimum necessary. 2. One who programs enthusiastically, or who enjoys programming rather than just theorising about programming. 3. A person capable of appreciating hack values. 4. A person who is good at programming quickly. Not everything a hacker produces is a hack. 5. An expert at a particular program, or one who frequently does work using it or on it; example: "A UNIX hacker." 6. A malicious or inquisitive meddler who tries to discover information by poking around. Hence "password hacker," "network hacker."

Too often, hackers are described as a dangerous, or subversive group of unethical hooligans. All the negative mass-media publicity of computer viruses have spun the hack and the hacker into the doghouse. The name has also been adopted by those that break phone company long distance codes, what we used to call crackers. These codehackers, phonehackers or speedhackers (named after speed-dialling) are reinforcing a pejorative bent to the honoured hack. Remember, if there were no "real" hackers, we wouldn't have any hardware or software toys.

David Morgenstern

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VISA Access

StyleWriter, will now not only get great-quality TrueType fonts, but smooth PostScript ones as well.

Given that Adobe has already done much of the necessary programming by creating *ATM*, hopefully it won't be too long before the technology is integrated into System 7, although System 7.1 is probably too soon to hope for.

SYSTEM 7 DISCOUNTS

According to Apple market segment manager Nigel Turner, 10 per cent of the Mac user base has already upgraded to System 7.

However, it seems that Apple wants to encourage a lot more users than that to convert. This speculation comes about because of an offer Apple is making to anyone who buys the *System 7 Personal Upgrade Kit*.

Over the next few weeks, any Mac user who buys the upgrade kit will receive a booklet of what Apple calls 'Software Specials' – vouchers for money off products from leading software companies such as Claris, Microsoft, Macromind, Symantec, Bitstreat, Monotype and Computers Unlimited. A total of 26 products are featured, and the total value of the vouchers is over £1,500.

There are also vouchers for reductions on some hardware upgrades: the upgrade from an SE to an SE/30 is reduced from £956 to £600, the IIci upgrade is down to £775 and the IIfx upgrade (including 4Mb of RAM) is now only £1,290.

But hurry, hurry, hurry (as they say). The offers expire on 20 September. And at those reduced prices, they're certainly worth considering if you own just a basic SE or Mac II.

LEARNING BY CD-ROM

Attentive readers may recall a snippet a couple of columns back about something called *HyperGlot* software, from GuildSoft, which claims to be able to teach you foreign languages.

The seven languages supported are Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian and Spanish, and there are 30 courses in all – each covering a specific aspect of the learning a foreign language, such as basic vocabulary building, pronunciation, verbs and so on.

Now the entire 30 courses are available on CD-ROM. The collection is called *LinguaROM!!*, and makes 'extensive use' of digitised sounds to enable you to hear the correct pronunciation and intonation of words from native speakers of the language.

The CD-ROM contains 112Mb of data, and its price of £795 plus VAT apparently represents a saving of more than 50 per cent over purchasing the courses individually.

If you have a Mac with 1Mb minimum RAM, System 6.0.7 or higher, a CD-ROM drive and an insatiable desire to be able to speak to just about anyone on the planet, give GuildSoft a call.

☎ 0752 251155.

Ian Wrigley

CPC

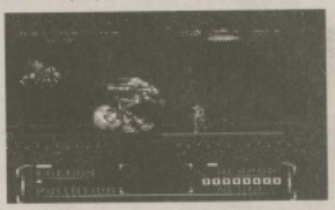
- **Action-packed pollution-busting in *Robozone***
- **Where can you save £100 on a 464 Plus?**
- ***Megaphoenix* shot down in flames**

ROBOZONE

Mirrorsoft's latest epic, *Robozone*, is decidedly odd. Firstly, it's not a film licence. Secondly, the goodie is a thumping great robot while the baddies are people. Thirdly, it's all about saving the world from pollution...

Well, never mind all that ecological stuff, the point is that Robozone is an extremely decent scrolling shoot-'em-up.

The plot is that you're controlling a Wolverine, a law-enforcement robot whose job it is to clean up a grotty city not only polluted with all sorts of unmentionable grottiness, but also populated by scumbag-type people whose own grottiness almost defies description.



• ***Robozone* level one – the pollution's piling up and you haven't found your way to the chief bad guy yet**

When it takes a hit, your Wolverine doesn't instantly turn up its toes and peg it; instead, its energy level goes down. When it hits zero, you lose one of your three lives. You can also lose the whole game when the pollution indicator reaches a certain point – you have to destroy Level One's end-of-level guardian before it does.

Level One's a bit tricky because it's an underground maze. There's nothing immensely complicated, but you're going to have to map it as you go along to find your way out.

Level Two gives you a different viewpoint. Now you're looking at your Wolverine from behind as it prowls the city streets. You have to find various electrical components and a scientist before you can advance to Level Three.

Level Three uses *R-Type*-style horizontal scrolling. You have to make it

Continued on next page ➤

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MACHINE SPECIFICS

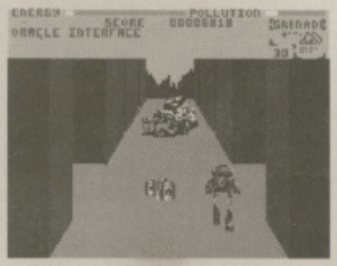
to a confrontation with the final end-of-level guardian. Wipe him out and you've saved the world. (Wait a minute, end all pollution and you don't need Wolverines any more...)

The plot's not only green, it's starting to pong a bit. But the graphics steal the show – colourful, smooth and well animated, they make *Robozone* a damned fine shoot-'em-up (which reminds me, when will there be another series of *Twin Peaks*?)

My only gripe is that you can't avoid taking hits, and because you can survive loads of them it takes away some of the arcade immediacy.

It's tough to complete, but more because of the puzzling/exploration content than the marauding baddies.

Priced at £10.99 on cassette and £14.99 on disk, it's good, but it's no *Turrican 2*.



• ***Robozone's* second level – you have to go around looking for some circuitry, rescue a scientist and shoot hell out of everything else in sight**

• ***Robozone*, level three – it makes that old stager *R-Type* look pretty ill by comparison. Lots of colours, multitudes of baddies... It's just a shame that it's not a bit bigger**

MEGARUBBISH

Annii Smith of Hull has got a couple of things to say about Spanish company Dinamic's *Megaphoenix* game, as previewed on a recent *Amstrad Action* covertape...

"It is TERRIBLE. I loaded it, and although it looked rather blocky I started playing. Within 30 seconds it said, "Well done, have another go", and in another half minute my name was on the bottom of the high-score board.

"It's too easy, it's got blocky graphics, it's boring, the music is awful, you can't read the writing and it must have been sold under at least ten other names already!"

Oh. You didn't like it then?

OK then, I'll be honest. I've only played it about five times myself. That was all I could bear.

A pity, because Dinamic usually turns out some good stuff. What prompted this load of hokum is a bit of a mystery.

WHAT A BARGAIN!

Here's a worrying, but sadly all too typical letter I received recently from Dawn James:

"I had intended to write to you and tell you that Empire Stores Mail Order catalogue is offering the new Plus machines at reduced prices. In its latest catalogue a 464 Plus (with colour monitor) costs £249.99 and a 6128 Plus (with colour monitor) costs £299.

"However, today I went into Dixons in Southend on Sea and found it was offering a 464 Plus (with colour monitor) for £199! And a 6128 Plus (again, with colour monitor) was going for £299.

"The staff informed me that the machines had been withdrawn from sale at Dixons, but they weren't sure if Amstrad was withdrawing them across the board or whether Dixons had taken the decision because they were not moving fast enough.

"What is going on? is Amstrad withdrawing them because of incompatibility problems? (By the way, *Barbarian I* and *Ghouls & Ghosts* doesn't work on the Plus.) Will the CPC make a comeback, or will Amstrad scrap the games machines/computers completely?

"I am very peeved as I had just bought my son's Plus machine two

ADRESSING A PROBLEM OF LABELS

Here's a brilliant listing from yesteryear, from Cormac McGaughey of Cushendall. It prints out labels and should work on any Epson-compatible. There are a couple of things to do first, though:

- **Set the printer to Friction Feed**
- **Set the 'Paper Thickness' to maximum.**
- **The listing is as follows:**

```
10 PRINT #8,CHR$(27);"1";
   CHR$(30);
20 PRINT #8,CHR$(27);"x";
   CHR$(1);
30 PRINT #8,"New Computer
   Express"
40 PRINT #8,"Beauford
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50 PRINT #8,"30 Monmouth
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60 PRINT #8,"Bath BA1
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To change the address, just change the appropriate lines in the listing.

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months ago from a mail order catalogue for £408!"

So says Dawn James of Hullbridge in Essex.

Well, Dawn, you have my sympathy. We bought two machines off Amstrad, too. We did get a discount, but not as much as the retailers are now offering.

It's hard to say for sure what went wrong with the new machines. Although Amstrad made a great song and dance about all the new games titles that would be available for the GX400/Plus by the time they were launched, sluggish distribution and release made a bit of a farago of the whole thing.

The result? People didn't see the games on sale so they bought other machines instead.

As for the serious side, always a selling point of the CPC range in the past, Amstrad now insists that as far as it is concerned the Plus is a games-only machine. Any serious publishers who want to write for it can go ahead, but they won't get any help from Amstrad's publicity or promotional campaigns.

It's all very strange. Amstrad must have spent a great deal of money on the new machines, and yet the moment they hit trouble the company seemed to lose all interest in them.

Rod Lawton

Rod Lawton is editor of Amstrad Action, *by far the finest magazine for all things CPC that mere mortals have ever had the fortune to read. Buy it from your newsagent ever month.*

C64

- **Passing judgement on *Terminator 2***
- **How to construct a better 3-D world**
- ***Combat* and *Ninja Massacre* cheats galore**

HASTA LA VISTA, BABY

Rather than bring you an exclusive mega preview weeks ago, I decided to wait until the film had actually been released – just to see if Ocean had got it right.

The company's recent crop of goodies have been mediocre at best, so *Terminator II: Judgment Day* as source material would seem to be a blessing.

The second film sees two Terminators battling it out; one is Arnie, the T800, which has been re-programmed and sent back to protect the young John Connor from the shape-shifting T1000.

● Level One of the game represents the scene in the film when you first discover which is the *real* Terminator. Based on a confrontation behind an amusement arcade the level is a straightforward one-on-one beat-'em-up with the T1000 in the guise of a cop.

● After this, John Connor escapes on a motorcycle, pursued by the T1000 in a Mack truck (with Arnie far behind). This section is a simple case of avoiding the debris and the truck... which is easier said than done.

● Level three is a sliding block puzzle, a bit like *Split Personalities*, where a section of Arnie's arm has to be re-connected. Most people will remember this from the original *Terminator* movie, but it doesn't happen at all in the second film. As a result, if you fail this section you can still try the later levels.

● Level four is yet another beat-'em-up section, in which Sarah Connor has to attemt to escape from a mental

Continued on next page ➤

• Will Ocean surprise us all with its *Terminator 2* game, or will it end up another tired, clichéd film licence cash-in?

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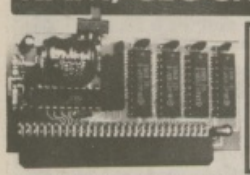

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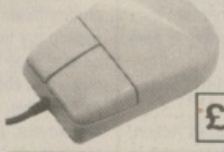

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LEVEL LEAPING NINJA CODES

Here are some codes for that wonderful Codemasters game, *Ninja Massacre*;

LEVEL 05 – SNOWLEVEL
10 – BEERLEVEL
15 – STAGLEVEL
20 – BARDLEVEL
25 – HOLELEVEL
30 – HUGELEVEL
35 – EASYLEVEL
40 – WIDELEVEL
45 – COLA

institution with the use of a broken mop handle. The corridors scroll from left to right, and Sarah can also move from floor to floor via lifts.

● Level five is yet *another* beat-'em-up section, with Arnie tackling the T1000 yet again. After the truck chase, both adversaries make for the mental hospital to seek out Sarah Connor. Arnie and John reach her first, but the T1000 will do anything to destroy them.

● The next section has John Connor attempting to re-program Arnie, in the hope that he won't go around killing everyone in his path. Enter another sliding puzzle, where a section of Arnie's face has to be re-arranged in the allotted time. As before, this section is nowhere to be seen in the actual film. Ho hum.

● Level seven is similar to level four, with Arnie attempting to escape from the laboratories of Cyberdyne Systems, while fending off attacks from countless SWAT personnel.

● This is followed by another vertically scrolling section, with the T1000 pursuing a SWAT truck in his newly claimed helicopter. Arnie drives a truck, while Sarah launches a volley of bullets and missiles from the back. You have to control both of them!

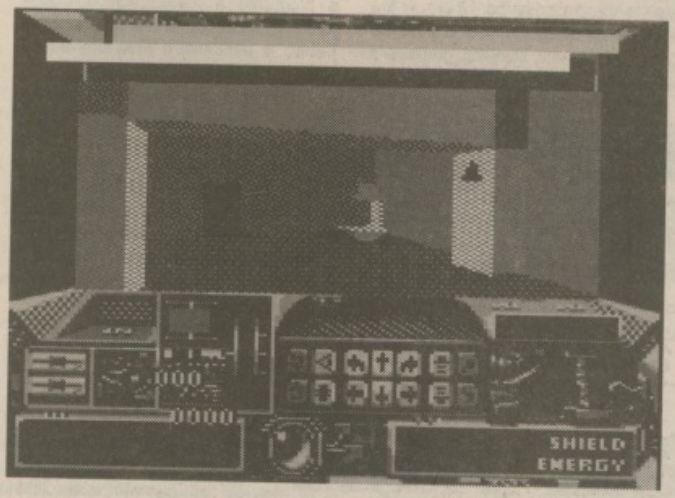
● One long chase and several crashes later, the whole crew arrives at a steelworks, and, guess what, the T800 and T1000 must battle it out – this time to the death.

I'm not a cynic by nature, but I have to admit this looks as if it going to be yet another samey film conversion. *Total Recall* was abysmal, mainly because it was so unoriginal. *Terminator 2* also seems to be a rehash of old ideas, which is what licences should try to avoid.

Still, the film is one of the best I've ever seen (with unbelievable special effects), and as a result I'll endeavour to review the game as soon as possible. Don't go away... I'll be back!

COMBAT FATIGUE

Having trouble with *SAS Combat Simulator*? Try the following Action Replay POKE to make the 'Green Beret' sections much easier: POKE 5490,173



• The *3-D Construction Kit* User Group will give you the help required to produce stunning Freescape games like this

VIRTUAL ASSISTANCE

The 3-D Construction Kit (as covered in *Express* 145) is an incredible creation tool, but it is also quite complicated, especially for those with little programming experience.

The *3-D Construction Kit User Group*, established by Mandy Rodrigues, offers assistance to everyone who owns the *3DKC* by way of a bi-monthly, multi-format newsletter.

A yearly subscription costs £12, and for this you receive six issues of the newsletter, plus access to a special telephone helpline. Issue one is superb, and is almost as large as the *3DCK* manual itself. Although mainly concerned with the 16-bit versions, it is packed with useful information and helpful tips, as well as some useful diagrams and routines for use in your own programs.

If you are serious about the *3DCK*, and would like to get the most out of it, send in your registration card immediately – and while you're about it, join the user group.

Further information can be obtained by writing to; Mandy Rodrigues, *3DCK* User Group, 67 Lloyd Street, Llandudno, Gwynedd LL30 2YP enclosing an SAE.

Andrew Roberts

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MACHINE SPECIFICS

SPECTRUM

- **Fighting fantasy on the Speccy in *Hero Quest***
- **Speccy Public Domain alive and kicking**
- ***Rainbow Islands* hacked to pieces**

PLAY YOUR ROLE

It's not often a Speccy game puts you in the role of a Barbarian, Elf, Dwarf or Wizard, drops you in a dark dungeon and expects you to find treasures and rescue princesses, is it?

Well, at least a few days since the last one comes *Hero Quest*, the computer version of the role playing board game. Instead of making do with lots of little plastic figures that the dog chews, you have glorious 3-D Speccivision to play around with as you control the characters through ten levels of dungeons and dragons.

Each level has a different problem for you to tackle. You have to buy your weapons and food before entering each level, which are populated with the usual collection of orcs, trolls and ogres.

Hero Quest is initially difficult to play. You have to claw your way up a mountainous learning curve and struggle with poor cursor control and complicated menus.

After a while, though, you should be able to progress further than a few minutes into the game, and experience some more of the stunning graphics it has to offer.

• ***Hero Quest* is possibly the best attempt at producing a role playing game on the Spectrum yet**

Role playing-type games have never worked very well on computer but this is a good attempt. If you like the original board game or fantasy-style adventures generally this should be right up your dark, winding passage with exits to the north, south and east.

Hero Quest is £9.99 from Gremlin.

SAMCO IS ONE!

SAMCO, the company formed from the ashes of Miles Gordon Technology, is one year old, so a jolly happy birthday to all concerned.

As way of celebration the company is producing a limited edition Coupé pack. The £20 pack contains a SAM T-shirt, a pen and a first anniversary disk, apparently packed to bursting point with playable demos and the like.

Let's hope the Coupé's partial recovery continues in the next 12 months.

☎ Contact SAMCO on 0792 700300 for more details of the pack and the company's long-awaited SAM mouse.

EXIT SPECCY SECTOR

A sad farewell this week to The Speccy Sector, one of the small but devoted band of Spectrum Public Domain libraries. Head librarian Owen Brown is off to University and has wisely decided to fold up his worthwhile little operation.

The considerable amount of PD on his shelves isn't going to waste, though. Owen is keen to keep all his PD in circulation and is sending his range of programs to other PD libraries.

He asks me to thank all those who have sent software to him and also requests the address of other PD suppliers to whom he can donate his impressive collection.

The Spectrum public domain outfits I know about are:

- 8-BIT PUBLIC DOMAIN, 1 Northolme Close, Grays, Essex RM16 2NX.
- GARNER DESIGNS PUBLISHING, 57 Lovers Walk, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU5 4BG.
- CHEZRON SOFTWARE, 605 Loughborough Road, Birstall, Leicester LE4 4NJ.

If you know of any more pass on the info to me at the usual address.

One name that can soon be added to the above list is that of our old friends at *ZAT* magazine (which can be acquired from PO BOX 488, Tweedale, Telford, Shropshire TF7 4SU.)

The editor of this esteemed organ, David Ledbury, tells me he's interested in starting a PD library for poor under nourished Spectrum-types. So he's currently on the look out for lots of PD programs with which to fill his currently bare library shelves.

If you've written a program of any description that others might find interesting, do the right thing and whack

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ADVENTURE CONVENTION

Mystic adventure playing people might be interested in a meeting of fellow axe-wielding troll bashers organised by excellent enthusiasts' mag, *Adventure Probe*.

Its annual convention is due to be held on Saturday 26 October in the Royal Angus Thistle Hotel, St Chads, Queensway, Birmingham.

For more details send an SAE to Mandy Rodrigues, 67 Lloyd Street, Llandudno, Gwynedd LL30 2YP.

Copies of *Probe* cost £1.50 each and if adventures are your thang you'll be wanting to invest in an issue.

it into the Public Domain by sending it to any or all of the above. We'd be your best friend forever!

POWER UP POKE

If you treated yourself to Ocean's excellent *Power Up* compilation recently you'll be only too aware that one of the very best things on it is the very fluffy *Rainbow Islands*.

You'll doubtless also be fully aware of how hard the damned thing is. Which is where our friend Alan Jones comes riding in, bearing infinite lives to save the day yet again.

Here's a hack that should sort the annoyingly cutesy thing out once and for all. Simply type the listing out in it's entirety, SAVE to tape for future use, RUN and then start your *Rainbow Islands* game tape from the beginning.

And if you're smug enough to have a Multiface you don't even need to bother with all that nonsense – simply POKE 65111,0 for infinite lives in the cassette version.

```
5 REM RAINBOW ISLANDS
10 REM WRITTEN BY ALAN JONES
20 FOR F=16384 TO 16453
30 READ A: POKE F,A: NEXT F
40 RANDOMIZE USR 16384
50 DATA 221,33,203,92,17
60 DATA 30,15,62,255,55
70 DATA 205,86,5,48,241
80 DATA 33,149,98,54,195
90 DATA 35,54,30,35,54
100 DATA 64,49,224,92,201
110 DATA 33,138,11,34,145
120 DATA 130,62,201,50,187
130 DATA 128,201,33,229,130
140 DATA 22,100,1,0,1
150 DATA 89,115,35,114,33
160 DATA 62,64,237,176,195
170 DATA 161,130,62,217,50
180 DATA 59,254,195,122,163
```

Ta again Alan! Incidentally, you might be interested know the same talented hacker is planning to publish a Multiface poke booklet. More details as soon as Alan gives them to me.

Robin Alway

CONSOLES

- **CD turns Sega into the most powerful console**
- **$1,000,000 *Lemmings* set for the consoles**
- ***Bare Knuckle* proves there's life after *SONIC*?**

SEGA CD-ROM

When is a CD-ROM player? When it's Sega's new CD-ROM add-on.

The unit will be launched at the end of the year, and will feature some beefy hardware, including:

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- Stereo PCM 8 channel sound with a maximum sampling frequency of 32khz.
- Plus 2-axes rotation, magnification and reduction

So it should be able to produce games like the Super Famicom's *Pilot Wings* with no trouble.

Incidentally, the Super Famicom only has 1-axis rotation, but *Pilot Wings* contains a special chip for 2-axes!.

All this for 50,000 yen (£220), making the Megadrive the most powerful console around.

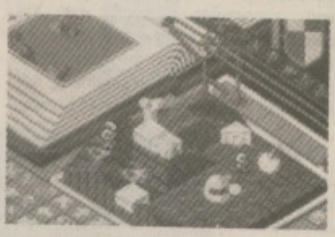
Unfortunately, most of the games currently in development for the Mega-CD from Japan are Role playing Games (RPGs), strategy or adventure games.

PC ENGINE CD-ROM

NEC will be releasing its 2Mb System Card 3.0 for the PC Engine CD-ROM in the Autumn.

I recommend all CD-ROM owners to

Continued on next page ➤



• The CD-ROM version of *Populous* for the PC Engine will feature some specially produced extra graphics

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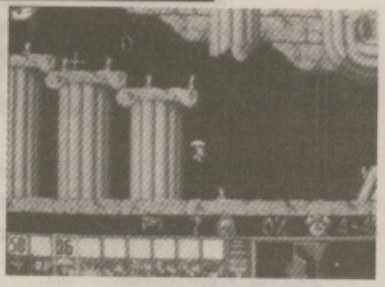
MACHINE SPECIFICS

buy it, as most of the future CD-ROM titles will use the new card which including *Prince of Persia*, *Raiden Trad* and *Populous*, which features extra graphics like the promised lands data disk on the ST/Amiga.

Hudson will also release a memory card called the Tennokoe Bank. This is a back-up memory card with four times the memory of the CD-ROM contained in four banks.

So, if your CD-ROM back-up memory is full and you don't want to remove anything, you can dump the entire lot onto the card, and fetch it back when you have enough room.



• *Lemmings* for the Super Famicon, shown here, displays the larger icons used with the console versions of the cutesy hit game

A MILLION LEMMINGS

It's been rumoured that Sun Electronics has paid out $1million for the rights to Psygnosis' cute game, *Lemmings*.

Apparently, Nintendo made a bid too, but Psygnosis' asking price was too steep even for the Japanese giant!

The game is currently in development for the Super Famicom and, considering Sunsoft was the company which bought the rights for *Batman* and converted the game to all major formats, it's likely *Lemmings* will hit whatever console you happen to own.

NOT SO FINAL FIGHT

If you have a Megadrive, and you've bought *Sonic The Hedgehog* but you can't decide what game to get next, then I suggest you rush out and grab a copy of *Bare Knuckle (Street of Rage)* by Sega on import.

Basically, the game is a right rip-off of Capcom's *Final Fight* in every way apart from a few minor touches. Just like *Final Fight*, you have a choice of three street fighters and two-player action. The fighters can preform similar moves including flying kicks, back elbow, and supplex, plus the novel move of throwing your partner at the opponents!

The enemies include women with whips, fat baldies and fire jugglers.

The game plays exceptionally well, which is not surprising as the team behind it was responsible for *Super Shinobi*. In fact, it's worth getting just for the funky house music!!

☎ Contact Console Concepts on (0782 712759).

KONAMI'S SEQUELITIS

The most popular Game Boy titles have come from one major company – Konami.

The company's hit games include *Nemesis*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* and *Castlevania*. And, as they say, if the first product is good why not make a sequel? Which is exactly what Konami has done. All three games are to due to make a comeback in the highly original form of *Nemesis II*, *TMNT 2* and *Castlevania II*.

KONAMI CHEATS

Most Konami games have a cheat mode that can usually be accessed by pressing the following combinations – Up, Up, Down, Down, Left, Right, Left, Right, Button B, Button A.

In the case of the Super Famicom, use the top Left and Right buttons on *Gradius III*.

HOW TO BE SIMPLY SUPER AT R-TYPE

Talking of cheats, here's one for Irem's *Super R-Type* on the Super Famicom.

Bring up the Option screen, then press the TOP RIGHT button nine times (it just happens, your ship is called the R-9), then press UP nine times and you will hear a noise.

Next, start the game. Pause, then press TOP RIGHT, A and Select together a few times until 01 appears in the bottom left of the screen.

You can then choose to start from any level from one to seven by moving up and down. Note that 11-17 is the next difficulty up, and if set in Hard mode, you'll go into PRO mode!!

To start, just press START.

Personally, I don't like the game. Although I'm a great fan of the coin-op, I think the Super Famicom version just slows down too much. Nintendo really should have stuck in a faster processor.

THE GREATEST CONSOLE MAGAZINE

There are quite a few console specific magazines available now, not only commercial ones, but a number of fanzines have popped up recently. But there's one that stands out from the crowd, which has been going for over two years.

The monthly(ish) alternative fanzine is packed with the latest news, reviews, tips, humour and gossip, and it's called *Electric Brain*.

For a FREE sample copy, send a large SAE to: 125 Arnold Road, Bestwood Estate, Nottingham. NG5 5HR. You won't regret it.

Onn Lee

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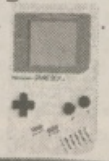

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TECH TIPS

Virus troubles? Does your mouse have a life of its own? Or has your computer developed Amnesia? Find out how to cure these ailments right here

Cheap drives?

Omega Projects which advertises in *New Computer Express* (and has been for quite a while), sells a bare SCSI/XT 20Mb HD for £89.95. Also a case PSU pass-thru all-in for £90.

Would you know if it's possible to marry the two and get a 20Mb HD for under 200 smakeroos – and fit it on the side of an Amiga 500?

D Magell, Cheltenham

SIMPLY, as the drive and power supply stand, you can't just fit them directly to your Amiga. What you could do though, is buy a third-party SCSI interface for your Amiga which would then be able to communicate with the hard drive.

When you consider the price of doing all that though, you would be better off getting a proper Amiga hard drive as then you'd be able to add RAM as well, and there'd be no hardware conflicts either.

Screen scene

Can you give me some info about where I may get some technical details on monitors in general and SCART especially? I have a 520 STFM Atari and am relatively a new boy to computers.

At present I use a 14-inch Pye as monitor and although I bought it new about three or four months ago, the resolution (medium) is nothing to write home about. There is no RGB outlet, so signals have to go in via the aerial socket.

I have been retired for 10 years, having been in the TV repair trade for over 25 years, so I am quite conversant with working with high voltages, etc.

Now that my income is now very much curtailed, I am not able to afford a 'Pukka' monitor, so the next best thing is that I convert my existing TV I have several other sets mono/colour of various ages and would also like to make one of these into a High Res. mono monitor, but all enquiries I've made about data, circuit sheets, etc, have come to naught.

Perhaps you can point me in the right direction.

Ernest J Woodman, Brighton

UNFORTUNATELY there is no way that you can turn any of your monitors into a high resolution model. Atari's high resolution monitor is a strange beast, and while there are ways of using software to emulate a mono screen, there is no way of adapting other monitors to display information in as high a resolution.

Your best bet would be to either make do with what you've got, running a mono emulator if you want to use mono software, or look into getting a real monochrome monitor.

Maybe you could sell the monitors you've got and use the money you get for them to buy a high resolution monochrome one?

Of maths and other things

My hardware set-up is an Amiga 500 and an A590 hard drive. I am a student and use my computer mainly for programming and word processing, both of which I do quite a lot of.

My query is with regards to word processing: being in my final year as a Mathematics student at university, I want to be able to create some fairly complex expressions and save/print them out. Would a program like *ChiWriter* for the IBM PC exist on the Amiga? (user-definable characters would be sine qua non)

Also, I have found some interesting fonts on one of my disks, one of which appears to be a fairly comprehensive (although not completely satisfactory) set of mathematical symbols, but how do I use it? I have tried various editors, but nothing so far.

Lastly, as I do quite a lot of typing in French, I would also like to find a word processor that can have a French character set. I know I could use the French keyboard layout, but if you have ever tried using a different layout than the standard one, you will know how much of a pain it gets to be (key-letter set-up is changed, not just expanded).

I would be looking at a fairly sophisticated program, with (black and white) graphics capabilities, as well as all the standard features of a word processor worth its name.

I have tried various programs fairly extensively, such as *Textcraft, Scribble, Kindword* (I and II), *WordPerfect* (4.1) and I feel the one I am the most comfortable with is *WordPerfect*.

The only two snags are: its price (very good pound/K ratio) and its breath of features, about half of which I do not use.

I have read various reviews about *Protext 5* and *Wordworth*, I like them, but could you advise me since I cannot try them out upon my preferences, whether they would be a good choice? My price limit is around £100 – £120.

I thank you for your time and trouble in answering these questions.

G Thibaudeau, London

***AMIGATEX* IS A GOOD MATHS** writer for the Amiga. It costs around £100 and was reviewed in our sister magazine, *Amiga Shopper* issue 3. Alternatively, you could use a desktop publishing or paint package and draw the symbols yourself, although this would be a lengthy way of doing the job.

If the fonts are standard Amiga fonts, then you can copy the fonts to your fonts: directory on your boot disk (in your case, the A590). Then you can use Fixfonts, found in the system directory, to update the font list.

Wordworth has a special character table that lets you customise what each

ST connections

Could you please delve deep into your vast array of knowledge and inform me of the answers to my two queries.

1) I have a friend who, after many years of slogging away on a C128, decided to upgrade to an 1040 STFM. Unfortunately he has realised he has a database program from the C128 from which he needs printouts from. Is it at all possible, knowing that the program worked in 64 mode, that he could print out the data on his ST using the C64 emulator and a 5.25-inch disk drive?

2) I have the opportunity to purchase a cheap monitor. It's an Acorn RGB, as supplied with Archimedes. Could this monitor be of any use to me and my STE?

I wait hopefully for your reply in your excellent mag.

Mark Boyer, Peterborough

•Using a null-modem cable data can be transferred from the C64 and to the ST, without a 5.25-inch disk

THE EASIEST WAY to transfer the data from the C128 to the ST would be to use a modem cable. True, the ST can be connected to a 5.25-inch drive, but the Commodore 64/128 has an unusual proprietary disk format which can only be read by Commodore's 'intelligent' disk drives. That way you could transfer the data from the Commodore to the Atari as ASCII and print it out with that machine.

What you should do, in that case, is feed a cable from your 128's expansion port to the serial port of the ST. The 128 doesn't have a standard RS-232 port, so you could either buy or borrow the add-on, or you could just link up via the standard port. If you do manage to get an RS-232 port, connect the two computers by hooking up pin 2 on the C128's end to pin 3 on the ST's end, then pins 3 to 2 and 7 to 7. Then use a terminal program to transfer the data.

As for your second question, the STE does output colour RGB. If you're lucky the Acorn monitor may have a SCART interface built-in, in which case you can just get a standard cable to connect the two together. However, if the monitor doesn't have such a port, then most likely you'll have to get a custom cable made. For this you'll need to know the pin details of the Acorn monitor and then make, or get someone else to make, the relevent cable. Details of the STE's RGB port will be in your user manual.

key prints up when pressed. This would be the ideal way of incorporating a French character set in your work without the hassles of changing the keyboard layout.

For a demo version of *Wordworth*, you could order a back issue of *Amiga Format*, Issue 24 which can be obtained for £4 from *Amiga Format* Subscriptions, Freepost, Somerton TA11 7BR, stating the issue number and your relevent details.

Other than that, I can't say much more. It would be better to try a few word processors yourself and see which ones you can work with. Word processors are very much a personal thing, and having lots of features doesn't always mean that you'll be able to use one to your liking. See if you can find a co-operative software dealer somewhere.

TIP! Modem support

In reply to one of your readers who was a bit troubled with the VTX5000 modem, let me give some help on the subject.

The problem might lie in that the VTX might not be compatible with the type of Spectrum you have. The one supplier I know that has both a 48K (including grey +2s) and a +2 and +3 version is BG Services. They can supply the former for £15 and the latter for £20. The VTXs have built-in comms software on ROM. This can be used to access Micronet, Phonebase, etc. As Keith said, software will have to be bought if you want to use a standard BBS. Doctor Scroll will do the job and is available from BG for £5.

If I were you I would send back (if possible) your old VTX and ask BG for a list of modem equipment, etc. The VTX is very old in design and is not for the faint hearted! However, BG is selling a top-of-the-range Pace Linnet for £45. In my opinion it is a much better choice. This modem is fully automatic.

BG Services can be reached at: 64 Roebuck Road, Chessington, Surrey, KT9 1JX.

I hope I have been of help.

Adam Ditomasio, Carrbridge

THANKS FOR THE TIP. As you say, the VTX range is getting on a bit now and it could be useful for some readers to know where they can buy this modem and get support for it.

HELP Dregs from down under

I am writing to you in the hope that you or an Amiga owning *Express* reader has some experience with what *VirusX 4.01* diagnoses as the 'Australian Parasite' virus. This virus is different as it does not live in the bootblock, or, as far as I can tell, in any file.

This virus is triggered by simply inserting the disk in the drive. *No files need be executed.*

An example of this is that, say, I have Workbench up and running, I also have KDVIII running watching the memory. All is fine until I insert the virus infected disk into the drive, *KDVIII* then says that Coolcapture has been altered and that the trackdisk device is being re-routed to something. I have not executed any files or booted the disk. All I have done is put the disk into the drive, the disk's icon appears and the virus is let loose.

Surely this virus cannot be living in the directory of the disk?

I have also noticed that the virus creates a disk-validator in the L directory, even if there is no L directory on the disk.

Please can somebody tell me how to get rid of this virus, as it also has the added feature of corrupting disks!

PS. You cannot simply delete the L/disk-validator file as the virus simply re-installs it, and seem to move somewhere else! To *no avail* I have used *VirusX*, *ZeroVirus*, *Viruscope*, *Master Virus Killer* and *KDVIII* to remove it.

Michael Flanz, Peterborough

THE ONLY THING I can suggest is that you try using a more up-to-date virus killer, such as *Master Virus Killer II* which is one of the best around. In fact, we may be putting a copy of this on a forthcoming Cover Disk. Stay tuned...

TIP! A strange mix...

In *Express* issue 145 Bob Holland wanted to obtain a copy of BeebDOS. Well, if he hasn't got a copy already he can get one from Watford Electronics (phone 0923 37774 or fax 0923 33642) for around £40 + VAT.

In issue 146 M Gulamali wanted to transfer work from a 'Ferrari' Archie to and from a 'Lada' Amiga (Oh, you ST owners can stop laughing; your 'computers' compared to the other two mentioned lie somewhere in the Skoda, Vauxhall Viva, Trabant, Robin Reliant area).

Well, back to M Gulamali:

The simplest way of transferring between the two machines is to use the PC disk format. You can get an Amiga utility to write to a PC formatted disk and they can be read on an Archimedes by something like Multi FS, PC Access or the PD program, PC Dir.

Finally, for those two lovely tips, could you please send your weeks wages to Alder Hay Hospital, Liverpool for looking after a certain Sameer Ali M Saleh while he was ill? Come on! I've taken a great weight off you already strained mind. If you are too poor, or too tight, could you please console me with 'just' an Amiga Format T-shirt (large size)?

Abdul Muthana, Liverpool

HMM, YES, WELL... Your tips are useful and appreciated, but as for your other wibble, perhaps you could write to Dr Clare Anthony for a professional diagnosis of your warped sense of humour.

And if you do want to be 'consoled', how about reading our brand new consoles column in Shopping Express!

HELP RADical!

I have an Amiga A500 with an extra 1/2 meg and second drive. Recently I was given a 2Mb 'Mini-Meg' expansion which fits on the side. It works fine giving me 3Mb of memory.

My first problem is using the recoverable RAM drive. I have made the changes to my startup-sequence as described in the Extras manual and all seems OK until I reboot. Everything that was in RAD: has disappeared!

Secondly, I occasionally get an extra 'pointer' left behind when opening a menu or window. This happens in *Deluxe Paint* and a demo copy of *REAL 3D*. In DP it happens every time I call up the palette by pressing 'p', but only if the pointer is in the bottom right hand corner of the screen.

The only way to get rid of it is to open the palette again when the pointer isn't in the bottom right of the screen, or to swap to the spare screen. It is as though I have got two pointers and one get forgotten about when I open something. Is it a virus? I have checked all my disks with *VirusX* and they are clean.

Is my machine suffering from overwork? Does it need a (long) holiday at FMG?

Andrew Jones, Penge

FOR YOUR MEMORY PROBLEM (the computer's that is...), the problem could be do with the amount of chip memory you have. If you do have 1Mb of chip memory, you must specify the -r option for the setpatch command in the startup-sequence.

Otherwise, both your problems indicate that you may have a hardware fault with the memory, for instance some of the RAM chips may not be working properly. In that case, get it checked out professionally.

HELP Manic mouse

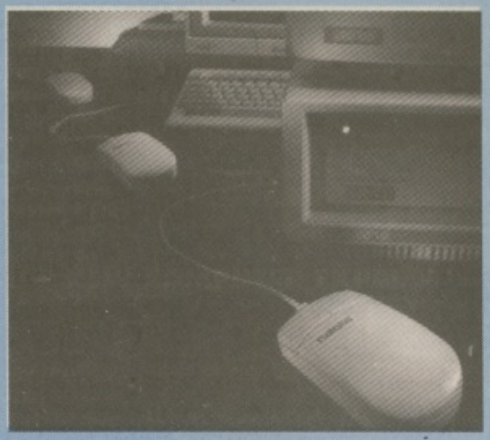
I've been using an Atari STE for just over 11/2 years and it has been operating perfectly. Until a couple of days ago.

Everything seemed OK when I switched it on. But when I started moving the mouse, apart from moving up and down, the pointer on the screen only moved in one other direction, towards the right. This was in low resolution. It moves it the opposite direction in medium resolution.

Thinking there was something wrong with the mouse, I plugged in a new mouse I had bought a few weeks ago. But it didn't seem to make any difference.

Have you any idea what the problem is? Please help. At the moment I can't use most of my software.

Islam Uddin, London



• When your mouse moves in a different direction from the one it's supposed to, it's a good idea to see if any of your machine's input devices are depressed when you turn the machine on. If they are depressed, give them a dose of valium

OK, THERE ARE A FEW SUGGESTIONS that I can make. First, when you first turn on your STE make sure you haven't got any of the mouse buttons pushed down.

Second, if you've got a joystick plugged in, make sure the auto-fire switch isn't on.

Also, make sure that none of your keys on your keyboard are pushed down when you turn the machine on, either. If any of these devices are being pushed down, then it could upset the STE's input/output device.

That said, if your mouse pointer is still misbehaving, then there could be something wrong with your hardware, possibly in the keyboard area, and you will need to get that seen to by a repair company.

PROBLEMS?

Keith Pomfret might be able to help you so write to:

Keith Pomfret, Tech Tips,
New Computer Express,
30 Monmouth Street,
Bath, Avon BA1 2BW

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◆ CONSOLES

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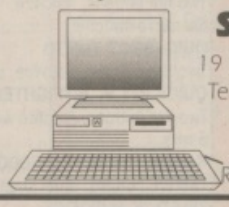

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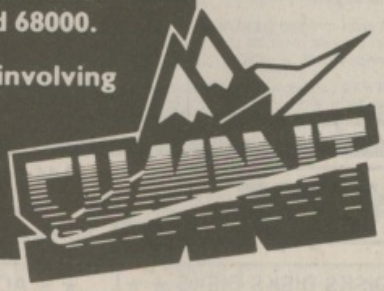

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● **52Q/1040 MAGAZINE** – New Fanzine in preparation. 520/11040 for STs. First issue out soon. Details from basoft PD, 357, Church Road, Basildon, Essex. SS14 2EU. Disk based!!!

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PDNR – PD companies and other PD enthusiasts, send SAE to me for information on a special fanzine. James Thoroughgood, 114 Sandringham Way, Frimley, Surrey GU16 5YF

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PD LISTING IN REVAMP SHOCK

You might have noticed a few differences about *Express* this week. Part of these exciting developments is a new weekly version of the Public Domain listing which has previously been carried monthly on these pages.

You will find the new listing, believe it not, next to the PD Column. Stroke of genius, don'tcha think?

We have also updated it. By that we mean that we have ruthlessly thrown out any libraries which we're not sure are still operating to make sure that it is the most accurate PD lisiting in any UKpublication.

All the major libraries, such as 17-Bit and Amiganuts have been retained, as have all libraries which have had entries in the New On-line secTion in the past two months. The rest, well I'm afraid we had no choice but to do the decent thing.

INSTANT SUCCESS

So, PD libraries, if you suddenly find that your entry is no longer listed, write in immediately on the form provided. And any new libraries out there, make sure that you reach the most diverse readership of any computer magazine, drop us a line.

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European Electronic Mail Association Autumn Conference at the Hotel Thermal, Budapest, Hungary. Info: +44386 793 028.

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Fri 13 – Sun 15 Sept
At the New Exhibition Centre, Leeds University. Info: 0532 677 657.

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Sat 14 Sept
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Sat 14 Sept
At the Spring Lodge Community Centre in Witham. Info: 0376 517496.

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Tue 17 – Fri 20 Sept
At the Earls Court Exhibition Centre, London. Info: 071-486 1951.

International Police Exhibition and Conference '91
Tue 17 – Thu 19 Sept
At London's Barbican Exhibition Centre. Info: 081-995 7700.

The Works of Charles Babbage
Thu 19 Sept
Lecture at the King Edward VI College, Totnes, Devon at 14.15. Info: 0803 863821.

All Formats Computer Fair
Sun 22 Sept
At City Hall, Glasgow. Info: 0225 868100.

Milcomp '91
Tue 24 – Thu 26 Sept
Conference on computers in the military environment, being held at Wembly Conference Centre, London. Info: 0892 544027.

International PC Security Conference
Tue 1 – Thu 3 October
Covering viruses, piracy, hacking, access control, back-up, data recovery and computer law. Info: 0256 381583.

All Formats Computer Fair
Sun 6 Oct
At The Brunel Centre, Bristol. Info: 0225 868100.

Effective Management of Information Technology Security Conference
Mon 7 – Tue 8 Oct
At the Forte Crest Regents Park Hotel, London. Info: 071-587 1117.

Computers Count Tue 8 – Thu 10 Oct
At Totnes Civic Hall. Info: 0803 863821.

Business Communications Awards
Thu 10 October
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Charles Babbage's Impact on Modern Computing Wed 23 Oct
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Image Processing '91
Tue 29 – Thu 31 Oct
At Birmingham NEC. Info: 081-868 4466.

System Builder Wed 30 – Thu 31 Oct
At Sandown Exhibition Centre, Esher, Surrey. Info: 0822 614671.

Computer Animation Festival
Thu 31 October – Fri 1 November
To accomapny the Computer Graphics '91 Conference, this festival will be taking place at the Marble Arch Odeon. (Rescheduled from 5 November owing to a screening of the epic film *Spartacus*). Info: 081-868 4466.

Computer Graphics '91
Tue 5 – Thu 7 Nov
At the Alexandra Place, London. Topics include computer animation, Virtual Reality and visualisation. Info: 081-868 9933.

Desktop Cad '91 Tue 5 – Thu 7 Nov
As above.

Open Systems '91 Wed 6 – Fri 8 Nov
Olympia, London. Info: 0784 472200.

All Micro Show and Radio Rally
Sat 9 Nov
Bingley Hall, Stafford. Info: 0473 272002.

Computers in the City
Tue 12 – Thu 14 Nov
At the Barbican Centre, London. Info: 081 868 4466.

World of Commodore Show
Fri 15 – Sun 17 Nov
A show for all things Commodore, , presented by the *Amiga Format* team. At Earls Court, London. Info: 0462 420785.

The Next Generation: Computing with Light Thu 21 Nov
Lecture at the King Edward VI College, Totnes. Info 0803 863821.

Vision and Reality
Thu 28 – Fri 29 Nov
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So for the general buyer and bargain hunters diary, it has to be Saturday the 7th of September at the 'City Halls', Candleriggs, Glasgow. From 10am to 4.30pm. Admission only £2.50.

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AMIGA

- The next stage in Amiga Desktop Publishing with Gold Disk's *ProPage 3.0*
- The spreadsheet package that's set to blast away all opposition
- The Amiga keyboard demystified for kids

Over the next few months, Gold Disk is releasing many new and enhanced products sure to keep the company at the forefront of Amiga developments.

Aside from a major upgrade for perhaps what is the company's best known product, *Professional Page* (see the accompanying box) Gold Disk has a few more tricks up its sleeve.

Here's a run down of what's on offer:

PERSONAL VIDEO EDITOR – If you own a camcorder, then you'll probably already be all too aware of how long it can take to edit hours of video footage down into usable chunks. Gold Disk hopes to make this process considerably easier with the release of its Personal Video Editor system which it claims can make the process of video editing considerably easier.

The system comprises a remote control adaptor that plugs into the Amiga. Simply by 'teaching' the remote how to control your video, it will allow the Amiga to take direct control over your VCR.

Obviously you'll need a video recorder that can be controlled via remote, although with videos being both sold and rented at such low prices these days, this shouldn't prove to be too much of a problem.

Unlike most tape editors, Gold Disk's PVE system doesn't employ any form of edit decision list, something that will be all too familiar to professional video engineers. Instead, Gold Disk has designed an intuitive graphic editing system that allows you to view your video productions using a friendly graphics-based front end. The advantage of this is that PVE will be one of the easiest to use video editing systems available.

PVE is still very much in development, although Gold Disk hopes to have it out on the market in November for around £300. Both the price and possibly even the name could change by that time, but Gold Disk is confident that it can keep the price well below £300.

ANIMATED COLOURING BOOK – Colouring books have always been a children's favourite and Gold Disk intends to cash in on their popularity with a product which takes the age old concept a step forward.

As the name suggests, the animated colouring book isn't restricted to static images; children can colour in a single frame and then see their colourful creation spring to life.

Unlike most animation systems, children don't have to colour in all the frames. The program will automatically change the colour of every frame after the first has been coloured in.

PROFESSIONAL DRAW 3.0 – As exclusively reported in a previous issue of *Express*, Gold Disk is putting the finishing touches to the latest release of its acclaimed structured drawing program.

It seems that the program itself may not be called *ProDraw 3.0*; instead Gold Disk may just release it as an upgrade to the existing version 2.0 and possibly call it *ProDraw 2.1*.

The new program features a *ProPage 2.0*-like user interface which has been designed to take advantage of Workbench 2.0. In terms of features, details are still very sketchy, but we can at least look forward to full Pantone colour support and a massive speed increase in screen rendering.

PROJECT X – Business users will love Gold Disk's next major 'professional' release, an as yet unnamed high end business graphics spreadsheet based on its successful *Advantage* spreadsheet.

Gold Disk claims that the new program blows away all similar programs available on the Amiga and even other systems. *Advantage* itself is pretty good (I use it extensively myself), but Gold Disk claims that this new spreadsheet is significantly better. Apparently it boasts one of the most intuitive user interfaces yet developed for the Amiga.

You can expect full reviews of all the above products in Express as soon as Gold Disk releases review samples, so stay tuned.

☎ In the meantime, you can contact Gold Disk directly on 0101-416-828-0913. If you can't quite face the phone bill, then contact Gold Disk's UK distributor HB Marketing on 0753 686000.

Jason Holborn

PROPAGE 3.0 EXCLUSIVE DETAILS

I've done it again! Not only was I the first to reveal the existence of both Gold Disk's *Professional Page 2.0* and *Professional Draw 3.0*, but Gold Disk has blessed me with the chance to bring you exclusive news of version 3.0 of its industry standard DTP system *ProPage*.

Details are still very sketchy, but Gold Disk is very enthusiastic about *ProPage 3.0*. Indeed, such phrases as 'the ultimate' and 'absolutely brilliant' were being used with gay abandon.

However, even Gold Disk itself wasn't entirely sure what new features would be included owing to the fact that *ProPage 3.0* is still very much 'in development'.

Despite this, I managed to prise a few details out of the company:

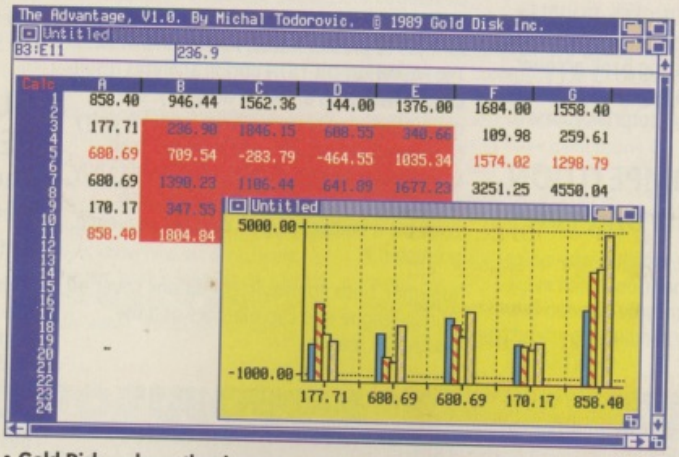
- It will include full on-line help facilities, enabling you to use the program without having to constantly refer to the manual.
- Far more more control over text manipulation than previous versions.
- Better control over graphics
- Extended range of Compugraphic/Agfa fonts.

Gold Disk is hoping to release *Professional Page 3.0* in about three months time, although it's probably not a good idea to hold your breath. If you intend buying *ProPage*, then it's still worth buying *ProPage 2.0* and then upgrading to *ProPage 3.0* when it finally arrives. If you hang on for *ProPage 3.0*, you could have a bit of a wait on your hands.

Gold Disk hopes to offer existing *ProPage* users a very cheap upgrade path. Users of version 1.3 of *ProPage* were able to upgrade to version 2.0 for just £40 and Gold Disk claims that a similar upgrade price will be offered to existing users of *ProPage 2.0*.

The upgrade price is still very much undecided, although it will almost certainly not rise too much above the 2.0 upgrade price.

• *ProPage* – look out for a major upgrade in the next three months. With full on-line help facilities and better control over text and graphics, *ProPage 3.0* is the DTP package to watch out for



• Gold Disk reckons that its new, as yet unnamed, business-orientated spreadsheet program is significantly better than its already excellent

KEYBOARDS FOR KIDS

'Keys to Please' is a brilliantly simply new idea from Thompson Computers, a new company set up by Arnor's Douglas Thompson. It is a keyboard overlay designed to make computers simple to use for young children.

Thompson created it for his own children who were having difficulties using the existing Amiga keyboard. According to Thompson, young children are taught small (lower case) letters first ,so they cannot readily understand a computer keyboard. The overlay has lower case letters printed in large type in the centre of each key with the upper case letter printed in the top left hand corner.

'Keys to Please' is available for a number of different micros (including the Amiga) from Thompson Computers for the paltry sum of just £2.95. You can contact them at 8 Hyholmes, Bretton in Peterborough.

☎ Alternatively, give them a call on 0733 331796. And, as always, don't forget to tell them that *Express* sent you!

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ST

- **The Bitmap Brothers return with a game that'll be familiar to Motormouth fans**
- **Fly into combat with 39 other players**
- **What's new in *Populous 2*? We reveal all**

• *Magic Pockets*, the latest from the Bitmap Brothers, started life on a Saturday morning kids' show, but don't let that put you off. Your weapons include snowballs and clouds, but don't let that put you off either

Since the release of their last game, ***Gods***, those less-than-reticent user-friendly design peeps The Bitmap Brothers seem to have been resting on their laurels. But with all the hype doing the rounds for their next title, ***Magic Pockets***, it seems they haven't been sitting around twiddling their thumbs.

Pockets, initially famous for being featured on ITV's *Motormouth* (albeit in a much more primitive form) on Saturday mornings, and then because of the news that no less a musical genius (ahem) than Betty Boo would be doing the music, has been previewed here and there since May. At last it's nearly ready for release.

On the surface ***Pockets*** seems like your bog-standard platform game, in which you play the Bitmap Kid on his search for a toy on each level. But its design and execution lifts it far above the usual morass of that genre.

Take, for example, the way your weapons work. On the first level, you throw whirlwinds, their size and power corresponding to how long you hold down the Fire button. These can be used to trap nasties, but if you jump into one you'll be rewarded with bonus sweets and points.

In the second level, a jungle, you throw clouds instead of whirlwinds, which act in virtually the same way – except when it comes to plants. Throw a cloud over the stump of a plant and it releases a drop of rain, which falls onto the stump and makes the plant grow, effectively creating a whole new set of platforms.

The last level is full of snow and ice. Here your weapons are snowballs which you can either throw or roll along the ground, in which case they gather more snow to increase in size.

The game is full of these small touches that make it a joy to play, including (amongst other things) boxing gorillas, bicycle-riding monsters and jelly babies with a mind of their own. It's been designed to the Bitmaps' customary standard of quality.

Magic Pockets is still being play tested but it should be available next month on the Renegade label.

☎ Renegade is on 071 481 9214.

AERIAL ACTION OVER THE PHONE

There's been a multi-player game out in America for a few years now called Air Warrior.

It's a 3-D combat flight sim which allows 40 people to play simultaneously. It features bombers and tanks, squadrons and the opportunity to defect to the enemy.

Previously, you needed an account with the very expensive GEnie to play it, but now those nice people at On-Line, which brought you the, erm, sort-of-OK ***Battlebound*** and the really-not-OK-at-all ***Challenge Golf***, have brought it to this country.

You'll need a modem to play, but the phone charges are non-premium (ie. not 44p a minute). On top of that you'll need to take account of the £1.50 (plus VAT) hourly charge that On-Line is making for access to the system.

☎ If you want to know more phone On-Line on 081-558 6114, or log onto Air Warrior itself on 081-539 6763 (1-8-N multi-speed).

Ed Ricketts

Ed Ricketts is the games reviewer on ST Format, *the UK's biggest and best magazine devoted to the Atari ST. Buy it from your newsagent every month.*

NOTATE AND CREATE UPDATE

Avid users of C-Lab's music packages *Notator* and *Creator* will be pleased to hear that versions 3.1 are now available. New features of both packages include:

- Graphic arrangement mode, where patterns are represented by vertical beams and may be arranged simply by clicking and dragging them around.
- 32 track/pattern simultaneous display.
- Fostex synchronisation mode, enabling remote control of Fostex tape recorders via the Fostex MTC-1.

In addition, there are some extra features in *Notator* only:

- IMG export of files, so that printer-ready pages can be saved to disk as IMG files, for use in most graphics/DTP programs.
- Global notation attributes – for instance, all notes with a velocity of 100 or over can have an accent symbol.
- New percussion features – tracks can have a special percussion clef.
- Polyphony – up to three voices of polyphony per stave.

The update costs £20 inclusive direct from Sound Technology. If you have a pre-version 3.0 program £60 will get you a version 3.0 manual, a 3.1 update kit and a large SL binder. Sound Technology lives at Letchworth Point, Letchworth, Hertfordshire SG6 1ND.

☎ 0462 480000.

ALL THIS AND POPULOUS 2

The big game this Christmas (and possibly even next Christmas) is very likely to be *Populous 2*. Populous is probably the most popular game ever released, at least in terms of sales, so Bullfrog, the game's creator, must have a ready made captive audience. Fortunately, for once it looks as though the game will have sufficient content to live up to people's expectations.

The basic concept of giving your people plenty of land on which to build their houses has remained, but that's about all. You now have the ability to build roads and castle walls and to create real cities. There are 36 disasters you can cast upon your opponent, which include:

- Plague
- Earthquake (a proper one, with huge cracks in the ground)
- Tidal wave
- Fungus
- Trees (trees?)
- Columns of fire
- A volcano which promises to make its predecessor in the original look like a pimple on a baby's behind.

You can create your own god at the beginning, so the game adapts itself to your particular character, ensuring that the old boast that (I seem to have heard that one before).

You can call down heroes from Mount Olympus, each of which has their own special strength – Helen of Troy, for instance, lures people to their death-by-drowning by seducing them, and so on.

Bullfrog's intention was to put everything that was lacking from *Populous* into the sequel, and it certainly seems that it has achieved that twice over.

• Developer Bullfrog reckons that it has included in *Populous 2* everything that was lacking from the original game. Apparently this includes the ability to grow trees!

INSIDE INFO

PC

- **How to gain complete control over a multimedia environment with Windows 3.0**
- **"Microsoft had better watch out" warn the *WordPerfect For Windows* beta testers**
- **New high quality adventure Shareware shocker**

Microsoft's multimedia extensions package for Windows has shipped in the USA. It will enable you to manipulate sounds and animation sequences and offer them a collection of basic sounds and images.

The company has included a series of mini applications – or "applets," as Microsoft calls them – that enables users to control and edit CD and other multimedia input.

With the full set of extensions, you will be able to add sound and animation clips taken from a sample library included with the product. You can also play, record, rewind and fast-forward sounds with an audio controller.

The multimedia extensions will also include drivers to help you create multimedia presentations.

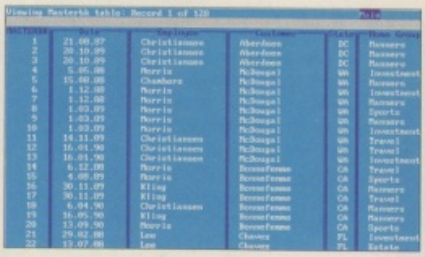
The drivers, invisible to end-users, will be bundled with a number of third-party software packages, including Gold Disk ***Animation Works Interactive*** and MacroMind ***Action***. The drivers will give these packages multimedia capabilities when they are run on a vanilla version of ***Windows 3.0***. – but they won't include a user interface or editing controls.

Because of this limitation users will need the full multimedia Windows extensions package, available only by buying a multimedia PC or by buying a multimedia upgrade.

A separate developer version of the extensions will come with MacroMind's ***Windows Player,*** making it possible for 'movies' created with ***MacroMind Director*** on a Macintosh to be played on a Windows-based multimedia PC.

Release in the UK is due in next couple of weeks. No pricing is available as yet.

☎ Contact Microsoft on 0734 500741.



- **Borland has released cut price versions of *Paradox* (above) and *Quattro Pro*, and has also cut some of the features as well**

CHEAPO BORLAND

Borland has just released *Quattro Pro SE* (£49.95) and *Paradox SE*, (£79.95) cheaper versions of its flagship spreadsheet and database products (SE stands for Special Edition).

Quattro Pro SE, "...has most of the features of *Quattro Pro*, but there is no interactive WYSIWYG display." However, you will still be able to do WYSIWYG screen previews.

Paradox SE lacks some of the high-end development tools, such as the Data Entry Toolkit and the Personal Programmer, but retains support for relational database design, and includes a 'query by example' utility.

☎ Ring Borland on 0734 320022.

WW WOWS THE BETA TESTERS

"It knocked our socks off," and, "If I were Microsoft, I'd be worried."

These were the intriguing declarations from American beta testers of *WordPerfect for Windows* (*WW*).

Due for release in October *WW* includes a button bar that you can customise, enhanced on-screen tools, two graphics modes, and keyboard options.

Information gleaned from beta testers reveals that:

- You can put whatever you use – for example, macros or styles – up in the button bar. You can then leave the button bar at the top of the screen or run it down the side, displaying the buttons in any combination of text and graphics.
- You can add columns and rows to a table simply by pushing an icon button.
- The draft graphics and the colour What You See Is What You Get (WYSIWYG) modes make it much easier to import graphics.
- You don't have to go through as many steps or levels to move or re-size a graphic.

One tester went as far to declare, "This is the closest thing to a Mac that I've ever seen."

Paul Rigby

FIND YOUR WAY AROUND C++

BOOK OF THE WEEK

- ***Using Borland C++* – over 1,000 pages of essential info for all C++ programmers**

Follow me down to the murky world of the programming language, to a world where it's never rude to `point', and `debugging' has been legalised.

Sometimes confusing and a little scary C++ has, nevertheless, proved very popular. But we all need a little guidance so Que's *Using Borland C++* by Atkinson and Atkinson steps in and does an admirable job.

A brick of a book spanning 1,068 pages, it is presented as both a tutorial and reference for Borland C++ and Turbo C++ including both samples and projects.

Targeted at the whole spectrum of C++ expertise, or lack of it, this book covers such topics as:

- The design and development of Windows applications.
- How to build, compile and test your programs.
- Writing prototypes for functions and pass arguments.
- Developing loop control statements and strings.
- Using memory managers.
- VROOM technology, and more.

Well designed and sensibly structured my only real criticism for *Using Borland C++* is that I would have liked to have seen a few sample programs on floppy, especially with a book of this size.

Otherwise I can highly recommended it to any C++ programmer, from beginner through to expert.

Available in the UK via bookshops, computer stores or from Computer Manuals.

☎ Tel: 021-706 6000

DARK ADVENTURE LURKS IN SHAREWARE

The final installment of the text adventure listings this week. Just one adventure for your delectation but what an astonishing example of shareware programming it is!

Last Half of Darkness [Disk 2606] features some superb EGA graphics. It resembles a simplified version of the new games from Legend or Magnetic Scrolls, or even the old ICOM classics, mainly because you can play it without ever using the keyboard.

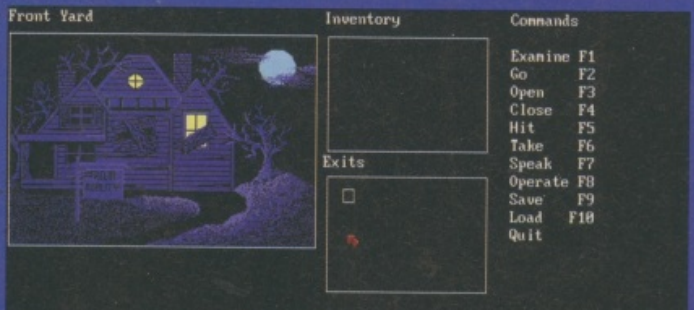
For example, click on the word `open' in the word list and click on a door in the graphic window. You'll see a small piece of animation as the door opens. You also see an overhead graphical representation of the available exits – you can click on these too. The function keys can also be used for command entry.

Presentation is divided up into areas. There is a graphic window, a location description box, an 'exits' window and a word listing.

Last Half of Darkness could easily retail at £25 and no-one would ever complain. Do yourself one hell of a favour and obtain yourself a copy of this game!

Contact: PD & Shareware Library, Winscombe House, Beacon Road, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 1UL.

☎ Tel: 0892 663298.



- **If you think that all Shareware adventure games are a boring load of wallpaper text, then *Last Half Of Darkness* could change your mind. Graphically pleasing, it also uses a friendly user interface for making**

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THE PD COLUMN

WOW! What's happened to the PD pages – they've grown, gone glossy and they're even greater than before, that's what! James Leach is still at the helm, but he tackling even more PD news...

'Everybody's talking 'bout those kinky boots, kinky boots.' In fact they aren't, but if you really want to discuss that kind of footwear, you could do no better than contact Riverdene PDL, who'll supply you (under plain cover) a copy of the ***Kinky Boots*** song made famous by Patrick McNee and Honor Blackman (of *The Avengers*, no less), programmed by an outfit called The Persistence Of Vision. It'll save the the embarrassment of having to buy it from a record store, I suppose.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

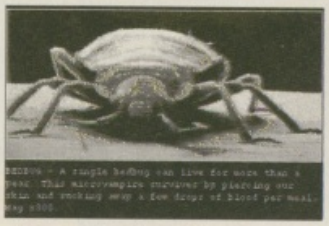
After waiting with baited breath, Amiganuts has also sent me the full version of ***OctaMED v2.*** It's been a wee while coming, but now it's here it really is something special. And it also has version 3.20 of the four channel MED with it as well.

Although it appears to be classed as PD, the price for the whole package is £20 for all European countries and £25 for those outside Europe. This does include postage and packing (which is considerable as there is a number of disks and a heart-warming amount of documentation included.

If you are registered with Amiganuts as having purchased ***OctaMED*** version 1, here's an upgrade deal; all you have to do is return the original disk and you'll be able to get the new all-singing all-dancing version for half its advertised price.

THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN YOUR BED

Pretty nasty, but probably very fascinating is a disk entitled ***The Invisible World*** from The Disk. It contains images grabbed using an Amiga, the Vidi-Amiga package and a Sony V200 Camcorder.



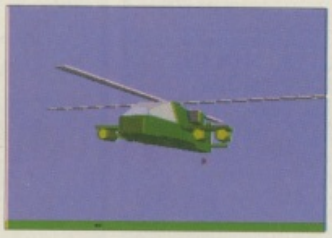
• Learn about lots of tiny creepy crawlies with The Disk

The images are of those rather nasty little things that live in the microscopic world in between our toes, in our mattresses and on the top of our beer. It's actually PD software that blurs the distinction between meaningless (if pretty) slideshows and educational software (you learn as you cringe).

The Invisible World will shock you into bathing in Domestos, and is available for only £1 from the Disk. Perfect for frightening the elderly.

PROPELLOR HEAD

17-Bit Software has just taken delivery of a very impressive piece of animation for the Amiga. Called ***Copter Animation***, it features an attack helicopter slicing through the sky in glorious 3D, and is one of the fastest animations I've seen.



• 17-Bit Software's impressive chopper-related animation

This sort of state-of-the-art graphics programming is interesting (and therefore worth getting hold of) because it forms the basis of many of the simulations which will taking the computing world by storm tomorrow, so if you want to be there first, keep your eye on what 17-Bit is up to.

NEW PD NAMES

Singer PD is a new name on the Public Domain circuit. Dealing with the Amiga, it is releasing a steady stream of interactive software (games, in other words). One such disk contains those wholly enjoyable old chestnuts, ***Invaders*** (a Defender-type game), ***Gridrunner*** (that old classic from hippy Jeff Minter) and ***Rebound*** (not from anywhere in particular). They're fun, cheap and they don't come in a huge expensive box. What more could you ask?

Another new name to surface in PD land is State 808 PDL (no prizes for guessing which band it supports). It specialises in both collating and creating music for the Atari ST. Many companies have catalogues of music soundtracks, but State 808 looks like it's aiming to comprehensively cover everything worth listening to. It's an area which deserves more coverage, if only because everybody who is anybody in the 'pop biz' seems to have an ST or two stacked in their studio.

Latest stuff from State 808 includes highly enjoyable musical insights into ***The Wild Boys*** on one packed disk and ***EMF*** on another. Yo, kickin' and so on.

WHAT A HUMDINGER

Telescan Computer Services of Blackpool has got a rather pleasant collection of games together on a couple a disks for the Amiga. In total there are 41 games, hence the moniker

• Simple, quick and fun, it's *Burger* from Humdinger 41

Humdinger 41 they've attributed. Some are old favourites which you thought you'd never see again and others are bang up-to-date. The quality, as you'd expect if you're getting 41 of the blighters, isn't exceptional, but if you're into having a quick blast they're certainly up to the job.

• *Rebound* is an old, but classic game from Singer PD

SOUTHERN COMFORTS

The South West Software Library has got an ever expanding catalogue of adventure and arcade games for ST-owning enthusiasts who believe that £25 is too much to pay for any software. Here's a quick look at the best of what's on offer from them:

Don't Bank On It! This is an adventure created with STAC. In it you

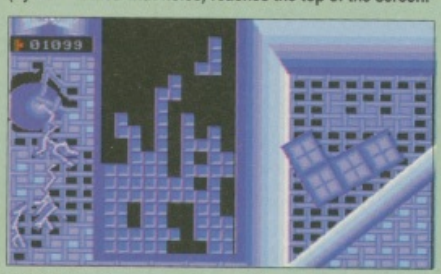
BATTLE OF THE TILE-STACKERS: PILE-UP VERSUS WORTRIS

At the moment there seem to be a fair few *Tetris*-style games floating around the PD universe. This isn't surprising since it's been about five years since the original *Tetris* came out.

For those unfamiliar with the game, *Tetris* (and similar games) put you in charge of odd-shaped blocks falling down a screen. The idea is to stack these blocks by moving them left or right and rotating them. If you manage to stack them without leaving any gaps in the pile at the bottom, the levels you've completed disappear, giving you more room to deal with the next blocks that fall. It's a continuous stream and it speeds up the longer you play, until right at the hectic finish, the pile of blocks (by now riddled with holes) reaches the top of the screen. Calling it addictive doesn't do it justice.

Two similar games for the ST are *Pile Up* from Solent Shareware and *Wortris* from Worsoft. Let's take a closer look and find out how they compare:

• *Pile-up's* screen is as colourful as you can get!



• *Wortris* – fast, smooth and fun gameplay

PILE UP

This is definitely the more colourful of the two games. It has plenty of options such as starting level, difficulty level and sound on or off. Gameplay isn't particularly fast or responsive and although it speeds up the longer you keep playing, the joystick controls are quirky and this tends to spoil things.

WORTRIS

It's a bit cyberpunkish, is *Wortris*. The screen is done out in greys, blacks and blue and the blocks that fall are all the same colour. It's much smoother than *Pile Up* and, while it also uses the joystick, there isn't any quirkiness. It's faster, smoother and more fun to play. The only thing *Pile Up* beats it on is the attractiveness of the screen.

play the part of unfortunate Harry Pratt. You're a bit light-fingered and as it's a dismal Monday morning you'll do everything you can to improve your fiscal lot. You've got a plan which should furnish you with immeasurable wealth. But putting it into practice is not going to be particulary easy.

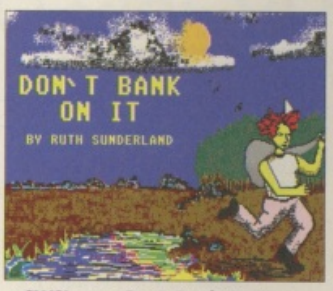
Don't Bank On It! is packed with detail the like of which I've yet to see in other PD STAC games. Perhaps the whole thing is more enjoyable because it isn't set in some mystical land filled with orcs, elves and dragons, but it's logical and sensible, and it's got that element of humour which (let's be honest) adventures need in order to stop people slumping over their keyboards in trance-like slumber.

Another South West Software Library adventure worth consideration (it's in a fairly similar vein) is ***The Blag***. The tables turn now, as you take the part of a Detective Constable in your new posting at the sleepy village of Woolendon (where as you could certainly guess, all is not as it seems). Again there is a lot of detail and a fair few laughs. Both adventures are warmly recommended.

ST PD DTP

I've got a bit of a confession to make now. Erm, some readers appeared to think that the recent look at the ***PageStream*** desktop publishing application from Caledonia Public Domain Library in this column was in fact a review of the program itself. In fact Caledonia is actually supplying a working demo of ***PageStream*** on PD.

If you got the wrong impression, it might be due to the fact that nowhere did it actually say that it was a demo. Many apologies for that, but if you are on the market for a fully working PD desktop publishing package then Caledonia does indeed have one. It doesn't appear to have any other name than ***The Public Domain DTP Prog***, but it's catalogued as ***Disk 0009***, so I'm sure Caledonia will know which one you mean.



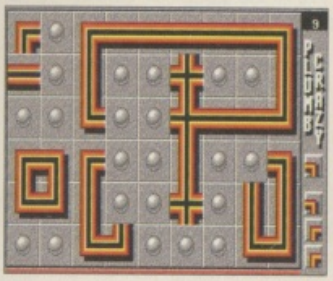
• **SWSL says *Don't Bank On It***

It has many of the features you'd expect to see on full-blown DTP programs, such as several fonts and point sizes, lots of ways of manipulation the text and even an impressive array of clip-art to paste in to your documents.

Of course you can import text from other sources (in the versatile form of ASCII files from any word processor) and you can load in saved images as well. The program's speed is acceptable and the display, whilst not incredibly easy to read on a colour screen or TV, is certainly workable.

IF THE PIPE FITS...

Seeing as we're on the subject of PD games that look more than a teensy bit like ones released by major software houses, Nightshift has a game on the ST out called ***Plumb Crazy***. It's all about plumbing, no less. You have a gridded screen into which you must place sections of pipe so that they fit together into loops. There are straight pieces, bent pieces and cross-over pieces to slot together, and as you battle with them, a time limit ticks away mercilessly. If it sounds like ***Pipemania*** (from Empire, published last year), that's because it *is* like ***Pipemania***. But it's a great version and very playable.



• ***Plumb Crazy* is a great puzzle**

PD WANTED!

The more perceptive of you may have noticed that the PD Column has grown somewhat. It's an altogether excellent move which will provide greater coverage for all sectors of the PD world.

What *New Computer Express* now needs is more PD software to fill these verdant pages. If you run a PD library for any computer format, please send me the programs which people most want to hear about and see reviewed. This should include games, utilities, serious programs and, to a lesser extent, unusual or interesting demos and animations (not scrolling messages!). Please remember to include full information about your library, prices and full written or printed documentation about the programs enclosed. Also label the disks clearly with the name of the program and state which machine the software is for.

Send your PD to James Leach's PD Column, *New Computer Express*, Beauford Court, 30 Monmouth St, Bath, Avon BA1 2BW.

HOUSE OF CARDS

If arcade games aren't your cup of caffeine, the East Midlands Public Domain Library (EMPDL to its friends) has got a disk of card games to while away the hours on holiday (if you've forgotten a pack of playing cards and accidently packed your ST and monitor instead).

The disk is called ***Fourfit***, and the games (with obscure names like ***Pyramid*** and ***Montana***) have their derivation in Patience in that you slide cards from pile to pile, turning them over at random. They're easy to learn, fun to play and well implemented with colourful graphics and mouse control. They're really suited to one player, but nothing precludes others from watching.

LOSE A FEW BITS

If your ST is tired of playing games, why not let it pretend it's a Commodore 64 or a BBC for a while? Why? There isn't any reason, really. It's just that Goodman's PDL has got a disk out called ***Emulators*** which has both a C64 and a Beeb emulator on it. When loaded up, both give you a flashing cursor and from there on it's up to you to produce spiffy BASIC programs.

What you can't do, of course, is load or save any data in either Commodore 64 or Beeb format, but you can explore the world of both machines' high-level programming languages

If it doesn't seem very sensible to turn your 16-bit Atari until an 8-bit machine with about a tenth of the memory, just remember that lots of schools use the BBC Micro to teach children programming, and if all you've got at home is an ST, it might be very useful to be able to set it up as a Beeb for the kiddies. The Commodore 64 emulator, on the other hand, is pretty much useless. ■

PD LIBRARIES A-Z

You've read the column, so now you want to know where you can get hold of such wondrous and, of course, cheap software. That's where the new lean, mean *Express* PD library listing steps in to help you out

8-BIT PUBLIC DOMAIN – Spectrum, BBC, Amstrad CPC and ZX81 public domain software. Send stamp and 10p for list. Public Domain, 1 Northolme Close, Grays, Essex, RM16 2NX.

17-BIT SOFTWARE – PO Box 97, Wakefield, West Yorks WF1 1XX. Tel: 0924 366982.

ADES PD LIBRARY – Where all PD is less than £1. Some free. Send SAE for great details. Address 15 Deanes Close Dovercourt Essex C012 4SH.
ADPD – For the cheapest Amiga PD around, some even free. Send SAE for details or disk for lists. 15 Deanes Close, Dovercourt, Essex CO12 4JH.
ADVANTAGE – 54 Bath Road, Cheltenham, GL53 7HJ. Tel: 0242 224340.
AKORE SHAREWARE – 7 Fishergate Point, Lower Parliament Street, Nottingham NG1 1GD. Tel: 0800 252221.
AMIGA ANSWERS – The first intergrated programmers PD library and problem solbin service £1.50 for catalogue and invaluble programmers utility disk. Amiga Answers, 11 Mill Hill Road, Norwich.
AMIGA NON-RIP OFF PD – For good Demos send disks, return postage to Mark, 50 Victoria Avenue, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 7LN. Most demos: not allowed in profitable libraries.
AMIGA PD BREAKTHROUGH – you've tried the rest, now try the best! PD from 18p per disk. Swift dispatch of all orders. Contact Darryl, 12 Kent Avenue, Ross-on-Wye, HFDS HR9 5AQ, NOW!!
AMIGANUTS UNITED – 169 Dale Valley Road, Hollybrook, Southampton SO1 6QX.
AMOS PD – 0942 495261.
ANDRIKKOS PC LIBRARY – PC Megapack: 14Mb of highly compacted Shareware, £16 only. Cheque/PO (or SAE for list) to: Andy Kyriacou, 17 Parkhurst Road, London, N22 4JQ.
ANGLO AMERICAN SHAREWARE – £1 a disk. Over 2,000Mb of top anglo-american titles. Send two first class stamps for menu driven catalogue disk to 37 Deven Place, Newport, Gwent. Tel 0633 259847.
ARCH ANGEL PD – Over 230 disks of Archimedes software. Send 75p for catalogue/demo disk to 9 Chancel Court, Pinhoe, Exeter, EX4 8QE.
ARCH PD – Over 200 disks of Archimedes PD. SEnd £1 or SAE and disk to Arch, PO 109, Ferry Road, Hullbridge, Essex, S55 6EL.
ATARI ST PD – software to swap. Send SAE plus disk to 29 King George's Road Bishopsworth, Bristol or tel 0272 640217.
BASOFT PD – Original PD plus the best of the rest. SAE to BASOFT, 357 Church Road, Basildon, Essex SS14 2EV. £1 per disk. New disk catalogue in exchange for blank disk.
BEGINNERS' PD – ST PD starter disks. Two available. Over ten programs. £3 the lot. Write tio James Thoroughgood, 114 Sandrigham Way, Frimley, Surrey, GU16 5YF. Also send suitable SAE.No cheques.
BBB (BIG BAD BRIAN'S) PD library. 3.5-inch only from £1. Send formatted disk and SAE for catalogue to BBB, 35 Grangeside Ave, Hull HU6 8LP.
BENETECH – PC PD. 21 Loughborough Road, Leicester, LE4 5JL.
BOOT UP PUBLIC DOMAIN – Amiga Public Domain. Only £1 per disk Send 75p for catalogue disk to Carol Wellington, 30 Sunnings Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 2DQ.
BUDGIE UK – 5 Minster Close, Rayleigh, Essex SS6 8SF
BURMAN'S PD – Amiga PD for 40p. For a catalogue on disk, a few demos and a game send a stamp and disk to Burman's PD, 41 Pinner Park Gardens, Harrow, Middlesex, MA2 6LQ
BYTEBACK – 6 Mumby Close, Newark, Notts NG24 1JE. Tel: 0636 79097.
C HACK'S PD LIBRARY – Captain Hack's PDL. ST Demos/Adult. Free disk catalogue; Blankie 60p plus SAE to 19 Latimer Drive, Laindon, Basildon, Essex. Tel: 0268 416 888.

CALEDONIA PDL – 250 Oldtown Road, Hilton, Inverness IV2 4PT. Tel: 0463 225736.

CAPRICORN COMPUTERS – 35 Warwick Road, Olton, Solihull, West Midlands B92 7HS.
CHEZRON SOFTWARE – 605 Loughborough Road, Birstall, Leicester LE4 4NJ.
CHRISTIAN COMPUTER CONCEPTS – Christian PD and Shareware. 5.25-inch only. Ian Hurst, 7 Perrybrook Walk, Ashton in Makerfield, Wigan WN4 8TR.
CIRCULAR PD LIBRARY – 14 Morrison Drive, Lennoxtown, Glasgow G65 7BA
CLYDESIDE SHAREWARE – 900 megs to choose from!!! Clydeside Shareware PD and Shareware for PCs from £1.50 for a full disk. Write to Ian Tweedie, 50 Ottoline Drive, Troon KA10 7AW. Tel: 0292 313312.
DB SOFT – IBM Shareware. 29 Birchwood Drive, Ravenshead, Notts NG15 9EE.
DELUXE AMIGA – Exclusive review of Terminator 2 inside issue 1. Send a £1 cheque/PO to Antony Grace, 2, Furzefield Crescent, Reigate, Surrey RHZ 7HQ.

THE DISK – Stephen Lord, 6 Stubbington Brink, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire HX7 6LR.

DRAGON PD – Programmers wanted for Amstrad, CPC 6128 PD library. For more information, write to: Dragon Road, 415 (flat) Whitehall Road, Bristol, BS5 73P.
DYNAMIX PD – PC, Amiga and C64 Public Domain. All new and best titles. For free detals contact 132 Springwood, Llanedeyrn, Cardiff CF2 6UF. SAE appreciated.

EAST MIDLAND PUBLIC DOMAIN LIBRARY – 54 Watnall Road, Hucknall, Nottingham NG15 7LE.

ED's FREE PDL – Public Domain for the Atari ST. Send your list for mine. 1-4-1 basis. EJ Carter, 184 Hatters Lane, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 7LY.
EDLIB – Interactive, educational and productivity compilations of PD for Amiga. £1.50. All regular PD only 89p. Graphics Master 1 and 2, graphic image manipulation PD software at only £3. Contact Edlib, Scotland Farm, Stockwood Road, Brislington, Bristol BS4 5LU.
ELMSOFT – PO Box 17, Loughton, Essex IG10 2EE.
ESSEX SHAREWARE LIBRARY – Beginners pack of the best of PC Shareware. Ten disks £14.99. Cheques/PO to Essex Shareware, 221 Branksome Avenue, Stanford-Le-Hope, Essex.
FREAKS PUBLIC DOMAIN LIBRARY – Disks filled with programs of your choice from a huge range. Ribbons re-inked, recycled packaging, send

PUBLIC DOMAIN

stamp for catalogue to Freaks, 29 Leap Valley Crescent, Downend, Bristo; BS16 6TQ.
FREEWAY PD – For the Amiga. Loads of titles for only 99p inbcluding postage and packaging. Send disk for list. Freeway PD, 11 Elizabeth Place, Somting, Sussex BN15 9U3.
GARNER DESIGNS – Spectrum PD. 57 Lovers Walk, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU5 4BG.
GOODMAN PDL – 16 Conrad Close, Meir Hay Estate, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs ST3 1SW. Tel: 0782 335650.
IMG CLIP ART – GDOS fonts for sale or swap. For catalogue send blank disk plus stamped addressed envelope or £1 to E Renner, 62 Broxholme Lane, Doncaster.
JACKSON'S PD SPECTACULAR – Amiga PD. D Jackson, 22 Victoria Court, Clifton Road, Worthing, Sussex.
JAMES & JAMES PD – Atari PD from £1 disk. Bristol 668137. PD swapped and sold.
JASE PD LIBRARY – utilities, games, demos etc. Only £1.25 per disk. Write to 9 Broadfield Square, Enfield, Middx EN1 3PA for a catalogue or send £1 for catalogue disk.
JAY-DEE'S PUBLC DOMAIN SOFTWARE – Jay-Dee's PD Amiga disks only 40p each for catalogue send SAE and disk to Jay-Dee, 389 Scalby Road, Newby, Scarborough, North Yorkshire. Catalogue updated monthly.
JENNIX PD – Fast efficient and friendly service. Disks 90p each. Send 50p for a custom written cat disk to Jennix, 66 Abbey Road, Strood, Kent.
JPDL – Atari ST PD. Double sided disks supplied wherever possible. Blank disk and SAE or 70p to: J Kilner, 120 Wiggington Road, Tamworth, Staffs B79 8RW.
KEANSOFT PD – ST PD for sale. Send SAE and blank disk for copy of latest catalogue. Write to Keansoft PD, 42 Lords Croft, Clayton-Le-Woods, Nr Chorley, Lancs PR6 7TP.
KEV'S PD – Amiga PD. £1 per disk. K Larkin, 12 Hathaway Court, Cheriton Road, Gillingham, Kent ME8 0ES.
L & D PD – Amiga PD from 35p per disk. Monthly competition to win PD of your choice. Also a new digitising service is available. For info send SAE and disk to L & D PD, 10 Hornbean Green, Pontefract, West Yorks WF8 2DX.
LAPD – Worldwide reputation for quality PD for the ST. Thousands of programs available. Disk catalogue only £1.00. Credit cards accepted. Telephone 0773 605010 or 0773 761944.
LARD PD – Only 95p per disk. Amiga only. For catalogue write to Lard PD, 41 Craven Road, Hemsworth, West Yorks WF9 4SB. Enclose SAE.
LEMMING SOFT – Amiga demos to swap. over 300 disks, List keeps growing by the day also want two meg demos write to ;- John Simmons, Flat 45, 2 Silvermere Road, Sheldon, Birmingham, B26 3XA.
MASTER PD – Amiga PD to swap and sell. Send SAE and list to A Hines, 44 School Lane, Easton Bray, Bedfordshire, LU6 2DT 100 per cent reply.
MERTON PD – Cheap Atari ST PD. Send £1 or blank disk for catalogue with SAE (cheques payable to T Huq) to: 10 Grasmere Avenue, London SW19 3DX.
NEURAL IMAGES PD – Send an SAE to4, Flint Walk, Throston Grange, Hartlepool, Cleveland. TS26 DTE for your free PD Disk. No catches!

NIGHTSHIFT – 8 Bertelin Road, Beaconside, Stafford ST16 3JJ.

OWN PC CLUB 7 SHAREWARE – 73A East Street, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7DX. Send blank disk plus stamp for catalogue. 25p each prog.
PAD PD AND SHAREWARE LIBRARY – For the Amiga user. Send SAE for details to: PAD Public Domain Library, 41a Saint Augustine Street, Norwich, Norfolk, NR3 3HF.
PARADISE COMPUTERS (GLOBAL) – 9 Westfiled Crescent, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 8JB.
PAWS PD – Lichfields only PD library. All disks £1 each. Swaps welcome. Send a stamped addressed envelope for list to: Anthony Cooper, 14 Purcell Ave, Lichfield, Staffs WS13 7PJ.
PROPHECY PDL – Atari ST Public Domain. Send SAE and disk or a cheque for £4.50 to Prophecy PD, 390 Coulsdon Road, Old Coulsdon, Surrey, CRS 1EF. We have very competitive prices.

RIVERDENE PDL – 30a School Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks RG3 5AN.

ROBOT PD – 2 Trent Road, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HF.
SAINT JOHN'S SCHOOL LIBRARY PDL – Atari/ST PD software for sale or swap. Write to St John's School Library PDL, c/o Mark Ash, 54 Beaconsfield Road, Sittingbourne, Kent. ME10 3BB or telephone 0795 425653 after 4pm.
SCOTBASE PDL ASSOCIATION – Affordable Shareware for PC users. Blank disk and SAE for catalogue and details to: Rosie, 63 Springboig Road, Glasgow G32 0DB.
SHAREWARE ELITE – Over 1,300 shareware disks for PCs. Send blank disk and SAE for full catalogue to 25 Cades Parc, Helston, Cornwall. Tel: 0326 564164.
SHAREWARE KING – 3,000 items of Shareware for PC, plus support, membership, plus discounts. SAE and blank disk for details to C Smith, 10 Penwood Close, Westbury, Wilts, BA13 3LW. Tel 0373 865263.
SHIELDSOFT PD – Now from only 50p per disk. Catalogue disk 75p. For details SAE to M Daniels, 63 Churton Road, Rhyl, Clwyd LL18 3NB.

SINGER PD – 62 Manor Rd, Hastings E Sussex TN34 3LJ.

SOLENT SOFTWARE – Atari ST. 53 Rufus Gardens, Totton, Hants SO4 3TA.

THE SOURCE PD – For the Atari ST. Compacted demos disks. £1.50 each. Write to: The Source PD, 7 Shearwater Lane, Norton, Stockton, Cleveland TS20 1SH.

SOUTH WEST PD – PO Box 562, Wimbourne, Dorset BH21 2YD.

THE ST ADVENTURER'S PD LIBRARY – PD for all ST users. Adventure, more adventure and even more adventure. Catalogue disk just 50p. Write to John R Barnsley, 32 Merrivale Road, Stafford, ST17 9EB.
ST ICE PDL – Send blank disk or £1 for great catalogue with programs included. Quality disks, viruses checked. All disks £1.80 including p&p.Write to 7 ST James' Close, Kettering, Nothants NN14 5HB.
STAR PD – Atari ST PD library fast 'n' friendly! Send blank disk and SAE. for free PD and our disk-based catalogue: Star PD, 1 Solva Road, Clase, Swansea SA6 7NX.

STATE 808 PDL – Atari ST demos, art packages and soundtrackers beyond belief. Very cheaply priced. Send blank disk to: State 808, 3A Old Lanark Road, Charluke, ML8 4HW.

START COMPUTER SYSTEMS – Dept A, Barbican House, Bonnersfield, Sunderland SR6 0AA. Tel: 091-564 1400.
STUPID FLOWER PD – new library for ST users. Send an SAE for a free catalogue to SFPD, 3 Read Mead, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 8ON or call 0458 35027 and ask for Matt.
TANK PD – disks only 60p (members), 75p (non-members). Prices include p&p. Hundreds of titles. Send blank disk and SAE to: 4 Chandos Road, Redland, Bristol BS8 6PE.
TOWER TOP PDL – The Coragen Corporation, 4 Cardigan Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 7EJ.
TRUST PD – 18 The Park, Southawram, Halifax, HX3 9QY. Tel: 0895 53521.
VENUS SHAREWARE – IBM Shareware: Amateur radio, technical, engineering, education, Windows utilities and more. Telephone 0252 837860 for your free catalogue.
WARLOCK PD CLUB – New Amiga club and library all tested and virus free (MVK 2.1). No membership fee. Tel Mark on 0582 761723. 2 Manland Avenue, Harpenden, Herts AL5.
WINDMILL SOFTWARE – Our catalogue describes programs not disks. Disks filled with your choice. SAE and 50p or disk for ST catalogue to p Raeburn, Windmill Software, 360 Windmill Road, Ealing, London W5 4UR.
WIZBIT PUBLIC DOMAIN LIBRARY – New Macintosh PD library. Disks £3 each. Around 100 disks available. Introduction pack £1 from Wizbit PD, 38 Greenbank Gardens, Edinburgh EH10 5SN.
WOODY'S PD – ST library where you choose individual progams to fill your disks. Send disk or three first class stamps for disk catalogue.

WORSOFT – Michael Andersson, Tjardalsgrand 11, 18341 TABX, Sweden.

ZEONS LAIR – Free C64 PD software send 35p stamp for details to Zeons Lair 4 Garden Close Penrith Cumbria CA11 7LD.

Remember, inclusion in this list does not mean that *Express* endorses or recommends any individual library. If you do find any that you are particularly impressed with, or, on the other hand, you think are a complete rip off, then don't hesitate to get in contact with us at *NCE*, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, Avon BA1 2BW

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Games Week

Ever determined to bring you the very latest in games technology Stuart Campbell bravely ventures into the unknown world of 'hologames'

STAR RATINGS

★★★★★ = Batman
★★★★ = Superman
★★★ = Spiderman
★★ = He-man
★ = Piltdown man

BLINDED BY SCIENCE

Fired by techno-lust, I set off last week for London to play Sega's latest Big Thing, the hologram game ***Time Traveler.*** Expecting, well, big things, I dropped a pound coin into the slot of the very New Age-looking machine (all clean white surfaces with the minimum of embellishments) and got ready to play...***Dragon's Lair.***

Yup, what we've got here is another laser-disk game where your control of the hero is limited to multiple-choice actions at critical points in the game, and every mistake gets you killed with no chance to save the situation. It's not quite as timing-sensitive as its legendary predecessor, making it easier (in fact, almost too easy) to make progress in it, but the feeling of only partial involvement is exactly the same.

As for the much-trumpeted holographics themselves, they're pretty impressive but perhaps not quite as stunning as you might have expected.

Considering the enormous size of the machine, the area where the action takes place is actually very small, and the pictures are just a little fuzzy where fine detail is concerned.

Don't get me wrong, this is a fabulous-looking game, and it's almost certainly a vision of the future of video games, but anyone who bothers to stick at it to the end won't find they've actually spent too much money (there's not a lot of it, and what there is isn't very taxing), and they're certainly unlikely to want to play it again.

The extremely bitty nature of the gameplay lacks the dramatic flowing storyline evident in ***Dragon's Lair***, ***Space Ace*** and the other games of that era, and once the initial buzz dies down I don't think you'll find the crowds around this machine that were always to be seen near its ancestors. (Partly, it must be said, because the angles of visibility around the game are pretty narrow, so if you're not standing more or less in front of it you don't get to see very much, which discourages mob interest). In fact, in the two busy city-centre arcades

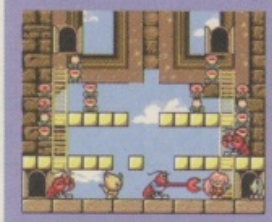
RODLAND Storm • All formats • £25.99 • Not yet released

Very close to completion now is the Amiga release of Storm's conversion of the Jaleco coin-op *Rodland*. Billed as a game 'so cute it'll make you puke', *Rodland* actually features a fine line in Tom &Jerry-style slapstick violence, as the two fairy characters the players control despatch the game's bad guys by grabbing them with a magic rod and battering them from side to side repeatedly.

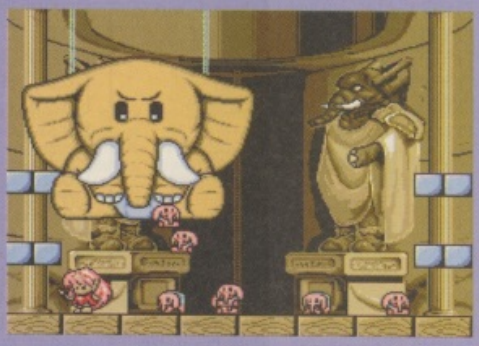
It looks great, as well as having tactical uses (you can use it just to flip a baddie away from you, or deflect attacks from other enemies by smashing the trapped one down on their heads. Although the game looks like a platformer very much in the *Rainbow Islands* tradition, closer inspection reveals that what we in fact have here is a game strongly reminiscent (in a number of ways) of what was possibly the first cutesy arcade game ever, *Mr. Do.*

Although platforms and ladders have replaced the underground tunnels of the early classic (converted on to almost every conceivable gaming format since, and due on the Game Boy any second now, trivia fans), much of the basic gameplay format is the same, and that's no bad thing in my book.

As for the graphics, they certainly live up to the promise in the ads, in that the cute-o-meter reading goes right off the scale.



But it wasn't a rock...it was a nasty old lobster



•Dumbo's grandad gives Tam a hard time

Fluffy bunny rabbits, crying sharks, and the most adorably menacing squirrels you've ever seen are just a small proportion of the line-up of nasties ranged against you, and you'll love (killing) every single one of them.

Game graphics in general are gorgeous, with searingly bright colours and extra little bits of animation that didn't feature in the coin-op, and the sound effects are excellent too. All that remains to be done now is the in-game music, and if that's up to the standards of the rest of *Rodland* – and I can't see any reason to believe it won't be – we could be looking at one of the very best games of the year.

TOP 10 ALL FORMATS FULL PRICE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TITLE	PUBLISHER	MACHINE
1	NE	*Thunderhawk*	Core Design	AG
2	1	*Manchester United*	Krisalis	SP CO AM ST AG
3	4	*Rainbow Collection*	Ocean	SP AM ST AG
4	4	*Hero Quest*	Gremlin	SP CO AM ST AG
5	5	*Dizzy Collection*	Codemasters	ST AG OT
6	8	*Monkey Island*	US Gold	ST AG OT
7	7	*Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles*	Mirrorsoft	SP CO AM ST AG OT
8	38	*Emlyn Hughes International Soccer*	Audiogenic	SP CO AM ST AG
9	7	*SF15 Strike Eagle 2*	Microprose	ST AG OT
10	6	*Lemmings*	Psygnosis	ST AG OT

ST = Atari ST AG = Commodore Amiga PC = IBM PC or compatible SP = Spectrum CO = Commodore 64 AM = Amstrad OT = Other.Chart compiled by Gallup. © European Leisure Software Publishers Assoc.

BEG, BORROW AND BURN

Another look at the wonderful, the so-so and the truly appalling

BEG

HEAD OVER HEELS • The Hit Squad

8-bit owners have been enjoying this absolutely classic piece of arcade adventuring gorgeousness for years now, but after many delays the ST and Amiga versions are finally with us too. Nothing's been changed, except for the addition of a bit of extra colour, but what that means is that this is exactly the same unfeasibly magnificent game that it always was. Whatever your machine, go out and get this today.

BORROW

BUBBLE BOBBLE • The Hit Squad

Pairs of players have been enjoying this absolutely classic piece of platform dinosaur-related fun for years, and now it's available on budget (or in Ocean's Rainbow Collection compilation) at a giveaway price on all formats. Played solo, though, you're likely to tire of it quickly, so be wary if you don't have a good friend to hand on a regular basis. Go out and take a look anyway, though.

BURN

ARMALYTE • Thalamus

C64 owners have been enjoying this absolutely classic piece of arcade blast-'em-uppery for years, but now Thalamus has brought it bang up to date for the 16-bit machines, and what a pig's ear they've made of it.

The graphics are lovely, but the game is so tough that almost no-one will be able to see many of them, and presentation is stupidly thoughtless into the bargain.

•If you think this looks like a game worth buying, get your eyes tested

where I saw it, the machine was often left unattended for long periods of time in favour of the latest bog-standard beat-'em-ups and zappers, which is a bit of a worrying sign for what's supposed to be a revolution in video gaming.

The real worry, though, is that if ***Time Traveler*** isn't a huge success (and I fear it won't be), the flurry of excitement will fade away and, as happened with the first laser disk games, a potentially incredible avenue of development will be left unexploited.

HERE IT COMES AGAIN

Under my bed I keep a huge box of faxes I've had from people saying 'Yo, Stuart, I've been chillin' in the area for months now, but I still haven't really managed to find any games with the letter 'V' in their names. Rave on.' I haven't actually got a fax machine myself, so I haven't been able to reply to them until now. I think it's time I put that right with a round-up of all the top re-releases in that very category...*Games with the letter V in their name*

VIGILANTE • Kixx • £7.99 for 16-bits, £3.99 for 8-bits

An arcade beat-'em-up most remarkable for having the objective of rescuing a kidnapped Madonna, ***Vigilante*** was all the same a pretty respectable kickin' and punchin' potboiler in the ***Kung Fu Master*** tradition.

While this conversion captures the look almost perfectly, someone obviously decided at some point that the less-than-breathtaking speed of the original was still just a bit too much for your average punter and slowed the whole thing down to a point where if you weren't careful, you could actually find yourself going back in time while you were playing it, ending up at the finish sequence of the game some three hours before you'd actually got up that morning. While this temporal quirk did have its advantages (Missed the bus? Forgotten that important appointment? Just put on your suit, have a couple of quick games of *Vigilante* and bingo!), it failed spectacularly to provide anything very much in the way of entertainment. A veritable day trip to Dullsville, in fact. ★

TOP 10 ALL FORMATS BUDGET

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TITLE	PUBLISHER	MACHINE
1	1	*New Zealand Story*	Hit Squad	SP CO AM ST AG
2	3	*Bubble Bobble*	Hit Squad	SP CO AM ST AG OT
3	2	*Shinobi*	Mastertronic	SP CO AM ST AG OT
4	4	*Cabal*	Hit Squad	SP CO AM ST AG
5	17	*Dizzy Panic*	Code Masters	SP CO AM
6	6	*Magic Land Dizzy*	Codemasters	SP CO AM
7	8	*Double Dragon*	Mastertronic	SP CO AM ST AG OT
8	16	*The Match*	D&H Games	SP CO AM
9	10	*Multimixx 1 Golf*	Kixx	SP CO AM
10	14	*Dragon Ninja*	Hit Squad	SP CO AM ST AG

ST = Atari ST AG = Commodore Amiga PC = IBM PC or compatible SP = Spectrum
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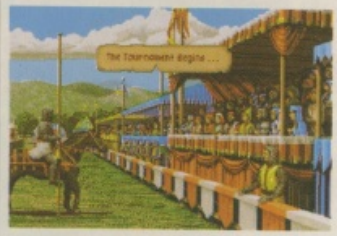
Chart compiled by Gallup. © European Leisure Software Publishers Assoc.

•Vigilante - whatever you do, don't Stop Me And Buy One



•DOTC - joust a load of old guff?

BEACH VOLLEY • The Hit Squad • £7.99 for 16-bits only

One of the first 16-bit only games from the Manchester software behemoths, ***Beach Volley*** was most interesting for the fact that Ocean picked for this groundbreaking step a game so simplistic that it could have run on a VIC-20 without expansion.

Two-a-side volleyball doesn't allow for a lot of scope in the gameplay department, and indeed you don't get any. Scope *or* gameplay, that is.

The graphics did the state-of-the-art machines proud, but the controls were appalling and the characters leapt around so enthusiastically that to be able to anticipate their movements well enough to hit the ball at any point called for the skills of a crystal ball reader and the reactions of a Siamese twin.

This was the kind of game people loaded up and left running in computer shops to impress passers-by, but no-one ever actually played it very much. There's no reason for that to change now. ★

DEVENDER OF THE CROWN • Mirror Image • £10.99 on 16-bits only

No, sorry, this is a joke. In both senses. ★

OSCAR CORNER

Oscar The Grouch, that is. You'll have noticed that there aren't any playing tips in the column this week, and it's because I've got a question to ask.

There's something that's been puzzling me ever since I started doing this job. Why do people send in game cheats that don't work? Every day our mailbag bulges with letters from people claiming to have 'discovered' some password or code for some game or other, only to have it checked out and found to be completely useless. (Like, someone actually sent in a 'cheat' the other week for *Xenon 2* by the Bitmap Brothers, a team who've gone on record as saying they never put cheat modes in their games. Needless to say, it didn't work.).

What do they get out of it? Is it some sort of sad cry for help, a little 'notice me' plea, or is it all some incomprehensible joke? I don't get it.

Even if one slips through unchecked, all it achieves is to make the sender look stupid when 20,000 people try it out with no success and think 'Hmph, what a prat'. Please don't do it.

FISHPASTE CORNER

More strange-but-true snippets that the industry would rather you didn't know about.

- Top Bitmap Brother Eric Matthews is really a woman, and only appears in moodily-lit publicity shots wearing shades to conceal his true identity.
- Image Works' top god game *Mega lo Mania* is actually based on a concept stolen from a 1979 Commodore Pet game called '*Mussolini*'.
- The Amiga version of top classic puzzle game *Tetris* was programmed in a drunken haze one night 'for a joke'.
- Roger Bennett of top industry watchdog body ELSPA was once a chimney sweep, but gave the job up for health reasons.
- Top dead industry figure Gary Penn's last words before his grisly murder were the prophetic 'There's nothing big or hard or clever about enormous guns', uttered after playing a preview copy of US Gold's *Alien Storm*.
- Author of *Populous* Peter Molyneux was once refused an entry visa to the USA on the grounds of being a suspected top Communist.
- There weren't many interesting games released this week.

DARKMAN

Ocean • Spectrum • £9.99 ★ ★

•Darkman cleverly demonstrates his chameleon-like disguise...

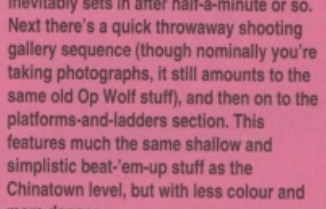
Seasons come and seasons go, but in these ever-changing times of attempted coups and global uncertainty there's always one thing you can rely on – Ocean movie licence games.

The latest one to hit the Speccy (and of course all the other formats, although the actual game differs from machine to machine) is Sam Raimi's *Darkman*, the not-all-that-big pseudo-superhero 'hit' from a few months back, now languishing on video shop shelves all over the country. The Spec game takes the usual format, lots of little sub-games themed on various parts of the movie, with the standard mix of beat-'em-up bits, platform bits, beat-'em-up platform bits, you know the story.

The first section puts our disfigured hero in Chinatown (heavily disguised as a burst-scrolling *Double Dragon*-ish fighting sequence), where he finds himself pitted against a motley crew of villains who – gallantly, I think – always take him on two or three at a time.

Other hazards include dogs, deadly blobs which drift across the screen in pairs, and the complete boredom which inevitably sets in after half-a-minute or so. Next there's a quick throwaway shooting gallery sequence (though nominally you're taking photographs, it still amounts to the same old Op Wolf stuff), and then on to the platforms-and-ladders section. This features much the same shallow and simplistic beat-'em-up stuff as the Chinatown level, but with less colour and more danger.

The difficulty level is in fact one of the better things about this game, it's certainly not easy, but the problem is that there isn't any incentive in the way of exciting or involving gameplay to make you want to stick at the challenge.



The Chinatown street level - it's a road of clap

•Ha! Darkman proves too clever for the thicky bad guys

The truth of the matter is, by the time I'd made it to the next level (the none-too-thrilling rooftop 'chase') I was already playing the game purely out of duty. After losing my last life and having to restart right back in Chinatown I though 'Bugger duty, I'm not playing this old tosh any more' and binned it.

It could be said that *Darkman* was fighting a losing battle from the start, being based on a not-very-successful film, but there really isn't any excuse for such a tired and unrewarding game as this. Justice may have a brand new face, but it's the face of a clown.

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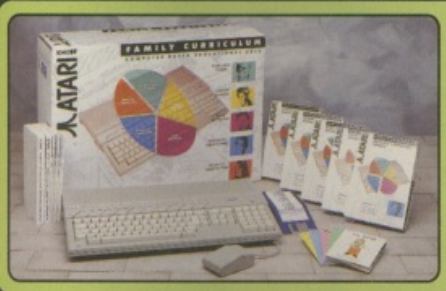

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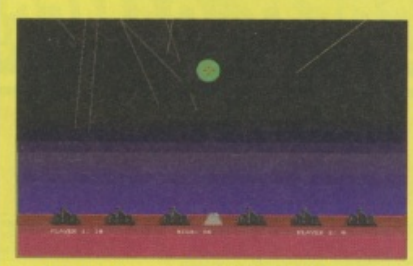

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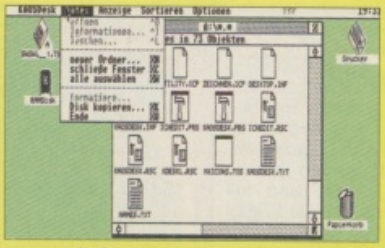

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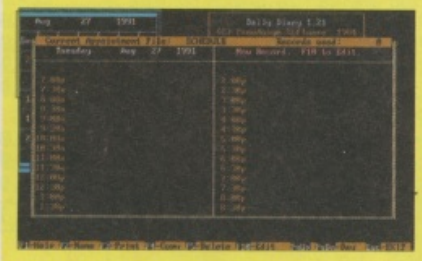

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