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Combien des Valentines cards did vous receivez this year? Neuf? Huit? Cinq? Deux? Zut. Never mind though, there's plus d'enough romance dans cette pages to go around, so sittez back and broodez on l'amour courtesy of

Psssst

D'ODGY D'ARGENT

Summit Software (which was named after a card game invented by the father of its boss, Roger Hulley) has recently announced the winner of a competition held last year. Contestants had to work out how much the retail price of Summit games (£2.99) would equate to in 'old money' (that crap currency that added up to 143 pence in the pound, or something). The clever winner was Alan Clark from Camberwell, who won a set of mint condition £sd coins. "It was the luckiest day of my life" said Alan. We at *YS* tried to work out the answer to the competition – our answer? 309 florins, a sovereign, thruppence ha-penny and three farthings.

SPOOK 'FACTS' DE L'AMOUR

Spook 'Fact' De L'Amour Un: After a male and a female Praying Mantis have finished having 'rumpy pumpy', the male Praying Mantis doesn't get a chance to lay back and light up a cigarette. The wisest thing for him to do is to scarper blimmin' quick, cos female Praying Mantises have a habit of grabbing and devouring their 'partner' at precisely this sublime moment. Ooh la la!

Spook 'Fact' De L'Amour Deux: Chang and Eng Bunker were a pair of Chinese Siamese twins (they were joined together by a cartilaginous band at the chest) and in April, 1843, they married Sarah and Adelaide Yates of North Carolina who were also siblings. With Sarah and Adelaide, Chang and Eng fathered 22 children before popping their socks in 1874. How they managed it is best left to the imagination. Ooh la la!

Spook 'Fact' De L'Amour Trois: As Sir Walter Raleigh was having his bonce lopped off, he probably thought to himself something along the lines of "Ho hum, I've had a fairly good innings but now I'm in for a jolly good rest." How wrong he was – for no sooner had his head landed in the basket, than his loving wife had fished it out and crammed it into her hand-bag (next to the compartment where she kept her Handy Andies). She carried it with her until the end of her days. Ooh la la!

Spook 'Fact' De L'Amour Quatre: Frederic March III is a film director, and film directors often fall in love with actresses. Tuesday Weld is an actress. So, if they 'got it together' and married, she would be called Tuesday March The Third. Ooh la la!

COMICS CHART

1 ***Batman Death In The Family*** **(DC)**
2 ***Black Orchid*** **(DC)**
3 ***V For Vendetta*** **(DC)**
4 ***The Prisoner*** **(DC)**
5 ***X-Men/X-Factor*** **(Marvel)**
6 ***Excalibur*** **(Marvel)**
7 ***Aliens*** **(Dark Horse)**
8 ***Hellblazer*** **(DC)**
9 ***Daredevil*** **(Marvel)**
10 ***Swamp Thing*** **(DC)**

Chart compiled by Dave Tarafder of Virgin Comics

Another lively month in the old comix world! And an improved chart, it seems, as Dave and chums at Virgin Comics have just installed a new computerised system for calculating the sales. So it's out the window with the old bit of paper with the ticks on!

Things have finally settled down after the Christmas apathy, and *Batman* is STILL outselling every zine on the streets at the moment. The death of Robin the Boy Wonder is still tearing hearts out at the tills. In second slot, the *Black Orchid* graphic novel style mini series plows on. This is a very class act, and I'd catch it if I were you. There's more artwork in this 'zine than in the Louvre. (Interesting fact *(Sez who? Ed)* To see every picture in the Louvre in Paris, pausing for 30 secs before each, would take four months!) I love this mag, and my money says it'll be top next month. Alan Moore's *V For Vendetta* storms on apace, and there's no stopping the subversive tyke. Moore is really pushing his luck with all the mags he works on, and good job too. You may live to see comics become a political issue!

Okay, quick! Lose the soapbox and check out the number eight slot. Yup, *Hellblazer* is still there, and there's a good reason for this. It's a ballsy, hi-fi, sci-fi, spooky, voodoo 'zine, and there ain't nothing like it. John Constantine has joined a peace convoy in the West Country and is being pursued for murder. Good start for a story, wish I'd written it. Everybody and his mum is buying the *Inferno* crossover comics, that's *X-Men* and *X-Factor* plus the *New Mutants*. This is a brilliant story, but I'm not going to understand what's really going on till it's over. Sheesh. Get a few participating comics and sort it out for yerself!

Bubbling under? I asked Dave what his fave bubbling unders were this month and he was quite emphatic. *The Gumby Winter Special*, if only for the artwork which is "very special", the *Invasion* (DC's crossover) stories, *Iron Man's* current run, and *Miracle Man* issue 15 is brilliant. Also check out the latest comics from *Viz Comics* in Japan. (Not to be confused with the rude English jobby).
Phil South (Comix Ed)

CHUCK UP

TOP 10

FULL PRICE GAMEZ

This Month	Last Month	Game/Publisher
1	(NE)	***Afterburner***/Activision
2	(NE)	***Operation Wolf***/Ocean
3	(NE)	***Thunderblade***-/US Gold
4	(NE)	***Batman***/Ocean
5	(NE)	***Double Dragon***/Melbourne House
6	(NE)	***R-Type***/Activision
7	(8)	***Guerilla Wars***/Ocean
8	(NE)	***Rambo III***/Ocean
9	(NE)	***Pacmania***/Grandslam
10	(NE)	***Last Ninja II***/System 3

BUDGET GAMEZ

This Month	Last Month	Game/Publisher
1	(1)	***Joe Blade 2***/Players
2	(1)	***Bombjack***/Encore
3	(4)	***Commando***/Encore
4	(3)	***Footballer Of The Year***/Kixx
5	(NE)	***Ace 2***/Cascade
6	(6)	***Gauntlet***/Kixx
7	(NE)	***Stunt Bike Simulator***/Firebird
8	(NE)	***Biggles***/Firebird
9	(NE)	***European Five A Side***/Firebird
10	(NE)	***Combat Lynx***/Encore

READER'S CHART

1) The *Country Practice* wombat
2) Bungle the bear
3) The fridge vegetable draw
4) Car seat covers in Ford Capris
5) Badgers
6) Unwell people's tongues
7) Peter Sellers' shoulders
8) Sheep
9) The bit surrounding Prince Edward's bald patch
10) The *Country Practice* wombat (again).

Top ten furry things was brought to you by **Nicholas Dale** of Clwyd. Come on chums, get those charts into *Pssst*. You'll win yourself a furry, erm, shiny new *YS* badge.

Oh dear, General 'Chuck' Yeager seems to be having difficulty fitting his crash helmet over his head, which isn't surprising really, seeing as he's got a scale model of the Space Shuttle growing out of it. Anyway, the news is out that *Chuck Yeager's Advanced Flight Trainer* is due out on the Spectrum. Those in the know will have heard that it was one of the best flight simulators to hit the C64, those not in the know, erm, won't. There are 14 different aircraft to choose from and more flying options than you could sellotape to a stick and poke Brian Trubshaw* in the eye with. It promises to be something of a corkerooni, so keep 'em peeled.

*Brian Trubshaw was Captain of the first Concorde.

Did We Win? Ptui?!

Remember our recent *Spitting Image* compo, in which the winner would get to go along to Limehouse Studios and partake in a further competition with winners from other mags to see who could do the best impression of a well known character? No? Oh well, forget it then. *(Tell them, or you're fired. Ed)*. Erm, well, our Dep Ed Matt Bielby accompanied the *YS* finalist, Darren Biddle, who did an impression of Constable Dimbleby (the violent copper from the series). Did Darren win the Grand Final? Did he sausage! The shame of the entire *YS* readership hangs from his shoulders.

Tizers

• Grandslam's latest football game licence, tentatively entitled *Liverpool — The Computer Game*, may have run into a 'spot of bother.' It seems that Grandslam has made the rather embarassing error of signing up the team players association without getting the approval of Liverpool F.C. itself — so it won't be able to use the team name 'Liverpool'. That licence is held by Scunthorpe based budget house Video Images, so it's possible we will see two Liverpool games in the near future, with only the cheapy actually called *Liverpool*.

• Latest Tengen licence to be converted by Domark will be *Toobin'*, an arcade hit based around the rather unlikely and slightly dangerous sport of skimming down streams supported only by a car tyre inner tube. Oo-er. Rivers in this country are a mite colder than they are in the States which may explain why the pastime hasn't become 'big' over here — yet!

• We all know the third Indianna Jones film *'The Last Crusade'* will be a massive box-office smasheroonie later this year. So US Gold/Epyx has every right to expect big things of its forthcoming computer conversion of the film which stars Sean Connery opposite Harrison Ford. US Gold also has the licence to the *Nightmare On Elm Street* series of films. Eeek!

• Following the mega-success of *Renegade* and *Target Renegade*, Ocean has *Renegade III* lined up and ready to run. But will the original *Renegade* miraculously rise from the dead to do battle with organised crime, or will his younger brother from the second game return? Or maybe we'll get the third cousin once removed this time... *(Shut up. Ed)*

• Another goodie coming soon from US Gold is *Ghosts And Ghouls*, a coin-op beat, hack and shoot 'em up featuring loads of monsters ranging from dragons to a giant Egyptian(?) There'll also be some so called 'Zenny' coins which can be picked up along the way and spent to buy 'bigger weapons' (Oo-er) at stores that appear along the way rather in the fashion of the Shopkeeper in Mr. Ben. What a civilized game.

• Take a 'popular' TV show like, say, BBC1's new action quiz *Run The Gauntlet*, mix it with a popular software house like Ocean, and what have you got? A newie for Easter where you race around the world by bike, horse, foot and any other conceivable form of transport. Oooh.

• New 16 bit sensation *Purple Saturn Day* is coming to the Spectrum any day now. At £9.95 cassette/£14.95 disk it's unusual for a French game in that it's pure arcade action, set around four sporting events held on the moons of Saturn. For more on 'wild and wacky' publishers Exxos see the *Captain Blood* feature this ish...

10 *Motormouth/ Weird Dreams* T-Shirts to be bagged.

Seen *Motormouth* recently? Then you'll have seen the bit where contestants play that bizarre Atari ST game, *Weird Dreams*. The eventual *Motormouth* winners win themselves a weekend in Egypt, and get to fly there by Concorde.

Well, we can top that: the winners of our competition can each win a *Motormouth/Weird Dreams* T-shirt.

Read the following 'dream sequence' through very carefully and decide what kind of dream it is, then fill in the coupon, stick it onto Sigmund Freud (or a postcard) and send it to Blimey There Are Some Rum Goings On Under The Briny, Pinch Me Quick (Oo-er) Compo, *YS* Compos, PO Box 1509, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 1LQ.

Entries received after 31st March will be rendered unconscious.

"Oh no, Jacques Cousteau is heading towards me with a primed spear-gun. I cannot move – my legs have gone all wibbly. Oh no, 'Jacques' is closing fast – his flippers have become a vicious blur. Yaaaarrghh!"

I'm not dozy: the sleeping person in question is in the middle of a

.....dream

Name .....

Address .....

..... **'Zip' code**.....

adventure gamez

This Month	Last Month	Game/Publisher
1	(1)	***Colour Of Magic***/ Alternative
2	(NE)	***Ingrid's Back***/Level 9
3	(2)	***Time And Magic***/ Mandarin
4	(NE)	***Excalibur***/Alternative
5	(3)	***Lancelot***/Mandarin

A few of you have written in saying that you couldn't quite make out a couple of the lines of the Multiload POKE in *Program Pitstop* (Ish 38). The reason they were so hazy is that they were trying to escape from the spooky countenance of David 'I don't look like this honestly' Fab Macca McCandless. Well, we've managed to track them down to where they were hiding in the basement – and here they are:

```
7000 LET N=T
7010 LET P=7: LET I=0: GO SUB 7510
7020 IF INKEY$="Q" THEN GO SUB 7500: LET
N=N-2: IF N<1 THEN LET N=B
```

Look out for more scarey pictures of David in forthcoming issues.

UNCLE CLIVE'S TASTY TREAT!

Coooorr!! Uncle 'Sir' Clive Sinclair's gorn and pulled himself a birrova Valentine cracker. Namely luscious curvy Bernadette Tynan (22) – who as you can see has the trimmest waist in the Northern Hemisphere. Beautiful 'Bernie' met Sir Clive (48) at a meeting at the headquarters of Mensa, the high IQ society he runs. Whether she was the girl who popped out of the cake or actually has the brains of Einstein is unclear (as is whether her first words were 'Is that a Z88 in your pocket or are you just pleased ... *Stop that! Ed*), but one thing's for sure, and that's their plan to get 'hitched' in June. Expect a wedding procession of C5's.

TRAINSPOTTERS THROUGH HISTORY

A Series In Conversation With Some Of The Worlds Greatest Trainspotters.

No. 88 (again!) Christopher Biggins

Whooo. Well slap my wrists and pinch my thigh, I'm a jolly little fellow with ridiculous glasses – my name's Chris, but you can call me Biggins. Remember *On Safari?* No, of course you don't, but it was my televisual debut – a sort of quiz show in the childrens TV slot (and the score-girl was Gillian Taylforth: Cath from *EastEnders*). Everyone had to leap around in gunge, and I got to camp it up something awful. I'm a right old pantomine dame, I am, slap my wrists and pinch my bottom (no don't, I'll love it) – you can catch me any winter season at Cleethorpes, playing one of the ugly sisters to Cheryl Baker's Cinderella. Oooh, what a lovely girl she is, but she's not half as cuddly as me, is she darlings? I'm really cuddly, a roly-poly luvvy-duvvy piece of pink sponge – that's me. All warm at the edges. Oooh, there I go again. Now where was I? Ah yes, trainspotting – that takes me back. Back to my schooldays – do you know what they used to call me back then? Christopher Biggun, that's what. Oooh, some naughty devil had been peeking in the shower (he must have mistaken someone else for me though, but that's my secret). Still, I've not been 'on the box' for quite a while now, but it doesn't really matter to me. Why? Cos I'm one of those people who are simply famous for being famous. Now there's a thing.

MAKE YOUR OWN VALENTINES CARD

Why shell out a fortune on expensive slushy Valentines cards when, courtesy of *YS*, you can make your very own? If after the event the person of your dreams turns you down, you won't have wasted any dosh – quite a solace for a broken heart.

INSTRUCTIONS

1) First, cut out the heart with 'I love you — please be mine' on it, and stick it onto thick card.
2) Next remove the springs from eight biros and attach them end to end (weld or super-glue them together).
3) Super-glue one end of the amalgamated spring to the back of the heart and the other end to the inside of the Valentines card.
4) Squeeze the card shut and stick a bit of sellotape over the edges to stop it springing open by itself.
5) Put the finished card in an enevelope and address it to your love.
6) Bung on a stamp and stick the whole thing in a letter box.
7) Go home and wait by the phone.

SHORT CIRCUIT 2 (PG)

Fisher Stevens, Michael McKean, Johnny Five

Something incredible has happened twice! Number Five's alive again – which makes him Number Ten by my reckoning. But as everyone just *lurved* the short stop military robot with a conscience from *Short Circuit* they won't mind his reappearance in a sequel – right?

Little metal Johnny Five has been staying in the countryside with his creators Stephanie and Newton. But Ben, his other inventor, is now working for the Titanic Toy Company in the big, bad city and feels like his career has just hit an iceberg.

Then along comes a toyshop desperate for a Christmas robot and suddenly Ben has big orders and a slimy sidekick, Fred. How to make a thousand Number Five robots in time? Simple! Get the real Numero Cinq to help. So Five takes a trip and winds up in the city.

But the urban inhabitants aren't used to seeing a little robot cruising the streets, however cute, and within hours he's been mistaken for some trendy modern sculpture, attacked by a street gang and puzzled by a priest!

Will Ben fulfill his orders? Will Five get caught in a rainstorm and go rusty? Short your own circuits and find out!

DIE HARD (18)

Bruce Willis, Bonnie Bedelia

Who'd want to die any other way? Certainly not Brucie – he doesn't want to die at all. But that hard end may be out of his hands because he's moonlighting from TV detection as an off duty cop who's forced to take on a gang of ruthless terrorists when they hi-jack a . . . skyscraper!

So for the next hundred minutes he plays cat and mouse with the bad guys, taking them out one by one – and I don't mean on long business lunches!

He gets shot at, walks barefoot on broken glass and suffers every other indignity with that hangdog, dumb expression which makes the Smith knees go weak. As if that wasn't bad enough *(What – having Rachael fancy you? – Ed)* the police on the outside refuse to accept the information he's giving them on a walkie-talkie.

This is a skyscraper movie which makes *The Towering Inferno* look like a smouldering bungalow. The empty offices are the perfect setting for the deadly serious game of hide and seek. And what a group of baddies – probably the nastiest, most sadistic, opportunistic crew outside of the *YS* editorial staff! So don't be soft – change your name to Rigid.

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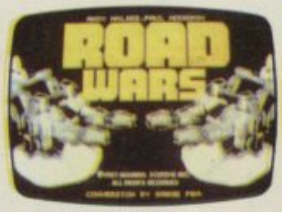

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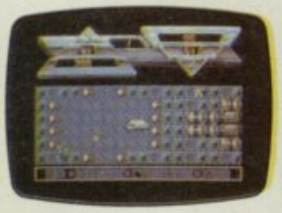

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ATARI
SUPER PACK

MOVE IT! MOVE IT! MOVE IT!

Right, yew 'orrible lot, settle down and listen 'ere! The *YS* cover's turned into a war zone this month with a giveaway tape packed full of guns, bullets, grenades, missile launchers and other military sundries, including the complete game of *Army Moves*, a demo of the new follow up *Navy Moves* and bundles of POKEs.

Remember troops, be good to old ma *YS* and she'll be good to you. Now fall out, while we take a closer look at this month's incredible deal.

Army Moves/Dinamic

Infiltrating heavily guarded enemy headquarters and stealing secret war plans is a rather risky and ill advised sort of hobby we think you'll agree – and certainly not to be recommended on an empty stomach. 'Cos not only do you have to be a shiny-booted 'crack' commando to complete such a tricky mission, but also a military 'equipment' expert of no mean ability to boot!

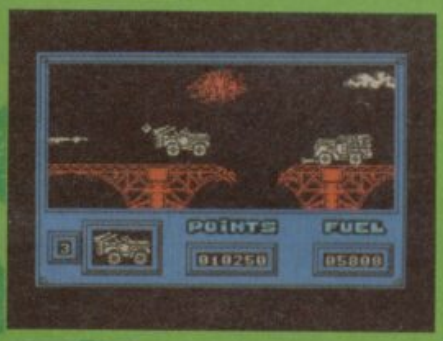
Phew! What a good job then *YS* readers are all just such superheroes, eh, viewers? (Hem hem). Cos you'll need all the brains you can muster to get through our complete cover game, *Army Moves*.

Army Moves is without doubt on the tricky side. The first screens set you in a missile equipped jeep, swatting trucks and helicopters out of the way with your rockets. Should you survive all this – and if you last fifteen seconds you're not doing too badly – it's onto the second stage, which you must attempt in a stolen enemy helicopter.

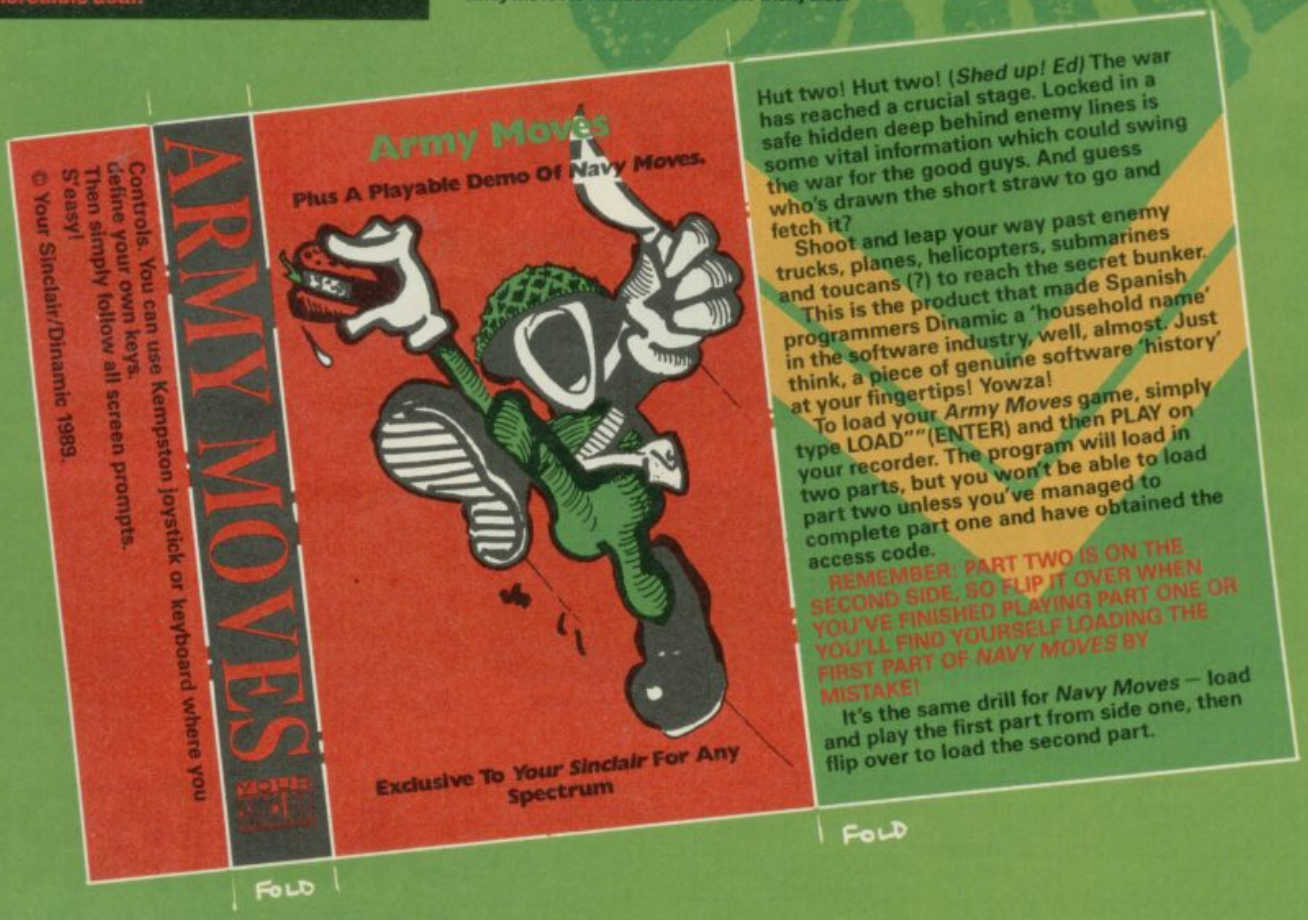
Here you must take on fighter planes and various sorts of missiles which wing up at you from submarines and silos at the bottom of the screen. Manage not to get shot down, run out of fuel or similarly come a cropper, and you'll find a mission code enabling you to load the final sections.

Here you'll find yourself on foot in a giant swamp, leaping quicksand, avoiding enemy grenades and shooting down giant toucans as you make your way towards the enemy compound. Once inside the going gets no easier – until you reach the secret bunker and get your grubby mits on the documents. Phew! That was tricky. Now all you have to do is get back!

Since it's a multiload, each level comes with a wealth of well animated detail and fair sized graphics and is well worth the eight we gave it first time round. What a barrel of blood-thirsty laffs! Part one you will find on the first side of the tape, and the second load on the 'flipside'.



Jumping jeeps! Looks like this chap is going to drop down the big hole, oh dear! What he should have done is take out the other truck with his missile and then jump at the very last minute, avoiding the excessive tarmac subsidence in his path. What a shame he didn't know that.



Navy Moves/Dinamic

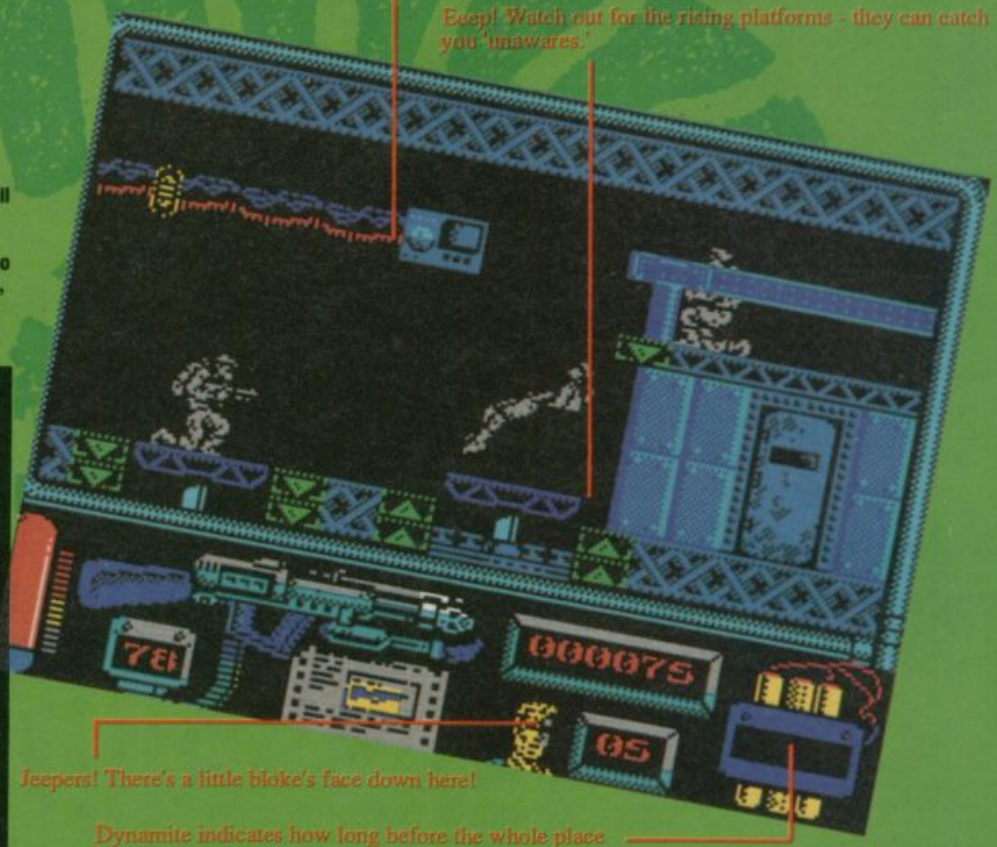
After *Army Moves* part one you'll find a whammy free playable demo of Dinamic's follow up to *Army Moves*, which is called . . . *Navy Moves!*

This time you play a nautical commando, not a million miles away from the SBS variety, on a similarly vital mission. The start is in fact very similar to that of *Army Moves*, only this time you're bouncing a rubber dinghy over a series of floating mines – a task that kept the *YS* team glued to the Speccy for hours and hours and hours.

Next up you find yourself running around a dockside blasting geeks with your flamethrower – all good clean fun! In the complete game the mission will be to wipe out an enemy submarine, but obviously you don't get the full thing here. This demo can be played using Kempston joystick or keyboard, where you can define your own keys. Have a look at our preview on page 16 if you want to know more.

This is a pink wibbly bit and it doesn't seem to do anything much.

Beep! Watch out for the rising platforms - they can catch you 'unawares.'



Jeepers! There's a little bloke's face down here!

Dynamite indicates how long before the whole place 'blows.'

TAPE TROUBLES

We all know what tapes are like. They're fine and hunky dory one moment, and then suddenly – wallop! The thing refuses to load and it's the end of a beautiful relationship. Curses.

Should this ever be the case with 'one of ours' (perish the thought) you should place the offending article together with a stamp addressed envelope and send it to Tape Returns, PO Box 320, London, N21 2NB. Almost before you know it your replacement will be flopping through your letter box.

ALL WILL BE REVEALED . . .

IN NEXT MONTH'S YS!

- We speak to the lucky few who've found lasting romance through the pages of the *Input/Output* Lonely Hearts column. Could there be a *Your Sinclair* Wedding?
- Mike Gerrard provides another A-Z of Adventure Help!
- Don't forget there's *Tipshop*, *Pitstop*, trillions* of compos and all the games that are fit to play!

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**Perhaps it would be wise to take this claim with a slight 'pinch' of salt.*

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NAVY MO

Navy Moves? Dinamic's follow-up to *Army Moves*? Blistering barnacles — *Duncan MacDonald* has an anchor and a picture of a girl called Rose tattooed on his bottom before walking the plank and checking it out.

Well shiver me timbers. This looks remarkably like an engine room. A chap could do some mischief here, I'll be bound.

Those bobbing thingies are in fact floating mines. Never mind, a deftly timed hop should get me safely over them.

Blistering barnacles. I'm afraid that wasn't deft enough. Hello briny.

VES

Yo ho ho and a bottle of rum,
It's a sailor's life for me,
To heave a jolly sigh
With a hi hi hum
And sail the seven seas

Yo ho ho and a bottle of rum,
And slap me with a cat on the thigh,
And hit me rather hard
On the tee hee hee
And flail me with . . .

Eeeer, sorry, wrong era, hang on a mo while I fast-forward a couple of centuries: bzzzzzz. An, that's better. I know what — let's forget the sea dinghy and have a meatshow of the game.

Navy Moves puts you in charge of a Naval Frogman, a kind of super-macho S[illegible] cross between Arn[illegible] and a lemon[illegible] mission, [illegible] mission, [illegible] you have to locate an enemy submarine, board it, find your way about [illegible] that moves, locate the [illegible] room, plant a bomb [illegible] the sub, float to the surface and then radio to your chums to let them know it's time to come and pick you up. What? You get [illegible]ked up? What a wimp — [illegible] after all that action a bracing 200 mile swim back to base would be a doddle. I don't know, sailors — huh!!

Anyway, *Navy Moves* (just like its predecessor *Army Moves*) is split into two parts, but really there are three, cos the first part is itself split into two, yasee). So, without further ado let's have a good old thunder.

WEIGH THE ANCHOR

Part one is a right to left scroller in which you are in control of an inflatable dinghy (a powerful grey Greenpeace affair, not the red and white stripy plastic type you buy in Majorca for 806 pesetas and which develops a puncture when you're half a mile out to sea battling against strong undercurrents with one oar). *(Get on with it! Ed)* Scrolling towards you, on the surface of the sea are floating sea mines — and believe me, they come at you thick and fast. Lucky for you, then, that your sailor sprite is so macho that he can heave the dinghy into the air for a few moments, allowing you to hop over the offending devices. Following the mined area you soon come upon enemy commandos riding Jet-Skis with fitted machine guns. Guess what you have to do to them? No, no, not that — they may be sailors too, but they're your enemy — what you actually have to do is shoot them. The reason behind this high speed dinghy ride is that you're looking for a suitable place to dive. If you get past the Jet-Ski sailors you've found it, which leads us into part two.

SPLICE THE MAINBRACE

Part two is also a right to left scroller, but you've leapt over the edge of your dinghy and are doing the frogman bit. You're looking for an undersea cavern which leads to the enemy base, but watch out for the sharks and enemy frogmen. (Oh yes, and the octopusses and moray eels). Deal death with your spear-gun then locate the enemy base where you've got to abscond with a mini-sub. Why? 'Cos this is the vehicle that'll allow you to reach the big sub (but only after you've loaded in level two — which is part three, if you know what I mean).

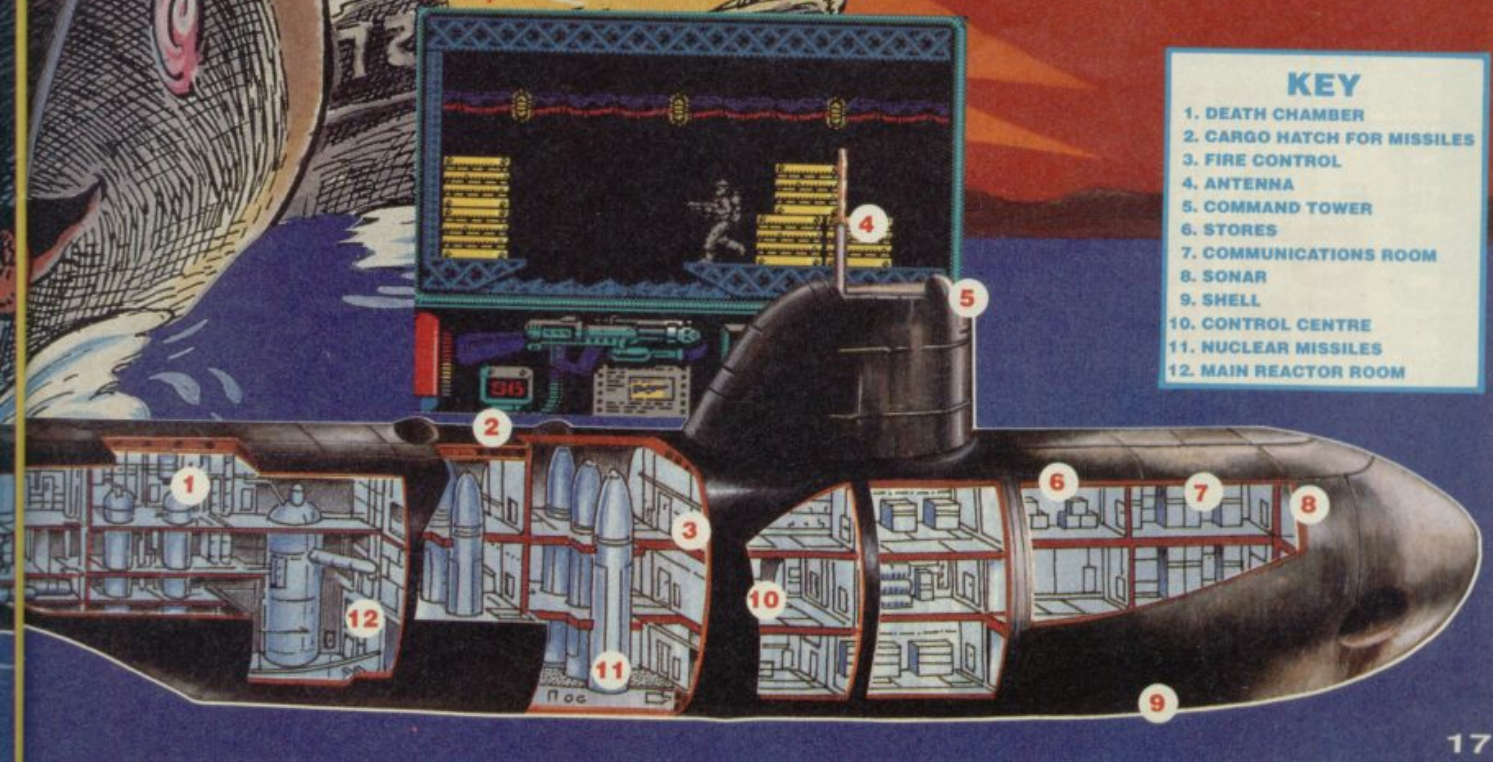
CLIMB THE RIGGING

Part three is a right/left/up/down flip-screen affair. You're on board the submarine, and you've got to plant a bomb. Out to stop you are . . . um, well everyone's out to stop you actually. There are two types of marines (one with gun the other with flamethrower), first and second transport officer, first and second engineering officer, first officer and finally old Johnny Neptune himself — the Captain.

Occasionally, after having shot someone, their body will yield a bit of booty for you to take. In the case of the lower rankers it'll be ammunition and such like, but as you go up the hierarchy you'll get things like the key to unlock the door of the reactor, or the ability to use the radio so you can transmit a coded message to your own people once you've surfaced the boat and planted the bomb.

The graphics of the game are firmly in the Dinamic mould — along the same lines as *Army Moves* but much more detailed and with more colour. Also firmly in the Dinamic mould is the difficulty level — it's harder than climbing the north face of the Eiger in a pair of stilettos — and that's coming from someone who can get to the end of level four in *R-Type* without losing one life. Basically, it's a real brainblender but it's also 'aqualutely' (*You're fired. Ed*) corkendous!

Blimey — a submarine with a bilmmin' great hole in the bottom? Hardly secure, are they?



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Letters

WRITE TO THE ED, *YS*, 14 RATHBONE PLACE, LONDON W1P 1DE

Star letter winners receive three games! All letters win a YS badge.

BRAHMS AND LISTINGS

I have recently purchased a Sinclair +2, and with it came a book giving some simple programs. I have searched through a few of the local bookstores to find a more comprehensive book with more varied and interesting programs in them, but have been unable to find anything.

I would be most grateful if you could recommend a book which will contain varied programs that I can tap into my computer, and your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Carol Kennedy
Alcester, Warwickshire

There are books with Basic listings for the Spectrum around, although they tend to be simple games listings (I'm not sure if that's exactly what you want). Best bet is to try a bigger bookshop. **Ed**

SUB PROB

It's happened again. Another issue of *YS* (the December one) has gone missing, and I think I know why. Your magazine is so good that the people working at the Post Office can't resist the temptation to keep their hands off it. And that's not all that's gone missing — the game I'm supposed to get for having a puzzle printed on Pete's page has gone too!

Ulf Borjesson
Ludvika, Sweden

PS. Thank you for the October issue. The reason it reached me must be that it came in an opaque envelope, so the employees at the Post Office couldn't see that it was a copy of *YS*.

Honestly, one of these days that Postman Pat's going to overstep the mark — and if I'm ever on the jury that tries him there'll be one vote of guilty in the sack before the curtain even goes up. **Ed**

ELLE STAR

To put it bluntly, how come there haven't been any girls winning the Star Letter? Is it because
1) They don't read *Your Sinclair*?
2) They don't write in?
3) You couldn't be bothered to print them?
I hope this will be the start of Star Letters for girls.

Natasha Williams
Winchmore Hill, London

I flicked open the back issues folder to check the facts and guess who the first Star Letter I looked at was from? A girl! In fact two girls (Helen and Elaine, issue 25 to be precise). So go and stand in the corner. **Ed**

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF THE SPECCY

Every month we ask folk from the four corners of the earth to write in and tell us or ask us, erm, things. This month is no exception.

TEA OR COFFEE?

For Dear Dir, Editor Publishing of England.
I am amateur for the Spectrum + computer, and this me only one hobby and Spectrum is my friend.

I have not see England for 41 years, and cannot visit because that I am invalid of the leg and I have not the pounds.

My brother is fall in England and in this day I have received the notice for the wedding of his daughter along with a demand for coffee and tea that I have not got. You can help me also on this!? The publishing your several each old or new can do to also joy that I will learn Cristone *(Eh? Ed)*.

I have not good literature for Spectrum use, but I think your publication can help better than the books, yes?

How do you do in England? Is the snow in England? Can I receive one cassette with programs from you for the Christmas? That can be wonderful and one of the best memory from England.

I happy you have understand me, not best English, and happy for three to five each your sample published (and one little coffee and tea). Yours faithfully and my best wishes for lovely Christmas.

Jozef Piotr Mrowiec
Ul. Aniola 4, Katowice
Zaleze, Poland

PS. I can received one old Sinclair Programs for learning The Cristone programs write and for learning other? Please. Thank you from Gott.

Sorry about your leg, Josef, but apart from that I don't really know what you're talking about (mind you I can't speak a word of Polish, so you're ahead of me). Um, you seem to want me to send you some tea and coffee for some reason (or do you want me to send it to your brother?) I'll send you a couple of mags, anyway, but what on earth is Cristone?? **Ed.**

WRONG NUMBER

Respectable Editorial office!
I take interest in computer Commodore.
For that reason I ask you to send me some specimens Your Newspaper.

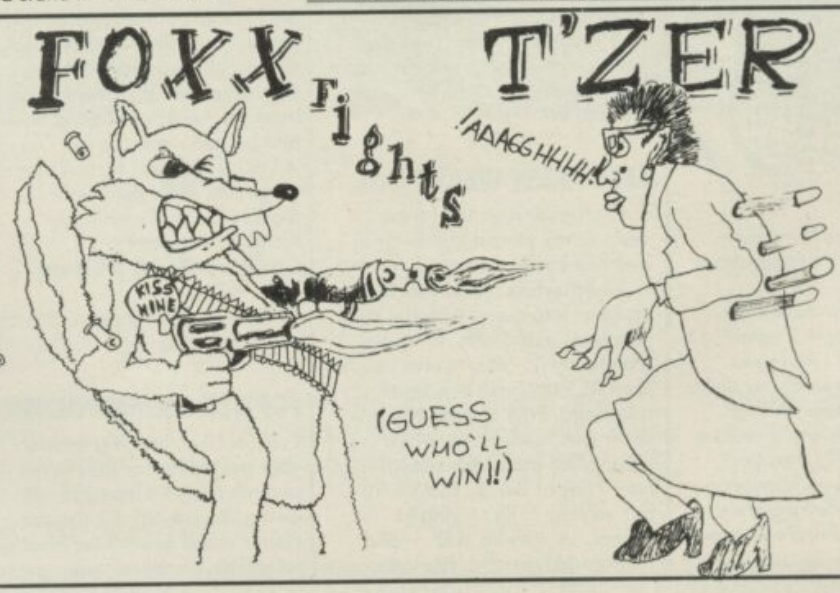
Dariusz Pawlaczyk
Olesnica, Poland

Well, you got the Editorial Office bit right. **Ed**

DOODLEBUGS

Gerrout yer quills, oh chums of the Spec, and do a little sketch. You know the routine, a funny little cartoon of some description or other (in black ink though, for the umpteenth time, slap). Send your offerings to Doodlebugs, YS, 14 Rathbone Place, London W1P 1DE. And don't forget, you'll win a game if whatever you send in gets printed.

This months game winner is Matthew Larkin **of Mold in Clwyd, who's dishing out the lead to you know who. He puts 'Guess who'll win?' How dare he — the fox wouldn't stand a chance.**



Letters

DISK-US

I'm the owner of a Sinclair +3 (I got it for Christmas) and I've already started buying your magazine, which I think is really good and interesting to read — I'm thinking of subscribing. There's one little problem though. As you know, you always give away free games and demos on cassette, but I thought it would be a good idea to send out a certain amount of free disks with every batch of *Your Sinclair* that you send to newsagents — then we +3 owners could go to the counter and ask for the disk instead of the tape

Russell Williams
Stockton-On-Tees, Cleveland

Sounds great in theory, but the disk production would cost a lot and the price of the mag would have to go up to cover it. Why not just transfer the tapes onto disk at your end? Much simpler, really! **Ed**

GEORDIE

Wye aye man, ye furry bum-wipe. (An' a ain't talking aboot *Yeer Sinclair*,

Ye naa, all yow Southners canna speak propar Englash, ye naa wat I mean? Like in yer *'Smashing Tips'*, yen bonny writer couldna reet it cleer enough.

Wat am tryn to say is cad ye please explain it in proper English, like, how to lawd it op — cause I spent a life-lang tryna type it oot an' I didna naa how ta use it!!!

Saw, print out how to load it up in basic English, atherwise I'm ganna com round there an' stitch yez all, reet?

Daniel 'Geordie' Crowe
Whitley Bay, Tyne an' Wear

It's quait simple, an ah divvun kna what all yer fuss is aboot, Daniel man. Yer taip in the listings, raight, an then yer press doon on tha RUN key an tha ENTA key an then yer plays yer game tape from tha beginning. Quait simple, man pet, quait simple. **Ed**

SAVE ME

One luverly Saturday morning I leapt out of bed to discover that my dad had brought me the latest issue of *YS* (June '88), and on page 93 in *Program Pitstop* I saw a mega-hip text scroller. So, I switched my +3 (which I'm not proud of) into 48K mode and typed in this somewhat brilliant demo. Everything went fine, the scrolling was ace, but then I discovered that my wretched +3 wouldn't save the proggie to tape.

I know I have the correct lead and data recorder, and they load tapes perfectly, but they won't save!!

Seeing as the scroller demo wouldn't work in +3 Basic, and I couldn't save it to tape, you can tell I was quite peeved. Please tell me what to do before my +3 experiences 'flying out of a window and hitting a poor innocent homo-sapien on the bonce' mode. I'm thoroughly cheesed orf!

Ronni Stirling
Ruchill, Glasgow

Tsk tsk, these blimmin' +3's. Right. Something I have found which seems to work on the YS +3 is a two into one (two female into one male) adaptor. Stick it into the tape/sound hole of the computer and have two leads coming out, one to the MIC and one to the EAR sockets of the recorder. It might work on your +3 as well, but don't hold your breath. **Ed**

EASY PEASY WEASY

On Saturday morning I found, much to my utmost joy, my long overdue copy of *Operation Wolf* in the letterbox. After loading it up I was impressed with the cool graphics, sound effects, music, playability (in other words I quite liked it), but I have one small complaint. Why did the *YS* crew say it was really hard, when actually it's extremely easy (I hear cries of 'Ah, so that's why he's writing — he's trying to impress us with his skill' — and you would be right). For not only did I complete it after only 30 games, but I did it without using the 'continue option'. If anyone has completed the game in less than two hours of playing time and beaten my score of 4,960,578 then I reckon they're lying. Oh, and I think your glasses are really brilliant.

Angus Stewart
Co. Tyrone, N. Ireland

You should see my beakers and mugs! **Ed**

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

I've just been reading through your magazine for the thirty-seventh time. It's true. I'm not joking. Your mag's a knockout. Please could you tell me how to subscribe, because I have got to get more copies. By the way, if you have any large *Vindicator* posters (or small, I'm not fussy) lying around, please send me one (or more). Thanks in advance and keep up the fine work.

Grubbs Ravimbo Ndanga
Peterhouse, Marondera

PS. Shucks! You're georgous!

If you have a look through for the 38th time you might notice a page titled Contents. *Go through the sub-headings until you come to* YS Offers, *and you'll spot the words* 'YS Subscriptions' *followed by a page number. Guess what you'll find if you turn to the indicated page? No, not a pop out model of the Taj Mahal, but a subscription coupon. Happy?* **Ed**

PS. You're not so bad yourself.

TRAINSPOTTER AWARD

TAKE THE TRAIN

I claim the ultimate Trainspotter Award. I bought a copy of the December *YS*, but when I began to read it I realised that I had mistakenly bought *Railways Today*, and that there were literally hundreds of trains to spot — all thanks to *YS*.

Andy Lowe
Stoke-On-Trent

To help you get kitted out I'm going to send you copies of Which Parka, Opticians Monthly *and* Shoulder Bag Update Magazine. **Ed**

PICK 'N' MIX

I think I should get a Trainspotter Award because on page seven, issue 36 (the one with the two free tapes) at the compo bit where you can win 43801 chewits, it says that the Muncher is Shane McGowan and Shane McGowan is the Muncher, when really Shane McGowan should be Shane McGowan and the Muncher should be the Muncher. You see?

And on page five (same issue) under the games column it says that *YS Tipshop* is on page 20. It isn't. It's on page 26.

And on page 108 (same issue again), in the list of £1.99 and £2.99 games, it says *Manic Minor*, when it should say *Manic Miner*.

And (same page) it reads *Funky* instead of *Flunky*.

So, after all that I think I should get a Trainspotter Award. Don't you?

Fiona Robertson
B/Ferry, Dundee

No, no, no, you've got it all wrong. The mix-up of the names was deliberate, and intended as a joke — the 'fun' being derived from the fact that Shane McGowan so resembles The Muncher that the captions were 'accidentally' juxtaposed. On your second point, er, yes, a mistake — as with the third and as for the fourth, I was listening to Ain't No Stopping Us Now by McFadden and Whitehead at the time of typing, so I've got an excuse. Normally I might give you a Trainspotter, but seeing as you were such a clot on point one, I'm not going to. **Ed**

THINK OF A NUMBER

I am claiming a Trainspotter Award because you lot at *YS* can't count. In the December ish contents it said that page 117 would reveal what was in next month's *YS*. I turned to page 117 and surprise, surprise the heading *Show Stoppers* hit me in the face — *Next Month In YS* was on page 119. So, someone at *YS* can't count. Tut tut, didn't you ever go to school?

Robert Marsh
Impington, Cambridge

You've discovered my secret — I was involved in an aeroplane crash as a baby, and was raised in the jungle by apes. I may not have learnt to count very well, but I can strip the bark off a bunga-wunga tree with my bare teeth. **Ed**

FULL WARNING STATUS: CONDITION RED

BLASTEROIDS

AMIGA SCREEN SHOTS

THRUSTER • LAUNCH!
WARRIOR • LAUNCH!
SPEEDER • LAUNCH!

STRAIGHT FROM THE ARCADES COMES *BLASTEROIDS*, ATARI AND TENGEN'S CLASSIC MIX OF ONE OR TWO PLAYER ACTION. WITH FULL POWER-UPS, RIP-STARS, SHIELDS, DOUBLE-UP AND MORE. THIS IS *THE* COIN-OP CONVERSION OF 1989.

AND BEWARE – MUKOR AWAITS!

COMING SOON FOR COMMODORE AMIGA £24.99; ATARI ST £19.99; C64 SPECTRUM, CPC AND MSX DISK £14.99, CASSETTE £9.99.

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HEADWAY HOUSE, 66-73 SHOE LANE, LONDON EC4P 4AB. TEL: 01-377 4645.

Letters

TELLING TALES

Here's a little poem:

YS is a mag that is really the greatest,
It reviews arcades and games (which are, of course, the latest),
The articles are intelligent,
though not stuck up or posh,
I would get a subscription, but I haven't got the dosh!

I've just had a brilliant idea. Why not have a short stories section in YS? Readers could send in their efforts and you could print the best ones, and send the writer a game or something. Brilliant eh? By the way, I don't like to tell tales, but I was flicking through the November issue of *Computing With The Amstrad PCW (Why? Ed.)* when my eyes fell upon an article entitled *Back Chat*. A quick glance revealed that it was written by YS's very own *Mike Gerrard*. 'Well shiver me timbers' I thought, and read on. A jolly interesting article it was too, until I began to notice some terrible, nasty, evil bits. Such as the bit where he suggests that you, oh great one, lost a copy of one of his reviews, and he had to send you another one!! Like I said, I don't like to tell tales.
Ross McGovern
Killearn, Glasgow

Hello, is that the operator? Get me Mike Gerrard immediately. **Ed**

BEERMAT QUERY

Could you please tell me where I could get my hands on a rubber keyed 48K Spectrum? The reason I need one is because I borrowed one but I've broken it (good, eh?) and I would like to replace it before the owner finds out and chokes me to death. Things are getting urgent.
John McMurchy
Drumlemble, Argyll

Simple. Check out Input Output. *Problem solved, as they say.* **Ed.**

DAFT PLONKER

Have you found that all the writers of Star Letters are complete idiots?

They tend to be the kind of people who have had a computer for five years and have only just discovered how to switch the thing on. Basically they're a bunch of daft plonkers!
Chris Hubbard
Kings Lynn, Norfolk

Your ruse hasn't worked. You thought I'd give you the Star Letter and then agree that you're a daft plonker (netting you three games in the process). By not giving you the Star Letter I can call you a daft plonker for the far smaller price of a badge. Ho ho. **Ed**

CHEESED OFF AND YAMATO

Well, not all your readers are locals. I get a subscription to your great mag all the way out here in Zimbabwe. For those who don't know where it is, it's an African country emerging from the dark ages. Luckily we have electricity here, and taking advantage of this fact I got myself a Speccy and a collection of ancient games. I think YS is doing a great job by catering for us foreign readers — most British magazines have 'For readers in the UK and Ireland only' printed on their subscription forms. Your free cover-games are brilliant, but let's have an adventure game in the future.

While looking through your November issue I came to page 114 where I found an advert for the game *1943* — but the blurb is slightly wrong. It states that your mission is to destroy the Japanese carrier Yamato. There was no such ship. The Yamato was a Japanese Battleship (the largest ever built in fact). Also it was not involved in the Battle of Midway and was sunk much later in WWII. For all the sharp-shooters this may mean nothing, but for us military history lovers it's really annoying. Does this observation deserve me a Trainspotter Award?
Yan Hards
Harare, Zimbabwe

No it doesn't deserve you a Trainspotter Award, as it wasn't our mistake — it was on an advert. However, I might send you two badges for being so knowledgable and observant — I'll just flick a coin. Heads you get two badges, tails you just get one. Flick. Oh dear, it's tails. **Ed**

BIG TIPS

Yo!
1) My friend and I have been wondering how your name is pronounced. He says it's pronounced T'zer and I say it's T'zer. Who is correct?
2) Is Mr Happy any relation of Smiley?
3) Here is my tip for *Vixen*.
In level one don't shoot anything until your time is nearly up — then waste everything you lay your eyes on. As your timer reaches zero hold down keys A S D Q Z F N and O simultaneously. It will ask you for a password. Type in 'Cor Big Breasts' and you will get 10,000 points and 240 extra lives. (This will only work on the 'brown tape' copies with the embossed logo.)
4) Please send me a signed photo of 'the team' (or a copy of *Twinkle*).
RSH
Bromborough, Wirral

1) You're both wrong — it's pronounced T'zer.
2) No, but he's the second cousin thrice removed of Mr Vaguely Amused.
3) Oo-er
4) How about a photo of a signed copy of Twinkle? — twice the fun. **Ed**

SMALL PRINT

I couldn't find a shop that sold yellow Tippex.
Russ Williams
Cleveland
For my money you can't beat The Tippex Galore Store in Cheam. **Ed**

Test for two dimensional constructional apraxia.
Neil Banks
St Helens, Merseyside
I haven't got the right equipment (Oo-er). **Ed**

I'm prepared to send you a pizza free.
Mauriezo Gallina
Milan, Italy
Anchovy and banana please. **Ed**

I'm cream crackered — it's 12.30 am and I can't find my glasses. Goodnight.
Merlin
Wolverhampton, West Midlands
Goodnight John Boy (Mary Ellen, Jason, Aaron...). **Ed**

I'm getting pretty bored writing all this crap.
Dale Norman
Driffield, North Humberside
Not half as bored as I got reading it. **Ed**

Please send a plaster for the blister on my trigger finger.
Martin Thomas
Milford Maven, Dyfed
I'll sellotape it to the badge. **Ed**

KINDLY LEAVE THE STAGE

This months crap joke, from **Stanley Bajak** of Croydon, is so crap that we almost changed the head to *Kindly Leave The Planet*. Here it is...

IN A PUB
BLOKE 1 TO BARTENDER: A pint of lager for me, and a pint of bitter for my pal Donkey.
BARTENDER TO BLOKE 2: How come your mate calls you Donkey?
BLOKE 2: Eee aww, eee aww, eee aalways says that.

Ye Gods, crap or what? Any of you lot got any jokes? Go on, send them to us addressed to Kindly Leave The Stage, YS, 14 Rathbone Place, London W1P 1DE. If it gets printed you'll get a shiny YS badge. Godzooks.

OOH, YOU POOR DEAR

Your problems solved by Madam Pico

Dear Madam Pico,
A few weeks ago I was at the local youth club disco with my best mate Jonathan and we got talking to this girl called Chelle we'd both fancied for ages. We both danced with her and she said she liked us both, so we agreed to take it in turns going out with her. This worked out fine for a week or two, until she told me that she preferred me and didn't really want to go out with Jonathan anymore. Unfortunately Jonathan had told me in confidence that he had fallen in love with her, so I told her to pretend to chuck us both, but that I would continue seeing her in secret.

Everything went fine until one day I was watching *Neighbours* round at Chelle's house (her parents were out) when there was a loud knocking at the door, and squinting through the net curtains I saw it was Jonathan. I turned off the telly, told Chelle to keep quiet and pretend that no one was in, but about a minute later Jonathan shouted through the letter-box that he knew I was there because my bicycle was outside. We still pretended not to be in, and eventually he went away, so me and Chelle continued where we'd left off.

However, when the time came for me to leave, I stepped out of her front door and, much to my horror, saw that my bike had gone. Jonathan had nicked it, and he says that he won't tell me where he's hidden it until I chuck Chelle. The problem is that I quite want to carry on seeing her, but I really do want my bicycle back — it's a Peugeot 20 gear racing bike. What on earth can I do? Chelle wants me to fight him, but he's bigger than me and his brothers are really tough.
Please help.
Philip Green
Hull

Oh dear, you are in a fix, aren't you? If you pretend to chuck Chelle, Jonathan's bound to be suspicious and it'll only be a matter of time before he discovers the truth and steals your bike again, or even gets his brothers to give you the bashing of a lifetime. The two options open to you seem to be to either get a gang together, and beat up Jonathan and his brothers, or to chuck Chelle. Chucking Chelle would seem to be the quickest way of getting your bike back, and you'll also avoid the beginnings of a small scale gang warfare. So chuck Chelle, dear, but let this be a lesson not to share your girlfriends in future.

The weekly...

The trouble with trying to write an ad for New Computer Express is there are so many good reasons to buy it you don't know which to mention first.

Should it be the **spectacularly low** cover price of **48p**?

Or the fact that because it comes out **every week**, it's bang up-to-the-minute on news and reviews?

What about its remarkable **buyers' guides** packed with **detail** and **fact-backed** opinion?

Or its **crystal clear** series of articles aimed at computing **beginners**?

Perhaps it would be better to start with the point that each issue includes a special **info-crammed** section dedicated to **each** of the main computers.

Not forgetting the magazine's **dynamic**, modern layout.

Or its string of remarkable news **exclusives**.

Or its **mischievous** sense of humour.

Or its **brash**, exciting approach to all things computing.

Or its ad pages packed with the **latest bargains** (and made irresistible by the magazine's unique discount voucher scheme).

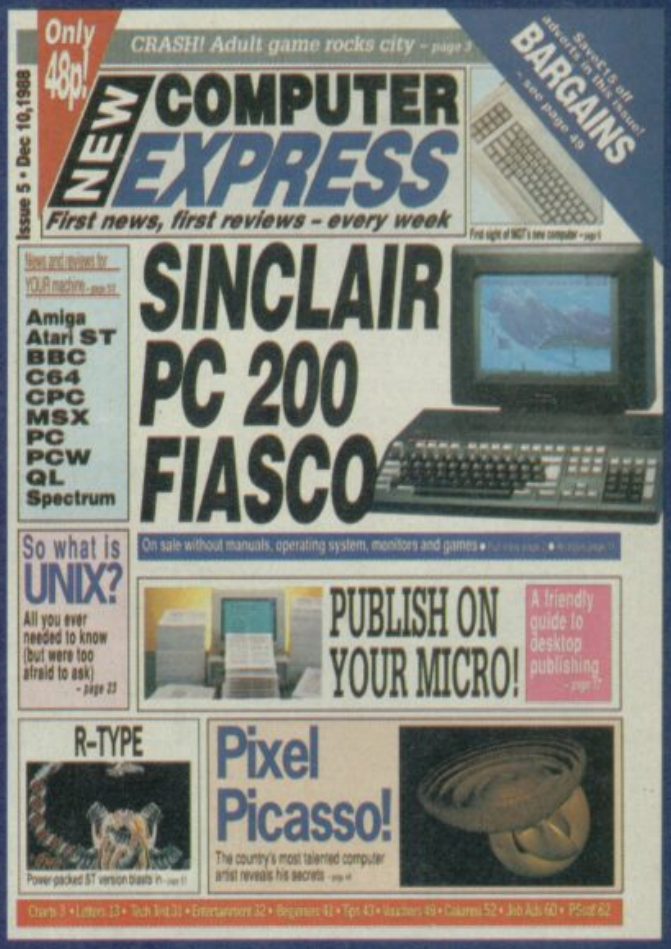
The fact is, it's dangerous to start anywhere with New Computer Express. Once you do, you're **hooked for life.**

Where to Buy

New Computer Express goes on sale every Thursday in all leading newsagents. In case of difficulty you can get hold of the latest issue by sending a cheque for 75p (inc P&P) to **Express Copies, Future Publishing Ltd, Somerton, Somerset TA11 7PY.**

Save £££££££!

Each issue of Express includes a page of fabulous money-off vouchers. These allow you to save a fortune when ordering from advertisements inside the magazine – and your choice of goods isn't limited to specific items. You can make savings on *any* order from participating advertisers.



What readers say

"I congratulate you on releasing such a +%*!?@ brilliant mag."
Ronni Stirling, Glasgow

"Your competitors are doubtless quivering in their snow-boots. Your magazine is infinitely superior. It's suddenly worthwhile getting out of bed on Thursdays again."
Don Howard, Croxley Green, Herts

"Our warmest congratulations on the first issues of New Computer Express. We have immediately cancelled our long-standing order with *******. It will be interesting to note how long you can maintain your unbelievable price of 48p."
H J Mueller, The Adventure Club

"Yours is by far the best weekly computer magazine on the market."
Roger Davis, Southampton

...that's taken computer users by storm

TIMES OF LORE

Commodore Amiga

The Knight one of three character classes.

Atari ST

Converse through simple commands and menus.

DISCOVER AN ARCADE ADVENTURE WITH HIDDEN DEPTHS

Discover Times Of Lore, Origin's first adventure on cassette. Acclaimed British designer Chris Roberts has taken the best of arcade and adventure – fast and furious combat, stunning graphics and animation, unrelenting danger and challenge – and introduced the depth of a classic fantasy role playing game.

Entirely joystick driven, Times Of Lore continuously tests your combat skills while you gradually become involved in a compelling plot. With 13,000 screen locations, a powerful but easy-to-use menu and icon interface, scores of interactive characters and music by Martin Galway, it ventures further than other arcade adventures.

Origin have broken new ground in Times Of Lore. Isn't it time you did too? Available for: C64/128 Cassette £9.95, Disk £14.95, Spectrum 48/128K Cassette £9.95, Spectrum +3 Disk £14.95, Amstrad 464/6128 Cassette £9.95, Disk £14.95, Atari ST £24.95, IBM/PC & Compatibles £24.95, Apple £19.95, Commodore Amiga £24.95.

C64/128

Spectrum

Amstrad

Journey through an immense world of cities, dungeons, and a stunning variety of natural terrain.

ORIGIN

Origin, MicroProse, 2 Market Place, Tetbury, Glos, GL8 8DA. Tel: 0666 54326

HINTS 'N' TIPS

YS TIPSHOP

Springier than Spring, tangy as a lemon and twice as easy to digest, it's Phil South and his amazing technicolour Tipshop, the ONLY dispensable digest of YOUR hints and tips! Yee hoo!

Yes, there's a nip in the air... and the first person to make an off colour joke about Japanese people could find a ninja in their wardrobe when they least expect it! It's fun being a computer buff, innit readers? I like it, I'm sure. I mean only the other day I was saying to Teresa, Ms Maughan, or can I call her T'zer? Don't you just love being a Speccy buff? She didn't reply, she just scribbled a little note on my P45 and gave it to me. Hah! The humour of the girl. I read it when I picked myself up out of the gutter. It said "Dear Phil, or can I call you Mr South... You're fired!" Ha ha ha ha ha ah... She's got a million of 'em.

But I've got more — hints and tips that is. There's so many hints and tips in this issue in fact, I've had to shred them up and feed them to Pippin The Wondermule just to get them to fit on the page! Oh, and thanks and a big hi to all of you who sent me a really good tip but didn't get it printed. It wasn't because it was bad... it just got lost in a little crevice in Pippin's digestive system. *(Euk! Ed)* Yes folks! Anything's possible in the wacky world of *YS*. Nyuk nyuk!

Anyroad, enough of this 'horse feathers', and on with the tips. Whinnnieee!

Moonstrike

Dean Ashton? Worra hacker! I know I side-stepped you at the PC Show, old bean, but I just didn't have the time to stand about and chat. I had lots of freebies to collect. I mean, what's the point of going to the PC Show if you can't go round collecting a lot of useless paper in plastic bags, eh? Anyway, catch you at the next ZX Microfair... Okay, give us your cheat for *Moonstrike*. **"When it says 'Press Enter To Continue' or whatever, type CHEAT! for 255 lives."** Brill, Dean. Any more?

Qarx

A cheat on a *YS* cover game? Why you naughty little **Dean Ashton** you! Okay, let's have it. **"Enter HI GREG as a hi score name. Then pressing Z, S, D, G, H and B together gives you eight lives and moves you to next level. Wow!"** Wow indeed. Any others?

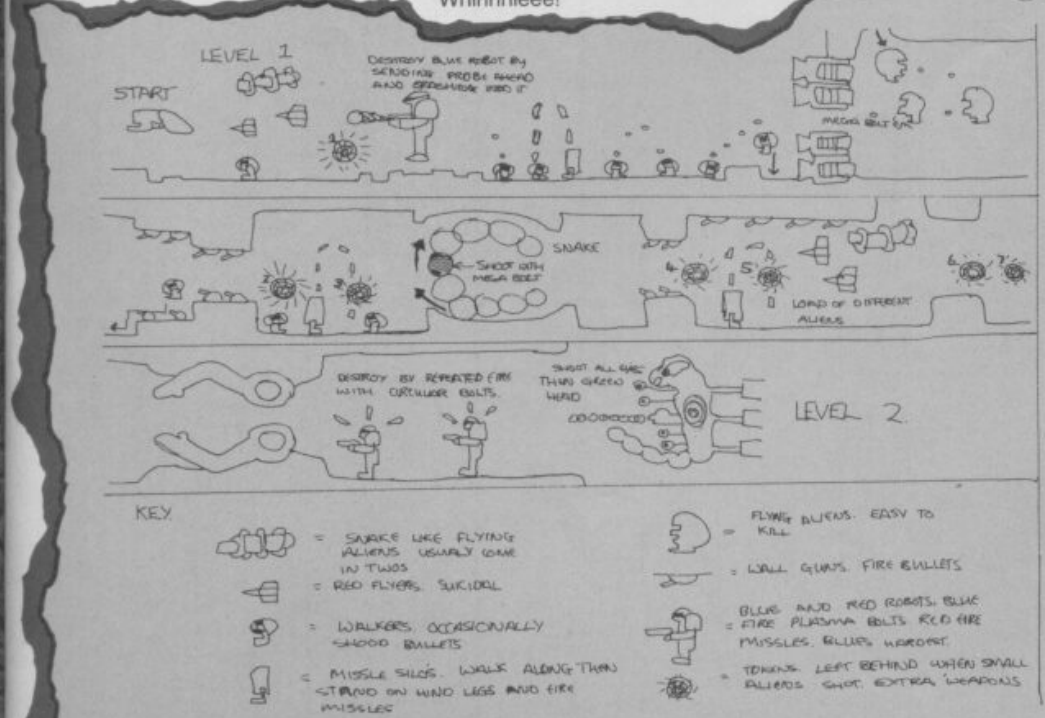
Empire Strikes Back

Hmm! I thought there might be. What's this tip then, **Dean Ashton?** (Haven't you had your name printed enough now?) **"Not quite. Anyroad, about *Empire*. On the level selection screen, press CAPS, Z, X, C, V together for Infy Lives. That really is all! Bye!"** Oh, right, has he finished? Oh. Alright. Blimey, he doesn't hangabout, does he? Thanx anyway. And make sure you seek me out at the next PC show... that leaves me at least six months to think of a good excuse to avoid you. Hah!

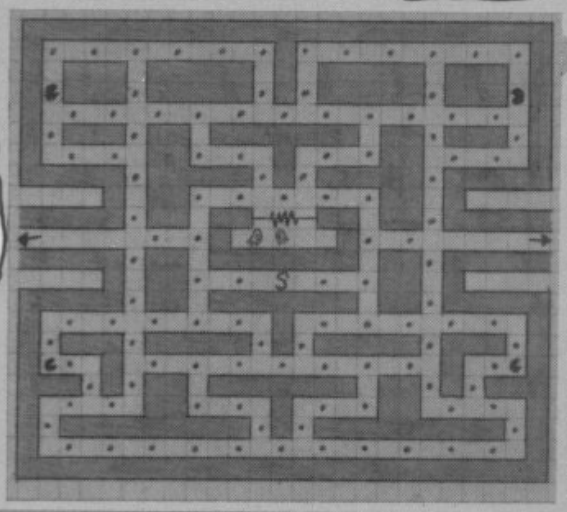
Great Giana Sisters

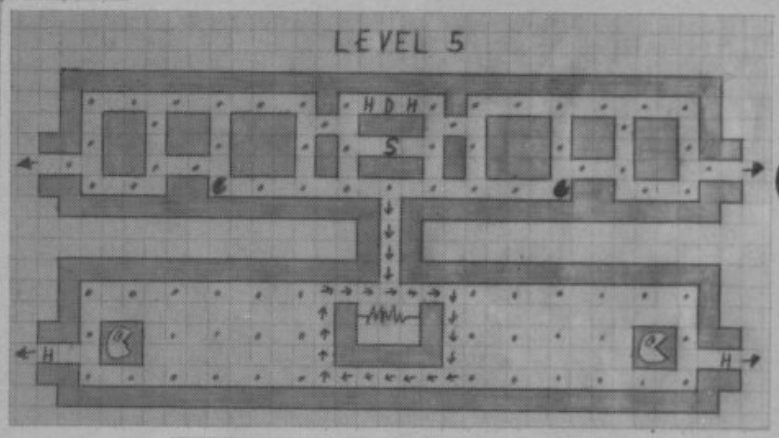
For those of you lucky enough to get a copy of this game before it was axed, here's a little tippette from **Colin Smith**. I don't think it's anything like *Super Mario Bros*, personally. What about *Wonder Boy*? That's just like it too, but you don't see people getting all irate about that, do you? Hurrumph! Anyway Colin, away you go. **"Hi Phil. Here's a quick tip for *The Great Giana Sisters*. On level three work your way across the sea until you reach the second bonus block. Keep walking and kill the alien. Then position Giana directly under the last block and jump as far as you can. You will suddenly find a new block. Keep jumping and hitting this block and you'll be magically transported to level six. If you get into the high score table, enter PACMAN and watch what happens on level one."**

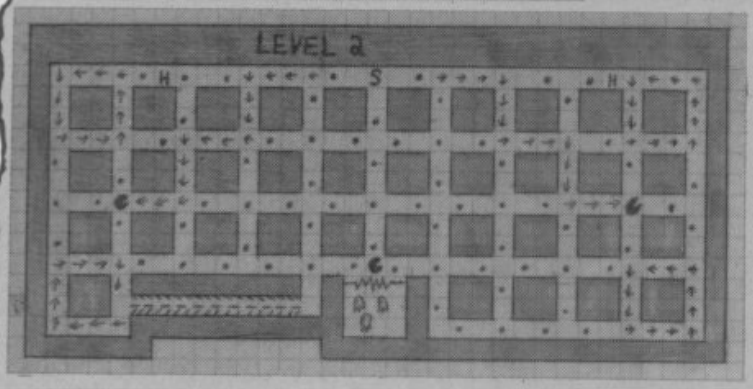
Thanx, Colin. Try this one out, chaps and let me know what happens. I don't have a Spectrum copy of *Giana* in the Stately Snout Mansion archives, and I'm kinda curious. Okay, what's up next?... ah yes.

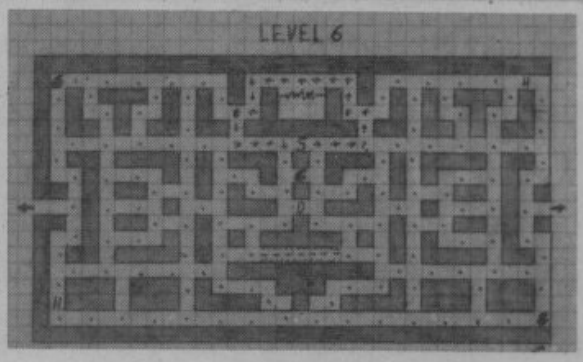


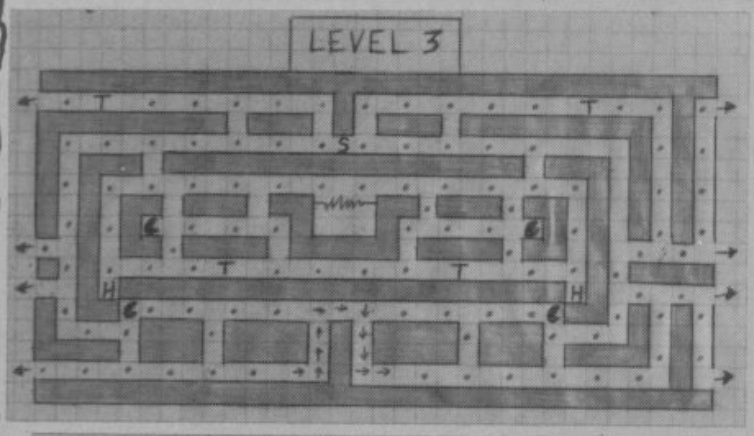
And thanks to **Neal Molyneaux** for this spiffling *R-Type* map which he drew on the back of a matchbox. Ink-redible, eh readers? (Groan!)

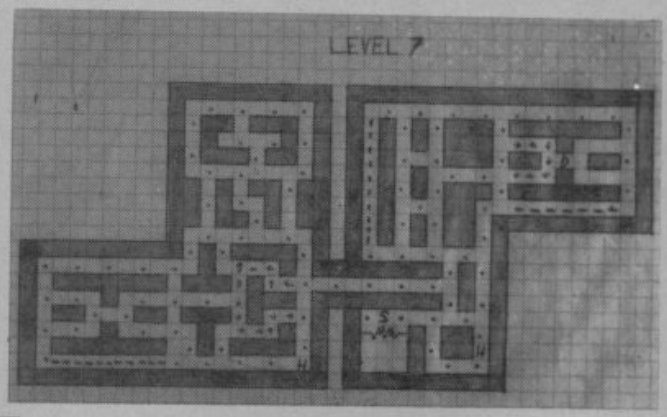


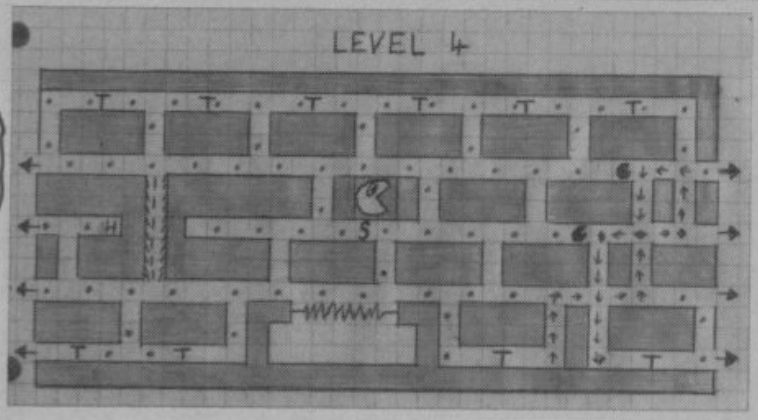












Ghost Muncha
H Ghost Squasha
D Bull Dozer
T Trapdoor
• Dots to Gobble
Shoot dem ghosts

Weird but interesting is this mapperama of *Mad Mix*. It's fab to see people working overtime on such trivia, but don't stop. Anything which could conceivably help someone beat the game is fair enough. Got that? So thanx to **Robert Sorfleet** *(What did he walk all the way here? Oh, sorry. I thought you said Sore Feet. Ed)* for this map.

PART ONE

Mad Mix

PRACTICAL POKES

***It's not a loo full of Tripe Kiev, but a pocketful of POKEs courtesy of* David McCandless.**

Yes, Spring has sprung and a young man's thoughts turn from post new year blues, to POKEs manoeuvering moves. Mind you, I've been struggling with Grandma manoeuvering moves lately, trying to convince the ol' fruit cake that the microwave *isn't* the economy-sized water closet we've just installed, and that she shouldn't leave her M & S ready meals in there. But while I've been struggling, you lot seem to have been *playing* rather than POKEing them thar games! It's not good enough you know. So send them POKEs in quick, or I'll end up microwaving myself along with Grandma's Tripe Kiev.

OVERLANDER

Thomas Varner and **Dean Ashton** are first into this month's melee with hacks for both versions (128 and 48) of that corker from Elite, *Overlander*. I don't actually know what the POKEs do, but I'm sure they do something useful like supplying a columnist with POKEs or something.

```
ASHTON
  20  CLEAR 24999: LOAD ""CODE :
LOAD ""CODE
  30  RANDOMIZE USR 28672: LOAD
""CODE 16384
  40  LOAD ""CODE : CLS : LOAD "
"CODE : LOAD ""CODE
  50  FOR x=63876 TO 63885: READ
 a: POKE x,a: NEXT x
  60  DATA 175,50,87,115,195,0,9
1,225,251,201
  70  RANDOMIZE USR 63744
```

```
VARNER
  20  CLEAR 24999: LOAD ""CODE 1
6384
  30  LOAD ""CODE : LOAD ""CODE
: CLS
  40  LOAD ""CODE
  50  FOR x=63620 TO 63629: READ
 a: POKE x,a: NEXT x
  60  DATA 175,50,81,115,195,0,9
1,225,251,201
  70  RANDOMIZE USR 63488
```

SWORD SLAYER

Dean "bah-gumm" **Ashton** again, this time with his splendiferous hack for this cheapie slice em-up. Pity other people couldn't slice up some POKEs while they were around.

```
5456  REM SWORD SLAYER 48k
  20  CLEAR 32767: LOAD ""CODE 6
5088: POKE 65092,248: POKE 65093
,0
  30  FOR x=65355 TO 65362: READ
 a: POKE x,a: NEXT x
  40  DATA 62,182,50,114,204,195
,189,185
  50  RANDOMIZE USR 65088
```

```
5456  REM SWORD SLAYER 128k
  20  CLEAR 32767: LOAD ""CODE 6
5088
  30  POKE 65108,240: POKE 65109
,221
  40  RANDOMIZE USR 65088
  50  POKE 65430,176: POKE 65431
,255
  60  FOR x=65456 TO 65463: READ
 a: POKE x,a: NEXT x
  70  RANDOMIZE USR 65324
  80  DATA 62,182,50,183,204,195
,0,184
```

ELITE + 3

Now here's a clever man. He's got a funny name, but he's still a clever man. **Derek Guyan** has hacked the +3 version of that inter-galactic space corker, *Elite*. Let's hear it for Derek (sound of crashing applause).

```
   5  POKE 23658,0: PRINT "Put i
n elite disc and press g  to loa
d"
   6  IF INKEY$<>"g" THEN  GO TO
 6
  20  CLEAR 65535
  30  LOAD "file1"SCREEN$
  40  LOAD "elite"CODE
  50  FOR i=1 TO 1000: NEXT i
  60  FOR i=43090 TO 43134: READ
 a: POKE i,a: NEXT i
  70   POKE 43047,0: POKE 43071,
3
  80  POKE 43077,4: REM Miselles
  90  POKE 43086,1: REM docking
comp
 100  POKE 43049,255: REM loadma
dosh
 110  RANDOMIZE USR 29035
 120  DATA 74,90,72,2,83,183,56
 130  DATA 173,156,20,29,21,5,3
 140  DATA 17,18,26,14,39,8,0,0
 150  DATA 10,25,0,0,62,14,17
 160  DATA 12,0,0,64,39,8,1,42
 170  DATA 77,143,242,136,5,0
 180  DATA 20,173
```

OVERKILL

There's a new band of hackers in town. Down from the northern wastes here come the Scottish Beserkers, their kilts flying high (but not that high), waving their double-bladed dissassemblers, ready to do battle with the mass of games sent up north to resist them.

Well, it's the **Aberdeen Hackers** actually.

```
  10  CLEAR 27849: LOAD ""SCREEN
$
  20  LOAD ""CODE : POKE 42965,0
: POKE 37563,0
  30  RANDOMIZE USR 30600
```

OPERATION WOLF

Graham Mason's annihilated this corker to bring you the very best in POKEs

```
   1 FOR a=23296 TO 65535
   2 READ f: IF f=999 THEN  RAND
OMIZE USR 23296
   3 POKE a,f: NEXT a
   4 REM Infy Ammo Never Die Try
 Pressing Qwert When Playing
   5 REM Its a Turbo Mystery Hac
k
  10 DATA 243,62,255,55,221
  11 DATA 33,203,92,17,162
  12 DATA 10,205,86,5,48
  13 DATA 241,175,50,35,93
  14 DATA 205,22,93,30,101
  15 DATA 33,180,244,1,52
  16 DATA 10,53,11,35,120
  17 DATA 177,32,249,29,123
  18 DATA 211,254,32,237,62
  19 DATA 202,50,106,251,205
  20 DATA 92,251,62,200,50
  21 DATA 123,251,205,109,251
  22 DATA 33,76,91,175,50
  23 DATA 43,252,34,22,254
  24 DATA 49,0,0,195,222
  25 DATA 254,62,201,50,80
  26 DATA 254,205,64,254,175
  27 DATA 50,6,158,50,233
  28 DATA 158,50,254,162,50
  29 DATA 255,162,195,0,128
  30 DATA 999
```

QARZ

Great game, great game. Unpronuncable and an excellently rebellious statement against the Thatcherite autocracy (Oo-er, little bit of politics there) and still great to boot. And now here's a comprehensive hack from our regular hack-sender, **Roy Goodall.**

```
  10  CLEAR 32767
  20  LOAD ""CODE 65024
  30  POKE 65042,0: POKE 65043,9
1
  40  FOR f=11296 TO 1e9: READ a
  50  IF a<999 THEN  POKE f,a: N
EXT f
  60  RANDOMIZE USR 65024
  70  DATA 62,205,50,142,254
  80  DATA 62,18,50,143,254
  90  DATA 62,91,50,144,254
 100  DATA 195,128,254
 110  DATA 62,255,50,196,175: RE
M 255 lives
 120  DATA 62,1,50,191,175: REM
1=start level
 130  DATA 175,50,240,179: REM I
nfinite lives
 140  DATA 175,50,120,179,50,121
,179: REM Immunity
 150  DATA 62,183,50,58,177: REM
 Infinite time
 160  DATA 195,0,163,999: REM EN
D MARKER
```

METROPOLIS

Guess what adjective I'm going to use to describe this game I've never even heard of? Right! Splendiferous — a splendiferous game. And to describe the **Tefal Men**'s hack? Wrong! Anyway, here it is.

```
  10  LOAD ""SCREEN$
  20  CLEAR VAL "23999"
  30  LOAD ""CODE
  40  POKE VAL "51062",201
  50  RANDOMIZE USR VAL "28106"
```

HACK OF THE MONTH

R TYPE

Here's a mega hack for a mega game by a mega hacker **Graham Mason**, which deservedly places him high up on the 'Great Heroes Of Hacking' pedastal. Note: stop your *R-Type* tape when the border flashes; restart the tape when border becomes black.

```
   1 FOR a=23296 TO 65535
   2 READ f: IF f=999 THEN  RAND
OMIZE USR 23296
   3 POKE a,f: NEXT a
   4 REM R-Type Infy Lives And A
ttempts
   5 REM Its a Complete Mystery
To Turbo As Well Crash
  10 DATA 243,62,255,55,221
  11 DATA 33,203,92,17,195
  12 DATA 11,205,86,5,48
  13 DATA 241,175,50,35,93
  14 DATA 205,22,93,30,119
  15 DATA 33,147,243,1,85
  16 DATA 11,52,11,35,120
  17 DATA 177,32,249,29,123
  18 DATA 211,254,32,237,62
  19 DATA 202,50,123,251,205
  20 DATA 108,251,33,68,91
  21 DATA 175,50,43,252,34
  22 DATA 22,254,48,0,0
  23 DATA 195,222,254,62,201
  24 DATA 50,80,254,205,64
  25 DATA 254,33,90,91,17
  26 DATA 22,106,1,10,0
  27 DATA 237,176,195,0,106
  28 DATA 175,50,254,145,50
  29 DATA 149,146,195,253,133
  30 DATA 999
```

MULTIFACE CORNER

This section has also been affected by the post-new year blues. So I've done my best considering... winge... moan... winge... moooooooaaan.

Game	POKE	EFFECT
ARTURA	32138,182	Energy
BLADE WARRIOR	39490,36	Lives
	39263,201	Immunity
	37135,0	Time
ELITE 128K	43071,3:43072,3:	
	43074,3: 43075,3	Mining Lasers
	43078,1	Large Cargo Bay
	43079,1	ECM System
	43082,1	Fuel Scoop
	43083,1	Escape Pod
	43084,1	Energy Bomb
	43085,1	Energy Unit
	43086,1	Docking Comp.
	43049,x	x=money *256000
	43122,192	ECM and Cloaker
OPERATION WOLF 128K	40840,0	Lives
QARZ	44996,x	x=Lives
	44991,x	x=Start Level
	46064,0	Lives
	45944,0:45945,0	Immunity
	45370,183	Time
RETURN OF THE JEDI	46267,201	No Trees
	52140,0	Lives

PRACTICAL POKES

BLADE WARRIOR

I was quite impressed by this game. It has excellent sampled sound effects and splendiferous graphics. But nothing impressed me more than the **Tefal Men**'s hack for it. Absolutely marvelous!

```
  10  FOR f=65000 TO 65013: READ
 a: POKE f,a: NEXT f
  20  DATA 17,70,0,221,33,241,22
7
  30  DATA 62,255,55,205,86,5,20
1
  40  RANDOMIZE USR 65000: RANDO
MIZE USR 65000
  50  FOR f=58418 TO 1e9: READ a
  60  IF a=999 THEN  GO TO 260
  70 POKE f,a: NEXT f
  80  DATA 62,36,50,66,154: REM
LIVES
  90  DATA 62,201,50,95,153: REM
```

```
TIME
 100  DATA 175,50,15,145,195,0,1
28,999
 110  RANDOMIZE USR 58382
```

SCROLLING CREDITS

For some strange reason, the POKEs have dried up but the letters keep flooding in, even thicker and faster. Here is a list of people who've written in with requests I'm unable to deal with I'm afraid. So sorry to **Simon Janda, Jason Harris, Chris Merriman, I. France, Mr. Hadley, Peter Whitmore, Mr. Ralph, Mr. Sage, Mr. Richardson, Shawn Abrams, R. Dillon, G. Johal, D. Lyden, D. Young, Callum Whiting, D.A. Lummer, John Hodge, G.G. Robertson, Tim Roberts, Robert Smith, Miles and Nathan, Richard Butler, Mr. B. Ruck, M. Colledge, Neil Kingham, Mr. J. Rollinson,** and **Gordon Inglis.**

CRASH PREVENTOR

Read this part carefully and follow the steps just as – carefully if you want to get the POKEs to work:

If the POKE is a Basic listing:

1) Type in the hack program and double check that data.
2) Save it onto tape for later use.
3) Rewind the game tape to the start.
4) RUN the hack program.
5) If 'integer out of range' appears then you have a number over 255 in the data, go back and check it.
6) If 'error in data' appears then you have typed in the data wrongly, go back and check it.
7) If nothing appears then play your rewound game tape.
8) Give those aliens one from me, eh?

If the POKE is a multiface job:
1) Make sure you have a multiface.
2) Load the game.
3) Once loaded, press the red button.
4) Press T then SPACE.
5) Enter the address.
6) Enter the value for that address.
7) Press ENTER.
8) Press Q then R.

ADIOS

Well that's it for another emaciated, POKE starved month. Tune in next month for some more POKEs, hacks and wise cracks. Until then, if inspiration socks you one in the eye, send the results (wiping off the blood first) to, David McCandless, Practical Pokes, *YS*, 14 Rathbone Place, London, W1P 1DE. Byeeeeeeee!

DR. BERKMANN'S CLINIC

Phew! 'Sfunny in this doctoring game, y'know. Some months, that postbag's a-bursting with gamesnags galore. Other months – for instance when you have to write your column about 30 seconds after the last one – there's nary a letter between here and eternity, or at least Colchester. So, if we have a slightly abbreviated Clinic this month, blame it on the sunshine, blame it on the good times, blame it on the moonlight, but don't blame it on the boogie. *(Eh! Ed)*

FOOTBALL DIRECTOR

This game just won't leave us alone, and I have to admit that over Christmas I spent an absolutely *ridiculous* amount of time trying to get into Division 1 without a cheat – probably because it was either that or watching Paul Daniels with my grandmother. Anyway, one **James Bell** writes in with what sounds an all too familiar complaint.

"Every time I play a whole season there are games that are postponed and so by the end of the season some teams are behind me in the number of games played. Then when I have played my final match the computer resets. Has this happened to you or any of your readers?"

'Fraid so, old son, and the only cause that I can see is a tiny bugette that sometimes mucks things up. You'll notice it when you're playing a cup game and there's a longer than usual pause, whereupon a huge list of other fixtures appears where it shouldn't and the whole season seems to be thrown out of kilter. Sometimes there's no problem, and the season ends itself without any more problems, but as you say, sometimes it crashes at the end, which can be very frustrating indeed. Just make sure you always save after each season, and if one crashes, you can always load the previous one and try it again. Or you can chuck the Speccy out of the window with frustration – it's up to you.

ZUB

First game I ever reviewed for the old mag, this... sigh, those were the days. *(Get on with it. Ed)* Still, **Keith Apperley** has an interesting query...

"Is there really a hidden game in *Zub*, and if so, how do I get into it? This has been puzzling me for yonks, so could you please tell me?"

Certainly can, Keith. It's called *Lightfarce*, and it's a vertical scroller in the *Lightforce* mould (surprise, surprise). To boot it up, load the game as normal and then press 1,3,5 and 7 at the same time. The game was apparently a project to see if the programmers could write a game in a day – and they did it! Incidentally, if you press 2,4,6 and 8 instead, you get a cheat mode for *Zub*. Neat, huh?

RENTAKILL RITA

A few tut tuts from Clinician **Derek Elliott**, who found that the POKE we gave for *Rentakill Rita* in the October issue didnae work. Sorry about that, Del – but fortunately, I see, you've come up with some replacements, isn't that right? "You bet, Dr B. All you have to do is borrow a couple of multiface POKES c/o Diddy *Dave McCandless'* Multiface special, like so. Shazam! "Merge" the loader and add lines

43 POKE 58449,0:POKE 57979,0:REM INFINITE LIVES
46 POKE 58520,0:REM INFINITE SPRAYS
48 POKE 58229,0:REM INFINITE FOOD

Save to tape and run in the usual way, and Robert's your avuncular relative!" Del adds, "Hope you don't mind us poor souls without Multifaces borrowing the POKEs. I wonder if this method will work with any other games? Interested to hear any replies you get." Moi aussi, vieux pomme de terre.

MEGAHAYLP

Wossis? Four letters about *Last Ninja 2?* And two from the same person? This geezer is seriously stuck! 'Tis **Robert Kell,** no less, who writes:

"I can't get past the second part of the river in *Last Ninja 2*. I can get past the first part – you just jump onto the boat – yes, over the side (SPLOSH). ... and it said (glub) you need the pole (splutter) to get past it. Rather as I do now, as I'm drowning. Haylp!"

William P, meanwhile, has similar gamesnags. "First problem is that I cannot get off level one. I think I have all the objects: pole, throwing stars, [something I can't read here, Specchums, but it looks like 'manchuks'. Is that right?] hot dog, key and map. Do I need anything else? Oh, and how do I use an object?"

S Burgues is also up a gumtree. "Could you please tell me if you can kill the juggler in *Last Ninja 2?* If so, how do you do it?"

Right, probs aplenty for you noble and splendid Clinicians, These *YS* readers need your help. Please write to the usual address and badges will be doled out to anyone who gets mentioned.

Unless of course you win the Complete Solution Of The Month compo.

HAYLP!

Who's in the waiting room today? Nurse!

Ah, it's **Robert Hill,** who's got stuck in the oldest game still played on the Speccy, *Manic Miner.* "I can only get to the warehouse but no further. Any hints on how to get out of it would be greatly appreciated."

Simon Morgan, meanwhile, has a bizarre problem on *IK+*. "Could you please print a POKE for *IK+* to give the player the option of redefining his own keys. I think it's a good game, but I can't get to grips with the default keyboard." Any ideas?

Lastly, for this month (short Clinic I know, but sweet? Certainly.) *(Get on with it. Ed)* here's **Glenn Furniss.** "Can you help me to finish *Dustin?* I can get to the so-called 'exit' at the top of the jungles, but there is a cannibal blocking the way. How do I get past it?"

Send your gamesnags or answers to these questions to Dr B's Clinic, *YS*, 14 Rathbone Place, London W1P 1DE. As ever, anything printed will win a badge. And for the best Complete Solution Of The Month, there's three spanky new games on offer. See you next month!

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GAME SET AND MATCH 2

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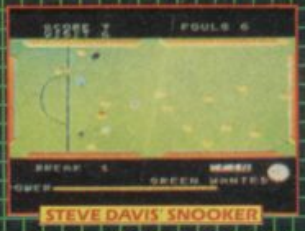
MATCH DAY II

WINTER OLYMPIAD

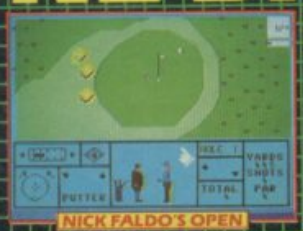
SUPER HANG ON

BASKET MASTER


STEVE DAVIS' SNOOKER

IN ONE BRILLIANT PACK!

TRACK & FIELD


NICK FALDO'S OPEN

SUPERBOWL

IAN BOTHAM'S TEST MATCH

CHAMPIONSHIP SPRINT

DISK **£17.95** DISK

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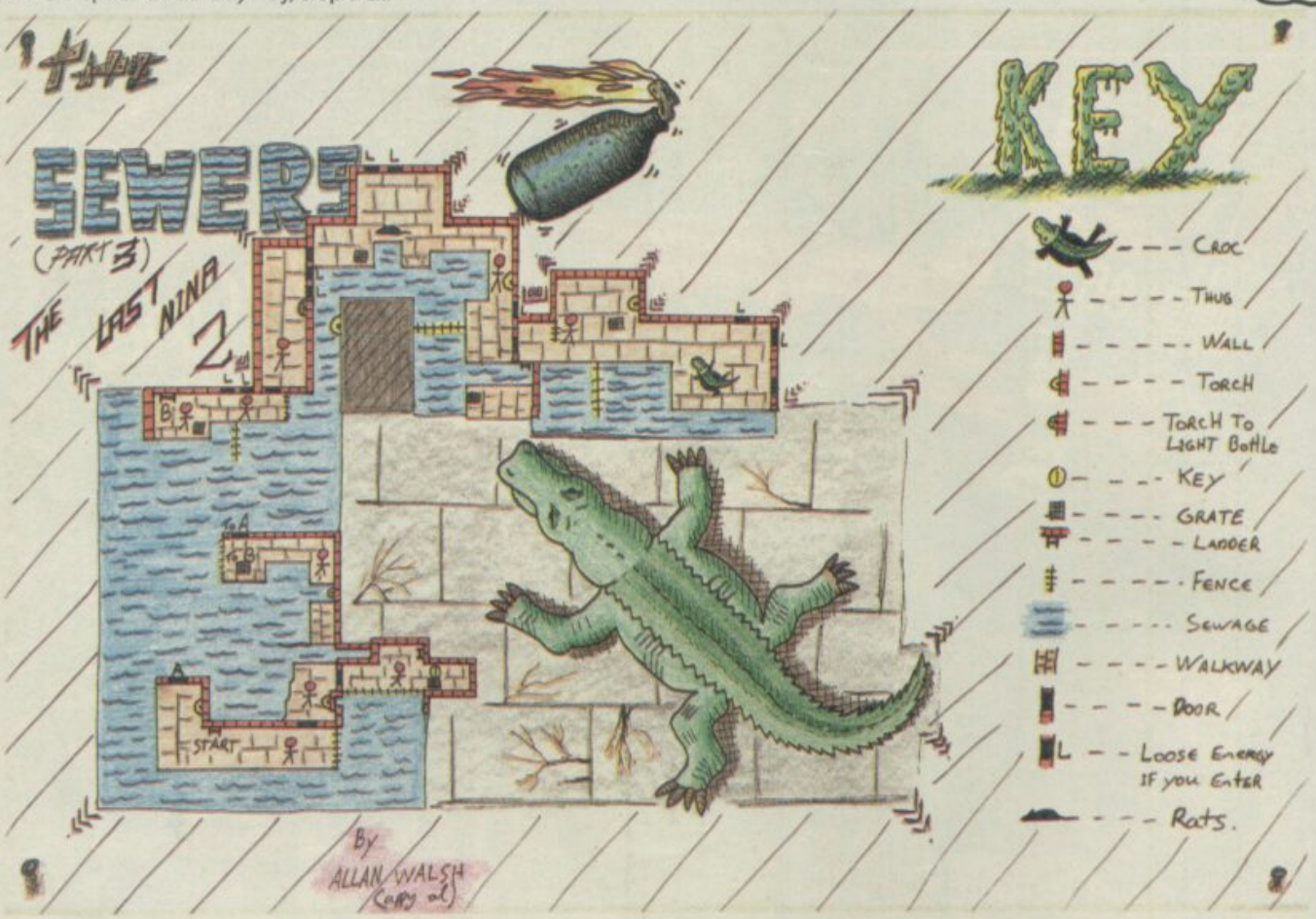
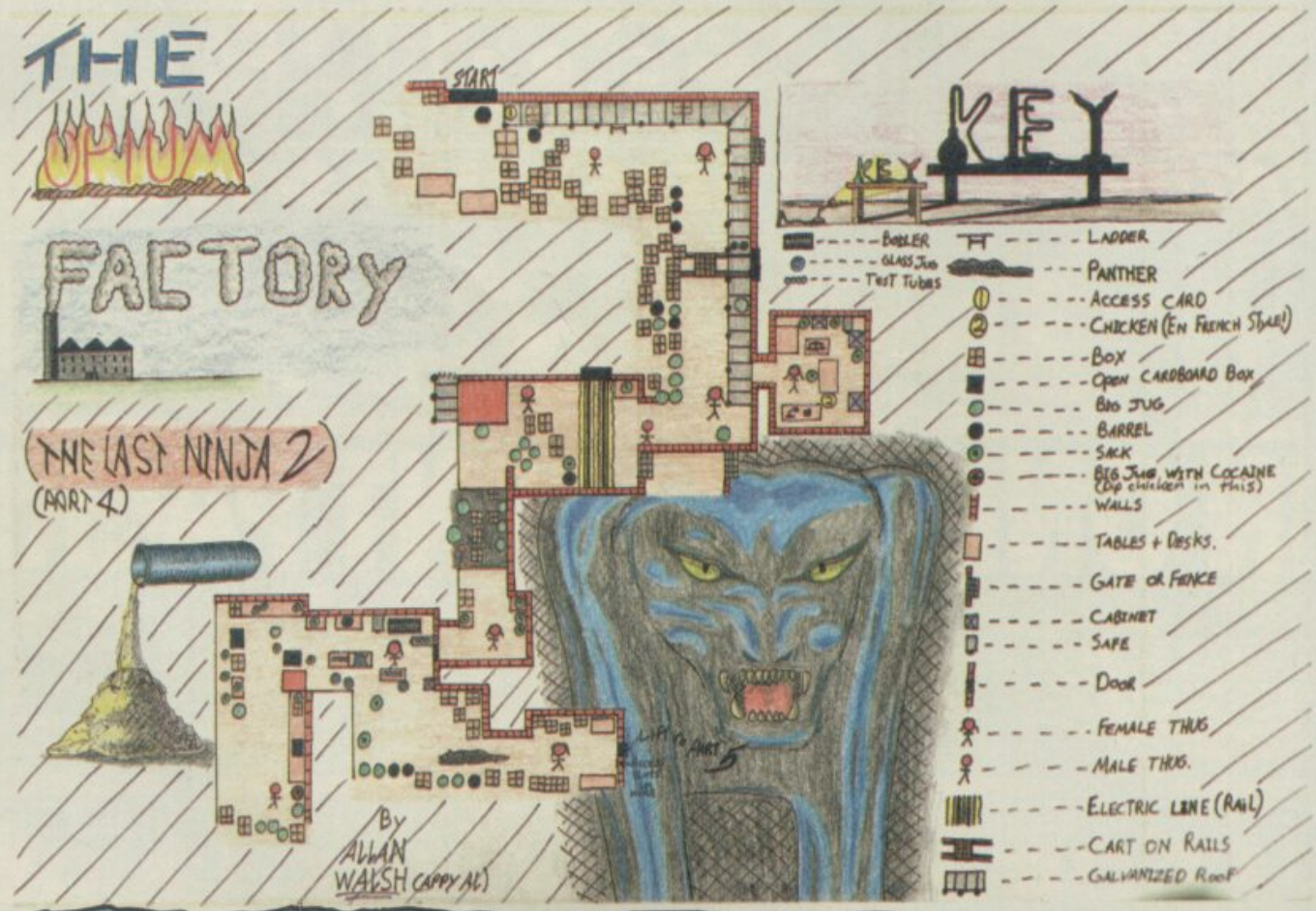
ocean

Note: Superbowl and Winter Olympiad are not available on the Amstrad version

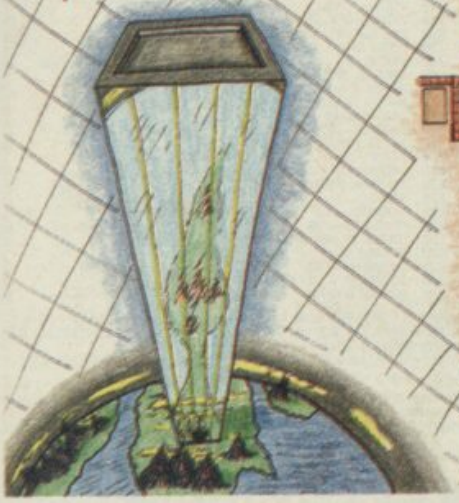
To add to the superb job he did on the *Ninja II* maps last time, here's the rest of them, and very fine they are too, **Allan Walsh.** There's a future in illustration for this lad, or I'm a pig in a suit. *(You're not? Ed)* Hey, stop that!

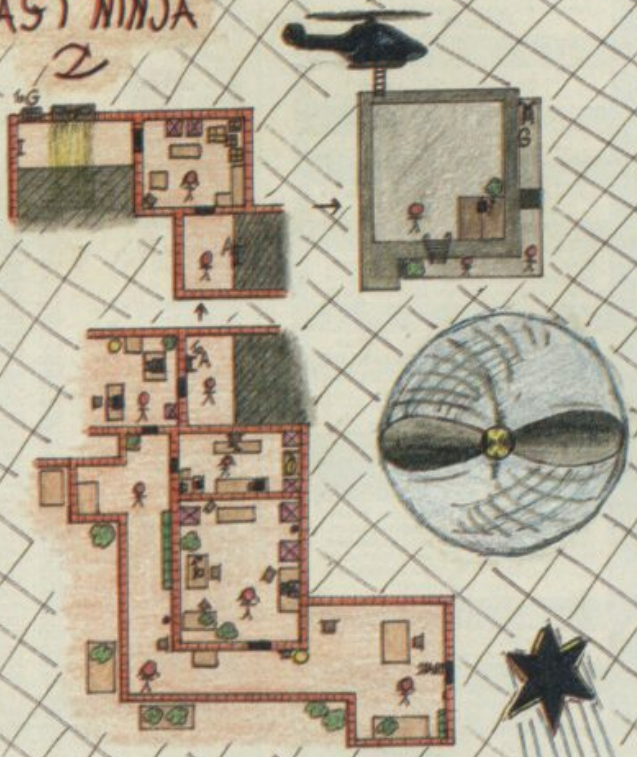




THE OFFICE BLOCK (PART 5)

LAST NINJA 2





By allan walsh (copy al)

- Grate
- Desks or Tables
- Doors
- Walls (have ears!)
- Radiators
- Male Thugs
- Female Thugs
- Seats
- Stars (Twinkle)
- Jug
- Bin
- Plants (nice greening)
- Terminals
- Called number to be used in last part
- To open passage behind it.
- Fan (well fancy that!)
- Ladders
- Boxes
- Filing Cabinet
- Stone Gargoyle

THE SHOGUN'S RETREAT (PART 6)

(the Final battle)

- Coal
- Roof
- Female thug
- Walkway
- Thug
- Skylight
- Alarm
- Stairs
- Boiler
- Steam
- Sink
- Cooker
- Rope
- Hamburger
- Orb
- Wall
- Door
- Fence
- Plants
- Pots
- Bookcases
- Chair
- Light switch
- Alarm shutoff
- Kuntoki
- Table/desk/cupboard
- Picture and safe

Mapped By ALLAN WALSH [COPY AL]

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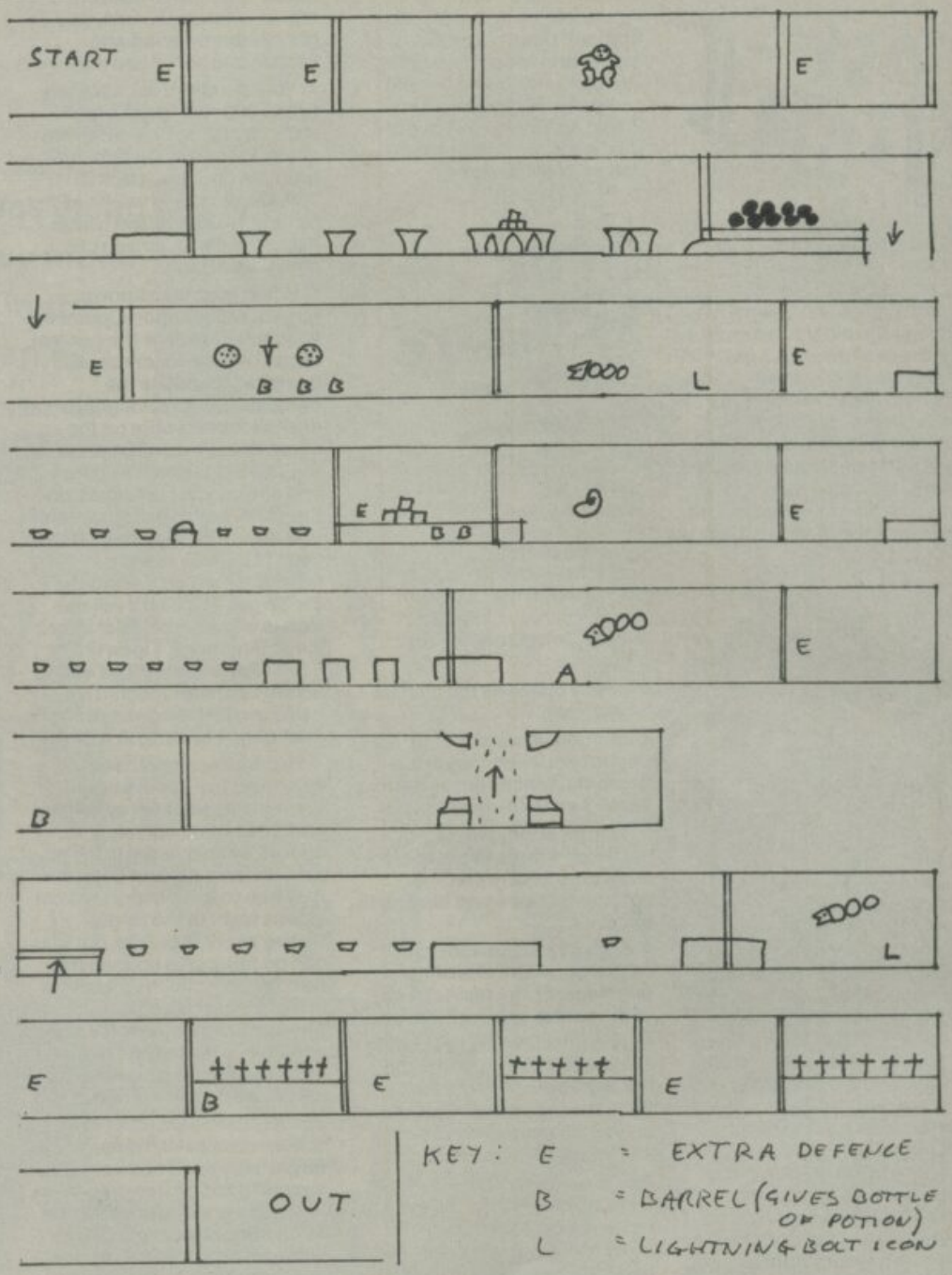
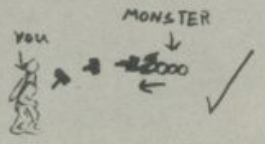
Savage

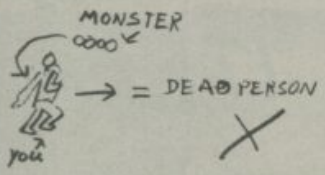


Savage. Heeey! We could even have Annie Lennox sending in tips for *Savage*... okay, so maybe it's only **Gaz Caffyn**, but I'm convinced he'd look like Annie Lennox if you squinted. **"No I wouldn't, ya big snooty! Anyway, want some big tips for *Savage*? Okay, for a start, here's the level codes:**

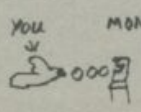
- **Level 2 = SABATTA (This is correct, the one in the game has too many b's.)**
- **Level 3 = FERGUS (When starting on keyboard on level one only hold down letters FERGUS for infinite lives.)**



- **To kill monsters (the big ones) stand out of the way of them and wait for them to come at you.**



- **On level two try heading left 'cos I've found this is easier than heading right. If you see a lot of monoliths then move out of the way.**



- **On level three to kill the green blobs try and shoot them when their eyes are open, or shoot them in the mouth.**

- **On level three again if you encounter a spiked ball go up one wall and then at the last minute head towards the other one. That's it for now. Byeee!!!"**

Hmm. Like the piccies, old chappie! Thanxxxxxx again. Anyone else? Yes, **Julian Newman**, what have you got?

- **Get the boxes dropped by the blue flying beetles, they give you a revolving forcefield. Don't bother too much about the other boxes, although at the scene of a battle with one of the big creatures, it can be concealing a weapon or potion it dropped when it died.**
- **Shoot the rolling barrels or splat them with your force-field if you have one and get the bottle it leaves. This will boost your energy level. Don't use more than you need as you can go back for another boost after you have killed the large monster, which is just a screen or two away. Be very careful of the bats. If they get near your waist they grab onto you and can be very difficult to remove. The stepping stones over the fire sink, but don't jump off too soon or you'll not make it to the next one."**

Yup! These guys are just sooo *Savage*... GRRRR! Coo, they fair send a shiver down yer spine, don't they?

TIP O' THE MONTH

Last Ninja II

Aw no, not again... look I've told you before. I've done this one already! What? You've got something new? Okay but keep it short. Ladies and Germs, may I present **Steven Harrod** and **Neil Greene** on *Last Ninja II*. **"When against an enemy, face him, hold the pause button, and push the joystick down and hold the fire button. The enemy's power will be reduced to zero. That's it."** Alright, I'll let you off, that was interesting. But don't let it happen again. Badges all round I think.

Batman - A bird in the hand

Nana nana nana nana, nana nana nana nana... Batman!! Holy cliched beginning to a Bat-bit! Whizzing through the Bat-post comes Boy Wonder **Max Hedge** with a solution to turning off the main computer in the easier half of the Caped Crusader's latest outing, *'A Bird In The Hand.'* Heeere's Max... **Left, get nose, down, get tools, use tools, left, get batarang, use batarang, right two, get lockpick, right, up, left, get disk, use disk, up two, right three, get sweet, right, get trainer, left six, get door key, left five, climb ladder, right two, get pop, right two, get torch, left four, down ladder, left two, climb ladder, left four, get rope, right two, use lockpick, drop lockpick, through door, use pop, right four, up, left, up, right, get lift key, left, down, right, down, left four, up, right, use sweet, stand on lift, use lift key, through door, right two, down, left, down, left, get toast, get dart, use toast, right four get disk, up, left, up, left, use rope, climb rope, get magnet, use dart, get pass, use toast, down rope, get egg, right, down, right, down, left three, up, right, up, left two, down, stand on lift, use lift key, left, down two, left, down ladder, left seven, use pass, through door, use torch, use magnet, left two, get tape, right two, up, right, up, left three, up, use tape, left, up, get cake, use cake, right three, down, left, down, right two, use door key, up, right, up, right, get nana, use nana, left, down, right, down, left, up, get and use trumpet, right, use nose, trainer and food if remaining, use disk, and lo and behold computer stopped!** Phew! And there you have it! Now where's a solution to the *Joker* half of the game?

Star Raiders II

You know, it's nice to have feedback about the games we put on the cover of the mag. And by far the best, for me, is when you actually send in tips for them! And so now let me introduce that wacky little wibbler **John Gourlay.** Yes? **"Yes.**

- **Firstly check all the planets for fighters.**
- **Second, when zapping destroyers when they are bombing, wait till they go into a bomb run, then shoot.**
- **Thirdly, shoot purple destroyers three times to blow them up, shoot green destroyers twice and blue ones once.**
- **Fourthly, make sure you recharge before attacking flagships. Shoot once directly in the centre to blow them up.**
- **And finally, when destroying Zylon cities/bases switch on the shields and ignore the fighters. The cities will appear on your scanner (top centre) use this to help you find them."**

And there you go, see. Sharp as tacks, these *YS* folk. You know, I bet they look back in their *YS* collections to when we reviewed games before and get the tips from there. Nah! Surely not. *(Don't call me Shirley. Ed)*

Gunship

Did I say something in December about wanting more *Gunship* tips? Gee, I don't recall. But **Tony Cutcliffe (Colonel)** seemed to think I was asking for some anyway so what is it then, old bean? **"I tend to use the same tactics in all theatres of operations, as even in SEA it's good practice to go low occasionally.**

- **So keep your altitude down to below 80 feet virtually all the time and fly round hills rather than over them.**
- **If you spend more than about 15 seconds above 100 feet in Western Europe, you'll get clobbered good and proper, and serve you right too!**
- **You can climb occasionally to 150-200 feet to get a look round by flying one complete circle. Ignore all TADS 'target' prompts and drop back to 70 feet. On your map will be all the targets TADS spotted when flying the circle, so you can plan your attack.**
- **When attacking known targets with cannons, point the helicopter towards the nearest target using your map and compass (because the compass is more accurate than the helicopter sprite on the map). Charge in at 70 feet, lock the TADS box onto the target and line up your crosshair on the TADS box. Go to level bank and dive to 20 feet. You will lose your TADS lock but the helicopter will be pointing at the target. The TADS will re-lock in a few seconds at about 0.4-0.5km range. Open fire at 0.3-0.4km and they'll be eating 30mm HEDP for lunch. The cannon will destroy anything (including bunkers) at 0.3km.**
- **Hellfires are best used whenever the opportunity presents itself. Destroy SAMs first, then other vehicles. You should be able to fire three or four off from 100 feet before they see you. It's important not to lose sight of the target before the Hellfire hits, but you can be turning to engage the next target while the missile is in flight whilst guiding it through the side view. It's also possible to 'ripple fire' two or three Hellfires at targets which are close together at about 1.2km range.**
- **Fire missiles at the same target with a two or three second spacing between them. When the first missile hits, the TADS should lock onto the adjacent target in time for the next missile to track and hit it. This is a standard real life Apache tactic which works quite well in *Gunship*.**
- **Hind helicopters are better dealt with by sending them an AIM-9L, free of charge, at long range. If you've no sidewinders left then you'll have to cannon them. Charge head on with your cannon armed, and as soon as the range drops to 0.5km, open fire and keep blasting until it disappears. The Hind won't explode for some reason, it'll just disappear. But don't let it get any nearer than 0.5km or you'll take a clattering — three damaging hits is standard value for money here. Sometimes you can scare a Hind off using the head-on method, but watch your threat display as he'll be back!**
- **Generally, the 'search and destroy' type missions are the most dangerous, as there will be lots of SAMs backed up by masses of heavy flak, bags of cucumber, stacks of lettuce and LASHINGS of ginger beer. It's best to sneak up on these guys slowly at 15-20 feet and clout them with your cannon at 0.3km. If you find the situation getting out of hand (and enemies in previously hidden positions are firing at you by surprise,) then pile on the collective, pitch down and fly a jinking course away at 10 feet and 170 knots. You can then come back in slowly again under your own terms, knowing where the hidden boys are this time. The helicopter is really frisky in the fast, low escape as the collective is so high, so be careful as one slip in a downward direction will be immediately fatal. You must be a top class, slightly crazy pilot to perform this trick properly.**
- **Finally, if your ECM detects an incoming heat-seeking missile, hit both your jammer and your flare dispenser, turn, dive and accelerate away 20 feet. That should shake off any missile. If you're being chased by a radar-homing missile, it serves you right and you deserve to have your tail shot off, as you should never have let them see you for long enough to lock on and fire in the first place.**

P.S. My model Apache has recently been wrecked by my son, so they're not everything-proof." Well, many thanks Tony Cutcliffe (Colonel). Phew! This could start an interesting trend. Now we have real pilots sending in tips for flight sims, how about real members of Ninja Hands sending in tips for *Last Ninja II*, or maybe Nigel Mansell sending in tips for *OutRun* and his own game? Okay, I admit it! I'm barmy as a potting shed. I don't care.

And So, Tibet...

Yes folks, it's that time again, and as usual we haven't got room for everyone. Sorry 'bout that but ya can't have everything, eh, nosepickers? So keep on trying! Send your hints and tips, and any spare packets of Jaffa Cakes to Phil South, *YS* Tipshop, *Your Sinclair*, 14 Rathbone Place, London W1P 1DE. And don't forget, all those who get their tips printed win an 'I've Got Big Tips' badge! No, really they do! That's all. Bye!

LOVE IN A COLD CLIMATE

Kelly Marie was going out with a guy more interested in the weather than her. What could she do?

AND THAT LOW PRESSURE AREA TO THE EAST LOOKS AS IF IT'LL BE STAYING PUT — AT LEAST UNTIL TOMORROW EVENING...

WHAT A BORING PROGRAMME. CAN'T WE WATCH SOMETHING ELSE BRIAN?

BORING? **BORING?** WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT — THAT'S MICHAEL FISH — ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANT PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY!!!!

BOO HOO HOO.
SHUT UP YOU STUPID COW — YOU'LL MAKE ME MISS THE LONG TERM MARINE FORECAST!!
DING DONG!
SHALL I GET THAT? SNIFF.
OH (SNIFF), HELLO DARREN, HELLO SIOBHAN.
ARE YOU OKAY KELLY MARIE?
OH YES (SNIFF), I'M FINE — I'VE, ER, JUST BEEN PEELING SOME ONIONS. COME IN.
GOSH, DARREN'S SO CARING. HE'S QUITE A HUNK AS WELL. I COULD WELL GO FOR HIM MYSELF — BUT I'M SURE SIOBHAN AND HIM HAVE GOT A ROCK STEADY THING GOING TOGETHER.
LOOK, BRIAN, IT'S SIOBHAN AND (SIGH) DARREN.
HANG ON A MINUTE, HANG ON A MINUTE...
MALINHEAD — GALE FORCE 5 RISING TO 7 FROM THE NORTHEAST

OOOOH, IS THAT THE LONG RANGE WEATHER FORECAST? DO YOU MIND IF I WATCH?
I – I – I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE INTERESTED IN METEOROLOGY...
WHY, YES – GLOBAL WEATHER SYSTEMS HAVE ALWAYS FASCINATED ME. ISOBARS AND CHART-FLOWS ARE THE VERY STUFF OF MY EXISTENCE. I EAT, SLEEP AND BREATHE COLD AND WARM FRONTS.
WHY DIDN'T YOU EVER TELL ME ABOUT YOUR LOVE OF CLIMATOLOGY? ALL THIS TIME I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST ANOTHER GIRL.
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD THINK I WAS BORING. ALL I EVER WANT TO DO IS TO BECOME A WEATHER PRESENTER ON THE TELEVISION – AND MAYBE BE THE RECIPIENT OF SOME OF YOUR KISSES...
AND IN THE FORTH OF FIRTH, GALE FORCE SEVEN WILL...
DO YOU FANCY COMING IN THE KITCHEN WITH ME?
COR, YOU BET!!!
I TOO WISH TO GRACE THE TELEVISUAL AIRWAVES AS A PRESENTER OF WEATHER. MAYBE WE COULD DO IT TOGETHER.
OH BRIAN. YES. LET'S DO IT TOGETHER.
MEANWHILE, IN THE KITCHEN...
PHEW. YOU'RE A PRETTY GOOD SNOGGER.
YOU'RE NOT SO BAD YOURSELF, BIG BOY.
EEEEER, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT CHUCKING SIOBHAN FOR A WHILE NOW. I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D CHUCK BRIAN AND GO OUT WITH ME?
OH DARREN. I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK. YES, OF COURSE I'LL CHUCK HIM. IT'S YOU I REALLY LOVE.
LET'S HAVE ANOTHER SNOG.

TWO YEARS LATER...

AND NOW ON CHANNEL CABLE 9 IT'S TIME FOR THE WEATHER, WITH BRIAN AND SIOBHAN... DA DE DA.

HELLO. THERE'S A SEVERE DEPRESSION MOVING IN FROM THE NORTHWEST, AND IT'S CARRYING QUITE A LOT OF RAIN — SO DON'T FORGET YOUR BROLLIES IF YOU LIVE IN THESE AREAS.

OH BRIAN, THERE ARE NO COLD FRONTS IN MY LIFE ANY MORE — JUST SUNSHINE BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE HIGH PRESSURE AREA OF MY LOVE FOR YOU.

OH DARREN, I LOVE YOU SO MUCH. SNOG ME TILL MIDNIGHT.

OH DARLING, I'M SO HAPPY.

I CAN ONLY SNOG YOU TILL NINE O'CLOCK, KELLY MARIE, COS I'VE GOT TO TUNE THE CARBS ON THE MOTOR. BUT I DO LOVE YOU.

SERVICING YOUR CAR

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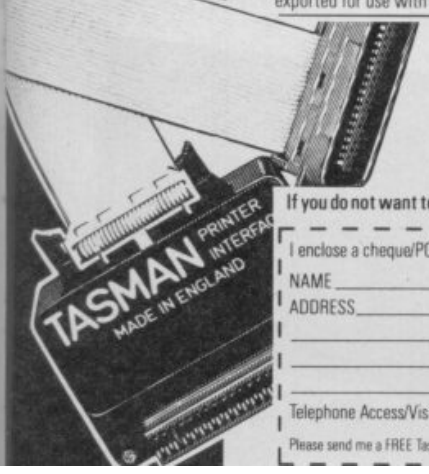

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What's going cheap this month? *(Make any bird jokes, and you're dead, Ed)* Certainly not *Marcus Berksquawk.* (BLAM!!)

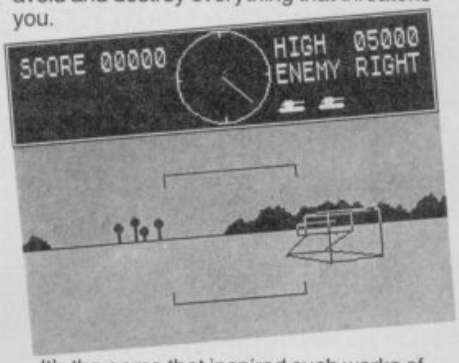
BARGAIN BASEMENT

BATTLE TANK SIMULATOR

Zeppelin/£1.99

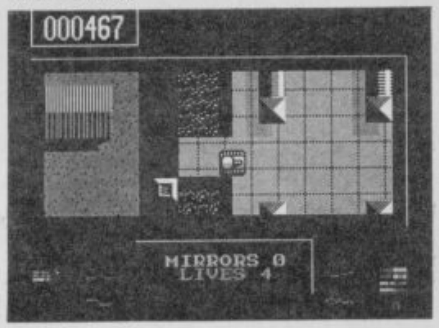
Yo ho! What's this? Yup, it's just an ornery game with the word 'Simulator' tacked on the end! Will these software companies go to any lengths to flog their products? Seems so, for this, under any other name, is no more than that wrinkly old arcade game *Battle Zone* poshed up anew for another generation of Spec-chums. In fact, the only real effect of the word 'Simulator' is to make you suspect that Zeppelin blagged the whole thing off someone else, although I'm sure Zeppelin would never do anything so dastardly (hem hem).

Battle Zone was a spanky game which obsessed me and a friend of mine in about 1981, when we poured untold piles of 10 pees into the blasted machine. It's a wire frame shoot 'em up, set on the ground, from the perspective of someone sitting in a tank and scared half to death. All sorts of things whizz towards you — other tanks, flying boulders, spaceships, missiles — and you have to both avoid and destroy everything that threatens you.



It's the game that inspired such works of genius as *Elite* and *Mercenary*, but in this version Zeppelin has introduced colour (the original was starkly monochrome) and mucked about with the gameplay, making the whole very much less than the sum of its parts. There's also some dodgy collision detection, and the whole shebang is slower than a snail on sedatives.

A disappointment then, on historical grounds, and for 1989 it doesn't really impress either. Forget the simulator — go for the real thing.

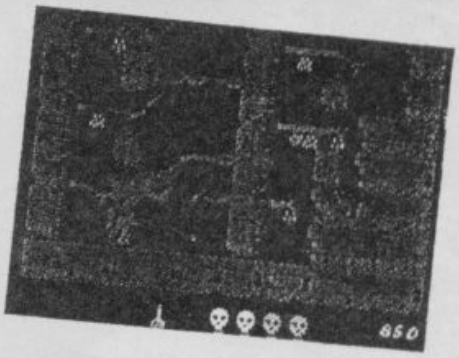


REBEL

Ricochet/£1.99

Fine game, this: I remember it well from its initial release in '87. The idea is simple enough. You have a tank, and you're stuck in a heavily mechanised agridustrial complex (it sez here). In order to get out, you must smash through an exit, but your only weapon is a beam of high intensity light which is beaming away on the other side of the encampment. Solution? Well, there are loads of 'solar reflectors' (mirrors to you an me) lying around, and what you have to do is position them, in certain preset places, so that the beam of light will smash through the exit and you can escape. Interesting, huh?

What's particularly clever about this is that throughout the game you can always see that it's *possible* to do — it's just very tricky. Naturally there are loads of enemy tanks and things to avoid, but these just patrol in standard formations, so timing is all. The graphics are brill — brightly coloured and well drawn — and the whole game's a ripsnorter. Ten levels for two quid? A bargain, mate.



DEATH STALKER

Code Masters/£1.99

This is disappointing, especially when you look at the real Spectrum screenshots (Code Masters is always pretty hot on that, of course). But the game is a little drab.

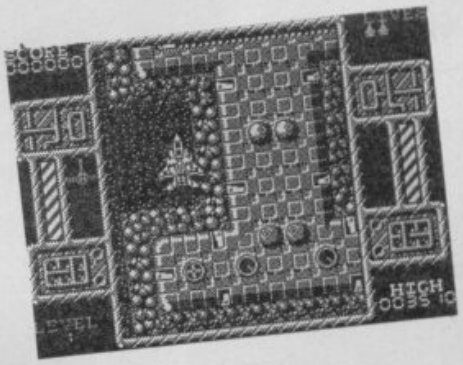
Death Stalker (no relation to John, I presume) is an arcade adventure set in the usual mystical world of ghoulies, spells and wizards, and it's up to you to find the lost key of darkness and descend to the deeper dungeons. Why? I hear you ask. Well, it's never made entirely clear, or even touched on at all, but never mind — all you have to know is that the EVIL ORC MEN are bad, and prisoners, if set free, are good. As you slash around the monochrome screens, you occasionally pick things up, but more often die a lot. Why? I hear you ask again. (You're clearly in an interrogative mood today.) Because you can't see a bloody thing, that's why. The graphics are so poorly drawn that it's next to impossible to make anything out, unless you've got a really spanky monitor — in which case, what are you doing buying cheapie rubbish like this? Exactly. Next!

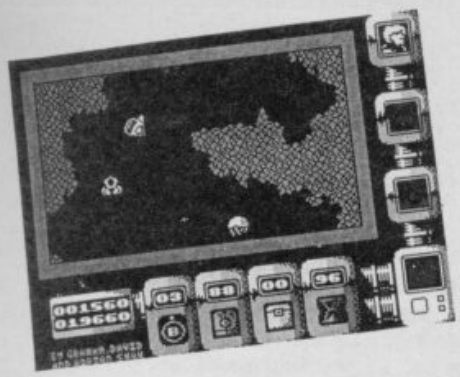
TOMCAT

Players/£1.99

One of the banes of my life has always been shoot 'em ups that are just so difficult you can't get anywhere at all. I bought one recently for the ST (spit) that everyone had said was amazingly groovy, but I never lasted for more than 20 seconds, so that was 20 nicker chucked down the drain. At least with Speccy budget games you're only wasting a tenth of that price, but it's a pain nonetheless.

Try as I might, I could get nowhere on this blasted game, much as it's beautifully drawn and animated, if a little slow. It's a vertical scroller in the *Slapfight* mode, with you flying low level over an automated island full of robots and gun emplacements firing at you. But it's so hard that in the end it seems a bit of a wasted opportunity. If, though, you really are a shoot 'em up whizz kid and you're finding everything else a touch on the peasy side, this is highly recommended. But I dunno — methinks even Jon-Boy Davies would have problems with this one.





AQUASQUAD

Atlantis/£1.99

This one's by the same geezer who wrote *Gunfighter* and *Tank Command*, which should warn anyone who was expecting a decent game. *Aquasquad's* a sort of arcade adventure-cum-shoot 'em up, neither one thing nor the other, and profoundly less than gripping. You guide your little ship through an undersea maze of heavily armed caverns, avoiding jagged rocks, deadly undersea creatures and anything that looks remotely like a missile. The idea is to destroy the whole installation, and to do this you need to collect four nuclear containers — but you'll long since have got completely bored and given up before you get that far in this lifeless and derivative game.

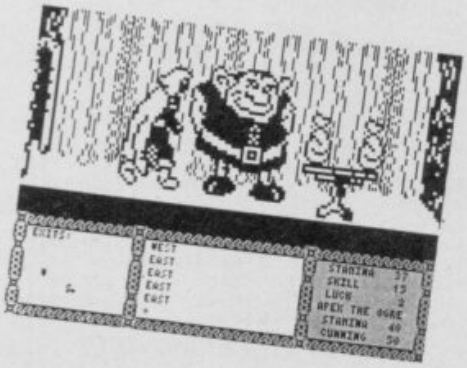
It's not been that badly programmed — few things are, these days — but there's no spark of originality, nothing to make you want desperately to see the next screen, or even the screen you're on in most cases. Of minimal interest.

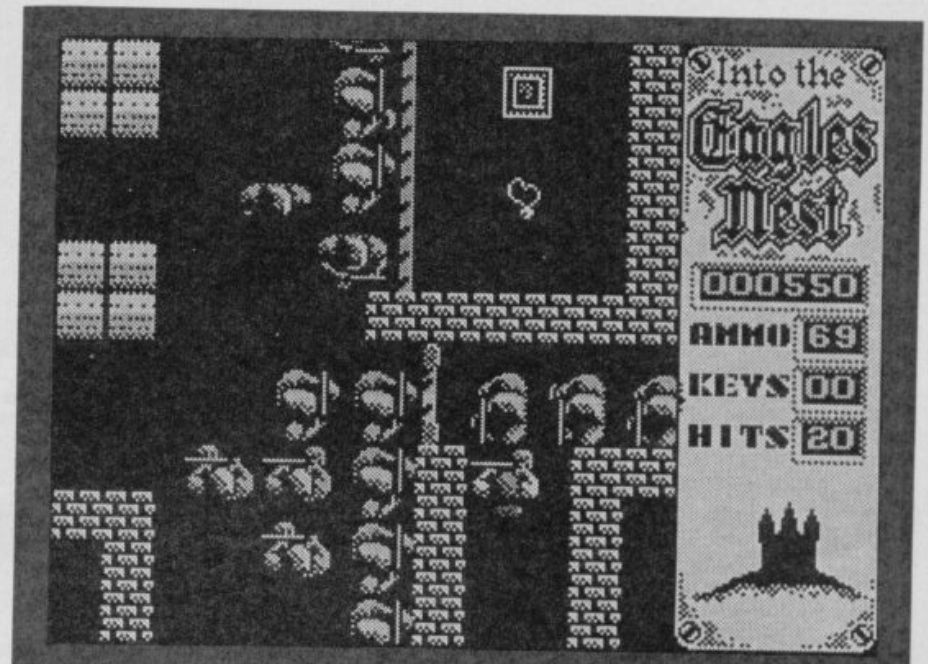
HEAVY ON THE MAGICK

Rebound/£1.99

Another game from Greg and Roy's Gargoyle vaults, and another cracker. This one's all of three years old, and was the first 'graphic adventure', if you can call it that. On the screen you see your rather roughly drawn hero, and you move him not by joystick but by entering instructions via the keyboard (N, S, etc). As he wanders around, you have to react to what crops up in the various dungeons, which as well as puzzles, objects and magic spells includes monsters who knock you off with the merest flick of a wrist. At the time it was hugely influential, and much imitated, and it survives well because not only was it cleverly done, but there was a game lurking in there as well.

Naturally there's mucho mapping to be done, and the game's liable to appeal to arcade adventurers rather than straightforward zappers, but it's still good fun, and I found that I had forgotten everything I had so patiently learnt about the game first time round. Another spanker, although what the cover illustration has to do with it all, I have no idea.



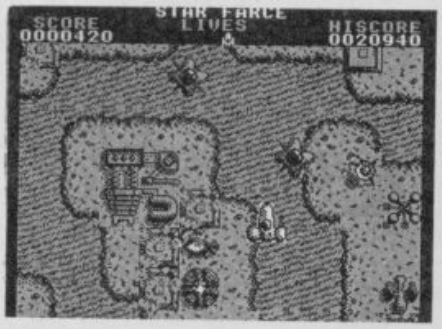


INTO THE EAGLE'S NEST

Players/£1.99

Another welcome re-release, which originally appeared on Players' sister label Pandora, 18 months or so back. It's basically a *Gauntlet* variant, but with substantial gleamy brass knobs on. The setting's Nazi Germany, so if we could just pause for a little goose-stepping practice (TOOM-CHUM-TOOM-CHUM-TOOM-CHUM). That's better.

Your mission is to get inside a highly fortified base, kill as many goons as possible, rescue your three comrades and then blow the whole place up. Simple? Could do it for breakfast. Actually it's extremely tricky, and requires superb timing and an almost psychopathic love of killing things. As in *Gauntlet*, you have to be careful about using things like keys to get around between the rooms, and there's treasure, food and spare ammo lying around too. Yup, ammo is not something to be wasted, partly because there's not much to go around, but also if a stray bullet happens to hit a barrel of gunpowder, ker-BOOOM! and you're as dead as Marie Stopes. An excellent game, with clear and attractive graphics and endlessly challenging gameplay. Again, for a cheapie, unmatchable value.



STAR FARCE

Mastertronic/£1.99

This, on the other hand, is much more like it. Virtually identical in many ways to *Tomcat*, it's streets ahead in gameplay, looks, variety and sheer playability. Again a vertical scroller, *Star Farce* re-introduces that oft forgot feature of old Speccy games — colour! It's bursting with colour all over the shop, and what's more it's faster than *Tomcat*, and played over a larger screen. There are even 32 different levels (although judging by the first few, they're all much of a muchness).

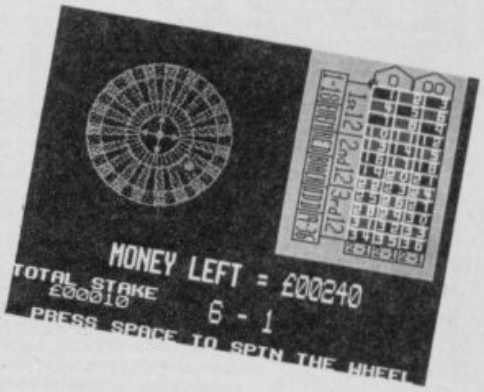
Now, I'd admit it's not terribly original. In fact it's hopelessly unoriginal — *Lightforce* and *Bedlam* are its nearest relations. But it's tremendous fun and like all the best games, it's easy to start, hard to finish. It's odd, because Mastertronic hasn't been releasing that many new games recently, having concentrated on re-releases, and the few newies it has bunged out have been, in the main, rather ropey. But this is a fine game, as addictive as any full price shooter now on the market, but at a fraction of the price. Bargain? Bargain.

LAS VEGAS CASINO

Zeppelin/£2.99

One of the great old stand-bys in budget land is the gambling game. If it's not a fruit machine — which it usually is — it's a poker game, or in this case a Casino sim. Full marks, incidentally, to Zeppelin for not using the word 'Simulator' anywhere in the title of this game — the temptation must have been great.

Overall this is not a bad little casino game — you get to play craps, baccarat (Yes Sir, I Can Boogie), roulette and my personal fave, black jack. None of the four is presented particularly impressively, but they're all playable enough if you like that sort of thing, and I do, from time to time. Neat, unassuming and in many ways what budget games are all about, Brian. But why is it £2.99 instead of £1.99?



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What A Stormer!

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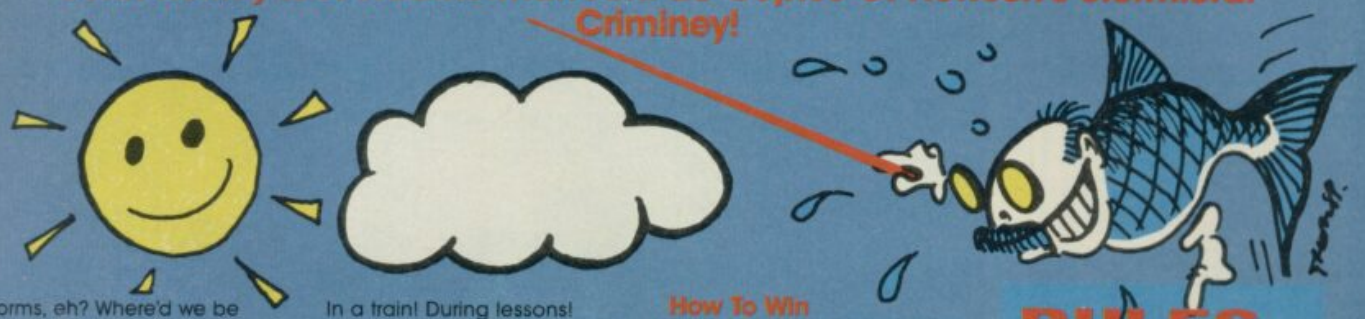

Storms, eh? Where'd we be without them? Probably somewhere a lot warmer and drier, that's where. You can never tell when you'll be caught short (Oo-er) by one in a bus shelter or under a tree with nothing to do except twiddle your thumbs. Well no longer! Cos we've got the answer . . .

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A Casio miniature colour TV is just the job. With a two and a half inch liquid crystal colour screen and its own handy-dandy built in aerial, you can watch it anywhere. On the bus! In a train! During lessons! (Unless you get caught, and if you do that's your own stupid fault so don't blame us.) Normally it would cost around a hundred sovs, but to the winner of this compo, it's as free as a bird flying south for winter (or something).

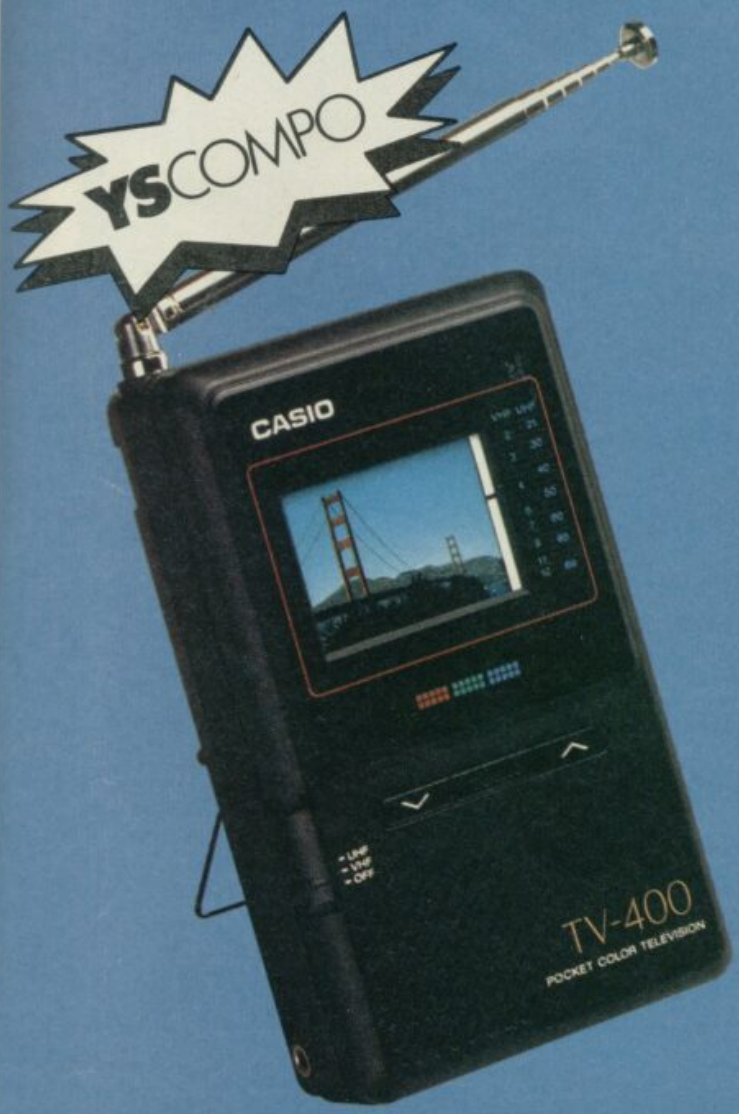
Plus the ten runners up will get one copy of that 'happening' disc, *John Kettley Is A Weatherman*. What a corker! Hewson, who's splashed the cash for these rather wonderful little items, has also provided 25 copies of Raf Cecco's newie *Stormlord* to add to the fun.

How To Win

It's weather quiz time. Listed on the coupon are five questions about those lovable weather forcasting folk from TV-land. All you have to do, quite simply, is answer them. Finished? Good, now cut out the coupon, blu-tac it onto a pair of Ian McCaskill's giant spectacles (or a postcard), and send it to Gor Blimey, The Weather's In A Right Blimmin' Two And Eight, But I Don't Mind Cos Bill Giles Is Such A Dreamboat Compo, *YS*, PO Box 1509, Enfield, Middlesex EN1 1LQ. Deadline is the end of March.

RULES

- Dennisettes and Hewsonites should stay indoors for this one or they'll get pissed on.
- If your entry arrives after March 31st 1989 your roof will leak, the kitchen will flood and you'll be in all sorts of trouble, matey.
- T'zer's been looking at the seaweed and knows which way the wind's blowing(?)



The three minute slot after *The News At Six* is my favourite televisual feasting time, so I'm bound to get these right . . .

1. Name the female weather presenter who got so much flak from the viewing public about her dress sense (or rather lack of it) that she had a birrova breakdown and had to discontinue her career.

2. What would be the best accessory for one of Michael Fish's jackets?
(a) A white carnation?
(b) An acid house smiley badge?
(c) A volume knob?

3. Who's got the biggest bottom?
(a) Wincey Willis?
(b) Anneka Rice?
(c) Cyril Smith?

4. Name the weatherman who leaps manically about on a giant map of the UK wielding a watering-can.

5. Who's got the warmest front?
(a) Wincey Willis?
(b) Anneka Rice?
(c) Cyril Smith?

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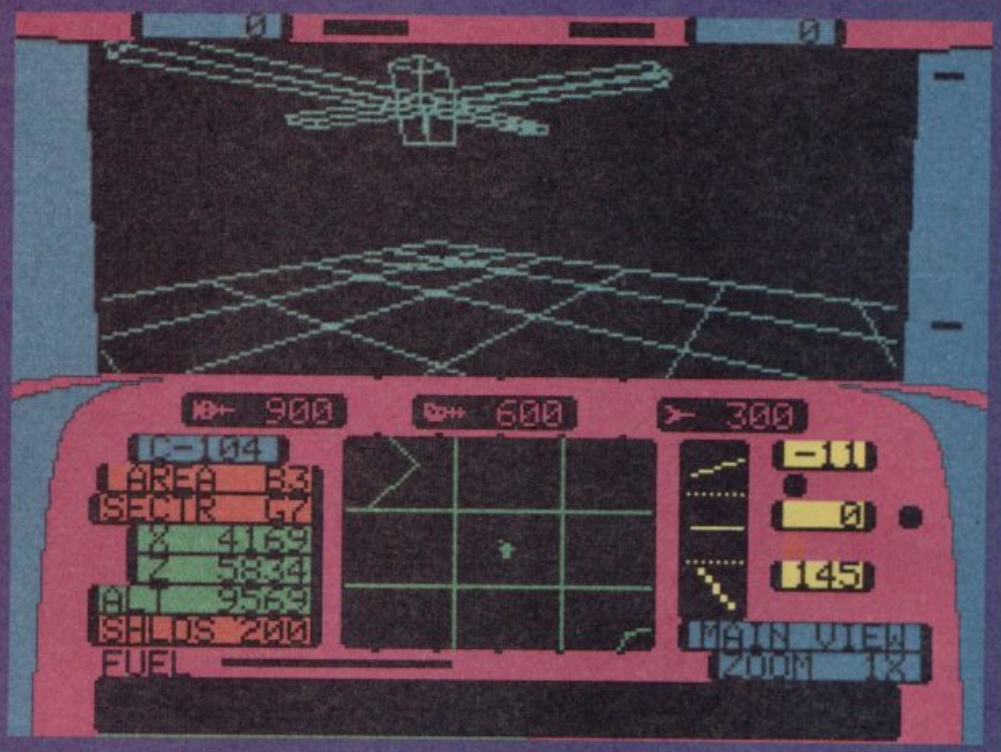
SCREEN SHOTS

Fe fi fo fum, jiggling joysticks is loads of fun, what with *LED Storm* and *Eche'lun'*, check out these pages — they're all quite rum.

***YS* Seal Of Approval**
All games reviewed in Screenshots are finished products.

ECHELON



US Gold/£9.99 cass/£12.99 disk

Jonathan There are three things that are guaranteed to make any reviewer's knees tremble — even one as hunky as myself: a 54-page A5-sized manual, a list of approximately 35 different control keys, and a deadline measured in nanoseconds. And all after I've just swallowed the last mouthful of Balisto.

But what is the relevance of all this, I hear tens of thousands of readers simultaneously cry? Well, the whole lot of them just fell through the letter box, along with a copy of *Echelon*. It's one of those awesomely complicated simulation games that I'm supposed to like so much, set on another planet just for a change.

Your task, should you choose to accept it, and I strongly suggest that you don't if you value your sanity, is to patrol the solar system's tenth planet, Isis, in your C-104 Tomahawk and try to find the base of a group of pirates that have been giving the Space Federation some hassle. In other words, an explore, collect and shoot game.

There are all sorts of puzzles to be solved in order to locate the base, mainly involving finding little flashing dots on the surface. These are 'clues,' which are used to fill in the six maps which show how to get to the base. There is also a code to break which will let you decipher the pirates' transmissions or something.

Before you get stuck into that lot, however, there are hundreds of bits and pieces to get to grips with, including a teleporter for getting the things you collect back to base, an RPV for exploring the planet surface by remote control, a hyperdrive for hopping round the planet and all sorts of other things. Hence the 35 control keys.

In case you hadn't gathered, this is one helluva complicated game, not to be tackled by the faint hearted. Left-right-up-down-fire fans can forget it for a start, as the one thing this game isn't is a shoot 'em up, and any pretensions it may have in that directions are best forgotten.

The problem lies in the graphics, which are horribly sluggish. Wire-frame animation is normally pretty smooth on the Speccy (*Starglider* being a good benchmark). In *Echelon*, however, you can get the screen update rate down to under two frames per second if you try hard enough. This means that accurate combat is practically impossible, and is best avoided. The only solution to the problem is to turn off various bits of the display, such as the scrolling map and the reference grid on the ground. This speeds up the graphics no end, but makes it extremely hard to see where you're going.

This aside, though, *Echelon* has a lot going for it. The map is awesomely huge and is littered with different types of buildings, towers, rivers and bridges. There is even a series of training courses to help improve your skills, and a nice touch is the ability to get the RPV to track your ship as it flies around, so you can watch yourself pile into the ground from any number of different angles. There's no sound, though, which is a shame.

If it wasn't for the lack of graphical elegance, *Echelon* would be a Megagame for sure. It's still blimmin' good though, and gives you more bytes per pound than most other stuff around at the moment. You'll learn some novel yoga positions trying to handle the controls as well.

YS CLAPOMETER

A brain-blendingly complicated space simulation with plenty of mileage in it.

GRAPHICS
PLAYABILITY
VALUE FOR MONEY
ADDICTIVENESS

8

G.I. HERO

Firebird/ £7.99 cass/£12.99 disk

Macca You and your alsatian, Killer (named after his most amiable quality) have been parachuted into a politically sensitive tropical country, where you are ordered to recover some stolen peace plans.

Unfortunately, you and your 'best friend' have a little mid-air tiff and end up going your separate ways during the descent. Mildly concerned about the fate of your slavering dog, the fact that the ground is rushing towards you at 42 feet per second slips your mind.

Crunch!

You land badly, damaging some vital equipment (and your chances of ever having a family). Not only that, but the place is swarming (and we are talking locusts here) with enemy troops, who have been alerted to your presence by your raucous cry as you hit the ground. And on top of all that, you've still got the four stages of your mission to carry out as well.

First: find your yapping canine. Second: kill the stupid mutt or locate the enemy camp and assassinate the leader. Third: search out the helicopter base and destroy it with your limited supply of mines. Fourth: escape. What could be easier?

Due to an incredible stroke of luck, you managed to retain your rifle, some ammo, a homing beacon, a cipher (which receives messages from a surveillance satellite), and a battery to power all those things. And all the enemy soldiers appear to have fingers made of butter, because there are discarded magazines all over the place.

So off you go trudging through a flick screen jungle, slipping through passages, climbing into sub-terrainean caverns, shooting the occasional soldier who's dumb enough to cross your path (yawn), finding the dog who will leap forward into the attack as soon as any enemies appear, trudging through some more jungle, shooting the... (snore).

The jungle locations are unremarkable and almost identical to each other. Sick looking but colourful palm trees on the surface, and a gloomy array of stalagmites and stactites underground. All the characters are huge, nearly one third screen height, and well detailed. They're all protected from colour clash by a thick black *Dark Sceptre* mask. The central character animates very well, crouching and turning convincingly, and the enemy soldiers crumple satisfyingly when shot.

But the gameplay has a lot to be desired. All the screens are too much alike and you spend most of your time getting lost or being lost (which ever is most interesting). Shooting the soldiers is not difficult, since they're so big. You just fire and they're history.

All this collects into one massive heap of boredom. Not even finding the enemy camp can resurrect it. I feel something could have been done to heighten the tropical atmosphere, like the odd fly buzzing past, or having water percolate from the stalactites or something.

And it's a pity you can't shoot the dog.

YS CLAPOMETER

Tedious and thin tropical maze game. Good graphics but not enough action, not enough atmosphere, and too much boredom.

GRAPHICS	■■■■■■■■□□
PLAYABILITY	■■■■■□□□□□
VALUE FOR MONEY	■■■■■□□□□□
ADDICTIVENESS	■■■■□□□□□□

5

JOYSTICK JUGGLERS

How are Sean's spoon-balancing antics progressing? Is Jonathan still called Jonathan? Has Marcus been totally replaced by fairy liquid bottles and sticky-backed plastic? You want answers? Oh dear, you probably won't get them here.

Richard Blaine – Of all the columns in all the computer mags in all the world, Richard has to walk into this one. Give him a decent game and he'll 'play it again' (and again and again).

Sean Kelly – Sean, the planet Earth's most distinguished spoon-balancer has been returned to our planet by the aliens who kidnapped him several months ago.

Jonathan Davies – The man who liked Martech's *Shoot Out* so much he gave it four, Jonathan has recently taken up Sumo Wrestling. Watch out for him on Channel Four's Grand Basho tournament later in the year.

Ciarán Brennan – People have difficulty pronouncing Ciarán's name – so we'll put the record straight. The first part sounds like 'life peer' (without the 'life' bit) and the second part sounds like 'an', 'un' or 'on', depending on where you come from. Some people just call him Karen.

Phil South – Hemel Hempstead's answer to Mr Creosote and still raking in the royalties from his adventure game *Fish*, Phil still finds time to relax in front of the telly whilst scoffing three times his own body-weight in cheeseburgers.

Marcus Berkmann – Journalist extra-ordinaire Marcus has recently found a new hobby. Heartlessly casting his macrami needles to one side, he's picked up a length of string and discovered the excitement of Cats Cradle making.

David 'Fab Macca' McCandless – Last but not least it's the new *YS* heart-throb (if you don't know why, check out the mugshot on the *Pitstop* pages).

YS SCORES

10 – Mike Tyson's Punch Out
9 – Nick Faldo's Golf
8 – Ghost 'n Goblins
7 – Dan Dare (Really Cool Game)
6 – Crazy Cars
5 – Hard Hat Mack
4 – Mel Bolton's Bowling Ball
3 – Road Wars
2 – Little Puff in Dragon Land
1 – Guy Fawkes Goodbye Sheet

ANCIENT BATTLES

YOUR SINCLAIR MEGAGAME

ENCYCLOPEDIA of WAR

CCS/£14.95 cass

Martin Now this is my sort of program. CCS has published some excellent wargames for the Spectrum over the last few years, and if *Ancient Battles* were just another goodie then I would probably be telling you to rush out and buy it.

But the program is actually far more than that: it is a system by which you can design your own battles, choosing two armies from a total of 24 historical nations from the ancient world and picking the topography of the battlefield as well. So I'm *ordering* those of you who are strategy buffs, to rush out and buy it. On the double.

When you first load up the tape the program automatically sets up the battle of the River Hydaspes, one of the four pre-designed scenarios which come with the game. Hydaspes was a battle fought in 326 BC between Alexander the Great and an Indian army which far outnumbered him. He won, of course.

Hydaspes is an excellent simulation. The graphics are very crisp, and the mechanism by which you can give your troops orders is simple. You scroll about the map, observing where your units and the enemies' are. Then you put the cursor on one of your units, and hit fire. You can either order it to move to wherever you move the cursor to, or you can tell it to follow another unit. This means that you can set the whole thing up so that you only have to tell four or five of your 20 or so units what to do each turn, and the rest will follow them. Much more realistic, and much less time consuming than giving each unit individual orders.

You can choose to play against the computer, or up to two of your friends. You can also pick something called 'shared command': this means that the computer takes the roles of the subordinate commanders in the battle, and decides what they will do within certain guidelines which you lay down at the start of the game — advance, defend or skirmish.

Generals are important, as you can only give two orders per General. If you don't have enough, then you won't be able to use all your troops effectively.

There's not a lot more that needs to be said about the actual battle program. Judging from the various factors listed in the rules book, it is a faithful and successful attempt to translate table-top wargames rules into a computer format. It takes into account morale, fatigue, flank and rear attacks, the psychological effects of friendly units and a host of other things. Given the three other scenarios you get, what you have is a brilliant package of games for the wargame or strategy afficionado.

The real strength of the program is the 'design-your-own' battle option. What I was expecting was a program which let me choose which two of 24 possible nations I wanted to have a battle between, to choose how big the armies were going to be and what units they would consist of and to design my own battlefield. In short, I thought I was going to get all the flexibility of table-top wargaming in a computer program. And I did — plus some extra bits that I hadn't expected.

What I hadn't expected was the flexibility and ease of use of the whole system. Plus I hadn't expected the sheer detail it offers when you are choosing an army. Not only do you get to choose what nation you want to fight with: you also get to choose a particular type of army from a particular campaign. So you can choose a Professional Roman army, from the first century BC and onwards, from the eastern or western half of the Roman empire...

Having designed your own army (and saved it!) you can then design the battlefield you want to fight over. Very simple: just choose the size, then start slapping scenery down. Move the cursor to where you want a wood to be, check the terrain list at the bottom of the screen for the right key for woods, hit it and presto! you've repaired part of the damage caused by the October Hurricane without getting your boots muddy! Same thing for everything else — just remember rivers should go somewhere too!

Even without the do-it-yourself option, *Ancient Battles* is a great package. In fact it could well be the best buy for a strategy gamer for 1989. Unless, or course, CCS releases another in what I suspect is going to be a series of Encyclopedia Of War games.

YS CLAPOMETER

An excellent package: good game with added bonus of 'design your own battle' mode.

GRAPHICS
PLAYABILITY
VALUE FOR MONEY
ADDICTIVENESS

9

L.E.D STORM

US Gold/£8.99 cass/£12.99 disk

Matt Whizzing along in your special supersonic (I'll bet) supercar at hair-raising speeds through a city centre isn't the wisest thing to do at the best of times, I'm sure you'll agree. You are liable to get pulled over or even sent down for frightening old ladies, creating unacceptable noise levels and generally being a ruddy nuisance (Mr. Spencer).

The driver in US Gold's *LED Storm* is even more reckless though. He obviously thinks that if you use a road you must be totally hatstand cos he likes nothing better than to race across the tops of city buildings, using his handy jump button to bound from one to another.

What's so wrong with that, you might say? Boys will be boys and all, and it's not as if he's harming anyone — except for flaking a bit of ceiling plaster and spilling a few nice cups of tea each time he lands. All very well, I answer self-righteously, until you topple off the edge and plummet to the ground, causing untold inconvenience to those below, and proving yourself to be a rather inconsiderate and anti-social individual after all.

LED Storm is all about this sort of wacky lark, though, to be fair, our hero does eventually take his high jinks out into the desert where he's less likely to be a bother. And — cue fanfare — quite fun it all is too, though there doesn't seem to be a great deal of variation between the nine levels once you've got over the shock of a new background colourway (as they say in Habitat and all good furniture shops).

The first thing to be said is that it's all very fast — even more so when you keep the pedal to the metal, your foot to the floor and your knees in the weeds (?). The screen scrolls upwards at such a rate that obstacles such as twists and splits in the road, boxes, other cars and chasms are often upon you before you've time to do anything about it. Worst of all are the small gangs of thugs who grab hold of the back of your car, dragging behind you until you slow right down. Most frustrating, and best dislodged, I found, by making a tactical minor crash into some other object.

Unless you collect extra fuel/energy/whatever, you are going to run out of steam long before the end of a level. So do this by collecting letters that litter the track to build up the word ENERGY, and by jumping into the air to collect the floating fuel drums, which look like hot air balloons or light bulbs (take your pick). Be careful when you jump though — failure to look ahead could place you tottering on the edge of the roadway, then falling majestically to your doom like the Coyote in a *Roadrunner* cartoon.

Later levels take place along sandy valleys, through caves, across a coral reef and so on, ending up in cloud city which is just like the first level except, erm, cloudier. Some of the objects and nasties change, but the game, like the song, remains the same — a quick, fun blast through a twisty, turny environment.

Soundwise it's on the minimalist side — a high pitched squeal whenever you spin the car, and a wibbly sort of noise as you jump being the most noticeable. Sprites are small and not particularly striking, but it is the speed of the thrills that makes the game, not the graphics. It's also the only way that I personally know to fully enjoy the thrill of driving along building tops that doesn't require the co-operation of a few ropes, a winch (to get the car on the roof), a ramp (to get the car into the air and heading in the direction of another roof), another building (one that doesn't mind being landed on by a heavy and out of control car) and the local constabulary (to prevent yourself being locked away and later heavily featured on the *News At Ten* as a dangerous loony).

Circumstances and practicalities thus conspiring so neatly against my partaking of my favourite sport, I am reduced to playing the simulation instead, which is one of the reasons why I still work on a computer magazine (and not the mail room at an institution for the criminally insane), and why happy shoppers are still safe to walk the streets around Castle Rathbone, free from the fear of tumbling metal.

YS CLAPOMETER

A futuristic, vertically scrolling racing game that is only average in most areas except (EXCEPT!!) for speed — where it positively stomps on most rivals.

GRAPHICS
PLAYABILITY
VALUE FOR MONEY
ADDICTIVENESS

7

QUESTION OF SPORT

Elite/£14.99 cass & disk

Ciarán I'm sorry folks, but I've got no time for *A Question Of Sport* anymore – now that Emlyn's defected to *Physical Pursuits*, that's the proggie for me. Lovable old Em' may have ditched the trendy sweaters for the red chic of a silky tracksuit, but the combination of naff *It's A Knockout* games and a female co-presenter who's springier than Zebedee from *The Magic Roundabout*, makes this the highest point so far of Emlyn's distinguished TV career.

Now that he's gone, *A Question Of Sport* is a shadow of its former self. Em's replacement, Ian Botham may have a couple of natty sweaters tucked away in his wardrobe, but his giggle is too manly and his line of patter with big Bill leaves a lot to be desired – bring back Emlyn, that's what I say!

Elite's licensed computer game seems to have ignored the passing of Emlyn though, and manages to accurately reflect the TV programme's current format. Either one or two players take control of the respective teams and choose two team mates from a picturesque selection. This choice only really matters when it comes to the 'Home Or Away' round, as the chosen player's natural sport will decide the question.

Along with 'Home And Away', all of the other old favourites are here including 'What Happened Next' and that age old favourite, 'The Picture Board'. Each question is answered from a choice of four, with a fairly speedy timer clicking down and adding to the tension.

The only niggles I found in the presentation were that the correct answer wasn't given if a player guessed incorrectly, and that the whole event was over a bit too quickly. The first of these niggles could actually be taken as an advantage though, as it means that the supply of five question blocks may last a little longer. The manual states that each block of questions may start to repeat after four games, but in my experience, certain questions were making a re-appearance second time around.

Overall, *A Question Of Sport* is a competent sports trivia game with a slightly flat TV presentation. The lack of sound is definitely a drawback, but everything else measures up well. If you're the type who knows who partnered Martina Navratilova in the 1982 Wimbledon Mixed Doubles tournament, then this is an absolute necessity.

YS CLAPOMETER

Accurately captures the concept, but lacks a lot of the spirit of the real thing. A nice treat for sports fans though.

GRAPHICS	■■■■■■■□□□
PLAYABILITY	■■■■■■■■□□
VALUE FOR MONEY	■■■■■■□□□□
ADDICTIVENESS	■■■■■■■□□□

7

COMPUTER MANIACS DIARY

Domark/£6.95

Ciarán Dear Diary, I'm glad to find out that today is a Bratislavian bank holiday, that it's also a good day to attempt to cut out some of my more unsavoury personal habits and that the temperature in Sierra Leone will be somewhere between zero and boiling — but can I now please make some entries of my own?

The Domark twins describe this timely release as 'a little bit of light entertainment' and that it certainly is, combining a series of loosely related sub programs inside a clever and easy to use 'diary' format. The only thing that's missing is the ability to make daily entries (other than the 30 character reminder message), so budding Adrian Moles will have to look elsewhere.

The basic idea is that you load the program up every day, enter the relevant data (the time, your own birthday and so on) and the screen will fill with loads of info including horoscopes, games and personal statistics. However, try as I might, I couldn't get it to remind me to phone my mother on July 7th, but I assume that this is an isolated error as everything else I attempted worked fine.

The games section is quite entertaining, comprising a short trivia teaser, an even shorter hangman outing and the silliest thing I've ever seen on any computer screen — a wordsquare! It's like giving you a blank crossword grid on screen and expecting you to fill it in with a pen.

Other little pieces of daily tomfoolery include a snack recipe (usually consisting of some type of inedible sandwich) and a guide to your own daily bio-rhythms — some sort of scientific way to tell whether you're in a bad mood or not. There's also a section on phone numbers of major software producers, but a quick glance at this was enough to reveal that two out of the first three entries were incorrect so I wouldn't care to think how accurate the whole list is.

The weather forecast section is a bit dubious as well — I mean how can Domark possibly predict the weather for every day of the year? Ian MacCaskill can't manage it and he has the massed technology of the British Met board to consult with.

Silliness aside, this diary will probably be well used in the Brennan household. After all, there are not many programs outside of the games world that provide as much entertainment as this — and it's also a bit useful in its own little way. Give it a try if you fancy stretching your Speccy out of the realm of alien zapping.

YS CLAPOMETER

Not so much a game, as an entertaining and occasionally useful utility.

GRAPHICS	☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
PLAYABILITY	☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
VALUE FOR MONEY	■■■■■■■■■☐
ADDICTIVENESS	■■■■■■■■☐☐

8

SDI

Mediagenic/£12.99 cass/£14.99 disk

Macca *SDI* puts you in control of a satellite, central point of the Strategic Defence Initiative (Wow, this guy really knows his abbreviations — a wealth of suitably impressed readers) as it orbits the Earth and tries to destroy the squillions of nuclear warheads heading America's way.

Luckily, the satellite is fairly manoeuvrable and can zip about the screen pretty sharpish. Missiles, fighters and other killer satellites slide in from all angles. They either attack you, shoot you, or more likely just get in the way. A cursor follows you around and can be trained on any offending space craft to reduce it to ion particles — or whatever laser beams reduce things to.

But all these things are just decoys and distractions to lure you away from the real targets — the nuclear warheads. These glide through the screen silently and insidiously and must be vapourised before you can breathe with relief. If one of them manages to slip past you, then you'll have to play a defensive section and protect the Earth from a shower of splintering warheads.

The graphics are stylish and detailed, and animate very well (rotating, spinning, and gyrating) but they're arthritic when it comes to moving. They jerk across the screen as if in pain. Only the warheads move smoothly, but that's because they're so silent and insidious.

Although the satellite responds quickly to your wishes, the switchable cursor moving is very difficult to master and so frustrating.

All this is very straightforward. A simple rejuvenation of the *Missile Command* game, with a few extra pixels added for old times sake. The lure of extra levels, foes and difficulty creates an incentive for a couple of games, but it lacks that magical programming sparkle to make the attraction last any longer.

YS CLAPOMETER

Detailed but arthritic graphics don't help to alleviate the montony and dullness of this mediocre shoot'em up.

GRAPHICS
PLAYABILITY
VALUE FOR MONEY
ADDICTIVENESS

6

THE MUNSTERS

Again Again/£9.99

Phil What do they mean, Again Again? Have we seen this game before? No we haven't, so what's the crack? Oh, Again Again is the sister label to Alternative Software, eh? Hmm.

The Munsters made a welcome return to the screen when Channel Four began re-showing programmes from the sick sixties. (Most of you weren't around then, I know, but you didn't miss much. In fact, *The Munsters*, *Batman* and *The Monkees* were some of the best bits and you've probably seen them.) But what about a computer game for the eighties? Hmm, I don't know?

Admittedly the game is a state of the art, multiload arcade adventure with nice big sprites wandering around the Munster mansion, and horrid little flying sprites, and big characters chasing you. BUT when all is said and done it *is* still just a pick 'em up/shoot 'em up!

In look and feel the game resembles the *Rocky Horror Show* (remember that?) and this is no big surprise. You wander around the mansion picking up 'mystery' objects in the hope that you can rid the place of flying gribblies. You have 'spellpower' and you limply throw these balls of spell at the flying creatures and they explode — sometimes.

Some of them are impervious to your spells, unless you hit them more than once. And your spell power, indicated by the level of juice in the bottle on screen, drops each time you get hit by one of these creatures. Pretty regular fare, I think you'll agree, nosepickers. The dippiest thing about the game is that you only have one life. Why insist on *that* point of realism in the plot when the rest is so improbable, hmm, mon petite chuckie eggs? No reason at all, as far as I can see.

So what's the verdict on this *Munster* monster multiload? I think it should have been left in the dungeon till Again Again came out with a better idea. Fans of the series will like it for the tie-in, but don't expect anything too special. Still it is a large game, so offers reasonable value.

YS CLAPOMETER

TV tie-in, based on sixties monster show, from the makers of Terramex, but not as good.

GRAPHICS
PLAYABILITY
VALUE FOR MONEY
ADDICTIVENESS

6

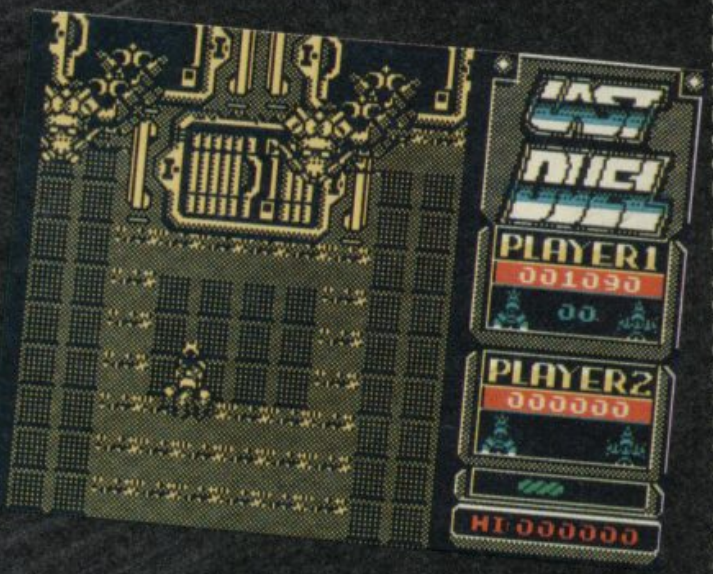
LAST DUEL

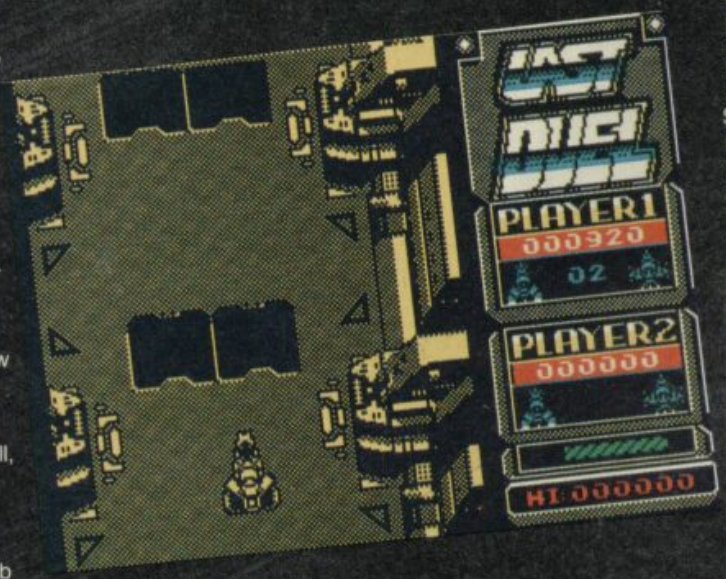
US Gold/ £8.99cass/ £12.99 disk

Davey Blimey O'Reilly! If I was faced with a road like the one on the first screen of *Last Duel*, I'd probably take an alternative route! I mean it's worse than the M1, judging by the number of holes and bumps in it. Mind you at least the M1 is bereft of gun turrets blasting away and crazy cars that come speeding up behind you — which aren't just trying to read your car stickers!

This, then is *Last Duel*, the latest from US Gold, and it's a vertical scrolling, overhead viewpoint, shoot 'em up in which you control a fabulous three wheeled vehicle — no not a Reliant Robin — an armoured, rocket powered mean machine which becomes a rocket fighter on alternative levels. There's some loony story about twin planets and princesses to be rescued too, but the only difference this makes to the game is that if you didn't know it, you would be totally baffled when on completing the game, some crazy chick called Sheeta (Oo-er!) comes onto the screen to wink at you!

Anyway back to the game. What we have here is a sort of *LED Storm* but with guns and a meanie at the end of each level. At the end of the first level the meanies appear in the form of three Chinese New Year procession dragons. I don't know about you, but I always rather liked these when I saw them on telly and it seems a little unkind to machine gun them to bits. Still, if you wanna get onto the next screen . . . blast away! Once there you step into a flying machine, to fly in the 'Golden Mystery Zone' as the game blurb calls it. Blast the giant bat meanie at the end and it's back to the three wheeler, and so on. Like *LED Storm* you can boost your vehicle's bits by driving through icons. In this game the icons are letter P's and they will give your gun rapid fire capabilities (Can I have a pee please, Bob?).





Last Duel is fast and tricky but it's a bit too samey for my liking. The vertical scrolling is smooth and fast, but the road overlaps onto side screens and scrolling in this direction is a bit jerky. Colour is limited as usual, which is a pity and makes a fast moving game like this all the more tricky, as you have to distinguish between incoming and outgoing bullets!

Another little moan is that the game is a multi-load and it's always more difficult to get into a game when you have to break off the gameplay to load each level. On top of all this, value for dosh, in my opinion, is affected by the fact that this game only comprises six levels. Ho-Hum! Still, if you have room in your games collection for another rolling road/scrolling space blast 'em up, then this is a fast, difficult example with some variety.

YS CLAPOMETER

Lip smacking', joystick jugglin', vertical scrollin', long on loadin', fast and challengin', samey shoot 'em up.

GRAPHICS
PLAYABILITY
VALUE FOR MONEY
ADDICTIVENESS

6

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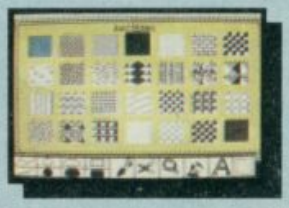

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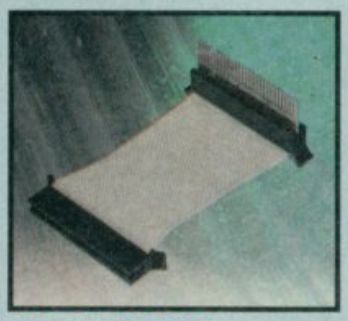

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WEC LE MANS

Eeeeeeeooooowwwww!!! Could this be the best car racing game yet? *Matt Bielby* gets his crankshaft (fnar) in gear to find out.

Wooaahh! You're approaching this corner too fast. Put the brakes on and change down a gear. Remember — Captain Tread says 'Safety first!'

It's not much fun being a Le Mans 24 hour racing driver. First you get strapped to the front of a giant petrol tank containing a trillion gallons of highly dangerous fluid. Eeek! That's enough to put most people off for a start.

Then they send you off around a twisty, turny, treacherous track at 200 miles an hour, with 30 or more totally mad people to join you. And that's not the worst!

The worst is that they make you do it for 24 (24!!) hours non stop (well, actually, that's a bit of a lie) and feed you full of coffee to keep you awake. All very well, but what they haven't thought of is providing any way to, erm, 'do your business,' without stopping and losing the race. Ouch! Maybe a full bladder is an added incentive to winning and getting first in the queue to the little drivers room.

But in Ocean's new game *WEC Le Mans* you *can* stop playing at your convenience to use the, er, convenience. And there are so many other good things about *WEC Le Mans* I don't know where to start.

This is possibly the best Speccy race game we've seen since *Enduro Racer*, knocking *OutRun* and the rest into the pits. Indeed, though the graphics and animation are perhaps not quite up to *Enduro* standard, *WEC Le Mans* manages to remember where the other cars are meant to be in relation to you rather better, so it's a real race against other cars instead of just the clock.

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START

HOW TO LOSE THE RACE, WITH CAPTAIN TREAD

Hello, I'm Captain Tread, your advanced driving instructor. The ups, downs and bends on this Le Mans course can be very dangerous, unless you know the drill. That's where I come in — I'm here to help.

Look! There are some cars in front of you! Don't just plough through them, you could cause a nasty accident. Beep your horn and only pass if and when they have pulled to the side of the road. Captain Tread says 'Think before you overtake!'

Hey, be careful, you could do someone an injury just pulling out like that. Mirror, indicate then (and only then) manoeuvre. Captain Tread says 'You're not the only driver on the road — don't forget it!'

STAGE ONE

WEC Le Mans has lovely large car sprites, a challengingly curvey track and a smooth set of acceleration/braking/gear change controls. However, there are no surprises at all in the gameplay: bonus points and extra time are given if you manage to make each successive time checkpoint and you spin off if you hit the trees, barriers or other cars.

This total lack of anything unexpected is perhaps the game's weakest feature. For example: the game is based on the one famous race course so each lap is exactly the same as the last, which may help it become a good simulation of the repetitiveness of an actual race but is not exactly a selling point.

Get far enough and the course switches to night for a bit, where it all gets a bit more difficult 'cos you can't see a thing except headlights!!

So, a rather fine racing game that works exactly as it's meant to but is very hard to write much about because it's so simple. With two of the best racing games *(Enduro Racer* and *Super Hang On)* being about bikes, *WEC* perhaps gets 'best car race' by default. We're impressed with it — but we wouldn't buy the company. *(Oh I don't know! Ed)*

Slow down — you're driving like there's no tomorrow. Captain Tread says, 'Imagine you have an elderly relative in the passenger-seat drinking a mug of Ovaltine.'

STAGE TWO

GRAPHICS	■■■■■■■■■□
PLAYABILITY	■■■■■■■■■□
VALUE FOR MONEY	■■■■■■■■□□
ADDICTIVENESS	■■■■■■■■■□

Game ..... *WEC Le Mans*
Publisher ..... Ocean
Price ..... £9.95 cass/£14.95 disk

Hey! Slow down even more, put your headlights on dip and keep both hands on the wheel. Captain Tread says 'Don't forget, even though it's a clear, sunny day, there's still might be fog around the next corner.'

Remember! Safe motoring can save lives. Cheerio!

That's no way to take a chicane — this 'racing line' business may get you through fast, but should you skid you may cause injury. Captain Tread says 'Stay on the left hand side of the road — treat the racetrack as you would a busy street.'

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Bleuurgghh! Worra naff bag! The only thing worth carrying in a thing like that are three week old egg mayonnaise sandwiches and a wagon wheel. Yuk!

Clark's sensible shoes in the extra wide fitting for flat feet! Maybe useful for picking up the dog turds but have zilcho cruciality.

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Brad Ford

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wet suit DREAMS

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ship ahoy! squelch into a rubber wet suit and pick up 25 copies of Dinamic's NAVY MOVES in our easy to enter compo.

Remember the splash *Army Moves* caused a year ago? Well, splice the mainbrace and up the periscopes 'cos Dinamic is about to release the sequel, *Navy Moves* and if you want to see what it looks like have a peek at page 16. Suitably impressed? Well lucky for you, you can drop anchor and stow away a copy 'cos Dinamic has offered 25 copies in our very fishy compo. But wait! If you're a real hearty seaman you'll be prepared to go for the big one.

BLISTER ME BARNACLES

Yes, something all budding Jacques Cousteaus would sell their favourite frigate for – a complete diving suit with weightbelt, snorkel, face mask and flippers. Plus there's a couple of hours of tuition so you can be assured of not getting your flippers in a fuddle. Oo la la! So what do ya have to do to get the booty?

IN THE NAVY . . .

Crikey, it's such a cinch you'd be a dork not to enter. Just turn your sights to the picture shown elsewhere on this page. Beneath the sexy rubber suit our dishy (ha ha) diver has secreted a banana so he can have an underwater nibble later on to stop him getting the bends (Oo-er)! All you've go to do is spot where he's hidden the banana by circling it in ink pen and then answer the tie-breaker below. Once you've done that fill in the coupon with your name and address and send the whole ship's log to Hello Sailor Is That A Banana Sticking Out Of Your Wet Suit Or Are You Just Pleased To See Me Compo, *YS*, PO Box 1509 Enfield, Middlesex EN1 1LQ.

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- No mutineering on the good ship T'zer or you'll end up having your mainbrace spliced.

You won't be keel-hauling me 'cos I spotted the banana and I can answer the peasy tie-breaker too.

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A: .....

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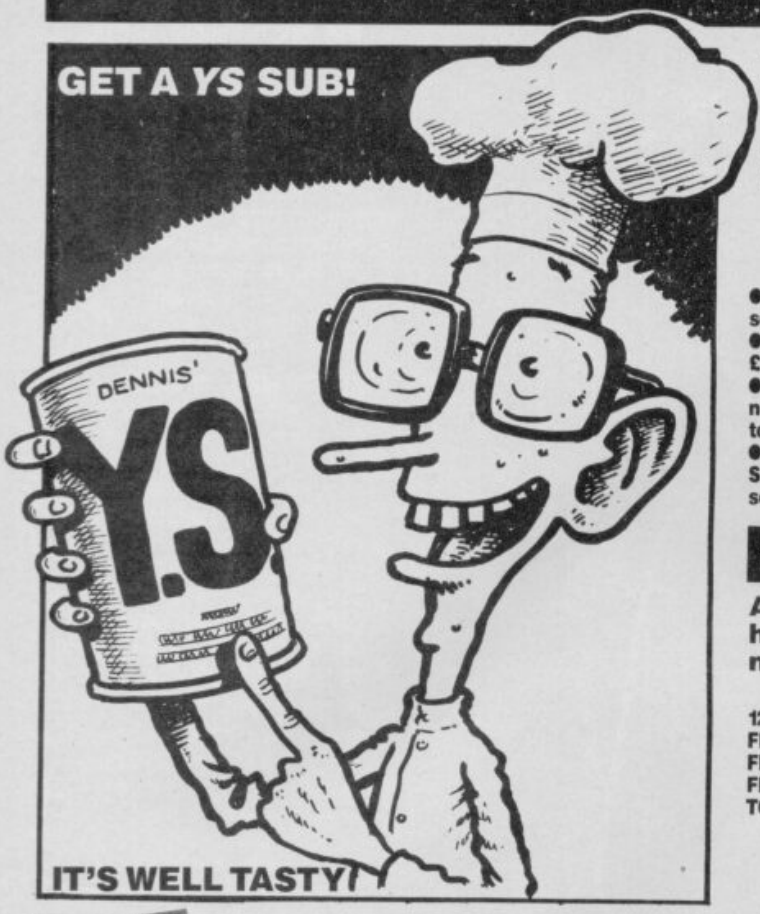

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YS adventu

Before I begin, it's time to use the OOPS command again and correct something from an earlier issue. Correct two somethings in fact. Not that either of them is my fault. I mean, is it my fault that **Paul Brunyee** goes and moves before the review of his game *One Dark Night*... appears in print? No, course not. But just for the record, in case you're a slow reader and haven't yet got round to the review in the December issue, when you come to send in your order send it to Paul's new address 17 Campion Close, Narborough, Leicester LE9 5WQ.

The second oops ain't my fault either, it's that Scottish scoundrel's **Tom Frost,** who's obviously been at the drinks cabinet again. The definitive shortest solution to his game *Double Agent* that he sent me for printing in the magazine turns out to be not quite the definitive shortest solution after all. He only took it out of the wrong folder, and sent me a solution to a pre-release version. McPlonker! So now he's sent me what he assures me is quite definitely and without doubt positively and most assuredly the shortest solution to *Double Agent* that exists. Maybe. This one is in 139 moves, and if you're interested in seeing a copy then send your sae's to yours truly as I've added it to my list of freebies. And now, on with the main event.

How's this for starters? Reader **Stuart Lord** recently sent me his new address, saying he'd moved in order to start a new job with the Ministry of Defence in darkest Buckinghamshire. He can't say more than that for security reasons, but he reassures me that their computer system doesn't have any adventure games on it. I'm relieved to hear it. Quite a few games have a DROP BOMB input, and we wouldn't want it taken the wrong way, would we? And can you imagine playing *The Hobbit?* One bug and you could have the entire RAF on red alert.

Let's quickly get on to more mundane matters, and the question of keyboard overlays. Several readers have recently bought *Lords Of Midnight* either second-hand or on a compilation tape, with the result that they're missing the keyboard overlay that came with the original version. The latest such overlay-less person is **Simon Johnson,** 29 Langford Way, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 2PD. Not that the object itself would do him much good as Simon's got a +3 and the overlay was only designed for ye olde rubber keyboard Spectrums, so can anyone tell him which keys do what? Come to that, can anyone tell me and I'll make the info available as a freebie as it's something that crops up quite often. Me and my copy of the game parted company a long time ago. Sigh.

Blizzard problems now, *Blizzard Pass.* Solutions supremo **Jim Magee** of 9 Kingscliffe Ave, Glasgow G44 4JW recently bought a second-hand copy of that adventure, but it looks like there's a fault on the tape. Or has anyone else got a version where, once the game has loaded, it doesn't matter what you type in at the start as it always replies, "No understandable words in that input." Any suggestions for solving the problem, other than returning the tape?

My thanks to **Stewart Heatley** of Andover for writing out a full solution to the game for me, and I didn't even hand over a badge to him for his efforts. (Andover, geddit?) Besides, I've told you before that they don't trust me with valuable objects like *YS* badges. But thanks anyway, Stewart. Hope your Speccy's better now.

Also in solution-sending mood was **David Jaundrell** from Penketh, who wrote out the solution to *Mindshadow* for me. What a kind chap. In return he'd like to know the code word for *Savage Island II.* But of course, me old chip butty, it's 321 YAS. Hardly worth writing backwards, was it?

Mark Kingston accuses me of libelling him last time he wrote, when he "stated that the academic year had just ended, giving rise to complaints of how easy student's life was from a certain inhabitant of Castle Rathbone!" (Puts on Derek Jameson voice). Dush 'e mean me? Perish the thought. The thought of Derek Jameson, that is. Anyway, Mark says he does six months of studying and six months working in industry every year, so no lengthy summer hols for him. Sob-sob. During what few spare seconds he has, Mark's gone and got himself stuck in the ventilation shaft in part two of *Rigel's Revenge* and keeps getting killed. Help!

Right, once in the shaft you HTRON LWARC till you reach the junction, then TSEW to the end of the east-west shaft. There you GNINEPO ENIMAXE, NUG EKAT and REIDLOS TA NUG ERIF then finally HSEM HSUP.

When I think of **Darren Sellwood** I only think of one thing — *Corruption!* The corrupt Mr Sellwood is still engrossed in Magnetic Scrolls' last adventure, and sends in some tips and queries in the hope that someone somewhere is going to solve it soon — preferably him. Darren's got as far as finding the following useful objects — share certificate, affidavit, tape, documents, scented letter, key to David's office, stethoscope, operation papers, book of matches, screwdriver, credit card and car key. The screwdriver is found in the TNEMTRAPMOC EVOLG and can be used firstly to WODNIW RAC HSAMS and then to REWARD S'LLIB NEPO. The stethoscope is found in the hospital RAEB EHT NO, and can be used to EFAS S'DIVAD NEPO.

If you can answer any of the following questions, write to Darren at 40 Devonshire Rd, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 4LR where he's currently going corruptly mad. What do you say to your wife in the restaurant? How do you stop your car from blowing up? How do you prevent yourself from being shot by the fraud squad? And do you get to the party, get home, and get anywhere else important... pleeeeeeeeaaasssee?

Phil from Eltham Park is stuck in *Terrors Of Trantoss,* and wants to know how to open the safe. Nope, you don't use the stethoscope from *Corruption,* you ELOH OTNI FFATS TRESNI. To get past the sheer rock face you need to know that the splodge in the graphic is in fact a keyhole, believe it or not, and you open it with YEK ENOTS EHT. Phil sends some tips on *Wolfman* in return, one for each part. In the first part, how to enter the

RES

cave TNILF EKIRTS/KCOR NI ELOH TUC/TNILF DNA HSURLLUB TEG. In part two, when trapped in fortress by guards, DAED EB OT DNETERP. In part three, to get through the patchwork of flowers requires good mapping, but first be sure to SREWOLF KCIP and in each 'square' you should SMETS ENIMAXE as they get higher the further you get.

Vinh Quan from London's trendy N1 says that he can't get the RAM SAVE command to work in *The Serf's Tale*, which is mentioned on the inlay. The inlay's slightly misleading as you can't use the RAM SAVE command till you've got the Grimoire, but if you hold the Grimoire you can use the command and note that you have to type it backwards. So if I type them backwards as well they come out as RAM SAVE and RAM RESTORE.

The next letter's a fan letter, from **Mrs J. A. Williams** of Rugby, but I'll spare my blushes and miss out the wonderful things she says about the *YS* adventure pages. I'll hardly mention them at all. After agreeing with other readers and saying that the *A-Z Of Clues* was a great idea (okay, I'll do another one soon promise), Mrs Williams adds "I would like to endorse your view that as adventures are hard to find in the shops these days the best idea is to send off for them. I've done this for quite a while now and have been impressed by the friendliness of all concerned, so could you use your column to give a gold star and a big kiss to the following, Jack Lockerby of River Software, John Wilson of Zenobi, Tom Frost of Tartan and Linda Wright of Marlin, though she may not want the kiss. Please do urge your readers to give the above mentioned a try." Okay, consider yourselves urged, dear readers.

Dennis Reily of Northallerton has discovered a few peculiarities in the +3 version of *Bard's Tale*. First the '?' option isn't available, which should tell you your location and the time of day. Then there's no way to save the entire character menu other than using a Multiface, you have to store them in parties of six at a time. This leads finally to a cheat mode available on the 'Party Merge' option. You can load your party up to 19 times, and by mixing parties, and pooling and trading your goodies, you can multiply your loot 19 times!

And a final plea from **Kenny Jarman** of *Basic* fanzine fame. Kenny edits the mag and would like to take a stand at a future Microfair, but can't afford the £90 cost on his own. If any other magazine editors are interested in sharing a stand and splitting the cost, contact Kenny at 18 Popular Close, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire SG18 0EW.

news

Venture forth with Mike Gerrard

ILLUSTRATION: Anthony Colbert

If you think you can give Zenobi Software's latest release a wide berth just because it's an arcade-adventure along the lines of *Alien-8* or *Batman*, then think again. You'd also be missing out on t'other side, which contains nothing less than *Behind Closed Doors (The Sequel)*, and what a shame that would be. If you got the original you'll know that *Behind Closed Doors* was a case of 'Oh dear, what can the matter be . . . poor old Balrog is locked in the lavatory.' Yup, the aim was to escape from the smallest room in the house. But in the sequel an even worse fate is in store . . . locked out of the lavatory! And after last night's chicken vindaloo that could be very bad news indeed. So in yet another one-location game, can you get through the locked door before . . . well, before something hits something? I've been playing it for ages and have still only scored 7/104, though I've had a lorra lorra laughs along the way. There must also be more names to type in than in any other game you've ever seen.

***Behind Closed Doors (The Sequel)* costs £1.99 from Zenobi Software, 26 Spotland Tops, Cutgate, Rochdale, Lancs OL12 7NX. Regard the arcade/adventure, *Just One Of Those Days*, as a free bonus.**

I've already mentioned the new adventure club, Official Secrets, and though the subscription is high at £19.95 you do get an excellent magazine, *Confidential*, and free membership of it's companion club, Special Reserve. That offers cut-price software to members only, and the first price list is just out. It's got tons of arcade games, yes, but don't overlook the adventures bargains too. For the Speccy you could get *Silicon Dreams* on disk at £5.45, or tape for £4.95. *Time And Magik* is £7.47 in its +3 version, and *Ingrid's Back!* costs £9.97 on disk and £7.47 on tape. Also available, at roughly half the retail price, are things like *PAWS*, *GAC* and various Magnetic Scrolls and Level 9 titles. Other goodies to tempt you include a copy of *Gnome Ranger* when you join, and a free Magnetic Scrolls game called *Myths*, available for the +3 only. Loadsagoodies!

Just to keep the political balance even, here's a mention for the Adventurers Club Ltd as well. Members have been voting for the Golden Chalice Awards for a few years now, nominating their best adventurers of the year, but this time there's going to be a proper awards ceremony at, appropriately enough, the Sherlock Holmes Hotel in Baker Street. That's on February 25th, though it's limited to members only. As well as a buffet and a glass of wine, you'll have a chance to mingle with adventure celebs like Keith Campbell and (ahem) me (Mike Gerrard!) who'll even (faints with fear) be presenting one of the awards. Be there or be a square!

Since the death (or severe sickness at least) of *Adventure Contact* there's been no magazine whose main interest centred around the writing of adventures. Enter, stage left, *The Forge*. This is planned to be a bi-monthly magazine and is the brainchild of editor Shaun Allaton. He plans to include pieces about humour in adventure games, implementing ▶

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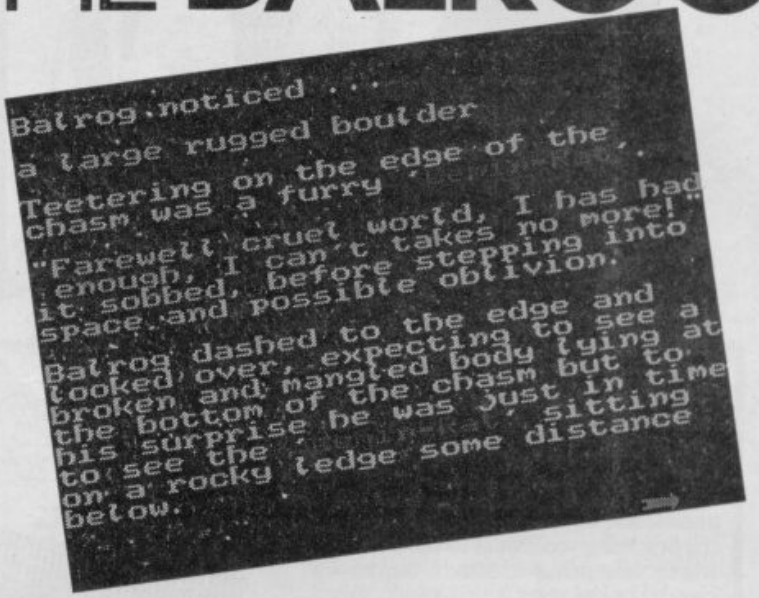
GET ALL on *GAC*, multi-part games, graphic tips (something many will welcome) and how to go about writing a game. The helpline will concentrate not on how to solve the latest adventure problem, but will deal with the difficulties of using *GAC* and *PAWS*. There's no price set yet till Shaun assesses the level of interest, so if you want to write for and/or subscribe to *The Forge*, send an sae to 61 Goldcrest Road, Ipswich IP2 0SF. At least Shaun's got off to a good start with what I think is an excellent title for a mag.

There's a Mole at Mastertronic, this one being called Adrian, as featured in Sue Townsend's mega-mega-best-selling books. The computerised version of Adrian's agonised diaries was done by Level 9 back in 1987, and a jolly good job it made of it too. The game has now been re-released under the title of *The Growing Pains Of Adrian Mole* on Mastertronic's Ricochet label as a Flippy-Flippy tape. The Flippy tape has a Speccy version on one side, and Amstrad CPC on t'other. Not really an adventure, as Level 9 always like to point out, even if games like this always do end up in the adventure reviewer's basket. At a budget price it'll pass a few hours quite enjoyably.

Would you know a good MUG if you saw one? Claimed to be two of the best multi-user games are *Gods* and *The Zone*, run by the wonderfully named Lap of the Gods Limited. From what I've heard, *Gods* could be highly addictive, while *The Zone* is definitely for adults only, which lets out most of the *YS* staff and readers. To find out about both, try 01-994 9119 on either 300/300 or 1200/75 baud. If you want to talk to a human being first about cost and so on, dial 01-994 5471 and you'll find a voice rather than a buzz at the other end.

And finally, it's time to add a new title to the vast list (well, vast-ish) of free help-sheets available from the adventure department in Castle Rathbone. If you're stuck in *The Quest For The Golden Eggcup* then bung your stamped addressed envelope in this direction and a help sheet will be bunged back. New readers, or even old readers with bad memories, should also send an sae if they want an up-to-date list of all the titles available.

THE BALROG AND THE CAT



The Balrog's back, on top form once again with this new release that really tickled my funny bone, not to mention my fancy. Right from the title screen, by ace artiste Kez Gray, the adventure shows the professionalism of all Zenobi's releases. A quick mention too for the bonus *Goblin Gazette* program on side two — not so much an adventure, more a browse through your favourite paper. I loved page three! (Oo-er!)

The main game starts innocently enough, with the beloved Balrog hearing a scratching sound at the door. Outside there's a small ball of smoke. Or so it seems, until it reveals itself as really being a cat with its tail on fire. It tells its tale of woe (ho-ho), that as pet to a short-sighted magician, the White Wassock (!), it's lost eight lives this year already, and the latest bit of bad spelling has transported it here to outside your front door. Can you help it at all? Admit it, you could never resist a piece of fluff, could you? So remembering that the old gypsy on the far side of the bridge might be able to help, orft you jolly-well go.

Well, eventually you do, but first search your cottage thoroughly — you might find a notebook containing a magic word and the ever-fashionable backwards-writing. Or even the secret passage to the smallest room in the house (okay, just outside it to be exact), which contains an entry form for the cockroach races. If this doesn't make sense at first, then a moving experience (in the cottage, not the bog!) gives a bit more information. Try talking to the cat and the cockroach, too.

On your journey you'll briefly meet Fuddo, Slam and Bulbo, and even our own dear T'zer puts in her by now compulsory appearance. But is it true what they say about Ekim Drarreg??? Surely not! And what can this reference be to seeing the Balrog in his red satin posing pouch where he keeps his valuables? Not an adventure for the faint-hearted, obviously.

It's an adventure where money comes in handy. There's free help available with every purchase at the pub, but food and beer cost one gold coin each, and where's a Balrog to get cash like that? Our old pal the troll on the bridge demands his gold coin too — and he wouldn't be fobbed off with the green-cheese sandwich I offered him either.

There are a few in-jokes along the lines of *Shadows Of Mordor, Golden Eggcup* and something called *Nigel's Revenge*, and as usual with Zenobi games the problems are all quite cleverly worked out. *The Quill* is well used too, with smart ways of getting round some if its shortcomings.

The Balrog And The Cat doesn't have many shortcomings, — though perhaps a bit easier than earlier John Wilson games, it should appeal to his many existing fans and win him a few more into the bargain. And it is a bargain too!

Graphics	■■■■■■■■□□
Text	■■■■■■■■□□
Value for Money	■■■■■■■■□□
Personal Rating	■■■■■■■■□□

8

Title ..... *The Balrog And The Cat*
Publisher ..... Zenobi Software, 26 Spotland Tops, Cutgate, Rochdale, Lancs OL12 7NX
Price £2.49

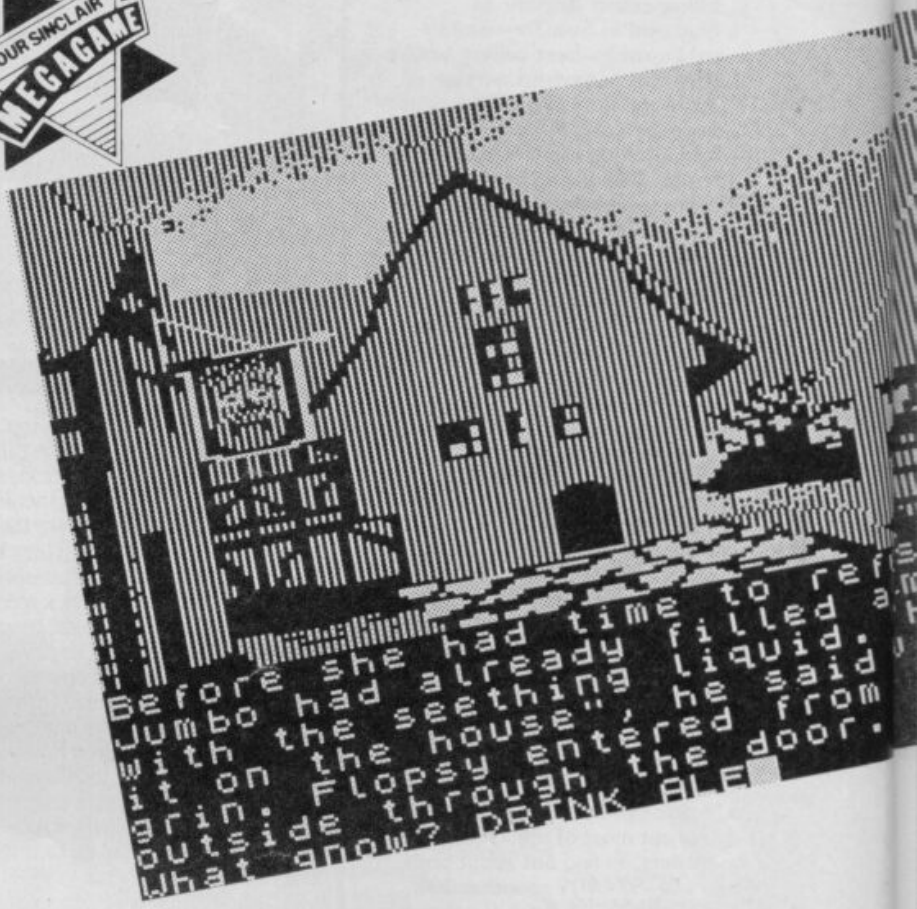
INGRID'

YOUR SINCLAIR MEGAGAME

This is the gnome o'clock gnews, and the gnews is that *Ingrid's Back!* with a vengeance, and with an exclamation mark as well. We all know that gnome gnews is good gnews, and if you enjoyed *Gnome Ranger* the first thing you'll want to know is whether the follow-up is in the same class? The bad news is that it isn't. The good news is that it's even better! More bad news is that the graphics are awful. But the good news is that there are no graphics in the tape versions anyway. And the goodest news of all is that the text is lengthy, funny and totally right for the game. In a word: brillicando! (This is a word I've just invented as nothing else is suitable.)

The +3 disk version has about 30 monochrome piccies on side two, but you can switch them off if you like or simply not turn the disk over in the drive. You can also slide them up and down with the cursor keys, if that's what turns you on. There are full editing facilities if you mistype anything, which I'm always doing on the +3 keyboard; a multiple UNDO command (lets you go back several moves); RAM SAVE and RESTORE; and save to disk (natch!) with room for up to 15 different positions on one disk.

Tape owners get three cassettes (one for each part of the three-part game) with 48K versions on one side and 128K on t'other. The 48K version lax pix, UNDO and RAM SAVE/RESTORE, while the 128K version merely lax pix and has expanded text. What more could you ask? What, you want a good adventure as well? Hang on, hang on, I'm coming to that.



First you'll be delighted to know that *Ingrid's Back!* returns to the familiar Level 9 packaging that we all know and love from the days of *Snowball* and before. In other words, it's all in a big black box with the "L9" logo written across it in white. And in the box is The Second Gnettlefield Journal, containing loading instructions, advice for beginners, a few hints and a copy of Ingrid's diary from Airsday the 16th of Gnovigour through to Fireday the 21st of Deadembers: a significant period in the annals of Little Moaning, Ingrid's home village.

In *Gnome Ranger* the very willing but exceedingly disaster-prone Ingrid was accidentally (on purpose) banished to the wilderness by her family. Now she's found her way back, and discovered that Little Moaning is about to be yuppified by Jasper Quickbuck, the new Lord of Ridley's Manor. This involves turfing all the gnomes out of their homes so the area can be 'improved', but if anyone can do something about it then Ingrid can, so to begin with she starts a petition against the planned evictions. Don't worry if you haven't played *Gnome Ranger* first, as you can go straight into *Ingrid's Back!* without playing the previous game.

The first part of the adventure shows how much Level 9 has come on since it introduced its new super-system with *Knight Orc*. That game gave the player a simple goal to begin with but had lots of wasted locations and any number of characters wandering round doing a very limited range of actions. Now Level 9 has added what it calls a 'racetrack' system for controlling other characters, giving them a much wider range of movements and greater interaction between them and the player. Locations are fewer but far more detailed, and you've only got to call in at the Green Gnome Inn to get a glimpse of what life is like on a busy day at Little Moaning. Characters wander in and out, talking to each other, ordering drinks, and very convincing it all is too. They also serve a good Ploughgnome's Lunch here — a raw turnip with the mud left on. Yummy!

What's retained from *Knight Orc* is the 'simple' initial quest, which is that Ingrid must get ten signatures on the petition

'S BACK

that she's carrying at the start. Some of the signatures are straightforward, and beginners will get a sense of achievement as their score grows and they get used to the many sophisticated commands within the game. Old hands (and they don't come any older than me) should whizz through in a few hours, chuckling all the while and only having to strain the grey matter over getting the last few signatures. Then the trouble really starts...

The text is cracking stuff, and Level 9 has been sensible enough to let Peter McBride loose on the whole game instead of limiting him to Ingrid's Diary as happened last time. There were some who said the diary was funnier than the adventure — not this time! I loved the fisherman, Boney Spratt — well actually he's the ferryman. But he spends a lot of time fishing in order to supply food to the Inn to feed the increasing number of travellers who stay there. This increase in inn dwellers is due to the fact that people can't get across the river due to the ferryman spending hours fishing to provide... you get the idea. You also get Boney's signature on your petition if you can get him his boat back. This is marooned on the other side of the river, and the bridge across is broken. The problem of getting over the bridge has a neat, original and very funny solution.

If you climb a ladder up to Mrs Tackhammer's bedroom window you discover her looking a bit flustered and red in the face. There are also creaking sounds coming from the wardrobe — an ideal time to give her your petition to sign I'd have thought! After you've got the first few names you're reminded which gnomes haven't yet signed, which is a good idea.

You can play all three parts independently if you like, but I've been trying to do them in the right order, so I can't tell you much about part three yet, except that it involves Ingrid infiltrating Ridley's Manor to try to put a final stop to Quickbuck's evil schemes. Petitions aren't very effective you see, which you discover at the start of part two when you're back with your family at Gnettlefield Farm. A steamroller's beating down on your house you see — shades of the start of *Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy* here, except that lying down in front of the steamroller doesn't do much good at all. Diversion works, though, and you'll have to make full use of commands like FOLLOW, FIND and so on. Pleasing to see that adventure-writers are getting to grips with sensible ways of using these features, instead of just implementing more sophisticated commands and then wondering what to do with them.

Not that the program's faultless, and that's the only thing preventing me from awarding it my first-ever personal mark of 10/10. At one point you have to enter a dogless carriage, but CLIMB IN/CLIMB INTO/ENTER/BOARD CARRIAGE all fail to work, and only the last one I tried, GET INTO CARRIAGE, is understood. Elsewhere I typed FIND MISTRESS SPRATT, which took me to Mr Spratt, and FIND MRS SPRATT took me to Mrs Tuckhammer. Oh well, nobody's perfect.

All in all, though, I've had more fun with *Ingrid's Back!* than with any adventure for ages, and it even pips the excellent *Lancelot* as being in my opinion... wait for it... the best Level 9 release ever. That'll set the gnome among the pigeons, but there can't be any denying the quality of this game. An ideal gnome exhibition if ever there was one.

Graphics	
Text	
Value for Money	
Personal Rating	9

Title	*Ingrid's Back!*
Publisher	Level 9, PO Box 39, Weston-super-Mare, Avon BS24 9VR.
Price	£14.95 cass/£19.95 disk

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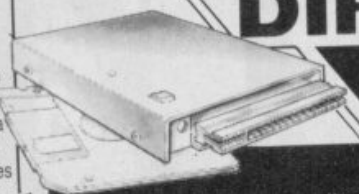

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ICE STATION ZERO

Graphics	
Text	
Value for Money	
Personal Rating	5

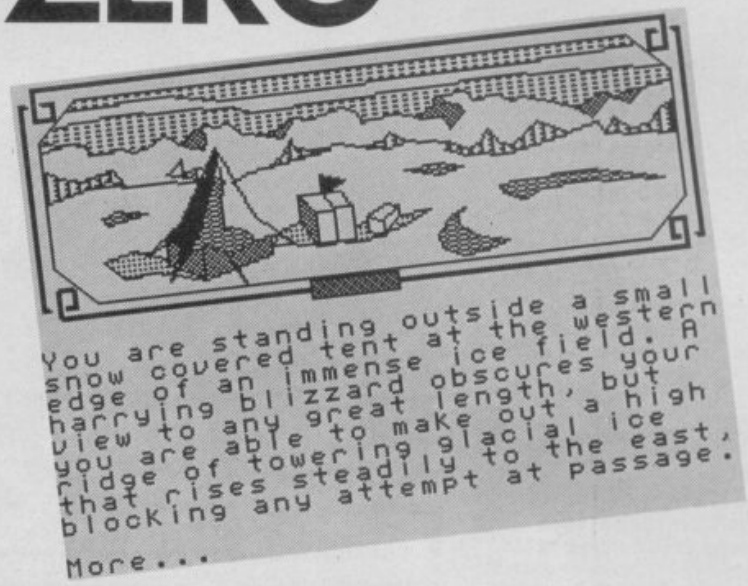
Title	*Ice Station Zero*
Publisher	Eighth Day Software, 18 Flaxhill, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside L46 7VH.
Price	£2.99

Ice Station Zero first appeared several years ago, and following 8th Day's policy of tarting up its old releases and putting them out again, here's the new improved version. But is it improved? Sadly the answer would seem to be no. It's now got graphics, and more text thanks to compression techniques (such as *The Press*), plus a RAM save/load feature, but the basic game is still the same and that now looks very dated and not worth the rather high asking price of £2.99.

The adventure begins with you outside a small snow-covered tent, with a blizzard obscuring your view except for a high ridge of towering glacial ice to the east. (I think we can safely assume that it's cold.) Inside the tent there are some objects, very few of which you can examine, while outside to the north are some huskies tied to a sledge (Mush, mush!). EXAMINE SLEDGE. "It does seem a shame to leave them tied up." It also seems a shame that after a response like this you have to SEARCH SLEDGE in order to survive the first few moves.

If you do survive the peril of the wolves, you might be able to make it across the ice floes. This is trickier than it should be because, after jumping to the first floe, if you try to JUMP EAST again you're returned to the previous location, whereas if you just type EAST you make it across to the next ice floe.

As usual with any 8th Day game, there is a heck of a lot of adventure in there, but I for one wasn't encouraged to seek it out because the whole thing really did look very dated indeed. It needed *PAW* and a complete re-write to make this one worth digging out of the archives, and it in no way compares to the shot in the arm that Smart Egg gave to *Quann Tulla/Federation*. A rare failure for 8th Day.



ADVENTURERS INTERNATIONAL

"Fergus McNeil is driving me mad!" says the first letter. Yeah, me too, 'cos the secretive swine won't let me tell y'all what Delta 4 is going to be up to soon! But this letter from **Sami Vuokila** of Finland is driving me crazy as well — no return postage, no full address, no nothing! "What is the combination to the door in *The Boggit?*" Sami asks. And Mike replies, in impeccable Finnish: SYADHTRIB EHT KCEHC.

Another letter from **Andy McCall** in South Africa, this time enclosing a newspaper cutting of Cape Town harbour where he lives. Very pretty. In *Demon From The Darkside* to get Stodge to accompany you, just EGDOTS TEG, but you have to drop everything else first and pick it all up again afterwards. In *Mindshadow* after you've DERAJ TOHS you should MAILLIW KNIHT/EGASSEM DAER/MOOR ENIMAXE.

KIND SOULS

Someone called **The Necromancer** writes from Aberdeen, where I believe there are a lot of Necromancers about, this particular one coming from 62 Kincorth Crescent, Kincorth, Aberdeen AB1 5AN. "I have been playing adventures for two years now," he says, "and have come to the conclusion that they outclass any arcade rubbish on the market." Took your time about, didn't you? Anyway, The Necromancer will answer letters on any of the following adventures, all of which he's completed in the last two years: *Spiderman, Hulk, Ship Of Doom, Gremlins, Secret Mission, Red Moon, NeverEnding Story, Lords Of Midnight, Sorceror Of Claymorgue Castle, Twin Kingdom Valley, Bored Of The Rings, Rigel's Revenge, Knight Orc I, Mountains Of Ket, Lord Of The Rings, Kobyashi Naru, Price Of Magik, Heroes Of Karn, Snowball, Kayleth, Hobbit, Gnome Ranger I/II, Adventure Quest, Colosssal Adventure, Return To Eden, Dungeon Adventure, Worm In Paradise.*

Now here's a very nice letter to get, from **Roger Dowdall,** 14 Dawley Green, South Ockenden, Essex RM15 5LW. Roger says that he's written to other readers often enough in the past asking for their help, and now he reckons it's his turn to be a Kind Soul. That's the spirit. And this is the mega-list, *Castle Eerie, Seeker Of Gold, Colour Of Magic, Jack And The Beanstalk, Ship Wreck, Enchanted Cottage, Bulbo, Little Hodcome, Blizzard Pass, Red Door, Dusk Over Elfinton, Jade Stone, Green Door, Cloud 99, Heroes Of Karn, Supergran, Zacaron Mystery, Kobyashi Naru, Mountains Of Ket, Temple Of Vran, Final Mission, Eddie Smith, NeverEnding story, Valkyrie 17, Necris Dome, Knight's Quest, Custerd's Quest, Colditz, Espionage Island, El Dorado, Robin Of Sherlock, Greedy Gulch, Pharoah's Tomb, Life Term, Manor Of Doom, Rigel, Shard Of Inovar, Loads Of Midnight, Warlord, Imagination, Castle Blackstar.*

And if you thought that list was long then you ain't seen nothing yet. There are a handful of readers who've completed so many adventures you wonder when they ever get time to eat and sleep and things like that. Such a mega-adventurer is **Jon 'Zapper' Rose,** who writes to apologise for the fact that he had to close his helpline for a few months when he got involved in trying to get a national Speccy 128 users' group off the ground. It decided to stay on the ground, however, through no fault of Jon's and this has left him with a redundant 'tapezine' program called *Enigma.* At the moment it only runs on 128K machines, but it could easily be adapted for 48K machines if need be. If anyone's interested in using it then contact Jon at 14 Lion Road, Nyetimber, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 3JZ.

That's also the address for help on any of the following adventures, which Jon says is not a complete list but includes the ones he thinks will be of most interest to most readers. If your game isn't included, and that includes arcade games and arcade-adventurers as well as straight adventures, then write and ask your question(s) with sae and Jon says he'll return your postage if he can't help! That's a bold claim, but then it's a bold list,' *NeverEnding Story, Dennis Through The Drinking Glass, Mindshadow, Lord Of The Rings, Hobbit, Mordon's Quest, Askeron, Very Big Cave Adventure, Robin Of Sherlock, Serf's Tale, Valhalla, Time Stood Still, Ranarama, Phantom Club, Freddy Hardest, Batman, Rastan, Head Over Heels, Athena, Sabre Wulf, Psycho Soldier, Underworlde, Movie, Knightlore, Legend Of Kage, Alien 8, Galvan, Nightshade, Elite (128K), Martianoids, Starglider (48/128K), Pentagram, Costa Capers, Gunfright, Magnetron, Cyberun, Terramex, Bubbler, Glider Rider, Atic Atac, Ghosts 'n' Goblins, Sweevo's World, Roller Coaster, Arc Of Yesod (128K), Thundercats, Nodes Of Yesod (128K), 3DC, Robin O'The Wood (128K), Doomsday Castle, Monty On The Run, The Pyramid, Auf Wiedersehen Monty, Drive-In, Shadowfire, Beaky And The Egg-Snatchers, Kokotoni Wilf, Dynamite Dan (I/II), Ant Attack, Jack And The Beanstalk, Star Paws, Airwolf, Manic Miner, Chuckie Egg (I/II), Jet Set Willy (I/II), Tir Na Nog, Astronut, Dun Darach, Spindizzy, Marsport, Moley Xmas, Cauldron, People From Sirius, Lords Of Midnight, Blind Panic, Brian Bloodaxe, Gift Of The Gods, Strangeloop, Impossible Mission, Pyjamarama, Bounty Bob Strikes Back, Everyone's A Wally, Pud Pud, Herbert's Dummy Run, S.O.S., Three Weeks In Paradise (128K), Aumaurote, Avalon, Universal Hero, Dragontorc, Finders Keepers, Astroclone, Spellbound (128K), Knight Tyme (128K), Technician Ted — The Megamix (128K), Firelord* and *Stormbringer* (128K). No apologies for including some of those titles, which are quite definitely more arcade than adventure, as I do get asked about them from time to time so now you know who the expert is. And I don't mean me.

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Let's face it, leaping around in front of the mirror wielding a piece of sporting 'kit' isn't liable to do you any good in the credibility stakes. A 'chick puller'? Not on your nelly, mate. In fact the signposts are up and you're dangerously near to Prattsville. Never mind, *YS* may be able to help.

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- **Entries not in by 31st March, 1989 may as well be invisible as well.**
- **Don't quibble with the final decision or Mutha T'zer may have to bang some heads herself!**

I'm pretty knowledgable about non-opaque 'axes' — and here's proof . . .

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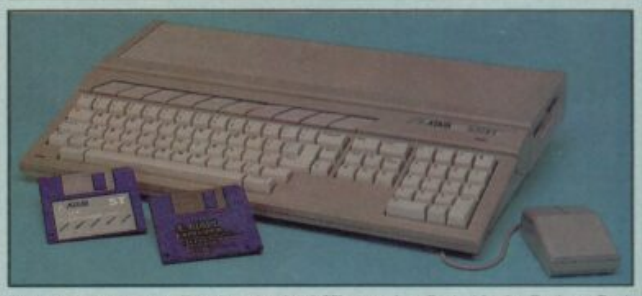

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Be My

. . . OH GO ON, PURLEASE
What with it being around Valentines Day and all that, we thought it might be a good idea to be really slushy and hit the streets of London, root out some *YS* readers and ask them some important questions about love. Here's what happened.

Neither **Damien Paul** (14) nor **Russell Shaw** (14) of North London sign their name in Valentines cards. Why? we wondered. **"Well,"** said Damian, **"If you put your name in and the girl thinks you're really ugly or something then you'll be the laughing stock of the entire school the next day."** Oh yes. Good point — okay then, what's your favourite chat-up line? Damien: **"I just ask for their phone number."** Russell: **"I ask them their star sign."** What star sign do you hope they are? **"I don't care, it's just the kind of thing girls like to be asked."** *(Really? Ed)* You're obviously an authority. Which 'famous' person do you most fancy, 'Daim'? **"Sabrina."** Why? **"Guess."** Oh yes, those. What about you, Russell? **"Kim Wilde. She's so sultry."** Have either of you accidentally farted loudly in front of someone you desperately wanted to canoodle with? Damien **"No."** Russell **"No, and touch wood I never will."**

Darren Jameson (16) and **John Hilliard** (15) are from the Lake District (John is the one totally covered in Trafalgar Square by the resident mottled 'love-doves'.) We asked what in his opinion, was the most romantic Speccy game of all time? **"Eeeerr, probably Uridium."** Whaaaattt? **"Well, it was a pretty tricky question."** Okay then, which famous person do you most fancy? Darren: **"She's not exactly famous, but the girl on the Carlsberg advert."** Which one? **"The one where she has to ask the computer which is the best lager in the world: she's wearing glasses and she keeps licking her lips. She's well slinky."** What about you, John? **"Clare Rayner. I'm serious; I'm actually not joking."** *(Ye Gods. Ed)* What would you do if Clare Rayner turned up on your doorstep wearing nothing but a pink negligee? **"Invite her in of course."** For 'coffee'? **"Something like that, yeah."** What's your favourite ever 'luvve' song? ***"I Don't Wanna Go Home Alone* by Paul Nicholas."** Gordon Blimey! Erm, are you still being serious, or was that a light hearted 'quip'? **"I'm still being serious."** Bleeeeeee!

Isabelle Berset is 16 and comes from Switzerland. We thought there was no way she'd have a Speccy (and she hasn't), but her brother has — and he gets *YS* on subscription. What a small world, eh? We asked Isabelle what was her favourite chat-up line. **"Uh? What is that?"** When a boy wants to be 'good friends' with you . . . what does he say? **"Oh, I don't know, I guess he ask my name and maybe I tell him."** What are you doing tonight? **"I am sorry?"** Nothing, just a joke. Who's your favourite dreamy weather person? **"Dreamy person? Who I dream about?"** Yes, that'll do. Who do you dream about? **"Uh, all kinds of things and people. I dream many things."** (Groan) Right! Let's try this. Who . . . is . . . your . . . favourite . . . film . . . star? **"Oh. Harrison Ford, he is very good. Also I very much like Sean Connery, although he is short in hair."** Have you ever chuffed in front of anybody you fancied? **"I am sorry?"** Have you ever . . . oh it doesn't matter.

Aaron Whitehouse (17) from Swindon is a bit of a smart alec. What's the sexiest Speccy game you've ever played? ***"Fantasy* by R & H Microtec. You're in control of three couples . . ."** Um, that's quite

Valentine

enough about *Fantasy*. Eeer, do you sign your name on Valentines cards? **"Yes I do. I'm not bashful. If I'm feeling particularly passionate I'll sign it twice — or even more sometimes."** Have you ever sent yourself a Valentines card?

"Every year, yeah, every year." Who's your fave rave as regards celebrities? **"Jessica Lange. She's a hunk."** Who's the dreamiest weatherman? **"Michael Fish. He's a hunk too. He's got hidden depths of passion. He's a snappy dresser — I love him."** Have you ever guffed loudly in front of someone you were hoping to impress? **"Not exactly, but I was sitting at the dining table having lunch with my girlfriend and her parents once when my bottom suddenly went out of control. It was excrutiatingly embarrassing."** Are you still going out with her? **"Um, no actually."**

Genei Saku (22) is totally hatstand. Do you sign your name on Valentine cards? **"Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha, yes, no, sometimes, ha ha ha ha."** Yes, of course. Who, in your opinion, is the dreamiest

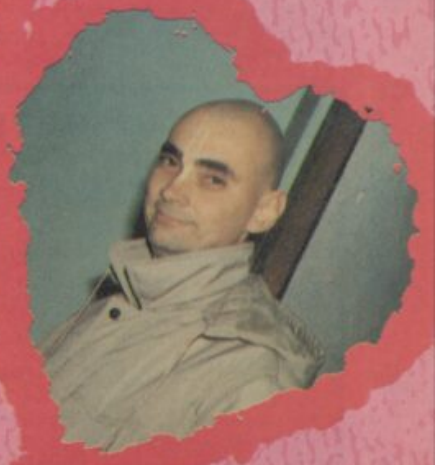
weather person? **"What? Ha ha ha ha ha. Dreamiest? Ha ha ha ha, er, John Kettley. No! Ha ha ha ha."** Who's your most fanciable 'celebrity'? **"Ha ha ha, um, can I say John Kettley again?"** No. Someone else. **"Eer, ha ha ha ha, erm that's really hard. Uum, ha ha ha, erm John Kettley. Ha ha John Kettley! Ha ha ha ha."** Would you mind modelling this sexy female underwear? **"Ha ha ha ha, I'll put it on shall I ha ha ha?"** No, no, you'll get us all arrested. Just hold it up. **"Ha ha ha ha."** What's the sexiest Speccy game you've ever played? And don't say John Kettley. **"Ha ha ha ha, Michael Fish. Ha ha ha." John Kettley. Ha ha ha ha ha."** Oh dear, it's time for us to go. **"Can I keep the posing-pouch?"** No you can't, give it back. **"Ha ha ha ha."**

Teddy Pegrams 17 and comes from London. What's your favourite chat-up line? **"Um, what's a nice girl like you doing in a place like this? Erm, do you come here often? Um, I don't really know any — I've never actually chatted anyone up."** Not surprising. Who's your favourite 'sexy celeb'? **"Madonna. What a belly-button she's got. She's got**

very nice knees actually, have you ever noticed?" No. What would you do if Michael Fish appeared at your front door wearing a sexy negligee? **"I'd tell him to get lost."** Ahem. You'd ask him to go away then? **"Yes."** You wouldn't invite him in for 'coffee'? **"Certainly not".** Not even a cup of *Gold* 'we've already met, she can't resist me' *Blend*. **"No, no, no,no."** On a first date do you engage in tongue sarnies? **"If that's all I can get, yes."** Whoooo!

Corinne Dubois (15) comes from Hackney. Do her pupils go all big when she's chatting to someone she really fancies? **"How on earth would I know? What a stupid question."** Okay, okay! Do you sign your name on Valentines cards? **"I receive Valentines cards, I don't send them."** Who do you fancy in the TV or film world? **"Eddie Murphy. I quite fancy Lloyd Hunnighan as well. Oh, and Peter Duncan from *Blue Peter*."** What's your favourite love song? **"Oh, I don't know, how can I possibly answer that at such short notice?"** Well, think about it for a bit. **"No, no, I can't think."** Well, what about, f'rinstance *Every Loser Wins* by that remarkable cockney crooner Nicholas Berry? **"You're joking . . . You are joking, aren't you?"** Um, no as it happens. Have you ever guffed in front of someone you fancy? **"Whaaaat?? No I have not! And I won't answer questions like that."**

Geoff Bhagwash (24) used to own a Speccy (before joining up with the spook Hare Krishna sect). He refused to hold any of the *YS* 'props', but we wondered if he had ever chuffed in front of someone he was trying to get to know well. **"No comment."** Oh, go on. **"No comment."** Okay then, who's the dreamiest weather person? **"I don't watch television."** You must have seen a weather forecast. **"I don't own a television."** Which famous celebrity do you most fancy? **"I'm not interested in celebrities."** Not even Angela Rippon? **"Who's Angela Rippon?"** Make up a love poem. **"No."** Oh go on. **"No."** What would you say if Denis Roussos turned up on your doorstep wearing a pink tutu? **"Nothing."** Oh.



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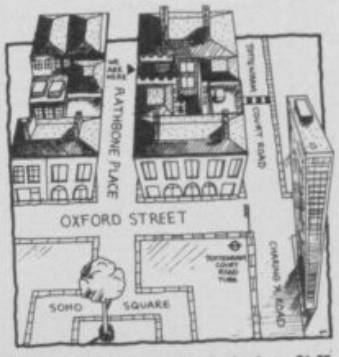

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PROGRAM PITSTOP

Oo-er! It's that rubbery time again as we pour into the Pitstop with *David McCandless.*

Hi! Most of you out there will be glad to know that this month sees a return to normal stability after my punctuation of the last few months with 'specials'. There won't be any more for a while now, but during those long dreary months inbetween if you have an idea for a special then drop me a line at the normal address.

Anyway, onto this month, and first up this issue, there's an introduction to Z80 man extraordinaire **Damian Scattergood** with his sensational simple, learning aids in pure assembly language. And to end with is **Thurstan Felstead** with his — I hate to admit it — brilliant explosion program.

SCREEN FX 2

by Damian Scattergood

Damian Scattergood, the Z80 Project Leader of Emerald Software, nominated as Mr. Benevolence for three years in succession, was so impressed with my screen effects special a few months back (swell) that he decided to submit a compendium of routines himself. I was so impressed I printed them.

Lines

The Spectrum screen display is a complicated beast, using all manner of confusing and downright irritating structural nuances that can make it a major hurdle for a novice. I won't go into details but briefly there are 192 pixel lines, divided into three blocks of 64 lines, covering memory locations 16384 to 22527; the screen addresses go in batches of eight so that logically the address you want is never in the right place. Well, something like that anyway.

These two routines are used to calculate the screen address of the next scan line up or down. You'll need an assembler to enter them in, and they'll go in any address.

Next Line Up

```
Execute this routine with HL
pointing to the screen address,
and HL will return with the
next line down.

NXTL    LD A,H
        AND 7
        CP 7
        JR Z,LINEE
        INC H
        RET
LINEE   LD A,L
        AND 224
        CP 224
        JR Z,NOWAR
        LD DE,1760
        AND A
        SBC HL,DE
        RET
NOWAR   LD DE,32
        ADD HL,DE
        RET
```

Next Line Down

```
LSTC    LD A,H
        AND 7
        JR Z,SWLI
        DEC H
        RET
SWLI    LD A,L
        AND 224
        JR Z,SWDE
        LD DE,1760
        AND A
        ADC HL,DE
        RET
SWDE    LD DE,32
        AND A
        SBC HL,DE
        RET
```

Nibbling

The next program is one big demo, split up into five easily digestible parts. It combines the two previous next scan-line routines into a mammoth scrolling demo, shifting windows all over the place, up, down, left and right! And to boot, it scrolls by four pixels (or 'nibbles' if you want to be confused by jargon). Very useful for faster than fast scrolls.

The Huge Demo

```
This whopper (hurrh) is the*
demo, using the previous two
routines

DEMO    CALL FILL
        LD B,20
LOOP1   PUSH BC
        LD HL,16384+15
        LD BC,#1000
        CALL SLEFT
        LD HL,16384+16
        LD BC,#1000
        CALL SRIGH
        POP BC
        DJNZ LOOP1
        LD B,20
LOOP2   PUSH BC
        LD HL,16384
        LD BC,#A020
        CALL SUP4
        POP BC
        DJNZ LOOP2
        LD B,20
LOOP4   PUSH BC
        LD HL,20640
        LD BC,#A020
        CALL SDWN4
        POP BC
        DJNZ LOOP3
        RET
```

This is the main stem of the program and addresses sub-routines with CALL statements (rather like GOSUB's in Basic). The register HL holds the top right screen address of the window-to-be-scrolled, and BC holds the height and width of that window.

```
FILL    LD HL,16384
        LD BC,6143
LOOP4   LD (HL),L
        INC HL
        DEC BC
        LD A,B
        OR C
        JR NZ,LOOP4
        RET
```

So there's something there to scroll, this small routine simply fills the screen with garbage. Not just any old garbage though, strategic garbage.

```
SLEFT   PUSH HL
SKEP    PUSH BC
        XOR A
LOOP5   RLD
        DEC HL
        DJNZ LOOP5
        POP BC
        POP HL
        CALL NXTC
        PUSH HL
        DEC C
        JR NZ,SKEP
        POP HL
        RET
```

This sub-routine shifts the contents of a window left by four pixels, using the specific instruction 'RLD'.

```
SHISH   PUSH HL
        PUSH BC
        XOR A
LOOP6   RRD
        INC HL
        DJNZ LOOP6
        POP BC
        POP HL
        CALL NXTC
        PUSH HL
        DEC C
        JR NZ,DEEP1
        POP HL
        RET
```

This similar sub-routine shifts the contents of the window right by four pixels, using the specific instruction 'RRD'.

```
SDWN    PUSH HL
        CALL LSTC
        CALL LSTC
        CALL LSTC
        CALL LSTC
        EX DE,HL
        POP HL
        EX DE,HL
LOOP7   PUSH BC
        PUSH DE
        PUSH HL
        LD B,0
        LDIR
        POP HL
        CALL LSTC
        POP DE
        EX DE,HL
        PUSH DE
```

```
        CALL LSTC
        POP DE
        EX DE,HL
        POP BC
        DJNZ LOOP7
        RET
```

The down scroll routine works in a different way. It calculates the address four bytes below and block moves everything in the window to that address, creating a 'scrolling' illusion.

```
SUP4    PUSH HL
        CALL NXTC
        CALL NXTC
        CALL NXTC
        CALL NXTC
```

```
        EX DE,HL
        POP HL
        EX DE,HL
LOOP8   PUSH BC
        PUSH DE
        PUSH HL
        LD B,0
        LDIR
        POP HL
        CALL NXTC
        POP DE
        EX DE,HL
        PUSH DE
        CALL NXTC
        POP DE
        EX DE,HL
        POP BC
        DJNZ LOOP8
        RET
```

This up scroll routine is almost identical as the previous one, but calculates the address four bytes above instead.

BANG!

by Thursten Felstead

Don't you just love explosions (you were wondering what that title was about weren't you)? I like explosions. Especially those gorgeous, big noisy ones with lots of debris you see on posh games. **Thurstan** "insane" **Felstead** seems to like them too. Nice man. He's written a routine so you can appreciate them. *BANG!* he called it.

(Oo-er!)

Kaboom!

The routine is in machine code, starts at 61440 and is 912 bytes long. Not particularly enormous considering the startling and one might say, splendiferous effect of the aforementioned routine. Use the Hex Loader (which is now drawing its pension) to enter the hexadecimal block and then save the result to tape with SAVE "name" CODE 61440,912. But wait! Before you RANDOMIZE USR 61456, examine the following parameters for information on how to set up your conflagration.

Explode!

There are five variables which must be set up before you can run the program:

i) The Explosion Window This is the rectangular area in which the object detonates. It's outer edges must not touch the edge of the screen in any direction and it must be larger than the object window (see next reference). To create a window, you need to POKE the top left co-ordinates and bottom right co-ordinates in the following way
POKE 61440, top left x co-ordinate (4-251) 61442, top left y co-ordinate (4-171)
POKE 61441, top right x cordinate (4-251) 61443, top right y co-ordinate (4-171)

ii) The Object Window This is the rectangular area that contains the object to be ignited. It is set up in the same way as the explosion window but it must be smaller. POKE its variables like this:
POKE 61445, top left x co-ordinate
POKE 61447, top left y co-ordinate
POKE 61446, top right x co-ordinate
POKE 61448, top right y co-ordinate.

iii) Gravity This factor governs the amount of weight attributed to the exploding pixels. POKE 61444 with the following factors of your choice:
0 — no gravity whatsoever
1 — pretty damn strong gravity
2 — slightly weaker
3 — getting weaker
4 — shuffling towards wimpiness
5 — Phil South

iv) Explosion Speed The variable effects the speed the objects fulminates (good word, eh?) at. Choose the numbers to POKE into the address 61449:
0 — normal explosion speed
1 — slow
2 — slower
3 — slower still
4 — barely moving
5 — as stiff as a board

v) Velocity This cunning parameter decides the speed at which the particles erupt. Choose a speed from 1 to 255 and then:
POKE 61450, INT (velocity/2)
POKE 61451, velocity
Now if all that isn't simple then I wear a toupee. And there's a demonstration as well to eradicate your confusion completely. But remember *BANG!* can only handle a maximum of eight hundred pixels or else it goes gah-gah (just like its author).

```
  20 REM Explode! Code and Demo
  30 REM
  40 REM Thurstan Felstead
  50 REM
  60 REM Based on an original
  70 REM routine by Kevin Cowtan
  80 REM
  90 REM
 100 REM Load code
 110 REM
 120 CLEAR 61439
 130 LOAD "explode"CODE
 140 REM
 150 REM Title
 160 REM
 170 INK 0
 180 PAPER 6
 190 BORDER 6
 200 CLS
 210 PRINT AT 8,9;"EXPLODE! DEMO
."
 220 PRINT AT 10,7; T.Felstead
1988."
 230 PLOT 50,119
 240 DRAW 155,0
 250 DRAW 0,-40
 260 DRAW -155,0
 270 DRAW 0,40
 280 GO SUB 2090
 290 REM
 300 REM Menu
 310 REM
 320 INK 0
 330 PAPER 6
 340 BORDER 6
 350 CLS
 360 PRINT AT 2,9;"EXPLODE! DEMO
."
 370 PRINT AT 3,7; T.Felstead
1988."
 380 PLOT 50,165
 390 DRAW 155,0
 400 DRAW 0,-30
 410 DRAW -155,0
 420 DRAW 0,30
 430 PRINT AT 7,13;"SELECT"
 440 PRINT AT 10,12;"1. Bomb"
 450 PRINT AT 12,11;"2. Planet"
 460 PRINT AT 14,11;"3. Message"
 470 PRINT AT 16,11;"4. Advert"
 480 PLOT 80,125
 490 DRAW 100,0
 500 DRAW 0,-95
 510 DRAW -100,0
 520 DRAW 0,95
 530 LET k$=INKEY$
 540 IF k$="1" THEN  GO TO 600
 550 IF k$="2" THEN  GO TO 890
 560 IF k$="3" THEN  GO TO 1210
 570 IF k$="4" THEN  GO TO 1440
 580 GO TO 530
 590 REM
 600 REM Bomb
 610 REM
 620 INK 0
 630 PAPER 7
 640 BORDER 7
 650 CLS
 660 GO SUB 1600
 670 PRINT AT 1,5;"Prepare for d
etonation."
 680 FOR n=9 TO 0 STEP -1
 690 PRINT AT 5,14;0;n
 700 BEEP 1,0
 710 NEXT n
 720 LET ex1=27
 730 LET ey1=71
 740 LET ex2=227
 750 LET ey2=167
 760 LET gravity=0
 770 LET ox1=99
 780 LET oy1=98
 790 LET ox2=137
 800 LET oy2=143
 810 LET espeed=4
 820 LET vrange=7
 830 GO SUB 1890
 840 GO SUB 2090
 850 GO TO 320
 860 REM
 870 REM Planet
 880 REM
 890 INK 7
 900 PAPER 0
 910 BORDER 0
 920 CLS
 930 GO SUB 1750
 940 BEEP .2,10
 950 BEEP .2,10
 960 FOR m=1 TO 6
 970 FOR n=1 TO 7
 980 PRINT AT 9,14; OVER 1; INK
n;"  "
 990 PRINT AT 10,14; OVER 1; INK
n;"  "
1000 PRINT AT 11,14; OVER 1; INK
n;"  "
1010 PRINT AT 12,14; OVER 1; INK
n;"  "
1020 NEXT n
1030 NEXT m
```

```
1040 LET ex1=4
1050 LET ey1=4
1060 LET ex2=251
1070 LET ey2=171
1080 LET gravity=0
1090 LET ox1=112
1100 LET oy1=72
1110 LET ox2=140
1120 LET oy2=102
1130 LET espeed=8
1140 LET vrange=15
1150 GO SUB 1890
1160 GO SUB 2090
1170 GO TO 320
1180 REM
1190 REM Message
1200 REM
1210 INK 7
1220 PAPER 1
1230 BORDER 1
1240 CLS
1250 PRINT AT 9,9;"YOUR SINCLAI
"
1260 PRINT AT 10,11;"RULES OK!"
1270 LET ex1=4
1280 LET ey1=4
1290 LET ex2=251
1300 LET ey2=171
1310 LET gravity=5
1320 LET ox1=72
1330 LET oy1=72
1340 LET ox2=176
1350 LET oy2=88
1360 LET espeed=10
1370 LET vrange=7
1380 GO SUB 1890
1390 GO SUB 2090
1400 GO TO 320
1410 REM
1420 REM Advert
1430 REM
1440 INK 0
1450 PAPER 5
1460 BORDER 5
1470 CLS
1480 PRINT AT 0,9;"ADVERTISEMENT
"
1490 PRINT AT 2,0;"The four rout
ines I've had      published in
YS (Define Keys,   Text Organise
r, The Flowchart   Creator and t
his one) are       available on
one tape or disc   direct from A
e at #2 for        48K/128K cass
ette and #5 for +3 disc."
1500 PRINT AT 11,0;"Send cheques
/P.O.'s payable to  T.Felstead a
t:"
1510 PRINT AT 14,0;"71 Torcross
Road,"
1520 PRINT AT 15,0;"South Ruisli
p,"
1530 PRINT AT 16,0;"Middx HA4 0T
D."
1540 PRINT AT 18,0;"And I'll sen
d you the goods withfull instruc
tions."
1550 GO SUB 2090
1560 GO TO 320
1570 REM
1580 REM Draw bomb
```

```
1590 REM
1600 PLOT 27,104
1610 DRAW 200,0
1620 DRAW 0,-96
1630 DRAW -200,0
1640 DRAW 0,96
1650 CIRCLE 119,52,18
1660 PLOT 116,71
1670 DRAW 0,4
1680 DRAW 7,0
1690 DRAW 0,-4
1700 PLOT 120,76
1710 DRAW -5,7,1.5
1720 PRINT AT 15,13;"BOMB"
1730 RETURN
1740 REM
1750 REM Draw planet
1770 FOR n=1 TO 50
1780 LET a=INT (RND*255)
1790 LET b=INT (RND*175)
1800 PLOT a,b
1810 NEXT n
1820 FOR n=1 TO 12
1830 CIRCLE 127,87,n
1840 NEXT n
1850 RETURN
1860 REM
1870 REM Poke parameters
1880 REM
1890 POKE &1440,ox1
1900 POKE &1441,ox2
1910 POKE &1442,oy1
1920 POKE &1443,oy2
1930 POKE &1444,gravity
1940 POKE &1445,ox1
1950 POKE &1446,ox2
1960 POKE &1447,oy1
1970 POKE &1448,oy2
1980 POKE &1449,espeed
1990 POKE &1450,INT (vrange/2)
2000 POKE &1451,vrange
2010 REM
2020 REM Execute
2030 REM
2040 LET explode=USR &1456
2050 RETURN
2060 REM
2070 REM Continue
2080 REM
2090 PRINT #0;AT 0,3;"Press any
key to continue."
2100 PAUSE 0
2110 RETURN
```

```
61440 04 FB 04 AB 00 70 8C 48 =754
61448 66 08 07 0F 90 F3 E1 18 =768
61456 F3 DD E5 DD 2A 0C F0 01 =1209
61464 00 00 3A 07 F0 5F 3A 05 =463
61472 F0 57 62 6B CD 13 F1 28 =1037
61480 18 DD 72 00 DD 73 01 CD =961
61488 34 F1 DD 75 02 DD 74 03 =973
61496 03 DD 23 DD 23 DD 23 DD =992
61504 23 14 3A 06 F0 BB 30 DA =811
61512 1C 3A 08 F0 BB 30 CF 78 =896
```

```
61520 B1 28 20 3A 04 F0 57 1E =668
61528 00 B7 28 02 1E FF B7 CD =898
61536 77 F0 B7 28 0E 15 20 F6 =895
61544 CB 2B CD 77 F0 3A 04 F0 =1112
61552 57 18 EB DD E1 FB C9 C5 =1441
61560 D5 D9 11 00 00 0E 00 CB =664
61568 11 D9 3A 48 5C CB 3F CB =925
61576 3F CB 3F E6 07 08 DD 2A =837
61584 0C F0 DD 66 00 DD 6E 01 =907
61592 7C B5 28 52 CD 0D F1 2A =928
61600 00 F0 DD 7E 00 DD 86 02 =944
61608 DD 77 00 BC 30 37 BD 38 =876
61616 34 DD AE 01 E6 0B 20 06 =727
61624 08 D3 FE EE 18 08 2A 02 =787
61632 F0 DD 7E 01 DD 86 03 DD =1167
61640 77 01 BC 30 18 BD 38 15 =646
61648 DD 66 00 DD 6E 01 CD 0D =873
61656 F1 D9 DD 7E 03 81 DD 77 =1277
61664 03 13 D9 18 0E AF DD 77 =792
61672 00 DD 77 01 18 05 3E 08 =440
61680 3D 20 FD 11 04 00 DD 19 =613
61688 0B 3A 09 F0 B7 28 03 3D =605
61696 18 FB 79 B0 20 8C D9 7A =1083
61704 B3 D9 D1 C1 C9 CD 1A F1 =1471
61712 AE 77 C9 D5 CD 1A F1 D1 =1388
61720 A6 C9 54 5C 26 F9 29 7E =997
61728 23 66 CB 3B CB 3B CB 3B =923
61736 83 6F 7A E6 07 F6 80 5F =1070
61744 16 F3 1A C9 D5 ED 5B 0A =1043
61752 F0 2A 0E F0 7C AD 6F 7C =1068
61760 8D 26 05 AE 67 22 0E F0 =749
61768 A2 93 67 7D A2 93 6F B4 =1137
61776 28 E7 D1 C9 00 00 00 00 =681
61784 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
61792 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
61800 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
61808 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
61816 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
61824 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
61832 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
61840 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
61848 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
61856 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
61864 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
61872 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
61880 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
61888 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
61896 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
61904 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
61912 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
61920 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
61928 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
61936 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
61944 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
61952 00 40 00 41 00 42 00 43 =262
61960 00 44 00 45 00 46 00 47 =278
61968 20 40 20 41 20 42 20 43 =390
61976 20 44 20 45 20 46 20 47 =406
61984 40 40 40 41 40 42 40 43 =518
61992 40 44 40 45 40 46 40 47 =534
62000 60 40 60 41 60 42 60 43 =646
62008 60 44 60 45 60 46 60 47 =662
62016 80 40 80 41 80 42 80 43 =774
62024 80 44 80 45 80 46 80 47 =790
62032 A0 40 A0 41 A0 42 A0 43 =902
62040 A0 44 A0 45 A0 46 A0 47 =918
62048 C0 40 C0 41 C0 42 C0 43 =1030
62056 C0 44 C0 45 C0 46 C0 47 =1046
```

```
62064 E0 40 E0 41 E0 42 E0 43 =1158
62072 E0 44 E0 45 E0 46 E0 47 =1174
62080 00 48 00 49 00 4A 00 4B =294
62088 00 4C 00 4D 00 4E 00 4F =310
62096 20 48 20 49 20 4A 20 4B =422
62104 20 4C 20 4D 20 4E 20 4F =438
62112 40 48 40 49 40 4A 40 4B =550
62120 40 4C 40 4D 40 4E 40 4F =566
62128 60 48 60 49 60 4A 60 4B =678
62136 60 4C 60 4D 60 4E 60 4F =694
62144 80 48 80 49 80 4A 80 4B =806
62152 80 4C 80 4D 80 4E 80 4F =822
62160 A0 48 A0 49 A0 4A A0 4B =934
62168 A0 4C A0 4D A0 4E A0 4F =950
62176 C0 48 C0 49 C0 4A C0 4B =1062
62184 C0 4C C0 4D C0 4E C0 4F =1078
62192 E0 48 E0 49 E0 4A E0 4B =1190
62200 E0 4C E0 4D E0 4E E0 4F =1206
62208 00 50 00 51 00 52 00 53 =326
62216 00 54 00 55 00 56 00 57 =342
62224 20 50 20 51 20 52 20 53 =454
62232 20 54 20 55 20 56 20 57 =470
62240 40 50 40 51 40 52 40 53 =582
62248 40 54 40 55 40 56 40 57 =598
62256 60 50 60 51 60 52 60 53 =710
62264 60 54 60 55 60 56 60 57 =726
62272 80 50 80 51 80 52 80 53 =838
62280 80 54 80 55 80 56 80 57 =854
62288 A0 50 A0 51 A0 52 A0 53 =966
62296 A0 54 A0 55 A0 56 A0 57 =982
62304 C0 50 C0 51 C0 52 C0 53 =1094
62312 C0 54 C0 55 C0 56 C0 57 =1110
62320 E0 50 E0 51 E0 52 E0 53 =1222
62328 E0 54 E0 55 E0 56 E0 57 =1238
62336 80 40 20 10 08 04 02 01 =255
62344 00 3C 42 40 4E 42 3C 00 =394
62352 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
STOP
```

Byeee!

Well that's it for yet another month. Next issue you can look forward to a Star-Tip, some more snazzy border effects, a background scroller and... well you'll just have to wait and see. In the meantime, however, if you feel like running the risk of winning £50 for your best programming effect then drop me a line at Program Pitstop, *YS*, 14 Rathbone Place, London, W1P 1DE. Until then, happy programming.

IT'S A DATE!

Monday 15th

Big problems today I'm afraid, diary. Loaded up the new game I bought on Saturday after a recommendation from the goodly folk at Your Sinclair, but couldn't get past the first level. What am I going to do. It's still about two days until the next issue of YS packed full of every hint and tip that's fit to print but can I wait that long?

Tuesday 16th

Great Uncle Benny phoned today to ask what I wanted for my birthday, but I've foolishly failed to keep up with the hot new Spectrum releases. If I don't tell him soon, he's going to get me something totally useless like the battery operated yapping dog last year. Must, remember the next Your Sinclair to check what games are worth my 'bob'.

Wednesday 17th

Up bright and breezy this morning. Feel right as rain and ready to run up a mountain without so much as a little stop for Kendal mint cake. It must be because it's Your Sinclair day and all my problems will be solved.

Thursday 18th

Really miserable. Gone back to bed again and won't get up for a month. Your Sinclair came out the day before yesterday and I got it wrong. My friendly neighbourhood newsagent had sold out by the time I got there. If only I'd been wise enough to ask him to reserve a copy!

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HARDWARE

RAGE HARD!

As the release of the SAM computer from Miles Gordon Technology draws nearer, *Phil South* reports on the shape of things to come.

Working For Uncle Sam At Last!

It's not every day that a new computer is launched. And a new computer which is not only state of the art, but also uses old Spectrum software to boot. But now the much publicised SAM is upon us. It's only been about a year since it was a just a gleam in Miles Gordon Technology's corporate eyes and to be perfectly honest I was sceptical about it ever surmounting its chip problems and getting the darn thing out the door. But in spite of me, MGT seems to be on the last lap, and running strongly for the tape.

Who?

SAM isn't a one off computer. The SAM range is to be a whole dynasty of computers, with the first one being the Coupe. The range has been designed by Bruce Gordon, the softly spoken Scot behind the Disciple and Plus D disk interfaces, *and* the wacky TwoFace we reviewed a few issues ago. Bruce has been working on the idea for about two years now, and hopefully in the next few months we'll all be able to benefit from the fruits of his labour. Japanese chip giant Fujitsu is producing the customised chips for the SAM. It started apparently with Bruce's prototype containing 138 chips and miniaturised it into a single custom ULA! Fiendishly clever, these Japanese. The casing has been designed by the Nick Holland Design Group recommended by the Design Council for the quality of its design skills. And as for the internal software, the guts of the SAM's operating system ROM, is being designed by Dr Andy Wright, the writer of BetaBasic. His job is "to spend 24 hours a day making the SAM a pleasure to use." Beta him than me!

What?

The SAM's specification was clearly defined from the outset. It had to be cheap to buy, around £150, and cheap to run so as to be affordable to you school bods who only get piddly pocket money. The technical spec had to be high, with MIDI, 80 column screen and industry standard hi-res multicoloured graphics. The sound chip had to be worthy of music and not just sound effects. It was also said that it should be possible to upgrade the machine, thus allowing the user to bolt on more devices as they become affordable or available. (This is generally called having an 'open architecture' ya?) Plus the design of the machine was aimed to appeal to kids and their parents alike, truly a computer for all people. The power of a business computer, but the ease of use and fun of a games console.

A pretty tall order in anyone's books, but improbably MGT seems to have drawn all these elements together in the prototype SAM and in the soon to be finished entry level, SAM Coupe.

How?

The design MGT has ended up with is an entry level device, onto which other more advanced features can be added. The features are aimed at keeping the cost of ownership as low as the user wants it to be. So any prospective buyer of a SAM system can determine his own level of sophistication and how much money he wants to spend on it.

The external details first. The keyboard is a 71 key membrane type (Oh dear, why can't people put proper keyboards on things any more! Sob!) with ten function keys. The angle of the keyboard is 11 degrees, (port, slurp,) and is set back a bit from the front of the machine to provide a hand rest for the heels of your hands. Pity more firms don't think of this, 'cos if you're an enthusiastic user you can get serious wrist aggro.

The basic machine works from cassettes loaded from an ordinary cassette player, not unlike our chum the Speccy. But users will be able to slot one or two 3.5" disk drives into the machine. The drives have been described as the latest technology from Citizen, and are barely larger than the disk itself, allowing them to be slotted at the front of the machine under the keyboard. Now that I'd like to see! The DOS is of course very similar to that used in the Plus D. So this means that disks for the Plus D should work in the new machine!

For displays you have a choice of TV, or composite or RGB video outlets. A low cost colour monitor is also planned for launch around the same time as the computer.

The Coupe has ports for not only mouse and joystick, but also for a lightpen. This addition carries the implication of more serious uses for the machine other then home or small business. Graphics would seem to be a priority. Music seems to be high on the list too, as the MIDI IN and OUT ports make it good for musical applications, which ought to give the ST a run for its money in pro music production. The MIDI ports have a more routine use in the maintenance of the SAM networking capability.

Also on offer is a printer and a cable with an inbuilt interface. The interface will probably cost around £10 to allow connection to MGT's, and any other, Centronics compatible printer. Although there is a serial port, or RS232, it's one of the DIN plug type, like the MIDI ports, rather than the more common edge connector or 25 way D plug. But MGT isn't trying to edge out the standard peripherals however. The good news is that the ones that Sinclair users have will be attachable using special adapters.

Finally on the physical side, there's a pair of manuals, one for the new "plug'n'go" user and another one for more advanced programmers.

A peek under the hood reveals some startling new facilities, previously closed to eight bit computers. The rationale behind staying with eight rather than 16-bit is simple. The cost of developing 16-bit stuff, and staying faithful to the remaining eight bit users. The latter reason is most important from my point of view. At the heart of the Coupe is the custom SAM ULA. Because all the really hard work is done by this chip, there are only a total of seven other chips on the motherboard, making the SAM easy to produce and cheap to repair. The main processor is a standard Z80B, which means that people who know the Z80 aren't excluded from programming for the new machine. No new mnemonics to learn! The RAM in the basic machine is a hefty 256K, expandable by a slot-in cartridge to 512K, the current industry standard. The sound chip is a six channel job, meaning that sound effects and music can be played simultaneously, and speech synthesis wouldn't be out of the question either. The sound goes through the TV or monitor speaker. The operating language will like as not be BetaBasic, especially as Dr Wright is writing it!

But what everybody really wants to know is . . . what about resolution and colour? Well, there's a choice of four screen modes. Mode One allows most existing software to be run, allowing two colours per 8 × 8 pixel character block and bright and flash. Spectrum mode, in other words. So now let's change gear into Mode Two. This allows 8 × 1 colour res, letting you choose a new colour for every horizontal line. Like the effects in Hewson or Gremlin games of late. Both Modes One and Two limit you to the Spectrum standard 32 × 24 screen. But Mode Three kicks in the 80 column mode, suitable for business applications. The choice of paper colour auto-selects the ink colour. Finally, to move into top gear Mode Four, you have a 512 × 192 screen, with a different colour for EACH PIXEL on the screen! Think of the art applications. (And all this for £150, we must be dreaming!) At all times the user will be able to select from a palette of 64 colours. Phew! Excuse me while I change my underpants.

When, when, when?

Okay, so like me you're slavering to get your hands on a Coupe. Let's take a look at the schedule. I should be getting a review copy of the machine some time this month, and happily you should only have to wait until May to actually buy one. That's pretty good eh? I trust you'll join with me in wishing MGT the very best of luck with the SAM, and let's hope there's no delays with this MAMMOTH project.

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And where does *Ciarán Brennan* spend his Valentines days? Down in the arcade having...

S·L·O·T·S O·F FUN

The length of time that it takes for software houses to grab the licences to new arcade releases is getting shorter all the time. The reason I mention this is that I've just heard that Mediagenic has secured the rights to *Power Drift*, a game which has been in the arcades for barely a month at this stage. It looks as though the race to snap up the hottest arcade licences is getting even tougher.

However, it also looks as though coin-ops may soon become even harder to convert to home micros in the near future, if the large format arcade consoles which were unveiled at a recent Japanese trade show take off. Although this may mean bad news for Spectrum owners, it can only be good for arcade addicts, as the new sized screens have a massive potential for displaying even better and more playable games.

Whatever happens, 1989 is going to be a significant year in arcade terms, so let's kick it off with a real cracker...

CIARAN'S CORKY COIN-OP YUKIWO

Somewhere in the 1990s, the world has been through the holocaust and ended up a rather different place. A new order has sprung up and taken control, but at least one person has decided that this new regime is not to his liking. That person is Yukiwo — the toughest motorcyclist the world has ever known.

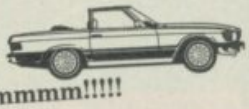
To escape from the clutches of the Earth's new rulers, Yukiwo drives along a blisteringly-paced scrolling landscape, fending off attacks from all sides. Ground-based fortresses (both mobile and static), swarms of aircraft and masses of foot soldiers combine to shower a deadly rain on the advancing hero.

Yukiwo has a choice of two weapons to hit back with: a short-range cannon for the ground based obstacles and a long-range laser for the aerial attackers. These are activated by the left and right fire buttons and are replenished en-route by collecting lettered icons.

Sounds pretty average so far, huh? Well it ain't, it's one of the fastest and most addictive shoot 'em-ups in ages — even without lots of fancy gimmicks and add-ons. The choice of weaponry adds a touch of strategy, while the graphics create a real sense of urgency (or panic — whichever way you look at it).

Definitely smarter than your average scroller.

Convertibility Factor: 7



Vroooooooooooooooooooooommmmm!!!!!

HARD HEAD

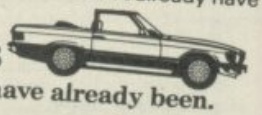
Move over *Super Mario Brothers*, the *Hard Head* twins have hit town in Suna's 'tribute' to Nintendo's classic. I could go on for a bit about the scenario and gameplay, but there's no point, as it's almost exactly the same as the aforementioned *Bros* — one or two players romp along a left to right scrolling platformed landscape, bashing things with their heads and collecting goodies along the way.

There's 16 levels of this mayhem to be negotiated, with a whole host of cute little monsters and ducks to be disposed of — and a few that aren't so cute too. The characters are controlled by a joystick and two button set-up, with the right button used to operate the bubble gun (enemies aren't killed — they're just swallowed up in bubbles and left to float off the screen) while the left controls the jumping.

A football has to be found and kicked into a goal at the end of each level (rather like the flag that had to be dropped in SMB), before the door opens and a new bag of tricks is uncovered.

It would be silly to deny that *Hard Head* is a good laugh, but then again it's exactly the same as one of the funniest computer games ever. Give it a go if your local arcade doesn't already have *Super Mario Brothers*.

Convertibility factor: 8



Boldly going where brothers have already been.

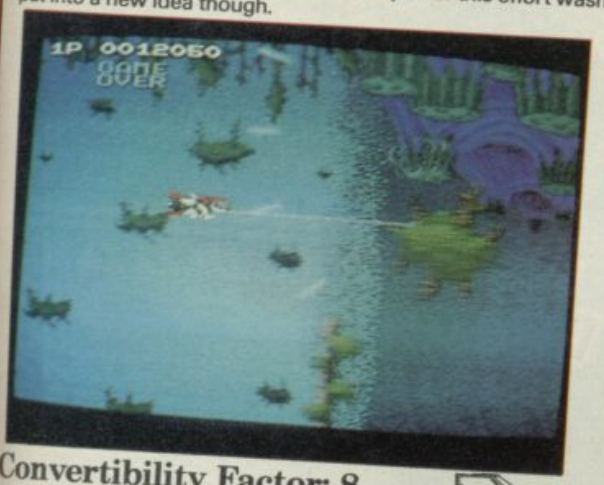
HEAVY UNIT

R-Type has spawned more clones than any recent coin-op that I can think of, with most of them measuring up pretty poorly in the playability stakes; being either unplayably hard or easy to the point of boredom. Kaneko's *Heavy Unit* however is an exception.

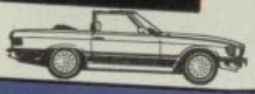
A transformer type hero replaces *R-Type's* space craft, negotiating a left to right scrolling cavern — and later a similar above ground backdrop. The industrial background is matched by the mechanical opposition and the trundling pace of the scrolling.

The usual speed and armoury add ons are available — and it's vital that these are picked up early as the going is tough right from the start. Fortunately the collision detection is a bit iffy, as some of the obstacles that appear from the side walls would be impossible to pass if it was any better.

If you're looking for an alternative progressive shoot 'em-up to *R-Type* then this is a pretty good bet. Pity all of this effort wasn't put into a new idea though.



Convertibility Factor: 8
A nice example of the 'Type'.



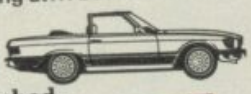
THE LAST APOSTLE PUPPET SHOW

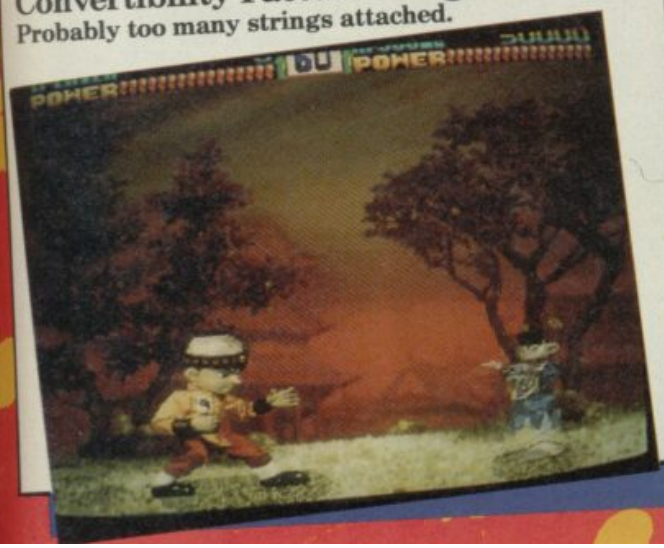
Take a couple of characters that look as though they should come from a Chinese version of *The Magic Roundabout*, mix them up with a fighting style taken from *Big Trouble In Little China*, add a little digitised shouting and you end up with this extraordinary creation from Homedata.

Once again you're the hero, but this time with a little difference. Taking control of a massive puppet-style character, you soon realise that for once the odds are stacked in the opposition's favour — for although your initial opponent is a little smaller than you, he is equipped with a couple of distinct advantages... the ability to fly for one, and the power to remove your head with a single chop.

This puppet show is quite entertaining and it does have some redeeming features — such as the main character hopping about and clutching his knee after he's been hit — but ultimately the limited range of fighting moves makes it too difficult to be worth bothering with. It's definitely worth looking at... but don't bother trying to play it.

Convertibility Factor: 3
Probably too many strings attached.





FIGHTING HAWK

The ghost of *Flying Shark* comes scrolling along the screen of this one or two player release from Taito. In fact this average shoot 'em up has so much in common with old Sharkie that it's a mystery why it was ever released in the first place.

A twin fuselage fighter-bomber flies along a top to bottom scrolling jungle scene, destroying tanks, boats and opposing aircraft along the way. The standard cannon is upgradeable by use of numbered tokens, while medal tokens deliver extra points.

Although there is only one long scene to be covered, it is broken into sections by the regular appearance of 'supertanks'. This machine is heavily armoured, only succumbing to a fairly well-equipped craft or one of the five smart bombs.

Fighting Hawk is smooth, if a little slow, with well defined sprites and sharp detailed backgrounds. The sound and gameplay can't be faulted — but the lack of originality certainly can. This game takes plagiarism to new heights and is definitely one to be crossed off the list.

Convertibility Factor: 8
Why bother? You probably already have it.

ARCADE NEWS

Fancy a game that combines the destruction of *Operation Wolf* with the speed and exhilaration of *Afterburner*? Well that's exactly what's on offer from a mysterious new product that's currently being tested by one of London's leading distributors.

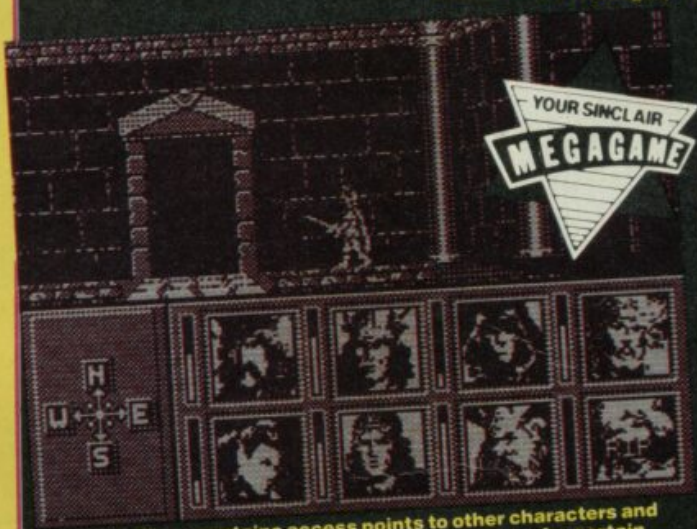
Although we can't yet reveal the game's name, we can say that the cabinet will house TWO Uzis — with the gameplay switching from level to level between *Op Wolf* style guerilla war and *Afterburner/OutRun* 3D. More news as we get it.

Another release to look forward to in the near future is Irem's *Image Fighter*, a top to bottom high-speed scroller. This comes with a high difficulty factor — especially as the power up icons are hidden in some of the most inaccessible places ever. Expect a massive addiction factor from this baby.

SCREEN SHOTS

PART TWO

Here is the main action screen, containing the combat window, and the piccies of your team. Ugly bunch, aren't they? Well, except for the fruity young wench over yonder . . . hey doll, how's it going . . ? THWAK!



The Main Menu contains access points to other characters and their attributes, allowing you to check their fitness for certain tasks. Magic users are vital to the party's success in gaining access to the Disks of Mishakal.

ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

HEROES OF THE LANCE

US Gold/£9.99 cass/£14.99 disk

Phil Now this is what I call a BIG game. Imagine, if you will, a sort of *Gauntlet*, only played from side to side instead of from above, and populate it with eight characters instead of four. Now you've got it! I have to say I'm impressed by the quality of the programming which put this game together. The graphics are amazing! A bit lacking in the old sound department, but looking at the characters diving around on the screen, I don't suppose there was any code space left!

You are one of a party of adventurers on the world of Krynn, a world designed by Dungeon Masters who wanted more dragons in their RPGing. You are fighting to protect Krynn from domination by the wicked Takhisis, Queen of Darkness. (Coo!) Can you retrieve the Disks of Mishakal from the lair of Khisanth, deep in the ruins of Xak Tsaroth? Can you even spell it? And who's going to untie your tongue after saying all that?

AD&D is one of the most popular, and oldest, role playing games around, and its devotees outnumber even those not-so-cunningly disguised Brossettes. So, it was only a matter of time before the game was turned into a computerised version, and now SSI and US Gold have done it. So how has the old game fared?

AD&D was a multiplayer game. The computer version, although having eight characters to play, plays them all through the one player. The swiftness of the switching between characters puts paid to any joystick switching between players. So you can't use the game as a replacement for *AD&D* (as if you could). But it does have the complexity of a game of *AD&D*, if you play it properly.

The basic part of the game puts you on the screen as the first character in the party. This is the first face on the left of the top row on screen. Hitting the space bar brings up the Main Menu screen, and this is what separates *AD&D* from any other old pick 'em up. You can check on a character's capabilities and make sure he or she is up to the tasks in hand, like combat or magic. Magic users can cast spells, as long as they're on the top row of the main screen. For users of staffs, depending on who wields them, spells include Charm, Sleep, Magic Missile, Web, Detect Magic, Detect Invisible, Final Strike, Burning Hands, Cure Light Wounds, Protection From Evil, Find Traps, Hold Person, Spiritual Hammer, Prayer, Cure Critical Wounds, Raise Dead, and Deflect Dragon Breath. Phew! This gigantic reel of spells gives you a particularly sharp look at how in depth this game is.

How do you play though? Just charging around like in an arcade adventure will get all your characters killed very quickly. Careful mapping and utilisation of spells and charms is needed if you're to survive longer than a few yards in the dangerous world of Krynn. And it's worth waiting to see the dragons . . . or not, depending on whether you beat them or end up as a crisp little twirl on the flagstones!

AD&D is a mammoth game, and represents stupendous value for money, especially if you like your games with a bit of strategy and lots of action.

YS CLAPOMETER

Blockbusting conversion of popular RPG with heaps of dragon-slaying action. Lots to get your teeth into. Groooooowwwlll!

GRAPHICS	■■■■■■■■■■□
PLAYABILITY	■■■■■■■■■■□
VALUE FOR MONEY	■■■■■■■■■■□
ADDICTIVENESS	■■■■■■■■■□□

9

***YS* Seal Of Approval**

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AFTERBURNER

Yer akchawl 'flying through a canyon' sequence. Very difficult, as it twists about causing you to pile into the sides on a regular basis.

Activision/£9.95 cass/£14.95 disk

Jonathan If US Gold was foolhardy enough to tackle *OutRun*, Activision must have been utterly crackers when it bought the licence to this one. With more hydraulics than a fleet of JCBs, and extraordinarily fast graphics, *Afterburner* is another one for the "Gosh! Wot, on the Speccy? Gerraway!" brigade. However as we all know, if it's got the right name on the box, just about any old dross can be made to sell like, well, like very fast.

Not that *Afterburner* is any old dross, of course. Certainly not. But while it packs quite a punch graphically, there seems to be a gaping void where the gameplay should have been inserted. Just like the coin-op version, in fact.

Hokay, for those of you who haven't seen it in the arcades *and* missed the Megapreview a couple of issues ago, the game goes like this. Launch your F-14 Tomcat from the flight deck of an aircraft carrier, zoom along at Mach 96 and shoot the marauding hordes of Russi... sorry, enemy aircraft who scoot around taking pot-shots at you, stopping for refuelling occasionally.

Nothing frighteningly original there, I know, but where *Afterburner* excels is in the graphics. Even on the Speccy conversion, the speed at which sprites are wanged around the screen is phenomenal, especially considering that as your F-14 banks, the ground and all the clobber littered about on it bank too, so all the sprites have to be rotated around. The mathematics behind it doesn't bear thinking about. But then what maths does?

As you can probably imagine, colour pretty well goes out of the window once again, making me wonder where the Spectrum got its name.

Well fast it may be. So fast that you'll often be wiped out without knowing what's hit you. The trouble is, though, that there's very little to do. Your guns fire automatically, missiles lock on as soon as your sights pass over the target, so all you have to do really is dodge enemy fire and launch the odd missile now and then. This may be fine for some people, but after a few minutes I was pounding my fists on the keyboard, demanding to see the manager.

While I can't help but quake at the sheer power of the graphics routines, hum along to the 128K tunes and snigger as yet another Comm... er, baddy goes down in flames, the thing that amazes me most about *Afterburner* is that it's totally devoid of any addictive qualities whatsoever. Not many, anyway. I suppose that some of you might want to keep going to see all the various levels and refueling sequences, but it's not really worth playing just for the shooty bits.

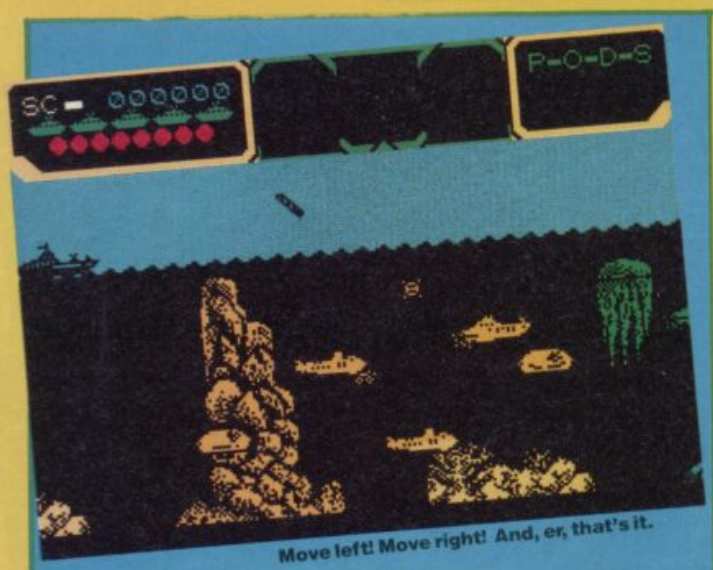
Buy it for the speed, graphics, free stickers and posters if you must, but be aware that they're covering up a serious lack of content. Damning perhaps, but that's the way the cookie crumbles.

YS CLAPOMETER

A technically brill conversion that can't quite make up for the original's shallowness.

GRAPHICS	■■■■■■■■■□
PLAYABILITY	■■■■■■■■□□
VALUE FOR MONEY	■■■■■■■□□□
ADDICTIVENESS	■■■■■□□□□□

7



Move left! Move right! And, er, that's it.

THE DEEP

US Gold/£8.99 cass

Sean *The Deep* is, apparently, a coin-op conversion which comes aqualunging its way to the Speccy courtesy of US Gold. I'm not sure whether it's got anything to do with the film which came out years ago, but one thing's for certain, the game plays like it was written years ago. Read on...

You begin your life on the ocean wave as a ship on the surface of the water, floating above the nautical equivalent of the M1, where submarines and squids plod about slowly below you. The squids insist on rising to the surface and smashing your ship up, while the subs sneakily stay below the surface firing homing missiles at you, or releasing surface mines which rise up and wait for you to bump into them and explode. But they're easy to dispose of, cos they move so slowly — simply drop your depth charges on them.

On occasion, bombing a sub sends a little pod floating to the surface which turns into a flag with a letter on. Your ship should scud across and collect it, thus releasing a helicopter to fly over, and drop another package.

Depending on what letter was displayed, you'll get one of five extra weapons.

As each flag only crops up occasionally too, you sometimes have to wait for five minutes before you get a pod to go on to the next screen, and believe me, five minutes is a long time for just moving left and right and dropping depth charges.

Anyway having 'raced' through three or so of these screens, your ship then ploughs onto the next screen. But by this time I couldn't help thinking that perhaps this game should have been titled *Deep Over Moscow*, 'cos the graphics and gameplay were very similar to that game. And whilst looking to the past might be fine when it comes to 501's and the pop charts, there's no excuse for going primitive when it comes to computer games.

Your ship suddenly develops laser power in the next section, where you've got to stop the laser bolts being fired at you by four cannons on the sea bed.

This is the fastest of the sections I played, at which point the game moved up from boring to nearly vaguely interesting. Nearly.

After this, the game seemed to progress to the depth charge thingie again with different backgrounds, and my brain cells, realising they were in for another gripping treat, began leaping out of my earholes in their thousands.

This game defies description. It's not fast enough to be a shoot 'em up, and not intelligent enough to be an arcade adventure. I can't imagine why US Gold should choose to release this game? The standard of gameplay and graphics is literally years old, and although it is tedious to continually make comparisons, there really is tons of much better stuff around for two or three quid. Let your braincells keep their dignity, and don't bother.

YS CLAPOMETER

A dull, tedious game from US Gold, which deserves to sink without trace.

GRAPHICS
PLAYABILITY
VALUE FOR MONEY
ADDICTIVENESS

3

SHOOT OUT

Martech/£8.99 cass/£14.99 disk

Jonathan Clichésville, Alabama. The town is restless. The boys from Dusty's place are running riot. Raping, pillaging and generally smashing the place up. There's only one thing for it... call in Quick Hand Luke.

Bang! Bang! Peeeow! Zing! Cue digitised horses hooves, ricochet noises! Yeahar!

At least, that's what I was hoping. Fruitlessly, it turns out, cos *Shoot Out* is nothing more than a 1953 move-the-cursor-round-the-screen-and-zap-everything game, based on the kind of idea that used to have Vic-20 owners wringing their hands in glee.

To be sure, there are two different levels. First, shoot all the tin cans lined up on the fence within a time limit. (Quite how this helps the long-suffering townsfolk is beyond me?) Then, wander along the street blasting baddies as they appear in the windows. Some of them are unarmed, but others have an annoying habit of firing back if you're not quick enough on the trigger.

See what I mean? Just about everybody's tried writing a game like this at some point in their career, and they always get totally slated, so why does Martech think it's going to get away with this one? Especially as it's made the fatal error of putting screen shots on the back of the box.

Ah, the graphics are excellent though. Nicely drawn, well animated and smoothly scrolled. But how does that help when the game itself is totally, utterly, completely and without exception... boring! Two minutes of it and I'd had enough. Yeurch! Spit!

And as if that wasn't enough, the cursor won't stay still. The flippin' thing whizzes around all of its own accord, so hitting anything is very much down to chance. Obviously a 'special feature' or something.

It would have been nice to have had a little atmospheric music playing in the background to liven things up a bit. Or how about a few extra levels in addition to the endless repeats of the two that are already there? Even if it meant, dare I say it, multiloading? Nope. Nothing of the sort.

This is a real armpit of a game which needs a thorough taking back to the drawing board. There's potential in them thar graphics, but the rest of it should have been pensioned off years ago. Unless you've escaped from an asylum for incurable Dragon 32 owners, or have just been sucked through a time-warp from the 18th century, avoid it like a strawberry-flavoured Quality Street.

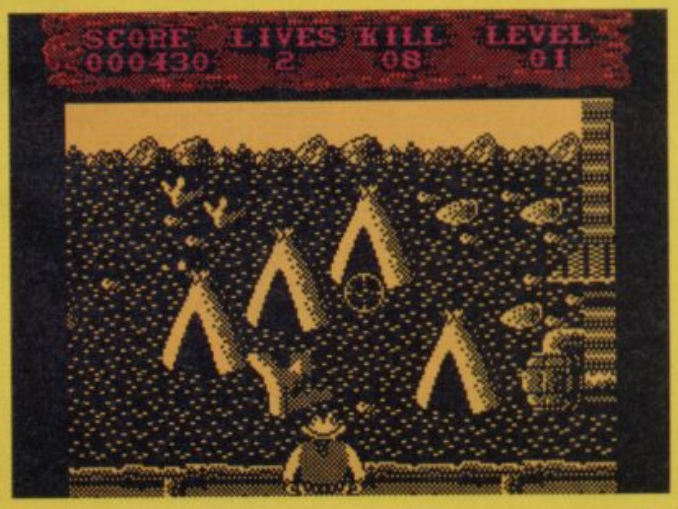
Wake me up in an hour or two, would you?

YS CLAPOMETER

Bog-standard shooting things with a cursor game. Very, very boring indeed.

GRAPHICS
PLAYABILITY
VALUE FOR MONEY
ADDICTIVENESS

4



ROBOCOP

Ocean/£8.95 cassette/£14.95 disk

Marcus Have a go at *Robocop*, they said. What? Alone? I'd rather go three rounds with Mike Tyson. Fortunately they just meant the game. Otherwise you can bet your unemployment benefit that before I knew it, eight out of ten owners (who expressed a preference) would be saying that their cats prefer me.

You've got to hand it to Ocean. There can't be many spankier licences to get your paws on than *Robocop*. And where Ocean really got it right was to snap it up ages ago — before, in fact, the arcade licence had even been put out to tender. So, the Manchester-based megagamesters had a hand in that, too, and they ended up spending months and months putting the whole package together — computer game, arcade game, 8-bit, 16-bit, the works. They've even bunged in a poster as well.

So why is it all rather unexciting when you actually load the thing up? Perhaps it's because our expectations of Ocean's product over the past year or two has just become a little too statospheric. (Open those dictionaries!) *Operation Wolf*? The new *Batman*? Brilliant games, superbly designed and implemented on the old beermat. But *Robocop* just isn't in the same league. Not that it's bad, don't get me wrong. It's just not the earthshattering blasterama I somehow expected it to be.

Anyway, enough of this whinging — let's get down to the game. You, natch, are Robocop him(it?)self, striding along the city streets in Detroit. My the streets are tough. They all look rather similar, too. And, blow! there goes your colour reception, 'cos the whole cityscape's in good ol' black and white.

So along you stride. You have fifty bullets to start with, but these soon get frittered away as you fire at the numerous baddies who attack you. And are there lots of them, or are there lots of them? It's worse than Frinton on a Saturday night, and what's more some of these thugs carry chainsaws, the latest hip accessory down Detroit way. These blighters need more bullets than the others, although if you start picking up those flashing whatnots of ammunition, you might get something a little more powerful than your wee bullet-ettes. Alternatively you might pick up some baby food to give you more energy (impregnated with Castrol GTX, no doubt).

Go on further and you'll find even more useful things like three-way bullets, but of course the nasties get nastier, shooting out of windows from above and other dirty tricks. In the film, bullets would have little effect. In the game, they do inflict a wound, and there's a limited number of wounds you can take. So be careful — there are nine levels to get through yet.

Level one, then, is downtown Detroit. (remind me not to go there.) On level two, you come across a woman being attacked by some crazy. Here you're looking straight at the two of 'em through your viewfinder, and you have to hit him without hitting her in the process. For level three it's back to Detroit with more and harder criminals — a little like the Bronx on a Saturday afternoon.

Level four's a break from the monotony. Here you have a photofit to piece together, using the computer and your own memory banks. Get this right and you'll find who it was who topped Murphy (the geezer you were before you became Roboclot). Hint: it's not Jeremy Beadle.

After that it's more shooting and running about, as you steadily work your way through the film's plot and kill everyone who needs killing, not including, sadly, Jeremy Beadle.

Don't sound too enthusiastic, do I? Well it's all a little samey, and a touch too much like lots of other zappy sideways scrollers set in warehouses and the like. What? Did someone say *Rolling Thunder*? Well, precisely, though curiously enough (since the film had an 18 certificate) I think the game will appeal greatly to younger gamesters.

The whole package, though, is nicely presented, with neat and well drawn graphics and no complaints about speed or playability. But I wasn't totally convinced. By the time you read this, I bet a good few Spec-chums who got it for Christmas will be wondering what all the fuss was about.

By the way, why doesn't anyone try a can opener on him?

YS CLAPOMETER

***Playable, efficient but uninspired shooty thing based on everyone's fave filmic gorefeast. Not really up to the standards of* Batman II *or* Oppy Wolf.**

GRAPHICS	■■■■■■■■□□
PLAYABILITY	■■■■■■■■□□
VALUE FOR MONEY	■■■■■■■■□□
ADDICTIVENESS	■■■■■■■■□□

8

CLOCK CHESS

CP Software/£19.95 disk

Richard *Clock Chess 89* is, or so the blurb on the back of the box says, 'the strongest and most versatile chess program yet for the Spectrum series. I can believe it, 'cos as a good, though not outstanding, chess player, I found it the equal of many of the dedicated chess computers on the market.

I'm not going to get technical, in my opinion, a chess program like this should be just as accessible to people who are learning to play the game as to people who have been playing for many years. It should be able to adapt to the strength of each player, and offer them a tough — but not impossible — challenge. And *Clock Chess 89* certainly succeeds on these points.

You can handicap the computer if you are a beginner; you can make it take the same time to think as you do; or you can set it a thinking limit for anything from five seconds to over 15 minutes. The longer it has to think, the better the move it will come up with. You can also set the program so that both you and the computer have to play a certain number of moves within a set time — usually five minutes. Speed chess at its most cut-throat!

To be honest, I'm a bit hesitant about just listing all the program's features. If I do, it's a boring review; if I don't, you may not get all the information you need. At the risk of being boring, I'm going to give you a good idea of just what you get with *Clock Chess 89*. You can set up 'mate in x' problems; you can get the computer to analyse positions; you can play blindfold chess; you can tell the computer whether it accepts a draw, and when.

When you are actually playing, you have a wide variety of options. You can make the computer switch sides (useful when you don't want to lose); you can get the program to show what moves it is considering; you can get the computer to play itself; you can get it to take back a move... You can also save it to disk — and if you're a chess buff, that means you can go away and analyse the board for as long as you want, without giving the computer extra time to think. Cunning, huh? But it probably won't help much — it didn't for me.

To be honest, though, the options above would only really be remarkable if they weren't in the program. What matters is the strength of the game the computer plays; and it seems to play very strongly indeed.

My complaints? Well, I only have one, really. When I loaded up, I got a rather garish screen display, with a board that seemed to take up only about a fifth of the screen. The colour choice was so bad — white and black pieces on a yellow and green board — that the white pieces were virtually invisible on the lighter, yellow, squares. It was only after I had played through a few games, and had found that I was getting a headache, that I discovered from the picture on the back of the disk box that there was a 3D option, with a very handsome looking board shown as if you were actually seated at a real chess board.

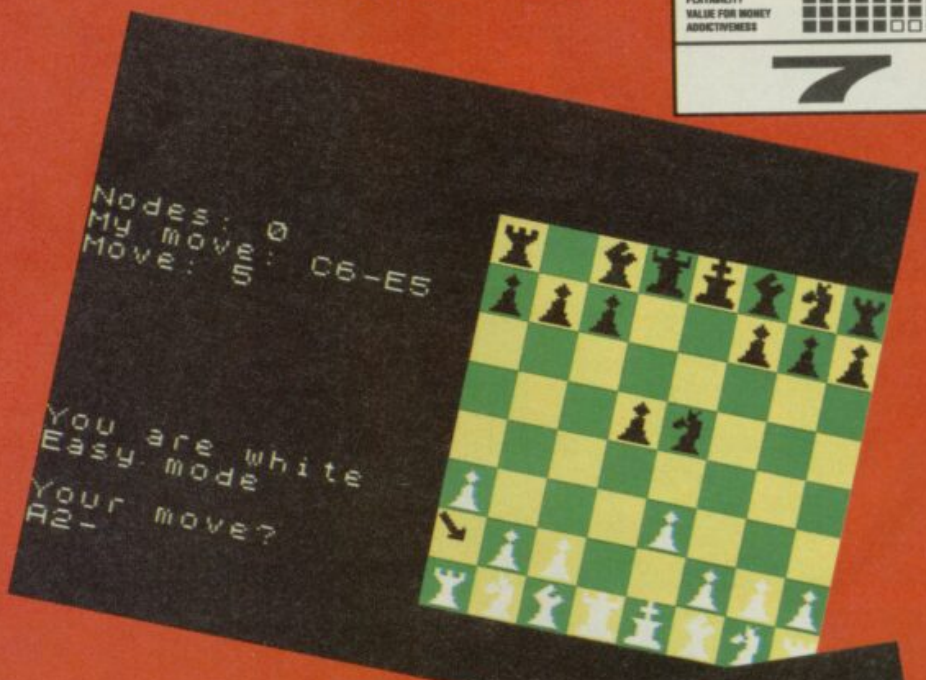
Overall *Clock Chess 89* is an excellent program, well worth getting if you are a serious chess player.

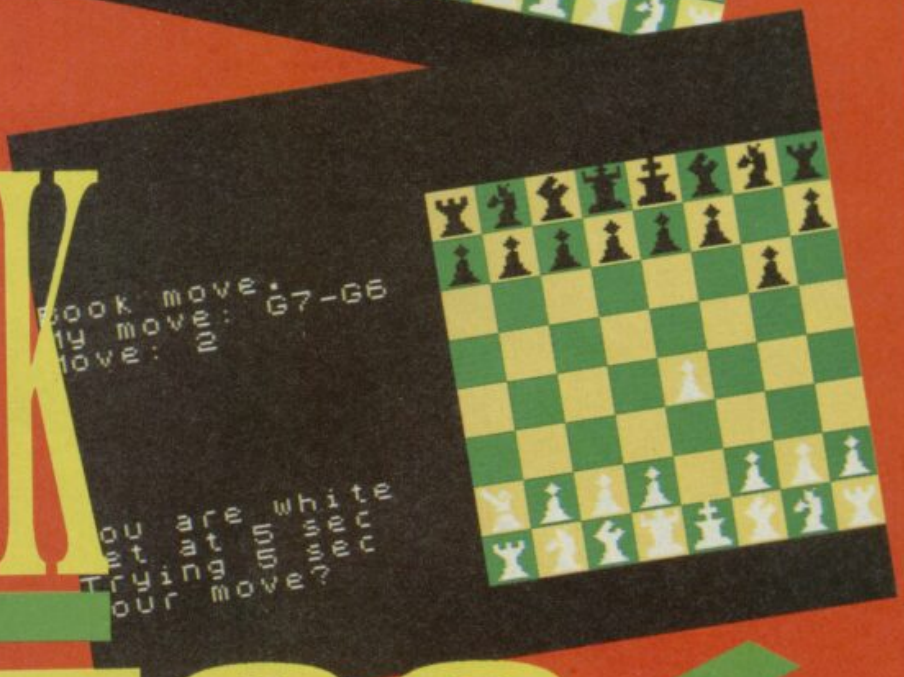
YS CLAPOMETER

Fabby Chess program for the Speccy, let down by poor graphics.

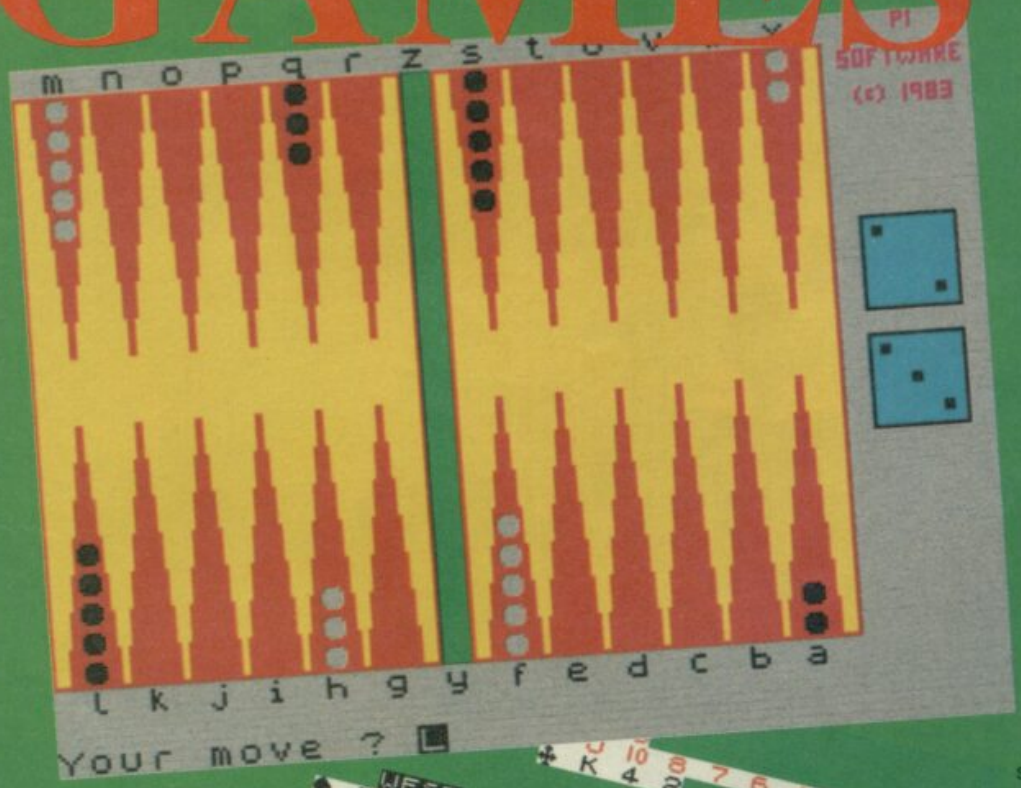
GRAPHICS	■■■■■□□□□□
PLAYABILITY	■■■■■■■■■□
VALUE FOR MONEY	■■■■■■■□□□
ADDICTIVENESS	■■■■■□□□□□

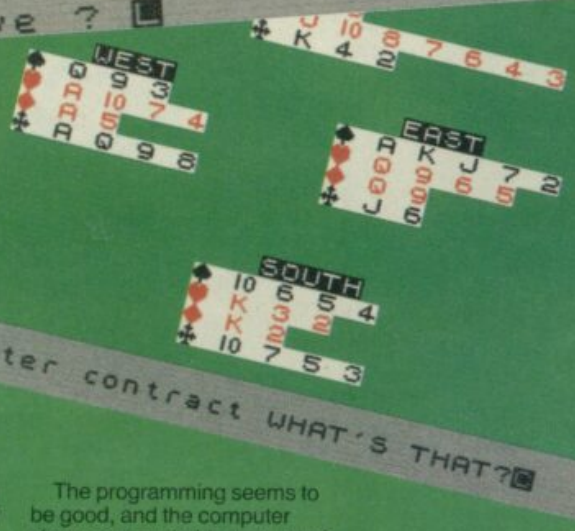
7





CLASSIC GAMES 4





CP Software/£13.95 disk

Richard *Classic Games 4* is — yes, you've guessed it — a compilation of four classic board games (in a computer version, of course). On one disk, you get chess, bridge, draughts and backgammon, all for £14.95. Good value for money, you might think — and you'd be right.

The bridge game is excellent. I'm an indifferent bridge player, who enjoys the anticipation of waiting to see what sort of a hand I'm going to get and the drama of actually bidding and playing, but hates the post-mortems and recriminations that accompany playing with real people. With this program, I get what I like and just as much of what I don't like as I can stand. Any more, and I can just tell the Spectrum to get lost.

The programming seems to be good, and the computer shows a remarkable amount of sense; it knows how to follow suit and play the low card without having to be told. It plays what to me looks like a fairly strong game. Finally, the display is more than adequate, although if I were buying just one game I would have demanded much better graphics from the +3 than you get here. But then, given that the program was written for the rubber keyed 48K, you have to accept a lower standard.

With the other three games, however, the screen displays are diabolical. In fact, they are so bad that they make it almost impossible to play the games at all. If you persevere, then make sure that you have plenty of aspirin around, as you will end up with a heck of a headache. The problem is the same as the one which mars CP Software's *Clock Chess 89*. The colours of the pieces and the board are so badly chosen that the lighter pieces disappear against the lighter squares of the checker-board in chess and draughts; the problem is less intense with backgammon, although the colours are still somewhat garish.

I had initially been relieved to see that you could change the colours of both pieces and board; but relief turned to dismay when I found that every combination of different colours that I could come up with had exactly the same problem. Come on CP, you can do better than this!

The actual strength of the different programs is good, as far as I was able to work out. The computer plays both chess and draughts very well. With backgammon I find it more difficult to judge, as it is not a game I have played much; but certainly it could wipe the floor with me.

There are four very good games here, with a lot of programming effort expended on them. It's a shame three of them have been let down by dodgy screen displays.

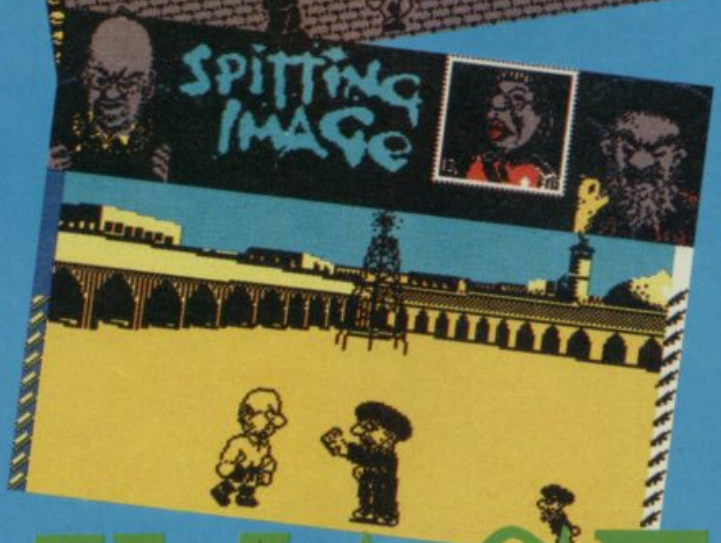
YS CLAPOMETER

A package of games, one good, the rest poor and most let down badly by very bad graphics. Oh dear

GRAPHICS
PLAYABILITY
VALUE FOR MONEY
ADDICTIVENESS

4

SPITTING IMAGE



Domark/£9.95 cass/£14.95 +3 disk

Matt Who are the six most important people in the world? According to my morning paper they'd be cuddly Emma Ridley, family-sized Fergie, oddish Michael Jackson and the 'swoony' Bros triplets, or some similar combination. 'Not so!' chorus the decidedly 'posh' Domark boys, who obviously read rather more upmarket publications than yours truly. Their six-pack includes such bastions of sense and moderation as P. W. Botha, Ayatollah Khomeni and the (newly unemployed) leader of the 'free' world, Mr Ronald 'McDonald' Reagan. What a nice, happy go lucky bunch!

Along with Maggie, Gorby and the Pope these feature as the combatants in Domark's first (licensed) beat 'em up based on the *Spitters* TV show. It's a pretty standard sort of slash 'n' bash (or in this case fart 'n' gob) affair, with the various obnoxious world leaders swinging away at each other with the prize being — gosh! gasp! eek! — the World!

It's a good licence, even if the TV pundits around here reckon the mother show is currently riding the slippy slope down the televisual dumper. From the box featuring the famous Fluck and Law puppets, to the 'witty' instruction sheet, the whole package does its little best to reproduce the look and feel of the family favourite, and this continues on screen with each large sprite looking and acting the part to a tee.

Biff! Duck and dive as our 'beloved' leader Thatch lets loose with the boxing glove and flying spittle! Thwack! Stagger under the onslaught as Ronnie attacks with head-butts and broken bottles! Poke! Squirm as groovy Gorby and his holiness the Pope jab away with the finger and banjo! Wallop! Drip as Botha 'piddles' in your direction and choke as the Ayatollah gets his hands around your larynx! The main selling point seems to be that it's all rather rude, naughty and 'cheeky' compared to standard beat 'em up fare.

To start you must choose a world leader to play with (Oo-er) and then take on the others in turn against a series of suitably cartoony backdrops. Battles tend to be fast and fun, and with some competent playing will eventually leave only one homicidal statesperson — yourself.

Hang on a minute though! The world needs saving from you too, doesn't it? Sounds like a job for... the Queen?! Yep, 'Ma'am' herself leaps down from her action-watching spot on the icon strip to mud-wrestle you into the pavement. Unfortunately this takes place at night so all you can see is pairs of eyes in established comic strip (and code-saving) fashion. In the experience of all the *YS* players there is absolutely NO WAY to win this last bit of the game, so whatever your efforts the world remains safe. Phew, what a relief, eh? And to think we owe it all to Her Majesty.

The game is generally well thought out and designed and has proved to be quite a lot of fun on other systems, but unfortunately on the Spectrum it has two rather glaring faults. The first is that once you've had fun discovering all the rude and bizarre bits you're left with a rather ordinary and not particularly hard beat 'em up. The other — far more serious problem — is with the loading. First you must load side one of the tape, then flip it over to take the characters themselves from the other side which takes *ages*. Then each time you lose and want another go you have to reload all six characters from side two again! Yaaghh! At this rate you'll spend 40 minutes loading out of every hour! Since both copies we got acted in exactly the same way, it doesn't seem to be a fault with the tape but a design problem. How silly.

YS CLAPOMETER

Nicely packaged and well executed beat 'em up which would be a birrova goodie if not for deadly long loading sequences.

GRAPHICS	■■■■■■■■■□□
PLAYABILITY	■■□□□□□□□□□
VALUE FOR MONEY	■■■■■■■□□□□
ADDICTIVENESS	■■■■■■■□□□□

6

OPERATION HORMUZ

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Phil A game based on whaaaaat? Americans fighting in the Arabian Gulf? Oh dear, oh dear. Trifle ideologically unsound, old chaps, what with peace breaking out all over the political scene . . . even in the land of olive groves and men with sheets on their heads. So one out of ten for international tact.

Durell? Now there's a name which I know. Didn't it used to be pretty heavy in the Spectrum software biz? Well it's a programming house now, and this game bears a less than striking resemblance to one of Durrell's last games before biting the bullet last year . . . *Spitfire*, wasn't it? You control what looks like a Harrier (I didn't know the Yanks had any Harriers! oh, I see, it's apparently a McDonnell Douglas VTOL! Yer learn summink every day, duncha?) Anyroad, you control this plane and fly over the ships, left and right, and bomb the bass out of them.

Operation Hormuz is supposed to be 'a realistic and highly detailed simulation of battle against the latest form of international terrorism'. But it isn't. What it is though is a skillfully crafted and playable arcade game with a certain nagging addictive quality that should keep you going for quite a while. Even getting blasted continuously you last quite a long time, so there's none of the frustrations attendant with getting your undercarriage blown off every two seconds. Ahem. But it's true, you get value for money from the length of each game, and great sound and graphics, up to Durrell's usual high standard — especially the music at the front. Definitely Worth a look.

YS CLAPOMETER

Durell-built flying combat sim, with excellent graphics and sound sound. Shame about the plot.

GRAPHICS	■■■■■■■■■□
PLAYABILITY	■■■■■■■■■□
VALUE FOR MONEY	■■■■■■■■□□
ADDICTIVENESS	■■■■■■■□□□

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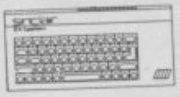

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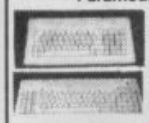

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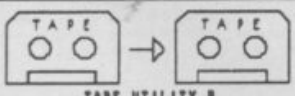

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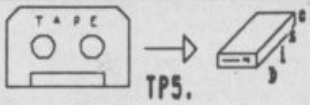

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■ Two Spectrum +'s for sale. £1,000 worth of games, two joysticks, Kempston Quickshot Competition Pro, two interfaces, two cassette recorders. All worth £1,438. Sell for £250. Tel. Gavin after 3pm on (0903) 716584.

■ Buy my £500+ worth of software for £450 (ono) and get my Spectrum 128, my +3 joystick, and tape recorder FREE! Worth over £900. Ask for Chris on (0592) 772058.

■ Wanted — Speccy 128! Will swop for software including *Gnome Ranger, Scruples, Starglider, Home Office* or will swop selection for NLQ printer or multiface. Contact Nick (01) 504 5083 after 5pm.

■ For sale: 48K Spectrum, just had service, with software worth over £120. Sell for £60 ono. Tel. Doncaster (0302) 532195, ask for Lee (after 6pm).

■ Multiface 1 boxed, £25, Wafa Drive and wafers £25. Both as new. Currah speech pack £7.50. Post free if required. Phone 0792 872714. Ask for Ron.

■ Spectrum +, Datacorder, joystick, interface, lots of games, cost around £250! Sell for £80. Tel Steven on (061) 431 0506. Will deliver in Manchester area.

■ Spectrum +2, including over 40 games such as *Mickey Mouse*. Also joystick and loadsa mags. Will swop for Spectrum +3, or £120. Phone Ware 2255.

■ Spectrum +, with leads, joystick and interface, 118 original games (200+) and tape recorder. Worth £300, sell for £125. Phone Brian, Leeds, 400281 after 6pm.

■ Spectrum 128K +2 for sale. Slow motion interface and over £200 of games for sale. £150 ono. Phone Paul on (0362) 87693 or write to Paul, Woodstock, Scarning, Dereham, Norfolk.

SOFTWARE

■ Great games to swop. Your list for mine. Barry Dooley, Ballymacarbry, Clonmel, Co. Waterford, Eire, or phone (052) 36149.

■ Forget the rest, contact the best! Send your list to Dack, 103 Wyckham Road, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham B36 0HT.

■ The Software Swop Agency — often imitated, never beaten. Hurry! Send your list of what you've got and what you want. Send sae for details. Cobblestone, Mill Lane, Halford, Warwickshire.

■ Swop my old games (*Marsport, WOTT, Tapper*) for your new games. I want *Space Harrier, Footy Manager 2*. Send your list for mine. Chris Down, Glengarry, Sweeters Piece, Mortimer, Reading, Berks.

■ Software to swop, recent titles including *Tracksuit Manager* and *Target Renegade*. All letters answered. Write to Russel Butterworth, 7 Glentworth Road, Redland, Bristol, BS6 7EG. Write now (please).

■ I have over 600 games to swop. Many recent titles. Send your list for mine. Write to Simon Mouncher, 23 Vulcan Close, Padgate, Warrington, WA2 0HL.

■ BRILL! COOL! FAB! *Rygar, Ramparts, Turbo Esprit, Paperboy* for *Barbarian I* or *II, Predator,* or *Out Run*. Write to Antony, 7 Culiford Crescent, Canford Heath, Poole BH17 9DL.

■ Wanted *Arkanoid*. Will swop for any one of *Trantor, Platoon, Now Games Five*. Contact Leigh at (0344) 779269.

■ Have over 1000 titles to swop including *Vindicator, Alien Syndrome*. Send your list for mine. Will answer all letters. Mario Ibrev, Jaime Cibks, 2790 Apto A, Montevideo, Uraguay, South America.

■ I will swop *Target Renegade* for *Skate Crazy*. Also *Dan Dare* or *KickStart 2* for *Frank Bruno*. Phone (0992) 892019 during *Neighbours*.

■ Wanted, *The Double, Beatle Quest,* and *London Adventure*. Will buy or swop, Barry on Nottingham 205504. Originals only.

■ Speccy and C64 owner wants to swop software with anyone from all over the world. All letters will be answered. Just write to Ricardo Pereira, Rua Das Rosas, 36, R/C Esq., Moreira Maia, 4470 maia, Portugal.

■ Have 500 games to swop. Latest games include *M. Day 2, Crazy Cars, Gauntlet 2, Buggy Boy*. I would also like any rock music, Bon Jovi, Ratt, Metallica, etc. Send your list to Graham Finney, 14 Greenhill Road, Billinge, Nr Wigan, Lancs WN5 7LG.

■ Want to swop games? So do I! Send your list for mine. Jorge Ponsela, R. Luis Pastor de Macedo Lote 33.30, Portugal.

■ Swop my *Garfield* for your *OutRun* or whatever. Please send your list to 100 Chapman Road, Gordons Bay, 7150 South Africa (originals only).

■ Do you want to swop games? I've 250 games to swop. Johan Peters, Cath V Renesstriz, Zandvoort, Holland 2041BJ.

■ I have got over 550 games to swop including *Karnov, Crazy Cars, Target Renegade, Action Force 2, Rastan* and *Dan Dare 2*. Send your list for mine, will answer all letters. Matthew Hassall, 41 Marian Drive, Gt. Boughton, Chester, Cheshire CH3 5RX.

■ I have over 1,200 games to swop with you. Send your list for mine. Write to Hugo Diogo, Rua Joad Evangelista No. 24, 6000 Castelo Branco, Portugal.

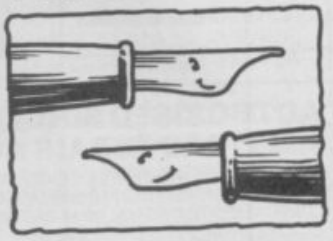
■ Do you want to swop games with me? If you do then send a list to J. Schuttert, Pinksterbloemstraat 8, 2802 z.p. Gouda, Holland.

■ Wanted *Tai-Pan, Target Renegade, Bionic Commandos, 720°*. Will swop for *Renegade, OutRun, Solid Gold, Combat School,* and *Matchday 2*. Originals only. My five for your four. I also want to buy cheap 128 games. Emil Lee Engeland, Mehlen 8c, 3074 Skoger, Norway.

■ Wanted: *Elite*. Must work for my +2. I will swop for *Crazy Cars, Now Games 3* and *Hacker*. Contact Dave Pettit, 44 Glapthorn Road, Oundle, Peterborough, PE8 4PP.

■ Will swop *Firefly* for *Bionic Commandos*, and *Flying Shark* for either *Roadblasters, Dark Side, Where Time Stood Still*, or any other hit game. If interested, phone (0506) 631339.

PEN PALS



■ Hiya! I'm 16 and am interested in games, and having a girl as a pen pal. Please send to P. O'Regan, 8 Clashdov Road, Togher, Cork, Co. Cork, Rep. of Ireland. Guaranteed a big reply. Hope to hear from you.

■ Fifteen year old male seeking female pen pal of any age. Interests include computers, football, and pop music. Photo if possible please. Richard Carne, 16 Roman Road, St. Budeaux, Plymouth, Devon.

■ Twelve year old male seeks 11 to 13 year old male or female pen pal who has a Spectrum computer. Interests include badminton, Speccys, soccer and *Neighbours*. If interested, please contact Craig Spence, Wideford Mains, St. Ola, Kirkwall, Orkney Isles, Scotland KW15 1SS.

■ Desperate 15 year old male requires female pen pal of similar age. All letters replied to. PLEASE make my day by writing to Simon, 21 Newlands Avenue, Bexhill, East Sussex, TN39 4HA.

■ Twelve year old hunk of a Speccy owner, looking for gorgeous Miss World of same age. Tips for sale, but if a real beauty (enclose photo) will give some free! Brian Mullen, 2 Ballybride, Roscommon, Eire.

■ Hi! My name's Richard and I'm looking for an attractive female pen pal aged 12-13. So, get writing to Richard Hunt, Saddlers Mead, Northlands, Sibsey, Boston, Lincs. PE22 0UA. PS Please enclose photo.

■ Anyone want a pen pal? I've got over 300 games. Anyone will do, any sex, any age. If interested, write to Ian Mellors, 101 William Street, Long Eaton, Notts, NG10 4GR, England.

■ Do you like heavy metal? If you do then write a letter to me so we can swop music tapes. Write to Thorvald Gunnarsson, Hverfisgata 49, 101 Rekjavik, Iceland.

■ I have lots of new games to swop. Send your list for mine, Juan Abreu, Jaime Cibils 2790, AP1 Montevideo, Rep O del Uraguay, South America.

■ Twelve year old female looking for a pen friend age 11-13, female or male. I have a Speccy +2. I collect scraps, I like music, and swimming. Write to T. Beattie, 41 Brownhill Place, Charleston, Dundee, DD2 4JU.

■ Two males 16 and 14, looking for two females of same age. Interests include sport and having fun. Please include photo. London area. All replies answered. Andrew and Peter, 7 Milton House, Kingsnympton Park, Kingston, Surrey. KT2 7TL.

■ Pen pals wanted to swop games, music. Have over 600 games to swop. Write to Craig Eades, 23 Kilton Place, Pitsmoor, Sheffield, S3 9LW.

■ Alien from a distant star wants humanoid creatures to communicate with. I have nearly 350 games to swop. Write to Trevor Holloway, 1 Solent Close, Lymington, Hants, SO41 9ST (Naa Noo Naa Noo)

■ Portuguese boy looking for pen pals of any age, sex and nationality, to swop games. Your list for mine. Many titles. Write to Davia Filipe Dias Ferreira, Av. 25 de Abril, 7 Porteira, 2800 Almado.

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WANTED

■ Help! Desperate adventurer is looking for copies of the adventure magazines *What Now* and *Adventure Handbook*, both from the now late 'H & D Services'. Please send details to Silvia Janssen, Whilhelminastr 1, 604g AJ Herten, Netherlands.

■ Wanted! Add-ons for Spectrum, mouse, disk drive, printer. Buy or swop loads of software. Write to Neil Richardson, 59 Thirlmere Road, Ridge Estate, Lancaster LA1 3LL.

■ Wanted! Any software for 128K Spectrum or 48K Basic. Will pay for good tapes. Phone (0379) 741378.

■ Wanted! Snapshot II in perfect order. Will pay up to £15 sterling. Write now to Conor Feely, Dunleckney, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow, Ireland.

■ Wanted! *Daley Thompson's Decathlon*. Swop for all of these, *Green Beret, Spy Hunter, Light Force, Sam Stoat, Galvan, Dandy, Breakthru, Yie Ar Kung Fu, Dragon's Lair* plus two mystery games! Phone St. Helens 54714 and ask for John.

■ Power pack for ZX81 wanted. Will buy for five pounds. Phone Darren on (0382) 84797.

■ Wanted! Sinclair joystick for my +3. Willing to pay a reasonable price. Phone Redditch, 401788 and ask for Horness.

■ Wanted! Keyboard, software, joystick, printer, disk drive, for 48K Spectrum. Also CBM 64 computer. Send details & price to Michael Byrne, 31 St. Fintans Villas, Deansgrange, Co. Dublin, Eire.

■ Wanted! *720°*. Will swop for two of *Back To School, Skool Daze, Tarzan, Gunrunner, Samuari Trilogy, Deathscape, Super Soccer,* and *Captain America*. Phone (0603) 745974 and ask for Mark. Originals only.

■ Wanted! *Spyhunter*. Swop for, *Garfield, Confrontation, Odd Job Eddie* 128K, *Witchfiend* 128K, *Ian Botham's Test Match* 128K and *Super File* 128K. The number of James' telling bone is (0403) 51971.

■ Multiface 3 or other program for transfering games to disk. £25 for Multiface or £5 for program. Contact Steven Wilson, c/o SSgt. Williams, G2/G3 Branch, HQ 1 Armd Div. BFPO 32. (Steven says he'll pay postage!)

■ Wanted! Multiface 128. Will swop for *Computer Classics 2, Computer Hits 4,* and *Coin-op Connexion*. Instructions please. Write to, Richard MacDonald, 43 Rannoch Road, Letham, Perth, PH1 2BY. Any offers?

■ Wanted! *Sorcerer Lord*, or any wargame. Also *Bards Tale, Virus, Black Lamp,* or *Elite*. Will swop for other software. Phone Richard, after 6pm on (061) 652 3128.

■ Urgently want football management games. Will swop *Game Over* and *Ramparts*, one for one. Must be in Newcastle area, so phone Gary on (091) 413 3284. Please hurry!

■ Wanted! *The Double, Gary Lineker's Super Soccer*. Will swop *Super Sports Basketball, Roadblasters, 10 Great Games Vol. 1* (48K). Write to J. Robertson, Cwmpalis, Gibeon, St. Clears, Dyfed, SA33 4DS and ask for Joe.

■ Wanted *Barbarian II, Where Time Stood Still, Last Ninja Two, World Class Leaderboard*. Will swop for *Hercules, Star Wars, Gunrunner, Dizzy, Return To Oz*. Phone (0349) 62428. Ask for David after 4pm.

■ Wanted! *Wonderboy* and *Pacland*. Will swop for *Roadblasters* and *Matchday II*. Also wanted Multiface 128, will swop for *Game, Set And Match, Computer Hits 1 & 2* and *Games Part 3*.

■ Swop *Indiana Jones, OutRun, Galvan, Death Wish III*, and *Shadow Skimmer* for *Bubble Bobble, Exolon, Karnov, Rastan* or *Heartland*. Swop all or one for one. write to Dorian Ace, 7 Kimberley Rd. Sixbells, Abertillery, Gwent, NP3 2PT.

■ Badly wanted. Please, please has anyone got *Iron Horse*? If you have, I will give you a reasonable price. Please ring (01) 592 9386 between 4pm and 9pm. Thank you, bye.

■ Will swop new MSX mouse (worth £60) for Multiface 128. Phone Neal on (0603) 612379. (Norwich).

■ Wanted! *Flying Shark, Target Renegade, Marauder, Barbarian 2, Hot Shot, Phantom Club, Last Ninja I* and *II*, for my *Freddy Hardest, Gryzor, Exolon, Trantor, We Are The Champions, Gauntlet 2*. Desperate for *Rolling Thunder*. May change games to suit swopper. Phone (0829) 52551 and ask for Iain.

■ I've great games to swop. The best and latest including *Roadblasters, OutRun, Flintstones*. Reply guaranteed. Send list to Ian Garner, 19 Rochester Grove, Hazel Grove, Stockport SK7 4JD.

■ Twenty-one year old male with Spectrum 128K wants to swop games. Interested? Send list. Also wanted penpals. Will answer all letters. Write to Dave, 31 Poplar Court, Bramley, Leeds, LS13 4SW.

■ I will swop *Space Harrier* for *Barbarian* or for *Army Moves*. Phone Robert on 0892 65 4057 after 7pm.

■ Wanted! Homegrown software (any kind) to share with others. Small payment given, but must be your own, original code or Basic! Details from Ron Cavers, 605 Loughborough Road, Birstall, Leicester LE4 4NJ.

MESSAGES AND EVENTS

■ All Micro's Club, MSX, Speccy 128, +2, 48K. Exchange, members across world, free members, send list to All Micro's, 18 de Julio 1314, L.27 Montevideo, Uruguay, South America.

■ Wafadrive owners! Anyone interested in wafadrives (especially with knowlege of protection or bootstrap programs) or with wafas for sale? Contact Mark Lambert, 46 Lingholme, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham, DH2 2TP.

■ Free two turns to anyone who joins new PBM strategy game. If you're interested, then send an sae for details. 11 Woodlands Ave, Preston, Lancs, PR2 6DT. Female penfriends needed also.

■ To Lewis, keep up the very good work with the legendary *Micro Mania*. *Micro Mag* feels better for it!

■ +3 homegrown software, *Fruity* and *Star Wars*. For more info contact Matthew Godbolt at Forest Lane, East Horsely, Surrey, KT24 5HU or 'phone. (E. Horsley) 5284.

■ PBM *Clash* is brilliant! It has economics, diplomacy, and strategy for only £1.50 a month. Send for details to *Clash*, Sunnyfield Cottage, Station Road, Langworth, Lincoln, LN3 5BO now!

■ Wanted! Five players for *Diplomacy* the board game. Players must have the game. Send your name and address and country you would like, all letters answered, European players welcome, to, Daniel Sullivan, 18 Coolroe Heights, Ballincollig, Co. Cork, Ireland.

■ Come on +3 owners, get writing to me! I have lots of games and utilities to swop. Stephen Sophos, Kato Dexameni, 34600 Nea Artaki, Halkidiki, Greece.

■ Do you write machine code games with graphics and sound? If so, send an example of your work to us for evaluation, Matthew Williams, 6 Tower Road North, Meswall, Wirral, Merseyside.

FANZINES

■ *Micro Mag* is the best tape fanzine! Send £1 to A. Everingham, Micro Mag, The Bungalow, Keycol Hill, Newington, Kent, ME9 8NA.

■ No. 1 of *Spec User* now on sale. Send a cheque/postal order for 50p to *Spec User*, 9 Lime Street, South Moor, Stanley, Co. Durham, OH9 7EJ. Contains POKEs, programs, hints, maps, tips, reviews.

■ For Issue 1 of *Help!* Full of POKEs, maps, hints, and tips. Just send some of the latest POKEs, hints, tips, or maps to Chesil Cottage, Abbotsbury, Weymouth, Dorset, DT3 4JT.

■ Do you want to program using advanced machine code? The *Advance 280* course will teach you how. The new mag for programming is out this October. Just send 50p for Issue 1. Try it for yourself!

■ *Specs!* It's bigger and fuller than ever! Tips, news, reviews... and more! Send £1 for latest issue to *Specs*, 17 Bullingdon Road, Oxford, Oxon. Cheques/POs to Paul Harrison please.

■ Want to put your art skills to use? *Iscool* fanzine needs an artist to design its front covers. Send a sample of your work to Rastan Advert *Iscool*, 23 Cowper road, Bournemouth, BN9 2UJ.

■ *Games Not Included!* Issue No. 1. Thirty pages of tips, free poster, and 20 pages of pre/reviews. Send £1 PO/cheque to Simon, 17 Brooklands Road, Swinton, Manchester, M27 3AT.

■ *Adventure Probe*, Dept. H, 24 Maes y cwm, Llandudno, Gwynedd, LL30 1JE.

■ *Homegrown*. No. 1 for homegrown software. Issue 1 out now, only 50p. Send to Miss I. Young, Tintagel House. Salisbury Road, Edmonton, London N9 9TF (with demo tape) (*Homegrown* authors! We need you!)

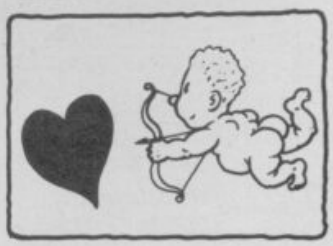
■ I'm here to tell you about *Rom*, a new Spectrum fanzine packed with reviews and tips. Issue one out now. Send a large sae and £1 to G. Foster, 20 Fordston Ave, Preesall, Blackpool, FY6 0EB.

■ *Basic* is the new fanzine for you. For the latest issue, just send a cheque/po for £1.30 to Kenny Jarman, 18 Poplar Close, Biggleswade, Beds, SG18 0EW.

■ *Microphobia*, issue seven out soon. It's full of screenshots, reviews, competitions, POKEs, hardware, PBM, adventures, previews plus much more. Send 40p plus sae to Gerald Preston, 5 Meadow Park, Garstang, Lancs, PR3 1TA.

■ *Tech 48*. New mag. POKEs, hints, tips, reviews, and more. Send sae and 40p for immediate despatch to *Tech 48*, 84 Hidcote Roads, Oadby, Leics, LE2 5PE.

LONELY HEARTS



■ Lonely (sniff, sniff) 11 year old Speccy owner seeks good looking female to cheer him up, oh, and please send a photo. P.S. If you don't send a photo, you might not get a reply. Write to Colin Beveridge, 28 Wilton Drive, Glasgow, G20 6RX.

■ Lonely male, aged 16, seeks slim and attractive female, aged 16-20. Please send photo and write to Paul Turner, 80 Bloomfield Street North, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63 3RF.

■ Hunky 13 year old male seeks fun loving female of 13 to 15. Write to George Kinnaird, 14 St. Gerardines Road, Lossie, Moray, IU31 6JY.

■ Attractive female, 14 seeks male penpals for a bit of fun. Likes dogs, motorbikes and smelly socks. Write to W. Boyd, 19 Donegal Way, Glenfield, Carrick-Fergus, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland, BT38 7SE.

■ Fifteen year old boy seeks attractive girl, age 14-18, who likes most chart music, and having a laugh. Send photo, if possible to Scott McLaren, 16 Lyndhurst Terrace, Dundee D2 3HP.

■ 23 year old cuddly male looking for female friends for fun and romance. Likes Russian Dwarf Hamsters, kebabs and pop music. Please write to Jim, 173 Shakespeare Road, London, SE24 0PY.

■ 16 year old male seeks females of around the same age. Write to Stephen Rogers, 7 Oaklands Crescent, Southwick, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, SR5 5AP. Enclose photo. A reply is guaranteed.

■ Two males, both aged 15, seek two nice looking females aged 14-16. Must come from Scotland and like most chart music. Please include photos. Write to Gavin and Jason, Dundurcas Farm, Rothers, Morayshire, IV33 7AE.

■ Hi! I'm 13 and looking for any male friends between 13-16. So don't delay! Photo if possible. Bye! Helen Grant, 190 Gladstone Road, Barry, South Glamorgan, C76 6ND.

■ Fourteen year old male seeks 12-15 year old female, who likes music and having fun. Please enclose photo if possible. Shalom Dinut, Ramut 5/7 Jerusalem 97729, Israel.

■ Hi! I'm an attractive fun loving male body builder, aged 13. If you are around my age, write to Simon Manson, 15 Copley Mount, Copley, Halifax, West Yorks.

■ Twenty year old male searching for female pen pals, aged 16+, for fun or maybe romance. Please enclose photo if possible, and a friendly letter introducing yourself. All letters answered. Geoff Roberts, 402 Poulton Road, Wallasey, Merseyside L44 5SF.

■ Little furry creature would like to chat to creaturess. If you want some fun, send some hay and a photo to Mr Hamster, 42 Severn Acres, Orton Brimbles, Peterboro' PE2 0XH.

■ Wanted: Nice and beautiful girl for a very lonely boy. Likes computers, and having fun. Has many friends. Must be aged 12-14. Please send photo. Please ring (0209) 216917 quick!

■ 14 year old male seeks good looking female between ages of 14-16. Must live in London area. Enclose photo. Write to Darren Douglas, 4 Purves Road, Harlesden, London NW10 5SU.

■ Lonely boy aged 18, seeks female company (local area preferably) for warm friendly relationship. Many interests, great sense of humour. Please contact Steve Farmer, 72 Plumbe Street, Burnley, Lancs, BB11 3AW.

■ I am a 26 year old good looking male looking for good looking female, 18 to 27, who is young, free and single. So write to Ian Hayes soon, please, with photo, at 606 Middle Road, Ravenhill, Swansea SA5 5DL.

■ 14+ female needed. Desperate male who likes girls and Speccys is waiting. Please send photo, all letters answered. Please hurry. P.S. Witty people only!! Ant, 11 Greenhill Close, Narborough, Leics.

■ Two lads aged 17 seeks two good looking ladies for going out and generally having a good time. Photos please. Chris Powell, 25 Leggatts Wood Ave, Watford, Herts.

■ Yo! Barrie here, I'm looking for girls who like having a good time and music like Bros & Wet Wet Wet. If poss. please send photo. 113 Hawthorn Rd, Middleston Moor, Spennymoor, Co Durham.

■ Two desirable hunky males seek two very attractive girls aged 13-15 yrs. Photo if possible please. Our hobbies include music, computing and most sports. Graeme Biggins, 6 Ewan Way, Stanway, Colchester, Essex.

■ 19 year-old female seeks good looking male 18-21, send photo please. Ann Corcoran, 37 Garry Drive, Fox Bar, Paisley Scotland.

■ Lonely male aged 16 seeks attractive girl 15-17 for relationship. If you live in the S. Yorkshire area, please write, including photo, to Andrew Mason, 31 Furnival Way, Whiston, Rotherham, S. Yorks.

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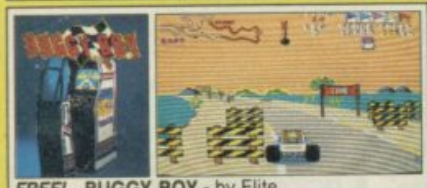

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FUTURE SHOCKS

Corky o'rorky! The games keep acoming! How's about checking out this little lot, 'looking the way they like, and liking the way they look!?' *(You're fired! Ed)*

CAPTAIN BLOOD

If you've ever played a French game you'll know that they tend to be a bit, erm, funny. The croissant crunchers have rather different ideas about what constitutes 'playability' to the rest of us.

Captain Blood is similarly 'strange' — as are the people behind it — but luckily it's also rather good. After much success on the ST and other systems it finally hits the Spectrum, just in time for YS to present a pot pourri of 'spook' facts about the game they're calling (cue Vincent Price tone)

INTERESTING 'SPOOK' FACTS ABOUT *CAPTAIN BLOOD*

(1) *Captain Blood* is a VERY big game. There are 36,000 (36,000!) planets for you to explore, and if you don't go through them with some sort of 'plan' in mind you'll probably find yourself playing for a very long time. Ooh la la!

(2) *Captain Blood* is released on a special 'prestige' label Infogrames/Exxos. Everyone at Exxos is apparently 'inspired' by the great 'god' Exxos. They show their devotion to him by dressing up in bizarre head dresses based on the quill of a fountain pen (?) and performing strange ceremonies. At a recent Paris show numerous Exxos employees took a computer out into the streets and sacrificed it to their 'god' with the use of a big hammer. After this weird spook ritual all the French journalists scurried over and took a piece of the unlucky computer home as a souvenir. Our informant tells us the computer was 'only' an Amstrad CPC — so it 'doesn't matter too much' — but the really bizarre thing is that everyone in France took it all totally seriously, and no one thought to tell them they're quite obviously a bunch of spam heads.

(3) *Captain Blood* tells of a computer programmer dragged into his machine by strange forces. He finds himself turning into his own creation, Captain Blood. All very well, except there are thirty other Captain Bloods dotted around the galaxy sapping his energy. He manages to 'bump off' 25, and the game follows his attempts to 'ice' the last five.

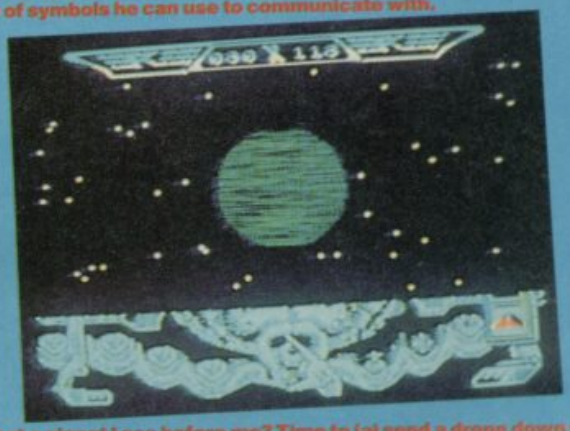
(4) Blood's search involves sending living missiles down to the surface which involves a spectacular sequence reminiscent of racing through the *Star Wars* trench. Your missile creature will then approach a native of the planet (should there be one) and you will be able to indulge in conversation with him.

(5) Conversation is rather tricky as you talk using a series of symbols — very time consuming especially if your conversant plays hard to get. Patience is a necessary virtue if you wish to play *Captain Blood*.

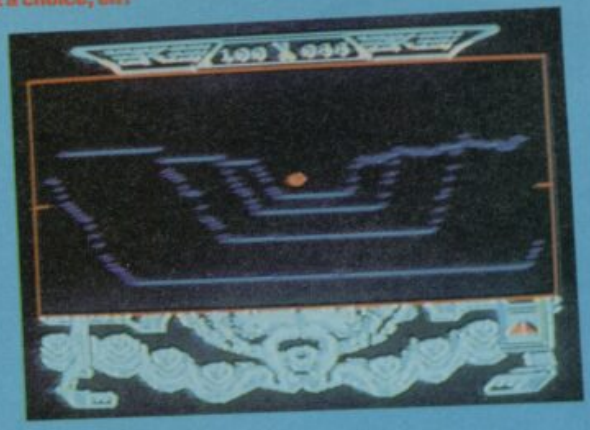
(6) *Captain Blood* lets you be a real bounder. You can destroy any planet you don't like the look of or beam aliens aboard your ship and have a go at them. This may intimidate them into telling you things — but you can't afford to make them too stroppy or they won't tell you where to go next and you'll be *Lost In Space* (eek!).

(7) It would take weeks, perhaps months even, to complete *Captain Blood*. But if you take too long to find the clones you will start to fade away and lose control of your Space Ark and end up in ALL sorts of trouble.

Flubba dubba dub? Here we see a wibbly alien in his 'natural environment'. Captain Blood's 'hand' is the stick-like thing at the bottom of the screen, hovering over MERELY PART of the massive key of symbols he can use to communicate with.



Is that a planet I see before me? Time to (a) send a drone down to scout around, (b) take close up photos to 'suss' out the defence systems, (c) go into hyper space and look elsewhere, (d) blow it up. What a choice, eh?



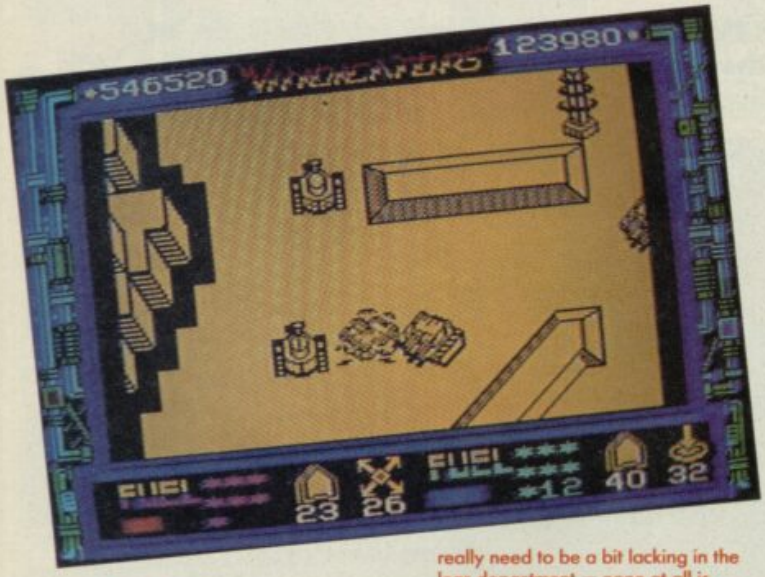
Wheeee! Down the trench we go, taking great care not to hit the sides of the canyon while at the same time not going high enough to be hit by the planetary lazer defences. Each living missile can take only so many hits on the walls, but if you destroy one you can always send another . . .

(8) *Captain Blood* has some lovely graphics, Jean-Michel Jarre music (if you like that sort of thing) and a multitude of tricky puzzles to complete. At £9.95/£14.95 disk, it's certainly a lot of game for your 'bob.'

(9) There are no more interesting 'spook' facts about *Captain Blood*, 'cept it's out soon!

And there you have it! A bizarre game that may not be to your taste, but is well worth a 'peek'. It is certainly a landmark of sorts and should be bought if you're 'laid up' in a hospital bed for six months with nothing to do but twiddle your toes.

FUTURE SHOCKS



vindicators

Domark

If there's one thing we've noticed about tanks it's that they are not very pleasant places to be. For a start to be a successful tank occupant you really need to be a bit lacking in the legs department — none at all is ideal, really. Someone well known to us once slid into the driver's seat of a Scorpion when he wasn't supposed to and found it rather difficult to slide out again. Impossible in fact, due to his legs being rather tangled up with a whole load of machinery at the bottom of the footwell. A moment of acute embarassment. This degree of discomfort being normal in tank driving circles, it comes as no surprise to us to learn that some of them are mean muthas all ready to take it out on any passing evil empire.

Just such is the situation, in fact, in Domark's first Tengen arcade licence, *Vindicators*. Here you drive a futuristic battle tank on a multi-directional scrolling backdrop, demolishing the control centres of each of fourteen space stations (okay then, levels.)

There are fuel supplies to be picked up and extra weapons to be added to your vehicle in classic shoot 'em up fashion. At £9.99 cassette and £14.99 disk, it's but the first of a number of Atari arcade game conversions Domark has landed for release this year on the Tengen label. Yee-haw!!

INCREDIBLE SHRINKING SPHERE

Electric Dreams

If there's one moral to be learned from a few years playing with your flexible-keyed friend, it's that the future is not going to be a very safe place. Far too many maurauding aliens and crazy robots for our liking. Not to mention dangerous unstable death planets.

In *Incredible Shrinking Sphere*, a game which Electric Dreams claims was inspired by the weave pattern on an ordinary pair of carpet 'slippers' *(Surely some mistake? Ed)*, you play a rather unfortunate member of the Sphere Corps sent to rescue some old duffer from a training facility gone beserk.

What this amounts to is a multi-level, multi-directionally scrolling maze which you whizz through in your sphere ship, avoiding traps, hostile spheres and so on. What gives the game its name is the fact that sometimes your sphere is, erm, big and sometimes it's, erm, small. Must be the cold *(Oh dear. Ed)*

ISS should be in the shops even as we speak, so you can check it out for yourselves, should the mood take you.

FORGOTTEN WORLD

US Gold

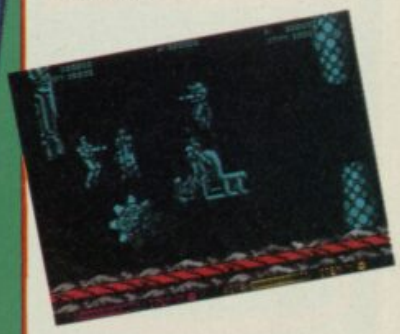
"But Professor Challenger, you're crazy!" Hunky so called American 'actor', Doug McClurg (?) raised his right eyebrow in a fine display of shock." No crap actor has ever tried to tunnel through to the centre of the earth in a turbocharged corkscrew — and survived!!!"

Seedy old British 'academic' type Peter Cushing spun round with a slightly crazed look in his eye," But my dear chap, that doesn't mean it can't be done. My craft can carry us through to a wonderous land where strange creatures co-exist with busty cave maidens and strange men in rubber dinosaur suits!"

Doug let slip his slightly preposterous cockney accent for the briefest of moments." Men in rubber dinosaur suits, eh? Well why didn't you say so?! Count me 'in', Prof'!!"

Sadly for Doug and rubber dinosaur suit fans everywhere, US Gold's new Capcom licence *Forgotten World* has very little to do with crap actors discovering lost civilisations in obscure corners of the globe. Instead it's a five level arcade conversion for one or two players, featuring an airborne character with a big gun, almost like a horizontally scrolling *Space Harrier*.

Sounds like a fun blast doesn't it, Spec pals, but if there isn't at least a little dinosaur secreted somewhere in the game, we are going to be most disappointed . . .



FUTURE SHOCKS

PACLAND

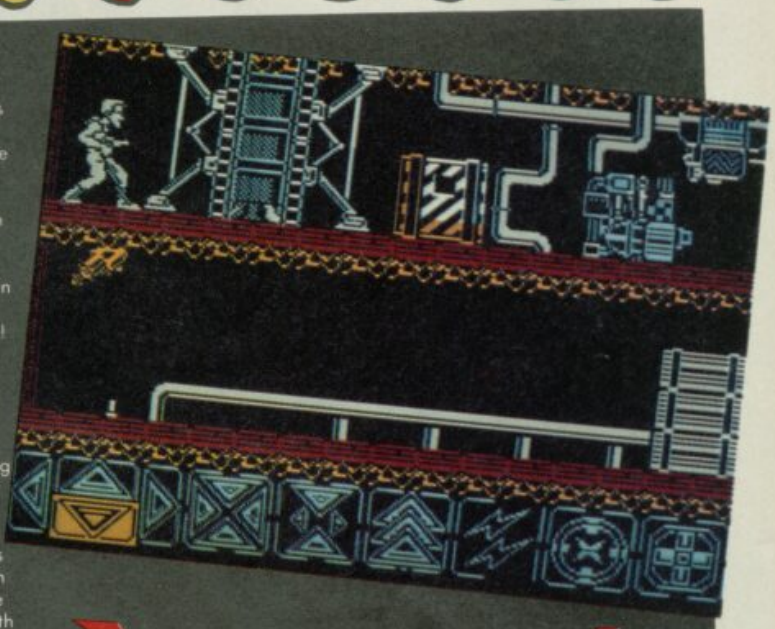
Grand Slam

Too late perhaps for 1988's Summer Of Love, but acieeed!'s main man, Pac, is back in fine fettle for the new year. Those brought up on the original game or last year's *Pacmania* might be in for a few surprises though, because this barely follows the lines of our cheery chum's previous adventures.

Pac's been taken out of his maze, given legs (!) and placed on the streets of — you guessed it — Pacland. Once everyone's stopped laughing, he sets off to return a lost fairy to fairyland, a task that unsurprisingly involves encounters with all sorts of unsavoury folk, including ghosts Blinky, Inky, Pinky and Clyde(!)

Mission complete, lucky old Pac gets a pair of magic fairy boots as a reward.

Pacland is a bit weird — some might argue that trying to make a *Super Mario Brother* out of a greedy little split squash ball was a bit of an odd thing to do — but this was quite a success on all other systems when it was released last year, and the changed scenario certainly makes for a new twist to mealtimes. It's £8.95 and out early March, but why has it taken so long to hit the Speccy?



OBLITERATOR

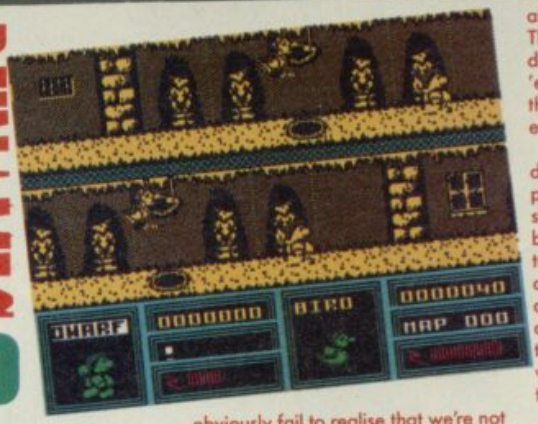
Psygnosis

Imagine a space ship. A very pretty space ship. You can see the corridors — lots of luxurious green and gold and blue. There are two of them, one above the other, and as you scan along you pass a number of ladders and lifts that connect them, and then lead off in every direction to the furthest reaches of the ship. At the edges of your vision something green and wibbly moves. Something that doesn't belong. Something . . . alien! *(Something like Duncan? Ed)*

Obliterator caused quite a stir on 16 bit machines last year with its spectacular graphics making up for the limitations of the animation. It was certainly one of the best looking *Rolling Thunder* type games around and by the look of these shots a degree of that detail has been captured on the Speccy. The story is basic destruction. 'Aliens have taken over a giant space ship and you are sent in to get rid of them, armed with a gun of truly vacuum-cleaner proportions. You also have to collect bits of engine, weaponry and so on from around the place in order to rebuild the space-shuttle you will use to leave the doomed ship.

Obliterator will be available at the end of February at £9.99. Golly!

DYNAMIC DUO



Firebird

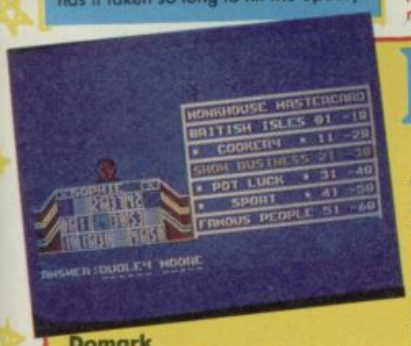
"Holy pond-weed, Batman! If you don't look like a . . . duck!" "Quite so, Boy Wonder, and you look like a dwarf." "Now, there's no need to get personal, Caped Crusader." "You misunderstand me Robin. You obviously fail to realise that we're not the Dynamic Duo celebrated in comic book and camp TV show, but in fact the stars of a new game from Firebird."

Indeed, this Dynamic Duo look like they could become almost as famous as their more familiar namesakes. They star in a very fast moving and detailed horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up as two pals searching through a network of rooms to escape the Night House.

These odd pals — literally a dwarf and a duck that rides on the person of diminished growth's shoulders — must search through both real and fake phantom rooms to find the ten pieces to the key to the calculation room through which they can escape. If they separate they can cover ground a lot faster than when they're together, but are left more vulnerable to the various evil forces that lurk around and about the place.

The game is simple enough in design, but very fast moving and takes some skill to play successfully. It can also be played in two player mode, which should be fun. A game to drive you 'quackers'! *(Oh, dear Ed)*

BOB'S FULL HOUSE



Domark

Who is the greatest games show host in the history of the televisual medium? Paul Daniels? Bruce Forsythe? Jim Bowen??!

Fine presenters all, each quick with a fine quip and effortlessly able to put the most 'difficult' of contestants at ease.

However, one man stands head and shoulders above them all, a veteran of shows from *The Golden Shot* to *Celebrity Squares*, from *Family Fortunes* to *Opportunity Knocks*, a man almost as keen to do worthy work for charity as he is to tell you about it. A man so confident in his quick fire wit and endless catalogue of mother-in law jokes that he dares go on stage without the aid of a safety 'catchphrase'. It could only be . . . Bob Monkhouse!

Soon we can all feast on the delights of Bob's waggish stage personna at any time of day or night with the aid of Domark's simulation of *Bob's Full House*. We all know and love the show — a fine mix of trivia questions and jolly japes based around the people's favourite, *Bingo*. Though the questions aspect of the game comes over rather better than Bob's distinctive character — those who remember previous Domark TV games like *Every Second Counts* will know the pang of disappointment at the un-Paul like aspects of the digitised Daniels — we are promised the extra feature of seeing what prizes you can win, even if getting hold of them is on the tricky side.

Bob's Full House will be available sometime in the middle of February. Fingers on the buzzer . . .

BRINGING HOME THE CH

***LAST DUEL*™** The Golden Tribe of BACULA have overrun the twin planet MU and taken captive the beautiful Princess SHEETA. Few warriors survive and only one retains the courage and willpower to face the awesome task ahead. Battle your way through six enemy occupied territories laden with traps, terror and gargantuan defenders, the like of which no earthly body has ever set eyes upon. Your neutron powered car and galactic hoverplane provide speed and firepower, your nerve and skill offer the only hope of freedom for your beloved princess.

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Screen shots from various systems

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Screen shots from Atari ST

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