

CRASHED

FOR THE ZX SPECTRUM

- Don't Emulate - Innovate!
- Guide to Internet chatrooms
- All the usual expected things

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EDITORIAL

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DISCLAIMER

Seeing as I usually write Crashed when I'm drunk, sexually confused or tired, there may be the odd mistake or spelling error. This thing doesn't have a spell checker which could be a good thing when you think about it. Which I don't.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Crashed will be delivered to your British door seven times for £10. I think you'll find we're the cheapest by miles!
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EURO UNION £15
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Back page £25, Full page £15, half page £10, quarter page £5. Lineage adverts up to 50 words free. Ring for special deals on block issue bookings. Send no money now just your copy, I'll get back to you with an invoice. We have 250+ readers just in case you were wondering.

BACK ISSUES

Limited stocks of back issues for £2.00 each (includes p+p):
23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.

EDITORIAL

Firstly can I apologise to everybody who got hassle from the Post Office for me not putting 31p stamps on last time. That's the trouble with 24 page issues on 90 orgasm paper, them's is too heavy. Fair do's, but remember this Post Office, the next time you open up my private mail to get the Crashed address to slag me off, read the bits where I promote postal letters over Emails. Don't shoot the messenger you old gits.

Instead of sitting on all this fab PD none of you can be bothered to collect and use, I've decided to give it all away sort of free to anyone who wants it (with a few minor financial details to stop people taking the piss). There were some letters that came in reminding me how I don't like emulators yet I'm taking away a service to supply real Spectrums with real software. Fair point, I'm hacked off with what the internet has done to peoples attitudes, and what has happened is postal PD libraries are now considered to be surplus to requirements. We can take a hint.

Postbox has been (helpfully?) altered to encompass all those web sites, email addresses, screeny E-zines and even retro shop opening hours. We're getting really flash now but do tell if you think its just a waste of half a page every issue. I've always tried to stick something new on each page that performs the same function month in month out. As usual we also sport a wide range of articles and features you just can't read anywhere else, although I have to admit my mums weekly magazines are far more entertaining. 'He wanted to have sex with me where God never intended' 'He kissed my sister so I killed his Mother'. Brilliant stuff indeed.

I've been putting out the feelers to turn Crashed into a Sinclair fanzine rather than a Spectrum obsessed one, this would mean the odd page given over to the ZX81 and QL scenes. Could be interesting or should I just stick to Spectral things? The Sam Coupe pages return next issue (technical problems this end). The QL people I've been chatting to lately still have this massive attitude problem where Spectrums are concerned, if I were uncharitable I'd call it downright snobbery. It's been a long time now, maybe they should stop pretending to be our bigger brothers with bigger fish to fry.

Come along and meet the Retro X and Crashed crews at this years Britmeet3 shindig. We'll be selling obscure Sega Saturn girl dating games and Crashed back issues. Lessons have been learnt from last years Odyssey thing where the bar was shut until 4pm - we're going ready drunk on Bacardi Steamrollers and equipped with the biggest chicken and bacon salad rolls this side of New Cross Sainsburys. Don't be scared, we're lovely people really.

THE FRED QUIMBY FOUR



DAVE FOUNTAIN
Crashed Editor.
Dave used to be right on and quite liberal in his views, but these days he turns into Alf Garnett at the merest sniff of a PC quoting lesbian jack booted mind controller.



MATT WESTCOTT
PD Demo nutcase.
Young Matt is no stranger to public humiliation. We all remember the time he locked himself out wearing only 14 hole Doctor Marten boots and skid marked Mr.Men y-fronts.



L.CHMIELEWSKI
Austrian top banana. He slaves away at various computers in all weathers but the Spectrum will always have a special place in his heart, and down the front of his trousers.



BERNADETTE
She just loves things that go bleep, squap and flark, she does like her gadgets. Recently the Tomato woman was thrown out of Dixons for making a printer do 42 self-tests.

NEWS ROUND UP



MAG ROUND UP

Here's the latest selection of Sinclair flavoured retro fanzines and disks to arrive on the doormat.

ALCH NEWS 32: The last disk issue version as it enters a cocoon to emerge on papyrus. Debuts a new star writer - The Cheeseman! Too many relevant features and articles to mention. A good three day read here.

DESERT ISLAND DISKS 5:

Popeye takes centre tips stage, Jon Ritman spills the beans on his top 5 games, a games tourno is announced (internet only - boo!) and St. John Swainson gets acrobatic on his purple BMX.

PD POWER 40: Reaches the big four-0 and goes up 40p to £2.10. Ouch. Still no Spectrum screenshots of any kind and getting weaker every issue. Now only coming out one suspects due to sheer bloody mindedness.

RETRO CLASSIX 25: Special pages for C64 and Speccy with the emphasis on Japanese consoles and other collectable rare bits and pieces. Now £3 but with a funky colour cover.

SAM COMMUNITY 4: Lots of news, Bunnik 2000, Masterbasic for BDOS, reviews and a coding challenge. Yesterday I saw a Sam Coupe power supply and I was a bit scared.

SCENE 39: Top notch entertainment on disk including a Freddy Krueger Knight Lore game, multiple football titles, some 1k demo stunners from Forever 2E3 and lots of German text.

SOUNDBYTE 60: The disk for the Sam surround box includes Disco Madness player, Slam Funk Moog (hmmm nice) and Holly Johnstons Love Train. All aboard for a dickie back ride.

I CAN DO THAT

The Spectrum computer, best known for superbly emulating a Morphy Richards liquid crystal display egg timer, is having a go at emulating a Videopac G7000. This very early console from Phillips was around at the same time as the ZX81, both played similar quality games but the G7000 was just a bit more reliable (by some 800%) through not having a wobbly Rampack. Games so far converted for use include Pickaxe Pete, Alien Invaders, Ufo, Match, Volleyball, KC Munchkin (I like the sound of that one) and Labyrinth. Currently only available off the Internerd - just email johan_koelman@deltalloyd.nl and he'll send you the whole shooting match as attachments.

UP THE BIG HAIRY BUSH

A new Retro computer emporium has opened recently in west London's Shepherds Bush. Retro X is the new project from Graham Howden, he of Retro Classix fanzine. The shop specialises in Japanese import games for the likes of the PC Engine, Neo Geo console etc. and stocks a wide range of hardware and software from the ZX80 to the Sega Saturn. There's also an arcade coin-op area and Internet/scanning access for pretty girls. Don't forget literally thousands of 8 bit tapes and disks too. Come along to 90 Shepherds Bush Rd W6, ring 020 7371 3134 or visit the web site for extensive mail order: www.retrox.co.uk

MEDIA WHORES

Every issue we'll be bringing you the latest quotes from people in the public eye who wouldn't dream of uttering anything but safe cliches. This week, Iain Lee from the 11 O'clock Show. "I would have loved to have had a Spectrum as a lad. I had a bloody BBC [adopts middle-class tone] it was educational as well. I didn't care I just wanted games. Defender was great on it though, spot on copy. I had a Dragon 32 before that. I loved it. Elite was great on the BBC though, I can't see why they never brought it out on the PlayStation. I bought a Spectrum about four or five years ago, just for a tenner from a boot sale. I've left it at my mums house - for about two weeks that was all we were playing. Then you realise... actually this is bollocks. All that time years ago typing in games programs from magazines and they were rubbish and they never worked. Youngsters have it far too easy these days." Iain Lee, performs scriptwriters jokes on a programme no one watches anymore since Ali G left. Poor bastard.

software

THE LAST COURIER
Perspective Group
Public Domain

Take three young blokes, give them various home made coding utilities and Art Studio 128, deprive them of girls and the correct vitamins for two weeks and look what comes out the other end - this. It could have been lost forever were it not for the hacking of Crazytronic's Mr.Bob and good old Leszek at Scene diskzine unearthing this dazzling gem from 1997. These people are too good for the Spectrum scene, that's for sure.

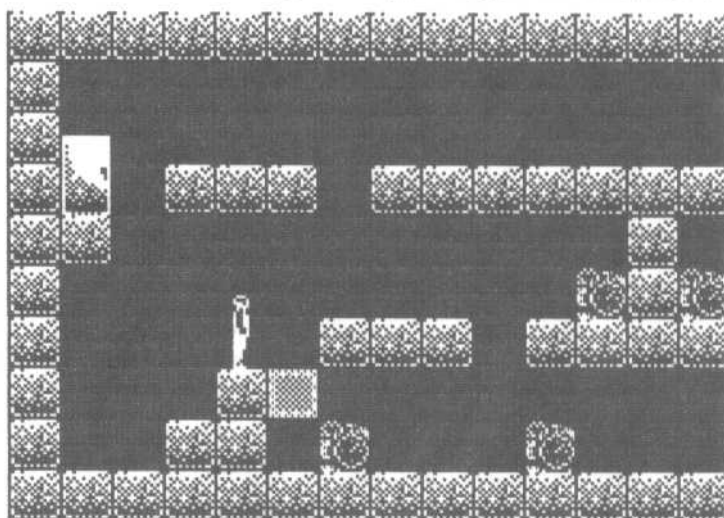
As side-on 2D platformers go, The Last Courier is a slick homage to a very restrictive genre and one of the best you'll get to play. The main sprite animation will remind you of the Spectrum version of Prince of Persia, and upon delving with greater mischief could in fact be the same code. I'm not qualified to say for sure, but it's that good. You'll have to negotiate the caverns collecting the things (could be anything looking at the pixels), climbing walls and laying down the odd helpful block. The control system is a little hit or miss - depending on what you've got plugged in joystick wise the little bloke will either be a delight to throw around or he'll jump continuously (for fun probably). The music side is well

supported with a delightful ditty inside what can only be described as hum territory. If software houses servicing the GameBoy can still keep knocking out games just like this one (and costing £20 each to boot), well, lose the

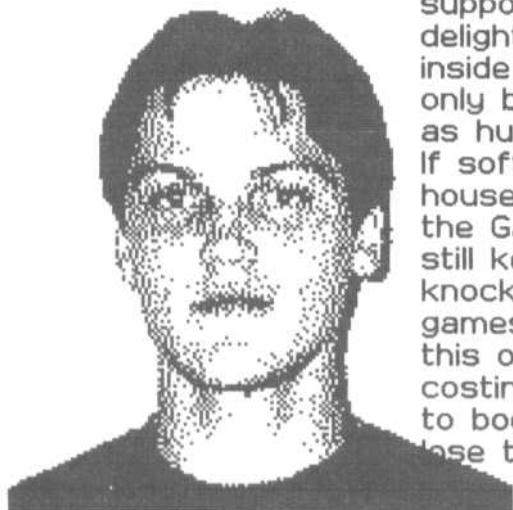


portability and save yourself some hefty wedge. The recent Tomb Raider GB conversion is mighty similar to this little sod. No really.

There's little to find fault with in here apart from the erratic control interface, everything vital bar the greetings and credits bits are in English, luxury has been graphically dealt, the programmers all have decent haircuts and they don't sport moustaches unlike 95% of their countrymen, in fact they look a bit too young to be wasting their time mucking about with computers - get out there and bang some beaver you silly buggers! Shame I



only had room to print the oldest ones mugshot although on reflection, the second one resembles Ian Brady and the third could earn money as a young chicken (wink wink).



FANTASY R'n'H MICROTEC Public Domain

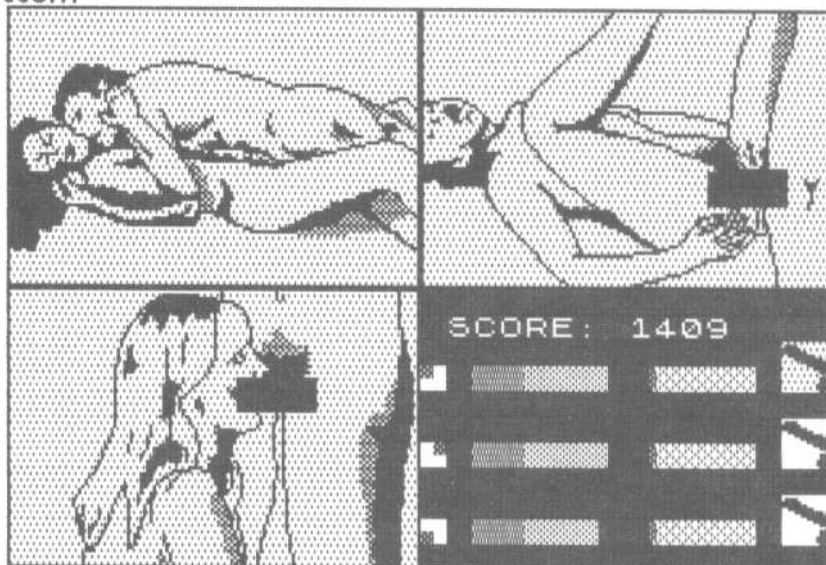
It's amazing what you can unearth from the Spectrum's more than vast back catalogue of software. Take Fantasy, once only available in the back pages of Sinclair User in a nudge nudge wink wink fashion, and none of us bothered to order a copy because we thought it was either a joke or just crap. Some many years down the line the game has resurfaced again and will be new to almost everybody. And boy it is crap.

Taking its cue from Track and Field, the aim of the game is to whack that joystick for all it's worth in the to and fro manner, with the added thrill of having three power meters to keep an eye on and toggle instead of just Daley Thompson running along some cinders and throwing a pointy stick at 45 degrees - the handy knob icons bottom right let you know if you're close to pugging or flogging a dead cock. They've left the bit out where you slightly miss and you poke slam fold what should never be poke slam folded. Ouch and double ouch. The more yeasty items have been blacked out here to prevent Len Murray having a sexual accident in his trousers and then writing in to complain about the vulgar adult content in Crashed these days.

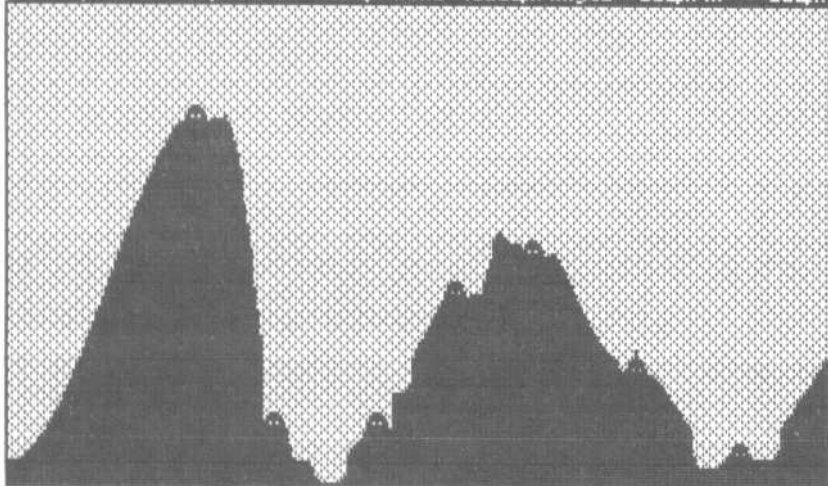
As all vaguely sexual computer games go, Fantasy is immense fun for roughly four to five minutes then you start having



genuine fantasies about gaining a new hi-score in Rainbow Islands (which is promptly loaded at six minutes past). The graphics and animations are fairly average to poor, not a lot of time was spent getting things right it must be said, but you can sure tell the bacon from the sausage. The graphics don't change between levels either, it's the same ones all the way through giving you no incentive to progress. Fantasy just falls between 'nice idea' and 'badly executed'. Next.



PL 1 Man: 076 Power: 0200 Wind: 40010 Angle: 090 W. v: 100



THE SCORCHED EARTH Star Group Public Domain

Up to seven real or computer players can have a bang on this sub-Worms clone. It's a hard one to master, as when you're lucky enough to hit someone their power bar doesn't go down quick enough. Lets hear it for not having game testers anymore... must try harder.

EUROSCENE

THE ZX TEAM MEETING March 2000 - GERMANY

Report by Peter Adelt, Luetzowstr.3, D38102 Braunschweig, Germany.

Email: P.Liebert@t-online.de

Do you remember those days when computing was much more binary than nowadays? No sound, no colourful screens, no demos... only total silence and black and white characters. Of course these times have been before Speccy came into our lives.

Remember the black wedge, Speccy predecessor, Sir Clive's masterpiece ZX81? Be surprised - Zeddy is still alive. Now it's nine years ago that ZX-TEAM has been founded, the only known 'real' active ZX80 and ZX81 users group worldwide. We have a bi-monthly magazine (more than fifty issues since 1991) new hardware and software projects, and since 1997 a yearly meeting for a whole weekend in Spring. This year we had 28 participants who could meet new and old friends, purchase hard and software, discuss problems and new ideas.

This years highlight was ZX2000 - new hardware in the old ZX81 case! A real ZX handheld, battery powered with a 6" (320x240) LCD screen, 24k Eprom, 32K Ram and FPGA instead of the old ULA chip. It's also expandable to 512k of Flash memory.

Nearly every feature a modern computer needs has already been developed in the past, hardware like meg-bytes of RAM/EPROM, floppy and hard disk, I/O serial or parallel, modem connection, LAN, 12C bus... even colour for the TV output is no problem. Software like HD operating

system MEFISDOS, ZX-CAD for drawings and PCB lay-out, mailbox function, text processing and much much more.

There are still a lot of ideas unfinished like a CD Rom drive, SCSI interface or TCP/IP. You think this will be too hard to be realised? Please don't forget the only real limits we have are in our mind. Some minor hardware limits maybe there too. But it's now more than 19 years that we break the ZX81 hardware barriers. Why shouldn't we continue?

All this does not happen in Sir Clive's own country, but in Germany. We would like to get in touch with active British ZX81 users so please have a look on ZX-TEAM homepage: www.zx81.com or join the ZX81 mailing list. This is the 'virtual' ZX81 user group founded by Jack Raats from the Netherlands.

For more information you can contact me by email or snail-mail (oi!...ed)



Scan me!

When news first reached Crashed that there was a scanner system developed for Spectrums we nearly hit the roof in sexual frenzy - just how many images could we scan from the Yellow Pages and call it imaginative clip art design? Ooooh. How we frothed, now we could illustrate the world of Spectrum computers with a plumber holding a wrench, a suited laughing business man holding a trill phone and a lady in a 1970's puff sleeved flowery dress. I imagine it has a fair few better uses, and here's uncle Wolfgang at SPC to explain further. Concentrate because he will be illustrating with graphics and lists throughout...

The interface was a development from one made initially for the ZX81 by Kai Fischer of the ZX-TEAM. It can be connected directly onto the Spectrum I/O port and uses addresses 47h and 4fh. It will work with most older type hand scanners that can be set to pure black and white scanning. These are now very cheap and plentiful second hand and of course you don't need PC cards etc. Probably about 1 in 10 scanners will fail to work correctly but with prices so cheap it's not a problem to go out and find another one. The only special part needed is an 8-pol Mini-Din connector to connect the scanner to the interface unit.

With any luck someone will pipe up and send in a list of old scanner models that work extremely well. Assuming you've done the hard part and actually built the interface pcb, how does it work?

There is a machine code listing about 90 bytes long that controls the correct screen position (the only major conversion problem was the screen routine differed from the ZX81). The power supply needs 12 volts at 350mA and simply pressing the button on the handscanner starts the scanning process after you have used a simple command like RANDOMIZEUSR 65000. It would be great if some Spectrum programmers could include this routine in an art package or CAD program. Next there will be a greyscale Sam Coupe version and then of course moving into colour.

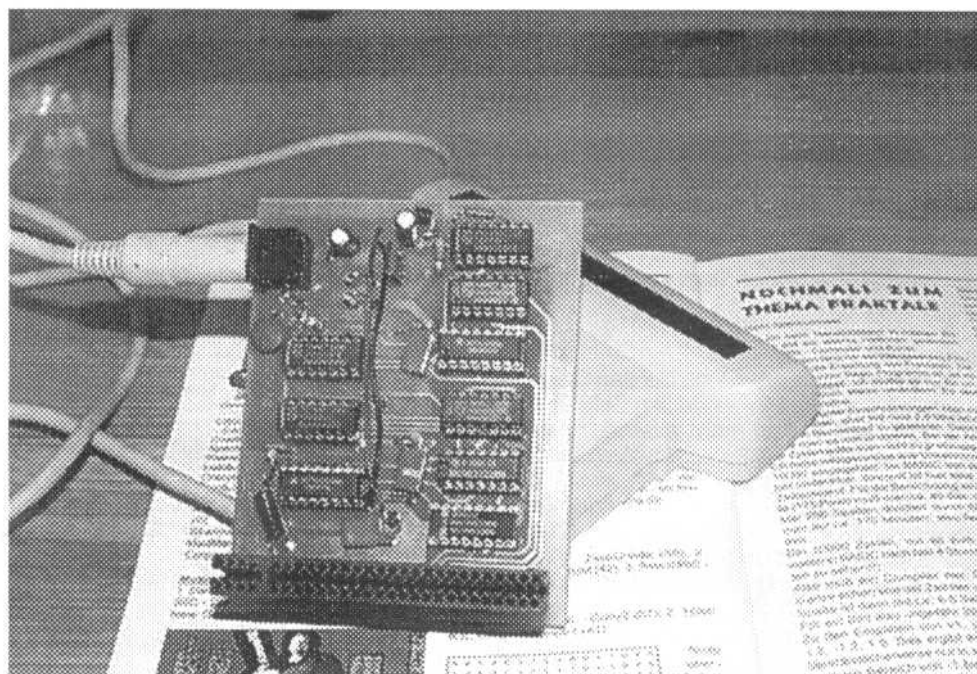
All we need now is someone highly skilled in knocking up printed circuit boards in an attractive

cased interface unit. The name Len Bennett instantly springs to mind there! Whatever happens I'm going to go all out to getting myself one of these things made up, the new possibilities it would give to Crashed are infinite (this fanzine will never be made on a PC until the day my Spectrum gear goes up in flames). So there. Here's that assembler machine code you'll be needing Len! Assemble at 65000...

```
LD HL, 16384
LD DE, 224
DI
CALL scan
LD HL, 18432
CALL scan
LD HL, 20480
CALL scan
EI
LD A, 0
OUT 79, A
RET
LD B, 8
PUSH BC
LD B, 8
PUSH BC
LD BC, 4047h
LD A, 255
OUT 4fh, A
CALL sync
PUSH BC
LD B, 64
NOP
```

```
DJNZ delay
POP BC
IN A, 4Fh
RRCA
JRNc, byte
INI
DJNZ byte
CALL sync
ADD HL, DE
POP BC
DJNZ line
LD BC, 2016
SBC HL, BC
POP BC
DJNZ line2
RET
IN A, 4Fh
BIT 1, A
JRZ, sync
IN A, 4Fh
BIT 1, A
JRNZ wait
RET
```

You can contact Kai at the following although I don't know at time of typing if he speaks any English. Otherwise further info from the SPC.

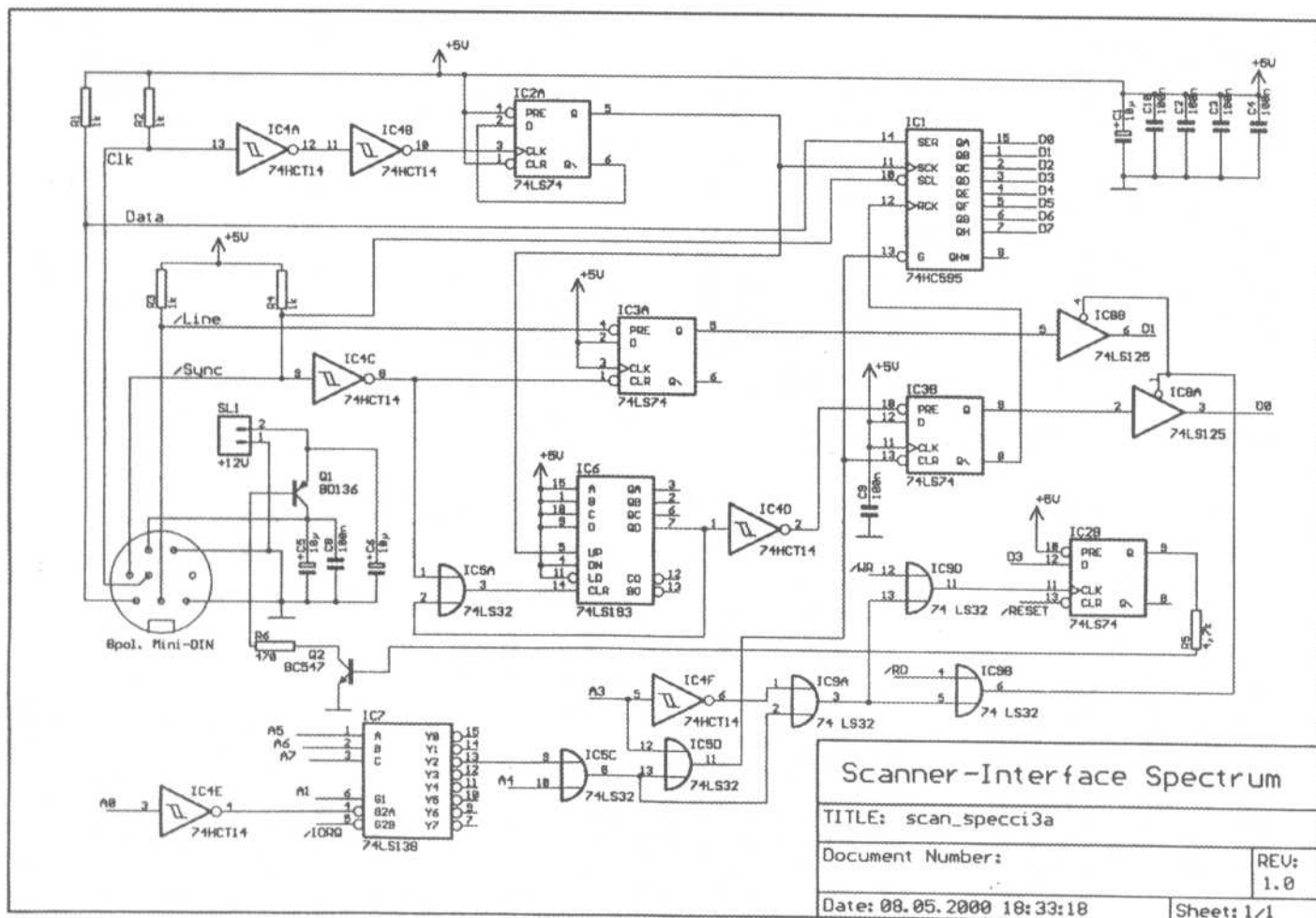


Kai Fischer, Raumer Str.2B, 09366 Beutha, Germany.
Email: a.fischer@abo.freiepresse.de

This whole feature has reminded me of a few projects I'd like to see realised both soft and hard. UNIVERSAL TEXTFILE CONVERTOR - With all the different word processors around its a pain that they can't all be the same textfile wise, sure you can load them into each other (as code files) but the tabulation and end line markers are often way out of whack. There have been several excellent utilities for pairs of filetype conversions but not an all in one program.

EDGE SOCKETS - Instead of the usual crash-happy edge connector, why not replace it with a female socket of some kind? It would mean altering all your add-on units with a similar male connector but it would make things that much more reliable. I knew I should have written these down at the time because I can't remember anymore. Bugger.

Have you been customizing your Sinclair computers? built your own add-ons? send in some photos (b/w would be best) and a description of your butchers shop window. There could be prizes for the most



HARDCORE hardware



Let's have a look at cheaper alternatives to getting yourself on the Internet. Gadget girl Bernadette recently got herself on-line with a cheap box of tricks, foolishly told Crashed about it and then suffered six weeks of begging letters to review it for us. So she did.

WEB2U INTERNET/EMAIL Available from Argos £99 Cat No. 671/7036

The WEB2U is available from Argos at £99. Put simply it is box of tricks to get you E-Mail and limited access to the World Wide Web. What you get for your money is a box containing the computer bit with its built in modem. A separate keyboard communicates with the main box using infra-red, a red light flashes on the box to signal it has received each keyboard keypress, you get a bleep as well.

The keyboard has the F keys, separate keys for Print screen, Home, Page Up, Page Down and various others probably all familiar to you PC lovers. The keys have a fairly positive feel to them in use, but beware of typing too fast it's easy to miss out letters.

The machine doesn't have a separate monitor, it uses your TV set, and you must have a scart socket, if not then the WEB2U will be no good so bear that in mind. You can plug a PC PS/2 mouse in, I did and the mouse moved the pointer round the screen but the buttons wouldn't click on anything. I had the mouse independently tested so the WEB2U must be faulty. It has a standard 25 pin D socket, the manual states it can be use with one of three Hewlett Packard colour inkjet printers, but when I bought it the assistant warned me that information coming up on her terminal screen refuted the manuals claim, so buyer beware. I can vouch for the fact that it won't print with an Epson compatible dot matrix.

When you first switch on it spends about 10 minutes downloading 16 files from BT Click, then you need to

register on line in order to get yourself an E-Mail address to use. You can build an E-Mail address book of up to 50 names all stored in it's built-in EPROM so it is retained even when the power is off. By the way the power supply is a separate unit like the Spectrum.

Text files can be written off line to save money but each file must be sent before writing another. There's no facility to store more than one text file. You can only receive text E-Mails i.e. no attached files etc. However, surprisingly there is a way round this, if the sender ADDS say compressed text or a compressed photo or other image into the text file then you will actually receive it. I got a compressed text file of Alan Cresswell's Spectrum software lists (about 8 sides of A4) sent in this way and what's more I was then able to go off line to read it at my leisure, so the WEB2U does have quite a sizeable RAM available.

There is quite a serious software design error in the unit. When writing E-Mails you may suddenly notice that all your text is in upper case (I haven't yet figured out which key I must have accidentally pressed), if you were to make a typing error in this mode and subsequently pressed the delete key, then Hey Presto! every bit of text vanishes without so much as a bye your leave or a "Do You Really Want To Delete" message coming up.

O.K, The Web. Well first I must point out that both for E-Mail and the Web the TV screen does not show 80 characters a line, Web pages get squashed and E-Mail text scrolls round to the nextline, you need to really see it to appreciate what I mean. So can you surf the Net? Lets just say I have managed to get some good Specy Web sites, my old University Web site and yes Dave, after a lot of failed attempts we did get some porno pics upon the screen, but if you really need your hardcore fix then maybe the WEB2U isn't for you - it's too hit and miss.

The resident search engine is BT click but you can call up Jeeves or Lycos. In my experience Lycos worked best on the WEB2U. Some Websites claim they need special software

such as Acrobat reader, I might get more knowledgeable about the capabilities of the WEB2U as time goes on, just as I had to learn about the Spectrum, only time will tell.

To sum up, there are a lot of gripes about the WEB2U but as Crashed so aptly put it in relation to the PlayStation, if you buy a PC then the Specy immediately goes in the bin. Anyway I don't want to have to get my head round Windows yet awhile. It's only a hundred notes and it's got me on line and since so many people refuse to use the postman these days it was either that or start losing touch with everybody. Bring back the carrier pigeon ah! the Good Old Days.

SEGA DREAMCAST Available from Argos £199.99 Cat No. 364/7075

Never let Crashed come round your house and play with your things. We'll take liberties, eat all your chocolate biscuits and chat your bird up. So we did. Alex from Stepney stupidly agreed to let Richard in whilst Dave crept upstairs to go through his birds knicker drawer...

Having been a Sega head in the early 90's it was a rather strange experience using a Sega machine again, mind you, I wasn't here for the games (all very pretty arcade nonsense) I was here to put it through the Internet claims. The first thing that strikes you is the small size of the thing yet it weighs half a ton. Powering up with the dedicated Sega PC style keyboard on my lap (an extra £20 on top) I breezed through the opening menus and sat there for ten minutes waiting to get on-line. The Dreamcast you see has a rather basic 33.6k modem inside compared to the long-set industry standard 56k, and I was seemingly jousting with about 20,000 kids all trying to log-on at the same time.

Alex spends all his money on beer so he hadn't quite gotten round to buying a Scart lead; I was getting quite a headache looking at the small blurred text on screen through the standard RF lead. With the use of memory cards you can save quite a few textfiles and the Email front-end is bright and cheerful, no complaints there. Trying to look at arses and tits is a nightmare (the built-in protection routines do the job very well) but a word in my ear and a way was soon found round that little problem. This knowledge is currently valued at three CurlyWurlys and a sherbet dib dab in school playgrounds up and down the country.

Considering it's slower than the WEB2U box of tricks and twice the price, you may find the Dreamcast a poor buy, then again it plays games too and doubtless faster modems might become available (at a price). I won't be selling my PC set-up for one of these just yet then.

Some blinding news has been announced by old Spectrum heros Datal - a plug-in modem Internet kit for the original PlayStation! The Code Junkies World Port will be released this summer with Email access on a pay as you mail basis (top-up cards available from game shops etc.) Sadly the current PlayStation technology can't cope with a browser, so going surfs up with the grey beast will have to wait. With the PlayStation2 due in the UK in October with broadband Internet capacity the original PS is going to be re-designed into a smaller unit aimed at budget 32 bit game players. Bill Gates really is shitting himself now.

The best alternative we've found to not buying a PC is to hire one. The best way to hire one is to visit an Internet Cafe. So we did. Dave filled his pockets with £1 coins and headed off up west as they say at The Queen Vic.

My local surf shop in east London is a cosy affair, 8 terminals on offer each boasting super fast Windows 2000 net connections and the chairs are deep plush leather. If you get bored looking at the Internet (and you will) you can look out the window and see girls walking by in short skirts. I know which I prefer. I don't want to invest in an expensive PC and I don't want to spend endless

hours sitting in front of a computer; I have two two-hour sessions a week and thats that. The demand for Internet access is growing everyday, four months ago when the shop first opened I was the only one in there, now I have to ring up two hours in advance to reserve a terminal! If I had £30,000 to spend I'd open an Internet cafe right this minute...

You don't need your own computer to have an Email address and some Internet companies like Yahoo to mention my own favourite, give you free web space to set up a home page. All the software you need to knock up a simple page is provided and if you can ponce around in Art Studio you can do this as well. Programs today seem to be written with first time users very much in mind. I can look at dirty stuff if I want to and Spectrum stuff when I have to... everything else is optional. The Internet can be a lot of fun but don't believe the hype, it gets boring all too quickly and its far from a perfect system yet.

The cheapest Internet access I've found is EasyNet, run by the same company who go by the name of EasyJet, the orange coloured cheapo airline. They rack them up and pack them in, and this structure is applied to all their businesses. The branch I visited had 400 terminals over two floors, a reasonably cheap refreshments area and if you like playing sardines this is the place for you. During the day it's £2 an hour which drops to just a quid at off-peak business hours. The real bargain to be had is the midnight to 6am slot which costs just £1 for six hours - that's when I'm in bed thank you very much. Thing is, if you're an insomniac or finish work at midnight you've got a good thing going, and as

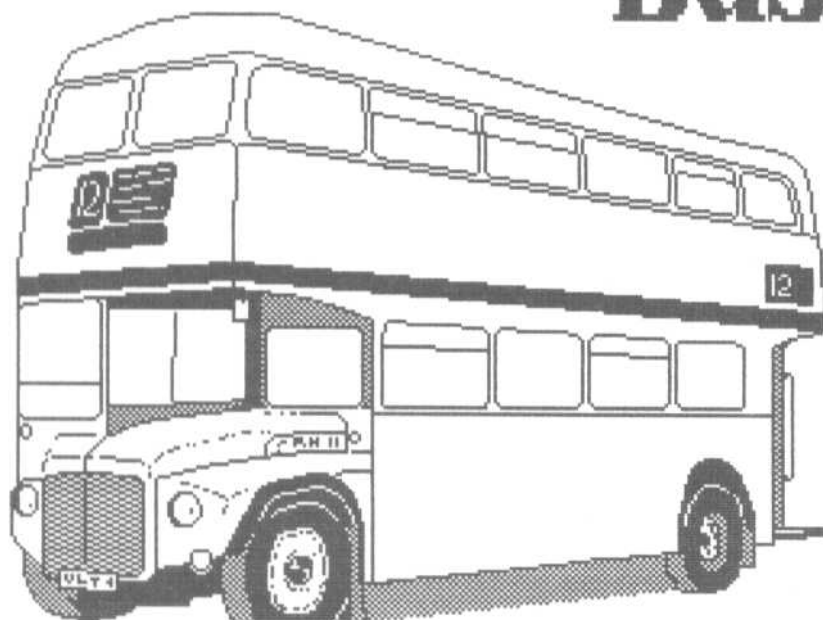
London has night buses you can get home at any hour of the morning. If you fall asleep you get woken up once by the staff, do it again and you're asked to leave! This policy does tend to keep out the worst members of society, but...

The downside to EasyNet is its popularity and the people it attracts. Just during one three hour session I was bashed in the back of the head by 6 different touristy back packers luggage (none of them said sorry), got a mighty headache from all the German tourists shouting at the top of their voices to each other (in German so I couldn't even enjoy the arguments), loners and weirdos who if they caught you looking at them stare you to death back with added menace, and the bloke who was sitting next to me (breath like dog shit), he kept poking me in the ribs to show me his porno pictures. The quad amputee with the double dildo insertion was fine, it was the women being overly fond of their pet dogs that made me quite ill. You can look at what you like in there, depending who is sitting next to you that is, it's not advisable to look for dirty Japanese schoolgirls with a crew-cutted Lesbian anywhere nearby. She will go into one like she owns your mind, which she clearly feels she does.

All in all, go for the smaller places despite the slightly higher costs, get to know the people behind the counter and you'll soon be getting free printing and the odd free cuppa. Leave EasyNet and browsing supermarkets like it to the drunken Scottish tramps and east European pick-pockets. That's the trouble with London, it attracts all the rubbish from everywhere else...

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The Crashed guide to Chat rooms

Ooh baby thats right,
lick it, lick it harder.
Ooh baby etc. Crap!

Maybe you've heard all about the chatrooms on the internet, well, if you haven't but would like to try, or already do and would like to improve your performance, read the Crashed guide to Internet Chatrooms. Don't start making things up and wanking without one.

YOUR IDENTITY. Giving yourself a hefty self-important tag name like Cool Dude or Worlds Greatest Lover can easily blow up in your face (and it will). The trick is to call yourself something insulting and self depreciating like Smelly Cock or Twatstick. When someone calls you a cocksucker or a motherfucker, agree with them heartily (you may like to add the point that your sister was the best shag you ever had etc.). This causes confusion which you can use to your advantage. Whilst the insulter is trying to think up a more original insult (because he already senses he's up against it here), you've just reeled off two more killer lines to the girl he was after. This shows everyone that you have a sense of humour and you don't take the chatrooms too seriously. How can anyone be negative about you if you are negative first? It works, it really does.

WHAT DO PEOPLE CHAT ABOUT. There are always several types of chatroom going from singles dating to wooden antiques, and all of them eventually dissolve into talking about sex and 13 year old schoolboys being Ali G (pretending to be Kartman, Beavis, Butthead or a Fast Show character is considered old fashioned, and that Ali G only has about 3 weeks left itself). You will be chatted up, insulted, chatted up, insulted etc. This will go on all night in equal measure.

WHAT ARE YOU AFTER. If you are bored then spending a few hours chatting to people you'll never meet is a relatively innocent and pleasing way to burn off hundreds of brain cells, very much like a CB radio from the 1980's, only on a monitor screen. Some girls can get quite dirty by saying they'd like to suck your cock and stuff. At the back of your mind, keep this thought active - this is not a real woman, its some fat bloke having a laugh at your expense. It is probably me.

PHONE SEX IS SAFE SEX. Phone sex is just about the naффest thing ever.

One thing blokes can't do very well is to be narratively erotic. A blokes best shot is likely to be along the lines of... and then I'm gonna suck your big tits, and then I'm gonna shove my 10 inch cock up your pussy etc. Anais Nin doesn't spin in her grave over such lazy nonsense. Girls can be equally as dull and insipid, but there are a few out there with the odd killer line under their belts. And they know it. If you see some bloke going into this tired old routine, go for him with all guns blazing, call him lazy, illiterate, terribly un-inspiring and naff. He'll have a mighty pop back but the thing is, the girls will have mentally agreed with you. That is a good thing.

HOW DO I GET THEM INTERESTED. Introduce yourself to the room with a witty catchphrase like 'Any fat girls on line today?' Set your stall out well because people have long memories. Stick to the same tag name everytime you enter a chatroom - you need to become infamous before you can become famous. Nothing annoys more than an introspective pseudo intellectual who thinks he's too good to be on a chatroom wank, so don't try to be one. If a girl asks you a direct sexual question, side-step it and come back with an unexpected fuller response...

GIRL: Can I suck your cock?
YOU: I'd have to wash it first, it currently smells of Haddock.
GIRL: Yuck thats horrible!
YOU: But when its clean it squeaks.
BLOKE: Oi queer boy U suk coock
ALI G: I is enemy of the batty boy.

As you can see, you haven't just said Yes please! and invited a stunted reply, you've actually made an effort to have a conversation. Girls like men who enjoy conversation. Keep blowing hot and cold, sex one few sentences, what you saw on telly for a few more. Girls are easily tired of talking about sex unless its on their terms. You'll know when you've appeared interesting to them when you start getting private messages. Never ignore a private message unless its a direct insult from another geezer.

KNOW WHEN NOT TO CHAT. Try to resist jumping back in when the 13 year old you've just insulted comes back with a U SUK retort. With no

response he'll do it again to try and elecite one, this will wind him up leaving you appearing mature and superior. All 13 year old boys have a very small vocabulary, so don't expect any more than six or seven words maximum. If you get wound up by a schoolboy calling you a queer then you need to see a specialist anyway. Never use any less than 17 words yourself unless you intend a snappy one liner. All girls like intelligent witty men even if they don't fancy you at first.

KNOW YOUR ENEMY - FEMALE. You can tell a lot from a name (their real first name). I've never met a fat girl who wasn't called Kelly, Kay or Lorraine, go for the girls called Emma, Jane and Claire. These names are almost always connected to normal looking girls with the chance that they are well fit on top. Girls who call themselves Hot69, Fellator and Dirty Horny Bitch never are, they will be the complete opposite in reality. On the whole, the girls in chatrooms are having a much better laugh than you are, although the same tired cliches do wear them down after a very short time. They don't stick around long so get to work fast.

KNOW YOUR ENEMY - MALE. You are in direct competition with all the other blokes in the chatroom trying to get the girl to talk with you the most. In this respect it is a virtual beer boy nightclub routine without 500 blokes standing around with too much aftershave on and with their shirts un-tucked. Take a long hard look at yourself and then multiply all your bad points 100 times. That is the standard of the on-line competition. Obviously it will help if you are naturally witty, chatty and enjoy using the English language, but knowing the downfalls puts you well up the rankings by default. Use your knowledge.

TARGETS. If you live in England then use a chatroom that is based in England, try Freeserve.co.uk. There's no point spending all night chatting up some bimbo in Florida unless you want to commit the most heinous internet crime, saying you have 'a girlfriend on the internet'. Don't be such a pityful wanker. Admittedly, girls from eastern european countries are much more upfront about front bottom tomfoolery, but jumping on a bus or in a taxi is a

much better option than jumping on a plane and having a man from the customs putting his dry as a bone fingers up your bum hole. I gather you read the daily papers? Is there not a week that goes by where there is some sorry looking bloke, now estranged from his lovely wife and kids, having been duped by some fat old stinking hulk of a nutcase from America who pretends to be a slim sun kissed nymphomaniac as seen on BayWatch? Every bloody week mate without fail. You may be bored with your wife or girlfriend at home, but just keep this sobering thought in mind, she's more bored by you - sort yourself out you schmuck.

ABSOLUTE NO NO'S. Never type in capitals and always use full English spelling and appropriate colons etc. Blokes who truncate and type N E as opposed to 'any' come across as very immature and vacuous (i.e. 13 years old), it also takes just as long to type. Never ask a girl to meet you somewhere in front of everyone else because she's going to say no or ignore the request anyway. And everyone will see it. Use the Personal message boxes to ask things like that, she'll still turn you down or ignore you but you save face. One slip up and you'll have to try another room with another alias, and that could be throwing away hours of work. Always limit your sessions to two hours maximum, you'll get tired after that and start making silly mistakes. Stay fresh, focused and motivated.

GO DOWN THE PUB INSTEAD. Some of you will, and mostly for a quiet drink and a chat about football, not going full out for a fuck preceded by Scampi in a basket. Pubs are not very good places to find sexual partners unless you are gay and its a queers pub (basically they fuck anything that moves). You're far more likely to find the girl of your dreams on the bus, in a library or she's a friend of your mates anyway. Admittedly Chatrooms are a good place to converse with girls if you are socially inadequate (or ugly) but work more on your real life conquests and have the internet as a treat now and again. You know it makes sense, you just need to be brave and admit a few things about yourself first.

COMPO 30

The winner of last issues Internet filth prize of ten PlayStation games AND a console was Clive Gedge from Woking. His suggestion involved a woman shitting into a very shiny stainless steel bucket. Well done Clive! More top prize compos coming as soon as we find more top prizes.

FREE PD

WHAT A FUGGING GIVEAWAY!

Crashed PD, formerly known as **Fountain PD**, is now up for grabs to anybody who shows the faintest interest in collecting original Spectrum programs. Yes the word free is not strictly true but in a cosy sort of way it is, you see all you pay for is my electricity, my disk drive and tape deck going wrong and your return postage. Think of it as a donation to Crashed as well. For that smallest of small admin charges you'll get the biggest PD library the Spectrum ever saw.

The number in the brackets preceeding the set indicates how many kb's they use up (a C90 is roughly 800kb capacity). Don't send old manked up disks and tapes, I'm not putting them in my equipment! I'm not mucking about putting programs on 3" disks or Microdrive cartridges either, so don't ask.

(149kb) **TAPE USER UTILS:** File copiers to snazzy custom loaders, you name it. 28 titles. £1
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**SEND CASH ONLY PLUS THE APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF BLANK TAPES/FORMATTED +D DISKS TO:
 CRASHED PD OFFER, 11 CAMEL ROAD, LONDON E16**

Public Exposure

Crashed has long been a positive and regular supporter of the PD scene both here and abroad, so bare with us as we take a somewhat wider view after last issues away day special. We have a moan, a groan and pass a motion on the throne. Where the hell are we going?

Most will cite 1992/93 as the heyday of the Spectrum PD demo. There was always another MQM to look forward to, rumours of a new Pentagram work would get us all excited and we smacked away at Soundtracker trying to work out how to transpose octaves. Nowadays it seems demo makers are only making demos for competitions and meetings rather than just knocking one up over a couple of weeks for the hell of it. This is no bad thing as it means regular new material but it has resulted in demos getting shorter and becoming less of an event in itself. Special 'what can you do in 4k, 1k and even half a K' events have resulted in spectacular and bizarre works, but good old multi-loading megademos are now the odd pleasure rather than the expected norm. That's why we recently went cock-a-hoop over CrazyTronic's recent outings, a return to the good old days of multi-part demos that look as though weeks of work has gone into them. Because it clearly has.

Whilst coders may have exhausted what a Spectrum is capable of (and they have without a doubt done that) it still leaves scope for original presentation, design and

music. CrazyTronic again have been prolific in all these areas, their graphics are original and stunning. Surely it can't be down to the fact that Hannah Crazy is a girl and has a different way of thinking about how to draw and what to draw? Girls do you know. Have you ever watched a girl doodling whilst on the phone? - it's all swirls and circles. Have you ever had a look at what you've done with the jotter and a biro? - bloody great boxes, rectangles, shaded things, triangles, massive pairs of tits, huge pliant buttocks and most alarmingly of all... parallel lines. Spooky isn't it.

Musically its about time we moved away from the almost predictable happy hardcore and rave stuff we can all whistle before we've heard it - it's just too easy and dull to make stark manic computer music on a computer. We have to look towards newer avenues (for Spectrum demos as opposed to what's happening down the village hop) like Drum and Bass, minimalist techno and maybe even a return to the romantic ballad! Rare is the time I've heard a genuinely funky street beat going on (although it has been done). These styles of music are not easy to recreate well on an ancient AY sound chip, which is why no one does it anymore or even fails trying. Let's have a few Spectrum boy bands and girlie pops, Val Doonican pullovers and a Sham 69 revival.

No doubt PD demo fans have already recognised the ugly Polish brutes of Pentagram, like hairy baboon Agent-X (his music style was instantly recognisable) and Hitler youth moustached BZYK (the creator of the superb Soundtracker - before that we were all using the stinky Music Box 128). The Russian and the Rest of Europe scenes developed along very different avenues through lack of a crossover and you can tell them apart very easily. It seems the Russians are more or less the only ones still active now and that means we've lost a whole style of demo - you know what must be done, get those utilities out and start coding. A niche has reappeared for a western coding group to clean up like never before.

ANST



BZYK

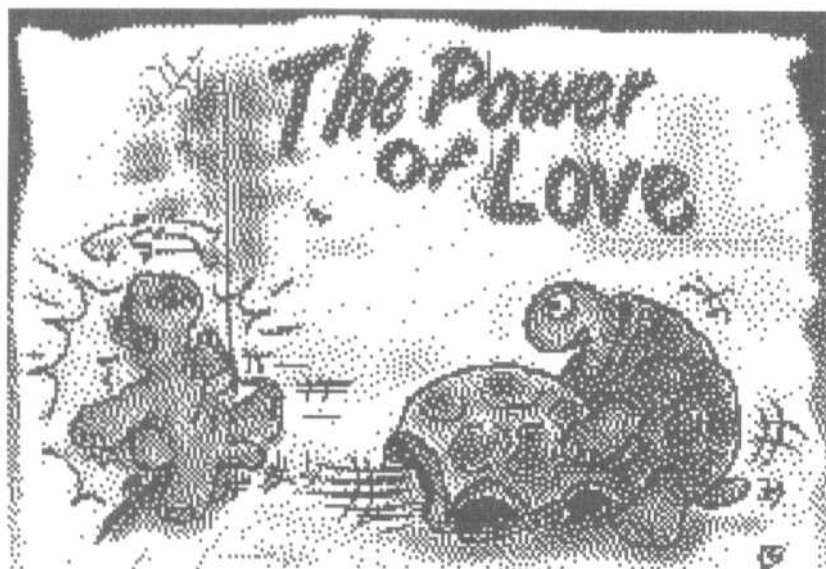


RAJSOFT

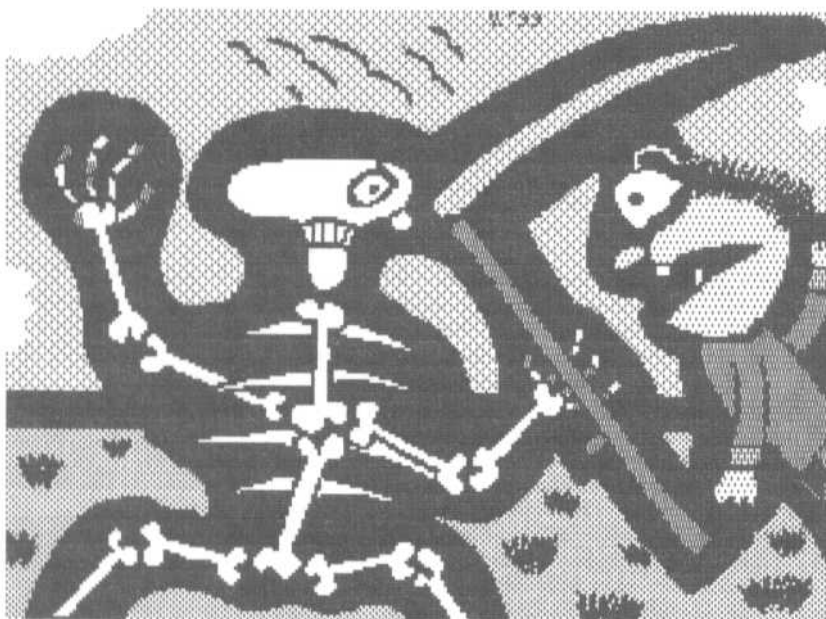


AGENT X





For me to write anything under this screenshot would be a terrible unforgivable crime. So I won't.



If Picasso had drawn this it would have been sold for thirteen million squids. Action painting was shit too.



Does she know where his tounge was five minutes ago? Oh she does... honestly, some people. That's rude.

All demos under 10k long are no longer accepted as being suitable efforts to review. Yes the 4k etc. stuff is very impressive but it's pissing me off. So on with this months selection of chosen works...

WHIM / Accept Corp

This one here boasts 'Cool Headcrash Music' and not Bernard Manning on the bog after a prawn curry madras, which would be much nearer the truth. This demo displays amongst other insignia a swastika, and whether this is to take it in or out of context for whatever reason or thinking - that sucks more than sucking itself. Grow up for christsakes. It's not shocking or rebellious, its simply cringesome.

BIG CHUJ 2000 / Hellboj & Yerzmyey

Big what? If you like turning your monitor/telly on its side in order to be able to read text scrollers in a crappy ill-chosen font then this is for you - go on, indulge yourself. What's the point in writing things to read if no one can fucking read it? The saving grace is what you can hear, lots of ideas and variations on a strong riffed theme, superbly arranged and catchy as hell. I want more please.

POWER OF LOVE / Cassiopeia

This is nice and old fashioned, reminds me of when demos were better than now... Old Casio trousers has been away for six years thinking the Speccy scene was dead. Well it is, we're just dancing on its grave. He stumbled across Demotopia on the wanky wibbly wob and fetched out his old tunes from 1994 and made a new demo with them. Standard Soundtracker fare to be blunt but none the worse for it and there's a Sampletrack of a Phantom of the Opera piece. Not bad, not bad at all.

MILLENNIUM GRAPHICS 2000

Yes, and please explain why black guys keep saying Minnellium? Weird. There's a good dozen stunning screens in this basic viewer proglet, the kissers probably being the most stunning and the two insects in a paper boat being the cutest. Can't go wrong really can you. There's a weird baby too.

THOSE WITH ACCESS TO THE INTERNET CAN VIEW THESE AND ABOUT 1200 OTHER DEMOS AT WWW.DEMO.EU.ORG. IF YOU WANT THEM ON DISK OR TAPE GIVE ME A BELL AND I'LL SORT YOU OUT PRONTO. THIS STUFF IS WRITTEN TO BE SHARED AND ENJOYED YOU KNOW!

Confessions of a Spectrum website designer

THIS WEEK - JIM GRIMWOOD

Well, I suppose it all started with a chain of chance events. I'd completely lost touch with the Spectrum scene by the early 90s, and then I picked up a PC mag with a cover disk which included a program called Z80, a Spectrum 'emulator', something I'd never heard of. After a couple of years fiddling about converting some of my own tapes, and buying a couple of Z80 upgrades, I then happened to pick up another PC mag with a special offer on a Global Internet subscription. I'd never had much interest in all this World Wide Web palaver, but I thought I'd have a go with it as it was only a fiver a month. Everything's a bit of a blur after that...

After a long period of treatment I was able to resume a normal life, and then I discovered that there was an Internet 'newsgroup' called comp.sys.sinclair which had discussions related to the Sinclair range of computers, and then I discovered that there were 'websites' with archives of programs already converted for these 'emulators', and I could also buy CD anthologies of same. Having a large collection of Spectrum mags, fully indexed on an Apple Mac database, I was able to answer lots of questions which came up on the newsgroup, so all in all there turned out to be still a lot of mileage in the old black rubbery box. (That's quite enough about your sex life thanks...Ed)

One of these 'websites' I discovered was the Sinclair Software Database, which held reference material, such as instructions and playing tips, on Sinclair software (unsurprisingly), mostly Spectrum games. I contributed quite a few entries to this, until one day it was redesigned and the entries needed to be provided in 'HTML' (Hypertext Markup Language) form; ie. the language used to define Internet web pages. After some hesitation I finally bought a copy of Instant HTML

by Steve Wright (not the Radio 1 DJ, probably), and thus we finally get around to how it is I decided to start on my first Spectrum website.

Oh, well, errrm, not quite, actually, as there was one more instigating event which I haven't mentioned. One of these 'websites' I discovered was maintained by a guy called Nick Humphries. Called the Your Sinclair Rock'n'Roll Years, it was a bit ordinary to start with; it just summarised the contents of the issues of Your Sinclair magazine from when it started in 1986. Then Nick started putting articles on-line as well - and then things get a bit blurred again. I presume that this must have prompted me to think "Hey, maybe I could do that for a different magazine, now that I know a bit of HTML", as there's a note on the front page of my magazine website that it was inspired by NH's YSRnRY, but the details now escape me. Then I must have had the crazy inspiration "Wouldn't it be nice to try and make the pages look like they did in the original magazine." - a fateful decision which led to much torment, frustration and late nights, cursing various browser programmers. (A 'browser' is a program which reads HTML code and translates that into pages displayed on the screen; all browsers are supposed to conform to an HTML 'standard', so that the same HTML page will look the same, regardless of which program or computer is being used - to which I say "Hah!". Try "The same HTML page will always look different, despite which program or computer is being used, which includes possibly looking a total hash or even crashing the program, depending on how many variations from the 'standard' have been incorporated, and how many bugs the program has." then you'd be closer to the mark.)

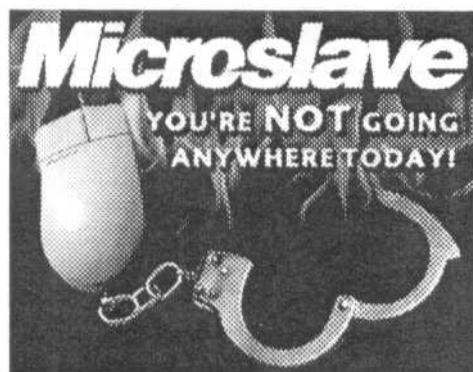
I decided to have a go with Your Sinclair magazine, the precursor to Your Sinclair, partly because I had almost all the issues, and partly because there were only 21 of them (I eventually got the whole set). Then there's more blurry bits, involving getting a cheap (but reasonably OK) OpticPro scanner to... Oh, I forgot, before that I'd tried to track down the current owners of the copyright on the various Spectrum mags and see if they'd give written permission to reproduce their articles, a tedious and unrewarding task, involving

several exasperating phone calls trying to get some sense out of people, and writing several letters, none of which received a reply.

Back to the scanner, which was OK, but came with pretty crap software (Recognita OCR and some graphics software which I don't even recall having a name), which led to lots more frustrating hours and late nights trying to get things to work, and then ending up buying some decent programs (Paintshop and Textbridge for graphics and OCR respectively). Then we start hitting all the problems with my innocent decision to try and make the pages look like they did in the original magazine, and I start discovering how pretty crap HTML is for laying out pages in ways other than those the authors of the language thought of; ie. in the ways that might be expected to be seen in a magazine. HTML provides nowhere near the flexibility of the DTP packages which are used for magazine layout; and the table layout features, in version 3 at least, seem to have been designed by someone who's never seen a simple spreadsheet, and to have been made as verbose and tedious as conceivably possible.

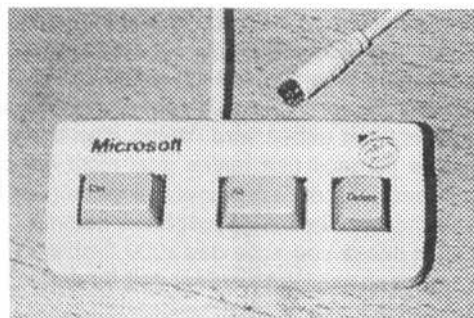
So, the relatively easy part of building the website is obtaining the information and, with some decent software, getting it into a manageable form on your computer. The difficult part, unless your pages are quite simple '2D' affairs - ie. that is, you don't use tables, and in particular nested tables - is getting the flaming HTML pages to work, and look reasonably similar with different browsers. Of course, there are numerous smart-ass web page designer programs around now, which are supposed to let you prepare the pages as with a word processor and then save in HTML form, but try getting that page to work with some other companies browser and see what hassles you start having. My first attempt with one of those, transferring a simple MS Word page with a block of text and a picture, to MS Internet Explorer, the page wouldn't even display! All the pages on both my websites have been done totally by hand with the aid of an excellent HTML editor called FlexED.

Any road up, two years later I finally completed a pretty comprehensive coverage of all 21 issues of Your



Spectrum on my Your Spectrum Unofficial Archive website (YRUA? for short - and that's not a misprint... errm, well, unless Dave has misprinted it, of course - it should read "Why Are You A...?"). The magazine database I mentioned earlier is also online at another site called SPOT*On (Spectrum Oracle on Trumpton - Online (Trumpton's the Apple Mac I mentioned).)

So, what's the advantage of all those trials and tribble -ulations? Apart from a warm glow of goodness from making all this reference material more easily available to Spectrum enthusiasts who no longer have access to the magazines, the main advantage is that numerous people who have discovered one or other of my websites have got in touch with me who'd never otherwise have done so - and hardly any of them have been stalkers or axe murderers. I've had contacts from several of the original Your Spectrum authors, who have kindly (except for Iolo Davidson) given permission for their articles to be reconstructed on the YRUA? site, plus I've made many Spectrum trading contacts with people which have enabled me to acquire an almost complete collection of all the major Spectrum magazines, and swap and trade duplicate mags and programs from my collection. And my SPOT*On website is using free space donated by the system administrator of a company who contacted me after reading a posting of mine on the c.s.s. newsgroup. I've even had contacts from several people who don't have Internet access, which has been a bit puzzling.



My two websites are YRUA? at <http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~jimj/> and SPOT*ON at <http://www.oasanet.cz/yruarch/>.

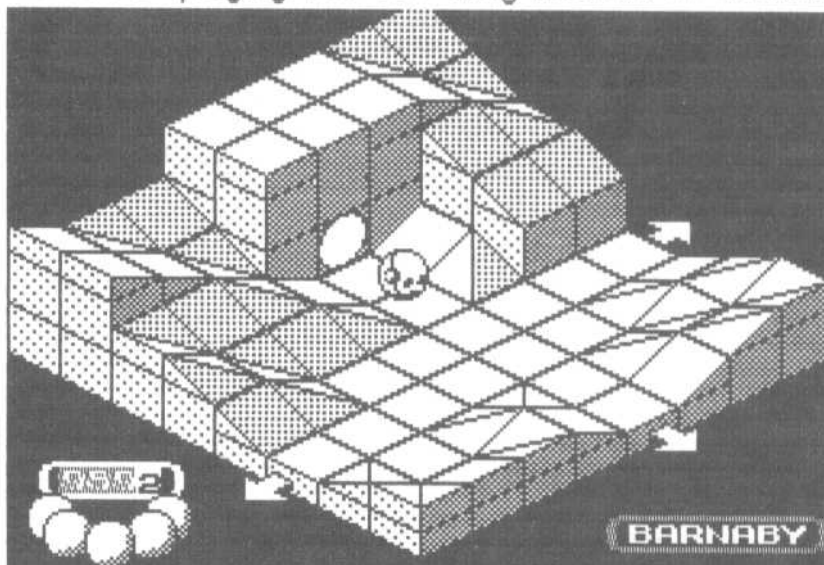
The Links page at YRUA? has references to lots of other Spectrum-related websites, plus it provides information on all the software and reference books I used while setting up my websites, so you can have a go yourself with some programs you know will work.

And that's all she wrote. (Errm, well, except I'm not a "she" - the silky underwear and sheer seamed nylons are just a comfort thing.)

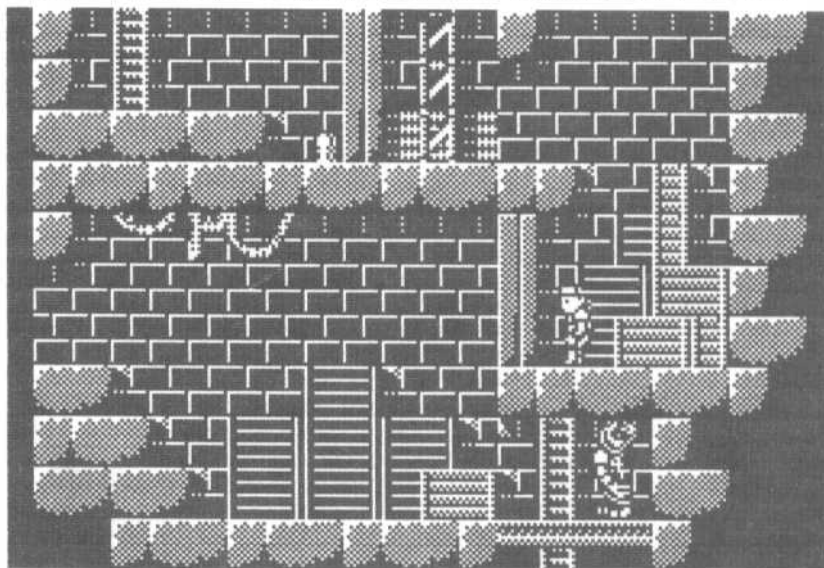
NEXT WEEK - THE CAVERS BROTHERS EXPLAIN WHY CHINESE GIRLS VAGINAS GO ALL SIDeways.

Forgotten CLASSICS

Cpt Dynamo pokes you in the eye with a shitty stick for playing Jet Set Willy instead of these...



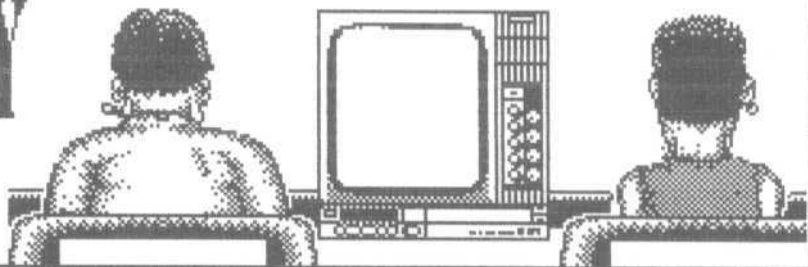
BOBBY BEARING / THE EDGE. Marble Madness may have started the rolling ball across landscapes genre but Bobby ball bearing put the tin lid on it good and proper. Bloody hard, autistically pleasing graphics and with some fine sphere physics. They just couldn't resist putting a face on the sod. Has anyone actually completed this game, and how?



SWITCHBLADE / GREMLIN. One of only a tiny handful of Manga flavour games to appear inside a Spectrum and Gremlin did it proud. There was a vast catacomb to explore and the monochrome graphics added plenty to the claustrophobic atmosphere. Areas only became visible once you'd explored them giving incentive to carry on.

TOP TELLY TOTTY

IT'S THOSE GIRLS YOU MOST DESIRE
STOKED UP INSIDE A SPECTRAL FIRE



DICKY: ...so you clearly never went to pompous fanzine editor college; rule number six - Never start an article with an argument!

DAVE: We're not arguing it's merely a simple question. You said you want to shag the 1940's woman off of Goodnight Sweetheart and I said which one?

DICKY: What do you mean which one, there was one in the 40's and one in the 90's, and I like the one in the 40's. That's the one I want to shag you thick cretin.

DAVE: Well that's where your argument fails because over the course of the series there have been two different actresses in the 40's and two different actresses in the 90's. Answer that and stay fashionable you fat queer.

DICKY: Ah...

DAVE: Yes fucking ahh, and its all suddenly gone very quiet.

DICKY: In that case, and seeing that you do nothing but watch telly I'll accept your views and say either one, I'm not bothered. You always have to win don't you.

DAVE: Right, well I'm in the mind to have relations with all four because I'm not fussy. Welcome kids to another couple of pages that seems to annoy only a small fraction of our readers, so they must be right and the vast majority must all be wrong.

DICKY: You're in a very argumentative mood today, sort yourself out and I think we should move on with this weeks first bird that a Crashed reader wants to shag off the telly, grabbed using an obscure Dutch video digitiser. And its our old friend from up Scotland way, Robert Skeen!

DAVE: Rob has moved back to Scotland from his extended holiday in Bristol because the girls are prettier

and the drugs are cheaper. After a great deal of thought it suddenly dawned on him that it wasn't too difficult a choice after all - Tamzin Outhwaite who plays Melanie out of East Enders. Initially though kids, and it has to be said, he said Buffy.

DICKY: The brazen blonde with the frisky front bottom is quite a favorite with the boys. Is it not unfair that your local pub never has



a nice looker serving, mine for instance has a tubby Spanish fellow with a wonky eye...

DAVE: And mine is a portly trade mark cockney with remarkably pliant breasts and a knack of almost wearing the latest West Ham home shirt. Its a lovely pub though, people who don't piss on the floor are asked to leave. Who was your favourite East Ender Dick?

DICKY: No doubt about it, has to be Susan Tully, the plain Jane wife of Lofty and secret schoolgirl gymslip mum lover of Dirty Den. And look, Natalie is slowly but surely turning into Abby from Screaming Custard! You spotted her first Dave, respect is due I feel.

DAVE: Another East Ender babe is causing Matthew from Kentish Town a lot of puzzlement - Sandra di Marco, the estranged wife of Beppe chin beard. Matt is utterly convinced he's seen her before and thinks it must be Grange Hill or something but can he put his finger on it? Can you?

DICKY: Easy, step aside. Gorgeous cutie-pop Sandra, that slim, button faced naughty minx of delight was to be found playing Trine, the Danish teenager from BBC flop soaper Elderado. She was blonde then but she's much better now.

DAVE: That is without doubt a top

bird off the telly, simple as. I thought that Eldorado programme was pretty good, the girl in the wheelchair was nice too, something about her there was. The foreign bint on the horse was too obvious. DICKY: Did I tell you about Jimmy 'Ah-oh ah-oh ah-oh' Saville?

DAVE: No it was me that told you about Jimmy Saville. We're not allowed to say this until he dies, but the trouble is, as soon as he dies all the tabloids will print it first and we'll look third rate. They all know about Jimmy Saville but he'd sue and the public are on his side too much.

DICKY: Can I say it?

DAVE: Mister, it's just not worth the aggro but trust me readers, when he dies and you read about what he used to get up to at Stoke Mandeville, you'll be seriously shocked. If people want to ring up I'll tell them but we can't print it. Dave will fix it for you, and you and you and you.

DICKY: Bup pap pa! I feel all creepy now, lets cheer ourselves up with a modern ironic conundrum. Magnus was a crusty old goat who asked ugly boffins and virgins questions on Mastermind, little did we know that tucked away he had a blart-fest daughter, young Sally Maggnes... that bitch there.

DAVE: This Jill Dando wannabe could one day be, the new Jill Dando. Try



saying that after three wrist-fruit sessions of Neighbours. She could have been a newsreader, she could have been on Newsround but she's gone for the Dando - exposing con-men and scams on BBC1.

DICKY: What a very silly bitch.



DAVE: Sod it, we've stepped over the mark - we've had a complaint. Joyce down Trowbridge way has got the hump over the quite legal banning of Puff Daddy, but like all open minded intelligent people she has suggested a compromise - she wants us to feature Julian Clarey instead.

DICKY: Ok, I've had enough and you don't pay me enough. There will be no pictures of Julian Clary, his Wonder Dog, the bloke with the nostrils in the Carry-On films or Lance Percival.

DAVE: I think you'll find that Lance was a character actor and very much on our bus route thank you very much. He was very good at his job.

DICKY: We've had a much more serious complaint from Martyn who lives in Rugby. Martyn insists that he never sent us a letter saying he wanted to shag Misty from Pokemon (a cartoon character because he was scared of rejection from real girls) and that we said he was an ugly fat gorilla of a man who couldn't get a girlfriend anyway. I'm sorry Dave but I'm passing the buck on this one.

DAVE: All I can do is apologise here from the bottom of my heart and do my best to correct a great wrong. I'm

going to print a proper digi image of Martyn, and I'm sure all girls will agree - you must make yourselves worthy of him, you must wear more make-up. You must all try harder.

DICKY: Lots of new entries this month chart fans, which either means you're a fickle bunch or not very deeply in love with your wives, girlfriends and incest victims. And don't think we haven't spotted those bogus votes where you act sly and try to be all big and clever. We have video tape running twenty four hours a day - if you fancy them, we'll grab 'em!

DAVE: Yes that means you Sean from Yeovil - I don't care how many times you vote for Claire out of Steps, who incidentally I fancied first actually, she is in a pop group you muppet.

DICKY: Yet presented Steps to the Stars on BBC 1. I seem to remember a relaxation on this issue with B*witched sir?

DAVE: I seem to recall this is my fanzine. Go shit.

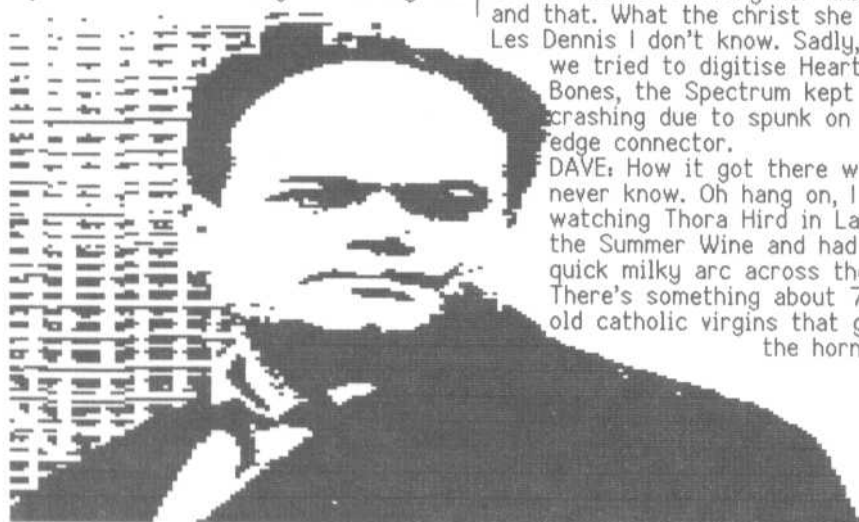
DICKY: Jeff Cooper in Nottingham sent us quite a delicious colour photo of Amanda Holden attached to an email last week. She was standing in a shower almost wearing her knickers and that. What the christ she saw in Les Dennis I don't know. Sadly, when we tried to digitise Hearts and Bones, the Spectrum kept crashing due to spunk on the edge connector.

DAVE: How it got there we'll never know. Oh hang on, I was watching Thora Hird in Last of the Summer Wine and had a quick milky arc across the room. There's something about 75 year old catholic virgins that gives me the horn.

THE READERS TOP TWENTY STATS

- 1 (1) EMMA LEDDEN (LIVE & KICKING)
- 2 (2) BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER
- 3 (3) SABRINA THE TEENAGE WITCH
- 4 (5) SEVEN OF NINE (VOYAGER)
- 5 (17) KATY HILL (BLUE PETER)
- 6 (6) KONNIE HUQ (BLUE PETER)
- 7 (12) GAIL PORTER
- 8 (-) AMANDA HOLDEN
- 9 (-) PREGNANT VIOLET BERLIN
- 10 (-) DONNA AIR (BIG BREAKFAST)
- 11 (-) CAROL VORDERMANN
- 12 (-) TAMZIN OUTWAITE
- 13 (-) CAPTAIN JANEAWAY
- 14 (-) SUE OUT OF LEGS AND CO
- 15 (8) LISA ROGERS (GRUDGE MATCH)
- 16 (-) SANDRA DI MARCO
- 17 (-) RUBY (UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS)
- 18 (9) CLAIRE GOOSE (CASUALTY)
- 19 (20) WADE WELLES (SLIDERS)
- 20 (-) HELEN (TFI FRIDAY DANCER)

The Crashed readers top 20 is made entirely out of readers votes unless we make them up. Just to take up the page space here's another piccy of Sandra from EastEnders from the right. Oh isn't she lovely, isn't she wonderful...



BRITMEET 3

THE COUNTY SUITE,
COUNTY HALL
PEGS LANE,
HERTFORD.
10am to 5pm

Saturday 24th June 2000

If you like your computers, consoles and handhelds a touch on the retro side, come and mingle with people just like you. Tickets and travel info at www.britmeet.co.uk

**Crashed
Retrogamer
Retro Classix
Commodore Scene**

SINCLAIR C64 AMSTRAD NINTENDO SEGA ATARI COLECOVISION VECTREX ACETRONIC VOLTFACE

Going Underground

WE GO SHOPPING IN OLD LONDON TOWN. WE LOOK FOR OLD SPECTRUM TAT AND ALMOST FIND SOME... WELL ALMOST

Round about 1991 there was this weirdo scuttling around second hand computer shops in Notting Hill equipped with Tesco carrier bags, this was long before Hugh Grant was sticking his chin out and stuttering in every film he ever appeared in. It was me. One shop in particular was my port of call, the Computer and Games Exchange. It was like going up the old rickety stairs in Albert Steptoe's house (it smelt like it too) and there at the top would be a smallish room crammed full of unwanted 8 bit software - rack upon rack of it all priced to sell. Thirty pence a pop yer single cassette games up to a squid for the bigger boxed powders. Everywhere you looked there was old 8 bit crap stuffed into ripped cardboard boxes (broken joysticks seemed to be especially popular) and copies of Sinclair User with the covers missing. It was both heaven and hell.

The biggest downside to this place were the staff; self-assured, arrogant ex-University boys from market towns who had descended on London like a plague to watch bands, be in bands, hang out in rip-off Camden Town pubs and be complete pricks. They would all be called Steve, or Dan or Phil. You get the picture. It was such a shame that these middle class wannabe drop-outs had to work in such terrible conditions surrounded by rubbish all day long, so they took it out on the punters instead. Another curious beast employed was the middle aged bloke with the enivitable pony-tail to try to disguise the fact that he was going bald. He would be lippy as opposed to arrogant. And probably a Dennis or a Tony. He would have a length of lead piping under the counter and a couple of socks down his pants for the ladies.

Times have changed and 8 bit rubbish collectors like me are frankly fed up of trudging through mud at Car Boot Fairs and wary of answering small ads in the back of MicroMart, we want to be able to go to a proper shop like normal people do and indulge in our hobby. Old fashioned junk shops have always been far too hit and miss, collectors and retro hunters can now browse in a new breed of emporium, the dedicated Retro shop!

So armed with a travel card and a trusty notepad, I set off to have a good browse inside the London area retro shops. My first port of call was Greenwich, knowing full well that the sort of retro on sale here is of the inflatable plastic sofa and bubble lamp variety. Well, dusty computer games can get boring you know and the girls who work in these shops are something else. I buy myself a wall hanging of Jesus with built-in fairy light surround for £35 and I'm very happy. Time to jump on a 177 and head for Peckham.

It will never be the same again will it, not after Del Boy and Rodney. Trouble is, Only Fools and Horses was actually filmed in Bristol and there aren't any big tower blocks around these parts either. Peckham is an ok place if you're not intimidated by intimidating things and intimidating people, it also has an excellent retro-ish shop for those wanting to collect Megadrive stuff. The emphasis is on consoles and you can really get to know the friendly bloke behind the counter and he knows his console histories. He can get you pretty much anything you're after for a price.

It's always a pleasure to jump on a London Routemaster bus, and on I hop the 12 to Notting Hill. I really must check that place out again you know, maybe I was being unfair it was a long time ago after all. A two hour crawl through the London traffic and I reach Notters (as we trendy wine bar types call it) and the shop had gone... it's moved over the road into bigger premises. Downstairs its all PC bits and pieces with the occasional 16 bit casualty covered in inky fingerprints. You can always tell when a dot matrix printer was involved. Erm, there's a middle aged bloke down here with a pony-tail... ah... I zip upstairs to the busier software floor and there's a couple of fresh faced freshers trying to placate a bloke who wants to sell them a pristine Dreamcast with several games. He's offered £6 each for the games that last month cost him £40, I think he's going to deck one of them. Nope, he slinks away saying very bad words and his eyebrows are going to fly off his head if he gets any more facially animated.

I stumble across a PlayStation game I've been after for four years and gladly stump up £15 even though its got a small crack on the outside edge. One of the freshers tests it for me and it loads ok. I'm looking hard for the 8 bit tape software and

I manage to find a small shelf not exactly creaking under the weight. Make-A-Chip, that old second hand stalwart Scrabble and a few magazine covertapes, hmmm, not very exciting for a Spectrum collector who has had roughly 65 copies of Scrabble over the years, and I do appreciate that I'm a weirdo very much in a minority. I just know that I'm going to see the lanky bloke standing outside a pub in Camden within the next six months. Or worse still on stage.

Perhaps I should write for Bus Spotters Monthly because I'm now sitting inside a 94, front seat proud, and I suddenly realise that a Routemasters bonnet reminds me of a ladies bottom. I really cannot explain further. I'm heading for Shepherds Bush and the newest of Retro shops, Retro X. This is a much smaller intimate affair and best of all there's no graduate called Alex desperately trying to show you his t-shirt slogan. Retro X could well become a haven for the collector because there doesn't appear to be anything truly fit for the bin men in here, it all seems pretty rare and indeed collectable. There are new 10p friendly coin-ops and one side is equipped with PC's granting internet access and scanning. The guy behind the counter seems genuinely friendly and keen to indulge in Spectrum chit-chat.

I'm getting tired now and all I have to show is the Jesus picture, a 1980's mens interest magazine from Japan (bargain at £3.50) and some print-outs of naked women from my hours internet session. Well what do you print out, program listings? I decide to give CEX just off Whitfield Street a miss because it would mean getting off the tube and I'd gotten all comfy. When I want a cheap second hand PlayStation game and an earful of hardcore techno I'll know where to go.

It certainly does beat early morning starts at Car Boots and going to some blokes address in the middle of nowhere to pick up a boxed (damaged) Sam Coupe and side-stepping the offer to watch his 10 year old daughter do aerobics 'with her best friend' after the cash exchanged hands. You think I'm joking do you? I'm not. You get some funny people up Barnet way.

DOES YOUR HOME TOWN HAVE STRANGE LITTLE SHOPS THAT SELL OLD TAT? WHERE ARE THEY? WHAT DO THEY SMELL OF? YOU MUST TELL US.

Sinclair Years

1988

What a bloody strange year this turned out to be. After last years death knell the Spectrum picked up its skirts and started running full pelt down the home straight with its pubes on fire, it was all the C64 and Amstrad could do to keep up. Arcade conversions were the thing (yet again) and we saw mighty versions of OutRun plus a few original 16 bit conversions like Carrier Command and Virus. Original game ideas and concepts were starting to be conspicuous by their absence, but don't get greedy now, the French game Captain Blood shook a few people out of their comas and stupors and Incentive created Darkside, the pre-Doom Doom thing. Now we knew what Freescape was and we wanted more of it. So that's all they did from then on.

With the 8-bit market clearly looking over its shoulder at the cloaked grim reaper, only a complete idiot would be planning to launch a new 8-bit computer... MGT work secretly on a new 8-bit 'super Spectrum for the third world', the Sam Coupe. In Japan work was also underway on something called a PC Engine from NEC. This tiny little white machine with games stored on credit card sized carts ran games that put most current arcade cabinets to shame. Something bloody strange WAS going on...

In 16-bit land the Atari ST was in the lead right up until Christmas when the price of an Amiga joined its chum around the more palatable £299 mark. Those that cared still stressed the ST was superior for handling vector graphics but normal people don't talk like that - they have a much simpler rating system i.e. that's

shit that is or that's great. The Bitmap Bothers started making a name for themselves with Xenon, a predictable shooty scrolling thing but with 'much better graphics', so that makes all the difference I suppose.

Console wars? what console wars? The stage was set for a showdown between the NES and the Master System but there were far too few games available in the UK for each to bother about. Nintendo played safe with that childish plumber until an innovative game came along called Legend of Zelda. Your £40 cartridge came equipped with a built-in battery save game option (oooooh!) because the game was so vast and that. Interesting. The Master System came with altered built-in games just in time for Santa to dish them out.

High Street Spectrum magazines were getting thinner (and not just in the physical sense) even though the games were getting better and better; Crash was still pumping it out but Sinclair User was starting to transform into Womans Weekly. Meanwhile we still all thought Your Sinclair was for kids due to its loud colourful cartoony covers. Urgh.

All home computing, be it with 8 or 16 bits, was under threat from a great social change - pubs could now stay open from 11 in the morning to 11 at night during weekdays. And what with Anglicans declaring that they would start ordaining women priests, well, whatever next? A new 8-bit computer released without a built-in printer port? Nope, I don't think anyone is quite that stupid...

NEXT YEAR: Sam Coupe special!

Naughty nurses go on strike for more pay. Let's hope they didn't spend the subsequent 15% increase on fags and chocolate biscuits like they always do, the fat-leggy unhealthy cows.

In fact quite a lot of people went on strike this year - Ferry workers, Postal workers and Parma Violet smelling dinner ladies. It seems the Tories were seriously starting to piss most people off.

Paddy Ashdown, an ex-Marine Commando action man bloke with movable eyes, becomes the new leader of the Social and Liberal Democrats after 'Diddy' David Steel didn't feel like it.

A Boeing 747 was brought down over the wee Scottish market town of Lockerbie by a suspect Emmerdale script writer. All 259 on board were killed and eleven more who were going about their own business before things fell on top of them.

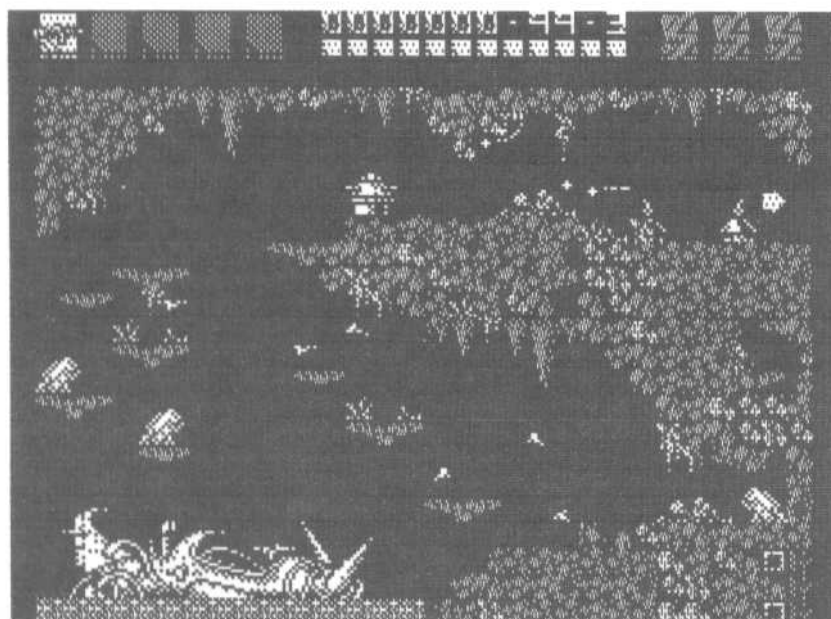
Prince Big Ears of Wales escapes a ski slope tragedy and goes on to criticize modern buildings in London. Meanwhile the tax ponce continues to live in Buckingham Palace, a great eyesore in the middle of nice park.

Two trains packed with commuters collide at Clapham Junction, a third joins in and a fourth narrowly missed out due to the actions of a guard. Signal failure is blamed and not Dave Fountain (he was on a bogus sicky as usual).

Edwina Currie quits the Tories after claiming that most eggs sold contain salmonella. Mind you, she was right about the northerners suffering from a diet of ignorance and crisps.

Stephen Hawking has A Brief History of Time published. It's all a pile of crap he made up after watching Star Trek but no one dares to call him a liar because he's in a wheelchair.

The Piper Alpha oil rig somewhere in the North Sea blew up. It was thought to have nothing to do with 400 men wanking at the same time during Brookside.



Those lucky enough to have discovered the joy of Martech's REX never put it down for hours on end. Top dinosaur rhino killing machine fun.

LETTERS

All letters and Emails received could end up in here, so mark your things PRIVATE if you see fit.

Dear Crashed,
I've never seen it mentioned before but have you noticed how 3" disks can fall into a cup of tea or coffee yet a 3.5" disk is safe from this tragic event? Alan Sugar really was a very stupid man. And I hear northern yet live in London supergroup Oasis are splitting up as they've run out of other peoples ideas.
Matthew, Kentish Town.

You're getting too good now, I do the jokes son.

Dear Crashed,
Thanks for the mag, life goes on even for old computers. Gee! I am currently grooving to Helen Love (summer fast approaching) and Velocette and lots of old stuff cos I've just sorted out all my records. I can now put my hands on Ella F, Chesterfields or Georgie Fame in a matter of ooh - minutes! Last good new band I saw was Veleddrome 2000, last good old band/geezer - Lee Hazlewood. Truly fantastic. Now debating Glastonbury. Will probably go for it, but I've said I'm coming straight here if it rains! Take care, lots of love,
Linda Barker, Bath.

You are the second person to mention Helen Love on the Crashed letters page. She'll be on Top of the Pops next. I will put anybodys record/CD collection in alphabetical order for £5 per hour. It's quite enjoyable.

Dear Crashed,
Re: the I Love You bug. Are we building a house a straw?
Don, Email.

Don't care really. Have you?

Dear Crashed,
...Crashed is developing a fine tradition for promising things that never appear :) When are we going to see that repair manual?
Derek Cruikshank, Beckton.

Never ever type :) again when writing to me. I couldn't be bothered knocking up a special font that has an over-score, which seems to be some form of electronic notation or whatever. Snore. Tomato Girl can sell you one.

Dear Crashed,
I can't believe Speccy stuff is so popular in New York. I wish I had known last year when I went. A shop selling Speccy games and Crashed in New York is an odd concept. I could have taken over a suitcase full of Crashed, Desert Islands Disks, Hackers Hangout, tapes, computers etc. and paid for some of my holiday. But then I would probably have bought loads of crap as well. I've now got three +3's, a couple of 48k's and shitloads of +2's. It's completely unnecessary and a waste of space but I keep thinking I might get £30 or so for them on Ebay. Maybe I should actually put the bloody things on Ebay then?
St.John Swainson, Ricky RMI.

Latest reports - Crashed is selling like plague samples in New York but doing very well in Canada. Boxed pristine Spectrums are being sold for £60+ a pop in places like Retro X in Shepherds Bush. If you want to make really good money start dealing in antique furniture. Or pornography.

Dear Crashed,
...Excellent article by Matthew Westcott... I don't understand a word of the TechNiche but neither does anyone else. I can't believe anyone sits there laboriously entering all that data when they could be down at the supermarket or out in the garden mowing the lawn. How could you bear to sit there and type it all in, or have you secretly got a scanner attached to your Speccy?
Joyce Cook, Trowbridge.

He's a top bloke and only top blokes get asked to contribute. I used an Outlet util program called TextBas or Bastext or something, it converts any Basic listing held in memory into a Tasword 2 textfile. Brilliant eh?

Dear Crashed,
As regards your Internet debate thing, a 20% response on a mailshot is actually quite good, although when you put it as 3 it probably doesn't sound quite so good. I've been involved with commercial mailshots to hundreds or thousands of customers which have got less than

5% response. You should have sent me one and you could have boosted your results to 25%!

With regard to the Codemasters article, I noticed a few errors and omissions, and on checking my SPOT database found a few more. Here they are... Big Nose in USA should be Big Noses American Adventure. 1992-1993 games which might not have been released like Imperial Wizard, Mean Machines and Slicks. Compilations: Cartoon collection, Quattro Coin-ops's Fighters and Megastars, Smash 16, Super All Stars and Supersports Challenge. Other missing titles: Dizzy Prince of the Yolkfolk, DJ Puff Volcanic Caper, Jungle Warfare, Jupiter Mission, Miami Chase, Murray Mouse in Mouse Mania, Necris Dome, Pro Tennis Simulator, Pro BMX Simulator (enhanced version of BMX sim issued between BMX sim 1+2), Rebel Squad, Robin Hood Legend Quest, Spellbound Dizzy, Stryker in the Crypts of Trojan, Superstar Seymour and Tarantula. Plus Frankenstein Jnr which was just Ariolasofts 1987 game Bride of Frankenstein with the character sprite changed. Turbo the Tortoise was originally a Hi-Tec game re-issued by Codemasters.
Jim Grimwood, Weardale.

Blimey! It was an honour to be put right by a man who clearly knows his arse from his elbow.

Dear Crashed,
...You should put 'The Alternative ZX Spectrum Fanzine' along the top of the cover so it stands out better in magazine racks etc. And an alternative to what exactly?... How about 16 page issues once a month?
Clive Gedge, Woking.

Desert Island Disks takes things a little more seriously, Hackers Hangout compliments new software, AlchNews is comprehensive, PD Power is painfully unworldly and Crashed is written to inform and entertain from a left field perspective. You takes your pick innit and we're all lucky to have such a wide choice considering its a ZX Spectrum we're talking about.

Dear Crashed,
Does anyone have any Microdrive carts for sale?
M.Lee, Wigan 1 Millwall O.

What do Millwall bring to Wembley that Wigan can only dream of? Does the term 48,000 supporters ring any bells? Revenge is a dish best served cold young man.

Dear Crashed,
(Re: Top Telly Totty)...I think its about time someone knocked your two heads together...
Bob Brenchley, Gloucester.

Form an orderly queue kids, I think fat Bob is about to give everybody their money back. Ha!

POSTBOX

FANZINES AND MANUALS

ALCH NEWS: 283 Twist Lane, Leigh, Lancs WN7 4EH.
-Tape/diskzine. Spectrum/Z88. Price: £1.00
(web [://go.to/alchemistresearch](http://go.to/alchemistresearch))
(email alchemistresearch@lineone.net)

CRASHED: 11 Camel Road, Silvertown, London E16 2DE.
-A4 fanzine. Spectrum. Bi-monthly. Price: £1.50
(web www.geocities.com/fountainboy_uk)
(email fountainboy_uk@yahoo.com)

DESERT ISLAND DISKS: 32 Dursley Road, Wilts BA14 ONP.
-A4 fanzine. Spectrum. Quarterly. Price: £2.00
(web www.image.dk/~frankie)
(email frankie@image.de)

HACKERS HANGOUT: 29 Dent Dr, Wakefield, W.Yorks WF1 4JG.
-A4 fanzine. Spectrum. Bi-monthly. Price: £1.50
(email aryals@hotmail.com)

PD POWER: 13 Rodney Close, Bilton, Rugby CV22 7HJ.
-A5 fanzine. Spectrum. Bi-monthly. Price £2.10
(web to be announced)
(email editor.s@online.co.uk)

QL TODAY: PO Box 7, Portslade, Sussex BN41 2ND.
-A4 magazine. QL. Bi-monthly. Price: Annual subs £25.00

QUAZAR: 16 Belcanto Court, Spalding, Lincs PE11 3FS.
-Sound Sampler support. Sam Coupe. Monthly. Price: £2

RETRO CLASSIX: 20 Lambert House, London SW9 0UU.
-A4 fanzine. 8 bits/arcade. Bi-monthly. Price: £1.50
(web www.retrox.co.uk)
(email rclassix1@aol.com)

RETROGAMER: 52 Kingfield Road, Liverpool L9 3AW.
-A5 fanzine. 8 bits/arcade. Bi-monthly. Price: £1.50
(web www.retrogamer.merseyworld.com)
(email retrogamer@cableinet.co.uk)

SAM COMMUNITY: 34 Craigowen Rd, Carrickfergus BT38 7NE
-A5 fanzine. Sam Coupe. Bi-monthly. Annual subs £5.00
(web www.samcommunity.co.uk)
(email to be announced)

SCENE+: PragerstraBe 92/11/12, A-1210 Wien, Austria.
-Diskzine. Spectrum. Bi-monthly. Price: £1.00
(email lcd.one@aon.at)

THE SPC: Im Tannenforst 10, 51069 Köln, Germany.
-A5 magazine. Sam/Spectrum. Monthly. German text.
(web www.womoteam.de)
(email womoteam@t-online.de)

THE SUC: Gastacksrstr 23, 70794 Filderstadt, Germany.
-A5 magazine. Spectrum. Monthly. German text.
(web www.online.de/home/sintech)
(email sintech@online.de)

TOMATO GIRL: 26 Elsie Street, Goole DN14 6DU
-A5 manuals for various hard/software applications.
(email tomato.girl@talk21.com)

ZX TEAM: Luetzowstr.3, 38102 Braunschweig, Germany.
-A5 fanzine. ZX81. Bi-monthly. German text.
(web www.zx81.de)
(email peter@zx81.de)

EWEB FANZINES

MONOCALL: Most vintage computers with Sinclair bias.
(www.netcomuk.co.uk/~njc1/index.html)

SUBLIMINAL EXTACY: Off the wall and vulgar. Great!
(www.raww.org)

YS3: In the fine tradition of Your Sinclair etc.
(www.ys3.co.uk)

RETRO SHOPS

CEX RETRO: 132 Rathbone Place, London W1 9AD.
Seven days 10am to 7pm. Tel: 020 7636 2666

COMPUTER EXCHANGE: 65 Notting Hill Gate, London W11 3JS.
Seven days 10am to 8pm. Tel: 020 7243 1863

RAVEN GAMES: 74 Bromley Rd, Beckenham, Kent BR3 5NP.
Mon-Sat 10am to 1pm. Tel: 020 8663 6810

RETRO X: 90 Shepherds Bush Road, London W6 7PD
Mon-Sat 10am to 8pm. Tel: 020 7371 3134

POSTBOX IS UPDATED EVERY ISSUE BECAUSE WE'RE GREAT!

NOTICEBOARD

The blank piece of paper for all your wants and sales, messages, events, scandal, gossip and anything else that doesn't involve you being a nonce or a complete low-grade.

FOR SALE. Amstrad Printer 1360 dot matrix, boxed, manual, light home use. £30. Tel: 0208 299 1315 after 7pm.

FOR SALE. Maxell 3" disks (brand new) £1 each or £7.50 for box of ten (individually sealed). Tel: 01909 731259 (Nottingham).

WANTED. Old computers wanted - Oric, QL, Tandy, Texas, Memotech or any other computers of that period. Tel: 07977 956597 (London).

WANTED. Old magazines and computers, mainly PCG, Big K, Computer Gamer, C&VG, Zzapp! 64, Crash etc. Anything 8 bit related considered. Buy or Trade. Tel: Simon 020 8566 3616 (London).

WANTED. Could I buy, beg or borrow a Star LC200 printer manual? Tel: 01723 859495 (Scarborough).

MESSAGE. Found a copy of AIV Evolution Global, no thanks to you lot. Bastards. Love Dave. P.S. it stinks and smells.

MESSAGE. Have you ever wondered why Digitiser slags off computer magazines? Guess who kept getting turned down by them?

RECOMMENDED SPECCY WEB SITES

DEMOTOPIA: The home of Spectrum PD demos. Comprehensive and updated like no other.
(www.demo.eu.org)

RAWW ARSE: Streetwise and challenging, unlike most.
(www.raww.org)

WORLD OF SPECTRUM: You only need one good all rounder and this is as good as it gets.
(www.void.demon.nl/spectrum)

THE HUNS YELLOW PAGES: Because it's healthy to have a varied sex life instead of trying to make people feel guilty and perverted because you haven't got one.
(www.thehun.net)

SEEN ANY GOOD STUFF LATELY?