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COMMODORE

The very best C64 mag money can buy!

ISSUE 34 • £2.50 • JULY 1993

POWERPACK**'b**

ARAC FULL GAME
INVISION FULL GAME
SHELLSHOCK FULL GAME
COYRA pt3 FULL GAME
SPRITES TUTORIAL CODE

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FORMAT

HE SHOOTS! HE SCORES!

Liverpool kicks off on the C64. See the big match 'live and exclusive' on CFTV p.76

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THE DEAD
DATASSETTE!**
CF's star-staffie
spills the
beans!

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THEN YOUR POWER PACK'S MISS-
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NOW!

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to disk
SMART!**
Turn to p.6.

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COMMODORE

10 CHARTS

This month's best-sellers.

13 NEWS

The latest C64 gossip.

14 PREVIEWS

Suburban Commando, Pirates and Turbocharge are on their way!

16 DROP THE DEAD DATASSETTE

Or, the world according to Clur!

19 DO THE SPRITE THING!

In the second half of our techie tutorial Bones gets his sprites on the move.

22 LETTERS

The world's mightiest brain presides!

26 PD FORMAT

What's hot and costs not (a lot)!

27 LET'S MAKE A MONSTER

With programming on their latest mega-game gathering pace, Apex need THREE pages this month to tell their tale. It sounds like Mayhem in Monsterland (groan – the entire world).



p70

70 THE ADDAMS FAMILY

Ocean

Gomez goes a-re-cueing at 0001 Cemetery Lane. The game of the film of the TV show of the comic strip gets a welcome budget outing.

73 THE ARGON FACTOR

Logyk

A graphic adventure with a difference – a £1,000 prize! But will it be the gameplay or the grand that keeps you engrossed?

74 SKULL & CROSSBONE

Hit Squad

Timber me shivers! Tengen coin-op' avast, ya lubbers... (I can't take any more of this – Ed).

76 LIVERPOOL

Grandslam Video

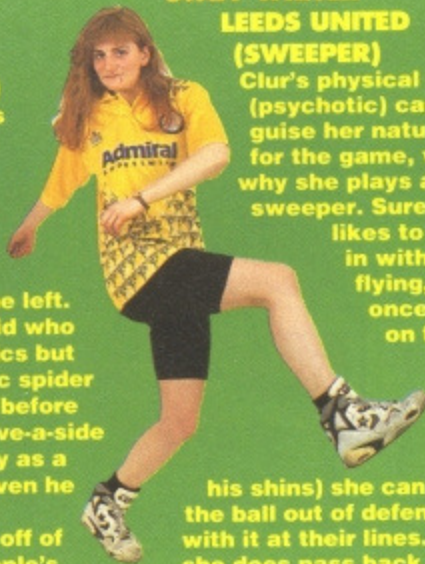
Can the game live up to the club's illustrious rep'? CF puts the analog Anfield to the test.

The Commodore



TRENTON WEBB
EDITOR
BRISTOL ROVERS
(LEFT BACK)

He never was very good at games, our Ed. When it came to picking teams at school he was always the last one left. Even the gangly kid who was good at physics but ran like an arthritic spider would get a place before Trent. So for our five-a-side team he got to play as a defender. Surely even he could hack people down, barge them off of the ball, thump people's shins... and besides we needed a fifth player!



CLURE HODGSON
STAFF WRITER
LEEDS UNITED
(SWEEPER)

Clure's physical style (psychotic) can't disguise her natural talent for the game, which is why she plays as sweeper. Sure she likes to charge in with studs flying, but once she's on the ball (and the other guy's clutching

his shins) she can either pass the ball out of defence or run with it at their lines. Curiously, she does pass back to the opposition a lot, but we think this is just so she can tackle them as well.



LISA KELLET

DESIGN ASSISTANT
AC Milan
(Mid-field)
Now you wouldn't think

NEWS

78 RODLAND

Kixx
 "So cute it'll make you puke!" the ads so tastefully boasted when this platformer was originally launched on to an unsuspecting world. So steel your stomachs and don't eat any foreign food because *Rodland's* out on budget! Can it overcome to cute factor? You know where to find out (er, on p.78, in case you don't).



p73



p78

30 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Never leave the house again – get *Commodore Format* delivered!

55 GAMEBUSTERS

Ten pages of fundamental cheats, tips and POKEs compiled by the one and only Mr A Roberts Esq. (*but I know another A Roberts!* – *Clur*) (*Oh, shut up* – *Ed*).

67 TECHIE TIPS

Top-notch techie talk from Jason Finch, the man with the winch. (*WHAT?!?* – *Ed*)

80 MAIL ORDER

Visit our exclusive Commodore Superstore for some major bargs!

82 NEXT MONTH

The shape of things to come!

MODERN CLASSICS

p31

Your essential guide to the very best software currently available for your C64. It's the definitive directory of Commodore games, a 24-page special that lists over 1000 games – and where to buy each and every one of them!



Modern Classics is more than a list, though. It's *Commodore Format's* complete buying guide. We name the best games, we name the worst games and we

name a few we really like but aren't entirely sure why! So if you're serious about games, you need Modern Classics!



Four rather fabby full games!

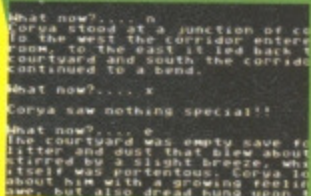
ARAC

Side One
 Tape count 065
 Spider-like, net-throwing arcade adventure. Weird sure, but brilliant!



COYRA PART 3

Side One Tape count 000
 The conclusion of Mr Warrior-Sage's adventure.



SHELLSHOCK

Side Two Tape count 000
 A vicious *Commando*-style kill-'em-up. Very hostile!



INVISION

Side Two Count 060
 Stupendously silly 'invisible' pinball. Yep, it really is as daft as it sounds!



PLUS 3 SPRITE TUTORIALS

Side Two Tape count 095
 Top-flight techie-talk code to accompany Do The Sprite Thing.

Full details are just over the page.

POWERPACK PAGES

Commodore 64 1st team!

it but our little Lisa is dead in the air. I mean if you thought Gary Mabbut was a good header (*I didn't actually* – *Ed*) then you won't believe the power of this girl. We've seen her break keepers' fingers with just one nod of her head. Such accuracy and power means she's best suited to mid-field. Besides, when she heard how much dosh Vialli got when he was transferred to Juventus, her eyes went all misty.



DAVE GOLDR
PRODUCTION EDITOR
 Athens (Centre forward)

Dave was never interested in footie. If there was a match on TV he'd be off (*to the fridge?* – *Ed*). Then one day he saw the Brain Clough ad which implied that good footballers ate one more of everything than everybody else. Since then he's not missed a training session – he's had three Shredded Wheats for breakfast, milk at eleven and enough Lucozade to float the Ark Royal regularly every day.

OLLIE ALDERTON
ART EDITOR
 BRISTOL CITY (KEEPER)

You need a safe pair of hands to be a goal keeper and that's just what Ollie's got. Sadly his knees are a bit suspect, there are some worrying doubts about his judgement and if you catch him on his blind-side, well, frankly, it's frightening. Still, on the whole he's not such a bad keeper. He regularly turns out for Future first eleven resplendent in yellow gloves, green jersey, baggy knee-length shorts, football boots with ten yards of muddy laces wrapped around them and a 50's style cap. It's just a shame Future only play cricket!





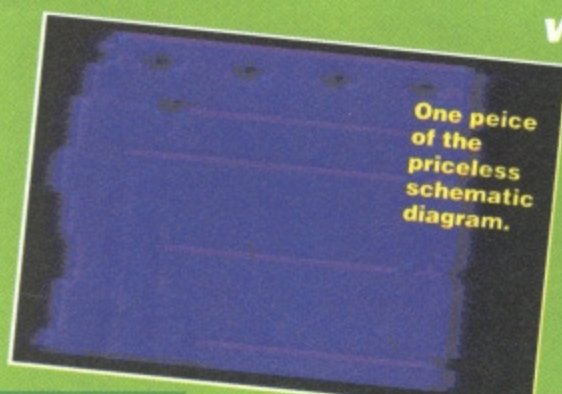
POWERPACK

34



Hold on to your horses, or any other available four-legged mammal (except gerbils, they don't count). Clur's about to whisk you off on a whistlestop tour of the

34th cassette to bear the name Power Pack.



One peice of the priceless schematic diagram.

VITAL STATISTIX

GAME	Shellshock
ORIGINAL RELEASE	July 1993
ORIGINAL LABEL	Commodore Format
PROGRAMMED BY	Sybertek Developments
GENRE	Shoot-'em-up
DIFFICULTY	Medium

From Beyond Belief, the makers of *Biff, Snare* and the *Jimmy's* soccer series, comes *Shellshock*, a brilliantly violent *Commando* clone. It's the sort of no-nonsense, get in there and blast anything that moves type shoot-'em-up that you can pick up in about two seconds flat (well, we had to provide

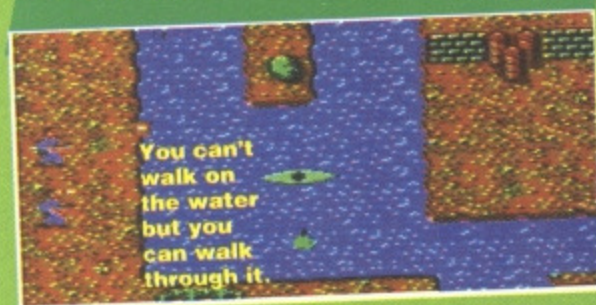
something to provide a balance with the subtle complexities of *Arac* – that's got instructions of epic proportions).

The main difference between this and your bog-standard blaster is that you've haven't got the military's latest, top secret super self-rearming machine gun that never runs out of bullets. Nope, this is the real world. Well, the sort of real world where the enemies handily leave behind ammo when you shoot them, that is.

There are four levels in all, pulled together by a plot involving four parts of a stolen schematic diagram that have to be pieced together. But the plot's pretty much irrelevant.

You might just as well be searching for the ingredients to a ham and mushroom omelette. Who needs a plot when you can have this much fun killing things? Enjoy the maiming while it lasts.

SHELLSHOCK



You can't walk on the water but you can walk through it.

QUICKSTART INFO

Side One • Tape Count 065 • Joystick port 1

UP	Exit from menu/ move up when Arac's a spider.
DOWN	Move down when Arac's a spider.
DOWN/UP	Jump.
DOWN/FIRE	Enter menu.
LEFT	Go left
RIGHT	Go right
FIRE	Fire net or menu, select option in menu



Pipes don't move so don't shoot them (there's not much point anyway).

SCORE 0000002200 AMMO 000000000000
LIVES 000000000000 GRENADES 10 BOMBS 00

ARAC



Come on, own up. You've loaded *Arac*, had a quick blast, and you're totally confused. So you've come crawling to the Power Pack pages hoping to find out what it's all about. Makes a change to find a game that you actually have to read the instructions to, doesn't it? But it's well worth the effort, believe us.

You play *Arac*, a robot with a spider fixation. If you chose to play the long game you'll have to hunt out his arachnoid bits – two legs and a power globe – before you can turn into the spidery thing, but in the short game you're already supplied with your bits. To turn *Arac* into his arachnid alter-ego select the far right panel in the menu screen (which you access by holding down and pressing Fire). The spider has a very limited amount of energy so you have to change back into the robot by selecting the same panel, before it runs out.

As a legless robot, all *Arac* can do is fire a net to catch the various creatures which populate the game. As a spider, though, he's also armed with a stun gun. Another advantage of being an arachnoid is that you can walk on the ceilings – always a handy trick.

The aim of the game is to deactivate three reactors located inside a fortified citadel, but to get into the citadel *Arac* must have all his spi-

der bits. And you've got a maximum of 30 minutes (20 minutes in the short game) to do it all in – hold the joystick down and the time remaining will appear in the bottom right hand corner of the screen.

To net a creature just press the Fire button. Hold down Fire longer to shoot out the net further. Any captured beasties are displayed on the menu screen. You can only hold up to eight of each type of creature at a time.

Each creature has its own special talent which can help you out. If you want to use make use of one of these talents, all you need to do is select the relevant beastie from the menu, hit your Fire button, then push up on the joystick to exit the menu screen – hey presto, one beastie at your command.

This is definitely one of the best arcade adventures we've had on the Power Pack. *Dizzy* eat your heart out.

CREATURE FEATURE

Malevolent Man Of War – you can only capture him when he's been stunned; his skill is fusing delicate electronics.



Stinger – *Arac* can use the stinger's flying abilities to get out of tricky situations.

Big Borer – This fella will gnaw his way through solid walls for you.



Rock Hopper – bounces up and down on the spot to protect you from oncoming nasties.

Ray – protects you from being detected by radar.



QUICKSTART INFO

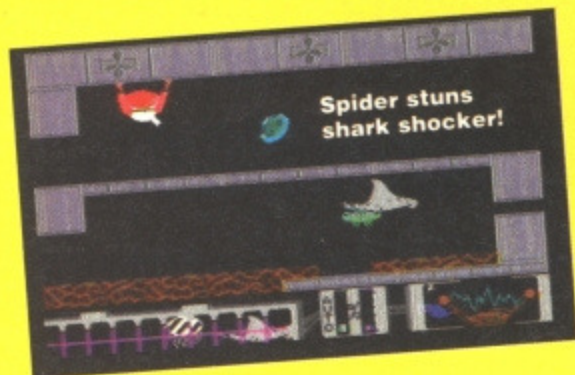
Side Two • Tape Count 000 • Joystick port 2

	UP	Move up.
	DOWN	Move down.
	LEFT	Move left.
	RIGHT	Move right.
	FIRE	Shoot.
	SPACE	Throw grenades.

Other Info: To pause the game press P while any joystick movement will restart it.

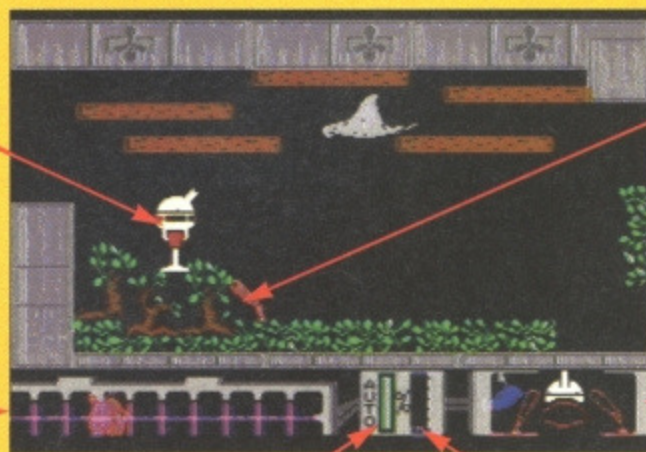
VITAL STATISTIX

Game	ARAC
Original Release	Sept 86
Programmer	Paul O'Malley
Original Label	Addictive Games
Genre	Arcade Adventure
Difficulty	Dead 'ard



Arac, our crouching, jumping, spider-loving, net-flinging hero.

The cage in which Arac stores his catches until he needs them.



Energy reserve level, let this drop to zero and you'll be out of action.

Achievement indicator, 100 per cent means you've finished the game.

One of the arachnoid's legs. Now all you need is another leg and the power globe.

This shows how many of your bits you've got so far (in this case, none).

Select E if you're completely stuck and want to start again.



The number of each sort of creature you've got in your cage is displayed in this panel; move the cursor over the one you want to use and hit Fire.

Select this icon to swap between being a spider or a bog-standard robot.

INVISION

It's more than just strange, it's even

stranger than strange! An invisible pinball game! Well almost invisible, you can see the ball and the flippers but that's about all – unless you hit something in which case it'll flash for a fraction of a second.

Some of the obstacles will stay visible for longer, and if you manage to light up combinations of them in the correct order, then you earn masses of bonus points. But apart from not

being able to see nine-tenths of the table

nine-tenths of the time, the game plays pretty much like normal pinball. You get five balls per go and the aim of the game is simply to stop the ball from going out of play by using the flippers at the bottom of the table (and there might even be another invisible flipper somewhere else on the table – but we're not letting on, that's for you to find out*). Like the real game, it's not as easy as it sounds, so give it a go – it's flippin' fun.



Let's play spot the ball shall we? Which one of the small blobs is it?

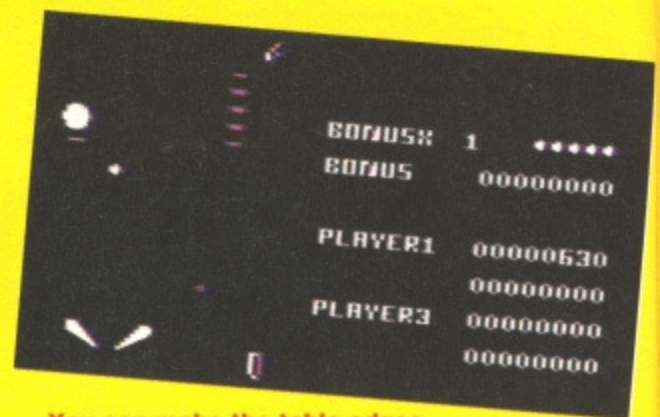
BONUS: 1 *****
BONUS 00020000

PLAYER1 00004150
00000000

PLAYER3 00000000
00000000

WANNA SEE MORE?

Invision is bought to you courtesy of Kingsway Computer Services. If you'd like to see what more they have to offer turn to page 26 or send a large SAE to Kingsway, 72 Glencoe Road, Sheffield, S2 2SR (☎ 0742 750623) for a catalogue.



You can make the table edges are invisible (if you're that masochistic).

VITAL STATISTICS

GAME	<i>Invision</i>
ORIGINAL RELEASE	Kingsway
GENRE	Pinball Simulator
DIFFICULTY	Easy

QUICKSTART INFO

Side Two • Tape Count 060 • Joystick port 1

DOWN	Decrease tension on the plunger.
LEFT	Increase tension on the plunger.
RIGHT	Right flipper.
FIRE	Release plunger and operate left flipper.
F3	Change colour
F4	Change no. of players
F7	Start game

SPRITE AND CHEERFUL



SPRITE CODE

Impressed by the fast sprite demo? We bet you are. Here's a listing of the Basic program used to create it. The listing is rather long so when you see a bit that you want to look at scrolling up the screen hit Run/Stop. The scrolling should then come to a halt. When you've got bored with that bit and want to set it off again just type LIST and you're off.

QUICKSTART INFO

Side Two • Tape Count 105 • Keyboard

Hit Run/Stop to pause the listing. Type LIST to get it scrolling again.

```

LIST
*** SOURCE CODE FOR M/C VERSION
*** OF SPRITE DEMO.BAS
GARJU=56328
VARU=53248
VARSP=53848
VARP=5FB
M=8881
BYT 11,8,10,8,158,58,48,54,49,8,8,8
SPR DA #8
STA #8
TAK #281
LIST IMAGES LDA IMAGES,X
STA 12288,X
LDA IMAGES+160,X
STA 12288+160,X
INX
CPX #168
BNE LISTIMAGES
LDA #14

```

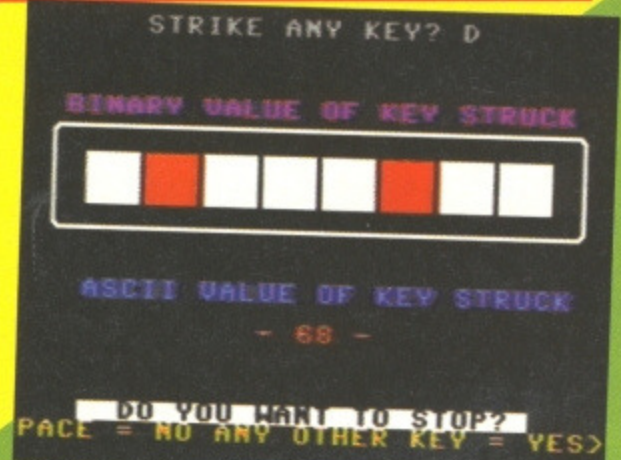
FAST SPRITES

Following in the footsteps of our feature on page 19 we do the sprite thing on the power pack. This first demo is an example of improving on the simple program we showed you last month, the big difference being the speed of the sprites. Sprite-ly, or what? (I don't believe you just said that – Ed.)

QUICKSTART INFO

Side Two • Tape Count 095 • Joystick port 2

LEFT	Move left.
RIGHT	Move right.
FIRE	Have a guess



LEARNING BINARY

Another annex to the Sprite feature this month is this smart binary tutor. Simply type in the letter or number you want to know the binary code for and hit Return. The program will respond with the binary code and ASCII value of that key.

To find the value of another key hit Space and then type that letter. If you want to see how the program works hit anything other than the Space bar and type 'LIST' to get the basic listing for the program.

QUICKSTART INFO

Side Two • Tape Count 125 • Keyboard

Type in a letter plus Return to find out the binary code of that letter. Space then lets you input another letter. Type LIST to get a basic listing of the program.

PART 3

CORYA

CORYA PT 2 COMPLETE SOLUTION

Only turn the page upside down and read this bit if you're a complete airhead and couldn't do part two of the *Warrior Sage* that we put on the Power Pack

For the third and final time *CF* takes you into the realm of the Warrior Sages. We've been to many places together over the last few months. We've visited shrubberies, fought off dragons and supped beer with the humans. But now it's time for you to complete your journey

Playing *Corya* is easier than taking candy from a dwarf. When the game has loaded it'll ask you for the password from part two (which was FALCON, in case you were too dim to finish the game last month). Type it in and hit Return. Now you're into the game proper. Loads of text will come up on screen – read it carefully because there could be some clues in there. Then it's time to type in some instructions for Corya (the geezer you're playing). Decide what want him to do then type in your instructions. The game will

GOT A DISK DRIVE?

Let's face it, slipping a disk smoothly into a drive is a lot easier than having to fiddle around with a head alignment screw. If you're lucky enough to own a disk drive for your 64, then this service was designed especially for you. For a small fee (to cover postage and duplication costs) our mates at Ablex will send you a Power Pack lovingly transferred on to 5.25-inches of floppy disk.

Getting hold of your disk is easier than Tony Slattery spotting. Simply cut out the coupon from the tape inlay card. Pop it in an envelope along with your name, address and a cheque for £1.50 (made payable to Ablex Audio Video), and send the whole kit'n'kabbodle to:

CF34 Tape-to-Disk
Ablex Audio Video
Harcourt, Telford
Shropshire, TF7 4QD.

NO LOAD ZONE

Sometimes even I have trouble loading my Power Packs. You know how it is. You've done your best, you've tried all the options but even re-aligning the tape head won't work. That's when I turn to Ablex for their expert help. They offer a truly excellent tape replacement service, for those times when only the best will do. If you too suffer from the same embarrassing problem, then pop the tape in a jiffy

```
What now?.... e
Corya couldn't!

What now?.... n
Corya stood at a junction of corridors.
To the west the corridor entered a
room, to the east it led back to the
courtyard and south the corridor
continued to a bend.

What now?.... x
Corya saw nothing special!!

What now?.... e
The courtyard was empty save for the
litter and dust that blew about it,
stirred by a slight breeze, which in
itself was portentous. Corya looked
about him with a growing feeling of
awe, but also dread hung upon the air,
smothering his senses.

What now?....
```

**Dread hung in the air? How'd he do that?
Has he got a hang-glider or something?**

understand a lot of normal English phrases, but if at first the 64 doesn't know what you mean, try rephrasing your sentences ('Examine room' for example, as opposed to, 'Give the joint a good going over'.) Check out the Quick Start box if you're having problems.

```
Again the mirror shimmered as Corya
approached it. He viewed his
reflection, looking it up and down,
and then he saw the eyes. Almost
evilly, the reflections face grinned,
an evil smirk across its face. To
Corya's horror it stepped out of the
mirror and drawing the image of Nar-
and attacked.

Corya stood in a corridor with an even
layer of dust covering the floor. The
air smelled of decay and dust. The
eastern end of the corridor was framed
with a large mirror which shimmered.
The reflection continued unabated in
its attempt to subdue Corya.

What now?....
```

**Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who's the
bravest of them all?**

VITAL STATISTIX

Game	<i>Corya The Warrior Sage</i>
Original Release	March 1993
Original Label	The Guild
Programmer	Simon Collins
Genre	Text Adventure
Difficulty	Medium to hard

bag, along with a stamped addressed envelope and send it to:

CF34 Tape Replacement
Ablex Audio Video
Harcourt, Telford
Shropshire, TF7 4QD

Don't send your tapes to us here at *CF*. If you do they'll invariably get lost under the masses of other post we have to sift through every month. So folks, for quick service, send your faulty tapes to Ablex!

LISTEN • S • S • W • X SHRUBBERY •
W • N • ENTER • S • CAST FIRE • GET
IDOL • N • LEAVE • S • E • E • N • N •
E • SAY AJARE • CAST SHIELD • WAIT
• E • E • ENTER • READ SCROLL •
LEAVE • SAY THUTH • CUT BRANCH •
E • E • FEEL WALL • E • FEEL FLOOR
• WRAP RAGS AROUND BRANCH •
CAST FIRE • W • S • X • SHADOW •
GET PLANK • S • S • SAY LAMHT • S • S •

MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM

Corya is one of many brilliant adventure games that hail from The Guild. If you want a copy of their latest catalogue then send a large SAE to: The Guild Adventure Software, 760 Tyburn Road, Erdington, Birmingham B24 9NX.

QUICKSTART INFO

Side One • Tape Count 000 • Keyboard
Password: Falcon

In *Corya* you have to use that strange that came with your computer called a keyboard. Here are some instructions you might find handy

- N – Never
- E – Eat
- S – Shredded
- W – Wheat (okay, we're not being completely frank here but come on, N, E, S and W are pretty obvious aren't they?)
- U – Up, if say you have a rope to climb
- D – Down, maybe there's a man hole.
- Get (then an object) – Pick up that object and chuck it in your rucksack
- Cast (then name of spell) – Cast one of your collection of spells
- X (then name of an object) – Examine the object indicated
- I – Inventory, in laymen's terms: tell me what I've got in my bag.
- Wear (then name of an object) – Put he offensive piece of clothing on your body.
- Insert (then name of object) – Put the object in a hole (like a coin in a slot?)
- Skin (name of animal) – Yeuch! Remove the skin of the animal in question.



CHARTS

TOP TEN

- 1 **STREET FIGHTER 2** ▶
US GOLD £12.99 CF29 80%
- 2 **TERMINATOR 2** ▲
Hit Squad £3.99 CF30 72%
- 3 **DIZZY: PRINCE OF THE YOLKFOLK** ▼
CodeMasters £3.99 CF17 91%
- 4 **HEROQUEST** ▲
GBH £4.99 CF30 94%
- 5 **STREETFIGHTER** ▼
KIXX £3.99 CF30 36%
- 6 **THE SIMPSONS** NEW
HIT SQUAD £3.99 CF32 92%
- 7 **RICK DANGEROUS 2** NEW
KIXX £3.99 CF31 94%
- 8 **F16 COMBAT PILOT** ▼
ACTION 16 £3.99 CF33 63%
- 9 **F15 STRIKE EAGLE** ▲
HIT SQUAD £3.99 CF31 78%
- 10 **TEST DRIVE 2 THE DUEL** ▲
THE HIT SQUAD £3.99 CF27 83%



IS THAT IN THE DICTIONARY? TOP 10

- 1 UGH! (Global Software)
- 2 AAARGH! (Melbourne House)
- 3 ZIMZALABAM! (Melbourne House)
- 4 ZZZZZZ (Melbourne House)
- 5 ARKANOID - THE REVENGE OF DOH (The Hit Squad)
- 6 ALMAZZ (The Edge)
- 7 TERRORMOLINOS (Melbourne House)
- 8 MOONTORC (Atlantis)
- 9 OOOPS! (Big Apple)
- 10 OOOPS UP (Demonware)

10 CARS THAT NEVER SEEM TO APPEAR IN DRIVING GAMES

- 1 Trebants
- 2 Reliant Robins
- 3 Ladas
- 4 Citroen 2CVs
- 5 Skodas
- 6 Morris Travellers
- 7 Sinclair C5s
- 8 Unigate Milk Floats
- 9 The one down the road that's always got somebody's upper torso buried deep inside the engine and a jack permanently under the right rear wheel.
- 10 Madagascar.

CHART FACTS

In this month's C64 Top 50 software chart there are:

- 5 full price games.
- 2 games called ARNIE 2 (barcode troubles ahoy!)
- 10 games from Kixx making them this month's top publisher.
- 4 Football games
- 10 games that CF has awarded Corkers
- 13 games that sold less than Flimbo's Quest (is there no justice!)
- 0 games with egg-fried rice in them.

SNIPPETS

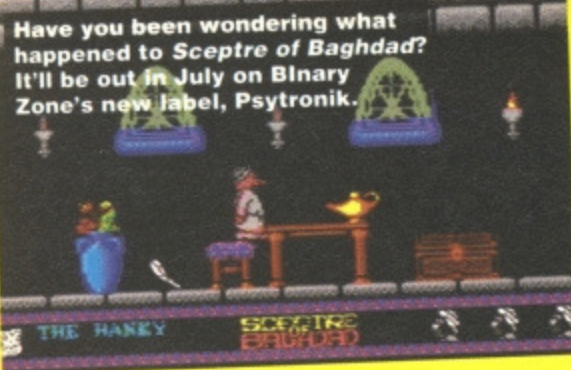
Wanna know the latest gossip? Then read on...

COMMERCIAL PD?

Binary Zone PD are set to join the ranks of commercial C64 publishers. The first release on their new Psytronik label will be Jon Wells' long-awaited arcade adventure, *The Sceptre of Baghdad*. Selling for £3, the game will be available through mail order in July, so keep your eyes peeled for ads.

CF reviewed *Sceptre* back in February, when it was due to be released by Atlantis, and gave it a Powertest rating of 73 per cent. Since then Jon has added better graphics, more sounds and revamped the entire game structure.

For more info about Psytronik, *The Sceptre Of Baghdad* or how to order send a large SAE to Psytronik Software, 34 Portland Road, Droitwich, Worcester, WR9 7QW.



Have you been wondering what happened to *Sceptre of Baghdad*? It'll be out in July on Binary Zone's new label, Psytronik.

HA-DO-GUN?

You've played the game now play the, er, game again with little plastic models. Toymakers Hasbro have been commissioned to produce a series of *Street Fighter 2*

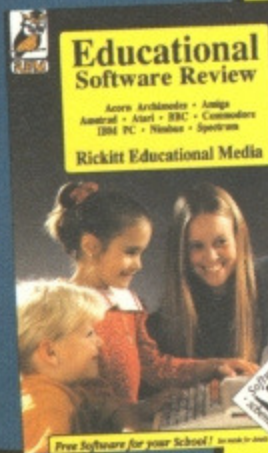
action models. The only problem is, if the promotional pics are anything to go by, they could hardly be called replicas. As Trent said when he saw them: "If they've got guns why don't they shoot instead of kicking and punching each other?"



LEARN TO PROFIT

Rickitt Educational Media have introduced a new software-for-schools policy. Now, for every pound that you spend with them they'll give you a voucher worth 20p off software for your school. And, as market leaders, Rickitt's *Educational Software Review* boasts a bevy of 64 programmes, like the fantastic *Fun School's* and *Paint And Create*.

To find out further details, ask your school to contact Tsui Miller at Rickitt Educational Media, Ilton, Ilminster, Somerset, TA19 9HS (☎ 0460 57152) for a brochure.



GONE FOR A SONG?

Mega-corp Sony have taken the plunge into the computer software biz and have bought up the award-winning publisher Psygnosis. A representative from Psygnosis said that: "The Sony deal will not affect the development of any software on any format". Which is good news for their latest C64 project, *Lemmings*, which is scheduled for release this summer.

EARLY WARNING SCANNER

Your at-a-glance guide to upcoming releases. The nearer a game is to the middle of the scanner, the nearer it is to release. Keep watching the skies.



ARE YOU HUNGARY?

Guru, a weird Hungarian computer mag that has loads of C64 bits, found its way on to CF's newsdesk this month. Unfortunately we can't read it! It looks good but all we know about Hungary is that it's very solid – Trent once head-butted Budapest! So if you can read Hungarian, give us a call we'd love to know what *Guru* was whittering on about. Oh yeah, sorry for the awful pun in the headline.



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ARVI b



Now this is what we want - lots of space-ships and lots of shooting....



Er, well maybe not this much shooting. Shields on Shep, and fast!

SUBURBAN COMMANDO

Hulk Hogan scored a huge C64 hit as one of the three 'superstars' in WWF Wrestlemania. Now he's going solo in the movie licence Suburban Commando. Clur checks out his chances of a claiming a second Corker.

booby-trapped his battle-cruiser. So to escape the dreadful fate that awaits him should the General's men catch him, Shep has to search the city for the bits to repair his ship with.

This is where you come in. You have to guide Shep through LA beating up the General's men when you bump into them, and collecting a bunch of spare parts for your flying machine along the way. Which all sounds dead violent - just the way I like it!

We're told the game's going to take the form of, "four levels of non-stop action taking you from the depths of space to the heart of LA," and apparently the plot sticks closely to the story of the film. Fine, but let's hope the game doesn't stick too closely to the quality of Hulk's acting - face it, the average C64 sprite has a much wider range of expressions!



Come on, own up, which scriptwriter decided to call a mega super powerful alien Shep?

Whoever it was deserves to be ridiculed in the streets. Even worse is the fact that they gave him the surname Ramsey! He sounds as if he belongs tied by his collar to a post box in Madge from *Neighbours*' front garden.

In fact Shep's an alien played by Hulk Hogan, and he's got big problems. First, he's crash-landed his space ship in the suburbs of Los Angeles. And secondly, the evil General-Ruler-Of-The-Universe-type-guy has ordered his droogs to earth in order to bring (get down!) Shep back.

The General's a bit miffed at Shep you see, because before he crash-landed our hero

Hulk, big and blonde as ever, but with an even more ridiculous name (what, Terry? - Ed).

CF VITAL STATISTIX

GAMESUBURBAN COMMANDO
 PUBLISHERALTERNATIVE
 CONTACT NUMBER.....0977 797777
 PRICE£9.99
 AVAILABLEJULY



What odds are you giving? I reckon I'll have a tenner on the big one. Then again this is based on an American film, and the little guy always wins in them. Right, I'll go for Mr Peroxide.



This section looks like it might well be very smelly and full of rats. What's old Hulk doing gown here, then? I bet they got a stunt double. He'd never let his tights get grubby.

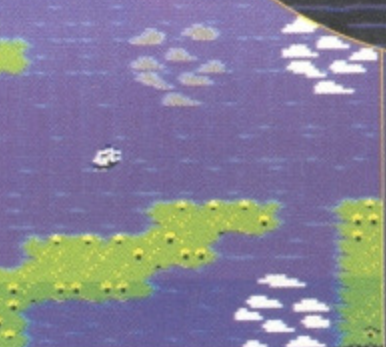
"Pirates and Turbocharge? How I am I supposed to work both of those games into a Kixx preview strapline?" Clur asked. "You just have," answered Dave.

PIRATES

A hoy me mates and other branded bubble-bath clichés. It's time to prepare your rigging, and hoist the mainsail and head for the high seas. Or, in other words, get yourself ready for the re-release of



Blue seas, blue skies, white clouds, yellow tree, purple fish, green faces, black holes, orange oranges, blue greenhouses, pink things.



Now that's what I call a ship. I'd trade in my dinghy any day

"All hail to the great God Bendy Arms."



MicroProse's salty old free-booting fave, *Pirates*.

I suppose you'd put *Pirates* in the strategy genre if you really wanted, but why pigeon-hole things that don't need to be? *Pirates* is a harmonious war/strategy game hybrid that peacefully co-exists with touches of text adventure and a bit of a beat-'em-up.

You can chose who you want to be, where you come from and even how charm-

CF VITAL STATISTIX

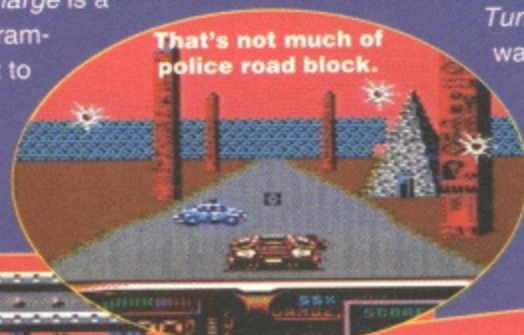
GAMEPIRATES
 PUBLISHERKIXX
 CONTACT NUMBER.....021 625 3388
 PRICECASS £4.99/DISK £7.99
 AVAILABLEOUT NOW
 OTHER INFOMULTILOAD

TURBOCHARGE

As one of the recommended driving games in our Modern Classics Pull out, it's obvious that *Turbocharge* is a pretty slick piece of programming. And now it's all set to come out on budget. So as long as they don't fiddle around with it too much in order to fit it on

to a budget-priced tape *Turbocharge* looks destined to become a a smash hit of epic proportions! I'll eat my baseball cap if this doesn't race to the top of the charts when it hits the shops at £3.99.

Turbocharge on full price was given a Corking 93 per cent way back in CF13 and it was a well-deserved score. The game was simply the best racing shoot-'em-up of



Ambulances blow up particularly spectacularly!

When your windscreen gets this bad it's time to call Autoglass.

its time. But can *Turbocharge's* one-player firepower help it see off the two-player threat of *Lotus Esprit Turbo Challenge* in the budget arena? Watch out for the review next ish.

CF VITAL STATISTIX

GAMETURBOCHARGE
 PUBLISHERKIXX
 CONTACT NUMBER.....021 625 3388
 PRICE£3.99
 AVAILABLEOUT NOW

DROP THE D DATASSETTE

Clur's always moaning that nobody ever appreciates how hard she works. To shut her up we've let her have three pages to whither on about herself (we have to suffer it all day so why shouldn't you?). So, get ready for a day-by-day breakdown of Clur's contribution to the very issue you're reading right now...

SATURDAY 8th MAY

Oooohh we're on our way to Wembley... Well the Wembley Exhibition Centre, anyway, to help at the *Amiga Format Live* show (and give CF a plug at every opportunity). We've just sent CF33 to the printers - in fact, Ollie, Trent and Dave were putting the finishing touches to it this morning before I left for London. I end up working a lot of weekends anyway so this isn't so much different from usual. At least I got to go on the Virtual Reality machines when all the punters had gone home. But it's back to the grind on Monday. So far

The Amiga Format Live Show - I'm in there somewhere.

FIVE INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT STEPS (EACH REQUIRING HUGE AMOUNTS OF SKILL AND EFFORT, WE'LL HAVE YOU KNOW) TO CREATING A PAGE OF CF...

we've only got one game definitely in for review, *The Addams Family*, so I'm going to have to do some mad phoning around the software companies when I get back to work.

MONDAY 10th

Why do there have to be Monday mornings? The world would be a much better place if Monday mornings were abolished for good and you could have a nice long lie in.

Ollie's over the moon because my monthly phone around revealed that Grandslam have finally got *Liverpool* ready. Ollie may be the arty farty one but he'll probably have a lot of input into the review being such a footie fan. Some more budget stuff is now also on the way and *Bee 52* should also be reviewable this month.

The major dilemma of the day is who's going to make the tea? The problem is usually solved with a 'spoo' (a strange West

country custom). Today Dave lost, which is great 'cos he makes a good cuppa.

TUESDAY 11th

It's strange how Trent's always out of the office on Tuesdays. He assures us it has nothing to do with it being reader call day.

We've had a long chat about the Modern Classics pull-out and I've been given the oh-so interesting task of collating lists of available games. Okay it's going to be extremely useful for you lot, and an essential part of the pull-out, but compiling it isn't going to be the most exciting piece of writing I've ever done.

But I immediately rang all the software companies to quiz them about the availability of their games.

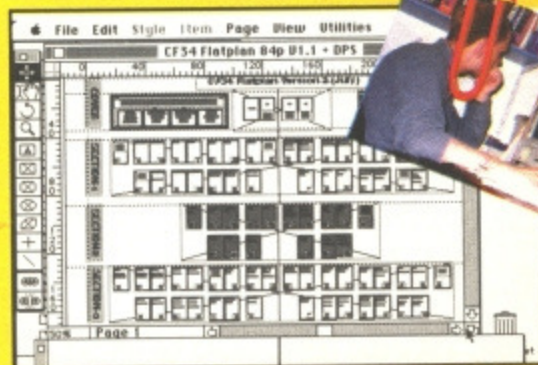
Unfortunately most of

them weren't in because they were still recovering from the aftermath of *Amiga Format Live*.

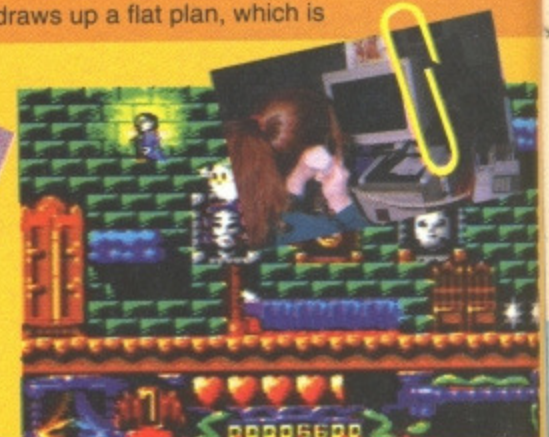
By about four o'clock my concentration waned and *The Addams Family* slipped into the datasette and loaded all by itself. Spooky huh? Seeing as it was there I thought I might as well play it - purely in the course of duty, of course.

WEDNESDAY 12th

When we've decided what's going in the mag Trent draws up a flat plan, which is



1 First, Trent draws up a flat plan, which shows what will be going on each page. The *Addams Family* pages are highlighted.



2 This is the fun part - where I get to play the games (if it's so much fun how come you curse so much when you're doing it - Ed?)

DEAD



For some reason I always end up in daft poses during the photo shoots while Trent, er, doesn't.

basically a map of the issue so that we all know what's going where. The flat plan for CF34 is particularly huge and scary with 16 more pages than usual! So I panicked and started on my *Addams Family* review (about time too! – Dave).

We also did a photo shoot today for the contents page and I can assure you that being a model is no glamorous job. I spent all morning in a cold studio striking daft, uncomfortable poses in a very unflattering footie top and a pair of oversized trainers that made me look like Goofy.

THURSDAY 13th

From ten 'til six today I was stuck in a small room with six lads and a middle-aged newspaper journalist. We spent most of the day slagging off each others' writing and discussing the validity of the headline, 'Freddie Starr Ate My Hamster'. Apparently this was supposed to teach me about writing good news stories. Check out Snippets and see if you think the course did any good.

FRIDAY 14th

I've been playing *The Addams Family* on and off for a few days now so the next thing to do was grab some

screenshots. We use Apple Macintosh computers to put the magazine together so I have to convert the picture signal from the C64 into data that the Mac can understand – It's a bit of a long-winded system but it's much better than photographing the screen from the monitor which is what we used to do.

Meanwhile I'm still ringing around the softies. Still no news on *Lemmings*, although Psygnosis confirm that we have an exclusive on a playable demo of the game.

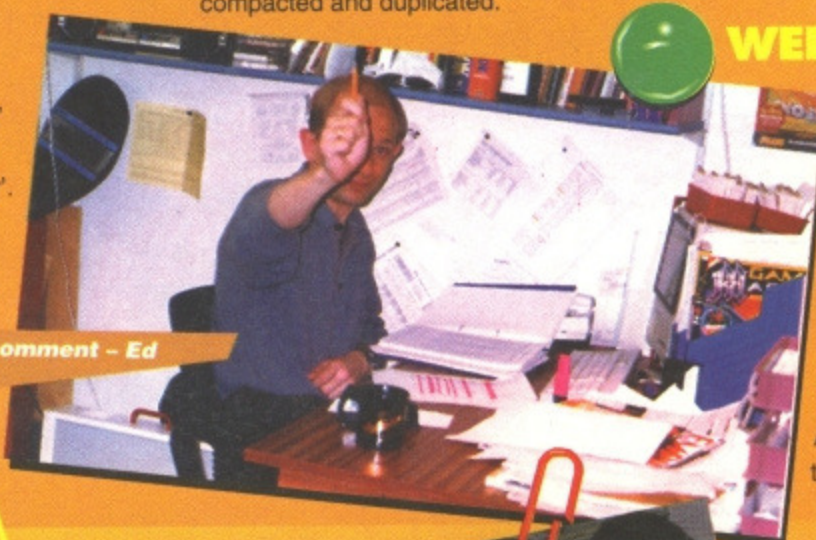
MONDAY 17th

I grabbed *The Addams Family* yesterday so there's nothing left to do but finish writing the review. I use a standard word processor; all

the fancy stuff is done by

Ollie and Lisa on their far more powerful Macs. Usually once I've written a review I leave it over night and check it again in the morning for mistakes when my mind is fresh. You never catch all your mistakes – it's better that someone else looks through it too (and guess who ends up with that gargantuan task? – Dave).

Trent and I had to decide what was going on the cover tape, which means playing yet more games. It might sound a doss, but it can get very tedious sitting through tons of humdrum games looking for a few that are up to the high standards that the CF Power Pack demands. When we've made our choice the programs are sent off to be compacted and duplicated.



No comment – Ed

TUESDAY 18th

I gave *The Addams Family* one final check then Dave took it across to his Mac and 'subbed' the copy. In other words he read through what I'd written, corrected any spelling or grammatical mistakes and put everything, including the pictures, into a file into *QuarkXPress*, the Desk Top Publishing (DTP) program we use.

Meanwhile, I spent most of the day dealing with reader calls. Most of them have queries about games and want to speak to Andy, but he doesn't work in the office, so they have to make do with me. Anyway, it's probably much more of a thrill for the callers (are you sure? – Ed).

Issue 33 came back from the printers so we had our monthly meeting with Jane, our publisher, to discuss what was good and what was bad (ie, we tell her what was good, she points out was

We love our monthly chats about the issue with our publisher... You can tell by those really genuine smiles.



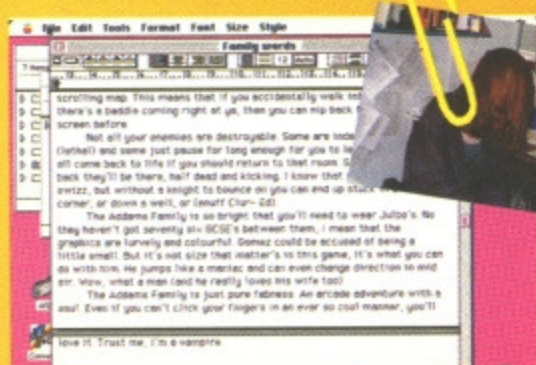
bad, and both sides disagree). She usually sends out for Bagels but all we had this time was a cup of tea each. Dave sulked for the rest of the day.

WEDNESDAY 19th

I went to visit David Birch at Grandslam in Croydon (you get to go to all the most glamorous locations in this job) to pick up a copy of *Liverpool*. When I got back I gave the review to Dave to do, 'cos he beat me three-nil at it. Let's hope it goes better for the Owls tomorrow.

THURSDAY 20th

Aaargh! *Bee 52* won't be in for review this issue! Richard Eddy from



3 Out with the dictionary and Thesaurus, the hard work begins now – writing the review on my word processor.



4 Dave... (turns the review into coherent English – Dave) I'll ignore that... Then he sticks all the words into a DTP package.



5 Finally Ollie and Lisa design all the fancy layouts (we let Ollie do *The Addams Family* 'cos well into tacky horror).



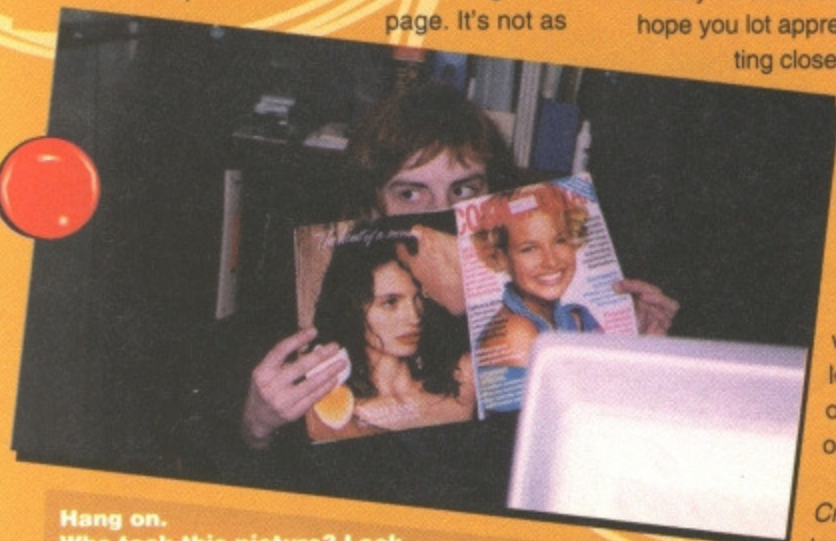
CodeMasters gave us a ring to say they were holding up release of the game until the NES version is ready. Don't you hate consoles?

It was Dave's birthday today so we all clubbed together and bought him a prezzie. You know he doesn't deserve pals like us. (*You can say that again! What have I done to deserve pals like you? – Dave.*) Predictably, we're all going out for a meal tonight to celebrate.

Trent was glued to telly all day for news of the FA Cup final so I played *Rodland* 'till it came out of my ears.

FRIDAY 21st

Ollie started laying out *The Addams Family* review today. All the art's done on Apple Macs and Ollie's got a particularly smart one. It can take up to five solid hours to design a page. It's not as



Hang on. Who took this picture? Look, there's a copy of *Guns and Ammo* hidden behind there, honest... Darn, I've been sussed!

easy as it first looks I can tell you that for nothing (*but you're not; you're getting paid for writing this – Ed*). Me and Ollie always try to have a chat about the design before he starts, it makes things a lot easier if you've got specific ideas about how the page should look.

Time to start work on Previews and Snippets today. Writing the pages is easy. Getting the stuff in to fill them with isn't. That's where all that phoning around pays off; you need to be constantly in touch with the softies to make sure you don't miss out on anything important.

MONDAY 24th

Reviewing and grabbing *Rodland* was priority number one today. Ollie finished the design on *The Addams Family* over the weekend so Dave has one last check over it for mistakes and quiriness that may have appeared. Sometimes (*usually! – Dave*) there are the wrong number of words to fit in the space that Ollie's left between the piccies. So Dave either has to write some more or cut some words out. I still have to do all the captioning, though.

TUESDAY 25th

Trent didn't come in today. He said he had to get his car MOTed. Which is rather odd, seeing as he hasn't got a car. Ollie and Dave hogged the 64 all day while I continued typing in the lists of games for the pull-out. I knew I should

have taken typing at school instead of A level Pure Maths.

WED 26th

Trent gave *The Addams Family* one last check before it was sent to our in-house lino machine – that's where the page is put on to the film that will ultimately be sent to the printers.

I still haven't finished typing in those lists; this is taking me much longer than I thought it would. I should have started on the *Skull and Crossbones* review by now but it's going to have to wait.

THURSDAY 27th

Finally those darned lists have been finished. I hope you lot appreciate them. Anyway, as it's getting close to deadline so, I stayed late (*ahh, diddums – Ed*) to get a start on the *Skull and Crossbones* page that should have been finished two days ago.

FRIDAY 28th

It looks like I'll probably have to work this weekend. We've got a lot of extra work to do, because of the extra pages, and everyone does their bit to help.

I tried to grab pics of *Skull and Crossbones* but the grabbing system is playing up again. For some reason it's filtering out all the red in the pictures. We got Avi, Future's main technical bod, to have a look at it, but he couldn't find anything wrong and accused us of breaking it and being a bunch of incompetents (tact is not one of Avi's strong points). So I hit it (which didn't help but made me feel an awful lot better).

MONDAY 31st

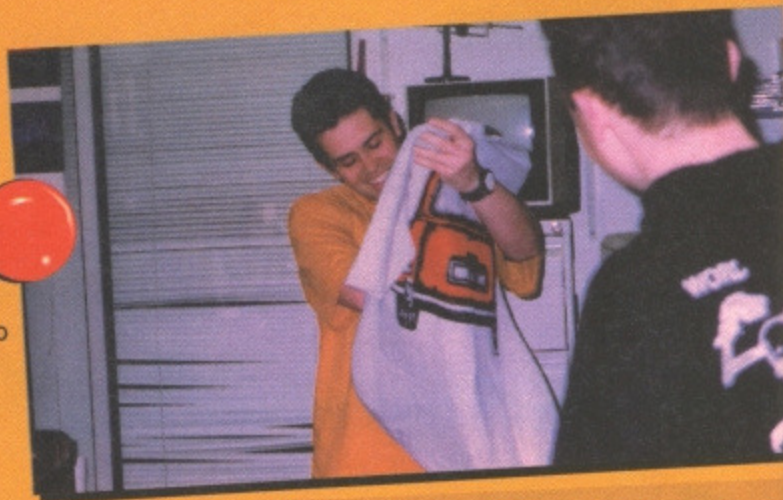
Avi's fixed the grabber so I successfully grabbed *Skull and Crossbones*, red and all, and handed the review over to Dave.

The Argon Conspiracy has turned up, so I've got to make a start on that, not to mention the fact that Trent has off-

WHO'S FOR A SPOOF?



Spooing is what the CF crew resorts to when we need to decide who's going to have to undertake some odious task (like making the tea). It's an elimination game that involves guessing how many coins everybody's holding in their sweaty palms and it can take an age.



Yes it's true – Radion Ultra really does get out messy food stains. What a birthday surprise!

loaded the

PD page on to me this month. Ah well that's your lot when you're a lowly staff writer (*the bottom rung of the evolutionary ladder, really – Ed*).

TUESDAY 1st JUNE

The tape duplicators sent five, randomly selected copies of the Power Pack back to us today. When they arrive everything else I'm doing comes to a full stop because I have to load and check every one. If I can't load even one game on one tape the batch is rejected.

Thankfully all the tapes worked first time this month, so it's back to *The Argon Conspiracy* and captioning the stuff that Ollie and Lisa have finished laying out.

WEDNESDAY 2nd

I grabbed the tape games yesterday so my job for the day was to write the instructions. Some of the old classics we get have long since been divorced from their instructions, so it takes quite a while to figure out the controls sometimes.

Once I'd done that I became general dog's body for the evening: "Take this to so and so... Just type that in... Get a price check on this... Use your feminine touch to... Ooof!... Okay, forget that..." Dave and Trent proof pages like mad things, while Ollie and Lisa churn out stunning pages faster than a Canon colour photocopier (that's copying a page of *CF*, of course).

THURSDAY 3rd

The Day before deadline. I've done everything I can do and there are still ten pages to design and proof before six o'clock tomorrow. Trent, Dave, Ollie and Lisa all slave away. But I'm already working on the next issue, ringing around the softies and starting work on the next round of reviews.

FRIDAY 4th

This is it, DEADLINE day! It's best to steer clear of the office on deadline, one wrong move and you'll have your head bitten off. Unfortunately, I can't find any excuse to steer clear, so I have to brave the elements and, predictably, end up making all the tea (any mention of the word spoo would be life-threatening).

Finally, about half six, all the pages have been sent to the lino. Ollie'll pick them all up and send all the film to the printers. But for now we're all off to the pub (for an intensive discussion about the next issue, of course).



DO THE SPRITE THING

30 days ago Do The Sprite Thing Part 1 revealed the shocking truth about how sprites are created. Now in the sequel, Do The Sprite Thing 2 (The Coder's Revenge) Bones tells us exactly where to put your sprites – and how to move them there in the first place!

PART 2

screen (well, in machine code, at least; in Basic they have an annoying tendency to crawl snail-like around the screen – Ed). The VIC-II chip uses three registers to store each sprite's position, and they are:

- 1 Sprite X-Screen Coordinate – Delta X (DX) Register
- 2 Sprite Y-Screen Coordinate – Delta Y (DY) Register
- 3 Most Significant Bit (MSB) Register

A byte can contain any value from 0 to 255. As each of these 'D' registers is a byte, this means that the DX Register allows a sprite to be placed in any one of 256 horizontal screen positions, while the DY Register allows a sprite to be placed in any

one of 256 vertical screen positions. This sounds fine until you consider the C64's screen. The screen's resolution is 320 by 200 pixels. Positioning a sprite vertically is not a problem as there are more than enough positions in a register, but the horizontal DX register is some 65 positions, or pixels, short!

This is where the MSB Register comes into play; I bet you were wondering where it entered the frame – or should I say screen? (*No you shouldn't – Ed.*) The eight bits of this register act as on/off switches, one for each of the eight

sprites. When a sprite travelling

horizontally across the screen reaches a position where its DX Register value equals 255, then for it to continue moving in the same direction some method of storing a larger number is needed. This is achieved by resetting the value in the DX register to zero and turning ON the bit representing that sprite in the MSB Register.

Turning this bit ON tells the VIC-II chip that this sprite is at position 255

plus whatever the current value of the DX register is. Effectively this allows the DX Register, in conjunction with its bit in the MSB register, to double-up its screen positions from 256 to 512, more than enough for the C64's screen.

The area of the screen which the MSB affects is the far right of the display. This is because like books, maps and virtually everything else in western culture the screen works from left to right. For a clearer picture, see fig 1.

This 512 x 256 'map' does mean that some of the locations are hidden behind the screen's borders, but they can prove useful when you want to make sprites appear to emerge or disappear smoothly on or off of the screen.

Each sprite has its own pair of DX and DY registers, and uses the appropriate bit in the MSB register (bit 0 for sprite 0, bit 1 for sprite 1,

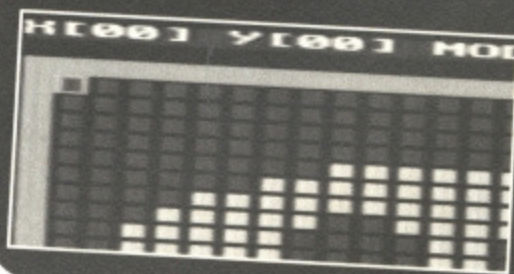
Creating a sprite is one thing (which, by some strange spooky co-incidence, we told you all about last month) but sticking it on your screen and getting it to move it about is another thing altogether (which by an even spookier co-incidence is what we're going to tell you about this month). But fret not, because we're just about to let you in on the secret of getting your sprites to do their thang. Secrets like the fact that SN stands for Sprite Number in all our abbreviations (don't worry, they do get a lot better).

SPRITE POSITIONING

The VIC-II chip – which is a processor at the heart of the C64 that does a lot of hard number-crunching work – is used to control where on screen a sprite will be displayed. If this information is updated rapidly enough, then sprites can be sent whizzing around the

THE RIGHT SPOT

The position of a sprite on the screen is always calculated from its TOP LEFT corner, no matter what data, or image, it contains. So even if there's only one bit in the bottom right corner switched ON, the sprite's position still has to be calculated from the TOP LEFT.



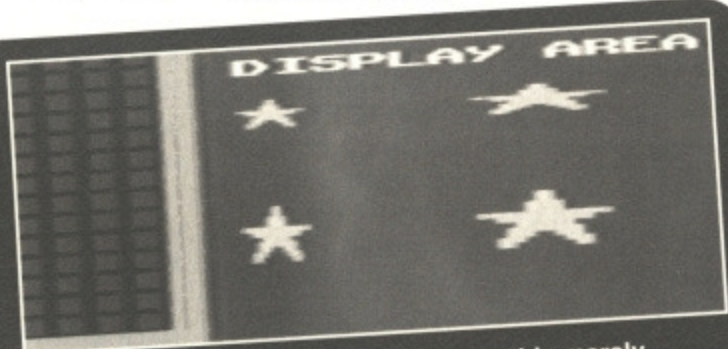
EXPANDED SPRITES

At the drop of a straw boater, your VIC-II chip can expand a sprite vertically, horizontally or in both directions at the same time. It simply makes each

dot in the display twice as wide or twice as tall as normal. Of course this merely increases the size and not the resolution of the sprite.

This is achieved by using a specific memory register as a bank of eight switches. For horizontal expansion use register 53277 (\$D01D) and for vertical expansion use register 53271 (\$D017). Try this for size:

```
POKE 53277,PEEK(53277)OR(2#SN) :REM EXPAND THE X DIRECTION
POKE 53277,PEEK(53277)AND(255-2#SN) :REM UNEXPAND THE X DIRECTION
POKE 53271,PEEK(53271)OR(2#SN) :REM EXPAND THE Y DIRECTION
POKE 53271,PEEK(53271)AND(255-2#SN) :REM UNEXPAND THE Y DIRECTION
```



etc) for its horizontal extremes. Table 1 lists, among others, the locations of all the sprite positioning registers. It's these registers which are used (via either Basic POKE statements or machine code Load/Store instructions) to move sprites around the screen.

VERTICAL (Y) POSITIONING

Although it may seem a little cock-eyed, it's best to tackle Y positioning first as it isn't complicated by our old friend MSB. NB: Sprite 0 is used in all the following examples. Its Y coordinate is stored at location 53249 (D\$001).

If you POKE 53249, 0 then you won't see your sprite on the screen because it's hidden by the top border. It will remain hidden until you POKE a value greater than 29 (this is how many pixels wide the border is) to that location. POKE 53249 with a value of 30 and the bottom row of pixels of the 21 rows which make up the sprite will be visible. POKE a value of 50 and the entire sprite is visible.

If you now POKE a value greater than 249 the sprite will disappear behind the bottom bor-



der. As values from 0 to 255 can be POKE'd into the register this means you can smoothly scroll a sprite out from and in to the top and bottom borders.

Things are a bit different when you use vertically expanded sprites because they are twice as high. So only POKEs which are less than nine will result in the sprite being hidden entirely behind the top border; POKEing between 50 and 208 will display the entire sprite on-screen. In fact, 208 gives the appearance that the expanded sprite is resting on the bottom border. Greater than 208 and the sprite will start to disappear behind the bottom border.

HORIZONTAL POSITIONING

Positioning sprites horizontally is more difficult because there are more than 256 locations and so the MSB (you have been paying attention, haven't you?) comes into play.

To obtain a number greater than 255 a further byte, the MSB, is needed. However, only a few extra positions are needed so it isn't necessary to gobble up a whole second

byte, just one bit per sprite will suffice. When this bit is OFF (0) then the usual 0-255 value stands. When the bit is set ON (1) then 256 is added to the value held in the Sprite's Y register. This means that you can access from 0 to 511 locations. For example, if a sprite's Y register contains the value 60 and the MSB has the relevant bit set ON then the true value, or screen location, is $256 + 60 = 316$.

The locations horizontally visible on screen run from 24 to 343. Any other value means the sprite is either fully or partially hidden behind the border. Each sprite uses a bit from the MSB register. Sprite 0

It may help to load up CF's own sprite creator **FROST**. This package was given away on **Power Pack 32** and is useful to have running as you read this feature.

uses bit 0, Sprite 1 uses bit 1, and so on for all eight sprites and bits.

To set (1) or reset (0) a bit in the MSB Register:

```
POKE 53264, PEEK(53264) OR (2↑SN)
```

```
POKE 53264, PEEK(53264)
AND (255-2↑SN)
```

to turn the bit off.

When moving sprites around the screen the program must

keep a constant check on the sprite's DX Register and be ready to either set or reset the X's Most Significant Bit.

NB. If you add 1 to a byte that currently holds a value of 255 then it will wrap back around to 0. Likewise subtract 1 from a byte holding the value 0 and the result will be a value of 255.

ON THE MOVE

So, now you know how to get a sprite to show itself on screen but how do you get it to move? Simple really. You just write a short piece of code in which the values of the DX bytes are constantly being altered. To get a smooth left-to-right movement, for example, you would keep adding, say, two to the DX value. Constantly subtracting two would make it move from right to left. Up and down movement (surprise, surprise) is the result of altering the DY value. And, just like with an Etch-A-Sketch™, fiddle with both values at the same time and you get diagonal movement.

DISPLAY PRIORITIES

Sprites can appear to cross each other's paths, to move behind each other, or behind other on-screen 'objects' (such as bit-mapped screens or characters) which can add a feeling of 3D to your games.

The priority between sprites is fixed. If you display all the sprites so they overlap slightly - like a pack of eight playing cards - then sprite 0 will be in front of all the others, sprite 1 will be immediately behind sprite 0 but in front of the rest and so on with sprite 7 buried right at the back somewhere.

Sprite to background priority is not fixed. So you can control whether a sprite appears in front of or behind background data. Different sprites can also be given different priorities with some sprites appearing behind, and others in front of background objects. This can be used to create the illusion of sprites going in front of and behind the game's scenery.

Control is achieved by setting or resetting the appropriate bit in the Sprite to Background Display Register at location 53275 (D01B). A value of 1 means that the Sprite has priority over background, while 0 means the background has priority. The process for turning the

POWER PACK PROGS

There have been several programs on our cover tapes over the last couple of months which demonstrate sprites in action, so to speak:

1 SPRITE DEMO.BAS (Power Pack 33) - This is a demonstration program in Basic showing the full use of all eight sprites in a game-like situation. It is not intended to be a game; it's simply to show what can be done using all eight sprites.

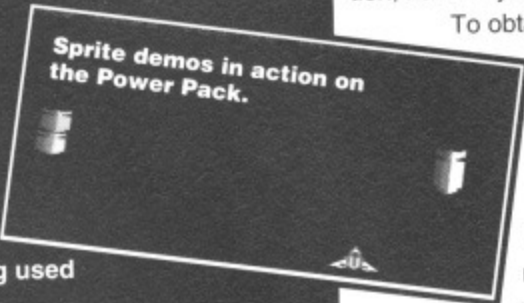
2 SPRITE DEMO.TXT (Power Pack 33) - This program is a tutorial which examines, almost line by line, the major coding used in SPRITE DEMO.BAS.

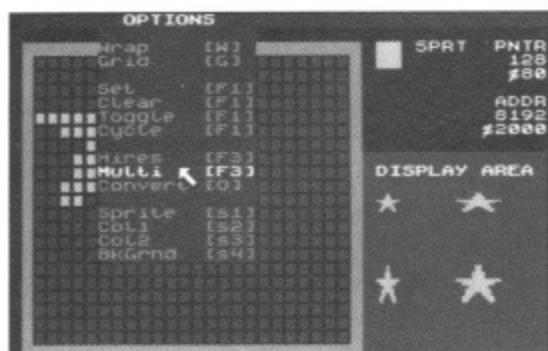
3 BIT DEMO.BAS (Power Pack 34) - This program shows a somewhat different approach to the use of sprites in that it uses all eight sprites to graphically represent the binary bits of the ASCII keys selected by the user from the keyboard.

4 SPRITE DEMO.MC (Power Pack 34) - This is virtually the same program as SPRITE DEMO.BAS except it has been converted into machine code. It gives a good comparison of the efficiency of the two languages and is around 2.5Kb shorter than its Basic equivalent.

5 SPRITE DEMO.SRC (Power Pack 34) - For machine code programmers this is the Assembler source code for SPRITE DEMO.MC. It was written using the 6510 + Assembler, but can be read, though not run, as a Basic file. This was written to emulate the Basic program as closely as possible.

Sprite demos in action on the Power Pack.





FROST is packed with handy features. Each screen shows the address and pointer values.

Priority Register ON or OFF is the same as that outlined in turning sprites (or bits) on or off.

COLLISION DETECTS

The VIC-II chip has a built-in facility to detect when a sprite overlaps other sprites or background data. 'Collision detection' proves useful for tasks like determining if the game's laser bolt sprites have hit or missed the player's space ship sprite.

A collision between two or more sprites is detected by reading the sprite-to-sprite Collision Register at 53278 (\$D01E). The bits in this register once again are used as a bank of eight switches (one for each sprite). So if, say, sprites 0 and 6 are touching each other then bits 0 and 6 will be set to 1. In other words the value held in the register will be 65. Why? Er, well check this little lot out:

7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0=	bit number
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1=	on off/bits
128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1=	bit values
0+	64+	0+	0+	0+	0+	0+	1=	65

What this all means is if the value of the byte is determined to be either 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64 or 128 then no collision will have happened. If it's any other value (as shown in the example above) then a collision is deemed to have occurred.

If you write a collision detection routine it's best to read the register with something like `SN = PEEK(53278)` and then to work with this SN, as once the register is read it automatically resets itself to zero. It's also good practice before exiting from this routine to read the register once more with `PEEK(53278)` just to ensure that the register has been cleared.

THAT'S YER LOT

So now you know all about sprites. Don't you feel a better, more rounded person, happier with both the world and your life? If there are any specific points that you're confused about... well, that's what Jason and his Techie Tips are here for.

If you've enjoyed, found useful or wrapped your chips in Do The Sprite Thing, then make sure and let us know. And when you do make sure and note down the areas you'd like to see explored along with your level of technical expertise.

BONES

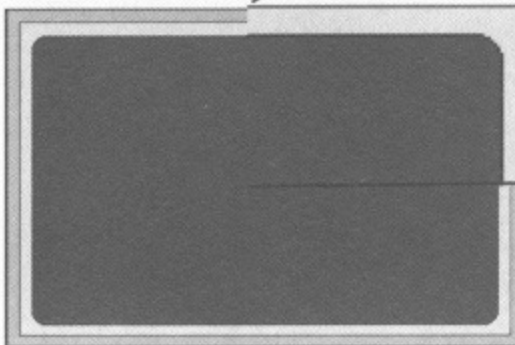
Sprite Table Manners

Throughout this feature we've been giving you important memory locations. If you've been conscientious you will have noted them all down. If you haven't, then have a good laugh at all those boring conscientious squares, 'cos here's a summary table of the whole darned lot of them:

HEX NO	DEC NO	DESCRIPTION
D000	53248	Sprite 0 X position.
D001	53249	Sprites 0 Y position
D002	53250	Sprite 1 X position.
D003	53251	Sprites 1 Y position
D004	53252	Sprite 2 X position.
D005	53253	Sprites 2 Y position
D006	53254	Sprite 3 X position.
D007	53255	Sprites 3 Y position
D008	53256	Sprite 4 X position.
D009	53257	Sprites 4 Y position
D00A	53258	Sprite 5 X position.
D00B	53259	Sprite 5 Y position.
D00C	53260	Sprite 6 X position.
D00D	53261	Sprite 6 Y position.
D00E	53262	Sprite 7 X position.
D00F	53263	Sprite 7 Y position.
D010	53264	Sprites 0-7 X position (MSB of X Co-ordinate)
D0115	53269	Sprite display enable 1= enabled, 0 = off
D017	53271	Sprites 0-7 expand 2 x vertical (Y register)
D01B	53275	Sprite to background display priority 1=sprite, 0=back
D01C	53276	Sprite 0-7 multicolour mode select 1=MCM, 0=Hires
D01D	53277	Sprite 0-7 expand 2 x horizontally (X register)
D01E	53278	Sprite to Sprite collision detection
D01F	53279	Sprite to Background collision detection
D025	53285	Sprite Multicolour register 0
D026	53286	Sprite Multicolour register 1
D027	53287	Sprite Colour register 0
D028	53288	Sprite Colour register 1
D029	53289	Sprite Colour register 2
D02A	53290	Sprite Colour register 3
D02B	53291	Sprite Colour register 4
D02C	53292	Sprite Colour register 5
D02D	53293	Sprite Colour register 6
D02E	53294	Sprite Colour register 7

MOST STRENUOUS BIT!

If you wanted to move sprite four across the screen from left to right, location by location, then when you reach location 256 the value in the DX must be reset to zero and bit four of the MSB must be set to one. The result is the value 257. Continuing to add one to the location value would then continue to move the sprite across the screen.



If you imagine this is the 256th column of pixels from the left, any sprite to the right of this will need its MSB set to one, indicating its position is 256 plus the current X value.

THE MIGHTY BRAIN

Can it be true? Is there some-

thing that The Mighty Brain doesn't know? Well no actually, it's just a blatant lie to grab your attention. You never know, though, your question could be the one that catches Old Big Head out! So send a letter to TMB, Commodore Format, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, Avon BA1 2BW and try!

SCHWARZENEARLY?

Dear TMB,

Yes, it's me again (so it is - TMB). You cannot be a Mighty Brain! If you don't know what I mean (you're referring to a spelling mistake, I'd imagine - TMB) then my proof is that you made a spelling mistake (told you! - TMB).

On Mawgan Pengelly's

letter you spelt his name wrong! Anyway, on with the questions and other bits:

- 1 The pieces in Trivial Pursuit are called segments - I think!
- 2 CF32, brilliant!
- 3 I saw ARNIE 2 a month before it was due to come out - how come?
- 4 Ask the Ed for a rise (a hefty one too!).
- 5 Tell Webby to stop being so nasty to the rest of the CF crew and to

let them finish what they are sayi... (that's enough of that - Ed)

6 Does any of the team own a Scalextric track? If so, do they know about the National Scalextric Collectors' Club? It is really good. Edmund Clarke, Banham.

1 Cheers. In the manual for the board game they're called wedges, but over the last few years - as you can imagine I'm a popular choice for Future's Full Contact Triv' Team - I've heard them called all manner of things. Personally, I see them as pieces of pie.

2 We aim to please. Ta me old plate.

3 Scheduling a release date for games is a tough business. For starters, programming is hard to plan. A hitch-free coding session can put you days ahead of schedule, but one small problem can add weeks to the project. When ARNIE 2 was finished - even though it was earlier than expected - Zeppelin would have had all the packaging prepared, ready to rush it through duplication and to the shops. Obviously publishers want to get a game out and earning its keep as soon as possible.

4 Can I have a rise ple... (No! - Ed)

5 And will you stop cut... (NO! - Ed)

6 None of the current team have a Scalextric set. James Leach (a former CF bloke) used to have a pretty nifty WEC Jaguar though. The little brake lights worked and everything! TMB

AND SO WE ENTER THE RAPID FIRE ROUND

● After years of playing Pyjamarama I have finally managed to complete it. The message at the end says to look for a game called Life Of Wally. I was wondering if anyone at the CF office has heard of it?
Jason Robinson, Chorley.

● I would like to know if the game Space Invaders was ever released for the C64?
AR Bird, Birmingham.

Yes there's a version of the arcade original on Classic Arcadia (published by Alternative Software ☎ 0977 797777) or there's The Hit Squad's updated version of the game, Super Space Invaders (☎ 061 832 6633). TMB

The game you want eventually ended up being called Everyone's a Wally but is so old now that it's de-listed. TMB

● How much does Dave Golder weigh?
Chris Wilson, Blyth.

Recent theories suggest that Dave may actually have a bloke hole for a digestive system. Only a matter-devouring wormhole in space would explain why he's only chubby and not fat, why exerts a strange gravitational effect and why his weight fluctuates from 3lbs 4oz to 123 metric tons! TMB

● In CF30 you said that all the Batman games were published by Ocean. At Christmas, though, I received a game called Batman that was published by The Hit Squad. What went wrong?
Lucy Ockenden, Cambridgeshire.

The Hit Squad is actually Ocean's own budget label. Batman first appeared as a full pricer published by Ocean a few years back. It's a great game, though! TMB

SPRITE FIGHTER 2?

Dear TMB,

1 I don't believe in either you or Roger Frames because all anyone ever sees of both of you are drawings, never photos!

2 If I'm correct, the C64 can handle eight sprites on screen at any one time. In this case, if a Championship Edition of Street Fighter 2 was to be coded then three sprites could be used for each person and one sprite for their projectile - Ryu plus his fireball, for example. And four sprites could be used for the bigger characters (such as

Zangief and E Honda) with no projectile. This is in reply to the letter from Craig Walker and Gavin Davis in CF32. Kevin Hollowed, Eire.

- 1 Taking your point of view to a logical extreme nothing was real until photography was invented! But seriously, we use drawings for the simple reason that while I am considered something of a 'hunk' among my species, to humans I could hardly be considered photogenic.
- 2 It's a neat idea and it would work, but at the moment there seems to be a plethora of new *Street Fighter* variations – *Final Victory* has just been released and a *Turbo Version* is in the pipeline – so the *Championship Edition* is no longer 'top of the range'. We'll have to wait and see if anyone takes up the licence when the dust has settled. **TMB**

BANANAS

Dear Commodore Format,
WARNING! This letter is about FOOD – so don't show it to Mr David Golder Esq! I've got an improved recipe for Clur's Banana Milkshake. It's wicked! You need:
 3 Teaspoons drinking chocolate powder
 1/2 teaspoon hazelnut chocolate spread
 1 Scoop vanilla ice cream
 1 pint semi-skimmed milk (a dash of cream is optional)
 Put everything in the liquidiser and blend for 20–25 seconds. Pour into glasses and drink. Michael Stallard, Oswestry.

Think you fir yor resippy.

Deve, Yo can luk again know! I hop their werent two meny spellin mistaks in this bit ewe aloud too cheque over. **MBT**

WHICH DOCTOR?

Dear Sir,
 In *Dalek Attack*, on its box it says that I can select from three choices of Doctor: Sylvester, Tom and Patrick and two choices of assistants: Ace and a UNIT soldier. I am having difficulty selecting these characters. Fraser Davidson, Glasgow.

In the C64 version you're stuck with Sly and Ace. Not a bad choice in my opinion... **TMB**

Patrick's having a sulk because he's found out he's not in the 64 version of *Dalek Attack*.



POLL THE OTHER ONE!
 Last month I held an impromptu telepathic poll in a bid to find which flavour of *Star Trek* CF readers preferred. I asked you to look at and concentrate on one of two Trekkie pictures and then to 'think' your vote. Well, I sat, I concentrated and I collated the results, but the turnout was hardly stunning. Hence the result I have calculated is a wild one-sided affair. The 'winner' was *Star Trek – The Next Generation* which enjoyed by 37 per cent majority. This result cannot be taken at face value, as it seems Dave wandered the streets of Bath forcing people to 'think' false votes – he would have got away with it too, except that he went a bit too far. So, 'Kip' the poodle watches *Next Generation*, eh? Dave, don't take the mick!

GERM-FREE

Dear Brain,
 Do you have any virus cures that are user-friendly? The tape supplied with issue 31 of your mag contained a virus. It replaced *Odus* on the tape (the intended program did not load). The result is that all the characters have been swapped around on the keyboard, ie pressing J produces JOJOJO etc. Games will partly load but they stop. Your tape was the only one I was using at the time.

This is the first time I have had virus trouble so it could not have come from my other games. So what I want from you is a solution. How do I beat a virus?
 Ben Lenihan, Co Cork.

First let me allay some of your fears. Viruses, while feasible on an 8-bit system, are all but unknown. Viruses, you see, are small independent programs that subvert computer systems. These programs hide themselves high in RAM and carry out their work – which can be anything from simple self-replication to damaging data.

As viruses are programs they can only exist when they are either in RAM or have been saved on to tape or disk. For a program to remain in RAM the computer has to remain switched on. Once the power is turned off, everything in RAM will be lost instantly and the virus erased. So if you think your machine has been attacked – which is highly unlikely – just pull the plug.

If – by some fluke – you did have some virused data/programs, then loading them again will 're-infect' your system. So if you're feeling really paranoid, then leaving your C64 turned off for about 30 seconds between using any two programs will make sure that infection doesn't spread!

Even if your system had become infected with a virus which was still active, it would not be able to permanently damage your machine. Your C64's system is stored on ROMs and there is no feasible way that a program could alter the information on them. It sounds more likely

that your C64 has developed a few problems. After leaving your computer turned off for at least 30 seconds, try loading one of your tapes that you KNOW loads. If the problems persist, you need to get your machine looked at by an engineer. **TMB**

THREE R's

Dear TMB esq,
 1 Why is Clur so childish? I am referring to her giving *Spelling Fair* (CF30) a Corker. It's dispickable!
 2 Will we have more programs like *FROST*?
 3 What has happened to Agent Kittyhawk?
 4 Why are you so fab?
 Jaime Rodriguez, Dyfed.

- 1 Fact: Clur is childish. Fact: *Spelling Fair* deserves a Corker. Fact: Desplicable doesn't have a K in it! Fact: You need *Spelling Fair*.
- 2 Probably. We were waiting to see what the response to *FROST* was, and so far it's been very positive.
- 3 She was working on a 'freelance' project near Highgrove House when a few of her tapes were discovered – you may have read about it in the national papers. She is now avoiding Her Majesty's Finest and was last seen heading for Jakarta. We'll keep you informed of any developments
- 4 Must be natural talent, I suppose. **TMB**



Kittyhawk: Spy for hire – find her, that!

WANT A FIGHT?

To TMB,
 1 What is your favourite issue of CF?
 2 Have there been any other WWF games on the C64 other than *Wrestlemania* and *European Rampage*?
 3 Where do you come from?
 4 How come *WWF European Rampage* has no tag team mode?
 5 Is the C64 worth swapping for a SNES?
 6 Do you have a first and last name?
 Jason Fabbri, Victoria, Australia.

- 1 Well I was a real big fan of CF1, I'm quite fond of CF17 but my fave to date has to be CF33. Although CF34 is growing on me.
- 2 There have been no other official WWF games. There have been loads of wrestling games but without the WWF glitz they really haven't made the grade.
- 3 Er, perhaps that's something you should really ask your mum.
- 4 The manual for the game is a multi-format



job, and so it did mention a tag-team competition. On the C64 this option wasn't offered. We did mention this fact in the review.

5 Not unless you're prepared to spend £40 on each game!

6 The and Brain. **TMB**

THE MEANING OF LIFF

Dear Mutated Orange,

I desperately need to get hold of *Great Giana Sisters*. If anyone out there has it, I'll pay (almost? – TMB) any sum for it!

Now, some questions:

1 What about doing a book review for the trusty old C64 in your mag.

2 Are PD games only on disk? I read your article last month and was pleased to see

READERS CHARTS

Now, for one month only, it's the fabulously amazing reader's chart, as compiled by Gareth J Ensor!

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1 <i>Emlyn Hughes International Soccer</i> | Touchdown |
| 2 <i>Silkworm</i> | Mastertronic Plus |
| 3 <i>Bubble Bobble</i> | Hit Squad |
| 4 <i>Jack Nicklaus Golf</i> | Accolade |
| 5 <i>American 3D Pool</i> | Zeppelin |
| 6 <i>Leaderboard</i> | Kixx |
| 7 <i>Powerdrift</i> | Hit Squad |
| 8 <i>Continental Circus</i> | Tronix |
| 9 <i>Slicks</i> | CodeMasters |
| 10 <i>Super Sprint</i> | Alternative |

...And on the soundtrack front Colin Hales rates this lot as the best ever:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1 <i>Outrun Europa Level 2</i> | Kixx |
| 2 <i>WWF Wrestlemania title screen</i> | Hit Squad |
| 3 <i>Paperboy in-game</i> | Elite |
| 4 <i>Arkanoid 2 title screen</i> | Hit Squad |
| 5 <i>Fantasy World Dizzy</i> | CodeMasters |
| 6 <i>Renegade in-game</i> | Hit Squad |
| 7 <i>Short Circuit title screen</i> | Hit Squad |
| 8 <i>RoboCod demo in-game</i> | Power Pack |
| 9 <i>Turtles Arcade in-game</i> | Image Works |
| 10 <i>Turtles Arcade title</i> | Image Works |

While Simon Hillam thinks that the best CF Power Pack games work out something like this...

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| 1 <i>Zamzara</i> | CF9 |
| 2 <i>Fifth Gear</i> | CF28 |
| 3 <i>Uridium</i> | CF7 |
| 4 <i>Park Patrol</i> | CF10 |
| 5 <i>Spindizzy</i> | CF12 |
| 6 <i>Monster Mash</i> | CF31 |
| 7 <i>Mean Streak</i> | CF8 |
| 8 <i>Crystal Castles</i> | CF7 |
| 9 <i>Anarchy</i> | CF10 |
| 10 <i>Blue Max</i> | CF7 |

that I could get some cheap good games.

3 Someone out there is into *Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy* for I see proof all over your magazines like: *Dingo's Kidneys*, *42*, *Don't Panic* and *Lintilla*. *A Person, Somewhere*.

It's such a shame that if anyone does have GGS, they won't know where to send it!

1 What sort of books would you want to see covered – novels, techie manuals, cheat guides, the *Hitchhikers* scripts?

2 It all depends on the library. Some already offer tape as well as disk software and most of the others are gearing up to offer a tape option. Keep an eye on our PD Format page for full details of which PD Library does what.

3 Us, into *Hitchhiker's*? Outrageous! That's like saying Dave is into *Doctor Who*, or Ollie into black and white 'B' movie horror flicks! **TMB**

SOLD GONE

Dear Mighty Brain,

Eighteen months ago I had a short period of madness. I sold my trusty C64 and bought a duff rival games machine! Realising the error of my ways due to the price of that machine's games, I soon wanted my excellent C64 back. But my mum said I would just have to live with my terrible mistake. Now I have re-purchased a C64 and have some questions for your most excellent mag.

1 How many base colours does the C64 have?

2 On *Magic Land Dizzy* how do I light the fire under the witches cauldron?

3 The C64 I purchased is an old model. So can I still play carts and use the Action Replay cart on it?

4 What is the difference between the C64GS and the C64? Also what is the difference between the C128 and the C128D?

5 Last but not least, do you shop at Tesco? Please, please, please, please, print this letter, my life depends on it!

Alex Jacobs, Aylsebury.

1 Well there's that yukky dark brown. Colours don't come much more base than that!

2 Wait and see. We'll be doing something for 'yolk' like you in *CF36*. So be patient and all will be revealed.

3 Why yes. If look at the back you'll find a slot marked Expansion Port. Your carts – of all flavours – should slot happily in here.

4 The C64GS was the console version of the C64. It could only load software from cartridge and had no keyboard (and, to be frank, was not a commercial success). The C128D was simply a C128 with a built-in disk drive.

5 No. I shop at Sainsbury's. It's conveniently on my way home.

One life-saving deed successfully completed. **TMB**

CODE YOU HELP?

Dear TMB,

It's Jon Wells here, author of *The Sceptre Of Baghdad*. Firstly, if you're wondering where the game is, the release was delayed by publishing problems. It will be now be available though a new service offered by Binary Zone (See Snippets on p.13).

I would, though, like to enlist your help in recruiting some programmers for some new games projects. Basically, I'm looking for competent coders who can write machine code routines for use in game development. These titles will be published through the PD company Binary Zone, so any royalty payments will be generously shared in percentage terms. Anyway, if you could ask any of your readers who are good coders to get in touch that would be smart. *Jon Wells, Wales.*

Sure, sir. If you'd be interested in getting some game writing experience and are practised in machine code, why not drop Mr Wells a line, c/o *Commodore Format*. Mark the envelope 'I'm brill me!' and send it to the usual address. We'll pass all the replies on to Jon. **TMB**

SEUCK IT AND SEE

Dear TMB (Truly Magnificent Brain),

1 How much is *SEUCK*?

2 Is *SEUCK* worth the amount you pay?

3 In *CF31* why did the charts only have 40 games instead of 80?

4 I agree with Robbie McGrane from Dublin. *Street Fighter 2* deserved 93 per cent. *Ben Jones, Birkenhead.*

PS I think Roger Frames is excellent. He's the best, the greatest, the star of your mag!
PPS I am a compulsive liar (see above).

1 *Shoot-'Em-Up Construction Kit* costs £3.99 from GBH (☎ 0742 753423).

2 Since you get a number of sample games with the Kit itself, yes, it's brilliant value.

3 We decided to focus more on the best-sellers. We will continue to give you details of the top 100 in our info boxes on each chart page.

4 Once again the *SF2* battle starts to rage. Any more opinions anyone? **TMB**

PS But... I'm shocked, nay appalled!

PPS Why would you want to be a small, hand-held string instrument?

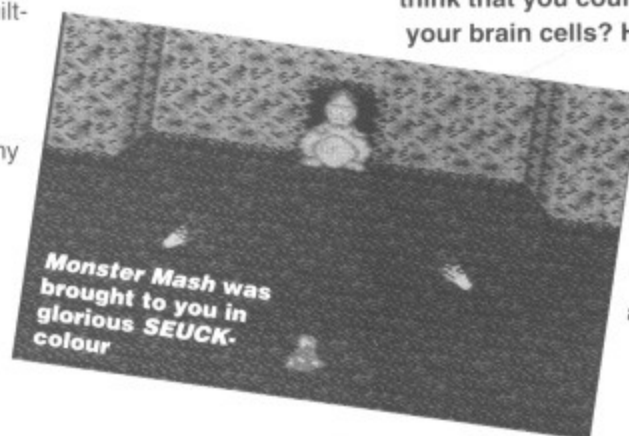
DAMP ORANGES

Dear TMB,

Roger Frames, what a twerp eh? Do you think that you could lend him one or two of your brain cells? He certainly needs them.

I love the colour grey. I mean you wouldn't want a yellow and green Rolls Royce, would you? Anyway on with the questions.

1 Could you give me the address and phone num-



Monster Mash was brought to you in glorious SEUCK-colour

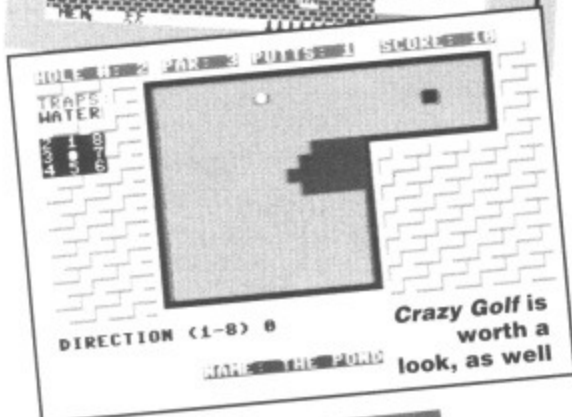
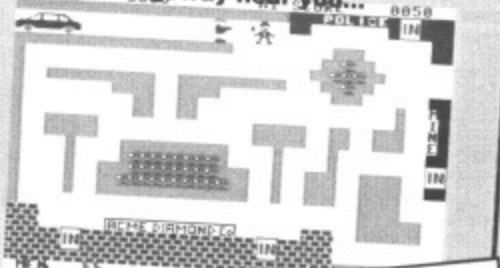
PD FORMAT

FEATURING

KINGSWAY

This month's featured Public Domain library tells you all about the best software it's got on offer.

Robbers - just one of the games available now at a Kingsway near you...



Crazy Golf is worth a look, as well

TOP FIVE GAMES

1 ASSORTED GAMES

Catalogue no: GO48
22 games on one disk, including Putt Putt Golf, Froggy and Gater.

2 KID GAMES

Catalogue no: GO67
Tons of games that'll send the 'younger' C64 user wild.

3 ARCADE GAMES

Catalogue no: GO38
23 arcade-type games on one disk. Now that's what I call a bargain!

4 CROSSWORD 7.2

Catalogue no: GO55
Create your own crosswords on the C64. Puzzles can be saved on to disk and printed out for your mates to try out.

5 PINBALL #1

Catalogue no: GO59
Four fab pinball games: Super Ball, Jump To Advance, The Cliff and Star Blazers.

Kingsway specialises in techie tutorials and programming utilities.

SEARCHING FOR SIGNALS

• WE WILL REFER TO SIGNALS AS JANE OR JUST PLAIN 'JANE'.

• A CHIP WITH A PIN LABELLED CE IS ENABLED WHEN THIS PIN IS LOW (=0).

• IF A CHIP HAS A PIN LABELLED SOMETHING THEN 'SOMETHING' WILL HAPPEN WHEN THIS PIN IS LOW (=0).

• A PIN LABELLED 'ENABLE'? A '1' WILL ENABLE!

PD REVIEW

PUBLIC ENQUIRY

Public Domain software (or PD as it's known by people too lazy to type Public Domain) is non-professional software, written by C64 enthusiasts and released with no copyright restrictions. It includes all sorts of software, including games, utilities (the serious stuff, that is) and demos (which exists for no other reason than to show off the programmers' coding abilities and can look and sound very impressive). PD software is also free - sort of. You can copy a PD program from someone quite legally. But PD software is more usually obtained from PD libraries, like Kingsway, who will charge you a minimal fee to cover duplication, disk and postage costs.

general utilities, GEOS utilities, etc - as well as an extensive selection of games. We also deal in software dedicated to the C128. And we make getting hold of PD even easier by accepting credit card orders over the phone.

KINGSWAY STATISTIX

Library's full name: Kingsway Computer Services (KCS for short)

Address: 72 Glencoe Road, Sheffield, S2 2SR

Telephone: 0742 750623

Software Available on: Disk only

Price per disk: £2.99 or ten for the price of nine!

What Kingsway's good at and why: We keep a wide selection of software, not just demos (in fact we have very few demos). We major in serious applications - programming,

TOP FIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

1 TYPING TUTOR

Catalogue no: E127
22 Lessons with timed exercises covering all aspects of the keyboard.

2 ASTRONOMY AND HAM RADIO

Catalogue no: E126
Over 25 programs for the budding Patrick Moore and over 20 for the HAM radio fanatic (well, we can't think of a famous HAM radio fanatic - Ed).

3 BIBLE QUIZZES

Catalogue no: E129
Pass your RE exam with ease. Quizzes include The Temptation of Jesus and Who Am I? (I don't know - Ed.)

4 PRIMARY MATHS

Catalogue no: E125
Over 30 maths problems aimed at the 2-6 year old age group.

5 COMPUTER TUTOR

Catalogue no: P505
A collection of educational programs dealing with computing programming.

TOP FIVE UTILITIES

1 INFO FOR PROGRAMMERS

Catalogue no: P500
Useful utilities for anyone learning programming, and more besides.

2 BUSINESS AND ACCOUNTS

Catalogue no: B208
Over 20 programs which'll help you take full control of their finances (can we interest you Mr Clarke?).

3 HOMEWARE

Catalogue no: M433
A calendar maker, a home inventory, a building materials calculator and loads more stuff just like that.

4 GEOS UTILITIES

Catalogue no: GE902
A plethora of utilities invaluable to all GEOS users - yes even the Greek ones.


5 DISK DOCTOR UTILITIES

Catalogue no: U332
A superb menu-driven collection of 24 (count 'em) disk utilities - a must for every disk drive owner.

Let's make a MONSTER

It's getting there. All the vital routines have been written. All the levels have been started. Now it's a case of tweaking, refining, playtesting and squeezing in the last few ideas. John and Steve

PART NINE



as Mayhem charges up a slope and reaches the top he could take off for a short while (if he's going fast enough). So by the end of the week he could, and it looks well cool! If you time it right he doesn't even touch the top of some slopes, he just lands on the other side as he falls.

While I was tweaking Mayhem's movement routines (for what seemed like the millionth time) I thought I might as well carry on. The next thing to add were the 'springboard monsters'. These are beasts that won't kill Mayhem if he runs into them, but they will make him bounce to incredible heights. So I coded

this routine and included a cute bouncy sound effect as well. The idea seems to have paid off as it looks really cute (you can even see Mayhem looking up as he gets flung into the air, then looking down as he falls back towards the platforms).

STEVE The graphics for the levels in *MIM* seem to be in need of never-ending alteration. This week I decided to try and get Pipeland into a near-finished state so that I could put it into the new happy/sad editor (which takes the happy version of the level and turns them all gloomy).

I've added some large blue and white chequers to go in the background of an enclosed part of the level (which looks a bit like a big room). These rooms used the bricks that were already in the level to form the walls. I thought the whole lot looked quite cool (in a console-esque sort of way), but John thought otherwise. So what happens when I want to do one thing and John wants to do something else? No, we don't beat each

THE STORY SO FAR...

Remember *Cyberdyne Warrior*? *Creatures*? *Creatures 2*? What's the link? There are two actually. They're all brilliant and they were all written by Apex. Now The Apex Boyz, John and Steve Rowlands, are writing a new game, *Mayhem In Monsterland*, and we can promise you - it's going to be a monster!

Rowlands are getting so excited about Mayhem In Monsterland now that we virtually had to force them at gun point to write this month's diary.

Some of you might be thinking by now, "I wish those Rowlands would get on with it!" But we have got an excuse for taking so long over *Mayhem*. Honest. Y'see because *Mayhem In Monsterland* is an original game we have no set guidelines to follow. The advantage of this is that we can use our imaginations to the full and add whatever we want (any way we want to). Having said that there are disadvantages; the game takes longer to develop as we have to come up with dozens of ideas, some of which will be discarded along the way (whether due to memory limitations, processor limitations or just because they were lame).

Another disadvantage is that whatever we do design is constantly being tweaked. The game is never finished until it's finished. *MIM* is approaching the stage where the essential routines and graphics are nearly finished, so now we're spending most of our time adding new ideas to enhance the gameplay and adjusting existing ones. But that's where the joy of creating games, as opposed to converting them, is to be found.

AWESOME APRIL WEEK ONE

JOHN All my attention is focused on the monster enemy sprites at the moment. I've spent a

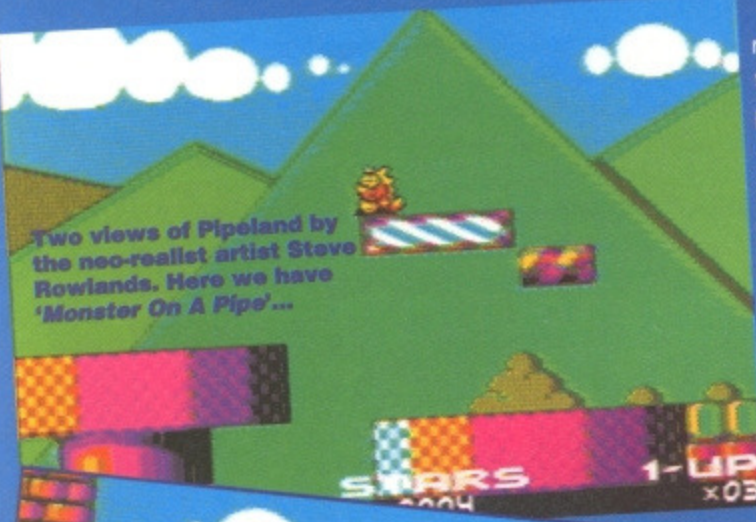
lot of this week preventing them from wrapping around the screen (vanishing off one side and appearing on the other) while Mayhem walks left to right. Testing these routines involves a lot of running around and checking that the monsters didn't reappear. So Mayhem has spent most of this week charging up and down dozens of slopes in Pipeland (but then, that was what he was born to do).

All this action has given me an idea -

Coming in to land in Cherryland.



One small step for Mayhem, one huge step for Monster-kind



Two views of Pipeland by the neo-realist artist Steve Rowlands. Here we have 'Monster On A Pipe'...



...and this is a later work called 'Emma Thompson Getting Into Role'

mapping system. Once I had sketched them down I had to test them (the fun part). I don't want to type in the new mapping system untested only to find that it has a major design fault, so another day was spent testing (and adjusting) the flow charts. The rest of the week was spent typing in the new system, then testing it for real. Yes, it did contain a few bugs, but it doesn't now. The only down-side is that, like most of my previous scroll-related systems, it only works one-way. So next week I've got to get it working when Mayhem walks left as well (snore).

The cast of bad guys will need to be in the twenties at least

pose I have been side-tracked, and done several other things since I started it. Anyway, moaning about it won't get the job done (there's a moral in there somewhere).

So back to my monster sequencer. As you'll remember, last week I finished it, but there was a slight hitch; Mayhem could only run to the right. Obviously he's going to need to run left as well, so I have to write another set of routines to cope with this (which, coincidentally, is what I spent the majority of this week doing).

First I created a few flow charts (like the one below), tested them, then typed them up. The rest of the week was spent testing, adjusting and retesting them. Now I have a rather sexy bi-directional monster sequencer which is

STEVE I thought that having all these different levels on-the-go at the same time was a good idea, but the simple fact that all the levels need finishing lines had slipped my mind. What this means is that I needed four characters in the same position in each character set, because there need to be two finishing lines on each level, one for Happy and one for Sad, both using two characters each. On the Sad version, when Mayhem reaches the finishing line he will fall through the platform to a chamber below to... ah but that would be telling. Consequently two of the characters also need to be the sort that Mayhem can't walk or fall through.

Y'see, Mayhem treats different characters in different ways - and we don't mean that he asks some of them out for a pint while turning his back on others and ignoring them. We're talking characters as in 'character sets' here.

There are three different types of characters: ones that stop Mayhem (used for walls and some platforms); ones that Mayhem can jump up through, but land on and walk along (used for other platforms); and ones that Mayhem can pass through (used for the backgrounds). We have two bytes per level to change the amount of characters in each of these sections for that particular level. So if we wanted 40 characters Mayhem can't go through, 13 characters he can jump through and the rest of the character set as background graphics, I would set the first byte to 40 and the second byte to 53. This gives us three sections in the character set: 00-39, 40-52 and 53-255.

So for the finishing lines, two of the characters would be in the first section and two in the last. At the moment, however, most of the characters in all the sections have been used, which means I'll have to go through all the levels swapping characters around (to coin a phrase - snore!).

WEEK THREE

JOHN Who's still working on a monster sequencer, then? Me, that's who. Who's

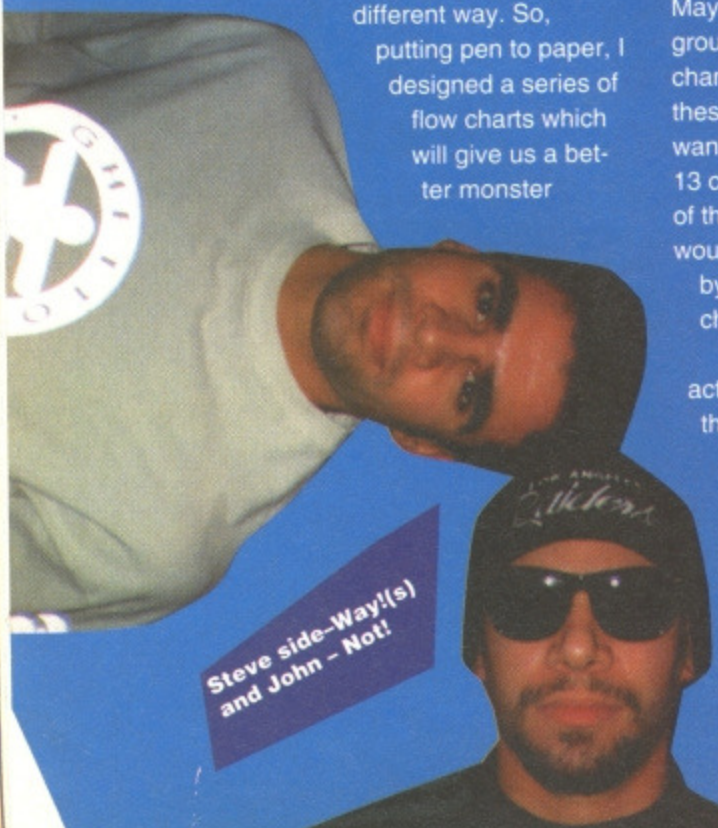
other senseless (why not? That's what Trent and I do when we have a 'difference of opinion' - Clur) we just call on the expert (?) advice of Andy Roberts (Aww shucks - Andy).

In return for a lot of cash and a bit of flattery Andy gives us his invaluable opinion. In this case I've totally wasted my time doing those graphics because the majority decision was, 'rip-'em-out'. However, I'm still messing around with the slopes of Pipeland, trying to superimpose them over something other than the background colour (which hopefully will be more to John's and Andy's tastes).

WEEK TWO

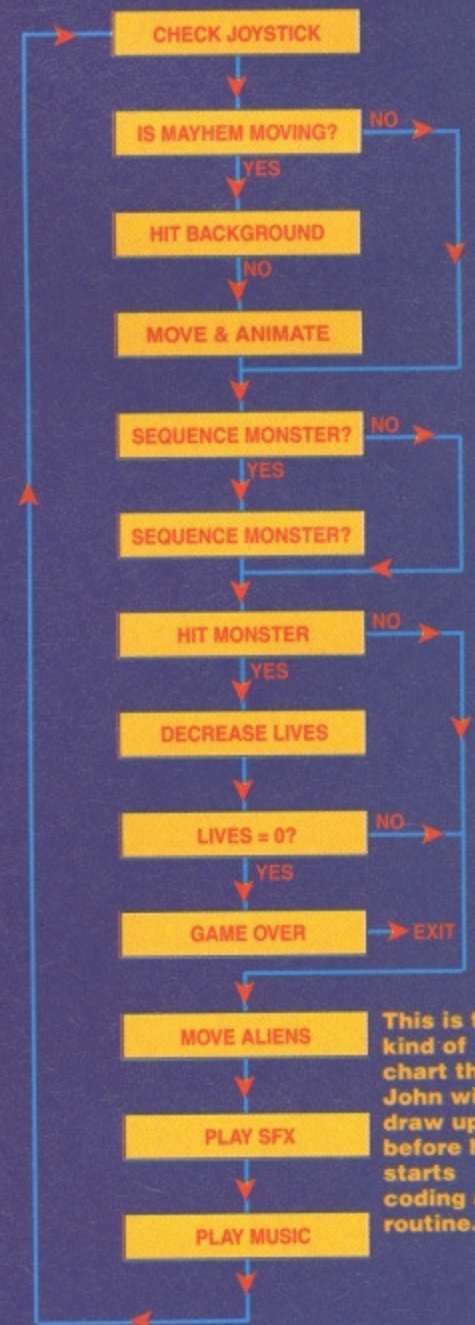
JOHN I looked back at my monster sequencer on Monday (which I haven't touched in two weeks) and decided that I can do it an entirely different way. So,

putting pen to paper, I designed a series of flow charts which will give us a better monster



Steve side-Way!(s) and John - Not!

GO WITH THE FLOW



This is the kind of chart that John will draw up before he starts coding a routine.

only missing a few routines which will handle certain ideas we want to put into the game at a later date (more on those when we do them).

STEVE It's about time I did some serious aliens, single and multi-sprite ones. The first thing to do is to get lots of ideas on paper, then convert them to pixels. I go about this by looking at the level graphics and the rough maps I've done, then deciding on what sort of aliens are needed for each particular terrain. For example, if we have a water section (which we're actually planning) we would need fish and other squidgy underwater adversaries.

The sketches I now have include a baby dinosaur called Dino, a monster with a spikey shell on his back (that will kill you if you touch it) and a giant mole-type monster (look out Chesney Hawkes). I then proceed to convert these few ideas to see how they will turn out. Pixel perfection plays a primary part for pretty predators in this program so a lot of our aliens are amazingly animated (© Alarming Alliteration). But having done the first few aliens, walking and all, I realize that the cast of bad guys will need to be in the twenties at least.

WEEK FOUR

JOHN The game is getting to the stage where we find ourselves playing it when we should be working on it, which is always a good sign. This not only means it's getting

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Just in case you haven't been paying attention, here's a quick resumé of what *Mayhem In Monsterland* is all about:

- Mayhem is a cute dinosaur.
- He Lives in Monsterland. (Okay, nothing surprising so far.)
- Monsterland is not a happy place. It's all grey and rains all the time (a bit like Port Talbot, really).
- Mayhem has to make Monsterland a happy place once more.
- He also has to collect bonus stars and duff up a few enemy monsters.
- There's a brilliant VR sequence where Mayhem battles amazing slow-moving creatures made up entirely of triangles... and (er, maybe not).
- But, no kidding, this game is going to set new standards not just for the 64 but for platform games everywhere (how's that for a build-up?).

more and more playable, but gives us the opportunity to playtest it as we go along. The one thing we've noticed is that while each level is 25 screen long, it seems much less.

This is because of the sheer speed of the game. If it was possible for him to charge from one end of a level to another (which it won't be in the finished version) it would take about 20 seconds. For reference, Clyde Radcliffe (from *Creatures* and *Creatures 2*, obviously) would take about two minutes 40 seconds to run the same distance.

To combat the map length problem we've come up with a technique which allows us to produce massive maps. It effectively lets us re-use parts of each level to give a long enough map for Mayhem to traverse and is basically what I've spent all week doing. I thought it would only take a day, but due to the structure of

the scroller, it turned out to be a lot more complicated than I first thought it was going to be – ah well, no change there then.

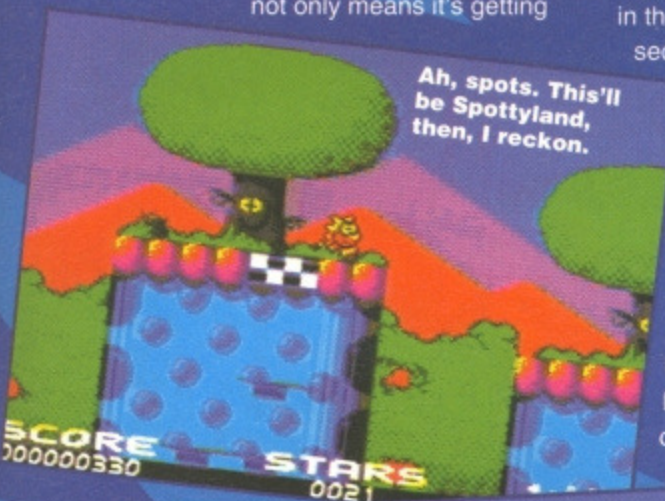
STEVE So far the game has no underwater sections, mainly because we thought of the idea only recently. Most of the levels have now been started and their character sets almost completely used up ... except Spottyland!

As well as water on Spottyland we can now include underwater slopes (oohh!). It goes without saying (*no it doesn't, you're just about to say it – Ed*) that Mayhem's control mode will change when he's underwater, slowing down his speed and making bubbles appear instead of smoke when he skids. Mayhem's sound effects change to bubbly ones too, to make the underwater atmosphere just that little bit more... er... underwatery.

The water is in a part of the level that has a chequered background – below the water surface everything gets darker (as it would). This section uses some nice new colours above and below the water which are mixed up using our special methods explained a few issues ago. A selection of platforms used in Spottyland (that also appear above the water sections) have been duplicated for underwater use.

To make them look submerged in water I used a manual colour addition technique – giving them a blue tint. This is quite effective and does actually make the whole lot look, sort of, underwaterish. In fact, the graphics came out looking so good, they even surprised me (*modest, isn't he? – Ed*).

Once we've tweaked Mayhem's control mode for the underwater sequences and included the necessary colour splits, it should look pretty amazing (especially for the humble C64). Hold on a moment – maybe we should rename the game *Super Mayhem In Monsterland*? Ahem.



NEXT MUMF

May is going to be a mega month for Mayhem. Not only will more monsters be created, but more monster features will be added. So tune in next month for another monster installment.



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MODERN CLASSICS



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The Commodore 64 1st team (a few of the reserves also appear in these pages).



MODERN CLASSICS

can be found. That's why we've assembled our Modern Classics pull-out spectacular! In this special section we've detailed every C64 game (tape, disk and cart) currently available in the UK. From these we've selected the very cream of the current crop, named some notable near misses and giggled weakly at some of the very worst for each gamestyle.

Picking the best from such a vast range of games wasn't as easy as we first thought. Which is why we enlisted the very best Commodore brain's available – the CF crew PAST and PRESENT! And now, after hours of debate, squabbling and name calling, CF is proud to present The Modern Classics – the best games money can buy!

There are thousands of games available for the C64, but knowing exactly where to get a specific title can prove tough. Every week folk call and write to CF asking if we know where you can get hold of particular games. That's why we knew you wanted a definitive games guide, a comprehensive list of what's available and where it

YOUR GUIDE TO THE BEST...

- **Shoot-'em-ups** p.4
- **Platform games** p.6
- **Beat-'em-ups** p.8
- **Simulations** p.10
- **Sports games** p.12
- **Arcade Adventures** p.14
- **Driving games** p.16
- **RPGs** p.18
- **Strategy** p.20
- **The complete C64 games availability index** p.22 - 24

HOW DO I GET HOLD OF THESE GAMES?

At the end of every review in this pull-out and with every entry in the 1,000-plus games list at the back we tell you where you can get hold of the games. Of course, some of them are still available in the shops, but the majority of them aren't. So we've concentrated on other ways of buying games:

- 1 Mail order – some games we've suggested you get some specific mail order companies, but others are 'generally available' – this doesn't mean they're available in every computer shop up and down the country, but it does mean you should be able to order them from most C64 mail order companies (we just don't want to show favouritism, you see).
- 2 Most software publishers are more than happy to sell you games direct – as long as they've still got them in stock, that is. In the mega-list at the back of the special we've indicated which publishers still have which games. If they've got one you want, give them a ring, state clearly and succinctly what you want and they'll be able to tell you how to go about ordering stuff. But remember, actually selling games is not a publishing company's main business, they're busy people, so be polite and concise if you ring them.
- 3 You can also get software from EDOS which is a system which... er... well, which needs a box-out all to itself, really.

THE EDOS BOX-OUT

EDOS (Electronic Distribution Of Software) is a solution to the problem of software shop-shelf clutter, which offers a massive choice of 370 different C64 titles. You'll find it available in Menzies and a few other independent retailers, and it's dead smart. Instead of ready-duplicated disk and tape versions of games on the shelves, you'll find empty boxes showing what's available. You choose what you want, take the box to the counter and they duplicate your personal copy of the game on the spot. Individual dupe'ing means that the game will be a high quality copy and also that the shop will never run out of any game. The game code is all stored on a large hard disk in the shop and then the relevant data is copied off on demand. It's altogether a very civilised way of buying games.

All the games available on EDOS are listed in our complete games guide on p.21-24 (they're the ones marked E, with T and D used to show Tape and Disk versions). For more info, check out your local Menzies or give EDOS's creators, Software On Demand, a ring on ☎ 0782 566566.

SHOOT-'EM-UPS

ANDY DYER (CF1-14)

Yes! Herd them all up in a field and bomb the blighters – the Salacious Zogs from Eroticon Four, that is! Let's be honest blast-'em-ups are, well, a blast. With enemy laser-fire raining death from above, power-ups floating across the screen, massive end-of-level-guardians waiting to turn you into space dust, the most amazing range of weapons ever conceived by man (or little green blob, for that matter) and never-ending waves of evil aliens chasing you down these are truly intense gaming moments. Well to be honest, I just like the explosions. Big or small, who cares as long as there are loads of them (and it's not my sprite that's doing the exploding). Anyway, here's my pick of the best explosive action you'll find on the C64...

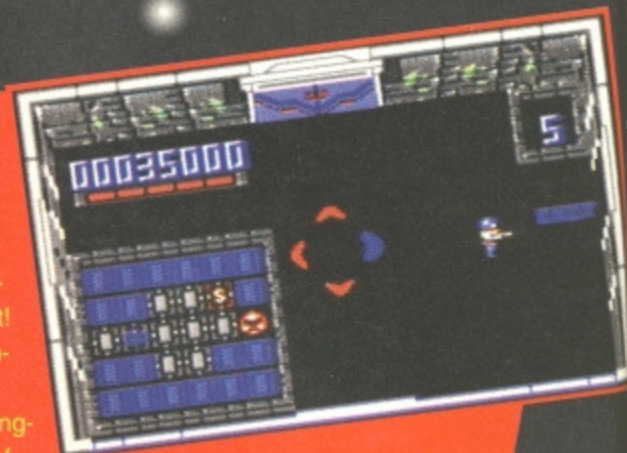


SMASH TV

(Hit Squad) Originally released: 1992

The result of a freak collision between the *Main Event* and the *A Team*, *Smash TV* roars on to the C64. You kill people and win a car – what a concept! A savage social satire and a stunning shooting match, *Smash TV* pits you against hordes of foaming-mouthed zombies and a range of major league nasties. Luckily, you're the one with the superior firepower. The control system isn't all it could be, but when the bullets start flying you soon cease to care.

Generally available.



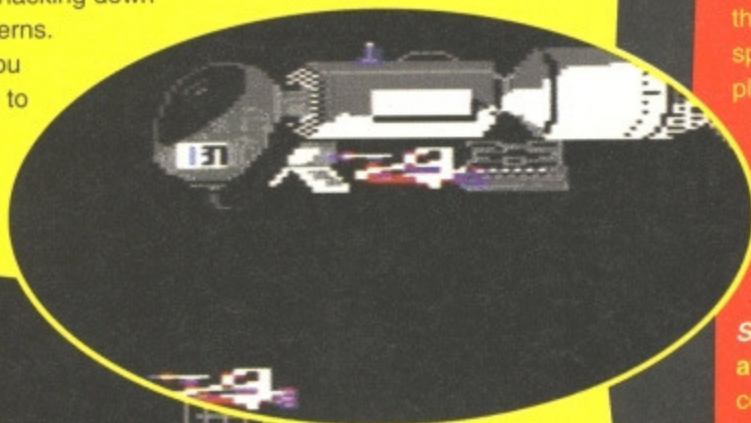
SPEEDZONE

(Mastertronic)

Originally released: 1989

It's fast, too fast, way too fast, in fact it's all so fast that the game is unplayable! It takes the *Galaxian* theme with wavy aliens hacking down the screen in pre-set patterns. They'd be easy to kill if you could sit still long enough to shoot the blighters. Oh and it looks awful too.

Available from
Wizard Games.



CHECK 'EM OUT

Salamander (Hit Squad) Available from Direct.

Old gold. Rave from the grave. Blast from the past. All the above apply to *Salamander*, one of the most crucial space battles in C64 history. There's a totally contrived plot about the five planets of Latis, but you don't want to know that, you want to know it's excellent – and it is!

X-Out (Kixx) Available from Amma Software.

Shop-and-shoot with *X-Out*! Fly underwater and use your custom craft and various killing implements to wipe the evil alien scum from the murky sea bed.

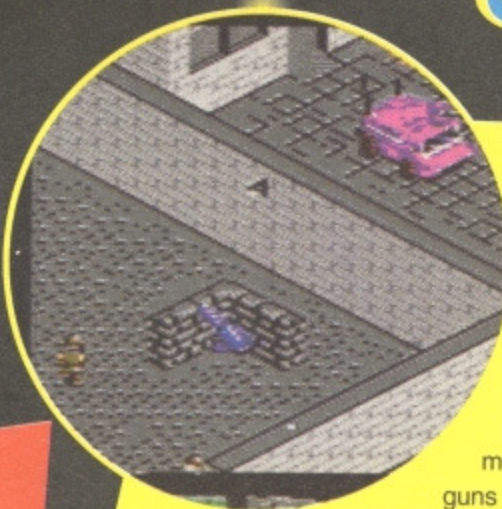
Spiffing stuff indeed!

Super Space Invaders (Hit Squad) Generally

available. Taito's planet-attacking *Invaders* made a comeback in 1991 in a corking coin-op. The conversion was great, capturing the magic of the original and then spicing it up a bit with some cow-capturing silliness. An excellent tribute to the game that's the granddaddy of shoot-'em-ups.



SHOOT-UPS



ARNIE (Zeppelin)

Originally released: 1992

There's this guy, and he's dead hard, and he's got a gun, and he's on the rampage, and he's not very happy. What do you do about it? Take control just to make sure that he doesn't miss, that's what! Taking an isometric angle on the killing, *ARNIE* swings his gun from side to side, making sure that anything that moves won't be moving for much longer. Bigger, better guns are also on offer for the seriously psychotic.

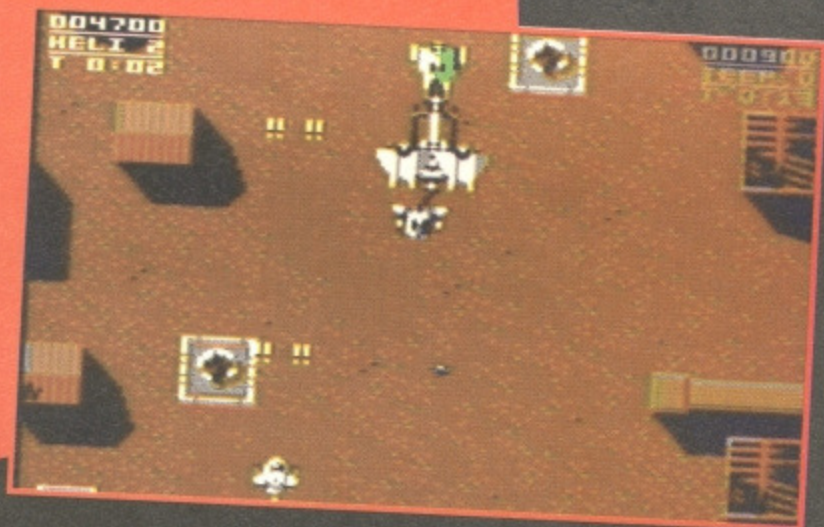
Generally available.

SWIV (Kixx)

Originally released: 1991

The effective sequel to *Silkworm* (which was a coin-op), *SWIV* (which wasn't) sports some of the best blasting action ever seen on the C64. The translation isn't as complete as on some other formats – the jeep lacks mobility for one thing – but the crazy amounts of weapons, not to mention the huge enemies, massive power-ups and superb graphics, more than compensate. All of which ensure *SWIV*'s position as one of the best shoot-'em-ups going.

Generally available.



ST DRAGON

(Kixx) Originally released: 1991

Oh look, another brilliant blaster from Storm! This sideways-scrolling lizard-killer is a major test of joystick dexterity and sheer nerve.

You play a dragon (who, for some reason, has been canonised) who can spit fire and wrap his tail around himself for protection. He flies through a horizontally-scrolling world where metallic leopards roam.

Altogether it's very tough stuff with some almost impossible levels, but the abundance of pokey power-ups just manage to shade the affair in your favour – if you're really, really brave!

Available from Amma Software.

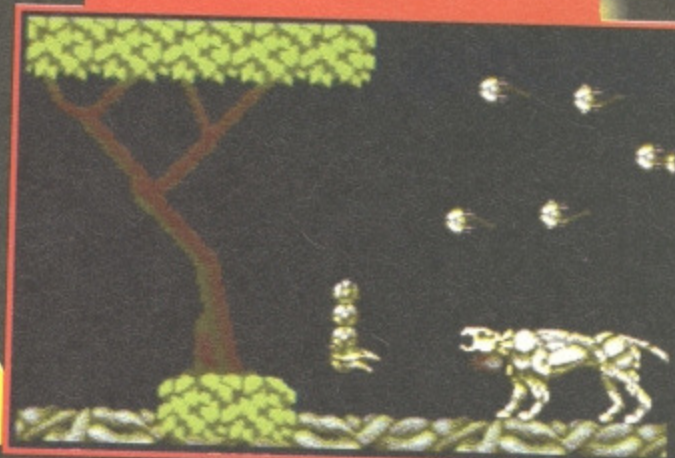
SILKWORM (Mastertonic Plus)

Originally released: 1991

Crushing two-player-jeep-on-chopper action! The wild amounts of fire power and hordes of super-fast baddies are great, but the star of this show is the vicious crossfire that cuts the bad guys down where they stand, sit or fly. It's the mid-level



gooseneck guardians that offer the stiffest resistance and the biggest power-ups when you kill them, but unfortunately the end-of-level guys are wimps! Available from Wizard games.



PLATFORM

BUBBLE BOBBLE

(Silverbird)

Originally released: 1987

Long before they grew up and discovered Rainbow Magic, Bub and Bob were turned into Bubble Dragons by an evil wizard. To return to normal they had to enter a monster-filled cave and rescue their sweethearts. But forget this sub-Walt Disney syrupy nonsense and just get on with the game, which is brilliant (and the prequel to *Rainbow Islands*). Basically, you try to trap the nasties in bubbles, then burst the bubbles for points. You want addictive-ness, you've got it. It may be ancient, but it's still far superior to most games released today.

Available from Hit Squad



CLUR HODGSON (CF27 -)

My fave games are platformers. You can't beat 'em...

well, you can... if you couldn't then it'd be pointless playing them because you'd never win. But anyway, there have been some truly classic platformers, and I've sorted out the cream of the crop for you here. And, yes, I know there are quite a few 'cutesy' ones, but I don't care. I'm confident enough about my self-image not to worry about recommending so many 'cute' games. I'm no girly wuss. Honest. (But just in case you have any doubts I'll just go off and beat up Dave before we start...). Ahh... that's much better! Now let the games begin!

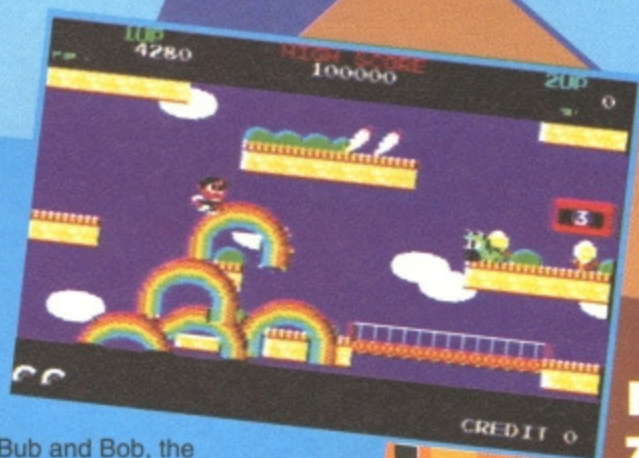
RAINBOW ISLANDS

(Hit Squad)

Originally released: 1989

This has been one of the most popular games ever on every format on which it's been released. Bub and Bob, the heroes from *Bubble Bobble*, return to, er, shoot rainbows at nasties and reach the top of the each level. It's a deceptively simple premise that's the basis of one of the most gloriously playable and colourful games ever. There are pick-ups and bonuses galore plus some of the toughest end-of-level guardians you'll ever face on the C64.

Generally available



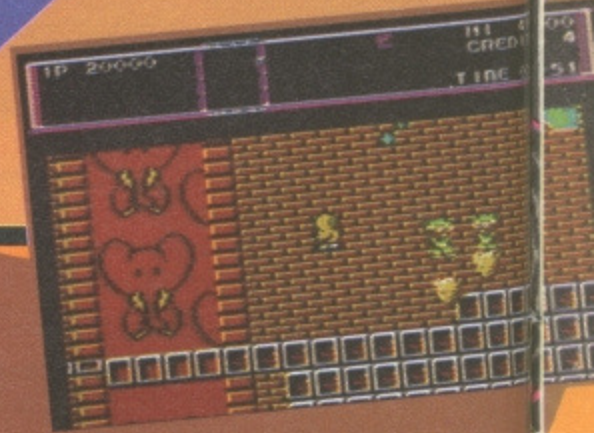
NEW ZEALAND STORY

(Hit Squad)

Originally released: 1991

This has to be one of the weirdest concepts for a game ever. I mean, New Zealand's hardly the most thrilling place on the planet, is it? But against all odds, *New Zealand Story* is a darned funky game. You take control of Kiri the Kiwi (okay, that registers eight out of ten on the pukesome scale) who has to flutter, leap and pilot a flying thingy around numerous levels trying to rescue his Antipodean chums. It blends colourful graphics, fast-paced action and totally fabulous music into a perfectly balanced, no-nonsense platformer of the first degree.

Generally available



HERS



NOBBY THE AARDVARK

(Thalamus)

Originally released: 1993

Seven levels of pure bliss, and every one like a game in itself. You play the living ant-hoover as he sucks his way around the world and into deep space searching for the pieces of a matter transporter that'll take him to Antopia and the feast of a lifetime. Each level has it's own distinctive style of play, including a ballooning section, an underwater jaunt and a hair-raising race in a mining trolley. The graphics are wonderfully cartoony and colourful and the gameplay is dangerously addictive. It's a game by John Ferrari, so beware — it's a toughie

Available from Thalamus



SLEEPWALKER (Ocean)

Originally released: 1993

It may only be a month old, but *Sleepwalker* is already rightfully regarded as a classic. It introduces a fabby new twist to the genre we have come to know as 'the platformer'. You control Ralph the dog who has to make sure that his sleepwalking master, Lee, gets through each humungously massive level without waking up. The cartoon-style sprites, colourful backgrounds and excellent animation are only outclassed by the unpredictable, inventive and refreshingly original gameplay. And it's dead funny in places too.

Generally available

CAPTAIN DYNAMO

(CodeMasters)

Originally released: 1992

This sad tale of the world's oldest superhero wins the prize for the most ridiculously difficult beginning to a game ever — there are some blimmin' weirdy cog things that are impossible to negotiate! And there's not much point bothering, 'cos once you get past them things just get very, very, very, very, very, very, very tedious indeed. Yawnsome bilge.

Generally available on *The Cartoon Collection* from CodeMasters



It's a Croaker!

CHECK 'EM OUT

RoboCod (Kixx) Generally available

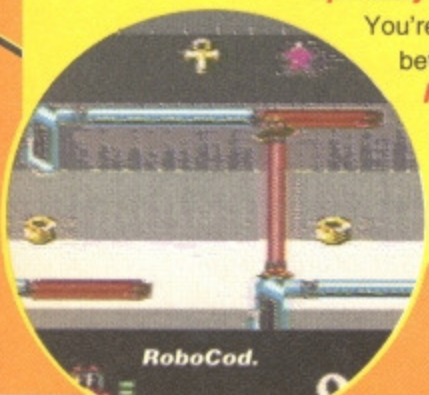
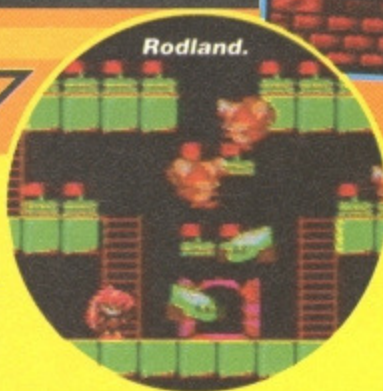
The name's Pond, James Pond, and he's quite possibly the greatest sprite ever, armed with a special suit of armour and a stretchy tail. The game's pretty funky too.

Spindizzy (Beau Jolly) Generally available

You're a spinning top called GERALD. But don't worry things get better. Much better. All the platform action you could ever hope for, and then some.

Rodland (Kixx, 1991) Generally available.

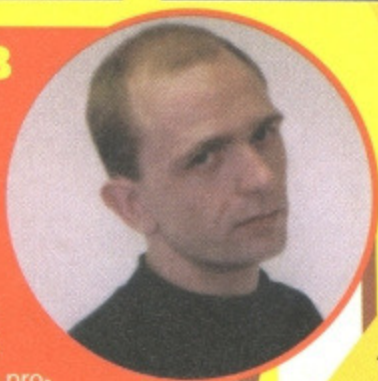
Platforms, nasties, strange weapons, more nasties, bonuses, even more nasties and, er, yet more nasties. Gloriously presented with Japanese anime art it's just a shame *Rodland's* a bit easy.



BEAT-'EM-UPS

TRENTON WEBB (CF18 - NOW)

Beat-'em-ups may be morally dodgy but they're sure fun. It doesn't matter if you're giving a computer-controlled foe a serious slapping or knocking out a friend's pixel puncher, a good beat-'em-up provides fast, tense, action. Sadly, the majority of Commodore punch-outs are slack in the extreme. But occasionally there's a brawler that really makes the grade, like this lot here that really get the blood going.



STREET FIGHTER 2

(US Gold)

Originally released: 1992

This is not a perfect conversion of Capcom's classic arcade. The sprites are too small, the opponents too soft and the multi-load massive. Despite this, *SF2* remains the most adventurous scrapper to-date. With 12 different fighters, bags of attacks there's enough subtlety to see off its gameplay gaffes. **Generally available.**



INTERNATIONAL KARATE + (Hit Squad)

Originally released: 1985

This is it. If you've been looking for a viciously quick fist-fight, then *IK+* is the game for you. Three warriors battle each other with a vast number of kicks, punches and blocks. The last man standing wins, the second man down stays in and the first to hit the floor is out. That's it. Brutal, face-kicking fun of the very highest calibre. It's a classic in anyone's book – and this is my book, so it's in! *IK+* is one fight you really ought to pick – if you're brave enough. **Available from the Publisher.**



WWF WRESTLEMANIA

(Kixx)

Originally released: 1991

Glamour, glitz and grunting combine in this no-holds barred grapple-fest. With the weight of Hulk Hogan, Ultimate Warrior and British Bulldog behind it, *WWF Wrestlemania* blows all other wrestling sims away. Two players can either go head-to-head or solo fighters can take the tournament trail towards the World Championship. However, committed couch potatoes should take note, this wagging spectacular gets so intense that it doubles as a fitness-aid! **Generally available.**



CHECK 'EM OUT

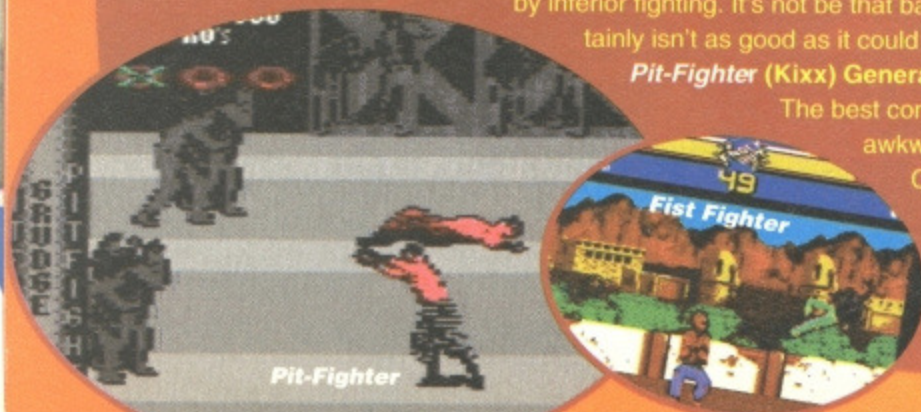
Fist Fighter (Zeppelin) Generally available. This qualifies because of its sense of humour. Clearly a *Street Fighter 2* pastiche there are some neatly amusing nods to the coin-op' but the fighting itself doesn't really live up to 'inspirational' original.

WWF2 European Rampage (Ocean) Generally available. With *Wrestlemania* to build on, Ocean should have had themselves a sure-fire winner here. They didn't and it wasn't. Curiously all the best bits of *WWF* are missing and they are replaced by inferior fighting. It's not be that bad, but it certainly isn't as good as it could have been.

Pit-Fighter (Kixx) Generally available.

The best conversion of this awkward arcade,

C64 *Pit-Fighter* still suffers from flicker and is still too uncontrollable.



UPS



RENEGADE (Hit Squad)

Originally released: 1986

In this concrete jungle one man has had enough. Instead of *Falling Down* his answer is to get physical. The controls are a little weird, but the fights are finely balanced and it proves to be a rugged battler. *Renegade* must fight his way through levels filled with weapon-toting bad guys. *Renegade* later spawned two equally violent sequels – and the second's two-player mode is brill – but the original's the best. Available from Software City.



FINAL FIGHT

(Super Fighters Compilation/Kixx)

Originally released: 1992



If you loved the arcade then you'll hate this. This once great coin-op is a shadow of its former-self. James finished this one with the Autofire on and with his eyes closed (no kidding)!

Generally available!



BARBARIAN 2 (Kixx)

Originally released: 1988

A sequel to the roarily violent *Barbarian* this game introduces bladed weapons into the arena. There are some vague adventure overtones – you're sent off to hunt the evil wizard Drax – but these are just an excuse for a fight. Although no excuse is really needed for such fast, flowing sword-play. Overhead chops and swinging swipes are just some of the spectacular strokes; hearts and heads being hacked off are just some of the gory effects. You can even play a homicidal Princess (if the mood takes you)!

Generally available.



SIMS

STEVE JARRATT
EDITOR (CF1 - 14)

If games cost me cash I want my money's worth. That's why I picked the simulations section. Most games have a single solution but sims recreate an entire world, that can be explored extensively in expensive aircraft/tanks/boats. And once you've learned how to control your vessel, the world is your oyster – or some breed of sand-irritated shellfish, at least. Besides, blowing 'real' things apart is far more fun... (Oi! We'd like a word with you – Special Branch).

SILENT
SERVICE (Kixx)

Originally released: 1986
Sitting at the bottom of an Ocean in a metal tube cannot be considered a visually stimulating experience. Despite this handicap *Silent Service* floats to the top of the simulations pile. It combines strategy with good, old-fashioned shooting- torpedoes-at-things action and the result is an admittedly slow but totally gripping game. *Silent Service* may look horribly dated but give this war veteran a chance and it'll soon be telling top-notch sea stories. Generally available

AcroJet
THE
ADVANCED FLIGHT
SIMULATOR

ACRO JET (Kixx)

Originally released: 1986
Standing for Acrobatic Jet, AJ is really a trainer for computer pilots. You chase along behind a chase plane (what? – Ed) as it performs all manner of loops, dives and other potentially fatal things. Vertigo sufferers will not be surprised to hear that it's not the flying but the ground that kills you. Unfortunately that's all that can. There's not a gun, bomb or missile anywhere to be found in the whole game. Technically *Acro's* excellent but it lacks aggro'. So it's one for the more passive among us. Generally available

GUNSHIP

(Air, Sea Supremacy Compilation)
Originally released: 1987

Warning! If you want a top-grade chopper sim then get the DISK version. If you want the equivalent of a one-level demo get *Gunship* on tape. Starring the wonderfully porky AH64A Apache attack helicopter you can fight in four foreign fields, against four levels of computer opposition. On disk it's the best there is. On tape... oh deary, deary, me. Generally available.

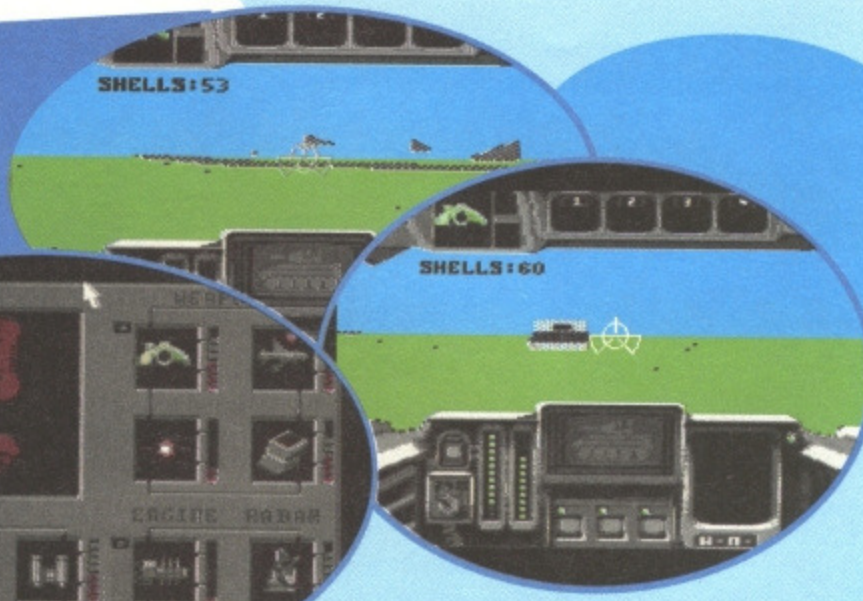


BATTLE COMMAND (Ocean)

Originally released: 1991

Battle Command comes on cart, so loading's fast and the game's huge. A solo-super tank is yours to take on a series of increasingly tough missions. There's search and destroy, sabotage, surveillance, rescues, everything, in fact, a tanker could wish for. Running in slick 3D this is the ultimate battlezone for folk who want to find out what it's really like to be in a metal box when it's hit by high explosive!

Generally available.



STARGLIDER

(Supreme Challenge Compilation)

Originally released: 1987

Argonaut's *Starglider* was initially criticised for being little more than an into-the-screen-shoot-'em-up with fancy polygon graphics, but there's nowt wrong with that! The graphics chug a little but this is partially due to the strain the massive wire-frame world puts on your machine as you twist and turn in desperate dog-fights to the death (*that's enough alliteration if you don't mind - Ed*).

Generally available



CHECK 'EM OUT

F-15 Strike Eagle (Kixx)

Generally available. Not the classic it's meant to be *F-15* still flies a fairly friendly sky. The graphics are fast, the plane durable and the missions happily chaotic. It's rather hard to lose control of the *F-15* - a feat we could surely achieve in real life without even trying!

F-16 Combat Pilot (Digital Integration)

Generally available. Surprisingly fast, this complex little number puts you behind the stick of one of America's top fighters planes. Fighting both air and land targets *F-16 Combat Pilot* is a good sim, but its 'depth' means you're always feel slightly 'removed' from the action.

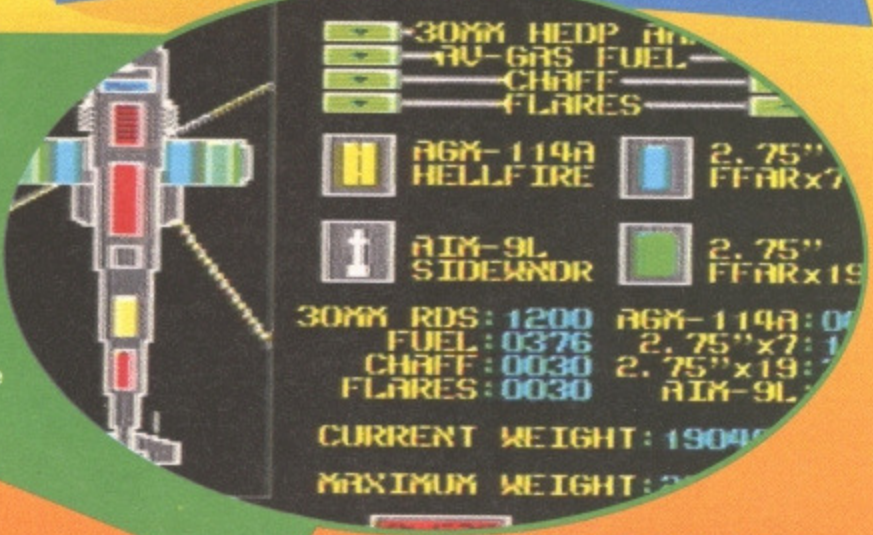


GUNSHIP (Kixx)

Originally released: 1992

Why!?! As a simulation *Gunship* on cassette is as good as the disk version. It's the length of the game that's different. On tape you can only play a single mission and are unable to save the pilot you've created before re-booting. This 'oversight' make this RPG sim seem like a broken pencil - pointless! (© *Blackadder II* punchlines)

Generally available.



MODERN CLASSICS

SPORTS

OLLIE ALDERTON
(CF6 - NOW)

As Commodore Format's resident sporting expert, it was only natural that I should introduce our selection of smart sport sims. I've separated the Premier Division leaders from the South West Croydon Sprockett's Sink Plug League demotion contenders. In the interests of variety (*in other words, if we'd let Ollie have his way then all of the Top Five would have been footie games - Ed*) we've chosen five different types of sports sim, so there should be something here for everybody (except those weird people who hate sports sims, I suppose - such strange people do exist).

BULLY'S SPORTING DARTS

(Alternative)

Originally released: 1992

Hmmm... I'm still not convinced that darts can be described as a sport (you don't even need to be fit to play it) but there's no denying that *Bully's* is a great little game, so I'll ignore my natural bias against all things oche-related for the moment.

Anyway, there's a lot more to *Bully's* than playing bog-standard 501 darts (although you can if you want) and Jim Bowen doesn't make an appearance (which must be to its advantage). You can also play

Football, Tennis, Snooker, Golf and Round The Clock... or at

least darts versions of them anyway. The control system is suitably dart-like and the package as a whole is great fun.

Generally available



MICROPROSE SOCCER

(Kixx)

Originally released: 1989

Tricky one this. There are at least three well-worthy football sims already available on the 64, but Microprose's effort beats off *Emlyn Hughes International Soccer* and *Kick Off 2* (which really has a better reputation than it deserves) in the humble opinion of the CF crew.

Written by Sensible Software, who

went on to write the near legendary

Sensible Soccer on the Amiga, it looks good, is easy to control and is the nearest thing to real footie you'll find on the C64.

Generally available

(If you're into computer soccer check out our *Liverpool* review on p.76)



AMERICAN 3D POOL

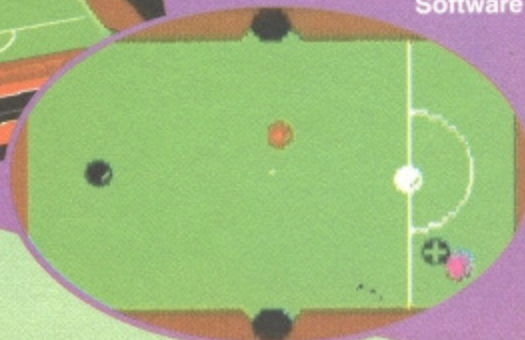
(Zeppelin)

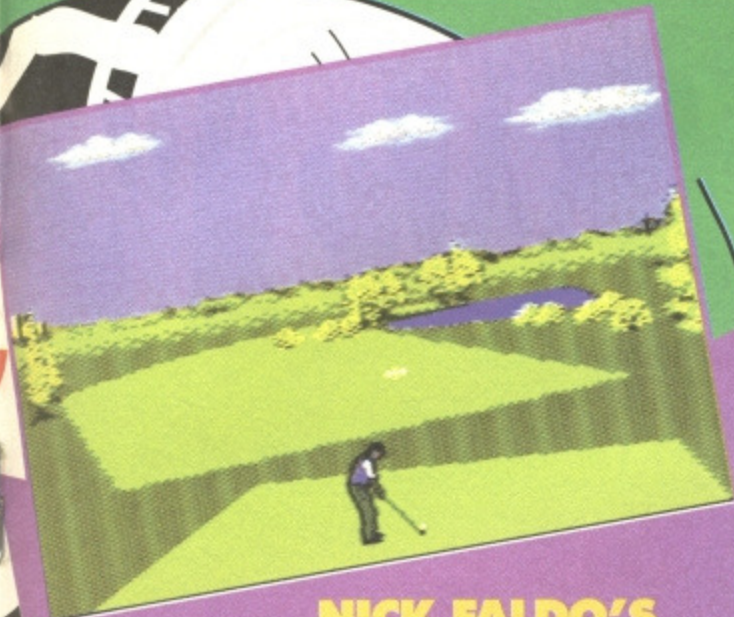
Originally released: 1991

Of the green baize contenders, *American 3D Pool* came tops by a small piece of blue chalk. It's not the flashiest of cue and ball conversions but it sure is the most playable (although being *American Pool* some of the rules are a bit odd at first). You line up your shots from a 2D perspective and then the view switches to 3D for the action. You can play against the computer, or, better still, against any number of friends in a

tournament. There are also a number trick shots you can try out if you want to look really flash (*or foolish? - Ed*).

Available from Amma Software





NICK FALDO'S CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF

(Grandslam)

Originally released: 1992

Golf works brilliantly on computer as long as the programmers get the formula right. And they certainly did with *Nick Faldo's*. Admittedly, in terms of the control over the variables (strength of stroke, direction, choice of clubs) and the hitting system there is little to choose between this game and *World Class Leaderboard*. But *Nick* wins out in one major respect – the speed at which it redraws the fairway after you've hit the ball. In fact, it's so classily presented that it's got immense crossover appeal – it's the one sports sim that people who hate sports sims should have.

Available from
Software City



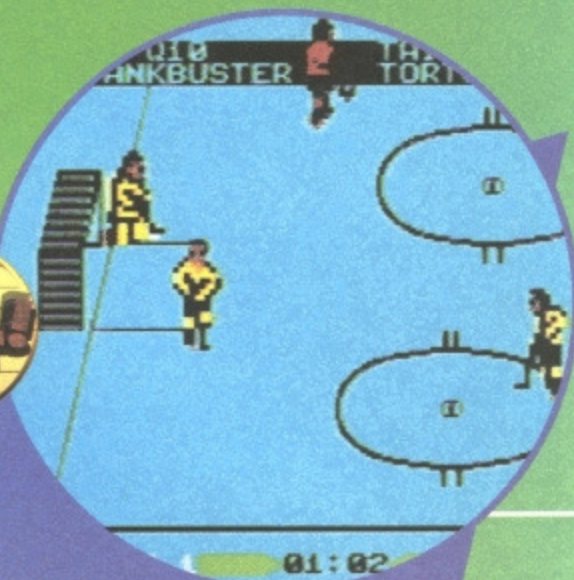
IT'S A CROAKER: INTERNATIONAL ICE HOCKEY

(Zeppelin)

Originally released: 1988

Aaargh! You feel like you've got about as much control over this game as you would over a car that's had its breaks cut, steering wheel wrenched out and gear lever jammed and is now quite happily cascading down a hill. The ONLY decent point about it is that you can change all the players into penguins (just hold down Fire and the back arrow).

Available from EDOS



RBI 2

(Hit Squad)

Originally released: 1991

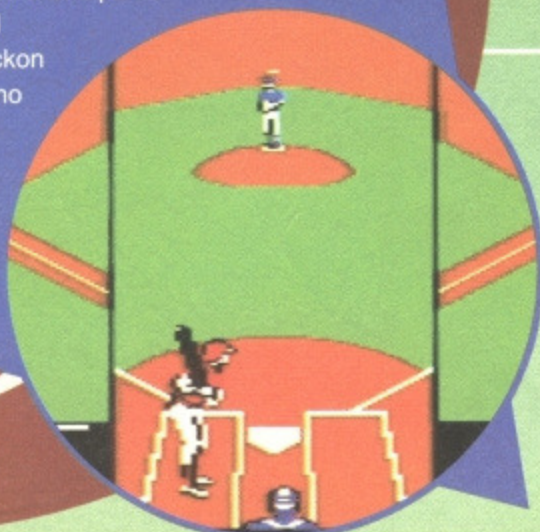
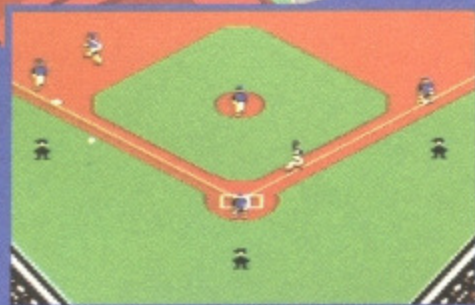
Come on. Own up. Has anyone ever actually seen a copy of *RBI 1*? Did it even exist? It's one of life's great mysteries.

But what the heck

when we've got *RBI 2* which, logic suggests, must be the superior of the two. Baseball on the C64 has never been better. *RBI 2* is smoother than a cream in a Twinky© with the kind of control system that a particularly dim amoeba could understand.

But don't reckon that makes it too simple, no siree, no way. Played against the computer *RBI 2*'s rewardingly challenging, and better still against a friend who's as good (as rubbish) as you are.

Generally available



CHECK 'EM OUT

Kick Off 2 (Anco)

Available from Wizard

Well, it's okay, but overrated. There are some amusingly annoying bugs

and it's hard to tell which man you've got

control over but it's still feverishly fast footie.

Emlyn Hughes International Soccer (Touchdown)

Available from Software City

A weird perspective (you view the game from the side of the pitch) and a decent control system, but it's all a bit slow.

Rugby The World Cup (Domark)

Available from Wizard Games

Tried to be the *Kick Off* of Rugby, and it succeeded. Fun, but not an awful lot of depth.

Jahangir Khan World Championship Squash (Krisalis)

Generally available

Certainly the best of the squash games around, but that really isn't saying much.

International 3D Tennis (GBH)

Available from Amma Software

If you can stop laughing at the stick-men players, this is actually an immensely playable sim.



ARCADE ADVENTURE

DAVE GOLDER (CF23 - NOW)

Arcade action *är-kad' ak'shen*, adj. 1. That bit in *Terminator 2* when Arnie and the T1000 slug it out in an amusement arcade. 2. A game in which both your joystick dexterity and puzzle-solving are tested; many would say the ultimate computer game format. I certainly would. I reckon that the games recommended here aren't just the best arcade adventure games for the C64, they're the very best games ever in any genre. Period. So if you haven't got all of them (except the Croaker of course) do yourself a favour and get 'em right now!



FIRST SAMURAI (UBI Soft)

Originally released: 1991 or 1993 (depending on your point of view)
There was a gap of over a year between *CF* reviewing this game and you lot finally being able to buy it (it wasn't our fault Robert Maxwell fell off a boat and sank Mirrorsoft!), but it was well worth the wait. An oriental adventure in which you're pitted against a Demon King (aren't you always?), *First Samurai* has gorgeous graphics, glorious gameplay and an addiction factor that raised questions in the House of Commons. But then you'd expect nothing less from Commodore stalwarts Mev Dinc and John Twiddy, the men who also brought you *Last Ninja* and *Time Machine*.
Generally available



BATMAN - THE CAPED CRUSADER

(Hit Squad)

Originally released: 1989

Nope, this isn't the game of the film, and it's not really the game of the TV programme either, but stylistically it's certainly based firmly in the 60s camp (*groan!* - Ed). It has a comic strip feel to it, with screens framed like comic strip panels that stack up on top of each other and very over-the-top sprites (Batty's chest bulges more than Trent's wallet). There are two action-packed adventures to play, one against the Penguin the other against the Joker, and they're both really rather good and really tricky.

Available from Amma Software



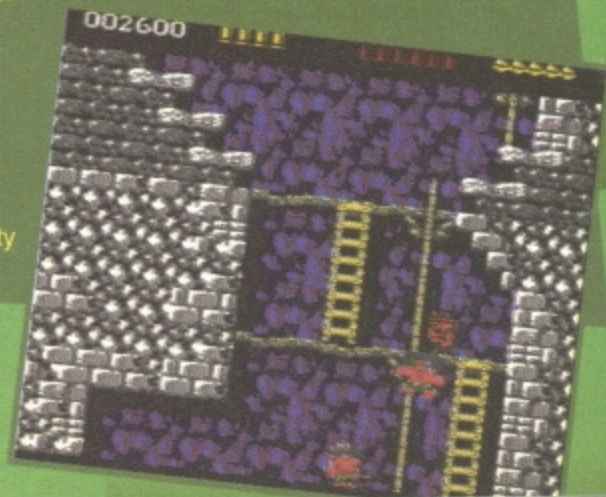
RICK DANGEROUS 2

(Kixx)

Originally released: 1990

I admit that I'm biased here and would have stuck both of Rick's games in the Top Five given the chance. But as *CF* is a democracy - ie, Trent forced me to choose one or the other - so *Rick 2* got the vote, because, for once, bigger does mean better. It was Core Design's last project before they went solo and a pretty darned good job of a swansong they did too. This time the not-at-all-inspired-by-Indiana-Jones-honest-guv hero blasts into outer space to save the Earth. Superb graphics, loads of bonus rooms, smooth controls, tons of playability - *Rick Dangerous 2* has got the lot.

Generally available



ADVENTURE

EXILE (Audiogenic)

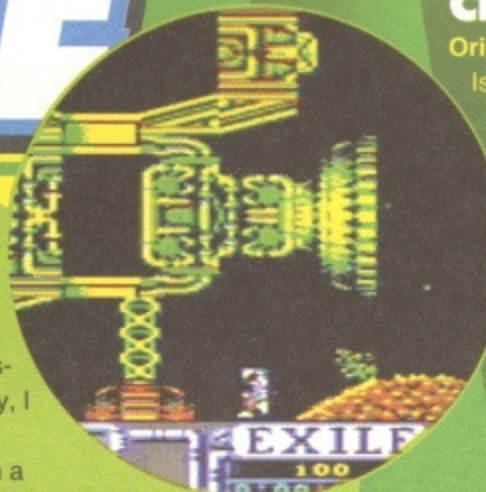
Originally released: 1991

Forgotten classics: *The Last Star Fighter*, *Star Cops*, Horror Bag crisps, *Exile*. All of them deserve reassessment, but there's only room for one here. So... blimey, I used to love those cheese flavoured... (snip - Ed)

Okay... *Exile* is a complex, multi-layered game with a deceptively simple plot. As a jet-packing space marine you have to reach the subterranean laboratory of the evil scientist Triax. What makes it's so brilliant is that the just about everything on screen accurately obeys the laws of physics. Add that to an incredibly versatile hero sprite, a huge map and more deft little touches than a Brazilian cup final and you've got a game that deserves to be in everybody's collection.

Exile's complex controls take some getting used to, but the rewards are great.

Available from Software City



CREATURES 2 (Thalamus)

Originally released: 1992

Is there anything left to be said about this game? Who cares if there isn't? You can never praise *Creatures 2* enough. It's an awesome game from Apex, the team responsible for *Cyberdyne Warrior* and the original *Creatures*. But *Creatures 2* is the pinnacle (I couldn't bring myself to say apex) of their output (so far, see p.27). It's a grisly affair in which you, playing Fuzzie Clyde Radcliffe, have to rescue your Fuzzie fellows from evil torturers. The puzzles are ingenious, the graphics are amongst the best you'll ever see on the 64 and there are some deliciously silly sub-games.

Generally available



LITTLE PUFF

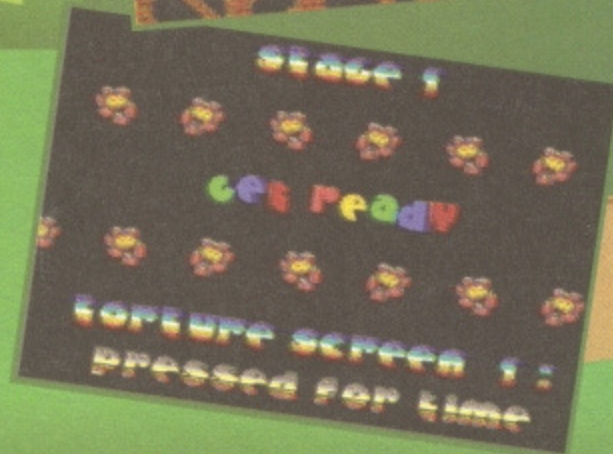
(CodeMasters)

Originally released: 1990

Okay, *DJ Puff* was a great game but, don't ever, ever, ever be fooled into buying its predecessor. As with the original *Street Fighter*, you wonder how *Little Puff* ever managed to spawn such a brilliant sequel. It's stunningly, awfully, appallingly, terribly bad and altogether not very good.

The animation's rough, the puzzles sub-Dizzy standard and the character too twee for all but the toughest of tastes to tolerate. Look I know I'm having a bit of a go, but it's just that in comparison *DJ Puff's Volcanic Caper* was so good!

Available (if you're really desperate) from CodeMasters



CHECK 'EM OUT

Rick Dangerous (Kixx)

Generally available

The original Rick is still stonkingly good fun. Fast action and excellent graphics throughout.

Dizzy Prince Of the Yolk Folk (CodeMasters)

Generally available

Okay, generally here at CF we loathe the ovoid one, but we grudgingly have to admit that this episode in his adventures wasn't half bad at all, actually.



Rick's first adventure.

DRIVING GAMES

LISA KELLET

(CF30 - NOW)

Hmm, I'm not sure how I ended up hosting this section. I haven't even got a driving licence. The nearest I get is when I drive people round the bend by nattering on about all the latest goss'. By the way did you know that Trent... (snip! - Ed). Anyway, I feel honoured to have been asked choose my five top racing games (though I suspect it has more to do with Roger being in the US and Sean Masterson having vanished off the face of the Earth). And here they are starting with... what was it Trenton? (Psst! Lotus Esprit Turbo Challenge - Ed)... So it was!



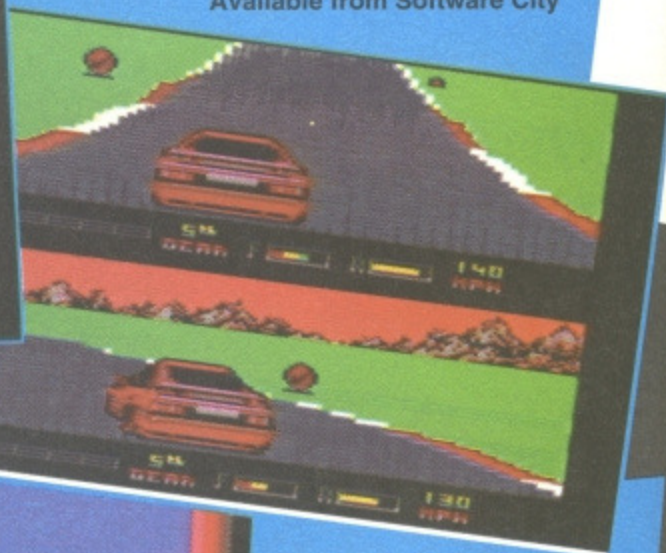
LOTUS ESPRIT TURBO CHALLENGE (GBH)

Originally released: 1991

One of the best-selling games ever on the C64, *LETC* offers one of the most exciting two-player modes around. But that's not the only impressive thing about the game; how do 32 increasingly difficult tracks grab you? Or what about the options for manual or automatic gear boxes and three difficulty levels? And if that hasn't convinced you, the fact that the action is stupefyingly fast, the graphics are mightily impressive and the control system is about as responsive as you could hope for should. Lotuses are such sexy (hrrumph! - Ed) cars they deserve a game this good.

Available from Software City

LOTUS ESPRIT TURBO CHALLENGE



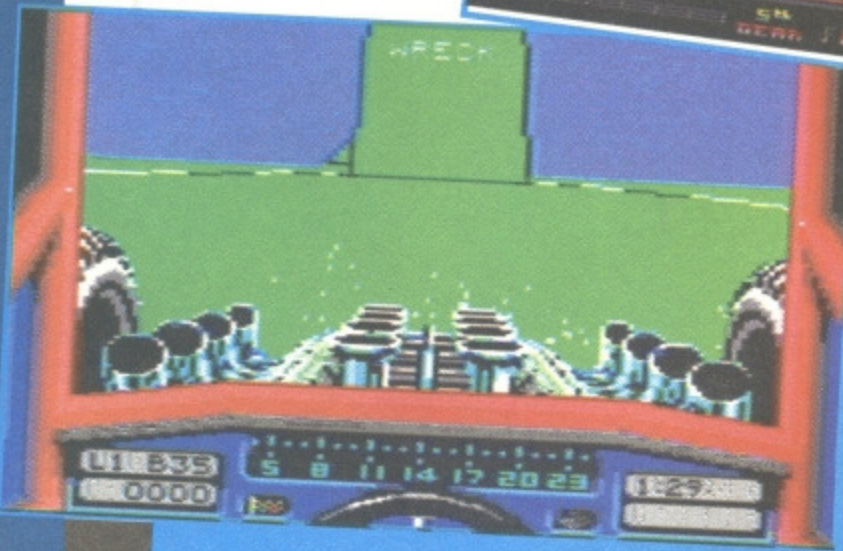
OUTRUN EUROPA

(Kick Start)

Originally released: 1991

This was the third game in the *Outrun* series (following *Outrun* and *Turbo Out Run*) and the only one not to be based on a coin-op. It's a mad dash across Europe using all sorts of vehicles - a Porsche (ooh, definitely my type of car), a motor bike, jet skis - in a bid to recover some stolen documents from Germany. It's a slick, stylish game with a plot that adds an edge to the high-speed action and the different vehicles you get to control keep the gameplay fresh.

Generally available



STUNT CAR RACER (Kixx)

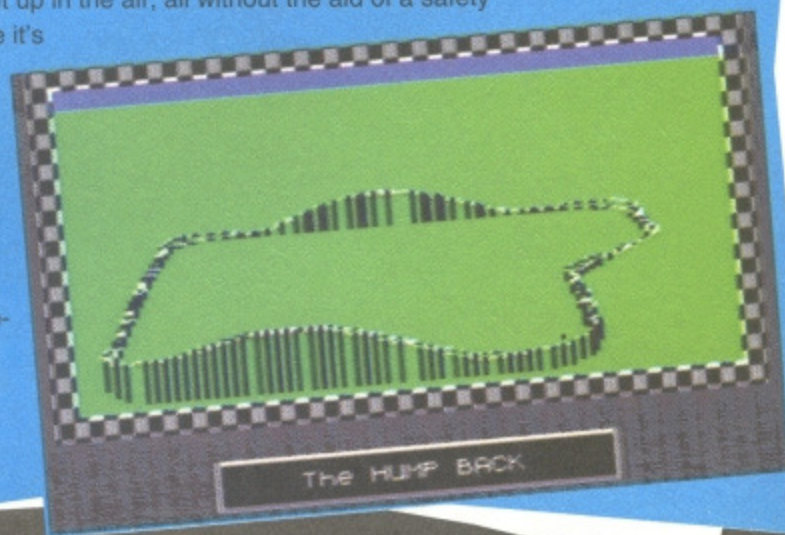
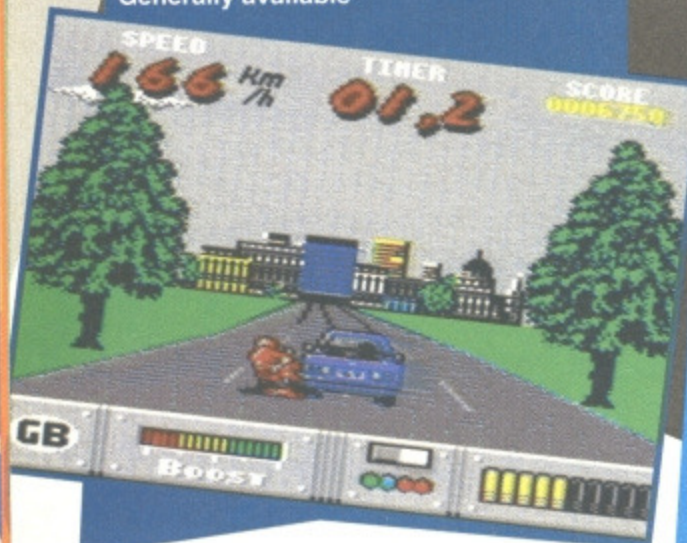
Originally released: 1989

This bears about as much resemblance to reality as an episode of *Neighbours* (especially the one where Daphne gave birth with her knickers on), so you can't exactly call it a sim. But blow realism, this is the most amazing driving experience you can have on the C64.

You drive a reinforced buggy around a bumpy, twisty and frankly very dangerous circuit that's a few hundred feet up in the air, all without the aid of a safety

net. If you go off the side it's straight down for you, matey - there's no corner cutting here. *Stunt Car Racer* is fast, addictive and exhilaratingly challenging action all the way, but then what else would expect from the programming genius that is Geoff Crammond?

Generally available



AMES

CISCO HEAT

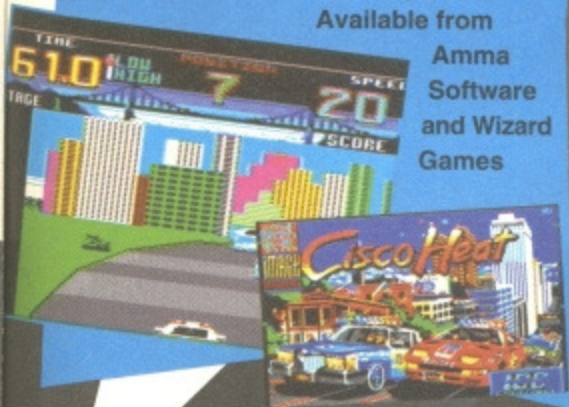
(Image Works)

Originally released: 1992

Less of the high speed chase through the streets of San Francisco that it tries to be and more of Monday morning stuck in a ten-mile traffic jam on the M25 between junctions 12 and 13. The frame rate is slower than the Embassy Snooker finals and you seem to be racing along the world's longest zebra crossing. Terrible.

Available from

Amma Software and Wizard Games

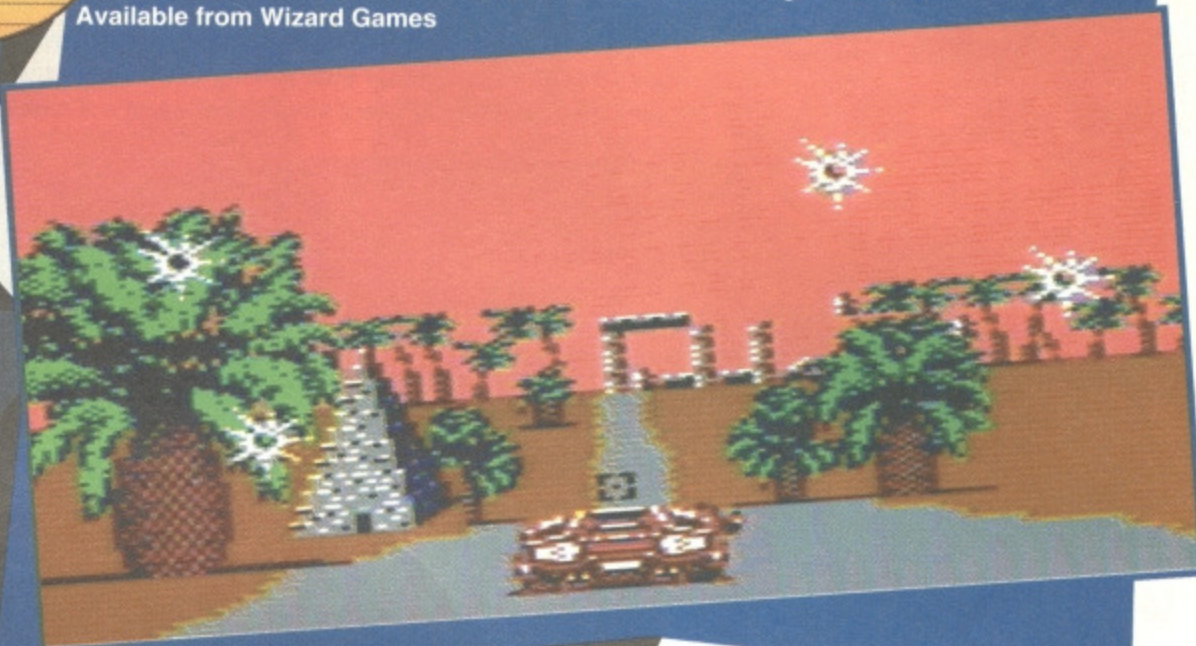


TURBOCHARGE (System 3)

Originally released: 1991

Rumoured to be the fastest game ever on the C64, *Turbocharge* doesn't compromise any graphical detail or gameplay to accommodate this turn of speed. You're a customs officer in a missile-armed Lamborghini who's on the international trail of terrorists who have swiped some arms from the US army. You race through various countries shooting everything that gets in the way while being blasted by enemy cars and aircraft. Oh there's also a fuel shortage to contend with! *Turbocharge* features incredible attention to detail and more action than all the *Rambo* films put together. An unusual feature that works brilliantly is the steering – the car stays in a fixed position while the road appears to move. This may sound odd but it helps a great deal when it comes to avoiding obstacles.

Available from Wizard Games



CHECK 'EM OUT

Slicks (CodeMasters) Generally available

A reasonable-enough overhead racer with small but perfectly formed cars.

Super Monaco GP (Kixx)

Available from Software City

This is a fairly decent conversion of the coin-op that put you in the cockpit of a

Formula One car.

Okay, but not an essential buy.

Chase HQ 2: SCI (Ocean)

Available from Software City

The sequel to *Chase HQ*, and the better of the two, but it still lacks excitement

despite

being able to

blast away at

the other cars. It's

fast but annoyingly

jerky. One for the

serious C64

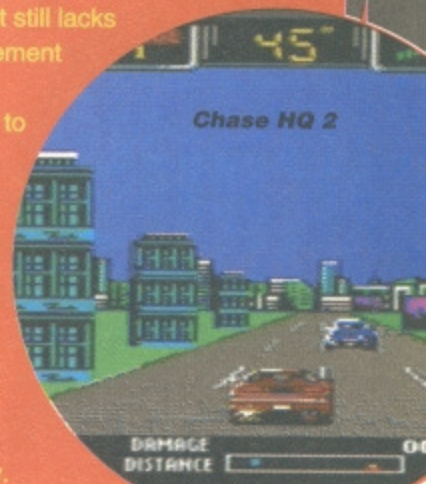
racer fans only.



Supercars



Super Monaco



Chase HQ 2

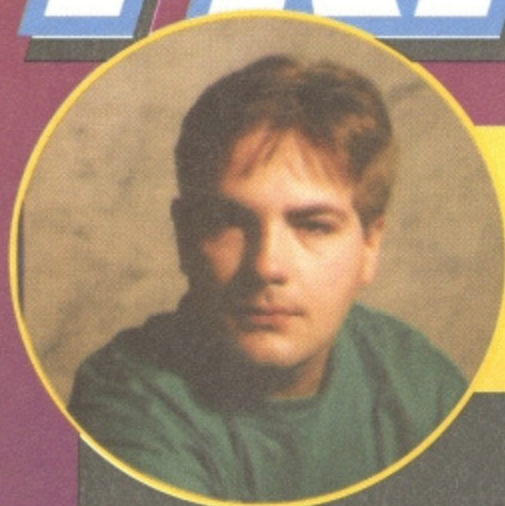
SUPERCARS (GBH)

Originally released: 1991

Supercars flies the chequered flag for overhead-viewed racers. It offers nine tracks of motorised mechanical mayhem (as they used to say in *Wacky Races*) in which the cars don't just race against each other, they also try to blast each other into mounds mangled metal. These cars, you see, appear to have been customised by the same people who did the bodywork on the cars in *Mad Max 2*; some of them are more like exceptionally nippy tanks than rally cars. You start off with a bog-standard vehicle with pea shooters for weapons, but the more money you win, the more enhancements you can make to your car. And you'll need them, because each track is more difficult than the last. It's a blast!

Generally available

FRP & RPG



JAMES LEACH (CF18 - CF26)

Computers take the work out of Fantasy and Role Playing Games, which is just as well because when it comes down to it I'm a lazy so and so. When you play these games for 'real' they're a mass of tables, weirdly-shaped dice and poncey elves called Barry. Your C64 can do all that for you, leaving you free to explore. Oh, and keep a reasonable map. Oh, and pay attention to every single detail. And not name your ranger Barry!

LORDS OF MIDNIGHT

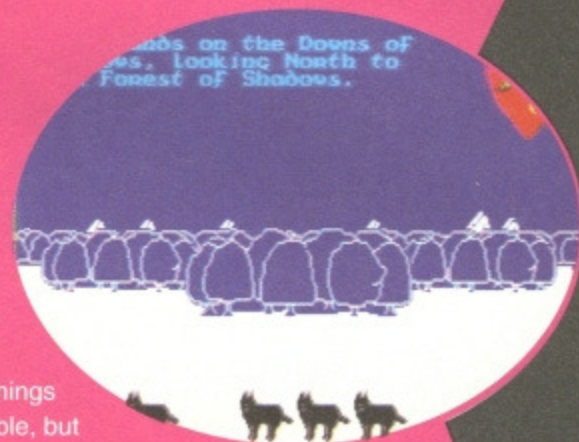
(Julian Rignall's Top Ten)

Originally released: 1985

Time's not been kind to Mr *Midnight*. Eight years of advances in graphics make poor *Lord* looking deeply sad, if not clinically depressed. In eight years, though, few games have even come close to *Of's* level of absorbing gameplay.

Mike Singleton's classic graphic adventure (one of the very first, in fact) sets you up as a warrior Lord who must use his minions to capture, conquer and other things beginning with C the world. It may look bloomin' 'orrible, but it's still brilliant to play!

Generally available.



DRILLER

(Virtual Worlds Compilation)

Originally released: 1988

Somewhat foolishly you've allowed yourself to be beamed on to a mining planet which is just about to explode. The only way to stop it is to position a series of rigs that will safely vent the planet's rising gas levels. Sculpted

in *Freescape™*, this game has you flying around the massive, deserted buildings and it's real spooky. And thanks to the 3D effects you get both beautiful gameplay and atmospheric alien graphics right in your face!

Generally available.



ELITE (Rainbird)

Originally released: 1985

Okay I know that *Elite* isn't strictly an RPG, but what other category would it live in? (And we really wanted to recommend it somewhere.) It may look like a flight sim but you fly through space. It may look like a strategic trading game, but you get involved in laser duels. The fighting may make it seem like a shoot-

'em-up but there are huge missions to complete. *Elite* basically has it all. It creates a wire-frame universe in which you can pursue a career of either good or evil. It develops slowly but is worth the wait!

Generally available.



PRODUCT	UNIT PRICE	UNIT	TOTAL
Food	2.00	100	200.00
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Missiles	1.00	100	100.00
Starships	1.00	100	100.00
Other Items	0.25	100	25.00

HEROQUEST

HEROQUEST

(GBH)

Originally released: 1991

Based on the world-beating board game, *HeroQuest* brought arcade practices to the RPG world. 12 missions await the four warriors. Monsters must be slain, magic spells cast and fiendish puzzles unpuzzled fiendishly. It looks simple but the speed at which the game can be played soon

lets you rush in where

angels (and we're talking the large leather-clad gentlemen with Harley

Davidsons) fear to

tread! And for the seasoned

*HeroQuest*er there's the *Return of the WitchLord* Expansion Pack to keep 'em adventuring.

Generally available.



CHECK 'EM OUT

Space Crusade

(Gremlin)

Generally available

The description

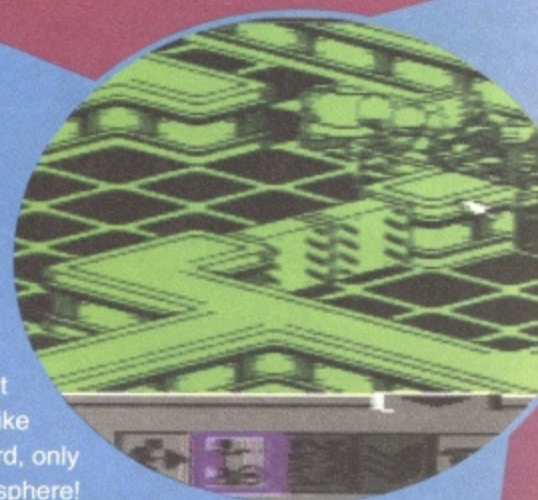
"*HeroQuest* with guns"

sounds a little harsh, but

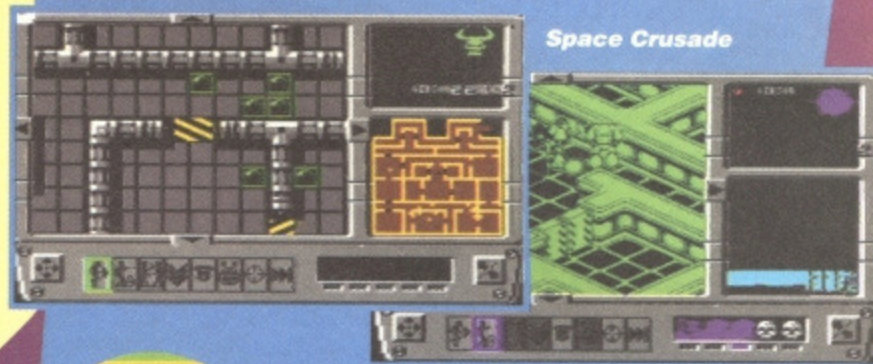
it's a compliment! Just like

HQ it plays fast and hard, only

with a cyberpunk atmosphere!



Space Crusade



Lord Of The Rings

Lord of the Rings

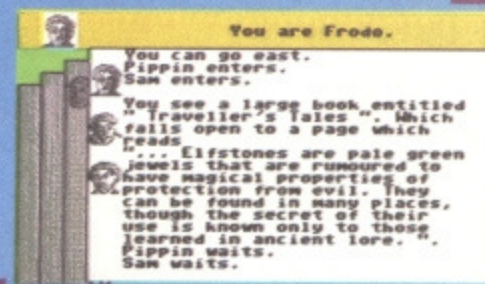
(Melbourne House) Generally available on the Tolkien Trilogy.

Taking the classic tale as its inspiration, this graphic adventure allows you to explore Middle Earth and interact with famous fantasy folk. The fact that it's only available as part of a trilogy is actually good

news, as

you also get

the excellent *Hobbit* and the fairly average *Shadows Of Mordor* to play as well. In fact the *Tolkien Trilogy* is almost as big a challenge as trying to plough through the books!



Lord Of The Rings

ELVIRA 2

(Flair)

Originally released:

1992

Queen B productions' finest moment is marred by the kidnapping of its biggest star (in more than one

respect) and boss, Elvira. Some schmuck has to go and find her.

Guess who that might be? Brilliant player's point-of-view graphics bring this game to life. Corpses fall out of closets, bats loom out of the dark and a seemingly ceaseless procession of folk who would like to kill you in one way or another populate the game.

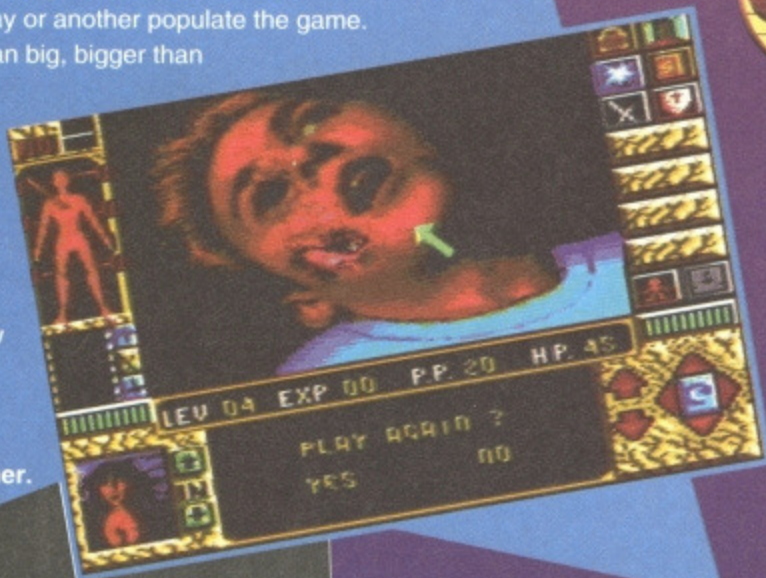
Elvira 2's big, bigger than big, bigger than

bigger than big, bigger than bigger than bi...

(yeah, we get the idea, *James - Ed*) but there's

a price to pay for such sweet sights - this is possibly the worst multiload nightmare imaginable. Few such loading slogs reward you with such gameplay or graphics, though!

Available from the Publisher.



It's a Creaker!

Adventures are a weird genre.

It's easy to find games that

everybody recognises as classics but

it's almost impossible to find ones that every-

body hates - okay, loads of people hate all

adventures, period, because they are such an

idiosyncratic style of game. But this section

wasn't designed for them (get thee to a

shoot-'em-up section, as my old mate Shakey

used to say). So I'm sorry team, I can't do this

bit. Do you want to put a silly pic of a frog in here

instead? No...? That was the kind of humour we

used to indulge in when I was on the mag.



STRATEGY



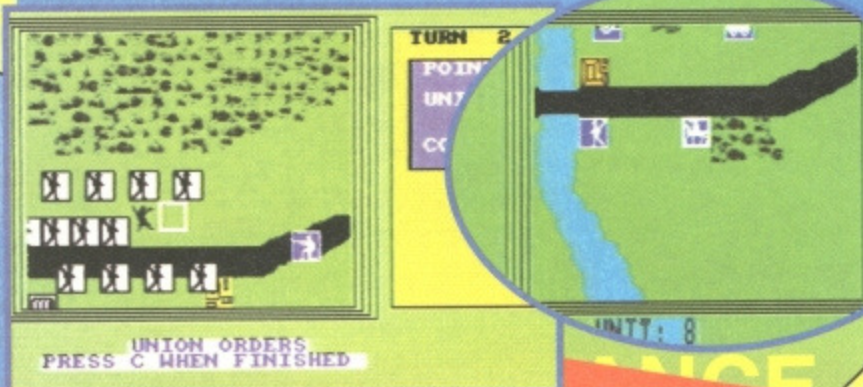
COLIN CAMPBELL (CF14 - CF17)

For me the best games are those which force you to think. Games that force you recognise tactical patterns, balance disparate forces and use limited resources for maximum effect. When you win, you know why. It's good for the ego, but it also leaves you pondering other possible outcomes or permutations. Strategy games force you to work for your victory, but who says an easy life would be fun anyway?

JOHNNY REB 2 (Lothlorien)

Originally released: 1986

In a spooky art-imitates-the-FA Cup kind of way the North and South (of America, that is) are locked a hostile civil war. Forget all that 'brother fighting brother' and 'Red Badge of Courage' malarkey, this is a serious wargame, and so life is cheap – or at least easily re-loadable. You're the general who's charged with winning each battle by deciding where each unit should move and who they should shoot at. Best played against a friend, it's a fast wargame that really makes you feel good about sending thousands to their death. Generally available.



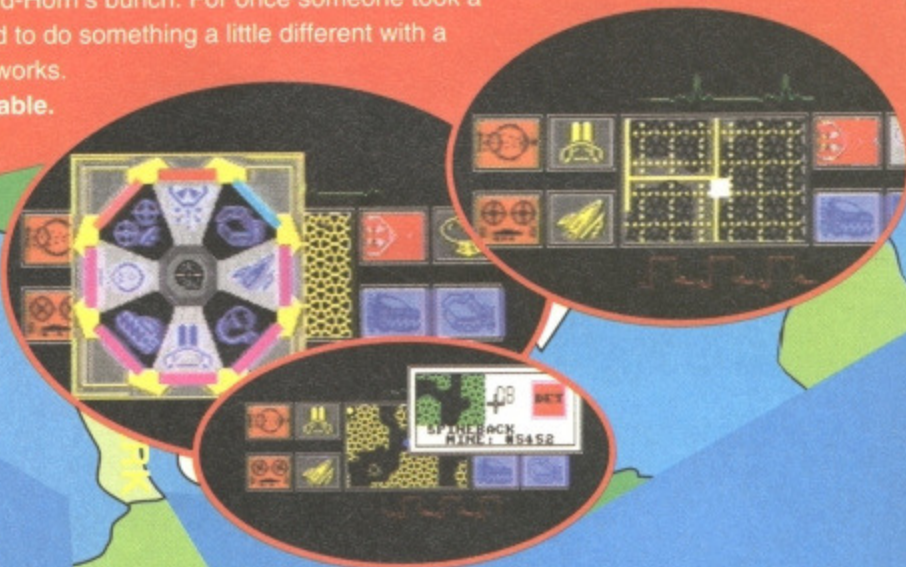
ZOIDS

(Big Box 2/Julian Rignall's Top Ten)

Originally released: 1986

Clockwork plastic toy dinosaurs might seem like weird things to base a strategy game on but don't hold that against this superb slice of software. Two opposing forces of *Zoids* (red and blue) are going at it hammer and tongs, fighting for control of a dwindling supply of minerals. You must marshal your small *Zoid* force so that it can withstand the fearsome onslaught of Red-Horn's bunch. For once someone took a chance and tried to do something a little different with a licence – and it works.

Generally available.



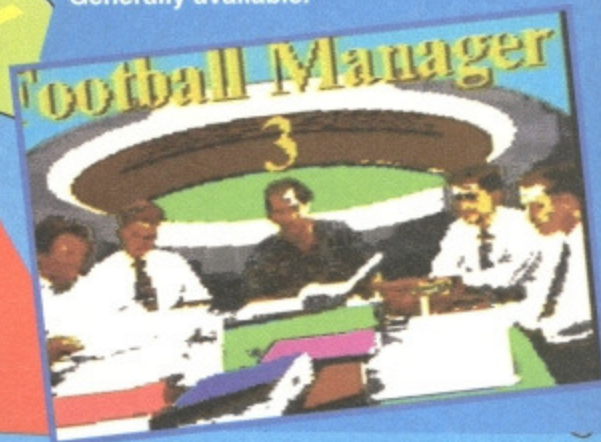
FOOTBALL MANAGER 3

(Addictive)

Originally released: 1993

Controlling a footie club is no breeze – just ask Messers Clough and Venables! *Football Manager 3* gives you all the power and responsibility but takes away the painful repercussions of unemployment (and being publicly humiliated in the tabloids). Awaiting your every whim, word and wondrous decision is an ailing third division footie club. All you have to do is win the Premier League. Easy really! Neat icon controls and good match info make this one a must for a serious power freaks!

Generally available.



COLOSSUS CHESS 4 (CDS)

Originally released: 1987

Well it's Chess, it's colossal and it's the fourth in the series. There's not really a lot more you can say than that. It's the classic strategic board game bought to life on your C64. The graphics are

hardly stunning – what would

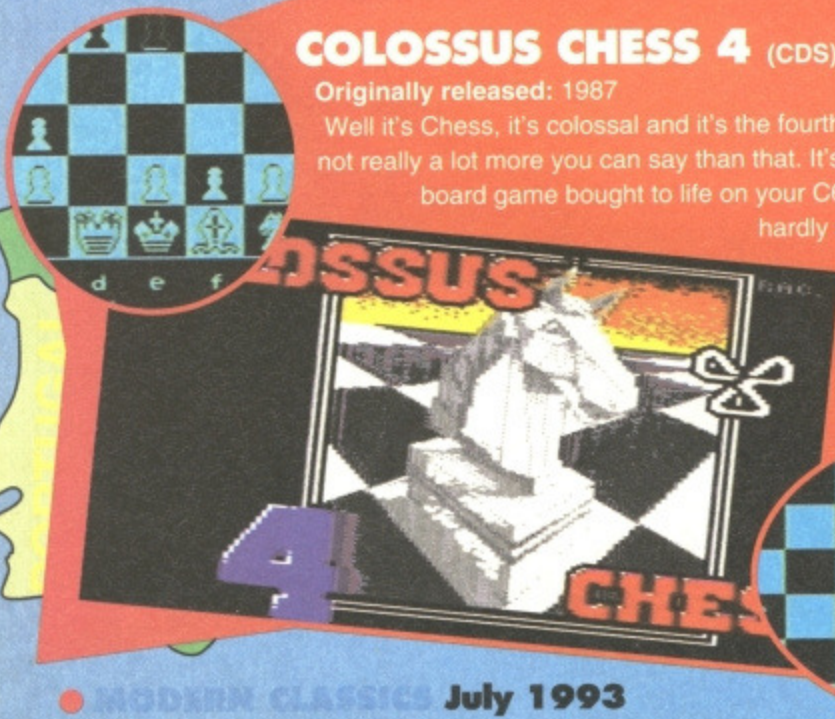
you expect? – but it

plays a mean game.

Do your brain a favour

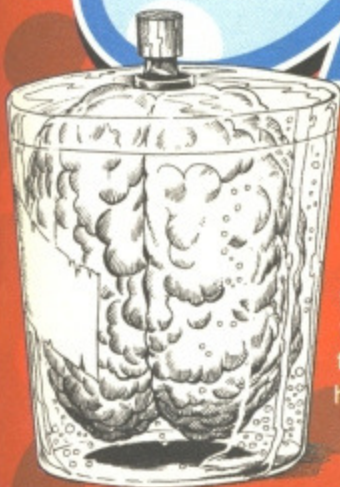
and give check this out.

Generally available



MODERN
CLASSICS

ODDITIES



THE MIGHTY BRAIN (CF1-NOW)

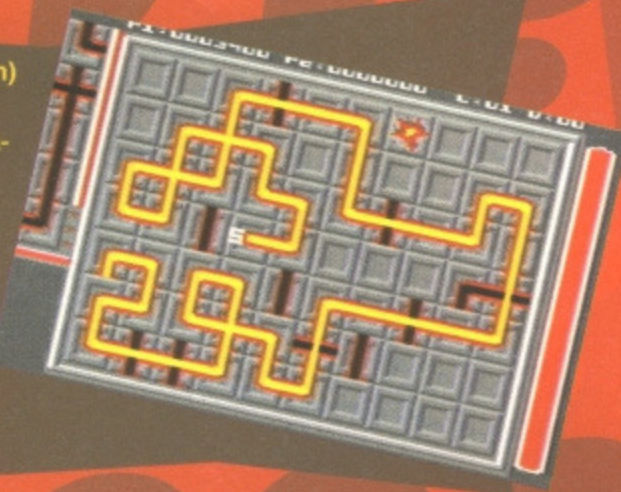
Typical. I get to do the leftovers, the games that don't fit into any other categories. This is the way I always get treated by that irksome Webb fellow. I was going to use a bit of telepathic manipulation on him, but when I thought about it, there are some mighty fine games that cry out to be recommended but aren't, well, pigeon-hole-able. So yes, I will host this section, but still under protest – it's the principle of the matter that counts. Besides telepathy requires your 'victim' to have a brain!

PIPEMANIA (Touchdown)

Originally released: 1989

Long before Mario became an international superstar computer plumbing was championed by this Corker of a puzzler. You try to keep the ever-advancing ooze flowing by placing oddly-shaped, randomly-selected pieces of pipe on a grid. Fast, furious and frustrating it's the puzzle game that even non-puzzle fans love.

Generally available



UGH! (Global Software)

Originally released: 1992

Not so much a case of *Ugh!* as *Ooh!* About as historically inaccurate as you can get with a little caveman in a bamboo-constructed taxi-helicopter who has to pick up fares and deliver them. A sure and precise touch is the key to success in this one.

Available from Software City



KLAX (Tengen/Domark)

Originally released: 1990

The big publicity hoo-hah about this concerned the fact that it was supposed to be the first ever game that was released on home computer and into the arcades on the same day. Guess what? The computer version was a tad late. But it was worth the wait. Blocks roll along conveyor belt towards you and you have to catch them on a paddle and deposit them in the grid in the hope of making point-scoring lines. Okay, it's another *Tetris* variant, but the variations make for a refreshingly original slant on the genre.

Available from Direct Software



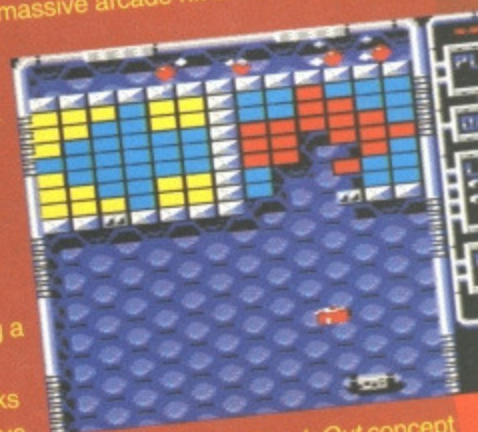
ARKANOID (The Hit Squad)

Originally released: 1986

Back in 1986 Taito took one of the most ancient arcade games formats, *Break Out*, spruced it up a bit, called it *Arkanoid* and had a massive arcade hit on their hands.

Not long after that the C64 version came out and likewise, it was hugely successful. And it's still worth searching out. The basic idea of bouncing a ball off a wall to destroy the bricks is still as addictive as ever and the enhancements to the *Break Out* concept – pick-ups giving you double-width bats, extra lives, laser fire and other goodies – make it double plus good.

Available from Wizard Games and Software City



PUZZNIC (Ocean)

Originally released: 1990

Of Ocean's pair of P-prefaced puzzle games that came in 1990, *Puzznic* left *Plotting* pottering around in the realms of also-rans. It's gritted-teeth-inducing gameplay involved getting similarly-marked blocks to collide with each other and vanish before the screen filled up. Okay it sounds like *Tetris*, and it is similar, but we reckon it's a lot more fun, and certainly better-looking.

Available from Amma Software and Wizard Games



KENTUCKY RACING

(Alternative)

A fairground sideshow sim which has less point to its existence than the zip orn Trenton's wallet. Basically by throwing balls into high-scoring holes you move a horse along a track. It's got a two-player mode, but you'd be hard pressed to find anyone dim enough to join you in a game. Truly dreadful.

Available from Wizard Games





WHAT YOU CAN GET AND WHERE YOU CAN GET IT If it's a C64 game and it's still on sale, then it'll be in the CF mega-list of over 1,000 C64 games currently available.

Table listing various C64 games and their availability. Columns include game titles and their corresponding availability codes (e.g., P/T/D, Amma/T, Wizard/T, City/T, Direct, G, /T, /D, /Cart).

FREE, GRATIS, FOR NOTHING If you've tried everywhere and no one seems to have heard of that game you desperately want, then we have the answer. Starting next month we'll be running free reader ads in the mag. Turn to this month's TMB (page 29) for more details.

IT'S THE KEY-TYPE THING Available from EDOS Available from the publisher Available on a compilation (followed by the name of the relevant compilation) Amma Available from Amma Software Wizard Available from Wizard Games City Available from Software City Direct Available from Direct Software G Generally available from most mail order companies /T Available on cassette (well, we've already used C for compilations) from that supplier /D Available on disk from that supplier /Cart Available on cart from that supplier

PIRATES OFF THE STARBOARD BOW, SIR If you've ever offered illegal software make a mental note of who offered it, where and when. When you get home contact The Federation Against Software Theft (FAST) at 2 Lake End Court, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 0JQ ☎ 0628 660377.

GAMEBUSTERS

CAULDRON 2

Power Pack 31

Richard Beckett is back again, doing what he does best – solving our troublesome Power Pack games. If you'd like to succeed on this massive arcade adventure, read on. Oh, and L is go left, R is go right, U is go up and D is go down in case you were wondering. First off, start and quit the game until you're at the screen with the table and the pig's head. There are four different starting positions, but this is by far the easiest. From here: L • collect BULLETS • L • D • L • D • collect first MAGIC OBJECT • R • R • hit SWITCH to raise lift • R • R • U • L • L • L • U • R • R • R • R • climb on to higher platform • L • U • L • L • U • R • R • collect second MAGIC OBJECT • U • L • U • R • R • R • D • R • collect third MAGIC OBJECT • L • L • D • L • U • L • U • U • R • R • U • L • L • collect fourth MAGIC OBJECT • L • L • U • U • L • collect fifth MAGIC OBJECT • U • R • U • U • U • U • R • U • hit SWITCH to raise lift • U • U • U • U • U • U • collect the final! MAGIC OBJECT • D • D • D • D • D • D • destroy the EVIL WITCH HAG BEAST with the magic objects to complete the game.

SNARE DEMO Power Pack 31

As you might have predicted, here's the full solution to our mouth-watering demo, lovingly carved out of the finest Beechwood by York's very own Richard Beckett.

LEVEL 1 First, blow up the bomb behind the left skeleton (on the top row of the screen), then go to the top-left of the screen to avoid the explosion. Collect the four diamonds from the bottom-right corner, then blow up the remaining skull and avoid the explosion. Move to just above the detonator, eat the strawberry to your right, then collect the diamond from behind it. Finally,



Out of the frying pan and into the Cauldron.

collect the remaining diamond to complete the first level.

LEVEL 2 Blow up the skull nearest to you, then run round the passage created by the

skulls. When you reach the end of the passage, the blocks around the diamond will have been blown up, so collect it to complete the level.

LEVEL 3 Collect the two diamonds and hit the right detonator, then go up through the gap. Collect the next two diamonds and hit the right detonator. Go up through the gap and hit the bottom-left detonator. Now collect the rest of the diamonds to (wait for it) finish the level.

LEVEL 4 Collect the right time blocks, then push a strawberry up to get to the centre section of the screen. Blow up the skull bomb to destroy the two enemies, which creates a clear path to the diamonds – collect them to complete the penultimate level.

LEVEL 5 Rather than try to discover which time blocks fill up your time, just collect the diamonds and avoid the three enemies which are released when the time runs out. And that's the demo complete!

ACTION REPLAY POKES

Here's a rather cuddly collection of Action Replay cartridge POKEs courtesy of the hard-working Richard Beckett. To use them, freeze the game (ideally on the title screen), press E to enter the pokes, then restart the game using F3.

SNARE DEMO

POKE 33752,173 – Lives

CAULDRON 2

POKE 33012,165 – Infinite lives

POKE 36152,255 – 255 lives

POKE 37633,165 – High bounce

POKE 38716,189 – Slows animation

SUBTERRANEA

POKE 4434,181 – No enemies

POKE 3069,200 – Turbo boost

POKE 3069,123 – Wobble levels

ARNIE 2 DEMO

POKE 44846,173 – Invincibility

POKE 35860,173 – No enemies

Skill, accuracy, speed, intelligence... you need all these to be a champion gamesplayer. On the other hand, you could just cheat and read Gamebusters every month instead...

REGULARS

TIP OFF 55

The pick of the hints, tips, cheats and solutions sent in by you lot.

SOS 59

You write in with gaming problems. We answer them. You look stupid. We look intelligent. What a wonderful concept.

LISTOMANIA POKERAMA 64

Er, some more listings and things.

MAPS AND SOLUTIONS

THE SIMPSONS 56

LETHAL WEAPON 60

STEEL 65

THE OTHER GAMES BUSTED THIS ISSUE...

Amazing Spiderman, The	64
APB	64
ARNIE 2 Demo	55
Avenger	64
Cauldron 2	55
Crystal Kingdom Dizzy	59
Little Computer People	64
Neil Android	59
She Vampires	59
Snare Demo	55
Spitting Image	64
Steel	59
Subterranea	55
Thrust	59
Vindicators	59
Weird Dreams	64

WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

There's a much sought-after software voucher up for grabs each and every month, awarded to the sender of the finest tips, POKEs, maps, and cheats. If you'd like to win one of these vouchers, and maybe some extra goodies, send your maps, tips, solutions, POKEs and swiss rolls to: Andy Roberts' Gamebusters, Commodore Format, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, Avon BA1 2BW.


PART 1

THE SIMPSONS

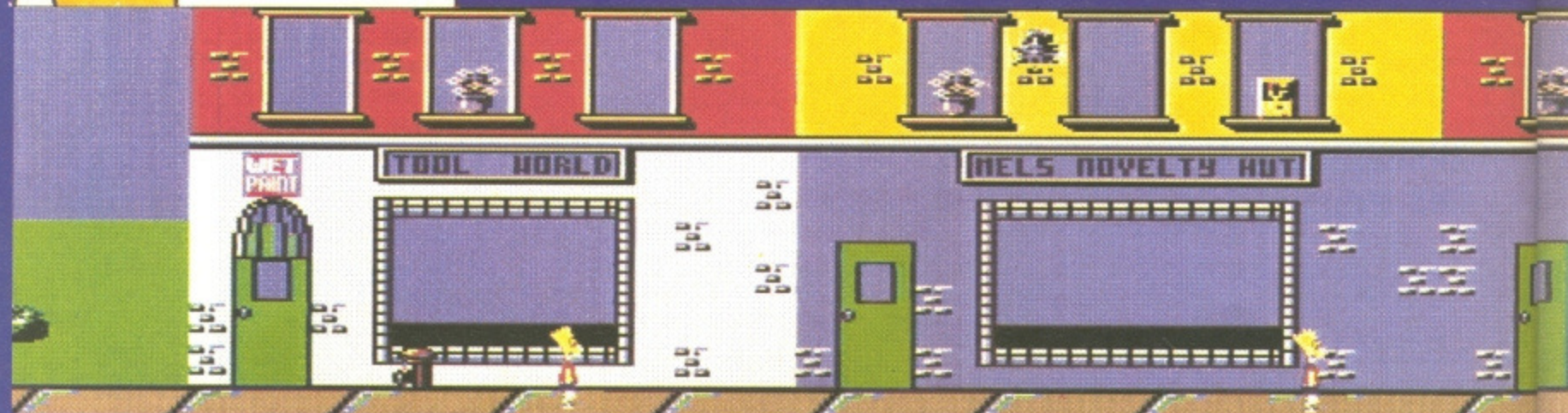
BART VS. THE SPACE MUTANTS



Springfield's been invaded by refugees from a 50s B-movie. Only you can save the Simpsons as we know them, and their chances of survival will improve considerably if you follow Andy Robert's complete solution.

From the start: when the mutant jumps right, jump on to the trash can, jump up to collect the extra life at the top of the screen. Now head right (under the mutants) until you reach Moe's Tavern – climb up on to the left window and jump left to collect the spray can. Go back to the left and spray the first trash can, as well as the purple window on the cinema. Head right until you reach the phone booth. Jump up to it and use a coin to talk to Moe. When the conversation ends, he'll come outside – spray his purple shirt.

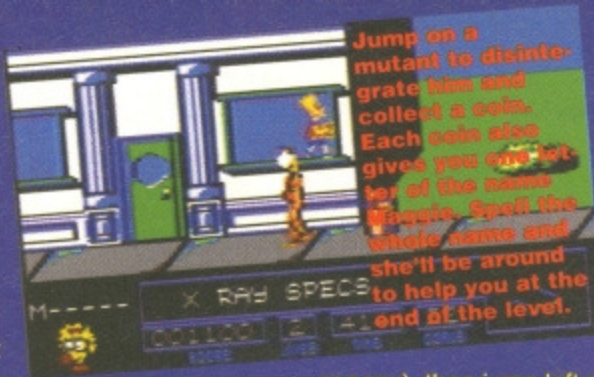
Using the phone booth as a step, jump up on to the washing line and walk right to knock



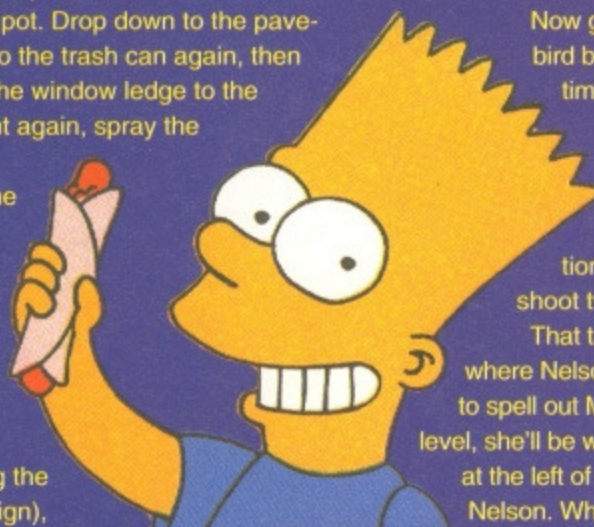
off the garments, which will cover up the purple objects underneath. Incidentally, the bush below you at this point conceals a special treat – jump up in front of it to reveal an extra life.

Head right, spray the trash can, then use it to jump up on to the window ledge. Collect the spray can, drop down, and go right. Jumping over the mutants is tricky, so take care. When you reach Tool World, go inside and buy a wrench. Leave the shop, then use the wrench on the fire hydrant – the water jet will wash away the WET PAINT sign. Oh, and don't forget to spray the fire hydrant as well.

Jump on to the window ledge, jump left on to the top of the door (which is tricky, so keep trying), jump right on to the top of the window, then jump up on to the very top window ledge. Spray the plant pot, jump right on to the next



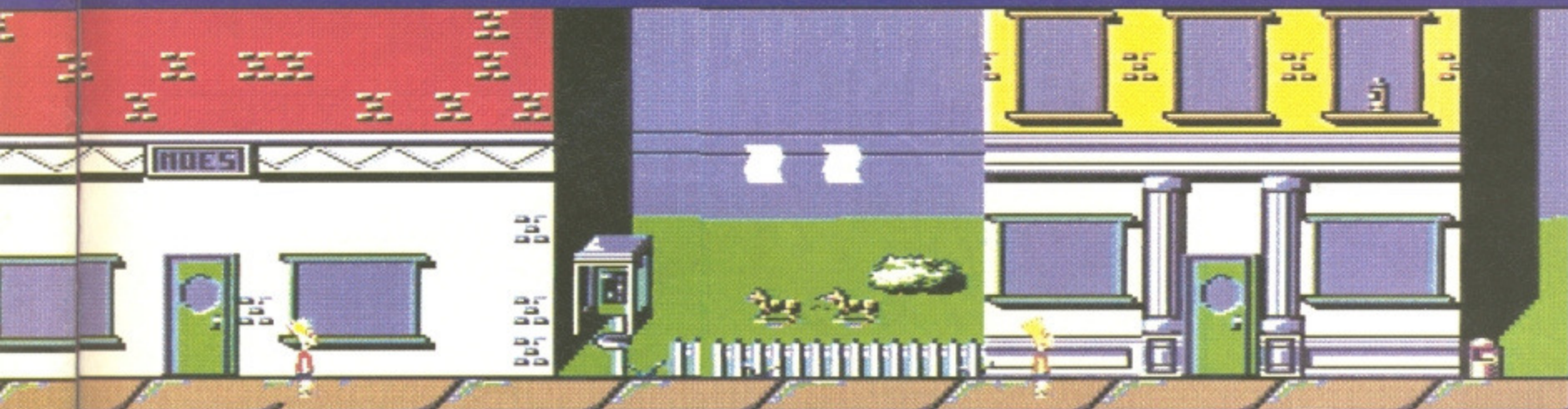
window at the far right of Candy Dandy. Jump left and knock over the paint can (which, handily, will cover the purple canopy), then jump left over the mutant and spray the plant pot. Drop down to the pavement, go right to the trash can again, then jump up on to the window ledge to the right. Jump right again, spray the plant pot, then drop down to the pavement. Stand on the bottom window ledge of the pet store, face right (so that Bart's head is almost touching the P of the shop sign),



of the building – fire a rocket towards the sign to make it red. Now head to the right, sneaking under the mutants (they're not very alert). Continue right towards the next building, run under the mutants, then face left – if you can fire a rocket to hit the centre of the yellow sign (above the doors) you'll earn an extra life.

Now go to the right and spray the next bird bath (which requires very precise timing). Continue right, dodging mutants as you encounter them. Whenever you see a purple window, fire a rocket at it (if you've followed this solution to the letter, you'll only need to shoot two of the windows).

That task complete, run to the right where Nelson's waiting. If you've managed to spell out MAGGIE during the course of the level, she'll be waiting here to help you out. Stay at the left of the screen, firing constantly at Nelson. When he fires at you, jump to avoid



window ledge, then do a super jump to reach the first window of Mel's Novelty Hut. Spray the plant pot, jump right over the mutant, then jump right again and collect the extra life.

It's time for another super jump to leap across to the first window of the Toys'n'Stuff shop. Spray the plant pot, jump to the right, jump to the right again (over the mutant) then collect the spray can. Drop down to the pavement and go left into Mel's Novelty Hut – buy a cherry bomb (which is a type of firework – CF's resident expert on all things US, Clur) and six rockets. Leave the shop and head to the right, spray the trash can and then jump up to the

then fire the cherry bomb, which should, with any luck, scare away the purple bird.

Now go right until you reach the statue. Stand one paving stone away from the base of the statue and fire a rocket to scare away the purple bird. Now head to the right, jump over the barrier, on the skateboard and prepare to jump over several sets of Scottie dogs and writhing mutants. When you reach the next barrier, jump over it to leave the skateboard section.

Go right and spray the bird bath, then continue right until you reach the Bowlaroma. Sneak under the mutants and stand at the right

his bullets. When Maggie fires a bullet, jump up to head-butt it towards Nelson. Keep calm, and you'll be off to level two in no time. But that's another story which, by some strange coincidence we'll be telling you all about in issue 36 (there's the SOS Spesh – née the Sam's Corner Spesh – next month).



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**Lives are in peril! It's a dangerous situation!
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THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN

Empire

My special spider sense warns me that Adam Warne, Billy Rowbotham, T Malone, M Gannon and Alice Dockeray are all in need of an infinite energy listing.

```
0 REM SPIDERMAN CHEAT BY WAZ
1 FOR X=336 TO 385:READ
Y:C=C+Y:POKE X,Y:NEXT
2 IF C<>5569 THEN PRINT "DATA
ERROR":END
3 POKE 157,128:SYS 336
10 DATA 032,086,245,169,032,141,085,003
11 DATA 169,104,141,086,003,169,001,141
12 DATA 087,003,076,167,002,087,065,090
13 DATA 072,234,169,000,141,032,208,173
14 DATA 173,008,201,229,208,005,169,096
15 DATA 141,173,008,234,234,104,044,013
16 DATA 220,096
```

WEIRD DREAMS

Activision

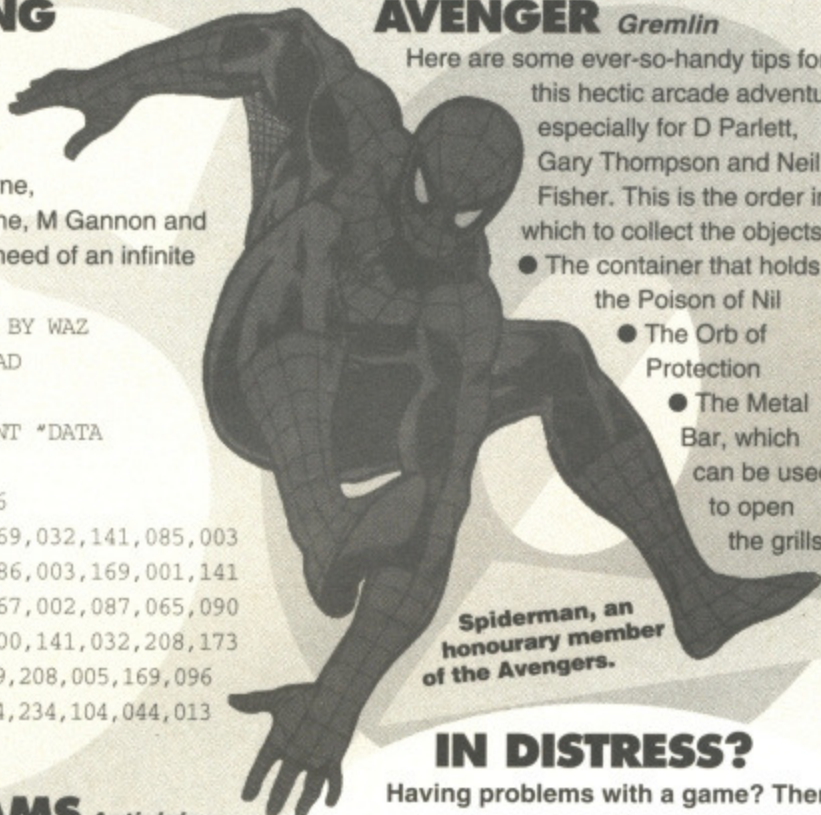
Wayne Wallwork and Darren Louth wrote in for a cheat ages ago, so it's about time we printed one. On the title screen, type DEBBIE and the music will change – you can now start the game with infinite lives. Cheers to Warren Pilkington for that little tip.

AVENGER

Gremlin

Here are some ever-so-handy tips for this hectic arcade adventure especially for D Parlett, Gary Thompson and Neil Fisher. This is the order in which to collect the objects:

- The container that holds the Poison of Nil
- The Orb of Protection
- The Metal Bar, which can be used to open the grills



Spiderman, an honorary member of the Avengers.

IN DISTRESS?

Having problems with a game? Then the CF life-savers are here. Jot down which game you're stuck on (along with the name of the publisher) on a postcard or sealed-down envelope and tell us what type of cheat you'd prefer. Include your name and address and post the whole lot to us at SOS, Commodore Format, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, Avon, BA1 2BW.

- The Enchanted Rope (from the Monks).
- Now go to the grill above the sleeping Monoric, fall into the room and grab the sword.
- Find the Manse (the flashing Monk) and touch him
- Seek out the Iron Fist. Touch the man standing next to the Horse Shoe, then collect it.
- Now go and find the Scroll
- Finally you need to find the exit, which is north-east of the main entrance.
- Once you've carried out all the tasks, go to the exit where a bridge has magically appeared. Cross it to finish the game.

APB Domark/Hit Squad

Here's a petite listing for infinite demerits, as requested by Terry Watts, Paul Swift, Matthew Nowers and a chap called Streaky. Simply type it in, SAVE it for any subsequent use, then RUN it.

```
0 REM APB CHEAT BY WAZ
1 FOR X=528 TO 556:READ Y:C=C+Y:POKE
X,Y:NEXT
2 IF C<>2679 THEN PRINT "DATA ERROR":END
3 POKE 157,128:SYS 528
4 DATA 169,029,141,040,003,169,002,141
5 DATA 041,003,032,086,245,169,150,141
6 DATA 027,001,169,125,141,029,001,169
7 DATA 188,141,030,001,096
```

SPITTING IMAGE

Hit Squad

David Scoffin is nothing like the 'spitting image' of a champion gamer (mega-groan – the rest of the CF crew) so he'd better try his luck with this mighty Martin Pugh listing for complete and total invincibility (and isn't the new series downright appalling? – Ed).

```
0 REM SPITTING CHEAT BY M PUGH
1 FOR X=517 TO 571:READ Y:C=C+Y:POKE
X,Y:NEXT
2 IF C<>5529 THEN PRINT "DATA ERROR":END
3 POKE 157,128:SYS 517
10 DATA 169,018,141,040,003,169,002,141
11 DATA 041,003,032,086,245,169,032,141
12 DATA 178,002,169,002,141,179,002,096
13 DATA 072,077,080,169,032,141,
222,003
14 DATA 169,051,141,223,003,169,
002,141
15 DATA 224,003,032,069,003,096,
238,032
16 DATA 208,169,173,141,135,014,096
```

LITTLE COMPUTER PEOPLE

Activision

If you're having a little trouble communicating with your LCP, or if you don't own a reset switch (in which case the listing in CF28 is a little redundant), here's the complete vocabulary list. Sorry about the Americanisms, y'all...

ADD • ADDITION • ALLERGIC • ALLERGY • ANAGRAMS • APATHETIC • APPEAR • APPEARS • ATTENTION • AWFUL • BEDROOM • BOOGIE • BORED • BOWL • BRUSH • BURN • CABINET •

CAN • CARD • CARDS • CHAIR • CHILLY • CLEAN • CLOSET • COLD • COMMODORE • COMPUTER • CONFIDE • COOLER • DANCE • DISH • DIVIDE • DIVISION • DO • DOG • DRESSER • DRINK • DUST • ENJOY • EXCUSE • FEED • FEVER • FILING • FILL • FIRE • FIREPLACE • FLOSS • FLUID • FLUIDS • FREEZER • FRIDGE • FUGUE • GAME • GET • GLASS • HANGMAN • HANKY • HATE • HEAR • HELLO • HEY • HOME • HOMEWORK • HOUSE • HYGIENE • IF • IGNITE • IMBIBE • IN • INSIDE • IS • IS • IVORIES • JAZZ • KEEP • KITCHEN • LETTER • LIGHT • LIKE • LIKE • LIQUID • LIQUIDS • LISTEN • LOG • LOGON • LOOK • LOOKS • MAKE • MATH • MATTER • MESSY • MOON • MULTIPLI-

CATION • MULTIPLY • MUSIC • MUTT • NIGHT- STAND • NOTE • ON • OPEN • OUGHT • PARDON • PERFORM • PET • PIANO • PICK • PLATTER • PLAY • PLAYING • PLEASE • POKER • POLLEN • POOCH • PROBLEM • PROBLEMS • PROGRAM • PUT • RECORD • REFRIGERATOR • RELAX • SEEM • SEEMS • SERENADE • SHOULD • SHOW • SLOPPY • SONATA • SONG • SPIN • START • STEREO • STORED • SUBTRACT • SUBTRACTION • TEETH • TELL • TICKLE • TIDY • TIRED • TROUBLES • TRY • TUNE • TURNTABLE • TV • TYPE • UNTIDY • UP • UPSTAIRS • USE • UTILITIES • WAR • WATER • WHAT • WHAT'S • WILL • WOULD • WRITE • YOU •

LETHAL WEAPON

PART 3



LEVEL 4.1

POLICE STATION

From the start: Shoot terrorist • get ENERGY • go right • shoot terrorist • collect AMMO • go right • get FIRE-POWER • go right • get ENERGY • right • shoot terrorist • collect AMMO • go right • get AMMO • go left • jump up on to lift and go up to next floor • left • shoot bomber and terrorist • collect ENERGY • go left • get ENERGY • left • kill terrorist • collect ENERGY • go left • shoot bomber • left • kill bomber • jump left over gaps • collect AMMO and FIRE-POWER • go right to the lift • get on lift and go up to the next floor • shoot knife thrower and terrorist to the right • collect ENERGY • get on lift and go up to next

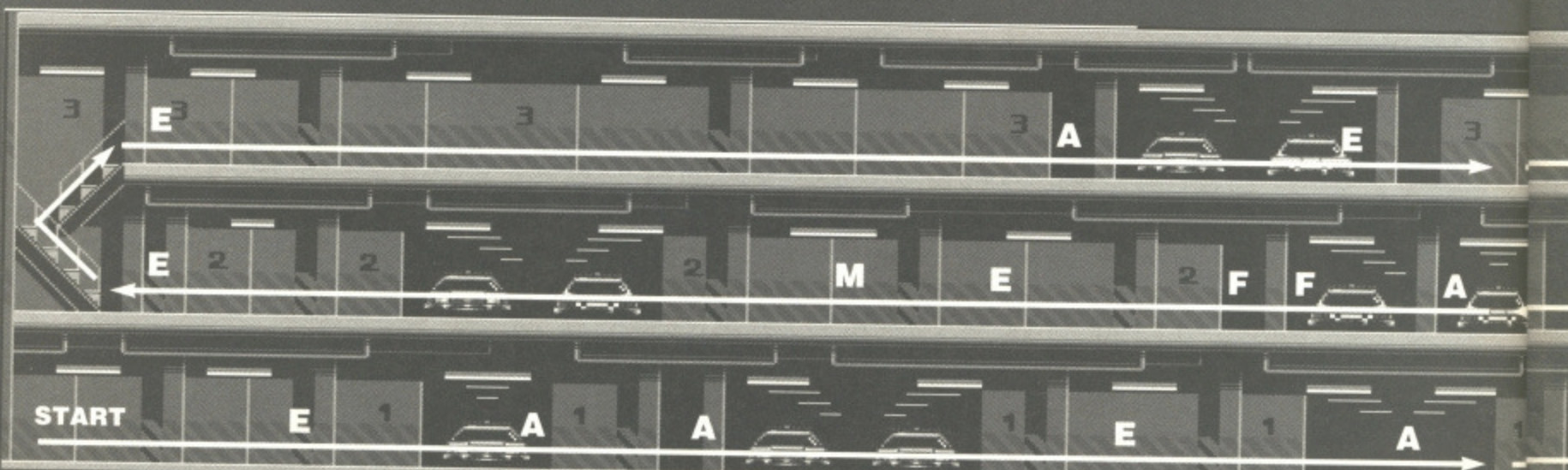
floor • up ladder to the left • kill terrorist • get ENERGY • go left • get both FIRE-POWER • left • shoot terrorist • collect FIREPOWER • go left • shoot terrorist • collect ENERGY • go right to the ladder • drop down to the level below • shoot terrorist to the left • collect AMMO • go left • shoot terrorist and knife thrower • get ENERGY • left • kill knife thrower • collect ENERGY • go left • drop down gap • shoot knife thrower and terrorist to the left • shoot terrorist to the right • get ENERGY • go right • shoot knife thrower and terrorist • go right • get ENERGY • drop down gap • go right • use lift to jump across lift-shaft • go right • shoot bomber and terrorist • go right • kill bomber • right • shoot bomber • collect ENERGY • go right • shoot bomber • use lift to jump

across lift-shaft • go right • shoot bomber and terrorist • right • shoot bomber • collect ENERGY • go right • kill bomber • collect AMMO and ENERGY • get on lift and get off at the floor with the ladder • up ladder • shoot terrorist opposite • get on next lift and go up to the top floor • go right • jump right across the gaps • continue right • then push up in front of the EXIT door to complete the level.

LEVEL 4.2

THE GARAGE

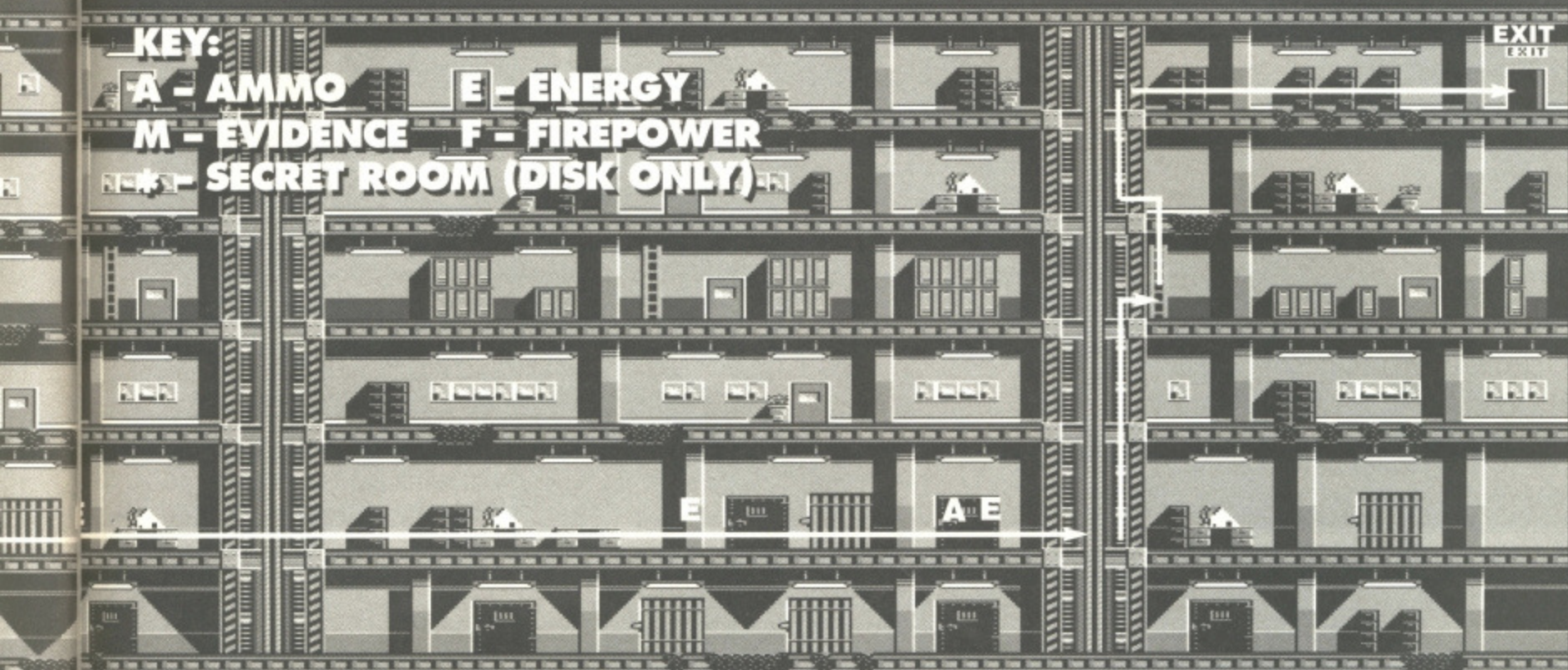
From the start: Shoot terrorist • collect ENERGY • kill terrorist • go right • shoot terrorist and knife thrower • get AMMO • go right • shoot terrorist • collect AMMO



PON

- THE SOLUTION

With three successful missions under his belt, Andy Roberts returns to bust open the two final levels. Isn't he brave? (No, just stupid - Ed).



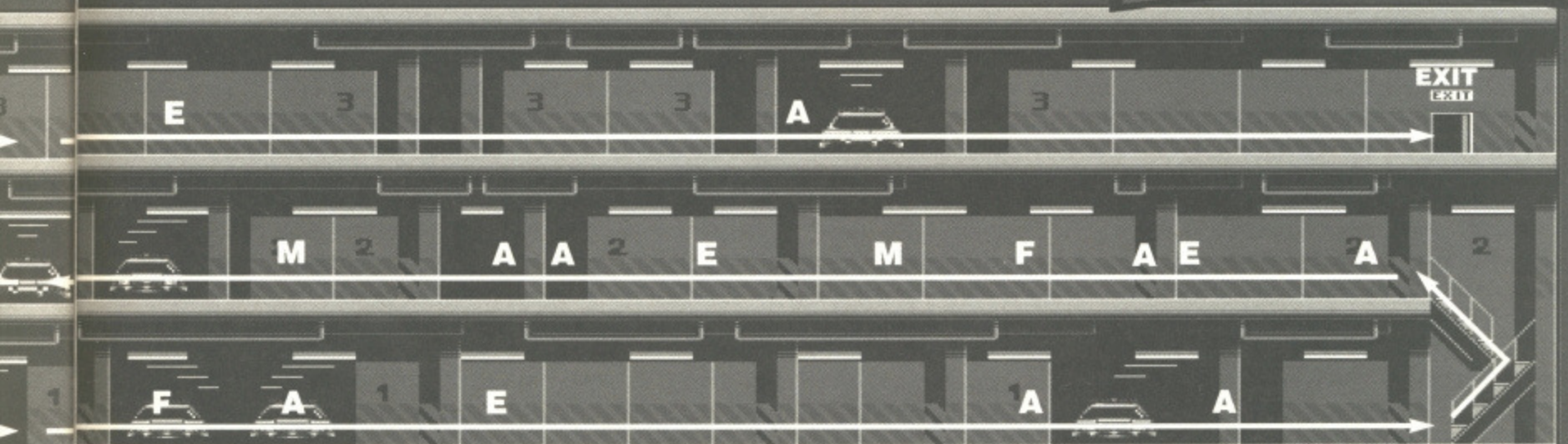
- right • shoot terrorist and knife thrower
- go right • shoot terrorist • go right • collect ENERGY • kill knife thrower • go right • shoot terrorist • collect AMMO • go right • shoot knife thrower • continue right • get FIREPOWER • shoot terrorist • right • get AMMO • shoot terrorist and knife thrower • go right • collect ENERGY • shoot terrorist • go right • shoot knife thrower • right • kill terrorist • continue right • shoot knife thrower • right • collect AMMO • kill terrorist • go right • shoot knife thrower and terrorist • collect AMMO • right • up steps to next level • shoot knife thrower to the left • get AMMO • collect ENERGY • get AMMO • left • get FIREPOWER • go left • shoot terrorist • get EVIDENCE • go left • shoot knife thrower • left • shoot

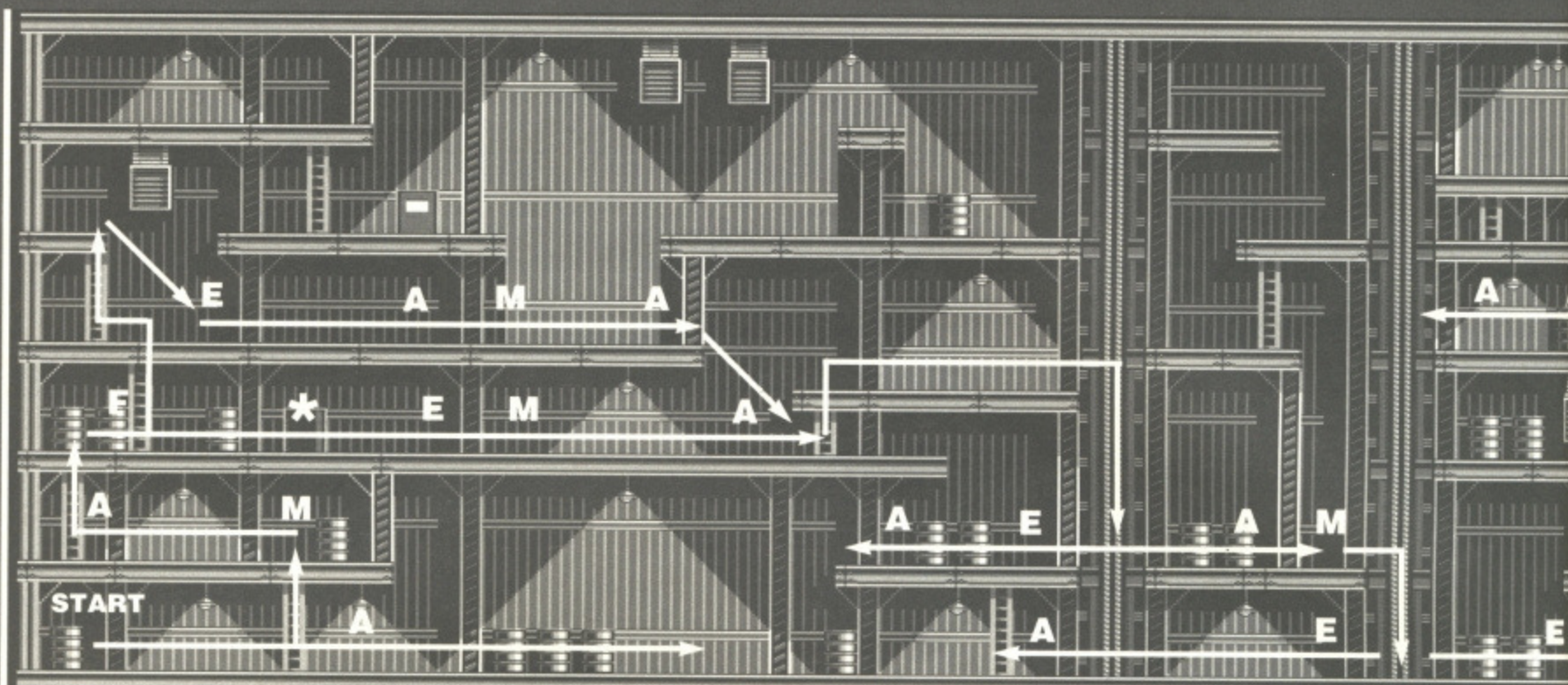
- terrorist • get ENERGY • left • get AMMO • shoot knife thrower • get other AMMO • go left • kill terrorist • get EVIDENCE • left • kill knife thrower • shoot terrorist • collect AMMO • go left • shoot knife thrower • get FIREPOWER • left • kill terrorist • get FIREPOWER • go left • shoot knife thrower and terrorist • continue left • get ENERGY • collect EVIDENCE • kill knife thrower and terrorist • go left • kill knife thrower • go left • shoot terrorist • left • shoot knife thrower • continue left • collect ENERGY • up steps to next level • shoot terrorist • get ENERGY • go right • kill terrorist and knife thrower • right • shoot terrorist • right • kill terrorist and knife thrower • continue right • shoot terrorist • get AMMO • go right • shoot knife thrower •

- right • collect ENERGY • go right • shoot knife thrower and terrorist • right • kill knife thrower • get ENERGY • go right • shoot terrorist and knife thrower • continue right • shoot terrorist • right • shoot knife thrower • collect AMMO • go right to meet the fourth boss villain.

BIG BOSS BUSTING

Apart from firing bullets at you (which will pass safely over your head) this chap also drops grenades at regular intervals; these throw out shrapnel in three directions. Stay at the far left of the screen and shoot repeatedly to dispose of him. When he's dead, go right and push up in front of the EXIT door to complete the level.





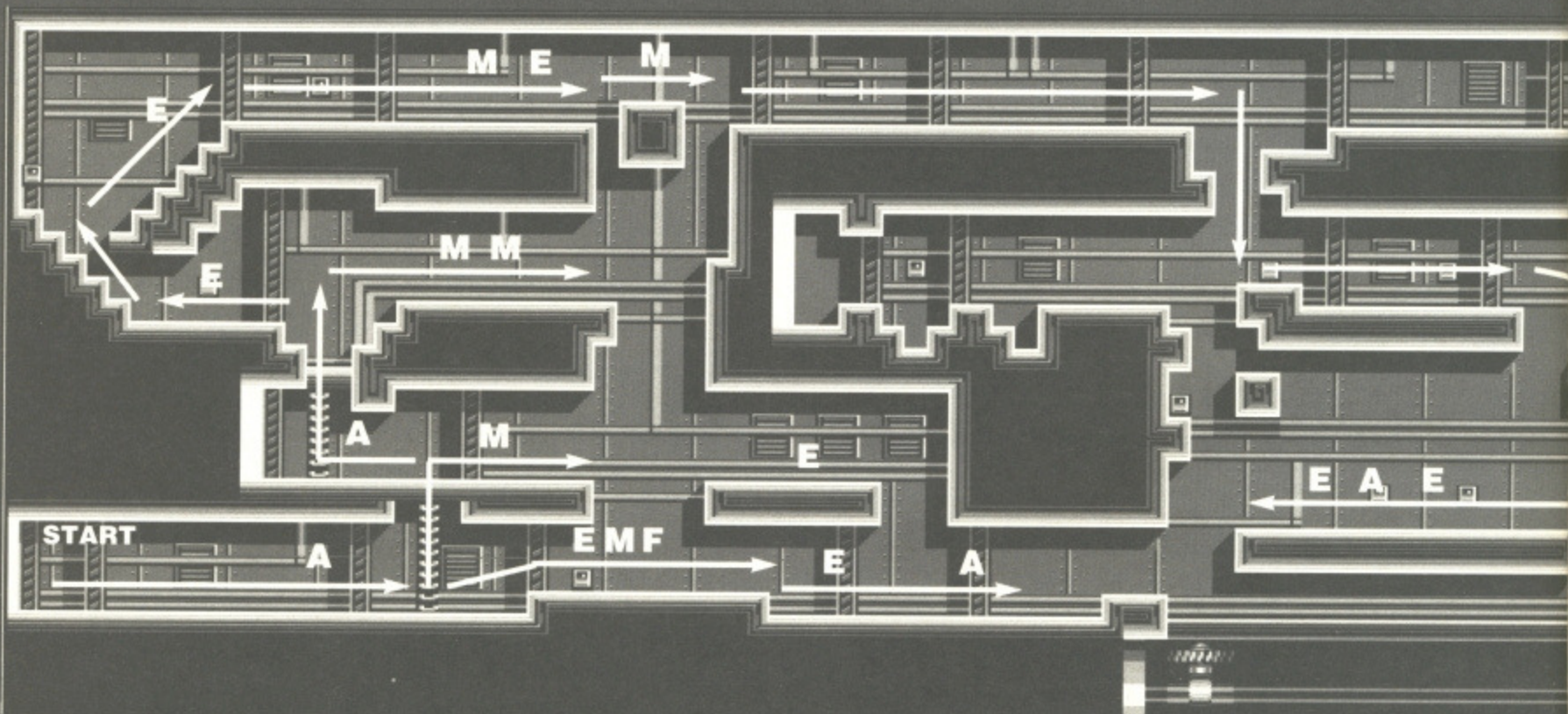
LEVEL 5.1

STATION BACKLOT

FROM THE START: Shoot terrorist • collect AMMO • go right • shoot terrorist, get ENERGY • go left • up ladder • shoot terrorists • get EVIDENCE • go left • get AMMO • up ladder • shoot terrorist • get FIREPOWER • go right • get ENERGY • shoot terrorist • right • collect EVIDENCE • go right • get AMMO • go left • up ladder • get ENERGY • shoot bazooka bloke to the right • up ladder • collect ENERGY • drop down • go right • get AMMO • right • shoot terrorist • get EVIDENCE • right • get AMMO • drop down • go right • up ladder • shoot sniper • go right • get on lift and go down to next level • shoot terrorist to the left • get ENERGY • left • get AMMO • go

right • use lift to jump over lift shaft • shoot terrorist • collect AMMO • right • get EVIDENCE • drop down • shoot bazooka bloke to the left • collect AMMO • go left • get AMMO • right • get ENERGY • go right • shoot terrorist • right • get ENERGY • shoot terrorist • continue in a rightwardly fashion (sorry about that - I got a bit immersed in the 'police role there - Andy) • up ladder • get AMMO to the right • go left • shoot terrorist • left • collect EVIDENCE and AMMO • go back to the right • drop down • go right • get AMMO • right • collect AMMO • get EVIDENCE • right • shoot terrorist • right • get FIREPOWER and EVIDENCE • go left • up ladder • get EVIDENCE • shoot bazooka bloke • shoot the purple thug to the left (who's obviously wandered in from The Simpsons - Ed) • use the lift to jump across lift shaft • shoot ter-

rorist • get AMMO and EVIDENCE • right • shoot the purple thug (before he turns into a space mutant - Ed) • up the ladder • collect FIREPOWER • shoot bazooka bloke • go left • drop down • get on the lift and go up to next platform on the left • shoot terrorist • get EVIDENCE • left • get AMMO • go back to the right • get on lift and go up to next level • go left • shoot terrorist • get AMMO • left • shoot terrorist • left • get EVIDENCE • go left • get FIREPOWER • left • kill terrorist • go left • get both lots of AMMO (you can never have too much ammo, you know) • go back to the right • up the ladder • kill the terrorist to the left • get AMMO and EVIDENCE • go left • get AMMO • right • drop down to level below • use lift to jump across lift shaft • go right, then push up in front of the EXIT door to complete the level.





LEVEL 52

VENTILATION SYSTEM

From the start: Shoot terrorist • get AMMO • go right • shoot bazooka bloke • get ENERGY • go right • get EVIDENCE and FIREPOWER • right • kill terrorist • collect ENERGY • go right • get AMMO • go back to the left • up ladder • shoot terrorist • collect EVIDENCE and AMMO • up ladder • shoot bazooka bloke to the right • go right • get both EVIDENCE • go left • get ENERGY • up steps • go right • get ENERGY • right • get EVIDENCE and ENERGY • jump right • get EVIDENCE • jump right • right • drop down (hold right) • right • jump right • get AMMO • right • shoot terrorist • collect AMMO • go right • kill terrorist • drop down (hold left) •

BIG BOSS BUSTING

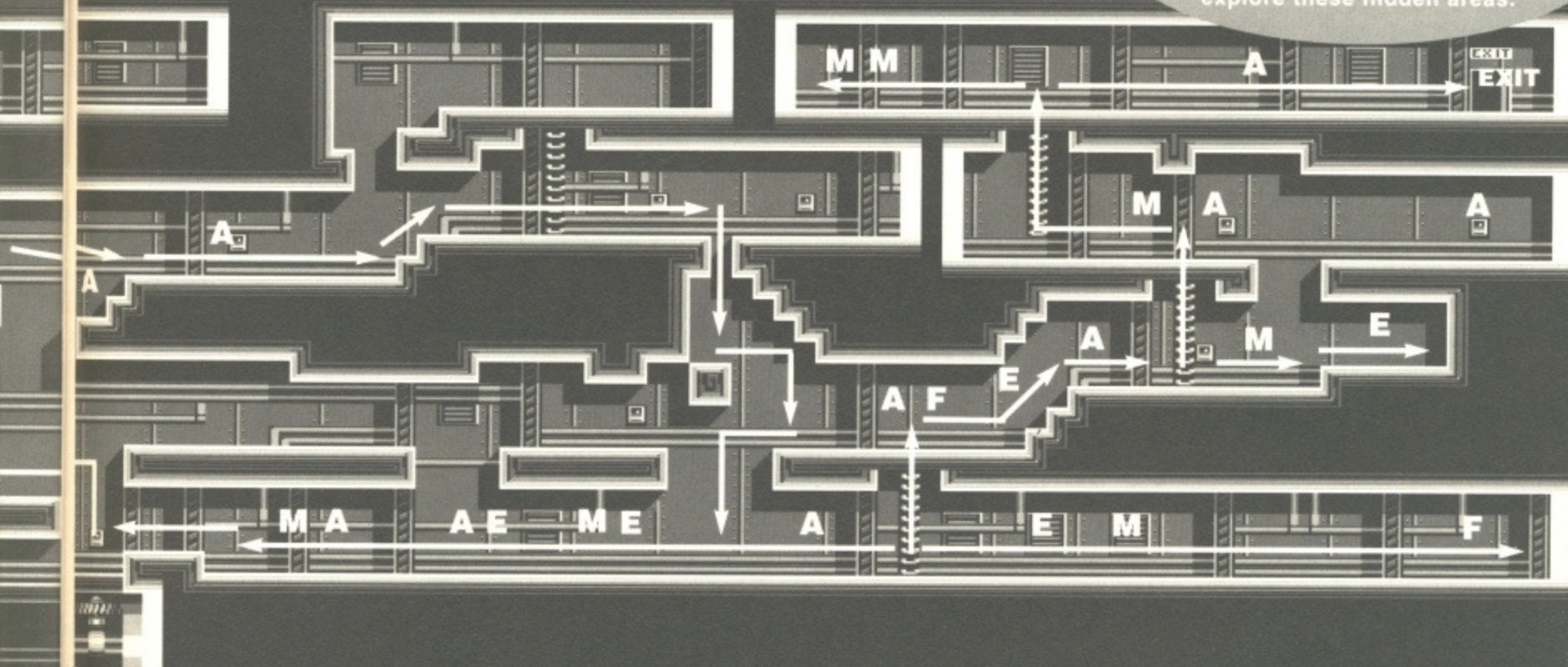
To defeat this chap, stay at the far left of the screen and shoot repeatedly (as before). He will occasionally fire rockets at you – these will pass harmlessly overhead. He also drops mortar bombs periodically which explode like the grenades dropped by the previous boss. Once you've killed him run right and push up in front of the EXIT door to complete the level and the game!

drop down (hold right) • shoot terrorist • drop off to the left • shoot terrorists to the right and left • get AMMO • go left • get ENERGY and EVIDENCE • left • get ENERGY and AMMO • left • shoot terrorist • get AMMO and EVIDENCE • go left • jump across gap using air from fan • kill terrorist • get ENERGY and

AMMO • go left • get ENERGY • go back right • collect ENERGY and EVIDENCE • go right • shoot terrorist • right • shoot terrorist • collect FIREPOWER • left • up ladder • get AMMO and FIREPOWER • go right • get ENERGY • get AMMO • right • shoot bazooka bloke • get EVIDENCE • right • get ENERGY • go left • up ladder • get AMMO • shoot terrorist • collect EVIDENCE • shoot bazooka bloke opposite (you can't see him) • left • up ladder • left • get both lots of EVIDENCE • right • get AMMO • go right to meet the fifth (and final!) Boss Villain.

THE END?

Not on your life! If you own the disk version, you may have noticed a few extra rooms – join us in CF36 when we explore these hidden areas.



LISTOMANIA POKERAMIA

"Oi you! What're you looking at? Do you wanna get a poke in the eye or something?" "I'd rather have an infinite lives POKE, thanks."

VINDICATORS *Hit Squad*

Here's a juicy infinite lives listing for this smart arcade conversion which should work on the original full-price version.

```
0 REM VINDICATORS CHEAT BY WAZ
1 FOR X=272 TO 325:READ Y:C=C+Y:POKE
X,Y:NEXT
2 IF C<>5955 THEN PRINT "DATA ERROR":END
3 POKE 157,128:SYS 272
10 DATA 032,044,247,056,169,033,141,158
11 DATA 003,169,001,141,159,003,076,081
12 DATA 003,169,046,141,228,201,169,001
13 DATA 141,229,201,076,169,201,169,059
14 DATA 141,139,194,169,001,141,140,194
15 DATA 076,000,194,169,173,141,016,015
16 DATA 141,069,015,076,027,008
```

SHE VAMPIRES *4 Most Horror*

Waking up with a female vampire clinging to your neck can really put a crimp on your day, so why not try this listing POKE to get rid of those nasty blood-suckers for good (no offence, Mr Taxman).

```
0 REM SHE VAMPIRES CHEAT BY WAZ
1 FOR X=336 TO 426:READ
Y:C=C+Y:POKE X,Y:NEXT
2 IF C<>10977 THEN PRINT
"DATA ERROR":END
3 POKE 157,128:SYS 336
10 DATA 032,086,245,169,
032,141,240,003
11 DATA 169,101,141,241,
003,169,001,141
12 DATA 242,003,076,167,002,072,169,032
13 DATA 141,091,166,141,106,167,169,001
14 DATA 141,093,166,141,108,167,169,136
15 DATA 141,092,166,169,144,141,107,167
16 DATA 238,032,208,032,152,001,104,096
17 DATA 224,028,240,003,222,000,008,096
18 DATA 224,028,240,003,249,000,008,096
19 DATA 169,076,141,075,159,169,094,141
20 DATA 076,159,169,159,141,077,159,238
21 DATA 032,208,096
```

NEIL ANDROID

4 Most Horror

Okay, I'll come clean. I'm not quite sure what this listing actually does, but if you own a

copy of the game you could do a lot worse than type it in, SAVE it and RUN it (like watching *Home and Away*, for example).

```
0 REM NEIL ANDROID CHEAT BY WAZ
1 FOR X=336 TO 367:READ Y:C=C+Y:POKE
X,Y:NEXT
2 IF C<>3878 THEN PRINT "DATA ERROR":END
3 POKE 157,128:SYS 336
4 DATA 032,086,245,169,032,141,240,003
```

```
5 DATA 169,101,141,241,003,169,001,141
6 DATA 242,003,076,167,002,072,169,165
7 DATA 141,134,147,206,032,208,104,096
```

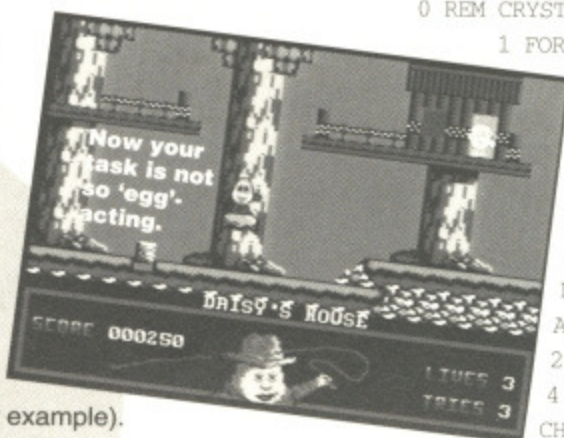
CRYSTAL KINGDOM DIZZY

CodeMasters

Infinite lives, infinite chances – all you need is infinite salt for the biggest omelette in culinary history.

```
0 REM CRYSTAL CHEAT BY WAZ
1 FOR X=272 TO 301:READ
Y:C=C+Y:POKE
X,Y:NEXT
2 IF C<>3510 THEN
PRINT "DATA
ERROR":END
3 INPUT"INFINITE
LIVES Y/N";A$:IF
A$="N" THEN POKE
297,206
4 INPUT"INFINITE
CHANCES Y/N";B$:IF
B$="N" THEN POKE 292,206
```

```
5 POKE 157,128:SYS 272
6 DATA 032,086,245,169,032,141,090,003
7 DATA 169,001,141,092,003,076,167,002
8 DATA 238,032,208,169,173,141,215,152
9 DATA 169,173,141,001,153,096
```



POWER PACK

STEEL

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We can also offer you the option to pick your difficulty level from one to eight so that, for example, if you choose two you need only complete two sub-games and take two cartridges to the cartridge room. Don't pass this one up – it's an offer you can't refuse!

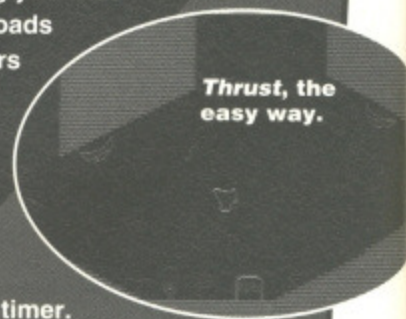
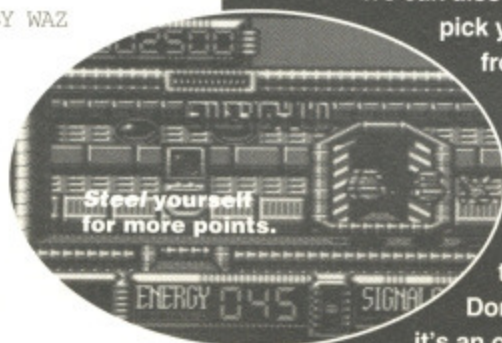
```
0 REM STEEL CHEAT BY M PUGH
1 FOR X=516 TO 569:READ Y:C=C+Y:POKE
X,Y:NEXT
2 IF C<>5386 THEN PRINT "DATA ERROR":END
3 INPUT"SUBGAME INFINITE ENERGY Y/N";A$
4 IF A$="Y" THEN POKE541,141:POKE544,141
5 INPUT"DIFFICULTY LEVEL 1-8";B:POKE 563,B
6 POKE 157,128:SYS 516
10 DATA 032,086,245,169,019,141,207,003
11 DATA 206,208,003,096,072,077,080,169
12 DATA 002,141,014,010,076,230,003,169
13 DATA 000,173,207,021,173,032,022,206
14 DATA 044,022,206,146,032,206,034,033
15 DATA 206,230,041,206,062,045,169,008
16 DATA 141,116,036,076,027,008
```

THRUST

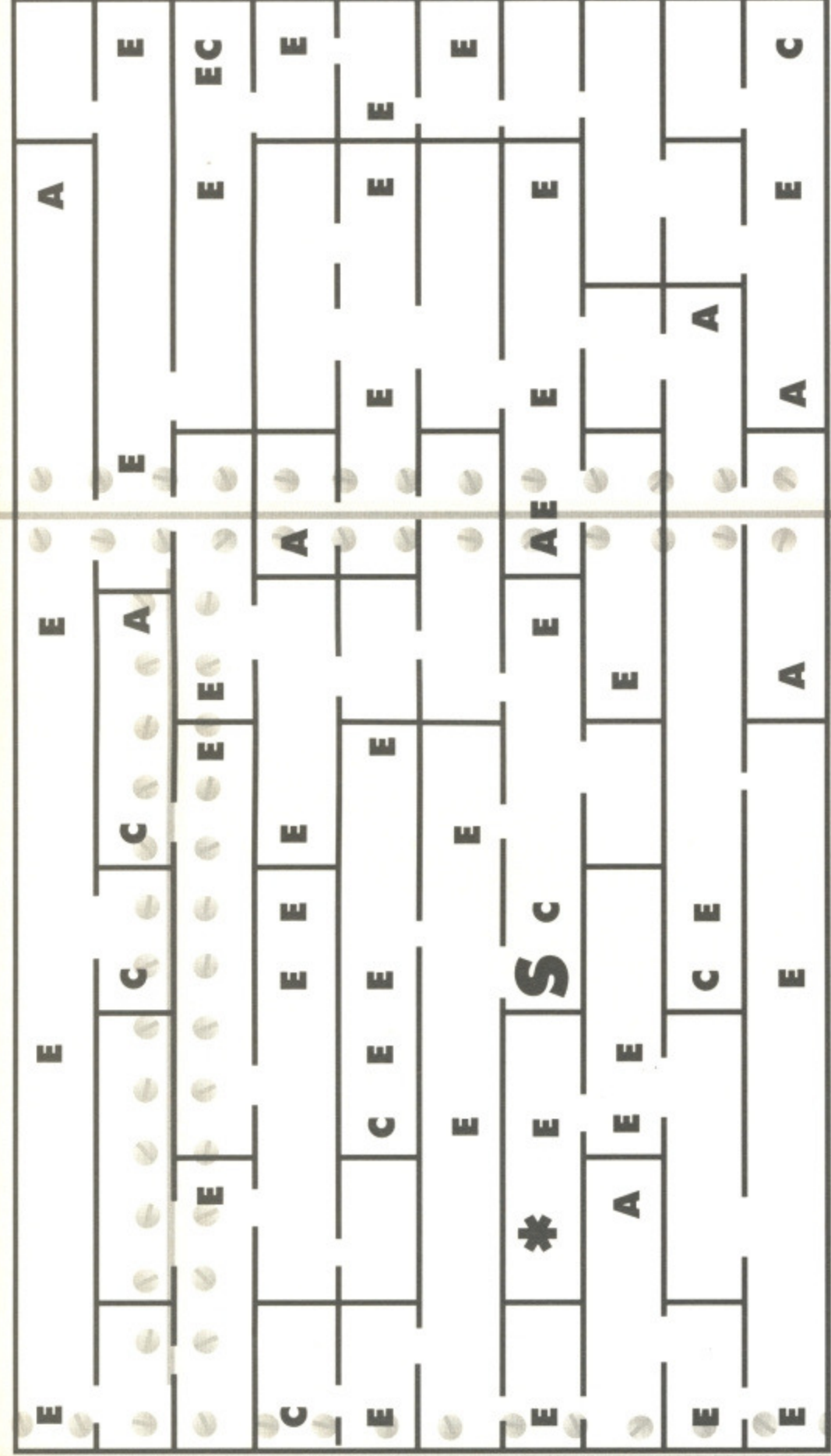
What a Corker of a listing this is. Not content with providing you with infinite lives and loads of fuel, it also offers sprite cheats (which make you immune to everything except bullets), plus an option to stop the planet countdown timer.

What more could you need?

```
0 REM THRUST CHEAT BY M PUGH
1 FOR X=516 TO 577:READ Y:C=C+Y:POKE
X,Y:NEXT
2 IF C<>7218 THEN PRINT "DATA
ERROR":END
3 INPUT"INFINITE LIVES Y/N";A$:IF
A$="Y" THEN POKE 567,141
4 INPUT"LOTS OF FUEL Y/N";B$:IF B$="Y"
THEN POKE 554,173
5 INPUT"STOP COUNTDOWN Y/N";C$:IF
C$="Y" THEN POKE 572,141
6 INPUT"SPRITE CHEATS Y/N";D$:IF D$="Y"
THEN POKE 532,327 POKE 157,128:SYS 516
10 DATA 032,086,245,169,019,141,207,003
11 DATA 206,208,003,096,072,077,080,169
12 DATA 042,141,013,010,169,002,141,014
13 DATA 010,076,230,003,169,147,141,109
14 DATA 058,169,165,141,102,058,076,053
15 DATA 002,169,153,141,253,093,238,255
16 DATA 093,169,173,173,240,063,169,165
17 DATA 173,174,050,076,036,108
```



CAST IRON FORMAT 34 July 1993



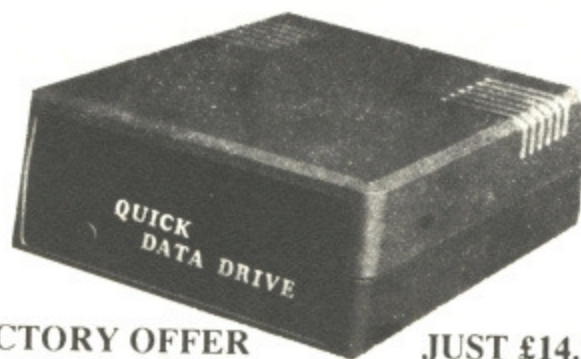
From the start: right • right • up • right • up • up • de-activate terminal one • down • down • left • up • up • up • right • up • right • get cartridge one • down • down • down • down • down • left • down • down • left • de-activate terminal two • right • right • activate terminal two • left • up • up • right • up • up • up • left • left • up • left • down • left • down • down • down • right • up • right • down • down • de-activate terminal three • right • down • down • de-activate terminal four • left • down • left • de-activate terminal five • right • up • left • left • left • get cartridge three • right • down • left • left • up • right • up • up • left • insert cartridges • right • down • down • left • down • left • up • up • right • de-activate terminal six • left • up • up • up • get cartridge four • down • down • right • right • right • right • down • right • up • up • up • right • up • up • right • right • de-activate terminal seven • left • left • left • left • down • get cartridge five • up • left • left • left • down • down • right • down • right • up • right • right • up • get cartridge six • right • de-activate terminal eight • left • down • left • left • down • left • up • left • up • up • right • right • up • right • up • right • up • left • left • left • left • left • left • insert cartridges to complete the game!

Everything you ever needed to know to get through our brill' Power Pack 32 game.
Key: k - Cartridge room C - Cartridge E - Energy point A - Active terminal



PLANNING TIPS

- There are dozens of routes to take...
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- Spend time in the group to gather...
- In the Storage room, you'll find a...
- In the Cartridge room, you'll find a...



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Ever seen Universal Soldier? Rubbish, isn't it? But this isn't. It's dead good. It's where Jason Finch answers all your techie problems. So if you've got any write to Techie Tips, Commodore Format, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, Avon BA1 2BW. No hoary old SF clichés guaranteed.



BROT PLOTTING

Dear Techie Tips,
I take it from your reply to David Robertson's letter in

CF31 that you would like to see a multicolour Mandelbrot set plotter. Here's mine. It's all in Basic and therefore very, very slow but it does work. On average it takes two to four hours; faster than your black and white version since in effect you are only testing half the number of points on the x-axis. These versions do not cover the whole screen since that can take 12 hours at high magnifications. If you know of a machine code version I'd love to see it.

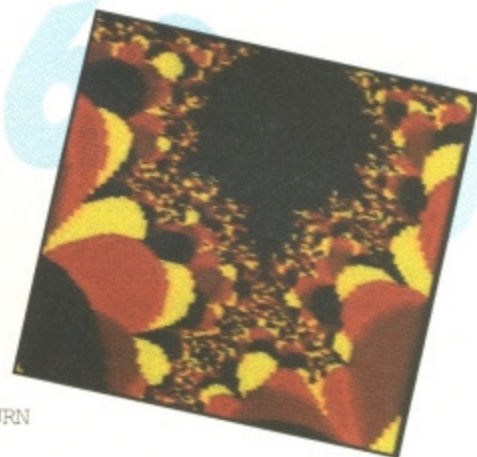
Neil McLean, Canterbury.

```
10 REM BASIC MANDELBROT SET PLOTTER
20 REM BY N.MCLEAN
30 :
40 GOSUB 390
50 GOSUB 310
60 :
70 REM MAIN LOOP
80 FOR J=20 TO 180 STEP 1
90 FOR I=80 TO 240 STEP 2
100 Q=((I-80)/54)-2:W=((J-20)/54)-1.5
110 GOSUB 200
120 IF B=1 THEN 150
130 E=A AND 3
140 GOSUB 260
150 NEXT I,J
160 POKE 53280,2
170 GET A$:IF A$<>" " THEN 170
```

```
180 POKE 53265,27:POKE
53270,200:POKE 53272,21
190 END
198 :
199 REM SERIOUS MATHS
200 X=0:Y=0:A=0
210 C=(X*X)-(Y*Y):D=2*(X*Y)
220 X=C+Q:Y=D+W:Z=X+Y:A=A+1
230 IF Z<-2 OR Z>2 THEN
B=0:RETURN
240 IF A>25 THEN B=1:RETURN
250 GOTO 210
258 :
259 REM PLOT POINT
260 CH=INT(I/8):RO=INT(J/8):LN=J AND 7
270 BY=8192+(RO*320)+(CH*8)+LN
280 BI=I AND 7
290 POKE BY,PEEK(BY)OR
A(E,BI)
```



Create your very own finalé to 2001!



```
300 RETURN
308 :
309 REM SET UP BIT MAP
310 POKE 53265,PEEK(53265)OR 32
320 POKE 53270,PEEK(53270)OR 16
330 POKE 53272,PEEK(53272)OR 8
340 POKE 53280,0:POKE 53281,0
350 FOR X=1024 TO 2023:POKE X,152:NEXT X
360 FOR X=55296 TO 56295:POKE X,7:NEXT X
370 FOR X=8192 TO 16191:POKE X,0:NEXT X
380 RETURN
388 :
389 REM SET UP VARIABLES
390 DIM A(3,7)
400 FOR I=0 TO 3
410 FOR J=0 TO 7
420 READ A(I,J)
430 NEXT J,I
440 RETURN
448 :
450 DATA 000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000
460 DATA 064,064,016,016,004,004,001,001
470 DATA 128,128,032,032,008,008,002,002
480 DATA 192,192,048,048,012,012,003,003
```

ONE FOR ALL

Dear Techie Tips,
I know it's a lot to ask, but is it possible to have about four routines in machine code running at the same time, with the same SYS call? The reason for my asking is because all the routines I have start FOR X=49152 TO... If it's impossible, can you give me any help please. By the way, keep the machine code routines coming, they're brill!

David Lee, Chesterfield.

It is possible to have more than one machine code program running at what appears to be the same time, but not four, and not under these circumstances. You need to 'relocate' the machine code so that it's stored somewhere else in memory. However, this isn't easy (that's our Jason, a master of understatement - Ed) if you don't understand machine language because you need to change references within the programs as well. So until you learn machine language, it's one application at a time, I'm afraid.



I'm shocked and impressed. As to knowing whether a machine code Mandelbrot plotter for the C64 exists... well I didn't even know anyone had written a Basic version, so sorry, I can't help you there. Mandelbrots, by the way, are freaky patterns that are generated using a very weird but simple piece of maths and Neil's program plots these patterns in three colours. For those of you



into fractals, you may find the results of using these alternative pairs of lines interesting:

```
100 Q=((I-80)/320)-0.4:W=((J-20)/320)+0.65
```

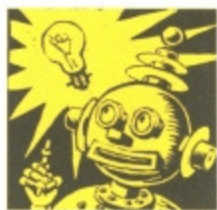
```
240 IF A>30 THEN B=1:RETURN
```

```
100 Q=((I-80)/400000)-0.168:W=((J-20)/400000)+1.036
```

```
240 IF A>150 THEN B=1:RETURN
```

```
100 Q=((I-80)/4000)-0.75:W=((J-20)/4000)+0.2
```

```
240 IF A>100 THEN B=1:RETURN
```



CBM'S QUICK CREEP?

Dear Techie Tips,

1 Can you give me a machine code routine that makes text flash smoothly Extended Background Colour Mode?

2 What is an IRQ?

3 How is it used?

4 How can I put the cursor anywhere on screen ready for a PRINT or INPUT (without the cursor key reverse symbols scattered everywhere)?

5 Where can I get a Power Cartridge?

6 Does the PC have a machine code monitor and extended Basic options?

7 Can screens 'frozen' with the PC be printed on an MPS801?

Philip Underhill, Leamington Spa.

Right Philip, before you start thinking,

"What? I didn't write a letter



QUICK SHOTS

● I need a listing that will allow me to print words in the border (in other words, make it possible to use the entire screen to write on).

Michael Maclean, Isle of Lewis.

You can't use the entire screen to write on. It is relatively easy, in machine code, to get rid of the upper and lower borders, but you can only create 'gaps' in the left and right borders and the process is very fiddly.

Programs that appear to have writing in the borders actually use sprites, the only thing you can display there.

● Can you give me some details on *Mini Office 2*? Can the tape version be used with a disk drive?

Francis Donohoe, County Laois, Ireland.

Mini Office 2 is a package that contains a number of high quality programs, including a word processor, database and spreadsheet. I recommend it if you're

searching for any one of those types of program then this package as a whole is excellent value for money.

Both the disk and tape versions have options for selecting which device you use so, yes, the tape version can be used with a disk drive. You may have a little trouble fitting the *Mini Office 2* tape into the drive's slot, though! (Check out our Mail Order service on page 80 - Ed.)

● I recently bought a C64 with various bits and bobs. Some of the disks that came with it have two or three commercial games copied on each side, most from tape games. How is this done? Is it illegal?

A Toulson, England.

There are various methods for copying commercial games from tape to disk but I am not at liberty to tell you what they are as it is considered software piracy and is, indeed, illegal. Find the person you bought it all off and give their wrists a good slap.

● Lately I've heard a lot of talk about 3.5-inch disk drives. If I bought one for my C64, which is the best word processor to use with it?

George Bennion, Croydon.

The only decent 3.5-inch disk drives for the C64 come from the USA and you can't buy word processors on 3.5-inch disks for them. If you want a disk drive, buy a 1541-II from Datal Electronics Ltd (☎ 0782 744707) and then get the *Mini Office 2*.

● How can I read the joystick ports?

Paul Cresham, Swindon.

Try out this short proggy which reads the joystick in port one. For port two change line 10 to 10 J=127-PEEK(56320).

```
10 J=255-PEEK(56321)
```

```
20 IF (J AND 1) THEN PRINT "UP"
```

```
30 IF (J AND 2) THEN PRINT "DOWN"
```

```
40 IF (J AND 4) THEN PRINT "LEFT"
```

```
50 IF (J AND 8) THEN PRINT "RIGHT"
```

```
60 IF (J AND 16) THEN PRINT "FIRE"
```

```
70 GOTO 10
```

NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Dear Techie Tips,
Please could you tell me how to use GET in conjunction with ON because the following doesn't seem to want to work?

```
10 GET A$:IF A$="" THEN 10
20 ON AS GOTO 100,200,300,400,500
```

Also, why does this bit of program not work?

```
500 GET A$:IF A$="" THEN 500
510 POKE 53281,A$
```

What am I doing wrong?

Oliver Brooke, County Cork, Ireland.

This is a very common mistake; you're getting confused between different types of variables. A\$ (said 'A-string') is designed for storing text, like "HELLO". Numeric variables, such as A (without the dollar sign), are for storing numbers only. So A="HELLO" does not work, and neither does A\$=7. The ON command needs a numeric variable, as in ON A GOTO..., and POKE needs a numeric variable too, as in POKE 53281,A. To convert from string to numeric variables, use the VAL command, or STR\$ to do the opposite. So change the A\$ in lines 20 and 510 to A, then bung in two new lines: 15 A=VAL(A\$) and 505 A=VAL(A\$).

that long!" what I've done is pick the questions from the wodge of letters you've sent (and there's a round of applause for the first person who manages to unravel this letter's title).

1 Change the three sets of values in lines 21-26 to change the colours used (there are 16 numbers for each background colour):

```
0 REM EBCM GLOW BY J.FINCH
```

```
1 FOR X=49152 TO 49276:READ Y:POKE
```

```
X,Y:C=C+Y:NEXT X
```

```
2 IF C<>9812 THEN PRINT "DATA ERROR":END
```

```
3 SYS 49152
```

```
4 POKE 53280,0:POKE 53281,0
```

```
5 PRINT CHR$(147);CHR$(5);
```

```
6 FOR X=0 TO 3:PRINT
```

```
TAB(X*4);"COMMODORE  
FORMAT":PRINT:NEXT X
```

```
7 FOR A=1 TO 3:FOR B=0 TO 15
```

```
8 POKE 1024+A*84+B,PEEK  
(1024+A*84+B)OR(A*64)
```

```
9 NEXT B,A
```

```
10 DATA 120,169,127,141,013,  
220,173,013
```

```
11 DATA 220,169,091,141,017,  
208,169,000
```

```
12 DATA 141,018,208,141,076,  
192,169,042
```

```
13 DATA 141,020,003,169,192,  
141,021,003
```

```
14 DATA 169,001,141,025,208,  
141,026,208
```

```
15 DATA 088,096,174,076,192,  
189,077,192
```

```
16 DATA 141,034,208,189,  
093,192,141,035
```

```
17 DATA 208,189,109,192,141,036,208,232
```

```
18 DATA 138,041,015,141,076,192,238,025
```

```
19 DATA 208,076,049,234,000
```

```
20 :
```

```
21 DATA 003,003,014,014,014,006,006,011
```

```
22 DATA 011,006,006,014,014,014,003,003
```

```
23 DATA 013,003,003,005,005,003,003,013
```

```
24 DATA 013,013,001,001,001,001,013,013
```

```
25 DATA 009,002,002,008,008,008,010,010
```

```
26 DATA 010,010,008,008,008,002,002,009
```

2 An Interrupt ReQuest.

3 Briefly, it taps the C64 on the shoulder 50 times every second and goes, "Oi! I want to

do something else!" The C64 then says, "Okay then, but be quick!" and the IRQ thingy gets to work. When it has finished it says, "Cheers, C64, now you carry on with what you were going to do." You can enter the following bit of code using a machine code monitor and then start it using SYS 49152. The first bit of code changes the IRQ vector at \$0314 and \$0315 to point to a new piece of code (at \$C00D in this case). The new piece of code then makes the border change colour 50 times a second. The JMP \$EA31 is the machine code version of, "carry on with what you were going to do," and also monitors the keyboard so that you can type away while the border is flashing.

```
A C000
> C000 78      SEI
> C001 A9 0D   LDA #$0D
> C003 8D 14 03 STA $0314
> C006 A9 C0   LDA #$C0
> C008 8D 15 03 STA $0315
> C00B 58      CLI
> C00C 60      RTS
> C00D EE 20 D0 INC $D020
> C010 4C 31 EA JMP $EA31
> C013
```

4 Lines 1000 and 1010 of this short demonstration are the lines that do the biz:

```
10 PRINT CHR$(147)
20 X=INT(RND(1)*34)+1
30 Y=INT(RND(1)*23)+1
40 GOSUB 1000
50 PRINT "HELLO"
60 GOTO 20
999 REM POSITION CURSOR
1000 POKE 781,Y:POKE 782,X:POKE 783,0
1010 SYS 65520
1020 RETURN
```

5 Bitcon Devices Ltd, 88 Bewick Road, Gateshead NE8 1RS (☎ 091 490 1975).

6 Yes and yes. In fact, the extended Basic is absolutely cool with all the commands you're likely to need to help you program. It has 'toolkit' things like RENUMBER, AUTO and so on rather than stuff like CIRCLE, SOUND and COLOUR.

7 Yes again.



FONT FACTORY

Dear Techie Tips, I have written a short piece of machine code that will effectively make a new character set by copying the first 64 characters of the normal ROM character set and storing a zero byte on the third line of each character.

James Coulter, County Tyrone, Ireland.



If you've ever wanted a font with a line through it, you're in the right place.

Cheers, here's the code in the form of a Basic loader:

```
0 REM CHAR COPIER/ DEFINER BY J.COULTER
1 FOR X=49408 TO 49495:READ Y:POKE X,Y:C=C+Y:NEXT X
2 IF C<>12457 THEN PRINT "DATA ERROR":END
3 SYS 49408:REM COPY CHARS
4 SYS 49465:REM ALTER CHARS
10 DATA 162,000,169,142,032,210,255,120
11 DATA 173,014,220,041,254,141,014,220
12 DATA 169,051,133,001,189,000,208,157
13 DATA 000,048,232,208,247,189,000,209
14 DATA 157,000,049,232,208,247,169,055
15 DATA 133,001,173,014,220,009,001,141
16 DATA 014,220,169,028,141,024,208,088
17 DATA 096,169,000,162,000,232,232,157
18 DATA 000,048,232,232,232,232,232,232
19 DATA 208,243,232,232,157,000,049,232
20 DATA 232,232,232,232,232,208,243,096
```

If you're wondering just how that works, I've written a Basic version of the same thing. If you think it looks a bit strange, that's because I've kept exactly to the machine code so that if you're learning Assembly language you'll be able to disassemble the machine code and compare it. As an example, X=(X+1)AND255 is the exact translation of the Assembly language INX instruction.

```
100 X=0:PRINT CHR$(142)
110 POKE 56334,PEEK(56334)AND 254:POKE 1,51
120 A=PEEK(53248+X):POKE 12288+X,A
130 X=(X+1)AND255:IF X<>0 THEN 120
140 A=PEEK(53504+X):POKE 12544+X,A
150 X=(X+1)AND255:IF X<>0 THEN 140
160 POKE 1,55:POKE 56334,PEEK(56334)OR 1
170 POKE 53272,28
180 :
190 A=0:X=0
200 X=X+2:POKE 12288+X,A
210 X=(X+6)AND255:IF X<>0 THEN 200
220 X=X+2:POKE 12544+X,A
230 X=(X+6)AND255:IF X<>0 THEN 220
240 END
```



COOL CREATIONS

Dear Techie Tips,

- 1 How do you use (and view) cool new character sets designed using the UDG System 2 on CF19's Power Pack?
 - 2 How do you produce scrolling landscapes like you get in loads of games? Could you use the map utility on UDG? If so, how?
 - 3 Could I use my 1084S monitor with my C64?
 - 4 How do you produce DATA statements for multicolour sprites?
- Stewart Yapp, Cannock.

1 Save the character set to tape or disk by selecting the appropriate icons and then SAVE CHR from the menu that appears. The set is stored at \$2000 to \$27FF. To use them, load the data back and enter POKE 53272,24, is

INFORMATION BANK

LOOKING SHIFTY

When games which allowed you to re-define which keys you used were in vogue, everyone wondered how the games knew whether you had pressed the left or right SHIFT key. Well, I did anyway. The normal test of PRINT PEEK(653) will only tell you that one of the SHIFT keys has been pressed, not which one.

The following program goes all the way and tells you which of the SHIFT keys has been pressed and also detects whether the RUN/STOP key has been pressed at the same time. To achieve the trick with the RUN/STOP key the program makes sure that you can't break out in the normal way; instead, use the space bar.

```
10 POKE 808,254
20 GOSUB 1000:REM TEST KEYS
30 GET A$:IF A$<>CHR$(32) THEN 20
40 POKE 808,237
50 END
60 :
1000 POKE 56334,0:REM FOR PRECISE TIMING
1010 POKE 56320,253:IF (PEEK(56321)AND128)=0 THEN PRINT "LEFT"
1020 POKE 56320,191:IF (PEEK(56321)AND 16)=0 THEN PRINT "RIGHT"
1030 POKE 56320,127:IF (PEEK(56321)AND128)=0 THEN PRINT "STOP"
1040 POKE 56334,1:REM RESTORE VALUE
1050 RETURN
```

exactly what the proggy below does, with line 20 doing funny things to pointers which means you won't overwrite the characters:

```
10 A=A+1:IF A=1 THEN LOAD"FILENAME",1,1
20 POKE 52,32:POKE 56,32:CLR
30 POKE 53272,24
```

- 2 You have to write a routine that will plot a section of the map given any starting X and Y co-ordinates (preferably in machine code for speed). This is far too complicated to explain here and would probably need an article of... well, you know what I'm going to say by now!
- 3 Yes. You need a C64 composite video lead which plugs into the video socket on the back of the C64, and the red, yellow and white sockets on the back of your monitor. Any good computer shop should be able to get one for you. If you can't find one, try Cavendish Commodore of 144 Charles Street, Leicester (☎ 0533 510066).
- 4 You design the sprites with FROST, which was on the CF32 Power Pack, and use the ultra fast "Make DATA" option.



THE ADDAMS FAMILY

What's a girl supposed to do? By order of the almighty Ed, there'll be no ooky's, spooky's, and definitely no kooky's at all in this review. Not even the words of the song all wiggly across the top of the page. I'm lost without a kooky or two. But the game wouldn't be. Lost, that is. You could take out every kooky, ooky and indeed, spooky and it'd still be a Corker. But nobody has. Taken out the ookies and kookies that it. And it's even got the theme tune intact – you know, the one that goes bom-iddy-bom, click click, bom-iddy-bom, click click, bom... (*Snip – Ed*).

Okay, so the gameplay isn't exactly ground-breaking stuff, but it's oozing with fun, finesse and style. You play Gomez, the Addams' dad, and you're on a quest to find the rest of your family. They're all locked away in various parts of the ancestral home while the keys that'll release them are hidden in other parts of the huge mansion. (Quite how this state of affairs came about isn't entirely clear but

C'mon. Own up. Are you a Munsters or Addams fan? We reckon that while Fred Gwynne is a legendary folk hero the Addams Family wins out on sheer class and weirdness. Clur reckons that the game is (un)dead good, too.

it's got something to do with a lawyer.) All you have to do is set them free. Simple? Nope.

Each room poses a different perambulatory problem. It's never as easy as it looks to get from where you are to where you want to be. The puzzles start off simple – it's just a case of bopping a few baddies on the head – but as you venture further into the bowels of the mansion, the conundrums become tougher than trying to convince Morticia's pet plant Cleopatra that she could really do with a decent prune. Most of them are ingeniously tricky timing puzzles in which you have to leap or make a run for it at the precise moment to end up avoid being squashed by bouncing pumpkins, falling into red hot lava, skewered by nasty spikey

Whhhhooooo, whoooooo! Stomp the ghosties on their heads to send them back to their graves with a severe headache.

No one told me that cauldrons were a means of transport. I always thought that they were used for cooking... just shows how wrong you can be, I suppose...

things or generally meeting a grisly end.

And they're extremely addictive; most of the time you can work out what you have to do, it's just a matter of getting the timing right that's the problem, so no matter how many times you get splattered, you'll always want to have just one more go, just to prove to this stupid computer

that you can do it.

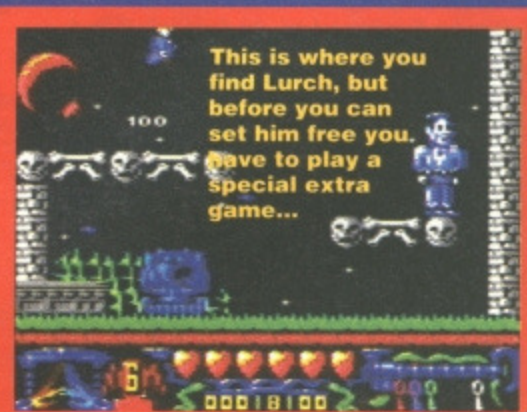
Sensible restart points help in this respect, too.

The game map is mightily massive and displayed as a series of

flip screens rather than a continuously scrolling map. This does have its advantages: if you accidentally wander into a room and there's a



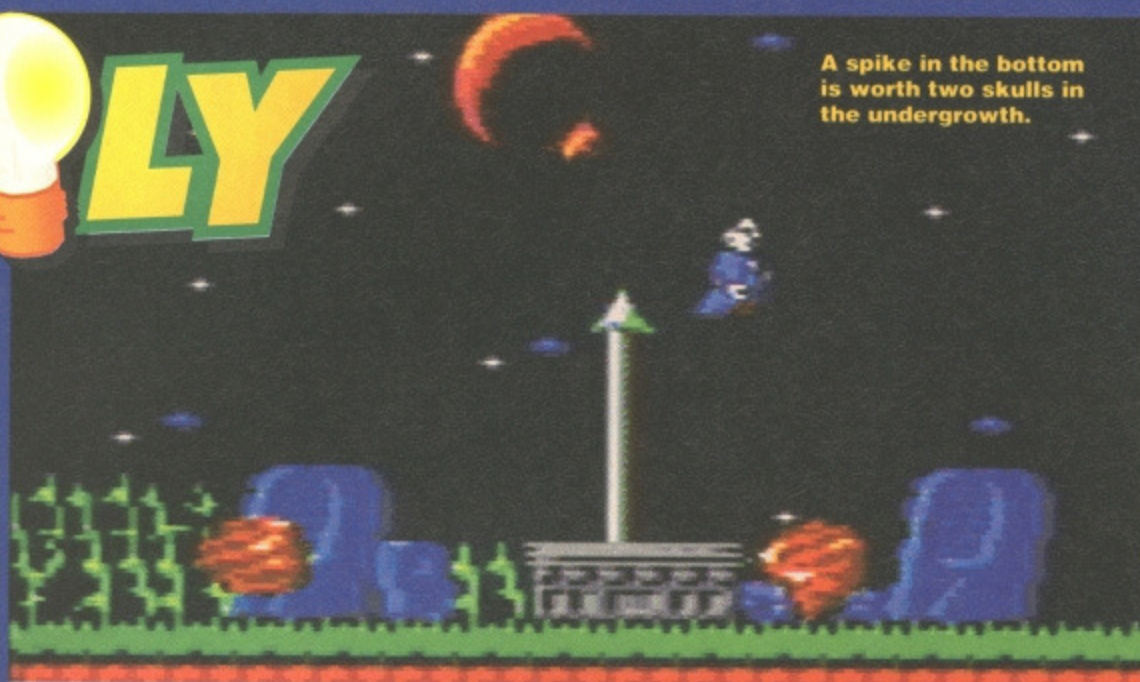
The graphics are so colourful you'll need to wear Ray-Bans



The second character you rescue is Lurch. To survive the quicksand keep the fire button held down to jump continuously and move from side-to-side avoiding the sparkly thing as you go.



MOLLY



A spike in the bottom is worth two skulls in the undergrowth.

baddie coming right at ya, then you can nip back to the safety of the previous screen.

Not all the lurking nasties can be completely obliterated. Some are indestructible (and lethal to touch) while some just pause long enough for you to leap over them. However, if you do kill a mon-

Gomez shows off the cutlery Grandma gave him for a wedding present.



ster, leave the room and then return to that room, you'll find that he's come back to life (if life is the right word, that is). This might sound like a bit of a swizz, but sometimes bouncing on the bounce of some monster or other is the only way you can avoid falling into lava or reach a platform. If one of these monster vanished permanently when you killed it, if you ever had to go back through that room again you'd end up stuck, basically. So count yourself lucky that they're all members of the undead and can be resurrected.

The graphics are so colourful you'll need to wear Ray-Bans to reduce the glare. Gomez could be accused of being a tad small (*I accuse Gomez of being a tad small - Dave*), but the case for the defence is size doesn't matter - it's what you can do with him that counts (*Dave's objection overruled - Ed*). He jumps like a maniac with springs in his cuban heels and can even change direction in mid air. Wow, what a man (and he really loves his wife too).

The Addams Family is just pure fabness. An arcade adventure with a soul - quite a few souls actually and Grandma's got most of them stashed away in her handbag. Even if you can't click your fingers in an ever so cool manner, you'll love it. Trust me, I'm a vampire.

CLUR



Most of the time it's far easier to avoid those monsters than kill 'em.

CF VITAL STATISTIX

GAMETHE ADDAMS FAMILY
 PUBLISHERTHE HIT SQUAD
 CONTACT NUMBER061 832 6633
 PRICE£3.99
 AVAILABLEOUT NOW

THE ADDAMS FAMILY

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

GRAPHICS

Luvverly stuff, brighter than your granny's purple hair-do.

SOUND

Dum-iddy-dum, click click, dum-iddy-dum, click cli... (*I'm warning you - Ed*).

IMPACT

It gets its hooks in like a thing with lots of hooks on it from the start.

GAME LIFE

You'll be stuck to it like a fly in a fly trap (but you won't be dissolved.)

POWER RATING

93%

WHERE HAVE I SEEN THAT FACE BEFORE?

Some of the monsters you meet in the *Addams Family* seem strangely familiar:

☞ **PUMPKIN HEADS:** If you've seen *Halloween 3* you'll know what pumpkins are capable of. The orange vegetables in this game take a simpler approach than pretending to be kids' masks and then sucking their brains out; they squash you.

☞ **TAZMANIAN DEVIL:** Come to Tasmania, come to Tasmania, come to Tasmania. We mean you. Thuuupht! (*That's not how you spell pththpht! - Dave*). (*No, it's not, it's thwpppppt - Trent*).

☞ **SKULL:** The skulls all seem to be relations of Boney from *Trap Door*. Except they're 20 times the size and don't whinge as much. But they do have the same nose and gaunt cheek bones (*well, they would - Ed*).

☞ **COCKROACH:** *Addams Family*, *Meet The Applegates*. These giant pests are out to bug you in a big way.

☞ **KNIGHT:** If you haven't seen *Monty Python And The Holy Grail* go hire the video Ni... er... now! Oh, and avoid these blokes in the game.



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THE ARGON FACTOR

Rows of computers lined the wall. Argonians prefer them to wallpaper.

IN A WELL LIT LABORATORY, rows of computers relay information to various outputs. Doors are east and south. You drop safely from the shaft!

How would you like to be £1,000 better off? If you're the first person to beat this adventure you will be. Clur discovers what you have to do.



The planet Argon as seen from your space ships monitor. Pretty perhaps, but not all very informative. I recommend you talk to LAP, your robot pal, if you want to know more.

Usually, the only thing you get when you finish a game is a feeling of immense self-satisfaction (unless it's *Final Fight* in which case you just feel cheated). But if you're the first person to finish *The Argon Factor* you could end up with a lot more. Argon's programmer, Tony Rome, is so sure that it's going to take even the keenest of players a goodly while to work out the solution to his graphic adventure that's he's offering £1,000 make the effort seem worthwhile.

For reasons known only to Tony and a small bowl of petunias the game is set in the year 2152. A nasty piece of work named Valdira, a despicable little space bandit who travels the universe, destroying everything in his wake – just for a laugh you understand – has decided to make life hell for a certain Captain Cord (made up name!), hero of the space fleet.

For a giggle, Valdira created a holographic image of Cord which he used to order Cord's loyal fleet (with Ankira, his girly, on one of the ships) on a dangerous mission

TIP OFF

```
Nothing of interest there.
> open locker
In a compartment lies a crystal.
> examine locker
Another compartment holds a web pistol.
> take crystal and pistol
```

Always examine an area thoroughly. For example look twice at the locker in your space ship before you leave.

from which it never returned. After a month-long trial, the real Cord was found guilty of negligence and banished from Earth.

For three years he searched for some evidence that would prove his innocence, assisted only by a run-down robot named LAP. Then one day a faint, signal was picked up by his on-board computer. The message hailed from a small planet named Argon, in the Velusian Belt, and mentioned the name Ankira. Immediately he set course for Argon.

The game has two main sections; it starts off with a standard adventurey bit in which you have to land your ship on Argon and explore the planet. To help you get started this section has a Save Game option so that you don't have to re-start

from the beginning if you die. The second section consists of a series of fiendish puzzles each set in different time zones. To finish the entire game, you have to complete each section perfectly.

For a graphical adventure the graphics in *The Argon Factor* are hardly masterpieces, but they perform their function excellently; they add atmosphere and help to orientate you, without wasting valuable memory that's been better spent on the actual gameplay. The parser (which is the type-in control system for any new adventurers lured by the £1,000 prize) can still handle quite complicated series of commands without throwing it's stock, "I really don't now what you're talking about!" reply at you.

Argon is an atmospheric and intriguing slice of adventuring but it's rather pricey at a tenner. And without the £1,000 prize I doubt whether it would lure any non-adventure fans away from their joysticks.

CLUR

CF VITAL STATISTIX

GAMETHE ARGON FACTOR
 PUBLISHER.....LOGYK SOFTWARE
 CONTACT NUMBER.....021 456 2795
 PRICE£10
 AVAILABLEOUT NOW
 OTHER INFOTAPE AND DISK

THE ARGON FACTOR
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

GRAPHICS

More functional than aesthetically pleasing, but they work well enough.

CONTROL SYSTEM

The game's got an decent vocabulary so you shouldn't get too frustrated.

IMPACT

The first section is an excellent teaser designed to lure you into the game.

GAME LIFE

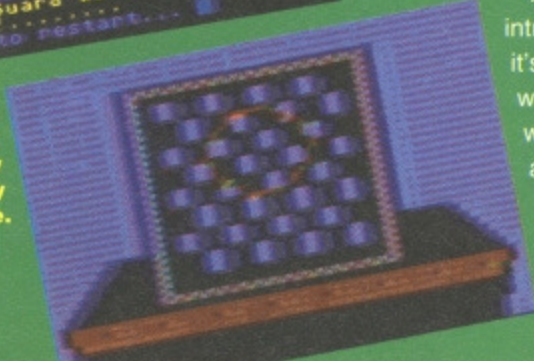
Well, it all depends on how badly you want to win the £1,000 prize.

POWER RATING
72%

What not to do. The Argonian guards can be quite short tempered!

```
> enter 4358
That's not possible right now.
> show pass
Nothing happens!
An Argonian Guard walks by. He shoots you on sight!.....
PRESS A KEY to restart... B
```

The guards aren't very good at their job. They spend all day playing this game.





SKULL & CROSSBONES

Scrub the sails and poop the main deck, get your eight pieces of rum and catless to join Clur on an expedition into the highly dangerous world of pirating.

Pirates, evil wizards and ninjas together in one game? In one country? All at the same time? Oh well, all's fair in love and game coding, and ninjas are quite brill at fighting. Besides, it helps make the plot really 'interesting'.

The retro-active justification for *Skull & Crossbones* goes something like this. One Eye and Red Dog were lords of the sea, murderers and pillagers of the highest calibre. All was fine with their world until one fine evening when they were returning home with their ill-gotten gains. On this particular evening they bumped into an evil sorcerer, who took an instant dislike to them and hid all their treasures in dead awkward places.

So now they are doomed to search the town and its residents' ships until they find where the wizard's hidden their gold. Of course, nobody likes a pirate, so everybody Red Eye and One Dog meet draws their

sword, whips out their ninja nunchukas or produces whatever other weapon that's appropriate to their social strata and challenges our heroes to a duel. It's a sort of neighbourhood watch scheme with attitude.

All our sea-faring heroes have to defend themselves with are small, but shiny, swash-bucklers' swords. They can thrust, lunge, or backslash their opponent to a pile of dust. Or they can draw back and defend themselves from the enemies' parries.

Skull & Crossbones is a one- or two-player game. If you're playing on your own (and you probably will be) you take the part of One Eye who's clad in a clean white shirt. In two-player mode your opponent plays Red Dog in a rather fetching purple shirt (that's Red Dog in the shirt – your mate can wear whatever he likes). And that's really about the

only difference, as the two players take it in turns to play through each level.

Each level is played on a different scrolling map but you can only move on to the next section if you discover a red exit square; these appear when you've killed everything on that level – fine in principle but problematic in practice. You see, the game won't scroll back on itself. You can be forced along the map, leaving 'live' enemies behind. Which means you're stuck because the exit square won't appear until all your foes are dead!

Red One and Dog Eye can only either face left or right so their movements are very limited. And it's sometimes difficult to tell whether you're actually bashing your foe or not. The only way to know, is to play with the music off so you can here the sound effects.

Controlling your pirate should be simple enough, with the commands swapping direction when One Red Dog or Dog Eye Red do an about face. The problem's getting them to turn around in the first place. You can't turn while you're being hit and even then turning takes time because you have to hold down the Fire button. This leaves you open to attack for a second – which is usually the second you die.

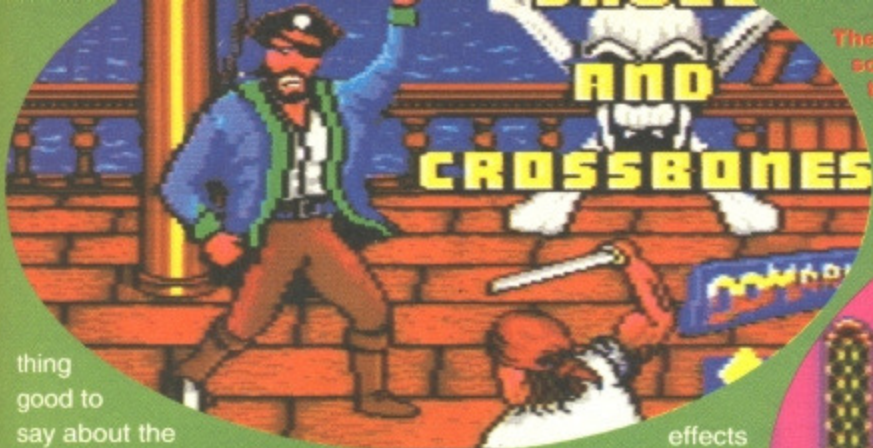
Although *S&C* looks okay in a garish sort of way – well actually it doesn't; I'm just searching for some-

It has to get the wooden leg award for gameplay



Just imagine how upset Red Dog was when he dropped his bargain bucket!





The intro screen - this is as good as it gets.

thing good to say about the darned game. Basically the graphics are colourful, but pretty rubbish and the appearance of the bonuses typify the laziness with which the program has been written; they're just 'O' from the standard C64 character set that pop into existence then bounce lamely off the screen. *Skull and Crossbones* also gets the wooden leg award for gameplay award.

Basically, it's a very poorly worked out game that's almost in danger of being fun to play until you stuck by the daft scrolling. The graphics and sound

effects aren't in any danger of improving your enjoyment either. It's hard to imagine that any one ever actually put coins into this when it was a coin-op. At least on computer you pay once and you play once - that sounds like a fair deal. Sorry, I've started talking gibberish. *S&C* gets you that way.



"Look! A pile of purple pixels" Said Red One. "Ah, that'll be an evil wizard then."



Oh no, we're being attacked by photo-negatives!

TIP OFF

If someone's sneaking up behind you don't waste time turning around do a back slash - you'll die, basically.

SO WHY ARE YOU JOLLY, ROGER?

I bet you're wondering why pirates called their Skull and Crossbones flags the Jolly Roger? No? Well we're going to tell you anyway. Actually there are two explanations so take your pick. One is that it comes from the Indian phrase 'Ali Rajah' which means 'King of the Sea'. The other is that in olden days when a sea-faring vessel went into battle it was customary to fly a flag. If it was red it meant that no quarter would be given (ie, no prisoners would be taken) and the French called this the *la Jolie Rougere*, but as this was the 17th century everything was in black and white.

Look, just how anachronistic do you want to get? You were wiped out in the 14th Century!



CF VITAL STATISTIX

GAMESKULL & CROSSBONES
 PUBLISHERTHE HIT SQUAD
 CONTACT NUMBER.....061 832 6633
 PRICE£3.99
 AVAILABLEOUT NOW

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

GRAPHICS →

The graphics are bright and functional at best, cheap-looking at worst.

SOUND →

You have a choice of fairly bog standard music or sound effects.

IMPACT →

You might well enjoy your first stab at *Skull and Crossbones*...

GAME LIFE →

...But more than likely it'll be the last you you play it as well.

POWER RATING

37%

LIVERPOOL

Living up to a reputation as the best in the world can be tough (oh I don't know –

TMB). Just ask Mr Souness.

After a cataclysmic season he's desperately trying to rebuild the Liverpool legend. Grandslam's new game could help or hinder him in this endeavour. A brilliant footie free-for-all would help restore Liverpoolian pride, at least amongst the computer literate, but a real dog would only seem to typify the

Scousers' season.

Well, Graeme, John and (now) Nigel can breathe a sigh of relief

because the C64 Anfield crowd looks to be have hit form.

If their real-life counterparts can match this level of skill

next September, then once again the 'Pool will be championship contenders.

With *MicroProse Soccer*, *Emlyn Hughes* and *Kick Off 2* already on the park, it's hard to actually better the 'game'. What your aspiring (doesn't that mean breathing? – Clur) Ian Rush needs is a combination of good 'pitch' action, options and solid programming.

Luckily, *Liverpool* plays an attractive game, has a team bus-full of options and is as robust as Vinny Jones after a week on a health farm.

Liverpool's got style. And the game's not bad either. Icons abound on the intro, outro and options screens, with all your possible choices just a joystick click away. There's a



After turning out 3rd Division footie games like England and Peter Beardsley, Grandslam's Liverpool licence looked doomed to relegation. Trenton* shined his boots ready to give it a kicking, but now it seems that the lads have done well, so he's as sick as a parrot after going over the moon – Jim!

single match, two-player game, full season and a knockout FA Cup tournament.

Then there's the team, something I think all football managers – even Graham Taylor – will agree, is essential for a successful days football. The squad's picked by clicking on the faces of Liverpool lads from recent seasons – Dean Saunders is still at the club. Each player is graded in terms of power and ability, their history backed up with a comprehensive list of what they've achieved at the club. There are even neat lit-

tle pics of each of your 20-man team, so you can see exactly who you're picking.

All the options in the world couldn't help a footie game that doesn't play, so it's

down to

Liverpool's silky skills earn it a place in the C64 first team

Liverpool's silky skills to earn a place in the C64 first team. It has to be

able to tackle *Kick Off 2*,

dribble circles around *Emlyn* and put a shot past *MicroProse Soccer*. Luckily, *Liverpool* really has a go for goal.

The play window is small (one nil to the opposition). The players are fast (it's one-one!). Occasionally, it's a little hard to tell which of your team's doing what (two-one to them) but the control's precise (two-two). Then, just when you thought it was all over, you get the feel of the way this game plays.

Football is more than a game of two halves, it's a game of many disparate parts. There's positional play, player intelligence, pace, the power and the punishing effect of tackles, the gulf between the average and the excellent players, aftertouch and much more besides. Somehow *Liverpool* ties it all together in one taut little package. It's hard to specify why or how, but the

Don't cheat! Whatever the score, whatever the other team's position, NEVER foul them. Due to tightening up procedures among computer refs, late tackles will now automatically earn you a red card and an early bath. It's easier to get a goal back than a player, so play the game by the rules.

TIP OFF



There's wot-sisname, ooojah, thingy and y' know. The team are house-hold names.



CF VITAL STATISTIX

GAMELIVERPOOL
 PUBLISHERGRANDSLAM
 CONTACT NUMBER.....081 680 7044
 PRICE£10.99/£14.99
 AVAILABLEJULY

OLLIE



adjusting your formation for an entire season. With slick icon presentation and exceptionally good on-the-grass action it's one of the best kickers seen for years on the C64.

Come on you reds!

TRENTON

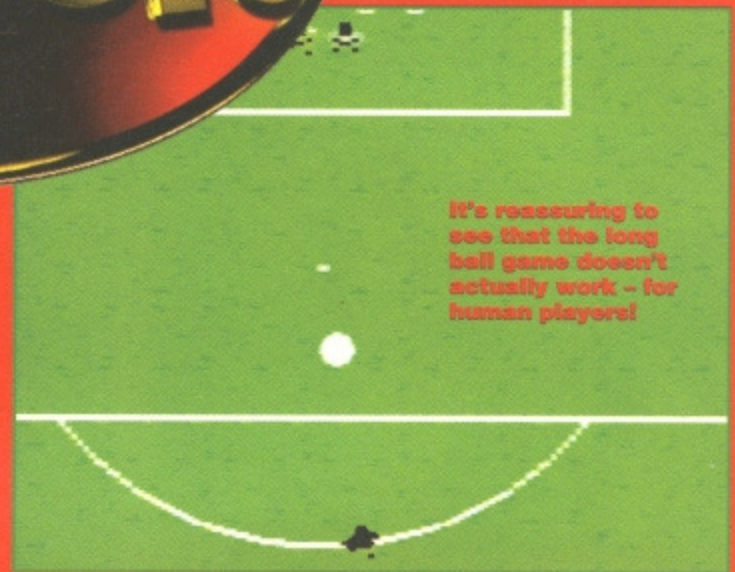


whole bundle pulls together (*just the way the England side don't - Ollie*). The result is a convincing win for *Liverpool*.

Now for the bit of the review where I say that as with most sports games it's much better played against a human competitor than it is against the computer. But then you knew that would be the case so I'm not going to bother saying it. Even though it's true. Particularly true, in the case of *Liverpool*, in

fact. But we'll just pretend that I didn't say it, okay? Good.

Liverpool hammers home Grandslam's recent sporting advantage. *Nick Faldo* really made the grade and now *Liverpool's* right up there (well nearly) beside it. The game's fluid, it plays well and there are enough options to keep you



It's reassuring to see that the long ball game doesn't actually work - for human players!



THE OLLIE ALDERTON SCHOOL OF SOCCER COMMENTARY AND BROADCASTING...

The gulf between what Ollie said while playing *Liverpool* and what he really meant:

- "That was pure skill" - *That was a pure fluke*
- "It's bugged" - *You outplayed me*
- "My guys can't run as fast as yours" - *I'm controlling the wrong player*
- "That can't happen" - *It's just has!*
- "My goalie is duff" - *Ball? What ball?*
- "You've got the best joystick" - *I haven't got a clue what's going on!*
- "*&%?@£!!!" - *You've just scored!*
- "I've had enough" - *You've won*
- "It's rubbish" - *You've won the last two matches*
- "I'm never going to play again" - *I'm a good loser, honest!*
- "You were lucky..." - *I was beaten convincingly...*
- "...Best of nine?" - *This time it's war!*

LIVERPOOL

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

GRAPHICS

Decent icons. small, but nippy players and recognisable player portraits.

SOUND

Not at all bad, but where's all the chanting from the terraces?

IMPACT

Instant footie action helped out by easy-to-get-to-grip-with controls.

GAME LIFE

Tactical options by the score. Score, gedit? (Yes, unfortunately - Dave.)

POWER RATING

90%

RODLAND

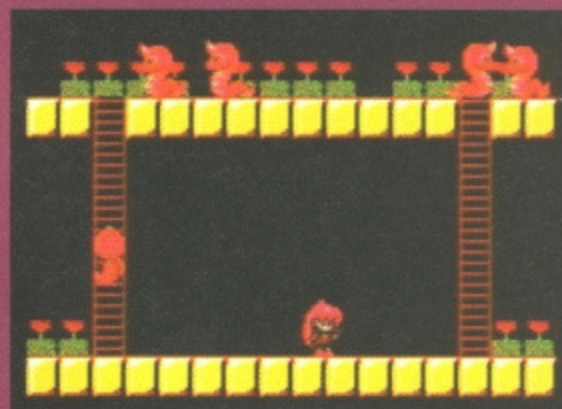
Long before Trolls invaded the C64 another breed of stupidly-haired creatures did the platform bouncery thang. Now they're back in re-release form and our very own fiery-follicled freak, Clur, gives them the treatment (and we're not on about a wash and blow dry).

Move over Manga, here comes *Rodland*. It's more Japanese than sushi, even cuter than girly oriental pop singers and more than a tad playable. *Rodland* is a platformer that belongs there on the shelf, right next to your video of *Akira* and your collection of bonsai (Okay, *Clur* that's enough, we get the picture – Ed).

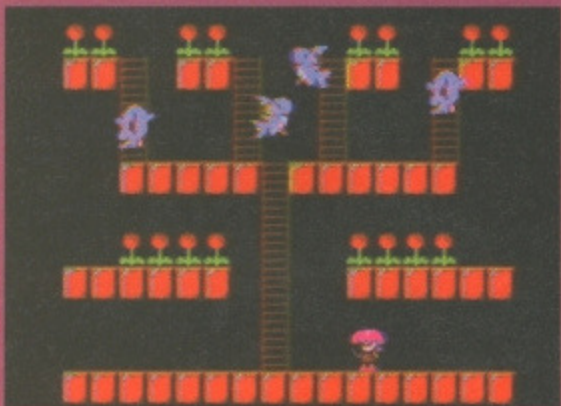
Tam and Rit's Mum has been kidnapped by a ginormous bird and is being held captive in an incredibly tall tower. The first thing that any average teenager would do faced with this situation would be to arrange a series of all night parties –

rescuing the old biddy would only cross their minds when they don't get their breakfast in bed three days in a row. But Tam and Rit are different. They love their mummy in the way that only kids in American soaps usually do (isn't it a shame how westernised the Japanese are getting?) and so they start off on an adventure they will never forget.

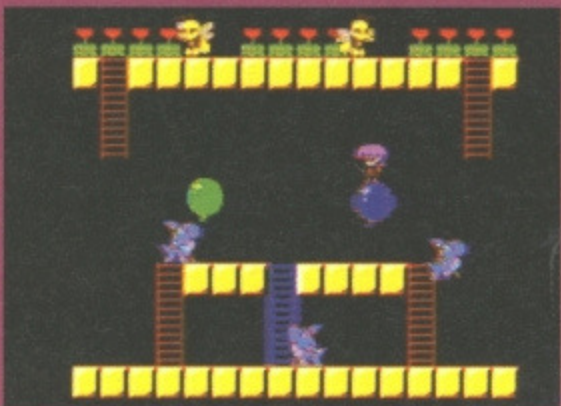
The route to the tower is guarded by a host of cuddly beasties, all out to get the kids. You can play either of the two sprogs, or you can get your mate to join in and play the other. In two-co-operation is the name of the game (well, er, the subtitle, at least – it's still called *Rodland*



Why is it that in games things without any legs always seem to be able to move a hell of a lot faster than quadrupeds?



Whales with wellies climbing ladders? Get out of here. You'll be telling me to take a hitch on a hot air balloon next.



Okay, okay, you were right. As long as I don't get dive-bombed by any large mutant wasps... uh oh! I wish I hadn't said that.

actually), because if you kill your mate he'll just go and nick all your continues when he gets back into the fray..

The game works much along the same lines as *Bubble Bobble* you've got a screen packed with enemy-infested platforms which you have to clear to get on to the next level. The platforms appear to be made out of Gro-Bags™ with pretty pink flowers sprouting from them.

You can just kill all the nasties on a level to move on to the next one if you want, but only a girly wuss would do that that. Because, you see, if you collect all flowers before you've killed all the baddies you get a chance to get an extra

WOKE UP THIS MORNING AND MY MAMA WAS GONE OOOO-EEEE,

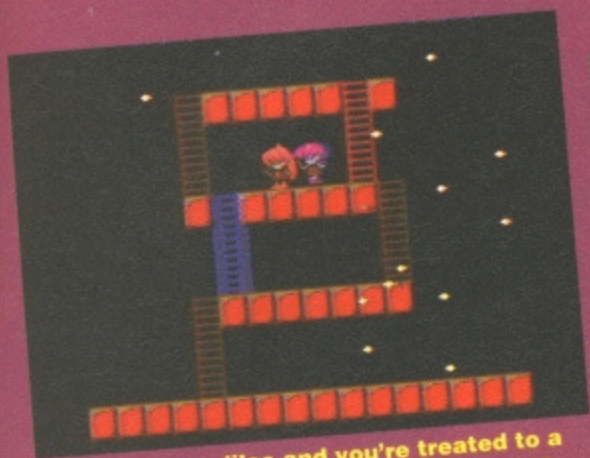
And if you understand that title, what are you doing playing C64 games? You should be down the post-office, showing the woman next to you in the pension queue pictures of grandchildren... (Er, I found the record in my mum's collection, by the way – honest). Anyway, this groovy slice of 60s vinyl (by a band aptly named *Middle Of The Road*) just about sums up the plot of *Rodland*... uncanny, really isn't it? But, strangely, it doesn't go into the details. But never fear, because what follows is the Reader's Digest abridged version...



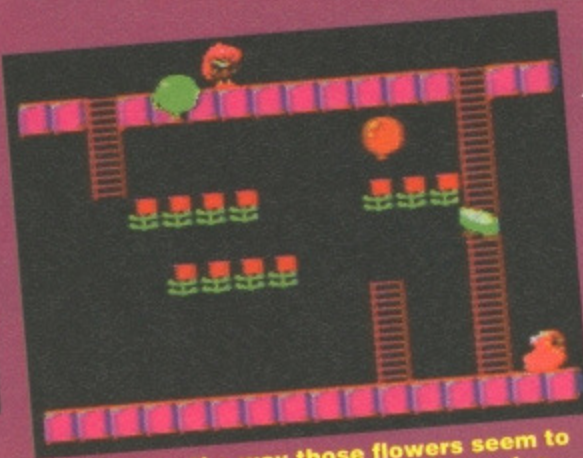
"Mom, what have you done to your hair? I told you not to trust that cheapo hair-dressers behind the chip shop."



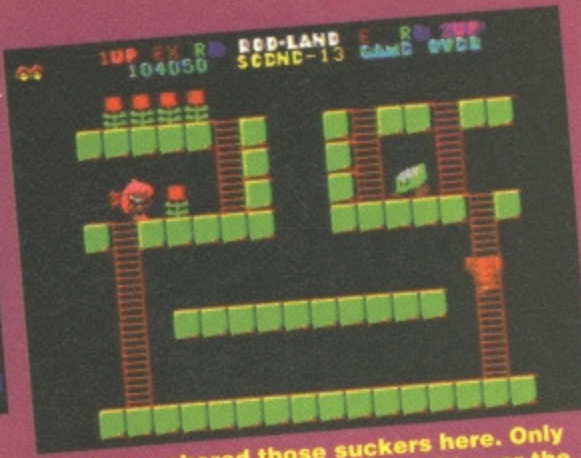
If you ask me she looks like she's holding on to that bird's neck. Maybe she's faking the kidnapping to claim on the insurance.



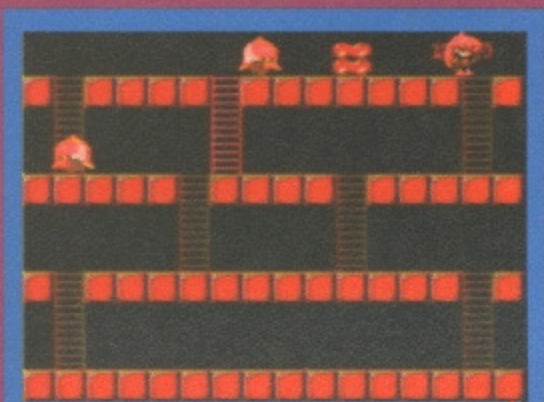
Beat the crocodiles and you're treated to a spiffy firework display. Quite why is never made entirely clear.



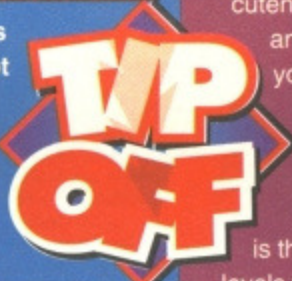
It's amazing the way those flowers seem to be growing in mid air. They must be using some mighty strange fertiliser in this place.



Ha! I've suckered those suckers here. Only five flowers to go and they're right over the other side of the screen. Poor saps.



If destroying an enemy earns you a special weapon, try not to use it until you've picked all the flowers. Then you can blast all the nasties and collect a veritable alphabet of bonus letters.



killing has never been more fun! When you're in range of a baddie tap the Fire button on your joystick to activate the rod's tractor beam to trap him. Now, if you repeatedly press Fire you'll fling the baddie from side-to-side over your head bashing him viciously on the ground until he's completely pulverised. Alternatively, you can just swing him over your head once to move him out of your way if you don't want him dead just yet.

Once you've overcome the nauseating cuteness the inherent violence shines through, and that's when you really begin to enjoy yourself. The first few levels ease you into the gameplay and then wham! – you're thrown into the action big time and there no room for any more mistakes.

The only major downer about *Rodland* is that it's too easy. It's possible to play all 32 levels without having to pick up any bonuses. So, once you've got it licked (which won't take long) it's really up to you whether you want to make the game a bit more challenging by going for the flowers and seeing how many lives you can finish the game with. The music's also just on the wrong side of irritating, but when you're playing you'll get so involved that you won't care about the noise coming from your 64. Or any noise for that matter. Dannii Minogue could play in a gig in your bedroom and you wouldn't even notice.



CF VITAL STATISTIX

GAME	RODLAND
PUBLISHER	KIXX
CONTACT NUMBER	021 625 3388
PRICE	£3.99
AVAILABLE	OUT NOW
OTHER INFO ...	TAPE ONLY, MULTILOAD

RODLAND

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

GRAPHICS

Colourful and detailed, if a bit sparse – at least you can see what you're doing.

SOUND

Tedious cutesy tune that you'll have to turn down after a while.

IMPACT

Instantly addictive in exactly the way that *Eldorado* isn't.

GAME LIFE

It's a tad too easy so you'll probably finish it within day or two.

POWER RATING
89%

CHIRPY CHIRPY, CHEEP, CHEEP



That's no prison – it looks more like an exclusive women's holiday camp. I still reckon that it's all a big set-up.



Ahh, maybe I might have been a little wrong. Doesn't look very luxurious, does it? Oh well, at least she has a window.

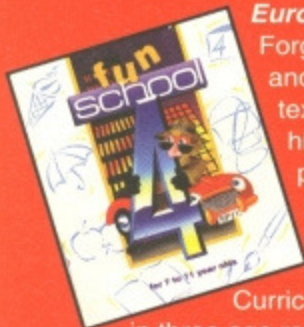
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<i>Spelling Fair</i>	£12.99	£9.99	CF190

FIRST SAMURAI

UBI Soft

An arcade adventure hack-'em-up with a distinctly ninja flavour, *First Samurai* received one of the highest scores CF has ever awarded a game – 96 per cent. It's got the lot – great graphics, great sound, great gameplay, great whatever else there is left to be great.

Description	RRP	CF Price	Order No
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<i>First Samurai</i> (disk)	£16.99	£13.99	CFSAMD

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DEAD SMART

Description	CF Price	Order No
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Two CF binders	£11.00	CM104



CREATURES 2

Thalamus

If you haven't got this game – WHY NOT? It's a Corker of awesome proportions. Gorier than an episode of *Casualty* beat up Dave, this has to be one of the great puzzling at its very best with some superbly

Description	RRP	CF Price	Order No
<i>Creatures 2</i> cassette	£10.99	£9.99	CFCR2C
<i>Creatures 2</i> disk	£15.99	£12.99	CFCR2C



SAVE UP TO £3



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Demo: Robocod.
Gamebusters: Murray Mouse, Rainbow Islands.
Reviews: James Pond: Robocod, Biff, Dylan Dog, Jimmy's Soccer Manager, DJ Puff's Volcanic Adventure, Light, Bug Bomber, Gary Linneker Collection.



CF26: Cover tape - Full games: Twin Tiger, Cosmic Causeway, Bomber.
Demos: Stuntman Seymour, Doc Croc.
Gamebusters: Space Crusade, DJ Puff.
Reviews: Stuntman Seymour, Super All-Stars, Boxing Manager 2, Popeye 3
Specials: First installment of Let's Make A Monster.



CF30: Cover tape - Full games: Slayer, Rebounder, Daedalus, Blackjack 21.
Gamebusters: Creatures, Reckless Rufus, Winter Camp.
Reviews: Jimmy's Super League, Carnage, Gladiators, Football Manager 3, Spelling Fair, Big Box.
Specials: How to write dead brill' SEUCK games.



CF23: Cover tape - Full games: Defenders Of The Earth, Johnny Reb 2.
Demos: Biff, Bug Bomber, Nobby The Aardvark.
Gamebusters: Maze Mania, Rainbow Islands, Super Seymour Saves The Planet.
Reviews: Cool Croc Twins, Turbo The Tortoise, Xenomorph, Millennium Warriors, The Olympiads.



CF27: Cover tape - Full games: Deflektor, Alternative World Games, The Muncher.
Demo: Sceptre Of Baghdad.
Gamebusters: 13-page Creatures 2 special.
Reviews: Crystal Kingdom Dizzy, Bully's Sporting Darts, Crazy Cars, Psycho's Soccer, Locomotion.
Specials: Fan clubs.



CF31: Cover tape - Full games: Cauldron 2, Snare, Subterranea, Monster Mash.
Demo: Arnie 2.
Gamebusters: Stuntman Seymour, Dalek Attack, Crystal Kingdom Dizzy.
Reviews: McDonaldland, Table Tennis, Snare, Super Sports Challenge, 4-Most Super Sports
Specials: More SEUCKcess; Football management sims.



CF24: Cover tape - Full game: Famous Five.
Demos: Fuzzball, Match Of The Day, Ugh!, Cool Croc Twins.
Gamebusters: Space Crusade.
Reviews: Mega Sports, Ugh!, Elvira 2, Hägar The Horrible, Nobby The Aardvark.
Specials: Typing in listings (a popular one, this!); getting the most out of your datassette.



CF28: Cover tape - Full games: First Strike, Fifth Gear, Locomotion, Reckless Rufus, Nick Faldo's Championship Golf.
Gamebusters: Spellbound Dizzy, Famous Five.
Reviews: International Tennis, Graeme Souness International Soccer, Cool World, Nick Faldo's Championship Golf, Paint And Create.



CF32: Cover tape - Full games: Thrust, Steel, Corya.
Full Utility: FROST (sprite designer utility).
Gamebusters: Stuntman Seymour, Lethal Weapon, Dalek Attack, Wild West Seymour.
Reviews: ARNIE 2, Fist Fighter, International Truck Racing, Trolls, Stone Age, World Championship Squash.



CF25: Extra Cover tape - Saracen Paint.
Cover tape - Full game: John Lowe's Ultimate Darts.
Demos: Slicks, Hägar.
Gamebusters: Space Crusade, DJ Puff, Vendetta.
Reviews: Hook, Match Of The Day, Bangers And Mash, Count Duckula 2, Frankenstein, Slicks.
Specials: More datassette stuff.



CF29: Cover tape - Full games: Herobotix, Battleships, Highway Encounter.
Demo: Carnage.
Gamebusters: Winter Camp, Spellbound Dizzy, Batman.
Reviews: WWF European Rampage, Sceptre Of Baghdad, Magic Rufus, Dalek Attack, Street Fighter 2, Superstar Seymour, Lethal Weapon.



CF33: Cover tape - Full games: Snackman, ATA, Water Polo, Corya Part 2.
Gamebusters: Dalek Attack, Lethal Weapon, Thrust, Wild West Seymour.
Reviews: Sleepwalker, Robin Hood, WWF, RoboCod, Darkman, 4 Most World Sports, Shadow Dancer.
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NEXT MONTH

DIRTY ROTTEN CHEAT!

Well there aren't going to be any of those in the next issue. Oh no, sir. But there will be bucket loads of good clean hints, tips, tricks, tactics, POKEs, listings, playing guides, advice and sundry other gaming info. Yes, *CF35* sees our Samaritan's Corner (or SOS as it has come to be known) Gamebusters Special.

Andy 'The Roberts' Roberts has collated all your requests for help, taken the games most in demand and blown them wide open. So if you requested help on a game make sure you don't miss our massive cheat special.

As well as specific game tips we'll also be explaining the subtleties of adventures. One of the country's top adventure writers will be showing us just how adventures work and revealing a truck load of top-flight puzzle solving techniques. And *CF* will go all nostalgic when as we look back at one of the C64's odder moments. Plus an exclusive investigation into the daft names of games.

Along with all this – if we can find room – will be all the regular reviews, previews, news, letters, techie tips and tape talk. They're all going to be part of the mega-mag know as *Commodore Format*. So make sure you're there for *CF35* on 27th July. You'd have to be daft not to!

SAVE CF!

Don't worry, we're not in danger. But with demand for *CF* as strong as ever YOU are! Every month the mag sells out real fast, so to make sure that you get hold of a copy fill out this form to reserve yourself a copy.

MAG*SAVE

Dear Mr/Mrs/Ms Newsagent,
Please reserve me a copy of that fine periodical that bears the legend *Commodore Format* proudly upon its cover. I believe that the next issue, *CF35*, is due to be published on the 27th day of the month of July in the year of our Lord 1993!

MY NAME _____

MY ADDRESS _____

IF IT'S WEDNESDAY IT MUST BE SALEM

Dear *Commodore Format*,

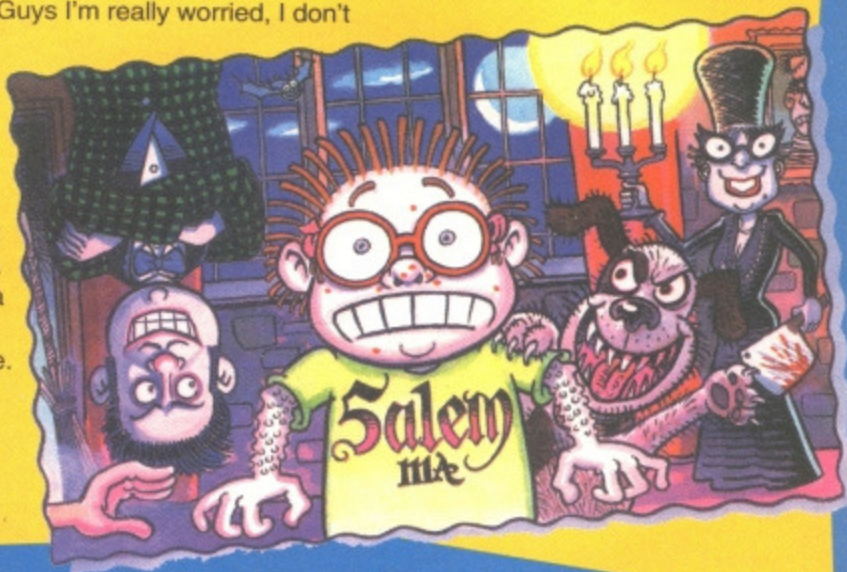
I'm really worried about Mum, Dad and Debit. They've gone all spooky! Dad's taken to hanging from the ceiling, mum won't (can't?) go out in bright sunlight and Debit now sleeps in a satin-lined wooden box!

It all started during our week-long break from the cruise ship. We drove into a town called Salem. When we arrived I nipped straight down to the local computer store to play *The Addams Family* while my folks went off to the motel. When I got back to our rooms all the lights were off and everything was silent.

I crept into the house and was startled to see mum feeding raw meat to a plant, a disembodied hand playing a harpsichord and Dad throwing knives at Debit. And from here it only got weirder! Guys I'm really worried, I don't know what's happened.

Oh, and while I think of it I've also sent you this odd canister-flask-type thing that fell off an army truck on our way down to Salem. I've sent it over for TMB to have a look at, as I haven't got a clue what it is. Hang on, there's some writing here. Hmmm, I wonder what ERVE GAS is?

Yours, Roger
Salem, Massachusetts.



OLLIE & TRENT'S FOOTBALL FIESTA!

Just when you thought the football season was dead and buried, here comes our very own Saint and Greavsie (but we're not telling you which one's which) to torment all you non-footie folk. Here's our little test of terrace triv'.

- 1 Who won the 1992/3 Coca Cola Cup?
- 2 Who won the 1992/3 FA Cup?
- 3 Who won the First Division play-offs?
- 4 Which brilliant Bristol team was relegated to the Second Division?
- 5 Why are you laughing?
- 6 Spell Gianluca Vialli.
- 7 Why will England be playing in America in 1993, a year before the World Cup?
- 8 Why won't England be playing in America in 1994, the year of the World Cup?
- 9 Why has Des Walker lost form?
- 10 Graham Taylor. Discuss? (*Disgust?* – Ed)

Answers below

FOOTIE QUIZ ANSWERS



Questions above

- 1 Arsenal
- 2 Swindon Town
- 3 Bristol Rovers
- 4 You're cruel
- 5 Gianluca Vialli.
- 6 There's a 'warm up' tournament for all the world's leading teams, and England were invited by mistake.
- 7 We drew with Poland 1-1, we lost to Norway 2-0.
- 8 See below (or should that be above?)
- 9 HAI!

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- Parallel Interface
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- Epson and IBM Emulation
- Auto Set Facility
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- Advanced Paper Handling
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