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ISSUE 48 －£2．95－SEPTEMBER 1994

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## You have connected to the C64 news net. Prepare for information download. Dave Golder is your cyberhost...

#  <br>  

The Electric Boys have announced that when they finally get the rights to distribute the German CP Verlag games, they will be making them available on tape for the first time ever, but only for six months.

The games, some of which are reviewed this issue (pages 18-21) have been written specifically for disk use, and so tape users might have some multiload nightmares. But the Electric Boys hope that by making them available on tape, they will show tape users what they're missing out on, and encourage them to buy disk drives.

For more details you can contact The Electric Boys on $\bar{\Sigma} 0816687595$.

## NEW 8-BIT MAG IS BIG ON ADS

8 -Bit Mart is a new mail order mag devoted to the 8 -bits. And when we say mail order, we don't just mean you have to send away to get it; it's actually stuffed full of adverts for mail order companies and small classified ads. An expanded Uncle Dave's Buy-A-Rama, I suppose.

So if your after some software or hardware that you just can't get in the shops, 8-Bit Mart looks like it could be a good place to turn to.

The first ish is out on 1st September Normally it'd cost you four first class stamps, but as a special offer to CF readers, editor Brian Watson is offering you a sample copy for just two first class stamps. That also entitles you to a free

## THE GREATEST (COMPUIER) SHOW IN THE GALAXY

This Future Entertainment Show lark is shaping up to be a one mammoth of an event, easily eclipsing the last two shows, with much more on offer for everyone who's into any sort of computing.

While there are still going to be loads of new games on show, games workshops and and a game theatre, there's going to be a much bigger emphasis on the serious side of computing. Not business and stuff, but things like CD ROM, DTP, electronic music, digital art, that kind of thing.

And it'll
be much more interactive, with loads of
workshops,
debates and demos which you can take part in. And, of course, all the latest technology and software will be vying for your attention.

Basically, if you're into any aspect of computers there's going be something there for you not just to see, but to get involved in.

It all takes place from 26th-30th October at Earl's Court. Tickets cost $£ 6$ in advance and $£ 7$ on the door. The ticket hotline is $\mathbf{\sigma} 0369$ 4235 (honest, I haven't missed any numbers off).
small ad in one of these sections: for sale, wanted, help and miscellaneous.

So if you want to get an issue, or if you want to find out about advertising rates contact Brian Watson, Harrowden, 39 High Street, Sutton-In-The-Isle, Ely, Cambs CB6 2RA $\mathbf{Z} 0535777006$.

## NEW ON THE 'ZINE

Okay, so that heading is almost as bad as 'Zine Scene, but give a mag a break, okay. Commodore Computing Magazine (CCM to its friends) is a new fanzine with a 'broad brief'.

It'll lean towards the more techy side of the C64 with articles in the first issue about swapping memory banks and whether you should buy a monitor or a will a TV do, as well as some golden oldie game reviews. It costs 60 p an issue or $£ 6$ for 12 issues. Write to CCM, 65 Uplands, Breacon, Powys, LD3 9HS 파 0874 622568. Make cheques payable to Dave Forsey.


## THE ALL-TIME

It's coming. Yep, in just two issues CF reaches the big five-oh, and to celebrate, we're going to be publishing the a list of the all-time top 50 C64 games (and a bottom 10 worst games). And who's going to be deciding which are the best games ever? You are! After 49 issues of us telling you what we think, you can tell us what you think. Will Mayhem be a
forgone conclusion for the number one spot or have you got other ideas? Is Cisco Heat the most appalling travesty of all time or do you know better?

All you have to do to get your opinions heard is fill in this form (or produce a reasonable facsimile of it) and send it along to:

## H폄 I

 HHROUCH THIE CRAPEVINE...Here are a few very non-official bits of news that our network of agents across the globe have eeked out (or rather, a few unsubstantiated bits of goss' that have been left on the office answerphone).

- The Electric Boys are raving about a game they've been sent from Poland. Though they're keeping tight-lipped about what sort of game it is, they are currently in negotiations to get the distribution rights in the UK. - The Boys have also unearthed another amazing piece of hardware. Details at the moment are sketchy, but rumour has it that it could take your machine to 8 Mhz and give it a 1 meg RAM
expansion. Which basically means that it could soup-up your machine to an incredible level. More news on that next issue hopefully. - The C64 scene in the US seems to be picking up at the moment as well, with two new C64 magazines being published within the last couple of months, one subscription-only, but both commercial and not just 'zines. Both apparently have a techie bias, and we'll try to give you a glimpse of them in a future issue.
- Rumour has it that a couple of entrepreneurs from the CPC scene are planning a semi-commercial multi-format 8-bit magazine, covering the Speccy, C64 and CPC.


## TOP 50 POLL

CFs All-Time Top 50, Commodore Format, Future Publishing, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, Avon, BA1 2BW before 1st September 1994.

And if you're writing in to the mag for any other reason (TMB, Techie Tips or whatever) take the opportunity to cast your vote. And you never know - any comments you might want to add could find their way into print..


So please, stop taking the pathetic attitude of the software houses; the C64 is doing better now than it ever has, with programmers using every byte of data to the limit, fanzines springing up everywhere, and more people learning to code their own blockbusters. So repeat after me, nation: "The C64 is not, repeat NOT a dying machine." Thank you. Kevin West, Wivenhoe.

Hold up there a minute, matey. CFs attitude is not that the machine is dying - in fact we've been printing article after article proving the exact opposite. The only point we are making is that it's up to you lot to make sure that the C64 continues to live up to its potential. The reason companies stopped making games was because they weren't selling as many. And that was because C64 users were (foolishly) moving onto other machines. If we want to keep this machine going then we have to support the companies which do still support the C64. If we make out that things are all hunky dory then people will become complacent. People need to know the real state of the scene so that they can do their bit to keep it going.

Yes, the C64 is a great machine, and the potential is there for it to continue to grow and develop in a number of exciting ways (see the letter of the month) but you lot have got to do your bit, and, personally, I reckon you'll be spurred into action more if you know how vital it is for you take an active part in the scene. Just waiting for the next game isn't enough. TMB

## ABSOLUIELY NO WAY

Dear TMB,
I only started getting Commodore Format with issue 28. I don't get it very often (in fact, not at all really). I think that the complete solutions to Slightly
Magic, Dizzy Prince of the Yolk Folk and Fantasy World Dizzy were in earlier


Ah, but did you know Dave Golder was an anagram of 'dog led rave' and Ollie Alderton translates as 'reliant old 'ole'? How's that for not answering in any of the ways you suggested? Is it rude to answer a question with a question? TMB

- Is it true that the first Seymour adventure was actually originally written for Dizzy? Gary Bailey, New Cross

It sure is. CodeMasters reckoned that the Hollywood setting was too realistic for Dizzy, and that he should stay in 'tantasy lands. So they created the grittily realistic walking potato for Seymour Goes To Hollywood. And the world has never been the same since. TMB

- Did you realise that your name is an anagram of the phrase 'Might by the rain'? (I bet you answer this in a very vague way or you just say something like, "Yes," or "Wrong".)
Zyrax Werewolfia, somewhere in the region of 4.5 million light years away.
looked great in the preview.
K Ilford, Doncaster
Jon Wells is still working on it but the only assurance he'll give is that, "It"ll be out before 10th Dan." TMB
- Which do you prefer - Star Trek, Star Trek The Next Generation or Deep Space Nine? Gary Bailey, New Cross

I prefer The Next Generation, though Troi irritates my synaptic membranes a bit at times. Ollie, of course, prefers classic Trek (why 'of course'? Are you implying I'm long in the tooth? - Ollie), while Dave's completely off his trolley and loves Deep Space Nine (he likes women with wrinkly noses apparently). TMB

- If you know everything why don't you write the whole mag?
$J$ Wilford, Leicester.
Because I don't get paid to. TMB
- What's happened to Germ Alert? It TMB -
dud, C64 owners everywhere thought, "stuff this for a lark," and bought a SNES. Fair enough. Who wants hundreds of yawnsome Dizzy remakes when you can have excellent graphics and superb sound even it, perhaps, the playability is not as good?

But now that C64 games are becoming fewer and further between this does not mean that the C64 is dying out. Now we can expect good quality, as the games that are written by C64 enthusiasts, not fat, overpaid lamers who have been forced to write conversions from other formats.

## JEALOUSY

Dear Mr T Brain,
Please, oh Mighty Brain, would you be kind enough to print this letter. My cousin has had a C64 for ages, and when I set eyes on his games I felt so jealous that I just had to have one (which I am getting for my birthday). I still can't wait to play the games on the covertape.

Anyway, here are a few questions...
1 Are you hologram (dead) or human (alive)?
2 Which company, in your opinion, is the best producer of C64 games overall?
3 Do you think SF2 is worth buying? Thank you oh, Mighty Brain.
Richard Spooner, Hull.
1 Erm, well I'm neither a hologram or humanoid, but I am alive. The suggestion that you have to be humanoid to be alive seems a bit xenophobic. 2 I'm tempted to say Apex because every game they produced was a classic (Creatures 1 and 2, Mayhem In Monsterland),

but their output was
hardly prolific. Thalamus, who released a couple of the Apex games (as well as Heatseeker, Armalyte and Nobby the Aardvark), scored consistently highly, as did System 3 (the Ninja series, Myth, Turbocharge).
3 On the '64 Street Fighter 2 s good, but not that good. If you want a top-grade beat-'em-up then the ancient-but-still-excellent $I K+$ is worth a butcher's. And 10th Dan, when it comes out, should be pretty good as well if it lives up to its promise (which could be hard). TMB

## WHAT NEXT?

I have recently started trying to put POKEs into games so that I can get infinite lives, etc, etc. After I type in the listing printed in the magazine, I save it under a name then run it, but I don't know what to do next. Please help. Stephen McKenna, Glasgow

When you type RUN you should then be confronted with an option along the lines of INVINCIBILITY Y/N? Type $Y$ followed by RETURN. Now PRESS PLAY ON TAPE should appear, so insert the game the POKE has been designed for and, indeed, press play on your datassette. If that doesn't work, you've obviously typed the listing in incorrectly, a common fault when it comes to fallible humanoids like yourself. The whole process is explained in full in a rather disturbing walk-through (starring that odious Leach person who used to work for the magazine) back in CF24 which, as Dave would no doubt inform you, is available through Back Issue on page 17. TMB

## IITMK 4.4:

What is it that sets all those stuck-up Amiga and PC owners apart from us Commie owners? Well, it sure ain't the hard disks, 3.5-inch floppy drives, processor speeds, scanners or even quite useless things like genlocks because these are all available to C64 users. So it must be their arrogance.

Let's analyse the arguments:

## 1 A PC/AMIGA IS FASTER.

Maybe so, but we don't have to exchange motherboards in order to speed up our computer. In the mid 80s there was already a cartridge which sped up the 64 to
4 Mhz . Now there's one that pushes our 64 to Amiga 500 speed, le, 8Mhz (it's called the Flash 8).

## 2a A PCIAMIGA HAS

 MORE MEMORY Boloney. Lots of Commie owners don't see the need for a RAM expansion but the largest I know of is 16 Mb .2b WELL, AT LEAST PC/AMIGA FLOPPIES HAVE MORE STORAGE SPACE. Wrong again. CMD sells a C64 compatible 3.5 -inch disk drive with 3.2 Mb of storage space per disk.

## 2 e HAH. BUT YOU CAN'T HAVE A HARD

 DRIVE ON THAT ANTIQUE OF A MACHINE.Do I hear a slight tone of arrogance? We too can have a hard disk. We've got a choice of 40-, 85-, $170-240$ or 340 Mb .
3 MY AMIGA HAS A GENLOCK INTERFACE I don't see what use a Genlock can be, but there is a C64 genlock available.
4a ON A PC YOU CAN USE A SCANNER. Scannertronik sells C64 scanners and DTP programs to use your scans in.
$4 b$ ER, I MEAN A VIDEO DIGITISER
See argument 4 a .

## 5 A PC IS MORE FLEXIBLE.

See all the points above. Need I say more?
So where can you get all this great stuff? Here are the details you need:

- SCANNTRONIK, Mugrauer GMBH, Parkstrasse 38, 85604 Zorneding-Poering, Germany Hand scanner 64 DM329 (about £120).
Video digitiser DM258 (about £80).
Digital Genlock DM848 (about ع255).
- DISCOUNT 2000, Tornbergstrasse 12a, D53340 Meckenhelm, Germany.
Flash 8 (8Mhz for the C64/128 plus 1Mb RAM) DM398 (about £120).
- CMD DIRECT SALES, Postfach 58, A-6410 Telfs, Austria.

HD 200 (240Mb hard disk). DM1399 (about £425). FD 4000 ( 3.5 -inch floppy drive) DM575 (about £175). And finally, RAMLink (4Mb RAM expansion) DM785 (about £238).
That's it for now, but as soon as I have some more info I'll let you know. There's one more thing to say; this info was obtained through ads in a German mag called 64 er (June 94 edition). I know some of the products are a bit pricey but if you can afford it, I'd say, "Go on, buy the stuff and baffle your friends."
Poter Maasen, WIJnakker 13, 9201 JH Drachten, Holland (full address printed on request).
What else can I say, but thanks for all that info? In fact, from next issue we will be starting a series of hardware features along the lines of 'Getting The Most Out Of... ; so expect to see a few of the products you mentioned getting the unique CF treatment in the coming months. Oh yes, and if the Flash 8 sounds interesting, have a read through Snippets and try putting two and two together. I can say no more, my synapses are sealed. TMB

## BECGING FOR II

Dear Brain,
May I ask you a few questions? Please? Can I?
Come on! Let me ask just a few questions to help fill up your page and let you get some dosh out of the CF piggy bank. Thank you,
here they are...
1 How do Mighty Brains multiply?
2 Does Simon Forrester like Sepultura?
3 Ha , ha, ha. Maybe you're not so mighty after all, because in issue 46 you told A McGlane that there weren't any Mario games for the C64, but this is far from true. There are actually two Mario games for the C64 - Super Mario Bros and the classic Mario.
4 When I tried to fax Jon Wells (you could just make out the number from the fax he sent to $C F$ that you printed) something dead strange happened. Instead of my fax being sent I heard
two people saying, "Hello... Hellooooo...?! Hmmm..." and then they hung up. Weird, eh?
5 Remember, "Anfrungia orm Froxnumo!" Is this good Galgafrasian or what?
6 How come everybody is making such a fuss about violence in computer games, but they don't say anything about programmes like Intrigue by that Taboo artist (who? - Ed)? If they ban games with blood and things then the people violence doesn't have an effect on will feel bored after a while with seeing Ninjas turning into fairies and going poing onto the ground. Joss Tucker, The Netherlands.

1
1 Mental arithmetic - we don't need calculators.
2 Simon reckons that Sepultura are the next evolutionary development along from Spinal Tap - I think we'll take that as a, "No."
3 Well, yes and no (you knew l'd try to wriggle out of this one). I admit that the original Mario Bros
game was released on the C64 years ago before Nintendo began invading the home console market. In those days they would license out their coin-op creations to other companies, which they certainly won't these days. Anyway, the game was dreadful.

The Super Mario Bothers you mention is, in fact, a PD game doing the bulletin board rounds in the US. Unfortunately, it is completely unofficial and illegal and if Nintendo find out about it, they won't be very happy. PD games might not be earning their writers any money (in theory) but that doesn't mean they can rip off other companies' creations.

So yes, Mario is on the C64, in the form of one rubbish antique which you probably won't be able to buy anywhere, and a couple of illegal PD copies versions. And it's very unlikely Nintendo will allow another official Mario game to be made.


4 Ah, you fell for our cunning trap - ahem. Actually. Jon hasn't got a fax and he sent the sketches which were published in CF45 from a shop's fax machine. So you were probably trying to get through to Prontaprint.
5 Almost, but not quite. The conjunctive use of the female version of orm used in a sub-retentive clause such as this should always have the 'o' sound (Il in the native script) replaced with something akin to a Welsh 'Il' inflection (e in the native script). Otherwise you might find yourself married to a small grey furry blob.
6 Yes, indeed, the idea of a world filled with games in which Ninjas turn into fairies that poing onto the ground does sound very frightening. But so does a world in which anything goes and violence can be shown without any restrictions whatsoever. To ban violence from games wholesale would be disastrous to the development of games as a true art form (and believe me. interactive entertainment will be the popular art form of the 21st century, like the moving picture was the popular art form of the 20th century), but it does need to controlled, which is why the voluntary certification of games by the major software companies is a good idea. TMB

## NEVER SAY NEVER AGAIN

Dear Mighty Brain,
Yes, you were right again. It is dangerous to say, "never" (especially if you're on Galgafrasis 7 where it roughly translates as something you'd recelve the death penalty for suggesting). What I'm referring to is the letter from A McGlane in CF46.

Recently I got a disk drive (Mkil) from a lady who obviously didn't know what the heck a C64 could do for just £30. And then one of my father's friends from work gave me absolutely loads of programs on disk.

The thing is, most of these proggies he gave me were from the good old US of $A$ and were freely available on bulletin boards (BBSes if you want to be technical). He couldn't believe there were no BBSes in the UK (if I'm wrong, please correct me) as in the US there are at least 150 in every city.

When I called up a bulletin board in America (er, don't tell my parents about that, okay) I

Famous final lines? How about, "It was beauty that killed the beast"? Or maybe, "Look at me, Ma. I'm on top of the world"? Then there's the classic, "We'll always have Paris." But none of them have the emotional impact or dramatic strength of...
"If you want to write to The Mighty Brain. the address you need is TMB, Commodore Format, Future Publishing, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, Avon BA1 2BW."
found tons of programs that are unavailable over here and my mouth dropped.

I don't know if it's legal to put some of the stuff that's on these boards on the covertape but it would be great if you could.

What I'm trying to say to all other readers is... get a modem and call these numbers (dial 0101 for America first)...

21328167726096465194
21383623814165746899
30528894997055567521
30176194698135263493
8135266542
There is definitely life in the old Commodore 64 for ages yet, and the amount of software for it is simply staggering. Hooray!
David Curran, Bicester

You might remember that last month those humanoid members of the crew promised a comms feature for this month. Well, true to form, they couldn't get their act together and the feature has been delayed a couple of months.

But fear not if you want to get hold of all the amazing games David mentions in his letter (apart from any dodgy Mario games that might be floating around the phone lines, of course) and you haven't got a clue what to do with a modem, because CF will be giving you the complete beginners' guide very soon. If those human members of the crew can get their act together. Which would be a first, let's be honest. TMB

Commodore Format is brought to you from its new premises in the outside loo at Future Publishing, the home of: GamesMastor, Super Play, Totall, Amiga Power, Amiga Shopper, Mac Format, Sega Power, Amiga Format, PC Format, ST Format, Amstrad Action, Edge, PC Gamer and CD-ROM Today. Oh and some American mags too and a couple of lifestyle things (if your lifestyle includes things like caravans or woodworking, that is).

If you want to phone us, make it a Wednesday or a Thursday, okay, otherwise you'll only get through to an annoying answerphone. By the way, we are not a techie helpline and we cannot (that's cannot, NOT will not) help you. If you want technical help write to Techie Tips (page 16) - that's what it's there for.

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## ADVERTISING PROBLEMS

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Dave woutd Itie to thank: Tony Mott for making him rich. Oilie would like to thank: Asylum (you'll know who they are scon) for throwing a really decent part. Keith Woods would the to thank: Dave and oille for not mentioning Ireland's performance againat Holland in the world cup... much.

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christmas, 1975. A typical suburban house. Picture the scene (but not in too much detail - you can obliterate such things as flares, pink afros and blobby gelatinous lamp things if you like). A young boy rips open his presents. An Action Man. A Slinky. A Space Hopper. Mouse Trap. And a couple of small plastic slidey things that... er... might come in use on a long car trip... thanks Auntie Maud.

But less than an hour later, the Action Man's been confiscated for doing unmentionable things to a Cindy doll (in front of Auntie Maud), the slinky's got a kink, the Space Hopper has sprung a leek and no-one can find that spring that's
but the plastic puzzles. One of them screen grab's
supposed to come with Mouse Trap. Nothing left slidey involves sliding squares Even the been tilted.

If you're having a hard time loading this month's Power Pack then plonk the duff tape in a jiffy bag, slip in a tape-sized SAE, seal it up and send it to: CF48 Tape Replacement Service. Ablex Audio Video Ltd. Harcourt Halesfield 14. Telford, Shropshire.


## 

START - A really good track by seminal late 70s band the Jam.

STICKY ENDING - A dead end which causes you to grind to a halt for a few seconds.

DEADLY HOLE - Fall down one of these pink things and you're dead.

TELEPORTS - It you tumble into one of these holes you'll pop out of the other one.

SURPRISE - A little bloke walks on who may or may not nick one of your lives. It's a gamble.

STOP - This (surprise, surprise) stops the ball from rolling for a few seconds.

around to form a picture; the other concerns getting a number of silver balls into some holes. "Hmm," thinks precocious youngster. "These might not be much cop but I can see potential.
What a shame it's at least five years too early for home micros, 'cos I bet you could combine these two to make a really good computer game.
"I can see it now. The slidey squares could have
 bits of track on them which the ball would run along. The player would move the squares around to form a clear path from the top-left of the grid to the bottom right. And there could be dozens of different levels, each one harder than the last. To make things trickier, the ball would be constantly moving. It'd be a good idea to start with three balls, but the player would lose balls by letting them fall through holes or running out of time. Because, of course, there should be a time limit. You could alter the time limit to give the game varying degrees of difficulty.
"Apart from holes, there would be other special tiles that do good or bad things. And if I were writing the tape pages of a computer games magazine, I would probably do a box out detailing some of the effects these tiles have. And then I'd have some tins that would appear every now and then; blue ones would give 500 bonus points, red ones would give 1000 bonus points and purple ones would give an extra life.
"Yep, I reckon that would be a real corker of an idea."

## QUICKSTART INFO

JOYSTICK IN PORT 2
UP $\qquad$ LEFT ......................Move tile left into empty space RIGHT. $\qquad$ Move tile right into empty pace DOWN................Move tile down into empty space RUN/STOP $\qquad$ Pause


OTHER INFO: In two player mode the second player controls the ball using the keys $9,0, £$ and * for left, right, up and down respectively.

17hile the world waits with baited breath for Visualize's 10th Dan and Germ Alert (well, the bit of the world that reads CF, anyway) Jon Wells suddenly unleashes a new, completely unexpected game onto an unsuspecting ' 64 scene. And we've got an exclusive demo of it on the Power Pack.

City Bomber is a souped-up version of the classic (well, perhaps not so much classic as just plain old) Bomber, in which a plane repeatedly swooped over a cityscape dropping bombs on the skyscrapers. The catch was that the plane flew slightly lower with each fly-by, so the aim of the architecture like that this place deserves to be bombed. game - x5

was to bomb the buildings before you crashed into the side of them.

But really this is just a starting reference point for City Bomber, a game which has packed a lot more into the basic Bomber concept to produce a fun, action-packed slice of demolition mayhem. In City Bomber the city is much larger and the landscape scrolls in a continuous loop; you can choose from nine ships (in the full version the ships all have different attributes but this feature is not on the demo); the city detences lob ground-to-air missiles in your direction; and there are hostages to rescue by swooping down low to pick them up.

The demo only has one level but the actual game has over 100 spread across
different terrains. So the Power Pack Bomber experience is short and sweet. But if you decide you want some more air raid action, the full game should be out around now.


In the full game each ship will have its own individual attributes.

## QUICKSTART INFO

Joystick in either port



Hocus is your energy, as opposed to hokum which is
HxPIF:Im what the plot is...
Wrando's P\#
The home computer revolution has altered the public's perception of blobs. Whereas before, say, 1980 people would have associated blobs with cheap 60s SF movies (or perhaps entries for the Gallery on Take Hart), these days blobs are more commonly thought of as cute lead characters in computer games.

The latest Mr Easy-To-Draw is a Wizard's pet,
 apparently. And in this PD game he has to fend off some equally easy-todraw enemies

Beware deadly marshmallows.
shoot it anyway, just to make sure it isn't hostile. They're indestructible so there's no need to worry.
as he along the must-have-been-easy-to-draw platforms. And there are pick-ups to, er, pick up along the way as well.

This is a sideways-scrolling, no-nonsense shoot-
 (with meaner aliens), and your ship can move at different speeds, but basically. you just blast away like a mad thing. Pure and simple. 'em-up. Just keep your finger on the fire button and shoot anything that moves. Anything that doesn't move but isn't part of the background is probably a pick-up, but


## IFCHIIE TPS

And here we have all this month's techie tips listings reproduced in full so that you don't have to strain your fingers. You lazy lot. We're just too good to you, you know.

> em-up with

## 

don't stand there with your mouth wide open.


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## TRADING POST

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to it easily; if I didn't, the graphics probably wouldn't go together properly.
You may wonder why I'm using Saracen Paint to draw these graphics? Well, there are two good reasons first, Saracen allows you to define all the colours to each character properly, otherwise the colours would be mixed up (when converting them to character mode) and would look rubbish. Secondly,I


?

# The story so far: Jon Wells of Visualize is five months into the creation of 10th Dan, a game he plans to make the best C64 beat-'em-up ever... 

Yes, I know what you're thinking... five months have passed and still nothing much has been done. Well you're partly right and partly wrong (that sounds like the old, is the glass half empty or half full?' quandary to $m e$ - Dave). Y'see there have been a few technical hiccups. First, Phil started designing some graphics which he was intending to tweak and spruce up later. Only he's dashed off again (he's a busy lad is Phil!), and didn't have enough time to get them looking great for inclusion in this installment of the diary. On top of that, Paul's disappeared! Fellow 64 chum, Kenz (see page 22 - Dave), told me that Paul's been very busy too - sorting out his CD music, and it looks unlikely that he'll be doing any more C64 music.

We'll you could imagine my initial reaction - let's end it here and now!

## TO THE RESCUE?

Just as I was about to do a flying kick from the upper olfice window, the phone rang! Hmmmm... It was Jesper Larsen of Profile Entertainment! Apparently, Jereon Tel (a Maniacs Of Noise musician) is interested in composing some music for our future products. Although nothing has been confirmed yet, we're definitely interested and this sounds very promising for 10th DAM! We'll keep you informed.

After all this mayhem, I decided to try my hand at some groovy graphics. First, I attempted some background graphics for the landscapes - only it was hopeless because I was trying to draw these graphics, character by character, using my editor. The trouble came when I needed to draw large graphics of about $3 \times 3$ or $4 \times 4$ characters in size - it's just too awkward.

I left this for the moment and tried my hand at some sprites instead. Using Firebird's graphic editor I bolted seven sprites together, the first six being two characters across by three high and the seventh being


the head. It took me several hours to get a static standing frame, but the results are pretty good (check out the screenshots!).

Ive also drawn some different heads. The good thing about this is that the body remains the same - saving more memory - yet it gives the impression of different opponents. I've now inserted them into the multi-plexor and they look really good, but I'll improve them even more, later.


## Wasted

Jon tries to keep graphics fitting within the character blocks - it save memory.


## BACK TO THE LAND

Although I failed miserably last time, I'm going to have another go at some landscape graphics. This time, though, I'll be drawing them in Bitmap mode, using the good old Saracen Paint utility. Before I start, though, I must first mark out the whole screen, taking into account things like the colour splits, graphic sizes and memory, on-screen fighter positions and skyline position. This is all put down on paper so that I can refer
 characters! This is a more realistic way to produce high-quality graphics, using small amounts of memory.
The forest outback was drawn next; this is where I had to be more careful - the colour split will go in here. This means that the sky colour, cyan, and the ground colour, brown will be background colour one! Like the mountain graphics, smaller trees can be built out of the main large one, saving yet more memory.

## TOWERING INTELLECT

A tower based on the one's I foundm in those books I mentioned last month was next - this wasn't difficult to draw and only consists of eight characters. Then came the temple which will be quite hard. This has to be as detailed and colourful as possible, while also using little memory. Like the mountain, I drew a temple outline making sure the graphics fitted in the characters, without wasting additional memory. If the left and right of the temple overlapped by two pixels on each side, this would be a waste of memory.

Anyway, I shaped the roof with the main part of the temple featuring some nifty columns, and finally a stone path surrounding with steps. Amazingly the temple is extremely small in memory; the columns, doors and chequered roof being repeated graphics.

After converting the Bitmap graphics to character format, it was now high time to put these graphics into the game. These were loaded into our $4 \times 4$ whole block/map and char editor (Phew!). This editor has a colour split facility which helps immensely.

Right, all the blocks have been defined and boited into the map, though I had to make a few quick changes, using the character edit mode. So far the skyline's looking good; though the bottom half is empty l've had a good idea. This is were I will attempt to draw a river, flowing from within the forest and getting closer to a bridge, which the fighters can cross.

I won't go into details here, but it took me a couple of days to get this right. I've even drawn a waterfall which will animate in the mountains. All this has now been placed into the blocks and map. Although this level is nowhere near finished yet, it's already looking very impressive. I've yet to draw the clouds, plants, bushes and the odd fence - along with this the finished level will feature full animation of the river, waterfall and birds.

The river that took
two days to get right.
 TRIPIE VISION
Dear Techie Tips, You recently talked about displaying more than one sprite on the screen at once, but you haven't actually given a complete listing to display different sprites at the same time. Could you please print such a listing? Neil Rowe, Ellesmere Port

I have given numerous listings in the past that have displayed more than one sprite on the screen. But - wait for it, wait for it - here is a program that will display three sprites on the screen at once. Lines 130 to 150 set the $X$ and $Y$ co-ordinates for each of the three sprites and lines 180 to 200 set the colour and pointer value for each one. Lines 220 to 260 deal with other attributes of sprites, with lines 290 to 320 filling the sprite definitions with random arrays of dots. Hopetully, by experimenting with the numbers, you will be able to customise this to your own needs,
100 RBM TRIPLE VISION BY J.FINCH 110 print chrs (147)
120 REM POSITION SPRITES $\mathrm{X}, \mathrm{y}$ FOR $0,1,2$ 130 pore 53248,108: POKE 53249,84 140 PORE 53250,156: POKE 53251, 192 150 POKE 53252,232: POKE 53253,115 160 :


170 REM COLOUR AND POINTERS FOR 0,1,2
180 poks 53287,5 :POKE 2040,13
190 POKE 53288,10:POKE 2041,14
200 POKE 53289,7 :POKE 2042,15 210 :
220 POKE 53271,1+2: REM Y-EXP FOR 0,1
230 POKE 53277,1+4: REM X-EXP FOR 0,2
240 POKE 53276, 2: REM MCOL ON FOR 1
250 POKE 53264,0: REM NO MSB
260 POKE 53269,7: REM ENABLE FOR $0,1,2$ 270 :
280 Ram create random sprites for $0,1,2$ 290 FOR X=0 70191
$300 \mathrm{~A}=\mathrm{INT}(\mathrm{PaD}(1) * 7)$

310 POKE $832+\mathrm{X},\left(2^{\wedge} \mathrm{A}\right)+\left(2^{\wedge}(\mathrm{A}+1)\right)$
320 NEXT:COTO 290
And that's the last time l'll have to explain about displaying sprites. Probably... not. Jason


## FMIF SMIE

Dear Techie Tips,
1 Some files I've scen around on disk have a sign immediately following their file type like this: "PRG<".
Through experimentation I've discovered that this means the file in question cannot be deleted. How do you get rid of it and, alternatively, how do you make it appear?
2 TMB told me to call you a page-munching humanoid smart-alec.
Brendan Reid, New Zealand.
1 The less than sign after a flit type does indeed mean that you cannot erase the file. In order to remove or add the sign to the file type you need to use a disk sector editor and have a decent knowledge of how the directory track (number 18) is organised. You locate the file type byte and logically OR it with 64 .

For example, look at sector 1 of track 18 . This will be the first directory sector. It is split into 8 blocks of 32 bytes; each block representing one file in the directory. The file type byte is the third one of each block. For a program it should be $\$ 82$. Change it to $\$ \mathrm{C} 2$ and write the sector back to make the file undeletable. Reverse the process to allow removal of files.
2 its better than being a thick page-munching heap of extra-terrestrial sponge (not that I take criticism personally, you understand). Jason


## DoU:3IE <br> DZル:の10N

Dear Techie Tips,
You've given listings to detect a joystick in port one and a joystick in port two, but could you please print a

2 FOR $X=0$ TO 220: RRAD $Y: C=C+Y:$ POKE
1024+X, Y:NEXT X
3 IF C $<27549$ THEN PRINT "DATA ERROR": RND 4 SYS 1024
10 DATA $032,101,004,169,063,141,002,221$
11 data $169,148,141,000,221,169,018,141$
12 data $024,208,169,196,141,136,002,169$
13 DATA $147,032,210,255,169,039,141,020$ 14 DATA $003,169,004,141,021,003,096,169$
15 DATA $128,141,145,002,169,193,141,024$ 16 DATA 003,173,141,002,201,003,240,008 17 DATA $169,000,141,098,004,108,099,004$ 18 DATA 205,098,004,240,248,141,098,004
19 DATA $173,095,004,201,001,240,011,169$ 20 DATA 001,141,095,004,032,101,004,108 21 DATA 099,004,169,000,076,081,004,000 22 DATA 208,216,000, 049,234,173,014,220 23 DATA 041,254,141,014,220,165,001,041 24 DATA $251,133,001,169,000,133,251,133$ 25 DATA $253,169,200,133,252,172,095,004$ 26 DATA $185,096,004,133,254,162,008,160$ 27 DATA $000,177,253,145,251,200,208,249$ 28 DATA $230,252,230,254,202,208,242,165$ 29 DATA 001,009,004,133,001,173,014,220 30 data $009,001,141,014,220,096,169,224$ 31 DATA $133,252,169,000,133,251,162,032$ 32 DATA $160,255,200,145,251,224,001,240$ 33 DATA 009,192,255, 208,245,230,252,202 34 DATA 208,240,192,063,208,236,096,169 35 DATA 059,141,017,208,169,026,141,024 36 DATA 208,096,169,027,141,017,208,169 37 DATA $018,141,024,208,096$
Ta very much for that. Jeson

TECHIE TIPS
listing that shows how you detect both joystick ports at the same time? Richard Briggs, Newcastle.

The following program will check both ports simultaneously and will jump to subroutines to handle the various events, such as the fire button being pressed. It is not possible to do everything at the same time in practice, but the program gives the illusion it is doing things all at once. One joystick must have priority over another because, for example, the computer cannot check if you are holding down the fire button of joystick one at the same time that it's checking the state of the fire button of joystick two. The priorities change throughout the checking process so that, for example, pushing left is checked first on joystick one, but pushing right is checked first on joystick two. Change the subroutines so that they do what you want. 100 rBM double dehescion by J. Finch $110 \mathrm{~J} 1=255-$ PEEK ( 56321 )
120 J2=127-PERK (56320)
130 REM CHECK UP/DONX ON BOTH PORTS
140 IF (J1 AND 1) THITN cosub 1000 150 IF (J2 AND 2) THBN COSUB 2100 160 IF (J1 AND 2) THIz cosub 1100 170 IF (J2 AND 1) THISy cosub 2000 180 REM CHBCK LEFT/RIGHT ON BOTH PORTS 190 IF (J1 AND 4) THIas cosub 1200 200 IF (J2 AND 8) THBN GOSUB 2300 210 IF (J1 AND 8) THKN COSUB 1300 220 IF (J2 AND 4) THESN COSUB 2200 230 REM CHBCK FIRE ON BOTH PORTS 240 IF (J1 AND16) THEN GOSUB 1400 250 IF (J2 AND16) THEN COSUB 2400 260 coro 110
270 ;
1000 PRINT "PORT 1, UP" : RRSTURN
1100 PRINT "PORT 1, DONS" :RETURN 1200 PRTNT "PORT 1, LSFT":RETURN 1300 PRTNT "PORT 1,RIGIT": RETURM 1400 PRINT "PORT 1,FIRE":RETURN 2000 PRTNT ,."PORT 2,UP":RETURA 2100 PRINT ,,"PORT 2,DOWE":RETURN 2200 PRINT ,."PORT 2, LEFT": :RETURM 2300 PRINT , "PORT 2,RIGHT":RETUPN 2400 PRINT ,,"PORT 2,FIRE":RETURM Both joysticks present and correct. Perhaps. Jason


## PUPPY POWIER <br> Dear Techie Tips,

## I have bought a C64 and

 cassette recorder which work fine. I was also given a 5.25inch disk drive but it only had one lead with it, the 6 -pin DIN. The problem is the power supply. The disk drive has 'EXCELERATOR+PLUS' printed on the front while on the reverse there is a red switch and three sockets, two of which are 6-pin and one of which is 5 -pin. Could you please tell me how and with what I can power the disk drive? I have tried numerous places in Rotherham without success. Someone told me I might need a power supply similar to the computer with a 5 -pin lead from the supply to the drive. Please help.Gordon Bell, Rotherham
The Excelerator disk drives were sold by Evesham Micros back in the late 1980s. They do indeed require an external power supply along the same lines as the one which powers the computer itself. As to where to get one these days, I have no idea. I suggest you go back to the person that sold it to you because they should have the power supply kicking around somewhere, and without it the goods are technically not in fully working order. If any

## SHOOT OUT

Dear Techie Tips 1 I don't know how to scroll characters horizontally. 2 I have played lots of shoot-'em-ups but one thing baffles me; how do the programmers make the bullet sprite appear from a sprite or character? Alex McD, Walthamstow

1 Ah well, that's a shame, isn't it? You've obviously missed the zillion and one other issues in which I've explained such things.
2 When the bullet is meant to appear, its horizontal and vertical position is simply made to be the same as those for the sprite that is firing it. The following program sets up a couple of sprites and then, when you press the space bar, you can make the yellow ball sprite fire out a Pacman-type ghost thing. It will move off to the left of the screen each time.

The fancy bit of maths in line 36 just gives the ghost some weight so that it falls downwards the further left it moves. If you know a little about sprites and Basic programming, you should have no difficulties working out what is going on.
0 REM SHOOT OUT BY J. FINCH
1 POKE 53281, 6:PRINT CHR\$(147):PI=3.142

gurus out there do know where Excelerator power supplies can be bought, please let me know. Jason

## MYSIERIOUS HAPPENINGS

Dear Techie Tips, I was loading a program on my 1541 disk drive recently when there was a loud hammering and screech which lasted about five seconds. The drive continued to spin even though there was was no input. I turned off the C64 but the drive kept spinning. I then switched everything off and removed the disk. When I powered up the drive again I was met with DOS ERROR 74 DRIVE NOT READY. Nothing I tried seemed to work. I


10 POKK 53287,7: POKE 53288,5:REM COLS 11 POKE 53285,1:POKE 53286,0:REM MULTI 12 POKE 2040,13: POKE 2041,14: REM PTRS
13 POKE 53276,2: POKE 53269,3:REM ENABLE
14 FOR $X=0$ TO 127 : READ $Y$ : POKE $832+X, Y$
15 NEXT X:REM READ SPRITE DATA
16
$17 \mathrm{XP}=150: \mathrm{YP}=100: \mathrm{DX}=2: \mathrm{DY}=2: \mathrm{F}=0$ : REM INITIALISE POSITION/MOVEMENT/FIRE VARIABLES 18
$19 \mathrm{XP}=\mathrm{XP}+\mathrm{DX}: \mathrm{YP}=\mathrm{YP}+\mathrm{DY}:$ RRM DO MOVEMENT
20 IF XP<26 OR XP>320 THEN DX=-DX
21 IF YP<52 OR YP>228 THEN $D Y=-D Y$
22
23 IF $\mathrm{F}<>0$ THEN GOSUB 35 :RRM DO BULLET
24
$25 \mathrm{MP}=\mathrm{INT}$ (XP/256)
26 POKE 53248, (XP AND255): POKE 53249, YP
27 POKE 53264, (PEEK (53264)AND254)OR MP
28
29 GBT A\$:IF ( $\mathrm{A} \$=\mathrm{CHR} \$(32)) \mathrm{AND}(\mathrm{F}=0)$ THEN
$\mathrm{F}=1: \mathrm{XG}=\mathrm{XP}: \mathrm{YG}=\mathrm{YP}:$ REM SET UP BULLET COORDS 30 goto 19
31 :
32 REM SUBROUTINE TO CONTROL BULLET
33 rem movement if one has been firrd 34 :
$35 \mathrm{~F}=\mathrm{F}+1$
$36 \mathrm{XG}=\mathrm{XG}-3: \mathrm{YG}=\mathrm{YG}+(1-\operatorname{COS}(\mathrm{PI} * \mathrm{~F} / 360)) * 20$ 37 IF XG<4 OR YG>248 THEN $\mathrm{F}=0$ : GOTO 42 38
$39 \mathrm{MG}=\operatorname{INT}(\mathrm{XG} / 256) * 2$
40 POKE 53250, (XG AND255) : POKB 53251, YG 41 POKE 53264, (PBEK (53264) AND253) OR MG 42 RETURN
43
44 rem "ball" sprite data
45 DATA $000,248,000,003,254,000,015,255$ 46 DATA $128,031,255,192,063,255,224,063$ 47 DATA $255,224,127,255,240,127,255,240$ 48 DATA $255,255,248,255,255,248,255,255$ 49 DATA $248,255,255,248,255,255,248,127$ 50 DATA $255,240,127,255,240,063,255,224$ 51 DATA $063,255,224,031,255,192,015,255$ 52 DATA $128,003,254,000,000,248,000,000$ 53 :

54 REM "GHOST" BULLET SPRITE DATA
55 DATA $000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000$ 56 DATA $000,000,168,000,002,170,000,002$ 57 DATA $170,000,010,170,128,010,170,128$ 58 DATA $009,101,128,011,109,128,011,109$ 59 DATA $128,009,101,128,010,170,128,010$ 60 DATA $170,128,010,170,128,010,170,128$ 61 DATA $008,136,128,008,136,128,000,000$ 62 data $000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000$ So now you know. Jason
dismantled the drive but there was no damage. I cleaned and lubricated it, reassembled and switched on. Since then it has worked perfectly. I am still baffled as to the cause. Any ideas?
Geoff Edwards, Liverpool.
Erroneous disks can sometimes cause the drive to search for a track that is not within the normal range of 1 to 35. In simple terms, this causes the drive head to whizz off in search of the unknown, a bit like the starship Enterprise. except that no-one in a red shirt dies every time it happens. Anyway, the drive head ends up whacking itself against a rather large clump of metal which prevents it shooting out the side of the drive's case. When you try to access the drive again, the drive head is sort of stunned and doesn't know what to do. That's why it says it is not ready. There is, however, no need to rip it
apart and play about with its internals. You shouldn't do that, in fact, as you will invalidate any warranty.

Instead, just give the command opras $15,8,15$ : PRTNT" 15, " 10 ": CLose 15 which will reinitialise the drive and everything should be okay. If it still refuses to do anything, remove all disks and try OPEs 15, 8, 15:PRINT" 15 , "NO:DISK, 01":CLOSB 15. This attempts to format the disk and will cause the head to move, even if it doesn't want to. From then on things should work perfectly. Jason
see a reversed letter $\mathbf{Q}$. This is a control character meaning 'move the cursor down'. Similarly, enter PRINR" and then press the CLR/HOME key. You should see a reversed letter S. Others are obtained by holding down the Commodore key (bottom left of the keyboard) or the CTRL key while pressing another key. The following program demonstrates a lot of control characters, and the version in the Techie Tips Proggy Selector (which you'll find on this month's Power Pack, because it didn't get lost in the post for a change) shows you an alternative way of representing each one.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 10 \text { RIM UNDER CONTROL BY J. PTNCH } \\
& 11 \text { : REM HOME, CLBAR } \\
& 12 \text { HM\$=CHR\$ (19) :REM [HONB] ] } \\
& 13 \text { CS\$=CHR\$ (147):REM [SH/HOMB] } \\
& 14 \text { : } \\
& 15 \text { : REM REVERSB ON, REVERSE OFF } \\
& 16 \text { RV\$ }=\text { CHR\$ (18) : REM [CTRL/9] } \\
& 17 \text { RO\$-CHR\$ (146) :REM [CTRL/0] }
\end{aligned}
$$




## E (2) Con CoNAROL

## Dear Techie Tips,

 Yeah! The exams are over and I'm free for another 10 months, thankfully. Now it's time for some serious proggy making. There are three ideas in the old nerve centre which are being held up a little. Can you help by telling me how control characters work and what they are, please? Alan Skinner, KilmarnockControl characters do special things like change the cursor colour, clear the screen or move the cursor around. Normally when you press the cursor down key, the cursor on the screen moves. However, if you do PRINT" and then press it, you will

25 : REM COLOURS BLK, WHRT, YEL, PINK, LBLUE
26 BLS=CHR\$ (144) :REM [CTRL/1]
27 WHS=CIRS (5) :REM [CTRL/2]
28 YW\$=CHR ( 158 ) :REM [CTRL/8]
29 PK\$=CHR\$ (150) :REM [C=/3]
30 LB\$=CERR (154) :REM [C=/7] 31 :
32 PRTAT CS\$;RV\$; whis,"COMMODORE PORMAT" 33 PRTNT CD\$;CD\$;CR\$;CR\$; YW\$;"TBCHIE" 34 PRINT CR\$;CR\$;"TIPS"
35 PRTNT CD\$;CD\$;CR\$;CR\$;CR\$;CR\$;LB\$;"BY JASON FTACH"
36 PRINT CD\$;CD\$;CD\$;PK\$;"PRESS A KEY" 37 POKE 198,0:WAIT 198,1: POKE 198,0

I hope that helps you out. If it doesn't. well, there's no hope for you really, is there? Anyway, on that note, it's a goodbye from me. But fear not, for I shall be back in a mere one month's time to help out the confused, bemused and otherwise bewildered. See you here. Jason

1 The demo is just that; a demonstration. You can load up Speech and then one of your programs and the *SAY, 'SPEAK and other commands will work properly in your program. It isn't working for you at the moment because the machine code which generates the speech isn't being saved by the SAVE command. You instead need to load Speech off the PowerPack each time, or save the machine code and load that. 2 'SPEAK uses phonemes, not normal words. Therefore, as an example, the word THOSE should be done as "SPEAK"DHOWS". In order to get it right you need to know the phonemes. If you don't give ones that it is expecting, you will get the error that you mentioned. You would be better off sticking to the 'SAY command and altering things until they sound okay (as okay as you can get with something that sounds like a cross between Lloyd Grossman and a speak your weight machine). Try *SAY"WEL KUM" instead of "SAY"WELCOME" and experiment with other words; spell them how they sound, rather than how you would normally write them. 31 MHz , or one miltion cycles per second. Jason
"Hello! Is that the Commodore Format complaints department? I want to complain about being used in such a disrespectful way as the butt of a $\pm$

## SPEAK TO ME

Dear Techie Tips,
1 In the demo of Speech (CF45) it says that you can use the it in your own programs. Well, l've tried sticking my program on the end of it and it works fine until you save it and load it back up again. Any help?
2 The 'SPEAK command doesn't seem to work. I
keep getting messages like: 'S? MISTAKE IN SPEECH: Why? 3 What is the C64's clock speed? James Grist,
Wakefield


CF22 Power Fack garmes: Howr Bower, Agont Orange Demos: Jumes Pond 2 . OU Puff Reviews. Euto Foomel Chalonps, Dytan Dog Dug Bomber, Gamebusters

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 Seymour Doc Croc. Reviems: Stentman Soymour, Super Al-Stars, Popyye 3. Ganevisters space Crusade DJ Putt. Specins: Frist part of Lets Make A Mon C127 Fowar Pack gamen: Deftetor, Amomatio Word Garmes, The Mincher Dar
 cF2s Power Pack gemos: First Sinke Finh Gear. Demos Locomotion. Rochtoss Rutus, Nck Faldo's Champlonshy Galk, Roviens: Internationel Temnis. Cool Work; Nick Fabol's Got. Point and Greate Garmbusters: Spolbound Diny, Famous Five


 CF30 Power Pack pames. Stgyer, Rebounder, Dapdats, Blackjack 21.

 CF31 Power Pack gamas: Cauthon 2, Snard Sithormant Athnter Mosh De Amie 2. Gamebustors: Suuthinh Sopmaur, Dutst Altact Costar Kingatom Duay
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# एen Cis HIE 

# unvarsa 

## The C64's very own cool cat

 Keith Woods, finds out whether eight out of ten owners will prefer this feline-flavoured shoot-'em-up...Going in for intensive root canal work.

It's the attac of the giant
raspberries.

ave you ever heard of lions in space? Monkeys yes - the Russians sent a couple of them up. Pigs, yes - if you remember the Muppet Show Lions, no (unless you count Thundercats, but then who does?). It must be hell finding a space suit that fits and doesn't make your mane go all saggy. But lions it is for this horizontally-scrolling R-Type-style shoot'em-up. Your job is to pilot a twin-engine spacecraft through one of the most dangerous corners of the universe. The fearless beasts that inhabit this particular corner don't particularly
appreciate visitors, though, and you soon realise that the hordes of alien aircraft that fly out to meet you are a little bit more than just a welcoming party - they're after a new rugs to place in front of their open-hearth fires

Wave after wave of the alien craft fly towards you, laser cannons firing away like they've got their paws superglued to their fire buttons. And some of them are just as happy to crash straight into you - life is obviously

## WHERE TO GET TEM

The four games reviewed over these these three pages are all from the German company we told you about last month, CP Verlag. The Electric Boys ( $\bar{\sigma} 081668$ 7595) are on the verge of striking up a distribution deal, but details of release dates and prices have yet to be confirmed, so keep an eye out for info in Snippets in the coming months. In fact, there's some hot news on the very subject in this month's Snippets so turn to page five now (or pretty soon, anyway).
cheaper than an episode of
Prisoner Cell Block H in this part of the galaxy. Using your laser weaponry you've got to blast a way through the hordes, while trying to avoid the shots emanating from the ground-based cannons. This is a bit of a tricky business, so it's a good thing that despite the fact your craft is constantly spinning (looks great, not sure about the practicality of it, though, unless the pilot's tumble drying some washing


## $E$ <br> 

annoying joystick waggler. The teabag would be better employed if you just went home and had a cuppa - it'd certainly be more exciting.

Overall, taking everything into account, Ostfriesland Games is pretty awful. There are only five events, and most of them are no fun at all. The others you'll soon get bored with. With so many decent German games to choose from, it's hard to see why The Electric Boys have decided to spearhead their releases this dire sports sim. Believe us, there is a lot better to come. Keith

## (0) O) <br> $\Delta$ Initially it's vaguely amusing.

$\nabla$ But the joke soon wears off.
$\nabla$...when you realise it's just another joystick waggling frenzy.
$\nabla$ And a pretty dull one at that.
don't go in much for the games most mere mortals-play. Instead they prefer cow-milking, tea-bag throwing, pig-shooting and roofbuilding. The only sport they seem to have in common with the outside world is cycling, but even then they do it in their own inimitable style. The challenge starts with cowmilking. Despite its colourful and initially amusing premise, it soon becomes apparent that cow-milking

striesland, wherever it is, is an odd place. Ostrieslanders laps of an island track. Your bike, interestingly enough has square wheels, but that's where the interest ends. Of little more interest is roof-building, which is just as boring as it sounds. You race against your opponent to be the first to fill the gaps in your roof. The trouble is, it's so slow it's like watching a tortoise race without the bets.

The fina sporting test is the ancient art of teabag throwing. It's yet another

at the same time), it's still extremely agile in the air. Various pick-ups to aid your progress litter the perilous path. The best ones nip on and off the screen in seconds so youll want to move pretty sharpish if you're get hold of any of the goodies. Your task is, even at the start, a difficult one, and as you progress through this corridor of death it becomes steadily trickier. The alien sprites get bigger and more difficult to avoid, and the big end-ot-

## THE STIEM INIERVIEW: SIMBA THE LON

What better way to find out about intergalactic lions, I thought, then by asking a lion star? So I headed for Africa, to the Kenyan wilderness. where I found The Lion King himself busy munching through his afternoon Wildebeest.
Had he ever been in space?
"Grrrrrri" (Go away, can't you see Im having lunch) And did he think Lions of the Universe is an accurate representation of his experiences there? "Roooaarrm!' (Listen, I won't tell you again. How would you like for me to interrupt your funch?).
And will he be returning?
"Raaaaaah" (Right, that's it, I've finished the Wildebeest. Sod the stupid circle of life - youill do for dessert.) Aaaaaarrrrgggghhh!!!
 sharpest to avoid the nutty aliens darting mindlessly around the screen Lions of the Universe is undeniably very well coded. The sprite animation and the scrolling are impressively smooth and fast and there's always plenty of action going on. The graphics are nicelydetailed and colourful though they rarely rise above slightly-better-than-average to produce something truly awesome (the main exceptions being two beautifully-drawn end-of-level monsters). The sound, however, is an aural delight, with the pulse-pounding music complimenting the zapping of your laser gun perfectly.

Most important, however, is the gameplay, and it's here that Lions of the Universe really shines. The R-Type style shoot-'em-up is, of course, a tried and tested formula, and while this game doesn't offer up anything startlingly new, the smoothness of the sprites and the speed of the action ensures that Lions is one of the better example of the genre on the Commodore. Best of all is the simultaneous two-player mode, which doesn't seem to slow down the hectic pace of the action.

The only major fault with this game, which seriously crazier and less predictable. Your reflexes will need to be at their arpest to avoid the nutty
busy munching
ing lunch)
is an
n. How would ang
would


-

mars it for all but the best of gamers, is the difficulty level. You start with just four precious lives and they prove very destroy. The alien attack formations, which at the start displayed some semblance of traditional military thinking, become ever
difficult to hang on to for any length of time. Even
 playing in two-player mode it's
ridiculously difficull to progress. ridiculously difficult to progress. to get very far in this game, but if you can manage it you'll have a lot of fun along the way. Maybe not a Lion King, but a pretty good pretender to the crown Keith <br> \title{

##  <br> \title{ \section*{ 

}
}
}

## $\Delta$ Fast, furious, frantic, feverish fun.

The action never stops.
$\triangle$ It's even better in two-player mode.
But there's nothing startlingly original in it.
platforms
collecting potions
and diamonds and avoiding the aggressive wildlife he encounters along the way. He needs the diamonds to buy a boat to take him from one island to the next. Each island features two levels of pretty routine but decent enough platforming action. It's nothing we nce upon a German coder's not-too-stretched imagination. there lived a happy dwarf couple, Bobix and Bobette. Bobix was the apprentice of the great magician Bennof, and loyal subject of Queen Beatraz. Tragically old queenie caught a strange disease and died, but Bobix found out it was Bennof wot did it. Well, to cut a long (and very boring) story short, Bennof got wind that our friend was on to him and took off with Bobette. You've got to help Bobix save his sweetheart and avenge the queen's death.

To do this Bobix has got to get his hands on

four botties of
 distinctive style, and each one's just that little bit more difficult than the one before. In between islands is a bonus level in which you've got to catch balloons that blow past as you sail to your next destination. This,
quite frankly, is more of a distraction than anything else You'll just be itching to get on with the real action.

It isn't as much of an irritation, however, as the fact that you've got to pick up all the
$\nabla$ And It's far too difficult..

potion
pots on every
level. Some of them are
very difficult to get at, and you can't go back if you miss one. You're also up against a tight time limit, so you don't want to hang around trying to get at well-protected pots.

Overall, though, Bobix ain't at all bad. The graphics are bright and colourful and happy music bops continually in the background. The difficulty level is just right, but the game is a bit short, so hardened platform experts won't take long to get through it. The biggest problem we had with the game is that it crashed occasionally, but hopefully The Electric Boys will have sorted out this problem by the time Bobix gets a full release. Keith

## BOBDK

It's pretty average platform fare.
$\nabla$...And there are a few irritations. $\nabla$ But it's well-produced...
$\nabla$...And the graphics are top-notch.
You'll just have to hope it doesn't crash.


September 1994

20 POWERTEST C

hungry. Dead hungry. He could eat a horse. Except that a) his jaws can't open quite that wide and snakes are notoriously fussy and can only eat things whole, and b) there aren't any horses around. Nope, all there
I reckon the artise was colour-blind.

## Dave's not so much into nibbling as gobbling, but in between snack breaks he managed to get in enough playing time to review this game...

've heard about getting an attack of the nibbles but this is ridiculous. And when your sister complains, "I only have to look at a cream puff and I put on weight," she's got nothing on the serpentine star of this particular game. He's got an appetite like a Tasmanian Devil doing a spot of guest judging on Masterchef, and he doubles his bodywieght with every mouthful. Between levels, though, he goes on a crash diet and sheds every


game is, 'self mutilation is not a good thing'.
mention the time limits, didn't I? Your progress through the levels is charted on a map accompanied by some great little animations of snakenostrils whizzes from one place to the next. It's another one of these German games the Electric Boys are planning to import. Hopefully this'll be one of the first they release. It's no classic, and it's as derivative as a Blur LP, but it combines sharp presentation with canny level
designs to great effect. If things like Pang and Tilt are to your taste, then this should tickle your taste buds too.

## THE SIEM INIERVIEW

Captain Stem travels the time vortex to find experts to give their views on the games we review. This time we sent him in search of perhaps the most overworked cook in human history, Mavis Spongeworthy, head of the kitchen staff And since old snake-eyes (snake-everything, in fact) seems to inhabit a series of mazes, you begin to suspect that the previous occupants were a not-very-house-proud Mr and Ms Pacman.

The Pacmans seem to have had RentokilP in, however, because there are no nasty wobbly things around to cause snake-lips any problems. In fact, he's his own worst enemy. Because he grows with every mouthful, and as there's very little room for manoeuvre in the mazes, the main problem is trying to finish his meal without ending up with himself as th pudding. He can't stop chomping, $y$ 'see, so when he turns a corner and is confronted by his own tail he takes a chunk out of it. Unfortunately, this means he loses a life. But fortunately, he's a game character so he's got three lives. Unfortunately, the mazes become trickier and trickier to navigate. Fortunately, there are also a few special bonus pills around which help him on his way. Unfortunately, they appear randomly, so he can never be too reliant on them.

Dead-ends cause problems - how do you get out of them? Fortunately, er, I can't keep this fortunately/unfortunately gag going any longer.

Super Nibbly is a lot better


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than you might expect. In theory it sounds like just another puzzler-by-numbers, the sort of thing we've all played and romped through before. The humdrum in-game graphics don't help raise your expectations, and the first couple of levels are uninspiringly straightforward. Things don't look promising.

But then the game gets its hooks in. The bonuses become intelligent integrated into the action and the level designs become more devious and more challenging. More to get your teeth into, you might say if you wanted a throwaway eating-type gag. The time limits also become tighter. Er, I did

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PDEORMW


#### Abstract

Andy Roberts takes a breather from megademos and colour cycling to take an in-depth look at Binary


 Zone PD (aka Psytronik Software, aka, The Guild) one of the longestestablished Iibraries. But as he discovered, they're not just about PD. being in contact with the famous Compunet duo lan and Mic for quite a while. They ran Wicked PD at the time.

When they sadly left the C64 scene I thought it would be a cool idea to do something similar and carry on where Wicked PD left off (I actually typeset some catalogues for Wicked PD at one point). In 1989 I worked for a company which supplied Apple Macintosh hardware and software. One of the things I had to do was look after all the Macintosh PD software and produce the PD catalogues. This experience helped a great deal when I began to set up my own PD library.

Binary Zone PD first

D)roitwich. It's the kind of place you suspect might have been made up by Ben Elton for a cheap laugh in Blackadder - 'the demon donglecrusher of Droitwich' or something. But no, it exists. And if you're a keen follower of the PD scene, you've probably been writing off to the place on a regular basis. Because Droitwich (snigger) is the home of Binary Zone, which, under the auspices of proprietor Jason 'Kenz' Mackenzie, has grown into one of the most popular and long-running companies in the C64 world. So, what is the secret of its success? Why has Jason stuck so steadfastly with the C64? What plans does Binary Zone have for the future? And is it hard to be taken seriously when you're based in Droitwich? Some of these questions will

hit the C64 scene in October 1990. From the initial idea it took a whole year to set up the library! This time was spent compiling all the disks for the first version of the catalogue, typesetting the catalogue and producing adverts, flyers, compliment slips, labels, etc.

## Many PD libraries are set up by

 members of demo groups. Were you ever part of a team like that? Yup, when I first got my C64 me and a few friends set up a group called Computer World which was named after the song by Kraftwerk. After a few years various Computer World members started to leave the C64 scene so I joined the fab British group Xentrix. Eventually, various Xentrix members left to join or form other groups so I left and re-formed Computer World on the C64.By this time a lot of people were creating demos and utilities for me under the Binary Zone label so I decided to keep things simple by making Computer World an Amiga-only group.

Remember a couple of years back when the $C=$ letters pages were packed with betters the CF people who had spotted the C64 on TV and films. Well, C64 spotting continues. Take it away, Jason...
"Here's an interesting snippet for you. I recently went to the cinema to see the film Fortress which stars Christopher Lambert. In the film was this huge
super-computer which super-computer which controlled the fortress. When they showed a close-up of its two keyboards what
did I spy? CBM did I spy? CBM 64 KEYS! They must have chopped up a couple of C64s to make their evil super-computer! The
brown INST DEL' brown INST DEL' key was a dead give-away!
CBM 64's The CBM 64's in the movies! COOL!"

What would you say makes Binary Zone different (or even superior) to other PD libraries? I have noticed that some other PD libraries are terribly formal and they take things far too seriously. I offer a fast and friendly service and have built up a good friendship with many Binary Zone members after being in contact with them for a long while. I am always trying to come up with fresh new original ideas rather than just releasing millions of disks of demos (well, actually I try to do that tool).

Is there anything special in the Binary Zone pipeline? Most definitely. One of the projects I am currently working on is a VERY exciting musical release produced in conjunction with C64 and Amiga music supremo Paul 'FeekZoid' Hannay. Things are still at the planning stages at the moment but If the plan comes together (I love it when that happens) then you will be able to hear computer music like you have NEVER heard it before! I can't say much more as it's all TOP SECRET at the moment. I am also working on my new PD catalogue updates but I have been so overwhelmed with new
sotware it's taking me longer than expected to get things typed up. There is even a Binary Zone VIDEO in the making! Who said the C64 scene is dying out? Not me matey.

Psytronik was one of the first of a 'new wave' of small, independent software companies producing stuft for the C64. Why did you decide to enter this market? Psytronik Software came about really quite suddenly and somewhat unexpectedly. It all started when I received a call from Jon Wells who was a tad unhappy because his game Scepre or Baghdad was no longer going to be sold by Atlantis because that company had, erm, SUNK! Together we got the idea to sell his game on a new software label which
catered for commercial software rather than PD software. Psytronik Software was then born.

Once word about Psytronik Software had got out I received various letters and games from authors who were keen to get their work published but hadn't had much luck with the 'big' commercial companies who all seemed to be abandoning the mighty C64 scene.

## Are you pleased with the quality of software you've released so far?

Oh yes, and not only am I pleased but also the people who buy the games seem to be happy with them. I receive plenty of nice letters and calls from gamers who are enjoying the software. They all seem to want one thing, though... MORE GAMESI I hope more people get the idea to sell new commercial titles on a mail order basis because there is obviously a market for it.

## You've produced a few demos and games in

 conjunction with Jon Wells. How did that start? Basically, Jon got in touch with me and told me he could code and sent along some examples of his work. I was impressed with what he could do and things just progressed from there. Jon also told me that he could considerably enhance SEUCK games by adding many new effects that are not available in the editor itself. All I needed now was a good source of quality SEUCK games, and as luck would have it atalented comicbook artist called Alf Yngve specialised in them.

How did you first get in touch with Alf? Alf sent some of his SEUCK games to another C64 magazine in the hope that they would feature them on their covertape. The mag was very impressed with the quality of the games and told

Jason take his bug hunting seriously.

Alf to get in touch with
me as they thought Alf's games would do very well in the PD market. Alf then sent me a tape which contained some of his games and I was literally blown away by the quality and originality of his games. I received Alf's games at the same time that Jon Wells told me he could enhance SEUCK games so I quickly rushed Jon some of Alfs games and Jon got to work on enhancing the game $T$ win Tigers. The end result was excellent!

The enhanced game appeared on CF Powerpack 26 and is also available on the Alf Yngve Collection which is a very popular games compilation tape available from Binary Zone PD.

## Can we expect to see more PsytronikWells/Yngve

 productions in the near future? At the moment Jon Wells is working on a series of games which will be released by him on the Visualize label so l'm not sure when he will next be able to get the chance to produce anything for Psytronik Software. Alf Yngve has been very keen to get his games enhanced and released commercially right from the start so I have no shortage of software from him. You will just have to keep to eyes glued to the pages of CF for more news about future Psytronik releases.
## You recently took over the legendary Guild Adventure Software library. Why was that?

 The Guild used to be run by Tony Collins but he decided to do a six-month course which would have meant the end of the Guild because he would have no time to continue running things. I stepped in at the last moment and offered to take over the Guild. Tony was happy at the prospect of all his hard work being continued so he basically sent me the Guild in a huge jifly bagl This means I can now offer plenty of great adventure games to C 64 users as well as oodles of splendid PD software and, of course, the Psytronik releases.How would you describe the future of the C64, and what sort of commitment can we expect to see from Binary Zone/Psytronik? I must admit the C64 scene has dwindled considerably during the past few years and the lack of software in the shops is a real shame. There are loads of C64s still out there and heaps of keen C64 enthusiasts but I'm not sure how they will find out about what's available for their funky

## THE SUNDAY COLOUR SUPPLEMENT TYPE BIT

Time for a bit of in-depth questioning to discover the true Jason Mackenzie...

What is your favourite C64 game of all time? Hmmm , that's a bit of a toughie. It's probably Uridium because that's the game that made me want to own a C64 in the first place.

Which C64 celebrities (well, personalities) would you most like to meet?
I would really like to meet some of the brilliant C64 musicians who mysteriously vanished from the C64 scene. They include Rob Hubbard, Martin Galway, Tim Follin and Matt Gray amongst others. HI GUYS

What food do you despise the most? Liverl (Ptooey') and Marmite (Bleggg').

Who is your ideal babe?
Either Anita Dels (out of 2 Unlimited) or Teri Hatcher Lois Lane from Lois and Clarke: The New Adventures Of Superman) will do nicely thankyouverymuch.

What is your lucky number? 27 - I don't know why, it just seems to crop up a lot. What is your favourite colour? Blue (although I quite like red too).

This is just getting silly. Stop dressing up and get on with some work.
machine if CF disappears for good (well that's not planned for just yet a while Dave). I will continue to support the C64 for absolutely as long as possible and as I have over 4,000 C64 members it shows that not everyone has gone to that nasty 'consoleland' place.

## What are your views on consoles?

I too was caught up by the hype when the Super Nintendo was first released. I rushed out and bought a SNES but I soon realised my mistake. I was forking out £40 for games which I was completing only a few days after buying them. The ultimate example of the 'value for money' you DONT get with with a console game is this... I borrowed Super Star Wars from a friend of mine; it cost him £60. One hour and 15 minutes after I first plugged the cartridge in I was watching the final end sequence. $£ 60$ for just over an hours' entertainment! I own plenty of C64 games which I have played for MUCH Ionger than that and I still haven't finished them! Makes you think doesn't it. .

## How can people get more information about Binary Zone/PsytronikThe Guild?

Simply send two first class stamps to: Binary Zone PD. 34 Portland Road, Droitwich, Worcs, WR9 7QW. Please make sure you state whether you are a TAPE or DISK user and then I will bundle you a FREE catalogue and a life-size cardboard cut-out of Jet from the Gladiators... (actually, I'Il just send the catalogue, the bit about Jet was just wishful thinking on my part).

A catalogue of Amiga software is also available and it features a new Amiga 1200 section!

## And your final words?

Aha! This is a good place to thank all the Binary Zone PD members for their unending support and all those amusing letters which liven up my day. I would also like to say a big 'YO'' to all the people who have coded demos, utilities and games for me. Cheerz dudes! Oh yeah, I would also like to send a cheery wave and thumbs-up to and all my friends and contacts in the scene who supply the Binary Zone with a constant stream of truly excellent PD software. Long live the Commodore 64 !


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# CI 

 Cheating is an ancient art form. From the first gameof club your partner through conkers, Kerr-Plunk and Canasta to computer games people have cheated. And Andy Roberts is a master of the art...

## MAYHEM IN MONSTERLAND (APEX)

You've had the complete player's guide, a rather nifty bug-fix listing and even an infinite lives listing And now, finally, here we have the official cheat mode. But it isn't your average bog-standard, run-of-the-mill cheat. In fact, if you've copied the game or own a pirate version, you won't be able to use the cheat at all. Ha!

When the title screen appears, type in the numbers corresponding to the BOTTOM LEFT strip of colours on the protection sheet (A37 to E37). This is a rather hefty 25 digits, so be extremely careful not to make a mistake. If you enter it correctly, the APEX logo will begin to flash, and you can now start the game with infinite lives.


## MAYHEM PIPELAND DEMO (POWERPACK 46)

The cute yellow dinosaur's third Powerpack outing gets the usual Warren Pilkington treatment. Type in this listing, SAVE for future use, then RUN it for infinite lives, invincibility, loads of time, and infinite continues. 0 rem mayhem demo 3 Cheat by waz 1 FOR $X=516$ TO 576 : READ $Y: C=C+Y:$ POKE $X, Y:$ NEXT

## MㅋI (ALTERNATVE)

This rather dull computer version of Bigfoot and the Hendersons can be made a litile more bearable with the aid of this listing. Type it in and choose from a tantalising selection of cheats: infinite lives, tons of ammunition and a bucketload of bombs.
0 REM YETII CHBAT BY WAZ
1 FOR X=528 TO 572: READ Y:C=C+Y:POKs $\mathrm{X}, \mathrm{Y}: \operatorname{NEXT}$
2 IF C $<5031$ THITN PRINT "DATA BRROR" : END 3 INPUA "INFINITE LIVES Y/N";A\$:IF A\$="N"

## $\therefore 19 \% 142$ <br> (ALTERNATIVE)

He's by far the most gorgeous and talented duck on television, but he's a little bit crap at games. To give everybody's favourite vegetarian vampire a helping hard, try this listing for size. Eat your heart out, Orville (we can only hope - Ed).
0 REM DUCKULA 2 CHEAT BY WAZ
1 FOR $\mathrm{X}=272$ TO 323 :REND $\mathrm{Y}: \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{C}+\mathrm{Y}:$ POKE
 3 poks 157,128:SYs 272
10 DATA 032,086,245,169,121,141,218,003 11 DAMA $169,088,141,220,003,076,167,002$ 12 DATA $238,032,208,206,032,208,169,234$ 13 DATA $141,234,016,141,235,016,141,236$ 14 DATA $016,141,061,038,141,062,038,141$ 15 DATA 064,038,141,130,050,141,131,050 16 DATA $141,132,050,096$

2 IF C $<>6939$ THEN PRINT "DATA ERROR": END 3 INPUT "INFINITE LIVES Y/N"; AS:IF A\$="N" THEN POKE 545,1


Thisa poke 556, 206
4 IMPUT "TNFINITE AMMO Y/N";B\$:IF B\$="N" THixa POKE 561,206
5 TNPUT "TNFINITE BOMBS Y/N";C\$:IF C $\mathrm{C}=$ ="N" THEN POKE 566,206
6 POKE 157,128:SYS 528
10 DATA $169,029,141,040,003,169,002,141$
11 DATA 041,003,032,086,245,169,011,141 12 DATA 206,001,169,034,141,207,001,096 13 DATA $087,065,090,169,173,141,201,155$ 14 DATA $169,173,141,039,152,169,173,141$ 15 data 051,152,076,235,002

5 INPUT "INFINITE CONTINUES Y/N";C\$:IF
C $\$=$ "N" THEN POKR 555,206
6 INPUT "MORE TTME Y/N";D\$7 IF D\$="N" THEN POKE 560,189: POKE 565, 68 : POKE 570,144
7 POKE 157, 128:SYS 516 10 DATA 032,086,245,169,019,141,207,003 11 DATA 206, 208,003, 096,087,065,090,169 12 DATA $032,141,013,010,169,002,141,014$ 13 DATA $010,076,230,003,169,000,141,182$ 14 DATA $179,169,173,141,176,171,169,173$ 15 DATA $141,116,070,169,169,141,041,179$ 16 data $169,009,141,042,179,169,234,141$

## 17 DATA $043,179,076,013,008$

## BONECRUNCHER (POWERPACK 46)

Warren Pilkington takes a break from creating music demos (such as Quadraped Tearaways) to conjure up this splendid listing. Type it in and RUN it for infinite lives and keys.
0 REM BONECRUNCHER CHEAT BY WAZ
1 FOR X=516 TO 556: READ Y:C=C+Y: POKE X, Y:NEXT
2 IF C<>4132 THEN PRINT "DATA ERROR": END
3 POKE 157,128:SYS 516
4 DATA 032,086,245,169,019,141,207,003
5 DATA 206,208,003,096,087,065,090,169
6 DATA $032,141,013,010,169,002,141,014$
7 DATA 010,076,230,003,169,173,141,134
8 dATA $056,169,173,141,147,062,076,016$
9 DATA 008


# FIRST SAMURAI = BEGINNERS' TIPS 

Decent beat-'em-ups are hard to find, let alone a mystical strength). However, certain magic half-decent arcade adventure. First Samurai $*^{* * * * * * * * * * * * * ~ o b j e c t s ~ c a m n o t ~ b e ~ c o l l e c t e d ~ u n l e s s ~ y o u ~}$ happens to be a wicked blend of both styles, but it's also a hideously difficult game. Here's Andy with some sound advice for firsttime

Samurais.

## GETTING STARTED

Although the control method is well designed and extremely flexible, it does take a little time to get used to, especially if you've never played this sort of game before. Take a little time to get used to the way the Samurai handles, how high and how far he can jump, his speed and agility, etc. Things become a little more difficult when you gain the sword, as you effectively gain several new moves (which, as you may have guessed, require lots of practice too). Probably the most vital skill to master is mid-air combat, ie, jumping and attacking at the same time. For more info, check out the COMBAT section.


activate the restart pot. Continue right and drop down into the cavern, then head right and hack through the wall in your way. Avoiding the spikes, drop down and hack through the wall to your left, then climb up the platforms, hack through the floor, and drop onto the platform below.

Jump over the fire and hack through the next wall, then carefully descend into the lower catacombs. Now make your way left and up (wherever necessary) until you reach a rockfall; summon the Old Man then open the second chest to collect the third LOG.

Now go back the way you came and

## TELEPORTS

These are few and far between. In fact, most levels only have one or two teleports. They look like the five dots on a die and, once activated, will teleport you to another part of the map (simply stand in front of it and hold down the FIRE button for a few moments). Note that teleporting is not an option - if you don't use them, you cannot complete the game. As with restart points, the teleporters can also act as a handy escape route, should the need arise (and it definitely will).

## COMBAT

If you're serious about finishing the game, then you'll really need to polish up your fighting skills. Unarmed combat is undoubtedly the trickiest, but not impossible. The collision detection is tweaked in favour of the player (that makes a change - Dave), so it's possible to hit an enemy which is still a few pixels away. The high punch and high kick are probably the only moves worth using, along with the leg sweep for particularly low or short enemies (and to get rid of disappearing floors).

Life becomes much easier when you get armed with the sword, because this means that it's possible to kill several enemies with just one swipe. Certain magical objects, such as the axe, the daggers and the mine, will boost your combat abilities when combined with the sword. Both the daggers and the axe act like bullets, whereas the mine will float around the screen and home in on its prey. The basic key to staying alive is don't stand still, and attack anything that moves.

## WIMP'S GUIDE TO LEVEL 1

Usually the first level is a gentle introduction to the game, with puzzles designed to educate the player rather than confuse and annoy, right? Well, strangely enough, the first level of this particular game is one of the biggest and most difficult, which is why we've decided to show you exactly how it's done. Once you've mastered it, you should have a pretty decent idea how to tackle the rest of the game (if not, you could always make use of our SOS section on page 29).

The main objective is to kill the dragon which lurks at the far right of the level, but standing between you and the dragon is a rather large waterfall. To get past this you
need to collect four logs and then summon the Old Man to lay them across the waterfall. Easy in theory, very difficult in practice...

From the start: Make your way to the right until you reach a section of disappearing floor - use your leg sweep to kick through it. Drop into the cavern below, then use the same manoeuvre to kick through the next section of flooring. Head right and collect the BELL which lurks amongst the columns, then continue right as far as possible and collect the first LOG (underneath the dragon). Now go back to the left and up to the 'surface', then go right. When you reach the face huggers, continue quickly to the right until you reach a restart pot. Activate it, then drop down the small then drop down the small
waterfall below. Go left and collect the second LOG (avoid the Dragon's flames), then climb back up the waterfall to the surface. Head right until RE head right across a series of disappearing blocks until you reach a teleporter - use it. Now drop down into the caverns again, and climb up the platforms at the bottom. Instead of dropping through the small gap (as before), continue left until you reach a teleporter - go through it, follow the path on the other side and collect the BELL, then go back and into the teleporter again.
Go back the way you came and drop into the lower catacombs as before, then head right across the disappearing platforms and into the teleporter. Make your way left a little and up to the surface, then climb the 'pyramid' to the right and use your sword to destroy all of the square blocks (there are six sets of two). Once done, climb to the top and an extra platform will allow you to jump left to collect the fourth and final LOG.
Now simply make your way back across the platforms, down, then right to the waterfall. Hit SPACE to summon the Old Man, walk across the newly created bridge, then kill the dragon which lurks at the end. Once he's dead, collect
the three bonus coins and
teleport to finish the level.

## AND WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS...

..Cheat like there's no tomorrow. If it's Action Replay POKEs or passwords you're after, this little lot should keep you happy for hours. Note that the POKEs will work on both the tape and disk versions, but not the passwords - which is why we've included both sets.
a huge fireball-type
fiery thing, then
hit SPACE to
summon
the Oid
Man - he will
extinguish
the flames.
Now, using
the white platforms above you, climb up and left, then keep heading left across the platforms until you reach a chest; collect the BELL from inside and head back the way you came to the waterfall with the two
dragons. Climb up over the waterfall, then drop down
the right-hand side. Don't fall
into the cavern below, instead go right a little and

## INFINITE ENERGY

POKR 18333,0-Load 1
poke 17625, 0 - Load 2
POKE 18247,0-Load 3
POKR 19949,0 - Load 4

## INFINITE LIVES

POKE 8628,0 - Load 1
POKE 8224,0 - Load 2
POKE 8350,0-Load 3
POKE 8002,0 - Load 4

## CASSETTE PASSWORDS

LEVEL 5 - QXZLMP
LEVEL 6 - ZITRJM
LEVEL 7-BZGVSN

## DISK PASSWORDS

LEVEL 5 - PMLZXQ
LEVEL 6 - MJRTIZ
LEVEL 7 - NSVGZB

## AMIGA MAGS

Issue 63 of Amiga Format has an amazing feature on interactive TV and how the Commodore Amiga will be playing a major role in this 50,1$)$ new entertainment revolution. We've also got some excellent Coverdisks with OctaMED, a top music package, and an awesome demo of Impressions' Detroit game (where you try to outdo Henry Ford at designing and flogging motors to the world). AF63: it's the dog's 63.95, WITH 2 COVERDISKS

Amiga Power tells you everything you need to know about playing games on the Amiga (the C64 and CPC's

## CF THEN

 STICK WITH natural heir). For example, the September issue's got an exclusive review of Super Stardust, probably the best Amiga shoot-'em-up yet. It also comes with two disks, stuffed full of demos and complete games. Amiga Power truly is the mightiest computer games magazine ever devised by human beings 83.95, WITH 241Amiga Shopper is the definitive guide for every serious Amiga user. In our September issue, we will be taking a long hard look at the ray-tracing program Imagine 3, plus we test every 24 -bit graphics card we can get our hands on. $\mathbf{£ 2 . 5 0}$

Whatever other computer you use, and whether you use it for business or pleasure, you can bet Future Publishing's got the best magazines to suit your needs...

## PC MAGS PCCAMER

 IIn the September issue of PC Gamer, find out whether
## - crommat

In the September Issue of the PC magazine that helps you work, rest and play...

- Artificial Intelligence and how it's all around us right now.
- TIE Fighter review - biggest game of the year?
- Buyers' guides to screen savers, DTP, hand scanners.
- Coverdisk featuring Chaos Engine
- Lots of the usual step-by-step guides, special CD-ROM edition with 'free' CD, 20 budget-priced PC game compilations rounded-up.
¢3.95 WITH COVERDISK, OR C4.95 WITH CD ROM location report. Also weve oot the first review of Microsoft's epic Space Simulator, players guides to TIE Fighter and Ulitima VIII, the biggest PC games news section in the known world and opinions from the most respected writers in the games industry. And Gary Penn. $\mathbf{\mathbf { \$ 3 } . 9 5}$ WITH 2 COVERDISKS

> P[Answers The mag that helps you get the most out of your PC. In the latest issue well tell you all about: Creating your own multimedia programs - it's exciting and so easy anyone can do it * Choosing and using scanners * How to manage your files to make using your PC more efficient. And, as usual. PC Answers is packed-to-the-gills with reviews, hints and tips and probing news investigations. $\mathbf{8 3 . 9 5}$ WITH COVERDISK

# $50 s$ 

## He's tough, he's mean and he can bust any

 game you care to mention, so why not drop our Andy a line if you're suffering from the gaming blues? Go on, don't be shy.
## RICK DANGEROUS 2

## (FIREBIRD/KIXX)

A fine young fellow by the name of Gavin Gunnati wrote in with several queries, one of which is for this huge arcade adventure. In short, he doesn't know how to use the JE VEUX VIVRE cheat, which we've printed a couple of times before. It's really quite straightiorward - simply play the game to get a high score, lose all your lives, then enter JE VEUX VIVRE (with spaces) on the high score table for infinite lives.


## THE ADPAMS FAMILY (OCEAN/HIT SCUAD)

A rather depressed C Constable from Kent wrote in with several queries, one of them for this rather hefly arcade romp - what exactly do you do? Being such a

## WANTED... DEAD OR AIIVE

We're constantly on the look-out for the best darned tips in the business, and we 'Il put our money where out mouth is and reward the best stuff with a big fat julcy tenner (which is actually worth the same as a small, skinny, dehydrated tenner, but doesn't sound as good). Simply send your maps, tips, cheats, solutions, POKEs and other gameplaying advice to: Andy Roberts' Gamebusters, Commodore Format, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, Avon BA1 2BW. Don't forget to include your name and address, along with a crateload of Pringles potato chips.
kind soul, here's the complete solution for level one. If you'd like to complete the whole game, the full solution is in CF31 (that sounds like an opportunity to get in another back-issue plug - Dave)
From the start: IN DOOR • LEFT (BOTTOM OF SCREEN) • IN DOOR • LEFT • LEFT • GET KEY • RIGHT • IN DOOR • RIGHT • LEFT (TOP OF SCREEN) • LEFT • IN DOOR • RIGHT • RIGHT • GET KEY • LEFT • LEFT • IN DOOR • RIGHT • IN DOOR • LEFT • RIGHT (TOP OF SCREEN) • RIGHT • IN DOOR • RIGHT • IN DOOR (BOTTOM OF
SCREEN) • LEFT • LEFT • LEFT • IN DOOR • GET KEY • IN DOOR • RIGHT • RIGHT • RIGHT * IN DOOR • LEFT (TOP OF SCREEN) • UP • LEFT - LEFT • LEFT • LEFT • IN DOOR • GET KEY • IN DOOR • RIGHT • IN DOOR (TOP OF SCREEN) LEFT • RESCUE PUGSLEY • RIGHT • IN DOOR • RIGHT • RIGHT • RIGHT • DOWN • RIGHT • IN DOOR • (BOTTOM OF SCREEN) • RIGHT • RIGHT - RIGHT • IN DOOR • RIGHT • RIGHT • RIGHT * IN DOOR • RIGHT • RESCUE LURCH • LEFT • $\mathbb{N}$ DOOR • LEFT • LEFT • LEFT • IN DOOR • LEFT - LEFT • LEFT • LEFT • LEFT • LEFT • IN DOOR - LEFT • IN DOOR to complete the level.

## BLOOD MONEY (Psyenosis)

Shane Hadfield from Sheffield is having a few problems with this strangely playable shoot-em-up, and luckily there is a handy Action Replay POKE to help even the most incompetent players. Simply use pors 12734, 189 for complete invincibility.


## THE SIMPSONS

## (OcFAN/HIT SQUAD)

Here's another budget beauty causing problems for C Constable from Kent. This time he's having trouble spraying the WET PAINT sign above the shop door on level one. Here's how - 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 too.

## DALEK AIHACK

 (ALTERNATIVE) There's nothing more satistying than blasting a few Daleks to oblivion, butcompleting the game is quite an arduous task. Fear not, Stuart Christie, as there is a simple, clean, and efficient cheat mode which absolutely anybody can use. To jump to the next level, press both SHIFT keys simultaneously at any time during the game. Then press $P$ to pause the game and keep P pressed while you press and release the asterisk (") key. If that seems a little convoluted, you might like to try pors 4575, 165 and pore 13579, 165 for infinite lives. Also, for those of you with the relevant back-issues, you can find a superb player's guide
(cheers - Dave) in issues CF31, CF32 and CF33.
 spotted it. The mistake is quite a simple one - lines 4 and 5 were merged for some reason. Those lines should have read... 4 INPUT "INFINITE AMMO $\mathrm{Y} / \mathrm{N}^{\prime \prime}$;B\$:IF $\mathrm{B} \$=$ "N" THIEN POKR 550,206
5 POKE 157,128:SYS 516
so type that into the original listing and everything should be absolutely peachy.

## 1AST NINH 2 (SYSIEM 3/KOXX)

Oh dear! It seems that Andrew Cochrane from Gleadless in Sheffield is a little disappointed with this installment of the Ninja saga - so many bugs and so little gameplay. Well, I can't make the game any better but I can make life a little easier with these Action Replay POKEs. Oh, and there is no listing cheat available for the game. Such is life. Anyway, try these POKEs on the relevant level for infinite lives... pors 28986,165-Level 1
poke 29231, 165 - Level 2
pore 28824,165 - Level 3
POKE 29059,165-
Level 4
POKE 29212,165 -
Well, you'd have an attitude problem If your creator had given you kitchen utensils for hands.

 won't actually work on the finished version of the game (hah, I bet that caught you out). As luck would have it, Dean Locke from Australia has a gaggle of Action Replay POKEs which do work on the final version. Hurrah. And, indeed, hurrah again.

For full energy...
POKE 39339, 255 - Jetpack
POKB 39340, 255 - Gun
POKR 39341, 255 - Icer
POKE 39342,255 - PX312 Blaster
POKE 39343,255 - Plasma Gun POKE 39344,255 - Shield

To gain the objects...
poke 39308, 255 - Gun POKE 39309, 255 - Icer POKB 39310, 255 - PX312 Blaster POKE 39311, 255 - Plasma Gun POKE 39312,255 - Shield POKE 39307,255 - Booster pOKE 39299, 255 - 1st Key pore 39300, 255-2nd Key poks 39301, 255 - 3rd Key pOKR 39302, 255 - 4th Key POKR 39304, 255 - 5th Key POKR 39305, 255 - 6 th Key pOKR 39314, 255 - Mushroom immunity POKE 39317, 255 - Radiation Protection pOKE 39313, 255 - Fire protection
pore 39316, 255 - Whistle 1 POKE 39315, 255 - Whistle 2

And finally...
POKE 39326, (0-255) - Pull objects from your pockets pOKE 39351, (0-255) - Turn yourself into objects and creatures


## MIFCTI:

Richard Beckett pops up again, doing what he does best - solving tricky and troublesome games. It you're having problems with this antipodean escapade, heed this sound advice.
JIM'S GARAGE OPTIONS SCREEN
Here, select to race on the intermediate board, as the beginner's board is too slow and the advanced board harder to control with no real benefits. It's best to select no more than two opponents any more just tend to block the screen. There are no differences between the capabilities of each vehicle (even between the motorbike and lawnmowerl), and you can also select how many obstacles you want. For the benefit of clarity, this solution uses all of them.

## HELEN DANIELS' PAINTING TIPS

- Don't always race along at full speed, it increases your chances of a crash, which slows you down in the long run (sounds like a metaphor for life, really, doesn't it? - cultural editor).
- Save the energy-filling bonus objects for when your energy is low. Until the third and final lap, that is, when you can collect them as you wish.
- Clear obstacles by as large a distance as
possible - there is some very dodgy collision detection at times.
- Roads get smaller and have more turns as you progress through the levels.

RACE 1 - DOUG WILLIS' BETTING TIPS Move up the screen a bit to pass the first gate, slow down before the next gate to avoid Mrs Mangle (and let's face it, you want to avoid Mrs Mangle), then go down the screen along the right pavement where you're safe from harm (swerve only to go through gates). Go right and up the left pavement (again avoiding enemies), then along the top pavement to avoid the kangeroos. Go down the centre of the road, right avoiding Bouncer, and up the right pavement. At the top of the road turn left to complete the lap. Now simply do this three times, then repeat going in the opposite direction.

LASER • UP • LEFT • DOWN • LEFT • UP • LEFT • LEFT * DOWN - DOWN - DOWN • UP • LEFT (second floor) * LEFT • LEFT • LEFT • LEFT • LEFT • UP • RIGHT • LEFT * LEFT • LEFT • DOWN • RIGHT : get DYNAMITE • UP * RIGHT • RIGHT,RIGHT • LEFT • DOWN • RIGHT • RIGHT - DOWN - walk off lift to complete level.

LEVEL 3 - From the start: use DYNAMITE • DOWN LEFT • LEFT • RIGHT • RIGHT • get KEY • LEFT • LEFT • DOWN - LEFT • DOWN - RIGHT - RIGHT - get KEY LEFT • LEFT • LEFT • UP • free DOG • get KEY • DOWN • RIGHT • RIGHT • RIGHT • RIGHT • RIGHT • UP • UP * LEFT (top way) • DOWN • get ENERGY • DOWN • LEFT • LEFT • get KEY - RIGHT • UP • UP • DOWN • DOWN • DOWN • LEFT • RIGHT • get DIVING SUIT • LEFT • LEFT - LEFT - DOWN • drop into water to complete the level.

LEVEL 4 - From the start: UP - LEFT • get AIR - LEFT LEFT • UP • get AIR • DOWN • UP • LEFT • LEFT • DOWN - get AIR - DOWN - RIGHT - RIGHT - UP - get AIR * DOWN - RIGHT • RIGHT • DOWN - RIGHT - get AIR •

RACE 2 - SWAMPEY'S SURFING TIPS
Go through the first gate, then down the left path, left. down the right path (remember to turn to go through any gates), right, down the left path, left and down either path to avoid the dog. Go right and follow the right path until you reach Mrs Mangle, where you should swap to the other side of the road and follow the left path to the end of the lap. Note that when you are turning corners on the path, go onto to road and do a large circle onto the next path to avoid crashing.

RACE 3 - JENNY LIM'S PRONUNCIATION GUIDE Go left at the base of the mud track to avoid the late Todd Landers, follow the track round, staying at the bottom all the time. When there are two directions in which you can go (right and down), go down; the right path is a dead-end. As long as you stay at the bottom or right of the track, you're safe from all enemies. It's more a case of steering through small tracks, and therefore it's better to go slower as crashing sends you back too far.

## RACE 4 - THE TIPS LEFT IN JIM'S WILL

As with race three, you can avoid all enemies by staying to the right or bottom of the tracks. Paths are very thin here, so go slowly. Try to get in the lead at the start, as it's hard to overtake later. Simply complete this race to finish the game.

## CHABT AHMCK

y do so many stars of Neighbours insist on Why do so many stars of Ne pop stars as well. "I was trying to convince us they the cast." they all reveal in singing long before $I$ joined the cast, but I was singing long interviews. It might be news to them, bur wath, in school before I started writing for a living ine tube - but believe me, I have no semblies, on trains, busking in thio Games Without Frontiers. assembics, on releasing a quick rendition not content with proving they can't But no, these Neighbours sars, nell. Why don't they decide to But no, to prove they can't sing as wermula 1 cars instead? decide, to prove pagaglide or race Formula the time to release slushy And when the popularity wanes, hats the The Twins, they're all in Aver version. Stelan Dennis, kest word to use). What next? Bounce. on the act (perhaps not the belin (well, the NME could wheel out the duetting with Aretha Franle old dogs' gag)? Or perhaps, by way ever-popular 'coupie of of pop stars with all the musical
of revenge, a bunch ond of reverity of dead hedgehog should join as well... prove how crap they are acting as RIGHT

- UP • RIGHT
- RIGHT • get AIR • LEFT * RIGHT • RIGHT • get AIR * DOWN • RIGHT • RIGHT • UP • LEFT • UP • UP to complete the level.
LEVEL 5 - From the start: UP - get CODING DEVICE * UP • UP • get KEY • UP • TERMINAL 1 - RIGHT • RIGHT UP • RIGHT • get KEY • DOWN • LEFT • LEFT • LEFT • get KEY • RIGHT • DOWN • RIGHT - get ENERGY RIGHT - RIGHT • LEFT • LEFT • DOWN • DOWN - get KEY • UP • RIGHT • DOWN • RIGHT • DOWN • RIGHT • TERMINAL 2 • LEFT • UP • LEFT • UP • LEFT • RIGHT * get KEY • LEFT • UP • RIGHT • RIGHT • RIGHT • DOWN • get KEY • LEFT • TERMINAL 3 - RIGHT • UP • LEFT • LEFT • LEFT • DOWN • RIGHT • DOWN • RIGHT • TERMINAL 4 - LEFT • RIGHT • RIGHT • UP • talk to BENTON QUEST to complete the game.

Hard as it may be to believe, by the end of the next page you will have learnt the facts about another 17 machine language commands. It's true. Because this month I will guide you gently through the realms of arithmetic, logical, transfer, shift and rotate instructions. Not only that, but I'll tell you all about the incredibly easy zero page and relative addressing modes. The only question left to ask is where to begin? Let's get that answered right away.

## ADDRESSING IT

Remember that last month I told you what the zero page was? If you don't - because you didn't read the mag (in which case don't tell Dave because he'll only use it an excuse to plug Back Issues ) or you've just got a plain bad memory - don't worry. It's just a posh name for the first 256 memory locations. Zero page addressing mode allows you to tell the computer what address you want by supplying only one byte of info, not the normal two. Like LDA, \$D020 requires two bytes, stored as $\$ 20$ and $\$ \mathrm{DO}$ in the memory for reasons that elude even the illustrious Dave. But in zero page, the high byte of every address is $\$ 00$ and so we just get rid of it. So if you stored a value in location $\$ 00 \mathrm{FB}$, you access it by doing LDA \$FB instead of LDA $\$ 00 \mathrm{FB}$. You can do that with practically everything where you normally use two bytes. Take, as a simple example, the following short assembly language program:

## 100 *=49152

110 LDA 1064; \$0428
120 STA 251; \$00FB
130 RTS
Line 110 uses absolute addressing and is stored in memory as \$AD, \$28, \$04 which is three bytes. Line 120 uses zero page addressing because the memory location in question (251) lies in the first 256. It is stored as $\$ 85$, SFB which is only two.

Relative addressing is not used in many instructions; in fact you will only come across it in branch instructions. It is the equivalent of saying, "take two steps backwards from here," or, "take three steps forwards from here". An actual address is not stored in memory, just the number of bytes either forward or back that the program must
jump past. For convenience you always specify the address when you enter assembly language like BNB LOOP or BNE $\$ C 000$, but these are never stored literally.

## CARRY THE CAN

In the auspicious world of the C64, flags are things which are either on or off. Like light bulbs. And in the said world there is no concept of a dimmer switch so don't get funny with me, matey. If you want a flag to be on, you set it; otherwise you clear it.

For now I'll just tell you about the carry flag. It's used a lot in machine code; during additions, subtractions and even during branch instructions. In fact, the instruction to

## $\square$ © $\because$ M 1 M - $A$, 1 =

This month's Mean Machine Code was bought to you by the letters M and C and the commands...

| ADC | Add value to accumulator |
| :---: | :---: |
| SEC | Subtract value from accumulator |
| AND | Logically AND value with accumulator |
| ORA | Logically OR value with accumulator |
| EOR | Logically EOR value with accumulator |
| TAX | Transfer accumulator to X register |
| TXA | Transter X register to accumulator |
| TAY | Transfer accumulator to Y register |
| TYA | Transfer Y register to accumulator |
| ASL | Shift bits left one bit |
| ROL. | Roll bits left one bit |
| LSR | Shift bits right one bit |
| ROR | Roll bits right one bit |
| CLC | Clear the carry flag |
| SEC | Set the carry flag |
| BCC | Branch if carry flag is clear |
| BCS | Branch if carry flag is set |

add two numbers together is ADC which stands for ADd with Carry. Similarly, SBC means SuBtract with Carry. To clear and set the flag yourself, you do CLC or SEC. CLC, quite unsurprisingly, is short for CLear Carry and unless you're a big, fat lemon I don't need to say what SEC stands for. The relevant branching instructions are BCC and BCS; Branch if Carry Clear and Branch if Carry Set.
$100 *=49152$
110 SEC
120 BCC CLEAR
130 RTS
140 CLEAR ;
150 INC 53280 ;BORDER COLOUR
160 RTS
Try assembling the above program and executing it with SYS 49152 . You should find that nothing happens when you run it. Great program, eh? But hang on. Change the SEC in line 110 to CLC and run it again. Now you've cleared the carry flag and so the branch will take place and the border colour should change. Experiment using SEC and CLC with either BCC or BCS.

## IT ALL ADDS UP

When you add two numbers together in machine language, the computer very thoughtfully adds one to the result if the carry flag is set. Therefore it is advisable to clear it beforehand. On the other hand, you should set the carry flag before a subtraction. Because the highest number you can store in one byte is 255, the computer will automatically set the carry flag during an addition if the result is bigger than 255 . That's why it's called a carry flag; the high byte is carried over. If you add 3 to 5 the result is 8 , which is fine in decimal. If you add 5 to 8 you get 13. The first time you ever did this you will have been told that you have to 'carry' the one over into the tens column and write a three in the units column. It's the same thing.

In theory it is very simple to write a program which will read in a number from a memory location, change it and then store the new result back. Try out the following program which puts the theory into practice. As you should be doing with all these listings, experiment with the commands and values to see what happens:

100 *=49152
110 LDA 251
120 CLC
130 ADC \#25
140 STA 251
150 RTS
Assemble the program and enter pOKE 251, 100:sys 49152 : PRINT PEEK (251). You should get the result of 125 because line 130 adds 25 on to the value read in by
line 110. Line 140 stores it back. Change the CLC to ]SEC and the ADC to SBC. Observe the fascinating fact that the result is now 75. Heavens.

## FROM HERE TO THERE

Transferring is always very handy (unless it involves money in which case it always seems to be unnecessanily complicated - Dave speaking from bitter experience). It normally means moving something from one place to another different place. In our case, it means copying a value from one register into another one; not actually moving it. So, to read in the value in the accumulator and to then write it to the $X$ register, you could do something like STA \$FB followed by LDX \$FB which would store the value in the accumulator to memory and then read it back into the $X$ register. Alternatively, you could use tax. Do I really have to tell you what it means (and no stupid comments about the Inland Revenue from you, Dave)? Transfer the Accumulator to the X register. There is also TAY which shoves it in the $Y$ register, and TXAA and TYA which do the reverse; TXA takes whatever is in the X register and copies it to the accumulator.

## ROMARKABLE

I shall take this apt opportunity to thrust more ROM routines into your face.

- JSR \$E544 will clear the screen
- JSR $\$$ E566 will home the cursor
- JSR \$E097 will cause a random number to be generated which can then be read by doing a quick LDA $\$ 8 \mathrm{~F}$.

The best two sets of ROM routines are those demonstrated by the routine below.
$100 *=49152$
110 JSR $\$$ E 20 E
120 JSR \$AD9E
130 JSR $\$$ B7F7
140 ;
150 LDA 21
160 LDX 20
170 JSR \$BDCD
180 ;
190 RTS
The three ROM routines in lines 110 to 130 are very useful indeed if you are mixing Basic and machine language. They read in a value after a comma and store the result in locations 20 and 21 of zero page. The low byte is in 20 and the high byte in 21 for everything is

## ©

stored in lo-hi byte format. The nifty ROM routine at line 170 displays a decimal number to the screen which must be supplied in the rather inconvenient lo-hi byte format. The high byte must be given by the accumulator and the low byte by the $X$ register. That is why the values are transferred across in lines 150 to 160 . I trust you will find a use for these. For example, amend the simple addition proglet as shown below. When you have assembled it enter SYS 49152,100 to marvel at what happens.

## 100 * $=49152$

110 JSR \$R20E
120 JSR \$AD9E
130 JSR \$B7F7
140 LDA 20
150 CLC
160 ADC \#25
170 tax
180 LDA \#0
190 JSR \$BDCD
200 RTS

## IT'S LOGICAL

That was the paragraph header I used way back in CF40 if my memory is working. That's the issue that described the logical AND and OR operators. It followed CF38's introduction to binary and CF39's information on how memory works. You should have read and understood all three of those if you want any hope of understanding the rest of this series (yes, yes, yes... at last I get the chance to plug the Back Issues service on page 17 - Dave). The equivalent of the Basic and command is, quite spookily, AND. The equivalent of OR is, drum roll please, ORA. Your straightforward conversion of $\mathrm{A}=$ PEEK (56320) : IF (A AND 16) $=16$ THEN... would be:
$100 *=49152$
110 LDA 56320
120 AND \#16
130 CMP \#16
140 BER ...
I didn't cover Bor in CF40 because Basic doesn't have such a thing. It's referred to as Exclusive-OR. In simple terms, it flips bits between zero and one. The good oldfashioned truth table looks something like:

0 EOR $0=0$
0 EOR $1=1$
1 EOR $0=1$
1 EOR $1=0$

You may find it easier to look at a couple of examples with the decimal and binary equivalents, just like I showed for AND and OR in CF40. The decimal value is usually irrelevant to the proceedings. When you grasp a bit more about bits and stuff, you will begin to understand why.

| Binary |  | Decimal |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 00100110 |  | 38 |
| 00001111 | EOR | 15 |
| -------- |  | -- |
| 00101001 |  | 41 |
| 00101001 |  | 41 |
| 01010101 | gor | 85 |
| -------- |  | -- |
| 01111100 |  | 124 |

## ROLLING AND SHIFTING

Believe it or not, rolling and shifting are both dead complicated if you want them to be, or both incredibly easy if you prefer it that way (and who doesn't?). It all depends on how you look at them. If you're upside down with one eye closed, they're particularly bad.

Remember that a byte consists of eight bits. If you imagine shoving them all one bit to the left and filling the empty bit with a zero, you have imagined shifting. The bit that disappears out of the left hand end becomes the carry flag; clear if the bit was a zero, set if it was a one. Rolling involves a similar thing, but the contents of the carry flag are bunged in the empty bit before the carry flag is filled with the whatever was in the left-hand end. The whole thing is much easier to show you in a diagram than in a picture. Check out the diagrams lovingly prepared by art editor extraordinaire, Ollie (what are you after? - Ollie) which show shifting and rolling to see what I mean. Doing the same things but going right instead of left is just known as shifting right instead of shifting left. Nothing is too hard in this world.

The instructions that are relevant here are ASL (Arithmetic Shift Left), LSR (Logical Shift Right), ROL (ROII Left) and ror (ROIl Right). Shifting the bits to the left, assuming none are lost off the left-hand end, is equivalent to multiplying the number by two, and shifting them right is the equivalent of dividing by two. You don't believe me? I'm hurt. But if you want proof try this one out:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 100 \quad *=49152 \\
& 110 \text { LDA } \# 40 \\
& 120 \text { ASL A } \\
& 130 \text { STA } 251 \\
& 140 \mathrm{RTS}
\end{aligned}
$$

LDA \#40
ASL A


Above is shifting, below is rolling. Sound like some rubbish TS Eliot would have written, doesn't it?

## LDA \#40

SEC

## ROL A

Carry $-\quad$| 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

| 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

After assembling and running the code with SYS 49152, you should get the answer 80 if you PRINT PEEK (251). Change the ASL to LSR and you'll get 20.1 should point out that you are using the accumulator addressing mode here. The ' $A$ ' after the instruction means, 'Do this on the accumulator'. You could equally do it to a memory location such as ASL $\$ 0400$ or LSR 53280 . Whatever takes your fancy.

- By the way, Dave asked me to remind you (probably because he's trying to flog off a few back issues) that we gave away an Assembler on CF46's Power Pack. Got that? No? Then get it.


Put on your hard hats, because indexed addressing is coming up next month. I'm also going to show you how you can use the instructions I introduced this month in order to move a sprite around the screen with a joystick. This weird thing called the stack will also appear. Until then, keep playing with your assembler, and remember - know your code and code your nose.

The deal is this - you design a game, we pick out the
"I could do better than that." Here's your chance to prove it by designing a game that the Electric Boys will turn into a reality. Plus you could win a disk drive and the chance to meet the The 'Leccy Boys and the
best one and then get the Electric Boys to actually code the thing for commercial release (and, of course, CF\| have a demo on the Power Pack). But that's not all. The winner will also get a 5.25 -inch disk drive and the chance to come to Bath and meet both the Electric Boys and the CF crew (er, are you still sure you want to enter this competition?).

## RUSS MICHAELS, THE ELECHRIC BOYS

-Originality is the main concern, although you could try taking something old and improving it, like we're doing with Defensive (based on Defender). Also be aware of the C64 capabilities and what it can do. Avold shoot-'em-ups untess you can come up with a really striking, new idea. And try to avoid Ideas that have been done to death (Hike Tetris - Dave).
"Oh yeah, and don't forget to mention that disk drives are the future of C64 gaming." Yes, okay Russ.


## WE NEED GOOD IDEAS

But before you rush off and start scribbling here are a few guidelines:

- We rang around a few of the coders still active on the C64 scene to ask them what they thought would make a ever made. The problem is that anybody can sit down and write a novel (if you're illiterate you just use a dictaphone) but turning your dream game into a reality requires some pretty advanced machine coding skills, something 99.9 per cent of the world's population doesn't have.

So, do we just shrug our shoulders and let all that potential go to waste? Do we heck as

Well looky here - it's one of the prizes. Aren't you salivating atready?

like. Never a mag to let a good idea slip away (well apart from that one about trip to Malta and those copies of Reservoir Dogs... oops, ahem) we have decided that it's time to tap that rich source of game-designing grey matter and offer, in association with the Electric Boys, to turn one lucky CF reader's game idea into a commercial reality. Yep, the Electric Boys are one of the 0.01 per cent of the world population who can code till the

JOHN AND STEVE ROWLANDS, APEX
"The C64 is a very good machine for platformers (they would say that - Dave). And there hasn't been a decent shoot-em-up for four to five years.
"But you should avoic trying to be too clever technically. Don't attempt things that would require clever programming (like hundreds of sprites on-screen at once). The gameplay is the most important thing it must come first. The graphics need to be good but they shouldn't be used as the main selling point of the game."
because a) they're probably covering up for a hackneyed idea and b) The Electric Boys will probably have problems translating your graphics exactly. By all means illustrate your ideas, but remember we won't be judging you on your artistic ability (a bit like those Blue Peter design-a-set-of-Christmas-stamp compos).

The basic message is this: it's the ideas we'll be judging, not the presentation (though clear diagrams and readable writing will be a plus point - if the Wright Brothers had had the drafting abilities of an arthritic spider, man would never have got off the ground).

So, read what the experts have to say, then go away and have a long hard think about what you reckon would make a really, truly awesome game. Don't be afraid to be a bit weird, either. We know there's a corkersome idea in that head of yours
somewhere, you've just got to entice it out. Who knows - you could be the next Jeff Minter... er, or Oliver Twin (is that a bit like an Aphex Twin? - Ollie)... er, well a dead famous games writer, anyway.

## TOP 10 TIPS

1First come up with an original concept - if you want to do a racing game, make sure there's something new and never tried before about it.

## 2

 Be aware of the C64's limitations. Yes there are coding tricks to get around many of them, but performing them all at once might be a bit difficult for Russ and the 'Leccy Boys.3If you are designing a platformer or a shoot-'em-up think about varying the levels and the action; introduce end-oflevel guardians and other innovations to the basic format. Try to think of new sorts of pick-ups and powerups - what kind of weapon has never been used before? (Banana guns are OUT.)

Think about the difficulty of your game. When you come up with a basic concept you like, put some thought into how you can develop it to make the game trickier and more challenging. Just tightening
writing one of them (the Electric Boys won't be happy if you're game outline says, 'a fast flight sim' - Dave). Driving games tend to be pretty average. There's never been a really good one. Buggy Boy was about the last decent one. So perhaps a decent two-player racing game would be a good idea.
"You shouldn't try to write a game around flashy visual effects - nine out of ten times that simply doesn't work. It's got to be relaxing, fun and, above all, re-playable."

## ANDY ROBERTS, GAMEBUSTER

"Hmm, well there's never been a really good flight sim, because they've always been so slow, so it's best to avoid (2)


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## JON WELLS, VISUALIE

"I reckon a good beat-'em-up would be a great idea (but not if it rivals 10th Dan, eh Jon? - Dave). Or a shoot-'em-up like Armalyte which is a really good multiplex scroller with loads of effects and sprites (hmm, Jon seems to be flying in the face of popular opinion, here - Dave).
"Don't copy too many ideas, and if there are various levels, make sure you vary them. Originality is the main thing."
isn't
enough to keep the player's interest, so try to come up with a something a bit more tantalising.

5Developing a plot can help you to come up with ideas for levels or baddies. But keep it simple. The platform conversion of Twin Peaks is not what the world is waiting for.

6Don't base games on a TV series you like. We probably won't be able to get copyright clearance. If you really want to do an arcade adventure based on Prisoner Cell Block H, write to Grundy to ask for permission yourself, okay.

7Anything that looks anything vaguely like something approaching the teeniest hint of Tetris will be disqualified (I bet that's upset a lot of PD programmers).
JASON MCKINNYIF, PSYIRONIKS
"You shouldn't try to write something the C64 can't handle. The game should come first and the presentation second. Avoid conversions (and, indeed, avoid games based on other copyrighted material; let's get it straight right away - Cuantum Leap games are out - Dave)."

Tracer-coming soon. Will we be able to say that about your game?

8Make sure we can actually read your entry. It might be the best idea since tea bags, but if we can't read it, it'll be consigned to the bin.
If you're worried that if you don't win your ideas might be swiped (as if we would) just photocopy your work, stick the copies in an envelope (in front of a witness) then send the originals to us and the copies to yourself. When it arrives back at your house, store the now post-coded package somewhere sately, and pray someone nicks your idea so that you can slap a nice, fat copyright legal suit on them (this tip has been sponsored by the post office).
 Enjoy yourself. If you really believe in your idea, then working on it should be fun.

## RULES AND THINGS...

- All entries must be sent to the CF offices by September 30th.
- Send your entries to:

The Next Big Thing,
Commodore Format,
Future Publishing,
30 Monmouth Street,
Bath, Avon BA1 2BW.

- Employees of Future Publishing and the Electric Boys and anybody who actually enjoys Time Trax are not allowed to enter.
- The games will be judged by Dave Golder and Russ Michaels, so any games with a Doctor Who or heavy metal flavour will be seen as a form of subliminal bribery - but it might work.
- Whoever said rules are made to be broken is stupid. It's official.


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