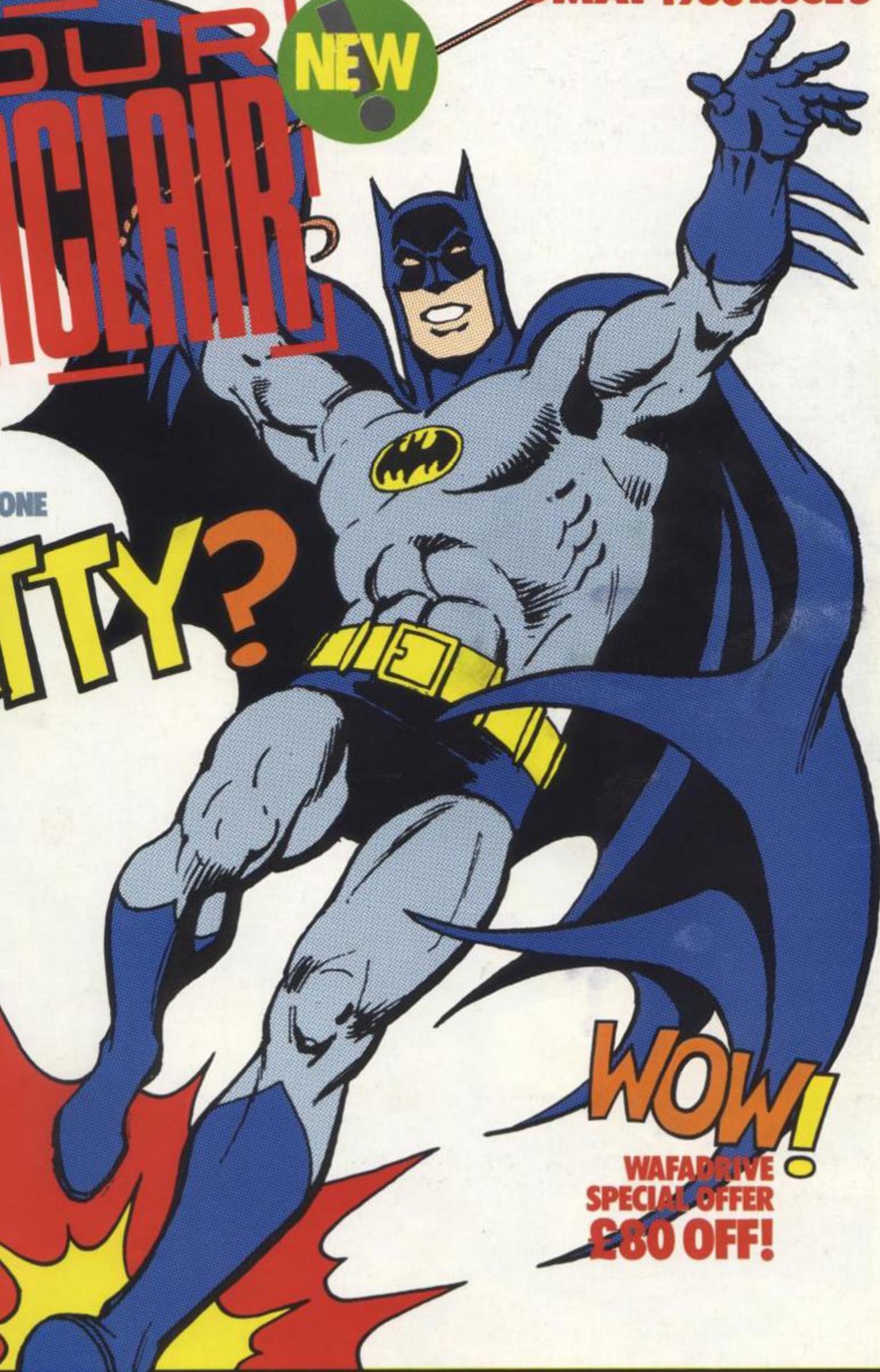


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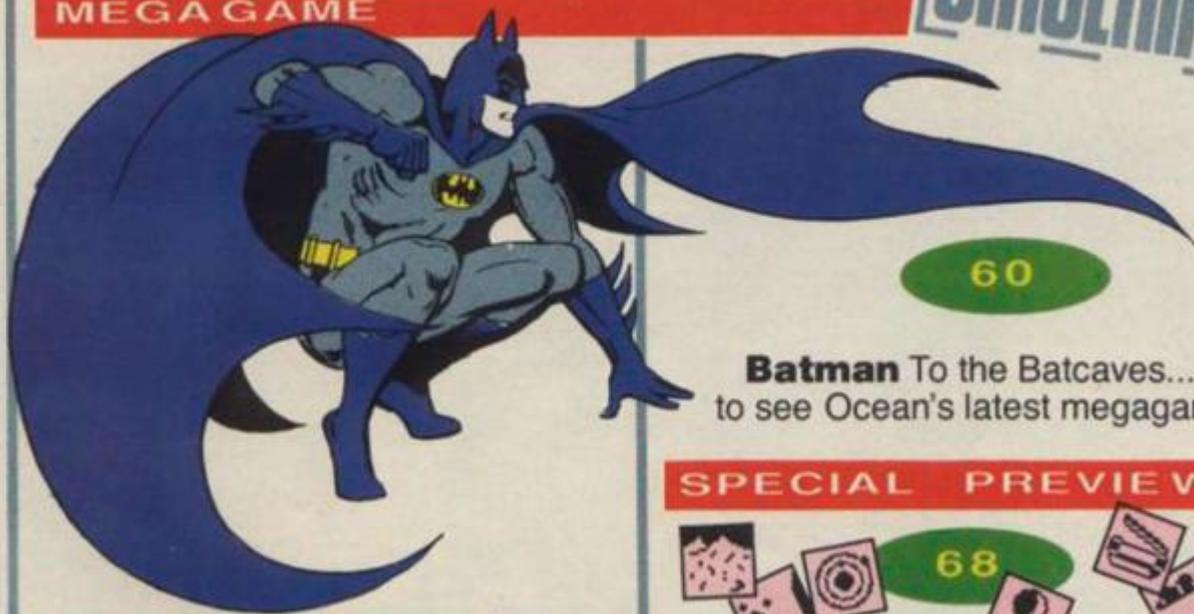
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Batman To the Batcaves...
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Spectrum screen entertainment in glorious technicolour.

- Bombjack/Elite*
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- F.A. Cup Football/Virgin*
- Labyrinth/Budgie*
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- Devil's Crown/Mastertronic*
- Roboto/Bug Byte*
- Arc Of Yesod/Thor*
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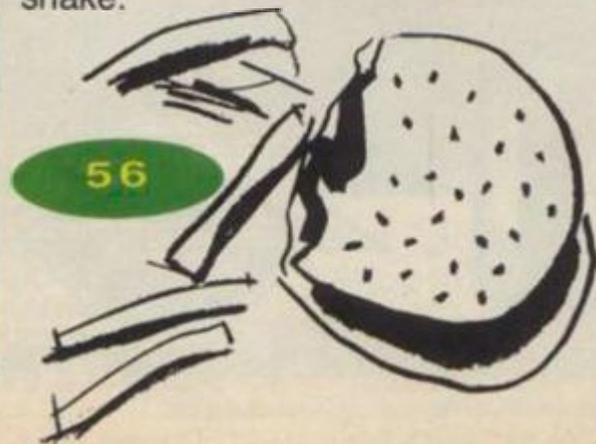
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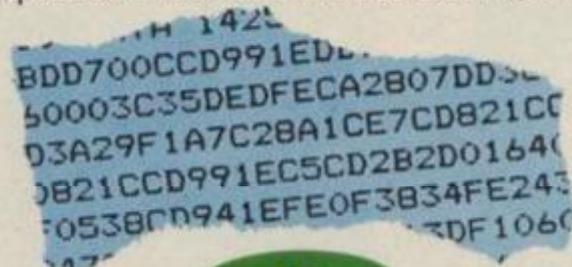
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TALK TO US!

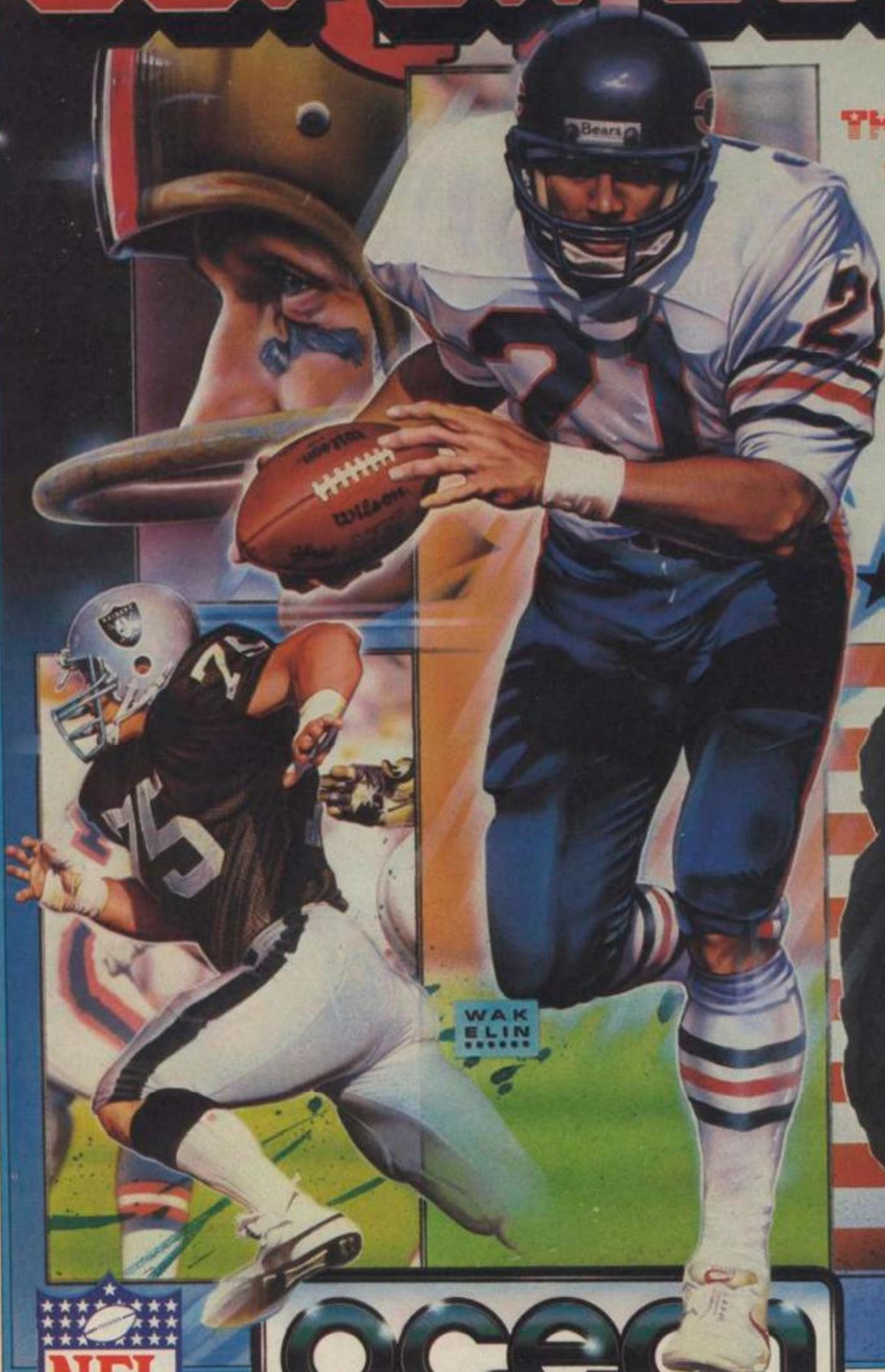
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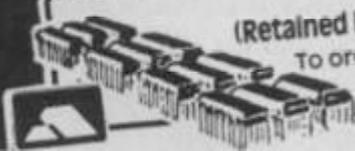
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THE WORD PROCESSOR - A NEW STANDARD FOR THE ZX

UPPER CASE KEYS		
3f start of text	THEN scroll up	3; start of paragraph
3i end of text	T0 scroll down	3c end of paragraph
3s start of line	30 fast scroll up	3n next page
3p end of line	3F fast scroll down	3' start of page
30 word left	3E word right	3h start of screen
MOVING		
30 set left margin	AT delete under	DELETE del. left
35 clear margins	OR delete word	3X clear text
3D set right margin	3DELETE delete line	3C delete block
EDITING		
3R replace / find text	3. delete paragraph	3I insert on/off
	AND insert line/char	3O auto on/off
ALIGNMENT		
< move text left	3B mark start	5LEF tab right
> move text right	3M mark end	5RT tab left
3j rejustify para (3M)	3N move block	3+ set, 3- clear
3K rejustify line (um=3L)	3O copy block	3I clear all
	3C delete block	3= reset tabs
PRINTING		
37 form feed	3I insert	3V right justify on/off
37 put header	3O auto	3I help on/off
36 get header	3P	*SPACE 2nd char set
38 put footer	3T	3H printer control
35 get footer	3U	

TASWORD THREE
The Word Processor
© Tasman Software Ltd 1986
main menu

Print text file	P
Print with Data merge	D
Save text file	S
Load text file	L
Merge text file	M
Return to text file	R
Customise program	C
save Tasword	T
catalog/change drive	X
into Basic	B

0 words 0 chars Drive 1
1 lines 20977 chars free



TASWORD TWO led the way in setting a standard for word processing on the ZX Spectrum. TASWORD THREE pioneers the new standard.

TASWORD THREE retains all the features which have made Tasword Two a household name for the Spectrum. With many additional features and enhancements, including a built-in mail merge and up to 128 characters per line, TASWORD THREE is the definitive word processor for the Spectrum and Spectrum+ with microdrive.

ZX SPECTRUM TASWORD TWO THE WORD PROCESSOR

TASWORD TWO for the ZX 48K Spectrum
cassette £13.90 microdrive cartridge £15.40

"Without doubt the best utility I have reviewed for the Spectrum"

HOME COMPUTING WEEKLY APRIL 1984

"If you have been looking for a word processor, then look no further"

CRASH JUNE 1984

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TASPRINT THE STYLE WRITER

TASPRINT for the ZX 48K Spectrum
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A must for dot matrix printer owners! Print your program output and listings in a choice of five impressive print styles. TASPRINT utilises the graphics capabilities of dot matrix printers to form, with a double pass of the printhead, output in a range of five fonts varying from the futuristic Data-Run to the hand writing simulation of Palace Script. A TASPRINT gives your output originality and style! The TASPRINT fonts are shown to the right together with a list of compatible printers.

TASMERGE THE MAIL MERGER

TASMERGE for the
ZX 48K Spectrum
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Transfer data from MASTERFILE to TASWORD TWO! Letters and forms typed on TASWORD TWO can be printed with addresses and data taken from MASTERFILE. The mail merge facility allows, for example, multiple copies of a letter to be printed, each containing a different name and address taken from your MASTERFILE data. To use TASMERGE you must have one or more microdrives as well as TASWORD TWO and MASTERFILE by Campbell Systems (version 9 or later).

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TAS-DIARY for the ZX 48K Spectrum and
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TASMAN PRINTER INTERFACE

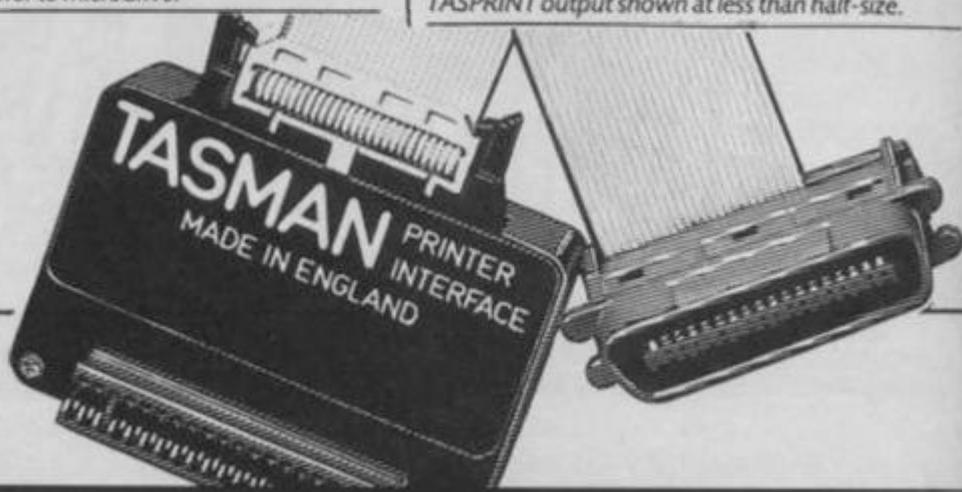
TASPRINT PRINTER INTERFACE for the
ZX Spectrum £29.90
RS232 Cable for ZX Interface 1 £14.50

Plug into your Spectrum and drive any printer fitted with the Centronics standard parallel interface. Supplied complete with ribbon cable and driving software. The user changeable interface software makes it easy to send control codes to your printer using the method so successfully pioneered with TASWORD TWO. The cassette contains fast machine code high resolution full width SCREEN COPY SOFTWARE for Epson, Mannesmann Tally, Shinwa, Star, Tandy Colour Graphic (in colour!) printers. TASCOPY shaded screen copy software for this interface (value £9.90) is INCLUDED in this package.

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EPSON FX-80	MANNESMANN TALLY MT-80	BROTHER HS
EPSON RX-80	STAR DMP501/515/5610	SHINWA CP-80
EPSON MX-80 TYPE III	COSMOS-80	DATA PANTHER
		DATA PANTHER II

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PALACE SCRIPT - a distinctive flowing font
TASPRINT output shown at less than half-size.



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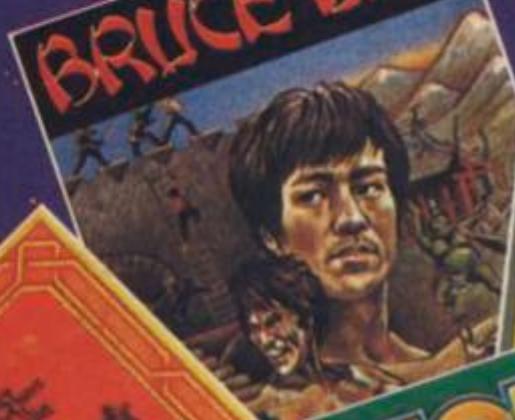
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MONSTER
HITS IN

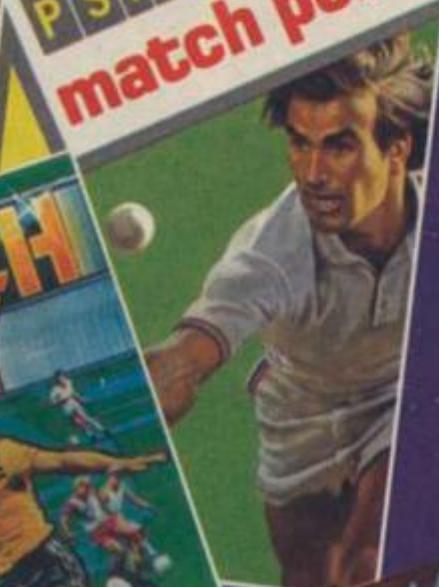
1

GIANT
PACK

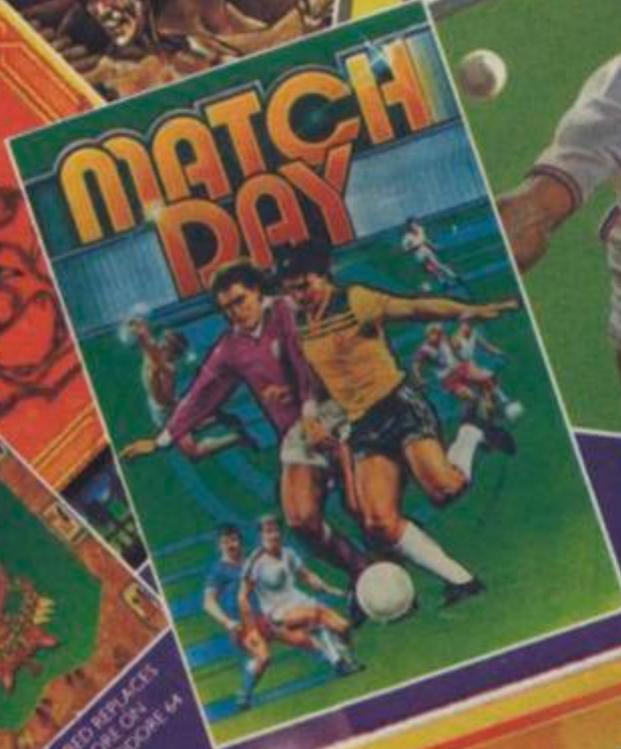
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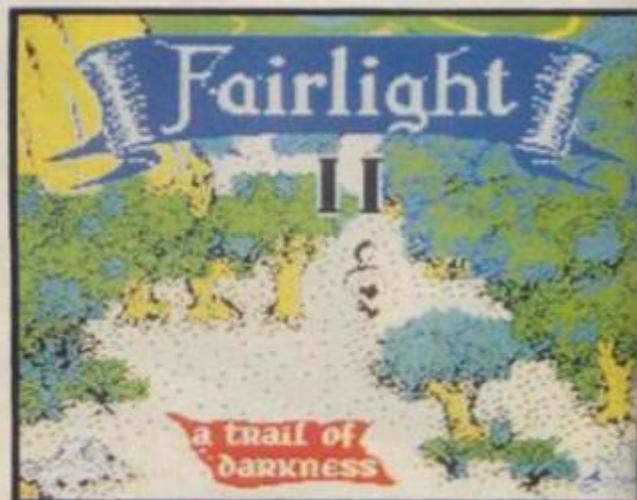
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FRONTLINES

Eureka, as the Scotsman said to his smelly friend. But as well as a really bad joke (*What joke? Ed*), Eureka is also the name of Domark's first product after the horrors of *Friday The 13th*. It's a medium resolution monitor with the option of using it in green screen mode. It also boasts a sound booster for your Speccy's beeps and then plays them through its own speaker. But the most interesting feature is its expand screen option. Now you can make yourself feel really sea sick by zooming in'n'out while you're playing a game. At under £250 we can even forgive 'em for importing it from France.



Calling all *Fairlight* fans. Don't get too excited 'cos *Fairlight II - A Trail Of Darkness* isn't out yet. Soon but not yet. Just to give you a taster of the natty new graphics, here's a look at the title screen showing the spooky bit where you're out of the castle and out of your ear. But if you really can't wait and you own a 128, the expanded version of *Fairlight* with a new solution and extra rooms should be in the shops even sooner. Sooner but not yet...



'SCRAZY!

Mirrorsoft is going bananas and releasing megatons of games this month. Numero one is *Dr Blitzen And The Islands Of Arcanum*, an arcade/adventure follow-up to *Dynamite Dan* — see pur-reeety brillo, fab screenshot. Second is *Reflex*, a labyrinth of caverns game ...um... and there's the battle/flight simulator. *Strike Force Harrier* ... er ... and scary ... *Nervous Wreck* — an underwater diving drama.



MURDER, MYSTERY, SUSPENSE!

It's the strange case of the corpse at *Castle Rathbone* — has the Ed subbed his last? Better dead than Ed! Clues on page 25

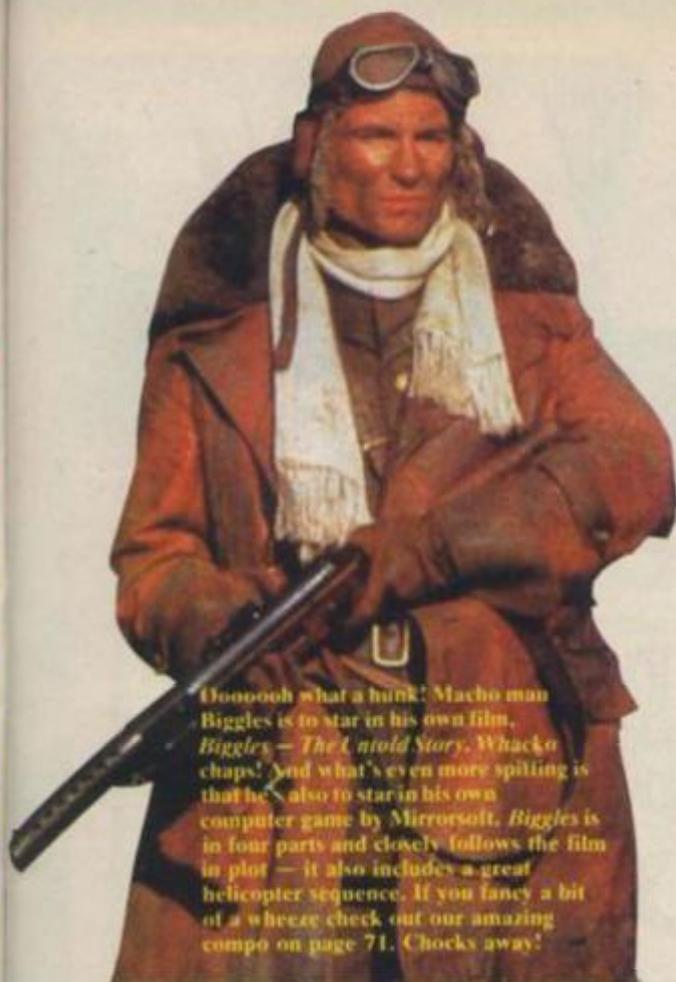
He can't even give 'em away! Sir Clive launches the Spectrum 128 on a suspecting world.



W O W !



Fourteen software houses have donated computer games to *War On Want* to raise money for development work in the *Third World*. The Speccy games include *Hunchback II* from Ocean, PSS's *Xaviour*, Imagine's classic *Pedro* and one from Jeff Minter called *Headbanger's Heaven* (Don't call us, Jeff!) If you want to have a lorra lorra fun and do someone a favour at the same time buy a copy of *Wow Games* for only £9.95 — that's just, calculator out, 71.071428p per game — a bargain. And by George (Galloway), just look at the fun the General Secretary of *War On Want* is having.



Doonoooh what a hunk! Macho man Biggles is to star in his own film, *Biggles - The Untold Story*. Whacka chaps! And what's even more spilling is that he's also to star in his own computer game by Mirrorsoft. *Biggles* is in four parts and closely follows the film in plot - it also includes a great helicopter sequence. If you fancy a bit of a wheeze check out our amazing compo on page 71. Chocks away!



● Hair by Toni ● Beards by Barry ● Models: Paul Norris and Rupert Bowater ● Opening a new software salon called Binary Vision following their breakaway from the Electronic Pencil Company of *Fourth Protocol* and *Zoids* fame. Games designers by appointment to the Palace (Software). First collection to be launched at the PCW Show in September...

APRIL FOOL!

Go on, admit it. You actually believed last issue's amazing 'only-a-real-drongo-would-fall-for-this' scoop review of *Generation 4's* Arcade Dream? Bet you feel a right plonker, eh? Just to make you feel less of a complete-and-utter-twit the first noodle to fall hook line and sinker works for a leading software house. For a small remuneration *Frontlines* may just be persuaded to reveal which one...



F A B 'N' G E A R !

Last month, YS brought you the 'Do-it-yourself-and-look-a-right-wally' *Trainspotter* kit. Caused quite a stir down at King's Cross we can tell you. But we can't let the anorak and notebook brigade hog all the glam spots. So, for all the trendspotters rather than the trainspotters, prepare to be put in the picture about all that's hip in the Spectrum world. Dedicated followers of fashion will note that it's now ultra cool to have an old style Speccy. Rubber is definitely making a comeback this season. Some hipsters are even making a move to revive the 16K machine - here at YS we've dubbed them the Artificial Hips. And it's no good you trainspotters pointing out to the trendies that microdrives are an unreliable form of storage. You can talk till your spots drop off about Wafadrives and disks but Joe Cool's only interested in matching logos. Form not function is his motto. Stylish or what?



● Sinclair ZX Spectrum (no longer available in this format) ● Sinclair Microdrive and Interface 1 (£99.95) ● Microvitec Cub Monitor (£242.61) ● Romantic Robot's Multiface 1 (£39.95) ● Transform microdrive storage box (£5.95) ● AMX Mouse (£69.95 - Rainbird's Art Studio is tucked away in the piccy too) ● CGL Command Control Joystick (£27.95) ● Sony WM22 Walkman (£29.95) ● Sony Sports Headphones (£29.95) ● Grand Gorgon Zoid (£17.95) ● Hi-Tec Trainers (£22.95) ● Aiwa Stereo Radio Cassette Recorder W330 (£99.95) ● Casio FM Card Radio (£19.95) ● Marks and Spencer Pullover (£14.99) ● Designer Trousers (£18.99) ● Crappy cassette recorder found in Castle Rathbone (no value whatsoever) ● Your Spectrum Binders before they'd been artfully changed into Your Sinclair ones (a snip at £4.95) ● Plastic Pacman (99p from the Brighton Rock'n Novelty Shop).

Tizers...

Gasp. Puff. I nearly didn't pant. make it this huff month. cos the train from Manchester. pant. to London was delayed. gasp. due to lemmings on the line. But what was I doing in Manchester, eh? Looking at Ocean's new kerpow-zap-socket-to-em **Batman** game. that's what! And holy mackerel is it hot - have a look for yourself on page 60. Splat! Talking of jetting around the country - I've also been down to sunny Brighton to see a couple of Martech's programmers. And d'you know what they told me? Martech's Managing Director, David Martin found his programmers weren't open to persuasion when it came to digitizing bouncy Sam Fox. Sound a bit pervy to you? That's what I thought but it's actually all being done in the name of the new game **Sam Fox's Strip Poker**. Titter titter.

Interesting link, this. Domark having made a bit of a boob with **Friday 13th** is definitely producing a game based on the James Bond movie **Live And Let Die**. Boy racers Dominic and Mark are also in the throes of signing a few more licensing deals but they're keeping stumm on whether it'll be for another film.

Everyone's catching the licensing bug. Those complete-and-utter-nutters at Orpheus are hoping to secure another contract for a game based on a TV program. Other than that it's converting a Commie 64 game (spit, spit) to the Spectrum (yipee) and it's called **The Web**.

And, guess what? Well, if you can't guess I'm certainly not going to tell you. Oh okay then I'll give you a clue. Elite licensing deal, again. Arcade Classic **Paper Boy**. Got it? Watch this space for more details.

Eh up flowers. Let's go t pub with whippet an' ferret t play Alligata's new game. **Pub Games**. It's got all the old favourites - darts, dominoes, table football, pool and poolroom. There's nowt quite like it.

If you've played **Back To Skool** you may well be wondering who Sam Cruise is. Who indeed. If there's no one else listening I can tell you **Contact Sam Cruise** is actually Microsphere's new 1940's style detective game and it promises to be big. chhhhh. And while we're on the subject did any of you

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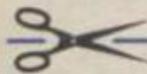
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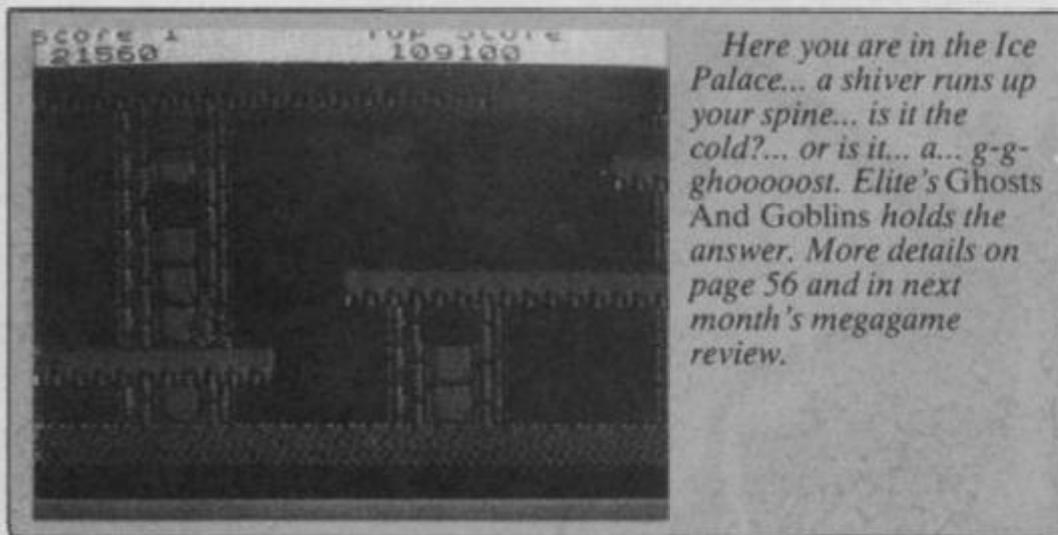
SPECTRUMS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Number one in a series of one. Collect the set.

Bet you didn't know that the Brazilian Spectrum, the TK 90X from Microdigital is rather different from our own native machine. The NMI Rom error has been fixed and there is no dot crawl just like the 128.

It's also got two added instructions — Trace and UDG — and all the messages are in Portuguese. Technical note for Trainspotters: "Interface incorporado para joystick, de 4 poscoes de movimentacao."

Someone had to eat it before the illustrator could draw it (see page 56). And Troubleshootin' Peabrain drew the short straw. We always said he was a bit of a whimpy!



Here you are in the Ice Palace... a shiver runs up your spine... is it the cold?... or is it... a... g-g-ghooooost. Elite's Ghosts And Goblins holds the answer. More details on page 56 and in next month's megagame review.

All you latin scholars (amo, amas, amat) will immediately know that the word Opus means work. And that's just what the Opus Discovery now does with the 128 — work. For 149 librae and 49 denarii you get a 250K disk drive that uses 3 1/2 inch disks and includes a joystick interface amongst other things. Now parse off and construct a sentence



using the words Opus, Spectrum and I, Claudius.

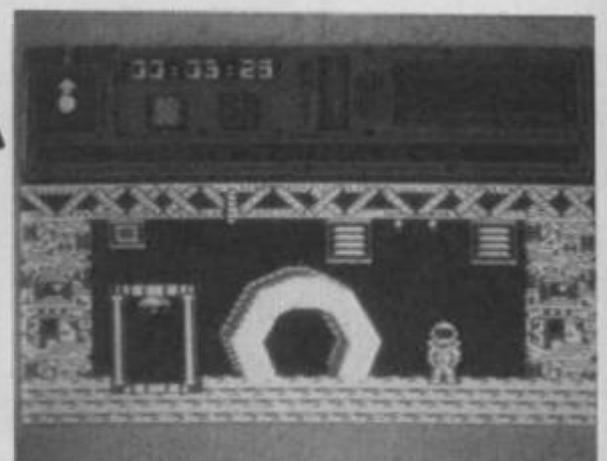
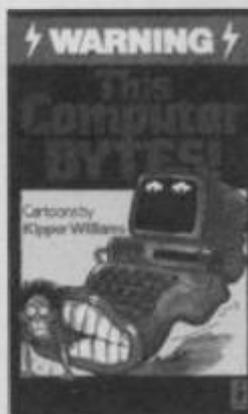


Don't think you can doze off just 'cos it's Knight Tyme, Mad Game's follow-up to Spellbound. Fast forward into the 25th century to meet our old mate, the Magic Knight aboard his starship. Take a walk around the 50 rooms and 49 planets, rub shoulders with 16 different characters and choose from 50 objects. And you'll still only have to cough up £2.99. Zzzzzzzzzzappeeeee!

Atten-shun! Ocean's latest contribution to world peace and mutual understanding between the superpowers is called Green Beret. In it, you single-handedly take on an invading army by stabbing, shooting and generally sticking a rocket up 'em — all the skills you acquired in Rambo. Understanding between the superpowers, you ask? Hats off to Ocean for avoiding the American title of Konami's arcade original, Russian Attack!



Ho, ho, ho, chuckle, grin, titter, that Kipper Williams is a card eh, snigger, ha ha, ner, snort, £1.95, raucous laughter, tut, rollick, tee-hee, chortle, HA!, smirk, giggle, hoot.

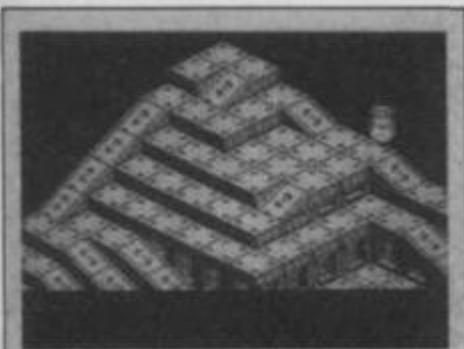


Core! It's the new arcade/adventure from A'n'F Software — its first since Chuckie Egg II. All the action takes place in the core of an asteroid, and the aim of the game is to pick up various objects and suss out how to use them. Watch out for Core II too.

FRONTLINES



Oh laws what a card! Those chaps at Cumana have just launched a revolutionary new memory storage system — the Astron Integrated Circuit Card. But what's really interesting about this credit card type device are the rumours that Sinclair will be adopting the Astron storage system rather than disks on its Pandora portable promised for later this year. That'll do nicely, Sir!



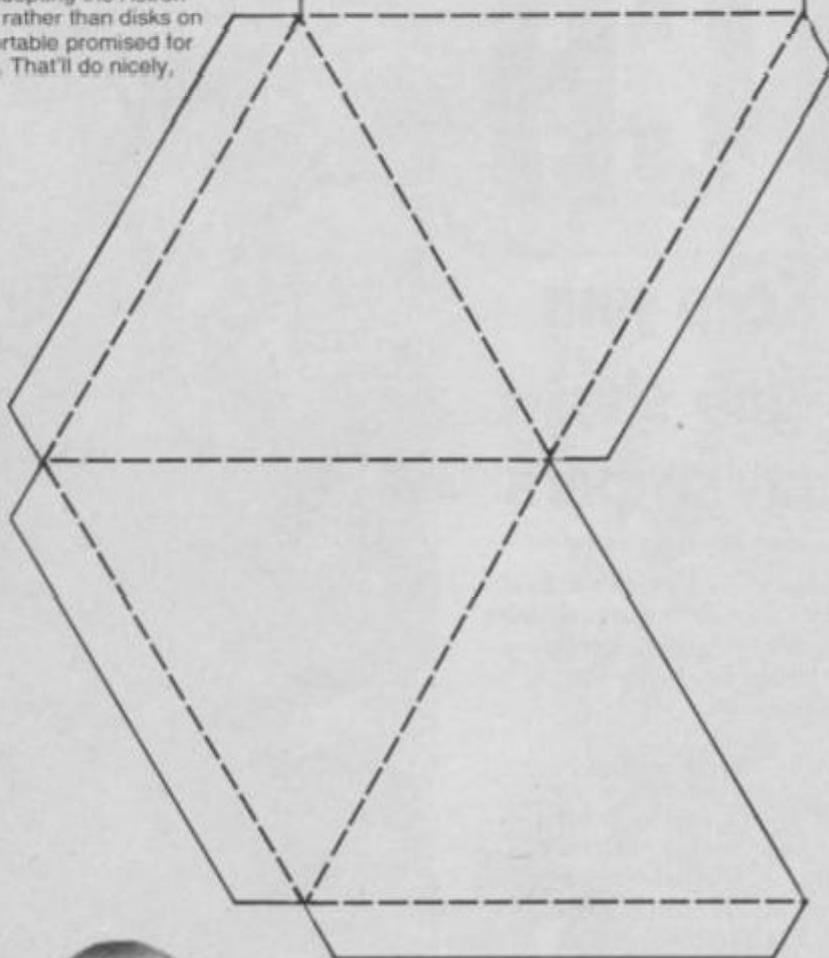
Worrisoin'on? Not content with calling its latest arcade/strategy game by the completelyunpronounceable name of *Ziggurat*, Hewson's now decided to change it to the evenmorecompletelyunpronounceable name of *Quazatron* — sounds like an ever-so sickly fizzy drink to us. It's all set in the future on the subterranean city of Quazatron where you control a Meknotech robot who has to grapple with battle droids, service robots and repair mobiles. And just look at your range of weapons — including ram thrusters would ewe believe.

You can't go far wrong with Frontlines. Look what we've got for you this month. An easy-peasy-do-it-yourself-patent-microdrive kit! Wave goodbye to messing about with cartridge doctor programs or carefully rethreading that cartridge you accidentally opened. Build our revolutionary repair unit based on ancient Egyptian computer technology and it'll automatically recover duff files, cure bad sectors and improve access time!

All you've got to do is cut out the shape below and stick it to a piece of stiff black card.

Simply place your faulty microdrive under the special repair unit and leave it overnight. Next morning the tape'll work like magic. No pecking, mind you...

Cut ——— Fold - - - - -



The following words may not appear in this story by strict order of the Editor: PEEK, POKE, knockers, tips, a nice pair, top deck, well stacked, wah-hay!

Martech's taking a gamble with its new release but it has got two big things going for it! *Samantha Fox's Strip Poker* (Sounds a bit over the topless. Ed) and *International Seven Card Stud* is a twin program that has taken longer to develop than Sam herself.

It's all done with artificial intelligence, this is Sam Fox, and contains digitised pictures of the Foxy Lady herself. And apparently, Sam is no pushover so it'll take a lot of skill before she gets 'er kit off — you'll need, at least, a Royal Flush.

• Jet-setting T.P. really is off to foreign parts this month, on holiday (Holiday? Ed) but he'll be back next month...



Have you ever wondered what's happened to all those unsold C5s? Well, Sir Clive's shipped 'em over to the Yanks where they're used to life in the fast lane — though they'll have to get unused to it a bit sharpish if they want to say alive in a C5.

As you'd expect the brochure is packed full of the usual American hype. "Cruising at up to 15 miles per hour — an exhilarating speed in an open-air vehicle like the C5 — you're not just driving by the environment. You're in the environment, part of it. So you can smell the flowers and not the gas. Hear the birds and not the engine." Tweet ruddy tweet.

Transpotters out there notice the mistake in the Sam Cruise ad in last issue? Thought not you really are slipping you know.

Crumbs! **YS** nearly came a cropper last month when **Young Ones** star Nigel Planer's agents rang up to sound off about issue 2's cover. Luckily they didn't have a leg to stand on... least not after we sent Vyvyan round to deal with 'em. There's no pleasing some people.

Remember last month I told you about Saga's new infrared keyboard? It's now been christened the 2001 and it's remote controlled so you can wander off to the loo while typing in the **YS** program pull-out. Wipe that smirk off your face — we don't want any smut about using **YS** as loo roll — this is not yer average bog standard magazine. Hmmmm.

Isn't it great to be sooooo very popular. The programmers converting **Fairlight** to the Commie 64 and Amstrad are using the **Fairlight** map in **YS** issue 1 to find their way about. Impeccable taste. Enough of all this sickly, sugary sweetness. Yeurrich! Let's get on with some more skulduggery. PSS is on the warpath again. Tactics are to release Commie conversions. **Battle Of Britain** and **Theatre Europe**. It's also on a manoeuvre to produce **Iwo Jima**. Hrrummph!

Naughty naughty! If you want to know why Activision's **Ballblazer** hasn't reared its ugly head yet it's because Lucas Films told the programmers it wasn't up to scratch and sent them off to have another bash. Should be good when it does arrive!

Oh and here's some really good news. It's now been decided which games II feature on the **Off The Hook** tape that'll hopefully raise money to help drug addicts. Are you ready for it? Here goes: **Pitfall II**, **Cytron**, **Fall Guy**, **Sam Stoat**, **Ad Astra**, **Splat**, **Mugsy Kong**, **Strikes Back**, **Chequered Flag** and **Blue Max**. Great stuff!

And now for the Tasteless Scrooge Award. Really does Argus Press Software have to compare its latest compilation of 30 games with those of **Softaid** and **Off The Hook**? And even worse... describe them as 'miserly'. At least all the profits of those compilation tapes go to a good cause which is more than you can say for the profits of **30 Games**.

Oh, and before I go the Pandora portable (note lack of cheap'n'smully cricketing jokes) will be launched at the end of this year and rumours are that it'll use the Astron credit-card for of storage. Don't leave home without it.

And that, as they say, is that!

Teresa Maughan

VIRGIN MAKES OFFER YS READERS CAN'T REFUSE

F.A. CUP SNATCH

VICIOUS THUGS smashed their way into the F.A.'s Headquarters yesterday evening and made off with the F.A. cup.

Elderly caretaker, Oliver Shuffles, was there throughout the drama. He's now recovering from his ordeal.

Oliver, 72, later told police that he'd been threatened by the youths.

Obscenities

"They shouted obscenities at me", he said, "like, keep yer gob shut Grandad or you'll be into injury time. Know wot we mean?"

Morale in soccer circles is running at an all-time low. But now Virgin Games has stepped in.

Reward

Virgin is offering a reward of a Minerva football and 30

Keep your gob shut say swipers

copies of its new game *F.A. Cup Football* to anybody who can help get these soccer swindlers booked — permanently.

Tie-breaker

And you can help too. Virgin is sending in the F.A. Team — football's answer to the A Team, but it needs a hand in choosing which footballers would make up the best team. Just choose five players who you think would have the best chance of getting the F.A. Cup back into play. Then all you've got to do is complete the tie-breaker in less than 10 words. Fill in the coupon below, or a photocopy, stick it on a postcard and send it to F.A. Cup Compo, YS, 14 Rathbone Place, London W1P 1DE.

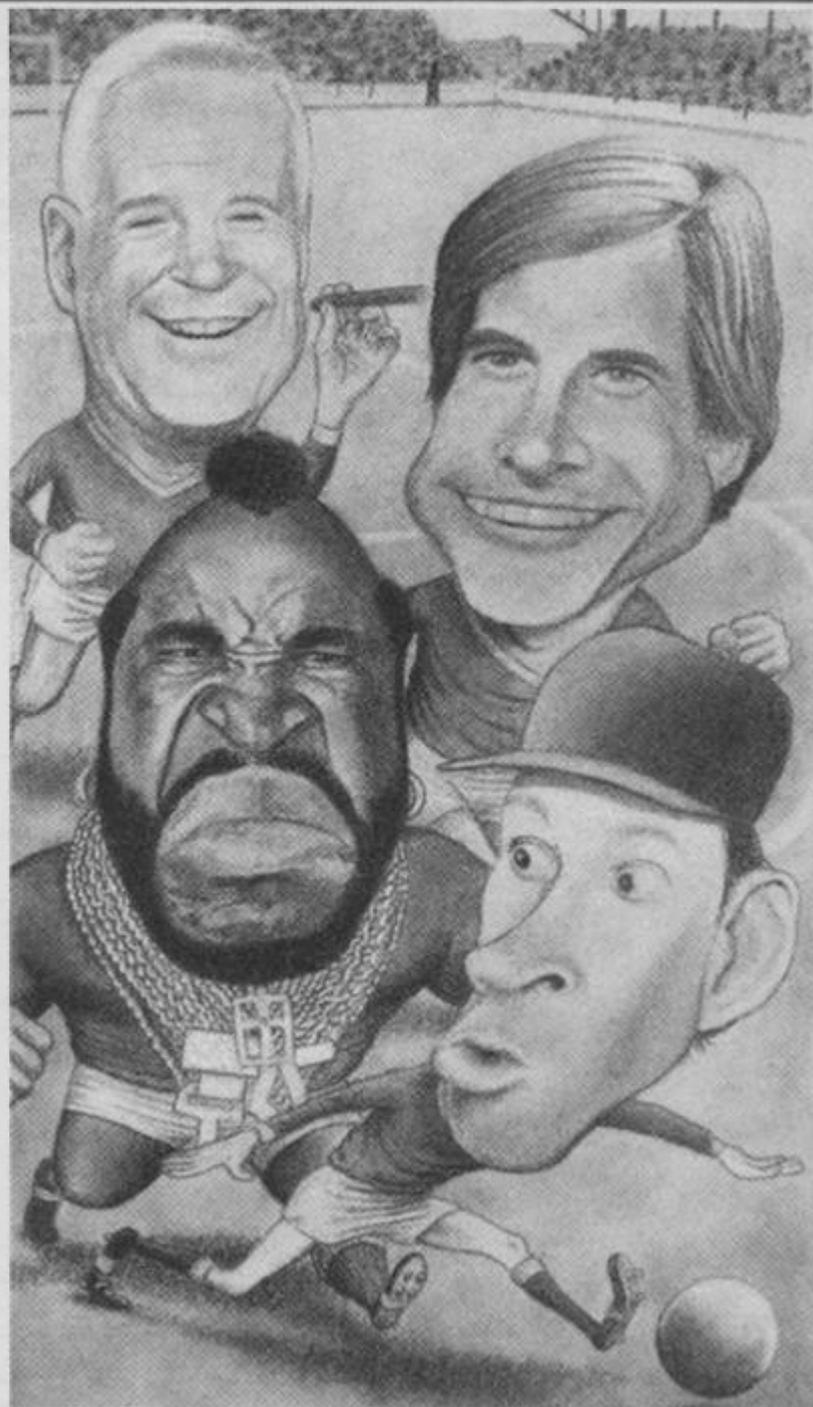


Illustration: Nick Davies

I'd choose these players to make up my F.A. Team:

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....
- 4.....
- 5.....

My F.A. Team's the best 'cos

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode

YS
Says

It's time we showed these cup crooks the red card. These thugs have scored an own-goal with this little caper. We say send the snatchers off and give 'em extra time.

YS RULES F.A.

Sportscene and Virgin players will be sent off if they attempt to enter.

The cup draw takes place on the 31st May with no allowance for extra time.

Fall foul of the Editor and you're booked.



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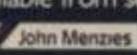
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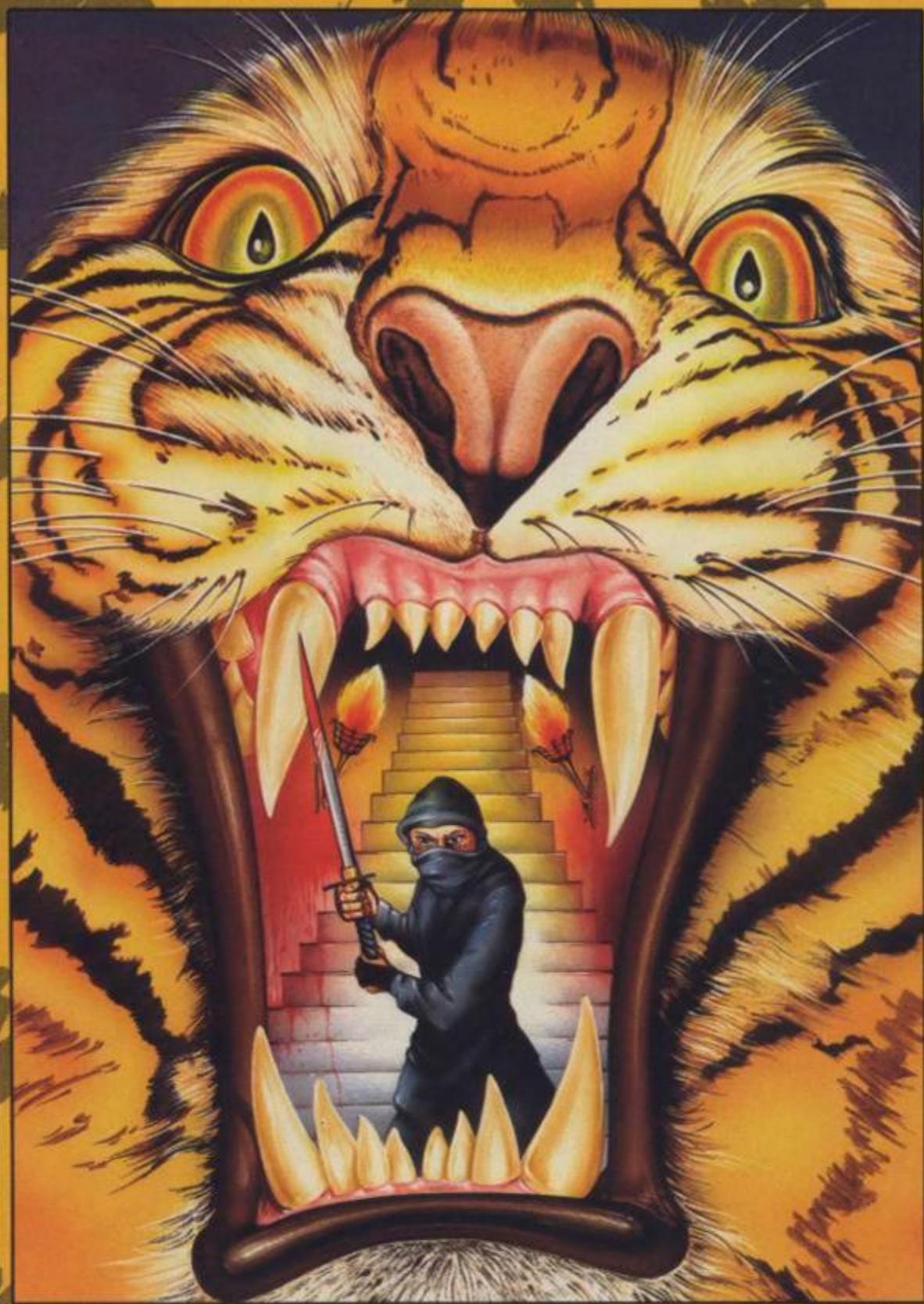


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Screenshots from Spectrum 48K

LETTERS

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STERN WARNING

At last the cover illustration of *Your Sinclair* issue 3 has pushed me into writing to you.

Do you really think that the image of computing (to non computees) is enhanced by the childish and revolting cover of your latest issue?

My wife asks, do I have to read horror comics? My nurse says, is this what you look like after an hour at the keyboard?

I would not read this issue in a crowded train! Perhaps you should advertise your subscription rates with 'sent under plain cover' in case the postman sees what the readers are getting.

B Stern
Northwood, Middlesex

He came from Northwood. At first he seemed normal enough, friendly even. But the tell-tale signs were there. Why did he need a nurse? After all, he was only suffering from a mild case of fageyitis. Finally, the full horror dawned but by then it was too late. 'Mr' Stern removed his mask and revealed himself to be... a dentist! Ed

I'm still reeling from the YS cover illustration of issue 3.

Now every time I see my Spectrum, I imagine a hand ripping off the rubber membrane to reveal... oh, it's too too horrible... a BBC computer!

I know Tom Stimpson was the culprit, although his name was written so small at the bottom of the contents page, you would hardly let him take the blame.

Why wasn't the identity of this man much bigger, so everyone could see what a devilish genius he is. The rascal has a mighty talent for artwork if he can stun me like that.

J Hayes
Bushey, Herts

Glad someone liked the cover — even if, as many of you pointed out, our visiting reptilian had human eyes and didn't speak with forked tongue. But how could Tom Stimpson tell — for once in her life, T'zer refused to stick her tongue out at someone. Ed

CLEESD OFF

"95p! 95 flippin' p a month we pay for YS! I mean, what has YS ever given us?"

Well, there's *Frontlines*, *T'zers*, *QL News*...

"News!"
There's *Letters*, *Doodlebugs*, *Trainspotters*, *Hack Free Zone*...

"Apart from *Frontlines*, *T'zers*, *QL News*, *Letters*, *Doodlebugs*, *Trainspotters* and *Hack Free Zone* what has YS ever given us?"

Hex's Heroes, *Reviews* with some pretty hot screen shots, *Hit List*, *Previews*, *MegaBASIC*, *Task Force*, *Maps*, *Hacking Away*, *Microdrivin'*, *Heart To Hartnell*, *Cartoons*, *QL Software*, *Hard Facts*, *Adventure Pages*...

"It's too small!"
Input/Output, *Backlash*, great compos, listings...

"There aren't any adverts!"

Oh yes there are!

"Okay, apart from *Frontlines*, *T'zers*, *QL News*, *Letters* (*Snipl Ed*), listings and adverts what has YS ever given us?"

There aren't any decent letters... except this one!
In short, thanks YS, it's well worth it!

David Bovill
Pwillhell, Gwynedd
PS Let's have some photos of the YS team in the mag (especially the gals!)

After an ad like that, how could I refuse. So here they are — YS's answer to the Nolans, the Nohopes!

Someone once said that they made the sound of a Spectrum loading seem musical. Ouch! No, course it wasn't me who said it... Ed



Zigzag, Spot and Nik?

MY BRANE HURTS

Recently my Speccy keyboard gave up on me (well, it was only four of the keys actually) but that was bad enough. I thought I'd have to pay £20 to get it fixed but, in fact, all it cost me was 95p. I dismantled the Speccy and found the problem — the membrane. So, I wedged a piece of, yes you guessed it, YS under it and now it works perfectly.

D A Rogers
Ruislip, Middlesex

And this is because YS reaches the parts other mags cannot reach. Ed

CHEAP HACK

Bonjour gringos (or do I mean comrades?). I just had to tell Peter Pan, YS's mild mannered shootin' man, as well as amaze and enthrall the paying public, with my true story (soon to be made into a major TV drama!).

'Twas a Friday evening as it happened, and as we all know, Friday evening everybody gets the urge to do summat really freaky (like build an RS232 lead out of an egg carton). Personally, I went completely loopy and did a bit of the old GBH on me piggy bank. After an hour in Boots which I have no recollection of (what d'you

expect after an hour in there!) I ended up outside three quid worse off. And for this paltry sum I received a MAD game called *Spellbound*.

What made me defy the laws of tight-fistedness? You — yes it was the old smack between the user ports with a screen shot ploy. Anyway on with the story. This game as it 'appens was so hard that I ended up committing Sinclair sacrilege and in a fit of rage... Aaaaargh... the old Speccy got an exploding fist in the rubber keyboard.

Now at this point things really start to hot up. Suddenly before my eyes appears the Basic loader — mysterious eh? Then after a poke around, instead of rejoining the on-screen frolics, it happened. The top of the screen was spewing pixels all over the shop and before my very eyes appeared this message: "Hello Hacker!"

Well, *Spellbound* I certainly was. And at £2.99 that was the cheapest way that I've heard of becoming a hacker. So, in order to prevent undue stress and excitement on those with dickie hearts here is a warning: Status Warning — YS can seriously affect your unhackerliness.

Think the mag is all the usually creepy comments and a few more. Oh yes, and was that 'From Czar Hip' that I sore in ish 3. I'm shaw that Mr Shore should be informed of what a commie machine is...

Richard Tucker
Canterbury, Kent

PS Did you know that the PM's a hacker? (Beeb 2, 9pm)

Yes, you have all the makings of a true hacker in the style of our very own Chris Wood. He too is prone to random acts of violence and to telling naff jokes. Which come to think of it, is well on the way to qualifying the pair of you to become politicians. Gulp. Ed

NOW YOU SEE IT...

Well you've finally cracked it... the ultimate unfinishable game. *Space Invaders* without the invaders! Are you trying to start a new craze like crosswords — a page full of

LETTERS

gaps that you have to fill in with the right letters? Your latest attempt at the do-it-yourself game trade was *Battle Fleet Orion* in issue 3. All human life was there — except for the graphics. It's great shooting invisible lasers at invisible invaders — you can't lose!

A Trainspotter Award — hal — more like the York Railway Museum!

P J C Sutcliffe

Worcester Park, Surrey

PS Could you possibly send me an amendment sheet so I can cheat and see what I'm doing.

Fiendish, isn't it. Of course, we can't claim that the idea's totally original — Elite did have invisible aliens first. It's just that we've taken the concept one stage further and given them invisible lasers. But as usual, all modern art is misunderstood at first, so for all you traditionalists who can't enjoy a good game unless you can see something, an sae will secure a version of Battle Fleet Orion with visible aliens. Just how boring can you get! Ed

A HUNDRED LINES

What about the *Back To Skool* review? The safe isn't where Rachael says. It's on the other side of the room — yes, that thing with the cross on it is no First Aid box. Then there's a real mess on 'how to conker Albert.' You have to drop a stink bomb near a window, not near the tree. And when you knock out Albert (from the top window, incidentally) he doesn't give you any lines. The Ed must've been pressing Rachael too hard (No such luck! Ed), because she doesn't seem to have played the game for more than an hour or so.

Jim Routsis

Athens, Greece

PS Since you'll start making some very clever remarks when you see where I live, here's some help: moussaka, ouzo, sirtaki, Zorba, opal! How about Troubleshootin' Petros for next month?

Ah, Greece! Cradle of civilisation. The wine-dark seas lapping the sun-drenched shores. You may have lost your marbles (for the time being) but think of all you've given to the world besides moussaka, ouzo and those squelchy squid thingies that taste like a Specky keyboard. Yeuch! Homer gave us the nod, Archimedes the screw, Plato invented the cross-your-heart bra and Demis Roussos the one-man tent. But

TRAINSPOTTER AWARD



You are the Ed and I claim my Trainspotter Award. On page 17 of March's issue of (wait for it) fabulous *Your Sinclair* (pause) in the review of *Raiders Of The Lost Ring* (I know where to look) the highly significant overall figure calculated from graphics, playability etc etc has been PRINTed INK white OVER PAPER white. This makes it

above all we must sing the praises of Greece, the home of... Nana Mouskouril! Ed

RASPUTIN RIP-OFF

I'm writing to you about tape piracy which may not be known in England but it's a way of life to Portuguese salesmen.

This has its 'advantages' since I never have to pay more for any game than you have to shell out for *Finders Keepers*. But don't jump to conclusions too soon. Very rarely do we get any playing instructions. Can you imagine playing a game like *Elite* without knowing what's going on.

But if this wasn't enough, the weirdest thing happened to me this week.

Two weeks after your exclusive review of *Rasputin* I saw it in a shop so I rushed in to buy it. It was a good buy, excellent graphics, good animation and so on, just as it was mentioned in your review but... something was wrong!

When I completed the fourth screen, guess what? Where was the fifth screen? Imagine my face when I realised I'd bought a copy of the demo program that came along with the first issue of *Your Sinclair*. I'd just like you to print something to show the dealers who sold me this game that their attitude is not on.

Oh, before I go, could you let me know if the signature Ed stands for a name? I'm a little confused as I seem to remember an English film on

difficult to spot at a glance which review is worth reading immediately and which to leave till after your tea's ready.

Christopher J Sutcliffe
Halifax, West Yorkshire

PS Why on page 4 of the same ish is there a picture of Esther Rantzen in *From The Hip* instead of You-know-who? I think we should be told.

That's life, I suppose. As for the Trainspotter Award, I'm afraid you've disqualified yourself. It was indeed printed white on white but you'll find that if you look at the page in a dark room the number appears black. Okay, so does the rest of the page, but you can't have everything. Ed

Do you think that this letter deserves a YS Trainspotter Award? (What d'you mean NO!) (What d'you mean by putting comments in brackets? I'm the only one allowed to do that. Ed) After reading through YS 3 for the umpteenth time (nothing much else to do on a

the telly all about Mr Ed, the talking horse...

Jose Pedro
Portugal

You're confused! How d'you think we all feel working on a magazine that's got a talking horse for an editor. Explains a bit about the magazine though, don't you think?

Troubleshootin' Pete. Nay! Ed

FRIDAY 13TH — PART TWO

Bleeeuurgh! That word just about sums up my thoughts on the *Friday The 13th* poster in YS 2.

Being too young to see the film, I also consider myself too young to pin this gory poster to my wall.

I don't mind the blood splattered face too much — it's the photo of the Ed in the top left hand corner that revolts me.

Chris Buxton
Keighley, W Yorks

PS Why the candles Ed? Had the money in the electric meter run out?

No, it was the Ed's birthday!

Sunday really, except clean the car, mow the lawn, take the dog for a walk etc etc), I suddenly realised what it was that was giving me large brain pains (and no it wasn't my *SpecDrum* playing at full blast!). Looking at Rachael Smith's article on the drum synthesizer I couldn't help wondering if she has somehow got her menu's in a muddle. Shouldn't the so called Edit menu be renamed as the Pattern Menu, and the so called Pattern menu be renamed the Real time menu (or perhaps my version of the *SpecDrum* is different to everyone else's?)

Tim Jarrett
South Norwood, London

Now I know it looks bad but there's a simple explanation for all this... just give me time to make one up. In the meantime perhaps a Trainspotter Award will keep you happy. And do us a favour — next month mow the dog and take the lawn for a walk. Ed

Well, we've always said he's a real 'Edcase. But now someone wants to kick him up the bum. He can borrow my boot!

Troubleshootin' Pete

I most strongly protest about the *Friday The 13th* feature in YS 2. I don't know what 'idiot' was responsible for its inclusion but whoever it be, he needs a jolly good kick up the backside!

I've been a devoted reader of your mag for a long time but if you're going to keep putting disgusting and horrific items like this in, I'm off! And furthermore, I don't think I'll be alone either! Think about it.

Anthony Mayers
Wrexham, Clwyd



SMALL PRINT

I think that YS is very rude, cheeky and full of 'sex'. I love it!

Simon Woolcott
Glasgow, Scotland

Sex? Are you sure it's YS you're reading? Perhaps the subscription department has started sending it under a plain brown wrapper. Ed

By the way, it's still the best mag on the market and I suggest you

slap T.P.'s legs for not noticing your little slip.

Nic Walde
Bracknell, Berks

I've told him not to mention my slip in the mag. What I wear is my own affair. Ed

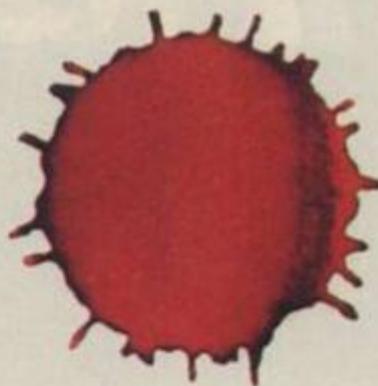
What are the qualifications needed to become editor of YS?

T Dalziel
Aberdeen, Scotland

Genius, pure genius. Oh, and modesty. Ed

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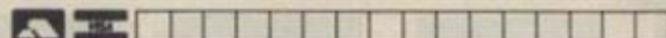
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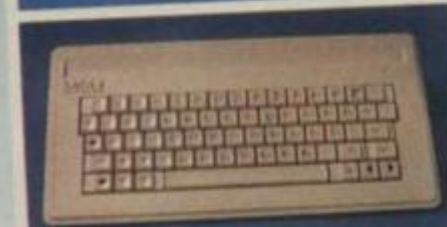
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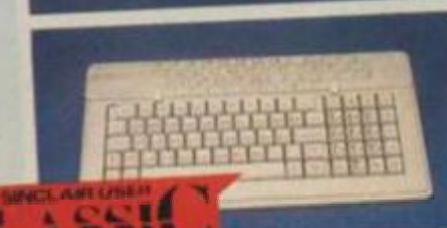


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LETTERS

WHEN I GET OLDER

Don't know what to do... retired... 65 today — thought might as well write you rude letter. (Why not — everyone else does. Ed)

Used to like old magazine... not keen on this... full of old twaddle from nutty nippers... not to mention would-be jokey juveniles... all seem have one topic... keep rabbiting about spotty trains.

Glad to see you took on young Hartnell... not too hot on computers... much better at wedding dresses etc.

Even good old royal dressmaker made cock-up... issue 3 page 59.

My maths say $90+260+0=90+0$... your bloke says " $=90+260$ "... should've done calculations on Spectrum... not on sewing machine.

Please forward reward for putting you right to above... make any cheque payable to 'Carter The Magnificent'.

Yours thingummy etc
Charles Carter
Sidcup, Kent

Know what you mean... mag not what was... gone to dogs... White City mostly... just doesn't add up... specially the sums... printing letters without verbs... and no money for rewards! Ed

MINE'S A DOUBLE

I've found a strange bug in Fairlight. Near the start of the game, there's a room containing barrels and a descending staircase. While I was moving barrels Isvar became trapped. While trying to escape another Isvar appeared. Both Isvars were blocked. So, I used the scroll and both Isvars were transported to the courtyard. And although it's an empty screen neither of them could move and I had to abandon the game.

John McCleave
Poole, Dorset

Yesh, I've done exshactly as you inshtructed and at firshst I had no luck. I'll have a drink to pash the time, I shed. Well, three fingers of firewater later and what did I shее — Ishvar One and Ishvar Two. And boy were they moving — shwaying all over the shop. Can't undershtand it meshelf! Ed

KUNG FU BLUES

To whoever can read properly at YS. (Bring in the cat someone... Ed). Hi there guys and gals, it's me again. Y'know, the kid who wrote in groaning about the fact that

there was no Congratulations message upon beating Tenth Dan in Way Of The Exploding Fist. Well this time the gripe is Yie Ar Kung Fu and stand by kiddies, this one's a dinger!

I played the game for twenty minutes before I reached stage nine, the Grand Master himself, Blues. Now it took quite a bit of pounding before I finally squished his grapes for good and he fell on his back waving his legs in the air (which seems to be a custom amongst defeated people). So, I sat back and waited for maybe a fanfare, a couple of beeps... anything. "So, what did happen?" I hear the entire readership of YS rise up as one man and ask. ("So what did happen?" The YS Readership As One Man). Zilcho, that's what. The game goes on to stage ten which is really the fat guy from stage one in disguise with a few more kicks up his sleeve. So I battled on, and on, and on, and on, and yawn until I reached stage 10! At which point I saw no reason for prolonging the agony and pulled the plug.

I'm coming round to the opinion that games just aren't worth playing if you don't get anything out of them. I'm not asking for our Cliff singing Congratulations at the end of each game. But what's wrong with a simple beep. I ask you! **Andrew** 'when will he stop beating games' **Hunter**
Battersea, London

Okay, let's have a reader's poll on the best ending to a game. Is it Willy with his head down the loo? Or the evil Elvin Atombender at the end of Impossible Mission? Or the ghostly ghoulies going to ground in Nightshade? Or maybe you reckon that it's only ghostly Commie owners who need a pat on the head and a constant accumulation of brownie points to keep 'em concentrating. Remember there's a YS badge waiting for the best letter on the topic. Ed

LIZARD LIMERICK

There was a young reptile from Ocean, Who made a great fuss and commotion: The reason — a silly one, She'd been called an amphibian, And she'd told them that she was reptilian.

Yes, I claim a Trainspotter Award for this inexcusable boob. (You'd better get some red dust quick or Diana will probably ensure that there are no more issues of YS!) I am, of course, referring to the V preview in which Diana is described as 'the amphibian who'd been the Visitors'

ambassador'. Now come along, everyone knows that you can't be both a reptile and an amphibian and the Visitors are definitely reptiles.

Having got that off my chest — ugh, don't know what it was doing there in the first place — oi'd loike tuh say 'ow much oi enjoyed yur mag. 'Twere first toime as what oi'd bought it, 'twill not be the larst. (Dun wonders for yur English too, oi'm 'appy t'seel Ed).

Garry Lancaster
Downend, Bristol

You're right about the reptile But stop and think for a while, If you look at me, I think you'll agree, Amphibians are much more my style.' Ed.

SLEIGHT DELAY

I'm one in ten million 'cos I have won a Trainspotter Award. My friends all think I'm a superhero. "Wow" they say, "We've seen your name in YS. Cor, bet you're dead chuffed sitting there just looking at the spot on the wall where you've got it framed." I just um'n'arr. And d'you know why I um'n'arr. (A speech impediment? Ed). 'Cos I haven't got a certificate to look at!

Is all this sham I have to suffer part of the test to prove that I'm truly fit to have the award bestowed on me?

Please, please, please send me my certificate. The postie is getting sick of me grabbing him by the scruff and accusing him of popping it through the wrong door. If I have to wait any longer the doctor's going to take me off the tablets. I can't go on like this — life's getting on top of me. I'm starting to take it out on my Speccy and it's not its fault. My

hands are all of a shake, my typing is suffering, my family is suffering, I'm suffering. HELP.

M Sleight
Bentley, South Yorkshire
PS Do you want me to send the postage or summat?

Well, every little helps, of course... I'd like to blame this terrible delay on your Trainspotter Award Evaluation Department, but we haven't got one. I wouldn't mind laying the blame on the recent postal strike... but there hasn't been one. Even British Rail would do as a scapegoat but for the life of me I can't think why it'd be their fault. No, there's only one thing for it — I'm gonna have to bite the bullet and lay the blame on the one person who is responsible. That's right I'll have to come clean. It was... Troubleshootin' Pete. Why haven't you sent out the Trainspotter Awards, Pete? Ed. Um, Arr... T.P.

BOUGHT IT SKIPPER

Has anyone else come across the annoying bugs that probably make Spiffire 40 impossible?

The flying hours that are displayed never get past 59 minutes — the hours always remain at zero. Also, in 'practice' mode, the flying hours aren't added on as it says in the instructions.

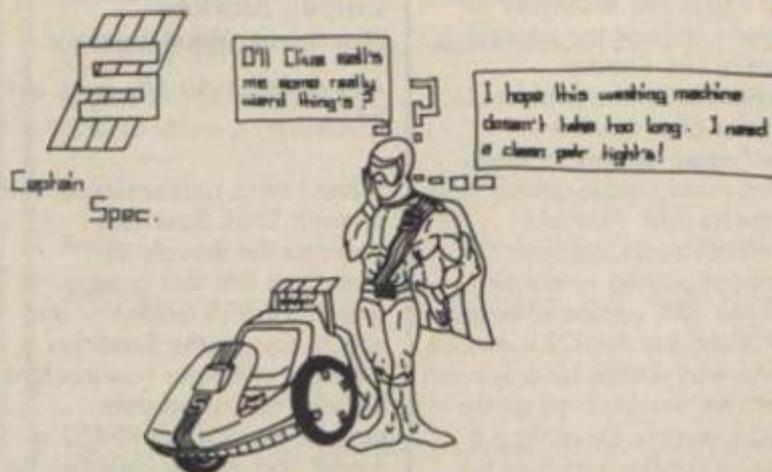
Since medals and ranks probably depend on flying hours, I can't see any way of climbing the ranks. Is it just my copy or a standard bug? I've been aloft for hours without so much as a rise in rank.

David Leitch
Methilhill, Fife

Cer-ikey. Sounds like Gerry's sent in the gremlins, skipper. Better get on the jolly old

DOODLEBUGS

Keep on doodling — it's a doddle! Send your cartoons to Doodlebugs, YS, 14 Rothbone Place, London W1P 1DE. There's a prize of a new game for each cartoon printed.



A new use for the C5? This month's Doodlebug is by Sudagat Shah of Havant.

LETTERS

blower to Mirrorsoft, what? Crackle, hiss, Roger, hiss, hiss, crackle, over, hiss and out. Seems that the first batch of 200 to wing its way out of Mirrorsoft did contain a fault. The hours displayed on your instrument panel show only the minutes, not the hours — until you've clocked up four hours flying time. But although it doesn't show them, the program is aware of your progress and should reward you with a higher rank when you've earned it. Medals, by the way, are dependent on the number of kills you make.

If the bug bothers you, send your copy back to Mirrorsoft, who've promised to replace it for you. Okay, old chap? Briefing over. Ed

12 'ATE

I've just bought a Spectrum 128!

I'm quite satisfied with the improvements except (here we go) for one or two 'bugs'.

There's still no joystick port and in 128K Basic mode, you can't use the Basic command keys.

Other than that I find that the sound quality is on a par with the (spit, spit) Commie 64 — really fantastic. And the on-screen menu with its five modes (tape loader, 128K Basic, calculator, 48K Basic and tape tester) is really something.

If Sinclair keeps up this standard, what will come next?

D G Ward

Sinfin Moor, Derby

PS The loading time for D.T.'s 128 Supertest took only thirteen minutes.

PPS Are there any books on the 128 yet?

It's good to hear from a satisfied customer. Everyone at Castle Rathbone is equally keen on the 128 with one or two qualifications. At £180 it's too expensive, especially for anyone considering upgrading from a 48K Speccy.

Compatibility is a problem. Besides Elite which we mentioned last month, many more incompatible games have come to light. Poor old Firebird's come in for an especial pasting — not only will the 48K version of Rasputin not work, but the 128K version, which was written on a Spanish machine, wouldn't run on the British version. Or at least it wouldn't at the launch of the machine. And yes, there should've been a joystick port — after all, the computer's

being marketed here as a games machine. Sinclair Research argues that there's no industry standard but that's just not true. It's just that the standard is not the one set by Sinclair but by Kempston. Anyway, here are a few of the things other readers would've welcomed. Ed

I've just seen Uncle Clive on the telly grinning with his 128K Speccy. Hmm, could have been improved, I thought to myself when I read about it in the paper the next day. How about pixel attributes? That was the major let-down of the original Speccy. It would've only taken 18K which is (quick calculator out) 14.0625 per cent of the new Speccy's memory. And shock, horror the keypad's sold as a peripheral for £19.95. That's grossly overpriced for something that's almost useless.

D Garner

Harrogate, Yorkshire

Has Clive got it right? By this I mean the Speccy 128. What every self-respecting owner clamours for are the following — professional keyboard, Centronics and RS232 ports, dual 9 pin joystick ports, RGB output, disk drive storage as standard, mouse and touch tablet connections, proper hires screen with no colour attribute problems, massive one megabyte RAM, multi-tasking capabilities, true hi-fi sound, midi interface, full extended version of Basic, other languages available on ROM, CPM compatibility, dual processor, user definable keys, direct modem communications, text to speech conversion, voice recognition, full control of processors via assembler/disassembler/monitor ROMs, bubble memory, GEM type management system, analogue port, reset switch, light pen connection, user port, various packages such as business and art programs (Uncle Tom Cobbley? Ed); of course, not necessarily in that order.

Darren Starkey

Worthing, West Sussex

And all for under fifty quid, eh? Ed

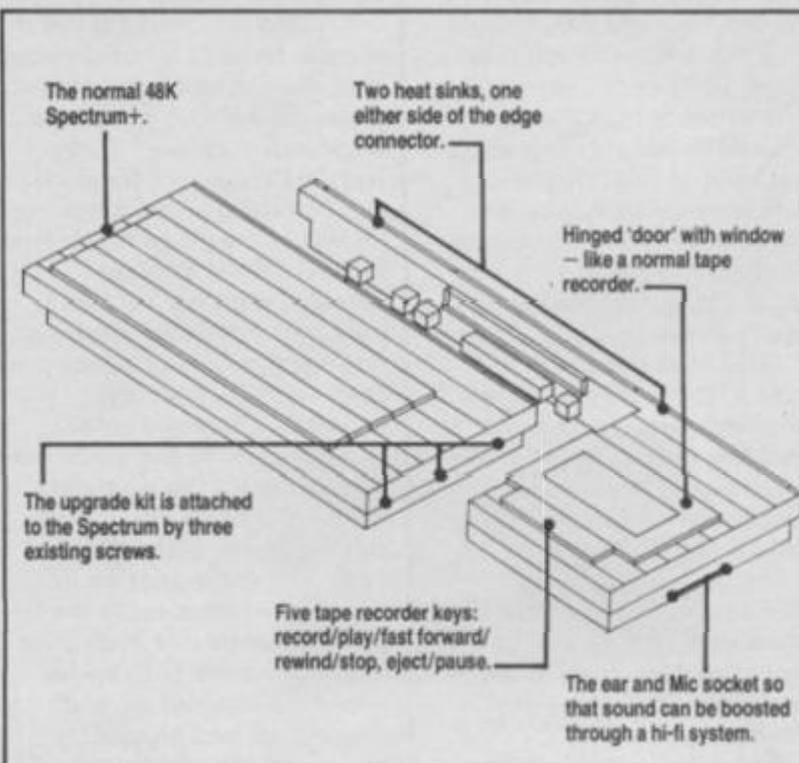
When I read your review of the Spanish 128K Spectrum I dreaded the thought of something like that coming onto the British market — and now it has! As the Spectrum is a games computer how could it benefit from a separate numeric keypad, an RS232 or a midi port, or a connection for an RGB monitor? Okay, so Sir Clive's got some things right, like the sound coming out of

the television speaker, but here's a picture of what I'd have rather seen.

Alexander Liddell

Edinburgh, Scotland

Now I wonder where you got that idea from? Perhaps it should be called the Specstrad! Still, it's interesting that no-one's asked for a built-in monitor. Ed



BABY TALK

I'm writing because of an itty bitty problem with Rambo. Every time I get to the despicably dirty commie copter I shoot it and the game crashes or NEWS itself. Please can you help?

Stevev Babey V.C.

Hawick, Roxburghshire

I have a copy of Rambo and when I try to shoot the Russian helicopter the game crashes. I returned the copy to the shop and the new copy does the same. What can I do?

Chris Walker

Thurcroft, S Yorkshire

I dunno, some people are never satisfied. First you want an ending and then when you get one you're still not happy. This one does sound like a Commie plot — perhaps the next 'reader' had a hand in it. Ed

You may be surprised to know that I'm not a Spectrum owner. In fact, I'm the exact opposite, a Commodore 64 owner and damn proud of it! I don't make a habit of writing to or even reading Spectrum magazines but as I was flicking through my Speccy friend, Craig Gallagher's copy while I was waiting for one of his games to load (yawn) I came across the most slanderous, offensive and deeply disturbing letter I have ever seen. Or rather it was the reply to the letter that shocked me.

Briefly there was this boy who didn't know whether to buy a Spectrum, a C64 or a

Beeb, so his friend wrote to your magazine asking for advice on how to persuade him to buy a Spectrum. And that moron who's in charge of the letter section (Who he? Ed) dared to say the choice was easy as the Spectrum had the best graphics, the best games, in fact the best everything! This is completely untrue — have you gone completely bonkers?

I will now simply state some facts that no-one can argue with.

- 1) The Commodore has a SID chip which can create the most amazing sound effect...
- 2) Commodore graphics and colours are among the most outstanding, if not the most outstanding in the home micro market, while the Spectrum has jerky, flickery sprites.
- 3) The Commodore may not have as wide a selection of games as the Spectrum but it makes up for this in quality. I draw your attention to *Hypersports*, *Way Of The Exploding Fist* and *Monty On The Run* while the Spectrum can only boast such games as *Horace Goes Ski-ing* and *Chequered Flag*... (That's it. Pass the red pen... there's another three pages of these 'facts'. Ed)

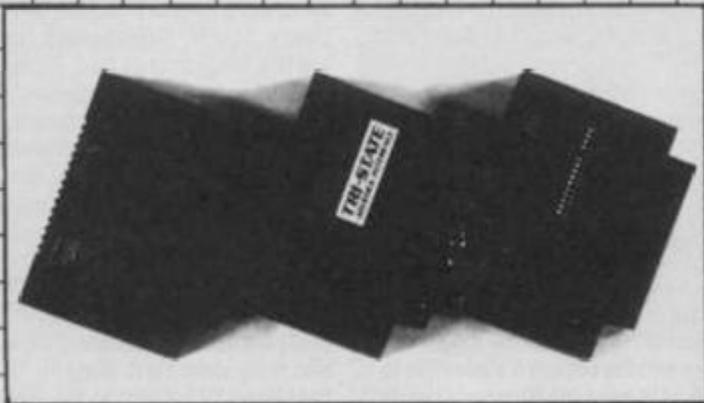
Mark Devlin age 14

Troon, Ayrshire

I'm staying out of this but you can thank me for not printing your full address. You never know, you may just reach 15. Unless, of course, your Commie friends see your shiny new Your Sinclair badge. They'll think you're a defector, not just defective. Ed

KEMPSTON

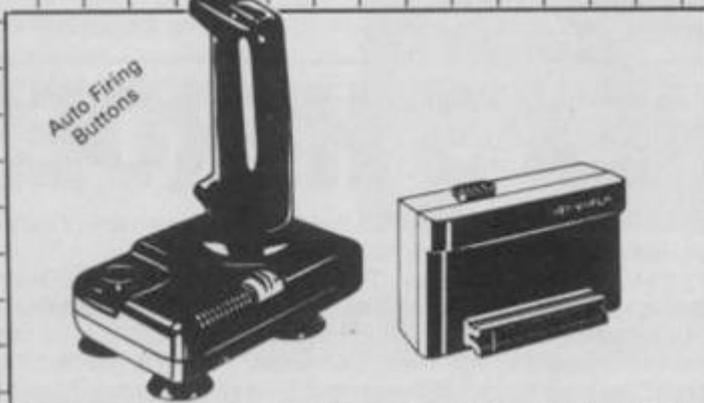
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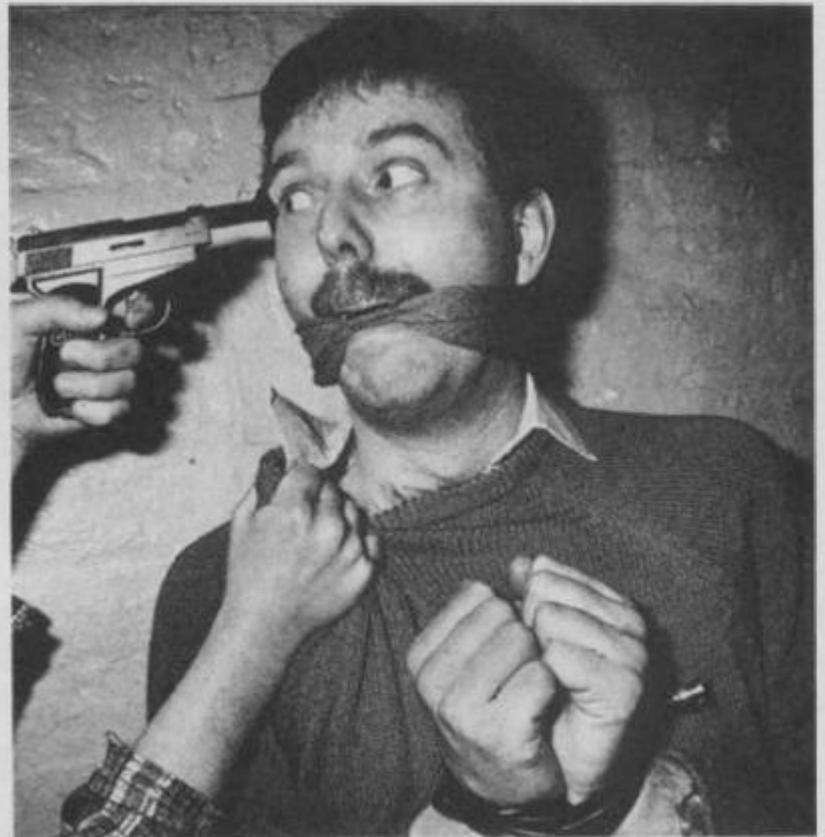
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(Then again, but only if you send in enough subscriptions and ask nicely, we could just get them to shoot him anyway.)

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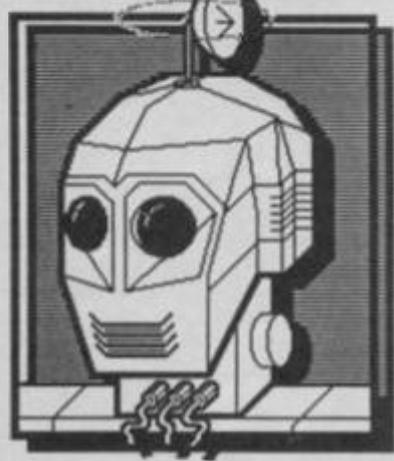
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HACK FREE ZONE



Hex is back with a humungus number of hints 'n' tips for hack free heroics.

Click. bzzzt. (Hello, this iz the International Operator, what number please?) Gimme Rathbone Hill 631 1433, England. (Puddin' you through...)

Hello, fruitcakes! Here I am in sunny Barbados. Ahhhh. The hot sun on me IC's, the warm smell of seaweed and sunoil in me olfactory receptors... the sand betwixt me jolly old tentacles. This is the life. It's about time those folks at Rathbone Hill gave me a holiday. They had to really, 'cos my circuits don't work in the cold and after it snowed four inches my tentacles froze up. And there's nothing more painful than frozen tentacles...

Anyroad-up, here I am again, by the wonders of satellite communication, live and geo-stationary from sunnier climes. Plunging right in there, I have here the truly final solution to *Marsport*, *Frankie Goes To Hollywood*, *Tau Ceti*, *Monty On The Run*, *Yie Ar Kung Fu* plus pix'n'hints on *Saboteur*, *Transformers* and *Rambo*.

But first it's *Marsport* — solution 3 supplied by my pal **Paul Harkin**. Here we go! The home stretch. Hit it! "Phase II. Now you can enter all the 'restricted' doors and you'll find the codices T, W, E, I, 6, and N. To unlock the BAR on Farr E3 you need the Mars Map — Mars Bar — geddit?" Tch! Groan... "You'll find within the tea and strainer. Take the tea, the insect from Gill D4 and the points from the Oratory on Byer level. Put them all in a factor unit to get the antidote. This'll allow you access through the Danger room on Coma E2. To get through the plant room on Joly H4, use the geranium from the Hothouse. To enter the Boiler room on Joly I4 use the kettle as a key. Get the helmet from in here and the topee from Byer level.

"Because these are alien items, the

heralds come after you too! Put them both in a factor unit to get the artifact which is actually a Starlord's Power Booster. Put this and the power gun into a factor unit to receive the hyper gun. (This shoots blue bolts of energy instead of red ones.) The hyper gun kills Sept Warlords as well as warriors, so kill both warlords (one on laxa and one on Elis) to get two more codices, D and U. The sentry in the sanctum needs five pairs for entry. Follow this procedure:-

Factorise —
mute and manifesto = e-token
strainer and sun chart = n-token
projector and charcoal = t-token
cake and lead suit = r-token
earmuffs and eyeshield = y-token
e+n+t+r+y = ENTRY, see?

Now factorise all the tokens to get the sanctum key. Then go to the sanctum, put the key in the unit and phase II is complete.

"Phase III — the home straight. To finish the game, you have to make use of the codices. If you search around you'll find a Vidtex screen which says '7 from 10 makes BIGHEAD'. This is a cryptic clue to your escape route. The codices are found on these levels: Alba — N, Byer — H, Coma — I, Daly — W, Elis — U, Farr — T, Gill — 6, Hale — G, laxa — D and Joly — E.

"Now when you take the letters of the word BIGHEAD, you get the initial of one of the levels:

codex
B (Byer) H
I (laxa) D
G (Gill) 6
H (Hale) G
E (Elis) U
A (Alba) N
D (Daly) W

"Therefore the clue is H D6 GUN W. This means you should go to D6 on Hale level, with plans of course, and use your gun to shoot the west wall. The wall will then flash and presto! an up tube appears. Go from here to Coma Level sector D. The spacefield is just around the corner, 'The Siege Of Earth Continues — Forward to Fornax!' And that, as they say, is that."

Well done, Paul, a truly comprehensive solution. Give him a big hand. What's that? You've only got small hands? Never mind!

Frankie's up next next, that's to say the golden boys of hype-rock *Frankie Goes To Hollywood*, as played by **Nik Taylor**. (You oughta be a rock star with a name like that!) Relax 'cos here we go. (Ting! Hmhmhmhmhmhm!)

"The Murder — the body is always at the end of the street. Look for a house with a moneybag on the table between doors, then the body is in the room to the right.

"The wedding ring will stop your pleasure points draining in the war and cybernetic breakout rooms. The flak jacket will protect you from the bullets in the ZTT room. The security pass and the floppy disk will allow you to complete the terminal room, but you may need more than one floppy disk to boot the information into the computer. If you boot the disk, use the pass to gain access to the other terminals. Terminal One = Shooting Gallery, Terminal Two = Raid Over Merseyside and Terminal Three = Cybernetic Breakout.

"The Corridors Of Power — the important thing to remember is that you are not in a conventional maze. The doors to the rooms are normal at the top of the end of the corridors. You can only depart from the corridors of power

if you're hit by a fireball or you enter a room.

"The War Room — when you enter this room move to the far right. As soon as the symbols appear, shoot at them. The first time you hit a symbol you haven't hit before then the pleasure bar relevant to that symbol goes up.

"The ZTT Room — either wear the flak jacket or proceed as follows. Move the far left of the room and start shooting. Miraculously the wall will be shot away even though you aren't facing it. If you complete the puzzle you can go to the Shooting Gallery or Talking Heads by pressing one of the three buttons at the bottom of the screen.

"Talking Heads — just shoot out the top blocks and shoot through them until you've to move to avoid being shot..." Just a minute. Isn't this the biggest video chestnut hint of all time? You remember *Space Invaders*? Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha... "Then move to the bottom of the screen and quickly back up to the top and start shooting. By alternating between the top of the screen and the bottom it's possible to slowly chip away the Russian's points."

Thanks Nick and now it's back to my little Pleasure Dome.... phzzzt! Okay, my petite vegetable samosas, my tiny little cheese on toasts.... that's all the megahints, now over to a few smaller letters. Helloooo doowwn thereeeeee!

Andrew Ostler of Somerset (pro. Zummerzet) tells me that *Tau Ceti* is a piece of... let's say cake for the sake of argument, shall we? Here's ze tips: "Dock with supply centers as often as possible and save the game to tape after equipping. Travel at top speed if you can, but if something starts shooting at you, stop and shoot it before you run into trouble. For hexample..." (chortle!) "...if Hunters start shooting at you when you come off a jump pad, don't run to the city, 'cos you'll probably run into a fortress or something. Don't shoot at harmless

buildings or they won't let you dock. Don't risk flying at night, just dock and use the wait command a few times. If you're going to use missiles against Fortresses or Hunter mark III's, make sure you're very close, so they can't use their AMM's. Use the notepad to keep a check on what reactor sub-stations you've visited. Beware that City up in the far North!!!" Tharxxx Andrew. Incidentally, the name of the game is pronounced 'Tou' as in 'ouch' and 'Set-eye'. Amazing. English lessons too! Is there a limit to what this chummy can do in one column? (In a word, Yes! Ed.)

Andrew Proctor of Glasgow? "Dear Death..." Huh? "Ghostbusters. I can't get into the temple of Zuul. Please help." You call me Death and you expect me to help? Well you're right, I will. Edge your man up to the Marshmallow Man's feet, until he's as close as you can get without touching. Then move with him when he hops back. Simple eh, Deathbreath?

And finally a quick punch from **Karl Winterbottom** (snowing hard in Clywd is it?) and **Richard Price** of Clywd, who really know *Yie Ar Kung Fu*. "I finally beat blues by jumping to the right as soon as the game started; then I kept doing squat punches to the stomach. This does the job, so my hi-score is 308,500." Nice going, Karl, but no cigar because you didn't send your picture with your hi-score! No pix, no Hex's Heroes!

Puh-leece, when you send in a hi-score, send me a picture to print with it. Look, I don't care what you look like, and neither do the other readers, but if you want to have your hi-score registered on Hex's Heroes, you *must* send me a pic.

Okie dokie, it's time to go. But keep those arcade hints coming, let's keep the information moving. You know the address. Do it now!

Oh, by the way my fave games of the moment are *Transformers*, *Tau Ceti*, and *Elite*, and I won't hear a word said against them.

Oh and another thing... (Click bzzzt)

HEX'S HEROES

Bzzzt Click... Look, so's not to waste the International Operator's time I'll make it brief. Here are Hex's Heroes (tootly toot-toot!).

First we have an outsider... sorry, "The Outsider", **Gavin Sneddon**. On the 20th of January 1986 at 4.55pm, not a hack or poke (sharp intake of breath) in sight, Commander Gavin has reached — Elite — status on the game of the same illustrious monika, and by legal means, too! He says "the main requirements for aspiring Elite Commanders is perseverance, it takes a lot of playing to reach this status." Excellent. I'm sending a squad of Thargoids over to see you. Sort that lot out!

Pedro Pinto (Que?) of Portugal has a hyperscore on *Hypersports*. It's about time we had a scorer on that game. Bit of a tough nut to crack is it, chummies?

And finally **Andrew Carter** has 34-0 on *Match Day*... Y'know, that reminds me of a funny story. Sir Alf Ramsey, one-time manager of Man Utd and England was asked by a customs official what he did for a living, and his diction was so relaxed the man wrote down "Fruit-boiler" Ha ha ha ha ha... Ahem.

Well done chaps, tune in next month for more hints and tips, comment and acid tongue and pen, plus a funny story involving the time when me, George Best and this Swedish laserprinter...

(Sorry sir, your time is up.)
(click, brrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr...)



Gavin Sneddon
Elite/Elite status' reached



Pedro Pinto
Hypersports/450,536



Andrew Carter
Match Day/34-0 (amateur)

RAMBO

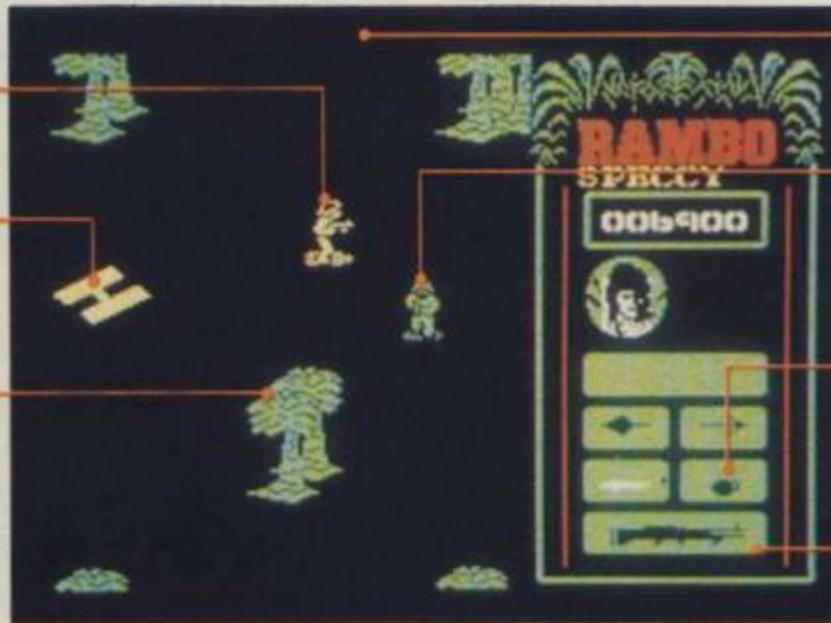
Counter-intelligence by Phil Golders of Piddletrenthide

Run like blazes and you may not have to fire a shot. Serpentine running (zig-zag to you, smartass) is the order of the day. Top o' the world, Ma!

Watch for a big H, as this is where the chopper'll land. You've got to make your way back here with your buddies and wait for a lift out here. Memorise this spot when you find it — that's not too taxing, musclehead!

Hey, guess what? When you get a rocker launcher you can nuke the trees as well. Big deal. No really, it can be handy if there's a slimy Commie (no, not a 64 silly!) hiding behind one!

• Ratty-tat-tat. The machine gun is an essential piece of kit for any aspiring Rambo. Find it north and east from your start position. Neutralise them Commies, soldier!



The POW camp is to the north. That's where your buddies are being held.

Don't shoot everything that moves, as you'll attract attention to yourself. (Somebody tell that to Stallone!) One shot and the whole flippin' army will be on your case! Gung-Ho!

Utilise the grenades carefully, as their trajectory is a little hard to range accurately. Not for close combat! Who is this Schwarzenegger anyway?

The rocket launcher is good for posing after you've oiled your muscles. But it also comes in quite handy when you're in the chopper. Find it to the north. Go for it, blockhead!

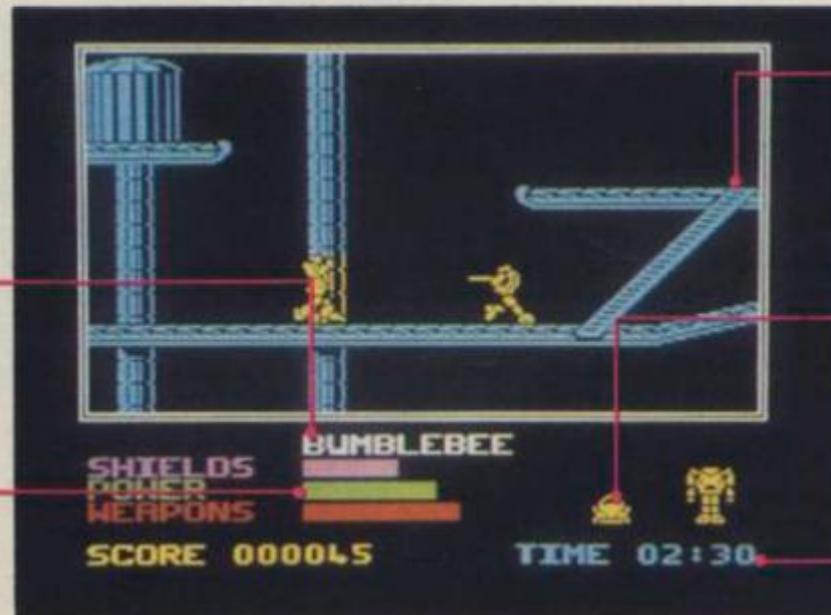
TRANSFORMERS

Tints 'n' hips by your everlovin' Hex himself.

Flying up and over the planet's surface is faster and safer than trying to walk out. Fly whenever you can, especially up and right — you'll find a puzzle piece on top that way!

Deploy your troops with care. Spread 'em around the surface so you stand more of a chance of finding puzzle pieces.

Recharge regularly — your shields will soon wear down if you don't! It's also nice to have a breather occasionally, or change characters.



Beware low flying — you can easily bump into a piece of platform hiding just out of screen. Many's the time I bumped into one of those floating ones by not concentrating!

When faced with two adversaries trying to sandwich you, transform into a vehicle and barge through one of them to freedom. That way they'll shoot over your head.

When you're recharging or reloading in a defense-pod, the timer stops. Hah! A good time to rearrange your forces or concoct a fresh strategy? You betcha!

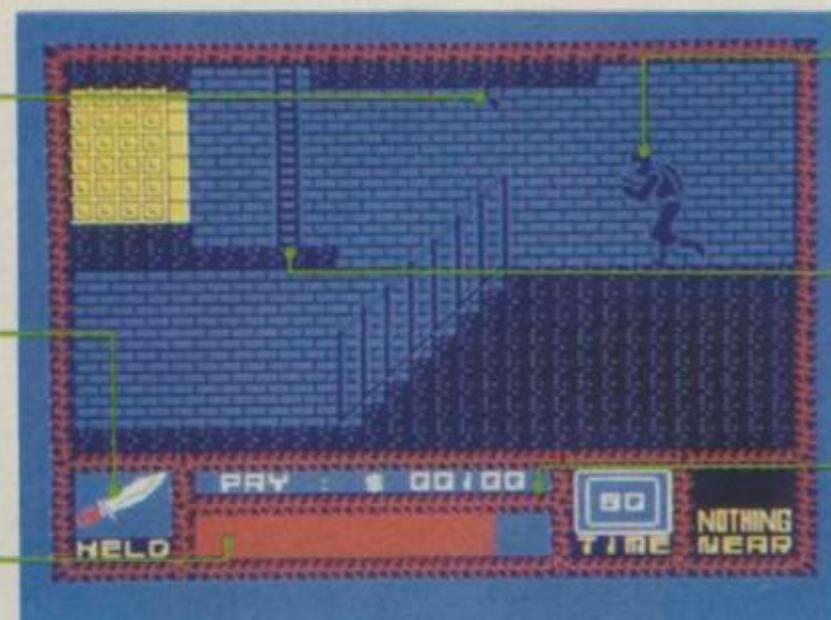
SABOTEUR

Intelligence by James Slater from York

Big brother's watching you. The video cameras follow you around and fire at you.

Here's the weapon you're carrying. Although using a weapon to kill a guard scores fewer points, it's safer than punching or kicking him!

Energy level. It's best to keep an eye on this, especially with those guard dogs roaming around. To restore your energy, go to a room where there are no hazards and your energy will build up.



Here's looking at you, kid. As soon as you come into the room, watch the guard — he'll come towards you and either kick you or throw something. But if he holds up his arms, duck 'cos he's ready to take a pot-shot at you.

Watch the top or bottom of a ladder before climbing onto it — there may be a door blocking it. You can eventually open these doors by accessing the computer.

It's the cash that counts — your score is measured in sponduliks. You score points for killing guards, but you'll get nothing for knocking off the dogs. Still, if you want the RSPCA after you, press Down and fire.

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BOMB JACK

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Rachael What sort of being is Bomb Jack? He doesn't so much fly as leap around. And he's no more than knee high to a grasshopper. Come to think of it, a grasshopper's what he most resembles. So what sort of hero is this bounding, bomb collecting midget? The answer is an arcade hero — and now he's let loose in your micro courtesy of conversion kings, Elite.

Let's just say that *Bomb Jack* probably shouldn't be as addictive as it is. After all, arcade games are designed not to last too long because they're always greedy for the next meal of ten pences. But then again, they're also designed to make you want to play again.... and again and again. And that's where *Bomb Jack* scores, because each time you lose your final life you're convinced that next time you can clear that screen.

Here's how it works. Your caped crusader bounces all over a world provided with convenient platforms. You launch him into the air with a quick press on the fire button, trying to pass over bombs as you fly. Clear a screen of explosives and on to the next,

more difficult location. The forces of evil are out to stop you though, from the first flapping bird to the little soldiers who eventually reach the ground to metamorphose into something much nastier.

All of which neglects to mention the scoring. There's a fine bit of strategy involved in maximising your points — and if ever there was a high score freak's dream, this is it! The first thing to know is that a bomb that's fizzing is worth 200 rather than 100 points. Collect one of those and it sets off the next one in the sequence, so a row of four can be worth 400 or 800 points depending on whether it's ignited or not. It's up to you to plan a route. There are special bonuses for collecting 20 or more sparking bombs and there are also Bonus coins that float in for you to snatch, plus Extra lives coins and Power balls. These paralyse the nasties for a while letting you eliminate them — very useful when air space becomes too full to fly with comfort!

Bomb Jack, it must be said, isn't the easiest little critter to control. Getting him up is simple, but then you'll need your wits about you to steer him as he speeds around. Left

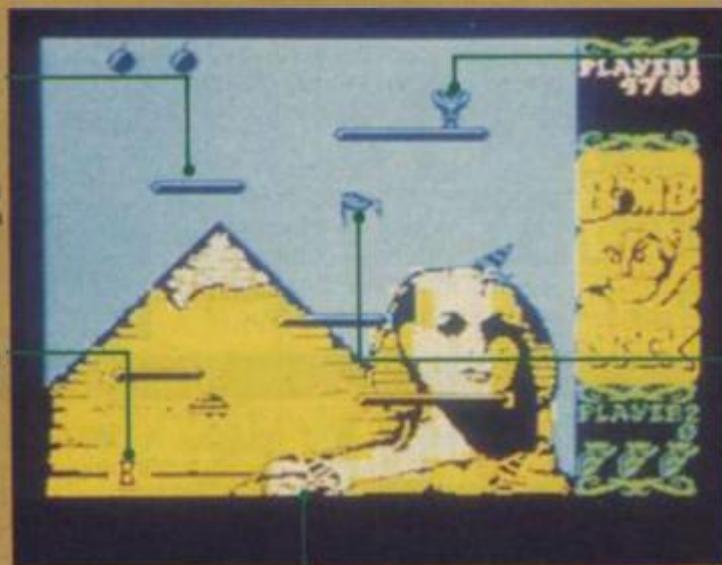
and right swerve his flight while an extra boost of height comes from pressing up and a speedier descent is aided by down. If you need an immediate halt while in the air just hit the fire button again, and rapidly tapping it will make him hover. You'll need lots of practice to get your pilot's certificate though — and a joystick won't do any harm either! While Elite has considerably included a turbo mode for the keyboard player — it simulates a constantly-pressed fire button — a stick makes life much easier.

There you have it, then — a simple idea that's one hundred per cent addictive. The graphics are great with an amusingly animated sprite for your heroic mite, even though the monochrome figures are sometimes a little hard to see against the coloured backgrounds. Amplify the sound to get the most from the spot effects and you too will soon be battling to get your name in the high score table. *Bomb Jack* is most certainly a blast!

Graphics	■■■■■■■■■■	9
Playability	■■■■■■■■■■	
Value for Money	■■■■■■■■■■	
Addictiveness	■■■■■■■■■■	

The guards are restricted to strutting around as they make their way to the ground, pacing up and down the platforms, making landing tricky. And they also appear up here in this corner, which is a distinct nuisance.

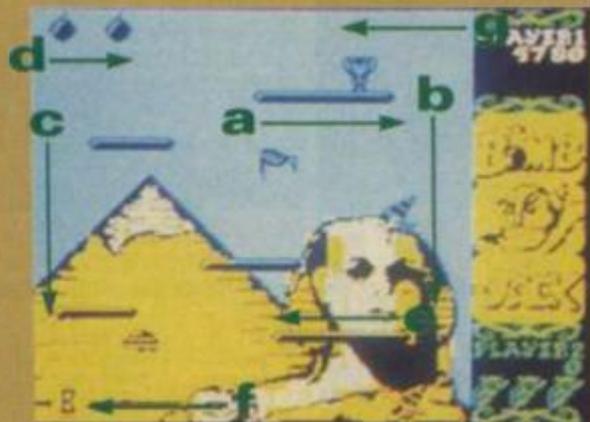
Here's a bonus score coin, floating in to let you boost your points for the screen — but beware because collecting too many of these will stop the supply of further useful coins!



Here you are, Jumpin' Bomb Jack, the all leaping hero. Remember, kids, Bomb Jack can't fly... unless he's on solid ground. Once you're on the way down there's nothing you can do until the next jump. What a bouncer!

This vulture's always the first peril to appear on screen and it's clever enough to move towards you so you can't stay in one place too long. Luckily it's also slow.

When you reach the ground the guards reveal themselves for what they truly are — worms. And unluckily they can fly. Even worse are the bouncing balls. The only thing to do at a time like this is to pray for a power pill that'll freeze them so you can eat them.



To help you get started here's a route round the first screen to maximise your score. Row A means bounding from between the bombs below to leave them till later. Don't go too high for row B or you'll get the bomb in the top right hand corner too early. Getting across to C can cause problems — best bet is to wait for a Power Pill and eliminate the enemy. Similar problems will occur with D but E shouldn't be too bad. Watch out for ground forces on row F though and then up, up and away to G, collecting the bombs from right to left. Achieve all that and your score will be doubled, plus bonuses, so you'll be surrounded by people wanting to know you, asked out to parties every night, kick sand in people's faces...

SCREEN SHOTS

The gamesplayers they couldn't tame — Max Phillips, Rachael J Smith, Rick Robson, Luke C and Gwyn Hughes — return to review all the latest releases.

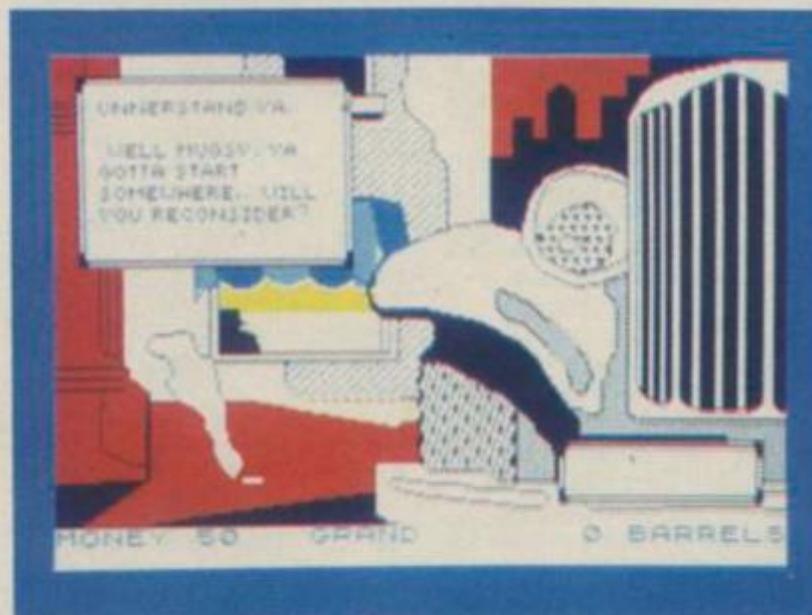
Melbourne House/£8.95

Rachael Hey, boss, come quick — I tinks I got news for you. You know dey said Mugsy was expected back in town. Well, here he is. An' you said you toit he was never comin' back.

Seems he ain't exactly got smart while he wuz in de slammer. Oh sure — yes — he still looks great as ever. A real snappy dresser — but, boy, does he take forever to look pretty as a picture. You'd tink nowadays that they could hide all de time he takes to appear in public. Reminds me of how dat Hobbit gang used to just sorta get filled in whenever dey came on de scene — hey boss? Hur — hur — hur!

Yeah, but lookin' good don't make up for a lack of brains, like you always tell me, and Mugsy's commands remain strictly monosyl.... monosylb.... one word at a time. You see, he tinks de smart ting to get into is booze, and he's got dis henchmen who says tings like 'How many boys da ya wanna hire, 0, 1 or 2?'. Ha, da dummy can't even speak good English! So Mugsy sits dere, mumbling dese answers wid all de chutzpah of Marlon Brando on downers, an' dependin' on his decisions he can watch his fortunes grow or go.

Of course it's never so simple as dat and dere are rival gangs to be considered and booze parlours to buy and molls to keep de customers.... satisfied. And even though he's payin' off de Feds he'll still get trouble if they're not satisfied. Seems dis sidekick of his ain't too hot wid a rod, so Mugsy has to do all his own shootin', and' hang me, if it ain't like some penny arcade amusement, and none too difficult at that. Then it's back to de day to day of deciding



whether to rub out the opposition an' de rest.

Well, in no time a year's gone by and the financial report comes in, then it's de edited high spots on the annum's quota of capital offences. No, sorry, boss — even dat ain't so good as it sounds. In fact it was the same

as last year an' the year before. Hey — I tell ya, after da first few times I got really bored wid it.

Hey, boss, I can't help feelin' old Mugsy ain't really come that far. Maybe we should go show him de error of his ways — if you follow my meaning. He may have had a novel type of

MUGSY'S REVENGE

business strategy once but now it's just as mechanical as any board room decision makin'. And like youse always says — rubbin' out people an' booze an' everything is lacking in couth. Now where's dat new modem youse got so we can hack into da Federal Reserve and make some real money, kid?

Graphics	■■■■■■■■■■	7
Playability	■■■■■■■■■■	
Value for Money	■■■■■■■■■■	
Addictiveness	■■■■■■■■■■	

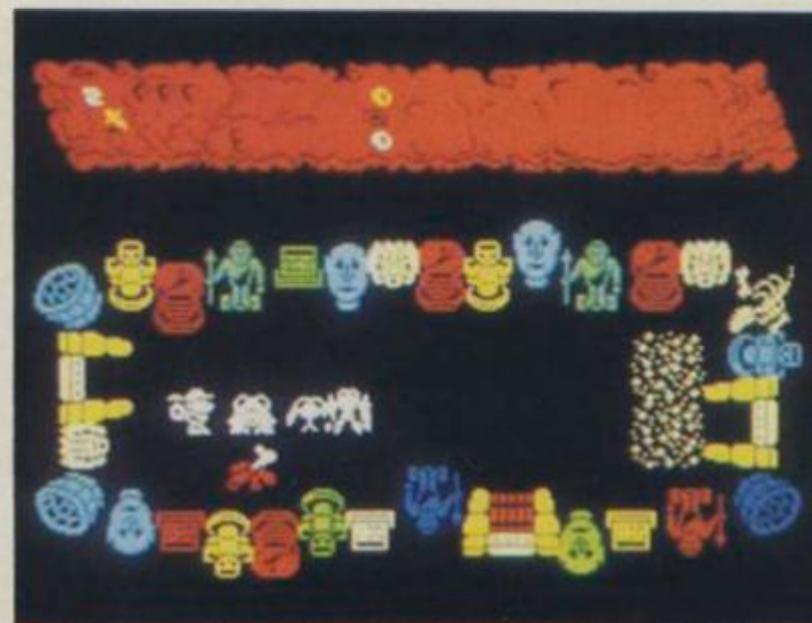
Budget/£2.99

Luke It's back to the atac on the atic with this game.

Based very roughly on the concept of Ultimate's game, the idea is to move your man about a maze of rooms, avoiding the usual crowd of nasties. You're able to fire what look like sea-gulls at the oncoming masses, but it does little good as they re-generate instantly and throw themselves back into the fray. Doors lock behind you and then just as suddenly re-open; little electronic pings announce that you have found a rare treasure — oh yes, the excitement fair plods along!

The basic plot revolves around the search through a maze for nine parts of a scroll that provides the route to the exit. The maze is split into five sectors and certain objects are required before you can pass

LABYRINTHION



between these sectors. Various controls are available for protection, but by far the most useful keyboard control is the 'Pause' key.

The main problem with the game is that the area of action is just too small — trying to sort out your character's sprite from the fluttering mass of enemy followers is just ridiculous.

With a lot of patience and a meagre wallet, of course this game is adequate — indeed, with a 256-room maze to explore, it should keep the most avid map-maker happy for hours. But, with so much well-conceived software around of this type, *Labyrinthion* stands little chance of becoming a classic.

Graphics	■■■■■■■■■■	6
Playability	■■■■■■■■■■	
Value for Money	■■■■■■■■■■	
Addictiveness	■■■■■■■■■■	

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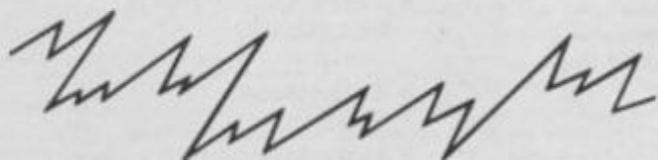
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HIT LIST

What's rising to the top? What's bubbling under? Chart stats 'n' facts from Steve Colwill.

Chart Chat 5

Looks like the bottom's dropped right out of the market! Or at least, the bottom five from last month have dropped right out of this month's chart and last month's top four have all taken a tumble downwards. And it's interesting that all of last month's top four have dropped by the same number of places and so retain their rank order within the top ten.

This month's number one, *Movie*, has taken the chart by storm, coming straight in from nowhere to take the pole position. The only riser from last month is Mastertronic's cheapie but goodie, *Spellbound*. And other new entries include *Barry McGuigan World Champions*, *Zoids* and *Gunfright*.

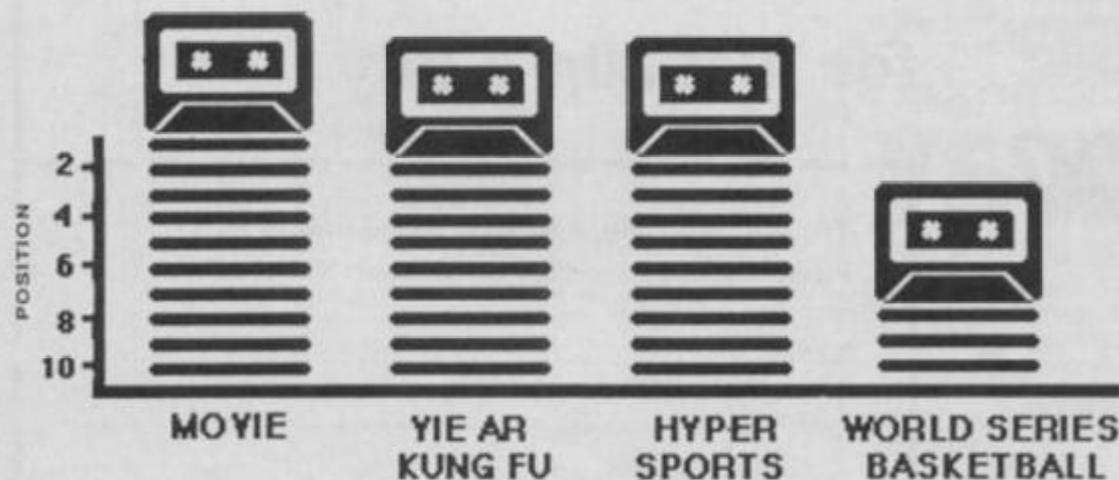
Imagine's *Hypersports* makes a welcome return, propping up the rest of the chart at number ten.

This Month's Top Ten Titles

Position	Last month	Weeks in Chart	Title/Publisher
1	—	1	● <i>Movie</i> /Imagine
2	—	2	● <i>Barry McGuigan World Champions</i> /Activision
3	5	6	● <i>Spellbound</i> /Mastertronic
4	1	7	● <i>Winter Games</i> /US Gold
5	2	8	● <i>Rambo</i> /Ocean
6	3	11	● <i>Commando</i> /Elite
7	4	10	● <i>Yie Ar Kung Fu</i> /Imagine
8	—	2	● <i>Zoids</i> /Martech
9	—	2	● <i>Gunfright</i> /Ultimate
10	re	8	● <i>Hypersports</i> /Imagine

Imaginative Games

Imagine's back — and how! Okay, it's just an Ocean label now but the company name's riding high at the moment with three titles in the top ten. This chart shows the highest positions attained by Imagine's last four charting titles.



This chart is based on the *MicroScope* chart as compiled by Gallup.

MicroScope GALLUP

MicroScope is the weekly trade paper of the microcomputer industry. If your computer store doesn't display the latest *MicroScope* chart, ask the manager to call Mark Salmon on 01-631 1433 — we'll send a copy every week.

12 Months Ago

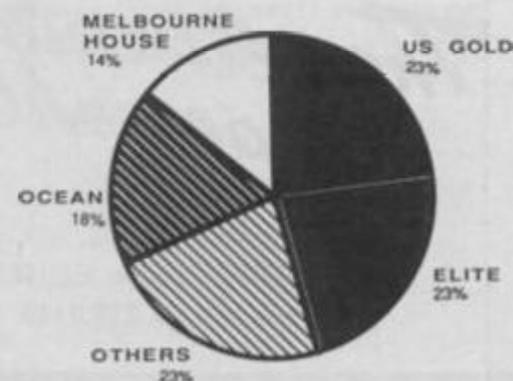
Position	Title/Publisher
1	● <i>Ghostbusters</i> /Activision
2	● <i>Day</i> /Ocean
3	● <i>Airwolf</i> /Elite
4	● <i>Technician Ted</i> /Hewson
5	● <i>Daley Thompson's Decathlon</i> /Ocean
6	● <i>Knightlore</i> /Ultimate
7	● <i>Zaxxon</i> /US Gold
8	● <i>3D Star Strike</i> /Real Time
9	● <i>Select 1</i> /Computer Records
10	● <i>Blockbusters</i> /Macsen

18 Months Ago

Position	Title/Publisher
1	● <i>Sabre Wulf</i> /Ultimate
2	● <i>Full Throttle</i> /Micromega
3	● <i>Match Point</i> /Psion
4	● <i>Daley Thompson's Decathlon</i> /Ocean
5	● <i>Monty Mole</i> /Gremlin
6	● <i>Micro Olympics</i> /Database
7	● <i>Jet Set Willy</i> /Software Projects
8	● <i>Lords Of Midnight</i> /Beyond
9	● <i>TLL</i> /Vortex
10	● <i>Mugsy</i> /Melbourne House

Slicing The Company Cake

Take a look at this pie chart and you'll see how the number one honours over the past five months are shared. US Gold, Elite and Ocean take the biggest slice — each of them has had titles at number one for five weeks.



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SAI COMBAT

Mirrorsoft/£7.95

Gwyn There is probably an ancient Japanese proverb that says a man with a big stick can have more fun than a man without a big stick. And that is the philosophy behind *Combat*, a marriage of the unarmed martial art with broom handles, that Mirrorsoft is using to make a late bow into the arena.

Sai is more like *Fighting Warrior* than *Exploding Fist*, owing to the use of weaponry. But while the ancient Egyptian game of clobbering each other with staves (or were they supposed to be swords) boasted a plot — albeit a fairly feeble one — this is much more pure combat. Your aim is to attain the highest dan via three falls.

Control is the pretty well standard eight points of the compass with or without fire, which makes joystick control preferable to keyboard. Some of the moves will be recognisable from kung-fu games, including everybody's favourites, the roundhouse and flying kick. The new dimension comes from the jabs and sweeps with the pole, which gives you extra reach plus an additional form of defence. It always takes a while to learn the capabilities of your fighter but when the controls are sensibly arranged, as these are, it soon becomes second nature.

So far, so good, if a trifle unexceptional. What sets *Sai Combat* apart from most of its predecessors is the size of the

combatants. While not quite so large as the figures in the first of the martial arts games, Bug Byte's *Kung Fu*, they are bigger than usual. And yet there doesn't seem to be any loss in speed and the animation is excellent. You don't even feel cramped with relatively less horizontal space and I found that involvement was greater.

The finish of the game is superb, with detailed shadows below the figures and a nice oriental tune, plus different backgrounds for different belts. Blows are accompanied by a suitably hard 'thwack!' sound and a coloured starburst of pain — well hard. If you lose a series of bouts you don't need to go back to white belt — pressing space starts you again at your previous level. The various dan are well graded, starting easily enough but getting tricky around grey belt. Naturally there are one and two player options — the latter is useful for practice against a static opponent.

Sai Combat is a good, if belated, entry into the genre. Whether you want it will depend on how keen you are on the type of game. If you don't reckon you've had too much already it'll certainly present some welcome variety without risking any unpleasant bruises.

Graphics	■■■■■■■■■■	8
Playability	■■■■■■■■■■	
Value for Money	■■■■■■■■■■	
Addictiveness	■■■■■■■■■■	

THE DEVIL'S CROWN



SHOW JUMPING

Alligata/£7.95

Rick What do you get if you cross a kangaroo with a sheep? Yeh, a woolly jumper. But there's nothing woolly about this show jumping game that'll leave the family hoarse with delight.

The game is simplicity itself and works precisely because of that. You and your sturdy mount must negotiate a jump ring. You're given a choice of eight mounts, two levels of difficulty, the game has six different courses and up to eight players can take part.

Pre-jump you are given a course map — worth remembering when best speeds are wanted. You're then given one hundred seconds to complete the

Mastertronic/£1.99

Max Ahem, how can I put this? If you're tired of gaudy, chunky sprites that turn funny colours when they pass over each other ... if the very thought of forty rooms stuffed with killer fish makes you want to run and put your head down the toilet ... if you've been collecting objects since your grandmother learnt to suck eggs ... if I've already put you off, then a little polite advice. *Push off* ... this is a great game.

Legend has it (the sort of legend you get on Mastertronic inlays) that pirates, having secured the Devil's Crown, try and remove the seven jewels thereon and are suddenly struck down by the devil himself. Their ship and its many treasures lies untouched until you, as a diver-come-submarine, attempt to recover the goodies. And just in case seven jewels is too easy, you've got to grab all sorts of stuff first to prove that you're up to the job.

You plunder and blunder your way round the brightly coloured and crowded rooms, avoiding the nasties or shooting them with any pistols you pick up. Keep a watch on your oxygen ... replenish it from ye olde pirates' oxygen tanks that are scattered around. Pick up a lantern to light the darkened rooms. Collect the treasure and try and figure out what all the other junk does. And so on. I reckon you'll need a joystick and probably a colour set as well ... it's just too hard in B&W or from the keyboard. Being able to carry only one object at once is the real clincher though ... the game is hectic to say the least but not so hard it's impossible. At £1.99, it could just be another jewel in your crown!

Graphics	■■■■■■■■■■	8
Playability	■■■■■■■■■■	
Value for Money	■■■■■■■■■■	
Addictiveness	■■■■■■■■■■	

Domark/£8.95

Gwyn A blood curdling scream rings from your Spectrum — then... silence! Not even the drip, drip, drip of blood. Just a message saying that owing to memory restrictions sound and music are missing from this version.

Still, that leaves the terrifying silence as you play with only the hum of the power supply, the wind rustling the trees, whistling through the empty house.... the creak as you slide from your chair, not stiff as a board but bored stiff. Yes, undoubtedly Domark has created a computer nasty — though not in the sense it undoubtedly intended.

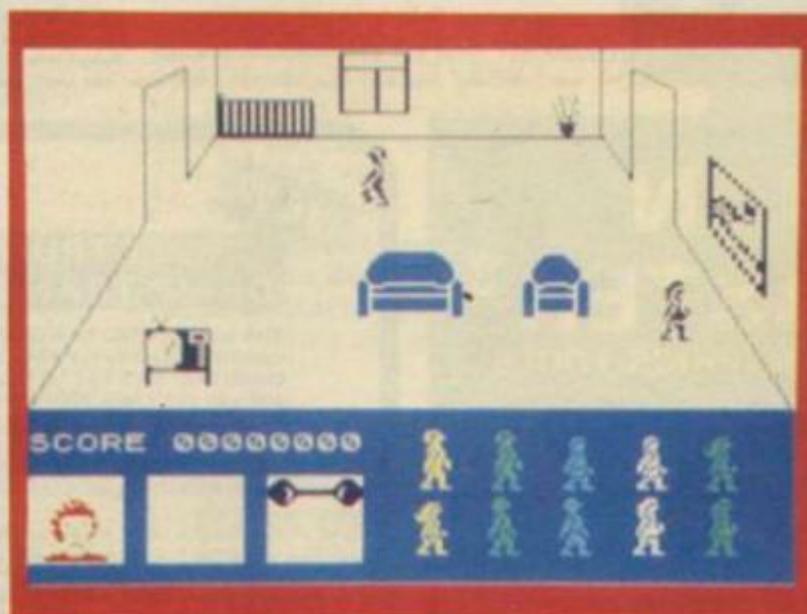
Anybody who has ever seen a Friday the 13th film will know the plot — mass slaughter with a variety of novel weapons. So do Domark allow you to play Jason and massacre the all-American brats in the summer camp? They do not! They expect you to save this bunch of butch bozos and highly strung wimps. This you do by running round the camp site and moving over them. They will then make for the place of

sanctuary that you initially established with a cross — only Jason may come and scare them off so you'll need to round them up again. Ever felt like a sheep dog?

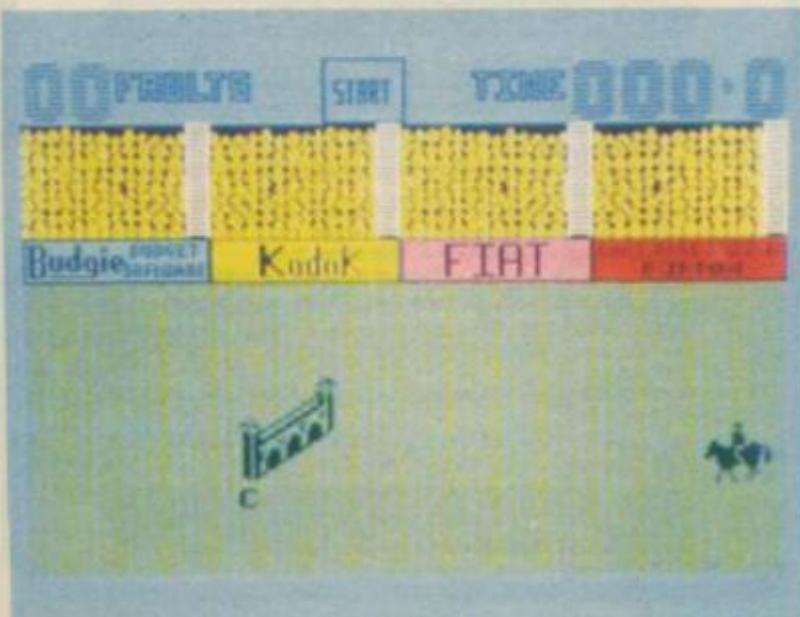
The reason this sort of movie never scared me was that I cared less than zilch about the victims. Well, if you thought the cardboard cut-out casts were bad, wait till you see their sprite equivalents. Am I really supposed to sympathise with a badly drawn silhouette in a landscape that looks worthy of Sinclair Basic's finest?

At heart there was the idea for a decent strategy-adventure here — Argus did it with *Alien*. Instead Domark's managed to create yet another program to match the ineptitude of *A View To A Kill*. You get the chance to use a chainsaw, knife or other weapon on Jason who is disguised as a friend — but by then the only thing you'll want to kill is the program cluttering up your ROM!

Graphics	■■■■■■■■■■	3
Playability	■■■■■■■■■■	
Value for Money	■■■■■■■■■■	
Addictiveness	■■■■■■■■■■	



FRIDAY THE 13th



course (usually within a set number of faults) if you wish to move on to the next course. The game is keyboard defineable but it works best on the joystick. Speed (walk to walloping gallop) varies enormously and with the possible control of your horse through 360 degrees your tactics will vary between the Schockomole school of slow and steady and the Harvey Smith hell for leather theory.

The course doesn't scroll but unfolds over several screens. The facility to 'walk the course' as in the real McCoy is a distinct advantage. The only unrealistic facet is that you can go behind jumps — normally

faulted — but your average gamer would probably never complete without it.

Having done the hard part well — horse and jump simulation — Alligata falls at the final fence by failing to recognise the thrills of the original sport. The crowd graphics are tinny, no one falls off and the paraphernalia of the ring are missing — why aren't real horse, rider or tournament names used? Three faults for this refusal but a clear round for a game as sweet as a (pony) nut.

Graphics	■■■■■■■■■■	6
Playability	■■■■■■■■■■	
Value for Money	■■■■■■■■■■	
Addictiveness	■■■■■■■■■■	

MORE SCREEN SHOTS ON PAGE 75

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| 9. Boggles | 26. Laser | 44. Mystical Diamonds |
| 10. Alien Attack | 27. Alien | 45. Galaxy Defence |
| 11. Lunar Landing | 28. Cargo | 46. Cypher |
| 12. Maze Eater | 29. The Race | 47. Jetmobile |
| 13. Microtrap | 30. The Skull | 48. Barrel Jump |
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W A F A D R I V E YS SPECIAL OFFER

This month YS has come up with a real cracker of a money off offer — a Rotronics Wafadrive for under fifty quid. At that price it's a real steal. But if you still need some convincing, you'll find all the facts below. We went to Rotronics and asked all the obvious questions that a prospective buyer would put. Can you afford not to find out more...

What does a Wafadrive offer me that I can't get from my cassette?

Speed's the obvious answer — it takes just 40 seconds to load *Spectral Writer*, the free wordprocessor that comes with your Wafadrive from a 16K wafer. But the really big advantage is that you can store programs as files on a wafer. It's a real chore finding where you've put a particular program on a cassette, especially if you've got loads and loads of them on there.

So just how fast is a Wafadrive?

Well, it all depends. It depends on the position of the tape in the wafer and it depends on the size of the wafer. But as an average, *Sherlock* on a 64K wafer takes 43 seconds to load. You can usually reckon on about 2K of bytes going in every second plus the access time.

So it's not as fast as a microdrive?

That depends as well. You're right, it's not as fast as loading in the data. *But*, if you take into account the Wafadrive's more friendly operating system and its easier command syntax, you'll probably find it takes you no longer to load in a program. All that "m";1; stuff goes straight out the window. It's just LOAD * "filename" and you're away.

Yes, but what about reliability? The reason I've been put off microdrives are all the stories about how unreliable the cartridges are.

Microdrive cartridges do have a finite life but there's no way you're going to wear out a wafer cartridge. There's more tape in a wafer than in a microdrive cartridge so it's under less stress. And the protective cover that slides across when the tape's not in use stops people putting their grubby fingers all over your tape.

What other advantages are there over microdrives?

Other than performance, you mean? Well now there's price. £49.95's what you'd pay for a microdrive *without* the Interface 1 — the Wafadrive plugs directly into the back of your Speccy, of course. And remember, you get two drives on a Wafadrive just like on a professional system.

Why are there three different

sizes of wafer cartridge?

That's so you can choose the most appropriate size for the job you want it to do. The larger the memory, the more tape in the cartridge and the longer it'll take to access the files. So, there's no point in choosing a 128K wafer to store programs that you're loading frequently. Much better to develop your programs on a small wafer and then transfer them onto a 64K one that has plenty of storage and medium access times. The 128K wafer is really only useful for archiving because of the longer access times. But when you do want an old program, you can quickly find it by CATing the wafer — try that with all your old cassettes.

Is the capacity of the wafers exactly 16, 64 and 128K?

No, that's just for convenience. On average you could expect to get about 75K on a 64K wafer and anywhere up to 140 odd K on a 128.

Can I connect any full size printer via the Centronics and RS232 interfaces?

Yes — with the one exception of the MCP 40.

I'm used to word-processing

with Tasword II and I'd like to continue with it — is it possible to transfer it to Wafadrive?

Yes. You can get an information sheet that shows you how to do it direct from Rotronics. For anyone who hasn't used a word-processor, *Spectral Writer* will fulfil all your requirements.

Is it easy to transfer programs from cassette onto wafers?

If the programs are in Basic, you've got no problems. Just load them in, then save them onto the Wafadrive. Machine code programs can present more of a problem, especially if they're very large and don't leave around 2K for the Wafadrive Operating System. You'll find the transfer utility on the Rotronics Toolkit wafer very useful. It also includes routines that let you COPY to Epson printers, print graphics from Basic, a printer channel driver, a de-initialise routine and a file utility.



All this can be yours for just £49.95. The Wafadrive is a smart black box that sits neatly behind your Speccy. With its twin drives and free word processor you're now the proud owner of a really professional system.

WAFADRIVE OFFER

At this price, how can I fail to take advantage of your offer. Please send me:

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Blast off to the Spring ZX Microfair at the Horticultural Hall London SW1 on the 10th May '86. See for the first time at the show Sinclair's New 128K Spectrum plus hardware add-ons and software. Explore those just launched interfaces, programs, hardware, magazines and books. Have a wonderful day out, see everything for Sinclair computers under one roof, just about all you ever wanted for your computer.

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TASK FORCE

Are you finding programming a real task? Then may the force of Ian Hoare be with you!

Get your blank tapes and cartridges at the ready 'cos we've absolutely zillions of really useful routines for you this month. **Ian Thompson** from Ripon sent in a helping hand for all those people just aching for an absolute draw facility. Whassat I hear you cry? Well, if you want to draw a line on the Speccy you have to specify how many pixels it's to go up and across the screen. Absolute draw enables you to choose where the line is to end in screen pixel co-ordinates. If you enter 999 for the x co-ordinate in Ian's program you'll exit it, you can alter this if you wish though.

```
10 INPUT "x: " x: "y: " y
20 IF x=999 THEN STOP
30 DRAW x- PEEK 23677, y-P
EEK 23678
40 GOTO 10
```

Ian also provided an interesting snippet that'll fascinate those who like seeing pretty patterns on the screen. PLOT 127,87: DRAW 10,10 n Where n should be a fairly large number. Why not try these values for n: 1871, 6669, 3343, 991, 2512, 6974, 778, 8440. Ian also suggests you set OVER to both 1 and 0 to see what happens.

● **Pete Craig** from Chesterfield has answered my call for a machine code routine to do graphics dumps that'll work with the Interface 1 RS232 port. The way it's written, it'll work with all compatible printers. If your HR5 doesn't do line feeds in

graphics mode of n/72" from ESC;"A";n, then you can alter both the code, and the number of linefeeds, by changing the DATA near the beginning of the source code. The fourth byte in the line labelled "DATA" counts the number of line feeds sent.

I've found that some HR5 printers send a 1/36" while others send a 1/18" line feed, so you'll have to experiment if you don't get the perfect image first time. Don't worry, you won't do any harm so long as you keep the same number of DATA bytes. Once you've got the routine working as you want it, you'll be able to use it at any memory location, provided it's called from Basic. And it's relocatable so long as the BC register pair contains the address of the start of the routine — but that's usual when it's called from Basic.

```
0000 ORG 40000
0010 ESC EQU 27
0020 PIXEL EQU 22AAH
0030 OPEN# EQU 1601H
0040 BEGIN JR START
0050 Y_ADD DEFB 175
0060 DATA DEFB ESC,"A",B
,1,10,ESC,"K",0,1
0070 START LD HL,2
0080 ADD HL,BC
0090 PUSH HL
0100 POP IX
0110 INC HL
0120 LD A,3
0130 PUSH HL
0140 CALL OPEN#
0150 POP HL
0160 LD B,3
0170 INIT LD A,(HL)
0180 RST 16
0190 INC HL
0200 DJNZ INIT
0210 LD (IX+0),175
0220 NEWLN PUSH HL
0230 LD B,(HL)
0240 INC HL
0250 LFEED LD A,(HL)
0260 RST 16
0270 DJNZ LFEED
0280 INC HL
0290 LDC B,4
0300 NEWLP LD A,(HL)
0310 RST 16
0320 INC HL
0330 DJNZ NEWLP
0340 XOR A
0350 LD D,A
0360 LD B,A
0370 NXTBT PUSH BC
0380 LD E,0
0390 LD B,(IX+0)
0400 LD C,D
0410 CALL PIXEL
0420 LD C,B
0430 LD B,A
0440 INC B
0450 BYTE PUSH BC
0460 LD A,(HL)
0470 POINT RLCA
0480 DJNZ POINT
0490 AND 1
0500 OR E
0510 LD E,A
0520 RLC E
0530 INC H
0540 POP BC
0550 DEC C
0560 JR NZ,BYTE
0570 LD A,E
0580 RST 16
0590 INC D
0600 POP BC
0610 DJNZ NXTBT
0620 POP HL
0630 LD A,(IX+0)
0640 SUB B
0650 LD (IX+0),A
0660 JR NC,NEWLN
0670 LD A,ESC
```

```
0680 RST 16
0690 LD A,"2"
0700 RST 16
0710 LD A,10
0720 RST 16
0730 LD A,13
0740 RST 16
0750 RET
0760 FINIS END
```

To use this routine with your Interface 1, just do the usual FORMAT "b"; baudrate: OPEN# 3; "b" to set up the RS232. It's now ready to send data to the printer. Whenever you want to do a screen dump, RANDOMIZE USR address will work just fine. Oh and don't forget to close the channel afterwards.

One last thing, one of my Micronet friends **Colin Maclaren** has discovered that this routine prints the top pixel line at the bottom of each line, though it works fine for me. If you do experience this, his solution is to put in RRC E at line 565.

● Now, do you remember in issue 2, I asked if anyone had found a use for VAL\$? Well, Stone me if **Jim Greenwood** hasn't come up with one. Let me quote from his letter. "I was writing a program for recording details of software that involved holding several arrays. These contained such data as title, author, publisher and each of them was a different size with elements of a different length. Now I found that when I was extracting an entry to modify it I ended up with several commands like IF n=? THEN LET w\$="?(?)". But the subsequent coding for operating on the workspace w\$ was the same.

But if I set up an extra array containing only the identifying letters of the actual data arrays, I could then use a VAL\$ function to extract a line from any one of the arrays with a single command. Have a look at this listing. It's pretty trivial but it'll give you an idea of how it works.

```
5 DEF FN a$(a$,a)=a$(a)
10 LET z$="abcde"
20 LET a$="ABCDE": LET b$="FGHIJ": LET c$="KLMNO": LET d$="PQRST": LET e$="UVWXY"
70 FOR a=1 TO 5: FOR b=1 TO 5: PRINT FN a$(VAL$(z$(a)+b$),b): NEXT b: PRINT: NEXT a
90 STOP
```

"There are two restrictions though. Firstly, you can only use this technique as a parameter in a function call — try to use it as a direct

command, and you'll get a 'Nonsense in Basic' error message. Secondly it can only be used one way — you can't use it to put data back into one of the arrays, because an FN statement can only appear on the right hand side of an equation."

Ah, but what about DEF FN a(b)=b-256*FN c(b)?

Jim has also sent in a solution to my puzzle about the bug in **Peter Craik's** scroll routine from issue 2. In fact, he pointed out two bugs, though I must admit, one of them was a slip-up on my part — in line 30, the second '=' should be a '-' sign! His solution to the problem is to change just two lines, 110 and 130 as follows:

```
110 FOR b=8 TO 1 STEP -1
130 PRINT AT a+1,0;c$;AT a,0;b$
```

But he also goes on, "At the risk of being a spoil-sport, I've got a quicker way of doing it that uses string slicing. I use it in a word processing program I wrote.

```
200 DIM a$(32*44): LET a$(673 TO 704)="The fastest BASIC scroll around!"
210 FOR a=1 TO 705 STEP 32: PRINT AT 0,0;a$(a TO a+703): NEXT a
230 STOP
```

"Quicker? — 'that's not any quicker!', you cry! But the above routine is scrolling 704 bytes not 32, so it's 22 times faster! Plus it has one advantage that's essential in a word processor — it's not messing around with CHARS (system variable) so the text remains readable all the time. And the technique can be used for scrolling backwards or forwards, simply by changing the value of the pointers."

What can I say to that lot? Except, thanks Jim. I'm looking forward to hearing a lot more from you in the future. But that's all we've got room for this time. See you next month.



All letters win a VS badge

● If you've got a program that's a little more than just routine, send it to Ian Hoare, Task Force, Your Sinclair, 14 Rathbone Place, London W1P 1DE

NETWORDS

If you've slipped through the Micronet, now's the time to find out what you've been missing. Rachael Smith is a recent recruit who's been caught hook, line and sinker by the system.

Hey — you! Yes — you — the lonely little Spectrum lurking in the corner. Spending all your life alone, with only a games cassette to keep you company? Didn't you know that you could be talking to other Spectrums, flying space missions . . . even getting a job?

Micronet's the name — a lonely hearts club for Speccies (and their owners) all over the country. It started as a cordoned off corner of Prestel, the mainly-for-businesses service run by Telecom — as a web of communicating computers forming a club courtesy of the telephone lines, with its members tapping in messages late into the night. In January of this year it boasted nine million frame accesses and it's become a major part of the system, with foreign countries using it as the basis for their networks.

Okay — so I'm interested . . . but I'm still not sure what it is, so: **A) How do I get involved?** **B) Will I need a degree in electronic communications?** **C) A PhD?** **D) Does it hurt?** The answers to questions B, C and D are No, Nein and Nej. For A — read on . . .

Dear Rachael . . .

Can you tell me how to 'log-on', as I believe the 'hip types' call it?

Dear Dave — You don't want to remain the silent-but-puny type forever. Well, you can't just go plugging your Spectrum into the telephone lines, you know. First you'll need a **modem** (another expression to casually drop into conversations if you want to look **trendy**) which shoves your computer communications down the phone line. Luckily the price of these little black boxes (or **thingies**, as we call them in the trade) has plummeted recently so they needn't cost an arm and a leg.

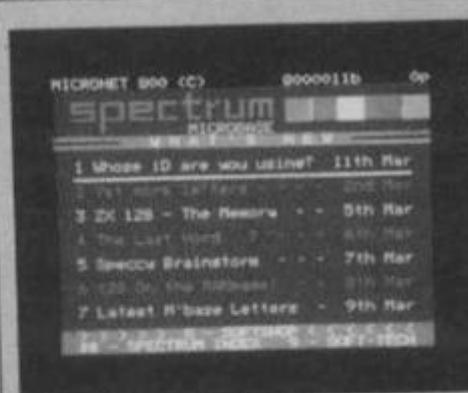
Then you're going to need one of those ever-so-up-to-the-minute phone sockets to plug into, because honestly, Dave (I can call you Dave, can't I, lovey) the old acoustically coupled types just didn't cut it. Then you plug the computer into the modem, the phone into the modem and the modem into the phone socket and . . . simple, wasn't it?

But you're not there yet. You still need to open your wallet and say (after me) 'Take your subscription'. Go on — you can do it — and it won't hurt too much. In fact it's only £16.50 per quarter, which is only £1.26.92307 a week or just over 18p a day — the cost of a Mars bar, and Micronet doesn't rot your teeth. Dial strategically after 6pm or at weekends when it's local cheap rate and avoid the Prestel charges of 6p a minute so that being 'on the net' need cost no more than 50p an hour — which is pretty cheap compared with that other little 'hobby' of yours, isn't it, sicko?! And for that you get access to Prestel and its related services, plus the other main network — Compunet — and a host of smaller scale bulletin boards.

Follow my advice, dearie, and you'll truly be à la mode-m.

• Let us Spray . . .

Graffiti is more like those ongoing conversations you find on toilet walls — only not quite as obscene and without the phone numbers promising a good time! Instead there are running jokes and a friendly swapping of insults between members.



MICRONET Specboard

The Exclusively Clive Club

No computer club would be complete without its special members section. So, it comes as no surprise that Micronet caters for its Spectrum subscribers in a big way. The Spectrum Microbase is filled with news, views, reviews for the machine, plus a help-line for anybody who's having machine specific problems. One of the great advantages of electronic publishing is its speed, so new Spectrum developments can be on screen in a matter of hours.

• Here's another example of Micronet's nested pages. Following the dedicated Spectrum trail could lead you to the Gallery and a specialist magazine there. And if you're looking for a particular peripheral or program there are even Spectrum Swap Shops.

• Exchange and Mart

Ever spent a happy five minutes browsing through the cards in a newsagent's window? You'll be able to spend rather longer looking at Micronet's small ads and won't get cold feet into the bargain. Anything from micro specific items to general goods could turn up in the *Swap Shop* — and if it's people and not possessions you're looking for there's even a *Contacts* section. My ad's the one for tall, dark handsome millionaire with own yacht — because I'm looking for both!



MICRONET Midnight Micronetters Club

Thriller

It's after midnight . . . Okay, it doesn't have to be beyond the witching hour to use this club within the club, but the activity is at its most brisk later in the day.

The real high spot of the *MMC* has to be its very own *Agony Aunt*. She invites you to lay your problem on the line and then proceeds to soothe it in front of an audience of voyeuristic computer buffs. Pseudonyms aren't just an option — anonymity would have to be complete to get me on here. One or two of the troubled seem to have their tongues firmly in their cheeks (maybe that's their problem) but others are just the sort of things a trained *Katie Boyle* could lance.

• The general friendly, silly chattiness of the *MMC* — where members have their own mailboxes — reminded me rather of late night local radio programmes.

• You said How Much?

If you're afraid that those all night attempts at the *Round Britain Race* may be breaking your bank, you can consult your current bill on page 92. Be warned though — that'll only be the bill for the computer that you're connected to.

Other services from the business end of running Micronet include a *Letters to the Editor* slot, *Security* and *Password* changing and, of course, *Help desks*, should something go terribly wrong.

● Get Ed-ew-kat-ied

Those of a more serious disposition will be well pleased with Micronet's educational opportunities. There are sections to learn the basics of Basic, or other languages for that matter, or maybe you'd prefer to be naturally intelligent about the artificial variety — there's a specialist section for you too, full of news and information on the ever developing world of A.I. And while Micronet would be the first to admit that you'll never learn everything from screens of text, it provides for this with comprehensive book lists. So the old technology wins out in the end!



MICRONET Logging On Box

Welcome to the friendly world of computers!

Getting onto Micronet is easy — providing you're supposed to be there.

The way in is via Prestel, and to reach that you'll need your personal Identity Number and Password. Prompted by the modem simply type in your I.D. then the password, which you're advised to change on a regular basis. You'll also have to dial the local computer, of course — a three digit number.

You're into Prestel now, and if it's your first time you'll find a message already waiting in your personal mailbox, just to make you feel welcome. But probably you'll be in a hurry to look at the wonders of Micronet. 800 is the number to remember. That's the front page, and providing you're a fully paid up member of the club who's not been breaking the rules you'll be able to walk right in.

At first the best way to find your way is just to walk around. Single numerical key strokes take you forward by different routes, or Enter — shown as # — simply moves onto the next page.



MICRONET Gallery

The New Technology

Now this is it — the section for all of you budding Rupert Murdochs and Eddie Shaws out there.

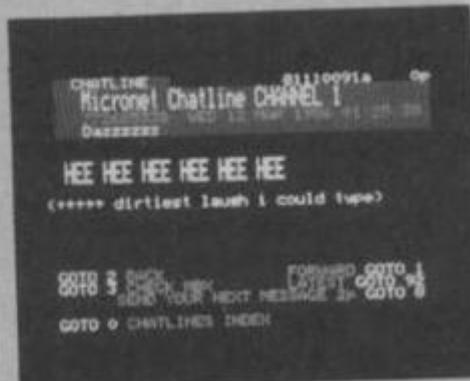
First thing is to get on the waiting list for gallery pages. You'll have to pay a small sum for them, but once your turn comes round they're yours for the duration. A quick rifle through the pages of these electronic magazines revealed ones dedicated to everything from computer games to pirate radio. Reading costs nothing, and once you've accessed a title from the index you can leaf backwards and forwards through the pages at will.

● Give some thought to how you use your pages — after all, the opportunity to reach so many people with your ideas is previously unparalleled.

● Sprouts from your Spectrum

Pundits tell us that in the future we'll do all our shopping from in front of the TV, ordering via the telephone lines. In a limited fashion it's already available from Micronet — in fact you may already be able to buy your weekly groceries if you live in some areas of the country (but quite how do you check those avocados are ripe with a micro?).

MICRONET Chatlines



Can You Hear Me?

Idling away an hour or two in conversation is an important part of any club — and Micronet's no exception. There are two different types of Chatline. On the Daisy Chatline messages are held in a daisy chain arrangement, so that previous contributions to on-going debates can still be accessed by leafing backwards. The Quickchat lines have the slogan 'Blink and you'll miss it' and at peak hours you won't be able to dawdle over the long words.

At first it's probably wise to sit back and watch what happens. The Chatlines include specialist areas as well as general ones. There's Music, or Adventure hints and tips and even a highly used Gayline.

Once you feel ready to join the great debate just tap the number option for sending a message then type it in with the standard keyboard. Don't worry — you'll be given the opportunity not to send it before you press Enter and consign it to the public gaze.

● Members often use nicknames on the Chatlines, but Mailbox numbers are shown if you want to continue a more discrete tête à tête. This is known as MBX-ing — yes, Micronet too has its own body of slang.

● Soft Shopping

One advantage of belonging to Micronet is the chance to download free software. That's right — I said *free!* — and while the programs aren't likely to set your micro on fire there are some useful and varied things over the year. You can also make respectable savings on commercial programs, including chart toppers, if you download then save to tape.



MICRONET Starnet

Captain's Log ...

Like *Elite!* Ever wished it was bigger? With actual opponents to play against? Then sign up with the *Starnet, Captain.*

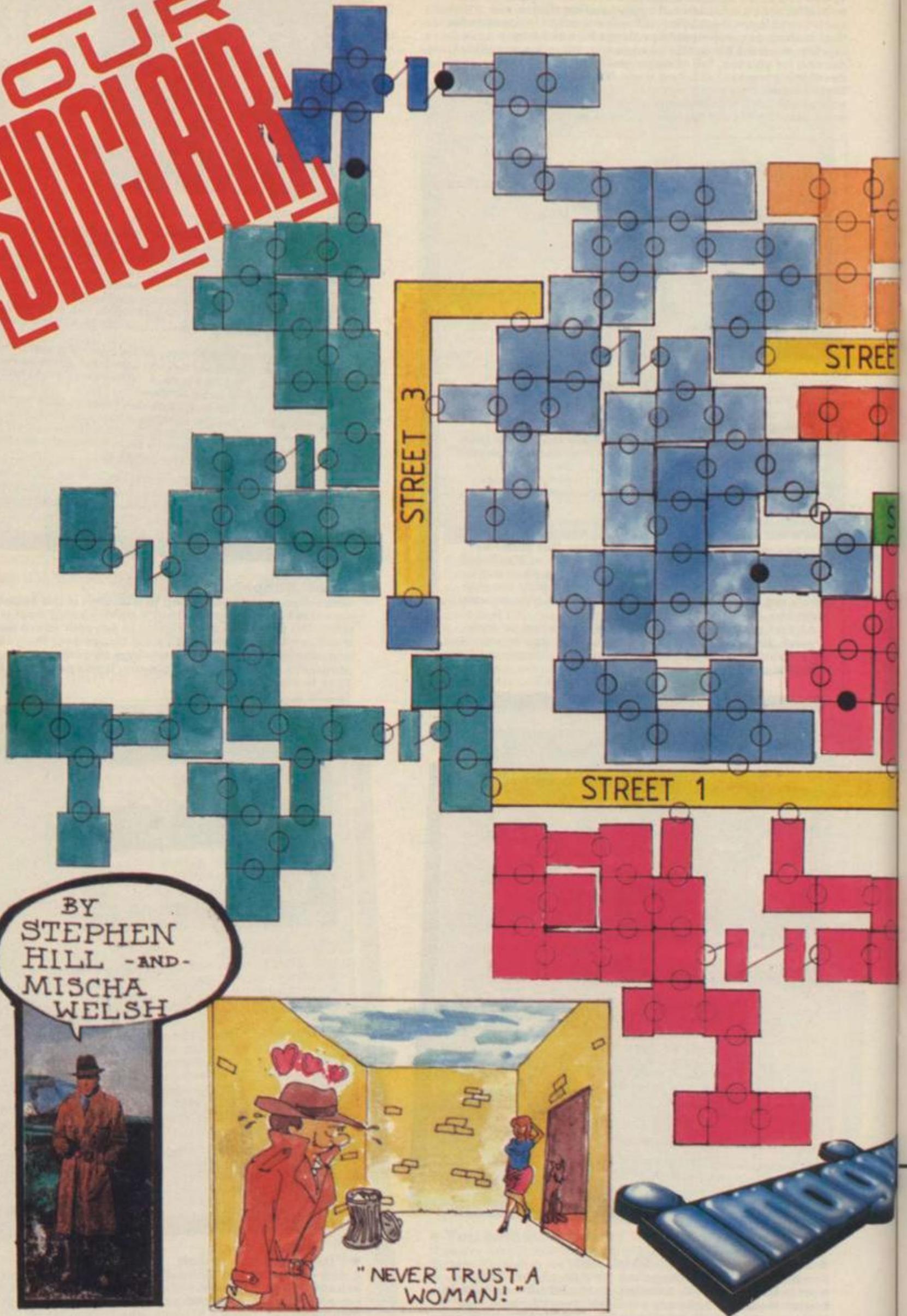
Starnet is a game of space trading and conquest. It's a computerised version of that age old idea, the play by mail game. Of course it costs a bit to register and take your turns as you zoom around trying to become big cheese in the galaxy. There are *Starnet* Chatlines and magazines in the Gallery pages, and you can always Mailbox other star captains to plan secret alliances and trading links. As with the rest of Micronet, playing is incredibly friendly, so you only expend thought on your strategies.

● *Starnet* isn't only Micronet game. There are also competitions like the Round Britain Race — a treasure hunt in which you never need to leave your armchair. A series of clues let you move your cursor round a map of Britain, and there's a cash prize at the end of it all.

● Find Yourself a Job

A new-ish service on Micronet is its Job-Search, which is attracting a good number of advertisements — even if they are primarily for work with computers. If you fancy going it alone, instead, there's *Bizznet*, which provides an information and advice service for small businesses, with experts on line to offer advice.

YOUR SOCIAL SIMILAR

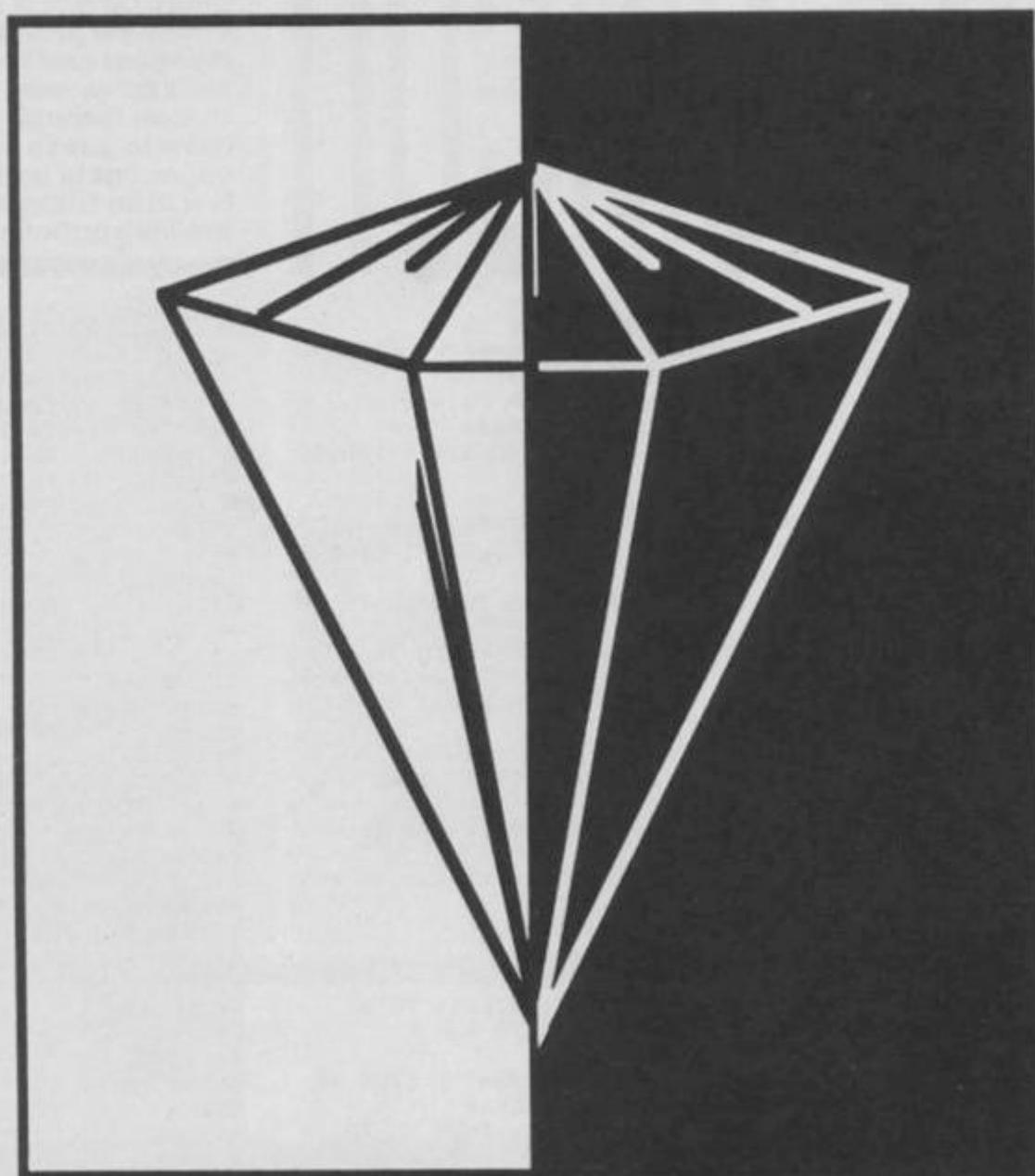


BY
STEPHEN
HILL -AND-
MISCHA
WELSH



"NEVER TRUST A
WOMAN!"





PROGRAM POWER

PULL-OUT

TWO GREAT GAMES

**SHORT CIRCUIT
MOONIRON**



SHORT CIRCUIT

by David Green

Short Circuit is an amazing Tron grid-style program but it's the meanest and toughest of them all. You've only a small window to look through so you really have to guess what your opponent is up to. The program is a little tricky to enter so follow the instructions carefully.

The Basic Loader

Type this in and save it onto tape with SAVE"sc"LINE 0

```

10 REM Short circuit loader
20 REM =====
30 REM © David Green 1986
40 BRIGHT 1: PAPER 0: INK 7: B
ORDER 0: CLEAR 36000
50 DATA 17,34,60,136,17,34,60,
136
60 FOR n=USR "a" TO USR "a"+7:
READ a: POKE n,a: NEXT n
70 POKE 23659,0: PRINT "//////
//////": FOR
n=0 TO 21: PRINT "///";TAB 31;"//
": NEXT n: PRINT "//////
//////": POKE 23659,2
80 PRINT AT 3,4;"////// // // //
// // // // // // // //
// // // // // // // //
// // // // // // // //
// // // // // // // //
90 PRINT AT 9,2;"////// // // // //
////// // // // // // // // //
// // // // // // // // // //
// // // // // // // // // //
// // // // // // // // // //
// // // // // // // // // //
100 BRIGHT 0: PRINT AT 17,5;"HI
GH";AT 18,5;"TECH © D.Green 1
986";AT 19,5;"SOFT"
110 DATA 0,0,3,4,3,4,3,4,12
120 FOR n=1 TO 9: READ a
130 BEEP .1,a: BEEP .1,a-12
140 NEXT n: BEEP .5,0: BEEP .1,
-12
150 DATA ".....Ready to fight ?
....."
160 DATA "....Combat in progres
s....."
170 DATA "....Opponent destroye
d....."
180 DATA "All destroyed - Kill
bonus"
190 DATA ".....** defeated **
....."
200 DATA ".....Game Over...
....."
210 LET a$=""
220 FOR n=1 TO 6: READ b$: LET
a$=a$+CHR$ 22+CHR$ 22+CHR$ 31+"
>.."+b$+"..("): NEXT n
230 FOR n=1 TO LEN a$: POKE 371
19+n,CODE a$(n): NEXT n
240 INK 0: PRINT AT 20,3: LOAD
""CODE: PRINT AT 20,3: LOAD "
"
250 REM
  
```

This program is available on DigITape

```

5 CLEAR start-1
6 LET start=256*PEEK USR "a"+
PEEK (USR "a"+1)
7 INPUT "Length ";length
8 INPUT "File Name ";f$
10 FOR i=start TO start+length
STEP 8
20 LET cs=0
30 PRINT AT 0,0;"Address ";i,
40 INPUT "Hex 8 Bytes", LINE a
$
60 IF LEN a$<>16 THEN GO TO 10
00
80 LET f=0: FOR j=1 TO 16
90 IF (a$(j)<"0" OR a$(j)>"9")
AND (a$(j)<"A" OR a$(j)>"F") TH
EN LET f=1
100 NEXT j
105 IF f=1 THEN GO TO 1000
110 FOR n=0 TO 7
120 LET y=CODE a$(1)-48: IF y>9
THEN LET y=y-7
130 LET z=CODE a$(2)-48: IF z>9
THEN LET z=z-7
140 LET va=16*y+z
150 LET cs=cs+va
160 POKE i+n,va
165 PRINT AT 2,n*3;a$( TO 2)
170 LET a$=a$(3 TO )
180 NEXT n
183 INPUT "Checksum "; LINE a$
184 PRINT AT 2,25;a$
185 IF VAL a$<>cs THEN GO TO 10
00
187 CLS
190 NEXT i
200 CLS: PRINT "SAVE CODE AFTE
R BASIC LOADER." " "REMOVE EAR LE
AD"
210 SAVE f$CODE start,length
220 CLS: PRINT "VERIFYING"
230 VERIFY ""CODE
240 CLS: PRINT "ALL OK": STOP
1000 PRINT AT 15,0;"ERROR": GO T
O 20
  
```

41120	01	15	20	CF	E5	D1	13	36	=772
41128	18	01	F2	03	ED	80	C9	E5	=1113
41136	11	01	00	19	7E	E1	FE	50	=728
41144	28	19	E5	11	FF	00	19	7E	=717
41152	E1	FE	50	28	0E	E5	11	64	=959
41160	00	19	7E	E1	FE	50	28	03	=753
41168	11	9C	FF	36	00	19	7E	FE	=887
41176	50	28	F8	AF	ED	52	78	FE	=1239
41184	64	28	09	FE	9C	28	05	11	=621
41192	64	00	18	03	11	01	00	19	=170
41200	7E	FE	50	28	DE	AF	ED	52	=1216
41208	E5	21	00	00	AF	ED	52	EB	=991
41216	E1	19	7E	FE	50	C0	18	C8	=1129
41224	21	E2	80	0E	08	E5	06	50	=772
41232	11	64	00	7E	87	20	02	36	=514
41240	08	19	10	F7	E1	11	09	00	=547
41248	19	00	20	E9	21	FA	B3	0E	=779
41256	08	E5	06	50	7E	B7	20	02	=666
41264	36	08	23	10	F7	E1	11	84	=734
41272	03	19	00	20	EC	C9	E5	2A	=781
41280	06	90	23	7C	FE	37	20	07	=657
41288	2A	78	5C	7C	E6	1F	67	22	=776
41296	06	90	7E	E1	C9	C5	E5	21	=1161
41304	05	90	E5	7E	3C	FE	0A	20	=860
41312	05	36	00	28	18	F5	77	E1	=715
41320	01	10	06	7E	C6	30	C5	06	=611
41328	0A	CD	08	A0	C1	0D	2B	10	=648
41336	F2	E1	C1	C9	1B	7A	B3	20	=1221
41344	FB	C9	CB	7C	C0	C5	D5	E5	=1610
41352	CD	B5	03	E1	D1	C1	C9	CD	=1422
41360	B2	A1	25	25	CD	B2	A1	24	=897
41368	24	2B	10	F3	C9	CD	B2	A1	=1035
41376	25	25	CD	B2	A1	24	24	23	=677
41384	10	F3	C9	00	00	00	00	00	=460
41392	00	00	37	30	14	31	30	01	=221
41400	21	AB	A1	11	00	90	01	0D	=540
41408	00	ED	B0	CD	3E	A1	06	1E	=877
41416	C5	21	64	02	11	03	00	CD	=557
41424	BF	A1	C1	16	05	CD	7C	A1	=1014
41432	78	D6	02	47	20	EA	C3	51	=949
41440	A2	0E	E0	0E	FF	07	20	0E	=722
41448	01	FF	64	59	0E	01	07	E0	=691
41456	0E	FF	0E	20	0E	01	07	E0	=561
41464	FF	B4	58	0E	01	0F	20	FF	=792
41472	92	58	0E	FF	0E	20	0E	01	=564
41480	07	E0	0E	FF	FF	44	5A	0E	=927
41488	01	07	E0	0E	FF	07	E0	0F	=747
41496	01	FF	B4	58	07	20	0E	01	=530
41504	07	E0	0F	20	FF	B4	58	0E	=767
41512	01	07	20	0E	FF	0E	01	07	=331
41520	20	0F	FF	FF	B4	58	0E	01	=792
41528	07	20	0E	FF	07	20	0F	01	=363
41536	FF	B8	58	0F	20	FF	B4	58	=1004
41544	0E	01	0E	20	0E	FF	0E	E0	=568
41552	00	11	00	91	CD	50	A0	CD	=812
41560	62	A0	21	00	02	22	B2	5C	=549
41568	21	52	5A	22	14	90	3E	38	=521
41576	32	B1	5C	21	5D	C0	CD	2A	=836
41584	A0	21	E1	A1	7E	B7	CA	CB	=1293
41592	A2	FE	FF	20	31	E5	11	03	=1001
41600	00	06	32	2A	B2	5C	E5	CD	=754
41608	9D	A1	E1	1E	32	19	22	02	=812
41616	5C	21	5D	C0	CD	2A	A0	E1	=1042
41624	23	5E	23	56	23	ED	53	14	=625
41632	90	3A	B1	5C	32	48	5C	EE	=875
41640	08	32	B1	5C	18	C6	47	23	=607
41648	5E	23	E5	16	00	CB	7B	2B	=746
41656	02	16	FF	2A	14	90	3A	B1	=672
41664	5C	77	19	10	FC	22	14	90	=702
41672	E1	18	A9	AF	32	48	5C	CD	=1012
41680	62	A0	21	5D	C0	CD	56	A6	=1033
41688	11	24	91	CD	50	A0	06	03	=652
41696	C5	16	32	CD	7C	A1	21	00	=792
41704	03	11	01	00	06	46	CD	9D	=459
41712	A1	C1	10	EC	11	01	00	CD	=829
41720	9D	A1	CD	BF	A1	CD	BF	A1	=1336
41728	3A	0C	90	F5	C6	30	32	0D	=768

The Hex Data

Run the Hex Loader and answer the three questions with 40960, 1750 and shortcode respectively. Now type in the Hex Data as prompted and save the code after the first Basic part.

40960	16	0C	1F	10	07	13	01	35	=161
40968	C5	D5	E5	DD	21	00	A0	DD	=1274
40976	70	01	DD	71	02	DD	77	07	=796
40984	3E	02	CD	01	16	DD	E5	D1	=951
40992	01	0B	00	CD	3C	20	E1	D1	=740
41000	C1	C9	C5	D5	E5	11	F2	03	=1295
41008	AF	ED	52	11	21	58	06	15	=659
41016	C5	01	15	00	ED	B0	01	4F	=712
41024	00	09	E5	21	0B	00	19	EB	=542
41032	E1	C1	10	EC	E1	D1	C1	C9	=149B
41040	C5	E5	D5	3E	02	CD	01	16	=931
41048	D1	01	24	00	CD	3C	20	E1	=768
41056	C1	C9	21	E8	AC	01	DE	03	=1057
41064	E5	D1	13	36	18	ED	B0	16	=970
41072	50	1E	01	06	14	36	18	23	=250
41080	10	FB	78	FE	09	28	19	0E	=732
41088	0B	06	0B	36	00	23	10	FB	=378
41096	36	0B	23	0D	20	F3	06	08	=399
41104	36	00	23	10	FB	1C	18	09	=417
41112	06	50	36	0B	23	10	FB	1E	=480

The Hex Loader

Enter this loader if you haven't already done so for a previous YS program and save it to a different tape.

```

1 REM General Hex Loader
2 POKE 23658,0
3 INPUT "Start Address ";star
t
4 POKE USR "a",INT (start/256
): POKE USR "a"+1,start-256*INT
(start/256)
  
```

41736 90 01 10 10 CD 08 A0 21 =596	42064 11 9C FF CB 57 20 03 11 =770	42392 19 C1 10 E1 21 09 90 35 =698
41744 FF FF 22 14 90 21 FA 00 =991	42072 01 00 3E FB DB FE CB 47 =1061	42400 7E FE 10 20 01 34 23 23 =551
41752 22 0E 90 C1 21 16 90 11 =601	42080 20 03 11 64 00 3E 7F DB =560	42408 23 34 7E FE 0A 20 01 35 =563
41760 0E B2 73 23 72 23 36 01 =546	42088 FE CB 5F 20 03 11 FF FF =1114	42416 2B 2B 34 7E FE 3A 20 04 =612
41768 23 36 00 23 E5 21 84 03 =521	42096 CB 57 20 03 11 01 00 19 =368	42424 36 30 23 34 C3 C6 A5 7D =872
41776 19 EB E1 10 ED C3 71 A3 =1209	42104 7E B7 28 0A FE 08 28 06 =667	42432 FE A0 20 01 23 C9 21 0A =726
41784 01 01 00 CB 43 28 02 0E =328	42112 AF ED 52 C3 D9 A5 36 78 =1245	42440 90 01 1F 0E 7E CD 08 A0 =689
41792 64 C5 D1 CD 3E A1 CB 47 =1208	42120 3A 78 5C 47 3A 78 5C B8 =795	42448 23 0D 7E CD 08 A0 C3 CB =945
41800 20 09 E5 21 00 00 AF ED =715	42128 28 FA CD 2A A0 22 12 90 =893	42456 A2 CD 2A A0 11 90 91 CD =1080
41808 52 EB E1 E5 19 7E E1 B7 =1330	42136 ED 53 14 90 3A 81 5C B7 =946	42464 50 A0 06 00 CD 3E A1 6F =785
41816 CB FE 08 CB E5 21 00 00 =924	42144 28 0D 3D 32 81 5C B7 20 =600	42472 26 01 11 01 00 CD 82 A1 =553
41824 AF ED 52 EB E1 E5 19 7E =1334	42152 06 11 24 91 CD 50 A0 ED =886	42480 21 48 5C 70 21 6B 59 70 =650
41832 E1 B7 CB FE 08 CB 1E 00 =1100	42160 5B 10 90 3A 09 90 67 2E =611	42488 10 EA 18 30 C5 E5 79 32 =919
41840 C9 3A 0C 90 47 2A 0E 90 =686	42168 00 E5 D5 21 14 00 11 03 =515	42496 48 5C 11 E1 FF CD 03 A5 =1034
41848 22 10 90 21 16 90 C5 E5 =819	42176 00 CD B5 03 D1 D5 CD 7C =1140	42504 11 21 00 CD 03 A5 11 1F =471
41856 5E 23 56 23 4E 23 46 7A =555	42184 A1 D1 E1 AF ED 52 CB 7C =1416	42512 00 CD 03 A5 11 DF FF CD =1073
41864 B7 CA 0C A4 EB C5 D1 36 =1256	42192 28 E7 3E 07 32 48 5C 2A =596	42520 03 A5 60 06 05 CD 3E A1 =703
41872 50 CD 3E A1 E6 7F FE 01 =1120	42200 0E 90 28 7C B7 CC BF A5 =1068	42528 6F 11 01 00 CD 82 A1 10 =641
41880 20 0C D5 CD 38 A3 7B B7 =987	42208 00 3A 76 5C 47 3A 14 90 =561	42536 F4 E1 C1 C9 04 2B 0E 30 =972
41888 20 03 D1 18 01 C1 19 7E =613	42216 B8 28 12 CD 3E A1 E6 1F =931	42544 CD FC A5 0E 00 CD FC A5 =1258
41896 B7 CA 04 A4 FE 08 CA 04 =1021	42224 C6 0A 5F 16 00 19 7C FE =728	42552 78 FE 0A 20 EF 21 08 90 =848
41904 A4 AF ED 52 CD 38 A3 7B =1205	42232 02 20 02 26 01 22 0E 90 =267	42560 34 7E 01 1F 0C CD 08 A0 =595
41912 B7 28 04 19 C3 04 A4 11 =632	42240 C3 71 A3 C5 71 19 10 FC =1074	42568 7E FE 35 CA 0B A6 16 FA =1212
41920 48 91 CD 50 A0 3E 0F 32 =789	42248 C1 C9 06 46 0E 00 21 00 =517	42576 CD 7C A1 C3 CB A2 CD 2A =1297
41928 81 5C 3E 10 32 48 5C 36 =567	42256 04 C5 E5 21 4A 59 06 02 =634	42584 A0 22 12 90 C9 06 15 21 =617
41936 00 E5 CD AF A0 E1 CD AF =1374	42264 11 01 00 CD 03 A5 11 20 =440	42592 21 58 11 00 08 D5 C5 06 =562
41944 A0 CD 08 A1 06 05 CD 55 =835	42272 00 CD 03 A5 11 FF FF CD =1105	42600 15 11 01 00 CD 03 A5 11 =429
41952 A1 10 FB 21 14 05 22 10 =536	42280 03 A5 11 E0 FF CD 03 A5 =1037	42608 08 00 19 C1 D1 E5 D5 21 =913
41960 90 3A 0D 90 3D 01 1D 10 =466	42288 11 DF FF 19 79 C6 08 4F =926	42616 02 00 EB CD 82 A1 24 CD =974
41968 CD 1C A4 32 0D 90 FE 30 =906	42296 00 00 04 04 78 FE 16 20 =436	42624 82 A1 D1 E1 7B C6 0A 5F =1151
41976 20 05 C1 C1 C3 0A A5 16 =815	42304 D7 E1 01 96 00 11 07 00 =615	42632 10 DB C9 11 84 91 CD 50 =1063
41984 00 C3 0C A4 36 38 00 00 =481	42312 AF ED 42 CD 82 A1 AF ED =1386	42640 A0 0E 50 CD 5D A6 0E 00 =732
41992 00 05 C1 EB E1 73 23 72 =1130	42320 42 CD 82 A1 AF ED 42 CD =1245	42648 CD 5D A6 06 32 3E 50 32 =712
42000 23 71 23 70 23 C1 05 C2 =722	42328 82 A1 09 09 7C FE 01 20 =720	42656 48 5C 21 00 02 11 03 00 =219
42008 7E A3 18 06 F5 CD 08 A0 =937	42336 03 21 00 04 C1 78 E6 07 =590	42664 CD 82 A1 AF 32 48 5C 26 =923
42016 F1 C9 2A 12 90 ED 5B 14 =994	42344 17 17 17 4F 10 A3 AF 32 =552	42672 04 CD 82 A1 10 E7 C9 00 =948
42024 90 7B 32 76 50 36 28 3E =683	42352 48 5C 11 6C 91 CD 50 A0 =879	42680 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
42032 F7 DB FE CB 67 20 03 11 =1078	42360 06 0A 21 64 00 C5 06 0A =362	42688 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
42040 FF FF CB 47 20 03 11 9C =992	42368 CD 55 A1 10 FB 06 14 C5 =941	42696 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
42048 FF 3E EF DB FE CB 67 20 =1367	42376 06 1E 11 01 00 E5 CD 0F =631	42704 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 =0
42056 03 11 64 00 CB 5F 20 03 =453	42384 A1 E1 C1 10 F2 11 FB FF =1360	STOP

The user defined graphics key will help you when entering the graphics symbols in Short Circuit

A B C D E F G H I J K	L M N O P Q R S T U
// B C D E F G H I J K	L M N O P Q R S T U

The Main Basic Program

Type in the main Basic program and save it after the first two parts with SAVE "#2" LINE 0. And away you go!

```

10 INK 7: GO SUB 300
20 PAPER 0: BORDER 0: CLS
30 FOR n=1 TO 32: PRINT ("Uelc
ome to the game grid.....") (n
): BEEP .01,-20: NEXT n
40 BRIGHT 1: PRINT AT 3,9;"SHO
RT CIRCUIT";AT 4,9;"
": BRIGHT 0
50 PRINT "TAB 6;"Force your op
ponents into the jet
walls."
60 PRINT "TAB 7;"Use keys:"
70 PRINT "TAB 10;" 1 7
N M 5 8
0 6"
80 PRINT "TAB 5;"Morituri te
salutant"
90 PAUSE 0: CLS
100 PRINT AT 0,0;"//////////
//////////
110 POKE 23659,0: FOR n=1 TO 21
: PRINT "///";TAB 22;"///": NEXT n:
PRINT "//////////
//////////
120 POKE 23659,0
130 LET a$="- SHORT -+ -CIRCUIT-
+ by++ D.Green++ Score: + 00000
00++Defeats:0+Grids:000+ Them:1+
++-----@ '86 HTS-----"
140 LET l=1: LET c=23
150 FOR n=1 TO LEN a$: IF a$(n)
="+" THEN LET l=l+1: LET c=23: N
EXT n
160 PRINT AT l,c;"█";AT l,c: BR
IGHT 1;a$(n): LET c=c+1: IF c=32
THEN LET l=l+1: LET c=23
170 NEXT n
180 BRIGHT 1: LET z=USR 41400:
BRIGHT 0
190 BORDER 0: POKE 23659,2
200 DATA -5,7,11,19,7,11,0,7,12
,19,7,12,2,9,14,18,9,14,-5,7,11
210 RESTORE 200: FOR n=1 TO 21:
READ a: BEEP .1,a: BEEP .1,a-12
: NEXT n: BEEP .4,-5
220 FOR n=0 TO 250: NEXT n
230 PRINT AT 11,3;"Press any ke
y..."
240 IF INKEY$(0)="" THEN GO TO 24
0
250 IF INKEY$="" THEN GO TO 250
260 PRINT AT 11,3;"
": BEEP .01,20: GO TO 120
270 REM Control pokes etc.:
41399 - no. of opponents
41396 - start speed(not a
good idea to change)
41877 - opponent turning
probability - use 1,
15,31,63,127 or 255
280 REM Code approximately 1750
bytes long from address 40960.
All software,music,audio-visual
effects © Dave Green (HTS) 1986.
Thanks to: Rachel,Steve and Ruth.
290 REM music data:
300 DATA -3
310 DATA -3,9,12,9,-8,8,-3,9
320 DATA -3,9,12,9,-8,8,9,9
330 DATA -3,9,12,9,16,9,11,9
340 DATA 16,12,14,16,12,14,12,11
350 REM next 4 lines are the
same as the previous 4
360 DATA -3,9,12,9,-8,8,-3,9
370 DATA -3,9,12,9,-8,8,9,9
380 DATA -3,9,12,9,16,9,11,9
390 DATA 16,12,14,16,12,14,12,1
1
400 DATA 9,9,9,8,9,-3,9,9
410 DATA 8,4,8,9,11,4,11,14
420 DATA 12,14,12,11,9,9,9,9
430 DATA 8,4,8,9,11,4,11,12
440 DATA 14,12,11,8,9,8,9,8
450 DATA 11,4,11,12
460 DATA 14,4,11,11,12,9,12,14
470 DATA 16,9,9,9,11,4,11,12
480 DATA 14,4,12,14,16,a,a,a
490 DATA 17,16,17,16,14,a,a,a
500 DATA 16,12,16,12,9,a,a,a
510 DATA 14,11,14,11,6,a,a,a
520 DATA 9,11,12,9,8,9,11,9
530 DATA 9,11,12,9,8,9,11,9
540 DATA 9,-3,9,-3,9,a,a,a
550 REM same group of 4 lines:
560 DATA -3,9,12,9,-8,8,-3,9
570 DATA -3,9,12,9,-8,8,9,9
580 DATA -3,9,12,9,16,9,11,9
590 DATA 16,12,14,16,12,14,12,1
1
600 REM and again:
610 DATA -3,9,12,9,-8,8,-3,9
620 DATA -3,9,12,9,-8,8,9,9
630 DATA -3,9,12,9,16,9,11,9
640 DATA 16,12,14,16,12,14,12,1
1
650 DATA 16,17,14,16,12,14,12,1
1
660 DATA -3,a,a,8,9,a,a,a
670 DATA -3,a,a,a
680 RESTORE 300: FOR n=0 TO 264
690 READ a: BORDER (a+8)/3.5: B
EEP .05,a-5: BEEP .05,a-17
700 IF INKEY$(0)="" THEN RETURN
710 NEXT n
720 BEEP .6,-8: BEEP .2,-20
730 PAUSE 0: RETURN
740 REM Save as:
SAVE "#2" LINE 0

```

MOONIRON

by Christopher Herbert

Mooniron is a basic platform style game that'll have you at your keyboard for hours. Some evil rogue has stolen the crystal of *Mooniron* and good ol' RoBoD has been ordered to get it back from the Starship where it is being kept. But first he's got to travel through a five room complex collecting three light packages that must be taken to the light lock. He'll have to be nimble 'cos there's also a horde of nasties waiting to send him to his peril. *Mooniron* comes complete with full joystick compatibility and bonus lives.

The user defined graphics key will help you when entering the graphics symbols in *Mooniron*.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
☉	☽	☿	♁	♂	♃	♄	♅	♆	♇	♈
L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	
☾	♁	♂	♃	♄	♅	♆	♇	♈	♉	♊

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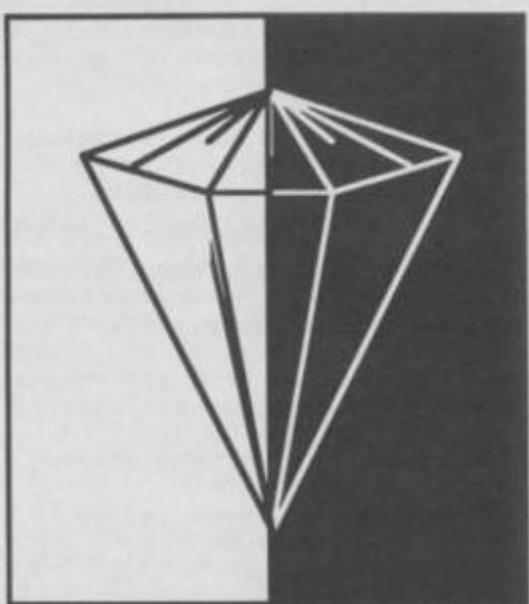
1 INK 0: PAPER 0: PRINT AT 20
,0: GO SUB 600: LET F$="": LET
KEY=1: LET JOY=0: GO SUB 1200: D
IM M$(3): LET SON=1: LET M$(1)="
1": LET M$(2)="2": LET M$(3)="L"
: LET HI=40: GO TO 50
2 LET T=0: LET S=166: RESTORE
12: GO SUB 3: LET T=11: RESTORE
12: LET S=166: GO SUB 3: LET T=
24: RESTORE 12: LET S=166: GO SU
B 3: LET T=-7: RESTORE 20: LET S
=80: GO SUB 3: LET T=21: RESTORE
12: LET S=166: GO SUB 3: RESTOR
E 20: LET S=80: LET T=6: GO SUB
3: GO TO 11
3 FOR G=1 TO 5
4 READ D: BEEP .1,D+T:
9 IF INKEY$(">") THEN GO TO 30
10 NEXT G: RETURN
11 GO TO 30
12 DATA -12,0,-12,3,7,7-12,0,-
12,3,7
13 DATA -24,5,5-12,6,12,-24,5,
5-24,6,12
14 DATA -24,-2,-2-24,2,5,5-24,
-2,-2-24,2,5
15 DATA -24,3,3-24,7,10,10-24,
3,3-24,7,10-24
16 DATA -24,-4,-4-24,0,3,3-24,
-4,-4-24,0,3-24
17 DATA -24,1,1-12,5,8,8-12,1,
1-12,5,8
18 DATA -24,-5,-5-12,-1,2,2-12
,-5,-5-12,-1,2
19 DATA -24,0,-24,3,7,7-24,0,-
12,3,7,7-12,0,-24,-12,0,-24
20 DATA -24,0,-12,-12,7,7-12,0
,-12,-12,7-12
21 DATA -24,5,5-24,5-12,12,12-
24,5,5-24,-12,12
22 DATA -24,-2,-2-24,-2-24,5,5
-24,-2,-2-24,-2-24,5
23 DATA -24,3,3-24,3-24,10,-24
,3,3-24,3-24,10
24 DATA -24,-4,-12,-12,3,-12,-
4,-24,-12,3
25 DATA -24,1,-24,-12,6,-12,1,
-24,-12,6
26 DATA -24,-5,-24,-12,2,-12,-
5,-24,-25,2
27 DATA -12,0,-12,-12,7,-12,0,
-12,-12,7
30 IF INKEY$="1" THEN GO TO 21
00
31 IF INKEY$="3" AND JOY=0 THE
N BEEP .05,35: LET JOY=1: LET KE
Y=0: PRINT AT 11,8: INK 6: BRIGH
T 1: FLASH 1:"3: KEMPSTON": PRIN
T AT 14,8: INK 4: BRIGHT 1: FLAS
H 0:"4: KEYBOARD"
32 IF INKEY$="4" AND KEY=0 THE
N LET KEY=1: LET JOY=0: BEEP .05
,35: PRINT AT 14,8: INK 4: BRIGH
T 1: FLASH 1:"4: KEYBOARD": PRIN
T AT 11,8: INK 6: BRIGHT 1: FLAS
H 0:"3: KEMPSTON"
40 IF INKEY$="2" THEN GO TO 30
0
41 IF INKEY$="0" THEN GO TO 70
42 GO TO 30
50 GO SUB 51: GO TO 60
51 PRINT AT 0,0: BRIGHT 1:"

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```

";AT 20,0:"
FOR G=0 TO 21:
PRINT AT G,0: BRIGHT 1:"";AT G
,30:"": NEXT G
52 PRINT AT 0,0:"";AT 1,0:"
";AT 0,30:"";AT 1,30:"";AT
20,0:"";AT 21,0:"";AT 20,30;
";AT 21,30:"": RETURN
53 RETURN
60 POKE 23658,6: PRINT AT 1,10
: INVERSE 1:" MOONIRON ";AT 20,8
:" © 1985 E.U.F "
61 PRINT AT 5,8: INK 5: BRIGHT
1:"1: INSTRUCTIONS";AT 8,8: INK
4:"2: DEFINE KEYS";AT 11,8: INK
6: BRIGHT 1:"3: KEMPSTON";AT 14
,8: INK 4: BRIGHT 1:"4: KEYBOARD
";AT 17,8: INK 7: BRIGHT 1:"0: P
LAY GAME"
62 IF KEY=1 THEN PRINT AT 14,8
: INK 4: BRIGHT 1: FLASH 1:"4: K
EYBOARD"
63 IF JOY=1 THEN PRINT AT 11,8
: INK 6: BRIGHT 1: FLASH 1:"3: K
EMPSTON"
64 GO TO 2
100 REM MAIN LOOP
101 FOR G=2 TO 19: PRINT AT G,2
:"
NEXT G
102 LET L$="GET READY FOR YOUR
MISSION": FOR G=1 TO LEN L$: PRI
NT AT 3,2+G: BRIGHT 1:L$(G): BEE
P .0009,55: BEEP .0009,50: BEEP
.0009,60: NEXT G
103 FOR Y=1 TO 7: BEEP .07,6: B
EEP .07,5-24: BEEP .07,6-12: NEX
T Y: FOR Y=1 TO 5: BEEP .07,1: B
EEP .1,0-24: BEEP .07,-11: NEXT
Y: FOR Y=1 TO 9: BEEP .07,6: BEE
P .07,5-24: BEEP .07,6-12: NEXT
Y
105 FOR G=0 TO 21: PRINT AT G,0
:"
": NEXT G: GO SUB SCR
106 FOR G=1 TO 2
107 PRINT AT X,Y: INK 4: BRIGHT
1:B$(G):AT X-1,Y: INK 7: BRIGHT
0:M$(G):AT X,Y-1:" ";AT X,Y+1;"
";AT X-1,Y-1;" ";AT X-1,Y+1;" "
108 IF JOY=1 THEN GO SUB 9000:
GO TO 113
109 IF INKEY$=M$(1) AND Y>1 THE
N LET Y=Y-1: LET RITE=0: BEEP .0
009,55
110 IF INKEY$=M$(2) AND Y<30 TH
EN LET Y=Y+1: LET RITE=1: BEEP .
0009,55
111 IF INKEY$=M$(3) AND Y+4<31
AND RITE=1 THEN PRINT AT X,Y-1;"
";AT X,Y+1;" ": GO SUB 1050
112 IF INKEY$=M$(3) AND Y-4>0 A
ND RITE=0 THEN PRINT AT X,Y-1;"
";AT X,Y+1;" ": GO SUB 1000
113 IF SCREEN$(X+1,Y)=" " THEN
GO SUB 200
117 IF BALL=1 THEN LET Y1=Y1-1
118 IF Y1=5 THEN LET BALL=2
119 IF BALL=2 THEN LET Y1=Y1+1
120 IF Y1=23 THEN LET BALL=1
121 PRINT AT X1,Y1: INK 5: BRIG
HT 1:"";AT X1,Y1-1: INK 0;" ";A
T X1,Y1+1;" ";AT X1+INT,Y1: INK

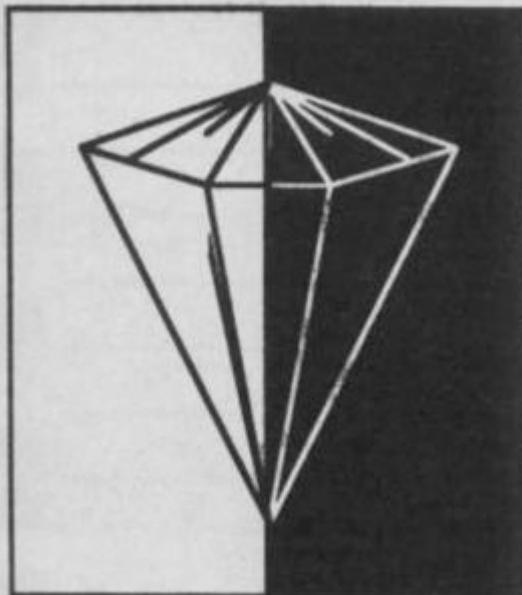
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1052 PRINT AT X+1,Y;" ";AT X,Y;
INK 4; BRIGHT 1;B$(G);AT X-1,Y;
BRIGHT 0; INK 7;H$(G);AT X,Y-1;"
";AT X-1,Y-1;" ";AT X+1,Y;" "
1053 PRINT AT X,Y; INK 4; BRIGHT
1;B$(G);AT X-1,Y; INK 7; BRIGHT
0;H$(G);AT X,Y-1;" ";AT X,Y+1;"
";AT X+1,Y;" ";AT X-1,Y-1;" "
BEEP .0009,55+T: RETURN
1054 RETURN
1055 LET X=X+1: PRINT AT X,Y; IN
K 4; BRIGHT 1;B$(G);AT X-1,Y; IN
K 7; BRIGHT 0;H$(G);AT X,Y-1;" "
;AT X,Y+1;" ";AT X-1,Y-1;" ";AT
X-1,Y+1;" ";AT X-2,Y;" ": RETURN
1199 REM TELEPORT
1200 RESTORE 1200: FOR G=USR "A"
TO USR "U"+7: READ 5: POKE G,5:
NEXT G: BORDER 0: PAPER 0: INK
7: BRIGHT 0: CLS
1201 DATA 60,94,191,179,94,94,60
,60
1202 DATA 0,60,94,191,179,94,94,
60
1203 DATA 126,102,190,166,188,39
,231,224
1204 DATA 126,126,101,125,61,228
,231,7
1205 DATA 255,0,255,255,170,85,1
70,85
1206 DATA 188,92,188,92,188,92,1
88,92
1207 DATA 193,171,163,163,181,18
9,255,255
1208 DATA 0,255,213,171,255,171,
213,255
1209 DATA 60,44,94,90,191,191,25
5,102
1210 DATA 60,76,191,191,126,60,4
4,24
1211 DATA 24,60,48,126,127,247,2
18,92
1212 DATA 31,32,64,127,127,85,42
,31
1213 DATA 255,0,0,255,255,85,170
,255
1214 DATA 240,8,4,252,252,84,168
,240
1215 DATA 255,129,129,129,129,12
9,129,255
1217 DATA 255,85,170,85,170,85,1
70,255
1218 DATA 126,249,241,225,197,14
1,129,126
1219 DATA 255,255,0,255,0,56,92,
76,76,92,56,0,255,255,0,255,231,
24,255,231,126,129,255,126
1220 DATA 255,127,122,84,44,40,4
8,48
1221 RETURN
1300 REM TELEPORT
1301 LET G=1: PRINT AT X,Y-1;" "
;AT X,Y+1;" ";AT X-1,Y-1;" ";AT
X-1,Y+1;" ": FOR F=7 TO 0 STEP -
1: PRINT AT X,Y; INK F; BRIGHT 1

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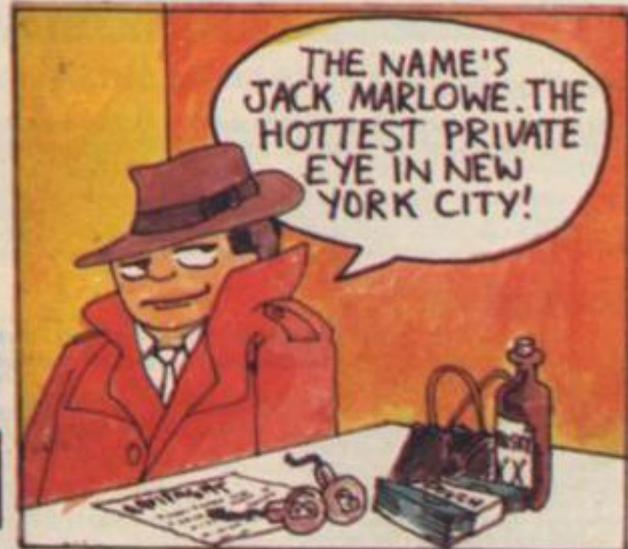
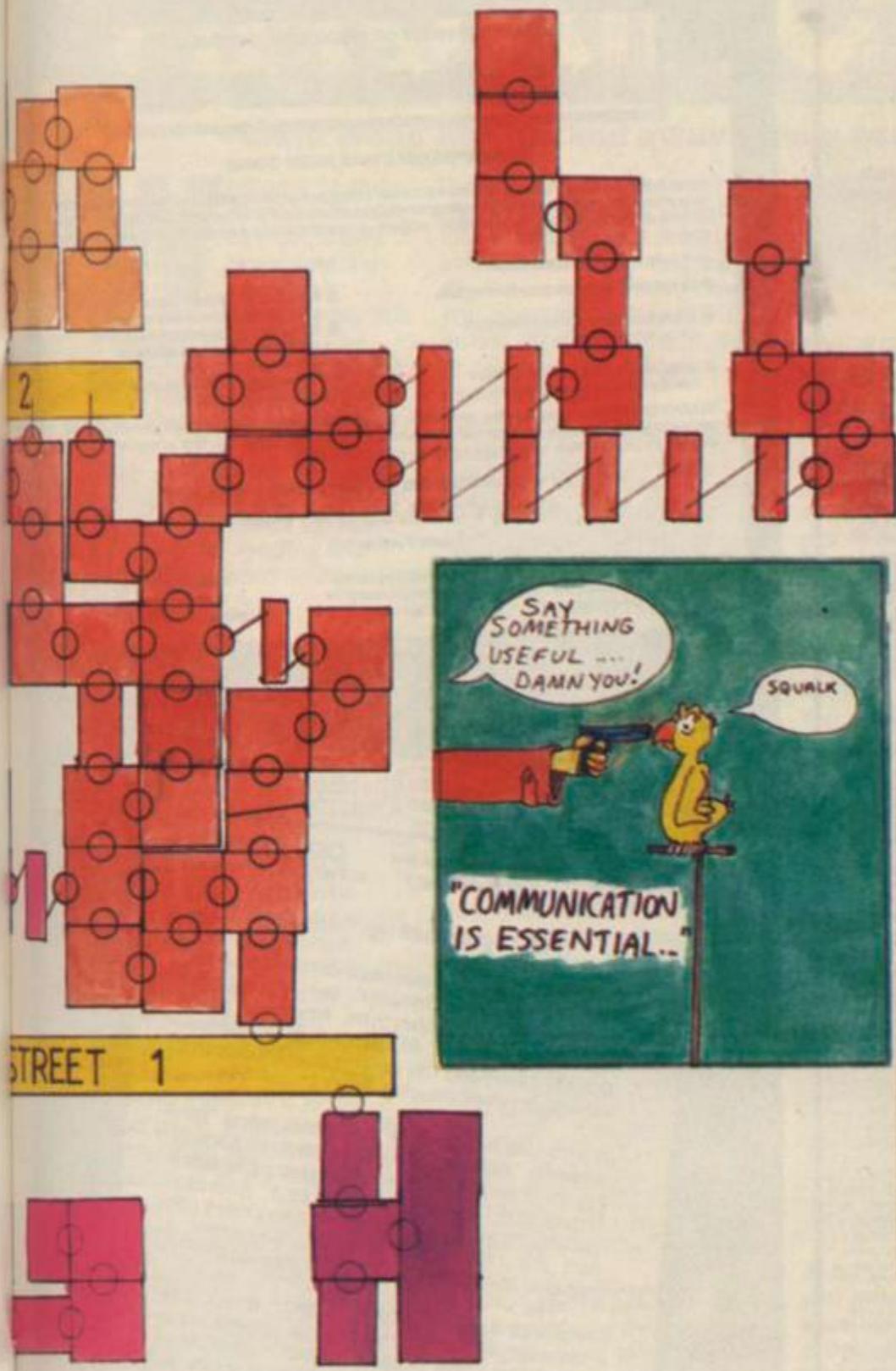
;B$(G);AT X-1,Y;H$(G): BEEP .009
,45: BEEP .005,G+30: NEXT F: PRI
NT AT X,Y;" ";AT X-1,Y;" "
1302 LET TRE=INT (RND*3): LET Y=
INT (RND*25)+2
1303 IF TRE=1 THEN LET X=INT
1304 IF TRE=2 THEN LET X=INT*2
1305 IF TRE=3 THEN LET X=INT*3
1306 IF ATTR (X+1,Y)=69 THEN GO
TO 1302
1307 IF SCREEN$(X+1,Y)=" " THEN
GO TO 1302
1308 IF ATTR (X,Y)=71 THEN GO TO
1302
1310 FOR T=0 TO 7: PRINT AT X,Y;
INK T;B$(G);AT X-1,Y;H$(G): BEE
P .009,55: BEEP .005,33-T: NEXT
T: RETURN
1350 FOR R=LIX TO 3 STEP -1: PRI
NT AT R,YIX;" ": NEXT R: RETURN
1400 REM MISSION
1401 LET HI=SCORE: LET F$="": FO
R G=2 TO 19: PRINT AT G,2;"
": NEXT G
: PRINT AT 4,5; BRIGHT 1; INVERS
E 1;"YOU HAVE A HIGH SCORE";AT 1
6,4; INVERSE 0; INK 5;"PLEASE EN
TER YOUR NAME";AT 18,7; INK 6;"(
MAX 8 LETTERS)"
1402 POKE 23517,238: INPUT F$
1403 IF LEN F$>8 THEN GO TO 1402
1405 FOR G=2 TO 19: PRINT AT G,2
;"
": NEXT G
1406 RETURN
2100 REM INSTRUCTIONS
2101 LET R=0: LET L$="The crysta
l MOONIRON has been stolen,and R
0B0D has been sent to steal it b
ack from the starship were it is
being kept. Before he can res
cue it he will have to journey t
hrough five rooms. In each roo
m,3 light packets will have to b
e taken to the light lock on the
floor (or somewhere else). Th
ere are also many dangers...and
surprises and...an extra life,(
if deserved), and a bonus after
each room,so....GOOD LUCK!"
2102 PRINT #0;AT 1,0; BRIGHT 1;"
";AT 1,30;"": FOR G=1 TO 31-
4: PRINT #0;AT 1,1+G; BRIGHT 1;L
$(G);AT 1,1+G+1;"": BEEP .0009,
45+G/4: BEEP .0009,40+G/3: NEXT
G: PRINT #0;AT 1,1+G+1; BRIGHT 1
;"": FOR G=1 TO LEN L$-31
2104 LET L$=L$(2 TO )
2106 PRINT #0;AT 1,2; INK 7; BRI
GHT 1;L$(2 TO 29)
2107 BEEP .005,45
2108 IF INKEY$="1" THEN FOR T=30
TO 0 STEP -1: PRINT #0;AT 1,T;
BRIGHT 1;"": BEEP .0009,35+T/3
: BEEP .0009,40+T/5: BEEP .0009,
45+T/4: NEXT T: PRINT #0;AT 1,0;
" ": GO TO 2100
2109 IF INKEY$="2" THEN PRINT #0
;AT 1,0;"
": GO TO 300
2110 IF INKEY$="0" THEN PRINT #0
;AT 1,0;"
": GO TO 100
2111 PAUSE 1: NEXT G
2112 FOR G=40 TO 0 STEP -5: BEEP
.005,G: BEEP .05,G: FOR H=1 TO
2: OUT 254,54: OUT 254,2: OUT 25
4,0: NEXT H: NEXT G: PRINT #0;AT
1,0;" ";AT 1,30;" ": BORDER 0
: GO TO 60
3000 REM RECEPTION ROOM
3001 LET FUD=1: LET BUD=0: LET B
LO=20: LET INT=5: LET X1=5: LET
SCRE=1: LET L$="THE RECEPTION RO
OM": GO SUB 900
3002 PRINT AT 21,0; BRIGHT 1;"
";
AT 21,10; INK 1; PAPER 7; FLASH
1;"":AT 21,15; FLASH 0; PAPER 0
; INK 5;"":AT 21,20;"M"
3003 PRINT AT 21,25; INK 2; PAPE
R 7; FLASH 1; BRIGHT 1;"O"

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3004 PRINT AT 6,0; BRIGHT 1;"
";
AT 6,6; INK 5;"M";AT 6,2; INK 6;"
";AT 6,8; INK 5;"M": FOR G=11 T
O 31 STEP 5: PRINT AT 6,G; INK 5
; BRIGHT 1;"M": NEXT G: PRINT AT
6,11; INK 7; BRIGHT 1;"E"
3005 PRINT AT 11,0; BRIGHT 1;"
";
INK 5;AT 11,6;"M";AT 11,6;"M":
FOR G=11 TO 31 STEP 5: PRINT AT
11,G; INK 5; BRIGHT 1;"M": NEXT
G: PRINT AT 11,11; BRIGHT 1;"E";
AT 11,25; INK 6;"I"
3006 PRINT AT 16,0; BRIGHT 1;"
";
INK 5;AT 16,6;"M";AT 16,6;"M":
FOR G=11 TO 31 STEP 5: PRINT AT
16,G; INK 5; BRIGHT 1;"M": NEXT
G: PRINT AT 16,11; BRIGHT 1;"E";
AT 16,12; INK 6;"I"
3007 PAUSE 5: RETURN
3100 REM SCREENTITLE
3101 LET BLO=20: LET INT=5: LET
X1=5: LET SCRE=2: LET L$="THE LA
NDING BAY": GO SUB 900
3102 PRINT AT 6,0; BRIGHT 1;"
";
AT 6,2; INK 5;"M";AT 6,6;"M";AT 6
,8;"M";AT 6,28; INK 6;"I";AT 6,2
3; INK 5;"M"
3103 PRINT AT 11,0; BRIGHT 1;"
";
AT 11,15; INK 6;"I";AT 11,12; IN
K 5;"M";AT 11,20;"M";AT 11,17; I
NK 7;" "
3104 PRINT AT 16,0; BRIGHT 1;"
";
AT 16,7; INK 5;"M";AT 16,1;"M";A
T 16,19; INK 6;"I";AT 16,15; INK
5;"M";AT 16,23;"M";AT 16,26;"
M"
3106 PRINT AT 17,10; INK 7; PAPE
R 0; BRIGHT 1;"
";AT 9
,16;" ";AT 13,24;" "
3107 PRINT AT 21,0; INK 7; BRIGH
T 1;"
";AT 21,27; INK 2; PAPER 7;
FLASH 1; BRIGHT 1;"O";AT 21,15;
INK 1; PAPER 7; FLASH 1; BRIGHT
1;"M"
3108 RETURN
3200 LET BLO=18: LET INT=6: LET
X1=6: LET SCRE=3: LET L$="THE SI
LICON FACTORY": GO SUB 900
3201 PRINT AT 7,0; INK 7; BRIGHT
1;"
";
3202 PRINT AT 13,0; INK 2; PAPER
6; BRIGHT 1;"
";
INVERSE 1;"
";
3203 PRINT AT 13,4; BRIGHT 1;"
";
AT 14,4;" ";AT 13,31-4;" ";
AT 14,27;" ";AT 7,14;" ";A
T 8,14;" "
3204 PRINT AT 7,0; BRIGHT 1;"
";
AT 7,29;"": FOR F=0 TO 31:
PRINT AT 20,F; BRIGHT 1;"":AT 2
1,F;"": NEXT F: PRINT BRIGHT 1;
AT 19,0;"
";
3205 PRINT INK 5; BRIGHT 1;AT 7,
5;"M";AT 7,18;"M";AT 7,23;"M";
AT 19,28;"M";AT 7,10;"M";AT 7,1;
INK 6;"I";AT 7,30;"I"
3206 PRINT AT 13,1; INK 6; BRIGH
T 1;"I"; INK 5;AT 13,3;"M"
3207 PRINT AT 13,14; INK 1; PAPE
R 7; FLASH 1; BRIGHT 1;"
";AT
13,10; INK 5; FLASH 0; PAPER 0;"
";AT 13,19;"";AT 13,22; INK
6;"I";AT 13,24; INK 5;"M"
3208 PRINT AT 19,6; INK 5; BRIGH
T 1;"M";AT 19,14;"M";AT 19,12;
INK 1; PAPER 7; BRIGHT 1; FLASH
1;"";AT 19,25; INK 2;"O"
3209 RETURN
3300 REM SCREEN TITLE
3301 LET BLO=20: LET X=BLO: LET
Y=2: LET INT=5: LET X1=5: LET SC

```

MOVIE

YS COMPO WINNERS

Barry's Boxing Compo

Boxing clever with the correct answer of 12 differences were the following eagle-eyed people:

David Fennessy of Eltham, London; Peter Balloch of Stepney Green, London; Matthew Jones of Bromyard, Herefordshire; Dwayne Morgan of Monmouth, Gwent; Paul Purnell of Brentwood, Essex; Nicholas Turpin of Middleton, Leeds; Simon Southern of South Shore, Blackpool; Martin Alexis of North Woolwich, London; Mark Jones of Prestwich, Manchester; Stephen Incey of Impington, Cambridge; Steven Kearns of Irthlingborough, Northants; Thomas Carter of Leigh, Lancs; Timothy Crampin of Barrow on Humber, South Humberside; Gary Burwood of Scunthorpe, South Humberside; Christopher Hildrey of Lochearnhead, Perthshire; Michael Burns of Benwell, Newcastle upon Tyne; Jonathan Kanda of Totnes, Devon; Chris Jackson of Whitwell, Notts; A.M. Garvie of Jopps, Edinburgh; Brian Scur of Wolverton, Milton Keynes; Stephen Water of Crawley, Sussex; Adrian Slowe of Mill Hill, London; John Mundy of Arborfield Cross, Reading; J. Hayward of Chippenham, Wiltshire; Gordon Buchanan of Airdrie, Scotland; Anton Mangion of Zetun, Malta; Barry Mead of Nantasa, Bristol; Andrew Mackintosh of Farnley, Leeds; Roy Fowler of Sheffield, S. Yorkshire; Alexandre Vicente of Portugal.

Fly Me Compo

Scooping up the supersonic prizes in our Fly Me Compo, with the correct answers of 'Air France' and 331.46 metres/second, are:

First prizes: E. Jackson of Hull, Yorkshire and Martin Atkins of Crumpton, Manchester.
Second Prize: Theo Sweelssen of Eindhoven, The Netherlands.
Runners up: Drew Swan of Lochgillhead, Argyll; David Smethurst of Greater Manchester; Duncan Galbraith of Wotton-u-Edge, Glocs; Ulf Norholm of Malmö, Sweden and Kirstian Nielsen of Otterup, Denmark.

Rambo Compo

No man, no law, no war could stop the winners of our Rambo Compo! Ten winners get a sweatshirt each, and 50 runners up get copies of the Rambo game.

Winners: Harneel Mangal of Heston, Middlesex; Phil Ramford of Mossley Hill, Liverpool; David Hill of Harpenden, Hertfordshire; James Watling of Morley, Leeds; J.K. Weston of Ottery St Mary, Devon; Benedict Symons of Swansea, Wales; Andrew Eccleston of Bentley, Stoke on Trent; David Bates of Solihull, W. Midlands; Richard Lambert of Summerbridge, Harrogate; C.A. Ward of Rothwell, Northants.
Runners up: Anthony Chellis of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire; A. Moss of Ipswich, Suffolk; Simon Geere of Waterlooville, Hampshire; Susan Jones of Glyfach, Rhondda; Daniel Coenen of Gent, Belgium; Richard Gambold of Great Glen, Leicester; Brian McCorkell of Forres, Moray; Paul Smith of Lynton, N. Devon; Nigel Stephens of Creswell, Notts; B. Duffin of Bevington, Wirral; Christopher Bloxham of Stratford upon Avon, Staffs; Brendan Whaley of Stoke on Trent, Staffs; Rod Sleightholme of Pontefract, Yorks; John Styles of Romford, Essex; Joseph Kasa of Basingstoke, Hampshire; Brian Barr of Prestwick, Scotland; Anthony Bennett of Lowerwick, Worcester; Colin McBurnie of Dewsbury, W. Yorkshire; Stephen Jones of Johnstown, Cleveley; David Lane of Abbots Langley, Watford; G. Taylor of Cuddington, Northwich; Mark Ward of Warsash, Southampton; Philip Henry of Prestwich, Manchester; Jonathan Barnes of Witley, Hants; Neil Baines of Salford, Manchester; Darren Fisher of Highbridge, Somerset; M. Starks of Weston super Mare, Avon; Ian O'Connor of Rosyth, Fife; Andrew Bolton of Roundhay, Leeds; Ian Garrard of Newhey, Rochdale; Steve Jones of Sutton Coldfield, W. Midlands; Mark James of Balerno, Midlothian; Sean Barrasso of Woodston, Peterborough; Graham Smith of Barnet, Herts; G. Williams of Cirencester, Glocs; David Wood of Bradford, W. Yorkshire; Anthony Lee of Wigston Magna, Leicester; Peter Hughes of Shephard, Loughborough; Justin Wellsted of Hounslow, Middlesex; Mark McNulty of Caperton, Kilmarnock; Simon Rose of Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire; Robert Bushell of Chessington, Surrey; Matthew Widing of Canvey Island, Essex; Barry Williams of Halifax, W. Yorkshire; Billy Ormiston of Edinburgh, Scotland; William Tingle of Pickering, N. Yorkshire; Timothy Nightingale of Tettenhall, Wolverhampton; James Simpson of Bideford, Devon; A. Atkins of Warley, W. Midlands; David Cotterill of Warndon, Worcester.

Robot Messiah Compo

No-one made a Messiah of this compo! Robot Messiah posters are on their way to these 200 winners:

David Purkess of Lyndhurst, Hants; Shimon Young of Southend on Sea, Essex; Stephen Page of Ormiston, E. Lothian; Richard Shearer of Stockton, Cleveland; Tang Khan of Bradford, W. Yorkshire; Fernando Marques of Portugal; Duarte Carreira of Portugal; Stephen O'Mahony of Bandon, Co. Cork; Robin Butler of Canterbury, Kent; A. Hookey of Gurnard, Isle of Wight; Jonathan Leach of Sidmouth, Devon; Paul King of Norwich, Norfolk; Alan Naden of Matlock, Derbyshire; Matthew Pinner of Boston, Lincs; Craig Shields of Stoke on Trent, Staffs; Paul Fulcher of Thetford, Norfolk; A. Owen of Caernarvon, Gwynedd; Piers Glydon of Redland, Bristol; E.W. Fairweather of North Hykeham, Lincoln; Alistair McLeod of Dunfermline, Scotland; A. Grimstead of Wareham, Dorset; K. White of Weston super Mare, Avon; Chris Upstart of Yerrinton, Devon; Neale Walder of Clitheroe, Lancs; Timothy Grace of Calderstones, Liverpool; S.M. Woodley of Truro, Cornwall; C. Zowery of Torworth, Notts; Trevor Spencer of Middleton, Manchester; Freddie Bond of Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim; Adam Sparshott of Digswell, Herts; A. Broadfoot of the Sultanate of Oman; Stephen Collins of Farnborough, Hants; Damon Shaw of Hucknall, Notts; Pedro Figueiredo of Portugal; John Heggarty of Telford, Shropshire; Jason Way of Blandford, Dorset; Alec Rowbottom of Spalding, Lincs; Stephen Gallagher of Hazelhatch, Co. Kildare; J. Hinde of Wingham, Manchester; T. Crampin of Barrow on Humber, S. Humberside; K. Ward of Clifton, Nottingham; Matthew Widing of Canvey Island, Essex; P. Saunders of Burgess Hill, W. Sussex; Neil Stevenson of Clifton, Nottingham; Karl Butcher of Benfleet, Essex; A.W. Watson of Leeds, W. Yorkshire; John Dempsey of Bacup, Lancs; David Rose of Wick, Caithness; David Robson of Wetherby, W. Yorkshire; L.G. White of Thameshead, London; Jonathan Wingfield of Brickhill, Bedford; Merlin Cox of London; S. Brodie of Hull, Humberside; Ian Tribble of Aberillery, Gwent; U. Yasin of Leeds, W. Yorkshire; Alan Jones of Coventry, W. Midlands; A. Ryan of Strood, Kent; Kent Walkden of Preston, Lancs; Stephen Lo of Eggington of Stromness, Orkney; G. Burns of Armadale, W. Lothian; G. Hutchinson of Saffron Walden, Essex; Paul Harding of Bromley, Kent; Barry Hilton of Polegate, E. Sussex; A.S. Thorne of Stockton-on-Tees, Co. Cleveland; Marten Wedstrand of Sweden; L/C Turner of Tidworth, Hants; Michael Mahloiem of North Shields, Tyne and Wear; Simon Wilson of Poole, Dorset; Ian Shuttleworth of Poulton le Fylde, Lancs; Benjamin Muir of Blackpool, Lancs; Neil Stevens of Tuffley, Gloucester; Kenneth Phillips of West Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne; Richard Chaney of Hull, N. Humberside; David Brock of Arnold, Nottingham; Steve Mitchell of Basingsale, Hants; Lynne Bettis of Linford, Essex; Jeremy Hewitt of Burry Port, Dyfed; Justin Hutchinson of Saffron Walden, Essex; A. Back of Bakewell, Derbyshire; Kevin Kendall of Rylton, Tyne and Wear; Adrian Bhagat of Peterborough, Cambs; Robert Burgess of Rotherham, S. Yorkshire; F. Dimmock of Bradville, Milton Keynes; Scott Blackwell of Wellingborough, Northants; David Oates of Queensbury, Bradford; Michael Cartwright of Barmeth, Renfrewshire; L. Spencer of Middleton, Manchester; Simon Smith of Ipswich, Middlesex; Craig Lowe of Huddersfield, Gloucester; Brian Fisher of Woolston, Warrington; Scott Robertson of Paisley, Strathclyde; B. Duffin of Bevington, Wirral; Andrew Browning of New Milton, Hants; Martin Thorsen of Sweden; Philip Anderson of Harrogate, N. Yorkshire; Mark Davies of Haverfordwest, Dyfed; Mark James of Balerno, Midlothian; S.P. Kaliszczak of Lytham, Lancs; Salina Fabrizio of Northwood, Middlesex; S. Hammons of Sandown, Isle of Wight; Scott Sykes of Swindon, Wiltshire; Nuno Lertao of Portugal; Stephen Todd of Bangor, Co. Down; Nathan Tose of Millhouses, Sheffield; Sean Rowe of Worthing, W. Sussex; Simon Kain of Prestatyn, Clwyd; David Kain of Colwyn Bay, Clwyd; Annette Prince of London; Calle Nordlund of Sweden; Edward Leigh of Pwllheli, N. Wales; David Wills of Alva, Clackmannanshire; Andrew Lea of Ormskirk, Lancashire; D. Sayers of Houndlow, Middlesex; Stephen Albow of Oulton Broad, Suffolk; M. Mitchell of Macduff, Banffshire; Paul Dobson of Wolsingham, Co. Durham; Ian Flory of Banff, Scotland; Richard Kiernan of Cockermouth, Cumbria; Paul Walker of Warley, W. Midlands; Martin Weaver of Middlesbrough, Cleveland; S.G. Wyle of Ramsgate, Kent; Steven Newey of Solihull, W. Midlands; Keith Mackie of Alloa, Clackmannanshire; Mark Hartshorn of Wigston, Leicestershire; Gary Wain of Sutton in Ashfield, Notts; Madeline Evans of Cardiff; Lee Ayers of Hankelow, Cheshire; A.P. Empson of Southway, Plymouth; Richard Strong of Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire; C. Stephanou of Colchester, Essex; Albert Kan of London; Carl Langford of Malton, N. Yorks; Leigh Thomson of Perth, Scotland; S.J. Lee of Huntingdon, Cambs; Tony Smith of Yeovil, Somerset; Michael Rosenbohm of West Germany; Jack Sharp of Penrith, Gwynedd; Peter Abberley of Winsford, Cheshire; T. Anderson of Naas, Co. Kildare; William Thompson of Walker, Newcastle upon Tyne; Samantha Proctor of Studley, Warks; Ian Luddington of Holt, Norfolk; Steven Winterburn of Shidon, Co. Durham; P.N. Holman of Harrogate, N. Yorks; Gordon Virgo of Royston, Herts; Ian Peckard of Louth, Lincs; Arthur Cole of Harston, Cambridgeshire; Christopher Appleton of Glasgow; J. Fitzpatrick of New Dutton, Northampton; Christopher Hewson of Cheddar, Cheshire; Peter Green of Ormskirk, Lancs; Colin Ritchie of Edinburgh; E. Macarone of Maryhill, Glasgow; James Bate of Dawlish, Devon; D.M. Freeman of Raynes Park, London; Andrew Orr of Camberley, Surrey; Tony Wyner of West Huddersfield, W. Yorks; M. Chatterley of St Clements, Jersey; Giles Hallam of Milon-u-Wychwood, Oxon; David Gregg of Brunton Park, Newcastle upon Tyne; David Tiffany of Malmesbury, Wits; Tejam Dyal of Peckham, London; Paul Lear of Balfour, Glasgow; D. Holmes of Newcastle upon Tyne; Craig Wolfenden of Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan; Stephen Longworth of Solihull, W. Midlands; Shane Mannix of Youghal, Co. Cork; Richard Kinder of Lindley, Huddersfield; Michael Allison of Bromley, Kent; C. Thomasson of Berhill on Sea, E. Sussex; A. Moss of Ipswich, Suffolk; E. Chun of Galgate, Lancaster; Simon Richards of Wadebridge, Cornwall; D.H. Smith of Crawley, Sussex; Mark Harding of Taunton, Somerset; Royston Davidson of West Heath, Birmingham; Graham Mills of Northallerton, N. Yorks; Matthew Hurley of Newport, Gwent; M.A. Foreman of Margate, Kent; Andrew Hugman of Bilton, Hull; Scott Ashley of Gillingham, Kent; Sagi Shecher of Haifa, Israel; J. Vendenburgh of Cambridge; James Ruimer of Staines, Middlesex; Ben Harrop of Royton, Oldham; David Storey of Huyton, Merseyside; Gary Robert of Thetford, Norfolk; Derek Stevenson of Redding, Falck.

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HACKING AWAY

Chris Wood has hacked away — he's penned his ultimate POKES!

Welcome to this month's bundle of POKEs and programs. I'm afraid I've some bad news for you, this is the last time I shall be presenting this column, sob, sob. Stop it, I'm getting drenched in all the tears. Anyway, now for the good news — ZZKJ our resident hacking computer'll be writing the column all by itself. So much for feeding it a copy of Tasword — I'm now redundant.

SIR FRED

If you're having trouble with this Spanish Mikro-Gen swashbuckler, then this program from that hard-working pair **A Brown** and his printer-lending friend **Chris Boland** will give you limitless energy. And if you're having problems trying to do a Tarzan on the ropes try this tip. When swinging, flip Sir Fred to the outside of the rope at the last moment of each upswing to gain maximum height. If possible, take a running jump at it to get a good start. This program is a little long so it includes a checksum to pick up any mistakes.

```
5 REM SIR FRED POKES BY
  ABR
10 CLS: LET A=23296: FOR
  F=0 TO 9
20 LET T=0: FOR N=0 TO 9:
  READ S: POKE A,S: LET
  T=T+S: LET A=A+1: NEXT N
30 READ B: IF T<>B THEN
  PRINT "ERROR IN LINE
  *1100+F*10: STOP
40 NEXT F
50 PRINT AT 10,11"PLAY
  SIR FRED FROM START"
60 RANDOMIZE USR 23296
100 DATA 6,3,197,62,255,5
  5,221,33,8,8,832
110 DATA 17,0,8,205,86,5,
  193,16,239,175,936
120 DATA 214,1,8,243,221,
  33,8,92,17,176,1085
130 DATA 4,205,188,5,62,2
  81,58,47,94,205,981
140 DATA 36,94,62,203,58,
  53,181,62,255,58,1846
150 DATA 54,181,33,181,18
  8,17,87,255,1,142,1131
160 DATA 8,237,176,33,98,
  91,17,225,255,1,1125
170 DATA 8,8,237,176,49,2
  55,255,221,33,8,1234
180 DATA 64,17,87,191,62,
  255,55,195,87,255,1268
190 DATA 62,281,58,14,183
  ,195,68,181,8,8,954
```

GUNFRIGHT

Here's a small but thorough program from **E Bennett** of Southend on Sea for

Gunfight. It'll give you infinite lives, surprise, surprise, lots of money and the ability to change the starting bandit. I'm not quite sure how you change the two POKEs in line 70 if you should want to but you can always experiment.

```
10 PAPER 0: INK 0: BORDER
  0: CLS
20 FOR F=0 TO 5: PRINT AT
  10,01: IF F=3 THEN THEN
  PRINT USR 24576
30 LOAD **CODE: NEXT F
40 POKE 23446,201: PRINT
  USR 23424: POKE 23446,33:
  POKE 42355,8
50 POKE 46344,8: POKE
  48464,8: POKE 48544,8:
  POKE 49745,8: REM
  INFINITE LIVES
60 POKE 43163,255:REM
  MONEY
70 POKE 43154,8: POKE
  42882,3: REM STARTING
  BANDIT
80 PRINT USR 23446
```

SPELLBOUND

A Brown's back again without his other half **Chris Boland**. Have you bought your own printer 'A'? This'll give you infinite time and energy in this Mastertronic Macintosh lookalike.

```
5 REM SPELLBOUND POKES
  BY ABR
10 CLEAR 26860: PRINT
  "PLAY TAPE FROM START"
20 LOAD ** 16384:
  RANDOMIZE USR 23296
30 POKE 55866,8: POKE
  55878,8: POKE 55871,8:
  POKE 55872: REM INFINITE
  TIME
40 POKE 27871,8: POKE
  36133,8
50 RANDOMIZE USR 26627
```

LOCOMOTION

Another Mastertronic game bytes the dust (sic). Not that **A Brown** has anything against Mastertronic, he just ran out of current games. You'll get infinite stopclock time with this. Tactic: freeze train, build track, unfreeze train. This program incorporates 'A's usual checksum routine.

```
5 REM LOCOMOTION POKES
  BY ABR
10 CLS: LET A=63888: FOR
  F=0 TO 4
20 LET T=0: FOR N=0 TO 9:
  READ A: POKE A,S: LET
  T=T+S: LET A=A+1: NEXT N
30 READ B: IF T<>B THEN
  PRINT "ERROR IN LINE
  *1100+F*10: STOP
40 NEXT F
50 PRINT AT 10,01"PLAY
  TAPE FROM START"
60 RANDOMIZE USR 63888
100 DATA 221,33,283,92,17
  ,141,8,55,62,255,1879
110 DATA 285,86,5,48,241,
  33,48,246,34,85,1831
120 DATA 93,195,38,93,285
```

```
,86,5,33,68,246,1854
130 DATA 34,187,92,195,8,
  91,285,86,5,62,957
140 DATA 195,58,288,152,1
  95,232,195,8,8,8,1219
```

SWEEVO'S WORLD

Hacker Bilk of Crosby has sent in this natty bit of code to give you infinite lives, okay, so we had that last month, but it'll also allow you to save off the screens from Sweevo's so you can dump them to a printer and make a map if you want. I'm looking forward to getting POKEs for Sweevo's Whirled on the Spectrum 128, or rather ZZKJ is, so get cracking!

```
10 REM SWEEVO POKES AND
  PIX
20 LET C6=9788
30 FOR I=23296 TO 23387
40 READ A: POKE I,A: LET
  C6=C6-A: NEXT I
50 IF C6 THEN PRINT "DATA
  ERROR!": STOP
60 SAVE "SWEEVO PIX" CODE
  23296,92
80 DATA 175,58,195,129,33
  ,32,91,17,283,92,1,68,8
90 DATA 237,176,33,33,145
  ,54,285,35,54,283,35,54,9
  2
100 DATA 35,54,8,195,224,
  96,237,128,203,183,288,62
  ,253
110 DATA 219,254,238,2,32
  ,243,197,221,33,246,92,17
  ,17
120 DATA 8,175,285,198,4,
  221,33,8,64,17,8,27,62
130 DATA 255,285,198,4,19
  3,175,211,254,24,213,3,83
  ,87
140 DATA 69,69,86,79,95,8
  8,73,88,8,27,8,64,8,128
```

In order to use this program you must first run it and save off the code that it produces. When you've done this MERGE in the first bit of Basic from the game and add another LOAD "" CODE in front of the RANDOMIZE statement. Then change the start address from 24800 to 23296 and away you go. Well, almost... Run the Sweevo tape now and when there's nothing left on the tape to load, swop the tape for your one with the code on and it'll load. Now it's away you go!

You can freeze the game with symbol shift and 5 and 'S' saves the screen. As an added bonus, **Hacker** has included a little program to give you a full screen copy i.e. the bottom two lines get

copied as well. Very useful but re-run it every time you want to do the copy, as it actually gets destroyed in use.

```
10 FOR I=23296 TO 23384
20 READ A: POKE I,A: NEXT
  I
30 DATA 243,4,192,33,8,64
  ,195,178,14
40 LOAD ** SCREEN#
50 RANDOMIZE USR 23296:
  REM NEW COPY.
```

FRANK BRUNO'S BOXING

'A' and **Chris** are still pulling the punches with this program for Frank Bruno's Boxing. This'll give you infinite energy and the ability to use a knockout punch as soon as you meet your opponent. You can also select your opponent's energy though this program won't protect you against speciality punches so watch out!

```
5 REM BOXING POKES BY
  ABR
10 CLS: LET A=65488: FOR
  F=0 TO 18
20 LET T=0: FOR N=0 TO 9:
  READ A: POKE A,S: LET
  T=T+S: LET A=A+1: NEXT N
30 READ B: IF T<>B THEN
  PRINT "ERROR IN LINE
  *1100+F*10: STOP
40 NEXT F
50 PRINT "ENTER OPPONENTS
  ENRGY *(8-55)": INPUT A:
  IF A<8 OR A>55 THEN CLS:
  GOTO 50
60 POKE 65483,A
70 CLS: PRINT AT 10,11
  "PLAY TAPE FROM START"
80 RANDOMIZE USR 65488
100 DATA 6,2,197,62,255,5
  5,221,33,8,8,831
110 DATA 17,0,8,205,86,5,
  193,16,239,62,823
120 DATA 239,55,221,33,8,
  64,17,8,27,285,861
130 DATA 86,5,62,238,55,2
  21,33,133,119,17,969
140 DATA 144,135,285,86,5
  ,62,237,55,221,33,1183
150 DATA 56,194,17,28,5,2
  85,86,5,62,236,886
160 DATA 55,221,33,8,91,1
  7,132,28,285,86,868
170 DATA 5,175,33,43,217,
  119,35,119,35,62,843
180 DATA 24,119,62,55,58,
  64,216,175,68,58,875
190 DATA 58,216,49,248,25
  5,243,33,8,8,34,1128
200 DATA 128,92,34,121,92
  ,195,76,199,8,8,929
```

Well, that's about it for this month and this is the last you'll hear from me. But don't despair, ZZKJ'll be back with your POKEs and tips next month so give him a good start and send all your hacking hints to ZZKJ, Hacking Away, YS, 14 Rathbone Place, London, W1P 1DE.

SHOW US WIMPY

E'lite anything..... including the last Wimpy in Walsall. E as
out to lunch with Karen and Nigel, the team that signed Wa

I never knew the Editor hated me so much. 'We need somebody to go to Walsall to interview a couple of programmers,' he said as he tapped his barometer absent-mindedly. 'Rachael!' Which is why I found myself on a train speeding north into an increasingly snowy landscape with the growing realisation that I wasn't just being sent to Coventry (which is several stops earlier — Geographical Note) but Siberia itself!

I arrived at Elite's Aldridge HQ around lunchtime, camera round my neck and tape recorder in my hand. Karen Trueman, the graphics half of the duo was out of the building. But Nigel Alderton, the man responsible for the coding was sitting drinking coffee in front of a row of arcade machines, all looking like the victims of some crazed disembowelling. This violation allows difficulty levels to be set so that the games can be closely analysed in the quest to create accurate, licensed copies. And there, yes, is a *Ghosts And Goblins* machine, the title the two are currently converting.

I dragged Nigel off to a side room, sat him firmly in a chair and set up the camera. If this was Siberia, I'd be conducting the interrogation.

Nigel Alderton

RJS: What... hey, is this thing working?

Nigel: I think it is now.

RJS: Right — I'm here in the snowy home of Elite software. (*Pause to think of question.*) Well — tell us something about yourself. Hobbies?

Nigel: Hobbies? I play snooker, tennis — mmm — I do a bit of weight-lifting.

RJS: But nothing to do with computers at all?

Nigel: No.
(*Laughter*)

RJS: How old are you?

Nigel: Nineteen

RJS: And how long have you been programming?

Nigel: Two or three years. (*Camera clicks*) Do you want a smile?

RJS: No, just carry on talking. Do you just program for the Spectrum?

Nigel: I've written for the Spectrum and Amstrad so far.

RJS: So you're Z80.

Nigel: Yes.

RJS: How did you get into machine code?

Nigel: I bought a ZX81 first and started messing about on it and bought a book. Then I just sort of messed about on the Spectrum and wrote a game, *Chuckie Egg*, and that sold. Then I went to work for Ocean — worked for them for a year in-house. And then I went freelance and I've done *Commando* for this place.

RJS: Right. So you're totally freelance now?

Nigel: Yeah — completely freelance.

RJS: So, talking in generalities, how much could you expect to make as a freelance?

Nigel: Anything between three thousand and ten thousand a program. Assuming that program takes three or four months to write, then in theory you could be on forty grand a year, but nobody is. It's almost impossible.

RJS: How does a program happen then? How do you begin converting an arcade machine?

Nigel: Err — basically, you look at the arcade game — decide whether it can be done or not on the micro — then put it to pieces, analyse it. If it's got a big map, map it out, work out how much memory you're going to need for graphics, how much memory for sprites, how much memory for the program. Then you just start writing it.

RJS: That makes it sound very simple. (*Laughter*) Is *Ghosts And Goblins* going to be a particularly hard one to convert?

Nigel: Well — I'm only two weeks into it. No major problems so far.

RJS: What sort of mind does it take to become a machine code programmer? I'm sure most of the readers won't have any idea...

Nigel: Warped (*Laughter*) You've got to have a logical mind.

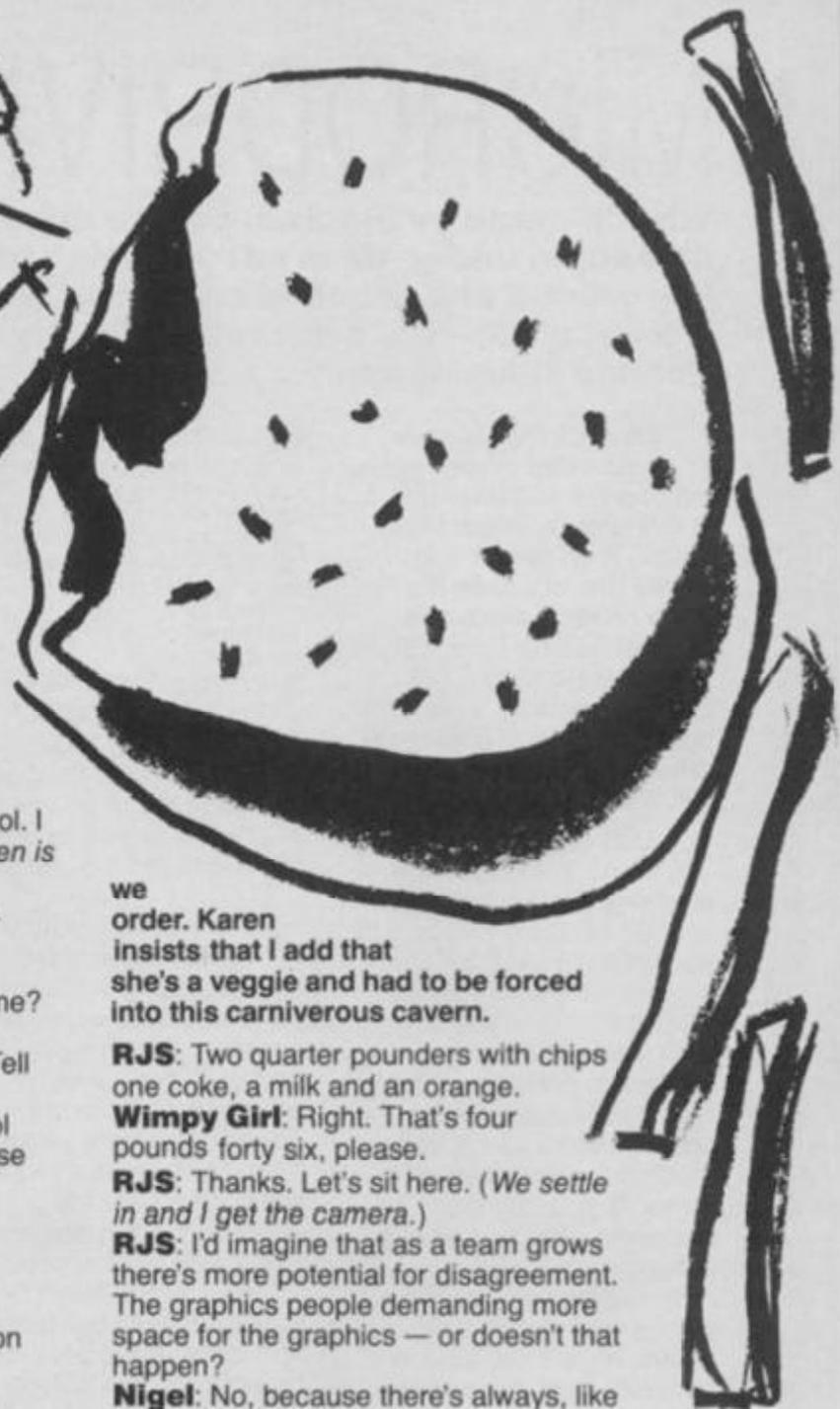
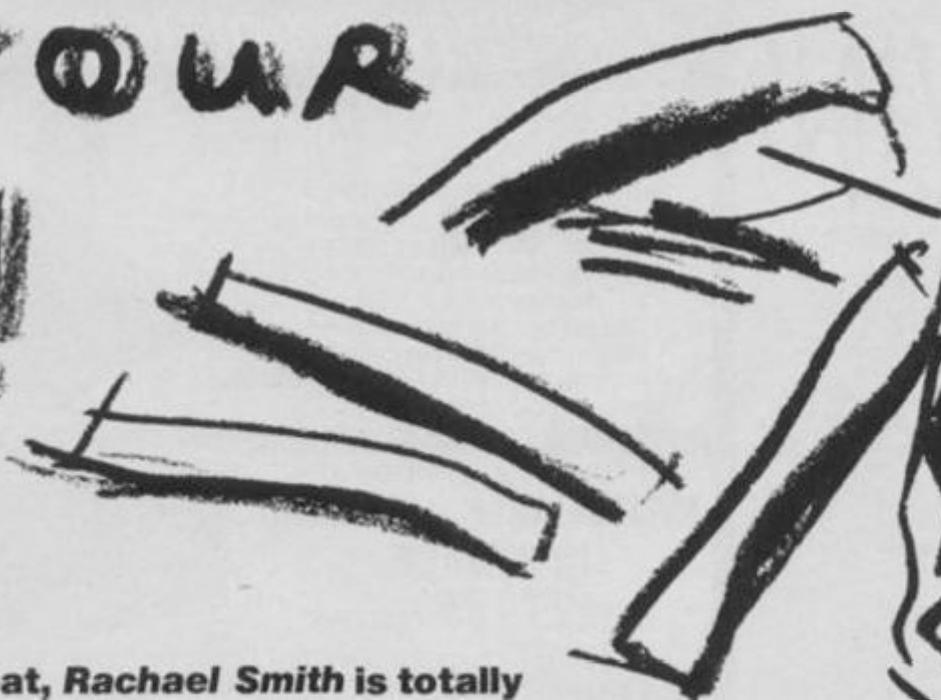
RJS: Yes.

Nigel: (*Pause*) It's difficult to describe. You don't have to have much imagination. You've got to have... you just got to be basically a logical person.

RJS: Are you based around here?

Nigel: No — I live in Manchester, but when we wrote *Commando* they brought

BY YOUR



Even as we eat, Rachael Smith is totally Walsall pact to program Ghosts And Goblins...

us down here because they wanted to keep an eye on us. RJS: Right. (Pause) How do you do your writing? Do you work on Spectrums or...? Nigel: No. I use a Tatung Einstein as a development machine. RJS: Why the Einstein? Nigel: It's... it's cheap, it's... er, it's got a nice keyboard and it's got discs.

Karen: (Long pause) I was at school. I took art. (Silence. I get the idea Karen is shy.) RJS: Okay — a nice easy question. What's your favourite colour. Karen: Bright yellow. RJS: And what's your favourite game? Karen: Chuckie Egg. RJS: It all ties together, doesn't it. Tell me how you do the graphics. Karen: Well, I use this graphics tool called Arthur. Elite wrote this in-house graphics tool about... Nigel: Forty five years ago. Karen: (Laughter) And I use that. RJS: Had you done any computer graphics before? Karen: No. But I did a few sprites on Commando. Rory started it and I finished it. (Very long silence) RJS: And how do you intend to make your fortune. Karen: Marry a millionaire.

we order. Karen insists that I add that she's a veggie and had to be forced into this carnivorous cavern.

RJS: Two quarter pounders with chips one coke, a milk and an orange. Wimpy Girl: Right. That's four pounds forty six, please. RJS: Thanks. Let's sit here. (We settle in and I get the camera.) RJS: I'd imagine that as a team grows there's more potential for disagreement. The graphics people demanding more space for the graphics — or doesn't that happen?

The business lunch. Okay, I had a feeling that this wasn't going as it should. The Ed's last words to me had been, 'Keep it wacky'. ('Keep it cheap' as I remember, Ed). So I suggested that we go out to the pub to get a bit informal... only in Siberia the pubs shut at 2.30. Only one thing for it — into a taxi and hang the expense — Ed's paying! (That's what you think! Ed)

Nigel: No, because there's always, like a superior, isn't there? Karen: We're the underdogs. RJS: Aww! Nigel: Does anybody else get to listen to this tape recording? RJS: No. I'm going to make it all up when I get back anyhow, so you can say what you want.

RJS: How about other programmers in a team? Nigel: That's a knack. It's definitely a knack. Some people just can't take it. It's how to split the work up, how to divide the game, sort of roughly down the middle, so when you put together the parts it works. Karen Trueman My well of questions now dry, we went in search of Karen and at last located her, hiding in the programmers' room. Okay, Karen Trueman, this is your life... RJS: Okay, we've got to go through this horrible interview bit again. Do you hate being interviewed, Karen. Karen: I've never been interviewed before. RJS: Fine. I've never done an interview before. How long have you been programming? Karen: (Pause) About three months. RJS: And what did you do before programming?

Wimpy Girl: Two cheeseburgers and chips. RJS: I'll just go get those. Say something witty, someone. Nigel: Do you want a chip? She's going to get some lovely slurping noises in this. Karen: I don't envy her. Nigel: Chomp, chomp, chomp. Karen: Slurp, slurp Nigel: Chomp, chomp RJS: (Returning) So here we are, and I'm hoping you'll forget we're recording this. Nigel: She just did. We were slagging you off!

And so I finally broke down the barriers. We stepped outside and in a totally informal manner Karen and Nigel grabbed handfuls of snow and hurled them at me. Finally, exhausted, they left me sprawled in the slush. Somehow I raised the strength to type this and now... PLEASE, LET ME COME HOME!

Next month: Macdonalds with Maureen.

MICRODRIVIN'

What's made by Sinclair, can be driven by people under 16, is not very high off the ground and prone to crashing? No, it's not a C5 — it's a microdrive! Andy Pennell takes it away...

❖ Strange things have happened since I got a microdrive and Interface 1 at Christmas. When I first switch it on everything works fine but once it's been on for a while one drive seizes up totally or gives spurious 'out of memory' errors. Switching it on and off again makes no difference either.
NR Wood, Basingstoke

❖ That certainly is a bit weird. I haven't heard of anything like this before. It sounds as though it could be your power supply as it causes most time-related problems. Since you say you're also using an Alphacom printer and joystick interface I have a feeling that once it warms up it's all too much for your standard power supply. Try disconnecting the printer when playing games and the joystick when you need to print something as this should reduce the load, and hopefully cure the 'strange happenings'.

❖ How can I get my Brother HR5 to print what it shows on the screen, particularly from Masterfile? The print option in it uses the COPY command but my interface doesn't support it.
SF Mallon, Hove

❖ If you're happy with text-only screen dumps (and from Masterfile that should be okay) then you can use this

little program on any printer and interface.
120 FOR Y=0 TO 21
130 FOR X=0 TO 31
140 LET AS=SCREENS(Y,X)
150 IF AS="" THEN LET AS=""
160 LPRINT AS;
170 NEXT X
180 LPRINT
190 NEXT Y
It assumes that LPRINT works (for the Interface 1 use OPEN #3,"T"). You'll probably have to change the line numbers to be used with Masterfile. Graphics dumps are a little more complicated.

❖ I'm writing about the recurring problems of syntax errors in microdrive commands. Another reader wrote in with this problem and your reply was to ensure that the edge connectors were clean. Well, I can assure you that my connectors are immaculate but one method to get around the problem is to ease off the short ribbon cable between the interface and drive. If the problem recurs then the ribbon should be pushed back in again. This is a real nuisance and I've written to Sinclair asking for advice on making a more permanent solution.
Robin Buncombe, London

❖ I've no further ideas on how to cure this problem but I'd be very interested in Sinclair's reply. I've a feeling they're going to say 'send it back and Sinclair'll fix it for you' though.

● Here's a very useful tip from H Evans from Leicester. As a CAT doesn't tell you what the type of files are, you can add something to the name to indicate this. One way of doing this is to use an extension (like CP/M) for example TEST.BAS but this sacrifices four characters from the normally restrictive 10. A better way that only takes up one character is to use a token on the end of the name, for example DATA, CODE, SCREENS etc. though you'll have to decide which token you

like best for Basic programs. You could also use two tokens such as SCREENS LOADER as that'll make file types even more obvious.
Thanks for that and don't forget I always welcome tips from readers — all you've got to do is send them to me, Andrew Pennell at Microdrivin', YS, 14 Rathbone Place, London W1P 1DE. Well, that's it for this month but look out for next month's Microdrivin' as I'll be reviewing a microdrive sector editor.

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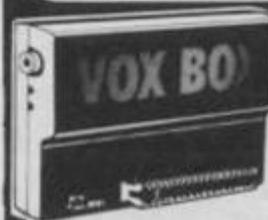


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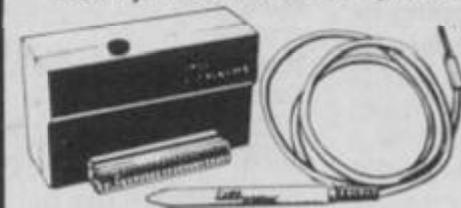
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Shiver me timbers! Look what we found during our annual spring clean at Castle Rathbone. A battered parchment, yellow with age. And on it a treasure map of the long lost Isle of Sinclair. There's treasure on that there island, and lots of goodies for you if you can help us find it. And this is what you do...

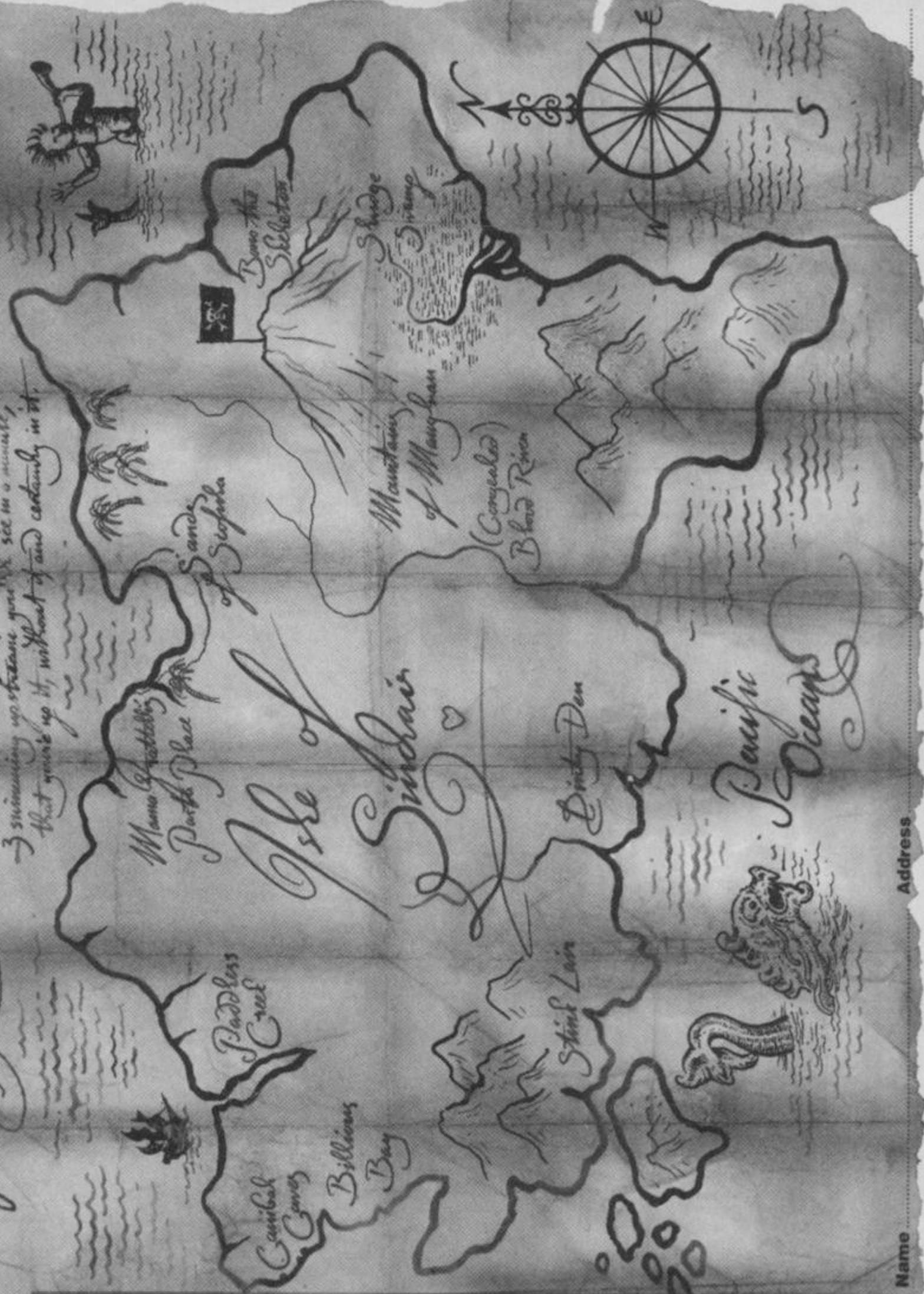
Look at the clues. The first one tells you the starting point — then it's only a matter of following the clues through. Each one'll give you a location on the map — all you've got to do is draw a line between them. Once you've found where the treasure is buried, draw an 'X' to mark the spot. Then send the whole page, or a photocopy, to Pieces of Eight Compo, YS, 14 Rathbone Place, London W1P 1DE. The four first prize winners will receive a piece of eight (an antique silver coin to you) and a copy of US Gold's great new game 'The Goonies'. The 20 runners up will receive a copy of the game each.

The Editor's decision is final — have you seen his left hook? Employees of US Gold and SportsScene Specialist Press will be made to walk the plank if they attempt to enter. Entries must reach us by Capns log, star date 31.5.86.

Name

Address

1 If you travel to the east, you'll end up with a father not a priest. you too will mouth lots of lolly.
2 When the wind is giving you grief, if you order some Calamansi, take a Rescue for fast relief.
3 Swimming up streams you'll see in a minute, that you're up it, without it and certainly in it.



BATMAN

Holy Smoke! High above Gotham City a shaft of light slices through the darkness. But only one man in the metropolis knows its true meaning — it's a call for help that he has answered many times before. Bruce Wayne races to the phone and hears a familiar voice.

Commissioner Gordon: Batman? (For it is he!) Bad news. Robin's been kidnapped.
Batman: Impossible! He's down in the Batcave.

Commissioner Gordon: Then this ransom note's a ruse. But...
Has Robin been kidnapped? Or has the Boy Wonder wandered off? Can the Caped Crusader come to his rescue? Will the Penguin end up with egg on his face? Has the Joker cracked it? Is Catwoman feline felonious? All may (or may not) be revealed by Tommy 'Boy Wonder' Nash as he reviews Ocean's new megagame, Batman.



Wheeeeeee! Batman comes slip slidin' away down the Batpole and he's off on his Robin rescue mission. Yes, that's how the straight-backed, square-chinned superhero of comic strip and silver screen makes his debut into software. Okay, so he's a mite chubbier than you may remember him from the pages of DC Comics but his cloak and mask make him instantly recognisable. But now he's on his own — sans sidekick. The other half of the Dynamic Duo has gone walkies, though the exact reason for this hadn't been concocted when I saw the game. At that time, the finishing touches were just being added to the plot though the game itself was a hundred per cent complete. No doubt some perfectly implausible explanation involving one of Batman's arch enemies will have been thought up by the time the game hits your Speccy. Originally, Robin was meant to have a starring role in the game alongside his crepuscular companion and the programmer's even got round to designing a spritely figure for him. But then they hit a stumbling block. How do you make it easy for the player to control two superheroes simultaneously? It was at this point that Robin was conveniently kidnapped! Batman's first task is to collect

the four items that aid him in his powers. But the tidiest of superheroes, he has to find out where he left the things in the initial rooms of the game that make up the Batcave. He's after his Batboots that allow him to jump; his Batbag so he can pick things up; his Batthruster, to shoot him sideways and his Batbelt, which reduces the pull of gravity on him so he can 'fly' further. The game's cleverly designed so that you can't progress beyond a certain stage without these items. With them, the Caped Crusader is ready to go crime-fighting. Robin didn't go without a struggle. The seven parts of the Batcraft, which he was servicing at the time of the snatch, are scattered all around the Batacombs. And before Batman can rush to his rescue, he must find all the bits so that they can be teleported to the launchpad, situated at the top of the very highest tower. The game ends when Batman's sitting in the reassembled craft ready to rescue Robin and bring the Gotham gangsters who got him to justice. (Note for Batfans: the reason for having a batcraft instead of the Batmobile is that a vehicle with wheels would've taken up too much memory!) The Batacombs are a complex maze of at least 150 rooms spread

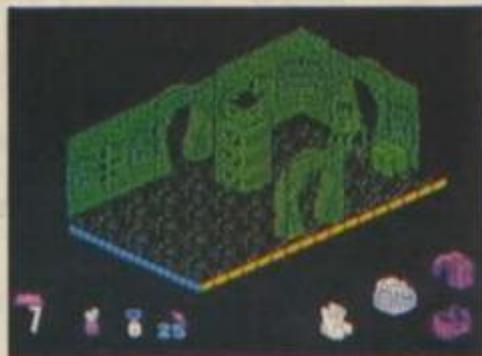
over nine floors. Well, it might be 150 but it could just as easily be 151 or even 153. The programmers weren't sure and I wasn't counting! The screens have a definite *Knightlorish* look about them but the much larger number of rooms means many more puzzles. *Batman* will test your arcade/timing skills to the limit but it'll also burn your brain out with its bewildering range of tricks and traps. The Ultimate influence is unmistakable, of course. The game has a similar technique of forcing you through doors if you're not quite lined up. And you can pick up objects in a room and use them there but you can't transport them to other screens à la *Fairlight*. And the rooms reset to their original state each time you re-enter them. But the game's a definite development from the *Knightlore* days. Take, for example, the reincarnation pills that allow you to restart the game from the point at which you collected one last — great idea that. And then there's the ability to define a single key that lets you pick up and jump at the same time. Cuts out all the contortions with keys that you had to go through to achieve the Ultimate accolade. And Batman keeps up a constant speed no matter how many objects there are in a room — none of those short, slow steps that held Sabreman back on full

screens. It's this attention to detail that marks *Batman* out as a true megagame. Hardly surprising then that it's taken ten months to write. You're even given three options for the sound effects. *Nasty* lets you hear every sound that resounds round the Batacombs; *Useful* only makes a noise when the caped one crashes into things; and *Late At Night* is silent. The only thing that's missing is the crazy cast of criminals from the original cartoons. If ever there's a follow-up, perhaps the programmers will pick up a Penguin or take the gag out of the Joker's mouth... How does Batman's mum call him in for a meal? Dinner dinner dinner dinner, dinner dinner dinner dinner — **BATMAN!**

FAX BOX	
Game	Batman
Publisher	Ocean
Price	£7.95
Joystick	Kempston (auto-detects), Interface II etc.
Keys	Define your own

Graphics	■■■■■■■■■■	9
Playability	■■■■■■■■■■	
Value for Money	■■■■■■■■■■	
Addictiveness	■■■■■■■■■■	

EN SUITE BATHROOMS



That's a re-incarnation pill up there on top of the pillar. Fortunately it doesn't have to be taken internally — getting one of those down your gob could prove difficult. Use the spring (S for spring) to bring yourself up. With a pill in your possession, and there are six in all, you don't have to restart the game from the beginning when you run out of lives — you can choose to start at the point where you collected the pill. (Programmers' note: adding re-incarnation pills to your programs is not harmful to the memory. Batman only uses four bytes to store the data for lives, objects collected, room and so on.)



Just when you thought it was safe to call it an Ultimate clone... Double rooms like this are dotted all over the Batacombs but this is the first — and it's quite a shock if you're not expecting it. These rooms also add to the realism of the game — are all the rooms in your house the same shape? — but it's still possible to map the game.

BAT MOBILES



Does he look the bat's whiskers, or what? He walks, he runs, he jumps, he stamps his foot — now you can collect the complete set of Bat capers. This print-out shows you some of the programmers' finished ideas for the game's graphics. Besides Batman, you can see a selection of the dastardly devils out to do him in. Okay, all our old faves like the Joker and the Riddler have failed to show but the game's still chocka with cooky customers.

LATER THAT SAME EVENING

This is a one-way walkway to destruction. Step on it and you'll be whisked away to your doom — it's a conveyor belt. Just keep moving in an equal and opposite direction and you should be okay.

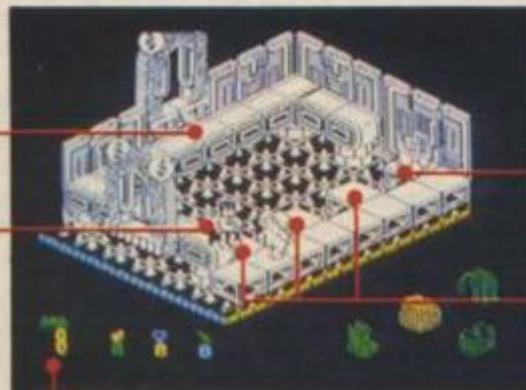
It's the Caped Crusader himself — bit of a fat bat! Okay, so he's put on weight since we last saw him but he still keeps active. That's why when you leave him alone too long, he taps his foot to tell you to put a move on.

Here's the Batthruster sneakily tucked away behind these bricks. The one colour rooms can make it a bit tricky to spot objects sometimes so the programmers have seen to it that they move slightly as you enter a room.

● Just when Batman's in a real batjam and it looks like he's breathed his last, something always crops up. The game's the same — sometimes. There's a random 'dog's life' that may just save your bacon.

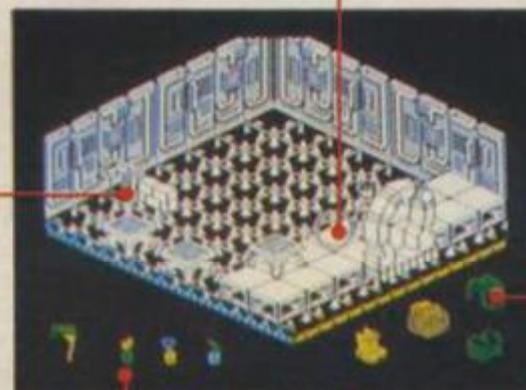
This is no stairway to heaven — you'll soon find that the steps have a tendency to disintegrate as you tread on them. Which ones? You'll find out soon enough!

You can see here the objects that are stored in your batbag. But even Batman can only carry things of a reasonable size like this spring. If you need to use a larger object to stand on, you'll just have to push it into position.



Batman? Pah, Catman — he starts out with nine lives. At least you can't accuse the game of being stingy. But then with 150 odd rooms to explore, you're gonna need them. Plus, there are a further 22 batpills scattered around the rooms that'll each give you an extra life.

There've been a fair few mild green fairies toiling to make a soap bubble strong enough to take your weight. Push it over towards the bricks on the other side of the room then get ready for a spot of cloak-hanging to reach the other side.



Jumping Jack Rabbits, Robin! There are batpills in the game that'll each give you ten double height jumps. You can see how many you have left here. But use them carefully — you only have to waste one jump and it may mean you won't be able to reach that illusive object.

Here's a tile of the unexpected. Always keep an eye open for the up exits to the floors above you.



Keeping taking the tablets. For instance, find a shield pill and you'll be invulnerable for 99 seconds — the time ticks away on this clock. You can recognise all the batpills 'cos they look just like baby Batman clones.

Faster than a speeding bullet... Well, he is when he's found one of the batpills that speeds him up for 99 paces. The countdown comes here.

These boots were made for jumping and that's just what they'll do! Course, trying them on for size can prove a little tricky. And getting out of the room again is no easy matter. Use your carbon-reinforced cloak to hang on by the very last thread... and jump!

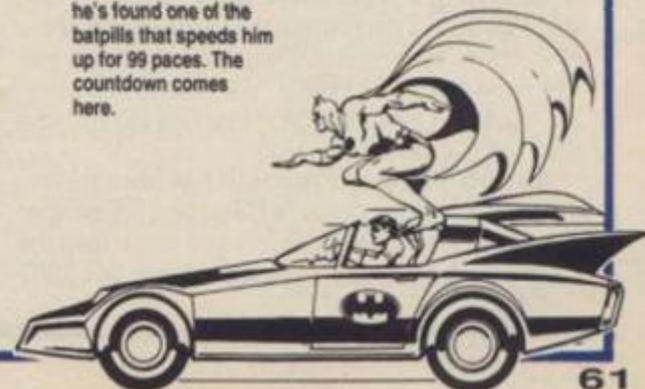
If you're going to keep out of the hairy monster's way, you'll need to find out which of the three bricks is safe. Well, the first is okay, the second disintegrates and the third is a conveyor belt that'll dump you straight onto the deadly floor. So, take care.

When you've got your grips on an object it won't remain permanently in your possession unless you drop it and pick it up again. It's a little trick you can try out on the thruster. Forget and leave the room, and the thruster will return to its original position.

● All over the Batacombs there are hidden rooms and the only way you're going to discover them is by walking into walls. Course, most of the time you'll just end up with a sore head...

It's not only picking up objects that can cause problems. Sometimes just getting from one side of a room to another can get Batman's knickers in a twist — even though he does wear them outside his treads.

Here boy, walkies. This canny canine'll make a dog's dinner of you but you can put him to good use. Wait for Rover's return then drop the spring on his head. Now it's your turn. Jump on to the spring and bounce up into the next room where you'll find a bit of the Batcraft.



R

ight, to begin let me say that these are going to be some of the best adventure pages around, so keep reading 'em. And just so you know, I'll be dealing only with straight-forward text and text'n'graphics adventures,

with maybe some variations like *The Fourth Protocol* allowed to creep in. But, arcade adventures will be dealt with elsewhere in the mag. Okay the odd one might sneak in when I'm not looking, but if I come across that Wally Week in these pages I'll throw him out at once.

If you're writing in and want a personal answer to a problem, then enclose a stamped addressed envelope. If you don't then I'll assume you're happy for me to deal with your problem in these pages. Mind you, just because you enclose an sae it doesn't mean you won't be seeing your name here.

Address your letters to me at *Your Sinclair*. And remember, if you've got a query for a different department, you'll have to go wild and splash out 12p on another stamp otherwise it's likely to get lost among the old axes and dead dwarves that lie around my desk.

Always try to ask a specific question, too. How not to do it is shown by **Darren Clark**, of 8 Meadow Road, Mirehouse, Whitehaven, Cumbria CA28 8EJ. "How do you finish *Spiderman*?" Darren asks. Well, it depends how far you've got, Darren. Do you mean right from the start, from about half-way through, or just the last few problems? Anyway, for help on that, *The Hulk*, and just about any adventure you care to name, contact **James Elliott**, 266 Carseview, Tullibody, Alloa FK10 2SU.

Another example of how not to do it is from **M.N. Andrews**, of 116 Rosebery Avenue, Yeovil, Somerset BA21 5LF, who says he or she is pulling out his or her hair trying to get past the Guardians of the Gates. Fine, but it'd make things just a touch easier if you told us the name of the adventure. We don't want people pointing at baldies in the street and saying "They must read *Your Sinclair*," do we?

Now on to this 'El Supremo' business. So many readers have completed so many adventures that I think instead I'll start a 'Big-Head of the Month' award, so just watch it. What I would like, though, is to hear from anyone who thinks they might be the first to finish an adventure. Write in if you reckon you have a claim to fame like that. You never know, we may even feature your ugly mug in these pages.

There's no doubt in my mind, though, that the 'El Supremo' title has to go to **John Wilson** of Rochdale, who's first in with completed solutions. And his right to the title is even supported by other readers who acknowledge his help. John himself hardly ever seems to need a clue of any kind. I hereby declare him the Rochdale Balrog. (*Let's hope it's not catching. Ed*). We'll find out how he does it in a future issue.

Now, a few tips to show that adventures are capable of POKEing a program as well as the next person. **Jim Grimwood** of London found you can break into Level 9's *Dungeon Adventure* if you get stuck in the tower. It's at this point that there's a bug in the routine that keeps track of the objects you're carrying. If you have too many you can press BREAK, POKE 26490 with the number of objects you were carrying, GOTO 100 and then get out of the exit door.

Adrian Shaw of Plymouth has been tinkering around in the *Oracle's Cave*, and found that you can press the down arrow key to get into the program, then change the value of T in line 3002

to alter the number of days you have in which to complete your task. Increase it to 36000 to give you 50 days, for example, or down to below 3600 to start making the game tougher.

Most adventures are quite hard enough as it is, and **Andrew Smith** of Fakenham, Norfolk, is finding that he can't do *Heroes Of Karn*, because he's having trouble finding Khadim and also according to him, because he can't open the pearl. I think you mean the clam, Andrew, in which maybe you hope to find a pearl. You can't get into that till quite late on in the adventure. And as you might've expected you'll need a tool of some kind to prise it open: RABW ORCA EKIL. As you see, I'll be printing the occasional solution backwards, in case some people are trying to figure out that particular problem for themselves. Though don't be like a reader (on another magazine, of course) who wrote to ask me if that meant the answer had to be typed into the adventure backwards if it didn't work the right way round.

Did you know that there was a text-only version of *The Hobbit*? I didn't, till several readers wrote in to point out that if you choose 'N' as the key to press to remove the loading screen and start the game proper, the graphics don't appear. It works — try it. I think the star of that adventure should be nicknamed Bilbo Buggins, because of the numbers of bugs in the program. The latest to come my way is from **Ian Ormesher** of Bootle, who says that in the original version 1.1 of the game it was impossible to kill the dragon. That's because you couldn't go east from the town in the middle of the Long Lake. That's because you couldn't go east from the town in the middle of the Long Lake. This has been corrected in version 1.2, mind. It sounds like it was a slight fault in the routine where you must ask Elrond to read the map for you, and the route he tells you about is only actually filled in on the map at that point. If you don't have him read the map to you then the route won't exist. The way to spot the difference between the versions is that the names of the programmers have been added on the loading screen for 1.2. Have any other readers found this problem? My version is the second one, so I can't check it out.

I'm sure we'll soon be encountering more and more bugs on *Lord Of The Rings* in the months to come. The most obvious one is in the first location, if you try to SEARCH DESK. See the response you get to that! Any more from you little bug... erm, you little bug-hunters out there?

One of the problems in *Melbourne House's* latest is getting through the maze in the Mines of Moria. A reader from *Christchurch* in Dorset with the almost perfect adventurer's name of **Richard Grandorge** got himself lost at this point. I won't print the route through the mines backwards, as you might find yourself even more lost than you were to start with. So, if you don't want to know, don't read that it's UP, EAST, EAST, EAST, DOWN, DOWN, WEST, WEST, WEST, DOWN — you should then find yourself in a corridor.

Richard and others have also had trouble with the barrow-wight. It seems that violence only meets with violence. A peaceful approach won't get you anywhere, so: ELBIS IVNI EMOC EBDN AGNIR RAEW. Another common problem is asked by **Tim Chamberlain** of 17 Colthurst Way, Leicester LE5 2LF, and that's "Can you kill the Black Riders?" No, cowardice is the answer, but you've got to know which way to go to avoid them. If they arrive, the general rule is HTUO SROH TRON OGYL NO. And now if you'll excuse me, I'm going west till the next issue.

YSA

LOST SOULS

If anyone's ever helped you on an adventure, remember that and see if you can now help any of the following with a quick letter solving their problem.

J. Rose, 12 Rusholme Grove, Rusholme, Manchester. In *Sherlock*, how to prove to Lestrade that Mrs Brown killed herself, that Foulkes is innocent and that the body is really Tricia Fender. In *Valkyrie 17*, how to pass rats, get meat and get currency other than Grotniks.

Allan Crosbie, 17 Inchcolm Dr, N Queensferry, Fife KY11 1LD. In *Project Gibraltar*, how to get through dock customs and find civilisation after parachuting from plane. In *The Hobbit* how to find the key to open the trapdoor in the Goblins' Dungeon (you're barking up the wrong key there, Allan.)

J. Rickman, 25 Beech Wood Ave, New Milton, Hants BH25 5NB. In *Ship Of Doom*, how to get the key from under the glass cover in the room.

Lee Crump, 6 Colebrook Ave, Shirley, Southampton, Hants SO1 5NR. In *Sherlock* how do you decode the notes so they're no longer faulty in Basil's house?

D.T. Ash, 144 The Drive, Bexley, Kent DA5 3BX. In *The Hobbit* how to deal with the bulbous eyes, and in *Legend* what to say to the dragon (well, what do you say to a dragon?), and what to offer the robbers that surround you in the woods.

Paul Bruce, 56 Meadowbank, Kirkwall, Orkney, Scotland KW15 1QL has a simple message on *Sherlock*: HELP!! We all know the feeling, Paul, but maybe a specific question would help someone help you.

D.M. Markillie, 26 Marshall Road, Cambridge CB1 4TY. How to fly the plane and what is its destination in *Atlas Assignment*. I don't know that adventure but it doesn't sound much fun, searching for an atlas. Every school's got hundreds of them.

Owen Dunn hasn't done *Se-Kaa Of Aze* because he can't go in the castle and his staff is useless. Sounds like Basil Fawley again. Help Owen out at 78 Roche Way, Wellingborough.

Nicholas Redman, 2 Hawthorn Ave, Marple, Rosehill, Stockport, Cheshire SK1 6EP. In *Finders Keepers* how to get out of the exit above the puss-with-no-boots, and in *Ship Of Doom* how to get the key when you've broken the glass case. (Not that one again!)

Not a maiden but definitely in distress is *Spellbound* is **Andrew Heath**, 52 Lower Dolcliff Rd, Mexborough, Nr Doncaster, S.Yorks S64 9PA. How to get to the bottom two floors of the game and how to enter the gas-filled rooms.

KIND SOULS

I know there won't ever be a shortage of Lost Souls, stuck in adventures and writing for clues, but I hope I'll also be hearing from all you Kind Souls, too, offering to share your success with others and giving a helping hand by way of a map, a clue... or any unwanted old lamps you have lying around.

To start this hopefully never-ending-story (now there's a subtle link) is **David Inglis**, 35 Kirkbarrow Ave, Cambuslang, Glasgow G72 8NT. David's finished and mapped *The Never Ending Story*, except for a bit near the end where, he says, he can't remember how he got from the stairs to the door. We've all had nights like that, David. If you want any help on *NES*, then, send David an sae — and if he can remember how to get to the postbox he'll solve your problem.

Or write to **Alan Fairclough**, 23 Melide Gardens, Tranmere, Birkenhead, Merseyside L42 5NG, who completed *NES* in 12 hours, and then went on to polish off *Lord Of The Rings*, which people seem to be finding much easier than *The Hobbit*, and rather a disappointment. "Not a patch on *The Hobbit*," Alan reckons.

Talking of which, there's help available from another reader on *The Hobbit*, *Hampstead*, *Valkyrie 17*, *Velnor's Lair* and *Pjamaruma* (how did Wally

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Adventures

Mike Gerrard joins the YS team to champion the cause of Spectrum adventurers everywhere.

creep into my column — get out at once!) He's Vincent O'Brien, 23 Manor Road, Shevington, Wigan, Lancs WN6 8EE. Is he a Wigan adventurer with no peer?

You'll have to send the postman further north if you want help on *Erik The Viking*. No, not quite to Norway, but to Euan Terras, 9 Leslie Terrace, Prestwick, Ayrshire KA9 1LN. Euan's also willing to help on *Hampstead*, *Urban Upstart*, *Sherlock*, *Spiderman*, *The Hobbit*, *Valkyrie 17*, *Fourth Protocol Part I*, all Artic and Channel 8 (R.I.P.) adventures, and most *Quill'd* adventures (sounds like you've got an early *Quill'd* that allows you to inspect an adventure's data — am I right?)

If you're wondering why I repeat titles like *The Hobbit*, which several people have written in about, well it's because if someone's stuck in more than one adventure, he might be able to find one other reader who can help on them all, rather than have to write to two or three. If you do write, never forget to send a stamped addressed envelope.

As for those who've completed literally dozens of adventures, I'm saving their moment of glory for a future issue, but meanwhile a few quickies:

The Hobbit, *Sub-Sunk*, *Urban Upstart*, *Red Moon*, *Emerald Isle*, *Forest At World's End* and *Twin Kingdom Valley*: Kevin McIntosh, 419 Great Western Rd, Aberdeen AB1 6NJ.

Planet of Death, *Valkyrie 17* and *Fourth Protocol*: Peter Bates, 21 Bedford Gardens, Tinsill, Leeds LS16 6DH.

Spiderman and *Urban Upstart*: James Winnard, 44 Bexley Drive, Normanby, Cleveland.

And finally a plug for the Hints Archive for Lost Adventurers (or HALA for short), run by Sonia Griffiths-Glover (or Sonia for short), from 38 Bellfield Drive, Willerby, E. Yorkshire HU10 6HQ. HALA offers help on any adventure, and in return only asks that you send in something for the archive, to enable it to be built up. If you send Sonia the usual sac she'll send you details, and she may even put a kiss at the foot of your letter, as she did on mine — but she'd have got the plug anyway!

ADVENTURERS INTERNATIONAL

If you're feeling kind and want to save a Danish adventurer's bacon, you can do your bit for international relations and contact Nikolai S. Christensen of Kildevej 15, 8600 Silkeborg, Denmark, who's sent two postcards depicting stamps from Greenland for some reason. Red herrings I expect. Anyway, Nikolai's having trouble rebbing the tax-collector in *Robin Of Sherwood*, and getting to the town in *Valkyrie 17* (learned how to ski, got your skis and your ski poles, Nikolai?)

From the same neck of the northern woods is Steven Snedker, Hovedvesen 124, 2600 Glostrup, Denmark, who wants more tips and maps (just what we're planning to give you), and also needs to get into Schloss Drakenfeld in *Valkyrie 17*. Make sure you've 'bin' everywhere outside the Schloss, and if you need a password it's a 10-letter word that's in my previous sentence.

Yet more from the land of the Danes, with Martin Brinks, G1. Hellebaekvej 68a, 3000 Elsinore, Denmark. Martin's caught up in the colour codes of *Snowball*, and anyone who's gone through that will have sympathy for him. I'm sure. If you have enough, write and explain how to use the crew member's code — it's a lengthy explanation which there isn't really room for in this short section.

Finally, for a slight change, a letter from Sweden, and Kristoffer Lindberg, Rödkällensväg 11, 35141 Lulea, Sweden. Kristoffer found that *The Never Ending Story* didn't quite live up to its name as he polished it off in three days, but needs help from anyone currently playing *Sherlock*, *Sordenon's Shadow* or *Hampstead*, though he doesn't say where he's stuck. What a Swedish adventurer makes of the UB40's, gentlemen's clubs and so on in *Hampstead* I don't know, but I'd be quite happy to hear, and from any other adventurers international.



Our adventure section has increased considerably this month, and from now on it'll be in the very capable hands of adventure addict, Mike Gerrard. Mike is already well-known for his adventure columns in other computer magazines, and he has also written several adventure books and articles for the Guardian.

News

There's quite an incentive to buy the Spectrum version of *Incentive's Graphics Adventure Creator* when it's released on May 1st. According to Ian Andrew the software house is actively looking for adventures that've been written using the program (which has already had rave reviews in its Amstrad version.) "The adventures will have to be good, though," Ian says. "At the moment we're receiving two or three a day written using the Amstrad GAC, and we've only found one that's different enough to be worth publishing under our new Medallion Adventures label. We definitely want to see Spectrum adventures, though."

The Spectrum version will have all the features of the Amstrad version, plus a few extra ones. The price has yet to be set — also the case for *Incentive's* next Spectrum release in May/June, *Axe*, a strategy graphics adventure with battle sequences, complete with book by Frank Oliver and graphics from *Incentive's* regular art-man, Pete Carter.

I asked Global Software, whose 4-adventure compilation is this month's main review, if it had any other Spectrum releases lined up. Mike Daniels said, "We've got a

couple of adventures almost ready, written on the Amstrad using *Incentive's GAC*, and we're just waiting for the Spectrum version of that in order to convert them. One's called *The Beer Hunter*, which is obviously a boozy adventure in which you have to manage to get back into a party you've been thrown out of, and the other's *Old Scores*. This is a modern-day adventure, based in and around the South Bank area in London. It has over 200 locations and three major puzzles to solve in a real-time of about two hours.

We've got back-stage tours of places like the Royal Festival Hall arranged to tie in with it."

Talking of art-men, one of my own heroes is Terry Greer, who produces the stunning pictures in *Interceptor's* adventures. Though the software house recently cut the price of all their adventures to £1.99, fellow fans will no doubt be pleased to hear that Terry's currently working on their next release with his regular partner, David Banner. "It's an adventure revolving around an earthquake," was all Terry would tell me, though.

On the 128 front it seems to be very much a case of "Wait and see." Though *Ocean* has extended *The Never-Ending Story* (packaged with every 128 sold) other adventure publishers are in the main saying that they'd like to see how the 128 sells before knuckling down and producing anything for it. Oh well, it gives us chance to catch up on a few more of those tiny 48K games.

Some of you *Swords and Sorcery* fans out there might like to know that PSS has produced a second level to the original game, along with various other goodies like cassette labels for saving your favourite characters and *The Complete Guide To Monsters*, — I think everyone could suggest some entries for that! On its own the new package costs £4.95 mail order only, or you can buy the original level one release as well for a package price of £14.95

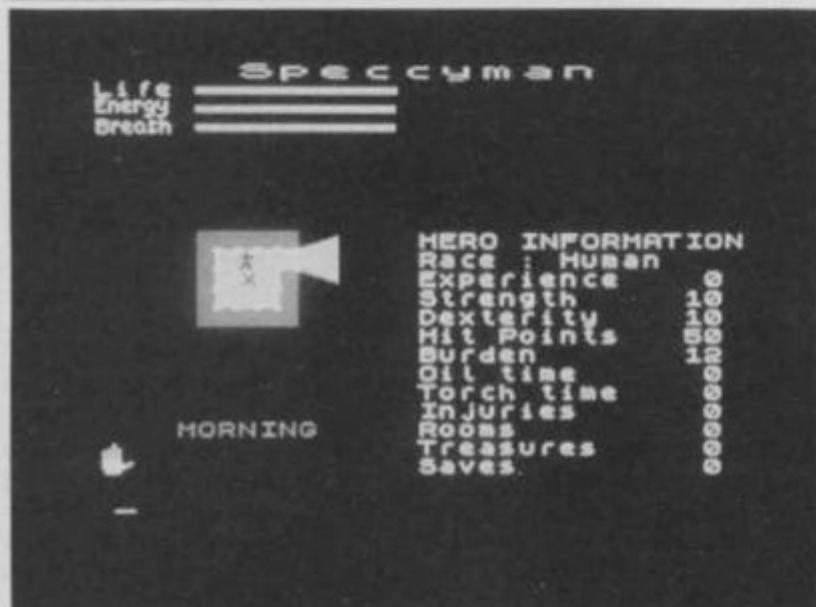
Figures just published by *The Adventurer's Club Ltd* show that they now have a membership of over 2,000, and about 40% of these are Spectrum owners. Half the members are in the 18-35 age group, though this may have something to do with the £10.95 membership fee. They do give value for money, however, with a regular heavy dossier thumping through your letter-box and access to a phone-in helpline five days a week. The news that Pete Austin's just agreed to be their President is a feather in their cap, so if you, fancy reading his monthly column in the club dossier, give 'em a ring on 01-794 1261.

YSA Adventures

FOURMOST ADVENTURES

Compilations are definitely the in-thing at the moment. Here's the first especially for adventurers, although it contains four lesser-known adventures rather than a group of mega-hits. Still, anything that carries Tony Bridge's seal of approval has to be worth looking at, and the varied selection here should provide at least two or three for anyone to enjoy.

OUT OF THE SHADOWS



My own un-favourite is this attempt at producing a D&D style game.

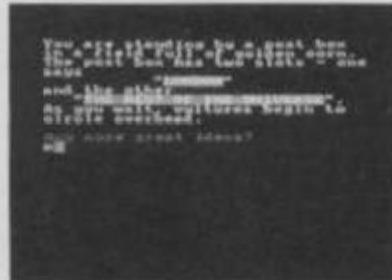
The opening screen invites you to restore a saved game, create a new dungeon, create a new hero, or create both. And your hero can be either a human, elf or dwarf, though there are no characteristics to set up other than those you're issued with. You then have a choice of six quests; or of a random quest; or of no quest at all if you just want to have a mooch about. The quests all have grand names like Silmaril, The Island, or Crown and Serpents — and as that sounded like an interesting pub to visit I set off in search of it. It has to be said, though, that all the quests look remarkably similar.

One feature of the display screen is an attempt to simulate real vision. So, your little matchstick man can only see what he'd see in real life; any part of the landscape that's blocked by walls or whatever doesn't appear on the screen till you move to a more suitable position — hence the shadows, out of which various beasties come to attack you. One of the first essential things to do is locate the home of the Merchant, somewhere near your starting point. Here you can buy and sell items, including the food that you'll need to keep on trekking.

There are plenty of spills and spells, as you attempt to slay a

few monsters and boost your experience. If you fancy moving a matchstick man round a matchstick landscape and getting attacked by matchstick rats then this could be just the game for you.

THE MURAL



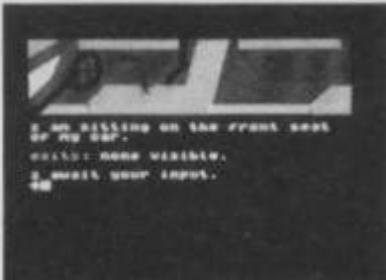
The Mural is certainly a contrast — unless there are now dungeons and dragons in Neasden High Street. This is where you allegedly begin the game, according to the scenario. Having been accosted by two men wearing suspender belts, you're given the task of painting over an obscene mural. Now you have to admit that as adventures go, this is just that bit different!

You awake in a cave with nothing more for company than *The Quill's* gothic character set, but with exits in all directions. Trust me to pick the one which is immediately blocked off by a penguin which drops down and sits there eating a sandwich. Or was it a sandwich eating a Penguin? Whatever it was, I had nothing to try to get past it with, so I entered the cupboard,

warily examined the smelly fur coat and tin of dead maggots, before going north and walking into a lamp post where I was given a message that I'd met the lion and the wardrobe, but no witch yet!

Back at the cave, another exit leads to the obscene mural itself, so in the interests of research, I took a close look. It "shows several nubile elven-maids in some extremely erotic postures while a gorilla in a tutu dances in the background." Shame it's text-only. It sounds just like the YS Christmas party! Interesting as the mural is, the room's a bit plain otherwise, so it's back to the cave and out the other side and off to a small house, where you find a carved cuckoo, a copy of the New Orc Times (ouch!) and a C5 order form quietly mouldering away. Heading off in yet another direction through a field of ripening corn, past the buzzing insects and the hovering vultures, I managed to squeeze myself into a pillar box but couldn't squeeze myself out again. The adventure makes as much sense from in there as it does from anywhere else, so I stayed put and tried to read the small white envelope and puzzle out why I hadn't been able to get the bucket with a hole in it out of the well. Baffled yet? Me too — but I enjoyed it all tremendously just the same.

MICROMAN



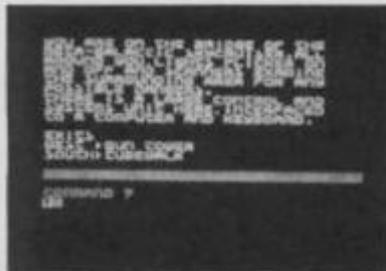
Released previously as *Project X* — *Micro Man*, this is the tale of Professor Neil Richards (that means you), who's been given a dose of Gamma Radiation that's reduced him to the size of a box of matches. Quite why the shrinking has to occur while he's sitting inside his car I don't know, but it does lead to the first fiendish problem — how to

get out. As it seems to me highly unlikely that most people would get it, I'll give the answer here, but backwards, of course: TIGN INRU TFOD AETS NIEL DNAH DNIW.

With that out of the way I was soon wandering towards the main road, where a dead hedgehog warned me to be careful. It's bad enough being small without being squashed. Keeping to the fields seemed a better bet, and the first simple maze came in the form of a haystack — no prizes for guessing what you can find hidden there. Later on a broken lolly-stick proved its usefulness, though you've no sooner dug your way out of somewhere than you're confronted by a giant mole. Up onto a lawn and you're outside a house, though inside the garden shed there's a swarm of killer wasps that saw me off. Fortunately the RAMSAVE feature helps battle recommence pretty easily.

Microman's a lot of fun, and clever use of *The Illustrator* means that decent graphics pop up fairly regularly.

GALAXIAS



This final adventure on the *Fourmost* tape is the one that'll probably interest lots of people as it's an early effort from someone who went on to do better things. That someone is Fergus McNeil, the better things are *Bored Of The Rings*, *Robin Of Sherlock* and various quests for various joysticks. Not that *Galaxias* is in any way bad — it is certainly my favourite in this collection, with lots of style and indicating just how much variety you can coax out of Gilsoft's utilities.

For a futuristic adventure we're presented with a futuristic character set, though I'd have willingly sacrificed it for

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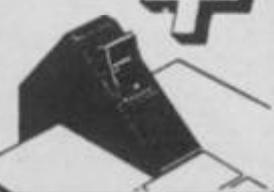


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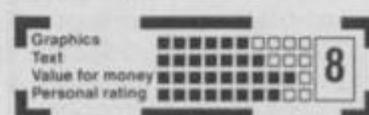
one that I could read. Alongside it goes a futuristic adventure language, too, so that you get responses like 'Confirmed' instead of 'OK', and 'Input not understood.' Your job is to cruise the galaxies and find the lost crystal, but first it helps if you look round the locations near the Spaceport where you begin. Just south of the Metalon Bar you'll find the

Alcohol Reclamation Centre, (the loo!) while further on there's the miniest of mazes — one location!

There are special instructions for when you reach the bridge of the meta-galactic skycruiser, and these enable you to visit whichever planets are within your reach. Initially there are four of these: Grafion, Terminan, Akrol and Septule.

Graphics are used sparingly but effectively, and the ability to travel between the different planets means there's a lot of variety in the adventure — just as there's plenty of variety in this package. And at £2 an

adventure I can't see anyone complaining. Okay nothing stunning, but a nicely thought-out collection of good solid stuff that might otherwise have escaped your attention.



FAX BOX
 Title: *Fourmost Adventures*
 Publisher: Global Software, PO
 Box 67, London SW11 1BS
 Price: £7.95

THE EXTRICATOR

I suppose you might call this another QUIP adventure — one written using *The Quill*, *The Illustrator* and *The Patch*. And come to think of it, that's not altogether a bad description for a game that displays a neat line in dry humour. In one location there's a piece of string which you can't GET, so naturally you EXAMINE STRING: "You know perfectly well what a piece of string looks like." Oh well, it was worth a try. Elsewhere you rummage through a pile of rubbish to unearth a letter. We intrepid adventurers are always finding letters, and what's the first thing we do? Right, READ LETTER. "It's not that sort of letter!" What? Examining the object proves that in fact it's a letter 'L' that's dropped off a sign somewhere — though what the 'L' you do with it I haven't yet worked out.

Your task in *The Extricator* as an earth agent for a top security company is to rescue a Professor Roberts from the detention area of the 'Star Fleet Command' headquarters on the Planet Arg. You begin, though, on "an alien plain with purple grass swaying in the breeze." You're wearing a tin hat and staring at a rather tatty scarecrow. Sitting staring at things doesn't normally get you very far in adventures, though this is one where you'll have to look closely at the occasional illustrations, as well as paying attention to the text, if you're to make any progress.

Uncovering a familiar old fissure, I made my way past some not very clean water and into one sector of the complex. On a desk I found a computer, which on closer inspection turned out to be "a ZX Spectrum wearing a Saga keyboard." I had a tape of data with me, and got a code from that which later provided me with a laser gun, and eventually I made it to the red sector.

I doubt if experienced adventurers would take too long to work their way through this, but I think you'd still like some of the problems and smile at their solutions. Beginners though, could find it taxes their ingenuity a good deal. The atmosphere's reasonably convincing, with an attempt to produce more than just the bare location descriptions. And the pricing's about right to provide value for money, especially as the B-side of the cassette contains an impressive tune called *Frantic*.



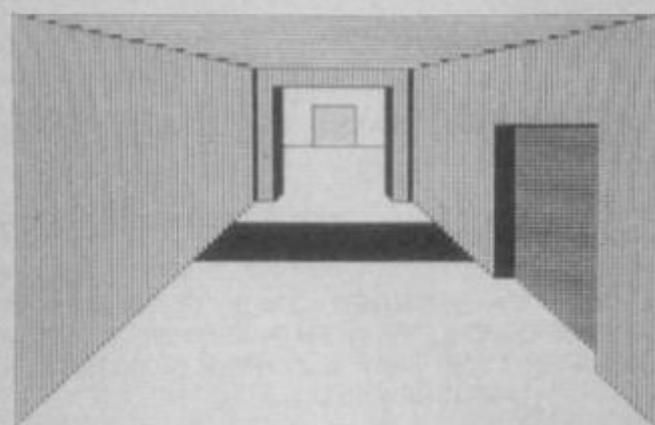
YOU FIND YOURSELF ON AN ALIEN
 PLAIN WITH PURPLE GRASS SWAYING
 IN THE BREEZE. THE ONLY EXIT
 FROM HERE LEADS SOUTH.

HOW UNAT?



FAX BOX
 Title: *The Extricator*
 Publisher: Precision Games, 2 Fern
 Hills, Langdon Hills, Basildon,
 Essex SS16 5UE
 Price: £2.99 plus 21p if mail order

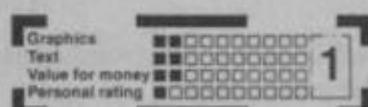
SURVIVAL



Central Solutions seems to have released several tons of budget software recently, including a few hundredweight of Spectrum adventures. All the ones I've seen so far have been written using *The Quill* and *The Illustrator*, but my choice of what to review was dictated by finding one that would load. Never has my volume knob been twiddled so much to so little effect.

Still, the aptly named *Survival* finally went in there, though after all that trouble I really wished it hadn't. Perhaps after introducing *The Patch*, Gilsoft ought to provide a spelling checker for programmers who write 'thought' for 'thought' and 'screach' for 'screech'. The idea behind this one is that you're MI5 agent Gary Gullible and you must recover some top secret documents believed to be hidden on the island of Master Mud. It's here that you're parachuted at the start of the game.

You begin beside a perimeter fence carrying nothing but a cheese pasty, a crowbar, a stopped watch and a lamp without a plug. Strange things to be carrying when you've just been parachuted into this top priority mission. Bond wouldn't have stood for it! The first painful experience is your encounter with a guard, and this meeting is followed by a *Swords and Sorcery*-type sequence of messages like "He hit me" and "I missed him" which are printed on the screen in a long drawn-out manner. You have no control over this and as the messages and outcome are the same every time your enthusiasm for the adventure soon starts to disappear. My first thought after that was SAVE, which I'd advise you to do, except for the slight problem that the program doesn't recognise the LOAD command. Despite the fact that this is documented, it produces the response "I can't." I tried the usual RESTORE, RESUME, LOAD GAME, LOAD PROG in case the documentation was wrong, but all to no avail. This is doubly annoying when the adventure is jam-packed with sudden deaths that hit you with no warning. Take, for instance, the corridor junction where, upon going NORTH, you're immediately killed by guards who smell your cheese pasty. As each of these sudden deaths means having to go back to the start, you can imagine the fun I've had reviewing this one. *Survival* really was an apt title after all!



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 Title: *Survival*
 Publisher: Central Solutions
 Price: £1.99

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Did you know that Captain Kirk's got three ears? One on the left, one on the right and...

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T H E P L A N E T S

More thrust Scotty 'cos we're off into space on a mission to preview Martech's latest game, *The Planets*. Teresa Maughan boldly goes where no woman has gone before...

Captain's Log. Star Date 4.3.99. Disaster has hit the planet Earth. Tornadoes, Earthquakes, volcanoes and hurricanes rage violently, — threatening the survival of all life forms. An alien force has made its presence known. Signals arrive from deepest space and a capsule enters the Earth's atmosphere. But what does it all mean? Mission: To save the world from total annihilation.

Sounds pretty hairy, eh? It's

actually the scenario for Martech's new arcade/strategy game, *The Planets*. Written by Ian Mc'Ardle, Malcolm Smith and John Wilson, it's an icon-driven game that looks a shade similar to *The Fourth Protocol* — which isn't too surprising since John was involved in the development of that game too. That's where the similarity ends, though. *The Planets* is a huge puzzle that contains many different game elements as well as being extremely informative and accurate on our solar

system. The program actually comes on two cassettes as it just wasn't possible to cram all the info onto one tape. On the first cassette you'll find *The Planets* game and *The Alien Game* and on the other is the data for each planet in the solar system.

You begin by orbiting the Earth on board a mothership. You've just received signals from outer space that have been encoded in your spaceship's computer and it's these that go to make up *The*

WATCH THIS SPACE

The Computer. Selecting this icon gives you a choice between two further sub-icons.



Space travel is all the rage. Choose this one and you'll be whisked away to the planet of your choice. A Mars a day makes you work rest and play.



Landing gear down chaps. You'll need to select this option when you want to land on the surface of a planet or when you've had enough and want to discover pastures new.

Wanna come and sample the delights of the planets? It's dead easy if you select the sampler icon — you'll get a choice of two sub- icons.



If you need to know what the surface of a planet is like this is where you look. The analysis displayed may come in handy when you come to land and it may even help you open a capsule.



Wow, what an atmosphere! Here you'll get all the info you ever needed on the atmosphere of the planet you're on. The details will be displayed on a graph.

To be or not to be that is the question. And here's the big 'Q' that'll enable you to examine a capsule on a planet's surface. Neat eh? To select an icon move the big hand using the space bar until it's over the icon you want.

Run rings round Saturn. Here you'll see the planet you're currently orbiting. Nice 'ere ain't it? At least you're not running rings around Uranus.

If you're a bit of a book-worm and would like a bit of extra info about life (or death) on your fave planet then select this icon. And at least you don't have to take it all in at Patrick Moore's pace.

Solar System Maps. Select this icon and you'll get the A-Z of the solar system — well almost.

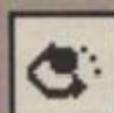


Short Range Chart. Select this and you'll get a display of the planet you're currently on and any moons and satellites it has.



Long Range Chart. Pluto, Neptune, Uranus, Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Earth, Venus and Mercury are all depicted in beautiful technicolour. You can decide which one you want to visit.

The Data option'll tell you everything you ever wanted to know about the planet you're planning to visit. Well, its gravity, sidereal rotation, density and radius to be precise — not exactly the stuff of the holiday brochures.



Sidereal rotation is where it's at in this particular option. Displayed on-screen is the sun and the planet's rotation around it. It also shows the sidereal period in Earth days.



Keep your feet firmly planted on the ground 'cos this gives you the details of a planet's gravity. It's a really natty display too. Two spiralling balls will drop to the ground to represent each planet's pulling power.



Time's ticking away as you play but this doesn't mean you've got to go clock watching. Martech hasn't decided how long it's going to give you yet.

There'll be no blind dates here. The day, date and year are displayed in full.

If you don't know where you are this'll give you a clue. Look, we're on Saturn.

How many light years away? Well, you're travelling in a supersonic spaceship at about a million times the speed of sound.

And here's the planet you've chosen as your destination. Saturn, Uranus, eating a Mars — the choice is yours!

PREVIEW

Alien Game. At the same time a capsule enters the Earth's atmosphere. It is found to contain a map of the Solar System that shows the position of eight similar capsules on the other eight planets of the galaxy. That's all the info you have. And even that's more than you'll glean from the 'instructions' that come with the game — there won't be any.

So how do you set about saving the Earth from total destruction? First you've got to play *The Alien Game* — here you'll uncover the clues that'll help you open the capsules. But don't expect it to be immediately obvious when you do find a clue. Remember aliens aren't too keen on us humans so they'll do their damndest to make things difficult.

Now you've got some idea of how to open the capsules you'd better track down where they're located. So prepare for blast off — destination: the solar system. Decide which planet you want to visit first, then select the Space Travel option. Your spaceship's computer'll then be given all the information it needs about the planet you've chosen.

Then lift-off into the vast vacuum of space — only to find

it's choc-full of asteroids and meteor storms. But having successfully blasted your way past these you're then ready to land on the planet. Be careful though, you'll need to take all sorts of factors into account — such as the planet's gravity, atmosphere and surface conditions. And that's where all the up-to-the-minute technical info on each of the planets comes in handy. If you thought docking procedure in *Elite* was difficult, try having a go at this! At least the gravity's the same on every Coriolis space station.

If you land correctly you should see a locked capsule bearing an alien inscription. If you've cracked the code that lets you open the capsule, you'll receive part of the solution to the Earth's problems. But you'll need to open all nine capsules before you make sense of the solution. And even then your troubles aren't over — you'll just learn what you've got to do next. It was never like this on the telly. Beam me up Scotty, Kirk out.

FAX BOX

Game The Planets
 Publisher Martech
 Price £9.95



Heather Couper, presenter of Channel 4's *The Planets*, talks about her involvement with Martech's new game of the same name.

When did your interest in Astronomy first start?

Oh, when I was very small — about 7 or 8. I looked out of my bedroom window and saw a green shooting star in the sky and it really turned me on.

What do you actually do as an astronomer?

I'm a full-time astronomy broadcaster and writer. I've written 14 books and presented three television series — the most recent one being *The Planets*, of course.

How did you get involved in *The Planets* game?

I was in a plane on my way to Italy when my producer told me that Martech wanted me to get involved in the production of its new game, *The Planets*. I was very excited by the proposal because the game is very different from the series and very hi-tech.

How accurate is *The Planets* game?

Very accurate. You can find out loads of detail about each planet like gravity and distance from the Earth. And you can use this information when playing the game.

Are you involved in any other computer games?

Well, I did get involved with *Starfinder* for the BBC but I shouldn't really say that, should I?

Can you tell us a bit more about the latest info on Uranus?

People are very surprised by the latest finding on Uranus. There are 15 moons and we expected them to be barren because they're so far from the Sun. The surfaces of these moons are full of swirls and this means the cores have at some point been warm and active. The big question now is, how? Uranus is over two billion miles from the sun so it couldn't have been the heat from that. This up-to-date info has even been included in the game.

Do people recognise you now you've been on TV such a lot?

Yes. Absolutely. Especially girls of about 14 or 15 — I can't think why.

Do you have a home computer?

Yes a BBC. Ooops.

Does it annoy you when people call you an Astrologer?

Yes it does. I get very angry because the two subjects are totally different.

Do you believe in Astrology?

No way!

Have you been dubbed the female Patrick Moore?

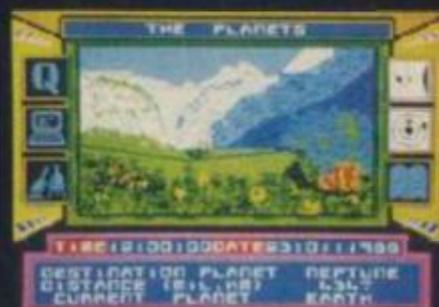
Yes, and no. A lot of people do say I'm a female Patrick Moore but it's obviously rubbish 'cos I'm half his size. Apart from that we're also totally different. Patrick's a sensational amateur Astronomer whereas I was trained as a Astrophysicist and can therefore impart the hard facts about the physics of the solar system.

THE ALIEN GAME



There's a staggering 43 levels in this puzzle/strategy *Alien Game*. Each grid section represents a level — everytime you successfully complete a level you'll gain a piece of information that'll help you open a capsule. To make it even more tricky Martech hasn't included any instructions — you'll just have to work it out for yourself, won't you!

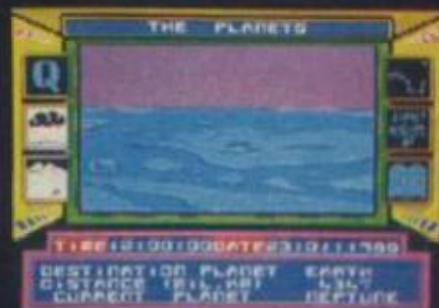
JOURNEY THROUGH SPACE



Did the Earth move for you too? The graphics are amazing and in the final version there may even be animated horses and the like. You're currently on Earth but if you select the Long Range Chart you can move the cursor to the planet of your choice. Looks like we've chosen Neptune as the first port of call.



Once you've reached your destination planet select the landing option and your ship'll start its descent. You'll see a grid appear and you must search until you find the square containing a character representing a capsule. Take care when landing — you must be at a speed of less than 20m/s and you must also take into account the planet's atmosphere and surface conditions.



We've arrived safe and sound on Neptune. If you look carefully you'll see the capsule on the left of the screen — choose the big 'Q' to examine it. Selecting the Sampler option will enable you to get the gan on the planet — you may need this when trying to open the capsule.

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French Regular and irregular verbs, reflexives, indicative, subjunctive, passive, infinitive, agreement, pronouns, definite, indefinite and partitive articles, single and compound nouns, adjectives and their forms, adverb phrases, comparatives and superlatives, conjunctions, prepositions, idioms, measurements.
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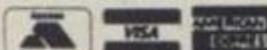
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COMPETITION

YS Makes it Biggles!

Chocks away chaps 'cos we're off with Biggles and his chums to win a model Sopwith Camel, five Tiger Moths and 25 copies of Biggles, Mirrorsoft's ace new game.



Illustration/Paul Shearrock

Biggles was in the breakfast room of his Mount Street flat. In between mouthfuls of toast and tea he slowly digested the contents of a newspaper in front of him. Bleeurgh! Algy and Ginger, his two closest chums, came bounding in panting slightly and looking very red in the face. "Morning Biggles, old chap," they chortled in unison. "A fine time to roll down to brekkers, I must say," grunted Biggles. "Cripes, we have blotted our copy books," sniggered Ginger.

"Looks like we're in a bit of a jam," said Biggles. "Rather have marmalade

myself," wheezed Ginger. "Oh buck up Ginger this is serious stuff," jerked Biggles. "What ho! Out with it Biglet; there's something in the wind," grimaced Algy. "Only last night's curry," sniggered Ginger. Biggles pursed his lips and looked Algy and Ginger squarely in the face. "Have you two seen the front page of *The Daily Male*?" inquired Biggles, passing them the rag. "Cripes, it's a picture of us," guffawed Ginger, "Remember that particular scrape, eh chaps?"...

Have a look at the cartoon — what do you think they're up to now? If you can think of a witty picture caption you're

in with a chance to win a fabulous prize in our whizzo Biggles compo. And crumbs have we got some spiffing prizes — Mirrorsoft is offering a fantastic Sopwith Camel model aircraft to the winner and five second prizes of a Matchbox Tiger Moth. And that's not all — the 25 runners-up will each get a copy of *Biggles*, the computer game that's based on the film. Top hole, eh?

All you've got to do is fill in the caption in less than 12 words, add your name and address and send the whole caboodle, or a photocopy, to Biggles Compo, YS, 14 Rathbone Place, London W1P 1DE.

What a jolly wheeze! Here's my wacko caption

Name..... Address.....

Rules

Chaps who work for SportsScene Specialist Press and The Mirror Group are not allowed to enter. Bouncing Czechs included. Your luck will run out if you try to enter after May 31st. Unless, of course, you're one of the old school. The Ed'll ask you to come outside if you try and argue with him 'cos he's a real bouncer, cad and rotter.



WARNING
These pages contain
explicit QL reviews and
may offend sensitive
Spectrum users.

QL

NEWS & REVIEWS

Alright, you asked for it ... now you're gonna get it — regular coverage of everything QL. Max Phillips dusts down his machine ...

Open wide and say aaah. Ummm, I've had this QL for a while haven't I? No matter, YS has got a lot of catching up to do on the surprising world of the QL. We're starting with the reviews here but we'll be doing hints'n'tips, letters and listings as soon as poss. But first, as they say, here is the news...

- Is there a language the QL can't run? QL/APL is now available for £99.95 from MicroAPL on 01-622 0395. If you know APL, you should know that this'll go on an unexpanded QL and comes in either keyword or squiggle versions. MicroAPL is well chuffed with it, "It's better than some of our £2000 Supermicro versions". Wow! And if you've never heard of it, it's a concise and powerful maths-based language. Past experience says they will be delighted to tell you more but be warned ... if you've never seen a complete statistics package written in one line of program, you won't believe a word of it!

- *Digital Precision's Supercharge SuperBasic compiler continues its run away success and is now in use at several well-known QL software houses, turning out commercial products. There's been less success for a nasty Belgian type turning out fake copies. The blister-packed fakes don't actually work. And the program detects that the Lenslok code has been removed so that any programs which you do manage to compile with it frequently stop with a "Pirated Supercharge" message!*

- Talking of Lenslok, Supercharge's producers point out that Firebird's *Elite* for the Speccy has given the system an unfair reputation — apparently the reason it's so impossible is that the wrong scrambling routine crept into the original release! I always wondered why it was easier to guess than use the lens...

- Beginners looking for a break could do well to contact Breakthrough Software at 17 Shaftsbury Way, Royston, Herts SG8 9DE. Among usual things like a £6.50 print-spooler and a free screen dump with all purchases, Breakthrough has an on-line SuperBasic manual for a mere £8.50 (this is the stuff). When you come across a problem, hit F1 and the On-Line Manual pops-up with complete help on SuperBasic, without wrecking the current display. You can even create your own help screens with *Quill*. Come to think of it, why should this be limited to beginners?

- *On the games side, Leisure Genius's fiendish Scrabble for the Spectrum has made it across to the QL. It costs £14.95 and brings with it new extras like a clock and a much enhanced dictionary. Give 'em a ring on 01-935 4662 if you reckon it won't make mincemeat out of you. Genius also has the rights to Monopoly and Cluedo but is holding fire to see how Scrabble goes. Don't wait too long guys ... Digital Precision is talking about a familiar-sounding game with the QL playing a very intelligent opponent! And still no word on Microdeal's great new adventure with arcade bits.*

- *And finally, the bit at the end that reminds you we can't do without your help. We need your ideas, hints, problems, news and new products ... even if you just write and tell us what you do with your QL, what add-ons you have and what you'd like to see in the mag. You could even send in some program listings ... the Ed's gonna have to get used to this!*

- **Write to: QL News, YS, 14 Rathbone Place, London W1P 1DE.**

KEYDEFINE ... Key

Secrets!

Pscientific produces *KeyDefine*, a general purpose key definer with some helpful extras. You can either keep the program in memory (if you've room) and redefine keys as you go along or you can create small stand-alone key programs which you EXEC at the start of a session. You can store up to 2048 characters on up to 41 keys. Just press Alt and another key and that key's characters are typed out for you. So for example, you can reprogram *Quill's* keyboard to suit your taste or have complete routines run at the touch of a key in SuperBasic. Pressing Alt and Enter will recall the last line entered — a godsend for SuperBasic! The only hassle comes if the program you're running wants the Alt key for itself (such as Hisoft's screen editor). Perhaps a new release could let you define a key of your choice as the call-up key!

You also get *Dir-Help*, a multi-tasking job which will open a real window, let you do directories of either microdrive, list all the jobs in the machine, view your own help file or spool-print to a printer or microdrive. Using the print-spooler lets you instantly get back to work while *DirHelp* does the printing for you. Finally, there's one of those useful fast cartridge copy programs on the tape. At its price it packs in a lot of stuff and makes using the QL a lot quicker and more enjoyable.

FAX BOX

Title	KeyDefine
Publisher	Pscientific Software
Price	£9.95

QL MACRO ASSEMBLER ... Bru

The official Sinclair assembler is produced by GST, the people who nearly bought you QDOS. It's a big, capable, unfriendly thing, crudely adapted to run on the QL and consists of a full-spec 68000 macro-assembler, the you-know-who grotty screen editor and a linker. These are run separately, although you can run the assembler and linker directly from SuperBasic if you have Sinclair's *QL Toolkit*. Still, it's possible to balance both the editor and assembler in memory on a 128K system if your source code is quite small.

But the lack of luxuries is no problem when you consider how good the assembler itself is. As well as a comprehensive set of directives and superb expression evaluation, it can generate either absolute code to be run directly with EXEC or relocatable code that can be glued to previously assembled modules (or even compiled high-level programs) using the linker. The macro facility is very complete and the package includes a library of useful macros, such as IF, FOR, CASE and so on. Using these and your own macros can make machine code almost as painless as SuperBasic. The only disappointment is that conditional assembly is only provided inside macros ... what happened to an IF ... ENDIF directive?

PARAGON... of virtue!

Eigen Software's first QL release is the stunning *Paragon*. Once loaded, you can call up 10 different functions at any time which work in genuine windows. You can reposition them and they don't mess up the screen when you finish with them. Any similarity to Borland *Sidekick* on the IBM PC is purely intentional!

Paragon needs 22K to get going so you can't use it with big programs like the Psion packages on an unexpanded QL but it works fine for assemblers, Superbasic and the like. Our pre-

release version has a fair number of bugs but the final version should be out by now. And Eigen cuts corners with the skimpy manual — it comes on a *Quill* file not on paper! Even so, it's an impressive program. Get one to impress your friends ... plus you'll probably find it dead useful!

FAX BOX

Title Paragon
 Publisher Eigen Software
 Price £19.95

● Press Alt-F1 (and sometimes Enter) to call up *Paragon's* menu.

Do screen dumps on any Epson FX80 compatible printer. Choose inverse or normal dump and use the crosshairs to select any part or all of the screen.

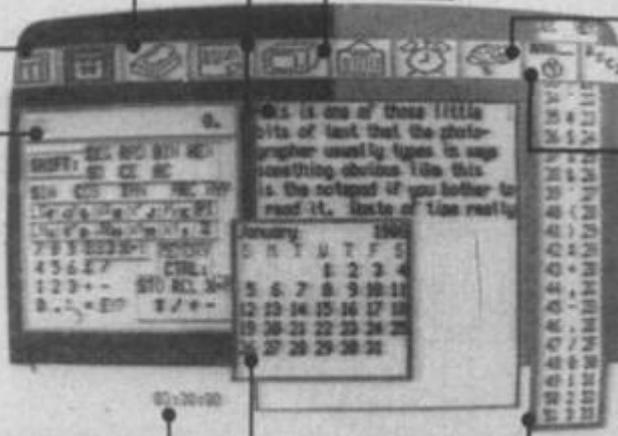
On-screen notepads can be really useful. Sadly, this one lacks proper editing and inserting and won't save the notes you write on it. There's up to 8 pages to go through.

Choose this and *Paragon* will switch the screen off if you've not touched the QL for around three minutes. Saves wear'n'tear on the monitor. (**Speccy users** — see Andy Pennell's program in the last issue!)

This reports free memory between the top of the heap and SuperBasic... it might be misleading because the heap sometimes has holes in it, if you see what I mean.

This is an ordinary four-function calculator.

The Technical calculator has everything you'd expect plus trig functions, logs, roots, powers, reciprocals, factorials, up to 8 nested parentheses, arithmetic on memory, X-Y swap and so on. And a statistics mode for mean, standard deviation, variance and so on. And a programmer's mode with hex-dec-bin conversion and 68000-style arithmetic and logical operators. Worth the price alone!



Of course it's got a clock! It's even got an alarm facility to buzz you at a preset time.

Days and dates from 1961 to 2026. Will **YS** still need me when I'm 64?

Yep, it's an ASCII table. Well, there's one in *Sidekick*.

Leave this on screen while you work and you can tell whether the caps lock is on or not... nice one!

WINDOWS/ICONS/

FONTS... the real thing!

When you write a program like *Paragon*, you're sure to end up with a lot of useful little routines. Like genuine window code, icon and font designers and driving software. Eigen has bundled them all up and interfaced them to SuperBasic to let you use them in your own programs. *Window/Icons/Fonts* gives you eleven new Basic keywords plus two simple editors to design your own fonts and icons and yet another freebie screen dump. Hardly fab'n'gear but great fun.

FAX BOX

Title Windows/Icons/Fonts
 Publisher Eigen Software
 Price £9.95

R WINDOWS... great

minds

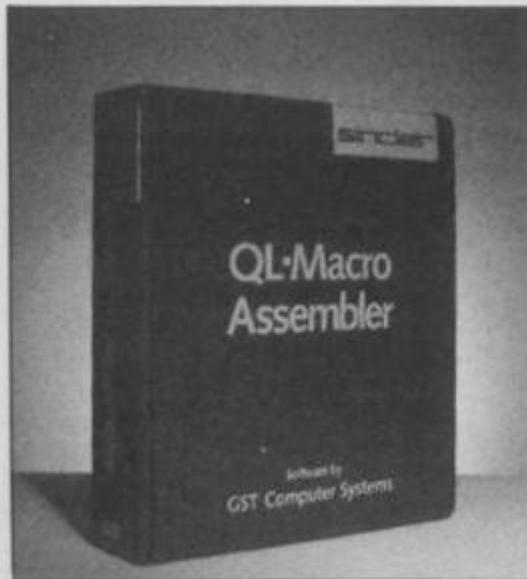
Much the same thinking has been going on at Psientific software whose *Q-Calc* calculator looks a bit out-of-date compared to *Paragon* although it's half the price and can be used with the Psion programs in 128K. But the code behind it now pops up in *R-Windows*, a package that gives you real windows with eight new SuperBasic keywords. Like all Psientific programs, it's got a proper printed booklet and you can buy the source code for another £9.95 — can't be bad!

FAX BOX

Title R-Windows
 Publisher Psientific Software
 Price £9.95

Brute force!

The assembler is also fast... about 25% quicker than Hisoft's *Devpac*. The manual is a ring-bound guide that's comprehensive if a little blunt and lacking in examples and explanations. This may not be suitable for beginners or indeed many programmers but is ideal for professional work or mammoth projects — in which case a better editor, 512K Ram and disk drives are recommended.



FAX BOX

Title QL Macro Assembler
 Publisher Sinclair Research
 Price £59.95

DEVPAC QL... Better than Ever

Devpac's got a reputation as the top Speccy development system though, like most of the people I know, I actually use something else. The QL version is in a different league — and that's got nothing to do with the fact it's programmed by **YS's** own Andy Pennell!

The editor and assembler are combined so that you can assemble your code simply by hitting alt-A. It's a pleasant screen editor controlled using Alt keys and even has a help screen... the only drawback being the odd bug and the failure (like the GST editor) to highlight a marked block of text — pull your socks up Pennell! The assembler is pretty comprehensive... full arithmetic, conditional assembly, a proper macro facility plus all the usual directives. Output is an EXECable binary file... there's no linker so long programs have to be done by complete assembly with INCLUDE files. But the only thing that actually upsets me is that it automatically assumes PC-relative in relative instructions and sometimes you have to explicitly tell it not to. I'm sure it's trying to be helpful but I'm a Humpty-Dumpty programmer and instructions mean exactly what I say they mean!

Devpac's debugger is Hisoft's superb *MONQL*, with its single-step, breakpoints, front-panel display, disassembler and so on. It even looks-

up *QDOS* function names and error messages for you so that you can see instantly what your program is doing. Six new SuperBasic commands are added, allowing you to list current jobs and break into them.

Hisoft has an excellent upgrade policy so the few teeny bugs shouldn't worry you and the package is even available on EPROM. An excellent choice if you're just starting out or have an unexpanded machine... and one you won't outgrow in a hurry!



FAX BOX

Title Devpac QL
 Publisher Hisoft
 Price £39.95

J'ADORE LES BINDERS DE YS



Sacre bleu! Zut alors! Maurice Chevalier! Les bindeurs de *Your Sinclair* are ready! Zey 'ave been individually 'and painted by ze Art Editeur 'imself with ze genuine gold lettering on ze spine. Zey are magnifique, superb et très chic. Zey are also très cheap, seulement £4.95 for ze pleasure of keeping ze copies of YS neat et tidy sur votre shelves. Ooh la la! Is zis not brilliant? 'Az a frog legs? At ze price, 'ow can you say 'non'?

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QL GAMES



BARON ROUGE

Are you really an ace? Sure? Prove it! . . . No abstract aliens, but airplanes, balloons, birds and other strange or absurd things flying in the sky . . .

The aim of the game is to become the General. Very funny! 20 levels, machine code, compatible joystick.

GWENDOLINE

is the name of your fiancee, captive in a dungeon of the haunted castle. You, the hero, try to discover her; find the keys, eat ham, apples . . . (you are human, no?) and run! Beware of the bottles of wine! And what happens when you reach GWENDOLINE? See yourself . . . 38 screens. Very nice graphics, machine code, compatible joystick.

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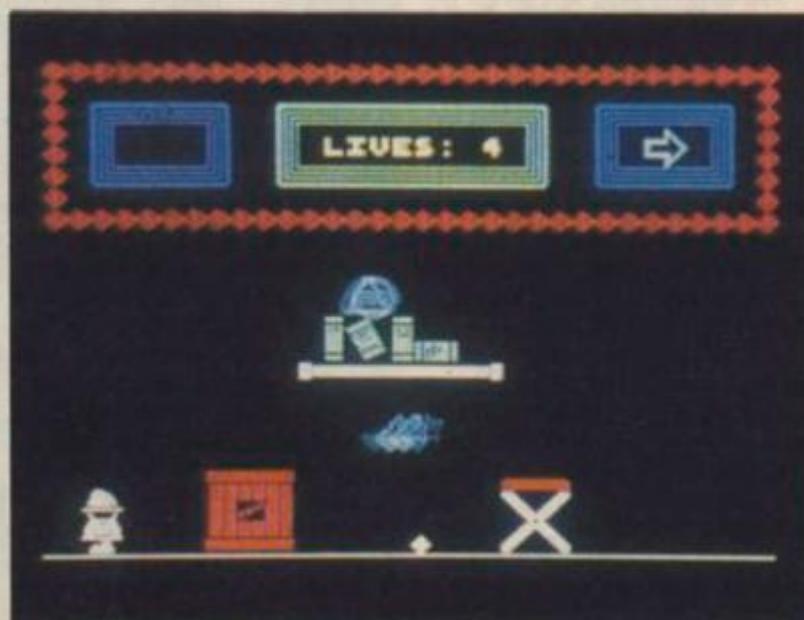
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THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING FIREMAN

Mastertronic/£1.99

Rick The fireman hero featured in Mastertronic's latest, is not Hissing but Shuffling Sid. And you'd be shuffling too if, like Sid, you'd been shrunk in a shrinking plant fire. Being only half the man he used to be (bit like the Ed really) and only on half pay (like me), it's your job to find the stretching rack that'll return Sid to normal.

A silly scenario, true, but it's one arcade adventure that's offensive to nobody unless you're a dwarf! Although a cheapo, it's got nowt taken out when it comes to the basics of a satisfying game. Sure, it'd be better to know how much energy the nasties knock from you on contact, and, okay, his leaping about is a most peculiar movement — but this is Shuffling Sid after all.



Otherwise the graphics are cute, Sid cuddly and the thinking behind the game fairly thorough. The objects you need to collect to open doors are not always the most obvious — maybe the very fat mouse is of more use than the axe! Most access to the different rooms is up and down fireman's poles (yup, it's a multi-screened maze), but with the right objects on you, short cuts can be bounced through ceilings.

It's not as easy as it always looks, this fulsome family fun, and if you pass this over 'cos you think it's a cheapie, then that'll be your loss, — this Sid's not for hissing or missing.

Graphics	■■■■■■■■■■	7
Playability	■■■■■■■■■■	
Value for Money	■■■■■■■■■■	
Addictiveness	■■■■■■■■■■	

Mastertronic/£1.99

Rick Here's a rocket for your pocket from Mastertronic, a sort of space age Band Aid. Earth has finally run out of food and instead of using trad means like genocide to solve the problem, we're sending out space pilots to filch the food from alien transporters. Trouble is they've all been squelched and it's up to you to fly the firmament and feed the world. The more grub you get (and aliens you zap, of course) the further up the astral plane of promotion you'll move, from rookie to the ultimate accolade of hero!

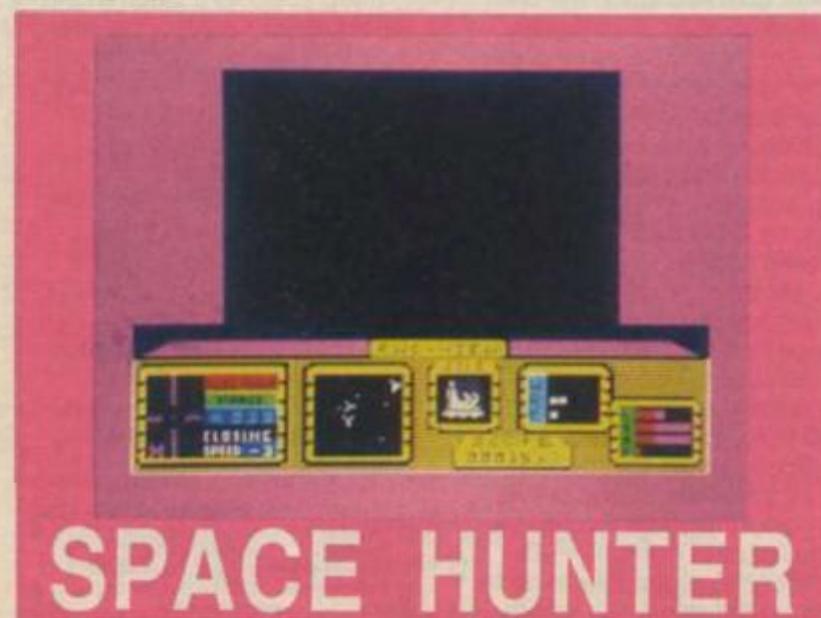
Your first task is to set your approach speed and seek out a target from one of the three types of alien ship. Then plot your course across the star map, keeping a close check on your fore and aft viewers and astral compass. Readings are given for system status (shields, ammo, fuel) and player manifest (warp drive, robo bike, equipment). Warp drive'll get you out of a star

system (and trouble) but is heavy on the galactic gasoline.

Get this all sussed (phew! not easy!) and you board your target. Jet pack propelled (inertia effect'n'all) you can now search for stores supplies and flashing food aboard the ship — but beware, she's heavily protected inside too. A mini-maze ensues, and I think you'll be mega-amazed at the features squeezed into this package.

With eleven ranks to be achieved and fifteen star systems to be explored this game's worth the money for sheer longevity. But it's far more than a cosmic maze or alien shoot'em up. To call it a cut down version of *Elite* is a complement to both. But *Space Hunter* isn't just a cheap imitation — it's a valid game in its own right. A wonder at £1.99.

Graphics	■■■■■■■■■■	8
Playability	■■■■■■■■■■	
Value for Money	■■■■■■■■■■	
Addictiveness	■■■■■■■■■■	



QL QUBOIDS

Sinclair/£9.95

Max Panic stations ... literally 'cos this is a version of the old *Panic* arcade game that's not for the squeamish. You play the driller killer in this plats'n'ladders thriller ... digging holes in the platforms, luring the monsters into them and then ... bam, bam, bam — drillin'em right through the head. Sicko!

Yes, forget the fact that the keyboard controls are sticky and that getting on and off the ladders is really fiddly — wait until you slice up your first hapless Nebulon. All the time, you've got to keep knocking back the hamburgers and oxygen just to stay alive — just like working for YS in fact. But don't lose your nerve and take mercy on a trapped meanie — leave em in the holes long enough and they turn into faster nastier beings altogether. Dealing with Gastroids, Bipods and the dreaded Quboids is much harder because you need to drop them through several platforms at one go to be rid of them.

The graphics are okay, the sound a little timid but the game is all go and there's plenty of levels to bore your way through even if more than four types of monster would've been a great help. Hardly the most original of games but a real screamer once you get the bit firmly stuck between their teeth.

Graphics	■■■■■■■■■■	8
Playability	■■■■■■■■■■	
Value for Money	■■■■■■■■■■	
Addictiveness	■■■■■■■■■■	



ROBOTO

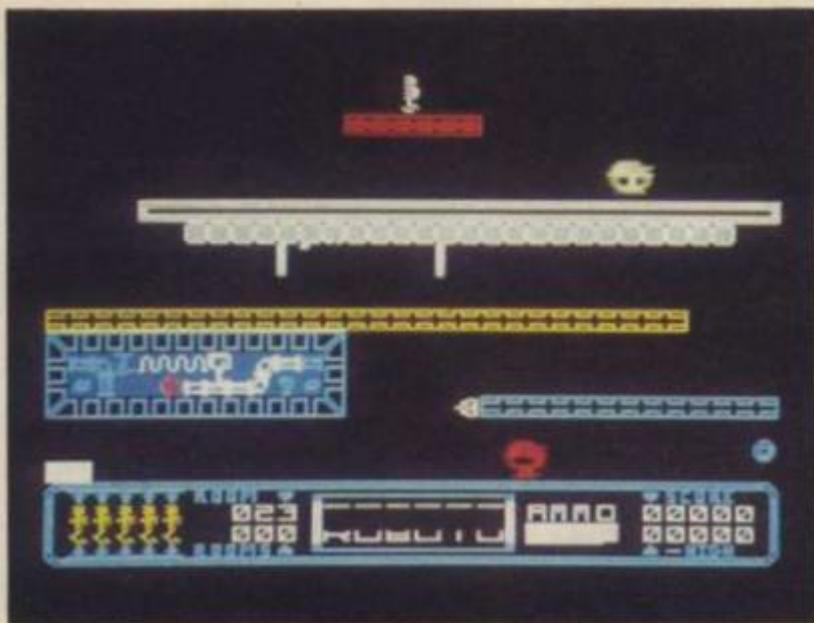
Bug Byte/£2.95

Gwyn Here's a topical little game in the light of recent Sellafield mishaps. It all concerns the last remaining power station, in the year 2086, which is running wild. It's up to you to create a robot to venture into the complex and deactivate each of the fifty-one zones.

It should come as little surprise to find that behind this plot lies another platform's game, but without the ladders. Your five droids can either sink down a level or move faster with a twitch of the joystick. There's the usual selection of rampaging robots shooting at you and a maze of exits linking the sections — and as some are part of one way systems it all takes a bit of mapping.

Nothing revolutionary then, but timing of the robots and the sliding doors is perfect so that each screen will take some time to master. Everything a budget game should be.

Graphics	■■■■■■■■■■	8
Playability	■■■■■■■■■■	
Value for Money	■■■■■■■■■■	
Addictiveness	■■■■■■■■■■	



FALKLANDS 82

PSS/£7.95

Rachael This is the sort of game that gets a lot of flak from people who see it as nothing more than exploitative bad taste. In fact, *Falklands 82* is a serious wargame and its intentions are undoubtedly honourable, which only raises the question of why a simulation of contemporary history is considered tasteless when a simulation of the mud and blood of the Somme isn't.

You play the British, against an Argentinian micro, in a strategy game that concentrates on land activity. But the task force is still an important factor as it supplies both reinforcements and the aircraft carriers, Hermes and Invincible. You start the game

by allocating fifteen ships between the task force's protective screen and land gunning. Then it's to a map of the island and a decision which of four landing spots you'll choose as your beach head — it's wise to bring in the SAS or SBS to provide intelligence as they can reconnoitre a five sector radius without committing you to a major landing.

After that it's a question of occupying, or being the last to occupy, the ten tiny towns of those windswept rocks. And though you can have a crack at landing at Port Stanley, the concentration of Argentinian troops is likely to make it your final objective. Unless you use the Recce option carefully, the

first you'll know of the Argentinians is when you bump into them, though at turn twenty any remaining pockets of resistance will be revealed. The shape of the island presents problems of bottlenecks forming, and you'll need to plan carefully for terrain, particularly if you're to have the long range gunning of the artillery. Fog and rough conditions can rob you of air and sea support, but if they're fit for you they'll also be fit for the Argentinians. In that case you hope your Harriers can see them off.

And that's it in a nutshell. With its single key entries, using initials for the options, it plays smoothly, though what seems like a large amount of

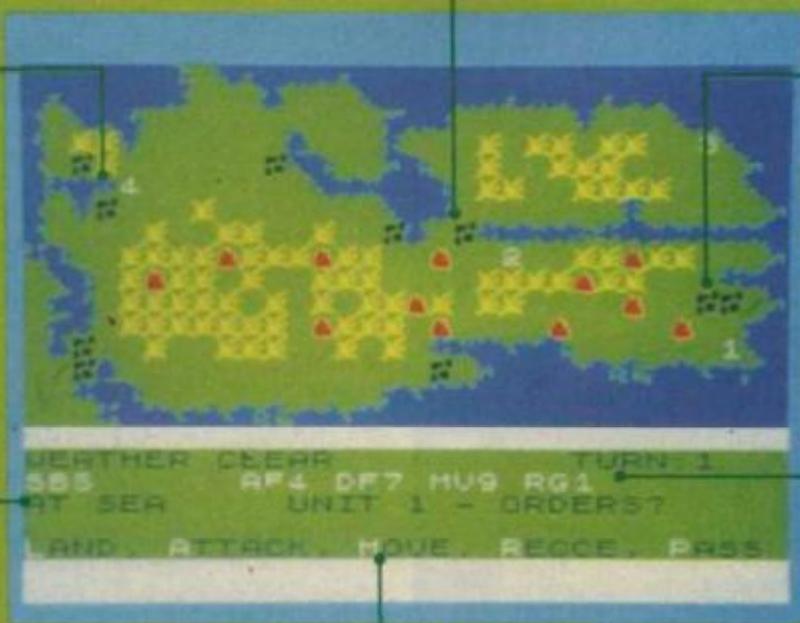
Basic means annoyingly slow responses at times. The instructions claim that the British are white and the Argentinians black when in fact the Brits are blue and the Argies red and yellow — and to confuse things further British units under command flash red and yellow too. Though it's done away with grid references it still plays rather 'blockily'. In its favour, though, it has five levels, the easiest of which is a good learning mode and the simplicity and relatively small scale of the game could make it ideal for newcomers.

Graphics	■■■■■■■■■■	8
Playability	■■■■■■■■■■	
Value for Money	■■■■■■■■■■	
Addictiveness	■■■■■■■■■■	

Hush — here's the Special Boat Squadron, landed at Uranie Bay on the Berkley Sound for a quick look around. You know where those Argies are now but you'll also have to find a way to keep them alive.

Next stop on our tour of the historic Falklands is San Carlos Bay, the historical landing stage. Will you choose it? There's a long yomp ahead and a lot of ground to clear first.

General news appears here. Not 'Our Heroic Lads Blast Argies' but what's happening at sea and incoming plane raids, plus Yes/No questions about air and gun support.



"Where's Port Stanley?" "I don't know, Ollie." It's here, and as the capital is likely to be strongly defended you'll need to keep strength in reserve and make sure you can get your guns in range.

Here's the unit under control with its stats: Aggression Factor is attack strength, DF Defence ditto and both are used to calculate combat, while MV is Movement allowance and RG Range — most units have to be next to each other.

Here are the standard options for your forces, Land is only necessary for the initial beach head — no two pronged attacks — while Recce is for SBS and SAS only. Move leads to a separate N/S/E/W menu and Pass is for those who prefer Master-mined (boom, boom)!

F.A. CUP FOOTBALL

Virgin/£7.95

Rick When the Ed heard Virgin's *F.A. Cup Football* was the first Football Association endorsed soccer game and that Tony Williams, editor of the *F.A. League Club Directory* was writing it, he knew experts were needed to review it. Tough, you got me instead. Off he sent me to find 'added realism'. The Royal Box at Wembley, I dreamed. Oh no, he poured iced water down me wellies, gave me half a can of flat Skol and made me watch this game over the shoulder of a six foot seven Arsenal fan

through a Rediffusion window. The glamour just never stops.

In many respects this text based simulation with a touch of strategy is the most accurate of football games on the market. It attempts to recreate the splendours of a complete F.A. Cup campaign. With an up to eight player facility it's a full family game. Each player can choose ten teams to manage, picked from the 92 league teams plus 32 non-leaguers, or you can program in a personal favourite.

At each round a draw is made but there are no rattling balls in a black bag, just a



scrolling screen. If you want to leap (as all but the most manic Runcorn fans will) to the third round where top division clubs enter, then you can. Before each game in the first three rounds you can choose your basic tactic — defensive, balanced or attacking. In round four you can modify this at half time.

From round five you'll be asked an increasing number of managerial questions. Some are silly and rude (do you let your Nigerian winger see his witch doctor!!) to the crucial and practical (how do you re-motivate your penalty taker?). You also have the option to look at news flashes that might affect the morale of your team. At this stage you also get extra chances to change your strategy depending on the state of play.

The glory of the F.A. Cup though is unpredictability. And this simulation tries so hard to be accurate it ends up with the anonymous appeal of watching the pools panel sit. The F.A. Cup, thank God, is not programmed to the dictates of Don Howe. True there are little

ripples of shock — Runcorn beat Wimbledon, Liverpool and Arsenal get involved in an unlikely eight goal shoot out — but nothing that's gonna make Saint And Greavsie take up tiddlywinks. This game's statistical background — who's done best in the last ten years — is severely weighted toward the big four — Everton, Spurs, Liverpool and (spit) Manchester Utd. I'd have relished a little more managerial control to make me feel thoroughly involved as the minutes ticked by — the only action ever seen on the screen.

For sheer variety the *Rothman's World Cup* is a better bet, but this walks all over Bryan Robson's *Football Manager* (which is something I'd like to do). I refuse to knock this game. As someone who flew half way round the world to watch the Cup Final last year I've taken great joy in managing Everton to three successive Cup victories. Eat yer heart out Big Ron.

Graphics	■■■■■■■■■■	7
Playability	■■■■■■■■■■	
Value for Money	■■■■■■■■■■	
Addictiveness	■■■■■■■■■■	



SODOV THE SORCERER



Bug Byte/£2.95

Rick Who remembers Mickey Mouse as the Sorcerer's Apprentice in *Fantasia*? Other than the Ed, go on, put your hands up? Well, it seems nothing's changed much. Wizards are still feisty so and sos and apprentices lazy lads likely to be laid off (or laid out) at a moment's notice. Of course, the world of Disney innocence is now long gone. Bug Byte's sorcerer is charmingly named SODOV and his three apprentices are all on YOPs courses.

But despite this humorous nod to the present, this game's as old as, if not the hills, then at least the earliest sword and sorcery arcades. The wizard defends the castle ramparts whilst his protegés toil and trouble in the courtyard. Dragons attempt to swamp the castle but you can zap them with a shouted spell (mmm, now I wonder what that could be, — is there a clue in the Wizard's name?). The spell turns the dinos into dosh, but at great expense to your energy — which can only be replenished by shouting another spell at the star over the tower.

Miss the dragons though and they'll make yum-yums of your YOPs — and if you don't pick up the cash pretty slick, then an ostrich will. So there is a (marginal if not magical) touch of strategy — you'll have to make a decision as to when you whizz out of the castle — or do you stay and protect your apprentices.

Sounds familiar? — you bet. But while Bug Byte keeps the emphasis on the cheap and cheerful rather than pretentious and pricey then I won't hear a word against them.

Graphics	■■■■■■■■■■	7
Playability	■■■■■■■■■■	
Value for Money	■■■■■■■■■■	
Addictiveness	■■■■■■■■■■	

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💡 My Spectrum loses its colour capacity on warming up. How do I change the faulty part on my Spectrum as repairs are very expensive here. Oh, and while I'm here my Spectrum+ has lost its extra function keys, how do I fix this?

M Neuman, Israel

💡 Inside the Spectrum you should find two white discs — adjusting the bottom one when the Spectrum is hot should bring the colour back to its cheeks. As for the Spectrum+, there is a little bar under the keyboard top secured by screws where the extra membrane overlay is connected to the main one. Tightening this or adjusting the membrane underneath should bring the extra functions.

💡 Although I've never had any problems with my Seikosha GP-50S printer itself, it causes 'mucho problema' when I try to connect other hardware devices. This mainly happens when I load and save a program. Do I hit it with a rubber mallet or is there a more rational solution?

Mark Danham, Hull

💡 Ummm, I think it would be a good idea if you didn't hit it. The printer more than likely isn't well-seated on the back of the Spectrum which is causing it to appear at the same time as the ULA, crashing the computer. You'll only make it worse if you attach more equipment at the back. Try to stop it wobbling or get one with a tighter edge connector.

💡 I'm having mega-problems setting the 'bit image mode' on my serial Epson P40 printer. I've tried various listings and unfortunately failed miserably.

Paul Stackhouse, Burnley, Lancashire

💡 Well, you've come to the right place. Try setting up and sending the ESC codes via the B channel if you're using the Interface 1.

💡 Where can I get a backplane, as seen in *Your Spectrum* issue 18 in the Bits and Pieces article? The manufacturer, UMICRO says it no longer does them.

BJ Flatt, Worcester Park, Surrey

💡 Well, EPROM Services do a mother board for the Spectrum but it's unbuffered. If I were you I'd give them a try.

💡 I wonder if you could help me Steve. I bought a Fidelity CTM1400 TV to use with an Adapt Electronics composite video interface so that I would get a better picture. It is an improvement but I still get dot crawl, especially when using BEEP. Is there anything I can do to get rid of it?

KE Hankin, Aldridge, West Midlands

💡 Seems to me that you've already done your best. The only way to eliminate it is to use a black and white picture I'm afraid. Have a bash at adjusting the top white variable capacitor as yours is an issue 2 — this may reduce the problem slightly.

💡 I need some advice on how to construct a microdrive — does it contain a ROM?

James Holmwood

💡 Yes it does have a ROM and circuitry to bring it in without disrupting a program. This is usually done by using a Non-Maskable-Interrupt which doesn't work on the regular Sinclair ROM. It then runs its own program and transfers all the memory contents to tape so that it can then be reassembled in the Spectrum to be loaded back into memory from microdrive.

Restarting can then be carried out by simply jumping back to the original ROM to restart the program where you left off.

💡 Do I need to buy *Tasprint* in order to print out text from *Tasword Two*? I've got a Timex 2040 printer and cannot afford to buy both.

Anthony Empson, Southway, Plymouth

💡 Breathe a sigh of relief Anthony — no you don't. *Tasword* includes a Sinclair printer copy option and you can use this with the Timex.

💡 You're my last hope! I've taken my Timex 2040 printer back once but it still doesn't work. I'm desperate. I can't get screen dumps to work properly — they come out all elongated with gaps in. I have only one more thing to say — help!

Nigel Bareham, Winchester

💡 Sorry old chap! I've investigated the problem by looking inside the printer but it seems that the spacing is governed mechanically. There's no solution to the problem as you can't reprogram it or reverse the printer paper.

HARD FACTS

Are your peripherals proving a pest? Send your hardware hard luck story to Steve Adams.

💡 Please, please, please help. I really want to get onto Bulletin Boards but I'm not sure what I need apart from a VTX5000 modem.

David Scott, Thetford, Norfolk

💡 Well, you'll need some software as well as the VTX since most boards operate on ASCII not Prestel software which is all the VTX contains. You can either get something like Specnet for the VTX or you can pay a little more for a new modem called the Voyager that has auto-dial/answer and comes with both ASCII and Prestel software on ROM. It costs about £100. As for costs, most Bulletin Boards only cost you the price of the phonecall and that obviously varies depending upon time and distance. My Sinclair - only board is on 01-249-3238, 24 hours a day at 1200/75 and 300 baud.

YOUR SINCLAIR
14, RATHBONE PLACE
LONDON W1P 1DE

💡 Does anyone know of a program to control a digital LN03 laser printer for vertical printing etc.

Colin Nesbitt, Dumbarton, Scotland

💡 Unfortunately you don't say if this is controlled through an Interface 1 RS232 interface or some other. The vertical printing is a function of the control codes (codes below 32) on the printer itself and varies from printer to printer so my advice would be to look in the manual. To send control codes on Interface 1 the B channel must be used, otherwise the Spectrum will convert or ignore these codes.

💡 Help! Since I bought a Wafadrive for my issue 2 Spectrum I've had nothing but trouble from my peripherals.

Dr John Reynolds, Sheffield

💡 The Wafadrive uses addresses from 0 to 16 so I suggest you try putting in the peripherals before the Wafadrive and check that the address lines A0-A4 are all at binary 1 before you bring in your own devices.

💡 I'm trying to convert my Spectrum to a portable machine but I'm having a big problem. When I connect it to 9-D1200 Ni-cad batteries it blows the power transistor R4 (ZTX650). What can I do?

John Ellingford, Pulham St Mary, Norfolk

💡 Oh dear! There are two possible things you can do. Either bring your voltage down to 9.25 volts and fit a 2,000 microfarad capacitor across the Spectrum's power input to slow down the surge you're getting. Or, you could put in a small value resistor in series with the +9 supply but before the capacitor. This would bring the surge down even more.

💡 My Timex printer produces oval circles — crazy! I've been back to the shop but they say it's up to specification. What do you think?

Steve Summerscales, Batley

💡 This happens to the best of printers because the distance between each line of dots is greater than the distance between each dot on the line. This is known as 'aspect distortion' in the trade and arises because the characters are five dots by seven high, not eight by eight as on the Spectrum. Sorry, but you're stuck with it.



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PROGRAM :

TIME TRAVEL



WHAT DID
AAAAGGGHHH!

DAVE ROGAN
WROTE A TIME
TRAVEL GAME,
IT WORKED
BETTER THAN HE
EXPECTED. IT
THRUST HIM
FORWARD IN TIME
TO THE YEAR
2086. A YEAR
IN WHICH THE
ROBOTS RULE
SUPREME.

ROGAN?

ROGAN?
ARE YOU
ALRIGHT?

DAMN IT.
ROGAN!

LOOK OUT.
HERE I
COME.

WHAT THE ...

TWO HOURS LATER.
SOMEWHERE IN
CENTRAL ROBOT
COMMAND.

UGH...
MY HEAD...

IN ANSWER
TO ALL YOUR
QUESTIONS, BEFORE
YOU ASK THEM,
HUMAN, THE
REASON WHY YOU
ARE NOT ALREADY
DEAD IS BECAUSE
YOU ARE GOING TO
TAKE PART IN A
LITTLE
EXPERIMENT.

THE ANSWER
TO THAT IS
SIMPLE...

BEYOND
THAT DOOR IS
THE ARENA OF
DEATH, YOU WILL
NEED ALL YOUR
SKILLS AND WITS
TO SURVIVE.

WHAT IF
I DON'T WANT
TO PLAY?

SCRIPT: MAMO, ART: WILLIAM SIMPSON, LETTERS: ANNIE HALFACREE.



"...THE GIRL DIES."

YOU'VE GOT ME, FOR NOW, DESIL BREATH...

JUST WATCH ME, YOU METAL RUST BUCKET.

"IF YOU DO NOT ACHIEVE VICTORY WITHIN THE TEN MINUTE TIME ALLOCATION ... SHE DIES ANYWAY."

BUT WHEN THIS IS OVER... I'M COMING AFTER YOU !!

"THE CLOCK HAS ALREADY STARTED..."

LETA.

"DYING WON'T BE EASY."

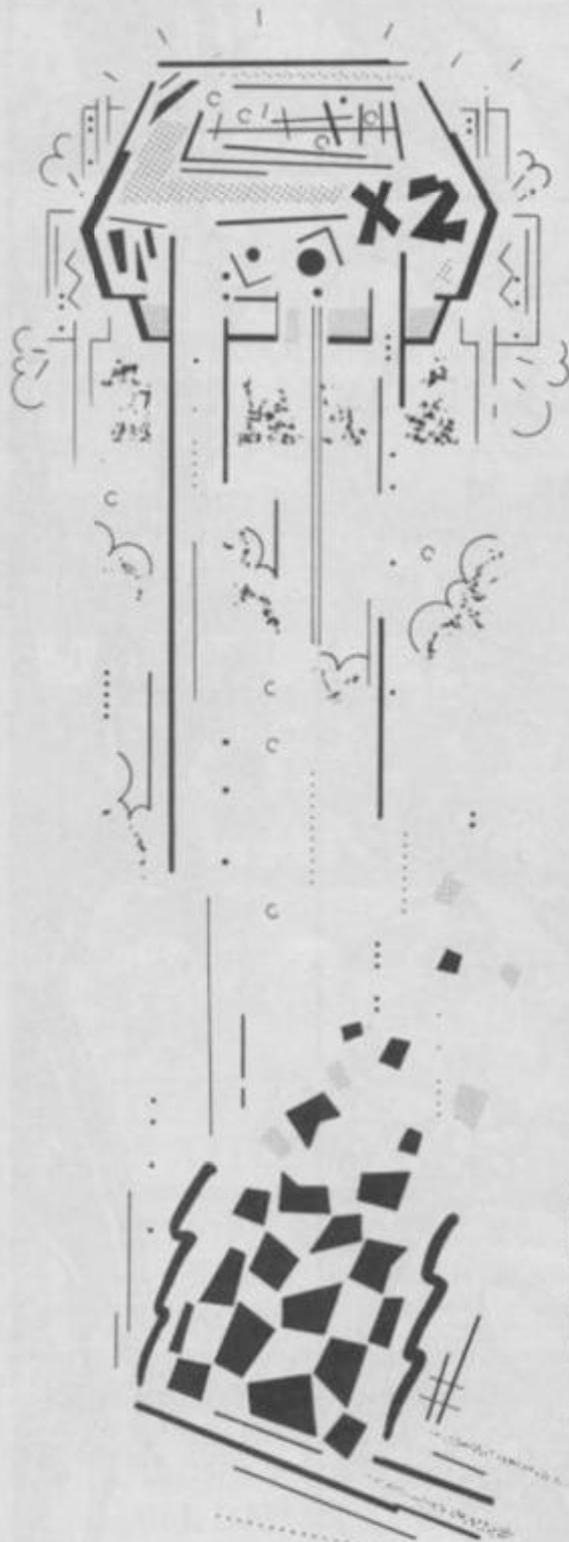


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FAST FORWARD

When the Spectrum starts to load, it's time for most of us to nod off. Until now — this prime cut of code from Danish programmer, **Esben Krag Hansen**, speeds up the whole process.



Have you ever felt you were about to peg out from old age waiting for your Speccy to load? Well, this ingenious piece of machine code goes a long way to solving the problem. With it, you can double the speed of saving, loading, verifying and merging. And it does it by using improved versions of the ROM cassette handling routines in which the timing values can be changed, so giving you full control of the data transfer speed. So, you can put away those pension books for a few years yet!

FRIENDLY... AND FAST

The program is very user-friendly — there's no need for all that PEEKing and POKEing here. Type it in following the instructions, then save it to avoid any mishaps — no-one's going to relish retyping all those data statements! Now start it with RUN and you'll be asked immediately for a start address. And the good news here is that the turbo-loader is relocatable. You can enter any start address suitable for storing the 1845 bytes of code and the loader program will relocate the turbo-loader to run in that area. So, you'll have no problems using the turbo-loader in conjunction with your other machine code utilities.

When the loader program's finished, you should save the machine code as instructed on the screen. Now you're ready to roll...

SPEED SAVING

Using the program is simplicity itself. All you have to do is insert a RANDOMIZEUSR statement before the turbo-loader commands. It's this that activates the turbo-loader's command interpreter. The turbo-loader will now remain activated until it reaches the end of the line or a command it doesn't recognise.

As an example, let's have a look at how you'd save a Screen\$ using the turbo-loader:

RANDOMIZEUSR x: SAVE "test pic" SCREENS

where x is the start address of the turbo-loader. And, of course, the program supports all the usual cassette commands — SAVE, LOAD, VERIFY and MERGE.

But stop, you're saying — at least, you are if you've just tried executing the statement above. It's no faster at all. A-ha! (*Famous Scandinavian pop group? Ed*). That's because I've yet to tell you how to change the transfer speed — the baud rate. Initially, the speed is exactly the same with or without the turbo-loader — 1500 baud (bits per second). But you can easily change this using one of the four new commands that the program adds to ZX Basic.

The problem is that while SAVE, LOAD, VERIFY and MERGE already exist in Basic, where do we find keywords for the four new commands? I've got round this by adopting four of the Speccy's existing keywords, RUN, LIST, INPUT and PRINT. They all still work as normal except when you're using them as commands to the turbo-loader. Then their new roles come into play.

NOTE FOR TRANSPOTTERS

Ha, thought you'd caught me out didn't you? Doesn't he know, you're saying, that the use of RANDOMIZE to call machine code makes the RND function unusable? That every call actually resets the RND value to the same number all the time? Well, yes I do! And to get round this side effect, I've made it so that the turbo-loader on return loads the BC-register with the value of the system variable SEED. Then the RANDOMIZEUSR command will only load SEED with the value it already contains. And bingo, no effect on the RND function at all! So, the whole problem is eliminated using a single machine code instruction, LD, BC (SEED) that's only four bytes long.

FAST FOUR-WARD

The four 'new' keywords work in the following way:

LIST

This command reads a header from tape and lists it on the screen. For example, LIST will display the start address and the length of a machine code block. And that should keep the hackers happy!

If you want to see how the first two commands work, try:
RANDOMIZEUSR x: RUN 3100: SAVE "me" CODE x, 1845: LIST

PRINT

This command lets you choose just how much info you want on screen. It should be followed by either a 0, 1 or 2.

0: Neither the baud-rate nor the names of the data blocks during LOAD/VERIFY are printed onto the screen i.e. zilch!
1: Only the names of the data blocks are printed.
2: Everything is printed.

RUN

This now changes the baud-rate. It must be followed by a number ranging from 1500 to 3500 inclusive, in steps of 200 (1500, 1700, 1900 and so on). The maximum baud-rate you can use all depends on your tape recorder. But most of you should be able to run at a minimum of 3100 baud — more than double the normal speed.

INPUT

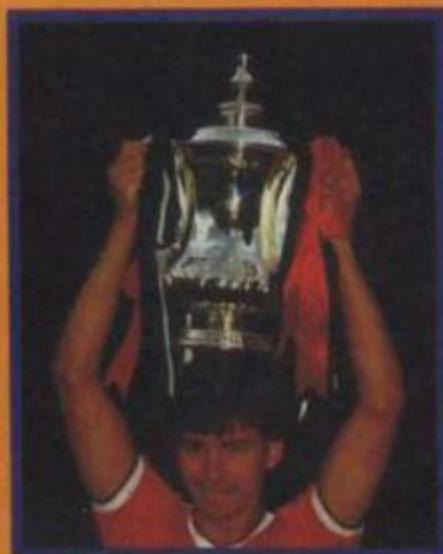
This is used in exactly the same way as PRINT. It deals with the message "Start tape, then..." and then waits for a key in the SAVE command. The values are used as follows:
0: The message isn't printed and you don't have to press a key.
1: The turbo-loader only waits for the key press.
2: As usual.

The turbo-loader is initially set to PRINT 2 and INPUT 2.

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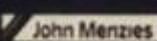
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FAST FORWARD

TURBOLOADER

Phew, look at all those data statements! But don't despair; it's not nearly as bad as it looks. The number in front of every hex-string is a checksum. So the loader program automatically checks every single byte you've typed in. And unless you've made a real pig's ear of it, your typing errors will be detected and the appropriate error message printed on the screen. Finally, save it and start speedin'.

```
10 REM SPECTRUM TURBOLOADER
20 REM
30 REM (C) 1985 Esben Krag Han
sen
40 REM
50 DEF FN h(a#)=CODE a#-4B-(7
AND a#>"9")
100 INPUT "Start address: ";star
t
110 CLEAR start-1: LET start=FE
EK 23730+256*PEEK 23731+1
```

Lines 10-110 Ask the user where to put the machine code and set RAMTOP right.

```
120 PRINT AT 10,11;"WAIT 4 MIN.
"
130 PRINT AT 8,6;"CREATING MACH
INE CODE"
140 LET adr=start: RESTORE
```

Lines 120-140 Sit back and relax message.

```
150 FOR i=1 TO 15
160 LET p=i: LET sum=0: READ ch
ecksum,d#
170 PRINT AT 12,14;1845-adr+sta
rt;" "
180 GO SUB 800
190 IF fejl THEN GO TO 250
200 LET h#=#a#: GO SUB 800
210 IF fejl THEN GO TO 600
220 POKE adr, FN h(h#)*16+FN h(a
#)
230 LET sum=sum+PEEK adr: LET a
dr=adr+1
240 GO TO 170
250 IF sum<>checksum THEN GO T
O 600
260 NEXT i
```

Lines 150-260 Read the machine code into memory, checking it line by line.

```
400 PRINT AT 12,0,,AT 8,4;"RELO
CATING"
410 RESTORE 2000
420 FOR i=1 TO 4
430 LET sum=0
440 READ checksum
450 READ poke
460 IF poke=-1 THEN GO TO 520
470 READ v
480 LET sum=sum+poke+v
490 POKE start+poke+1,INT ((sta
rt+v)/256)
500 POKE start+poke,start+v-256
*PEEK (start+poke+1)
510 GO TO 450
520 IF sum<>checksum THEN CLS
: PRINT "ERROR IN LINE ";1990+i*
10: STOP
530 NEXT i
```

Lines 400-530 Adjust the code so that it works wherever it's been loaded.

```
540 CLS
550 PRINT "RAMTOP max. i";start
-1;"SAVE M/C: ";SAVE "name"CO
DE ";start;"1845"CALL MACHIN
```

```
E CODE: ""RANDOMIZE USR ";start
560 STOP
```

Lines 540-560 All done ... print info on how to load, save and run the code.

```
600 CLS : PRINT "ERROR IN LINE
";i*10+990: STOP
```

Line 600 Coops, an error in the code lines.

```
800 LET fejl=0
810 IF p>LEN d# THEN LET fejl=
1: RETURN
820 LET a#=#d#(p): LET p=p+1
830 IF a#>" " THEN RETURN
840 GO TO 810
```

Lines 800-840 Return the next hex character of machine code data.

```
1000 DATA 17954,"DFE0D2B47FE3A2
B02CF0BFD340D2A5D5CE5E72160EAE3F
EF5285DF5E5CD9DEAE1F1FEE285FFEF
7CA17ECFEF0CA68EC0600FEF8286104F
EEF285C04FED6285704FED52852225D5
CFD350DE1CDB4EAE4B765CC93A2BF1F
E02C0C36E0D3A2BF1FE02C0C06E0D115
0F0AFCD0A0CED4B27F1CD1B1A3E0DD7C
9CDF0EAFE03D266EC"
1010 DATA 14482,"322BF118DB8CDF0E
AFE0330F1322CF1C9E7CDB21CC3941E7
B3229F1E7CDB8C1CCD3025283D0111003
A29F1A728020E22F7D5DDE1060B3E201
21310FCDD3601FFCDF12B21F6FF0B090
330103A29F1A72003C3420678B1280A0
10A00DDE5E123EBEDB0DFEE420473A2
9F1FE03CABA1CE7CDB22BCBF9300C210
0003A29F13D2816C3"
1020 DATA 14236,"7006C28A1CCD302
5281B237EDD770B237EDD770C23DD710
E3E01CB7128013CDD7700EBE7FE2920D
AE7EBC35DEDFAA201C3A29F1FE03CAB
A1CE7DD360B00DD360C1B210040DD750
DD740E184FAFAF204D3A29F1FE03CAB
A1CE7CD4820200C3A29F1A7CABA1CCDE
61C180FCDB21CDFFE2C2B0C3A29F1A7C
ABA1CCDE61C1804E7"
1030 DATA 14257,"CDB21CCD991EDD7
10BDD700CCD991EDD710DD700E6069D
D360003C35DEFCEA2B07DD360E80C33
DED3A29F1A7C28A1CE7CDB21CC334EDE
7CDB21CCD991EC5CD2B2D016400CD2B2
DEF0538CD941EFE0F3B34FE243030D60
FCB47202ACB27CB27213DF106004F09E
B212DF1060BC51A134E23462302C110F
53A0BF03239F0C1ED"
1040 DATA 14298,"4327F1C3BDEACF0
9E7FE0D2B06FE3A2802CF0B111100DD2
116F1AF37CDBBEF30F23A16F1FE0430E
BCDB4EA3E02CD011611E6FOCD0A0C111
7F1060A1AFE203001AFD71310F63E0DD
73A16F1A72822FE03285D3E051150F0C
D0A0C3A24F1F5E61FC640D7F1CB77280
33E24D73E0DD7184EED4B23F178E6C02
010C53E021150F0C"
1050 DATA 14088,"0A0CC1CD1B1A3E0
DD73E061150F0CD0A0CED4B25F1C5CD2
AED3E071150F0CD0A0CC12A21F1A7ED4
2444DCD2AED180F3E031150F0CD0A0CE
D4B23F1CD2AED3E041150F0CD0A0CED4
B21F1CD2B2DCDE32D3E0DD7C9CD991ED
D710DD700EDD3600002A595CED5B535
C37ED52DD750BDD740C2A4B5CED52DD7
50FDD7410EB3A29F1"
1060 DATA 15521,"A7CAFDEEE501110
ODD09CDBDEADDES111100AF37CDBBEFD
DE130EF3A2BF1A7280CCDB4EA3EFECDO
116FD3652030E80DD7E00DDBEEF20020
EF6FE0430CD473A2BF1A77B280B11E6F
0C5CD0A0CC1DD50121FOFF19060A7E3
C200379804F131ABE2320010C3A2BF1A
728021AD710EFCB7920983A2BF1A7280
63E0DD7CDBDEAE1DD"
1070 DATA 15005,"7E00FE032B0C3A2
9F13DCA31EEFE02CADEEE5DD6EFADD6
6FBDD5E0BDD560C7CB52B0EED5238272
B08DD7E00FE03C2060BE17CB52006DD6
E0DD660EE5DDE13A29F1FE02372001A
73EFFCDBBEFD8C3060BDD5E0BDD560CE
57CB52006131313EB180CDD6EFADD66F
BEB37ED52380911050019444DCD051FE
```

```
1DD7E00A7283D7CB5"
1080 DATA 14131,"281328462B4E2B0
30303DD225F5CCDEB19DD2A5F5C2A595
C2BDD4E0BDD460CC5030303DD7EFD5C
D551623F177D12373237223E5DDE1373
EFF189FEB2A595C2BDD225F5CDD4E0BDD
D460CC5CDE519C1E5C5CD5516DD2A5F5
C23DD4E0FDD46100922485CDD660E7CE
6C0200ADD6E0D22425CFD360A00D1DDE
1373EFFC32AEEDD4E"
1090 DATA 13619,"0BDD460CC503F73
6B0EBD1E5E5DDE1373EFFCD2AEE1ED5
B535CC3D208E53A2CF1A728243D200A3
EFDCCD0116CDD6151817CD6E0DCDBDEA3
E011150F0CD0A0CCDDE15CD6E0DCDBDE
ADDE5111100AFCD42EFDDE106327610F
DDD5E0BDD560C3EFFDDE1213F05E5218
01FCB7F280321980C0B13DD2BF33E044
710FED3FEE0F06A4"
1100 DATA 13690,"2D20F50525F258E
F062F10FED3FE3E0C063710FED3FE010
D3B086F18097AB3280BDD6E007CAD673
E02371B176C18F579CB7B10FE3004064
210FED3FE063E20EF05AF3CCB1520EB1
BDD2306313E7FDBFE1FD07A3C20C7063
B10FEC9140815F33E0FD3FE213F05E5D
BFE1FE620F6044FBFC0CD4BF030FA211
50410FE2B7CB520F9"
1110 DATA 14450,"CD47F030EB069CC
D47F030E43EC6B830E02420F106C9CD4
BF030D578FED430F4CD4BF0D079EE064
F260006B01B1F082007300FDD7500180
FCB11ADC0791F4F131B07DD7E00ADC0D
D231B0806B22E01CD47F0D03ECB88CB1
506B030F37CAD677AB320CB7CFE01C9C
D4BF0D03E16C3E90580545552424F4C4
F414420207F203139"
1120 DATA 9574,"383520454B482020
42415544BA2020535441525420544150
4520414E4420505245535320414E5920
4B45D95354415254204C494E45BA5354
4152542041444452455353BA4C454E47
5448204F46204441544120424C4F434B
BA4152524159204E414D45BA50524F47
52414D204C454E475448BA4C454E4754
48204F4620564152"
1130 DATA 10595,"4941424C4553BA0
D50524F4752414DBA0D4E554D4245522
04152524159BA0D43484152414354455
2204152524159BA0D4259544553BA000
00000000000000000000000000000000D
C05000002027BEF97EF9DEFABEF0BF02
CF034F04CF03B423E31B0B2CB16373D3
A2DB7B9D01532393528BDBFD4132E343
124C4C6D91279302C"
1140 DATA 5492,"1FCACDD10252B2B
1BD1D3E20F21272417D7D9E60D1C221F
12DEE0EB0C181E1B0EE4E6EFOA131916
09EBEDF4090F151205F1F3FB07"
```

Lines 1000-1140 Heaps of hex ... this is the machine code.

```
2000 DATA 33659,20,0,30,93,41,43
9,46,520,77,84,85,1739,94,1739,1
03,1520,111,1735,121,144,126,518
,129,1739,134,144,141,1740,153,1
737,168,1737,203,1737,231,1737,2
50,1737,299,765,306,1737,338,173
7,352,1737,372,1737,412,765,-1
2010 DATA 49152,423,733,426,1737
,437,724,481,1757,489,1741,505,1
451,508,1497,513,1735,516,93,536
,1718,541,1371,546,1718,553,84,5
61,1670,567,1719,585,1718,597,15
20,603,1732,626,1731,637,1520,65
2,1520,659,1733,663,714,668,1520
,675,1729,-1
2020 DATA 53122,683,714,690,1520
,697,1731,700,714,705,1520,712,1
729,766,1737,770,1181,779,93,789
,1371,796,1739,802,84,831,1739,8
38,1670,869,1739,883,1739,892,93
,903,1737,907,977,912,1150,960,1
737,971,1371,1148,970,1171,970,1
183,1740,-1
2030 DATA 56328,1205,93,1210,152
0,1222,93,1231,1250,1286,1272,13
94,1515,1409,1511,1416,1511,1431
,1515,1441,1515,1488,1511,1512,1
515,1741,1304,1743,1335,1745,134
1,1747,1355,1749,1451,1751,1484,
1753,1492,1755,1516,-1
```

Lines 2000-2030 Relocation data to let the machine code be loaded in any position in memory.

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■ Swop: RAM joystick interface MkII in good working order, hardly ever used. I would like any recent games, especially *Saboteur* or *Tau Ceti* or *Robin Of The Wood*. James Spencer, 247 Coventry Road, Exhall, Coventry CV7 9BG.

■ Swop hot dual Cumana disc drives for good metal detector, offers for 48K Spectrum lo-pro key board many extras, cost over £1,000 mint. Tel. Harold 1 pm to 5 pm Sheffield 389202.

■ 48K Spectrum+, Junior Pro joystick and over £60 worth of games. Sell for £100, excellent condition. Tel. (0405) 813492 any time and ask for Dave.

■ 48K Spectrum with many games (all originals). Cost well over £200. Will accept £105. Write to Alex Valli, 38 Warwick Road, Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM23 5NW.

■ Spectrum disc interface for sale, accepts most BBC type drives. Complete with full instructions £35. Also Currah MicroSpeech with packaging, instructions and tape £15. Ring Stuart on (0533) 875744.

■ Spectrum+, nearly 100 games, interface 1 and microdrives with cassette recorder, joystick and interface, lots of mags. For just £200 ono. Tel. Charley on 01-736 4277. Will sell microdrive separately.

■ Seikosha GP-100A graphic printer and paper, plus DkTronics Centronics interface for Spectrum £85 inc. postage. Tel. (0243) 692482, ask for Antony.

■ Arrggh! Wanted: any Centronics printer interface for Spectrum or any other hardware. I will swop outrageous number of originals. Write to Mark Tynan, 18 Seagrave Avenue, Baldoye, Dublin 13, Ireland.

■ Currah MicroSpeech as boxed and new, originals of *Starquake*, *Dark Star*, *Nightshade*, *Hunchback II*, all for £30. Write to John Russell, 95 Woodside Avenue, South Benfleet, Essex SS7 4NU.

■ Seikosha GP-250X printer, excellent condition, RS232 serial plus Centronics parallel. Cable suitable for interface 1 RS232. Spare ribbon. £375. Buyer collects. Tel. (0708) 227672.

■ Rotronics Wafadrive unused under guarantee offers region £90, or swop for microdrive and joystick interface plus pair of joysticks. Must be in excellent condition. Tel. Alwyn on (0970) 828196 after 6 pm.

■ 48K Spectrum with printer, joystick, stack, light rifle and £300 of software e.g. *Supertest*, *Hunchback II*, *Real You*, *Adrian Mole*. Write to Michael Storey, 4 Attlee Estate, Tow Law, Co. Durham.

■ A Kempston joystick and game speed controller combined, made by DkTronics £10. Very good condition, as new. Tel. Dronfield 411407.

■ Rotronics Wafadrive as new in box, unwanted present. Cost £129.95, will take £60 inc. postage. Tel. Stevenage 722917 after 6 pm.

■ For sale, ZX 81 with 16K RAM pack and all leads and power pack. Also two tapes included — *Space Invaders* and *Trader*. Sell the lot for £8. Tel. York 51948, ask for James.

■ YS 1 — 21 ex. 7 £25, 1, 5, 13-21 £1 each, 2 inc. poster £5, 3, 4, 6, 8-12 £4 each. A. Rowland, 4 Cleave Crescent, Morwenstow, Cornwall EX23 9JH.

■ Wanted: Interface 1 and microdrive for *Spy-Hunter*, *Zaxxon*, *Tapper*, *Buck Rogers*, *Moon-cresta*, *Frank Bruno*, *Hobbit*, *Cyclone*, *Code Name Mat*. Tel. Warren Point 74038, ask for Brian 4 pm-6 pm. All original.

■ Spectrum+, excellent condition comes with tape recorder, joystick interface, £250 of software and mags, all together worth about

£350. Will sell for £170. Tel. 01-960 7161 after 5 pm.

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■ Will swop Currah MicroSpeech and *Tech. Ted* and *Avalon* for either VTX 5000 or interface 3. No timewasters please. Tel. (0484) 687083 and ask for Jason after 4 pm during the week.

■ Two ZX Microdrives and interface 1 for sale. £100. Tel. Kevin on Hornchurch 51987.

■ For sale: *Your Spectrum* issues 4-21 and Currah MicroSpeech, other mags, software, books etc. Tel. (0620) 2338 and ask for Colin any evening between 6pm and 9pm.

■ Dragon 32, tape deck, joystick, two books, magazines and software. Will swop for microdrive/Wafadrive or Alphacom printer and software, or sell for £80. Tel. 01-368 5787 after 4pm.

■ For sale! JM vers QL, Brother EP-22 printer, RS232 lead, B/W 9" TV, Mk 2 Software, 2 books, pre-formatted cartridges. Case to hold software items. £300. Tel. (0245) 356298, ask for Daren.

■ For sale — DkTronics light pen with interface and instruction booklet (still boxed) £10 or will swop for *Exploding Fist*. Tel. 01-360 3345.

■ Interface 1, Microdrive, VTX 5000, Dk keyboard, Dk lightpen — any offers? Rodney Tregale, 95 Howard Avenue, Slough SL2 1LB. Also software list to swop.

■ Have Spectrum+ black nylon dust cover. Will swop for Spectrum dust cover. Tel. (0271) 861024 and ask for Trevor.

■ Will sell ZX81 for £15 or will swop for *Elite*, *Nightshade*. All parts present but no manual. Edward Fowler, 4 Banks Crescent, Crief, Perthshire PH7 3SR.

■ Currah MicroSpeech complete, £10. Wafadrive complete, £65. 11 Wafers, £21. Wanted — 16K or 48K Spectrum, Microdrive hardware and books. Peter Robinson, 496 Dunstable Road, Luton, Beds.

■ 48K Spectrum with joystick interface, Saga keyboard, lots of software, joystick. Sell for £100 ono or swop for Toshiba MSX. Any offers considered. Tel. (0349) 64134 after 6 pm and ask for Gavin.

■ Lerm Wafadrive transfer tapes and books plus nine various size formatted wafers — only £15. Tel. 01-593 2309 and ask for Pete.

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■ 48K Spectrum for sale. Kempston interface, joystick and dust cover £200. Tel. Bath 331588 and ask for Aaron.

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■ Sinclair B/W pocket TV, still boxed, vgc. Will swop for good joystick and interface or sell for £35 ono. A. Hill, 83 Harlow Moor Drive, Harrogate, N. Yorks HG2 0LE.

■ Swop Prism VTX 5000 Modem for Datel Electronics Digital Sound Sampler. Modem boxed, complete and with full instructions. Write to Helen, 29 Greenacres, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Notts NG17 7GE.



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SOFTWARE

■ Spectrum+, 7 months old, £250 of software, joystick, interface, tape recorder worth £400+, sell for £185 for quick sale. Tel. (0858) 34603 and ask for Tim after 6pm.

■ Spectrum 48K, Saga keyboard, interface 1, two microdrives, Alphacom Printer, plus bits and pieces. £160. Tel. (0747) 840715 after 6 pm.

■ Spectrum+, interface 1, Kempston interface, cassette player, 50 games. £140 ono. Tel. 021-449 8830. Can deliver anywhere. Will consider swopping for radio controlled buggy. Please ask for Baker after 6 pm.

■ Unwanted Christmas present — Prism VTX 5000 Modem, never used. RRP £80, asking price £40 ono. Tel. 01-947 7911 and ask for Ian after 4 pm.

■ For sale: 48K Spectrum with DkTronics keyboard, Quickshot II, interface, lightpen, tape recorder, over £140 of games, all in working order £170 ono. Tel. (06267) 4099.

■ RGB interface £15, Currah MicroSpeech £12, RAM Turbo joystick interface £10, Cheetah SpecDrum £20, all in very good working order. Write to G. Hope, 72 Picket Close, Fordingbridge, Hants SP6 1JY.

■ 48K Spectrum, over £1000 worth of games, 3 channel sound synthesiser, Kempston interface, Currah MicroSpeech, magazines, cassette carrying case. Sell for £220. Tel. (05402) 451 and ask for William.

■ Swop Currah MicroSpeech, *Dungeon Builder* and *Gift From The Gods* for any interface to back programs up on microdrive. Tel. (0475) 707518 between 6 and 7 pm and ask for Brian.

■ Prism VTX 5000 Modem, every issue of Teletalk with binder, Melbourne House Micronet book, plus Spectrum software. First reasonable offer secures. Tel. John on (0742) 375418.

■ DkTronics lightpen, original box and instructions. Excellent condition. Will sell for £15. Tel. Hunstanton 34205 and ask for Mark after 6 pm.

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■ Spectrum+, as new. Joystick, interface, datacorder, software, bargain £100 ono. Tel. (0782) 49944 after 4 pm.

■ Lots of games to swop. I guarantee a reply to all letters. Send your list for mine. G.T. Jenkins, 1 Greenwood Road, Abersychan, Pontypool, Gwent NP4 8QA.

■ Swop *Tasword II*, *Finders Keepers*, *Jet Set Willy* and others for *Atic Atac*, *Sherlock*, *Ghostbusters*, *Terrormolinos* etc. Write to James Fitzpatrick, 70 Prebend Gardens, Stamford Brook, London W6 0XU.

■ Many new titles to swop. Rely on a fast reply if your list is interesting. Write to Fredrik Bergstrom, Tranvagen 6, 433 62 Partille, Sweden.

■ Will swop *Brian Jacks* and *The Arc Of Yesod* for *Winter Games* and *Cosmic Warlord* or *Nomad*. Must be original games. Phone 091-489 1931 and ask for Steven Robinson.

■ Latest Spectrum titles. Over 500 games to swop. Send your list for mine. Reply every time. Write to Daren Stevens, 8 Windmill Road, Southwick, Brighton BN4 4RP.

■ Will swop any four of *Swords And Sorcery*, *Hurg*, *Witches Cauldron*, *Dambusters*, *Tower Of Despair*, *Glass*, *Cylon Attack* for *Quill* and *Illustrator*. Call David on (0602) 653563 after 6 pm.

■ Swop *Skoof Daze*, *Trashman*, *Jungle Fever* for every Karate game or *Tapper*, *Minder* or *Skips*. Tel. Chester 45408 and ask for Robert.

■ Swop complete *Machine Code Tutor* for *Art Studio*. Tel. (0827) 60148 after 5 pm and ask for Simon.

■ Hundreds of games to swop. Titles include *Baseball*, *Chiller*, *Monty*, *Basketball*, *Daley*, *Finders Keepers* etc. Write to Erik van Buul, Fazantlaan 12, 5731 XT, Mierlo, Holland.

■ I have a lot of games to swop with anyone, anywhere in the world. Send your list for mine — guaranteed reply. I speak English and French. Francois Bernard, Residence des Graviers, Batiment 1Q, 94190 Villeneuve Saint Georges, France.

■ Will swop any from *Robot Riot*, *Atic Atac*, *Lunar Jetman*, *Flight Simulation*, *Bugaboo*, *Kong*, *Zoom*, *Spectrum Safari* for almost anything. Send your offer to R. Fowler, 85 Buchanan Crescent, Sheffield S5 8AH.

■ Will swop *Shadow Of The Unicorn* and *Wiggler* for *Quill* or *Deus Ex Machina*. Tel. (0232) 615470 and ask for Rory.

■ Lots of software to swop. Send your list for mine. Some of the newer games I have are *Rambo*, *Commando*, *Starion*, *Gyron*, *Elite* and *Beach Head II*. Dan Nielsen, Tornskadevaenget 4, 5210 Odense NV, Denmark.

■ Swop *Skyfox*, *Ping Pong*, *Scooby Doo* for other titles. Write to Matthew Taylor, 131 Elmbridge Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey KT5 9HE.

■ Will swop *Impossible Mission* and *Raid Over Moscow* for *Tapper*, *Shadowfire* or *Dam Busters*. Mark Norris, 50 Craigie Way, Ayr, Scotland.

■ Will swop *Frankie and A. Mole* for *The Artist*. Also *Tasword II* and *Winter Sports* for *Minder*, and *Bruce Lee* for *Hyper Sports*. Tel. (0270) 812037 and ask for Lee.

■ Swop *Everyone's A Wally* for *Champions*, *Spy Hunter*, *Herberts Dummy Run* or *Sam Stoot Safe Breaker*. Write to Paul Phillips, 142 Bloomfield Road, Bristol BS4 3RA.

■ Swop *Booty*, *Steve Davis Snooker*, *Beach Head*, *Decathlon*, *Sabre Wolf*, *Jet Set Willy*, *Nicotine Nightmare*, *Nebula* for *The Artist*. John Adams, 74 Clapham Road, Anfield, Liverpool L4 2TQ.

■ Will swop *Starion*, *Exploding Fist*, *Daley Thompson Decathlon* for *Commando* and *Ghostbusters*. Write to Liam Casey, 20 Burlington Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin, Ireland. Send your list for mine.

■ Swop *Fighter Pilot*, *Dukes Of Hazzard*, *TLL*, *Wanted*, *Steve Davis Snooker*, *Daley Thompson Supertest*, *Back Gammon*. Tel. Terry on 01-575 8371.

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Will swap *Penetrator, Automania, Wheelie, Paytron, Blade Alley, Fall Guy, Starstrike, Blagger, Blue Thunder* all for *Wham! Music Box* or *Megabasic*. Tejam Dyal, 43 Nigel Road, Peckham, London SE15 4NP.

Will swap *Mini Office, Cylon Attack, Regards To Broad Street* for *Blockbusters, Bridge Player, FGTH, Elite, Dun Darach* or *WHY*. Tel. Dave on (0438) 69447.

Swap *McGuigans Boxing, Shadowfire, Doomdark Revenge, Raid Over Moscow* for *Spy Vs. Spy, Dun Darach, Tir Na Nog, Fairlight* or any other offers. Tel. Glenn on 01-428 2668 after 5 pm.

Latest Spectrum titles to swap. Over 600 titles — your list for mine. Rely on a reply. Write to Gary Ogden, 2 Alder Grove, Highfields, Stafford ST17 9SW.

Swap *White Lightning*, used twice, for *Currah Speech* that is less than a year old. Must be in good condition. Jonathan Cole, 2 Aldeburgh Way, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 5PD.

350 games to swap. *Fairlight, Exploding Fist, Commando* and many more. Send your list for mine. Eyal Misrahi, Mani 4, Jerusalem 94325, Israel.

Many titles to swap including *Sweevo's World, Roller Coaster* etc. Send your list for mine. Michael Simms, 28 Jenced Road, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 8FT.

Wanted: *Ghostbusters* for ZX Spectrum 48K. Will swap for *Chess, Dimension Destructors* and *Chequered Flat*. Tel. 01-570 3676 between 4 and 6 pm.

Over 50 tapes to swap including *Eureka, Frankie, Minder, Tir Na Nog, Dun Darach, Mini Office, Quill, Skool Daze, Midnight* and *Doomdark*. Especially want adventures. Tel. (0623) 550800 after 5 pm.

Swap *Rally Driver, Broad Street, Raid Over Moscow, Dun Darach, Cylon Attack* for *Zaxxon, River Raid, Sherlock, Vegas, Glass*. Write to Colin Harman, 333 Redcliff Walk, Chalkhill, Wembley, Middlesex.

Lots of software to swap including *Hobbit, JSW, Skool Daze, Buggy*. Tel. Paul on Reading 597964.

Swap *Zaxxon, Bruce Lee, Pole Position*. Send your list for mine. Write to William Lunney, 22 Trossachs Street, Maryhill, Glasgow G20 7DR.

Swap *Kentilla* and *Doomsday Castle* for *Wizards Lair* or *Starstrike*. Write to Ian Gardner, 1 Speeding Drive, Hartlepool, County Cleveland TS24 9QE.

Swap *White Lightning, Betabasic, Supercode II* plus various games and utilities for m/c, graphics, utility programs, books or games. Your list for mine. Send sae to J. Taylor, 91 Wentworth Avenue, Boscombe, Dorset BH5 2EH.

Swap many top games including *Knights, Underworld, Dambusters, Shadowfire*. Send me your lists. Graham Munro, 24 Glendee Road, Renfrew, Scotland PA4 0AD.

Will swap *Match Day, Daley's Decathlon* and *Formula 1 Simulator* for *Elite* only. Tel. (0342) 24005 after school hours and ask for Stuart.

Swap *Pyjarama, Softaid, Atic Atac, Great Space Race, Ork Island, Stonkers* and *The Exterminator* for *Underworld, Spy Vs. Spy, Herbert's Dummy Run* and *Fairlight*. Tel. Dronfield 413898 and ask for Andy.

Wanted. *Spy Vs. Spy* for *Beau Jolly Six Pack* worth £14.95. Also will swap *Las Vegas Lady* for *Tapper, Spy Hunter* or *Skool Daze*. Tel. (0274) 672134 and ask for Simon.

Software to swap. Lots of new titles. Send your list for mine. Rely on a reply. Write to Scott Miller, 6 Countess Gardens, Crief, Perthshire PH7 3DP.

Wanted — *The Quill* and *Illustrator*. Will swap *Wotef, FGTH, Alien 8, Spy Vs. Spy* and *Skool Daze*. Tel. Lee on (0703) 435551.

Will swap *Scuba Dive, Forth, J.B.'s Squash, Pogo, Maziacs, Voice Chess, Starion*. Tel. (0203) 384046 and ask for Andrew.

Software to swap. *Commando, Fairlight, Saboteur, Monty, JSW II, Roller Coaster, Robin* and lots of others. Send details of swaps. Brian Holland, 1A Hulme Hall Road, Cheadle Hulme, Stockport, Cheshire SK8 6JT.

Over 340 Spectrum games to swap. Send your list for mine. Write to Ricky Strachan, 18 Marlborough Road, Southall, Middlesex UB2 5LW.

I have 40 titles to offer including *Fairlight* and *Dark Star*. Also have *Quickshot II* joystick, *Kempston* interface and *ZX Printer*. I want a *Softrom* but ring anyway. Tel. 01-485 5302.

I would like to swap *Daley Thompson's Super Test, Cyclone, Survival, Make-A-Chip* for *Wham! Music Box*. Write to Ben Kirkham, 9 Saxon Road, Westgate, Kent CT8 8RS.

Will swap 40 games for *ZX Printer*. If

Interested write to 23 Kilton Place, Pitmoor, Sheffield S3 9LW for details.

Swap *Brian Jack's Superstar Challenge* or *Saboteur* for *Way Of The Exploding Fist* or *Ye Ar Kung Fu*. Chris Wood, 4 Winchelsea Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9ST.

Swap *Nightshade* and *Swords And Sorcery* for *Elite*. Must be in good condition. Tel. (0446) 732151 after 6 pm and ask for Paul.

MESSAGES, CLUBS & EVENTS

TR Beta disc user would like to contact others to swap ideas/progs. C. Young, Northolme, North Street, Theale, Reading, Berks RG7 5EX.

Do you live around Thanet? Thanet Co-op Computer Club meets twice a month at the Co-op Hypermarket. Tel. (0843) 221845 any weekday except Monday for details. Ask for Mike Tew.

Issue 1 of *Specy Stuff*. Loads of tips, reviews and hardware news. Send 30p and a stamp to *Specy Stuff*, 1 Gracious Street, Whittlesey, Peterborough.

Arcade and adventure fans. Would you like a program that keeps a record of your scores and games. Then write to me with your requirements plus sae. Bryan Whitby, 16 Mansfield Road, Kingsley, Warrington, Cheshire.

Want *POKEs* and tips absolutely free? Then write to me and send sae. Guaranteed reply and instant return. J. Riddell, 8 Manor Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Straight swap. *Wafadrive* (with programs), *Centronics* and *RS232* cables. Wanted, interface 1 with microdrives and cartridges. Tel. (0592) 890176 any evening between 9pm and 11pm.

Could someone please tell me where I can buy *System 15000* in the Manchester area. I've tried *Smiths* but they don't stock it! Please help. Adam Linnik, 15 Reid Close, Haughton Green, Denton, Manchester.

Block Busters II is finished (Hurray). How do you like your Atari, Nick? Mr Brooke, get a *Specy*. Hi to Just, Marcus, Mathy and all at Holt Park Middle School. Philip Eden, 98 Moseley Wood Gardens, LS16 7HU.

Hello to Mool, Omar, Curly, Graham, Sid, Willy, B.P., Bunt, Bule, David, D.G., Katy, Hippy, Member, Ricky G., Jonny W., Ben, Mr F., Mr Damage, Greg from Jon. J. Meller, Crowden House, Cranbrook School, Cranbrook, Kent.

Any *Specy* users with *TR Beta-Plus* interface want to exchange hints, tips and other general info. on the DOS with me? Please contact David Millan, 48 Fairlight Avenue, London E4 6PA.

Urgent — Help! *Valkyrie 17* — can't get into village. Any ideas? Tel. (0634) 683327.

Sigmund — lost your address. Code for access 761 1009 is 7A43B. Hurry up, please. Sergio Trigo.

Complete set of *YS* magazines. No AA poster. Cash offers please to K. Gardner, 32 Moorsfield, Moors Farm Est., Tyne and Wear DH4 5PF.

Printer, small cassette and monitor or disk drive wanted. Swap £300 mobile hi-fi unit with tape, radio, stereo and built-in amplifier. Swap button phone for light pen. Software swaps wanted. Tel. (0205) 60252.

If you own a 48K Spectrum and enjoy dabbling in hardware and interfacing, get in touch to swap ideas and circuit diagrams. Simon Butt, 21 Tram Road, Buckley, Clwyd, North Wales.

Is there a *Specy* User Club in Bracknell? If not, anyone interested in starting one? Answers please on the back of an old flyer. Tel. Nic on Bracknell 52094.

Wanted — *Mirage* Microdriver. Must be as new. Will swap for over £150 worth of software including *Rambo, Skool Daze, Impossible Mission, Deathstar, Interceptor, Hunchback II, Chimera, Beach Head* and more. Tel. Bolton 83955.

Belgian Computer Club is looking for contacts with other clubs and users. Write to RAM Micro-Computer Club, c/o Colin O'Brien, 8 Rue De La Baronne, 6521 Arquettes, Belgium.

Wanted: Female companion to share *Cobra Mk III* spacecraft (must be humanoid). I'm dangerous! On my way to *Elite*. Lots of CR's, docking computers, military laser, extended cargo bay, know how to get into witchspace, lost my ECM system due to Thargoid invasion ship (encountered in witchspace). Maybe we can get together sometime. I know this great little planet... Commander Bytor.

A big "Howdy" to Jacqui, Alan, Steve, Ed, Tex Ritter, Yogi and Hank B West. All the best from Vic. Gaby Hayes Lives!

Hiya Andre! Betcha never thought you'd get your name in *YS* again. I think I've got it! No, nothing serious. See you soon. Yours Hercum, Prat of the North.

WANTED

Saga 1 Emperor keyboard — will swap *Atic Atac, Hunchback II, Football Manager, Cookie, Flight Sim*. All five for keyboard in good condition. Colm McGrath, 11 Dromlee Crescent, Beaumont, Dublin 9, Ireland.

Digital Sound Sampler (Data Electronics) wanted. Will give good price for one in Manchester area. Tel. 061-432 3441 after 6 pm and ask for Steve.

Microdrive and interface 1. Will pay up to £60. Must be able to see hardware before purchase. Write to Shane Mitchell, 25 Westroyd Crescent, Windhill, Shipley, Yorkshire BD18 1HW.

Wanted: *Seikoha GP50* printer in good condition. Choose 50 games from my list of 500. Many new programs. Write to Omer Tekcan, Eendenastraat 25, Venlo, The Netherlands.

Wanted: interface 1 and microdrive. Will swap for £120 worth of software, including *Nightshade*. Alphacom 32, will swap for £370 worth of software including *Starion* and *Cauldron*. All must be in good condition. Neil Christie, 72 West Road, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

AMX Mouse and interface wanted. Have issues 1-21 of *Your Spectrum* plus loads of software. Possible cash adjustment. Also any business software wanted. G. Hockney, 25 Salisbury Road, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2DB.

Wanted — issues 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 of *YS*. Will pay reasonable price. Also sell *Currah MicroSpeech* and *Cheetah RAT* £12 each. Both under 2 weeks old. Tel. (0757) 701387 and ask for Charlie.

Wanted — Sinclair QL, will pay £100 or I will exchange my 48K Spectrum with *Kempston* joystick, books, magazines, games etc. Tel. 01-518 0865 and ask for Stuart.

Wanted — ZX81 computer with or without 16K RAM pack in working condition. Jason Wong, 384 Ripple Road, Barking, Essex.

Wanted — Microdriver, Brother HR5 or M1009 or Epson LX80 or FX range with paper, *Art Studio, Spy Vs. Spy, Sherlock, Macadam Bumper*. Have lots of *Specy* software, £250+ including *White Lightning, Hampstead, Winter Games, Endurance, Winter Sports*. £35 of books. Alex McKeirrell, 22 Millar Street, New Elgin, Elgin, Moray, Scotland.

Wanted — light pen and interface with software. Will swap for games such as *Fist, Spellbound, Juggernaut, Match Day* etc. Tel. (0252) 20394 and ask for David after 4 pm.

Original of *Frank Bruno's Boxing*. Will swap *Back To Skool, Starion, Gyroscope*, etc. Write to Patrick Wellington, 2 Beech Road, St Austell, Cornwall.

Wanted — *Currah MicroSpeech*. Will swap for *DkTronics* light pen, *Monty Is Innocent, Trashman, Bugaboo* and *Formula 1 Simulator*. Tel. (0244) 42236 and ask for Brett.

Swap any one of *Chequered Flag, Cookie, Psast, Jet Pac, Hungry Horace* for *Zip* on tape and *Picturesque Assembler* for *Picturesque Monitor*. Write to Colin Devitt, Jerusalem, Carlow, Co. Carlow, Eire.

I need a microdrive and interface 1, must work and preferably under guarantee. Will give £220 worth of software. Tel. (0749) 72423 after 6 pm and ask for Matthew.

Wanted — *Gilsoft's Illustrator*. Swap for *Tasword II*. Write to Steve Lodey, 5 Felix Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk. Also wanted, *Return To Eden*, will swap for *System 15000* or *Hampstead*.

Wanted — light pen or *Art Studio*. Will swap my *Currah MicroSpeech* for either. Tel. (0272) 697353.

ZX Printer or *Betabasic* wanted for *DkTronics* light pen. Tel. Carl on (0792) 891578 after 5 pm.

Wanted urgently! *The Patch* by *Gilsoft*. Also *Laser Basic* and *Laser Compiler* by Ocean. Will swap for recent software. Tel. (0203) 313604 after 4.30 pm.

Wanted — ZX Printer or microdrive. Will swap for games. I have most new titles (*Elite, Commando, Saboteur, Roller Coaster* and many more). Tel. 01-998 7421 and ask for Edwin.

Swap *Tau Ceti* and *Endurance* for *Elite* with *Lenslok* or swap for *Arnhem* or *Automata 10 Pack* with *Nudge* on. Write to Beverley Smith, 20 Pinewood Ave, Flanshaw Park, Wakefield, Yorks.

Swap Microface 1 *Centronics* printer interface and driver software for ZX or Alphacom or *Floyd 40* printer. Write to A. Cooper, 267 Braehed Estate, Alexandria, Dumbartonshire G83 9NE.

Wanted: *Jupiter Ace, Pets, Commodores, Vics*, any Micro born before 1982. Must be working. Will buy for best proposal. Carlos Pereira, Apartado 5057, 1702 Lisboa Codex, Portugal.

Quill. Will swap for software such as *FGTH, WS Baseball, Avalon* etc. Tel. (0865) 778189 and ask for Keith.

Hardware, games, microdrive cartridges, books, anything. Please write to M.C. Whiffen, 14 Rivey Way, Linton, Cambridge.

Wanted: *The Quill* and manual. Will swap for any two from *Daley's Decathlon, Southern Belle, Games Maker* and *Match Day*. Tel. Gerrards Cross 884434 after 5 pm and ask for Dominic.

PEN PALS

14-year old male looking for male of similar age to swap games, hints and tips in England and USA. Send sae. Patrick McLoughlin, 190 Mangitara Road, Beachhaven, Auckland 10, New Zealand.

Needed! Preferably Canadian female penpal. 17+ for wacky, isolated, pacifist, JMJ fan for general discussion of world topics including *Specy* software and Tolkien fantasy. Write at own risk! Enclose photo! Orlando Grumbliwiz, 6 Douglas Crescent, Viewpark, Uddingston, Glasgow, Scotland G71 5JW.

Penpals wanted from anywhere, any sex, 16+. Especially if you know any *POKEs* or hints. I'm also interested in photography and music. Paul Barton, 38 Minard Road, Glasgow G41 2HW.

Penpal 15-17 wanted, either male or female. I'm 16 and like sports, computers and music. Swap hints and games. Write to Christian di Biasi, Cond. La Playa, Via Giovanni XXIII, Patti (Messina) Sicily.

Lonely male, blue eyes, brown hair, 5'9", seeks female penpal (15+). Hobbies include swimming and walking. Write to Robert Towner, 5 Wherretts Well Lane, Solihull, West Midlands B91 2SD. If possible, please include photo.

I am a 16-year old *Specy* owner and I would like a male or female penpal to swap hints etc. Write to Redmond O'Leary, 14 Beech Park Drive, Foxrock, Dublin 18, Ireland. All letters replied to.

Male or female penpal wanted, 14-16 living outside UK. Interested in arcade adventures. Swap games and tips. I am 14 and my favourite game is *Fairlight*. Mark Fairley, 84 Hendy Road, Mold, Clwyd, N. Wales.

Penpal wanted. I'm 18 and love music, sport, girls and computers. Girls under 19 please reply, I will answer all letters. Robert Hugoh, Jarnvagsgatan 22, 595 00 Mjölby, Sweden.

Hi! 12-year old boy seeks female of same age to swap computer games, hints and tips. If possible, please enclose photo. David James, 22 Percival Gardens, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex RM6 5RJ.

Female penpal wanted, 16+. I love arcade games, hacking, map drawing, loud music and bodybuilding. Send photo and letter to Craig Elliott, 2 Sefton Avenue, Heaton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 5OR.

Female penpal wanted (16+) to swap programs, *POKEs* and anything else with 19-year old male into Howard Jones. Write to Steve, 50 Criterion Street, Reddish, Stockport SK5 6RY. Photo if possible.

Penpal wanted to swap software etc. I have over 500 titles. Send your list for mine. Kenny McCubbin, 59 Dairy Road, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, Scotland KA21 6LE.

Very sad, lonely Spectrumer seeks female penpal aged 13-14 with some experience of computing. Please hurry, my Spectrum is driving me crazy. M. Fossett, Nelson House, Royal Hospital School, Holbrook, Ipswich IP9 2RX.

I'm 16 and would like a young lady penpal of similar age to swap games, utilities, hints, music etc. Please write to Adrian Ward, The Shiralee, Harnham Lane, Withington, Glouc.

Penpal wanted. Must love adventures but wish to swap other software. Age 17 or near. Write to Jon Meller, Crowden House, Cranbrook School, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3JJ.

16-year old introverted, lonely, intelligent teenager seeks female (same age) as a penpal to write to on a variety of topics. Seth Thomas, Blaengwaith, Noah House, Princes Gate, Narberth, Dyfed SA67 8TQ.

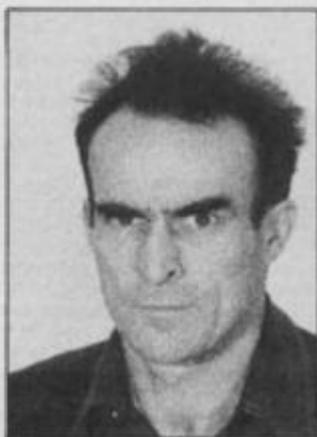
Female penpal wanted aged 17+. Interested in swapping games and hints and anything else. Paul Riggs, 5 The Oaks, Hemyock, Devon EX15 3XE.

Penpals wanted to swap software, *POKEs*, programs etc. Male or female 15+. Send software list for mine. Must have some knowledge of M/code. All letters guaranteed a reply. Neil Christie, 72 West Road, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

16-year old male wants 15-17-year old, good looking female with sense of humour. Interests are pop music and Spectrum computers. Write to Glynn Robbins, Beech House, Wanlockhead, Biggar, Lanarkshire, Scotland.

Hi! All *Specy* users. I'm 17 and own loads of games to swap. I like micros, music, synths and games. All letters answered. Steve Rupik, 208 Buchanan Road, Parson Cross, Sheffield S5 8AS.

I'm 16 and would like a female penpal 16+. Beginner in Basic and would like tips and *POKEs* from the Spectrum. Write to Richard Sadler, 2 Shrawley Road, Northfield, Birmingham B31 3EG.



BACKLASH

Iolo Davidson hits out at the same old software.

Maybe I'm not the best person to judge, not being a convicted arcade addict, but isn't it all getting a bit sameish? It seems that whenever any slight innovation in gamesware appears (and I can't actually remember the last time it happened), it's instantly submerged in a flood of me-too's and sequels, and even sequels of me-too's.

Floods of rubbish are one thing. We don't expect all that

Some of today's rubbish is actually very well programmed.

much from the producers of entertainment products like television and pop music, so why lean on the computer games people? What I object to are floods of high priced identical rubbish.

Some of today's rubbish is actually very well programmed. People have done marvellous tricks with Spectrum software. Consider that the machine is now nearly four years old, with what are pretty restrictive limitations on graphics and sound, and then look at what the competition has to offer in the way of software. Most of their best stuff was available first on the Spectrum. Often it hasn't improved in translation.

But that isn't the point, terrific graphics against all odds don't make up for an appalling lack of new ideas. Of course, we've always had the *Pac-Man* clones and the like, imitations of the cut-down coin-op arcade games, but we used to get plenty of weird and wonderful one-offs as well.

Back in the days when the standard price of a Spectrum game was a fiver, lots of firms would risk bringing out something a bit zany and hope it'd sell.

Now that top flight games cost at least a tenner, no one

seems willing to try out a theme unless some other company has already had a success with it.

Maybe there just aren't any new ideas. The people I talk to always claim to be searching for people with ideas and not finding them. I don't think that's the trouble though. I think that really new ideas look wrong to established publishers. They think to themselves (without really noticing what they're thinking), "That can't be a very good idea. It isn't anything like

any of the successful games already on the market."

The trouble with this imitative cycle is that truly new ideas are chucked out as unlikely to succeed, while old ideas with a minor twist are accepted as marvellous innovations. This didn't bother me too much when the trend was for *Jet Set Willy* clones. I quite liked that particular genre. It was still good fun even after adding 3D graphics and moveable objects and changing the background to jungles or castles. But the time always comes when the cloning shifts to a new scenario, and if the new lot are not to your taste, then too bad.

Recently we've been going through a particularly bad patch. The charts have been dominated by a series of games based upon the ancient oriental arts of punching and kicking. Also the more domestic art of just punching. The fact that so many of these games have found a willing market is particularly disappointing to me. Not merely because they're all the same, but because the basic idea is nasty and uncivilised.

There's already been a certain amount of outcry about the zap-the-invader type of computer game, but I find

these less disturbing than games in which you try to kick another human being. Blowing slimey aliens out of the air is not only very obviously a fantasy pastime, but it seems to be to be a reasonably moral act, especially when (as is usual) it's performed in defence of one's home planet. Kicking human beings, however, is immoral, illegal, and not a little dangerous.

Now, I don't want you to think that I am one of those people who's against the portrayal of violence in the media. What I abhor is the lack of realism.

People learn a great deal about the world through television and the movies, and I expect that might apply to computer games too. Specially as the graphics and presentation improve. Or at least, games can reinforce impressions taken from other media. We ought to be presented, therefore, with truthful pictures especially when we're given so little choice in the subject matter as we are with software.

Have you ever noticed how the A-Team spray thousands of bullets around the set without ever hitting anybody? Or how Mr. T seems able to knock people through walls without so

about, but that of the young. I've been both punched and shot (in the head, if you *must* know), and the way I look at reality is not likely to be confused on these points by a mere computer game. But young people with little experience of genuine violence might end up with the idea that it's exciting, rather than painful and debilitating. Ridiculous, I know, but that's how the subject is constantly presented to them. Since it's probably impossible to eliminate violence in the real world, I think it would be wrong to purge it from the TV screen or other media. But I have an idea that could encourage an intelligent attitude towards violent acts. It's a revolutionary new idea and just the kind of innovation that the arcade software business has been crying out for.

I propose that the next Kung-Fu game clone is issued with a special pack of add-on hardware. When the little man on the screen kicks the 34th Dan, or whoever, in the groin, the player gets to see the victim's lungs spray out of his ears while simulated blood seeps from the back of the television set all over Mum's carpet. Then, if he misses

'I've been both punched and shot (in the head, if you *must* know)'

much as bloodying their noses? Dangerous and deadly assaults are portrayed as knockabout fun. This is an extremely misleading distortion of reality, and if we accept it, even subconsciously, it could damage the way we look at the real world. In the same way, a game that allows us to beat the daylights out of a computerised opponent with no more penalty than an aching joystick wrist is bound to warp our ids.

Naturally, it's not my own subconscious that I'm worried

blocking the opponent's return blow, the joystick shoots out on its telescopic shaft and breaks his nose.

I call this technique '3D Violence' and I reckon it's the newest idea to hit the software scene this month (without being so different as to lose its way in the marketplace of course — musn't try to buck the established trends). The only problem is, it's bound to put up the cost of the game. But I think it'd be worth it, for the kids' sake, don't you?

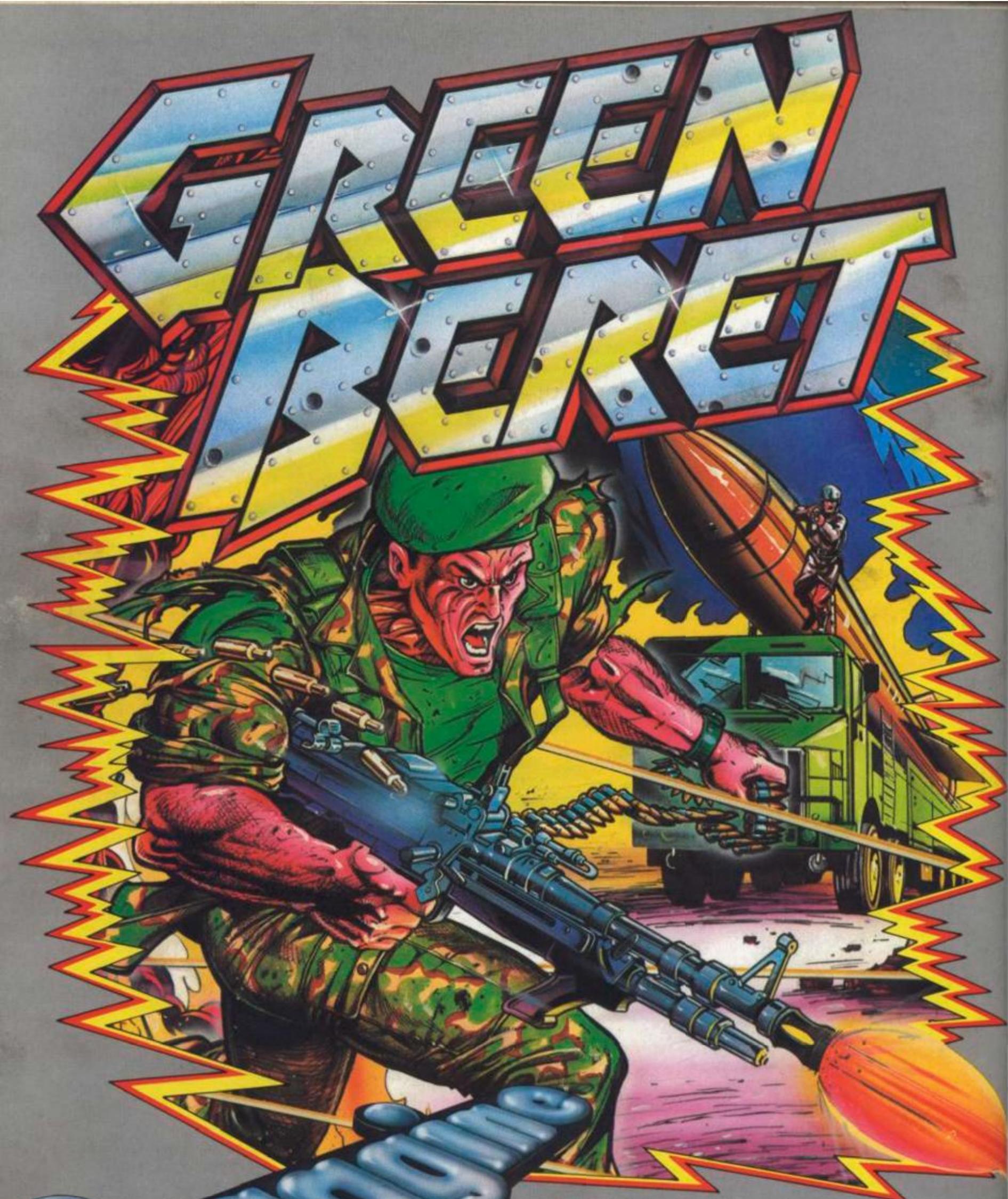
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