

Weapons of fury.

It's the next century in FORGOTTEN WORLDS, and you're the only one left who can save Mother Earth from savage aliens. Your spaceage weaponry is awesome but so are your obstacles! Armed with an anti-gravity device you can fly through enemy defenses and eradicate the alien bases. But watch out! Missiles, monsters, dragons, robots and laser guns are bombarding you from every direction!

If you're ready to save Earth's defenseless men, women and children, see your favorite software retailer or call Capcom U.S.A. at 408-727-1665



There's havoc in the factory as you blast away the invaders.



The Bronze Dragon is a formidable foe. You never know when it will strike!



Circle Reader Service Number 125

GROW UP!

watch the returns as they come in, just like network coverage. At the end of the reporting, you can see how well you did in each state.

A Precarious Balance

You won the election, so now it's time to sit back and sign bills into law and give fireside chats. Right? Wrong. Now the fate of the free world lies in your hands. So, load Mindscape's *Balance of Power: The 1990 Edition* and get ready for some heavy-duty diplomacy.

This political-strategy simulation puts you in charge of superpower political and military relations. As the president of the United States, you increase your country's geopolitical prestige and weaken the Soviet Union's while trying to avoid a nuclear war.

Like the original *Balance of Power*, the 1990 *Edition* centers around foreign policy. Using mouse-click diplomacy (the PC version runs under *Microsoft Windows*), you try to sway as many countries as possible over to your line of thinking and away from the Soviet Union's. There are two ways to do this: You can buy their support, or, if that doesn't work, eliminate their current government and install one more sympathetic to your cause.

You exert influence in a number of ways. Giving money to a government or insurgency will strengthen its position. If things get really heated, you can send in troops to help out either side. At higher levels, you add economic aid, diplomatic pressure, destabilization, and trade policy to your diplomacy arsenal.

You won't find it easy to expand your influence, though. The Soviet Union protests most of your actions. The trick to international diplomacy is deciding how far they'll take their objections. If they back down, your prestige goes up and your influence increases. If not, you'll ignite a nuclear war and drop out of the COMPUTE! Leadership Academy rather abruptly (since nobody has developed the Nuclear Winter Construction Set yet). You also get the opportunity to protest Soviet diplomatic moves.

Every choice you make in this game can have massive repercussions. A four-person crisis advisory group makes suggestions, but the ultimate decisions lie with you. If you're successful, you retire after eight years. If not, there won't be anybody left alive to criticize your performance.

Divine and Conquer

You've completed the first four courses in the *COMPUTE!* Leadership Academy. After eight years as president, you probably feel it's time for graduation. Not so fast. Because of your exceptional performance, you've been admitted to the graduate program.

A mist comes over you, and you lose consciousness. Groggy, you awaken and find yourself floating over a green landscape. You've loaded Electronic Arts' *Populous*, and now you have the ultimate responsibility: You're a god in charge of protecting your followers.

Unfortunately, there's another group of people on the little world below you, and they follow a different supreme being. This universe isn't big enough for the both of you. You have to use your great powers to help your disciples eliminate the other god's followers.

The first thing you'll need to do is make the land around your followers more hospitable. Do this by leveling out mountains so that your people can build homes and farms. As you increase the flat lands, your population (called *walkers*) will begin to multiply, build larger dwellings, and move out to cover more land. Of course, since you are their deity, you can influence where and when they move. And the more they spread out and multiply, the more power you get.

While all of this is going on, the evil deity is building up his own population. However, you have a few tools that make life harder for him. Earthquakes, floods, and volcanoes destroy the evil god's carefully cultivated lands. Change



Floods and volcanoes are among the natural disasters you can use to conquer this icy Populous world.

parts of his home territory into a swamp and watch his walkers disappear into the ground. Transform your walkers' leader into a knight who burns and pillages enemy villages. You have to keep the evil deity's land from developing, or his population will grow more quickly than yours, and yours will be overwhelmed.

When you feel mighty enough, you can send your walkers over to conquer his. If you have enough power, you can call for Armageddon, and all of the walkers will converge on one point for a knock-down, drag-out battle to the finish. If you win, you'll have only 499 other worlds to conquer.

Graduation Time

Congratulations! You're now a graduate of the COMPUTE! Leadership Academy. You've proven your command skills by conquering Eurasia, wiping out the Soviet navy, winning the presidency, making it through two terms without starting a war, and conquering an entire universe. Not a bad job.

So, now that you've finished the *basic* course....

Denny Atkin is assistant editor for *COMPUTE!*. He's better at ruling the universe than he is at conquering the ancient world.

Cwww.commodore.ca

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN

Better watch out!

After a test ride on Pocket Rockets, the high-speed motorcycle simulation game, Santa picked up a new sleigh that will make this year's rounds faster than ever. And whether you've been naughty or nice, you could win this Suzuki 600 Katana during "Santa's Sleigh Giveaway" in January.

Meanwhile, experience all the thrills and spills of high-speed racing with machines that take you from zero to 60 in under four seconds. Already gaining critical acclaim, Pocket Rockets lets you choose from four of the quickest, most exotic bikes on the planet. The action's as real as the adrenaline you'll feel.

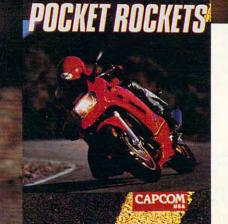
Then, enter "Santa's Sleigh Giveaway" from Capcom U.S.A. Besides the chance to win a new Suzuki motorcycle, you could get a Bell full coverage helmet, or Capcom computer game software. Look to enter in all Capcom computer game packages or visit your favorite computer game retailer for more information. Capcom's belated Christmas giveaway is just around the bend so don't miss out on your chance to win!





LEFT: Try your skill against the clock with a couple of laps around the test track. RIGHT: Drag racing demands a quick wrist and fast shifting. Just don't blow the engine!

BELL



SWEEPSTAKES RULES How to Enter:

 NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Fill out and mail official entry found in package or you can the by hand printing your name, address and zip code on a 3* of piece of paper and mailing it to CAPCOM Stanta's Sleigh Giveaway, 3303 Scott Blvd., Santa Clara, CA 95054. Enter as often as you wish. Each entry must be mailed separately by JANUARY 15, 1990. No mechanical reproductions of entry will be accepted and Imail-in entries must be received at the above address by JANUARY 31, 1990. No responsibility is assumed for lost, late, misdirected, or damaged entries.

2. Prize vinners will be determined by means of a random drawing to be conducted by an independent judging organization whose decision shall be final. All prizes listed will be awarded, but there can be only one prize winner per household, group or organization. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. Approximate grand prize retail value is as follows: Suzuki Katana 84,495.00. Winners will be notified by mail by FEBRUARY 15, 1990 and may be required to execute affidavits and advertising release. Taxes on prize winnings are solely the responsibility of the winners.

3. Sweepstakes is open to U.S. residents except employees of CAPCOM U.S.A. and their immediate families, its subsidiaries and affiliates, its advertising and promotional agencies, and the judging firm. Prizes won by minors may be awarded to parent or legal guardan. Void where prohibited or restricted by Jaw. All Federal. State and Local regulations apply. For a list of major prize winners send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to CAPCOM Santa's Sleigh Giveaway Winners List, 3303 Scott Blvd., Santa Clara, CA 95054 by MARCH 31, 1990.

CAPCOM[®] USA GAMESCOPE

HINTS AND TIPS FROM OUR READERS

as your confidence sunk after playing a few rounds of MicroProse's *Red Storm Rising*? Here are some sure ways to stay afloat. *Red Storm Rising* has a Help key (Alt-H on the PC version) that summons advice from the tactical computer. You should use this often

when you first start playing. The advice it gives you is almost always correct and can get you out of tight spots. I've found the tips for avoiding enemy torpedoes invaluable. Don't feel like you're cheating—every good captain asks his or her advisors for tactical advice. As you gain experience you'll find you won't need the help key often, but you'll be glad it's there.

If you have a spotty sonar contact with an enemy sub, but you can't get a steady reading, fire a torpedo in the general direction of the contact. Wait until the torpedo is a good distance from your sub and then activate it. When the enemy submarine detects your torpedo, chances are it will make plenty of noise trying to get out of the torpedo's way, giving away the sub's position.

If you're in combat against a diesel sub, don't waste time stalking it. Fire a torpedo at it immediately you're faster and more maneuverable. Denny Atkin Greensboro, NC

Tetris Tower Tips

Here are some tips for improved *Tetris*-tower building, to help make those late nights playing Spectrum HoloByte's hit game last even longer.

If you don't know the best way to arrange each piece, you're probably wasting precious seconds and shapes. Although it's tempting to use the straight piece in long vertical spaces, using them horizontally is actually more efficient—two pieces fill almost an entire line.

Always leave a space for a cube, even if that space is very deep. The cube can be very useful or very troublesome depending on how you prepare for its fall. Simply leave two adjacent spots at the same height, whether it's at the bottom level or somewhere on the way to the top.

The T-shaped piece is the most versatile of all. It can act just like either Z-shaped piece as well as the Lshaped piece. When it falls, use it to fill the space that would be hardest to fill otherwise—a space that can only be filled by one other shape, for example.

Use the keyboard instead of the joystick. This tip is debatable, especially among arcade-game fans. If you're more accustomed to a joystick,



Learn the best spot for each Tetris piece or you'll waste precious time.

you might hate the keyboard. However, you'll find that you can keystroke your way to the right position much more accurately and quickly. When a cube shows up, the keyboard is particularly useful. The cube always shows up in the same position on the screen, so, if you can figure out how many keyboard clicks to your open position, you don't even have to aim. You can be focusing at the top of the screen, watching for the next shape.

Third, practice by playing at level 1 and game speed 13. You'll improve your playing under pressure, so you won't have to just stare at the spacestation background as the pieces drop chaotically onto the pile. *Heidi E. H. Aycock Chapel Hill, NC*

Stand and Deliver

If you want to be a successful swashbuckler in MicroProse's *Pirates!*, sailing the Spanish Main in search of treasure fleets, you'll have to learn some hard lessons about war at sea in the days of wooden ships.

I learned my tactics from hours of playing Broadsides (a board game that's still a lot fun in these days of silicon sails, but unfortunately out of print) and countless Saturday afternoons at the Ben Ali theater, watching every pirate movie that came to town.

First lesson: Choose the right ship. A pirate is more a guerrilla fighter than a field general. In this game, you'll come across several ships during your travels. A war galleon or frigate may look impressive when you sail into port, but give me a wellprovisioned sloop on the open ocean. It's a fast and extremely maneuverable vessel—even when your sails are close-hauled for battle.

There's one naval tactic that, if mastered, can bring up your enemy's white flag while keeping damage to your own ship at a minimum. "Crossing the T" is when your ship crosses directly behind or across the bow of the enemy ship. The advantage of such a move is obvious: It allows you to send a full broadside into the other ship's hull and rigging while leaving its guns without a target.

Crossing the T takes some practice and experience in reading the winds and in steering your ship so that it doesn't get crossed itself. But once you get the hang of it, it's a surefire way to make your roger jolly. *Peter Scisco High Point, NC*

If you have game tips and shortcuts of your own, we'd like to hear from you. Send your tip, no matter how brief, to COMPUTE! Feedback, P.O. Box 5406, Greensboro, North Carolina 27403. If we publish your suggestion, we'll send you a gift.

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Eliminating terrorists. Easier said than done. You must destroy these soldiers of fortune who strike you with machine guns, tanks, grenades and worse. Only then can you celebrate your victories.

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Cabal Screen Shots.

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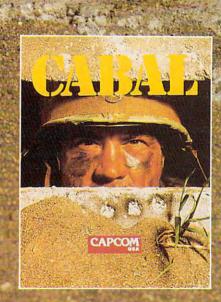
Go beyond traditional war games and see why CABAL is #1 in the arcades. The fast action of every covert operation keeps you at the edge of survival.

See your favorite software retailer to enlist in the excitement. Or for more details, call Capcom U.S.A. at 408-727-1665 Act fast so that "another one" is one of them.



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HYPERCHARGE PCS, BATTLE TANKS, CLOCK CAVEMEN, CRASH COPTERS, STACK SOUNDS, SEEK SHIPS, DISINFECT ISLANDS, WORK WORDS, MANIPULATE MICE, AND MORE.

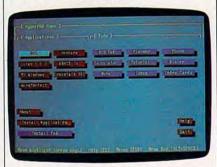
<u>HYPERPAD</u>

he key to success in today's information-oriented society is organizing and managing your data. All that information you have stored in your PC won't do you much good if it's hard to get to. Brightbill-Roberts' *HyperPAD* lets you create push-button solutions to do this.

Similar in concept to the Macintosh's *HyperCard*, *HyperPAD* is a professional productivity tool that allows you to organize and link information together in almost any imaginable manner. You create screens of information, called *pages*, and link them together to form a *pad*. Buttons that you add to various pages in the pad can link them together or be used to launch other programs.

The package includes a welldone, powerful home pad that performs as a DOS shell and as a launching point for creating new pads. A number of valuable sample pads are also included. Not only are these other pads useful, but they serve as good examples for creating your own pads as well.

Getting around in *HyperPAD* requires that you invest some time at the start. To activate onscreen buttons, click on them with your mouse pointer or press Enter when the button is highlighted. The arrow and Tab keys move the highlight from one button to the next. Pull-down menus and shortcut keys provide additional commands. The plethora of choices presents an initial challenge, which is compounded by a bit of confusion because the Tab and cursor keys seem interchangeable at some times and at others, don't. But once you've learned how to navigate, you can begin to appreciate this innovative interface and information manager.



HyperPAD lets you customize pads to organize and access your information.

I was frustrated during the early stages of creating pads, but in the end I gained admiration for the program. The manual takes you step-by-step through the process of pad creation as you build a To-Do List. This simple example proved easy, but experimentation presented a set of unexpected difficulties to which the manual provided either unclear answers or no solutions at all. Fortunately, I was able to solve many of my problems by trial and error, but not all users will want to take that route, nor should it be expected of them. A great program like this deserves a more complete and descriptive manual.

Each pad contains at least one page. You can add pages, define attributes for them, and place buttons and editable fields anywhere on them. You can spruce up your pages with titles and by adding different shadow, fill, and highlight colors.

You can create rudimentary graphics designs using *HyperPAD*'s painting functions. However, potential PC Picassos should be warned that *HyperPAD* runs on a text screen, so you're limited to using character graphics.

Any object you place on a page must be accompanied by a script if it's to be of any use. You write scripts in a special language called PADtalk. You should find the scripts easy to write, because PADtalk's language is much like English and its logic is uncomplicated.

I was pleasantly surprised to find that, within an hour of starting, I could create pages that faded out and peeled off to other pads and pages. After about a day's work, I had a page that reminded me of uncompleted chores, I had note cards for important addresses and phone numbers, and I even had background music. More complicated applications will require much more time, but this indicates the relative ease with which pads can be created.

HyperPAD's flexibility gives it the potential for use in a wide variety of applications. It can be used as an information organizer or even as a simple database manager.

You can also use it as a DOS shell. Once you set up a shell pad, you can simply press a button to start a program instead of going to a subdirectory and typing the program name. *HyperPAD* is more powerful in this respect than many dedicated shell programs because each button of a pad can represent a complex set of instructions specified by a PADtalk script.

According to Brightbill-Roberts, a program that converts Macintosh HyperCard stacks to HyperPAD format is under development by a third party, which would make thousands of HyperCard stacks into a resource for HyperPAD users. One advantage HyperCard enjoys over similar pro-

A Fool's Errand-1492.

The Fool's Errand-1989.

Columbus Discovers America.

rrand

America Discovers A Great New Game.

The award-winning *Fool's Errand* is a game like no other. It tells the enchanting story of the fool in his search for wisdom, intertwined with over 80 original puzzles: graphic, word, logic, and more.

Each unique puzzle is woven into the threads of the unraveling story. The puzzles give you pieces of the sun's map. But the map is a puzzle as well. And there are more puzzles that lie hidden in the map.

You figure it out.

And when you do, you will be rewarded with a fourminute animated finale.

You will have earned it.





\$49.95. For IBM or compatible, Tandy, and Macintosh computers. Available at your local retailer or order direct from Electronic Arts Direct Sales at 1-800-245.4525.



Sometimes, it's wise to play the Fool.

grams like *HyperPAD* is that almost every Macintosh owner has a copy (it comes free with the Mac operating system). You can't access *HyperPAD* pads unless you're running the program, so you can't share your pads with other users unless they own *HyperPAD*. However, developers can create stand-alone pads by licensing a special runtime version of *HyperPAD*.

HyperPAD's power, its ease of use (especially when creating pads), and its potential applications elevate this program to a level few others achieve. For many PC users, its value is enormous.

RICHARD C. LEINECKER

IBM PC and compatibles—\$149.95 BRIGHTBILL-ROBERTS 120 E. Washington St. Suite 421 Syracuse, NY 13202 (315) 474-3400

HEAVY METAL



eneral Douglas MacArthur once said: "In war, there is no substitute for victory." Access Software's General E. E. "Bud" Dink apparently disagrees, because in *Heavy Metal* you can lose every battle and still win the game. *Heavy Metal* is an ar-

cade combat game, not a disk filled with Quiet Riot and Twisted Sister songs. It places you at the controls of an M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank, an Air Defense Anti-Tank system, and an XR311 Fast Attack Vehicle.

With the computer's forces outnumbering you almost 2 to 1, it's almost impossible to win the war. The game becomes a struggle to reduce the enemy's superiority.

You begin the game as a Cadet with the ultimate goal of getting enough points to be promoted to Five Star General. Before *Heavy Metal* will allow you to play the strategy game, you must complete three arcade combat games. After achieving a minimum score in each, you are promoted to Second Lieutenant and can assume leadership of a field unit.

When you choose the strategy option, you must maneuver four units on the battlefield against the overpowering enemy. You issue commands and monitor the progress of all four units on the Tactical Command Center (TACC) screen while protecting your headquarters from enemy advances. When a unit becomes low on ammunition or fuel, you must order it back to headquarters to resupply. While your units square off with the enemy, the program lets you know how well you're doing by displaying the enemy's advantage at the beginning of play compared with its current edge. The smaller the advantage, the more points you'll rack up.



Fire quickly in Heavy Metal or your tank will be reduced to a pile of molten metal.

You could sit back and watch the battle take place on the TACC screen, but your forces will suffer a humiliating defeat, and you'll become bored with the game if you do. It's important to join the fight. Joining any of the four units takes you to the arcade sequences, but this time you're not just shooting at planes and tanks at random, you're trying to reduce the total number of enemy units.

The tank units are the most difficult to master. You'll want to keep the game's keyboard reference card nearby. Besides shooting and controlling the tank's direction, you must select targets, regulate the tank's speed, rotate the turret, move the gun barrel up or down, and choose from three types of shells. These commands are scattered around the keyboard, requiring you to frequently look away from your monitor, which can be fatal.

The easiest unit to command is the Air Defense Anti-Tank (ADAT) system. It's almost too easy, because the missile launcher uses a lasertracking system to find the target and shoot it down. This modern technology makes you feel less a part of the action. The ADAT also has a 30-mm cannon, which does require you to line up the targets in the crosshairs.

In the third combat scenario, you drive across a desert landscape in an armed dune buggy. Your Fast Attack Vehicle speeds across the terrain while you fire at or try to avoid obstacles.

Heavy Metal supports CGA, Hercules, and EGA graphics boards. However, the 3-D landscapes lack variety and character, even in EGA mode.

You can pause in the middle of battle to catch your breath or start

your own resupply movement (head to the kitchen for a snack). If you find yourself playing late into the night, you can save up to ten games on disk to finish later.

You can install *Heavy Metal* on your hard disk. However, the game uses a soft copy-protection scheme that requires you to match an onscreen outline of a tank with one of 16 shown on an included chart. Several of the tanks look similar, and the silhouettes on the sheet are difficult to see. Like other games using this procedure, getting the program to run turns into a game in itself.

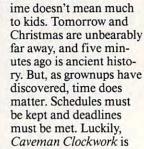
It's a long, hard road to Five Star General, and you'll lose many battles before achieving that rank. But if you like the challenge of being the underdog, you just may succeed on the Access battlefield.

MICKEY McLEAN

IBM PC and compatibles with 384K and CGA, EGA, or Hercules graphics—\$44.95 Commodore 64/128—\$39.95

ACCESS SOFTWARE 545 W. 550 S Suite 130 Bountiful, UT 84010 (801) 298-9077

CAVEMAN Clock Work



here to help your kids bridge the gap.

Designed for children ages 4–8, *Caveman Clockwork* teaches and reinforces the concepts and skills children need to tell and manage time.

Following an introductory round of Big Ben–like beeps, you get an opening screen dominated by an animated dinosaur, complete with winking eyes and a wagging tail. The animation isn't fancy, but it's charming. There's something undeniably appealing about the simple movements, something every kid who sees them will love.

The dinosaur announces, via a cartoon-style balloon that covers most of its tummy, the options available, which fall into two categories. One set introduces basic time concepts, while

An Interactive Detective Movie

It's the year 2033. Your name is Tex Murphy, private investigator in San Francisco. You've been hired by the beautiful daughter of a university professor to uncover the facts about her father's death.

As you begin your investigation, you uncover the deaths of several prominent members of the scientific community. Are these deaths coincidental, or is something more sinister going on?

- You will interact with more than 27 characters which animate and respond to questions, bribes and threats.
- Some characters actually talk. This spectacular effect is achieved by synchronizing digitized animation with Real Sound • You'll crack high-tech security systems.
 - You'll crack high-tech security systems.
 You'll rummage through offices, warehouses, and factories as you search
 - for vital clues.
 You'll risk your life in action-packed shootouts.
 - You'll fly to major cities along the west coast in your Lotus speeder. This land and air vehicle is a full
 - 3-D solid-fill flight simulator.

Mean Streets features Real Sound our own proprietary technology that allows MS-DOS computers to play high quality digitized sound effects, music and speech WITHOUT HARDWARE.

ACTUAL 256 COLOR VGA SCREENS







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SOFTWARE INCORPORATED

Real Sound

545 WEST 500 SOUTH, BOUNTIFUL, UTAH 2019 Starter and a commenced on the co

the other offers activities that let children practice those concepts they've learned. Each option is described by words only—there are no graphics or other visual hints to help kids who can't yet read.



Children will have hours of fun learning to tell time with Caveman Clockwork.

Selecting an item brings up a colorful prehistoric panorama, complete with a smoking volcano, a bright yellow sun, and a road paved with red brick. In the middle sits an enormous analog clock (remember those?) flanked by a pair of cavepeople who wear, among other things, well-worn socks. Socks? These guys look more like vagrants. But my six-year-old thinks they're delightful, and that's good enough for me.

These cave folks are, it seems, still wrestling with the basic concepts. "What time is it?" one asks. The other, confused by the very notion, replies, "What is time?" "Look, they don't know about

"Look, they don't know about time either!" one child observed delightedly. His conclusion: If it's OK for the cavepeople to be confused, then it's OK for modern kids to be confused, too.

Tutorial options cover all sorts of basic time-telling concepts, including hour and minute hands and how the clock face looks at different times of day. Children are encouraged to interact with the analog clock by entering a time (in 12-hour hh:mm format), which is then displayed on the analog clock face. *Caveman Clockwork* also shows how time passes, speeding up the onscreen clock's hands.

After the kids have mastered the basics, *Caveman Clockwork* introduces a genius caveman (in high-top sneakers yet) who has finally figured out what time is all about. However, his newfound knowledge hasn't gone to his head, and he's apparently made it his life's work to help others figure out time concepts too.

He spreads his knowledge the old-fashioned way: by asking questions. What time does the clock show? What time was it 15 minutes ago? What time will it be 30 minutes from now? Kids enter answers in hh:mm format; correct answers are acknowledged by a volcanic eruption. After three wrong answers, the correct time is revealed.

At the end of each session, you get a summary of how things went. A report shows time spent in tutorials, time spent practicing skills, and total time. You're also told how many exercises were completed and how many of your answers were right or wrong.

Caveman Clockwork is a wellprepared tutor. However, it's also an impersonal one. Names are important to children, but this program can't be personalized to call your child by name.

The program is also fairly verbose. Blocks of onscreen text accompany many activities, and prereaders may be lost unless Mom or Dad sits down to help out.

But that's no problem. You'll enjoy sitting down with your kids for a visit with these well-dressed cave folks. Just be sure when you're having all that fun that you don't lose track of the time.

STEVE HUDSON

IBM PC and compatibles with EGA or VGA and color monitor—\$39.95

BL EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE 2899 Agoura Rd. #529 Westlake Village, CA 91361 (805) 498-8121

PACHE STR

ou're flying an AH-64 Apache attack chopper at street level, dodging gunfire from tanks and other helicopters. You find your primary target what appears to be an orbital communications satellite floating in the center of the city.

This is the unlikely scenario behind Activision's *Apache Strike*. In this fast-action arcade game, you must pilot a helicopter through a maze of skyscrapers, blasting away tanks and helicopters while searching for the Strategic Defense Computer (SDC). On earlier levels it's relatively easy to use your radar to find the SDC and destroy it quickly, without worrying about other targets. However, you may want to save the SDC for last, since you earn bonus points for destroying all the tanks and choppers.

Graphics in *Apache Strike* are sparse but colorful. The city you fly through is populated by identical gray skyscrapers, with only an occasional elevated crosswalk to break up the landscape's monotony (and break up your helicopter, should you accidentally fly into one). However, the cockpit and enemy vehicles make good use of color. This is one of the few low-priced arcade games I've seen that takes advantage of the 256-color graphics available with VGA and MCGA adapters.

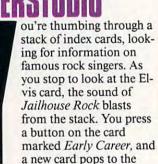
Apache Strike is best played with a joystick or mouse. While you can control the game with the keyboard, the speed-control keys are so far away from the keys used to fire guns and missiles that you'll find yourself looking down at the keyboard, a distraction with deadly consequences.

If you're looking for a realistic helicopter flight simulator, look elsewhere. But if you just want blow some bad guys out of the sky without having to think too hard, *Apache Strike* may be for you.

DENNY ATKIN

IBM PC and compatibles—\$14.95 ACTIVISION Distributed by Mediagenic 3885 Bohannon Dr. Menio Park, CA 94025 (415) 329-0500

Commodore 64/128-\$14.95



top of the stack, displaying a moving video of the King on "The Ed Sullivan Show."

This seemingly magic stack of cards isn't in your hands. You created it on your Apple IIGS using *Hyper-Studio* from Roger Wagner Publishing.

Like *HyperCard* on the Macintosh, *HyperStudio* uses a metaphor of a stack of index cards upon which you can place graphics, text, sounds, and video images. On the cards are buttons that let you interactively move through the deck.

You don't move through the cards in a linear fashion, as you would with a book or movie. Pressing a button leads you directly to another card, a stack of cards, or even a stand-alone program such as *AppleWorks*. Hyper-

"I Challenge You To Win A Caribbean Vacation!"

- Major "Wild Bill" Stealey President, MicroProse

Enter "The Major's Mission" Contest and take off to the Caribbean!

Just ask your retailer for details on how to receive your Top Secret documents. They contain your mission orders and a tough set of questions on four of our hottest games: F-19 STEALTH FIGHTER, RED STORM RISING, F-15 STRIKE EAGLE II and M1 TANK PLATOON. To find the answers, read through your documents. Then send in your answers to win!

You'll get to preview these four games, plus you'll have the chance to win a fabulous Caribbean vacation, or one of 135 other awesome prizes! So enter now. The Major is counting on you!

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Studio lets you incorporate highresolution color graphics and digitized sounds, and it even lets you control a videodisc player—so you're not just moving through text, but through a world of sight and sound.

The *HyperStudio* package includes four non-copy-protected disks, a manual with tutorial and reference sections, a sound-digitizing card, a microphone, and an amplified speaker. Setup is fairly easy—it took me about 15 minutes. The sound digitizer card screws into a hole in the back of the Apple IIGs and draws power from the fan connector near the back of the motherboard. Because the *Hyper-Studio* digitizer card doesn't use an expansion slot, it has less noise interference than other cards have.



Create superb sound and graphics with Roger Wagner's HyperStudio.

On the program disks, you'll find the *HyperStudio* authoring program, sample stacks, over 250 clip-art images, music, sound effects, and three sound-manipulation programs.

The files created with the Hyper-Studio program are referred to as stacks, and stacks are made up of cards. To create a card, you start by choosing a background. A Rolodex card might have a blank background, while other types of cards might have ornate and colorful backgrounds. You can design backgrounds using the built-in painting tools, or you can import pictures from programs such as 8/16 Paint, PaintWorks Gold, or DeluxePaint II.

Once your background is in place, it's time to add objects to your cards. Objects can be blocks of text, pictures, sounds, or buttons. Text blocks and pictures can be created within *HyperStudio* or imported from other programs. You can record sounds using the built-in recording tool and microphone, which operates like an onscreen cassette recorder, or you can import sounds from *Hyper-Studio*'s Sound Shop program. Buttons come in several shapes and sizes, or you can create your own. Because buttons can be visible or invisible, you can use any part of the card as a button. If you want a door to open when pressed, outline it onscreen and use the door as a button.

HyperStudio includes three programs that work in conjunction with the included sound digitizer. Sound Shop is a utility that lets you digitize, edit, and save sound files. Although HyperStudio's sound-tool feature also lets you record sounds, Sound Shop gives you finer control over the process and also lets you convert sounds recorded with other products. Sound Shop also lets you control the quality of the sound sample and add an echo to a sound. Sound Browser lets you browse through and hear sound files on a disk, while Sight 'n Sound lets you set up a disk to bring up a superhi-res picture-and-sound file while a disk is starting up.

HyperStudio can also control videodisc players, allowing you to attach video images or sequences to any card in a stack. Using *HyperStudio* in conjunction with Apple Video Overlay Card, you can add images from a VCR or laser disc player to individual cards.

Exploring completed Hyper-Studio stacks, loaded with backgrounds and objects, is really fun. Pressing buttons can trigger sounds, animations, pictures, programs and all sorts of other surprising events. It was really unusual to hear my daughter's voice coming from my Apple IIGS when I pressed a window on a picture she had painted. Among the wide variety of stack ideas suggested in the user manual are an interactive adventure story, a children's ABC book, a repair guide, interactive tests, family trees, and graphics databases of animals, art, and countries. Best of all, you don't need a lot of programming knowledge to create your own stacks.

HyperStudio is a revolutionary product for the Apple IIGs that is guaranteed to unlock some doors to the machine's true potential. It's definitely not the type of package you'll buy and abandon in a few days. In fact, if you start playing with Hyper-Studio, there's a good chance people wonder where you've been lately.

JOEY LATIMER

Apple IIas with 768K RAM, 3½-inch drive—\$129.85 ROGER WAGNER PUBLISHING 1050 Pioneer Way Suite P El Cajon, CA 92020 (619) 442-0522

SEARCH For the titanic

ou've flown a military jet, managed a baseball team, raced a Porsche on the Autobahn, and led your country into war—without leaving the safety of your computer room. Now you can sink to new depths with *Search for the Titanic*.

Shipwrecks have a fascinatingly mysterious quality. What you find when you dive on a wreck is intriguing, addicting, and terrifying. And the most fascinating wreck of all is the Titanic.

Capstone's Search for the Titanic not only provides hours of oceanographic adventure, but also does a good job of explaining how the ship was found. Dr. Robert Ballard, the leader of the expedition that discovered the great liner four years ago, spent enormous sums of money achieving his goal. Once you've played this game, you'll understand why he needed it all.

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Experience the excitement of undersea explorations in Search for the Titanic.

In Search for the Titanic, you must get together the money for a series of discovery expeditions, then equip your expedition and sail to the site of the wreck. There, you must coordinate your divers and equipment as you explore sunken vessels.

There is a mini-game in which you search only for the Titanic, but the real challenge lies in the full game, where 77 wrecks wait to be found. You begin with only \$10,000, with which you must rent a ship, hire a crew and divers, and buy fuel and provisions before you can look for a wreck. When you find one, dive to it and then return to port to improve your reputation. An improved reputation means a greater chance of securing funding for future expeditions, which in turn yield an even better rep-

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Set in the legendary DRAGONLANCE' game world, DRAGONS OF FLAME explodes with red-hot action. You control up to ten Companions, one at a time. Your quest: rescue slaves held by the ravaging Dragonarmies in the foul fortress of Pax Tharkas. Your wits and reflexes better be sharp. In this game, you're either quick...or you're dead.

Each Companion possesses specialized skills. Use these skills to evade evil Draconian patrols. Keep one step ahead of the Dragonarmies while battling scores of deadly monsters.

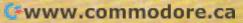
All the terrors of the journey, however, pale in comparison to the horror of your destination. The fortress of Pax Tharkas looms before you, crackling with vile energy.

Can you stand the heat?

CAN YOU

STAND THE HEAT?

STRATEGIC SIMULATIONS, INC.



utation. You're in this business for excitement and glory, but your sponsors want something more.

Four types of ship are available for rent or purchase, ranging from the lowly \$50,000 Moyu to the \$600,00 Voyager. You can start your expedition from over 40 different ports around the world, each one rated according to technical level, important for repairs and equipment availability. Planning includes getting your ship and choosing a starting port, then hiring your captain, doctor, navigator, mechanic, technicians, and divers. Each of these people gets paid by the day, and the more experienced they are, the more they'll cost you.

You must also buy equipment. At first, you can't afford any, which means you will only be able to scuba dive on shallow wrecks. Later, you'll want to consider purchasing items like a magnetometer (\$10,000), platform sonar (\$80,000), weather radar (\$10,000), and minisub (\$750,000). Because all your initial money is needed to rent a ship, buy supplies, and hire a crew, this equipment is completely out of reach until later in the game.

After choosing a wreck to search for, then getting your plan evaluated and finding funding, you're ready to head to sea. In Navigation mode, you guide your ship to the approximate coordinates displayed on the wreck chart. Once close to the site, switch to Exploration mode and zero your ship in on the target. When you're close, stop the ship and send down the divers.

Two divers go down at a time, spend some time on the bottom, then resurface and tell you what they've found. First you have them survey; then, when they've found the wreck, you send them down to explore it. You can view a digitized picture of what they find. These photographs are especially exciting when you find the Titanic; VGA owners are treated to some spectacular photos of the actual wreck.

If the wreck is below scubadiving depth, you'll need advanced equipment just to find it. The magnetometer will locate large pieces of metal lying on the ocean floor. Ship sonar, deep sonar, and platform sonar return information about water depth, revealing possible wreck locations. You need all three to fully cover the varied ocean depths. Once you know where the wreck is, you can send down your minisub or bathysphere to explore the sunken ship and bring back artifacts and treasures.

A command you'll definitely

want to use when playing Search for the Titanic is ALT-W, which toggles warp speed on and off. Warp speed changes the game from realtime to accelerated time. Without it, the game would be unplayable because all of the diving and exploring would, in realtime, take hundreds of hours.

Search for the Titanic is an extremely educational game. You'll learn what it takes to find a sunken ship, and you'll begin to appreciate the enormous financial commitment needed to make such discoveries. Finding shipwrecks is something few of us will ever get to do. This excellent simulation will expand your port of call beyond the computer room.

- NEIL RANDALL

IBM PC and compatibles—\$39.95 Commodore 64/128—\$29.95 An Apple II version will be available soon.

CAPSTONE 14160 SW 139 Ct. Miami, FL 33186 (800) 468-7226

ARCHIPELAGOS

dark force has spread over the archipelagos. The radiation emanating from the tall obelisk looming defiantly on the horizon is polluting the once-serene isles. Only you can rid this strange land of the evil power that infects it. The object of this un-

usual and addictive game from Brittanica Software's FanFare line is to destroy the obelisk that you'll find on each of the game's 9999 levels. Before it can be eliminated, you'll have to find and destroy a series of radioactive nodes scattered around the islands. Destroying the nodes is easy just place a crosshairs pointer on the same square as the node and collapse it with a click of the mouse button. Only after collapsing every node on a level will the obelisk become vulnerable. At that point, you'll have just 90 seconds to find and destroy it.

As you examine each landscape in search of nodes, the mouse or cursor keys can be used to pan around your position. To move across the landscape, you place the crosshairs on any green land square and click on it. You'll zoom to the new location as the checkered ground scrolls smoothly beneath you. The animation is superb.

Most of the island landscapes of Archipelagos are very large and irregularly shaped, making it nearly impossible to thoroughly search each area without consulting a map. By pressing a function key, your view is replaced with a map that includes a closeup of your immediate surroundings. Also helpful for getting your bearings is a mysterious red planet that sits in the northern sky.



You must save the land from viral trees and other infections in *Archipelagos*.

Although you can only travel onto green land squares, you can convert other squares to green land if you have enough energy. Your energy supply increases each time you destroy a node or collect a sand pod. You'll need to do this to get over large patches of infected land or to build land bridges to reach other islands.

Many of Archipelagos' early levels are fairly easy and can be completed without ever creating new land or disinfecting any red squares. As you reach higher levels, the game becomes increasingly difficult. For instance, instead of finding all of the nodes on the same land mass as the obelisk, you'll have to search a number of individual islands for them and create new land squares over the ocean to reach them. Also, the number of viral trees infecting the land increases. If you get too close to a viral tree, it could infect the land you're on, killing you in the process. Beginning on level 13, you'll also have to worry about a necromancer that rises from the ground and moves around the landscape turning land squares to sand. Since each node must be connected to the obelisk by a contiguous land path before it can be destroyed, the necromancer can make creating and maintaining these paths a nightmare.

Things really start getting tough on level 20, when eco-eggs begin hatching. One type of egg quickly infects the land with radioactive wastes, while another eats away at the land itself until there is nothing left. Finally, tornadolike air cleaners begin to appear on level 25. Contact with any of these will kill you, forcing you to start the level over again.

Archipelagos has a lot going for it

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Spock! — aren't you supposed to be dead?

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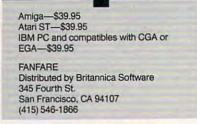


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BOB GUERRA



BEYOND WURD Writer



o make a dent in the crowded PC word processor market, publishers must try to create the ultimate text-editing program, one that's easy to use and laden with every bell and whistle developers can cram in. Time-Works' *Beyond Word Writer*, an ambitious up-

grade of the popular *Word Writer* program, is a new contender that just might have what it takes to be noticed in the crowded sea of word processors.

Bevond Word Writer's simplicity starts with the WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) interface. There are no codes to memorize for basic operations; all editing options come from pull-down menus, dialog boxes, and mnemonic keyboard commands. File management, block moves, and page formatting are handled quickly and easily. You can begin writing standard documents like letters and school reports with a minimum of setup and study. A timed backup feature, several levels of Undo, and context-sensitive help screens make basic word processing relatively foolproof.

If you're accustomed to using another word processor and don't relish the thought of learning a new interface, *Beyond Word Writer* can mimic the command sets of *WordStar*, *WordPerfect*, *Microsoft Word*, *Sprint*, *PFS:Professional Write*, and *Lotus* *1-2-3.* It has a file-translation utility to import documents created with those programs, as well as standard ASCII files. Up to three documents can be open at once in separate sections of the screen, allowing you to cut and paste between them. This convenience isn't available on many PC word processors, but most writers will find it invaluable.

There are three ways to use the 100,000-word spelling checker: You can have it check automatically as you type, check when you've completed the document, or look up single words. I found the 240,000-synonym thesaurus weak in many subject areas; you're better off with an unabridged copy of Roget's. Additional writing aids include an outliner, a proofreader for catching simple errors, a FOG readability analyzer, a word counter, and a mail-merge function. A macro utility lets you record multiple keystrokes, such as your name and address, and add them to your document by simply hitting two keys.



Beyond Word Writer is a full-featured word processor that's still easy to use.

Besides basic writing and editing features, Bevond Word Writer includes some desktop publishing capabilities as well. Beyond Word Writer supports such text styles as boldface and underline and allows you to mix them freely in the document. You can insert formatting rulers at any point in your work, using them to create tables with decimal tabs or to center or indent extracts. You can vary line spacing, but not leading, and define your own page breaks. The program supports autohyphenation; widow and orphan control, to keep paragraphs together at the beginning and ends of pages; and sticky spaces between words that you don't want to split up at the end of a line.

Most of the advanced formatting features—such as index generation, columns, and footnote numbering require adding codes to the text or stepping through complicated dialog boxes. However, once you've learned the procedure for a particular operation, it's easy. *Beyond Word Writer* does lag behind other similar programs in its handling of graphics. Although you can create boxed text and line rules, *Beyond Word Writer* can't import graphics or create them from within the program. This is a real shortcoming for report writers.

I expected a feature-laden program like this one to be sluggish, but it raced right along on my 10-MHz AT. The only time the program had trouble keeping up was in multicolumn mode, when I couldn't tell how the columns would look until I finished typing.

On the whole, Bevond Word Writer is a responsive, robust, well-crafted program, with only one minor bug that I could find. I was able to lock it up once by trying to reformat an existing single-column document into two columns. The program inserted a duplicate of the first line of text at the top of the first page. When I tried to delete the line, the program hung, forcing a reboot. All other features of the program worked; however, the alphabetic and numeric list sorting, which is mentioned on the packaging, did not make it into this version. Still, Bevond Word Writer delivers on its promise of simplicity and power at a reasonable price.

STEVEN ANZOVIN

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nce you become accustomed to using a mouse with your computer, you probably find it awkward to run programs without mouse support. Luckily, a solution has arrived for users of three major word processors. Mostly Mice Software offers three products that add mouse

capability to existing word processors: El Perfecto, for WordPerfect; The Star-Mouse, for WordStar; and Mouse-Mate, for MultiMate.

Installating the drivers is easy. Simply run the install program and answer some questions about how your system is configured, and the files will be copied to the appropriate directory.

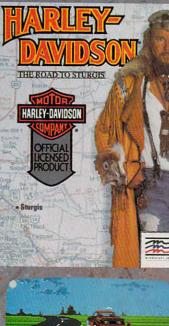
After you've installed the program, you'll find a number of menus

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Placement of the mouse pointer requires some practice. The cursor itself is easy to position, but choosing the exact spot for marking a block or deleting a character takes some getting used to.

If you find yourself intimidated when using your word processor or you're looking for shortcuts, consider these useful packages.

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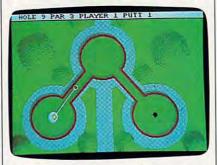
HOLE-IN-ONE MINIATURE GOLE rive by any miniature-golf

course and you'll see players tapping brightly colored balls through and around obstacles into that little hole. Most of us remember our first hole-inone—the ball skittered past the windmill, banked off the wall, and fell into the cup. Who can forget

winning their first free game, the shot skipping into the clown's mouth on the 18th hole?

DigiTek's *Hole-in-One Miniature Golf* brings back many of those memories and creates new ones with a tantalizing selection of courses, an extensive range of difficulty, and an accurate representation of plastic-turf physics. It gives you the changes in elevation found on modern courses and the simplicity of traditional miniature golf. Once you have the game figured out, DigiTek adds the Fantasy course, one that grew either from a nightmare or a hallucination.

You won't waste any time learning the joystick, mouse, or keyboard interface. A tutorial takes you through the basics, and in just a few minutes you're teeing up on the first hole. You place your ball, set your direction and power indicator, and then hope you've correctly figured the angles. All of the available courses offer difficulties, but you can choose beginner, intermediate, or expert levels for each. Actually, there's little difference between the first two levels; then there's a jump in difficulty for advanced players.



Plan your golf shot well in Hole-in-One.

Hole-in-One delivers some nifty options to the computer-golf scene. From the overhead view, elevation is indicated by shading. You can also view a hole's contours from four different angles: hole to tee, left, right, or forward. When you reach the harder courses, the views are extremely helpful in shot selection. A replay option lets you see the last shot, and during practice sessions you can retry putts that missed the mark.

Up to four players can compete in a stroke-play match. You can toggle between the difficulty levels as each player takes a turn, handicapping players of different caliber.

The first level of play is the Classics course. Here you'll find the windmill, the straight-uphill putt, and the single carom shot off a side wall. The holes carry a par of 2 or 3 and, once you've learned to judge the strength of your shots, are relatively easy to master.

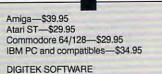
The Intermediate course presents a different challenge as elevation is given a greater role, multiple twisting doglegs come into play, and the number of obstacles increases. You can usually figure out the hole the first time you play this course, but execution places great emphasis on combining the correct angle with the proper speed.

The upper-level courses are almost impossible to predict the first few times you play them. The Fantasy course is easier than the Expert, but it brings its own unique view. You'll play one hole upside down, putt into sewers, and discover bridges guarded by dragons on a hillside.

The game supports Hercules, Tandy 16-color, CGA, EGA, and VGA/MCGA graphics. The EGA and Tandy versions are clean and attractive. The VGA game takes full advantage of the 256-color palette, but it requires 384K of RAM. (The other graphics modes run with 256K.)

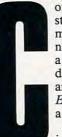
Hole-in-One Miniature Golf is a novel package with wide-ranging appeal. If you've been captivated by the magic of miniature golf on an actual course, you won't be surprised with the long hours you'll spend with this computer version.

MIKE HARRISON



8910 N. Dale Mabry Executive Center Suite 37 Tampa, FL 33614 (813) 933-8023

TURBO EMS



omputer users are constantly trying to stuff more features into their new programs or add just a few more fields to their databases. Luckily, there are products like *Turbo EMS* to help you stuff in a little more.

If you found yourself in the past hitting your

head on the 640K ceiling in your PC, you've probably already purchased a Lotus/Intel/Microsoft (LIM) Expanded Memory Specification (EMS) memory board. EMS allows programs to store data in memory outside the normal DOS 640K area, using a technique called bank-switching to shuttle needed information in and out. If you run into limitations only occasionally, you may have decided the cost is too great compared with the infrequent benefit. Either way, *Turbo EMS* can help you go beyond your current limits.

Turbo EMS offers a middle-ofthe-road solution, letting you use your PC's existing memory (including EMS memory boards and ramdisks) and then use your hard disk for a total of up to 32 megabytes of simulated EMS memory. If you're desperate, you can even use a floppy disk for extra EMS memory, because the program lets any recognized DOS drive simulate EMS.

Turbo EMS simulates LIM EMS version 4.0, even when using LIM 3.2 memory boards. The program optimizes performance by using actual random access memory first. Next, *Turbo EMS* uses disk storage, includ-

^い **THE LEGEND CONTINUES!**

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SELECT HERO

SELECT HERO

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MCGA (VGA)

LEVEL 8

EGA

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Visit your retailer. To purchase by mail, send your credit card number and expiration date, or send a check or money order to Mindscape Inc. .P.O. Box 1167. Northbrook, IL 60065. C64 * 128 * 529 95. [BM*, Tandy 1: \$39.95. Atar ST and Amiga *: \$49.95. Please add \$3.00 handling and allow 3-5 weeks for delivery. Lawyers like this part: * 1989 Mindscape Inc. Mindscape is a frademark of Mindscape Inc. Copyright 2, 1969, 1980 Tengeh. C64 and 128. [BK Tandy, Amiga and Atari are registered trademarks of Commodore Electronics Ltd., International Business Machines Corp., Tandy Corp., Commodore-Amiga, Inc. and Atari Corp. respectively. * Atari Barnes Corp. All rights reser ing drives over 32 megabytes, and even networked drives. *Turbo EMS* also supports the LIM Extended Memory Specification 2.0 for extended memory, a new standard which may become important in the future.

This all comes at a price. Your PC's processing speed and hard disk access times will determine how fast programs will operate under *Turbo EMS*. Even fast hard disks are dismally slow compared with RAM.



You can enter the world of virtual memory at a low price with Turbo EMS.

However, *Turbo EMS* will make it possible to do things you could not do before. It provides extra room for large spreadsheet, database, CAD, and other files. It will also free up some of the most precious memory, conventional memory below the 640K limit, for TSRs and application programs.

For example, one sample spreadsheet file of 265,370 bytes created in Lotus 1-2-3 left less than 1 percent of conventional memory free (58 of 309,536 bytes) without Turbo EMS. Activating Turbo EMS stole some available conventional memory from 1-2-3, but it actually increased the amount of memory available for other applications. The same spreadsheet loaded into 1-2-3 with Turbo EMS providing one megabyte of EMS on a hard disk left about 84 percent of the remaining available conventional memory (202,672 of 239,104 bytes, an increase of 239,046 bytes) free for other tasks.

Processing slowed since *Turbo EMS* had to bank-switch the spreadsheet file in and out of RAM when I moved around the screen, saved and retrieved files, and recalculated my spreadsheet. On a 10-MHz AT compatible with a 28-ms-access-time Miniscribe 6053 hard drive, the conventional memory spreadsheet took about 5 seconds to recalculate. Under *Turbo EMS*, the spreadsheet took about 11 seconds to recalculate.

File retrieves took 17 and 65 seconds, respectively; saves took 15 and 65 seconds. The simple tests dramatically point out that using a hard disk as EMS memory is considerably slower than using internal RAM or EMS memory boards.

On the other hand, *Turbo EMS* makes it possible to increase the size of the sample file far beyond what was possible before. Further, *Turbo EMS* makes it possible to execute the /SYS-TEM command to use DOS. Without *Turbo EMS*, *1-2-3* had too little memory to invoke DOS while the sample spreadsheet was in memory.

Turbo EMS's menu-based installation is simple, with help screens providing basic information. The manual is easy to read, understandable, and informative; it also provides essential information not presented in the help screens.

Turbo EMS is a good product in the right situation. If you have unlimited funds and frequently need more memory, go out and buy the biggest and fastest EMS board you can find. However, *Turbo EMS* is an excellent option if you have limited funds and occasionally need more memory—as long as you don't mind waiting a little longer for results.

J. BLAKE LAMBERT

IBM PC and compatibles—\$99.95 LANTANA TECHNOLOGY 4393 Viewridge Ave, Suite A San Diego, CA 92123 (619) 565-6400

> he Software Toolworks has done the seemingly impossible: brought true stereoscopic graphics to PCs, even those with CGA graphics. The game is sort of a 3-D combination of *Pong* and *Breakout*. You have a paddle on each side of the screen that you use to bounce a space

probe toward a variety of objects in the middle of the screen. However, the probe doesn't only move back and forth, but moves in and out of the screen, too. All in all, *Beyond the Black Hole* is heavy on packaging and special effects and light on gameplay.

The game includes a pair of GrenoVision goggles, which are similar to those 3-D glasses used for the 1989 SuperBowl halftime show. The effect is very noticeable, although the space probe is the only object that actually moves in three dimensions. Because the stereo effect relies on motion instead of on colors, the game looks fine without the glasses.

Beyond the Black Hole probably won't hold your interest for long, but The Software Toolworks should be lauded for creating an impressive 3-D effect. Hopefully it will use the technique in a more substantial game.

DENNY ATKIN

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THE SOFTWARE TOOLWORKS 19808 Nordhoff Pl. Chatsworth, CA 91311 (818) 885-9000

DINOSAUR Discovery kit

he little speech, "Zug the Megasaurus presents the *Dinosaur Discovery Kit*," begins one of the cutest dinosaur programs around. Designed to entertain and educate the preschool and kindergarten set, *Dinosaur Discovery* is a careful combination of speech, attractive

graphics, and simple layout.

From the main menu, *Dinosaur Discovery Kit* provides access to three different kinds of activities, each one carefully designed to appeal to the most demanding three- to eight-yearold child. Large boxes contain names and icons for the Coloring Book, Dinosaur Match, Story Maker, and Quit options. Zug appears dressed in different outfits each time the menu comes up. There is a help menu that includes several useful control options, including volume, printer access, and the ability to personalize the program with your child's name.

Žug's coloring book features accurate drawings of six different dinosaurs, each in an appropriate environment. There is just enough detail to keep preschoolers entertained without overtaxing their attention span. As each picture is completed, Zug randomly states one of several amazing facts about that particular type of dinosaur. Pictures can be printed at any time, a useful feature if your children would rather do their own coloring or want to keep a record of their work.

Dinosaur Match is a well-constructed version of a traditional memory game that offers enough variety to satisfy a wide range of age groups. Younger users will want to play by

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Actual game screens from IBM PC EGA version of the game. Other versions may vary Circle Reader Service Number 178

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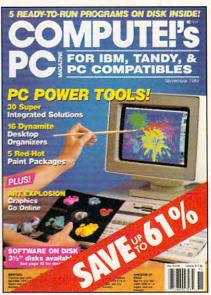
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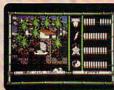
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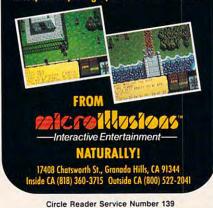
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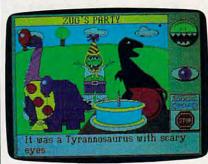
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themselves with large cards and real dinosaurs, or they may try their ability in a contest against Silly Zug. Older kids might challenge Very Smart Zug to an 18-card game of Dinosaur shadows. If you can beat Zug, he'll present you with an award.



Children can create their own fantastic parties with Dinosaur Discovery Kit.

Story Maker combines fantasy and reality into user-made stories that encourage nonreaders to build connections between written and spoken words. After your child has selected a title for the story, the program displays the first sentence onscreen and recites it. The sentence is missing a word at the end; to complete it, your child must choose from the available words. After the choice has been made, an appropriate image appears on the screen and Zug patiently reads each sentence. Is the triceratops wearing a striped bow or a polka-dotted scarf? Will the brontosaur hide from two allosaurs or two tyrannosaurs? When the story is finished, you can choose to print out the story and the pictures as a book or to let Zug read you the story a sentence at a time.

Speaking of speech, *Dinosaur Discovery Kit* uses the new Smooth Talker technology from First Byte; the Macintosh and Amiga versions are astonishingly clear. While the Tandy 1000 and MS-DOS version suffer in comparison, they are also clearly understandable and even feature a rather attractive accent.

Despite the strength of the overall program, there are some irritating weaknesses. The overall lack of a backup or undo option is quite frustrating for older children. Although the speech is quite clear, it's not used consistently. The speaking of some menu items can be turned on and off, but even with all the speech options on, some important menu items are never spoken.

The Story Maker and Coloring Book sections could profit from larger selections of pictures, colors, titles, and perhaps some branching stories. For classroom use, simple recordkeeping and a story-editor mode for the teacher would be very useful. And if you only have CGA graphics, be warned that the install routine is a bit tricky.

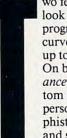
The Dinosaur Discovery Kit is attractive, educational, fun, and highly entertaining. Young children will like the simplicity of design and attractive results. Older kids will find the combination of fantasy and reality appealing. No bones about it, Dinosaur Discovery Kit is a wonderful program that makes good use of the newest in speech technology to entertain and educate.

LESLIE EISER

Amiga—\$39.95 IBM PCs and compatibles with 512K— \$39.95 Macintosh—\$39.95

FIRST BYTE Distributed by Electronic Arts 1820 Gateway Dr. San Mateo, CA 94404 (415) 571-7171

ON BALANCE



wo features you should look for in any software program are its learning curve and the way it lives up to the hype on the box. On both counts, *On Balance* boasts a healthy bottom line. It manages personal finances with sophistication, reliability, and speed. And setting up

the program took me only about 30 minutes, a reasonable amount for something so powerful.

The package keeps track of your money by establishing accounts for your assets, liabilities, income, and expenses. Don't panic if you don't understand these accounting concepts: The manual tutors you in these areas.

On Balance is similar to your checkbook, but it holds more financial information than any check register. You can record up to 800 transactions each month and an entire year's records on one disk.

I particularly liked being able to create accounts as I needed them, either while entering transactions into the register or beforehand by selecting add/edit from the accounts menu. The program allows as many as 200 accounts in categories such as checking, savings, credit card, income, investments, entertainment, household, or business. You can further define your accounts by assigning them to groups, such as personal, spouse, or jointly held. ▷

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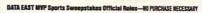
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31, 1989 to Data East MPP Sports Sweepstakes Requests, PAL box e4-oo, teenverton, DR 97076. WA and VT residents need not affix postage to return envelope. If you are a prize winner, claim your prize by sending your winning prize symbol game piece with your signature and your name, complete address and phone num-ber in the spaces provided via certified or registered mail to Data East MPP Sports Sweepstakes Winner, PO. Box 8455, Beaverton, OR 97076. All winning must be received by January 10, 1990. Any official game piece or package which is forged, tampered with, mutilated, contains printing errors or is obtained through other than approved distribution, is void. Decision of judges is final on all matters. All unclaimed prizes will be awarded in a Second Chance random drawing. If you are not an instant winner print your name, complete address and phone number in the spaces provided on your prize symbol game piece and mail to Data East MVP Sports Second Chance Sweepstakes, PO. Box 8458, Beavertor No. 109 97076. Second Chance Sweepstakes entries must be mailed separately and received by January 10, 1990. If there are any unclaimed prizes, Second Chance winners will be randomly drawn on January 15, 1990, by ACS Marketing Services, hincs an independent judging organization whose decisions are final. Dock of whining Second Chance Drawing depend on the number of unclaimed prizes and valid entries received. Not responsible for lost, late, misdirected, incomplete or illegible entries. Winners will be notified by mail. One Grand Prize winner will receive a trip for four to Super Bowl XXXV in New Orleans. This includes round this coach arises for four to Super Bowl XXXV and provide the second se and soor cash tie organises, approximate main value (pase) on hollies (pane) diaparture) 83,500. One First Price winner will receive \$3,000 in cash. Two Second Prize winners will each receive a Sory Entertainment Center, approximate retail value \$3,500 each. Three Tiind Prixe winners will receive a Data East ARDS's Monday Night Football Pintail game, approximate retail value \$3,000 each. 1,000 Fourth The winness will add receive an ABC Sports Monday Night Football 20th Anniversary Commerciative video, approximate retail value \$20 each. Total approximate retail value of al prizes \$44,500. 0046 or winning instantly are: Grand Prize-12,000,000, First Prize-12,000,000, Second Prize-11,000,000, Third Prize-1666,667, Fourth Filter 12,000,000, Postin Prize 12,000,000, Filter 10,000, Postin Prize 12,000, Sveepstake open to resident of the U.S. except employees and families of Data East USA. Inc., Its affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising and promotion agencies and printers. All prizes will be awarded. Limit one prize per family/house-tion. hold. No substitutions or cash equivalents. Taxes are responsibility of winners. Sweep India the approximate and a second se



1st Prize: \$5,000. 2nd Prize: A complete entertainment center featuring big screen TV, stereo and CD (VCR not shown). (2 Winners!) 3rd Prize: ABC's Monday Night Football pinball game from Data East Pinball. (3 Winners!) 4th Prize: ABC's Monday Night Football 20th anniversary videocassette featuring the greatest plays from the past two decades. (1,000 Winners!)

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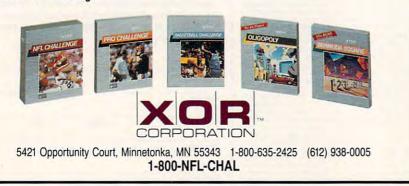
Navigational shortcuts will assist you in moving through the program. Pressing the Escape key, for example, takes you back one screen (keep pressing and you'll eventually return to the main menu); pressing the Alt-H key combination brings up a help screen; and pressing Control-O verifies the information you have entered. Also, the function keys are assigned to some of the most frequently used commands, such as Accounts Menu (F4) and Calculator (F8). The program's manual is personable and encouraging. The text is easy to understand, and there are plenty of examples and warnings to keep you on the right track.

One of *On Balance*'s bonus features is its flag-setting capability. This gives you a way of tracking items that belong together but aren't in the same account. For example, you could flag some transactions as tax deductions; then, at tax time, you could sort and list those transactions.

Another bonus, split transaction, allows precise tracking of a single



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transaction that affects more than one account. This is very useful when recording credit card expenses or for breaking up a house payment into principal, interest, and escrow accounts.

On Balance delivers power and sophistication in an easy-to-use package.

On Balance can provide reports that will impress any banker—handy when you're going for that new-car loan. Available reports include net worth, net income, accounts, transaction list, and amortizations. The amortizations report alone is worth the price of the program.

Keeping a budget is easy; you can create a year's month-by-month budget for any account. For that account, you will see the actual amount spent for each month, the amount budgeted, and the dollar difference between the two. Year-to-date values as well as the monthly average for the actual balance are shown at the bottom of the screen.

Like most other personal-finance programs, On Balance will print checks as well as track your financial health. The Print Checks screen will list transactions for the account, month, and year you have specified. To print a check for a particular transaction, answer Yes. A check will appear in the highlighted box. After you have selected the transactions for which you wish to print checks, press the Control-O key combination and your printer will spring into action. At the end of the month, you can reconcile your account with your bank's statement.

Two minor drawbacks plague the program. You'll need an EGA or VGA card to get color; a CGA card displays only two shades of gray. Also, *On Balance* is designed for use with either a mouse or the keyboard. But, because the mouse is the default, you'll have to disconnect it each time you load the program if you want to use the keyboard.

On Balance's solid features and performance offer you increased productivity when it comes to managing DRRKEENTIRY





YOU CONTROL THE GREATEST HIGH-TECH TANKS IN THE WORLD. YOU ARE ON A PRISON PLANET TRYING TO ARREST SOME ESCAPED CONVICTS. PROGRAM AND LEAD YOUR TEAM OF TANKS TO TRICK YOUR OPPONENT! RAY TRACED 3D UNIVERSE, MULTITASKING, ONE OR TWO PLAYERS ARE THE FEATURES OF THIS GAME.

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MICROLEAGUE Baseball II

aseball, with its reliance on statistics, lends itself well to a computer-game format. In the days before computers, baseball fans maintained their Walter Mitty aspirations with games like Strat-o-matic and APBA. Dice generated outcomes, and compiling stats took as long as

playing the games. The computer changed all that by allowing randomnumber generation and sophisticated stat compilation. Perhaps most importantly, you can play alone.

MicroLeague Baseball II attempts to fulfill the dreams of tiredwristed dice rollers. Its three booklets describe methods of play and how to build new teams; they also list the qualities of the teams included with the game. Those 23 clubs range from the 1927 Yanks to the 1988 all-star teams. If you want a team with no weaknesses, try creating an all-timegreat collection with Jim Palmer and Carl Hubbell as fifth starters, and Mickey Mantle and Stan Musial riding the bench.

You begin by choosing which of the offered teams you wish to represent, which of the teams the Baseball Buddha will play, whether or not you'll use the designated hitter, who will be your starting pitchers, and who will be in your starting lineup. Then the players charge onto the field.

The game's graphics are excellent. Base runners actually run the bases, and outfielders run down flies. There's no variance from park to park, but this would take up memory and not allow for sophisticated play. *MicroLeague* does offer several other positive attributes besides being pretty. New teams can be easily made; it took me just 15 minutes using the General Managers disk. Also on the

Episode One..

Jetting loway from their Key-Paimisland, the Quest learn is off on another intriguing mystery bothe jungle darkness of Guatemala. Who is stealing the great Mayon artificis? What secrets wait in the hidden Temple of Tikalt Whate me solinter of heaven?

Jonny Ovest and the Splinter of Heaven possesses all the Action and suspense of the animated series. Plus you choose the course of adventure with interactive dialogue and hands on fighting sequences. The world is yours to explore, and you will feel like you're in it as you solve puzzles and combat enemies while attempting to solve the mystery.

and you will be like you e will a you solve puzzles and combat enemies while attempting to solve the mystery. Episode One is just the beginning! Stay tuned for further installations in this angoing series of stand alone adventures!

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126 COMPUTE! DECEMBER 1989

Circle Reader Service Number 176 plus side are features like bullpen warmups, different base-running options, solitaire and no-play options, ejections, and rain delays.

I found the game's stat compiling, perhaps the most important aspect of any baseball simulation, lacking. Its biggest problem is its inability to compare players. There's no ranking system or standings board, no way to see how a player has done in the middle of a game. At the end of the game, the only stat shown is a simplistic score box.



Play the game from the manager's viewpoint in MicroLeague Baseball II.

Fanatics who play inside baseball may be disappointed with other omissions as well. MicroLeague II lacks the depth of the real game. There's no reason to platoon, for example, because pitcher handedness means nothing. There is no way to perform the suicide squeeze, and there are no fatigue factors-you can start your number 1 starter every game. All pitchers hit with the same skill; Rick Rhoden has the same average as Rick Camp. Along the same line, there's no rating for hit-and-run ability, bunting ability, clutch hitting, and the pitcher's ability to hold runners on base. The base-stealing ratings make no differentiation between a speed merchant like Ricky Henderson and a selective base runner like Kevin McReynolds. The outfielders have no arm ratings. These are all fine details, to be sure, but they help to create a more realistic simulation of what really happens between the chalk.

How much you'll enjoy Micro-League II depends on the kind of baseball fan you are. Most fans are casual about their interest. They tune in to see the Mets or Yanks play someone on Saturday afternoon and listen to Vin and Tom on NBC. If that describes you, then you may enjoy creating a baseball-park atmosphere with MicroLeague II. But if you're the kind of fan who looks up stat after stat, who follows baseball like a religion, you may want to stick with your Strat-

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Billy and Jimmy Lee return in the latest and greatest version of the coin-op smash hit! Featuring more weapons and more powerful

> moves, with more new missions such as the Underwater City, the Garden of Death, and the infamous Trap Room! It's martial arts at its best, coming soon for your home computer!

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eed to tell someone they're special? Want to reward your Scout troop for outstanding service? Looking for a form to keep track of your sixth graders' test scores? With Certificates and More you can create and print original certificates and charts for all of the purposes

above, plus much more. More than a mere award maker, the program features variations on the certificate theme. You can create calendars, checklists, board games, bingo cards, flashcards, greeting cards, charts, and other items by selecting a template and filling in your own information.

If you want to create a certificate from scratch, a number of options are offered. You can choose horizontal or vertical alignment, one of 20 borders, items from 19 categories of clip art, and numerous fonts.

You can rotate your certificate left and right and flip it vertically and horizontally. Using these functions, you can place clip art and text virtually anywhere on the page. A mouse is much easier to use for positioning than the directional cursor keys.

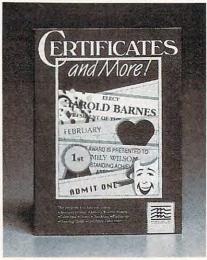
The clip-art categories include the usual assortment of animals, transportation, holidays, people, and seasons, as well as banners and medals that you can fill in with text or other graphics. All of this really makes a sheet of paper look important.

The nine fonts in 15 sizes comprise a good selection from which to dress up a certificate. They range from Baby Bold to Venice and are easily entered and deleted.

Most people will use this program at school and at home. Some

NIN BURNESS

ideas might be garage-sale announcements, chore charts for family members, and club or individual recognition awards.



Use Certificates and More to reward someone for a job well done.

The program and manual were originally created for Apple computers, and, although the program was revised for IBM PCs and compatibles, the manual was not. Mindscape included an IBM/Tandy Reference Card that points out the differences

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DND v1.2 (119) Like Dungeons and Dragons. ROUND 42 (120) Like Space

Invaders but better. 42 lev-BRIDGEPAL (171) Complete

game of contract or rubber bridge, with tutorial

TWO BIT POKER v2.0 (172) Our best draw poker. Nice graphics (CGA) SPACEWAR (158) Dogfight in outer space using phasers,

photon torpedoes, etc. PC-JIGSAW v1.1 (GAM71)

Beautiful computer jigsaw puzzles. Color or mono. EAT 'EM II (GAM 74) Like Pac Man but with a bigger field. KID-GAMES (GAM8) Animals

math, clock game, alpha-bet, etc. (CGA) CHESS (GAM9) Incredible.

2D and 3D. Playback moves, store games (CGA)



EGA RISK (GAM11) World domination in great color. With EGA Asteroids (EGA) SCRABBLE (GAM72) Exact rendition of the all time favorite (EGA) CADDIEHACK EGA GOLF

(GAM100) Best 18-hole shareware golf game around! Incredible graphics. CGA version is GAM101 (EGA) MAH JONGG (GAM103) High tech simulation of this

ancient game. CGA version incl. (VGA)



BLACKJACKI v1.5 (GAM47) Very professional and su-perb graphics (Mono or FGA

PAS TRIVIA v3.02 (GAM114) Family oriented trivia game for up to 6 players.

KINGDOM OF KROZ (GAM5) A combination arcade, adventure, and strategy game with 25 levels. CROSSWORD CREATOR (GAM 108) Shareware's finest crossword puzzle generator! SHARP SHOOTER (GAM84) Tank vs. tank warfare game. Up to eight players (CGA)

PROGRAMMING

PC-BASIC PRIMER (1625) Learn BASIC in a very colorful environment (CGA, BASIC).

PERSONAL C COMPILER v1.2 (1627) Small C compiler. Great for learning the C language (2 FD or HD)

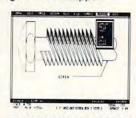
WORD PROCESSING

PC-WRITE v3.02 (434-436/3 disks) Newest version! Very popular. Includes spelling checker (2 FD or HD) GALAXY v2.42 (407) Easy to use menu system. Mouse and EGA support PC-WRITE MACROS v1.2 (458) 100 special commands for PC-Write.

GRAPHICS

MIND CHART (GRA37-GRA38/ 2 disks) Menu-oriented screen graphics charting and drawing programs.

SIMCGA/HGCIBM (1027, 1062/2 disks) Use with Her-cules graphics card/compatible to run CGA programs on your monochrome. IMAGE-3D (1048) Create, edit 3-D objects. Move, scale, rotate image (CGA). FINGER PAINT v2.00 (1050) Use keyboard or mouse to draw. Like MacPAINT (CGA) DRAFT CHOICE (GRA6) Excellent menu-driven CAD program. Mouse support.



CHARTS UNLIMITED (GRA16) Complete system for flow charts, organizational, electrical, etc., with symbols.

SPREADSHEETS

AS-EASY-AS (505) Great! Includes screen help menus. A Lotus clone that reads Lotus files

PC-CALC+ v1.0 (512-514/3 disks) Jim Button's famous Lotus clone (2 FD or HD) PIVOT v1.01 (516) Prints Lotus or As-Easy-As worksheets sideways.

MUSIC

COMPOSER (313) Create, edit and play music with nice graphics. (CGA)

CHRISTMAS SONGS (311) Collection of your favorite Christmas tunes.

UTILITIES

PROFESSIONAL MASTERKEY v3.0 (2805) Like Norton's. Retrieve deleted files. A life-saver (2 FD or HD)

TECHSTAFF TOOLS (3068-3069 /2 disks) 13 utilities no computer should be without! SCOUT v3.5 (2808) Excellent file/directory control program (for EM memory order #2809)

SCREENSAVER v1.05 (UTL21) Save monitor from burn-in. For all video displays. BRADFORD v2.0 (2729) Beau-

tiful fonts for your dot matrix. PAS MASTER MENU v1.02 (UTL33) PC menu interface for multiple users passwords, etc. (HD)

DOS

TUTOR.COM v4.4 (1301) Teaches you DOS. Interactive.

HELPDOS v2.0 (1326) Online DOS help with menus. Includes DOS dictionary of terms and a hints menu. STILL RIVER SHELL v2.58 (1304) Run DOS commands from menu. Make DOS easy

RELIGION

BIBLEMEN (3330) Excellent Bible quiz program. BIBLEWORKS (3356-3361/6 disks) Nice Bible reference, allows editing. Entire Bible (2 FD or HD)

EDUCATION

FUNNELS AND BUCKETS (201) A fun way to learn math. For ages 5 through 8. AMY'S FIRST PRIMER v1.70 (248) Child's learning game teaches letters, numbers, keyboard (CGA) FACTS 50 (239) Geography lessons for U.S. Nice graphics (BASIC)



GOOGOL MATH (EDU15) Math learning system. Nice graphics, many levels of dif-ficulty. Excellent (CGA)



NOTE: Minimum program requirements are in parentheses at the end of descriptions. FD=floppy drive, HD=hard drive, CGA=at least CGA, or better (for example, EGA or VGA).

PC FASTYPE v3.01 (241) Touch typing instruction program. Includes WPM, accuracy, etc. (CGA) SPANISH I & II (211, 232/2

disks) Great tutorial (BASIC) ACCOUNTING/FINANCE

MARKETCGA v2.2 (BUS17) Performs sophisticated analvsis on stocks, funds, etc. version is BUS 16 (CGA MEDLIN ACCOUNTING (757) Includes G/L, A/P, A/R and payroll all in one package! EXPRESS CHECK v2.06 (786) Checking account with run ning balance, monthly re-ports, etc. Prints checks. FINANCE MANAGER II G/L v1.3 (751) For personal or small business financial management (2 FD or HD)

APPLICATIONS

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EZ-FORMS (1909) Make forms to meet different needs. FAMILY TREE (2201) Create files and genealogical reports

LOTTO PROPHET v2.7 (2364) Best lotto program we've seen.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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WILDCATI v1.03 (1141, 1143/ 2 disks) Flexible bulletin board system (modem, HD) PROCOMM v2.43 (1159) Outstanding modern software (modem)

SECURITY/HACKING

COPY PROTECTION IV (1226) latest release. For adv. pro-grammers (2 FD or HD) FLU SHOT+ v1.5 (1225) Best protection against the dreaded viruses!

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DATABASE PROGRAMS

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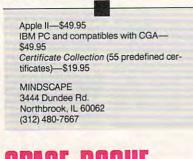
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between the two versions. Unfortunately, those differences are so great that the manual becomes almost irrelevant. Then again, the program is so easy to use that this is but a small problem.

Finally, the program is copyprotected. Because it's so reasonably priced (the lab-pack version of the program, which contains five copies, costs just \$99.50), Mindscape probably feels that complaints about copyprotection are unwarranted. But it certainly makes operating the program more cumbersome than it needs to be.

At less than \$50, *Certificates and More* is a good buy. It does what it promises, and quickly, too. Once I was familiar with the program, it took very little time to design a certificate. Printing certificates, in any of the four sizes, also proved easy. Pick up this package for an easy and creative way to reward that person in your life for a job well done.

LYNNE FREY



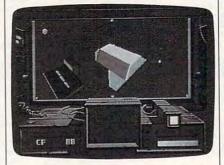
SPACE ROGUE



he best of flight simulation and role-playing come together in *Space Rogue*. Soar through space, dogfight other ships, maneuver through treacherous asteroid belts, and then dock at various starbases to interact with the people and aliens you meet.

You begin as a private aboard a large merchant ship called the Princess Blue. When your ship receives a small-craft distress beacon, the captain sends you to investigate. The ship in distress turns out to be the Jolly Roger, a Sunracer-class scout ship. You find it abandoned but in perfect working order. Before you can figure out what happened to the ship's crew, the Princess Blue is attacked by Manchi Vulture-class hiveships and destroyed by plasma torpedoes. The Manchis then disappear back into space leaving you and the derelict Sunracer unharmed. Thus begins your career as a space rogue.

The setting for *Space Rogue* is the twenty-fourth century in a part of the Galactic Empire known as the Far Arm. It consists of a dozen starbases, outposts, and mining stations spread out over eight different star systems. All of these systems are linked through wormholes by a network of Malir gates. Fortunately, your new Sunracer has been approved by the Imperial authorities for travel through Malir gates.



Maneuver your ship in space around the 3-D objects found in Space Rogue.

The Sunracer is a good, allpurpose cargo ship with some armor and a basic laser-beam weapon. You pilot the ship by charting a course with the navigation computer and then activating the automatic helm. If another ship is detected and you think it's a threat, you can take appropriate action. Once you arrive at your destination, you switch to the cockpit mode and pilot the ship manually for docking.

There are four types of bases, and they offer protection, repair and service facilities, trading posts, and friendly cantinas. The people you meet on your travels can provide valuable information about life in the star system or tell you about specific business opportunities.

As a space rogue, you can take three different directions. You can make your living as an honest trader, buying and selling everything from explosives and brandy to souvenirs and manure. You can turn to piracy and raid merchant ships. Or, you can become a bounty hunter and collect imperial bounties for destroying all the pirate ships you can find. Since most pirate ships are fairly well armed, however, you'd better make sure to upgrade your Sunracer before embarking on this career.

You can play Space Rogue with a joystick, a mouse, or the keyboard. Instead of a conventional user's manual, the game comes with the Sunracer Owner's Guide and Navigation Manual. From the greasy fingerprints, coffee-cup rings, and notes scribbled in the margins, it's clear that the manual once belonged to the original owner of the derelict Sunracer.

From the interesting opening premise to this clever manual, Space Rogue works. Not simply because it's one of the first games to integrate two distinct genres, but because it does so believably and with style. While you're in flight, objects you see from your cockpit view appear solid and 3-D; the animation is incredibly smooth and realistic. More importantly, the realism continues even after you step out of your Sunracer and begin to deal with the bounty hunters, merchants, pirates, and economic conditions you'll find in the Far Arm. If you've ever wondered what it would be like to be Han Solo, Space Rogue is your chance to find out.

BOB GUERRA

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DOSTALK



hat inhuman command line interface, MS-DOS, is responsible for the largest number of gripes in the PC-compatible world. The intimidating prompt! Those obscure abbreviations! That unforgiving syntax! The inflexibility and coldness of it all! Millions of Macs have been

sold on the strength of Apple's "natural, intuitive interface," with the implication that competitor MS-DOS is an "unnatural, incomprehensible interface."

A number of programs have been released over the years to transform MS-DOS into a kinder, gentler operating system and to make it more appealing to novices and experienced users. *DOSTALK* (now in version 2.1), one of the more ambitious efforts, offers "an English-language interface to the DOS environment," according to its developer, SAK Technologies. The program translates regular English phrases into executable commands, presumably eliminating much of the necessary MS-DOS know-how. ▷

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UTILITIES

- MasterKeys (400) Like Norton Utili-ties (recover deleted files, disk editing, change file attributes, etc.).
- SimCGA (404) Allows monochrome PCs to run many CGA programs.
- PC-DeskTeam (406) Several useful desktop accessories (clock, calendar, calculator, notepad, etc.).
- ❑ Automenu (409) —A very professional hard disk menu system. Run any of your programs from a custom menu.
 ❑ SideWriter (410) Prints your spread-sheet print files sideways.
- Baker's Dozen (411) A set of 13 utilities that everyone needs! Space Maker (412) –This utility allows
- you to fit more data on any disk. ALT (413)-It's like Norton Utilities, the
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- Still River Shell (414) A superb file and directory management utility.
- HD Backup (415)-Allows you to backup/restore all the data on your hard drive with floppy disks. HD.
- NewKey (416) Save time and increase efficiency by using this (the BEST) keyboard macro program

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HD=Requires Hard Drive

512K=Requires 512K RAM

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One important aspect of DOS-TALK is that it doesn't ask you to memorize many terms and rules. The only thing that you must keep in mind is to capitalize the first letter of directory, file, and device (disk drives) names. A potentially disastrous situation may arise if you don't because DOSTALK will ignore the name and, if possible, execute the rest of the command. Typing erase word.txt from the hard disk without capitalizing the filename as Word.txt will cause DOS-TALK to read the command line as erase the hard disk! Luckily, the program queries you before erasing any file, and its UNDO feature lets you cancel your most recent command.

But can DOSTALK really understand English-language commands? From my hard disk's root directory, I typed commands to change to a subdirectory called Dpaint. The usual DOS command would be cd dpaint. Entering change directory to Dpaint and go to dir Dpaint both worked. But typing go Dpaint elicited the query What should I do with the Dpaint directory? I had to enter the additional change to it to get the job done. DOS-TALK will continue to query you until you issue a command it can follow. I found it can cope with many things you tell it, but don't expect the program to understand every possible way of forming a command. Ironically, the closer you come to MS-DOS syntax, the more likely DOSTALK will understand what you're trying to say.

DOSTALK offers several features that should have been built into MS-DOS from the start. These include a more flexible command editor that allows you to type corrections into any part of the current command, and an input history buffer that lets you review and edit any of the last ten commands. Another feature is the ability to locate any file and directory automatically. For example, if you issue a command such as find the file Kingtut.ibm for a file (with or without wildcards) that's not in the current directory, DOSTALK will list the pathnames for the file. Note also that you have to specify just what you wantin this case, a file and not a directory or subdirectory.

DOSTALK's 27-page manual tests the reader's own language comprehension. Here's a typical sentence: Yzx which is the name of a file or a directory should be starting with an upper case letter since it is not the sentence will be read as: erase the hard disk. Once you get past the manual's peculiar punctuation and syntax, it offers a reasonably complete discussion of how to use DOSTALK.

The bottom-line question for a program of this type is will it really save you time and effort? I'm no MS-DOS maven, but for me the answer is No. Some of what DOSTALK does can be accomplished from within MS-DOS. For the rest, the time needed to learn DOSTALK and handle its queries could be better spent learning the dozen or so commonly used MS-DOS commands. But if you're hopelessly confused and put off by MS-DOS, DOSTALK will shield you from the worst offenses of the PC command line interface; and it's a lot cheaper than a Macintosh.

STEVEN ANZOVIN

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PC-KWIK POWER PA

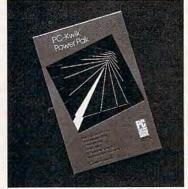


ack when your PC was new, it seemed fast and responsive. Now it feels sluggish and outdated. Perhaps it's an older model, or maybe it's new and you just crave a faster machine. You could buy an accelerator board, but you don't want to spend that kind of money. Short of

stepping up the voltage, what can you do to add some pep to your tired CPU?

If you have some extra memory in your computer, your best option may be Multisoft's *PC-Kwik Power Pak.* Unlike other memory-resident programs, these programs are designed to share the same RAM when one program finishes its work, it gives back the memory to the other programs. Now you don't have to decide between a RAM cache and a ramdisk program or between a print spooler and a screen accelerator. With *Power Pak*, you can have all four and a keyboard accelerator, too.

The center of *Power Pak's* memory-resident universe is Multisoft's highly-regarded RAM-cache program, *Super PC-Kwik*. The ramdisk, print spooler, and screen accelerator work only when the cache program is loaded, because they borrow their memory from the cache's memory. A typical cache program stores in memory the most recent information the computer has read from the disk in case it's needed again. When the information is requested again, the computer reads it from RAM, which can be read much faster than a floppy or even a hard disk. *Power Pak's* cache program can use as little as 64K or as much as 16 megabytes and can run in conventional, expanded, or extended memory.



PC-Kwik Power Pak packs many tools.

I used Multisoft's benchmark program to repeatedly load a 512-byte and a 4096-byte file with a floppy disk-based PC. The total time was 888 seconds without the cache, 706 seconds with a 128K cache, 648 seconds with a 256K cache, 405 seconds with a 384K cache, and 404 seconds with a 384K cache. In general, the larger the cache's buffer the better, but performance varies according to the application's use of the disk, the amount of data being used, and how often the data is read from the disk.

Power Pak's second program is a ramdisk program. Like a cache, a ramdisk takes information from your floppy or hard disk and places it into your computer's memory for faster access. But, unlike a cache program, a ramdisk lets you select specific files to speed up. Power Pak's ramdisk program also expands and contracts to accommodate the size of its files.

You might use the ramdisk to hold the few program files you use most often and use the cache program to speed up the rest. *Power Pak* even lets you install a second ramdisk. Try copying a file from one ramdisk to the other: The file copies instantly, and, because the drives aren't used, you won't hear a thing.

Next, we come to *Power Pak's* print-spooler program. Like the ramdisk, the spooler automatically borrows its memory from the cache program. When you print a document, the print spooler captures the data before it reaches the printer, writes a copy of it to RAM, and then

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returns control of the computer to you. To use the least amount of memory, the spooler compresses your printer data before writing it to RAM. If the spooler does run out of memory, it automatically waits for more memory to become available as your data prints.

You can monitor the progress of your files with the spooler's pop-up display. It lets you pause, suspend, flush, or resume printing; insert printer control codes; disable and reenable the spooler; change to single-sheet printing; and modify the printer's output rate.

When the spooler is operating, you may sometimes notice a temporary delay in either your printer or, less often, in the program you're running. This happens because your computer's processor is being shared between the spooler and your program. *Power Pak* intelligently manages this with far fewer delays than other printer spoolers.

The fourth *Power Pak* program, the screen accelerator, speeds the output of text to your video screen. How much improvement you'll see depends on your display adapter. A CGA display will increase in speed 200–400 percent, an EGA or VGA display will increase 300–600 percent, but a Hercules monochrome display will improve only 30–100 percent.

When used with the cache program, the screen accelerator includes a handy scroll-back feature that lets you see text that has scrolled off the screen. The default is 16K, which is only enough for four screens, but the maximum can be set to nearly the size of the cache. If you have problems with flickering or snow on your CGA screen, you'll be happy to know that the screen accelerator can cure that problem, too.

Finally, *Power Pak* includes a keyboard accelerator that increases the rate a character is repeated when you hold down its key. The normal DOS rate is nine characters per second, which means it takes a full nine seconds to move the cursor across the screen. *Power Pak*'s keyboard accelerator can increase the rate up to 100 characters per second, offer gradual acceleration, make the horizontal cursor keys twice as fast as the vertical keys, eliminate character run-on for fast cursor stops, and let you select which keys to speed up.

PC-Kwik Power Pak is easy to install, and in most cases you can use its automatic configuration. Multisoft is so confident you'll like its product that it offers a 30-day money-back guarantee. It's a safe bet on Multisoft's part: Once you get a glimpse of life in the fast lane, you'll never look back. DAVID ENGLISH

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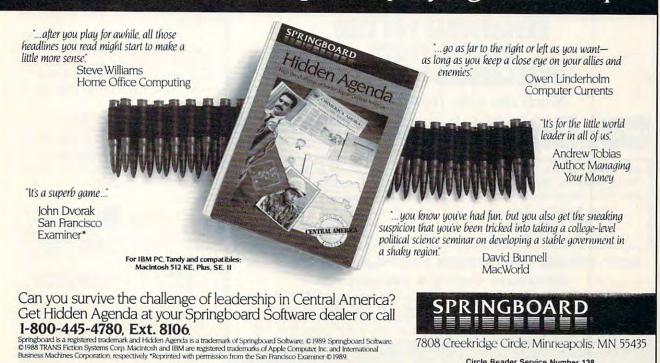
MENTAL BLOCKS HARRIER 7



o you use your computer for battling bad guys, or do you like to challenge your brain? *Mental Blocks*, an exercise in logical reasoning, will appeal to your intellectual side, while *Harrier 7*, a combat flight game, will bring out the adventurer in you. Both releases are from the

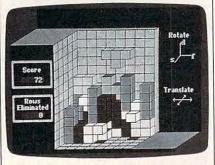
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Mental Blocks consists of three geometric games: Free Fall, California Achievement Cubes, and What's Next, Pussycat?. If you're bored by mindless arcade games, these are for you.



Mental Blocks adds one extra dimension of difficulty to your cerebral challenge.

Free Fall, like the game *Tetris*, features a series of falling geometric shapes that you manipulate to fit into solid rows. If a solid row is created, that row disappears and points are awarded. If the pieces are not successfully fitted together, they accumulate until they reach a certain height and the game ends.

But Free Fall takes *Tetris* to another dimension. You find yourself rotating and moving pieces along three axes, with the difficulty increased exponentially. The falling pieces, reminiscent of those used in the Soma cube puzzles popular years ago, are far more complex in shape than those in the two-dimensional game, and it's very difficult to see the openings that you must fit as they become hidden behind other pieces.

The designers have added nice extra touches in Free Fall, including a grid to help you line up pieces and a shadow that allows you to see where your piece will fall.

California Cubes presents a multicolored cube and a series of four shapes. Your objective is to mentally fold the shapes and select the one that will form the given cube, all within a 30-second time limit. This game is tough.

What's Next, Pussycat? makes a game of logical progressions like those given on IQ tests. A series of three geometric shapes with variations is shown, and four choices are given as the next possible shape. You must pick the next logical piece within a short time limit. This game is fun, varied, and challenging.

The *Mental Blocks* manual is brief and sufficient, the graphics are good, and the controls are easy to use.



This tricky trio is for intellectuals, Mensa members, and those of you who want to test the spatial-relationship capacity of your brain. Overall, it's original and challenging fun for a very reasonable price.

In *Harrier 7*, your mission is to destroy seven enemy rocket bases, protect your carrier from Exocet missiles, and shoot down hostile planes.

Despite the Harrier name, this is not a flight simulator. The action is much like the arcade game *Defender*. You fly around on a course from your carrier, wait for the indicator to warn you of what's coming up, arm the appropriate weapon, and fire it. Successful play involves quickly reacting to the variety of situations that show up on your panel.



It takes quick reactions to track down and annihilate your enemy in Harrier 7.

The animation is smooth with passable graphics. At times it's difficult to distinguish your Harrier from enemy fighters. The controls are easy to use. The manual is brief but adequate.

Overall, *Harrier 7* is an ordinary package among countless other fighter-plane, helicopter, or spaceship arcade games. But if you're into this type of entertainment, *Harrier 7* is all right.

When bargain shopping, you usually get either a good value or a product whose quality reflects its low price. *Mental Blocks* shines as a gem at a reasonable price; *Harrier 7* gives you just what you pay for.

WAYNE N. KAWAMOTO

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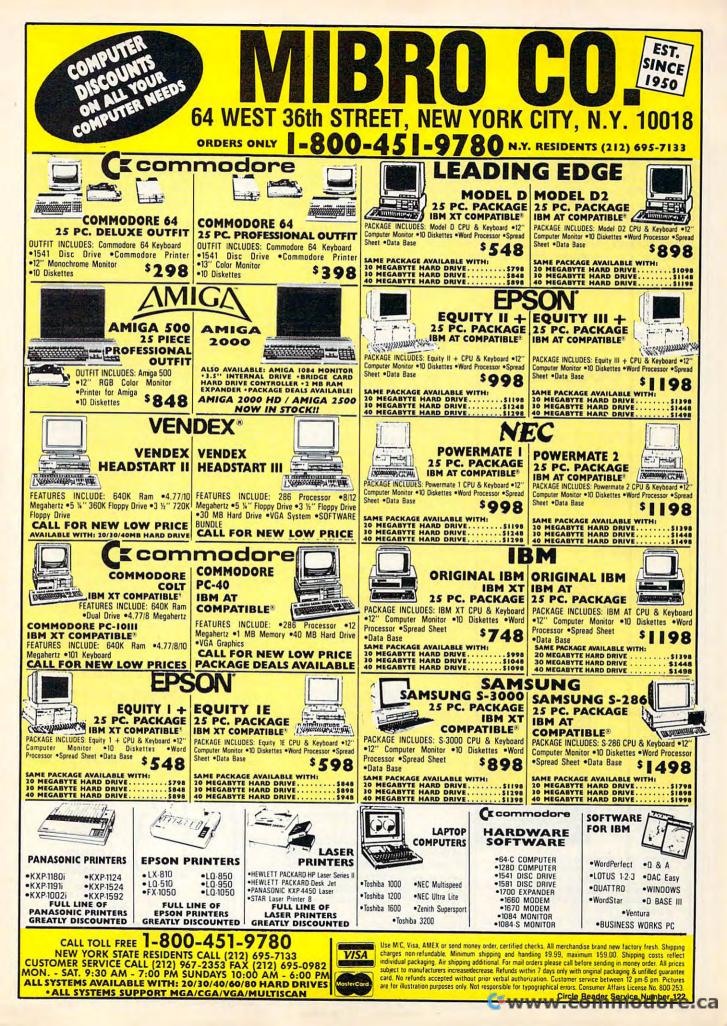


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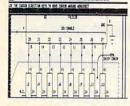
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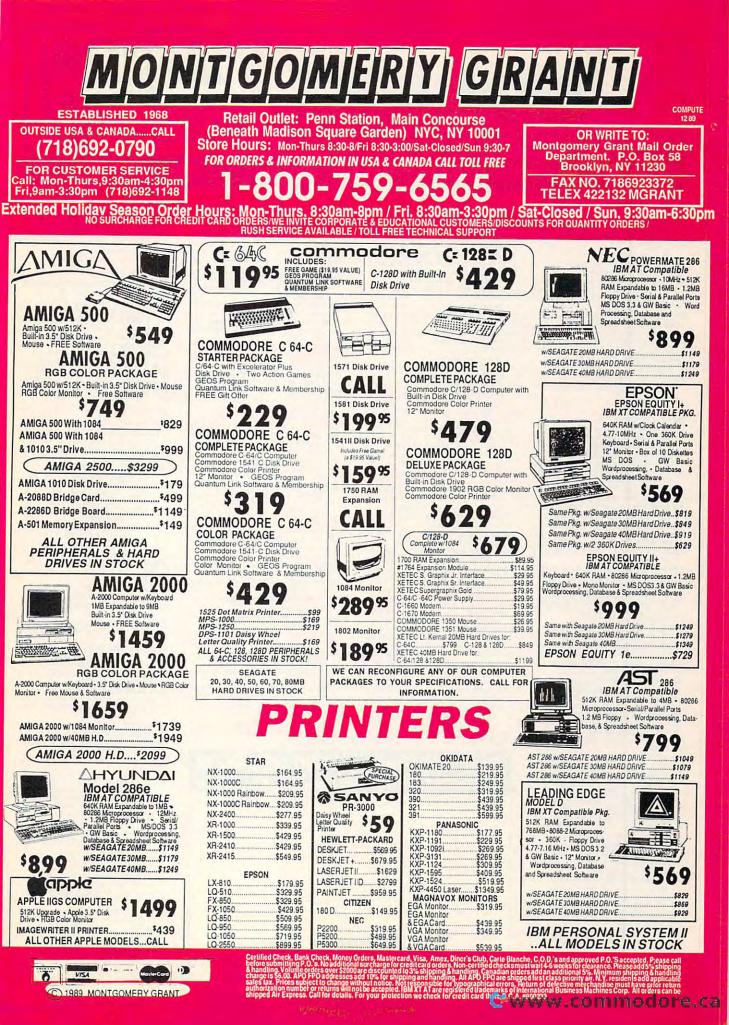
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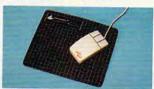
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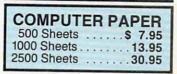
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The Norton Commander 3.0 has a suggested retail price of \$149.00. An optional cable to use Commander Link can also be purchased for \$29.95. Peter Norton Computing, 100 Wilshire Blvd., 9th Floor, Santa Monica, CA 90401-1104

Circle Reader Service Number 200.

Graphics Rabbit

The Learning Company has announced that its popular reading program, *Reader Rabbit*, now supports Hercules, CGA, EGA, Tandy 16color, VGA, and MCGA graphics. The program's additional graphics support illustrates the company's commitment to develop educational software for the IBM PC marketplace.

The program features hard disk installability, the ability to make back-up copies, and the inclusion of 3¹/₂-



The new Reader Rabbit now takes full advantage of advanced graphics cards.

and 5¹/₄-inch disks. The company announced that these features will now be available for its entire line of PC educational products.

Reader Rabbit consists of four sequenced games to teach children ages 4–7 the basics of reading, spelling, and vocabulary. It is available for IBM PCs and compatibles and carries a suggested retail price of \$49.95. An Apple II version sells for \$39.95. A talking edition for the Tandy 1000, Macintosh, and Apple IIGs sells for \$59.95.

The Learning Company, 6493 Kaiser Dr., Fremont, CA 94555

Circle Reader Service Number 201.

Hyundai Expands AT Line

Hyundai's Super-286E extends its line of AT computers. This small-footprint computer is 8/12-MHz switchable, with 640K of RAM (expandable to one megabyte). Features include two 8-bit and four 16-bit expansion slots, one serial and one parallel port, a built-in floppy drive controller and clock/calendar, and a 101-key, clicktype keyboard. MS-DOS version 3.3, GW-BASIC, and a system diagnostic disk are also included. The Super-286E supports CGA, EGA, and VGA color graphics.

The suggested retail price for the Super-286E with a single 1.2MB floppy drive is \$1,295. The addition of a 30MB hard drive brings the price to \$1,845; a 40MB hard drive, to \$2,045. It's covered by Hyundai's 18-month warranty; the company's S.O.S. onsite service plan is also available. *Hyundai Electronics America, 166 Baypointe Pkwy., San Jose, CA 95134* Circle Reader Service Number 202.

Electronic Payment

MECA Ventures has released version 1.1 of Andrew Tobias' CheckWrite Plus with CheckFree electronic payment capability built into the software. CheckWrite Plus provides budgeting, loan analysis, cash forecasting, tax planning, back-account management, accounts payable and receivable, and now electronic bill paying.

CheckFree has been integrated into *CheckWrite Plus* at no extra charge to users. The monthly service charge for CheckFree is \$9 with a nominal fee added for more than 20 transactions.

Andrew Tobias' CheckWrite Plus for the IBM PC and compatibles has a suggested retail price of \$49.95. Current registered owners can upgrade to the new version with the CheckFree capability direct from MECA Ventures by calling Customer Sales and Service at (203) 222-9150. MECA Ventures, 327 Riverside Ave., West-

port, CT 06880 Circle Reader Service Number 203.

Take Off with the Blue

Angels Have you ever wished that you could soar with the Navy's Blue Angel

squadron? Now you can have that experience with Accolade's *The Blue Angels.*



Fly a tight formation in The Blue Angels.

Learn over 25 flying maneuvers in one of four F/A-18 Hornet jets, and then head for the wild blue yonder with three other squadron members. In the training sequence, you begin in a wire-frame flight simulator. Once you learn the ideal flight path of the maneuver, you can practice it from the cockpit perspective and watch your flown path plotted in 3-D against the ideal path. Your final test is in an air show in which you control one of the jets in the formation.

The IBM PC and compatibles

version of *The Blue Angels* has a suggested retail price of \$49.95. The Amiga release sells for \$44.95. <u>Accolade, 550 S. Winchester Blvd., Suite</u> 200, San Jose, CA 95128 Circle Reader Service Number 204.

Defend Aladda

You're the only child of the late Duke of Aladda, and his legacy is for you to extend Aladda's dominion and sit on the emperor's throne in *Sword of Aragon* from Strategic Simulations.

To grant your father's last request, you must raise and equip an army of bowmen, cavalry, infantry, mages, and priests. You may even have to hire mercenaries, but you'll have limited budgets and resources. Once you've organized your forces. you can lead your army against the demonic rulers of the Eastern Realms while defending Aladda against the plundering raids of Goblin hordes. Strategic and tactical maps aid you in your quest. Your warriors, knights, and rangers are equipped with swords, bows, and lances, while the priests and mages wield magic spells; but it will be your battlefield decisions that determine whether you become the Sword of Aragon.

The game is available for IBM PCs and compatibles, is distributed by Electronic Arts, and retails for \$39.95. Strategic Simulations, 675 Almanor Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086

Circle Reader Service Number 205.

Wireless Wonder

nView's Toteboard wireless keyboard is a 100-key, full-function keyboard that uses infrared technology to communicate with your IBM PC or compatible. The battery-powered keyboard is approximately half the size of a conventional keyboard and can be operated with one hand.



The wireless Toteboard uses infrared transmission for PC communications.

A small infrared receiver plugs into the keyboard port and picks up transmissions from Toteboard. The receiver uses a data-verification technique to understand transmissions from wide angles and long or short distances. An optional serial interface is also available. Other features include the ability to use more than one Toteboard to address a single computer, or one Toteboard to control two computers. A Turbo Rep-rate allows you to select IBM's standard keyrepeat speed or an accelerated key repeat.

The suggested retail price of Toteboard is \$495. The keyboard operates on four standard AA batteries. An automatic sleep mode extends battery life for six months to a year. *nView, 11835 Canon Blvd., Newport News,*

VA 23606

Circle Reader Service Number 206.

Animated Program

Eastridge Technology has introduced *Impel*, an animation program for IBM PCs, PS/2s, and compatibles. You can use the program to make animated business presentations, product demonstrations, and moving displays of graphics and text.

The animation system uses mouse-driven menus and intuitive pick-and-place positioning. Features include a drawing package, proportionally spaced text fonts, film editing and splicing, depth perception, simultaneous movement of different pictures, and a film compiler to speed up finished films. The manual includes a tutorial.

Impel supports CGA, EGA, VGA, and MCGA graphics. The compete package, including a reference manual and demonstration disks, retails for \$295. The demonstration disks are also available separately on a 5¼-inch disk for \$10 and a 3½-inch disk for \$15. The disk prices are applicable toward the purchase of the full package.

Eastridge Technology, 37 Murray St., New York, NY 10007

Circle Reader Service Number 207.

It'll Bowl You Over

Bowling-league secretaries around the country will be pleased to know that CDE Software has developed *Bowl-ing League Secretary* to speed up recordkeeping.

After entering individual scores, the program calculates averages, handicaps, and scratch/handicap totals for each individual as well as the entire team. It also maintains statistics on high-scoring games and series for each bowler and a complete bowler history.

The program also generates all the printed weekly reports, which are accepted by the American Bowling Congress and the Women's International Bowling Congress.

Other features include matchpoint play; separate handicaps for men, women, boys, and girls; highaverage listing; substitute lists sorted by high averages; weekly recap sheets printed on plain paper or three-part continuous forms; and the ability to determine the most improved bowler in your league.

Bowling League Secretary is available for IBM PCs and compatibles. The program's suggested retail price is \$74.95.

CDE Software, 4017 39th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98116

Circle Reader Service Number 208.

Boca Enters VGA Arena

Boca Research has begun shipping its first VGA board for IBM PCs and compatibles. The board is registerlevel compatible with the IBM VGA adapter and supports all standard VGA modes. It also provides downward compatibility for EGA, CGA, MDA, and Hercules graphics.

VGA by Boca comes configured with 256K of VRAM and provides a 640×480 pixel resolution with 16 simultaneous colors. The board also offers an optional resolution of $320 \times$ 200 with 256 simultaneous colors.

You can choose an 8- or a 16-bit connection; 16-bit slots can relay information from the computer at a faster rate than the 8-bit can. The board also utilizes Chips and Technologies' latest single graphics chip.

The one-step installation requires no jumpers or switches to be set. A diagnostic test program is included to verify proper functioning of the board and attached monitor. The board is backed by a two-year warranty and a 30-day money-back guarantee. The suggested retail price of VGA by Boca is \$345.

Boca Research, 6401 Congress Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33487

Circle Reader Service Number 209.

Nightmares and Aliens

Medalist International has released two new games that may keep you up at night. *Weird Dreams* delves into the subconscious, while *Xenophobe* takes you on a mission of alien extermination. Both games are marketed under Medalist International's Micro-Play label.

In Weird Dreams you assume the role of a hospital patient as he undergoes surgery. As the patient's subconscious mind begins to wander, you'll begin to experience dreams where you'll encounter giant wasps, carnivorous rose bushes, a psychopathic lawn mower, and an evil little girl. Your success at confronting these people and objects and the unusual challenges they provide directly affects the patient's health on the operating table.

Weird Dreams is available for the IBM PC and compatibles, the Amiga, and the Atari ST for the suggested retail price of \$39.95. A Commodore 64 version sells for \$29.95. The Amiga, Atari, and 64 versions require a joystick. The PC version supports EGA, CGA, VGA/MCGA, and Tandy graphics.

Xenophobe puts you in command of three squads of scientists, soldiers, and others in a battle against alien invaders. From your nine charges you must select the two best personalities to handle each mission. These fighters then face a continuous wave of creatures, each with its own unique way of knocking human attackers out of action. The soldiers can fight with a variety of weapons.

The suggested retail price for the IBM PC version of Xenophobe is \$34.95. The Amiga and Atari ST versions each sell for \$39.95, while the

Commodore 64 edition retails for \$29.95. A joystick is required for the Amiga, Atari, and 64 versions of the game. EGA, CGA, Hercules, and Tandy graphics systems are supported by the PC version.

Medalist International's Micro-Play games are marketed by MicroProse. MicroProse, 180 Lakefront Dr., Hunt Valley, MD 21030 Circle Reader Service Number 210.

Video Digitizer

MFJ Enterprises has released the MFJ-1292 Picture Perfect Video Digitizer for IBM PCs and compatibles. The MFJ-1292 plug-in card and software allows you to connect a camcorder or video camera to your computer and instantly capture digitized video snapshots on floppy or hard disks. The digitized video snapshots can be displayed onscreen or imported into a paint or drawing program.

The software allows you to create pictures in VGA, EGA, CGA, Hercules, or raw data formats. The resolution of the pictures depends on your



The MFJ-1292 Picture Perfect Video Digitizer instantly captures photographicquality images on floppy or hard disks.

graphics card; VGA comes the closest to photographic quality.

The complete package includes a contrast-and-brightness control unit that can be placed near the keyboard for fine-tuning your pictures.

The MFJ-1292 Picture Perfect Video Digitizer's retail price is \$199.95.

MFJ Enterprises, P.O. Box 494, Mississippi State, MS 39762

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ne of the cigar-chomping bigwigs up there somewhere in IBM's ivory tower goes to sleep with bitter tears each night. He (or she—no he, and a Yale grad) laments the early heydays of IBM's dominance in the personal computer industry, when Compaq was just

another clone and when Apple made toy home computers. The days when IBM called the shots. Sniff, sniff.

I know this because those sleepless nights are creating a negative ripple in the psychic fabric of the universe. Every time Shirley MacLaine tries to channel, she picks up HBO. When my weird psychic friend complained, I suggested that we investigate. So we stuck some orthogonal crystals into our ears (just like Spock on Star Trek!) and summoned Modra, her spirit guide. The following is a summary of our astral detective work.

Saturday, the 23rd. Behold! (No one really uses that word any more, but it fits the quasi-lunatic vein of this column.) A dream of the past, of the glory days back in 1983. The microcomputer world was holding its breath against the rumors of "the Peanut," IBM's first real home computer. Our slumbering IBM giant was all smiles and giggles about computerdom's greatest event: the introduction of the PCjr.

The PCjr might well have been something, had IBM not forgotten to make it IBM-compatible. Forget the Flash Gordon infrared Chiclet keyboard and the easily broken, nonstandard connectors on the machine's rump. Had it worked, third-party developers would have created other keyboards and connectors. Had the machine taken off, every PC today would have those glorious sound extensions in ROM. Think of it: PCs that could do more than beep like their 20-year-old ancestors; PCs with real imitation PCjr sound.

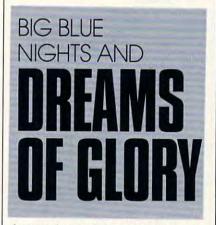
But back to the dream: The world bought the PCjr and paid homage to

DAN GOOKIN

IBM. That Christmas, families posed by the fireplace with the dog and the PCjr. It was a status symbol. Kids with PCjrs at home were earning doctorates by the age of 12. The president of Compaq phoned IBM: "Golly, you guys just have us beat! We're throwing in the towel! Here, take our inventory!"

Unfortunately for our snoring bigwig, the dream ended there. He woke up and stumbled to the refrigerator for some Perrier and Brie.

Monday, the 25th. This dream was really odd. Probably due to that extra helping of Haagen Daz before bedtime. It had to do with someone, or something, named Sue. But whether Sue was someone our Big Blue



dreamer knew or something he wanted to do never became clear. There was some wordplay in the dream about *megahertz*. My psychic friend asked if it was one or two words. I shrugged, and the crystal fell out of my ear, ending our session.

Thursday, the 28th. After a rather bland beginning, our snoozing IBM executive finally drifted into REM about 4:00 a.m. He first dreamed about buying all the Mazda Miatas in New York and then crushing them in a giant Whirlpool trash compactor until he was left with the last one. My psychic friend said it was symbolic of the greed in the computer industry, that the executive was acting out only a childish fantasy of domination. I said nothing, having dreamed the exact same thing only two nights earlier.

Later in the dream, it was 1987 and the IBM bulldozer was still in charge, paving the way of PC compatibility right into the 1990s. All the top IBM execs proudly watched the PC parade, with all the clone makers goose-stepping to IBM's drum, tossing Big Blue its deserved royalties like flower petals.

The parade was comprised of giant flower-covered floats representing IBM's mainframes. Behind the mainframes, hordes of dancers, each wearing a cardboard PC that resembled those old dancing cigarette boxes from the golden age of television. Each dancer tried to plug into the mainframe float while singing something called "The Connectivity Song."

It was a glorious time for PC owners: Everyone had the same IBMcompatible mouse, and throngs of PC users waved them in the air at the parade, some spinning the mice wildly above their heads and knocking out lamps and the occasional eyetooth.

The killer part of the dream came when IBM announced the PS/2. The computer world fell on its collective kneecaps in homage. IBM stock soared 200,000 points. To celebrate, IBM bought Tokyo.

Friday, the 29th. In the final dream we monitored, our hapless IBMer stood in the middle of a misty room. From out of nowhere, Charlie Chaplin waddled over and whacked him with a bamboo cane. The jolt practically snapped our bluetiful dreamer out of his jammies. Charlie hobbled off into the mist, leaving our IBM executive standing there, holding his throbbing ear.

Next, the "M*A*S*H" gang from TV stopped by but was quickly replaced by the cast from "Gilligan's Island." The Skipper walked over to the IBM guy and asked politely, "How do you ever expect us to get off this island?"

The dream ended there, and we haven't monitored any activity since. Just clear and blissful sleep.



SOFTWARE BESTSELLERS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

HOME LEARNING

1. Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing

Learn to touch-type. Electronic Arts Apple II, Apple IIss, Commodore 64/128, IBM, Macintosh

- 2. Learning DOS Learn the ins and outs of DOS. Microsoft IBM
- 3. Math Blaster Plus! Teaches basic math concepts. Davidson & Associates Apple II, Apple IIss, IBM
- 4. Where in the World Is Carmen Sandiego? Chase Carmen around the world. Brøderbund Amiga, Apple II, Commodore 64/128, IBM, Macintosh
- 5. Where in the USA Is Carmen Sandiego? The chase moves to the USA. Brøderbund Amiga, Apple II, Commodore 64/128, IBM, Macintosh
- 6. Reader Rabbit Helps children learn to read. The Learning Company Apple II, Commodore 64/128, IBM, Macintosh
- 7. Children's Writing and Publishing Center A desktop publisher for kids. The Learning Company Apple II, Apple IIGS, IBM
- 8. Where in Time Is Carmen Sandiego? Can you find Carmen in time? Brøderbund IBM
- 9. Think Quick Children learn problem solving. The Learning Company Apple II, Apple IIGS, IBM

10. Mixed-Up Mother Goose Kids fix jumbled rhymes. Sierra Amiga, Apple II, Apple IIcs, IBM, Macintosh

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

- 1. Flight Simulator Head for the wild blue yonder. Microsoft IBM, Macintosh
- 2. The Duel: Test Drive II Fast-paced car racing. Accolade Arniga, Apple Iles, Commodore 64/128, IBM, Macintosh
- 3. F-15 Strike Eagle II Fly the Air Force's hottest fighter. Electronic Arts
- 4. 688 Attack Sub Command a prowling sub. Electronic Arts
- 5. Falcon Air combat at its best. Spectrum HoloByte Amiga, IBM, Macintosh
- 6. ChessMaster 2100 Board strategy that isn't boring. Electronic Arts Apple II, Apple Iles, Commodore 64/128, IBM
- 7. Tetris Deceptively addicting falling-block game. Spectrum HoloByte Amiga. Apple Ilos, Commodore 64/128, Macintosh
- 8. Hardball! Major-league action. Accolade Amiga, Apple II, Apple IIcs, Commodore 64/128, IBM, Macintosh
- 9. TV Game Shows Compete in some of your favorites. Share Data Apple II, Commodore 64/128, IBM
- 10. King's Quest IV Rosella must save her father. Sierra Amiga, Apple II, Apple IIcs, IBM

HOME PRODUCTIVITY

- 1. The Print Shop Make banners and more. Brøderbund Apple II, Apple IIss, IBM; old version—Commodore 64/128, Macintosh
- 2. Calendar Creator Plus Create many different calendars. Power Up IBM, Macintosh
- 3. WillMaker Get help in writing a will. Nolo Press Apple II, IBM, Macintosh
- 4. PC PaintBrush IV Paint in every graphics mode. Mediagenic IBM
- 5. Resume Kit Help for landing the right job. Spinnaker IBM
- 6. PrintMaster Plus Print posters, stationery, and more. Unison World Amiga, Apple II, Commodore 64/128, IBM
- 7. Print Magic Design and print small documents. Epyx Apple II, IBM
- 8. PC Globe+ Explore world demographics. Comwell Systems
- 9. Bank Street Writer Plus Word processing for the whole family. Brøderbund Apple, IBM
- 10. Dinner at Eight America's top chefs share their recipes on your PC. Rubicon IBM, Macintosh



COMPUTE!'s Hotware lists were prepared by Egghead Discount Software and are based on retail sales of Apple II, Macintosh, and IBM software from August 20 through September 16, 1989, at 204 Egghead stores in the United States and Canada.

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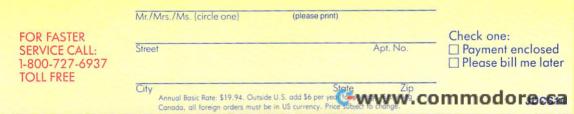
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IN THIS ISSUE **LOOK FOR COMPUTE!'s DEMO DISK** DIRECTORY



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Curse of the Azure Bonds MS-DOS 31/2

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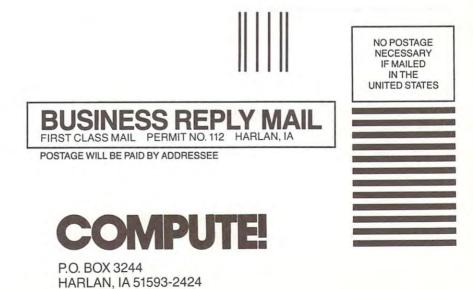
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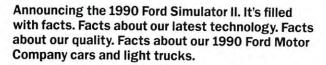
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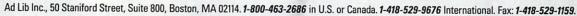
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