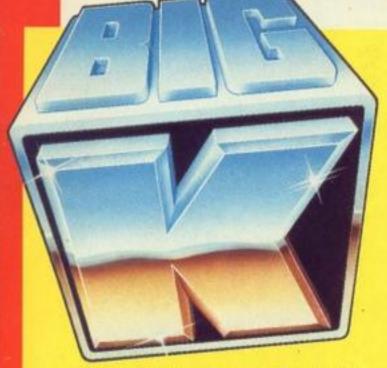




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ADVENTURE

ARCADE



Editorial Address: BIG K (2035) IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, LONDON SE1 9LS. Telephone: 01-261 5818/ 6249 Advertising: 01-261 5660

PRESS FOR MAIN MENU

Well, we finally did it. Went on-line. Grabbed a piece of the telecommunications revolution. Sold out to Prestel. Whatever you like. What this means is, we bought ourselves a slice of Micronet-not the first computer mag to do so; sure, and you bet we won't be the last. However, anybody out there - and there may be as many as 150,000 of you-who wants to get in touch, do so. Our mailbox is on the masthead.

Actually it wasn't that easy. Here's a snatch of the vital dialogue:

Editor: We want to go on Micronet.

Publisher: No chance.

'Editor: This object in my hand is a baseball bat.

Publisher: Start next week OK?

in the UK.

Also an

Ungulant

Page 34.

Obsessive.

Needless to say there's a lot of other nets we want to subscribe to. Compunet . . . BrotherNet . . . the list is endless. Wave of the future? Well, one of them, that's for sure. Pity about the word 'Modem', though. Ugly. No soul. Can anybody think of a better one? If you can, write - no, wait! Mailbox us. Save a tree!

Speaking of which, you've no doubt noticed a new branch to our logo with this issue. TV Gamer has joined forces with BIG K to further the cause of funware for the masses. Welcome indeed to all TV Gamer readers who are experiencing the BIG K style

for the first time. Nice here, innit?

TONY TYLER

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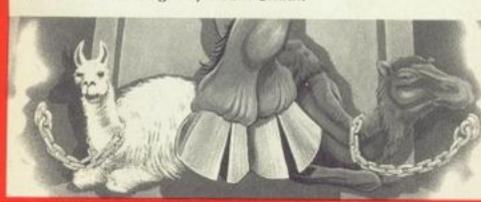
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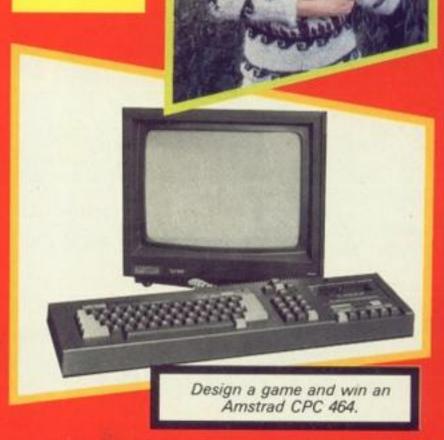
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Cover: Animal Magic by Robin Smith.







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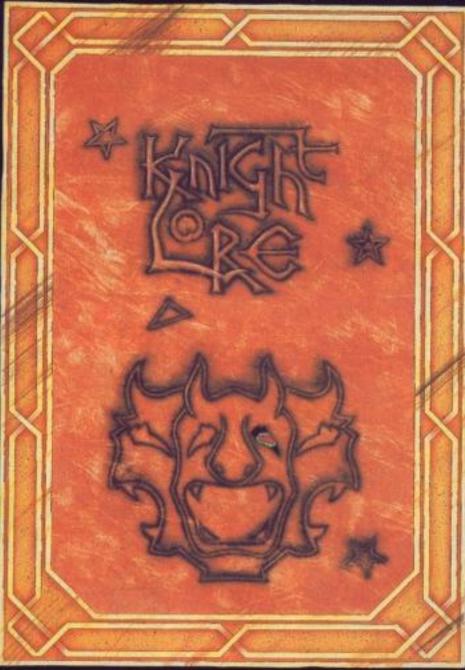




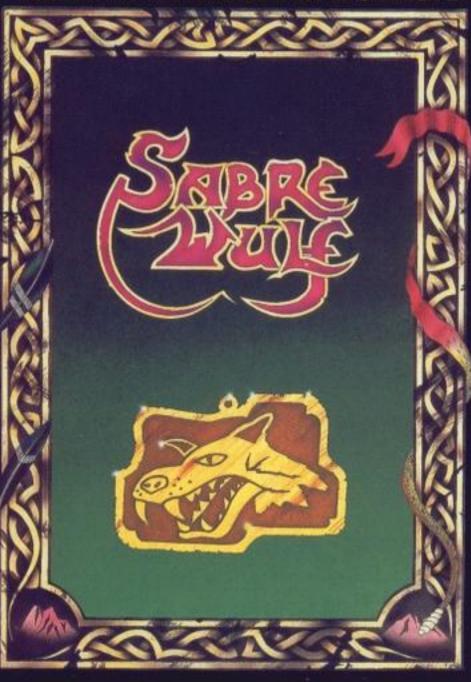




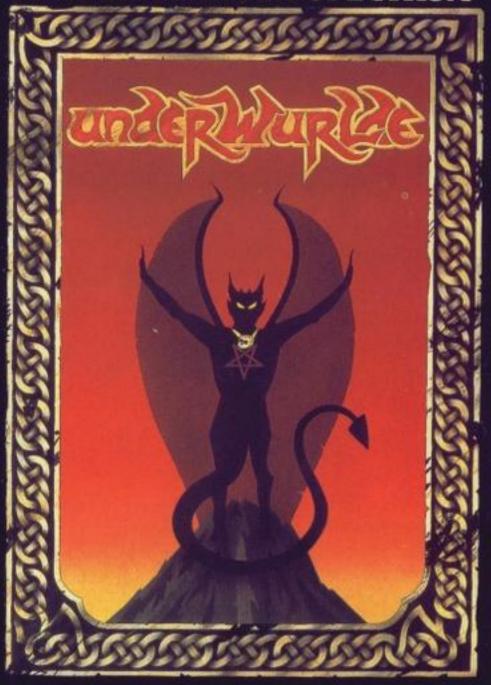
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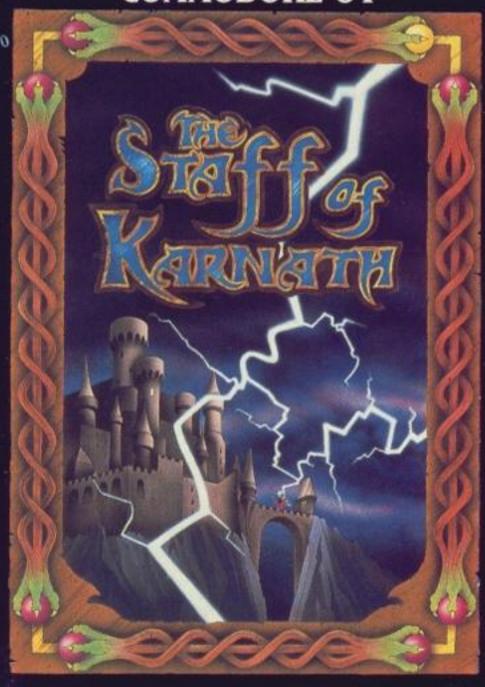
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48K SINCLAIR ZX SPECTRUM



COMMODORE 64



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S-H-A-R-1

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HOW TO BE TOPP...
at Software reviewing.
In a searing expose,
FIN FAHEY blows the
gaff on BIG K's secret
reviewing techniques.

GO TO 200 10 REM ************ 20 REM Simulated Hacking 25 REM Allowing Fast 30 REM Turnover Electronic 40 REM Reviews (5HAFTER) 60 REM by Fin Fahes ********** 70 REM 80 REM 90 REM sir to truncate string 100 LET n=2 110 IF x\$(n IF xs(n TD n) =" " THEN GD T 130 LET n=n+1: GO TO 110 130 LET x\$=x\$(1 TO n-1) 140 RETURN 197 REM 198 REM Start of Program 200 GD SUB 2000: REM Initialise 210 GD SUB 300: REM Names 220 GO SUB 400: REM Ratings 230 GO SUB 600: REM Do review 240 PRINT "Another review (Y/N)? 250 LET x\$=INKEY\$: IF x\$="" THE N GO TO 250 260 IF x\$="Y" DP x\$="y" THEN GO TO 210 270 IF x =""" OR x =""" THEN ST OP 280 GO TO 250 297 REM 290 REM Game name + maker 290 REM 300 LET x=1+INT (RND+ns): LET x \$=\$\$(x): GO SUB 100: LET n\$=x\$ 305 LET a\$=x\$ 310 LET x=1+INT (RND+nt):: LET x \$=t\$(x): GO SUB 100: LET n\$=n\$+" +X \$ 313 LET X=1+INT (RND+RS): LET X \$=\$\$(X): GO SUB 100: LET 0\$=X\$ 315 LET X=1+INT (RND+Rt): LET X \$=\$\$(X): GO SUB 100: LET 0\$=0\$+" "+X\$ 320 LET x=1+INT (RND+nh): LET x \$=b\$(x): GO SUB 100: LET h\$=x\$ 330 LET x=1+INT (RND+nc): LET x \$=c\$(x): GO SUB 100: LET h\$=h\$+x 335 LET x=1+INT (RND+n+): LET 9 340 350 PRINT D\$ 360 PRINT 95 390 RETURN 397 REM 398 REM Get ratings 399 REM 400 LET gr=INT (RND+S) +3 410 IF gr>1 AND INT (RND+B) >2 T HEN GO TO 400 420 IF gr (3 AND INT (RND+B) (3 T HEN GO TO 400 440 IF P()1 AND INT (RND*3)+1
HEN GO TO 430
450 IF P((3 BND T) **HEN GO TO 430** 460 LET ar=INT (RND+3)+1 470 IF ar>1 AND INT (RND+#)>2 T HEN GO TO 460 480 IF ar(3 AND INT (RND+#) (3 T HEN GO TO 460

490 LET or = INT ((gr+pr+ar)/3)
500 PRINT "Overall: "; k\$(1 TO o 510 RETURN 598 REM Do review 599 REM 600 GO TO 610+or #20 630 IF RND #2<1 THEN PRINT h*;" continue to promote standards of boredom and incompetence second to none, having set a precedent with the appalling ";o*;". ": GO TO 700

640 PRINT "Judging from this (a me offering, ";h\$;" are a no-hoper outfit who with any luck will shortly slide into an unmourned oblivion.": GD TO 700 650 IF RND±2:1 THEN PRINT b\$;" have certainly improved since releasing the abysmal ";o\$;".": GO TO 700 650 PRINT "Adequately competent version of the classic ";p\$;"," GO TO 700 670 IF RND±2:1 THEN PRINT "Mind-blowingly brilliant reworking; GO TO 700 670 IF RND±2:1 THEN PRINT "Mind-blowingly brilliant reworking; o\$;"." GO TO 700 670 IF RND±2:1 THEN PRINT "Mind-blowingly brilliant reworking; o\$;"." GO TO 700 670 IF RND±2:1 THEN PRINT "Never observable of the immortal arcade classic"; o\$;"." GO TO 700 700 FR RND±2:1 THEN PRINT "Never of in all my years of experience as an ill-paid hack have I seen graphics implemented with such of in all my years of experience as an ill-paid hack have I seen graphics implemented with such of the graphics alone, this game is on a par with the Mona Lisa, the Sistine Chapel, and Mindrist's 201; GO TO 800 740 IF RND±2:1 THEN PRINT "The graphics are convincing if unspectacular.": GO TO 800 750 PRINT "GO TO 800 750 PRINT "Visually this pame is creators of this game deserve the electric chair simply on the strength of the graphics alone.": GO TO 800 770 PRINT "Visually this pame is cone.": GO TO 800 PRINT "So disjointed is the game action, it is clear that the authors are surfering from severe organic brain damage.": GO TO 900

Howling Through The Rooms

Gun loaded with silver bullets firmly to hand, FIN FAHEY stalks the chambers of Ultimate's latest mega-epic

KNIGHT LORE with the Sabreman. He finds a game that won't be cracked easily . . . or so he thinks.

There's no rest for Sabreman. Having emerged triumphant from his encounter with the fabled Sabre Wulf, he must now conquer the animal side of his own nature, for he has now become a werewolf. The only person who can help is the renowed wizard Melkhior, who unfortunately is a tetchy old geezer. To ensure that he isn't disturbed by idle callers, the wizened savant has surrounded himself with deadly traps and barriers of all sorts. Me, I'd just take the phone off the hook, but you know how wizards are.

So, in time-honoured arcadeadventure style, you have to get throug them, collecting all the components of a potion which will free your soul from the dread curse of lycanthropy.

What makes Knight Lore such a joy to play, though, is the sheer style of the animation and room graphics. Ultimate eschew the use of screens full of bright clashing primary colours to concentrate on the details, and in doing so demonstrate that games can be highly playable and tasteful simultanously.

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he to gh The rooms of Melkhior's castle are displayed in three-D from a oblique viewpoint, which makes a change from the usual cross-section or plan layout. The objects also have a solid sort of feel. If there's a pile of blocks in the room you can walk out of sight behind it, for example. It's very reminiscent of Quicksilva's 'Softsolid' games. Unlike the latter, however, Knight Lore is beautifully animated. Even when your character hasn't been



ordered to do anything, he's still on the move, peering around the room in a bemused fashion, or when in his wolf form, occasionally snarling quietly to himself.

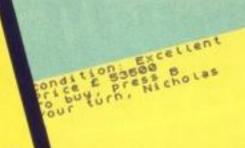
A little moving indicator at the bottom of the screen shows you the position of the sun and moon, and when the moon rises Sableman goes through his metamorphosis into an animal. This can be very disconcerting if you're just in the middle of negotiating an obstacle. The wolf form seems to be able to jump slightly further than the man, which can come in useful.

The traps are of many forms, from patrolling dwarf guards to simple problems of jumping from ledge to ledge. You may have to move the furniture around to get to objects you want. I don't think that we're going to get a rash of maps for Knight Lore, because the castle plan is different every time you play, although the relationship of rooms in a given section remains mostly the same. Even if you're a naff player like me, there'll be rooms you can solve, so it's a game everyone can get into quickly.

The only question is what happens next? The Sabre Wulf saga is starting to resemble the Grail legend. We can speculate tht the unseen wizard Melkhior stands for the powerful moral force of Reason, a force which can drive out the dark side of humanity only after a ritual purification full of hazards. Suitably purged of evil, will Sabreman now set out to save the world? We can only wait.







COMPUTER GAMES VIDEO GAMES UTILITIES

KKK = Magnifico! = Good-0

=50-50 = No-No

COUNTRY COTTAGES Spectrum 48K

STICKS KK TRICKS

One for budding rural Rachmans two players buy and rent cottages, racing towards a preset total assets figure, the size of which is used to determine the

There are nine rather length of the game. unnecessarily difficulty levels which increase the hazards; fires, ghosts, moonlighters, damage, burglaries and all the things that make being a

You start with nothing but a landlord so interesting. 12% interest bank loan facility and a clever, if rather irrelevant, landscaping system throws up a seemingly endless variety of available properties with price. condition and comments. In theory you can own up to four, but your bank manager limits your spending power. Once you have a cottage, you advertise for tenants - but set the rent too high and you get no response. Similarly you can raise rents,

but you risk losing the tenants. Mostly single-key operated, the game runs very smoothly and the bookkeeping is very slick. But my word, what a fly-by-night lot the tenants are! Constantly moving out and breaking the place up! It's not all gravy, this landlording lark. A bit limited in that you have very few, and often no, options, but fun and original.

From: STERLING Format: cassette Price: £5.95 Graphics: KK Playability: KKK Addictiveness: KK

brobersh Asines citing at Landtord ANY LEW to continue

SRETTHRIEN SCORE 0 000450 (IMI) 0050

Sure PLAYS A MEAN SOFTWARE PINBALL WIZARD Spectrum

Surprisingly successful attempt to simulate the not inconsiderable joys of the common pin table. Although it looks fairly mundane, the gameplay is actually quite addictive and evokes the authentic fish 'n' chips feel of a run-down pin joint. The author was obviously a

Potential gamers are advised to note that the pindevotee. table is of the double gate variety, with high and low scoring bumpers, bonus rollovers and a free-ball pay-off. A familiar layout. Balls are relatively fast-paced, with almost flicker-free movement, and the flipper

you could aim for almost any bumper onscreen. The

potential for mega-scores is clearly massive.

I doubt if it'll ever replace the real thing though. Half the fun of playing the genuine article involved thwacking the pin-cabinet at some strategic point. Who could play and not taunt the tilt? Unfortunately to succumb to such temptation here would clearly have disastrous results! -S.K. From: SAGITTARIAN Other versions: CBM 64 SOFTWARE Format: cassette Price: £5.95

Graphics: K Playability: KKK

Addictiveness: KK

REVIE

A game in the same mould as Football Manager. The object of the game is to reach the top managerial rating. This can only be achieved by winning the team championship league at the

You can select the number of races in a season, but the more hardest level. you have, the more careful you'll

have to be with your money. The income comes from your sponsors and if they think you're being greedy they will reduce the amount requested. It depends on your success in the last race as to whether you get what you want.

When selecting a driver you are presented with a list of well known drivers whom you employ at a set transfer fee. The same applies to the mechanics.

After each race you can see your overall performance; you then have the option of buying a new car - this affects your

If you enjoyed Football Manager this is definitely a one-up. - S.C. perfection rating.

GRAND PRIX MANAGER Spectrum 48K

KK

From: SILICON JOY. Format: cassette Price: £6.95 Graphics: K Playability: KK Addictiveness: KK

Sereci Obines Mo . . . Mass . . 58 1 1 . . 4995 . T COL DELLACE LONG





How to teach your Micro a thing or two

Thousands of home computer owners have yet to discover their microcomputer's potential to help with many of the problems and decisions that come up every day in the home or office.

Perhaps you have always promised yourself that you would teach yourself programming, but have been put off by manuals which seem to assume a lifetime spent studying computer science and mathematics. Maybe you have looked at other computer books, but have yet to find one which is free of unnecessary jargon or where the program examples bear some relevance to real life and not space invaders.

Relax, your search is over.

The 'Learn BASIC' tutorials from Logic 3 are the latest development of a teaching method pioneered by Professor Andrew Colin and perfected by testing on 3 generations of students at Strathclyde University. The 'Strathclyde Method' has been translated into 8 languages and used by over 300,000 microcomputer users.

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SANS COMPUTER GAMES VIDEO GAMES COMPUTE BOULDER DASH to explain but much easier to Spectrum 48K play. Having eighty possible levels is nice on any game but KKK since what you have to accomplish on each screen is so varied the only way you'd A CRUSHER be able to appreciate it is to What makes Boulder Dash An ex-friend of mine has a Commodore 64 and the only such a hit for me is that it's so addictive. In all honesty I can thing I miss about not being say this is the best game, to his friend is that I can't play date, for the Spectrum. Which isn't bad going since a Boulder Dash no more. Well that's all changed. No, exweek ago I would've said it friend hasn't become friend wasn't really Spectrum again but Boulder Dash has DANGER become a Spectrum game. Boulder Dash is a definite My initial reaction was pure must if you use a Spectrum joy but then I thought of fodder. so I'm afraid it's fork out the what the 64 could do and then what the Spectrum money time again folks. KKK couldn't do. I'm surprised I even bothered to load it in. You see Boulder Dash heavily From: FRONT RUNNER CYCLONE Spectrum 48K A REAL BLAST -G.L. relies on quick scrolling, lots of pretty colours and neato matically at a certain height and Format: cassette music all of which the Oh yes, you may see some tiny Spectrum isn't really known Price: £7.95 winching up the prize. least, Graphics: KKK figures desperately waving at for. Well the game loaded 50. A Playability: KKK you. These are survivors. Rescue and it was all there. Boy, was Addictiveness: KKK What's with this helicopter dictable them for bonus points but craze? The damn things are gives a only if you have time. Those five whup-whupping all over the A few of you out there may much in crates, of course, take absolute be confused. You may not Thunders, priority over a few natives stupid I shocked. laid out Airwolves, Whirlybirds (oops, enough to get themselves that was a while back). Whatever, if it's got rotor blades Fuel and time are both limited caught in a cyclone. and flies it's a star. So, Cyclone and there will be the need for is a helicopter game last, but first and not the touching down to re-fuel at 108 frequent intervals. Landing the · chopper is not easy and needs a certainly one of the best. The scenario is a small group of islands somewhere in an Collect all five crates and unnamed ocean. You have control of a lone chopper (or very delicate touch. return to Base Island for a new s: none three, if you count the number of In Cyclone Vortex have smoothemployed the same smoothscrolling 3D-effect landscaping 'lives' you have) which you take island-hopping in search of five crates of medical supplies. first seen in Android 2 and However, wandering about the developed in T.L.L. The small area is a nasty cyclone. As it but highly detailed shape of the nears your position the wind chopper flies convincingly over I'ves strength increases helicopter becomes green, -hilly islands and waveproc flecked sea. It responds well to difficult to control. As if that the controls, turning in a lifelike wasn't enough, rogue aircraft ood hurtle in from nowhere on On-screen displays monitor kamikaze missions to take you altitude, speed, fuel, time, say out if you happen to be in the manner. direction and wind force. A the way. We're talking mid-air useful additional feature is the ability to change your viewpoint Assuming you can live with all collisions here, friends. by 180°. There is also a warning these various threats to life and have heard of Boulder Dash. limb you take off on your Altogether a neat game that of approaching aircraft. In that case you've probably mission, lifting off from your scores especially high on both base on . . uh . . Base Island. A lived in a shoebox the last six addictiveness and playability. A 'shadow' on the ground gives a months. Still, for all you little too similar to T.L.L. in good indication of your height. hermits here's a scenario appearance, maybe, but unique Calling up the map screen you description. Rockford has to enough for that not to worry me. choose a heading and take off run about various caves to into the wild blue yonder, collect jewels so he can move From: VORTEX SOFTWARE keeping a close watch on your on to the next cave. It's not wind force indicator (or map really as simple as that since screen) for the advancing Format: cassette there are boulders all over the cyclone. Locating an island, you Price: £6.95 gaff supported by gunge check it out closely for the all-Graphics: KKK important crate. If it's there you which Rockford can Playability: KKK Addictiveness: KKK go into a hover and descend, the obliterate. It's all very difficult grappling hook deploying auto-23





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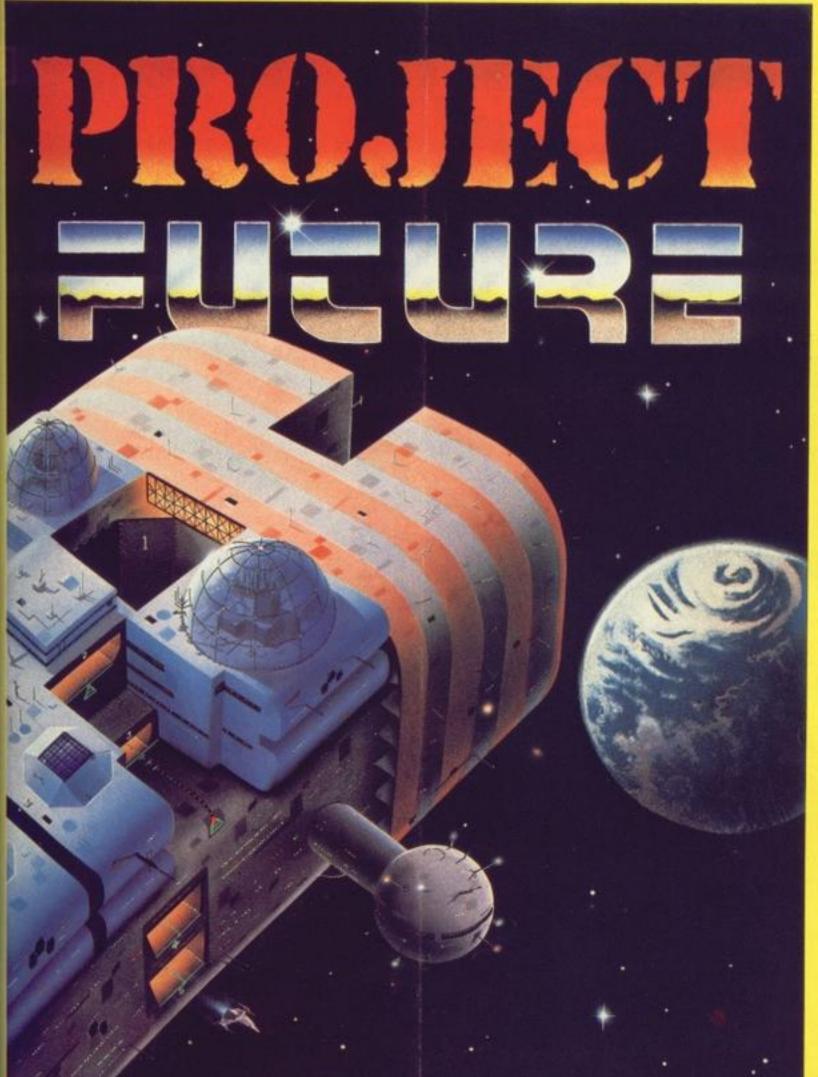
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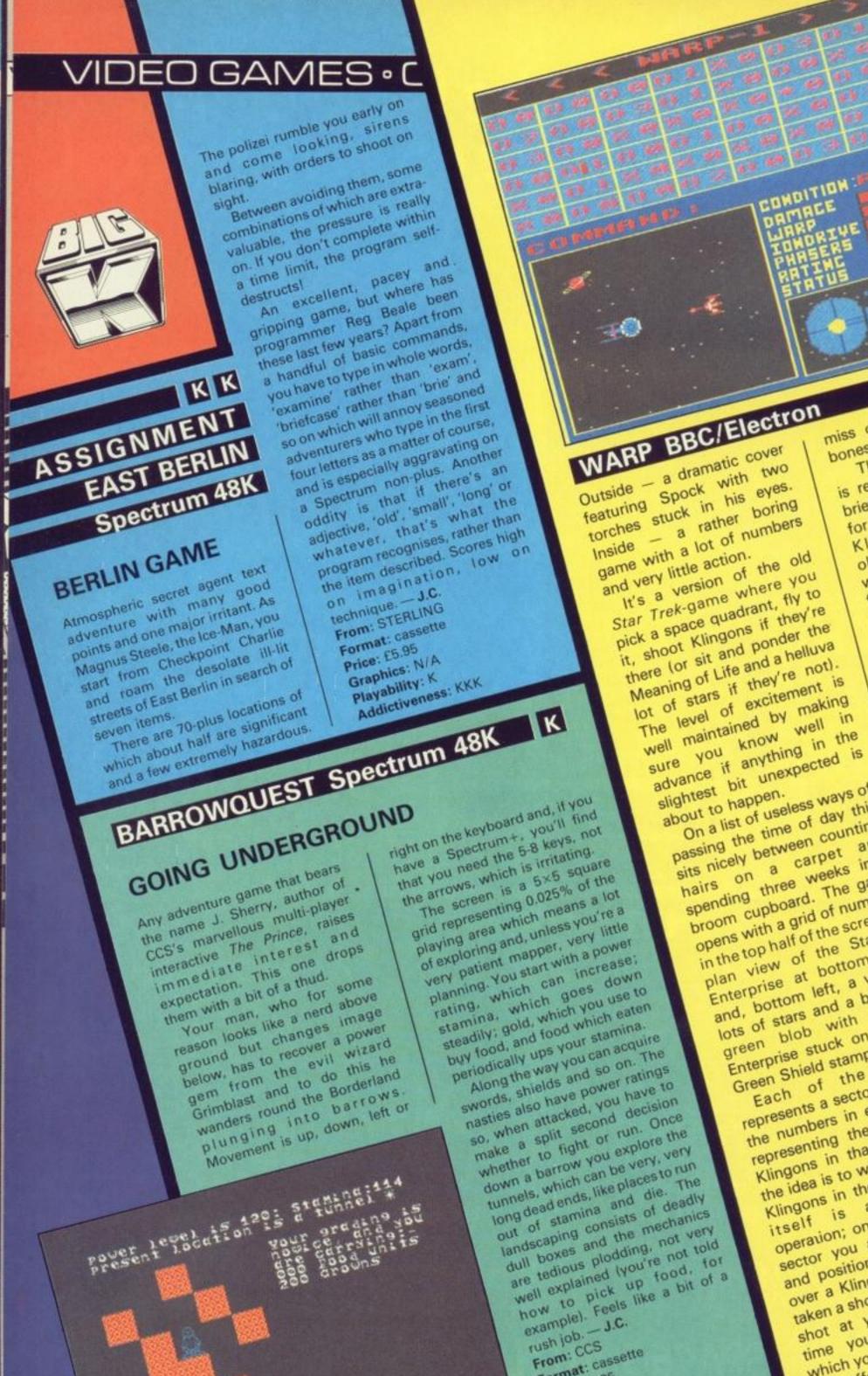
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miss of blood and crushed This ridiculous procedure is repeated, broken only by bones. brief visits to space stations for refuelling, until all the guess Klingons grid, Then, obliterated. what...another a tota followed by another, of six in all. When all six a cleared you have to po around the sectors until find the missing captain, sole reason for all this. This is a boring -K.A. From: ICON Format: cassette slightest bit unexpected is Price: £7.95 On a list of useless ways of Graphics: K passing the time of day this Playability: K Addictiveness: No sits nicely between counting hairs on a carpet and spending three weeks in a broom cupboard. The game opens with a grid of numbers in the top half of the screen, a plan view of the Starship Enterprise at bottom right and, bottom left, a view of lots of stars and a blue and green blob with another Enterprise stuck on it like a Green Shield stamp. Each of the squares represents a sector of space, the numbers in each square representing the number of Klingons in that sector and the idea is to wipe out all the Klingons in the grid. This in itself is a laughable operation; on warping into a sector you activate phasers and position a set of sights over a Klingon. Once you've taken a shot at him he takes a shot at you, during which time you can't fire, after which you take a shot at him. The effect is like a pair of Format: cassette halfwit boxers with their feet nailed to the floor, taking Price: £5.95 turns to hit each other until Graphics: K Playability: K one finally falls to the floor a Addictiveness: KK

SEVVY

KKK

SUPERPOWER

Spectrum 48K

A real mega-game from CCS,

combing aspects of both

Insurgency - their two-player

government vs. guerrillas strategy game—and The Prince.

their multi-player interactive

adventure. Up to six players

meddle in the affairs of nine

small Central America-ish countries, grasping for profits.

Each country has a mass of differentiating parameters and

players have dozens of possible

options from the information

things pretty carefully.

and decision menus. The

number of things you can do in a

turn is limited only by your cash

in hand, and with various possibilities carrying different price tags, you have to juggle

REPORT ON ASCOL N

opposition party crushed scent

63

55557

242

Press ENTER to continue.

DEBT

Another of CCS's amazingly SAVVY elaborate simulations, this time golf. You get a different Open course - Carnoustie and Turnberry - on each side of the tape. Decide the wind direction and force, choose whether to play championship, single or practice rounds and the starting hole. Then the real decision-making begins which club to use, the direction and force of the

The main problem, helped by in the head and isn't available just on demand.

are told to start it again afterwards. Still, if you want a game that gives you plenty to do and think about, Superpower plus reams of notepaper will keep you busy. — J.C.

a printer option, is to keep track of the sheer volume of changing information which, though very well laid out, can't be held simply

My admiration for this very complex, well thought out and demanding game is tempered only by an annoying glitch in the loading — you're not told to stop the tape during the game options selection, though you

From: CCS Format; cassette Price: £5.95 -Graphics: KKK Playability: KKK Addictiveness: KK

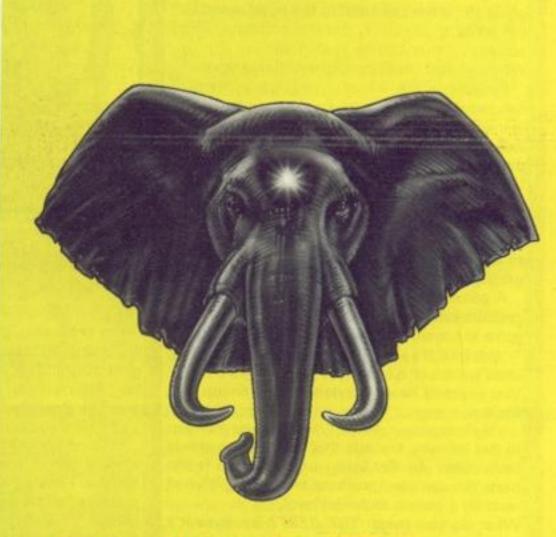
POU MISSED THE EALL

stroke and finally, most difficult of all, the timing of it. Not knowing the first thing about the game, I failed dismally at this stage, alternately hooking and slicing. The odd balls I did connect with invariably went wrong and by the time I called it a day, totally exhausted, I must have set a new high (or do I mean low?)

Can't say I'm crazy about for the course. the graphics which are no more than adequate - a pity, given such a potentially promising subject as golf

courses - but there's no arguing with the depth and subtlety of the mechanics. The inlay provides nice and clear, if rather daunting, charts of the maximum distances for each of the 10 available clubs, both from tee and fairway, plus wind factors, and of the effects of hazards. I don't know how many golfers own Spectrums but The Open looks like the perfect thing for rained-out or laid-up fanatics. - J.C. From: CCS Format: cassette Price: £5.95 Graphics: K Playability: Bogey Addictiveness: Birdie

GAME



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JEFF "Animal" MINTER is by any standards a Name of Power in the games designing field. Hit after hit has poured from his keyboard—latterly with a decidedly zoological theme. Camels, dromedaries, sheep, llamas—there's no end to Minter's creative obsession. And seemingly no end to the hits, either. TONY TAKOUSHI talks to the Oldest Hippie of All...

Can you tell us a little bit about your new game?

It's called Mama Llama.

What does it involve? And will you be following Tony Crowther's example of a smooth-scrolling game?

Well, not so slavishly. It's going to be a strange game . . .

Why ARE your games so strange?

Probably because I'm so weird! I've had some superb music especially written for the game by James Lisney (the Baughurst piano wizard).

That sounds like hype . . .

Well, it sounds like hype, yes — but I won't be selling it on the strength of the music. I'm not going to be mentioning it in the adverts and I'm not going to say, Hey, this has got eight billion screens!, I'm not going to do that.

Why did you mention eight billion screens!

Because of the current 'mega-game' trend, I can translate these terms. For 'mega-game' read 'game with lots of screens' and for 'cartoon style animation' read 'sprites with little lines around them'. They are fashionable things; everybody is bringing out games with loads of playing area but never mind if they don't play well.

Does that matter at the end of the day? Technically they are doing what they set out to do. What does it matter if cartoon-style graphics are two sprites?

A game as a whole is not sold on the basis of graphics but some companies do take this line. A game is a synergistic combination of many parts — graphics are just one part of it — they can be used as part of a style.

You yourself have a style of using sheep and llamas...

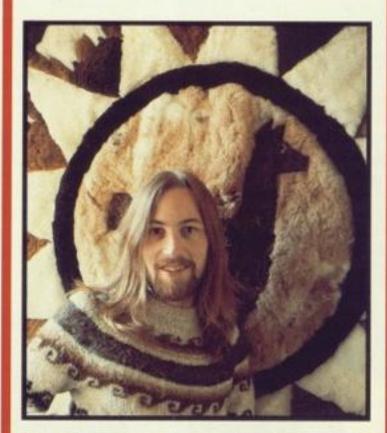
That's exactly it. What I dislike at the moment in the industry are ads that say, This game is better than *Jet Set Willy*, or This game is the best. You can't say 'the best' anymore. We've all reached a certain technical level.

What do you mean THE BEST? Because it's subjective, everybody has their own tastes.

All the programmers have reached a standard where they can produce games that look nice and are 'polished', but the thing is you can't say your game is any better than someone else's because people who like my games might not like someone else's games and vice versa. I write

games for people who like my style; if people don't like my style I'm not that bothered.

Aren't you producing games to make a living?



"You can't say 'The Best' anymore
... we've all reached a certain
technical level"

I'm producing games because that's what I like doing, because I'm a video games artiste. I get lots of letters from people saying they really like Ancipital, or they didnt like Ancipital as much as Revenge. I like to hear what people like and dislike about my games.

On Compunet I get a big kick from putting up a game called *Synchro* and have people take it for free. I really enjoyed writing it, there was no pressure to produce a particularly marketable game.

Aren't you creating your own pressure by saying 'marketable', Why not do your own thing, why worry about it?

Well thats what I do now, but at the moment there's so much heavy commercialism in the whole scene that it does tend to leak over no matter how much I try and negate it. Perhaps I should take a course in Zen and meditation!

What's the response been like to Ancipital?

The people who have bought it like it a lot, there haven't been any letters saying it's disliked. In fact there's been loads and loads of letters saying *Ancipital* is driving people crazy. They love it.

Again, like most my games it tends to suffer at the hands of casual reviewers.

What do you mean by casual reviewers?

Guys who are given thirty tapes to review in an afternoon, so they try and play each game in five minutes — and for one of my games that's a pretty damn stupid way to try and play.

By your own admission a lot of your games are shoot-'em-ups so why shouldn't they be able to review it in five minutes?

Well, look at Ancipital. It's a shoot-'em-up but with that bit more. Stuff like Matrix and Grindrunner admittedly could be reviewed in five minutes, but take Revenge. If you played it for five minutes you'd only see the first two or three screens, out of a total of 42. Some reviewers of Ancipital don't even bother to read the instructions, they don't know what they're doing. The first time Help screens have been introduced into an arcade game and they don't mention them! I saw a review where it said there were 81 screens in Ancipital . . . where it says at least four times in the instructions there are 100 screens.

Let's move on a little, what is it about sheep and llamas you like so much?

I like them because they're so hairy.

You like hairy things . . .?

Plenty to grab hold of . . .

What do you see in the future?,

I hope there's a big crash in the market . . . I really hope the big heavy commercial outfits

But they're the ones taking over now?

They are taking over and it's all so cynical. In what way is it corrupt?

There is corruption — you get chart hyping. Isn't it a relatively new thing for software? It is, it's all going the wrong way.

So it's a young industry that's going full circle like the video and record industries? It's not even like the record industry. People aren't being encouraged to develop their own

bullets and utilising "Dimension Jump Translalation Modes", the woollen equivalent of hyperspacing.

As with other recent Llamasoft games, there is a wide variety of aliens for you to splatter, and a total of 48 different levels. The interesting feature of Sheep in Space is the way that gravity acts on the game. Both the upper and lower surfaces possess gravity. The nearer a sheep gets to either surface the slower it travels. So for maximum speed, life in the fast lane begins equidistant between the two surfaces. Bonies of Doom drop to the nearest surface when fired. It is important to keep your sheep fed. To do this he has to periodically land on a pasture and scoff. Overeating results in an exploding stomach, and can be very nasty. Eating also replenishes the sheep's shields so you need to strike a balance between muttony gluttony and shield status.

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ATTACK OF THE MUTANT CAMELS

Basically the aim of this game is to butcher camels and get the hell out of it (before the RSPCA catch you?). The Atari version of Attack has some of the most amazing graphics known to mankind. I've seen some sunsets in my time, but those shown as part of this game are breathtaking.

REVENGE OF THE MUTANT CAMELS



At this stage in the proceedings, the Earth v Zzyaxian match has gone into extra time. Everything is even, and if one side doesn't make a breakthrough soon, the whole war will have to be decided on penalties. Llamalloving Jeff Minter must have fallen for those camels while developing Attack, because this time they are back, not as enemies, but as Earth's main defence against the heinous aliens.

Contacted by telepathic metagoats, the 90 foot high camels were convinced of their true loyalty to Earth. Pyramids with eyes wink in the background, another Minter

motif, as dromedaries drift across the land spitting at allcomers.

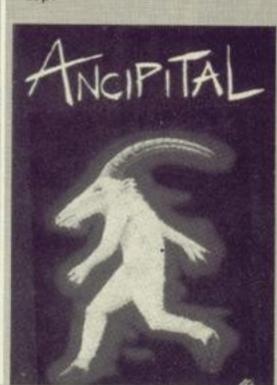
Like metagalactic llamas, mutant camels' spit is deadly Targets include telephone kiosks and skiing kangeroos, all pretty normal zap fare in a Llamasoft game. The skies rain with canes, CND symbols and a Eugene carrying axes. A sideswipe at Eugene Evans, late of Imagine, or a reference to an obscure piece of music by some dead rock stars?

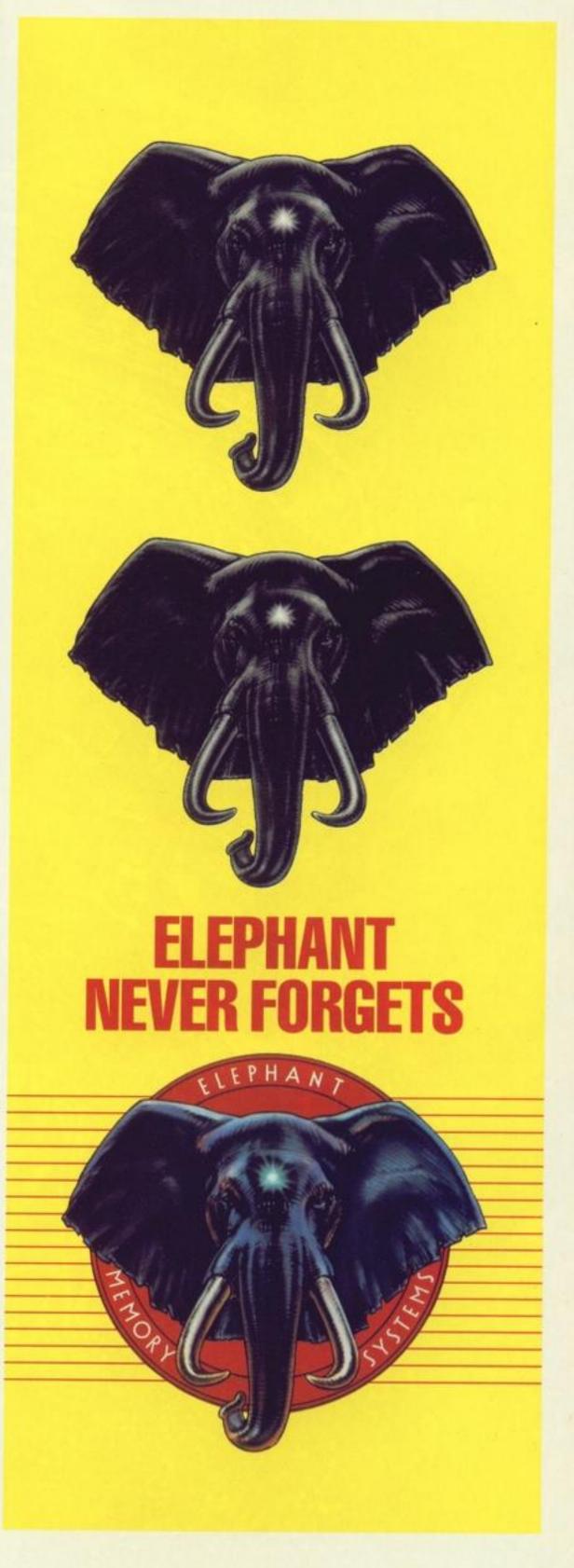
ANCIPITAL

One way of looking at the latest Llamasoft computer confection, Ancipital, is to call it an adventure. At least there are certain elements of adventure to the game, but there is little resemblance to the GO NORTH, TAKE TREASURE nonsense that make text adventures such a bore. In fact there is hardly any text at all.

Ancipital's action takes place in the "Zzyaxian weaponsresearch outpost", the meanest place this side of a Tube station at midnight. The air is filled with a powerful hallucinogenic designed to burn out the brains of any humans who might happen to stray into the area. So they sent the Ancipitals, halfman, half-goat and half-wits. There are 100 different rooms or "chambers of defence" to contend with. Each has a different type of nasty to attack you and requires a different strategy from the player.

In the same way that Atic Atac scores are measured both by the number of points amassed and the percentage of rooms visited, Ancipital has a dual-mode scoring system. One of the rules which helps reviewers tell a good game from a bad one is do you get better the more often you play the game? The answer with Ancipital is Yes. Ancipital is just enough to keep Lliamasoft lovers going until the next piece of psychedelic Minter madness. Jeff calls it a "progressive" arcade game. I call it a damn fine zap.







7007 GAIN%=0 7010 GCOL1,2 9013 Q=10:PERIOD=RND (75) +125:PHASE=RND (SPEED 9020 FORX%=0T01280 STEP8 : IF X%MOD63=1 =RND(14)-B 9025 IF FNFLAT PROCFLAT 9030 MOVEXX, 80: DRAWXX, YX+80 9040 YX=YX+10*SIN(XX/PERIOD+PHASE):YX=Y X+(RND(4)-2) *4+Q: IFY%(OY%=-Y% 9060 BCDL0,7:FDRT=1 TD50 9061 S%=RND(1280): T%=RND(944)+80: IF PDI NT(5%, T%) NEXT: GOT09063 9062 PLOT69, 5%, T%: NEXT 90631F Y%>900 GOT09070 9070 MOVE 0,80:GCOLO,3:DRAW1280,80 9075 MDVE 22,10: DRAW 160,10: DRAW160,44: DRAW 22,44: DRAW 22,10: MOVE92,10: DRAW92,4 9080 IF FUEL%>500 GCOLO,2 ELSE GCOLO,1 9082MDVE200,40: DRAWFUEL%/2+200,40 9085 GCOLO, 3:FORQ=OTO9:PLOT69,200+Q*125 9088 A=40: B=1010: X=RND(3)+2: Y=RND(2)-6 36: NEXT 9090 ENDPROC 909B: 9099: 9100 DEFPROCLANDED 9105FOR T=0 TO 200 STEP 20 9115GAIN%=GAIN%+1000*RND(1)*PR::FUEL%=F 9120 LX=X:LY=Y:X=0:Y=.5:PR=PR+1:PROCERA UEL%+300*RND(1)+B0

UGEL

ROCLAN

9000

2000



Your mission-land on the famous and deadly moon, mine the priceless ore __and get away alive! Controls: Z,X: Rotate left/ right A: Abort .: Light Thrust Return: heavy Thrust K: Jettison fuel J: Jettison Octonium

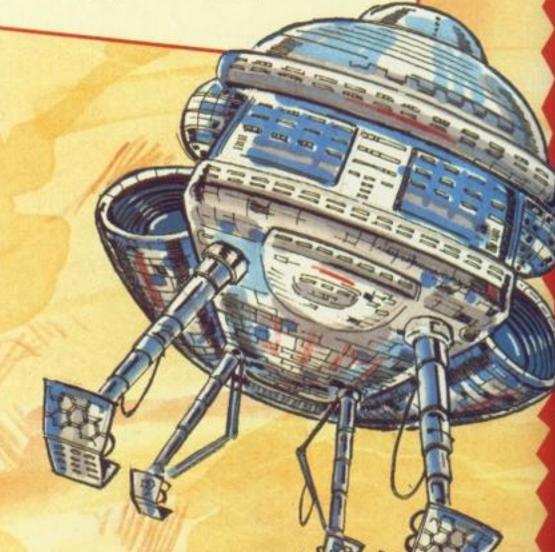
9685:

9125 IF FUELX (500 GCOLO, 1 ELSE GCOLO, 2 9127MOVE 200, 40: DRAW FUEL 2/2+200, 40 9130 IF FUEL% 500 FF=0 9150 ENDPROC 9170: 9175: 9200 DEFPROCINSTRUM 9210 MOVE 30,40: IFABS(X) (. 1GCOLO, 2 ELSE GCDLO,1:SDUND2, -3,99,1 9212 VDU 240 9214 MOVE 96,40: IF Y> 26CDL0,2 ELSE GC DLO,1:SDUND1,-8,140,1 9216 VDU240 9221: 9225GCOLO, O: MOVEFUEL%/2+200, 40: DRAWFUEL %/21225,40 9230 IF FNCHCOL FF=1:GCOLO,1:MOVE200,40 : DRAW2001FUEL 2/2, 40: ENDPROC 9235 IF FUELX(500 SDUND2, -9,200,1:ENDPR 9245: 9250 ENDPROC 9255: 7256: 9475: 9496: 9500 DEFPRUCINIT 9503VDU23,240,255,255,255,255,255,255,2 55,255 9505VDU23, 230, 24, 36, 90, 90, 36, 60, 90, 195 9506VDU23,231,4,10,10,17,21,14,10,27 9507VDU23,232,16,22,26,5,5,26,22,16 9508VDU23,234,1,13,19,20,20,19,13,1 9509VDU23,233,27,10,21,17,17,10,10,4 9510VDU23,241,129,129,195,195,195,231,2 55,255 9511: 9512 VDU5 9520 DIMA#(4):FORT=1T04:A#(T)=CHR#(T+23 O):NEXT 9523 SFUELX=1000: FUELX=SFUELX: LFUELX=SF JEL% 9525 DEFFNC=PDINT (A+58+2*X, B-30+Y)=2 7526 DEFFND=POINT (A+8+2*X, B 30+Y)=2 9527 DEFFNS=(RND(1)(.9) 9528 DEFFNFLAT=(RND(1)(.02) 9529 DEFFNL=(PDINT(A+2*X+32,B+Y-32)=1) 9530 DEFFNINERTIA= (FUELX+WEIGHTX+GAINX) 9531 DEFFNCHCOL=(FUEL%(500 AND FF=0) 9535 WEIGHT%=1000 9536GRAVITY=. 05 9537 P%=2 9538 FF=0 9539 M#="" 9545 POINTS%=0 9590 ENDPROC 9595: 9596: 9600 DEFPROCYDU 9605 MDVE A-X, B-Y-4: GCDLO, 0: VDU240: MDVE A, B: GCOLO, 7: PRINTA\$ (P%) 9610MDVE A-X+4, B-Y+28: GCOLO, 0: VDU240 9645 ENDPROC 9648: 9649: 9650 DEFPROCFLAT 9655 G%=X%:FORX%=X%TOX%+64STEP8:MOVEX%, BO: DRAWXX, YX+BO: NEXT: GCOLO, 1: MOVEGX, YX+B 9680 ENDPROC

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9686: 9700 DEFPROCIN 9705 C=INKEY(1) 9708 *FX21,0 9710 IF C=90 P%=P%-1: IF P%=0 P%=4 9711 IF C=88 P%=P%+1:IF P%=5 P%=1 9712 IF C=93 THRUST=.2:FLOSS=2:N=5:LEVE L=-13: PROCTHRUST 9713 IF C=13 THRUST=.35:FLOSS=4:N=5:LEV EL=-15: PROCTHRUST 9714 IF C=95 THRUST=.5:FLOSS=12:N=6:LEV EL=-15: PROCTHRUST 9715 IF C=74 AND POINTS%>49 POINTS%=POI NTS%-50: SOUNDO, -15,2,1 9716 IF C=75 AND FUEL%>0 FUEL%=FUEL%-20 :SOUNDO,-15,1,1 9740 ENDPROC 9741: 9742: 9745 DEFPROCNDABORT 9747 GCOLO,0: MOVE 200,40: DRAW 1280,40 9749 Y=B/300: X=0: F%=1 9750 FUEL%=0 9751 ENDPROC 9753: 9755: 9765: 9766: 9800 DEFPROCTHRUST 9801 IF FUEL% (O ENDPROC 9802 SOUND O, LEVEL, N, 5 9804 I=FNINERTIA 9806 X=X-THRUST*(P%=2)/I+THRUST*(P%=4)/ I:Y=Y-THRUST*(P%=1)/I+THRUST*(P%=3)/I:FU EL%=FUEL%-FLOSS: Y=Y-GRAVITY 9820 IF FUEL% LFUEL% LFUEL%=FUEL% 9850 ENDPROC 9855: 9856: 9900 DEFPROCERASE 9901 YSEARCH=B+4: ALIMIT=A+26 9903 REPEAT 9904 YSEARCH=YSEARCH-1: IFYSEARCH(0 ALIM IT=ALIMIT+10: YSEARCH=B:4 9905 UNTIL POINT (ALIMIT, YSEARCH) =1 9906 XSEARCH=ALIMIT 9907 REPEAT 9908 XSEARCH=XSEARCH-1:UNTIL POINT (XSEA RCH, YSEARCH) <>1 9909 GCOLO, O: MOVE XSEARCH+4, YSEARCH: DRA W XSEARCH+68, YSEARCH 9915 ENDPROC 9920: 9921: 12000FORT=1T0150: VDU19,0,RND(4),0,0,0;NE XT: VDU19,0,0,0,0,0: *FX21,0 12005 D%=A+36:E%=B 32 12015 IF M\$(>""THEN12050 12017 POINTS%=POINTS%+GAIN% 12020 IF FUEL%(0 M\$="LACK OF FUEL":GOTO1 12030 M\$="TOUCHDOWN DUTSIDE PLAIN" 12040: 12050 SDUNDO, -15,4,10:SDUNDO, -13,5,25:SD 12041: UNDO,-12,6,100: SOUNDO,-10,6,400: MOVEA,B 24: GCOLO, 0: VDU240: MDVEA, B-44: GCOLO, 2: VDU 12051 MOVE A, B-63: GCDL0, 2: VDU240 12053MOVEA, B: GCOLO, 0: VDU240: B=B-50: A=A+2 6:FORT=1 TD400:GCDL0,0-(RND(1)(.5):PLUT6 9,A+6+(RND(100)-50)*T/500,B+70*(T/500) R ND(10):NEXT

12054 MDDE7: VDU10, 10, 129, 141: PRINT"MISSI ON FAILED": VDUITO, 141: PRINT"MISSION FAIL ED": *FX21,0 12055 VDU10,10 12060 VDU130:PRINT"DUE TO: ";M# 12061VDU10:PRINT" VERTICAL SPEED: "INT (Y* 100)/100" M/S": VDU10 12063 VDU134: FRINT "MISSION DATA": IF FUEL 12064 PRINT" FUEL: "FUELZ, "OCTONIUM: "POIN 12065 VDU132: FRINI "PRESS RETURN FOR ANOT HER MISSION" 12068 VDU23, 1,0;0;0;0;0 12070A=INKEY(1): VDU23, 1,0;0;0;0;0: IFA=-1 G 01012070 12075 IF A=13 RUN ELSECLS: STOP 12506: 12507: 13000 FUELX=FUELX 100:FURB=B TO1100STEPB : I=FNINERTIA: FUEL X=FUEL X 4x1: IF FUELX<0 PROCNOABORT: GOTO BOOO 13001GCGL0,0:MOVE A,B 8:VDU240:GCGL0,3:M OVEA, B: UDU231: SOUNDO, 15,4,1: NEXT: GOTO13 13003 GUID13006 13005 FORB=B TOBOSTEP 4: MOVEA, B+16: GCOLO , 0: VDU240: GCOLO, 3: MOVEA, R: VDU233: IF POIN I (A, B 24) =2 GOTO12000 ELSE NEXT: GOTO1200 13006 MODE7: VDU10, 10, 129, 141: PRINT"MISSI ON ADDREED": VDU127, 141: PRINT"MISSION ABO RIED": IF FUELX LITUELX LITUELX=FUELX 13007 VDU10, 10: FOR1=01039: PRINTTAB(T,5)" ":NEX1: VDU11, 134: PRINT" SPACESHIP DATA : ": VDU10 1 500B GX=SFUEL % FUEL %: LX=INT(LX*100):LX= L X / 100: L Y= INT (L Y x 100): L Y=L Y / 100: I=FNINER FIAX 3500: POINTSX-POINTSX (GAINZ 13010 PRINT" WEIGHT OF SPACESHIP: "; INT (13011 PRINT" FUEL IN MAIN TANK :";F WELZ: PRINT" LOWEST FUEL LEVEL :"; LFUEL 13012 IF 6X30 PRINT">FUEL LOSS" ELSE IF 13013 VDU134: PRINT" LAST LANDING VELOCI TIES: ": VOUIS: PRINT"> HORIZONTALLY: "; LX 13014 PRINT" > VERTICALLY :";LY 13015 PRINT"> OCTONIUM IN CARGO BAY (3016 PRINT") OCTONIUM IN MOTHERSHIP MAI N DAY: ": POINTS% 13017 SEUELX=FUELX: CD=0:FDR1=0T039:PRINT TAB(T, 17)" ": NEXT 13010 VDU23,1,0;0;0;0;0; 13019 VDU10, 10, 132: PRINT"PRESS 'RETURN' 13020 xt x21,0 1 5021 C=INKEY(1): If C= 1 G01013021 13033 FUEL X=FUEL X+GAINX/10



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GO ON, give me something easy to do. I'll do anything you want. I'll fight Frank Bruno. I'll swim the Channel. I'll run the Marathon. Just please, please, don't make me play Hyper Sports again.

At first I thought I was ready; I have the audacity to believe that I was prepared. I'd spent months in training on Track and Field. I'd run for the bus at least twice, I'd plunged my fingers into hot bags of french fries until they were as rock. I'd taken gold medals, scored world record points. I seriously felt that I was in the top flight. But I hadn't reckoned with the cunning or ingenuity of the programmers at Konami. 'Cos Hyper Sports is a truly Olympian hurdle. Hyper Sports makes Track and Field look like ludo.

Now some of you may think I'm exaggerating — well, more's the pity for you. I can assure you that if you are caught unawares by this machine you will need the proverbial oxygen mask before you can say Steve Ovett. It may well look innocent nestling as it does quite innocuously between Dragon's Lair and Driller Killer vs. Pac-Man, but feed the beast 30p and you are in danger of a total physical and emotional breakdown.

The game itself resembles its predecessor in line and form; the usual excellent graphics are complemented perfectly by great sound effects and hilarious visual gags; judges smile synpathetically, contestants weep unashamedly, and nosey arcade attendants laugh hysterically over your shoulder as you fail to lift 150kg for the third time.



As with Track and Field the game is divided into 'events' (though there are seven now as opposed to six) and your progression through these is dependent solely on your own ability to satisfy the given criterion of qualification. (If you don't qualify you're back to the money slot and the nosey attendants laugh even louder.)

The first of these devilish disciplines is swimming. The starter gun fires, your man dives into the Olympic length pool

(along with five others) and the race on. This all seems quite straightforwal really — your fingers pound away at the buttons, the little man ploughs through the water, the audience cheer — it's reasy as falling off a spring-board. The your man drowns. Did the nose attendant tell you that you had to present the middle button when the 'breath or sign appears? No he did not. Did he laugh? Yes he did. You start again. You pound away, your man ploughs through great and the straightforwal architecture.

DAVID DORRELL takes himself

to the outer limits (of financial

disaster) sweating it out on

Konami's Hyper Sports.

Is it true? Can it be true? Will tracksuits, marathons, sweat and cardiac arrest all go out of fashion just as arcade makers perfect THE ideal Sports Game? Will anyone care?

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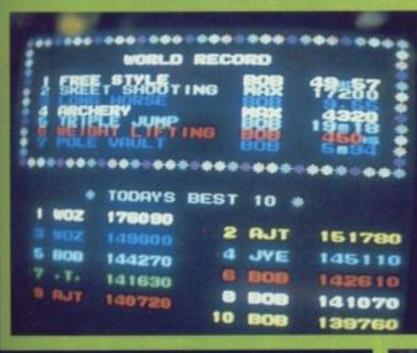
ns through

round. £5.10 and 51 rounds later I go through . . . just. All you have to do is hit the skeets as they fly through your sights. You have to hit twenty to gain the necessary 200 points. I've had easier times juggling chain-saws . . . But by the end of the day I could have parted the attendant's quiff at fifty paces. Then it started to get hard.

You're through to the third round, your man runs along the gym floor, he hits the spring board, flips off the long-horse and manages all of one somersault before landing quite unceremoniously

on his head in front of the judges. Someone in the corner laughs. If you're really lucky, and you manage to press the buttons fast enough, you can make the necessary four somersaults and land upright. And of course one day you'll find a goose that lays golden eggs.

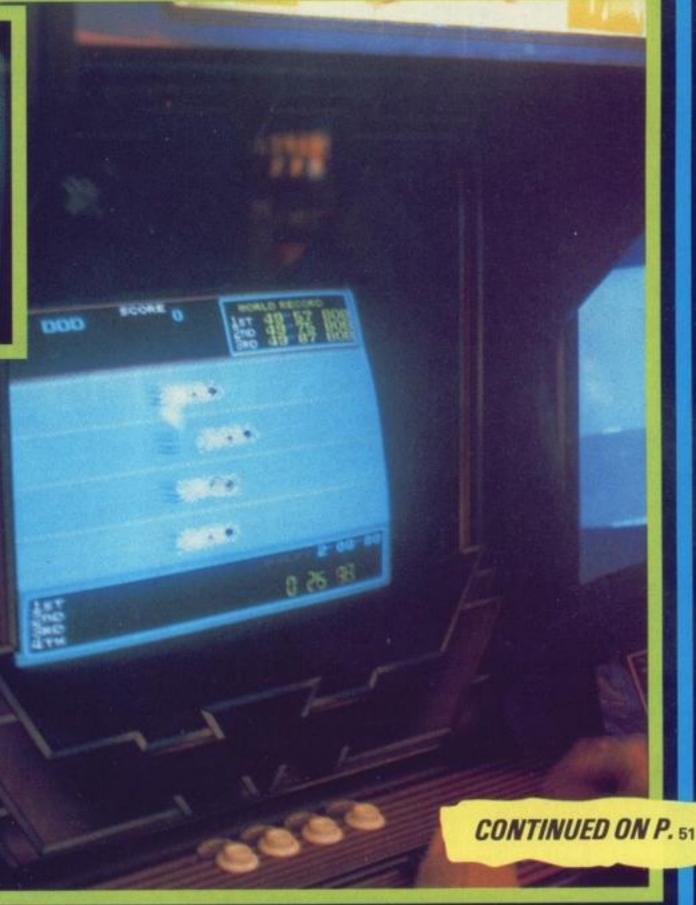
So now you've sailed through three events and — if you're the average player — you've notched up an overdraft that looks like a New York phone number. What better then than a quiver or two on the archery field? A birds-eye view allows you to shoot straight at the



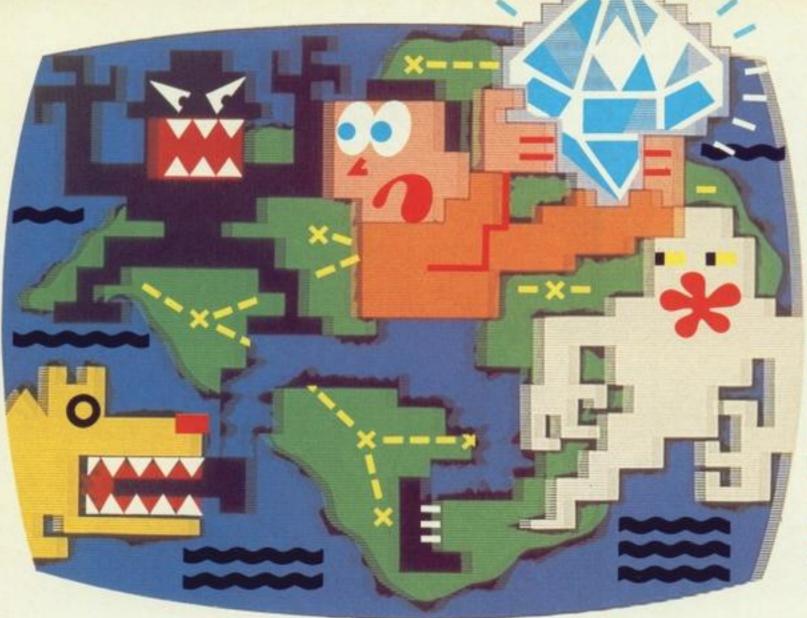


the water, you press the middle button at the wrong time... your swimmer glugs on two litres of chlorinated graphics. Eventually you learn to swim. Eventually the attendant learns how to walk again...

Congratulations! After qualifying within the two minute time limit you're on to the second round, 'skeet shooting' lor clay pigeon shooting as we call it). This is of course totally impossible. You get three attempts to qualify for this



GFOR THE BURN



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The Spirit of the Stone book is a great read.

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A voyage of discovery or the Isle of Wight.

A voyage of discover

STONES HIDDEN O THE ISLE OF WIGHT

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41 real diamonds hidden somewhere on the island, just waiting to be discovered.

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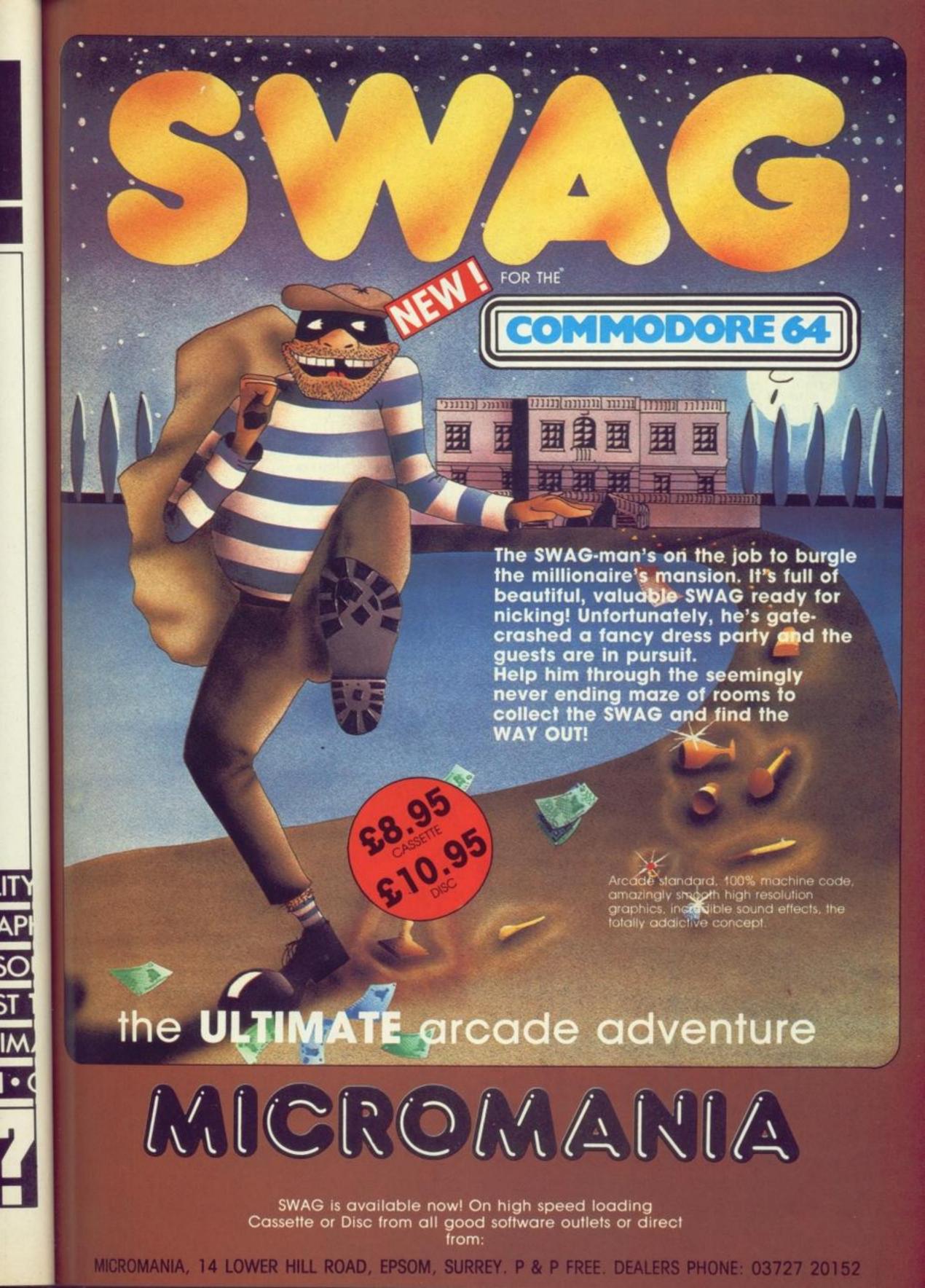
into an unknown world of poltergeists, unholy spirits banshees, manticores and demons.

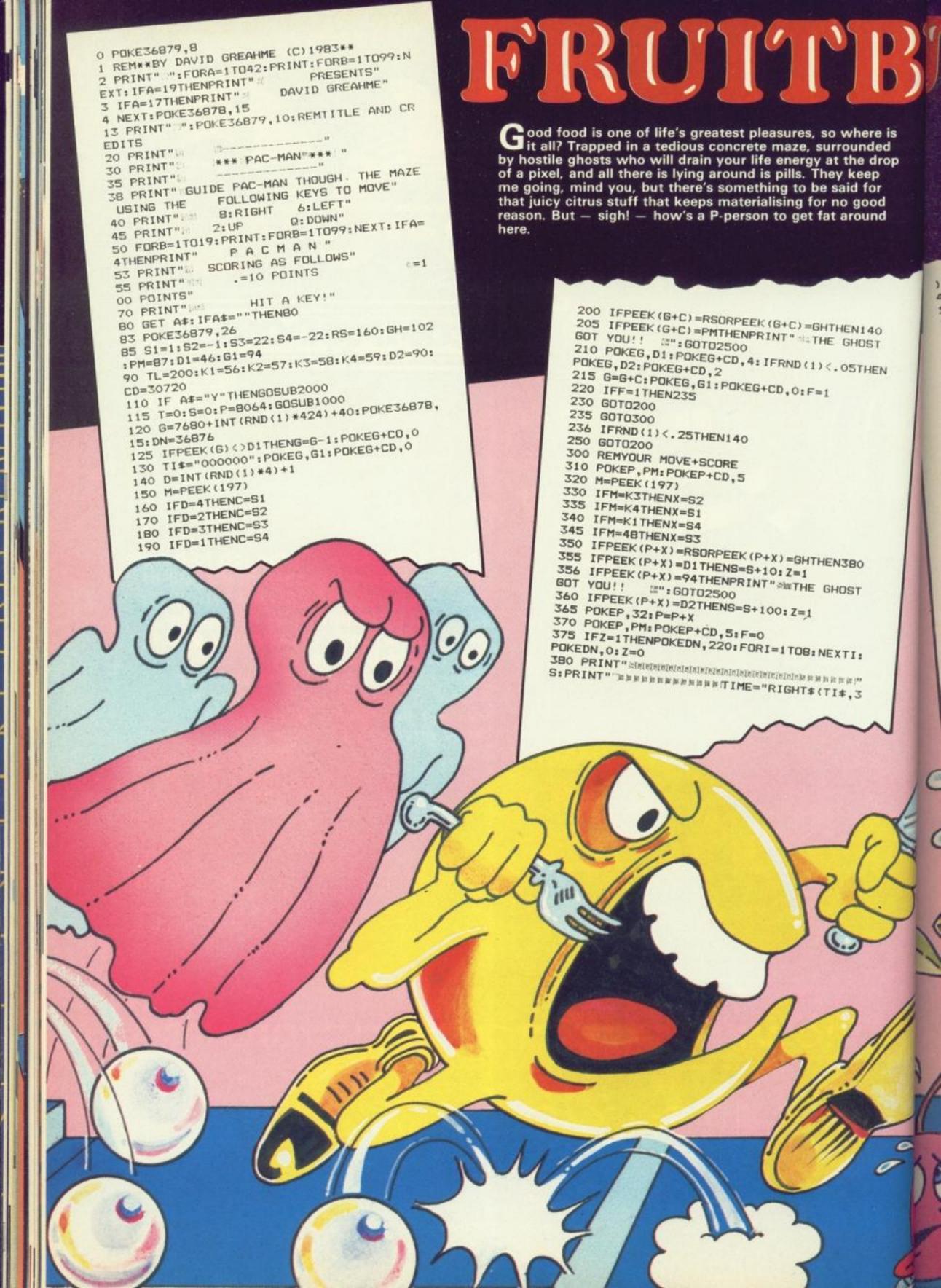
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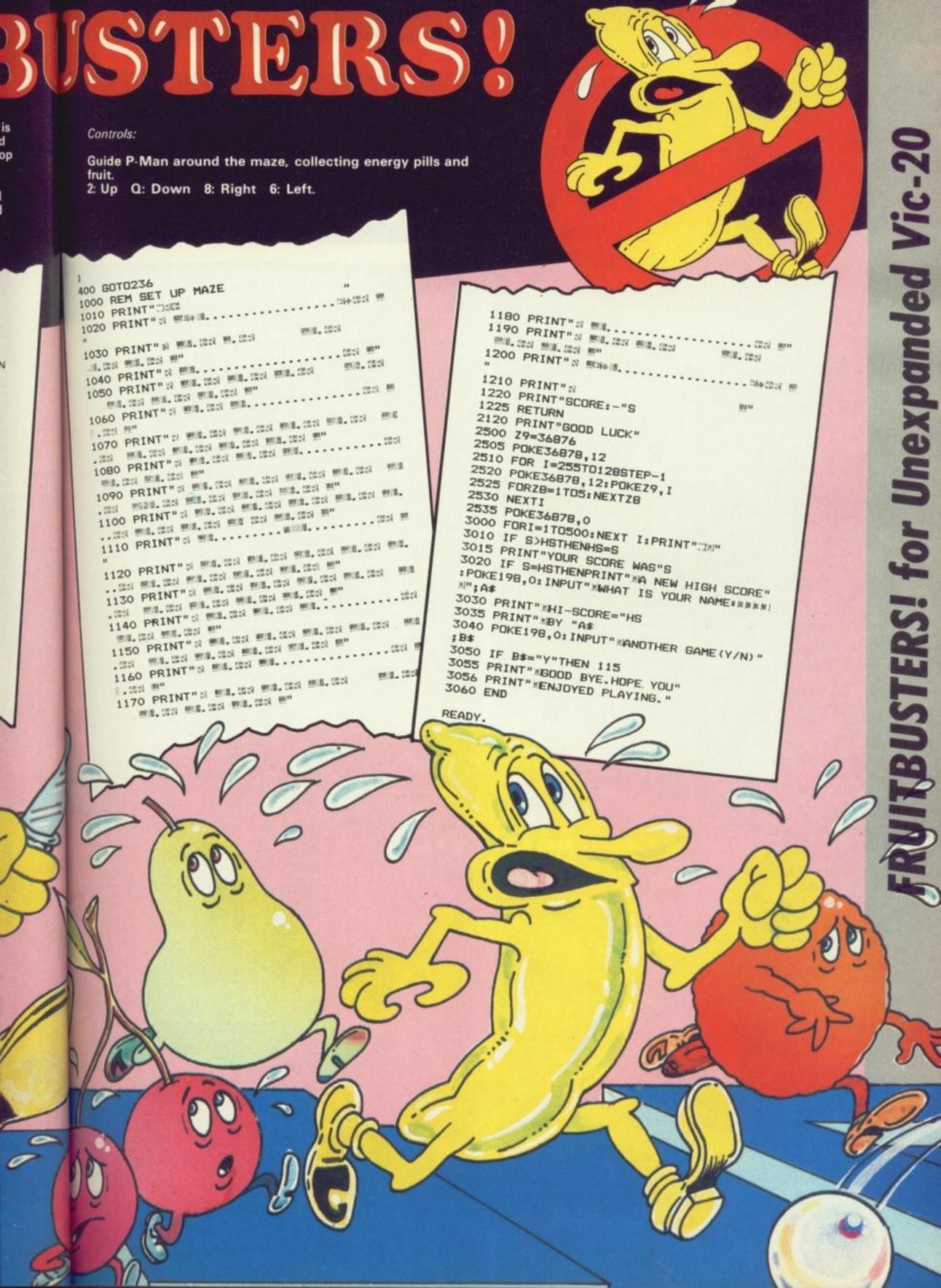
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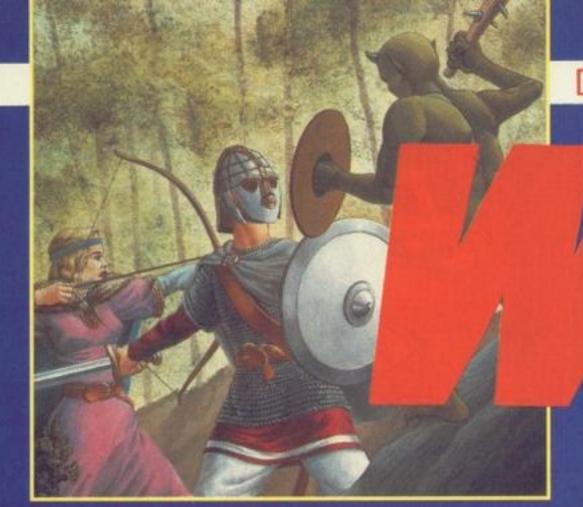


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DORKSLAYER!

AITHG

Adventure-meister STEVE KEATON looks behind the drapes of *The Wrath of Magra*, rescues a victim of *Twin Kingdom Valley* and finds a book . . . while with his other hand . . .

A NOTABLE new Spectrum title is Master Vision's The Wrath of Magra, the long-awaited climax to Carnell Software's Volcanic Dungeon and Black Crystal Third Continent saga. For a time it looked as if this epochal enterprise would never get to see the light of day, as Magra's software house kicked the can just as she was entering the home straight. All looked lost until those gallant Elves down at Mastertronic stepped in with a reprieve. Brandishing a cut-price want they created an in-house adventure label, which allowed the phoenix-like Magra to live anew.

BOOK AND TAPE

"They arrived like the 7th Cavalry." recalls Magra's coauthor Stuart Galloway. "Things started to turn rotten in January '84 and then promptly collapsed in April. The game was actually finished at that point. We'd even sent a few copies out. Developing it was straightforward, it was the manufacturing side of the business that finally broke the camel's back."

Magra is a remarkably accessible adventure. It's a prog of only moderate difficulty which sprawls across 3 tapes and comes bundled with The Book Of Shadows; a weighty 158-page tome that details pretty much the entire history of Carnell's imaginary Third Continent.

Along with a history lesson, it speculates on Magra's dodgy denizens and even lists a mountain of spells to combat them. Delightfully illustrated with Trolls, Hobgoblins and the like, it's a great read. Few adventures go to such extravagant lengths to establish their credibility.

Magra's prologue begins deep beneath the earth, in the dark, dank, worm-ridden vault of Dominian (a locale not unlike the BIG K office). In your guide as the Knight of the Star Jewel and Hero of the Volcanic Dungeon, you've been brought below by an elfin wizard who claims to have something of interest up his sleeve. Naturally you're curious. The old wizard guides you to a stout wooden door and beckons a timourous guard for a key. The lackey hands it over with obvious apprehension. With a rusty groan the portal opens and the wizard ushers you in. Shackled to a dank slab is the Princess

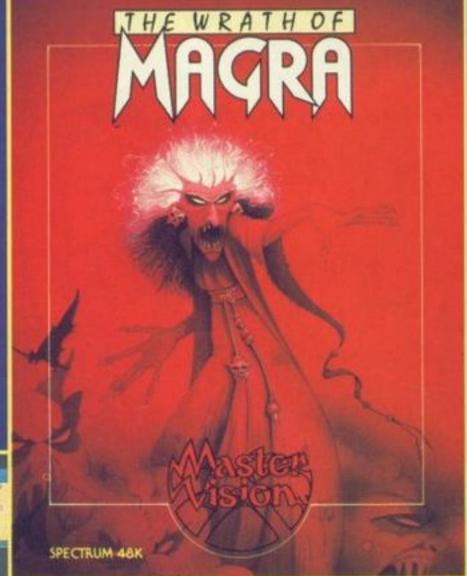
Edora, her once beautiful face aflame with sores and her hair awash with dandruff. The sight understandably makes you groan (not least because you've only just rescued the stupid woman from The Volcanic Dungeon). "She's possessed by the soul of Magra!" the wizard declares. This also comes as something of a shock as you thought the old witch had perished in the previous game! 'Twould seem that you've little choice but to venture back into the Black Mountains and slug it out with the old bat for a second time. Your reputation (not to mention the soul of the Princess Edoral hangs on the line.

As you might expect of a multi-load adventure you're unable to play it out of sequence. You'll need the data given to you at the end of episode 1 in order to play episode 2, and so on. There's no chance of jumping the gun. The game commences in the valley below Magra's Black

Mountains, where armed with only a silver sword, shield and a couple of trinkets you must beg, borrow or steal all the materials you'll need for the mission. When suitably attired you must find your way into the mines beneath the mountains. In episode 2 you must negotiate a dangerous labyrinth. A map is provided in the accompanying booklet to help you survive the journey. Chasms abound so one false move could spell NEW. Episode 3 takes you inside Magra's fortress, where you'll play a deadly game of hide 'n' seek. Naturally the place is crawling with yuks and the peril quota's frighteningly high. SAVE as you go, is the motto.

BIGGER, BETTER

"It's a huge advance on both Volcanic Dungeon and Black Crystal," declares Stuart. "They were originally written in BASIC, although they've been improved since then. I know that Magra looks fairly ordinary, but in fact it's very complex. There are little routines churning away in the background all the time. They consult your physical status, monitor the phase of the moon, and check the time. They're constantly updating data regardless of what you're doing. The evolution routine used in episode 3 is particularly sophisticated. It enables the computer to decide exactly what kind of monster you'll meet as you wander about the fortress.



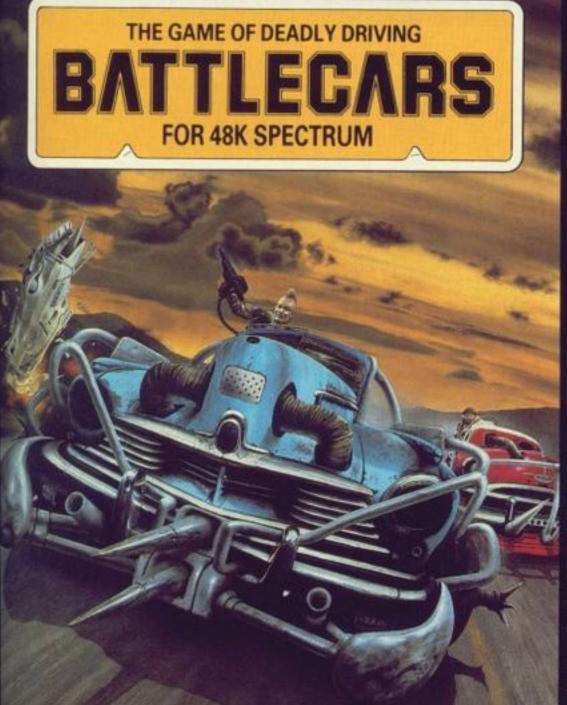


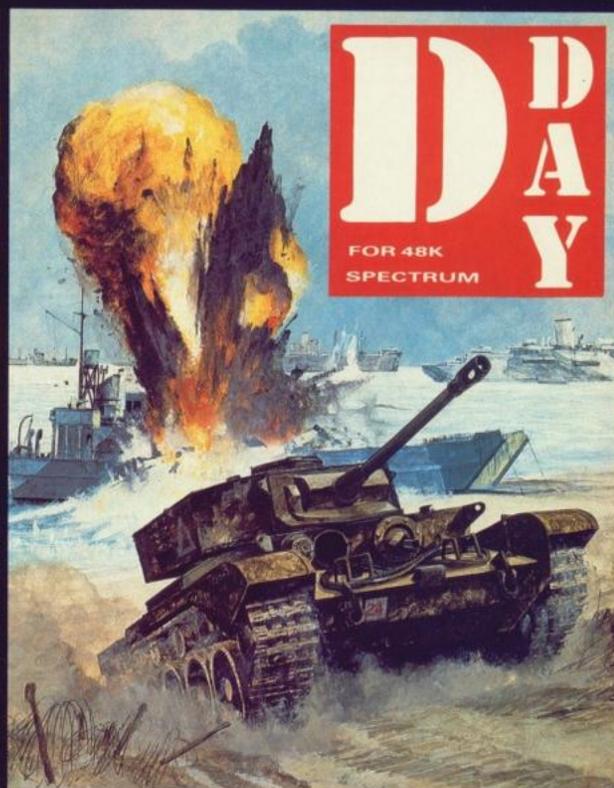


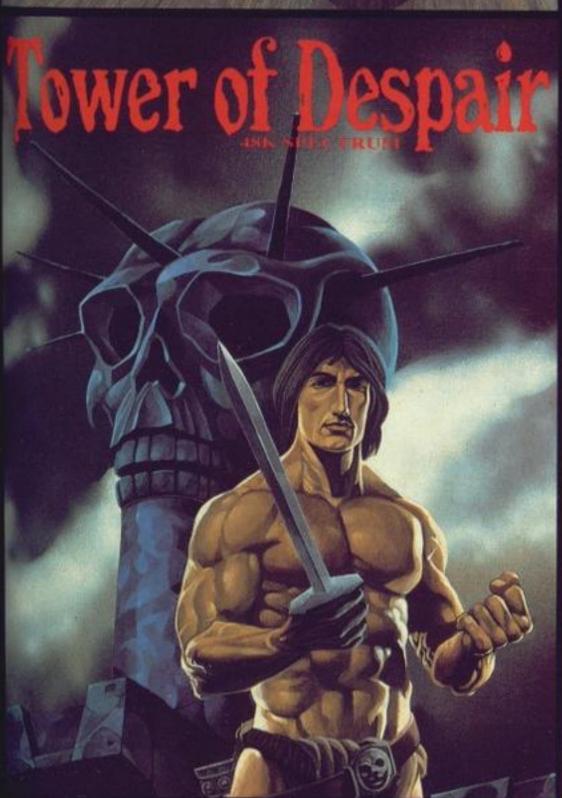




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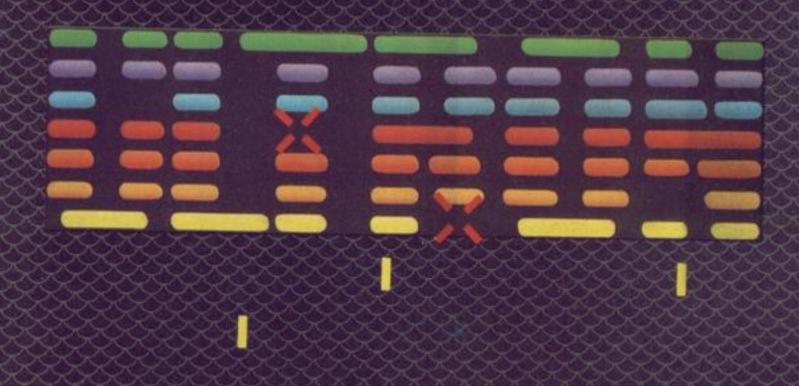
German sides, battling through four seperate scenarios. D-DAY offers an enduring tactical challenge to players tired of simple arcade action.

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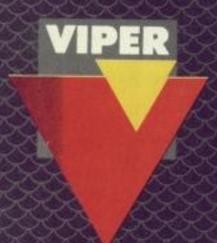
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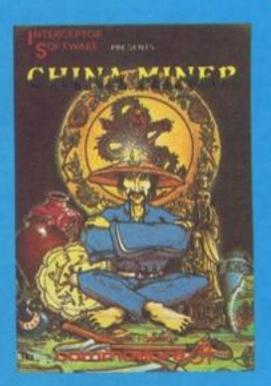
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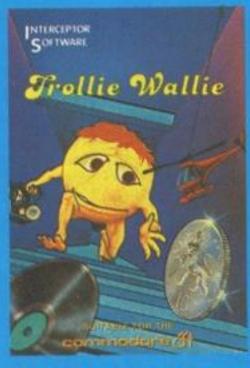
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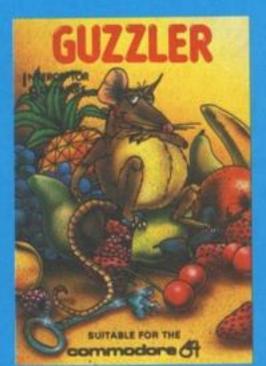
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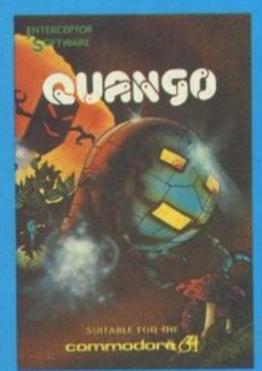
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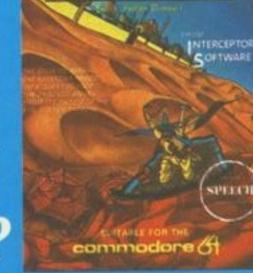






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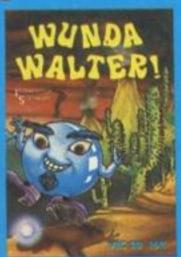


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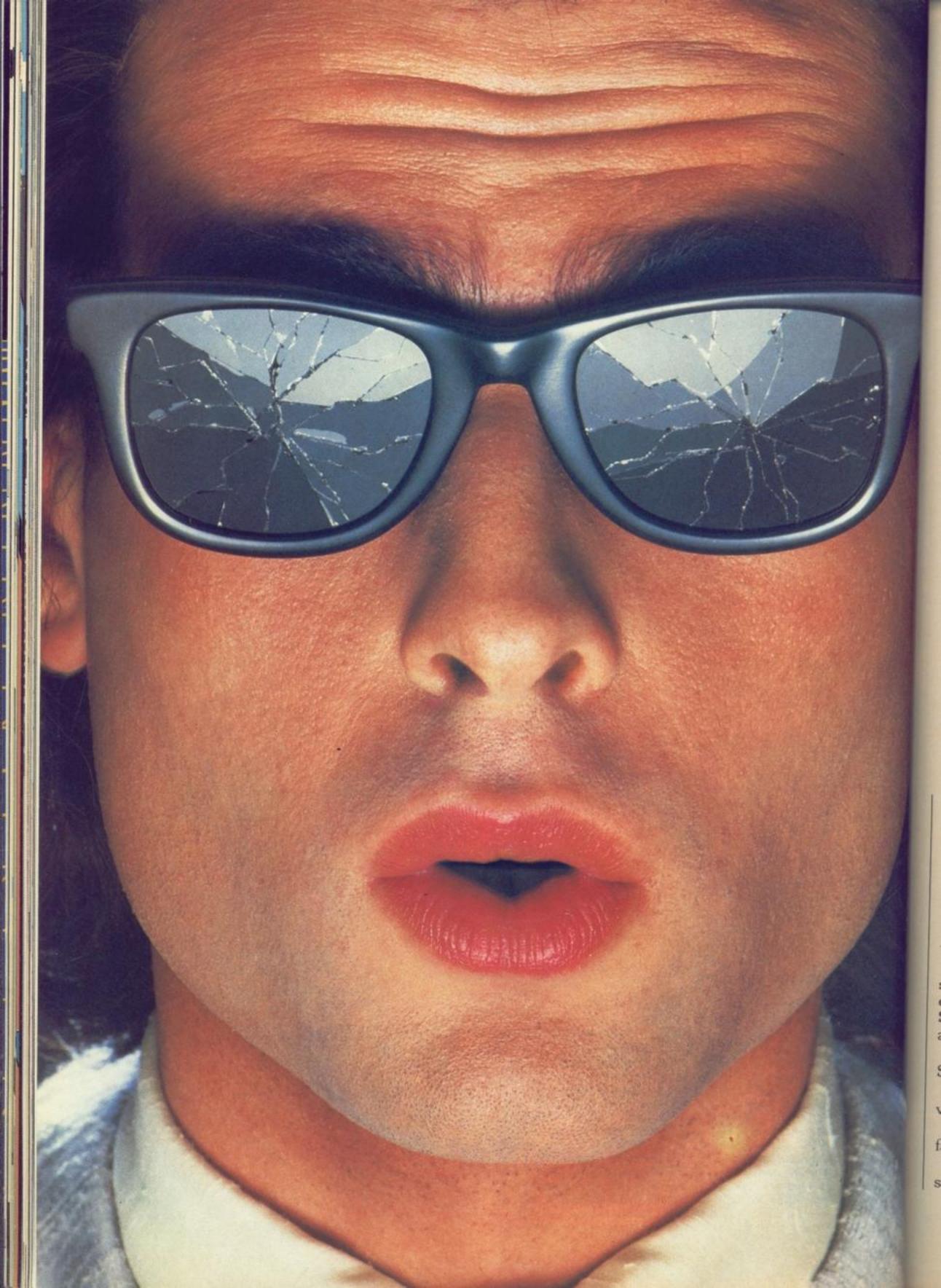
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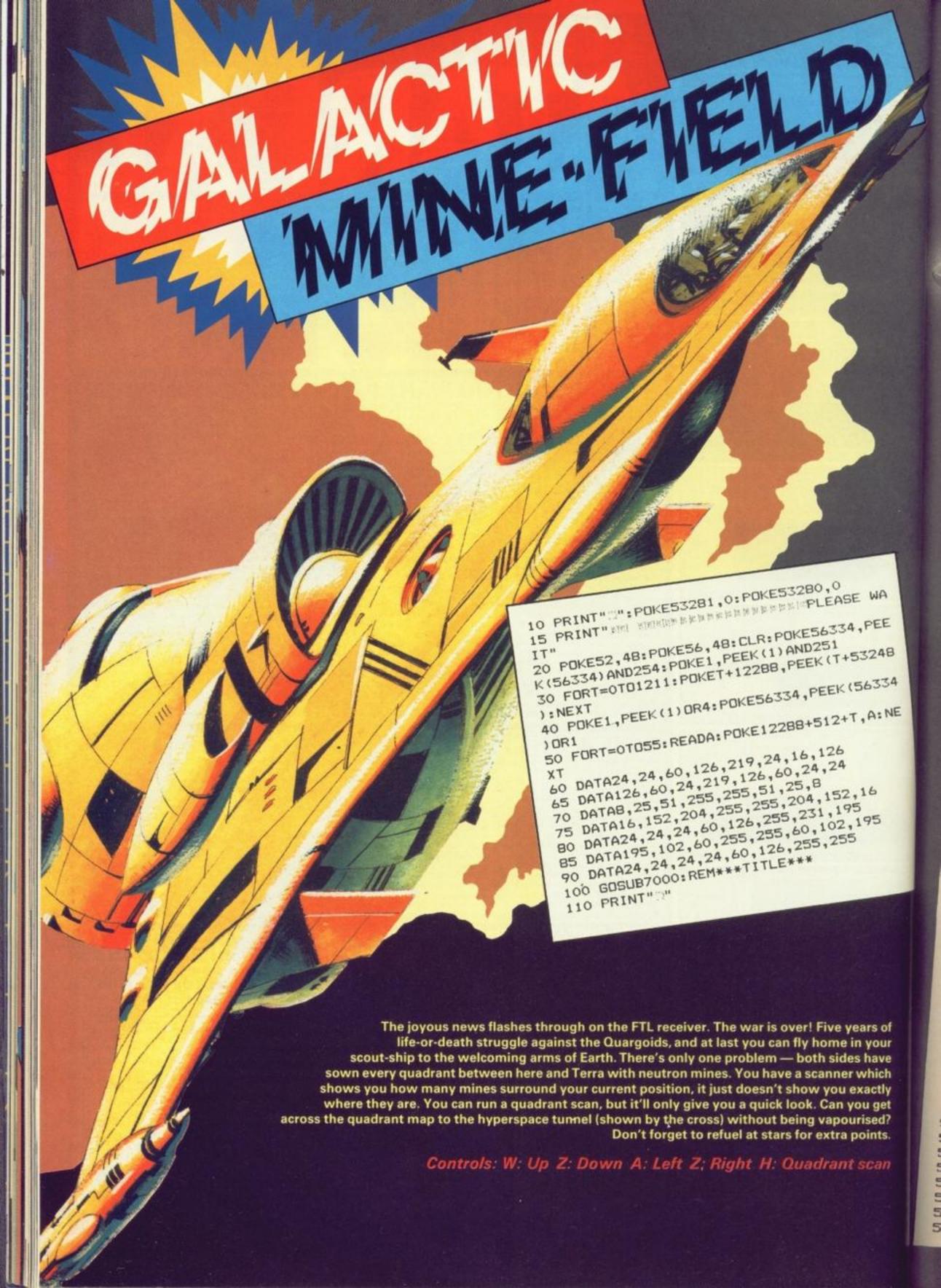
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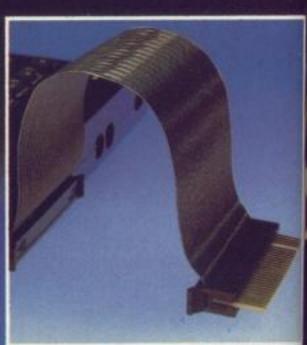
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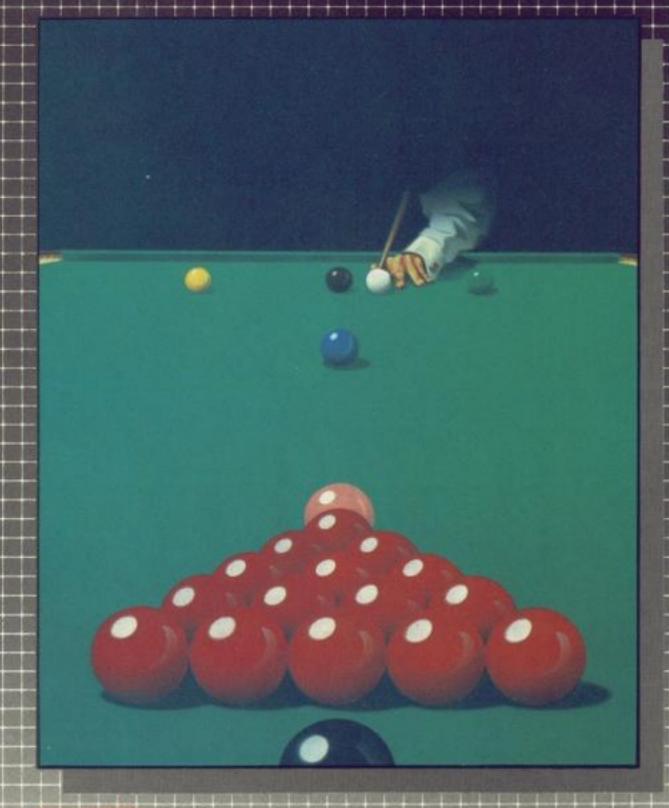


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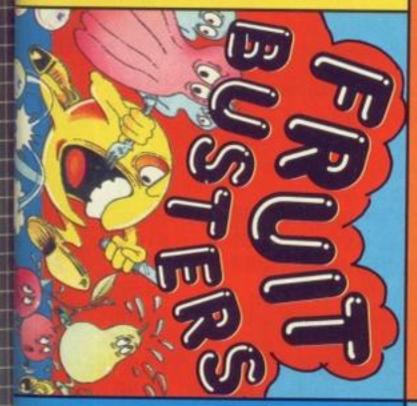


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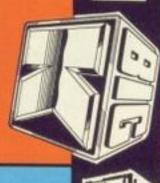




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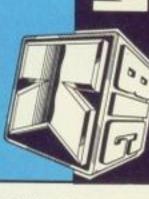


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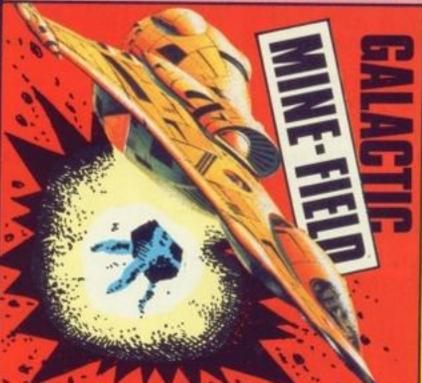




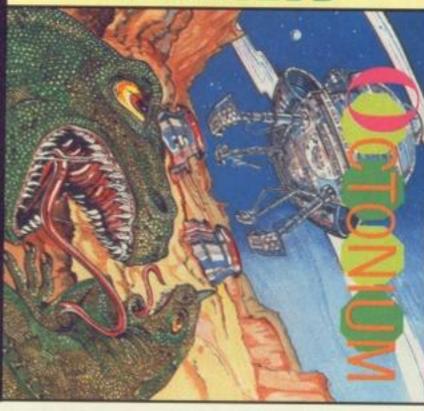
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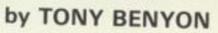


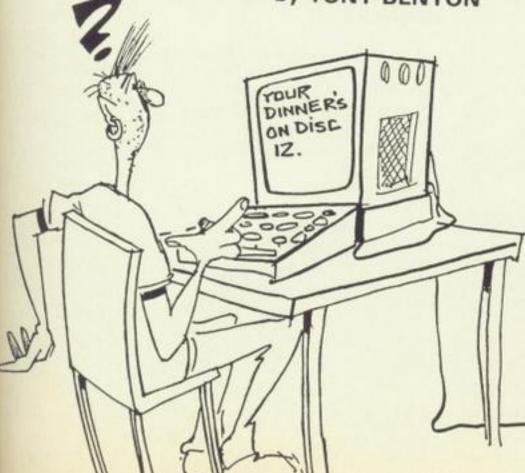
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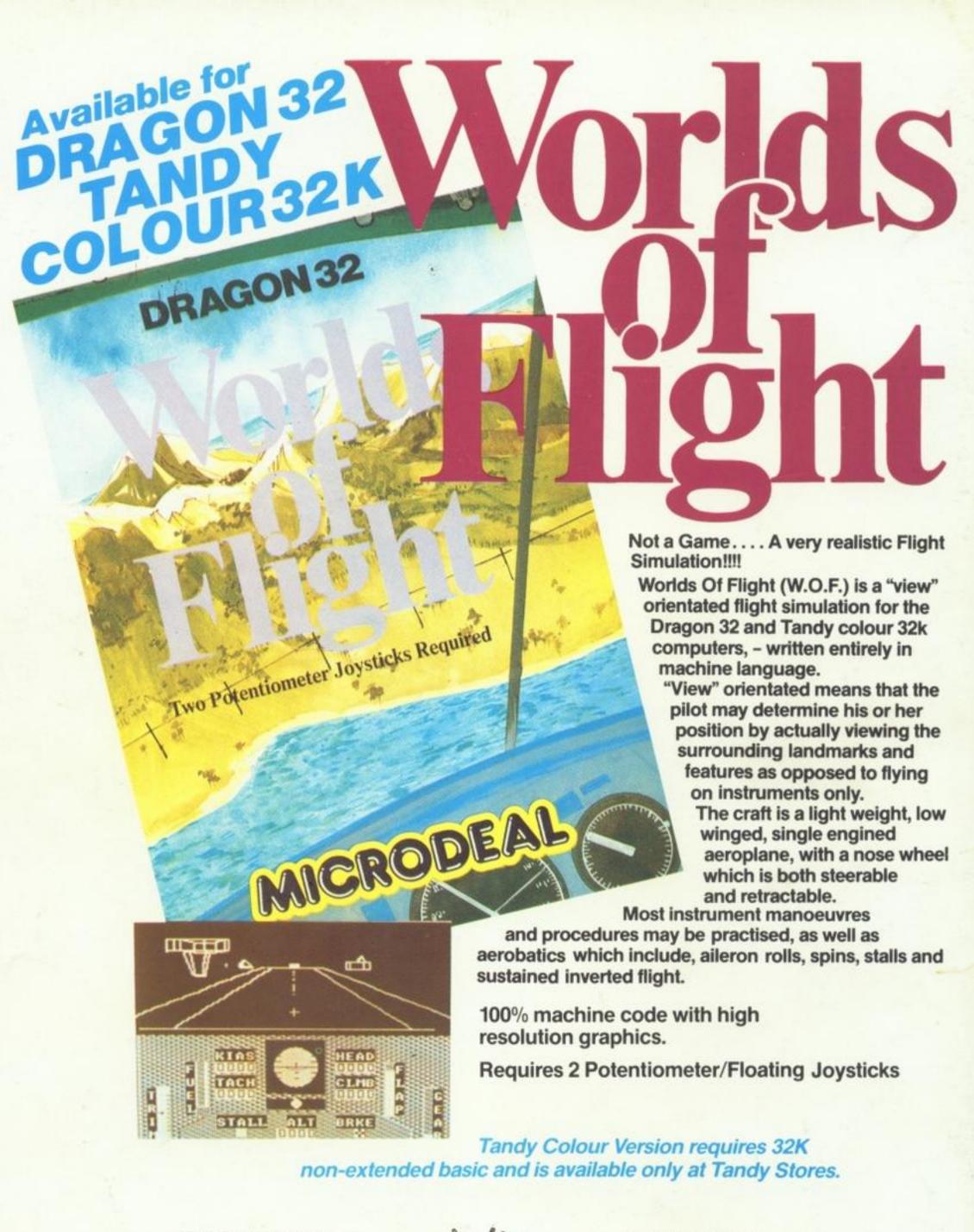
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