POPULAR CASSEGAMES WEEKLY 29 September-5 October 1983 Vol 2 No 39

This Week

Commodore 64 games

Mike Grace looks at a variety of software for the Commodore 64 including Shadowfax and Krasy Kong. See page 14.

Satellite radio

David Kelly talks to Roger Peel about Surrey University's UOSAT programme. See page 13.

BBC graphics

Michael Batty explains how to rotate ellipses in the second of a three-part series on page 33.

New releases

All the latest software games including The Oracles Cave from Doric Computer Services and 3 Deep Space from Postern. See page 53.

Centipede on 48K Spectrum. See page 10.

News Desk

Melbourne announces HURG

MELBOURNE House is announcing its Hi-resolution User-friendly Real-time Games-designer/(HURG) program at the Personal Computer World show this week.

The package, which costs £14.95 and was written by William Tang, performs a similar function to Software Studio's Games Designer (PCW 15-21 September). HURG enables

games, using a selection of predetermined programming routines.

The program, which will contain three readyto-play games, will be availableon the 48K Spectrum in the middle of October. Versions for other machines. including the

> Continued on page 5

Virgin has a change of heart

VIRGIN Games is to change its approach to the software market.

According to managing director, Nick Alexander, Virgin is in the final stages of setting up an in-house software production facility - similar to the sort of development team used by Psion, Ultimate and Melbourne House.

At the centre of the new

team will be a multi-user minicomputer, running advanced program development software capable of emulating the workings of different proces-SOTS.

To begin with, three inhouse programmers will be appointed - graduates drawn from the computer courses of the country's top universities. This number should rise to five by Christmas with the first programs from the team arriving in the shops in early 1984.

Says Nick: "It is obviously a colossal investment but it seems that is the way software development is going.

"It is a pity, because it means that the days when it will be possible for a single gifted amateur to develop a top selling game are numbered."

Since Virgin Games was launched in June the company has built up a range of titles all drawn from enthusiasts who replied to advertisements re-

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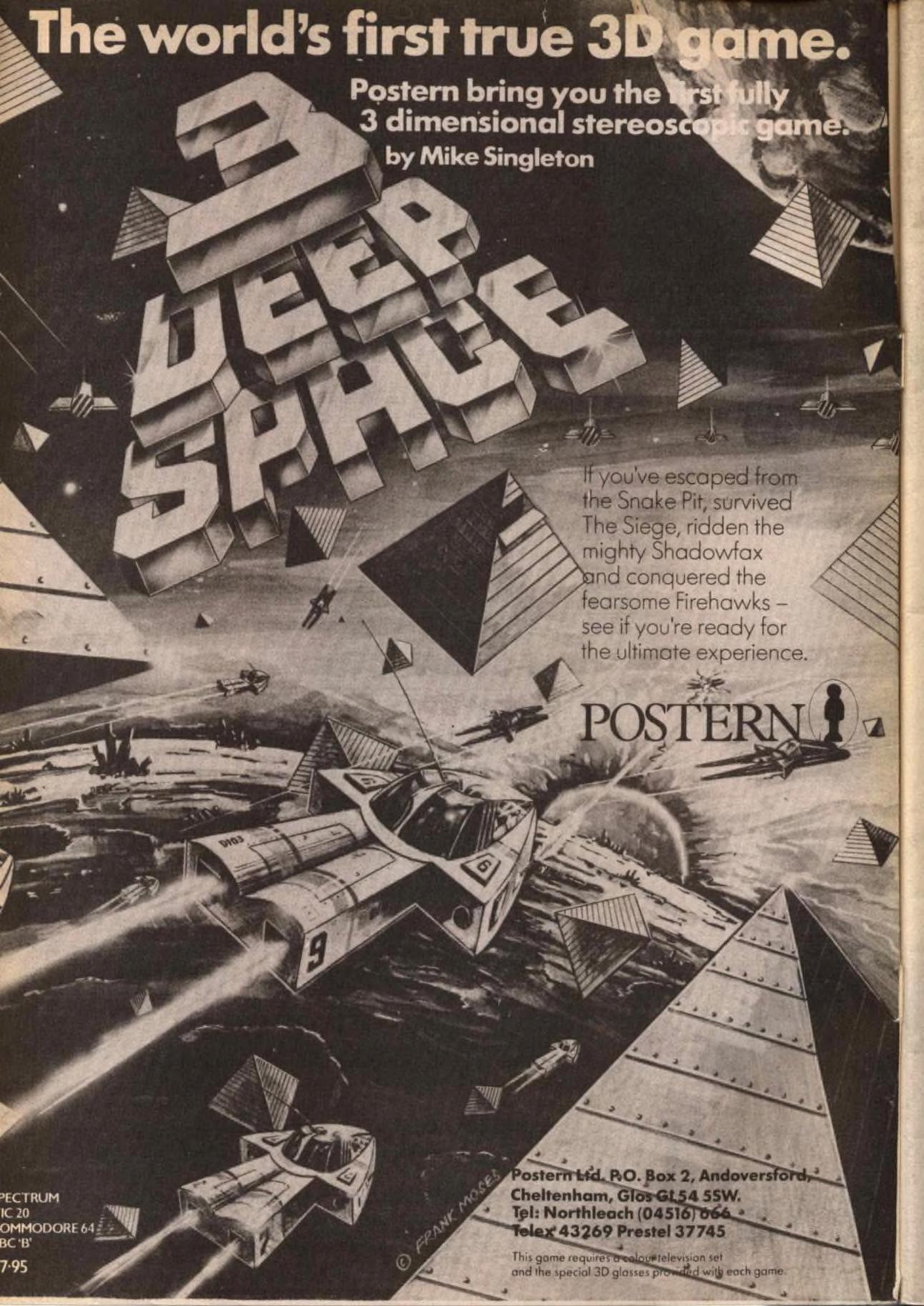
Continued on page 50

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All submissions should be typed and a double space should be left between each line. Please leave wide margins.

Programs should, whenever possible, be computer printed.

We cannot guarantee to return every submitted article or program, so please keep a copy. If you want to have your own program returned you must include a stamped, addressed envelope.

Accuracy

Popular Computing Weekly cannot accept any responsibility for any errors in programs we publish, although we will always try our best to make sure programs work.

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Editorial

The computer market is looking, if not shaky, at least uncertain at the moment. Following the recent troubles at NewBrain, Dragon and Texas Instruments, comes news of difficulties for Osborne and Apple.

However, four home computer manufacturers are planning to expand their activities into the personal business computer area. Acorn, Dragon, Oric and Sinclair are all working on business micros for launch at the end of this year or in the first half of 1984.

Personal business computers is an area that has been largely ignored up to now. Micros have tended to fall into one of two categories — home (ie, cheap and 'non serious') or business ie, expensive and 'serious'). Despite the efforts of firms like Camputers, there has been little crossover between the two sectors of the market.

But, the new IBM Peanut would appear to be aimed straight between these two traditional 'breeds' of micro. Details of the Peanut are scarce, but it seems to be capable of fulfilling a dual/home business role.

Whether Acorn, Dragon, Oric and Sinclair will be successful with their new machines remains to be seen. But, the fact that IBM appears to be following similar lines must be encouraging.

Next Thursday

Try and ram the saucers and aliens with your shuttlecraft, but avoid the asteroids. Asteroid Dodge — next week's star game for the BBC B by Phillip Wells.

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SOFTWARE

The software list shows, in order: the product name/producer/product type/price prefix to indicate cartridge (r) disk (d) and cassette (c). These are fully itemised in our product sheets. Producers initials here simply identify like-named products for price checking. The product types are: acct:accounts; adv:adventure; ass(3)(u): three-pass assembler (+utilities); bus:business; comp:compiler; data:datafile/base; dbu:database(code)writer; edu:educational fn:financial; hfin:home finance; intf: interface lang:language/OS; madv:mystery;

The Six-Four Supplies Company is THE specialist for the Commodore 64. Our range of products in support of this machine includes a wide range of peripherals, devices and software to cover the needs of home and business user alike. We intend to offer an unrivalled selection of products, covering every aspect of using a Commodore 64.

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Virgin software

Continued from page 1

questing programs. This approach has met with mixed success — the company has gained a name for BBC software while Nick admits some of the Spectrum titles have not sold well.



Nick Alexander

Virgin plans more releases from its roster of freelance programmers in the coming months. October will see two Commodore 64 titles - Falcon Patrol and Bitmania; four Spectrum 48K programs -Ouetzalcoatl, Robber, Lost and Spectrum; four for the BBC - Microbe, Chieftain, 'Owzat and Trench, and two for the TI99/4A - Robopods and Fun-Pac. This will be followed in November by four more for the Spectrum, three more for the BBC and one for the Dragon.

Virgin has also dropped its prices. As from its September releases Spectrum and Vic prices come down to £5.95, and Dragon and Oric tapes come down to £6.95. BBC titles stay at £7.95.

HURG

Continued from page 1 Commodore 64 and BBC B,

will follow shortly.

Games written with HURG will be eligible for a £3,000 competition. Each month, until January 1984, prizes will be awarded to the three best games written with the aid of HURG. The overall winner will then be awarded the £3,000 grand prize. Details of the competition will be included with each copy of the program.

Made in UK

AS predicted (PCW, September 1) Acorn has announced a deal with AB Electronics to manufacture 100,000 Electron machines in the UK.

Commodore try to halt trend

HAVING been partly responsible for the recent micro price war, Commodore is now apparently trying to halt the trend, by encouraging dealers to keep prices up.

One retailer upset by Commodore's actions is Mike Mehdi of Crestmatt, who has reported Commodore to the Office of Fair Trading.

Crestmatt is currently selling the Commodore 64 machine £4 under a suggested minimum price of £199.95. He alleges that Commodore has threatened to cut off his supply of machines if he doesn't raise his prices.

Hitch for Aquarius

MATTEL Inc's announcement of huge financial losses has cast doubt over the future of the Aquarius computer, recently launched in this country.

The company recently announced financial losses of \$156.1m for the quarter to July 30. The blame for the fall was put on the company's electronic division — experiencing a slump in American video game and computer sales — which lost \$166.7m for the quarter.

Mattel reacted by announcing "sharply" reduced marketing of its Aquarius home computer in the US. This means that the Aquarius will not now achieve full national distribution in the States.

This in turn has cast doubts over the computer's future in the UK. Mattel UK's managing director Mike Lunch was anxious to dispel any fears for the Aquarius in the UK: "I think the worry is misplaced," he said.

He explained that Mattel has sold marketing rights for the Aquarius in non-Englishspeaking countries to the machine's Far Eastern manufacturers, Radofin. He also claims that Co.almodore will only grant him a dealership if he discloses the name of the company supplying him with machines.

Mike says: "The only way we can compete with the highstreet stores is on price, by cutting our own profit margins."

Commodore, on the other hand, denies that any attempts are being made to impose a £199.95 price for the Commodore 64 model.

A spokesman commented:
"We have no quarrel with
Crestmatt—it is the person he
is buying from we are concerned about. It is conditional
on our supplying people that
they adhere to our terms of
business."

Mike Mehdi is determined not to disclose the source of his Commodore 64 supply. "I have now dropped the price of the Commodore 64 to £184.95 and will be holding it at that level up to the new year."

Lynx triplets

CAMPUTERS' 96K Lynx computer is now available, priced at £299. The new machine offers 37.5K of user-Ram in Basic and high-resolution colour. This compares with the 48K Lynx's 13.7K. The 96K-also features additional Rom commands contained in a 4K extension Eprom. These include printer, joystick and light-pen commands, as well as Circle, Triangle and Rectangle Fill graphics commands.

Owners of 48K machines will be able to up-grade to the 96K for £89.95.

Next week's Personal Computer World Show will see the launch of the Lynx disc drive system. A single 51/4in singlesided double-density 40track Alps unit plus Lynx operating system will cost £343.85.

Camputers also hopes to preview its 128K machine with Lynx facilities disc and CP/M at the show.

Apple down

SHARES of Apple Computers fell by 25 percent on the New York stock exchange on Friday, September 23, after the company announced that fourth quarter profits would be "sharply" down.

Autumn releases from Thorn

COMPUTER WAR heads up Thorn EMI's autumn software releases — based on the hit movie War Games.

The title will be out on cartridge in October for the Vic20 (£19.95), Atari and Texas machines (both £29.95).



Other cartridge releases next month include Mine Madness for the Vic20 (£19.95) and Carnival Massacre for the Atari (£24.95).

In November, Thorn EMI will produce its first games on cassette for the Spectrum. No prices are available yet but the titles are: Volcanic Planet, Gold Rush and Blockade Runner for the 16K model and a version of River Rescue for the 48K.

Quicksilva's Christmas list

QUICKSILVA has announced its new titles for Christmas.

Four for the Spectrum: Soft Solid 3D Ant Attack (48K) and The Flea, Gridrunner and Traxx (the latter two by Jeff Minter in conjunction with Salamander) (all 16K).

Two for the BBC: The Generators (a utility program) and Mined Out.

Four for the Commodore 64: Purple Turtles, Aquaplane, Ring of Power (an adventure) and Quintic Warrior.

At the Barbican

POPULAR Computing Weekly will be on stand number 444 at this week's Personal Computer World Show at the Barbican, London.



World champion?

Ok you guys. So you think you're good! I challenge you to beat my friend David Willmer's score of 169,990 on Interceptor Micro's Frogger. Beat that if you can — it took David 40 minutes using my Commodore 64. Is David the World Champion?

Julian Courtland-Smith Atlantis 28 Tile Kiln Lane Hastings East Sussex TN35 5EN

Adventure helpline

In response to Stephen Renton's letter (Vol 2 No 36), I heartily endorse his suggestion for a machine code helpline, and/or a machine code pen pal section, but cannot agree with his views on the adventure corner helpline, though a bit more solid 'info' and a little less 'in' comments or asides would be appreciated.

I'd also like to back up Mark Fussell and others in requesting a return to a m/c series for the 48K Spectrum and agree with his reasons for buying

your magazine.

The problem with all the m/code articles — and books which I have read — is that there always seems to be a vast gap between a very 'beginners please' type: "don't forget to press enter" — and the heady heights (to me) of vast strings of numbers without practical information on how to use them.

R B Mote I Barmouth Avenue Perivale Greenford Middlesex UB6 8JR

Captain Red Ken

Skipping all the 'your magazine is great, please print my letter' trash. I will get straight to the point.

I have decided to go into the software business. As I don't consider myself a second Jeff Minter, I am in need of help.

I would be very grateful if Vic20 owners with programs they consider to be commercially viable would send them to me. This will be an under 16s outfit, with 50 percent royalties. It doesn't matter if your programs aren't in the Astron Belt class, there are such things as gamestapes.

I would also like to know your advertisement rates as, if I ever get this off the ground, yours is a magazine in which I would like to advertise.

Finally. Rabbit Software's Myriad holds no further mysteries — I have scored 1,125,000 plus, going round two times and finishing with 30 lives and something in the region of 100 shields. This, I must point out, was achieved on a tape supplied free of charge by Rabbit when I told them mine was faulty.

Captain Red Ken 42 Freshfield Road Formby L37 3HW

PS. If anyone submitting tapes wants them back, please include a SAE.

Well, Captain Red Ken, I don't know how many of our readers will want to take up your offer, but it seems only fair to give them an opportunity to do so. Our advertising department will be happy to send you a copy of our rates.

Wrongly

Regarding the extremely useful article and program on word processor for Spectrum 48K (PCW 15-21 September, page 20), the hexloader (incorrectly numbered program 2) will not run as listed. I suggest the following lines will do the trick:

31 IF LEN X \$/2<>INT(LEN X \$/2)
THEN PRINT "INCORRECT ENTRY": GOTO 30

45 LET X\$ = X\$ (3 TO)

D Warner 29 Heath Farm Road Ferndown Dorset

Apologies to anyone who tried to enter Dale McLoughlin's word processing listing and failed. Programs one and two were numbered the wrong way round.

Sinclair user group

We have noticed recently, in several of the computer magazines, letters claiming that there is a shortage of user groups for Sinclair users. Apparently these users are not aware of our own group which has members around the world.

The International Sinclair User Group (ISUG) was formed as a result of the demise of the former, wellrespected, National ZX User Group, organised by Tim Hartnell.

We would be grateful for a plug on your letters page and club file to dispel this nasty rumour that Sinclair users are without representation. All that is needed is a letter to us at the above address, a stamp for the reply would be appreciated (not an SAE), this will bring full details plus an application form.

We welcome applications from both seasoned veterans and newcomers alike, so let's hear no more nasty talk about non-representation.

Peter Paton and Vic Webber ISUG 176 Todmorden Road Burnley Lancs

It's good to see someone attempting to fill the gap left by the closure of the National ZX User Group. ISUG has our best wishes for the future.

Conditional statement

I found J Coote's Turtle interpreter for the ZX Spectrum in a back issue of PCW (Vol 2 No 30). I have implemented it and had a lot of fun with it.

The author asked for suggested additions. One that I have made is a conditional statement.

The most natural syntax for such a statement would be "if cond do S1 else S2 then . . . " meaning that the numerical expression cond is evaluated, the program executes S1 or S2, depending on the value of cond, with program execution continuing after then. However, it simplifies the programming to use the form "if cond (S1) (S2) ...", since there is already a subroutine to locate bracketed substrings for the "rep" command. The relevant additions are:

320 IF T\$ = "if" THEN GOTO 1500
1500 GOSUB 40: GOSUB 45: LET
cond = VAL Z\$ (i + 1 TO f - 1):
LET P\$ = Z\$ (f + 1 TO e - 1):
LET Z\$ = "X" + Z\$ (e + 1 TO)
1510 GOSUB 45: LET Q\$ = Z\$ (f + 1
TO e - 1): LET Z\$ = "X" + Z\$

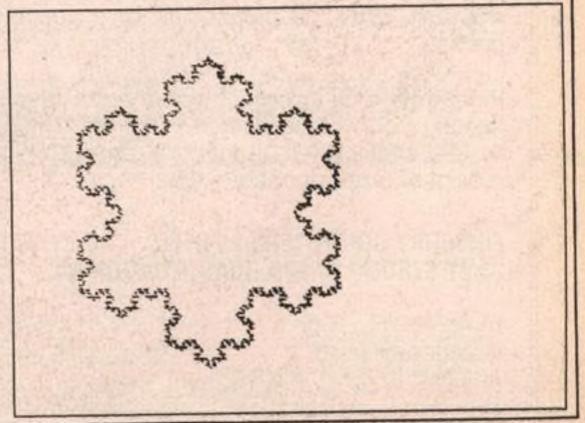
(e + 1 TO) 1520 IF cond THEN LET Z\$ = "X" + P\$ + Z\$ (Z TO): GOTO 100 1530 LET Z\$ = "X" + Q\$ + Z\$ (Z TO): GOTO 100

The Turtle accepts recursive calls to object definitions—with "if" we can ensure that the recursion "bottoms out" and thus draw famous recursive pictures like the snow-flake and dragon curves.

Of course, recursion raises the vexed question of local variables. In this case, the only Turtle variable is "siz". For most purposes, it is sufficient to ensure that, whenever a definition is called recursively, the value of "siz" on leaving is returned to its value on entering. Thus, the following lines define the snowflake curve:

obj side if siz<3 (dra siz) (siz siz/3 side tur 60 side tur-120 side tur 60 side siz siz * 3) obj snowflake rep 3 (side tur-120)

> Peter Cameron 70 Godstow Rd Wolvercote Oxford OX2 8NY



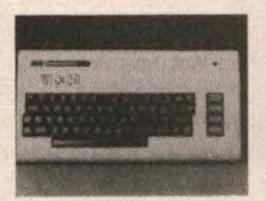
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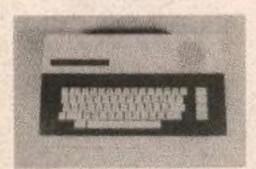


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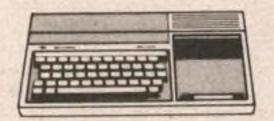




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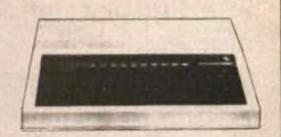
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Centipede

A new game for 48K Spectrum by Jim Provan

This is a version of the arcade game Centipede. The object is to shoot all the bugs which attack you.

The different creatures and their characteristics are listed below.

 The Centipede: This is the long, snake-like creature which runs across the screen. 500 points are awarded if you hit the body, 1,500 if you hit the head.

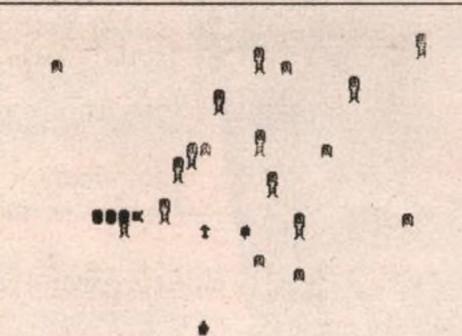
2. The Spider: the spider is the yellow creature which bounces aroung the lower

half of the screen. It is worth 300, 600 and 900 points depending how high up it is when hit.

3. The Flea: The flea is the green bug which drops straight down the screen. When hit it does not stop, but keeps on coming until it reaches the bottom. It is worth 500 points each time it is hit.

 The Wasp. The wasp is a red creature which 'homes in' on your base. It is worth 1,000 points when hit. Also present are mushrooms. These appear at random, either half or whole. The bottom scores 50, the top scores 100. BEWARE: on hitting the top of a mushroom, it is turned into a rock. If this is hit, you lose 1,000 points.

An extra base is awarded every 20,000 points. You initially begin with three. A\$ in line 9500 should be typed in as "I@%&'— ↑£1 []" (or any twelve symbols you do not need).



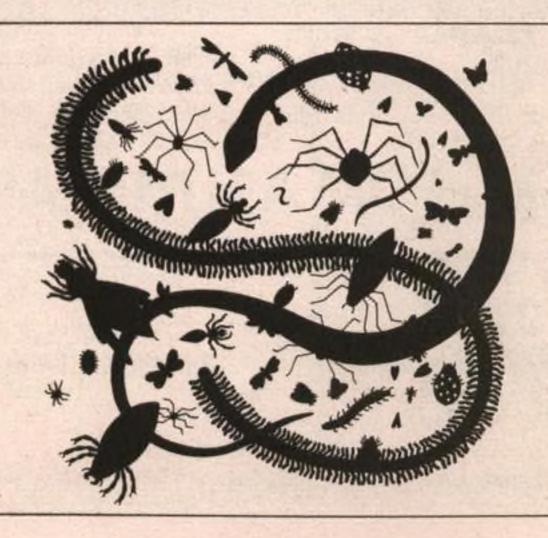
CENTIPEDE

1 BORDER 0: PAPER 0: INK 7: C LS: CLEAR VAL "31830": GO SUB V RL "9500": CLEAR VAL "64999": GO SUB VAL "9000": DIM e(10): FOR X=2 TO 10: LET e(x) = PI-PI: NEXT X: LET e(1) = PI/PI 2 RESTORE 3: FOR N=1 TO 17: R EAD a,b: BEEP a,b: NEXT N 3 DATA .5,15,.2,15,.2,15 .1,15,.5,20,.5,15,1,6,.5,15,.2,15 5,.2,8,.2,15,1,15,.3,24,0,0,.2,2 4 DEF FN P(y,x) = CODE 5CREEN\$ (y,x)

5 CLS : GO TO UAL "8500" 10 LET k#=INKEY# 11 IF INT (Score/20000) +1>10 T HEN GO TO 15 12 IF e(INT (score/20000)+1)=F I-PI THEN LET (ives=tives+PI/PI: FOR n=1 TO 5: BEEP .1,30: NEXT D: LET e(INT (score/20000)+1)=PI 15 IF score (0 THEN LET score=P I-PI 16 IF score > UAL "999999" THEN LET score = PI - PI

17 LET s\$ = STR\$ score

18 PRINT #0; AT 1,0; ("0" AND score (1000 0) + ("0" AND score (100 0) + INVERSE 1; \$ \$ 19 PRINT #0; AT 1, 10+(20-Lives-TO LIVES -1) 20 IF KS= (\$ AND POS > 0 THEN LET pos=pos-1 30 IF ks=rs AND pos (31 THEN LE T POS=POS+1 40 IF ks=fs THEN GO SUB 100 50 IF ks=ls THEN PRINT AT 21,P 60 IF ks=rs THEN PRINT AT 21,P 75 IF FN p (20, pos) ()32 THEN GO TO 4000 77 GO SUB UAL "1000" 80 GO TO 10 100 FOR X=3 TO 1 STEP -1: BEEP .01,x: NEXT x 101 FOR d=20 TO 1 STEP -1 103 PRINT AT d,POS; "1" 105 IF FN P(d-1,POS) =32 THEN GO TO 140 105 IF FN p(d-1,pos) =64 THEN LE T score =score +50



108 IF FN P(d-1, POS) =33 THEN LE T SCORE = SCORE + 100

109 IF FN p (d-1, pos) = 95 THEN LE
T SCORE = SCORE - UAL "1000": PRINT
AT d, pos; "; AT d-1, pos; ": BEE
P .1, -20: RETURN
110 IF FN p (d-1, pos) = 95 THEN LE
T SCORE = SCORE + (300 AND n (18) + (60
0 AND n = 18) + (900 AND n = 19)
115 IF FN p (d-1, pos) = 94 THEN LE
T SCORE = SCORE + 1000 100 IF FN P(d-1,pos)=96 THEN LE
T \$COTE=\$COTE(300 AND n(18)+(60)
0 AND n=18)+(900 AND n=19)
115 IF FN P(d-1,pos)=94 THEN LE
T \$COTE=\$COTE(100)
120 IF FN P(d-1,pos)=94 THEN LE
T \$COTE=\$COTE(100)
120 IF FN P(d-1,pos)=126 THEN L
ET \$COTE=\$COTE(1500)
120 IF FN P(d-1,pos)=30 THEN L
ET \$COTE=\$COTE(1500)
125 IF FN P(d-1,pos)=30 THEN LE
T \$COTE=\$COTE(1500)
125 IF FN P(d-1,pos)=30 THEN LE
T \$COTE=\$COTE(1500)
130 IF FN P(d-1,pos)=30 THEN LE
T \$COTE=\$COTE(1500)
130 IF FN P(d-1,pos)=30 THEN LE
T \$COTE=\$COTE(1500)
130 IF FN P(d-1,pos)=30 THEN LE
T \$COTE=\$COTE(1500)
140 PRINT AT d,pos;"" BEEP .1,20
150 IF FN P(d-1,pos)=33 THEN PR
INT AT d-1,pos;"" BEEP .1,20:
150 IF FN P(d-1,pos)=64 THEN BE
EP .1,20: PRINT AT d-1,pos;"" FBEEP .1,20:
150 IF FN P(d-1,pos)=64 THEN BE
EP .1,20: PRINT AT d-1,pos;"" FBEEP .1,20:
150 IF FN P(d-1,pos)(32 THEN PRINT AT n,u; IF k\$=1\$ THEN PRINT AT 21,pos;" IN K\$=1\$ THEN PRINT AT 1,pos;" IF k\$=1\$ THEN PRINT AT 170 RETURN 999 GO TO 999 1000 LET k\$=INKEY\$ 1002 IF k\$=r\$ AND POS (31 THEN LE T pos=pos+1 1003 IF KS=LS AND POS > O THEN LET POS=POS-1 1040 IF k\$= (\$ THEN GO SUB 100 1050 IF k\$= (\$ THEN PRINT AT 21,P 05+1; 1060 IF k\$= (\$ THEN PRINT AT 21,P 1109 IF RND (. 25 THEN RETURN INTE 1115 PRINT AT C, b; INK 3; "A"
1120 IF RND).5 THEN PRINT AT C+1
1125 PRINT AT 21, pos; "•"
1127 LET K=INT (RND +32) 1499 RETURN 1500 FOR N=0 TO 21 1510 LET K\$=INKEY\$ 1520 IF KS=LS AND POS >0 THEN LET 1530 IF ks=rs AND POS (31 THEN LE T POS = POS + 1

1540 IF k\$ = 1\$ THEN PRINT AT 21, P

05 + 1; "

1550 IF k\$ = 1\$ THEN PRINT AT 21, P

1560 IF POS > U THEN LET U = U + 1

1565 IF POS (U THEN LET U = U - 1

1570 PRINT AT n, U; INK 2; " +"

1573 BEEP .005, n

1580 IF FN P(20, POS) (>32 THEN GD

1580 IF FN P(20, POS) (>32 THEN GD

1580 CLS : PRINT AT 11, 6; INK 1; T pos=pos+1 1585 IF k\$=[\$ THEN GO SUB 100 1590 PRINT AT 21, POS; """ 1592 IF n=21 THEN PRINT AT 21,U; "": GO TO 1999 1595 PRINT AT n,U;"" TO 4000 1596 NEXT D RETURN 1999 2500 FOR N=0 TO 20 2505 LET K\$=INKEY\$ 2510 IF KS=LS AND POS>0 THEN LET pos =pos -1 2520 IF ks=rs AND pos (31 THEN LE 2550 IF K\$= L\$ THEN PRINT AT 21,P 2560 IF K\$= L\$ THEN PRINT AT 21,P 2560 IF K\$= L\$ THEN PRINT AT 21,P 2564 LET \$\$=STR\$ SCORE 2565 PRINT #0; AT 1,0; ("0" AND SCORE (1000) + ("0" AND SCORE (1000) + ("0" AND SCORE (1000) + ("0" AND SCORE (100); INVERSE 1; SAT n. U; INK 4; "R" 2571 BEEP .005, n 2573 IF FN P (20, POS) (>32 THEN GO TO 4000 2580 IF k\$= f\$ THEN GO SUB 100 2584 IF n=21 THEN GO TO 2600 2590 PRINT AT 21, pos; "#"; AT n, u; 2595 NEXT D 2600 PRINT AT D.U;" " 2999 RETURN

3000 LET C=1: LET N=INT (RND #20) 3010 FOR U=0 TO 27 3020 LET ks=INKEYS 3030 IF ks=1\$ AND POS>0 THEN LET pos=pos-1 3040 IF ks=rs AND pos (31 THEN LE T pos=pos+1 3573 IF k\$=f\$ THEN GO SUB 100 3575 IF n=16 OR n=20 OR RND>.8 T HEN LET m=-m: LET mu=INT (RND*2) 3580 PRINT AT n,u;" ": LET n=n+m 3585 LET u=u+mu 3590 IF u=31 THEN RETURN 3500 GO TO 3510 4000 PRINT AT 21,pos;"X"; AT 20,p 8700 FOR n=1 TO 10 8710 LET x=INT (RND*32): LET y=I NT (RND*18): IF FN P(y,x) (>32 TH EN GO TO 8710 8715 IF FN P (9+1, X) (>32 THEN GO 9060 CLS : PRINT AT 11,6; INK 1; PAPER 6; FLASH 1; "PREPARE FOR B 9520 DATA 0,30,53,45,53,53,43,33 9530 DATA 51,15,22,16,22,26,18,3 9540 DATA 12,12,30,63,63,63,30,3 9550 DATA 30,63,63,63,63,63,63,63 9560 DATA 1,61,54,60,54,61,1,0 9570 DATA 4,30,63,62,62,62,24,8 9580 DATA 33,51,12,12,30,45,33,0 9590 DATA 8,8,6,127,62,8,28,8 9500 DATA 120,188,254,254,124,60 9510 DATA 0,0,12,30,63,63,30,12 9520 DATA 12,30,63,12,12,12,30,1 9630 DATA 33,18,12,29,46,12,18,3 9999 LPRINT

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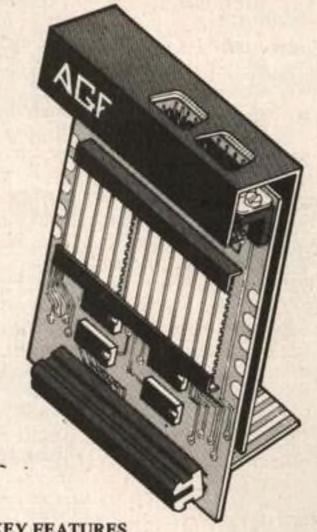
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Roger - ground control

David Kelly talks to Roger Peel about the UOSAT project

It is now beginning to look as though Britain won't get its first satellite tv networks running by 1985 as originally hoped.

No standards for direct broadcast television have yet been adopted, mainly due to internal wrangling within the various European countries. Consequently, no one is particularly keen, apart from the French, on going it alone.

In the United States, the situation is a little different. Rupert Murdoch plans to start his New America satellite channel for 1984 while Home Box Office — a film channel — has already proved a runaway success.

Satellites, everyone is convinced, are going to become very important. Not just for broadcasting tv, but also for interactive communication, telebanking, armchair selling and all the other things that home computers will make possible.

Putting up a satellite is an expensive business. To get a complex direct broadcast satellite up there is going to set you back at least £20m.

Although communication with the bigger satellites will be strictly controlled, it is possible for any interested person to get in touch with one of the amateur satellites.

Amateur satellites, of which there have been 16 so far, send out signals which can be picked up by any radio amateur.

One such orbiting radio beacon is UOSAT. This satellite — standing about three feet tall — was launched as a secondary payload on a Nasa Delta launcher in October 1981. It cost Surrey University a mere £120,000 — as an educational craft it was launched free of charge.

The main use of the computer is for data storage. Information on, say, the strength of the earth's magnetic field, is collected by the computer and then broadcast in fairly concentrated bursts.

The data is comparatively simple to decode — being an amateur radio satellite. In fact, it is the first satellite ever to contain a simple speech synthesiser. Data transmitted on some weekends is sent as 'spoken' data.

"We only 'see' the craft for 15 minutes six times a day — when I say see, I mean see its radio transmissions. I don't know of anyone who has actually seen it. It's very small.

"The computer can store information from one orbit and transmit it in sections for the next 10 hours — giving us information about the field strength and radiation count."

Rall of the computer's software. To save space — 16K is not much — programs are written in assembler code. For every new program up-loaded to the craft for a new experiment, a whole suite of programs has to be written for the ground-station to handle the data transmitted back.

"Each program has to be very thoroughly tested to be as bug-free as we can make it," says Roger. The university uses a duplicate of the spacecraft's computer on the ground to test programs before they are up-loaded.

"For writing programs, 16K has not proved to be that much of a problem — 16K of assembler program takes quite a lot of writing.

"But for data storage, 16K is quite a serious restriction. Obviously, we do as much as we can to store things as economically as possible, but there is a limit to how far you can compress the information - for experimental data there is a lot less opportunity for compression than in English text, for example."

UOSAT is fairly densely packed com-

pared with a commercial craft. It also has none of the elaborate stabilisation mechanisms — spinning gyros and gas jets — needed to keep a broadcast satellite pointing always at the same point on the globe.

"It is an amateur satellite — not in the same league as the Voyager series, for example, which are orders of magnitude bigger. UOSAT weights about 60kg. Many large communications satellites could

179

weigh about the same as a car."

UOSAT is only a broadcast satellite. It does not 'transpond'. In space jargon, there are no publicly available up-lines. Only UOSAT control can send information and new software programs up to load into the on-board computer.

UOSAT transmits on 145.825 MHz and the signals can be picked up by an ordinary narrow-band fm hand-held receiver with a whip antenna — typically costing around £50.

"Listen on that frequency and you will hear the tones (called telemetry) — often at the weekends we use the on-board Digitalker to speak the data."

The ordinary telemetry signal can be decoded quite simply. A very crude device can be made for about £7 from about three integrated circuits. A design for one such circuit appeared in the May 1983 issue of Wireless World.

Basic information on orbital patterns is given on an answerphone service on Guildford 61202 and an accompanying computer program was printed in *Popular Computing Weekly*, April 21. A news sheet, giving more details of how to get data down from UOSAT and analyse it, is available — if you send a stamped addressed envelope — from the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, University of Surrey, Guildford.

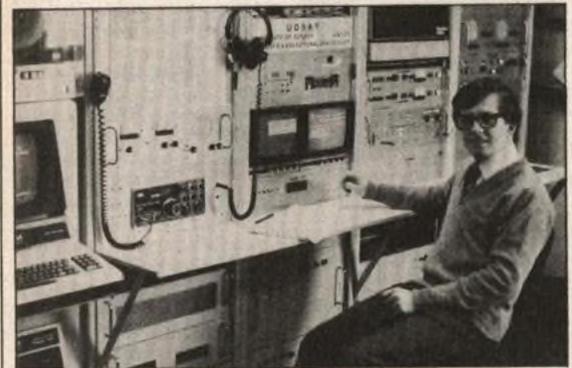
The data sent back from the satellite—
the basic telemetry frame — contains 45
status numbers which show what equipment is turned on or off. There are also 60
analogue channels which give information
on temperature, rotation, radiation count
and magnetic field strength.

All of this information can be collected by any amateur with an appropriate receiver and decoder.

It is possible to see how the radiation count varies over the earth's poles or how the battery voltage is affected by sunlight on the craft's solar panels.

Anyone wanting to experiment by taking data off the spacecraft should think about doing it reasonably soon, though. Says Roger: "All orbits decay — the craft gets pulled down towards the earth — and, one can never be certain, but, we reckon that UOSAT has only an orbital lifetime of about another three years.

"Then the craft will re-enter and burn up in the earth's atmosphere."



Roger Peel is one of the ground support team for UOSAT. He explains: "The time from beginning work on the project to its launch was only 2½ years — very tight in space terms."

The core of UOSAT is a computer, of course. But not quite the megabyte marvel one imagines a satellite ought to possess. UOSAT contains only two small processors, an RCA 1802 and a Ferranti F100L, and 16K of memory.

Games unlimited

Mike Grace attacks the mutant camels in a round-up of games software for the Commodore 64

If you went to the Commodore Show in June you must have seen a revolution in graphics for games of the future, and if the press releases are to be believed (which most of us find trouble in doing!) then it'll be in the not-too-distant future as well. I'm talking about a football game which has out-of-this-world graphics - green field, terrific depiction of the players, crowds, etc. The game looks just like a cartoon not a typical high-resolution picture. But if you think that's good - then another demonstration on the Audiogenic Stand of a game called Alice in Wonderland puts even Commodore's efforts in the shade when it comes to graphics.

The fact that many of the Vic20 games are now coming out on the 64 (and vice versa) convinced me that I ought to concentrate more on the 64 this time around. But don't worry, Vic owners — I still have my faithful Vic to keep bashing away at the

new releases.

Let's start with a couple of games from a company new to me, Postern Limited, who call their range of software Imagination Unlimited. The two games are called Snake-Pit and Shadowfax and are available on cassette (at £7.99) and — hooray, hooray - on disk (at £9.99). I had the cassettes to review, and they were packaged in a largish box (as in Rabbit and some Commodore cassettes) - but unlike others I've seen at least Postern retained the cassette box for you to keep the tape in (in a cassette rack if you own one). The artwork for both games was a little amateurish, but the instruction sheet on the reverse of the covers is excellent.

I loaded Snake-Pit first into the 64. After a short loading time the screen filled with little green dots (eggs!) and small neatly placed rectangles containing writhing snakes which were trapped inside their little rectangle. On closer examination one of the little eggs was seen to be a grinning face with a mouth that kept opening and closing reminiscent of a goldfish (the gobbler!). The idea of the game is for the gobbler to eat all the eggs up (Pacmanstyle) before a snake eats him up. As the eggs surrounding one of the trapped snakes are removed so it can escape, chase and eat up the gobbler.

bviously the more eggs the gobbler Deats the higher the chance of being eaten himself — and just to keep him alert there is a nasty red snake who is also going around eating all the eggs, thereby releasing the other snakes as well. If you do survive to eat all the eggs then you enter phase 2, where the gobbler can now eat up the snakes (tail first, I might add).

So how did I rate it? Well, the first problem was the gobbler was rather slow

(as the game is machine code I assume this is intentional), but I wanted him to get on and eat up the eggs faster. Secondly, it is quite a hard game as the snakes are soon writhing around all over the place, so a little trick I tried was not to move the gobbler straight away, but allow the red snake to eat up a lot of eggs first.

The game was quite nicely presented, the graphics were adequate (I've been spoilt by Alice in Wonderland) and it wasn't too hard to play. A sort of blend of Pacman and Serpentine, I suppose. It struck me as being of good value at £7.99.



Judging by the success of The Hobbit for the Spectrum, I should think more computer enthusiasts at least know about Tolkien's Lord of the Rings, even if they haven't read it. Well, Shadowfax is taken from the book, and is the sequence where Gandalf (alone in the computer game) is riding his horse Shadowfax against the Black Riders of Sauron, armed with only his wits and a handy supply of thunderbolts. At last I saw a beginning to some of the extra capabilities of the 64, for in this game the borders of the screen have trees lining the path which it is possible to ride behind (here we witness the sprite capabilities of the 64 in action) and the graphics really capture some of the feeling of both the book.

Gandalf (all in white) gallops his horse from right to left whilst a horde of Black Riders gallop towards him. One touch of any part of an enemy horse or rider will kill Gandalf (no extra lives in this game) so he must either dodge the enemy by moving the joystick up or down (no sideways movement is necessary as the background moves along at quite a pace simulating the horses movement) or destroy the rider with a thunderbolt.

The game is good, compulsive and quite difficult. If you do manage to keep alive, you then meet the purple-coloured Sauron (I assume) and that's a whole new ballgame, but I won't spoil it for those dedicated enough to get there. The graphics are the best I've seen in the games I've reviewed for the 64 (and the Vic), and a soundtrack of galloping hooves (extremely effective) plus quite good zapping thunderbolts makes this my favourite game of the bunch. I'd say £7.99 is a good price for value. A final word of warning about this game - watch out when the thunderbolt makes a zooming noise!

Not so long ago there seemed to be only one game available for the 64 - a game with the most convoluted title. I'm talking, of course, about Attack of the Mutant Camels from Llamasoft. On cassette this game comes with fairly average packaging and is described as a 'hyperfast blast for Commodore 64' (not my words, I assure you) and gives you 31 levels of skill! I find it pretty difficult playing most games on Level 1 — the thought of 31 levels is pretty 'awesome' (to use another Llamasoft phrase), but it's sensible and satisfying to see programmers building playingextension time into their games.

There is the usual loading time (the screen blacks out, then the logo AMC (Attack of Mutant Camels) appears, plus a series of options which you can control with the Function keys. Possibilities include one or two players, where you wish to start, and whether you want to have a collision option.

On to the game itself. It seems some aliens have taken off our camels and mutated them into 90-foot walking laserspitting death beasts, so we have to pilot our little spacer and kill them off (Luke Skywalker style as in Empire Strikes Back against the Walkers). It's a sort of Skramble with camels to attack instead of enemy fighters, and to make it harder the camels aren't killed in one blow, but need several shots (during which they change colour with added realism). Along the top of the screen is a score plus a section telling you how many camels you have to beat and where you are in relation to them.

The game is noisy and fast (as are many of Jeff Minter's games) and although the camel graphics lack a little in sophistication they are good enough. As most of the time you are dodging the laser bolts that the camels 'spit' at you, there isn't really time to appreciate the finer points of the graphics anyway. It's another difficult game and even on the simplest level lots of skill is needed to weaken the camels enough to destroy them before you're blown to smithereens. At £8.50 it is good value and should keep dedicated gamesters going for quite a long time.

Star Trek is an old favourite with games players, or at least with games software houses. In case anyone is still out there who doesn't know how to play it — a brief



resume. You are in control of the Starship Enterprise (going boldly where no man has gone before) and looking for the Klingons in space. You have various screens to help you (a Galactic Map which tells you where you are in space), a Sector Map (which tells you what is in your sector of space) and the ability to warp into another Sector and do battle with the Klingons. During the battle you may be damaged and so find your ship unable to fire torpedo bolts or phasers, or even to warp away to safety. Usually you also have Star Bases where you can refuel and restock. If you do not destroy all the Klingons — you're doomed!

I have always found this game enjoyable, so it was with a hope of increased facilities that I loaded Interceptor Software's version into the 64. Loading completed, a very impressive title section appeared with stars winking into existence and the words Star and Trek appearing from the top and bottom of the screen and scrolling towards each other. I was then given the choice (on a small and slightly off-balance menu) of instructions, or various modes of play. I chose instructions, and received about a dozen pages of complex and interesting instructions, none of which I could remember once the page had gone (but not to worry as I was told I could call back the instructions at any time).

tried very hard to like this game — but I couldn't. There's no doubt that someone has worked extremely hard and long to produce an epic which does justice to the increased memory facility, but at the expense of the understanding of the player I suspect. It may have been an off-day, but I'm familiar with Star Trek and have played several versions on the Vic. This time I couldn't fathom how I was supposed to find the Klingons, or what was going on most of the time. It seemed as though the screen was filling with masses of information about planet types, energy supplies,

warp drives, etc. Each time I pressed a Function Key I got a screenfull of information, which I was supposed to remember — I couldn't. It seems a great shame, because surely the fascinating possibilities of the game on the 64 are greatly extended ... but I think the programmer knew his own game too well and has just made it too complex.

For the Star Trek fanatic who is really into the intricacies of War Games this is possibly a winner — for you ordinary mortals I feel this is not the one. And if you do get into a really exciting game and find time running out there's no capability to save to tape or disk — a criminal omission. It felt as though it had been rushed out for the 64 too early, and at £7.00 is too expensive.

Interceptor have also produced a 64 version of Krazy Kong, also priced at £7.00. The main difference in this version is that there are multi-screen levels to work through. The graphics are poor, but I still found myself playing the game for rather a long time - so it must have been addictive. It's a particularly infuriating game, because besides the barrels and hammers, there are a number of randomly placed diamonds on the girders that your little man has to jump up and collect, otherwise when he gets to the girl at the top (who isn't pictured in the first screen) he won't get the prize. Unfortunately the jump key didn't always make him jump on my joystick - adding to the infuriation. But I began to get the hang of how much to jump and the distance as I got used to this version.

I think the main disappointment was the poor graphics. Kong is a poorly-outlined silhouette, the man is just a stick-like symbol, and the diamonds and hammers are very simple symbols. Although these graphics don't really spoil enjoyment of the game, with the increasing competition nowadays I suspect this will detract from the arcade copies unless there is a reduction in price.

Let's move to Anirog Software for the

final review. It's the 64 version of Frogrun, and regular readers may remember that when I reviewed this game for the Vic I not only enthused strongly, but I can still say it's one of my favourites. Well, the 64 version is very much the same, except that a little musical tune is played when you get the frog home, and this time we have crocodiles in the river from level one (and a crocodile or two lurking in some of the homes as well to make it harder). But, for some inexplicable reason, I didn't like the graphics as much on the 64 version as I did on the Vic.

All the good points of the Vic version are present: the incredibly responsive joystick control, the fast-moving traffic, the lady frogs, the snakes on the river bank. . . . When compared with some versions of Frogger I've seen I'm still amazed that other versions sell at all. However, there is one point that I'd like to make at this stage - and that is the ease or difficulty of games in general. I know it's hard catering for the real enthusiast - but I do feel that games are becoming harder and harder and this is not necessarily a good thing. It is probably because the programmers are themselves real enthusiasts who not only spend almost every waking hour playing, but think many of us do as well.

It seems to me possible to have several skill levels which allows the casual player to win reasonably easily and then he can move up a notch, whilst the true gamester can move on to a higher level from the word go. Anyway, Frogrun is £6.00 from Anirog Software and if you haven't a Vic then the 64 version is a good alternative.

So there we are, the 64 is getting a good share of Software at last. What I feel is that, apart from Shadowfax none of the games I reviewed this time are really using the full capabilities of the machine. Commodore's own games are being released, and they do show promise, but I cannot help but feel that some of the others are being rushed onto the market to fill a gap too quickly, and without proper thought for the customers or the extra facilities.

Supplier Anirog Computers 26 Balcombe Gardens Horley Surrey	Program Frogrun	Price £6.00
Liamasoft Software 49 Mount Pleasant Tadley Hants	Attack of the Mutant Camels	£8.50
Interceptor Software Lindon House The Green Hadley Hants	Startrek Krazy Kong	£7.00 £7.00
Postern Imaginations Unlimited PO Box 2 Andoversford Cheltenham Glos	Snake Pit Shadowlax	£7.99 £7.99

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An alien intelligence

Peter Bartley adds a postscript to his series on gameswriting for the Vic20

Over the past six weeks I have introduced a few ideas, explained a few details and demonstrated a few tricks to beginners in Vic computing. The area we've concentrated on is what I call the "X-zaps-Y-zaps-X"-type arcade games.

As I've mentioned before, these games on the Vic are dependant on the fact that the screen memory locations in front of any moving graphic missile or spaceship can be peeked to see if they've hit anything, as well as providing fine opportunities to use graphic and sound effects. Although these are the easiest to simulate, they aren't, as the video freaks among you will know, the end of the story.

There are the Maze/Chase games: A certain Atari game springs to mind, as do variants such as Rally-X. Commodore's Jelly Monsters and Rat Race cartridges are typical conversions to the Vic, as was the ill-fated Vicmen on tape. Programming here is different. The problem is to give the meanies, be they ghosts, rats, or alien beings from an unknown planet, some kind of intelligence. Here again screen peeks are paramount in determining where exactly the ghosts are in the maze. The players screen position can also be used to give them some kind of direction rather than the aimless wanderings of a random-direction generator.

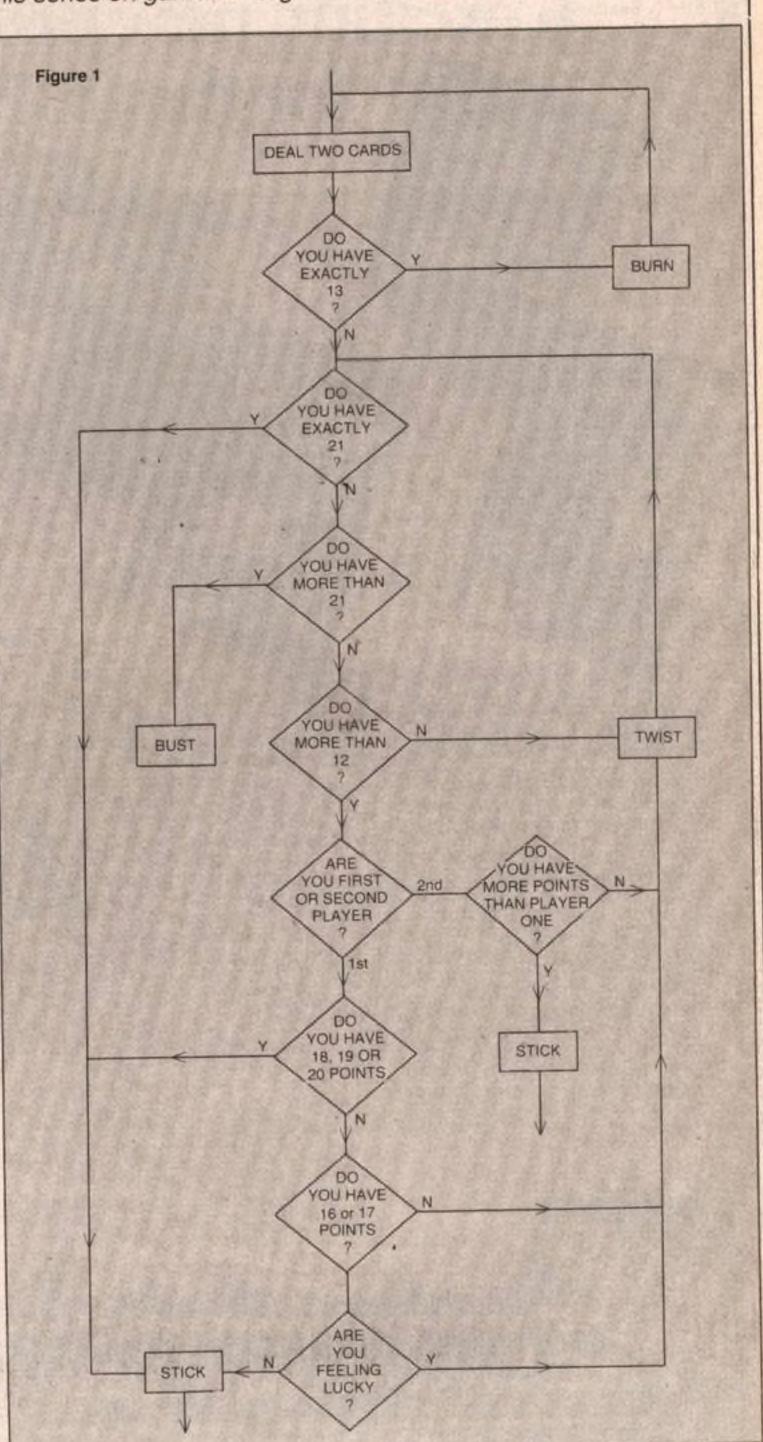
This brings us to the question of giving the computer some brains. Most people shy away from programming the Vic to play against the user as being too difficult. But when it comes down to it, whenever two humans play a game they're following a set of unconscious/unwritten rules. All you need to do to convert it to the Vic is to think very carefully about all the rules.

Pontoon is a prime example. Object: to get as many points above 12 and below 22 as possible. Even without making Vic the banker there's very little problem here (if it were the banker, it would then "know" when to stick or twist on every occasion). You'll find that most two player games (especially cards) can be "translated" into a set of rules suited to computer conversion.

After all, Othello, backgammon and even chess have been converted — though obviously you can't be expected to write a chess program immediately! However, don't be daunted by the prospect of giving your Vic "a bit o' sense".

If you haven't done this sort of thing before, the best thing to do is to choose a fairly simple card or dice game for two players and use what I call a "structured routine" as the backbone of the program. That is, have a series of "If... Then"s and

Continued on page 19





PROGRAMMING

"On ... Goto/Sub"s gradually "filtering out" duff moves and finally deciding on an "action".

Flow-charting is very useful in this context — see Figure 1 for a sample of a "pontoon" routine. As you can see, all the questions can be replaced by BASIC equivalents ("If SC > = 18 Then Print "Stick On "SC", etc. Even the "Feeling lucky?" question can be simulated by the Rnd function.

In other types of "thought" games it is often preferable to assign "priorities" to various positions or situations. In the case of board/strategy games, each opponent's piece (or position, depending on the game) would have a different "desirability" rating according to its relative strengths and weaknesses. (Just a simple numerical value; so that when the computer assimilates the data it knows to go for the highest priority move or capture).

For example, in certain commercial chess programs, "taking the queen" is the highest priority move, even at the loss of one's own queen. And again, if we were to write our own Othello program, we would assign highest move priority to the four corners (giving them 9, say), and lowest priority to the central squares (possibly 1 or 2), since as every Othello player knows, the four corners of the board

are by far the most important.

These are just a couple of ways of producing "artificial intelligence". They're useful programming practice and hopefully more mentally stimulating than blasting aliens, and have the added interest that as your programming improves, so can the Vic's playing ability.

Of course there are other types of games to work on if cards/dice don't take your fancy; such as Surround (an old Pet game recently resurrected in the light-cycle sequence of the film Tron) or Battleships (I've still to see a Vic Battleships that really plays and isn't just a vamped up guessing game using the random number generator . . .). Then you can start inventing your own strategy games.

The thing about games of this sort is that they're so well-suited to BASIC. Pokeing 50 Space Invaders on and off the screen, as well as scanning for hits/misses and key presses is going to take a very long time — which doesn't make for a very exciting game. That doesn't mean that all arcade games are out: ones with just a few characters adapt well, especially "oldies" like Dogfight, for example.

Other games include adventures; but with only 3.5K there's very little room to produce a game with any real variation. The technique is to first define your

playing area — caverns, planets, etc, and more importantly, how they are connected. Scatter a few monsters about, and a few things to collect, and let someone else loose on it (after all, you'll know its ins and outs already!).

Going back to the point about memory: try and keep all your programs as stream-lined as possible. Apart from obvious techniques such as keeping excess characters to a minimum, there's the not-so-obvious, like sound effects subroutines whose parameters are defined before *Gosub*bing. Even just a simple delay loop as a subroutine saves a tremendous amount of memory in longer programs.

A final word about gameswriting: To be Afrank, Vic games in magazines have dropped dramatically in number recently. They haven't got any worse; in fact, the quality has markedly improved, but the problem seems to be a lack of topics. If you're stuck for something to write about, just look around you! Look at a few books for inspiration (but mind the copyright!) there's everything from the entire animal, vegetable and mineral kingdoms to sports and simulations, machinery and monarchies, racing and reflexes ... the list is engless. Use your brains (if too much Vic computing hasn't caused them to atrophy): after all, who thought up all those arcade games in the first place?



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Interrupted lesson

Guy Dobinson explains how to teach French in the classroom – by interrupting

The following interrupt routines were developed to be used in programs intended for the teaching of French in classrooms. The main programs had to be written in Basic for reasons of easy adaptation, but two serious problems could not be solved using this language.

Firstly, letters with accents had to be entered as user defined graphics, without constant fiddling with the graphics key. Secondly, the *Break* key had to be disabled. True, the *Break* key can be disabled by *Poking* the lower part of the screen down to zero lines, but then any attempt to *Break* causes a crash and the program has to be reloaded from scratch.

In both cases, interrupt routines provided the answer. Furthermore, interrupt routines are an ideal place for the inexperienced machine code programmer to start, as once the basic principle of an interrupt has been grasped, even a very short program can produce very impressive results. I hope to demonstrate this, and show how the reader can use the same techniques to his own advantage.

In normal operation, the Spectrum Rom uses "Interrupt Mode 1" to scan the keyboard every 20ms. We want to divert these interrupts to our own routines, so need short machine programs to switch between the two modes. By simply loading the I for Interrupt register with 9 (40 for 16K machines) and turning to "Interrupt Mode

2" the interrupts are diverted to location 65129 (16K 32348), where we place our routine.

In order to return control to the Rom program, all interrupt routines must follow a similar pattern: (i) We must call the keyboard scanning routine, as we have diverted the normal interrupts away from this — RST 56. (ii) The interrupts must then be disabled for the duration of our routine, to prevent it being called while it is already in operation — DI. (iii) The registers used by our routine must be Pushed (saved) then Popped (restored) after use to prevent a crash. (iv) The interrupts must be re-enabled — EI — ready for next time before finally Returning to the Basic system. See Figure 3.

Now, to solve our first problem. The idea is to use an interrupt routine to constantly check the value representing the last key pressed and stored by the Rom program in the system variable *Lastk* (location 23560). We store this value in register *A* and compare it with 48, the character code for "0". If the actual value is less, all is well and we return to Basic. If it is greater than 48, it is then checked against an upper limit of 58 ("9"+1).

If the value passes the second test, control is returned to the Rom. But, should it fail both tests, then 96 is added to the value in register A, to give the code for the appropriate udg. This is then copied into

Lastk before returning. In short, whenever the user types in a character between "0" and "9" this is snatched away and replaced before the Rom even has a chance to print it in an input line.

The Basic program in Figure 1 demonstrates this routine after setting up as udgs the different letter/accent combinations used in French. With this routine you can write or adapt any word game to work in French, or any other accented language.

To solve the second problem, we need to use Lastk again, and two more systems variables. Errnr, which holds the number of the current report code minus one, and Flags, bit 5 of which indicates to the Rom program that a new key has been pressed. We will also use our own variable Key. See Figure 4.

The principle is this — Errnr is checked to see if it holds 255 for -1, Report "O OK". If not, load 232 for "Continue" into Lastk, Set bit 5 of Flags to 'fool' the Rom into thinking this is a new key press, then Set bit 0 of our own Key to show that this has been done. On the next interrupt, the routine checks Errnr then Key, loads 13 for "Enter" into Lastk and again Sets bit 5 of Flags, finally resetting bit 0 of Key ready for the next time that the Break key is used. In effect, every time an error occurs, the system thinks that the user has promptly pressed Continue and then Enter.

This is demonstrated by the Basic Program in Figure 2. Run it and, once numbers appear in the top left-hand corner of the screen, try holding down Capshift and Break — you will see the Break report code and the Continue command superim-

Figure 1

Figure 2 5 CLEAR 65109: REM for 16K re ad 32329 7 GO SUB 8000 10 RANDOMIZE USR 65110: REM for 16K read 32330 20 INPUT D\$
30 PRINT D\$
40 RANDOMIZE USR 65120: REM 16K = 32340 50 STOP 8000 LET code = 65110: REM 32330 8010 LET b=0: FOR n=code TO code +40: READ a: POKE n,a: LET b=b+3 : NEXT n 8020 IF 5034637 THEN PRINT "Erro r in code data": STOP : REM 16K 3030 DATA 62,9: REM 16K = DATA 62,40 8040 DATA 237,71,237,94,201,0,0,0,0,62,62,62,237,86,237,71,201,0,0,25 8050 DATA 245,58,8,92,254,48,56, 9,254,58,48,5,198,96,50,8,92,241 9000 LET b=0: FOR n=USR "a" TO U SR "J"+7: READ a: POKE n;a: LET b=b+a: NEXT n 5=5+a: NEXT n 9005 IF 5()3304 THEN PRINT "Erro r in UDG data": STOP 9010 DATA 48,8,0,68,68,58,56,0 9020 DATA 24,36,0,60,68,68,62,0 9030 DATA 24,4,0,60,68,68,62,0 9040 DATA 0,0,60,64,64,60,8,24 9050 DATA 48,64,56,68,120,64,60, 9060 DATA 48,72,56,68,120,64,60, 9070 DATA 24,4,56,68,120,64,60,0 9080 DATA 16,40,0,16,16,16,16,0 9090 DATA 16,40,0,56,68,68,56,0 9100 DATA 16,40,0,68,68,68,56,0 9110 RETURN

Dosed in the lower part of the screen.

Unfortunately, it does not work when stop is entered in response to an input—the report is given, then a number of interrupts occur before the system is

ready for a new command.

As it is a little more complex than the scope of this article, I'll leave the actual coding to you — but the simplest solution is to use another variable like Key to enter

Continue three times. Alternatively, there are many other short machine code routines which can easily be converted for use with interrupts. Don't be afraid to experiment!

Flavor 2 10 I	ASTK EQU	23560	Figure 4	130			65129
Figure 3 10 I	Moth não			140 EF		-	23610
	On routine			150 LA			23560
	ORG			160 FI			23611
40		A,9		180			56
50 60		I, A		190		I	15
70		2		200		PUSH	
80	RET	TO SHEET OF THE STREET		210			IX
100 ;	: Off routin	e de la company		220			HL, FLAGS
110		65120		230			IX, KEY
		A,62		250		LD	A, (ERRNR)
120	IM	1		260		CP	255
130		I,A		270		JR	Z,OUT
140	RET	-,-		280		LD	A, (KEY)
150 160	ILLI			290		CP	1 and the second
	: Substitute	routine		300		JR	Z, ENTER
The state of the s	; Substitute	65129		310	1	LD	A,232; CONTINUE
180	RST	56		320		LD	(LASTK),A
190	DI	The state of the s		330		SET	5, (HL)
200		AF		340		SET	0,(IX)
210	LD	A, (LASTK)		350		JR	OUT
220	CP	48				LD	A, 13 ; ENTER
230				370		LD	(LASTK),A
240	JR CP	C, Exit		380		SET	5, (HL)
250		NC, Exit		390		RES POP	0,(IX)
260	JR			400 0		POP	HL
270	ADD	A,96		410		POP	AF
280	LD	(LASTK),A		430		EI	AA .
	Exit POP EI	Ar.		440		RET	
300				450 K		DEFB	0
310	RET			450 11	May I	1777	STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE STATE

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Town planning

lan Robertson presents a high-resolution geography program

was most impressed with John Meech's geography program for the BBC B which appeared in PCW 1-7 September, 1983. I am, however, one of those (probably few) schoolteachers who are not enamoured of the BBC machine, and I thought that it should be possible to produce something on similar lines (and more colorful — deliberate spelling), on my old faithful Dragon.

I am indebted to Mr Meech for his method of plotting the map using the BBC's Move and Draw statements, but readers might be interested to realise that these can be reproduced exactly in the Dragon's high resolution modes by using Draw"BM x,y" and Line -(x,y). The screen parameters are, of course, 255 and 191 as opposed to the Beeb's 1279 and 1023.

A complete character set (Ch\$(0)) to Ch\$(35), which represents the digits 0 to 9 and the letters A to Z, is included in the program. The digits and letters are in the form of strings which can be used with the Dragon's Draw statement, either directly in the form 'Draw Ch\$(x) + Ch\$(y)' etc in any scale and in any colour, or by extracting characters from normal strings using the Asc function to obtain the Ch\$ number (you have to deduct 48 to get the digits and

55 to get the letters).

The actual shape of the drawn letters etc, I have had in stock for some time. I think they came originally from an American magazine and, if you don't like their shape, they can always be redrawn to suit individual tastes.

Originally, I intended to produce this program using *Pmode4* with black characters and map on a white background, and using the drawn characters in normal scale. Experiments showed, however, that a more impressive display could be obtained using colours and *Pmode3*. In this case, the characters had to be scaled up to retain their correct shape.

I also contemplated including more than one map and set of towns and a menu choice. There would appear to be plenty of memory left in the Dragon to do this. Readers might care to play about with these ideas — what about running it in *Pmode1* and *Pcopy*ing to other pages? In this way, it should be possible to hold four maps in memory and access them by calling different pages in *Pmode1*.

The actual map and town coordinates were produced using a 15 × 19 grid on squared paper. The line numbers of the grid were (in steps of 10), 105 to 255 horizontally and 0 to 190 vertically, making

it quite easy to estimate the intermediate points. These numbers were chosen to match the right-hand side of the Dragon's screen.

A rather strange thing happened when trying to erase the town numbers and the 'Ok' or 'No' in the lower left-hand box, (Line 2100). I wanted to Paint in red on red to a limit of yellow (thus erasing the green letters which were on the red background), but found it would not work. I got over the problem by Painting in green first and then in red, but I am still mystified. Perhaps someone knows the answer.

Notes

Lines

Goes to the subroutine to put the character set into array CH\$

20-190 Draws the title page using the character set in various scales and colours.

1000-1230 Sets up the display and draws the map.
The words "BRITISH TOWNS" are drawn
by extracting in turn from the strings AS
and B\$ (by means of the ASC function) the
codes of the correct "DRAW" string held in

2000-2120

(Main Loop)

Puts the town names and coordinates into arrays TT\$, X\$ and Y\$. Lines 2050-2060 draws each town number in the correct place and alternately PRESETs and PSETs a dot at the town's location. Lines 2070 asks for the name of the town to be spelt. Lines 2080-2120 compare the spelling and flash either "OK" or "No" on the screen and computes the score.

3000-3050 Ending routine.

the array CHS.

4000-4380 Subroutine and data for character set. 5000-5050 Data for map.

6000-6090 Data for towns and town coordinates.

7000-7100 Subroutine for instructions.

```
1 REMARKARARARARARARARARARARARA
2 REM*
           TOWNS
3 REM#
        BY IAN ROBERTSON *.
4 REM*
           SEPTEMBER 1983
5 REM*****************
9 REM *****GET CHARACTERS INTO
      ARRAY AND DRAW TITLE
      SEDUENCE. ************
10 GOSUB4000
20 A#="BRITISH": B#="TOWNS"
30 PMODE1,1:SCREEN1,1:PCLS
40 DRAW"BM40.60516C7"
50 FORN=ITOLEN(A#): DRAW CH#(ASC(
LEFT*(A*,1))-55)
60 A = RIGHT + (A + , LEN (A + ) -1)
80 DRAW"BM68,110"
90 FORN=1TOLEN(B#): DRAW CH# (ASC (
LEFT (B$.1))-55)
100 B#=RIGHT# (B#, LEN (B#)-1)
120 DRAW"BM10.17058CB"+CH# (11)+C
H$(34)
130 DRAW"BM+10,+0"+CH$(18)+CH$(1
0) +CH± (23)
140 DRAW"BM+10.+0"+CH$(27)+CH$(2
4)+CH$(11)+CH$(14)
150 DRAWCH*(27)+CH*(29)+CH*(28)+
CH# (24) +CH# (23)
160 FORN=1TD6000:NEXT:SOUND100.2
170 DIMTT$(10), X(10), Y(10); S=0
180 CL51:PRINT@196,"DU YOU WANT
INSTRUCTIONS?"::PRINT@297."TYPE
(Y OR N)."::SCREENO.1
190 R#=INKEY#: IFR#=""THEN190 ELS
E IF R#="Y"THENGOSUB7000
999 REM******SET UP DISPLAY AND
       MAP. 单分类分类分类类类类类类类类类类类类类类
1000 PMODES, 1: GOLOR2, 1: SCREENI, 0
: PCLS
```

1010 LINE (105,0) - (235,191) . RSET. B

```
1020 LINE(0,0)-(101,50), PSET.B
 1030 LINE(0.54)-(101,191), PSET, B
1040 PAINT(2.2),4,2:PAINT(2.56),
1050 FDRI=1T070
1060 READX, Y
1070 IFX=-1 AND Y=-1 THENREADX.Y
:DRAW"BM"+STR#(X)+","+STR#(Y)
1080 LINE-(X,Y), PSET
1090 NEXTI
1100 A$="BRITISH"
1110 DRAW"BM4, 20S8"
1120 FORN=ITOLEN(As)
 1130 DRAWCH* (ASC(LEFT*(A*,1))-55
1140 A$=RIGHT$(A$.LEN(A$)-1)
1150 NEXTN
1160 DRAW"BM16.40"
1170 B#="TOWNS"
1180 FORN=1TOLEN(B$)
1190 DRAWCH*(ASC(LEFT*(B$.1))-55
1200 B#=RIGHT# (B#, LEN(B#)-1)
1210 NEXTN
1220 PAINT (107,2),3,2
1230 PAINT (195, 120) .1.3
1999 REM******PUT TOWN NAMES
        AND COORDINATES INTO
        ARRAYS AND DRAW FLASHING
        TOWNS*************
2000 FORN=1T010
2010 READTT*(N).X(N).Y(N)
2020 NEXT
2030 FOR TU=10 TD10
2040 DRAW"BM20.705861"+CH4(29)+C
H$(24)+CH$(32)+CH$(23)
2045 IFTU=10 THENDRAW"BN45.90"+C
H#(1)+CH#(0):GOT02060
2050 DRAW"RM45.90"+CH1 (TU)
2080 FORN=ITO10:PRESET(X(TU),Y(T
U)):FORD=1T0500:NEXT:PSEI(X(IU).
Y(TU),2):FORD=1TOSOO:NEXT:NEXT
```



4330 DATA "BUSM+2.+6M+2.-6BDSBR3 2069 REM ******ASK FOR ANSWER AND DRAW FLASHING 'BK 4340 DATA "U6BR4D6M-2,-2NU1M-2.+ OR NO ********** 2BR7" 2070 ELS8: PRINT@384. "SPELL ITS N 4350 DATA "U1M+4,-4U1BL4D1M+4,+4 AME AND PRESS (ENTER)"::PRINT@22 DIBR3" 4. "":: INPUT"WHAT TOWN WAS THAT": 4360 DATA "BR2U3M-2,-2U1BR4D1M-2 T\$ " ? , ,+2BD3BR5" 12080 SCREEN1,0:FURN=1T010:DRAW"B 4370 DATA "BU6R4M-4,+6R4BR3" M30.150516C1" 4380 RETURN 2090 IFT#=TT#(TU) THENDRAWCH#(24 4999 REM ****** DATA FOR MAP***)+CH\$(20):FORD=1T0500:NEXT:DRAW" 5000 DATA -1,-1,160,175,170,180. BM30,150C4"+CH\$(24)+CH\$(20):FORD 175, 170, 180, 175, 195, 175, 205, 165, =1TD500:NEXT:NEXT: ELSE DRAWCH*(205,160,215,162,225,167,230,167, 23)+CH#(24);FDRD=1T0500;NEXT;DRA 245, 153, 242, 150, 225, 150, 240, 140, W"BM30.150C4"+CH#(23)+CH#(24):FD 240,130 RD=1T0500:NEXT:NEXT 5010 DATA238,122,235,121,225,124 2100 FORD=1T01000:NEXT:PAINT(2.1 ,220,130,218,120,215,118,207,112 89),1,2:PAINT(2,189).4,2 ,197,95,200,85,192,78 2110 IFT#=TT#(TU) THEN S=S+1 5020 DATA 185,85,182,75,185,70,2 2120 NEXTTU 10,45,185,42,197,19,185,21,175,2 2999 REM*******ROUTINE FOR SCORE 0,170,20,165,30,162,47,153,53,15 AND ENDING********** 5.60 3000 CLS7:PRINT@69, "YOU SCORED"; 5030 DATA 165.55,155,70,160,74,1 S: "OUT OF 10"::PRINT@195. "DO YOU 70.60,171.62,170,70,172,75,162,8 WANT TO TRY AGAIN?"; 7,165,94,175,91,170,105,175,105, 3010 PRINT@296. "PRESS 'Y' OR 'N' 175,120,155,115,160,123 "::SCREENO.1 5040 DATA 155.131.166.131.166.13 3020 R#=INKEY#: IFR#=""THEN3020 E 9,155,145,160,151,172,145,175,14 LSE IF R#="Y"THENRUN 8.185,141,193,143,185,150,175.15 3030 CLS6: PRINT@196, "THANK YOU F 1,168,160,163,160 OR PLAYING. ":: SCREENO, 1 5050 DATA 163,165,145,170,150,18 3040 FORN=1T03000:NEXT:CLS 0.160.175 3050 END 5999 REM ****** DATA FOR TOWNS 3999 REM ****** SUBROUTINE FOR 21 AND TOWN COORDINATES*** ARRAY AND DATA FOR 6000 DATA LONDON, 223, 150 CHARACTER SET******** 6010 DATA LIVERPOOL, 177, 120 4000 DIMCH# (35) 6020 DATA MANCHESTER, 185, 117 4010 FORX=OTD35: READCH#(X): NEXT 6030 DATA BIRMINGHAM, 205, 135 4020 DATA "BU1U4E1R2F1D4G1L2H1BD 6040 DATA NEWCASTLE. 194,95 1M+4.-6BD6BR3" 6050 DATA GLASGOW, 175, 75 4030 DATA "BUSBRIEIDANLIRIBM+4.+ 6060 DATA CARDIFF, 180, 142 6070 DATA PLYMOUTH, 165,176 4040 DATA "NR4U1BU3U1E1R2F1D1G1L 6080 DATA YARMOUTH, 239, 130 1GZBM+7.+1" 6090 DATA LEEDS, 195,110 4050 DATA "BU5E1R2F1D1G1NL2F1D1G 6999 REM********INSTRUCTIONS***** 1L2NH1BM+7.+0" 7000 CLS7: PRINT@33, "YOU WILL SEE 4060 DATA "BU3NR4M+3,-3D6BM+4,+0 A MAP OF BRITAIN. ": : PRINT@65, "Y ELLOW DOTS WILL FLASH ON AND ":: 4070 DATA "BUANRSUZRABDZBL1F1DZG PRINT@97. "DFF AT VARIOUS PLACES 1L2H1BM+7,+1" ON THIS ":: 4080 DATA "BU6BR3NF1L2B1D2NR3D2F 7010 PRINT@129, "MAP AND YOU WILL 1R2E1U1H1BM+4,+3" BE ASKED FOR ":: PRINT@161. "THE 4090 DATA "U1BU5R4D1M-4,+4BM+7,+ NAME OF THE TOWN. NT@193.STRING\$(30.32): 4100 DATA "BUIUIEIRZEIUIHILZGIDI 7020 PRINT@225, "YOU MUST ENTER T F1R2F1D1G1L2H1BM+7.+1" HE NAME OF THE": : PRINT@257. "TOWN 4110 DATA "BU1F1R2E1U4H1L2G1D1F1 (SPELT CORRECTLY) AND "::PRI R3BM+3.+3" NT@289, "PRESS (ENTER). YOU WILL 4120 DATA "USE1R2F1D3NL4D2BR3" THEN "::PRINT@321, "BE TOLD IF Y 4130 DATA "U6R3F1D1G1NL3F1D1G1L3 DU ARE RIGHT. YOUR"::PRINT@353." BR7" SCORE WILL BE GIVEN AT THE END": 4140 DATA "BU1U4E1R2F1BD4G1L2H1B 7030 PRINT@385.STRING#(30,32)::P R7BD1" RINT@417. "DO YOU WANT A LIST OF 4150 DATA "R1U6NL1R2F1D4G1L2BR6" "::PRINT@449."TOWNS" TYP 4160 DATA "U3NR3U3R4BD6L4BR7" -E Y OR 'ND . .". 4170 DATA "USNRSUSR4BD6BR3" 7040 SEREENO.1 4180 DATA "BUIU4E1R3BD4NL1D2L3H1 7050 R#=INKEY#: IFR#=""THEN7050 E BR7BD1" LSE IF R#="N" THENRETURN 4190 DATA "USNR4U3BR4D6BR3" 7060 CLS: PRINT@0.STRING# (32,143+ 4200 DATA "BU6BRIRINDARIBRIBDABL 16):FORN=1TD14:PRINT@32*N.CHR#(1 1L2BR6" 59);:PRINT@32*N+31,CHR*(159);:NE 4210 DATA "BU2D1F1R2E1U5BD6BR3" XT:PRINT@480.STRING#(31,159);:PO 4220 DATA "UABR4M-4,+3M+4,+3BR3" KE1535,159 4230 DATA "NU6R4BR3" 7070 PRINT@65, "THE TOWNS ARE (BU 4240 DATA "U6M+2.+3M+2.-3D6BR3" T NOT IN THIS"::PRINT@97, "ORDER) 4250 DATA "U6M+4,+6U6BD6BR3" :-"::PRINT@164,"LEEDS 4260 DATA "U6R4D6L4BR7" HESTER":: PRINT@196, "YARMOUTH 4270 DATA "U6R3F1D1G1L3D3BR7" NEWCASTLE"; 42B0 DATA "BUIU4E1R2F1D4G1L2H1BE 7080 PRINT@228. "BIRMINGHAM PLYM 1BRIFZBR3" DUTH": :PRINT@260, "LIVERPOOL CA 4290 DATA "U6R3F1D1G1L3R1M+3,+3B RDIFF":: PRINT@292, "GLASGOW R3." UNDON"::PRINT@418,"PRESS spaceba 4300 DATA "BUIFIR2ETUIBU3HIL2GID r TO CONTINUE": 1M+4,+2BR3BD2" 7090 R##INKEY#: IFR# OCHR# (32) THE 4310 DATA "BUGRZNDGRZEDGBR3" N7090 4320 DATA "BUIUSBRADSGILZHIBDIBR 7100 RETURN

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Hi-res graphics for the 64

Module 3.4.2

This module allows a flashing pixel to be moved around the screen, inking in and erasing individual pixels.

Commentary

Line 11030: X and Y are the co-ordinates of the pixel on the 300 + 200 screen. The flashing pixel cursor is set to the middle of the screen. The first position in normal screen memory is POKEd with a value which produces a colour indicator of the current mode (black = 0, red = 1, purple = 2, blue = 3). Effects of modes will be explained later.

Line 11040: The state of the screen at the position at which the cursor is to be flashed is obtained.

Lines 11042-11050: The cursor is flashed on and off until a key is pressed.

Lines 11060-11072: In mode 3, pressing the cursor arrow results in the flashing pixel moving 10 positions in the required direction (within screen limits). In modes 0,1 and 2 the cursor moves only one space at a time.

Line 11075: The unshifted function keys, from top to bottom, are used to set the modes. If the mode is changed the colour indicator is changed.

Lines 11080-11090: If the mode is zero (black) then the pixel at the cursor position is blanked. If the mode is 1 (red) then the pixel is inked in. The remaining two modes allow the cursor to be moved around, slow or fast, without affecting what is on the screen.

Lines 11100-11120: These inputs relate to the next module.

Testing Module 3.4.2

You should now be able to move the tiny cursor around the screen, drawing or erasing.

Module 3.4.3

This module provides for the drawing of straight lines between points defined by the user. It is an adaptation of a method known as Bresenham's algorithm and a version of it is often used in those Basics which have line drawing commands.

Commentary

Line 12025: The values X1 and Y1 were defined when the user input 1 - at that point they were set equal to the X and Y positions of the cursor. X2 and Y2 were set on input of 2. The line will be drawn from X1, Y1.

Line 12030: DX and DY are set equal to the distance between X1 and X2, and Y1 and Y2, plus one. The SGN function means that it does not make any difference if the distance is positive or negative (if it is negative then minus one will be added rather than 1).

Line 12032: The line-drawing algorithm uses the greater of the two differences as the basis of its calculations so it is faster to have two separate routines.

Line 12035: SL is the slope, or ratio between DX and DY minus 0.5.

Lines 12040: The loop is as long as the difference along the X co-ordinate.

Lines 12050-12055: Depending on whether the mode is 0 or 1, a single dot on the line is erased or drawn. Note that nothing will happen in modes 2 or 3. Line 12060: According to the ratio between DX and DY, SL may now indicate that the next dot should move up or down the Y axis. If so the Y position is changed and SL is reduced by one.

Line 12070: The slope value is added to SL each time a dot has been printed. Line 12100: The X position is incremented for each iteration of the loop. Once again the SGN function takes care of lines which move backwards along the axis.

Lines 12200-12250: Exactly the same routine for those cases where DY is greater than DX.

Testing Module 3.4.3

You should now be able to specify a start and end point for a line (1 and 2) then to draw it or erase an existing line, depending upon whether mode 1 or 0 is set.

Summary

This program is intended as no more than an appetiser for the possibilities raised by the bit-mapped mode. Full use of bitmapped graphics requires some careful thought as to what you wish to achieve and some often complex mathematics to achieve it. Should you decide to go further, the techniques given here, and the functions used to locate individual pixels, will make the task that much easier.

Going further

(1) Why not add a facility allowing the saving of a screen of graphics onto tape you'll need a fairly long tape but the routine would be simple enough.

(2) Computer graphics books provide a number of algorithms which allow the drawing of circles and arcs. Why not add a module to the end of the program to achieve this - the main drawback will be lack of speed.

This is an extract from The Working Commodore 64 by David Lawrence, published by Sunshine Books.

MODULE 3.4.2

11000 尺巨門井澤泽米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米

11010 REM DRAW ON SCREEN

11020 REM#未来未来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来

11030 X=160:Y=96:M0=1:POKE 1024,(PEEK(10

24)AND240) OR (MO*2)

11040 TT=PEEK(FNPP(X))

11042 GET A\$: IF A\$<>"" THEN 11050

11044 POKE FNPP(X) FNPV(X) : POKE FNPP(X)

FNPE(X):GOTO 11042

11050 POKE FNPP(X), TT

11060 IF MOC3 THEN X=X-(A\$="W" AND XC319

)+(A\$="#" AND X>0)

11062 IF MO=3 THEN X=X-10*(A\$="N" AND XC

310)+10*(A\$="\" AND X>10)

11070 IF MOKS THEN Y=Y-(A\$="M" AND YK191

)+(A\$="]" AND Y)0) 11072 IF MO=3 THEN Y=Y-10*(A\$="W" AND YC

182)+10*(A\$="]" AND Y>10) 11075 IFA\$="*"THEN MO=MO+1 MO=MO+4*(MO>3

):POKE1024,(PEEK(1024)AND240)OR(MO*2)

11080 IF MO=1 THEN POKE FNPP(X), FNPV(X)

11090 IF MO=0 THEN POKE FNPP(X), FNPE(X)

11100 IF A\$="1" THEN X1=X: Y1=Y

11110 IF A\$="2" THEN X2=X:Y2=Y

11129 IF A\$="L" THEN GOSUB 12000

11200 GOTO 11040

11499 GOTO 11499

MODULE 3.4.3

12000 REM#非未来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来来

12010 REM LINE DRAWING

12020 尺巨四米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米米

12025 X=X1:Y=Y1

12030 DX=X2-X1+SGN(X2-X1):DY=Y2-Y1+SGN(Y

2-41)

12032 IF ABS(DY))ABS(DX) THEN 12200

12035 SL=ABS(DY/DX)-0.5

12040 FOR I=1 TO ABS(DX)

12050 IF MODE=1 THEN POKE FNPP(X), FNPV(X

12055 IF MODE=0 THEN POKE FMPP(X), FMPE(X)

12060 IF SL>0 THEN Y=Y+SGN(DY):SL=SL-1:G OTO 12060

12070 SL=SL+ABS(DY/DX)

12100 X=X+SGN(DX):NEXT I

12120 RETURN

12200 SL=ABS(DX/DY)-0.5

12210 FOR I=1 TO ABS(DY)

12220 IF MODE=1 THEN POKE FNPP(X), FNPV(X)

12225 IF MODE=0 THEN POKE FNPP(X), FNPE(X)

12230 IF SLOO THEN X=X+SGN(DX):SL=SL-1:6

OTO 12230

12240 SL=SL+ABS(DX/DY)

12250 Y=Y+SGN(DY):NEXT I

12300 RETURN







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THE SAME FATE AS HIS
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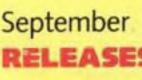
FISHY BRAIN OUR INTREPID'CHUCKLES'
GOT LOST AND FOUND HIMSELF IN THE
DANK DEPTHS OF KILLER CAVERNS



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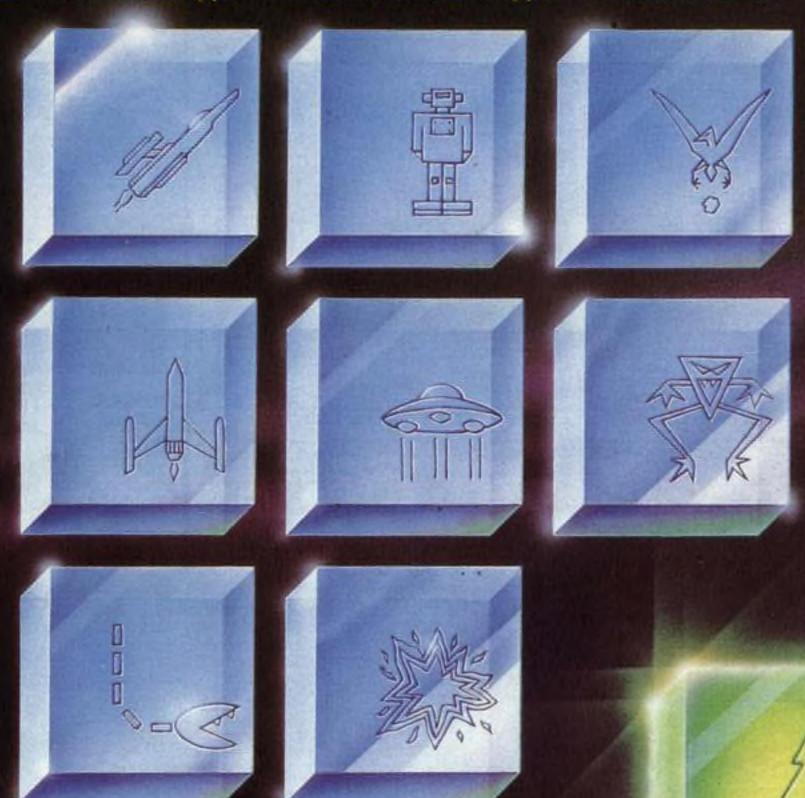
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Rotating ellipses

Michael Batty explains how to rotate ellipses in the second of a three-part series

Last week we presented programs to draw and fill ellipse shapes which had fixed orientations on the screen. In extending our computer art, we need to be able to rotate these shapes. To do this, we will use standard two-dimensional transformations which change the orientation but keep the scale and origin of the figure fixed. We will generate patterns by regular rotation of ellipses around a fixed origin, forming designs which resemble the petals of a flower, the cogs of a wheel or the points of a star.

The program to draw an ellipse (given last week as program 2) can be used to generate the figure to be rotated, but it is now necessary to store the X, Y coordinates of the figure in arrays so that we

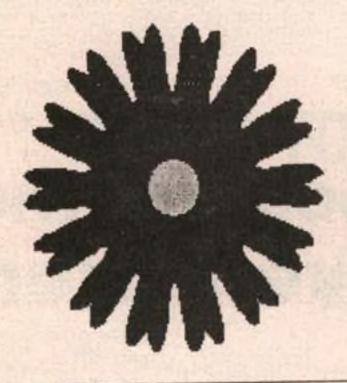
can continually transform these points to other positions. The transformations used are quite standard, involving simple sine and cosine functions. They are given in most introductions to computer graphics — Roy Myers' *Microcomputer Graphics* (Addison-Wesley, 1982) is a good reference.

Program 1 shows how this rotation can be done. In fact, if you look at the way we originally generated the co-ordinates of the ellipse (lines 120, 130) and the way we transform these (lines 230, 240), you will see the same transformations are involved. When you run program 1, initially use XX and YY values between 10 and 200, measure TH the angle of rotation or pivot in degrees, and finish the rotation with TH = 0.

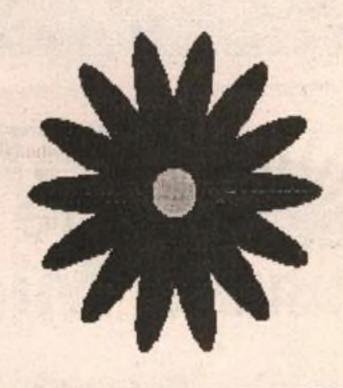
We can use the fast fill routine (program 3 last week) to fill these rotating shapes and then we are in a position to develop some nice formal designs. Program 2 enables you to set up different sizes of ellipse with XX and YY radii and to rotate them regularly from a fixed origin by specifying the number of ellipses — we call them petals — forming the rotation. We then fill the centre of the resulting flower-like picture with a circle. The program is structured as a set of Procedures: we set up the original ellipse using Procsetup, rotate it using Procsetup once again. Each time, we fill the ellipse using Procfill.

This program can be used to explore a variety of shapes in the time-honoured experimental fashion of computer art. Typical designs are also illustrated. Once you have got a feel for the program, go wild and put in negative axes, and sizes much larger than the screen limits, and you will generate some dramatic effects. Next week, we will conclude by developing a program to elaborate pictures based on these designs.

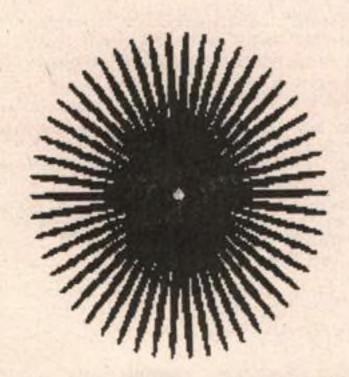
RAD OF X AXIS = ?40 RAD OF Y AXIS = ?300 NO. OF PETALS = ?14



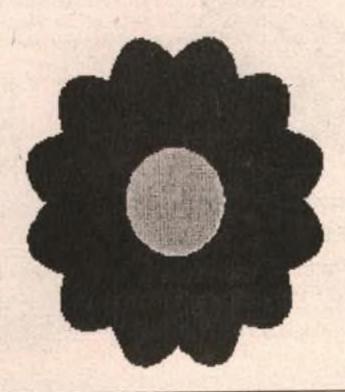
RAD OF X AXIS = ?156 RAD OF Y AXIS = ?35

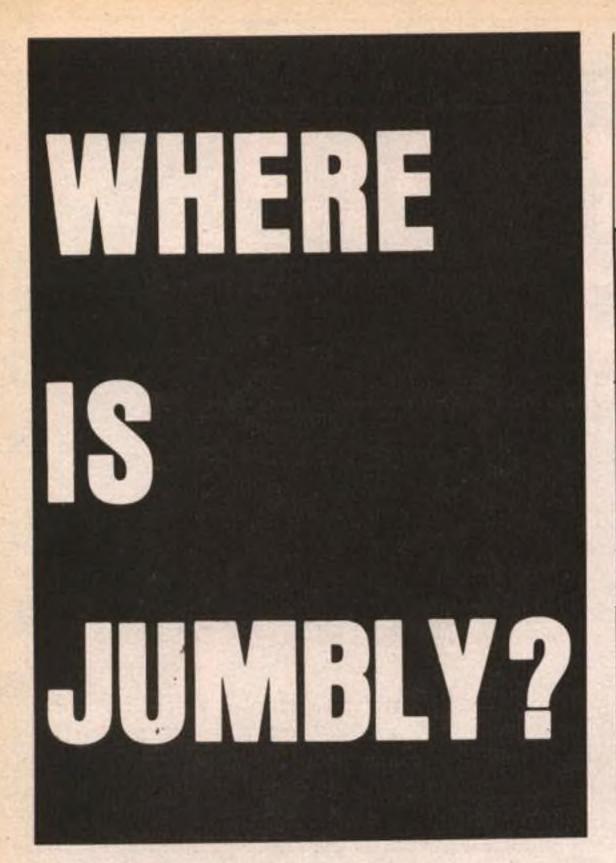


RAD OF X AXIS = ?150 RAD OF Y AXIS = ?7 NO. OF PETALS = ?50



RAD OF X AXIS = ?80 RAD OF Y AXIS = ?306 NO. OF PETALS = ?12





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BBC & EDUCATION

```
VDU29,640;512;
PROGRAM 1
                                                                    GCOLØ, 1
10 REM Fixed Rotation of Ellipses
                                                                    PROCSETUP (XX.YY)
                                                              120
20 MODE1: VDU28,0,1,39,0
                                                                    TH=Z*PI/N
                                                              130
30 DIM X (60), Y (60)
                                                              142
                                                                    FOR K%=1 TO N-1
40 REPEAT
                                                                      PROCTRANSF (TH)
                                                              150
   INPUT"RADIUS OF X AXIS = ".XX
                                                                      NEXT KY.
     INPUT"RADIUS OF Y AXIS = ", YY
                                                                    IF XX>=YY THEN Z=YY ELSE Z=XX
                                                              170
     VDU29,640;512;
                                                                    Z=Z+1.25: XX=Z: YY=Z
                                                              190
     DT=2*P1/60: A=XX/YY
                                                              190
                                                                    VDU29,640-XX;512;
     C=CDS(DT):S=SIN(DT):SX=S/A:SY=S+A
90
                                                                    GCOL0,2
                                                              200
     XA=XX: YA=0: MOVE XA+XX. YA
100
                                                              210
                                                                    PROCSETUP (XX, YY)
     FOR 1%=1 TO 60
110
                                                                    AA=GET: CLS
       T=XA+C-YA+SY
120
                                                                    UNTIL FALSE
        YA=YA+C+XA+SX: XA=T
130
                                                              240 END
        X(IX)=XA+XX:Y(IX)=YA:DRAW XA+XX,YA
140
                                                              250 DEFPROCSETUP (XX, YY)
150
       NEXT 1%
                                                              260 DT=2*PI/60:A=XX/YY
    REPEAT
                                                              270 C=COS(DT): S=SIN(DT): 5X=S/A: SY=S*A
        INPUT "ANGLE OF PIVOT = ", TH
                                                              280 XA=XX:YA=0
        TH=RAD (TH): CC=COS (TH): SS=SIN(TH)
                                                              290 FOR 1%=1 TO 60
        XA=X (60) *CC-Y (60) *SS
                                                                   T=XA+C-YA+SY
    YA=X (60) +SS+Y (60) +CC
200
                                                                    YA=YA*C+XA*SX: XA=T
210
        MOVE XA, YA
                                                                   X(IX) = XA + XX + Y(IX) = YA
        FOR I%=1 TO 60
220
                                                                   NEXT I%
         XA=X(I%)*CC-Y(I%)*SS
230
                                                              340 PROCFILL
          YA=X(I%) #SS+Y(I%) #CC
240
                                                              350 ENDPROC
          DRAW XA, YA
250
                                                              360 DEFPROCTRANSF (TH)
          NEXT 1%
260
                                                              370 C=COS(TH):S=SIN(TH)
        UNTIL THOO
270
                                                              380 FOR 1%=1 TO 60
     AA=GET: CLG
                                                                    T=X(I%) +C-Y(I%) +S
     UNTIL FALSE
270
                                                                   Y(I%)=X(I%)*S+Y(I%)*C:X(I%)=T
300 END
                                                              410 NEXT IX
                                                              420 PROCFILL
 PROGRAM 2
                                                              430 ENDPROC
                                                              440 DEFPROCFILL
 10 REM Exploring Patterns of Ellipses
                                                             450 MOVE X (60) , Y (60) : MOVE X (1) , Y (1)
 20 REM (C) Michael Batty, 1983
                                                             460 PLOT85, X (59), Y (59)
 30 MODE!
                                                              470 FOR 1%=2 TO 29
 40 DIM X (60), Y (60)
                                                              480 PLOT85, X(I%), Y(I%): J%=60-I%
 50 VDU23,1,0;0;0;0;0;
                                                              490 PLOT85, X (J%), Y (J%)
 50 REPEAT
                                                              500 NEXT 1%
 70 INPUT TAB(10), "RAD OF X AXIS = ", XX
                                                              510 PLOTES, X (30), Y (30)
      INPUT TAB(10), "RAD OF Y AXIS = ", YY
 90 INPUT TAB(10), "NO. OF PETALS = ",N
```

LYNX SOFTWARE

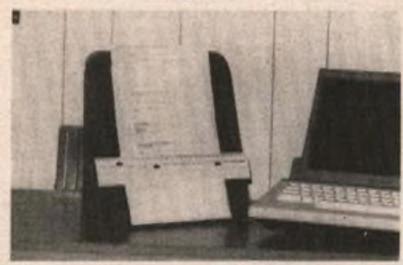
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Death Race

on Vic20

This program is intended for people like me; ie, those people who have a warped sense of humour. The idea of the game is to run over as many people as possible

whilst avoiding hazards such as oil slicks, pits in the road, and of course, the posts on both sides. The keys are z-left and m-right, but are easily changed by altering the values in lines 120 and 130.

Program notes

Lines

Calls a subroutine to initia

Initialise variables and move the cursor to 15-20 the screen bottom.

Make up the main program loop, the 30-60 variable E stands for EVENT.

Print and move the road, and check to see 100-170 if anything is hit.

Print a hazard or Print a Pedestrian in 200-380 which case this routine takes over all functions until the character is off the screen or dead.

1000-2000 Set up the graphics (called by line 10). 3000-3030 Print out the score and if wanted will restart the game.

5000-5010 Produce squelch sound.

6000-6050 Produce skid and explosion sound effects.

The program will run on either the unexpanded Vic20 or Vic + 3K.

alise the graphic	S.	PROGRAM OF	
NEXT RETURN	OO POWER OO DOWER	PROGRAM OF THE WEEK	

10 GOTO1000

15 CLR: POKE36878, 10: G=0: PRINT"]": POKE36879,59

16 CH=0:D=0:SC=0:CA=7680+6*22+11:CO=CA+ 30720: POKE36869, 255: POKECA, 0: POKECO, 0

20 SR=7:POKE782,0:POKE781,22:SYS65520

30 GOSUB100: IFCH=1THENCH=0: GOTO30

40 E=RND(1): IFEC. 1THENGOSUB200

60 GOTO30

100 POKECA, 32: POKE36874, 128+G: G=G+1: IFG> 35ANDRND(1)<.1THENG=-1

105 IFG>55THENG=-1

110 PRINTTAB(SR);"#AA AA": D=D+.2

120 PR=PEEK(203): IFPR()33ANDPR()36THEN140

130 CA=CA-1:CO=CO-1:IFPR=36THENCA=CA+2: CO=CO+2

140 IFPEEK(CA)=1THENGOSUB6030:GOTO3000

142 IFPEEK(CA)>1ANDPEEK(CA)<10THENGOSUB6000 :GOTO3000

144 IFPEEK(CA)>9ANDPEEK(CA)<18THENGOSUB5000: SC=SC+(INT(RND(1)*3+1)*10):P=P1+1:RE TURN

150 POKECA, 0: POKECO, 0

160 X=INT(RND(1)*3)-1:SR=SR+X:IFSR=00RSR= 12THENSR=SR-X

170 RETURN

200 IFRND(1) C. 8THEN250

210 P=INT(RND(1)*4+2+SR):CH=1

220 IFRND(1)(.5THENPRINTTAB(P)"層TTBC端層面E" RETURN

230 PRINTTAB(P)"维丁FG類量料I":RETURN

250 WH=INT(RND(1)*4+1)

255 P=3R+6:F1=SR:Z=0

260 PRINT": ONWHGOTO270,275,280,285

270 PRINTTAB(F)"混J熵K":G0T0295

275 PRINTTAB(P)"唯 糖酬":G0T0295

280 PRINTTAB(P)"新城的":GOTO295

285 PRINTTAB(P) "網際時間"

295 IFZ>0THEN360

300 Z=0:FORL=1T020

310 GOSUB100:Z=Z+1

330 POKE781,22-Z:POKE782,0:SYS65520-

340 PRINTTAB(P)"TI III "

345 IFP=P1+1THENL=20:GOT0360

350 IFL/2=INT(L/2)ANDRND(1)<.7THENP=P-1: PRINT": ONWHGOTO270,275,280,285

355 GOT0260

360 POKE781,22:POKE782,0:SYS65520

370 380

1000 POKE52,28:POKE56,28:POKE51,0:CLR

1010 FORI=0T0511:POKE7168+I,PEEK(32768+I): **NEXT**

1020 FORI=1T0152

1030 READJ: POKE7167+I, J: NEXT

1040 DATA126,129,129,255,153,255,195,195,0, 0,0,24,24,0,0,0

1050 DATA24, 126, 255, 246, 107, 235, 107, 43, 48, 124, 254, 46, 108, 108, 110, 111, 43, 107, 118, 127,255

1060 DATA255, 103, 2, 111, 111, 34, 254, 255, 251, 120,56,1,7,15,31,63,38,107,103

1070 DATA128,224,240,248,252,32,118,118,111 110,63,63,31,15,7,1

1080 DATA118,54,252,252,248,240,224,128,24, 60,60,60,126,60,24,126

1090 DATA189, 189, 189, 126, 60, 102, 195, 102, 0, 8, 28, 28, 15, 14, 14, 62

1100 DATA62, 126, 126, 97, 97, 225, 33, 30, 0, 28, 62, 28, 28, 12, 28, 60, 92, 156, 156, 148, 148, 14 6,182,0

1110 DATA0,0,3,3,1,3,71,203,251,243,243,113, 169, 169, 83, 0, 255, 255, 255, 255, 255, 255 , 255, 255

2000 GOTO15

3000 POKE36869,240:POKE36874,0:PRINT"TROP YOU SCORED "; SC

3005 PRINT"XNIN ABOUT"; INT(D); "MILES

3010 PRINT" X PRESS SPACE TO PLAY MAGAIN"

3020 FORDE=1T01000:NEXT:POKE198,0:WAIT198,1 :GETA\$:IFA\$<>" "THEN3020

3030 GOT015

5000 FORX=127T0200STEP4:POKE36875,X:POKE 36877, X+15:NEXT:POKE36875,0:POKE36877,0

5010 RETURN

6000 POKE36878,15

6010 POKE36877,245

6020 FORDE=1T03000:NEXT

6030 POKE36878, 15: POKE36877, 220: FORL=15T00 STEP-1:POKE36878, L:FORM=1T0200:NEXTM

6035 POKE36879, INT(RND(1)*245)+10: NEXTL

6040 POKE36877,0:POKE36878,0:POKE36879,127

6050 RETURN

Death Race by J Vanderslims

Tank Battle

on Spectrum

The program is a Tank Battle-type game in which two players battle against each other to score 15 points. The program is structured as follows:

Program notes

Defines the graphics Outputs the screen display and sets up an array to contain the positions of the obsta-

launched is determined for each tank.

500 Starts the subroutine to output tank one 600 Starts the subroutine to output tank two Starts the subroutine to output any fired missiles. Also in this subroutine there are checks to see if an enemy tank, an obstacle or a wall have been hit

Starts the main loop in which the direction 1500-1570 Outputs the instructions for the program and whether or not a missile has been 1700-1750 Contains the routine for the option to re-run the program

```
REM ****** © G.5YLPH ******
REM ****** MAY 1983 *****
       NEM 未来设计并来并并并并并并并并并并并并并并并不
      LET FIR =0: LET 5H0-0. LET D
I=2.
I=3
       LET SCURE1=0: LET SCORE2=0
    8 DIM F (21,32)
     9 GO SUB 1500
   10 FOR G=1 TO 6: READ A$: FOR
I=0 TO 7: READ D: POKE USR A$+I,
D: NEXT I: NEXT G
   20 BORDER 5. PAPER 4. INK W: C
   25 FOR K=0 TO 31: PRINT AT 0,K
INK 6;" NEXT K
30 FOR I=1 TO 160: READ D.E: P
NEXT I
82 IF SCORE2>=15 THEN FOR Q=1
TO 100: NEXT 0: PRINT AT 10,5; I
NK 2; FLASH 1; "PLAYER 2 IS THE W
INNER": GO TO 1700
85 LET x$=("1" AND (IN 63486=2
47 OR IN 63486=243))+("2" AND IN
64510=247)+("3" AND IN 64510=25
1)+("4" AND IN 65022=251)
95 IF x$="3" THEN LET X=X-1: L
ET A$="\frac{1}{2}": LET DI=3: IF FIR-0 TH
EN LET DIR=3
97 IF X$="2" THEN LET Y=Y-1: L
97 IF X$="2" THEN LET X=X+1: LET A$="E" LET DI=2: IF FIR=0 TH
EN LET DIR=2
98 IF X#="1" THEN LET Y=Y-1. L
ET A#="H": LET DI=1: IF FIR=0 TH
 EN LET DIR=1
99 IF X$="4" THEN LET Y=Y+1: L
ET A$="例": LET DI=4: IF FIR=0 TH
EN LET DIR=4
  100 LET C=U: LET D=U
105 LET Y$= ("1" AND (IN 61438=2
 54 OR IN 61438=252))+("2" AND IN
  49150=253) + ("3" AND IN 57342=25
 3) + ("4" AND IN 57342=254)
121 IF Y$="1" THEN LET U=U-1:
 ET 85 "W"
                LET PO-1: IF SHO @ TH
 EN LET POI=1
  122 IF Y$="2" THEN LET U=U+1:
 ET B$="M"
              : LET PO=4: IF SHO=0 TH
 EN LET PDI=4
  123 IF Y$="3" THEN LET W=W-1: L
T B$="3": LET PD=3: IF SHO=0 TH
 EN LET POI=3
 124 IF Y$="4" THEN LET W=W+1: LET B$="E": LET PO=2: IF SHO=0 TH
               LET PO=2: IF SHO=0 TH
 EN LET POI=2
  140 GD SUB 500
  145 GO SUB 500
  150 LET FI=IN 63485=251 OR IN 6
 3486=243
  151 LET SH=IN 61438=253 OR IN
 1438=252
  155 IF FIR = 0 THEN LET FIR = FI:
 ET X1=X:
              LET Y1=Y
  156 IF SHO = @ THEN LET SHO = SH: L
 ET U1=U:
              LET W1=W
  160 IF (FIR(>0) OR (SHO(>0) THE
 N GO SUB 700: GO TO 190
  190 GO TO 80
  500 IF X (=0 THEN LET X=0
  510 IF
            X>=31 THEN LET X=31
  520 IF
            X>=31 THEN LET X=31
```

```
530 IF Y = 1 THEN LET Y = 1

540 IF Y > = 21 THEN LET Y = 21

550 IF F (Y , X + 1) = 1 OR (X = W AND Y

= c) THEN LET X = A. LET Y = B

555 IF Y (> A OR X (> B THEN PRINT

AT B A; "
  560 PRINT AT Y,X; INK 2;A$
565 BEEP .01,0
   570 RETURN
  600 IF W = 31 THEN LET W = 31:
620 1F U(=1 PHENGLE) U=1

630 IF U)=21 THEN LET U=21

640 IF F(U,U+1)=1 OR (U=Y AND W

=X) THEN LET U=C* LET U=D

650 PRINT HT U,U; INK 1;85

655 BEEP .01,0

660 IF U(>C OR W(>D THEN PRINT

870 RETURN
   670 RETURN
   700 FOR G=1 TO 3
  701 IF FIR=0 THEN GU TO 070
702 LET Y2=Y1; LET X2=X1
710 IF DIR=1 THEN GO TO 750
720 IF DIR=2 THEN GO TO 760
730 IF DIR=3 THEN GO TO 770
740 IF DIR=4 THEN GO TO 780
750 LET Y1=Y1-1: GO TO 790
   760 LET X1=X1+1: GO TO 790
   770 LET X1=X1-1: GO TO 790
780 LET Y1=Y1+1
790 IF X1>31 THEN PRINT AT Y1,3
1; INK 2; FLASH 1; "" LET X1=31
: LET FIR=0: PRINT AT Y1,X1;"
BEEP .01,-10

800 IF X1(0 THEN PRINT AT Y1,0;

INK 2; FLASH 1; "": LET X1=0: L

ET FIR=0: PRINT AT Y1,X1; " BE

EP .01,-10

810 IF Y1>21 THEN PRINT AT 21,X

1; INK 2; FLASH 1; "": LET Y1=21

: LET FIR=0: PRINT AT Y1,X1; " :
BEEP .01,-10
820 IF Y1(1 THEN PRINT AT 1,X1;
INK 2; FLASH 1; " LET Y1=1: L
ET FIR=0: PRINT AT Y1,X1; " BE
   021 IF X=X2 AND Y=Y2 THEN GO TO
   826
   824 IF FIR=0 THEN GO TO 870
825 PRINT AT Y2 X2; " "
826 PRINT AT Y1; X1; " "
930 IF FIY1, X1+1; =1 THEN PRINT AT Y1; X2; " LET FIR=0: LET F(Y
    , \times 1 + 1) = 0:
                       PRINT AT Y1, X1,
 EEP .01,-10
840 IF Y1=U AND X1=W THEN PRINT
   840 IF Y1=U AND X1=0 H 2;"
AT Y1 X1; FLRSH 1; INK 2;"
 ET FIR=0: LET SCORE1=SCORE1+1
 EEP .01,30
   846 IF U1=Y1 AND W1=X1 THEN PRI
 NT AT Y1,X1;
                            INK 2; FLASH 1;"
   LET SHO =0: LET FIR =0: PRINT AT
 11,X1;" ": BEEP
850 IF FIR=0 TH
                                   -01, -10
                               THEN GO TO 670
   870 IF SHO =0 THEN GO TO
   880 LET U2: U1: LET
                                           いるこれで
                 POT=1 THEN GO
   890 IF
   300 11
                  HOI E THEN
                                                10 545
   910 IF POI=3 THEN GO TO
   920 IF POI=4 THEN GO TO 960
   930 LET U1=U1-1 GO TO 970
   940 LET
                    W1=W1+1: GO TO 970
   950 LET
 950 LET U1=U1+1
970 IF W1>31 THEN PRINT AT U1,3
1; INK 2; FLASH 1; "": LET W1=31
LET SHO=0: PRINT AT U1,W1; ":
                   W1=W1-1
                                      GO TO 978
BEER .01,-10

200 IF W1:0 THEN PRINT AT U1.0;

INK 2; FLASH 1, WE LET W1=0 L

ET SHO=0: PRINT AT U1, W1;
 EP .01, -10
  990 IF VIDEL THEM PRINT AT
 1) INR 2, FLASH 1, " LET U1=21
```

PRINT AT U1, W1; ": SH0=0: BEEP .01,-10 THEN PRINT AT 1,W1;
INK 2; FLASH 1; LET V1=1: LET SHO=0: PRINT AT V1,W1; EP .01,-10
1010 IF W=W2 AND V=V2 THEN GO TO 1040 1020 IF SHO = 0 THEN GO TO 1070 1030 PRINT AT U2, W2; 1040 -SINT HT U1 W1; 1050 1 F (U1, U1+1) 1 THEN FRINT AT (U1, U1) LET SHO = 0. LET F (U 1, U1+1) = 0. PRINT AT U1, U1; " E EEP . W1 . - 100 1060 1 . W1 - Y HND W1 = X THEN PHINT AT Y1 . X1; FLASH 1; INK 2 . . . L ET SHO = 0 LET SCORE2 = SCORE2 + 1 . B EEP .01,30 1065 IF V1=Y1 AND W1=X1 THEN PRI NT AT Y1,X1; INK 2; FLASH 1; X1; LET SHO=0. LET FIR=0. FRINT AT Y1,X1; BEEP .01,-10 1070 NLXT 0 1080 HLTURN 1500 BORDER 4: PAPER 4: INK 0: C 1510 PRINT HT 2,10; PAPER 4; INK 1520 PRINT HT 4.11, "O G. SYLPH" 1530 PRINT REACH 15 POINTS B ROGRAM IS TO Y ATTACKING H YOUR TANK" YOUR OPPONENT WIT 1540 PRINT "THE CONTROLS ARE: -PLAYER 2 P. O. O. L. 1550 FOR G=1 TO 100: NEXT G: PRI NT AT 21,9; "PRESS ANY KEY" 1560 IF INKEYS="" THEN GO TO 156 1570 RETURN 1700 FOR G=1 TO 200: NEXT G: BOR DER 4: PAPER 4: CLS 1710 PRINT AT 10,4: DO YOU WANT TO CUNTINUEY

1720 -RINT HT 12,13,"(Y/N)"
1730 IF INKEY = "Y" OR INKEY = "Y" THEN BUN 1740 IF INKEY #="N" OR INKEY #="N" THEN STOP 1750 GO TO 1730 2000 DATA "a",255,255,28,124,124 28,255,255,"6",255,255,56,62,62 56,255,255,"C",195,219,219,255, 255,255,195,195,"d",195,195,255, 255,255,219,219,195,"e",0,0,24 24,0,0,0,"f",145,82,0,3,64,144, 36,66 35,66
3000 DATA 1,15,27,10,20,33,4,10
2,13,22,14,25,33,4,10
2,13,22,23,24,23,34,13
1,2,22,3,24,23,34,14,4,16
2,13,22,3,3,4,13,4,14,4,16
30,22,3,23,3,4,13,4,14,4,16
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30,33,3,4,13,3,4,13,14,14,16
30,33,3,4,13,3,4,13,14,14,16
30,33,3,4,13,14,14,16
30,33,3,4,13,14,14,16
30,33,3,

> Tank Battle by Gordon Sylph

Initialise

on BBC Micro This short program sets up the red user definable keys to produce the colour codes needed for instant colour text on the mode 7 screen without having to use the CHR\$ number for the particular colour.

For example controll gives the value can be omitted.

128. Add this to the value of control A (which is one) and you get the total of 129, which equals the colour red.

The Rem statements aren't needed and

10 REM PROGRAM TO SET-UP USER DEFINABLE KEYS 20 REM TO PRODUCE COLOUR CODES USED IN MODE 7 30 REM FO RED 40 *KEYO !!!A 50 REM FI GREEN PO XMEAT ITTE 70 REM +2 YELLOW 80 *KEY2 !!!E 90 REM +3 BLUE 100 *KEY3 1! ID 110 REM F4 MAGENTA 120 *KEY4 !!!E 130 REM 45 DYAN 140 %KEY5 111F 150 REM +6 WHITE 160 *KEY6 !!!G 170 REM 47 FLASHING 100 *KEY7 | | | H 190 REM FB STEADY Initialise 200 *KEY8 | | | I

by Neville Jones

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Time

on ZX81

Frequently, when designing electronic circuits, a time delay has to be calculated. This can be tedious if the time has to be converted into hours, minutes and seconds and the conversion has to be repeated several times.

This short program for the expanded

ZX81 utilises the ZX81's string handling capabilities in order to calculate the time, frequency, time in hours, minutes and seconds from the values of resistance and capacitance entered as they would be written.

The resistance and capacitance can be entered as 220K and 33N rather than converting to 220,000 ohms and 0.000000033 farads respectively. Also resistances can be entered as a calculation;

for example several resistors in parallel. This also applies to capacitors. These features can be by-passed and the resistances and capacitance entered as 150,000 ohms, etc.

The prefix and time conversions can easily be changed to different units, for example, the time could be extended to days. The print statements could be reduced so that the program will run on the 1K ZX81.

```
160 LET G= ((D/3600) -F) *60
       PRINT "ENTER TIME CONSTANT"
                                                               H= (G-INT G) *60
                                                         LET
                                                    180
   10
                                                    200
                                                         PRINT AT 0,0; "TIME CONSTANT
       INPUT
   20
                "ENTER RESISTANCE (OHM
                                                    210
       PRINT
   30
                                                   220
50
                                                         PRINT AT 1,0; "RESISTANCE: ";
       INPUT BE
PRINT "INPUT CAPACITANCE (FA
   40
                                                                       2,0; "CAPACITANCE: "
   50
                                                   230 PRINT AT
RADS)"
       INPUT CS
IF B$ (LEN B$) ="M" THEN LET
                                                                       3,0; "FREQUENCY: "; 1
   60
                                                         PRINT AT
                                                    240
                                                  245 PRINT AT 4,0; "TIME: ";D
B=UAL B$ (1 TO (LEN B$-1)) *1E6
   80 IF B$ (LEN B$) ="K"
                                  THEN LET
B=UAL B$ (1 TO (LEN B$-1)) *1E3
90 IF B$ (LEN B$) <> "M" AND B$ (L
EN B$) <> "K" THEN LET B=UAL B$
                                                                       6,0; INT G;" MINUTE
                                                                  AT
                                                         PRINT
                                                    260
EN B$) <> "K" THEN LET B=UAL B$

100 IF C$ (LEN C$) = "U" THEN LET

C=UAL C$ (1 TO (LEN C$-1)) *1E-6

110 IF C$ (LEN C$) = "N" THEN LET

C=UAL C$ (1 TO (LEN C$-1)) *1E-9

120 IF C$ (LEN C$) = "P" THEN LET
                                                  270 PRINT AT
                                                                       7,0; INT H; " SECOND
                                                         PRINT AT 9,0; "ENDIS
                                                                       9,0; "ENGTHER RUNG"
                                                    230
                                                    290
                                                    300
                                                         CLS
GOTO 10
C=UAL C$ (1 TO (LEN C$-1)) *1E-12
                                                    310
130 IF C$ (LEN C$) <>"U" AND C$ (LEN C$) <>"P"
                                                                                       Time
THEN LET
             C=UAL C$
             D=A*B*C
F=INT (
                                                                                       by J Moulder
                       (D/3600)
```

Doily

on Dragon

This program draws a doily-like shape with various numbers of nodes (corners). Other adaptations give different patterns and shapes as listed below.

Line 20: This line dimensions the arrays that will hold the horizontal and vertical positions of the nodes.

Lines 40 to 80: These lines collect the details of the shape's size, colour and

number of nodes.

Line 90: This line gives variable D the number of degrees between each node from the centre of the screen (128,96), and puts the screen high-resolution mode 3.

Lines 100 to 120: These lines make sure the pattern is drawn on a contrasting background.

Lines 140 to 160: These lines set up the position of each node (150 the vertical position, 160 the horizontal position), and place a dot in its place.

Line 170: This line increases the angle

variable to separate the nodes.

Lines 200 to 220: These lines draw the design on to the screen.

Lines 230 to 240: These lines hold the pattern on the screen until the space bar is pressed.

Variation 1. 195 CIRCLE(128,96),R,C

Variation 2. 195 LETB = S/2
200 FOR A = 1 to S
220 NEXT A

Variation 3. 200 FORA = 1 TO S:LETB = 1 + A
205 IF A = S THEN LETB = 1
220 NEXT A

Variation 4. 205 IF B = A + 1 THEN GOTO 220
Star
207 IF A = 1 AND B = S THEN GOTO 220

```
10 REM PATTERNS BY J. BURR
20 DIMD(360):DIMA(360)
30 CLS
40 INPUT "RADIUS OF THE SHAPE (MAX 96)": R
50 IFR>96THENGOTO40
60 INPUT"COLOUR OF THE LINES (1 TO 4)"; C
70 IFC>40RC<1THENGOTO60
80 INPUT"NO. OF SIDES"; S
90 LETD=360/S:PMODE3,1
100 IFC>2THENPCLS2
110 IFC<3THENPCLS4
120 SCREEN1,0
130 FORA=1TOS
140 LETD(A)=96-(R*(COS(D*6.2831853/360)))
150 LETA(A)=128-(R*(SIN(D*6.2831853/360)))
160 PSET (A(A), D(A), C)
170 LETD=D+(360/S)
180 NEXTA
190 COLORC, 2
200 FORA=1TOS: FORB=A TOS
210 LINE (A(A), D(A)) - (A(B), D(B)), PSET
                                                    Doily
220 NEXTB, A
230 IFINKEY$<>" "THENGOTO230
                                                     by Joseph Burr
240 GOT030
```

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Jungle Picture

on Dragon

This program shows a native playing a drum. Sitting patiently beside him is his

dog. I wrote the program to show that the Dragon can produce good animation, without having to use *Get* and *Put*. The program works by drawing up one picture, and then drawing another one. Although only three pictures are used, the effect is

still pretty good.

Variables used

B\$ Draws the drum

T\$ Draws dog in first position

T1\$ Draws dog in second position G\$ Draws the ground and shrubs

30 REM * 6/4/83 *

40 REM * GRAPHICS DEMO *

50 REM ********

60 CLS

70 PRINT@166, "THE DRUMMING NATIVE"

80 PRINT

90 PRINT@238, "BY"

100 PRINT@296, "ANDREW PIDGEON"

110 FOR DLAY = 0 TO 5000 : NEXT

120 PMODE 4,1 : SCREEN 1,1 : PCLS

130 B\$ = "BM110,110; R24; D10; G4; L4; D4; U4; L8; D4; U4; L5; H4; U10" : REM DRUM

140 T\$ = "BM150,128; U1; R2; U2; L3; U2; R3; U1; R1; D1; R2; D1; R7; E3; G3; D4; L11" : REM DOG IN POSITION 1

150 T1\$ = "BM150,128; U1; R2; U3; L3; U2; R2; U1; R1; D1; R7; H3; F3; D5; L11" : REM DOG IN POSITION 2

160 G\$ = "BM0,128; R20; H4; F4; U4; D4; E4; G4; R170; H6; F6; U6; D6; E6; G6; R236" : REM GROUND & SHRUBS 170 DRAW "BM120,96; R4; D3; L1; D2; R1; E6; H2; E2; F6; G2; H2; G6; D6; R2; D1; L12; U1; R2; U6; H6; G2; H2; E6; F2; G2; F6; R1; U2; L1; U3": DRAW G\$: DRAW B\$: DRAW T\$: FOR DLAY = 0 TO 50: NEXT: REM DRAWS FIRST FRAME

180 PCLS: DRAW "BM120,96; R4; D3; L1; D2; R5; F3; E2; F2; G6; H2; E2; H3; D6; R2; D1; L12; U1; R2; U6; H6; G2; H2; E6; F2; G2; F6; R1; U2; L1; U3": DRAW G\$: DRAW B\$: DRAW T1\$: SOUND RND(240),1: FOR DLAY = 0 TO 50: NEXT: REM DRAWS SECOND FRAME

190 PCLS: DRAW "BM120,96; R4; D3; L1; D2; R1; E6; H2; E2; F6; G2; H2; G6; D6; R2; D1; L12; U1; R2; U6; G3; F2; G2; H6; E2; F2; E3; R5; U2; L1; U3": DRAW G\$: DRAW B\$: DRAW T\$: SOUND RND(240),1: FOR DLAY = 0 TO 50: NEXT: REM DRAWS THIRD FRAME

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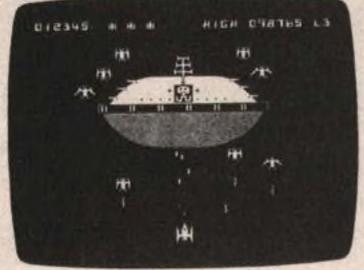
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Tony Bridge's Adventure Corner



Adventure problems

This week some more Adventures, and several problems that you may be able to help with.

I don't get many letters regarding Commodore 64 programs — this either means that there are not a lot of Adventures available for the machine, or that Commodore users are an expecially cerebral lot (unless you know different . . .)! I don't know what the answer is, but Bob McClemont has written to me, asking for help in Hitch Hiker's Guide. He can't get past the Great Green Arkleseizure! He is also having a problem in Will o' the Wisp, in which the Wizard sends him to sleep and transports poor old Bob to the Room of Sleeping Rocks. Is there another Commodore Adventurer who can help him out of his misery?

A little lower down the Commodore scale is the Vic20, and there is no shortage of letters about Adventures for this machine! They are almost always about the Scott Adams series and typical of these is the letter from Dr. Raymond Wheeder, of Stoke-on-Trent. His wife bought a Vic, and since then, family Wheeder has been immersed in Adven-

ture cartridges.

The Count is the one that Dr. Raymond is currently playing - and he seems to have done quite well too. He has worked out that he needs to smoke a cigarette, and then lay down in the coffin, keeping awake with the No-Doz tablets, and keeping a supply of garlic handy. The Count proves a bit trickier to catch than that, however, and blows out the cigarettebefore the player can Zap him somehow. The good Doctor (Wheeder, that is!) says that the words Stairs and Roof are recognised by the program, so he knows there are locations that he has not yet seen can anyone help him find those locations?

The Scott Adams series is also available for the Video Genie, and Strange Odyssey is giving S J Clark a few headaches. Is there life on the other side of the Mining Colony on Jupiter? What is the meaning of the Black Hole? Who are the Novaks? Is it possible to enter the maintenance hatch in the Scout Ship? What is this all about? Please help!

Every Vic adventurer will want to know the answer to the next question: Has Scott

Adams got any new adventures up his sleeve? Well, his company, Adventure International, as well as being modest, is also extremely rich and a powerful force on the US computer games scene (Get rich. OK - what next?) they have not got there by sitting on their behinds watching the world go by, and so we can safely assume that they will be working on something.

They are also producers of arcade games (the real variety!) and are the authors of "the world's first interactive war arcade game" which features sophisticated multi-screen, multi-player techniques. This is probably the reason for a long silence on the home micro front.

As to whether we shall see the Adventureland series implemented on other micros depends on the impact of those machines on the US micro scene - the Commodore range are the biggest sellers at the lower end of the market, which is showing some resistance to the Sinclair/ Timex machine.

In a week or so I shall be looking at Adventure International and the man behind the name.

Now, another Spectrum Adventure, and help needed with Knight's Quest, from already been covered in the Corner. So, for those of you who are not regular readers of PCW, below is a list of Adventures so far reviewed.

Let's finish on the subject of books about computer adventures. To put it simply, there are not many! Butterfield, Parker and Honigmann mention the hobby briefly in their school-fee supplementing What Is D *& D? (Penguin), and a brief mention is also made in Ian Livingstone's Dicing With Dragons (RKP), but, unbelievably, the only book devoted entirely to the subject is Creating Adventure Programs on the BBC Micro by Ian Watt, published by Interface.

The book describes how to plan and write your own text Adventure, and includes three programs, along with hints on how to play the Adventures. As many letters I receive ask where books on the subject may be obtained, there would seem to be a demand.

The aforementioned lan Livingstone, together with Steve Jackson (both highlyrespected names in the gaming (D & D dept.) world) has produced a series of books for Puffin, which, although not computer adventure books, may well be of interest. The series begins with The War-

3 March	The Hobbit	(Melbourne Hous	e) Spectrum
	Perilous Swamp Sorcerer's Island	(Psion)	ZX81
24 March	Ghast Encounters Action Quest	(JV Software)	Atan
17 March	Knight's Quest	(Phipps)	Spectrum
28 April	Colossal Adventure	(Level 9)	ASSESSMENT PROPERTY.
12 May	Sorcerer's Castle Mad Martha 1	(Microgen)	Spectrum
19 May		(Kayde Asp)	
26 May	The Valley	(Carnell)	ZX81/Spectrum
9 June	Volcanic Dungeon	(Synapse)	Alari
16 June	Pharoah's Curse	(JVS)	Atari
	Journey to the Planets	(Electra)	
30 June	Castle of Death	(Specsoft)	
	Castle of Doom	(Gilsoft)	Spectrum
	Magic Castle	(Wintersoft)	Dragon
7 July	Ring of Darkness	(vviiiterson)	Dragon
21 July	The Hobbit (Part 2)	(Ouinhailua)	Spectrum
28 July	Velnor's Lair	(Quicksilva)	
4 August	Madness and the Minotaur	(Dragon Data)	Dragon
18 August	White Barrows	(ASP)	Spectrum
25 August	The Hobbit (Part 3)		
And finally:			the team beau.
23 June	The Top Eight	your top favourit	date — let me know es)

Phipps Associates. Several people are flummoxed right from the start in trying to deal with the Dragon. This Adventure, written by Mike Farley, is one in which the player cannot progress one inch without solving the puzzles at each location - no stumbling about, hoping to fall over the solution (and no peeking at the listing, either, it's all in indecipherable code!). However, everyone seems to want to kill the poor beast on first sight. Just be patient, you will indeed have to kill it, but later rather than sooner! For now, you should really try and make friends with it.

Other Adventurers are stuck later, having solved the problem of the Dragon. Now, I haven't had enough time to get too far in this Adventure, absorbing though it is, so I'd like to hear from anyone who has managed to finish the Quest.

Next week, I shall be looking at some more from Phipps Associates.

Many of your letters ask for a review of a certain adventure and quite often it has

lock of Firetop Mountain, and takes the form of solo Adventures.

With the aid of two ordinary dice, and pencil and paper, the player works through the book, taking decisions at each turn of the page on where to go next. Good pictures, and a nice touch of humour, make these books rather interesting.

Finally, if you are one of the many stuck at the final gate in Pimania, and wondering how to open it - think about the title, and do a little mathematical cogitating . . .

This series of articles is designed for novice and experienced Adventurers alike. Each week Tony Bridge will be looking at different Adventures and advising you on some of the problems and pitfalls you can expect to encounter. So, if you have an Adventure you want reviewed, or if you are stuck in an Adventure and cannot progress any further, write to: Tony Bridge, Adventure Corner, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.



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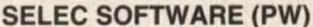
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PCW BINDER

N Hamer of Buttermere, Greenways, Spennymoor, Durham, writes:

Q I have bought Popular Computing Weekly since March and have found it very helpful and interesting. However, as my collection of magazines is growing rapidly, I very much need a binder of some sort to store them. Do you have anything to offer? If so, how much does it cost and where do I obtain one?

Also, my Spectrum has been acting very strangely recently and a local computer club has suggested that it could be the recent heatwave. Do you know if any other readers have had a similar problem?

A This is a problem that we do not, at the moment, have a real answer for. There are a few requests for binders, but not enough to make it worthwhile for us to get some specially made.

However, a friend has just pointed out that W H Smith carry magazine binders for 24 magazines, though apparently they are not in all branches of Smiths.

As for your question about your Spectrum, well I blamed the weather a few weeks ago when the same thing happened to me, but in all honesty, I do not know.

Continuing my policy of 'Quickies' I have been following over the last few weeks, here are some for the Spectrum.

D Marsh of Theydon Bois, wants to know how to test the size of the memory on his Spectrum. Ben Jenkins of Wallasey wants to know the same. B Walton of Whitley Bay knows the answer, but just wants to check if he is right.

You can do this either by looking at Ramtop, which is situated almost at the limit of the memory, or else by entering a Dim statement such as Dim A\$ (1024,40). This asks the computer to set aside an area 40K large, which is, of course, not possible on a 16K computer.

F. Bennet, of Rotherham, Paul Slack of Burton-on-Trent, and someone whose name I cannot read from Nantwich in Cheshire all want to know where they can get a monitor for their Spectrum.

The Spectrum has a nonstandard video output. The only monitor that I know of which has an additional special interface for the Spectrum is a full colour model from Microvitec. The cost is £274 + VAT and Microvitec are at Futures Way, Bolling Road, Bradford BD4 7TU.

To end with, both H Harvey of Three Bridges, and Michael Royle of Blackburn, are seeing squares on their televisions after using their Spectrums for a while. H Harvey says he has an issue one model. I wonder if Michael does as well. From your letters, I would say that your computers are crashing because of overheating. There is nothing you can really do except return them under the guarantee.

SINGLE

J Gurney of Saxilby near Lincoln, writes:

Q Now that the Commodore disc drive is cheaper than when it was first announced, I am thinking of getting one in a single package with my Commodore 64, to which I am treating myself within the next couple of months. I understand that it is compatible with the 64, but a few changes have to be made. What changes and is a special interface necessary?

A The Vic-1540 is an intelligent drive with its own Rom and 2K of Ram. The only change needed is with the Rom. The Vic Rom chip will have to be changed for a Commodore 64 compatible chip. It has its own 6502 chip onboard, which means it can format discs while the computer is getting on with other tasks, and of course the Dos is onboard as well.

As long as you ensure that the correct Rom is onboard, then you should have no problem, and it would make a very powerful home system to buy in one go.

DRAGON FORTH

David Freeman of Buckhouse Drive, London N16, writes:

Q I know there is a disc version of Forth for my Dragon, but I have not got a disc drive. Do you know if there is a cassette based version available somewhere?

A Oasis Software of Lower North Street, Cheddar, Somerset, produce a cassette version of Forth. It costs £18.95, and is a variant of Fig Forth. The language is on one side of the tape and a demonstration program on the other. It also includes a comprehensive manual.

OBSOLETE VIC?

A A Morris of Woodward Road, Bury, writes:

Q Please tell me I am wrong. I chose to buy a computer just a few weeks ago. So, after taking the salesman's advice and counting my pennies, I bought a Vic20 at £139.50. Since then I have heard that the top five software houses are going to stop, or have stopped writing programs for it. I was thrilled at first, but now I feel conned. Please tell me and 185,000 other Vic owners that we are not going to become an endangered species.

A I remember being flooded by similar letters when the ZX Spectrum was launched and all the ZX81 owners wanted to know whether or not they would be forgotten. That was a year ago. Anyone who went to the last ZX Microfair would know that the ZX81 is still very much alive and kicking. The reason for this, and why I expect a similar situation with the Vic, is answered in your

letter - 185,000 owners!

While I do not think that the Vic will engender the depth of response that the ZX81 has, I cannot see how the Vic can be written off. If you are happy with your computer, why worry? There are so may programs already for the Vic that I cannot envisage a software famine.

The only thing that might be worrying is what were you told by the assistant? If you were told that the Vic was the latest model, then you were misinformed.

64 COMPILER

Harry Mellish of Killearn, Scotland, writes:

Q I have had a Commodore 64 for a few months and find it much better than the Vic I used to have. I always meant to get a compiler for my Vic, but never did.

But, now I am thinking of getting one for my Commodore 64. I had pretty much decided on what to get when a friend reminded me of something we had both seen a few months ago — an optimising compiler. All I can remember was that it was for the 64 and very expensive. Do you know anything about this? I plan to keep this computer for some time, so if it is worth getting I will.

An optimising compiler, not only compiles, but also tries to do it more efficiently. Naturally, if the code is compiled more efficiently and compactly, then it will run quicker.

The only such compiler I have seen for the Commodore 64 is Petspeed and costs £125. You were right when you said that it was expensive. However, it comes with a security 'dongle' and has a few additions to Pet Basic, in that it allows the use of long named variable, and extends the Det Fn to include String handling.

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JEEPERS



Despite its lack of memory, people are still buying the Vic20. Presumably, having bought it, they are sticking with it and buying add-ons for extra memory. Most of the new games I've seen require at least 3K expansion — maybe because of the need to compete with some of the spectacular Spectrum programs.

Creepers requires an additional 3K and is one of Virgin's recent releases. You control a space ship which you can move up and down and turn to face different directions.

Your task is, as ever, to blast away the little aliens that bounce up and down in front of you (and sometimes behind you). Although usually they take their punishment like men (well, like aliens), sometimes they rush for you and you must quickly move your spaceship out of the way.

Program Creepers
Price £5.95
Micro Vic20 (+3K)
Supplier Virgin Games

61/63 Portobello Road London W11

DEATH STARE

The latest releases from Phipps
Associates are not adventures
— bad news for addicts of
Knights Quest and Magic
Mountain.

Instead Black Planet and Gorgon, written by Barry Cornhill of the Aylesbury Computer Club, are what you might call multi-state arcade games. Black Planet has nine

stages through which you must pass before you can destroy the Black Planet (and get a free badge).

Gorgon is set in ancient Greece — as Spectrasses you must fight Grang and return a stolen chalice to its rightful home.

There are two sections to the game, firstly you fight off the Gorgon (Grang's friend) by reflecting his death-dealing stare back at him/her/it.

Assuming you manage this, there follows a sword fight with Grang. You can parry, thrust, advance and retreat to try and score as many hits as you can. All this within a time limit because (oblivious to the merits of the case) the Gods have decided to destroy your town by flood unless the chalice is returned.

Program Gorgon
Price £4.95
Micro Spectrum 48K

Supplier Phipps Associates 172 Kingston Road Ewell

Surrey KT19 0SD

ENERGY



Knowing quite what to say about The Oracle's Cave is not easy but one thing seems clear—it is the closest yet to a true animated graphic adventure and is excellent value for money.

Like most adventure games, there are secret passages to be discovered and monsters to be fought, but in this program you direct a little man who moves, fights, etc, according to your instructions.

If, for example, there is a cave with a rope in it and you type u for up, the little man

jumps up and climbs the rope. The effect is startling at first.

Like other adventures, you have to pay attention to things like combat energy and will have to rest if it starts to fall, but the whole quest has a time limit of five days, and resting (or any other action) uses up precious hours.

Hardened adventurers may feel limited by the single key instructions — no guessing the right words here, but the range of options is still more than I've seen on many text-only adventures.

At £7.95 it makes some adventures (particularly on other micros) look silly.

Program The Oracles Cave Price £7.95 Micro Spectrum 48K Supplier Doric Computer Services

3 The Oasis Glenfield Leicester

FUNCTIONS

Compusense has built a good reputation with its range of cartridge based utilities for the Dragon.

The latest addition to the range is *Edit* + a full screen editor for program development.

Existing Basic commands are unaffected, but various new functions are added, including up and down scrolling, specific line Goto and find string.

The program is designed to be simple to use. It incorporates the hi-res 51 × 24 screen program within it (a separate manual is provided) and so retails for a whopping £34.50.

Program Edit +
Price £34.50
Micro Dragon 32/64
Supplier Compusense
PO Box 169
Palmers Green

HEX DUMP

London N13 5XA

The Exmon monitor, which has been available for quite a while on tape, is now available on Eprom.

The Eprom version has a number of extra features. There are register displays and alteration, with disassembler, hex dump and save to file. Other features include a relocator, and single step tracing of program. Exmon is particularly designed for debugging machine code programs and can be included within source code.

Program Exmon
Price £16.50
Micro BBC A or B
Supplier Beeb Bug Publications

PO Box 50 St Albans Herts AL1 2AR

PRICE DROP



Virgin Games will be hoping to improve its reputation with its latest batch of games.

Regarding Virgin's Spectrum releases at least, critical opinion was decidedly negative on the company's first offerings.

There are two Spectrum games this time, one is a puzzle called *Lojix*, the other is *Racing Manager*.

The latter seems to be an equine version of Football Manager, involving both making decisions about what to spend and graphics of the actual horse race itself.

Looking at the game only briefly, I have to say that graphically it is poor. The selection routines for horses, odds, etc, look slow, although it is apparently written in machine code. Virgin has, however, dropped its prices from £7 to £5.95 for Spectrum games which is certainly welcome news.

Program Racing Manager Price £5.95

Micro Spectrum 48K Supplier Virgin Games 61/63 Portobello Road

London W11

FUZZY



3D programs are nothing new, though the 3D effect has varied from terrible to a grudging not bad. Postern has adopted a different approach.

With 3 Deep Space, by Mike Singleton, comes a free pair of 3D glasses. Without them the program looks fuzzy and out of focus, with them full 3D effects.

The game itself sounds like the standard space extravaganza with baddies that swoop not only up and down but also in and out of your TV screen.

From reading the blurb on

the cassette, it seems that a reasonable quality television will be necessary for good results, since you have to fine tune the colour/intensity for best results.

Program 3 Deep Space
Price £7.95
Micro BBC B
Supplier Postern
PO Box 2
Andoversford
Cheltenham
Glos GL54 5SW

TWITCH

Identikit is an educational program from Stell Software. I'm not sure exactly how it is educational, but it is quite good fun.

You design a face from a choice of 'bits', various noses, eyes, etc. Once you have a face you like, it can be saved on tape.

Most of the results are comical and use big graphic shapes. Once the face is finished there is what might be termed a 'twitch' option where you can get eyes to blink, noses to wrinkle, ears to wiggle or (most dramatically of all) everything moving at once. Program Identikit
Price £5.95
Micro Spectrum 48K
Supplier Stell Software
36 Limfield Avenue
Whalley
Lancs BB6 9RJ

ATTACKED

No prizes for guessing the arcade parentage of Defend the Cities from Intersoft.

Missile Command (for this is it) is a game in which you defend three cities from repeated attacks. You must destroy not only the bombs as they fall, but also the aircraft which are dropping them.

There are two versions of the Game, one in extended Basic and another in machine code for the mini memory module. Extensive notes come with both versions.

Program Defend the Cities
Price £14
Micro T199/4A (Extended Basic/MMM)
Supplier Stainless Software
10 Alstone Road
Stockport

DIGGER

Cheshire SK4 5AH



Paul Johnston, author of Hard Cheese by DK 'Tronics

Hard Cheese is a sort of Dig Dug (the celebrated arcade game) in which you guide your digger around a field, running away from the standard funny creatures who commonly inhabit such games.

The significance of the cheese may not be immediately apparent, but if you eat it there is a charming rendition of "We plough the fields and scatter".

Killing all the monsters on each frame, either by shooting them or dropping what look like cherries, gets you on to the next frame.

Essex CB113AX

Program Hard Cheese
Price £5.95
Micro Spectrum 16/48K
Supplier DK 'Tronics
Unit 2
Shire Hill
Industrial Estate
Saffron Walden

ALIEN SHIPS

The newest addition to the growing number of software houses offering Oric programs is Express Software. Among its releases is Space Quest.

The earth is being destroyed by bombs from alien ships orbiting the earth, your job is to encourage the aliens . . . oh, all right, I'm sorry, your job is to stop the aliens at all costs by detonating the bombs while they fall.

Program Space Quest
Price £5.95
Micro Oric 1 16/48K
Supplier Express Software
City Gate
25 Moat Lane
Birmingham B5 6BH

COMING SOON

Like many of the mythical Greeks, Perseus had a hard time of it because of an Oracle.

The ancient Greeks, instead of reading their horoscopes in the daily paper, listened to Oracles who usually predicted dire events.

Perseus' adventures may be more familiar than you think, since the myth formed the basis of Clash of the Titans the most recent Ray Harryhausen film.

To cut a long story short, Perseus can win a homeland and a bride if he can return with the head of Medusa.

Now you can live out the myth as an adventure game complete with Medusa, the lovely Andromeda, various challenges and quests along the way — and garish graphic illustrations at each point.

Aside from the pictures, it is also claimed that the program understands full sentences, eg, "Pick up the sword and go north" like *The Hobbit*. Could be good for Christmas. The programs will be available for the Commodore 64 and the Spectrum (48K).

New Releases is designed to let people know what software is coming on to the market. If you have a new game or utility which you are about to release send a copy and accompanying details to: New Releases, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.



Ziggurat



Home education

More computer education happens in the home, than occurs in schools or colleges.

With over a million computers in British households (far more than there are in the education system) we have to concentrate on the importance of the home.

Whereas in "educational" circles the BBC computer is supreme, in the home the Spectrum is king. More computer education happens through the soggy keyboard of a Spectrum than through any other, regardless that schools support the BBC. And it looks as if this imbalance between the "official" and "unofficial" education will become worse.

The Spectrum is successful because it fulfils a need, not because someone said they have to use it (not that I am knocking the BBC machine in fact I prefer it).

The same is true of software, I started to think - always a dangerous sign - what is it that puts Logo, Forth, C, and Basic, into one group and Algol and Pascal into another group?

The answer is that Logo and the others became successful because of the pressure from satisfied users.

Basic became such a successful language because it allowed real people to do what they thought they wanted to do. When ordinary Basics stop doing what people want to do, and as other easily used languages become available, Basic will become less popular. If Basic withers and dies, it will be because users have found a better alternative.

At a recent meeting I attended of the British Logo Users Group (BLUG), there were hundreds of people. They came, not because of some commercial pressure, but because they found that Logo actually did what they wanted it to do.

C, and Unix, are now commercial successes.

But successful because of the numbers of satisfied users who found both worked, and worked well.

In contrast, Algol (60 and 68)) and Pascal have never been successes. And never will be, apart from in "education", because they were imposed from above. Once outside "education", the languages were found so unhelpful that they are resounding tinkles.

Personally, I think that many home users will stop using ordinary Basics and will move over to using Logo and (a lesser number) Forth, because they are both languages which do more and are fun to use. One of the few Basics to remain may well be BBC Basic, but then it is rather unlike many more traditional versions.

Forth is now available for most machines (with implementations of varying excellence), and shortly good versions of Logo will be available for most computers, I know there will be versions of Logo available (by Christmas) for the Apple, Atari, Commodore 64, IBM PC, Research Machines, Sinclair Spectrum, and TI-99/4a (a new version).

Note that there is no BBC version likely for some time yet - so schools who have chosen the BBC computer are being deprived of a full version and will have to use stop gaps.

If the school has a Research Machines computer then there will be a version of Logo available, but a version so different from any other that it might not be classed by some as a

Schools with Spectrums will soon be able to obtain copies of Logo. A very good version it is too, written to the standard of the US implementations.

By restricting the choice of micros in schools to the three manufacturers, with Sinclair being a grudging addition, the Department of Industry has placed schools in a bit of a quandary. Logo cannot be used on most schools' micros.

I always did think that the Dol scheme was a waste of money, especially given the silly restriction on choice. And look what has happened. There was much gnashing of teeth, and pulling of hair, from schools because Acorn were going to be so late with Logo.

Yet, education in the home has not been affected. All those Apples, Ataris, Tls, Commodores and IBM PCs, will soon have (or already have) a Logo implementation. A great language, and much fun.

So will the overwhelming majority with Spectrums.

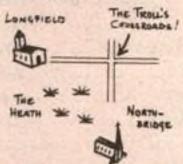
Dragon

Puzzle

Evening walk

Puzzle No 75

We were out walking the other evening from Longfield to Northbridge. As you can see from the map, Longfield is exactly one mile due west of the troll's crossroads and Northbridge threequarters of a mile due south of it.



After walking along the road for some time, we decided to cut across the heath and make straight for the Northbridge church spire.

If we can walk at a steady four miles per hour along the road, but only three miles per hour across the rough heath, at which point (to the nearest yard) should we leave the road in order to arrive at Northbridge the quickest?

Solution to Puzzle No 70

For a triangle to exist, the sum of the length of the two shorter sides must be greater than the length of the larger side. In the program successively large triangles are constructed with this fact in mind. Note that the area of any triangle is given by the formula.

 $A = \sqrt{S(s-a)(s-b)(s-c)}$

where a,b and c are the sides and s is equal to half the perimeter (a + b + c)/2.

In the program, T is the count and stops when it reaches four. C always represents the largest side, and A the smallest.

10 LET T = 0 20 LET C = 1 30 FOR B = 1 TO C 40 FOR A = 1 TO B 50 IF B + A < = C THEN GOTO 90 60 LET S = (A + B + C)/2 70 LET AREA = VAL STR\$ (SQR(S*(S-A)*(S-B)*(S-C))) 80 IF AREA = A + B + C THEN GOSUB 200 90 NEXT A 100 NEXT B 110 LET C = C + 1 120 GOTO 30

The sides and areas/perimeters of the four smallest triangles are (in yards and yards/ square yards):

> 6, 8, 10 and 24 5, 12, 13 and 30 9, 10, 17 and 36 7, 15, 20 and 42

There are in fact only five triangles possible, these four and the fifth and largest with sides: six, 25 and 29 yards.

Winner of Puzzle No 70

Vic20

(2)

Arcadia

(4) Cosmiads

(9) Frantic (10) Panic

Sky Hawk **Grid Runner**

Wacky Waiters

Catcha Snatcha

Escape MCP

(6) Cosmic Crunch

*Cartridge

(Figures compiled by Boots & Co., London)

The winner is: Steve Parker, Greenpark Avenue, Skircoat Green, Halifax, West Yorks, who Boris Allan receives £10.

Top 10 **Top 10** Top 10 Top 10

Atari			
1 (-	-) Ultima II	(Sie	rra On-line)‡
2 1	4) Paris In Dang	er (Avalon Hill)±
3 (-	-) Zork I	SC - 5050	(Infocom)§
3 (-	2) Diamonds		(English)
5 (-	A RELIGIOUS PROJECTION	(TC	Products)*
	-) Preppie		nternational)
6 (-	-) Flying Ace		(Avalon Hill)
8 (1) Miner 2049er		(Big Five)*
9 (-	-) Arcade Mach		roderbund) ±
	0) The Blade of		(Sirius)
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(Figures compiled by Calisto Computers, Birmingham 021-632 6458)

ZX81*		
1 (3)	Flight Simulation	(Psion)
2 (4)	Football Manager	(Addictive Games)
3 (2)	Space Raiders	(Psion)
4 (6)	QS Scramble	(Quicksilva)
5 (-)	Planetoids	(Psion)
	Fantasy Games	(Psion)
6 (5)	Defender	(Quicksilva)
B (10)	The second secon	(Artic)
	Asteroids	(Quicksilva)
10 (8)	Espionage Island	(Artic)
"All run		
(Fig	gures compiled by E	Boots & Co, London)

Books

London)

1	(1) The King	(Microdeal)
2	(2) Frogger	(Microdeal)
3	(3) Talking Android Attack	(Microdeal)
4	(5) Night Flight	(Salamander)
5	(4) Space War	(Microdeal)
6	(6) Ring of Darkness	(Wintersoft)
7	(10) Dragon Trek	(Wintersoft)
8	(7) Planet Invasion	(Microdeal)
9	(9) Morocco Grand Prix	(Microdeal)
10	(8) Quest	(Dragon Data)
10	(Figures compiled by Boots	
	(Figures compiled by boots	or only continuity

BBC	*	The second second
1	(—) Hopper	(Acomsoft)
2	(-) White Knight Mark II	(BBC Soft)
3 ((-) Dr Who - The First A	Adventure
		(BBC Soft)
4	(9) Alien Swirt	(Program Power)
5	(4) Starship Command	(Acornsoft)
5 6 7 8	(3) Felix in the Factory	(Program Power)
7	(2) Danger UXB	(Program Power)
8	(5) Centipede	(Superior)
9	(6) Snooker	(Acomsoft)
10	(8) Great Britain Limited	
100		Simon W. Hessel)
"All	Model B only.	
	(Figures compiled by M	icro Management,
	lps	wich 0473 59181)

Spectrum	
1 (3) Jet-Pac	(Ultimate)
2 (1) Tranz Am	(Ultimate)
2 (1) Tranz Am 3 (4) Scrabble	(Psion)*
4 (2) The Hobbit 5 (8) Horace and the	(Melbourne House)*
5 (8) Horace and the	Spiders
	ion/Melbourne House)
6 (5) Flight Simulation	(Psion)*
7 (9) Ah Diddums	(Imagine)
8 (7) 3D Tanx	(DK Tronics)*
9 (-) Chess	(Psion)*
10 () Cookie	(Ultimate)
*Requires 48K.	
(Figures compiled by W	H Smith and Sons.

3	(1)	Structured Programming with BBC basic, America	(Lintainon)	
2	(6)	Basic Programming on the BBC Micro, Cryer	(Prentice Hall)	
3		The BBC Micro, An Expert Guide, James	(Granada)	
4	(4)	Complete Spectrum Rom Disassembly, Logan and O'Hara	(Melbourne House)	
5	1-1	The BBC Micro Book, Basic Sound and Graphics, McGregor and Wa	tt (Addison-Wesley)	
6	(2)	Commodore 64 Programmer's Reference Guide, Commodore	(Commodore)	
7		Anatomy of the Dragon, James	(Sigma)	
A		Spectrum Hardware Manual, Dickens	(Melbourne House)	
ğ	(7)	Commodore 64 Machine-code Master, Lawrence and England	(Sunshine)	
	1-1	36 Challenging Games for the BBC Micro, Hartnell	(Interface)	
-	4	(Figures compiled by Watford Technical Books,	Watford 0923 23324)	
		(Last week's	position in brackets)	

(Imagine)

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(Quicksilva)

(Llamasoft)

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(Bug-Byte)

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(Rabbit) (Commodore)

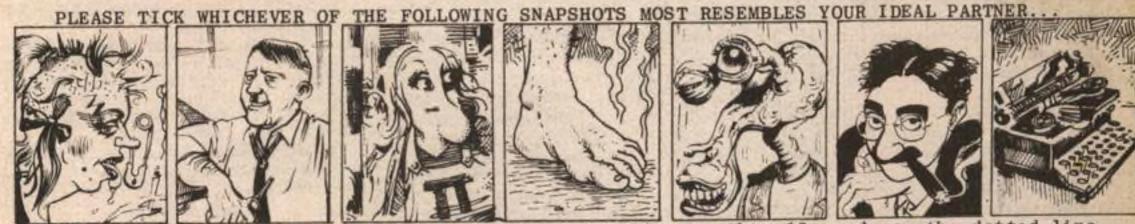
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Being silly		Eh?	1	4			
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