

TOPS IN COMPUTER GAME COVERAGE!

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OCTOBER, 1984

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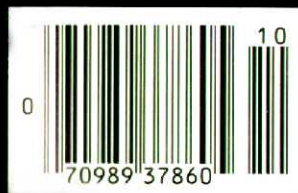
**YOU
CAN WIN
ELECTION
'84!**



**EG'S
FOURTH ANNUAL
SOFTWARE
PREVIEW**

**MEET THE
1985 ARCADE
AWARD
NOMINEES**

**PLAYERS
GUIDE TO
FANTASY
GAMES**





electronic GAMES



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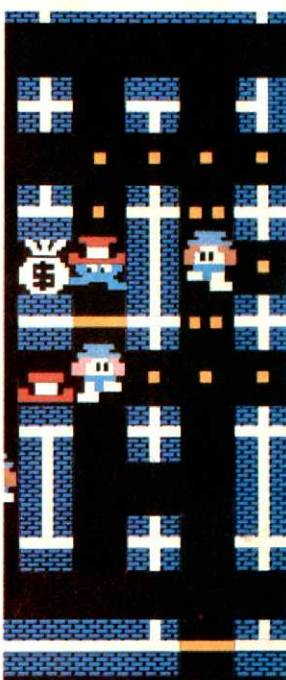
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ELECTRONIC GAMES (ISSN 0730-6687) is published monthly except for February, April, June, August by Reese Communications, Inc., 460 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10001. Second-class postage paid at New York, NY and additional mailing office. © 1984 by Reese Communications, Inc. All rights reserved. © under Universal, International and Pan American Copyright Conventions. Reproduction of the editorial or pictorial content in any manner is prohibited. Single copy price, \$2.95. Subscription



rates: 12 issues, \$28; Canada, 12 issues, \$32; foreign, air mail only, 12 issues, \$64. U.S. funds. Address subscription orders and correspondence to **ELECTRONIC GAMES**, P.O. Box 1128, Dover, NJ 07801 or call (201) 361-9550. Change of address takes 60 days to process; send old address label, new address and zip code. All material listed in this magazine is subject to manufacturer's change without notice and publisher assumes no responsibility for such changes. Printed in the U.S.A.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **ELECTRONIC GAMES**, P.O. Box 1128, Dover, N.J. 07801.

HOTLINE



Konami's *Track and Field* competition: winner John Britt (left) and Mike Mallory.

TRACK & FIELD CHALLENGE BENEFITS MARCH OF DIMES

Konami/Centuri's *Track & Field* was the star in a videogame competition that netted over \$100,000 in support for the March of Dimes Telethon Against Birth Defects (June 30-July 1). Sponsors for the transoceanic contest were Bally's Aladdin's Castle, Inc., National Convenience Stores, Inc., and Centuri, Inc.

Qualifications were held during May in Shop 'N Go,

Stop 'N Go, Hot Stop and Colonial Convenience Stores and at all Bally's Aladdin's Castles and Family Fun Centers. Fourteen top scorers, from 14 regions of the USA, went to Houston for the Grand National Finals May 26, to compete in head-to-head competition for the U.S. Gold, Silver and Bronze medals. These three finalists were then treated to expense-paid trips to Tokyo to represent the USA against three medal winners from Japan.

The world-class Gold

Medalist was John Britt, Riverside, Ca., and the champion Silver Medal went to Mike Mallory, Dayton, Ohio. All finalists won an Atari 5200 game system, *Track & Field* jogging suit and duffle bag. Medalists won prizes which included an AMC Jeep, Atari 800XL computers, pool tables, luggage, coin-op machines, and other awards.

Track & Field features six coin-op events: a 100-meter dash, long jump, 110-meter hurdles, javelin and hammer throws, and high jump.

KOHL, FORMAN GET POSTS AT EG

Louise Kohl has joined the staff of ELECTRONIC GAMES as managing editor. Louise's excellent experience and command of key editorial skills will aid her in assuming overall responsibility for the magazine coming out on time each month. Ms. Kohl previously worked for the now-defunct *Electronic Fun*.

At the same time, it was also announced that Tracie Forman, formerly Associate Editor, has been promoted to Features Editor. The 24-year-old journalist will work closely with Editor Arnie Katz in the preparation of major articles and stories.

EIA PREDICTS SALES BOOM

The Electronic Industries Association (EIA) says that there were 4,300,000 home computers sold in 1983, at an average price of \$440. The EIA predicts that 6,600,000 home computers will be sold in 1984, at an average price of \$400 each. Videogame console sales, which hit 6,650,000 units in 1983, are expected to shrink in 1984, dropping to an estimated 5 million units.

Game cartridge sales are expected to stay approximately the same in 1984. Sales totaled 75 million in 1983, and are expected to reach around 74,300,000 in '84.

The home computer software market should boom this year. In 1983, sales reached 54,700,000 units. This figure is expected to grow to around 84,500,000 in 1984. The average price per unit was \$15 in 1983, and should rise this year to \$25.

MICROLAB HOST TO COMPUTER STUDENTS

MicroLab invited 15 Chicago computer students to their own offices for an end-of-term seminar from May 5 through June 9. Students were provided transportation from the inner city to the company's Highland Park headquarters. There they were assigned Apple II computers and received special instructions, help and hints from MicroLab's programmers. "Offering such a class is an opportunity for us to give back to the community what

we have earned," explained MicroLab's prexy Stan Goldberg. He went on to say that

he hoped the program might spark other firms to offer projects in their own towns.



HOTLINE

GOONEY GOBBLERS STAR IN TURKEY SHOOT

Williams' new coin-snatcher, **Turkey Shoot**, is set on a future earth in which a third of the world's population are turkeys. The arcader mans a front-mounted laser gun controller to target the chunky birds. A special gobble button freezes all turkeys to make them easy targets, but turkey air raids, turkey helicopter getaways, and turkeys disguised as businessmen keep the action interesting. The appealing graphics make this an early line favorite in the "cute game" category.



MUDDY MONITOR? CLEAN THE SCREEN!

Have the graphics been looking a little dingy lately?

Maybe it's time for some house cleaning. Dust and grit are attracted to video screens like kids to dirt, but normal household cleaning fluids may damage the system. Screenwipe, from Aldine Paper Co., New York, is a safe CRT cleaner. Moist Screenwipes are impregnated with a formula to remove fingermarks and dirt without abrasive materials. Use a Screenwipe once a week, throw it away, and watch the picture get brighter. A box of 50 individually packaged Screenwipes is \$20 at most computer stores.

APPLE, HES DONATE COMPUTER EXHIBIT

A permanent computer exhibit is now part of the Intrepid Air-Sea-Space Museum in New York City, thanks to the efforts of Human Engineered Software and Apple Computer. A \$10,000 check to finance the installation of four Apple systems was presented to a representative of the Museum by HES spokesman Leonard Nimoy at a special ceremony held on the retired aircraft carrier. The occasion also included a pair of auspicious debuts for HES — a new line of educational and ed-game programs called the Science Software Simulation series, and the first major appearance by its celebrity pitchman.

The computers, plus software from HES, will henceforth form a permanent Science and Software display.

The overall concept is to give visitors to the Intrepid a chance to experience, albeit vicariously, situations such as building a manned space station, or roaming the undersea world in search of sunken treasures.

VOICE-ACTIVATED LASERDISC GAME DEBUTS

RDI, the company that invented **Dragons Lair's** laserdisc technology, is test-marketing a home laserdisc game unit called Halcyon. Besides its compatibility with commercially-produced home laserdisc movies, Halcyon plays interactive laserdisc games specially designed for the unit. The first titles shown for Halcyon are **Thayer's Quest**, about an apprentice wizard; **Orpheus**, based on Greek mythology; **Adventure in the Caribbean**, a nautical yarn; and the live-action interactive horror movie, **The Spirit of Whittier Mansion**.

Halcyon is entirely speech-operated, and talks back to the player with a polite, if mechanical, voice. Each game — which the company estimates cost a million dollars each to produce — has several different choices per screen, making the games different every time they're played.

Halcyon's price tag of \$2000 is likely to keep it from being the Cabbage Patch doll of 1984, but more affluent gamers will find this talking machine a real conversation piece.

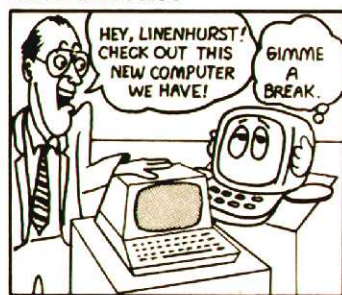
COMPUTER HEADLINES COMIC STRIP

Move over Garfield, here comes a comic strip based on the antics of a lovable microcomputer. Creator

Corey Strongin hopes to see the daily strip "Lindenhurst" get rolling on a commercial basis soon, and is currently

searching for newspapers interested in carrying the adventures of a wise-cracking micro.

LINDENHURST



by Corey Strongin



HOTLINE

SOFTWARE STALKS NEW MARKETS

K-Tek Software floor display stands are popping up the darndest places. Titled K-Tek Budget Priced Software, the prepacks contain three copies each of eight games, and are available for the Apple, Atari, C-64 and VIC-20 computers. The company also has prepacks for Atari 2600 and ColecoVision

videogame systems.

K-Tek currently has over 160 games, and the company plans to ship new prepacks of budget-priced software every 90 days. The ease of inventory management is helping K-Tek place merchandise in stores that previously never carried games, making new software easier to find.



BLIND DRAGONS LAIR CHAMP

Laserdisc games have opened up a whole new world for Felix Pagan, a blind New Yorker, who practices both **Dragons Lair** and **Space Ace** at the Station Break arcade in Manhattan's Pennsylvania Station. Felix uses the audio cues to guide Dirk and Dexter through their paces.

"With laserdisc games, I can play at the arcade like anyone else," said Felix as he held a tape recorder to the **Space Ace** machine. Don Bluth, creator of both games, was so touched that he sent Felix a **Dragons Lair** T-shirt and a Dirk the Daring videotape.

GAMING GOES HOLLYWOOD

Among the summer of '84 big film releases were a pair of electronic games-related entries. **Cloak and Dagger** stars Henry Thomas ("Eliot" from "E.T.") as a computer whiz whose mystery-solving software program starts happening in real life.

The Last Starfighter uses an oft-discussed plot device: a teenage games-master is recruited by an alien race to live out his favorite coin-op. According to unconfirmed rumor, Atari will release a coin-op based on the film.

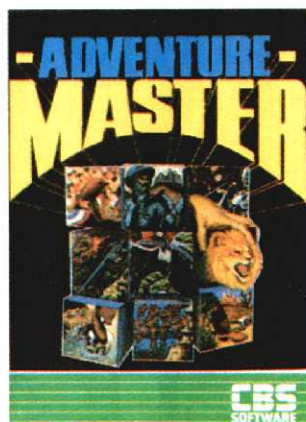
KOREAN COMPANY INTRODUCES MINI FLOPPY DISKS

Sunkyong Group, a South Korean conglomerate, has designs on America's growing market for computer disks. The company's North American subsidiary, Sunkyong International, has unveiled a line of 5-1/4-in. mini floppy disks, boasting that all ingredients, from the petrochemical base of the polyester film to the plastics and the metal screws in the case, are manufactured under their rigid specifications in their own plants. According to the company, this quality control guarantees the disks to be reliable and long-lasting. They are available in virtually every configuration from

single-sided, to double density double-sided mini-disks, at popular prices in most computer stores.



WHAT'S HOT



Computer adventure games just keep growing in popularity, and now there's a way for even the nonprogrammers to take a stab at creating their own quest program. **Adventure Master** (CBS Software) and **Adventure Creator** (Spinnaker) are menu-driven guides for the novice who has a fantasy world inside, kicking and screaming to get out.

Even better, they're easy and fun to use. And the resulting games aren't too bad.

CONSUMER BEAT

Atari has cut the price of the Model 2600 videogame system to around \$60, and Model 5200 (which the company quit manufacturing but promises to support with software) to \$90...

EnTech has extended the deadline to December 1, 1984 for entries in the **Studio 64** Computer Song Writing Contest, to allow composers more time to complete their masterpieces. Computerists submit songs written using **Studio 64** together with proof of purchase. For complete rules, write Computer Song Writing Contest, P.O. Box 881, Sun Valley, Ca. 91353.

Last year Scholastic announced it would launch a magazine for Adam owners.

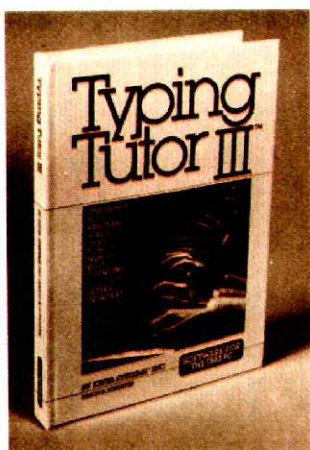
The publisher expected "Adam Family Computing" to be supported by new Adam owners. Now Scholastic has backed away from the project, saying, "There's no point to produce a magazine if there is not a profit potential in it." Instead of sending the new magazine, in accordance with the Coleco agreement, Scholastic will send free issues of "Family Computing" to some 40,000 people who have returned Adam warranty cards to Coleco...

The National Registry For Computers, San Diego, Ca., has a new service for micro-owners. For an annual \$20 fee, they'll maintain a file of serialized computer equipment for you. Then in case of

loss they'll notify all initially registered owners, law enforcement agencies and applicable insurance carriers to be on the alert for the hot items. . .

Simon & Schuster is packing **Typing Tutor III** like a spiral-bound book, so the shopper can read the manual before buying the software. The program disk is sealed in a holder on the last page of the manual that requires scissors to open. . .

According to Milton Bradley, over 90% of the Vectrex



product line inventory is already sold out, and as soon as warehouse supplies are depleted, the only Vectrex products available will be those on the dealer's shelves. . .

Micro Goodies catalogs lots of unusual products for gamers, both whimsical and useful, such as computer greeting cards, milk chocolate diskettes, and T-shirts with slogans in computereze. For a free copy, write Micro Goodies, Catalog Request, CN5283, Princeton, NJ 08540.

Inc. Now Atari has shelved plans for such a product for unspecified reasons.

Although Atari spokesmen declined comment, robotic experts say the control system for such projects is proving to be more difficult than originally anticipated, necessitating the delay in production.

MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOLS GET COMPUTERS

The Lowell, Ma. school system is integrating computers into the regular curriculum for roughly 5,000 students, kindergarten through 12th grades. A computer network utilizing 138 Acorn Microcomputers will be installed in seven of Lowell's 27 schools. Students will receive from 40 minutes to one hour a week of computer education, in programs that stress basic skills, reading, computer literacy and word processing. After the first year, Lowell educators hope to expand the computer network to the other 20 schools.

HARDWARE BEAT

Suncom's Starfighter for Apple is an analog controller compatible with Apple and Franklin computers, soon to be adapted for the IBM-PC, TRS-80 and others. Retailing for \$49.95, it boasts only one moving part. (Most sticks have 30-40 moving parts.) The stick has a right- and lefthand fire button, plus an alternate fire button for second functions, and a centering adjustment. Additionally, a hi/lo sensitivity switch provides for faster or slower responses and a throw selector gives either a short or long movement to the joystick. The two-year warranty can be expanded to three years for a small additional fee. . .

Apple Computer is seeking Japanese-language software programs for the Lisa and Macintosh. Currently Apple has 30-40,000 Apple II's in Japan, and this marks the first effort by the company to attract Japanese writers to work with Apple Computer Japan in Tokyo. The company believes that more available Japanese language software will help sales of Apple computers in that country.

Tandy Corp. has begun an in-home demonstration service in key cities for home computers and expects to take it national within three years. The free demonstration is for a basic \$1475 package that includes the Radio Shack Color Computer II, disk drive, joysticks, modem, software and training sessions. A \$1975 package also includes a printer and word processing program.

Sinclair plans to market a \$499 computer in the US this autumn. The British company will sell the Sinclair QL by mail, in a move that company spokesmen indicate is meant to forestall ruinous price wars like the one sparked by their first computer, the Timex Sinclair 1000. The QL comes with software for word processing, spread-sheet calculating, filing and drawing. It has a typewriter-style

models. Currently monickered the 1450, the computer will have a new name before it goes to market.

Atari's new Mindlink controller connects with a remote-control infrared receiver and allows the user to direct on-screen activity with just the power of thought. It retails for about \$79 and uses positive and negative impulses from muscles in the forehead to direct an on-



keyboard, weighs three pounds, and works with color monitors and standard printers. The computer uses software stored on microcassette tapes. . .

Atari will introduce a new high-end computer before Christmas. The 64K machine will retail for around \$1000, with a built-in modem and disk drive. Each disk will store 250 pages of information, and the drive operates five times faster than current Atari

screen cursor. The Mindlink works with special software for the Atari 2600 and 7800 videogame systems, and with computer software that will be made available in 1985.

ATARI, ANDROBOT BREAK CIRCUIT

Earlier this year, Atari announced plans to market a small game-playing robot manufactured by Androbot,

ATARI DEVELOPS PROGRAM FOR TODDLERS

Computer users seem to be getting younger and younger, a fact that Atari has taken note of in a practical way. Working with the renowned child psychologist, Dr. Lee Salk, Atari designers have developed **Peekaboo**, a software program for toddlers 1-3 years old. According to the company, **Peekaboo** is designed to strengthen parent-child communication and aid in the early development of motor and cognitive skills. The child uses an Atari Kids' Controller — which was especially designed for small hands — to control an on-screen cat named Smart Seymour. For use on both the Atari 2600 and the new 7800 Pro System, the program will be available in December, in time for Christmas buying.

EX-COMMODORE PRES. TRAMIEL BUYS ATARI

Less than six months after resigning as President of Commodore International Ltd., Commodore founder Jack Tramiel stunned the computer industry by buying a controlling share in Atari. The total selling price of Atari's home computer and videogame divisions, representing over 75% of Atari's total sales, was \$240 million. According to Warner, the transaction resulted in a pre-tax loss of \$425 million for the entertainment giant in its second quarter.

Under the new agreement, Warner is set to become a



partner in Mr. Tramiel's new company, Tramiel Technology Ltd., while the founder of Commodore will have the opportunity to buy one million shares of Warner Communications Inc. stock. Warner will retain Atari's coin-operated game division and AtariTel, the home communications venture, obtained when it bought Atari in 1976 for \$28 million.

"During the past 18 months, WCI has spared no effort to identify and address the problems that have plagued Atari," said Steven J. Ross, Warner's chairman and chief executive. "We have concluded, however, that we must constructively channel our energies and resources to the balance of WCI's businesses." Warner's other ventures include motion pictures, records and tapes, cable television, and book publishing.

The sale of Atari isn't expected to have a negative impact on consumers, though Atari's emphasis is expected to shift away from videogames and toward computers. Mr. Tramiel has been credited with the marketing strategies that led to the Commodore 64's current position as the top-selling low-end computer.

EG Readers Pick Their Favorite Games

Most Popular Videogame Cartridges

Position This Month	Position Last Month	Times on List	Game Title	System	Manufacturer
1	1	2	Pitfall! II	Atari 2600	Activision
2	9	6	Miner 2049er	ColecoVision	MicroLab
3	—	8	Advanced Dungeons & Dragons	Intellivision	Mattel
4	8	13	River Raid	Atari 2600	Activision
5	10	19	Pitfall!	Atari 2600	Activision
6	12	4	Mr. Do!	Colecovision	Coleco
7	New	New	Super Action Baseball	Colecovision	Coleco
8	—	15	Donkey Kong	Colecovision	Coleco
9	3	17	Zaxxon	Colecovision	Coleco
10	6	3	Space Shuttle	Atari 2600	Activision
11	14	2	Decathlon	Atari 2600	Activision
12	—	2	Baseball	Atari 5200	Atari
13	7	8	Ms. Pac Man	Atari 2600	Atari
14	New	New	Pengo	Atari 5200	Atari
15	—	5	Centipede	Atari 5200	Atari

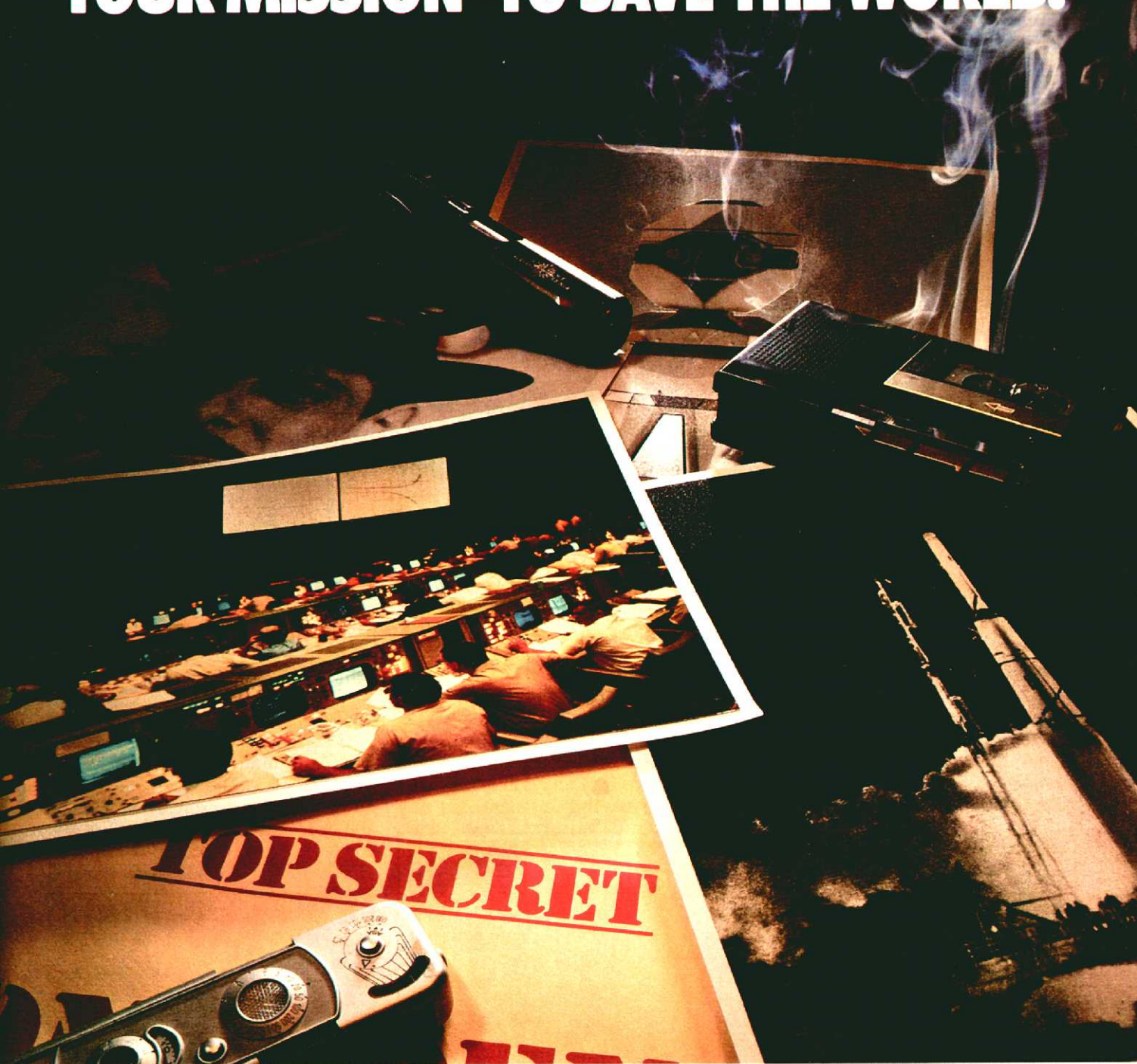
Most Popular Computer Games

Position This Month	Position Last Month	Times on List	Game	System	Manufacturer
1	1	3	Zork I	Most Systems	Infocom
2	9	3	Buck Rogers	Coleco Adam	Coleco
3	New	New	Flight Simulator II	Most Systems	SubLogic
4	New	New	Pole Position	Most Systems	Atari, Atarisoft
5	4	2	Ultima III	Most Systems	Origin Systems
6	New	New	Archon	Atari, C-64	Electronic Arts
7	—	4	Loderunner	Most Systems	Broderbund
8	2	13	Miner 2049er	Most Systems	Big 5, MicroLab, Reston
9	New	New	Jumpman	Atari, C-64	Epyx
10	New	New	Zork II	Most Systems	Infocom

Most Popular Coin-Op Videogames

Position This Month	Position Last Month	Times On List	Game	Manufacturer
1	1	6	Dragon's Lair	Starcom
2	2	7	Star Wars	Atari
3	5	3	M.A.C.H. 3	Mylstar
4	6	3	Track & Field	Konami
5	New	New	Space Ace	Starcom
6	10	3	Pole Position II	Atari
7	New	New	Spy Hunter	Bally/Midway
8	New	New	Firefox	Atari
9	3	10	Pole Position	Atari
10	New	15	Ms. Pac Man	Bally/Midway

IMPOSSIBLE MISSION.TM YOUR MISSION-TO SAVE THE WORLD.



As a member of the exclusive Anti-Computer Terrorist Squad (ACT), your mission is to find and reach the infamous Elvin, who is holding the world's population hostage under threat of nuclear annihilation. You must negotiate a

path through the rooms and tunnels of his headquarters trying to avoid Elvin's robot protectors.

Should you try to outrun or jump over the next robot or play it safe and take the time to assemble the codes needed to deactivate the robots and then to

find and stop Elvin.

Use your camera to photograph as many clues as possible to find the password which will allow you to penetrate Elvin's control room.

Your Mission—To Save The World, But Hurry!

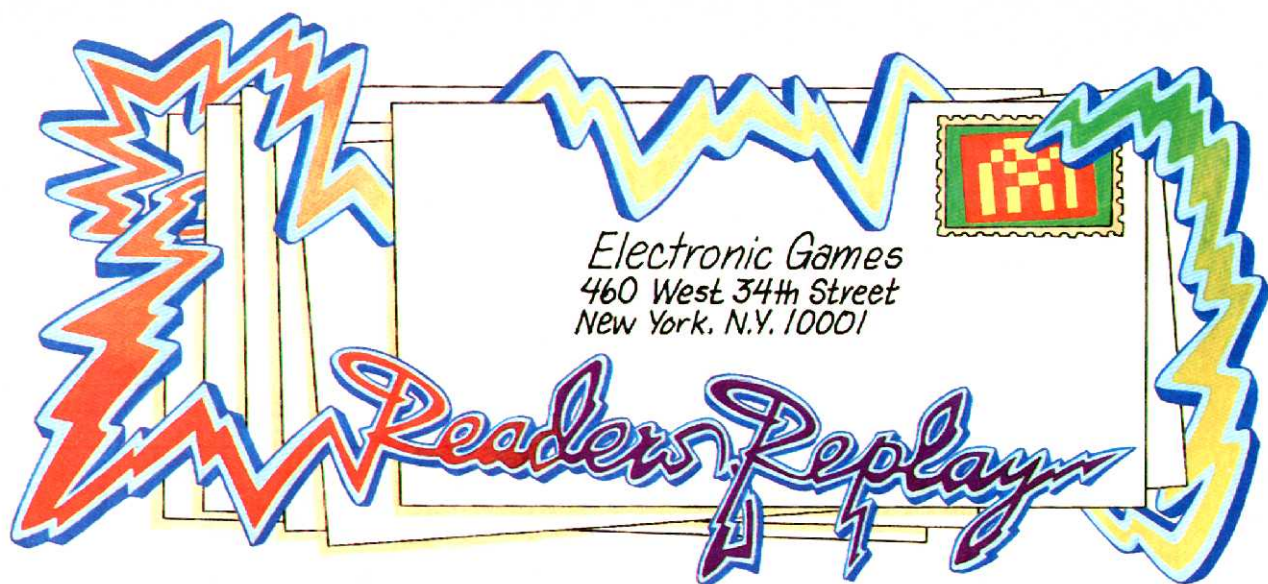
One player; joystick controlled.



EPYX
COMPUTER SOFTWARE

Strategy Games for the Action-Game Player





DOC DIAGNOSES A SOFTWARE SHORTAGE

I am writing to you on behalf of a "friend" currently in the Computer Users' Hospital of Waco. What I am about to show you are the files on his condition. Please try to hold back the tears. My friend's name has been withheld for obvious purposes.

Patient: John Doe

Diagnosis: Deadly depression caused by the lack of games, construction sets, and graphics creations software for the Adam Computer System. Also extreme boredom caused by the constant play of the only game available for his system — *Buck Rogers: Planet of Zoom*.

Care: The only known cure is for the Game Doctor to find out when some new games will be produced on digital data packs.

As you can see, it's a sad, sad case. Just before he slipped into a "Colecoma," he mumbled the words, "Where's my *Tunnels and Trolls*, *Sword and Sorcerer*, *Troll's Tale*..."

Casey Jones
Waco, TX

Ed: According to the Doc's diagnosis, four digital data games are available from Coleco at this very moment: Donkey Kong, Donkey Kong Junior, Zaxxon and Super Subroc. In addition, Victory Software has some digital data pack games for the Adam.

If the condition persists, have your friend take two silicon chips and call the Doc in the morning.

ONE FOR THE RECORD

In regard to the letter concerning software piracy in your November issue, I have one comment. The law

does allow the rightful owner of a software package to make one archival copy. This copy may be modified for use by the owner.

Michael Hamaoka
Havre, MT

CONTROLLERS FOR THE HANDICAPPED

It was with great interest that I read your article "Gaming and the Handicapped" (Feb. 1983).

I am the parent of a 4½-year-old child who recently suffered an attack of a virus in his brain stem which has left him a quadriplegic, but with unimpaired mental faculties.

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your assistance regarding any technical information applicable to this situation, especially anything relating to controllers, pressure switches, and the like.

Ronald A. Cowden
New Zealand

Ed: Anyone who wants this information can write to Ken at KY Enterprises, 195 Claremont Ave. #288, Long Beach, CA 90803.

WHAT'S BAD FOR THE GOOSE MAY BE GOOD FOR THE GANDER

In your July issue, you did a review on *Computer Wars* for the VIC-20. The review said, "*Computer Wars* has mediocre graphics, poor sound effects, and only fair play-action." This is understandable coming from a VIC-20, but *Computer Wars* is also made for Atari computers, which have better graphics and sound effects. People who read the *Computer Wars* review are automatically going to think it's a



BUCK ROGERS (COLECO)