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ELECTRONIC GAMING MONTHLY

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CRASH BANDICOOT 2

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OVER

100

GAMES INSIDE

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Pandemonium! 2 • Bio Freaks
Marvel Super Heroes vs.
Street Fighter • Mega Man X4
Azul Panzer Dragoon RPG

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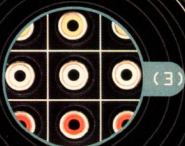
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2
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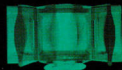
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By Ed Semrad - 75052.1657@compuserve.com

ELECTRONIC GAMING MONTHLY

NUMBER 10.6, JUNE 1997

- What makes a good game?
- Posters: good or bad?

Why is Mario 64 such a great game? Odds are you either said that it has spectacular gameplay or you said that it was because of the creative genius of Mr. Miyamoto. Both answers are correct and lead into this month's editorial. Why aren't all games extraordinary games? Certainly there are a lot of variables, ranging from the original concept (some games should never have been started), to the layout and design (a game should be challenging but not impossible nor too easy), to the capabilities of the artists, designers and programmers (the greatest idea done wrong is still a bad game) and finally to the capabilities of the hardware (the more machine memory and game memory the better). The last element in the recipe for perfection is a Miyamoto, or a Yu Suzuki—a project leader who has that imaginative flair for making sure the game is fun to play.

Do such people exist in the U.S.? Yes. While very few in number, these people are the unsung heroes—the true game gurus. They have been in the business for quite a while; have worked their way up the ranks; and have left their mark on the industry with some of the most revolutionary and best-selling games of our time.

So why haven't we heard more about them? After all, if you open up any Japanese game magazine, there will almost always be something written about Miyamoto or Suzuki.

We've tried to do an article on these visionaries, but the companies have always been very reluctant to let us start talking about any one person in particular. Granted, a good game is a team project, but when was the last time you saw pictures of the staff working for Miyamoto?

Games are created a lot differently in the U.S. than in Japan, though. Over here many times the programming is done by one company, the art by another, the overall coordination by the developer and the publishing by yet another. When only one person is singled out, there can be a lot of resentment among the staff, and relationships get strained. It's the game that ultimately suffers when the chemistry isn't right. Right or wrong, that's the way things are done. It doesn't matter that CEOs get all the credit if a company does well (or poorly) because of the staff's efforts. Down at the working level, the product manager



Ed tries out Sega's upcoming Saturn disc—Sonic Jam—at the Tokyo Game Show.

who guides and shapes the team's efforts daily must remain in obscurity.

Of course, the obvious reason why these talented people are kept out of the limelight is because of the old law of supply and demand. With not more than a dozen "golden boys" in the game industry, these wizards are in big demand and companies get very protective of their key people.

Unfortunately, there can't be enough good things said about these superstars than than thank you for giving us the great games that you managed. Industry politics prevent me from naming everybody specifically, but if I mention Shiny, Iguana, Nintendo R & D, Sony San Diego, Universal/Capcom R & D, Crystal Dynamics, EA Sports and SingleTrac, you can read between the lines. Hopefully one day in the near future we can do an article on the true story behind the games that we play.

In other news, I am looking for some specific information from our readers regarding the posters we are packing in with each issue of *EGM*.

- 1) What do you think of the posters we have run so far?
- 2) Of the games that we have run—mech, movie/game or girl—which did you like and want to see more of?
- 3) Or, is there another category which we should try—anime, cartoon, comic book etc?
- 4) If posters aren't that exciting, what about premiums like stickers or decals?
- 5) In the past we ran minidigest-size individual game strategy guides. What are your thoughts on these?
- 6) Or, is all of this unnecessary and we should just add another dozen pages or so to the magazine?

Your comments are appreciated and I will personally read each letter. My e-mail address is listed above and the 1920 Highland magazine address is to the right in the masthead.

Thanks for all of you who have been writing to me with your comments about the magazine and enjoy this issue as we really packed a lot of new pre-E² game info into it.

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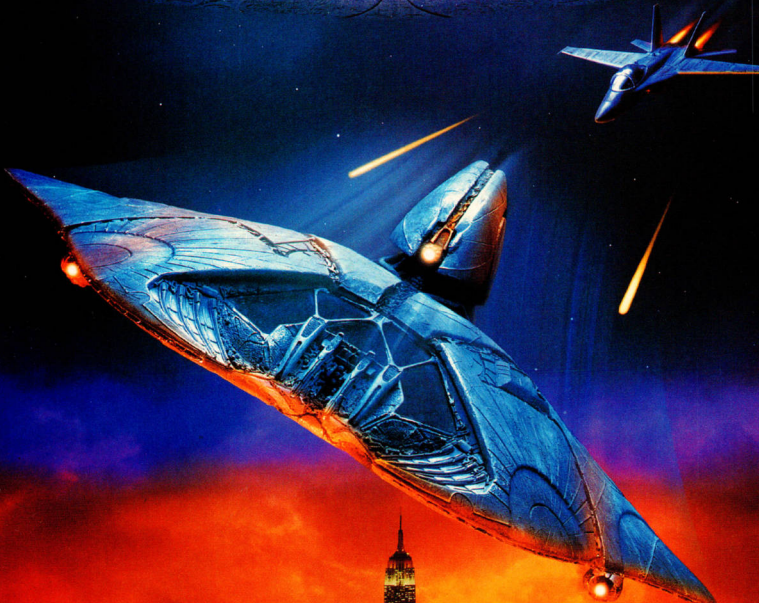


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NUMBER

CRASH
BANDICOOT 2

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FREE POSTER

YOU WANT THE GOODS? Packaged in this June issue of EGM is ONE AWE-SOME added extra! Adorn your room, locker, work space or anywhere else with the VIRTUA FIGHTER3/FIGHTERS MEGAMIX poster on page 85!

Actual poster is different, but this was the editor's choice.

THIS MONTH



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SONIC MAKES AN APPEARANCE AT THE TOKYO TOY SHOW

There was a lot of hoopla at this year's Tokyo Toy Show. First off, everybody's favorite blue blur debuted his latest game, Sonic Jam. It'll be a compilation disk of all the Genesis' Sonic titles for the Saturn and more. Also at the show were Resident Evil 2 and Castlevania 64 among others. The coverage starts on page 58.

"All your favorite Sonic games will be on one disk for the Saturn."

SPAWN...IT'S A GOOD DAY IN HELL

Fans of the comic book *Spawn* will soon be able to play as their "hero" in his own PlayStation game. Todd McFarlane, creator of *Spawn*, had his hand in the project every step of the way, so gamers can expect a truly fiendish adaptation. Look on page 70 for more information on this cool game.

"Players will be faced with the Tower of Hell and its seven levels."



70



72

STARFOX 64 MAKES ITS MUCH-ANTICIPATED DEBUT

Fox McCloud and his trusted crew are finally back, but this time they're on the Nintendo 64. In *StarFox 64*, there are a lot more missions to explore. Some levels are even three-dimensional, allowing the brave-at-heart to roam freely over vast terrains. The story begins on page 72.

"StarFox 64 was definitely worth the wait..."

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NEXT WAVE



CASTLEVANIA: SOTN

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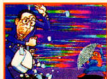
THE BEST VIDEO GAME NEWS

PRESS
STARTMORE CAPCOM
MADNESS!Marvel Super Heroes vs. Street
Fighter
features "joke" character and many surprises

The follow-up to X-Men vs. Street Fighter has finally been revealed and is slated for release later this summer in the arcades. Marvel Super Heroes vs. Street Fighter retains most of the cast including Wolverine, Cyclops, Ryu, Zangief and Dhalsim. Newer additions to the crew are Sakura, Dan, Blackheart, Omega Red, Spider-Man and the Hulk. As revealed first in the April issue of *EGM*, the game will include a "joke" character designed by Noritake of the Japanese comic duo known



The character will most likely be taken out of U.S. versions, but may be accessible via a code.



Here is the "joke" character Noritake snapping a photo! Ryu and Spider-Man beware!

as "the Tunnels." This offbeat character will have an arsenal which consists of taking pictures with his camera and asking the other fighters for an autograph. Some of his super attacks are singing Karaoke and

driving around in a small car. There seems to be quite an abundance of Capcom fighting games within a relatively short amount of time (SFIII, SF EX, DarkStalkers 3), and certainly it has only been a little over six months since the introduction of X-Men vs. SF and the debut of this sequel. Fighting fans better have plenty of quarters on hand when their local arena of competition has this baby on the arcade floor.

BY THE NUMBERS

TOP 5 GAME RENTALS

- 5 NBA HANG TIME
NINTENDO™
- 4 STAR WARS: SOTE
NINTENDO™
- 3 BLAST CORPS
NINTENDO™
- 2 TUROK: DH
NINTENDO™
- 1 MARIO KART 64
NINTENDO™

*Current for the week ended April 6. Source: VSDA Vidtrac.



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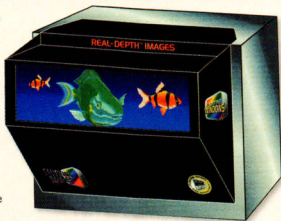
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EGM WITNESSES "FLOATING IMAGES"

Imagine visiting the offices of *EGM* and finding the staff staring at a half-slanted box strapped to the television set. That's what many a hapless visitor saw while we were checking out the Floating Images Adapter. We first covered this device in an emerging technology article and now have an actual unit to give you the 411. First off, the footage of video, television or video game must be encoded with the proper enhancement to work with the adapter. The samples we watched were from a videotape made for the adapter, and it showed considerable promise. There was definitely a separation between front and back layers, giving you true parallax and presenting it in real 3-D as opposed to stereoscopic.

The main problem with the adapter is that it cuts the viewing area in half which caused a lot of grumbles from staffers. Fortunately, the version that will first be commercially available (the test version was an early sample) has a slightly wider viewing area and will be easier to set up. They hope to have a full-screen version ready in about a year.

The price is set at a very affordable \$69.95, and there is no cost for people to develop for compatibility which means any game company can add a few lines of code



The price is right and the technology to develop on it is available for free. Sounds like a winner.

and offer 3-D adapter support.

EGM felt that the greatest potential lied in arcade games which would benefit the current model. As the adapter is refined and support becomes widespread, Floating Images may become a household name.

EVENTS

GAMEWORKS OPENS ITS DOORS

The first of the mega-arcades from DreamWorks, Universal Studios and Sega has officially opened its doors. Seattle is the lucky recipient of the premiere Gameworks entertainment mecca as of March 16, 1997. The complex features 30,000 square feet of



gaming excitement divided into three areas. This includes sections designated for intense competition, testing new games and relaxing while cruising the Net. Gourmet food and beer will recharge your batteries.

The next location is set for Las Vegas in April and will be an estimated 50,000 square feet! Oh yeah, that's delicious.



MORE 3-D ON THE HORIZON

While we're on the subject of 3-D, a company called Advanced Technology Group came to our attention and offered a device that promised "a 3-D stereoscopic viewing experience" with any normal TV signal.

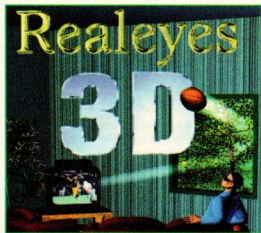
Their product, called Real Eyes 3-D, can be used to view movies, TV shows, home videos and video games. The way it works is that you connect a decoder box to receive the signal from a VCR, cable box or similar source. It then converts that signal to a stereoscopic display in realtime to the television. You must be wearing a pair of the LCD shutter glasses (similar to the Sega Master system 3-D a couple years back) which works with the stereoscopic picture to give you a visual treat.

Real Eyes also is compatible with stereoscopic 3-D videos that have been recorded with two cameras for an even more immersive image. The technology employed has been proven before in

previous products (again, the Sega Master System) and conveys a very exciting viewing experience. If they can ensure dependability and durability, Real Eyes has a chance to make an impact.

The retail price has not yet been set, but a spokesperson has indicated that they are looking at the \$595-1,000(!) range. Technology ain't cheap. Hopefully, the actual street price will be a bit more friendly to the average consumer. Real Eyes is set for a third to fourth quarter release.

Look for *EGM* to get a hands-on test in the coming months.



Apparently, errant footballs are one of the dangers of 3-D.

PRESS START

Have you got what it takes to match up against the best gamers at **Street Fighter III**? Well you'll need to head down to **Capcom's Super Just Games** in Northbrook on June 27, 28 and 29 where they will be holding a **Street Fighter III** tournament. Previous tournaments have attracted nearly 200 competitors from 12



states and Canada. The tournament is a double-elimination style and will set you back \$10 in entrance fees for every time you enter. Veteran players are running the show to ensure that everyone has a fair chance to compete. The first 256 people signing up are in while everyone else goes crying home. Interested? Intrigued? Then call Jason Wilson at (847) 559-8727, hours: Sun.-Thurs. 10:00 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri.-Sat. 10:00 a.m.-Midnight.

In the never-ending saga of corporate changes, **Sony**, has named **Ken Kutaragi** as chairman and CEO of Sony Computer Entertainment America. It was Kutaragi who in 1990 with a team of engineers developed what has become the PlayStation we know today.

POWER and PERFORMANCE

Ever feel like driving a Porsche®? Want to? The Alps Gamepad for the Playstation™ game console offers you the power, performance, and handling you've been waiting for in a sleek, high-tech, finely-tuned and tested controller designed by professional game players to meet the demanding needs of today's gamers.

G
A
M
E
P
A
D



Designed by the people who play hard - YOU! Whether it's for fun or serious competition, it's all here.

Ultra-smooth Dpad lets you concentrate on your game, not a throbbing thumb.

Special rubber grip provides tactile feedback and a secure grip.

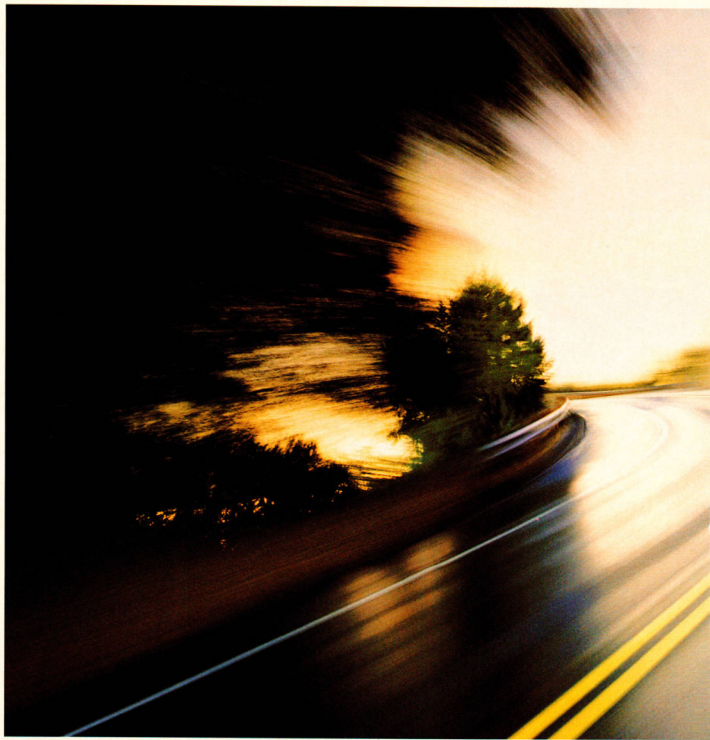
Extra long 8-foot cord

For more info visit us at
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ALPS
Interactive





THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A TWO-GAME GARAGE.

Lose the pretenders. Rage Racer™ is the king of speed. Nothing captures the realism of street racing like it. Rage Racer is not some rethead. It's brand new from the ground up. But please, don't take our word for it. Take one lap. Then you'll know why *Game Fan* calls Rage Racer "the greatest racing game on the planet."



RAGE RACER™

Real. Fast.

MULTISYSTEM DRIVIN'

The latest in a series of games based on the popular anime *Evangelion* has been released in Japan. **Evangelion: 2nd Impression** has been a highly anticipated title which explains its strong showing in the weekly sales charts. The series is currently being released by **A.D. vision** in the U.S. and follows the dramatic saga of Shingi Ikari and the Nerv organization in their mission to stop an invasion of the Earth by aliens. It sounds generic, but it's actually very original and recommended. Vol. 1-4 of the series is available now and retails for \$29.95 each.

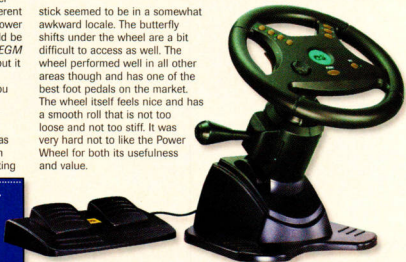


The finalization date for the **Sega/Bandai** merger which is set for Oct. 1, 1997, but Bandai president Makoto Yamashima commented that it has fallen behind schedule. The delay stems mostly from problems encountered in finding a workable union between the different companies. A **Sega** spokesperson indicated that they are not anticipating delays, but stressed the importance of the merger being in the sense that the two companies must truly act as one to survive the rapid changes in this industry.

You say you've been looking for a steering wheel peripheral that will get you some extra mileage from driving games? No ordinary wheel will do either since those games run on different game systems, eh? Well, the Power Wheel from Game Source could be the answer to your problems. **EGM** set out to test the wheel and put it in the hands and feet of our demanding gamers to bring you the lowdown on the results.

The Power Wheel felt pretty good with all the systems (PlayStation, Saturn, N64) it was designed for. The only problem encountered was that the shifting

stick seemed to be in a somewhat awkward locale. The butterfly shifts under the wheel are a bit difficult to access as well. The wheel performed well in all other areas though and has one of the best foot pedals on the market. The wheel itself feels nice and has a smooth roll that is not too loose and not too stiff. It was very hard not to like the Power Wheel for both its usefulness and value.



The wheel comes with a foot pedal module that plugs into the back of the steering column. The angle can be adjusted by a knob, and most any button can be programmed for your favorite configuration. Delicious.

hot **POWER WHEEL**
\$6995
 Available Now
Plus:
 Multisystem compatibility, nice round wheel
Minus:
 Somewhat awkward stick and butterfly shift

I WANT MY S-VIDEO

Gamers who have multiple systems with S-video output plugs, but limited input capabilities haven't had much choice, but to either buy a television with multiple input jacks or unplug and replug a cord repeatedly. **Cyberzone** now offers a custom-built S-video selector box which accepts four S-video connections and outputs to your TV.

The S-video selector box is available from **Cyberzone**:
 phone (847) 781-8500,
 fax (847) 781-8595.



hot **S-video box**
\$9995
 Available now
Plus:
 Nothing as good available outside Japan, solid construction
Minus:
 A touch on the pricey side for most

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EA REVEALS LINEUP FOR E³

Electronic Arts has yet to unveil their sports updates, but they did finalize their other titles.

Nuclear Strike (PlayStation-fall '97) is the latest in the series that started with **Desert Strike** on 16-Bit. **Reboot** (PlayStation-third Qtr. '97) follows the

adventures of the CG-rendered cartoon series. **Warcraft II: The Dark Saga** (PlayStation/Saturn-June '97) is the popular PC war sim involving orcs and humans. **The Lost World: Jurassic Park** (PlayStation/ Saturn-third Qtr. '97) is the game based on the summer blockbuster movie.

DARKSTALKERS ANIME ANSWERS CALL OF THE BLOODTHIRSTY

After Capcom found success with anime movies and TV shows of their Street

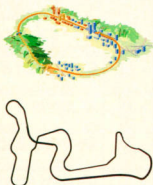
Fighter game, **EGM** knew it would only be a matter of time before **Darkstalkers** got the royal treatment. Volume 1 of **Vampire Hunter** has now been released in Japan with a consequent release of new volumes every three months. All the characters from the series are represented, and the tape contains game footage from **Darkstalkers 3!** The U.S. rights for **Vampire Hunter** have

been grabbed by **Viz** for release later this year.





Welcome to the land of the flat-out fast. Tear up hellacious hills and rocket around hair-pin turns. 13 new Rage Racer cars stick to the tarmac like gum to the bottom of your shoe. 4 new tracks and an 11 circuit challenge will twist, fold, bend and bludgeon your central nervous system. The more rivals you humiliate,



RAGE RACER™
Real. Fast.

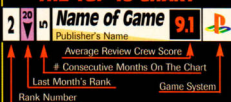


the more cash you accumulate. Use it to modify your existing car, or save it to finance a trickier, quicker ride. See the face on the hood of that car? His handsome mug was lacquered on with the Custom Paint & Team Logo Designer. No bolt was left untorqued in an effort to make Rage Racer the most realistic street racing experience. The only question is, how fast can you race to the store and buy it? **POWERED BY namco**

TOP 10 PICKS OF THE MONTH

MAY 1997

HOW TO READ THE TOP 10 CHART



OVERALL

1	NEW	StarFox ⁶⁴	9.1	Nintendo
2		Blast Corps	8.6	Nintendo
3	NEW	Mega Man 8	8.5	Capcom
4	NEW	Mario Kart ⁶⁴	9.3	Nintendo
5		Goal Storm	9.0	Konami
6		SF Alpha 2	9.1	Capcom
7		Tetris Attack	8.3	Nintendo
8	NEW	Harvest Moon	8.1	Natsume
9		Doom ⁶⁴	7.4	Midway
10		Soul Blade	8.3	Namco
11		Brahma Force	7.8	Jaleco
12		Andretti Racing	8.8	Electronic Arts
13		Tekken 2	8.5	Namco
14		Rage Racer	9.0	Namco
15		W. Commander IV	7.6	Origin
16		GameDay '97	9.5	SCEA
17		MechWarrior 2	8.1	Acclaim
18		Twisted Metal 2	8.3	SCEA
19		Die Hard Arcade	7.4	Sega
20		Tomb Raider	9.1	Eidos

PLAYSTATION

1		Goal Storm	9.0	Konami
2		Soul Blade	8.3	Namco
3		Brahma Force	7.8	Jaleco
4		Tekken 2	8.5	Namco
5		Rage Racer	9.0	Namco
6		W. Commander IV	7.6	Origin
7		GameDay '97	9.5	SCEA
8		MechWarrior 2	8.1	Acclaim
9		Twisted Metal 2	8.3	SCEA
10		Tomb Raider	9.1	Eidos

SATURN

1	NEW	Mega Man 8	8.5	Capcom
2		SF Alpha 2	9.1	Capcom
3		Andretti Racing	8.8	Electronic Arts
4		Die Hard Arcade	7.4	Sega
5		SCUD	7.1	Sega Soft
6		Command & Conquer	8.9	Westwood Studios
7		S. Puzzle Fighter II	7.4	Capcom
8		Virtua Cop 2	8.1	Sega
9		Virtual On	7.9	Sega
10		DecAthlete	8.3	Sega

NINTENDO⁶⁴

1	NEW	StarFox ⁶⁴	9.1	Nintendo
2		Blast Corps	8.6	Nintendo
3		Mario Kart ⁶⁴	9.3	Nintendo
4		Doom ⁶⁴	7.4	Midway
5		NBA Hang Time	7.8	Midway
6		Turok: D. Hunter	6.9	Acclaim
7		Wave Race ⁶⁴	9.3	Nintendo
8		Super Mario ⁶⁴	9.5	Nintendo
9		MK Trilogy	8.1	Midway
10		Shadows O.T. Empire	7.9	Nintendo

The editors of EGM have put together a listing of the best games for the most popular systems. Our Review Crew has done the ratings, and they have been averaged into one easy-to-read score. It is also important to note that sometimes a game will get ranked higher than others with larger Review Crew scores. This is because the game is "hot," and it is one which our Review Crew is constantly playing. These lists will change every month as additional games are reviewed.

The games are ranked by individual system, and there is an overall top 20 list for all the systems. This last list will pick up any hot 16-Bit or portable game that may come out.

On the right-hand page, we have put together a list of all of the games that will be coming out in the next three months for the three major game systems. This list should be helpful for players, so that they can plan out their upcoming game purchases. The game name and the month the title will be released was obtained from each of the game companies and is correct as of the middle of the month listed above. Please note that the release date could change due to reasons beyond our control.

COMING SOON



SPAWN-PLAYSTATION



CLAYFIGHTER 63 1/3-N64



DUKE NUKEM-SATURN

PLAYSTATION

Broken Helix	Konami	June	First-Person
Dynasty Warriors	Koei	June	Fighting
Fantastic Four	Acclaim	June	Action
Lost World: Jurassic Park	DreamWorks	June	Action
Killing Time	Acclaim	June	First-Person
Lethal Enforcers 1 & 2	Konami	June	Shooting
Mass Destruction	BMG Interactive	June	Action
Midnight Run	Konami	June	Racing
SSF2 Collection	Capcom	June	Fighting
Syndicate Wars	EA	June	Action
Thunder Truck Rally	Psygnosis	June	Racing
Warcraft 2	EA	June	Strategy
Xevious 3D	Namco	June	Shooter
Aaron vs. Ruth	Mindscape	July	Sports
Bottom of the Ninth '97	Konami	July	Sports
Clayfighter Extreme	Interplay	July	Fighting
Ghost in the Shell	T*HQ	July	Action
HardBall 6	Accolade	July	Sports
MDK	Playmates	July	Action
Museum Vol. 5	Namco	July	Arcade
Ogre Battle	Atlus	July	Strategy
Rebel Moon	GT Interactive	July	First-Person
Red Asphalt	Interplay	July	Act/Sports
Reel Fishing	Natsume	July	Sports
Castlevania: S. of the Night	Konami	Aug.	Action
College FB USA '98	EA	Aug.	Sports
Discworld 2	Psygnosis	Aug.	Adventure
Golden Nugget	Virgin	Aug.	Simulation
Marvel Super Heroes	Capcom	Aug.	Fighting
Moto Race GP	BMG Interactive	Aug.	Sports
NFL QB Club '98	Acclaim	Aug.	Sports
Spawn	SCEA	Aug.	Action
SWIV	Interplay	Aug.	Action
XS	GT Interactive	Aug.	Action

This calendar lists the release dates for the next three months. The information is accurate as of April 15, 1997.

NINTENDO 64

Hexen	GT Interactive	June	First-Person
StarFox 64	Nintendo	June	Shooter
Clay Fighter 63 1/3	Interplay	July	Fighting
Dark Rift	Vic Tokai	July	Fighting
Lamborghini 64	Titus	July	Racing
Aeroflight Assault	McO/River	Aug.	Shooter
F-1 Pole Position	Ubi Soft	Aug.	Sports
Int. Superstar Soccer 64	Konami	Aug.	Sports
Top Gear Rally	Kemco	Aug.	Racing

SATURN

Killing Time	Acclaim	June	First-Person
Krazy Ivan	T*HQ	June	Action
Lethal Enforcers 1 & 2	Konami	June	Shooting
Mass Destruction	BMG Interactive	June	Action
Shining the Holy Ark	Sega	June	RPG
SSF2 Collection	Capcom	June	Fighting
Adidas Power Soccer	T*HQ	July	Sports
Duke Nukem 3D	Sega	July	First-Person
Lost World: Jurassic Park	Sega	July	Action
Manx TT	Sega	July	Sports
Mega Man X 4	Capcom	July	Action
MK Trilogy	Midway	July	Fighting
Sentient	T*HQ	July	RPG
Tenka	T*HQ	July	First-Person
World Series BB '98	Sega	July	Sports
Magic Knight Ray Earth	Working Designs	Aug.	RPG
Marvel Super Heroes	Capcom	Aug.	Fighting
NFL QB Club '98	Acclaim	Aug.	Sports
Re-Loaded	Interplay	Aug.	Action
Sonic Jam	Sega	Aug.	Action
Ten Pin Alley	ASC Games	Aug.	Sports



REBEL MOON-PLAYSTATION



STARFOX 64-N64



WORLD SERIES BASEBALL '98-SATURN

- **Nintendo's Dream Project at E'**
- **New Sonic on the Horizon**
- **Saturn and PS Price Drop**
- **SF3 Coming to 64DD/M2**
- **Actraiser 64 Announced**
- **More on PlayStation Type C**

Salutations Q-fans, welcome once again to the home of trashy rumors, clandestine gaming gossip, surreptitious industry news and enough up-to-date game info to satisfy even the hungriest news hound. The place (and person) I'm talking about is Q-Mann, the slickest, most jet-setting, bribing, tuxedo-wearing, top-secret file-snatchin', video game secret agent/information abductor in all the land. This month, my humble Q-spies and I have risked love, life and limb to bring you the news Q-followers deserve. Enough chit-chat, on with the show...

As expected, the most intense buzz centers around this year's E' show in Atlanta. This all-important game show is the place where the big guns (Sony, Sega, Nintendo), small players and everybody-in-between show all their cards for the year...

Nintendo's big surprise for this year's E' is a top-secret action game called Dream. Developed by Rare, Dream is being touted as an evolutionary 3-D action title and is said to offer a visual and gameplay experience like no other. Those who have seen the game say it's even better than Mario 64...we'll see. Nintendo...Other games due to surface include F-Zero 64, Ken Griffey, GoldenEye, Tetrisphere, Yoshi's Island 64, StarFox 64, Zelda 64, Body Harvest and possibly PilotWings 2 and DKC 64 (both games are in development but may be too early to show at E'). Also expected to make an appearance at the Nintendo booth is the 64DD. Terry-Aki (our Japanese top gun) reports that the 64DD will now be bundled with a 4 Megabyte RAM plug-in (previously reported at 2 Megs). The upgrade is due out this December in Japan and should launch in the U.S. around December of 1998...Why do we have to wait one full year for the 64DD? Because Neo-A is planning to launch the upgrade with Super Mario 64 II. Although Mother 3 (to be renamed Earthbound 64 when it comes to the U.S.) is expected to push sales for the 64DD in Japan, NCL has decided that the sequel to Super Mario 64 is more appropriate for the U.S. launch, and the game is not due until late 1998. NeoA will also use E' to highlight their new Nintendo Sports label. Besides Ken Griffey Jr., the big N is developing additional N64 titles in the sports genre including a 3-D soccer game, a tennis game, Play Action Football 64 and a new 3-D basketball game being developed by Angel Studios (the same group responsible for Ken Griffey on the N64) featuring Shawn Kemp from the Seattle Sonics. Now although all these games from Nintendo may seem enough to keep the gaming giant busy for a while, I found out that Nintendo has even MORE N64 titles that are soon to surface...stay tuned...

Over at Sega land, the big S (no, not Sony) is using the E' show as an opportunity to prove that they are still in the thick of things. Ward on the street sez Sega will waste little time in announcing a price drop for the Saturn. Our latest reports say that Sega is prepared to lower the retail price of the Saturn to as low as 89 BUCKS!!! Sega also plans to have a killer lineup at E'. Topping the list is VF3 for the Saturn. The game is only about 45 percent complete at the moment and is due to hit store shelves October in Japan and December in the U.S. VF3 will come bundled with a cart upgrade that plugs into the Saturn, and the whole works should cost about 70 bucks out the door. Sega also has a top-secret action title that could show its face at Atlanta. The title is Sega's new 3-D Sonic game. Not to be confused with the about-Sonic X from the new 3-D Sonic is being designed in Japan by Yui Naka and his Sonic Team (the same group responsible for NIGHTS), Sonic TT, as the game is being called, is due out in early 1999. Other Saturn games to debut at E' include: Panzer Dragoon RPG, Last Bronx, Sonic Jam, Sega Touring Car, Virus and Game Arts' new PZ killer. Brandt. On the hardware tip, Sega is currently putting the finishing touches on their new 64-Bit console which is due out the summer of 1998. Reportedly, the new hardware is about 85 percent done and could surface at any time, but Sega is waiting patiently for Sony to make their next move. Our spies report that a demo version of Sega's 64-Bit system will be shipped from Japan to the E' show, ready to go if Sega decides to flex their muscles. Sega also plans to show off their new 64-Bit baby at the fall TGS show in Japan...more next month...

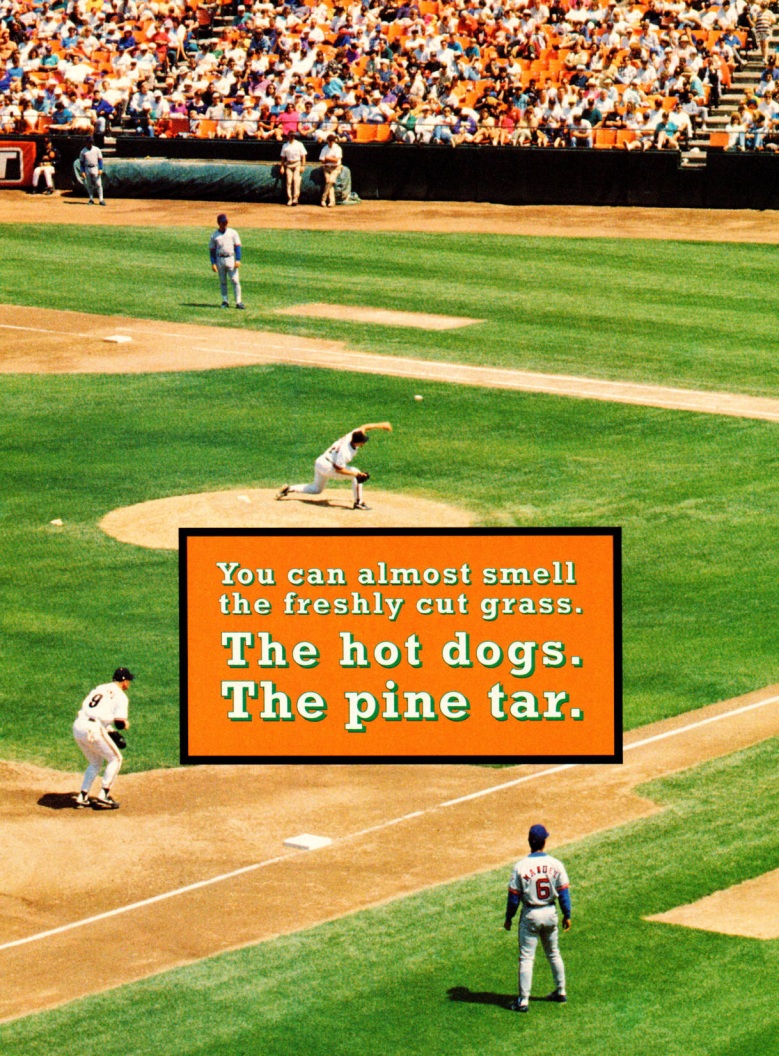
Speaking of muscles, Sony (yes, the one and only) also has plans to make their booth the place to be at E'. On the software side, Sony's top-secret 3-D action game (do you notice a pattern forming here?) is a title called Captain Blasto. Like Nintendo's big title—Dream for the N64—Captain Blasto has secretly been in development for over two years. Reportedly, the game is a graphic extravaganza and uses every ounce and neutron of the PlayStation. Other big Sony titles include: Crash 2, Spawn, WipeOut 3, Total 2, FF7, Warhawk II, NFL GameDay 98, Formula One II and The Legend of Alundra. Sony's Zelda killer (they hope). In Sony hardware news, the big S (no, not Sega) is planning to lower the price of the PlayStation to about \$99 around Christmas time, but they're also adding a new twist. Our spies report Sony is only going to temporarily lower the price of the PS down to \$99 during the peak X-mas sales period. This way, Sony can avoid the stigma of this being just another price drop. In Type C news, the E' show will be the premier venue for the worst-kept video game hardware secret. The Type C upgrade (2 Meg RAM cart that plugs in the back of a PlayStation) will be home to a whole slew of new titles, the first of which is Tekken 3. We hear reports that other first-party Type C games from Sony (possibly Capt. Blasto) will debut at E'. The stand-alone PlayStation C (6 Megs of RAM and a quad-speed CD drive) is said to debut at the fall TGS show in Japan. We now hear that, although the PlayStation 64 is not due until 1999, Ken Kutaragi (the chief hardware guru at Sony) has finished all design work of the machine, and the device could theoretically launch in early 1998 (at least in Japan). The earliest part of this whole video game hardware drama is that Sony is waiting to see what Sega does with their 64-Bit system before they commit to an actual launch date and vice versa. Who will make the first move in this hardware standoff?...The Q feels Sega is the one with the ichest trigger finger...

Last month we reported Capcom is working on a coin-op one-on-one fighting game with Final Fight characters. The game will run on Capcom's new CPS-III arcade board, and is being developed at Capcom USA in Sunnyvale, Calif., and is due out in early 1998. In fact, the main planner for X-Men in the arcade, plus a hand-picked group of designers and programmers from Capcom Japan are flying to the U.S. for this project. We also found out that Capcom has a Final Fight game up and running on Sega's Titan architecture (a coin-op version of the Saturn). The Titan game is reportedly a true Final Fight sequel (side-scrolling beat-'em-up) and not a one-on-one fighting game like the CPS-III title. It's not known how much Sega paid Capcom to do this Titan title, but I'm sure the penny was quite pretty...

Over in the Land of the Rising Sun, Terry-Aki reports that the video game formally known as Street Fighter III is making its way over to the 64DD as well as the M2 and PS Type C. Look for Three—a new generation of Street Fighter—to arrive on Nintendo's upgrade around mid-1998...Qintet (the development group responsible for Actraiser 1, 2 and Illusion of Giza) is currently coding Actraiser 64 for the Nintendo 64. The game will debut at the Shoshinkai Show in November. SNK is planning to release a home version of the Neo-Geo 64. The games will use the CD format, and the system could be even MORE EXPENSIVE than the old Neo-Geo. The NG 64 will be out in Japan this December and will launch with Samurai Spirits.

That's it for this month Q-dudes, tune in to next month's Q-Mann where you'll read news on upcoming arcade games, video game movies, Sega's 64-Bit plans and Sony's dirty little secret. Until then, here's a little word of Q-wisdom to live by: Avoid purple sheets at all costs...

-THE Q

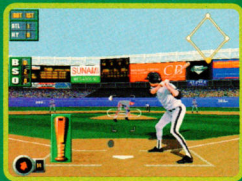


You can almost smell
the freshly cut grass.

The hot dogs.
The pine tar.



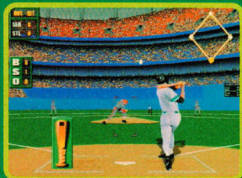
Exclusive **Pitching Meter** lets you control your wind-up and release like an ace reliever. Feel the pressure on the mound that it takes to throw big-league pitches.



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PROTOS

Here's proof that *EGM* brings you the first look at the newest of the new games. The following section contains everything from cut scenes to screen shots for titles in early development. Watch for updates in future Protos and more extensive coverage in upcoming Next Waves.



PUBLISHER		SYSTEM		THEME	
TBA		NINTENDO ⁶⁴		Action	
RELEASE DATE	PLAYERS	N		SIZE	% COMPLETE
3rd Qtr. '97	1-4	N		N/A	N/A

Hudson's old explosive title (pun intended) returns for a new round of destruction on the N64. But this time players get more than what they would expect from a typical Bomberman title. There are two distinctly different forms of games to enjoy packaged in one cart. There is the typical multiple player-style title where the object is to blow the other competitors into oblivion with proper application of skill and timing. But new to this release is the latest adventure where the player controls the Bomberman character in a Mario 64-style 3-D adventure game. Although this may take many players by surprise, they have to remember that this version is in addition to the classic confrontational mazed settings. So now, Bomberman fans as well as the enthusiasts of the newest style N64 3-D titles, that have become so popular in recent months, may have the chance to play this title as a US release. Whether this one will live up to the title's past reputation, only time will tell.

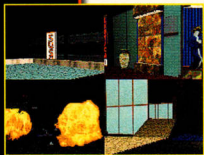


BOMBERMAN 64

SYSTEM		RELEASE DATE	
NINTENDO ⁶⁴		4th Qtr. '97	
N		THEME	
GT Interactive		First-per. Shooter	
PUBLISHER	SIZE	PLAYERS	% COMPLETE
N/A	N/A	1-4	N/A



It has blood, guts, big guns and strippers. Or maybe not. The N64 incarnation of *Duke Nukem 3D*—although it will surely be the best-looking of the console ports—will lack some of the PC blockbuster's more R-rated elements. Namely, the game's infamous stripper bystanders will wear T-shirts instead of their usual G-string bikinis. But Nintendo has made up for its tinkering by upping the game's violence level and adding a few, N64-specific missions (there are more than 30 levels, and yes, they're still set in strip clubs and other seedy locales). The N64 will also offer the most trouble-free multiplayer mode, arguably the game's coolest feature. Instead of fiddling with modem add-ons or link cables, players will only have to plug in four controllers to engage in some deathmatch mayhem.



DUKE NUKEM 3D



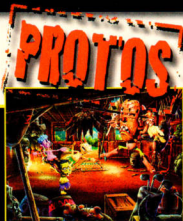
CLAYFIGHTER 63 1/3



The fighting title with the cast of the weirdest and the most disturbing characters ever to set foot on a home system lands on the N64 sometime in the middle of '97. Clayfighter 63 1/3 features over 11 characters each with his/her own unique moves. These include Bad Mr. Frosty's attack from a Snow Pie attack and Sumo Santa's revealing attack with his loincloth.

The graphics and the sounds are really astonishing with an appeal fighting game followers will love. That is, if they are looking for a little lighthearted humor mixed into an unorthodox title. But one feature everyone is bound to enjoy is the responsive control that offers much in the way of narrowing the bridge between you and your character. The stage backgrounds are also well thought out and detailed. They seem to work great with the 3-D rotational viewpoints which are controlled with the top buttons similar to Toshinden.

SYSTEM	RELEASE DATE
NINTENDO 64	July
	THEME
	Fighting
PUBLISHER	SIZE
Interplay	96 Meg
PLAYERS	% COMPLETE
1 or 2	N/A




PREVIEWS

DUAL HEROES



Although the array of futuristic fighters may look like some of the Power Rangers, the title is all action. The characters are a perfect blend of originality and variety, combining a range of unique stages such as the floating zone, lava and electrical stages. Sounds pretty standard, until players find out how each of the characters have a new style of artificial intelligence where the computer plays different roles based on the character you fight as well as the mystery AI factor. It's like fighting a slew of human players each with his/her own personalities and traits. This "Virtual Gamer" is like combining two AIs in every character for an experience no true fighting game fanatic should miss.

SYSTEM	RELEASE DATE
NINTENDO 64	3rd Qtr. '97
	THEME
	Fighting
PUBLISHER	SIZE
TBA	N/A
PLAYERS	% COMPLETE
1 or 2	N/A



one nation under Odd

ODDWORLD: ABE'S ODDYSSEY

playstation™ gets odd september 1997



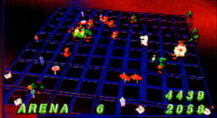
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PROTOS

ROBOTRON X



Gamers familiar with the PlayStation version have a good idea what Robotron X is all about. Will this version be better? Based loosely on the arcade classic, but still with the same feel, Robotron X for the Nintendo 64 not only throws the gamer into a hectic, action-packed experience but also shows off the intense graphics for which the N64 is becoming known. Stuff like transparent textures and smooth, antialiased edges (not to mention trippy backgrounds) will surely find their way into this cart. Since it's very early, EGM is still in the process of digging up the info on this one. It should be interesting to see if this cart will be \$70 when it's released.



PUBLISHER		SYSTEM	THEME	
Midway		NINTENDO 64	Action	
RELEASE DATE	PLAYERS	SIZE	% COMPLETE	
September	1 or 2	64 Meg	N/A	



WARCRAFT 2

Now console owners can jump on the strategy bandwagon and test their talents on the hottest strategy game ever to grace the keyboard. Blizzard's Warcraft 2 allows players to play as either the brave and conquering humans or the insidious orcs in a battle that continues across multiple stages.

These stages once completed bring players an unfolding story that carries them to the complete and utter destruction of the opposition (if they are good enough). Players build their base fortifications and increase their mining and lumber production through the use of peasants. Then as they begin needing better protection, they can start developing their weapons of war. These range from naval ships of various sorts and land-based troops to aerial-scouting ships. Only players with a finesse for strategy should apply for Warcraft 2. It is an epic battle of good versus evil.



SYSTEM	RELEASE DATE
	June
	Strategy
PUBLISHER	SIZE
EA	CD-ROM
PLAYERS	% COMPLETE
1 or 2	50%

PUBLISHER		SYSTEM	THEME	
Capcom			Fighting	
RELEASE DATE	PLAYERS	SIZE	% COMPLETE	
June	1 or 2	CD-ROM	N/A	

Where else could you find a collection of three of the best older fighting titles on any system? Capcom is including in one pack: Super SF II, Super SF II Turbo and a surprise game (SF Zero 2 Alpha in Japan). So now SF enthusiasts can enjoy the classics from '93 and '94—titles which included characters such as Cammy, Dee Jay, T. Hawk, Feilong and the first appearance of Akuma, as well as the title that introduced the super combo system of fighting moves, which set the standard for later fighting titles. Old-time Street Fighter fanatics have something to leave home for once again. Not exactly a new thrill, but still it's packed with tons of replay value.



SUPER STREET FIGHTER 2 COLLECTION

TREASURES

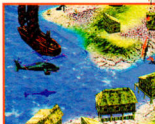
OF THE DEEP



Think becoming a diver for hire is interesting? Namco's latest title, they bought from Black Ops, allows you to search the 75 percent of the world's surface that happens to be underwater in their politically correct title *Treasures of the Deep*. You start out small and build yourself (and your wallet) by completing various underwater jobs. Working, in turn, allows you to buy new and more advanced equipment like remote-controlled dive craft to take on more demanding tasks. Whether you want to dive under the Great Barrier Reef in Australia or the ice caves in the arctic circle, *Treasures of the Deep* has plenty of action and excitement to enjoy. Just don't target any endan-

PUBLISHER		SYSTEM	THEME	
Namco			Action	
RELEASE DATE	PLAYERS		SIZE	% COMPLETE
September	1	CD-ROM	N/A	

PROTOS



This year's addition to EA's "Strike" line of games puts you once again in control of a helicopter with the fate of a planet riding on its successful completion of the mission. The graphics of their latest hell-titled *Nuclear Strike* are really sharp and hold up the reputation built by *Soviet Strike*. We are expecting the same amount of in-mission fun as in *Soviet Strike* such as the sporadic rescue of POWs and the insertion of trained troops to take over tanks and complete their part of the mission which in turn reflects what happens in your mission. You can expect to save the planet once again later this year.

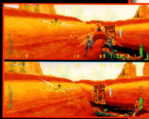


NUCLEAR STRIKE

SYSTEM	RELEASE DATE
	3rd Qtr. '97
	THEME
Action	
PUBLISHER	SIZE
EA	CD-ROM
PLAYERS	% COMPLETE
1	N/A

BUG RIDER

If you are the type of gamer who feels that racing on the backs of giant bugs is something you need in a title, *Bug Rider* is right up your arthropod. It features true 3-D racing with more than 22 characters each with signature weapons and racing styles. There are six unique racing environments, complete with branching courses and evolving tracks. Distinct bug/character relationships exist in the title which influence gameplay. There are also more than 16 spectacular weapons including defensive and rear attacks to use and enjoy in *Bug Rider*. With all of these heart-pumping features, this title is one of the stars to look for in the upcoming E' issues of *EGM*.



PUBLISHER		SYSTEM	THEME	
GT Interactive			Action	
RELEASE DATE	PLAYERS		SIZE	% COMPLETE
October	1 or 2	CD-ROM	N/A	

for Odd's sake

ODDWORLD: ABE'S ODDYSSEE

playstation™ gets odd september 1997



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PREVIEWS

Let's See Your Joystick Do this!



Finally, there's violence on T.V. worth getting excited about. That's because NAKI's new Red Sight Laser Target System gives you total shooting control. Blow away enemies cowering behind obstacles, pick out terrorists without killing hostages — any time the situation demands pinpoint accuracy, you've gotta power up the Red Sight Laser. There's simply no alternative.

- Combine special features like Auto Fire, Auto Reload, and Semi Auto Fire in any way you like.
- The Red Sight Laser Target System works with shooting games for PlayStation, N64, and Saturn.



Red Sight Laser Target System shown with Lunar Gun for Sony PlayStation (attaches to any NAKI Lunar Gun).

NAKI Lunar Guns are lightweight, durable, and available for all platforms.

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Wireless Pro Controller



Pro Fighter 5



Wireless PSR-2



Memory Cards (1MB, 5MB)



RF Switch



CD Cleaner System

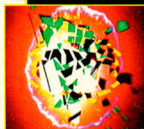
REBOOT

SYSTEM		RELEASE DATE	
		4th Qtr. '97	
PUBLISHER		THEME	
Electronic Arts		Action	
PLAYERS		SIZE	
1		CD-ROM	
PLAYERS		% COMPLETE	
1		N/A	

Remember the rendered cartoon ReBoot? It's still around, but these days (or some time down the road) the show is taking on a new form. ReBoot for the PlayStation has gamers in the role of the show's main character, Bob. Gamers will find themselves working their way through the computer-generated worlds, blowing up (or should we say "formatting") enemies that get in the way of goodness with Bob's special weapon known as "Glitch." Since the game's early, it hasn't been decided if players will actually control Bob or just where he shoots. Will the graphics in the game compare to the show?



PROTOS



Sony has prepared us for what they claim will be one of the hottest titles of the year with their new release Blast or Captain Blast. Although we haven't been able to obtain much information on this highly secretive title, it appears that Sony really has something up their sleeves. Look to upcoming E' issues for more complete information as it becomes available to us at EGM.

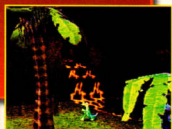
PUBLISHER		SYSTEM		THEME	
SCOA				Action	
RELEASE DATE		PLAYERS		SIZE	
3rd Qtr. '97		1		CD-ROM	
PLAYERS		% COMPLETE		SIZE	
1		N/A		CD-ROM	

BLAST'O

SYSTEM		RELEASE DATE	
		December	
PUBLISHER		THEME	
TBA		Action	
PLAYERS		SIZE	
1		CD-ROM	
PLAYERS		% COMPLETE	
1		N/A	



Everyone's favorite smart-mouthed gecko, Gex is back in his latest title, Agent Gex for the PS. Gex has found work with the government and must keep his arch nemesis, Rez, from taking over the country's television broadcasts. Gex still features the humor and one-liners of comedian Dana Gould throughout the adventure. Other notable features include 360-degree free-roaming 3-D gameplay and over 3400 frames of character animation including actual in-game lip-synching. Four suction-cupped gecko feet await the player with the ambition to help our reptilian friend.



AGENT GEX

in Odd
we trust

ODDWorld: ABE'S ODDYSEE

playstation™ gets odd september 1997

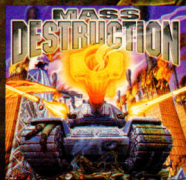


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PREVIEWS

IT'S A
**STRATEGY
GAME.**

THE STRATEGY IS TO
BLAST THE LIVING CRAP
OUT OF EVERYTHING IN SIGHT.





For being little clay masterpieces, these characters sure do get around. This version of the fighter that parodies practically all other fighting games out there is still living large—it could be compared to the *Naked Gun* of the gaming world. This time around the game features new characters (some of the old ones are back) and new arenas (the pictures to the left only show two, but there should be more). Being early, though, it's difficult to tell what the finished product will be like, but it seems more detailed. Expect the same silly moves as the other versions had—probably some that are even more "over the top" than before.

ClayFighter Extreme

PUBLISHER		SYSTEM		THEME	
Interplay				Fighting	
RELEASE DATE	PLAYERS	SIZE	% COMPLETE		
July	1 or 2	CD-ROM	N/A		

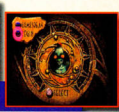
PANDEMONIUM! 2

You guessed it, Pandemonium! returns to gamers with the second release of the popular jester-based title. This time you can control older and wiser versions of Nikki and Fargus through lush 3-D environments while using powerful new moves and attacks.

Pandemonium 2 boasts dynamic 3-D camera angles as well as Internationally renowned music to create a heavy and inspiring jungle/techno sound. Gameplay is also extended with secret and bonus levels that keep players constantly looking for more in each level of play.



SYSTEM		RELEASE DATE	
		December	
PUBLISHER		THEME	
TBA		Action	
PLAYERS		SIZE	
1 or 2		CD-ROM	
		% COMPLETE	
		N/A	



Worried that almost all of the original titles have gone the way of the dodo? GT Interactive has decided to introduce a new twist in the gaming industry with: *Oddworld: Abe's Oddysee*. The new soon-to-be Sony pack-in features the strange and unusual Abe that has tasks to complete in a world where nothing can be considered normal. Players can expect lavishly decorated levels, giant stages and creatures the eyes of man have never before seen.

SYSTEM		RELEASE DATE	
		4th Qtr. '97	
PUBLISHER		THEME	
GT Interactive		Action	
PLAYERS		SIZE	
1		CD-ROM	
		% COMPLETE	
		N/A	

ODD WORLD: ABE'S ODDYSEE

ALL THE WORLD'S A TARGET.



If you're one of those sensitive, politically correct, in-touch-with-your-feminist-side men of the '90s, then you'll best stay far, far away from *Mass Destruction*.



Mass Destruction is pure testosterone. One hundred percent. 24 battlefields. 8 weapons of destruction. Flamethrowers. Gaidou missiles. The works.



Something gets in your way, blow it up. Something doesn't get in your way, blow it up anyway. Put it this way, if it's a thinking man's game you want, go play chess.

MASS DESTRUCTION

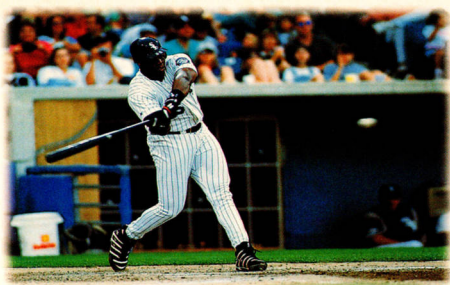
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Paint the corners...





ALL 28 3-D RENDERED
MAJOR LEAGUE STADIUMS

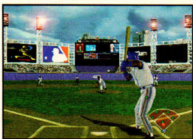


PHOTO REALISTIC PLAYER GRAPHICS



PLAY BY PLAY CALLS
FROM JON MILLER

...or he'll spray the bleachers.

We could tell you that **ALL-STAR BASEBALL '97 FEATURING FRANK THOMAS** has every feature you ever wanted (because it has). But every ball player will tell you he can hit. Or pitch. Or field. It's how you play that matters.

Just like an All-Star, we're bringing you the complete package. Intuitive. Fast. Accurate. Consistent. And multi-talented. Because an All-Star isn't just a pitcher. He's a fielder, too. An All-Star isn't just a batter. He's a threat to steal. An All-Star isn't just a catcher. He's a pitching coach. An All-Star is a workhorse. And a stallion. An All-Star is a player. All the time.



FULL SEASON TEAM AND
PLAYER STATS



TRADE PLAYERS BETWEEN TEAMS



FEATURING
FRANK THOMAS
A PERFECT GAME

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www.majorleaguebaseball.com



www.acclaimsports.com

PROTOS

WILD 9's



Players control Wex, the leader of a group of renegade teens, as he makes his way through level after level, trying to destroy the evil mastermind known as Karn. The game takes place in a future where Karn—no more than a gigantic face—controls the entire world as Wex and his group know it. Why does the "Wild 9's" have such a vengeful attitude? Karn destroyed all of the teens' families



but also made the mistake of attacking Wex. The dark and gritty look of the future in Wild 9's comes through in the graphics. From what we've seen from early versions, the animation is flawless, being true to life. Look for special lighting and other graphical effects. More than likely the levels will take place in the system's many planets.



PUBLISHER		SYSTEM	THEME	
Interplay			Adventure	
RELEASE DATE	PLAYERS		SIZE	% COMPLETE
4th Qtr. '97	1	CD-ROM	N/A	

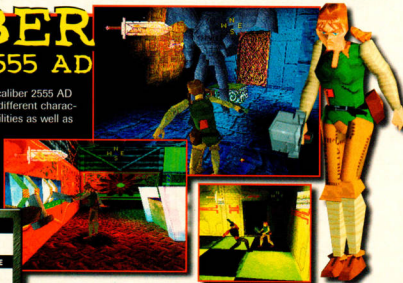
Wreckin' Crew

SYSTEM	RELEASE DATE
	4th Qtr. '97
THEME	
Racing	
PUBLISHER	SIZE
Sir Tech	CD-ROM
PLAYERS	% COMPLETE
1 or 2	N/A

Wreckin' Crew offers players the chance to drive a host of stylized and customized vehicles from a '57 Chevy to a beat-up Ford pickup. Each vehicle has its own strengths and weaknesses, and you can drive through the streets of four fantastic worlds without having to worry about gear ratios and wing settings as you do with more technical racing titles. The main focus with Wreckin' Crew is to put the fun back into the genre and allow players to once again enjoy a title without worrying about the technical aspects of a racing game. In-course pickup items and upgrades including nitros, weapons and repair kits are abound to help the player through the various courses of the adventure. There are even more than 1,000 different roadside objects which interact with the player's car. For instance, hit a tire shack and watch the tires bounce all over the track.

EXCALIBUR
2555 AD

The sword known only as Excalibur has been stolen by bandits from the future and now it is up to you as Merlin's apprentice to retrieve it. Excalibur 2555 AD features over 300 locations complete with 50 different characters, realistic light sourcing, full speech capabilities as well as hand-to-hand, armed and magical combat throughout the game. There are also intriguing puzzles that will test your brainpower as well as your sword arm. This one is bound to be more than an old time hack-and-slash adventure.



PUBLISHER		SYSTEM	THEME	
Sir Tech			Adventure	
RELEASE DATE	PLAYERS		SIZE	% COMPLETE
3rd Qtr. '97	1	CD-ROM	N/A	

Third time's a charm.
If you consider death charming.



- 10 all new arenas, and this time they're enclosed.
- 30 characters, 12 completely new, each armed with their own deadly weapon.
- Select from an unbelievable 30 frames per second or an even faster 60 frames per second.
- Unique save/ranking feature holds your place between matches.
- 2 player mode.
- Dozens of brand new fighting combos.
- Improved game and control dynamics.

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REVIEW CREW



STARFOX 64

GAME OF THE MONTH

SYSTEM: N64

PUBLISHER: NINTENDO

CATEGORY: SHOOTER

BACK-UP: BATTERY

BEST FEATURE: KICKIN' BOSSES

WORST FEATURE: PERSPECTIVES

ALSO TRY: SOTE.



SHAWN

When StarFox 64 came to the office, Shawn couldn't believe how cool it was. Will this push him over the edge to buy a Nintendo 64? Only if more quality games start coming through on a regular schedule.

CURRENT FAVORITES: StarFox 64, Mega Man 8, Command & Conquer Overblood

FAVORITE GENRE: Action/Adventure



DAN

Originality can be a double-edged sword. Just look at this month's reviews for two very unique games: Harvest Moon and Tail of the Sun! Still, originality is what "Shoe" loves to see. And what's with all these polygonal fighting games lately?

CURRENT FAVORITES: Mega Man 8, Dracula X (PS), Worldwide Soccer '97, Final Fantasy VII

FAVORITE GENRE: Strategy/Puzzle



CRISPIN

All of this month's fighting games got Cris a little worked up, so the rest of the Crew sat him down and forced him to raise cattle in Harvest Moon till he calmed down. It worked, sort of. It took Cris a good fifteen minutes to figure out he couldn't perform a fatality on poor 'Bessie. So he went and ate a Big Mac instead.

CURRENT FAVORITES: Harvest Moon, StarFox 64, Duke Nukem 3D, Fighters Megamix

FAVORITE GENRE: Role-Playing



SUSHI-X

Sushi's gearing up for his Street Fighter Collection CD, and he is crossing his fingers for a perfect translation of Street Fighter I one day. Disgruntled with the story of SF3, he has been getting into the vs. gameplay. He's also been chucking over his Sheng Long trick, happy to see the cool comments. Send your thoughts to Sushi_X@zd.com.

CURRENT FAVORITES: Street Fighter III, Duke Nukem 3D, Tekken III, StarFox 64

FAVORITE GENRE: Fighting

RATING SCALE
10—PERFECTION
9—VIRTUALLY FLAWLESS
8—SPLENDID
7—WORTHY
6—GOOD, NOT GREAT

5—AVERAGE
4—RENT FIRST
3—TIME WASTER
2—DON'T EVEN RENT
1—FLUSH IT

The Review Crew rates each game in several categories: visuals, sound, ingenuity and replay value. The averages of the four members' scores in these categories are listed at the bottom. These averages are independent of the overall scores, which are displayed behind each review and based on how the games compare to other titles on the same system.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Silver Awards are granted to games with a total average score of eight, while Gold Awards are granted nine or above, receive Gold Awards.

It took me about 10 minutes of wild teetering and tottering in my seat to figure out that StarFox 64 is an even better game than its 16-Bit predecessor. What we have here is the ultimate twitch shooter. Its screenfuls of enemies and onrushing obstacles never cut you and the rest of the McCloud clan any slack. OK, so the original StarFox was relentless, too, but this sequel gives you a hell of a lot more to worry about. For starters, your wingmen (yes, that would be the cloyingly cute trio of Peppy, Falco and Slippy, as well as a few new furry faces) are no longer expendable; each contributes something to the mission and is worth protecting—even if they do get in trouble way too often. Let Slippy buy the farm, for instance, and you won't be able to see the life gauge of Bosses (a real shame, since it'll probably be every gamer's fantasy to whack Slippy, whose sounds as if he's voiced by a 6-year-old girl). And only Falco can lead you to the secret areas scattered throughout each level. Starfox fans wanting a little more freedom this time around may be disappointed that most of the game's 15 levels still stick your Arwing on rails, but at least now the track is wider, giving you more room to maneuver. And a few

levels—namely the Boss stages—do switch to a fly-anywhere mode. While these stages are OK, they're not as exciting as the railed levels, which toss more enemies and obstacles in your path. Graphically, the game looks as good as we expected, although large enemies look pixelated when they're far away. StarFox 64's 580 price tag is steep (at least for a first-party N64 game), but don't forget that the Rumble Pak is included, and this little ticker is worth the extra ben. The Pak's varying vibrations add more than you'd expect to the game's already excellent control (I was skeptical myself until the first time the pad started humming along in tune with my ship's afterburners). I only wished the Pak worked with Blast Corps. The game's only let-down is its Multiplayer Modes, which divide the screen into fourths even if only two people are playing. If you thought following the action in Mario Kart 64's four tiny screens was hard, try spotting targets—many smaller than a dime—in four-player StarFox 64. Yet I consider the Multiplayer Modes more of a bonus than a true part of the game. And besides, at least Battle Mode gives you an excuse to blast Slippy into slimy green pieces. **—CRISPIN**

I'm starting to see a pattern with games released by Nintendo for the N64—a nice pattern. StarFox 64 is close to the best N64 game I've played thus far—almost as good as Mario 64. Why? Simply because StarFox 64 not only has the same awesome control and play the original had, but it also adds so many things (like graphic effects, number

of enemies, etc.) that make this version so much better. The graphics and gameplay are simply stunning. Problems? I would've liked to see different choosable views for the tank. Also, when big enemies came close to you, R-wing, it was often hard to judge when you were in. If only Nintendo would release 20 more games real soon. **—SHAWN**

StarFox 64 is a shooting fan's dream come true. Each of the game's 15-plus stages is jam-packed with incredible graphics, huge enemies (and hundreds of them), and best of all, challenging gameplay. Two of the coolest enhancements are the addition of real voices to the characters (all of which sound very good, though after an hour or so of listening to

Slippy whine. I was ready to shoot him down myself just to shut him up), and of course, the ability to man different vehicles (such as a tank and a submarine) on certain stages. The Rumble Pak adds a nice touch, but the novelty does wear thin rather quickly. Otherwise, StarFox 64 is probably one of the best N64 games yet, and well worth the wait. **—DAN**

little tarnished, needing more options, but it was still fun to fight against real people. The other disappointment was the inability to play with others in the Normal Mode. Sorry, everyone, that's for one player only. The background music wasn't very inspiring, but with all the action going on in the missions, it was hardly missed. **—SUSHI-X**

9
VISUALS

7
SOUND

7
INGENUITY

8
REPLAY

SYSTEM: N64

DARK RIFT

PUBLISHER: VIC TOKAI



CATEGORY: FIGHTING

BACK-UP: NONE

BEST FEATURE: SPECIAL EFFECTS

WORST FEATURE: DULL GAMEPLAY

ALSO TRY: KI GOLD

Dark Rift looks good—real good—and the animation is some of the best around (next to VF3 and others as realistic). With that said, let me get into some things that are far more important than looks that bug me about the game. First the AI seems to be really slow with the first few characters who often just sit there and let you hit them. At first I thought it was just the natural progression, but as I got to the fourth or fifth character, all of a sudden the enemies become incredibly hard. I would've liked a bit more of a gradual ramp instead of giant steps. Some of the characters (like Eve compared to Morphix) seem unbalanced even with knowing their specials. Dark Rift also has a lot of good points. The weapons are great-looking and actually seem to cause major damage (i.e., Zennmuro's Samurai slash). On top of the cool-looking weapons, the graphic effects used in both characters and weapons, bring out the best in the N64 visuals. Let's face it, many of the good things about the game are merely aesthetic. When you put this up against a \$70 or \$80 price tag, graphics and effects don't matter so much. What it boils down to is Dark Rift being pretty fun, but it's an average 3-D fighter with incredible graphics. Even if you're starving for games, think about renting before buying.

-SHAWN

The bad news: Sushii and I spent a lot of time picking Dark Rift apart (via two-player battles), so I found a lot of fundamental flaws in the game (slow, sometimes useless projectiles, lethargic music, super cheap one-button control throws, lame dial-a-combos that are executed almost the same for every character, etc.). The good? The game looks nice.

-DAN

Although Dark Rift isn't a terribly original 3-D fighter, it is the first N64 game to deliver Tekken-style gameplay. Unfortunately, its simple dial-a-combo system won't hold most gamers' interest for long (a shame, considering the cost of N64 games). Still, the fighters themselves look superb and are well-animated. The arenas, however, are kinda blah.

-CRISPIN

Dark Rift has a distinct Soul Blade feel to it, but the control is vastly different, i.e., using a throw button. Yes, a THROW button...what a waste of a good control. The music is annoying, so lower your audio. After learning the tap moves, it can be fun for two players, but the computer AI is pathetic. Simple patterns can beat the toughest CPU easily.

-SUSHII

7

VISUALS

4

SOUND

5

INGENUITY

6

REPLAY

SYSTEM: N64

WAR GODS

PUBLISHER: MIDWAY



CATEGORY: FIGHTING

BACK-UP: NONE

BEST FEATURE: COOL FATALITIES

WORST FEATURE: OLD CONCEPTS

ALSO TRY: MK TRILOGY

In a time when Mortal Kombat 4 is the talk of the town, it's fairly ironic that a game like War Gods should show its face on the console market. Avid MK players will be able to jump right in and kick some tail, but they may have a little adjusting to do with the awkward 3-D button. Still, War Gods is what many, including myself, consider to be the prototype for a polygonal Mortal Kombat. It plays the same and has the same elements, like fatalities, creepy announcers, and of course, blood everywhere. In short, War Gods is horribly unoriginal. The frame rate is very choppy, say 15 fps at times, which doesn't say much for the N64's abilities. True, the arcade game wasn't much better at this, but I expected the translation to be cleaner. The selection of characters is pretty meager as well. I like the way the new 3-D perspective was handled, however, and the special 3-D attacks are very effective...almost too effective. I quickly was able to use the 3-D button, especially since I treated it like the Run button of MK3. The fatalities are by far the best part of War Gods, being more imaginative than MK's, much to my surprise. While not a blockbuster title, all MK fans will want this addition to their N64 library, but most other gamers shouldn't spend their hard-earned money on it. I'd rather wait for Mortal Kombat 4.

-SUSHII

Here's a good example of a game that doesn't get any better because of improved graphics. The PlayStation version didn't play well and guess what? This version doesn't either. It just doesn't feel right. Part of it is the control and the other part are the moves—they're inventive and all, but often they're just too cheesy. I guess I like more realistic titles.

-SHAWN

You say you can't wait for a 3-D Mortal Kombat game? Well here it is. War Gods' fighting style (outside of being 3-D) is extremely similar to MK's (same buttons, same sweeps and uppercuts, etc.). It doesn't have quite the same catchy appeal as MK, and it only features 10 characters. Not a bad game (MK fans should check it out), but you can find better.

-DAN

War Gods may have been a dud in the arcades, but Midway made a few improvements to the home version of their first 3-D fighter. It now plays a little faster, and a few new moves have been added to each god's MK-inspired arsenal of attacks. Nevertheless, War Gods is an average fighter. Its fatalities will entertain you for a while, even if its gameplay won't.

-CRISPIN

6

VISUALS

5

SOUND

3

INGENUITY

5

REPLAY

SYSTEM: SATURN

MEGA MAN 8

PUBLISHER: CAPCOM



CATEGORY: ACTION

BACK-UP: SYSTEM MEMORY

BEST FEATURE: CLASSIC GAMEPLAY

WORST FEATURE: GOOFY VOICES

ALSO TRY: RAYMAN

Dear Capcom, thank you for the two NOTs. That is, NOT insulting the American audience by taking out the original anime cut scenes and NOT making Mega Man a 3-D game (for the sole purpose of making him 3-D). You see, tradition is not necessarily bad. MM receives a 32-Bit facelift, in terms of color and animation, but the game at heart that most of you've grown up to love is still intact. That could be bad news for those of you who've played to death every one of the million MM games (see this month's MM X4 preview). You won't find much revolutionary here. But, if you can't get enough of the Blue Bomber (Happy 10th Anniversary to him, by the way), then do yourself a favor and check this one out. The numerous weapons and Rush powers give this cute title plenty of variety. The thought that goes into some of the level designs will also impress die-scrolling fans (like me). My favorite is the Super R-Type-type shooter level, where you can pick up an assortment of offensive attacks. My only gripe—and this one applies to many 32-Bit titles—is that the game gets a little too chaotic at times. For some reason, programmers like to utilize the extra power to fill the screen with enemies, explosions, debris. It may get messy at times, but regardless, I recommend MM8 for those of you who miss the good ol' days of gaming.

-DAN

I am no connoisseur of Mega Man but certainly I can tell when a game is true to itself. This version of Mega Man is incredible. As great as the old ones were back on the NES, this one is everything I wanted back in the day. Granted some of the levels seem next to impossible, and to me (and many others I'm sure) this is part of the fun of Mega Man.

-SHAWN

Fans of the Mega Man series won't find anything surprisingly new in this 10th anniversary edition—nor, I'm sure, would they want to. It packs the flawless control, huge levels, unique Bosses and everything else you'd expect of a Mega Man game. Although the graphics aren't a leap ahead of the Super NES X games, the screen can swell with enemies.

-CRISPIN

The Blue Bomber strikes again, with yet another solid title. My biggest complaint is the horrible voices, but beyond that, Mega Man 8 has all the gameplay that made him famous. The power-up options are awesome, though I was disgruntled at the inability to have a fully powered Mega Man (Not enough Bolts). Still, this is a side-scrolling must-have.

-SUSHII

9

VISUALS

7

SOUND

7

INGENUITY

6

REPLAY

SYSTEM: SATURN
FIGHTERS MEGAMIX

PUBLISHER: SEGA



CATEGORY: FIGHTING

BACK-UP: SYSTEM MEMORY

BEST FEATURE: HIDDEN STUFF

WORST FEATURE: TOO EASY

ALSO TRY: VF ANYTHING

Here's a game we've all been waiting months to play, and let me say that it was not what I hoped it would be. True, it's one of the best fighters available for the Saturn, but as a game, it falls short of spectacular. Let's just say that any scrub of a player should be able to conquer Fighters Megamix in one sitting. You'd better play at the hardest difficulty to get any sort of challenge, but even then don't look for good computer AI. Fighters Megamix truly shines in its excellent Training Mode for each character. It is here that you get to learn all those techniques you'll NEVER use in real combat. You can be a master with two or three techniques, especially when using any of the Fighting Viper's combatants. The Virtua Fighter characters have to rely mainly on their increased strength and stamina to compete with the others, but against the fast power-hits of the Vipers, they rarely match up. A Viper without his or her armor is a cakewalk for any of the fighters, however. Besides the training, the other joy of Fighters Megamix is the multitude of hidden options and secret characters uncovered as you complete the various circuits. You even get to play as Jane from Virtua Cop or Siba, a concept character originally planned for Virtua Fighter 1, but never used. You can see artwork of him on the old VF arcade cabinets!

-SUSHIX

This game is a lot of fun to play with a bunch of characters and even more secrets. But even with that said, I had trouble really getting into this one except in Two-player Mode. I have to admit that I generally like 3-D fighters like Tekken 2. What I am sure of is that any gamer who digs Sega's fighters, Megamix is worth the price—there's so much to play.

-SHAWN

VF, floaty jumps: gone! FV, too few characters: fixed! Every mode in the game is fantastic. Now, fighting game juggling is fine, but Megamix goes overboard with it. And why do so many 3-D fighters depend so heavily on button-tapping combos? You can be guaranteed a certain degree of success by simply mashing on the buttons. Ugh. Still, it's a great fighter.

-DAN

No matter your tastes in fighting games, there's no excuse for lasing up Fighters Megamix. It packs the reserved, thinking-man's combat of VF2, the flashy, button-slapping antics of FV and the downright silliness of dozens of other bonus warriors from Sega's vast gaming universe. Some battles are unbalanced, but that's a small price for such variety.

-CRISPIN

7 VISUALS **7** SOUND **7** INGENUITY **8** REPLAY

SYSTEM: PLAYSTATION
OVERBLOOD

PUBLISHER: ELECTRONIC ARTS



CATEGORY: ADVENTURE

BACK-UP: MEMORY CARD

BEST FEATURE: LOTS TO EXPLORE

WORST FEATURE: TOO SHORT

ALSO TRY: RESIDENT EVIL

It's pretty hard to make a 3-D adventure game these days, now that Resident Evil came out awhile back. But what makes Overblood especially different from Resident Evil is the setting—Overblood takes place in an underground complex and it has a sci-fi feel. Anyway, instead of going on and on comparing the two, let's get into what makes Overblood good (after all, being compared to Resident Evil isn't a bad thing, so we'll leave it at that). The story line is interesting and not anywhere near as cheesy as Resident Evil (we all know just how bad the dialogue was in that one...sorry, Capcom, but it had to be said). The graphics are pretty nice although some of the polygonal break-up gets annoying in some areas—especially when controlling the camera yourself, but I guess that's just the way things go. I really liked the way you could select between different characters during the game and then use that person (or robot) to perform tasks that the other character couldn't. Make sense? It will if you play it. Some of the puzzles were really obvious. The fighting element was hard to follow, but being able to go into a first-person view helped. The funniest part of the game is when Pipa the robot bites the dust—should a man be that attached to a robot? I'm glad Luke Skywalker and R2-D2 weren't like that!

-SHAWN

3-D is nice and all, but it can be a hindrance if not used correctly. Overblood runs like you're playing in tar. But I do like the game elements, like playing as separate characters in realtime and the easy, but not overly obvious puzzles. The repetitive music may get on your nerves (I accidentally shut off my game once w/o saving, in a blind rush to kill the timer).

-DAN

With its flesh-eating zombies and 3-D graphics, Overblood draws inevitable comparisons to Resident Evil. Yet this game is neither as frightening nor exciting as Capcom's horror epic. That's OK because Overblood is still an engrossing adventure (its gory graphics are sometimes just plain gross!) that packs a solid mix of puzzles and exploration.

-CRISPIN

Here's one of those rare games that nearly meets my expectations of a Resident Evil-style adventure. The heart-pounding story line keeps your excitement level high, while the brainy problem-solving quests will placate your mind. Unfortunately, Overblood is terribly short, and starting for content. You shouldn't have much trouble finishing it quickly.

-SUSHIX

7 VISUALS **6** SOUND **6** INGENUITY **3** REPLAY

SYSTEM: PLAYSTATION
TOSHINDEN 3

PUBLISHER: PLAYMATES



CATEGORY: FIGHTING

BACK-UP: MEMORY CARD

BEST FEATURE: LOTTA FIGHTERS

WORST FEATURE: NO STRATEGY

ALSO TRY: TOSHINDEN 2

Battle Arena Toshinden 3 came in like a lamb and will leave the same way, I believe. Virtually nobody expected this title so soon after BAT2, and it shows. The engine has been barely updated, with the exception of the truly beautifully smooth 60 frames-per-second mode. Gone are the ring outs, which was for me as a big factor of the game. It screams cop-out, as if sacrificing a solid strategic gameplay element was worth the new frame rate. It isn't. Also, the control is even choppier than part 2 of the trilogy. I am a strong advocate of the first of the series, which had far smoother gameplay. On a good point, Battle Arena Toshinden 3 has the most characters ever, a whopping 32, and you even get an "evil" mid-Boss to square off against your "good" playable character. A la Tekken, once you win the game with your character, the mid-Boss becomes selectable. Not original, but it's a cool incentive to master each character. The game's balance is a little off-kilter with characters like Gaia holding the powerful hand in most fights. Former high-rollers like Ellis, are reduced to relying on their desperation attacks to win. This is bad form, and shows how this game was literally pushed out the door, a growing trend in video games lately. As a whole, BAT3 is only slightly above average, and that's pushing it.

-SUSHIX

Here's another good example of a fighting game with lots of options and tons of characters that I couldn't get into. The graphics look nice but often are too flashy—almost overkill. Some of the attacks are some of the coolest around, especially the ones when guns are used. Still, Toshinden is a solid buy simply for the amount of characters.

-SHAWN

Toshinden 3 is full of pizzazz, but it's overdone. Combos are too easy to execute (two-button, 21-hit combos)? No skill needed there!), and the game lets you juggle too much. But if you don't take this game too seriously, you can have fun with it. Like Killer Instinct or X-Men, it's a different style of fighting game that's fun, but is more flash and style than technique.

-DAN

This newest Toshinden—the best-looking of the series—may be packed with new characters, but there's nothing new about its ultra-simple gameplay. The arenas may have been enclosed, but now it's almost as easy to juggle opponents against the walls as it was to knock them out of the ring in past games. Press random buttons really fast and you'll do fine.

-CRISPIN

7 VISUALS **7** SOUND **6** INGENUITY **6** REPLAY

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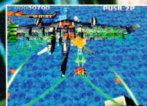
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SYSTEM: PLAYSTATION
TAIL OF THE SUN

PUBLISHER: SCEA



CATEGORY: HELL IF WE KNOW
 BACK-UP: MEMORY CARD
 BEST FEATURE: LOTS TO EXPLORE
 WORST FEATURE: NO SUBSTANCE
 ALSO TRY: AQUANAUT'S HOLIDAY

I'm usually all for games that try something new, but Tail of the Sun is way too surreal—and dull—for its own good. You play a caveman who must evolve by roaming the world and eating stuff. Certain foods make your caveman smarter, thus giving his home village enough brains to invent weapons. Other foods make him tougher. And that's about all there is to it. Sure, you have to hunt the occasional animal, and the game packs a mighty big world to explore, complete with seasons, caves and continents. You'll also discover plenty of bizarre sights (the rock formation that resembles a butt had me scratching my head). But only fans of such exploration-heavy non-games as Aquanaut's Holiday (by the same developers) will find the surprisingly barren world interesting. To make matters worse, the graphics are substandard, and battling beasts—especially the fearsome mammoths, those tusks you need to complete the game—is a chore, since control is so sluggish. But by far the game's most annoying feature is your caveman's tendency to fall asleep at the most inopportune times (you can wake him up, but he won't stay perky for long). You'll think it's funny the first time he faceplants into an unconscious heap. But by the 20th time...well, by then the game may have put you to sleep. —CRISPIN

I had a lot of trouble understanding this game and I'm still not sure if I do fully. Maybe it's simpler than I think, but I am certain that it's the strangest game I've ever played. The idea is really innovative and this is probably the only way this idea could be executed, but I still wonder why in the first place. This is definitely not my kind of game. —SHAWN

This game is original, and its presentation is strange (use the screwed-up hallucinogenic ending to encourage kids to stay away from drugs, if anything). But please, do not buy this game—but do rent it. Why? Let me just say this: the game is so dull and meaningless, some of the staff actually crowded around to make fun of it. Now that's entertainment! —DAN

A caveman's journey to enlightenment? This isn't exactly what I look forward to when I flip on my systems. Though the idea is sound, the actual methods and implementation is downright boring. I understand why the little fella on screen can go from a full run into a face-dive slumber. He's been bored into blissful unconsciousness. Coasters away! —SUSHIX

3 VISUALS 2 SOUND 5 INGENUITY 2 REPLAY

SYSTEM: PLAYSTATION
COMMAND & CONQUER

PUBLISHER: WESTWOOD STUDIOS



CATEGORY: STRATEGY
 BACK-UP: MEMORY CARD
 BEST FEATURE: TONS O' MISSIONS
 WORST FEATURE: TINY SPRITES
 ALSO TRY: VANDAL HEARTS

Command & Conquer has created quite a stir (albeit a good one). Where Doom revolutionized the first-person shooter (now you can find millions of "Doom clones"), C&C created a real-time strategy craze (and you can expect plenty of "Command & Conquer clones"). Since this is run in real time, I would recommend this title to even those who tend to steer away from strategy games. Why? The action is constantly flowing. You won't find any slow-paced turn-by-turn move-one-piece-at-a-time game here. On some of the later levels, you won't have time to plan anything with too much depth. You'll have to run on instinct alone. The strategy (and fun) part enters when you find yourself trying to balance your time collecting Tiberium (your income) and constructing buildings and military units and defending your base and destroying your enemies. Everything in this game is done just about perfectly. The PS version even one-ups the Saturn version by having extra operations of play (most from the PC expansion disk—and some are PlayStation exclusives). But the graphics are just as lackluster, grainy and tiny-sprited as they were on the PC, and Westwood has left out a Link Mode for head-to-head play. But these complaints are few and the praises many. C&C is excellent from start to finish. —DAN

There's not much changed here outside of the new missions (which are plenty). I've been a big fan of Command & Conquer since the PC days and this version sticks to what made the originals so great (since it's almost exactly like the original). The graphics look great, but the music gets repetitive (like the Saturn version). Any strategist should enjoy C&C. —SHAWN

C&C is easily one of the best PS titles—if for no other reason than its sheer lasting power. The game's more than 60 levels will keep you strategizing for weeks, and the gameplay itself is intuitive and instantly addicting. C&C's missions are so varied—from simple search-and-destroy sorties to assassination attempts—that the game never gets dull. —CRISPIN

The additional levels are an added perk, which is rare. Usually the Saturn gets that kind of special treatment. The graphics are exactly the same, and the load times are tolerable—we see no improvement on either of these key points. Of course, the play remains the same, top-notch action we've come to know and love on the Saturn version. —SUSHIX

7 VISUALS 8 SOUND 8 INGENUITY 8 REPLAY

SYSTEM: SUPER NES
HARVEST MOON

PUBLISHER: NATSUME



CATEGORY: RPG
 BACK-UP: BATTERY
 BEST FEATURE: ORIGINALITY
 WORST FEATURE: MIGHT GET DULL
 ALSO TRY: ZELDA

An RPG about farming? Talk about a hard sell. But this epic adventure in agriculture is as fun as it is original. The game puts you in charge of a dejected farm, which you must make profitable within three years. So you set about clearing your land, planting varied crops, maintaining them through the growing season, then gathering the harvest for food and profit in the summer. Of course, if you're looking for a year-round source of income, you could always raise a few cows and chickens, then sell their milk and eggs during the barren winter months. (I especially like that your cows will produce more milk if you talk to them.) Like any good sim, Harvest Moon has you carefully managing your resources—not the least of which is time. Your farmer can only work so many hours each day, and you have to divide his attention between watering crops, selling the harvest, attending various festivals, exploring the countryside—even courting potential wives! He also has only so much energy, so after spending the afternoon clearing rocks with a sledgehammer, it's probably a good idea to take a rejuvenating bath in the nearby mountain spring. Although the game's world is small when compared to other RPGs, it's full of secrets and folks to meet. You'll acquire tool power-ups that'll supercharge your farming. —CRISPIN

At first glance I thought this one was just a regular RPG, but after playing it, I was pleasantly surprised—it's a farming sim w/RPG elements! Sure, it's weird but it's really well done with lots of cool small details (like festivals and keeping the wife happy). The graphics look primitive, being on the Super NES, but it's an original title that's a lot of fun. —SHAWN

Sim Farm meets Zelda? Perhaps, but Harvest Moon wins my vote for one of the most refreshing and original concepts to come out in quite a while. Make no mistake, this strategy/RPG/simulation game is not for everyone (nor is it for the impatient). I do think that it contains a certain magical quality that may grow on a few select people. Give it a shot. —DAN

Harvest Moon is guaranteed to be a sleeper hit this year, with an off-beat quest surrounded by a familiar interface. Super NES Zelda fans will quickly recognize the graphics here. The farm quest will turn off skeptical users, but once you give the game a try, you'll quickly become immersed in a true adventure that is hard to break away from. —SUSHIX

7 VISUALS 6 SOUND 9 INGENUITY 7 REPLAY

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2. **Prizes:** Prizes will include free games and free hardware. Prizes will be awarded on the condition that you receive the prize only once. Prizes must be received by May 20, 1997. Prizes will be shipped to the address you provide.

3. **Game of the Month:** The number of winners and the value of prizes will be determined by the Trickmeister.

4. **Control Rules:** Control rules will be determined by the Trickmeister.

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6. **Control Rules:** Control rules will be determined by the Trickmeister.

7. **Control Rules:** Control rules will be determined by the Trickmeister.

8. **Control Rules:** Control rules will be determined by the Trickmeister.

9. **Control Rules:** Control rules will be determined by the Trickmeister.

10. **Control Rules:** Control rules will be determined by the Trickmeister.

A.G.H.: THE ATARI COLLECTION

TRICK OF THE MONTH

TEMPEST LEVEL SKIP

There is a trick within the game, Tempest, on Arcade's Greatest Hits: The Atari Collection 1. After the beginning cinema has ended, select the Tempest arcade game. After it has loaded and you get to the demo/high scores of the game, press Select for the menu. Move down, highlight and choose "Game Options." Put Demonstration Mode **ON** and press X button to accept. Back on the menu, start a one- or two-player game by choosing one of those options and pressing X. Now when your game begins, press L1 or R1 to skip levels. Pausing the game and then pressing Start again will also skip the level.

Here's also a quick tip to rush through all the levels. Hold the Fire button and L1 or R1 simultaneously. By holding the Fire

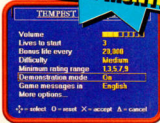


Press Select for the Menu Screen. Now access the Game Options.



Go back and begin a one- or two-player game from the menu.

button, you will kill any enemies or spikes that appear in your way while warping through the level. Caution: Don't circle the grid



Move down and turn the Demonstration Mode to "On."



Rapidly warp and avoid spikes by holding L1 and the fire button.

when rapidly warping or you will be guaranteed to get hit by the spikes in later levels.
Alfredo Barone; Middletown, NY

System: PlayStation **Publisher:** Midway

TEST DRIVE: OFF-ROAD

NEW VEHICLES AND TRACKS

From the Main Menu, access the Options Screen. Next, go to Driver 1 Setup. Choose "Enter Name." Clear the current name and put in the following passwords to unlock new codes:

BEEFY: Unlocks the Monster Truck in Practice Race.
FIFTY: Unlocks the Hot Rod in Practice Race.



The BEEFY and FIFTY passwords will open up two new vehicles.

SANDDUNE: Unlocks Speed Demone and Mud Runner Cup in



Now you can access the Speed Demon and Mud Runner cups!

Mixed League. Hats off to Accolade for these codes.

System: PlayStation **Publisher:** Accolade

SOVIET STRIKE

AMMO, FUEL, ATTEMPTS, ETC.

These codes will give you some interesting cheats in Soviet Strike. Go to the Load/Save Option and choose Enter. When the password box appears, put in these codes for various results:
THEBIGBOYS: This code gives you infinite ammo, fuel, attempts and double the damage.
GHANDI: All of the



When the password box appears, enter one of the cheat codes.

enemies and civilians follow your chopper around.

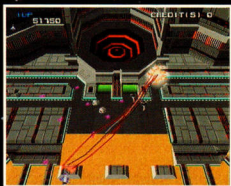
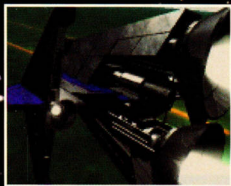


With the GHANDI code, all of the locals and enemies will follow you!

ANGRYLOCAL: The locals are invincible and try to kill you!

System: PlayStation **Publisher:** Electronic Arts

SPACE HAS ALWAYS HAD THREE DIMENSIONS.
SO WHY HAVE SHOOTER GAMES ONLY GIVEN YOU TWO?



Introducing a new dimension in shooters - Xevious 3D/G+. A spectacular 3D shoot-fest, where it's you and all your new, improved interstellar weaponry against an entire galaxy of tough, nasty aliens. You get Xevious 3D/G, plus



three other classic Xevious games.

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XEVIOUS
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FIGHTERS MEGAMIX™

32 fighters.

New Virtua Fighter™ 3 moves.

32 rockin' arenas.



0-2
PLAYERS



The two greatest fighting games of all time.



Together, at last, 'til death do they part.



11 vicious Fighting Vipers™ characters.



11 combatants from Virtua Fighter™ 2.



10 hidden mystery characters.



5 battle modes.



SEGA SATURN™

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One of the largest collections of fighters ever.



Now and nasty Virtua Fighter™ 3 moves.



Choose from 32 rockin' arenas.



5 battle Modes, including Team.

VIRTUA FIGHTER 2 VS. FIGHTING VIPERS

An unparalleled, world-class festival of fighting.

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Game Shark Codes

—by Interact Accessories Saturn Codes

These passwords were provided by Interact Accessories and are for use with the GameShark peripheral for the Saturn only. They will not work on their own with just the game. Note: Do not try to modify the codes because they are supposed to be entered as shown here.

Master Code:
f6000914c305
b60028000000

Command & Conquer
Infinite Money:
1608be1affff
1608be1cffff

Die Hard Arcade
Infinite Credits:
1609df74ff00

Doom
Chaingun:
160893b60001
Infinite Bullets:
160893ca03e7
Infinite Shotgun Shells:
160893ce03e7
Red Key:
1608937a0001
Yellow Key:
160893800001

Mega Man B
Have Flame Sword:
160361f0100
Have Ice Wave:
160361f00100
Have Thunder Claw:
160361ec0100
Have Tornado Hold:
160361f40100
Infinite Flame Sword:
160361fe2800
Infinite Ice Waves:
160361f22800
Infinite Thunder Claws:
160361cc2800
Infinite Tornado Hold:
160361f62800

NBA Live '97
Away Team Scores 0:
1609df1760000
Home Team Scores 0:
1609d0760000

PlayStation Codes

Battlestations
Infinite Health P1:
800c368c0064
Infinite Health P2:
800c39bc0064

(Continued on page 53)

MECHWARRIOR 2

CHEAT CODES

POWERTRIP

Here are a bunch of great codes to enter in the new smash-hit, MechWarrior 2! Just enter the following cheat codes and then press X to accept at the Password Screen. The woman's voice in the game will sound, if entered correctly. Then begin your game, and you'll be able to utilize your cheats in the game!

For **Jump Jets** enter:
, Y , X , O , / , A , > , Y , O , L
For **Cruise Throttle** enter:
, A , X , O , / , A , 4 , Y , Y , A
To **Unlock Missions** enter:
T , < , X , O , / , A , X , A , < , =
For **Overweight 'Mechs** enter this code:
, O , X , O , / , A , > , > , O , /
For **Extra Variance** enter:
T , # , X , O , / , A , X , < , < , <
For **More Ammo** enter:
T , O , X , O , / , A , X , > , T , U
For **Invincibility** enter:
, # , X , O , / , A , > , < , U , Z

System: PlayStation
Publisher: Activision

SOVIET STRIKE

LEVEL CODES

POWERTRIP

For Soviet Strike, go to the Load/Save Option and choose Enter. When the password box appears, put in these level codes to advance you further into the game:

Black Sea—**KRAZHA**
Caspian—**VERBLUD**
Dracula—**YADRO**
Kremlin—**PERIWOROT**

System: Saturn **Publisher:** Electronic Arts



Go to the Load/Save Option and enter one of the level passwords.

R.J. Streety
Waugh, AL

AMOK

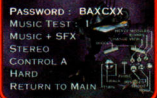
MISSION PASSWORDS

POWERTRIP

Here are a good amount of passwords to help you get through a difficult game. Just highlight the password option and press the corresponding buttons to enter the code:

Phase 2.1—**CBYXCY**
Phase 3.1—**XABXAB**
Phase 3.2—**AZCBXC**
Phase 4.1—**YBBCY**

System: Saturn **Publisher:** Sega



On this screen, enter the passwords as shown for different phases.

Phase 4.2—**BAXCXX**
Jeff T. Lynce; Nashville, TN

TNN M.S. HARDCORE 4X4

MANY CHEAT CODES

POWERTRIP

On the Main Menu Screen, access the Race Type (Steering Wheel icon) and choose "Time Trial" within this option. After this, access the Key icon. Now highlight "1 Driver" and press A. Choose four drivers. Move down and change the number of laps to one. Move down again and access the "Edit Names" icon. Enter the names for each player in this order as shown: Fiddle, With, Vehicle, Mekanix. Put the four words in the four-player name slots. Press button B. Move to "Begin Race" and start. While playing, press the top L button and Z simultaneously to bring up the bars in the "Fiddle" Menu, press Z to go forward and X to go backward through the menu bars. You can mess with the gravity, stiffness, spring length, wheel extend, shock absorbers, steering speed, moment of inertia, engine power and friction factor. Use the top L and R buttons to increase or decrease the amount of each factor on the bar. The next cheat will give you



In Time Trial Mode, enter the names in this order (four players).

access to all the class types. Select the Time Trial Option and then access the Key icon again. Choose one Driver and three Laps. Move to "Edit Names" and enter your name as NOVICE (put two spaces after the word). Press button B two times to go back to the Main Menu. Highlight the Class Option (Hands icon) and access it. You will now be able to play in the Pro and Extreme classes. The last set of cheats are to be entered while the game is paused. The directions are as follows on the controller: U=Up, D=Down, L=Left, R=Right.
RALLYDULL: Adds a fixed-camera view.
CRAZYCAR: Three more boosts when there are none left.
ABRACADABRA: Turns cars into



You will be able to fiddle with many of the truck's attributes.



The tank code can only be entered on the Desert level. No more truck!

tanks on Desert level.
LLLLAALLLAAA: Makes current lap the last one when you are in the first position.
BLAGGAR: Makes you the mother truck.
DAZCRAZYDAZ: Enables alternative end-position commentary.
CARDULLDULLDULL: Enables edit physics cheat.

System: Saturn **Publisher:** ASC Games

MARIO KART 64

RAINBOW SHORTCUT

At the Game Select Screen choose a 1P game. Then choose to begin the Time Trials. Choose your driver and on the Map Select Screen, access the Special Cup. Move down and select Rainbow Road. When you begin the race, accelerate down the middle of the track and when you start going down the hill, press Left on the controller and the top R button at the same time. You will jump over the edge of the track and fall toward a lower part of the course. If you do it correctly, you will land on the track below. This will save you a massive amount of time, and assure you of a great lap and record time. If you happen to miss the track after jumping off, just pause the game and choose the Retry Option. Practice enough, and you'll get it right in no time.

System: Nintendo 64
Publisher: Nintendo

STREET FIGHTER ALPHA 2

PLAY AS SPECIAL SAKURA

On the Mode Select Screen, take controller one and enter Survival Mode. Move to Sakura and press the Start button. Now press Up, Left, Down, Left, Down, Right, Right, Down, Left, Left, Down, Down, Left, Down, Up, Up, Right. Now press and hold the Start button.



In Survival Mode, do the code at the Player Select for Special Sakura! Then choose Ryu to get the special Sakura!

System: Saturn Publisher: Capcom

MEGA MAN 8

ANIMATION TEST

To access an animation test, where you can check out all of the movies of the game, highlight the "Bonus Mode" on the Title Screen. Now press and hold the top L and R buttons. With these held, press Start. The animation test will now be available under the Voice Test in the Bonus Mode.



Do the code to get the "Animation" Option in the Bonus Mode Screen.

Manoj Ramachandran
Jamesville, NY

System: Saturn Publisher: Capcom

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

GameShark Codes

—by Interact Accessories
PlayStation Codes
(continued)

Tigershark

Infinite ECM-9000s:
800bff500013
Infinite EMP Torpedoes:
800bff440013
Infinite Gatling Ammo:
800bff38011f
Infinite Lives:
800847980003
Infinite MK-65s:
800bff3e0013
Infinite MK-77s:
800bff420013
Infinite MK-90s:
800bff460013
Infinite SM-19s:
800bff480013
Infinite SM-25s:
800bff4a0013
Infinite SR-70s:
800bff4c0013
Laser Never Overheats:
800bff4a0013

(continued on page 54)

"You idiots. That was *our* village!"



31 puzzling new levels. 5 bewildering worlds. 3 burly Norsemen too stubborn to ask for directions. Runs around Spring '97.



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Game Shark Codes

—by Interact Accessories
PlayStation Codes
(continued)

Big Bass World Championship

Infinite World Lures:
8004d2780000
8004d27a0000
8004d27a0000
Infinite Natural Lures:
8004d2640000
8004d2660000

Command & Conquer

Infinite Funds:
8011b964ffff
8011c04cffff

Cool Boarders

High Stability:
801827a40000

Crypt Killer

Infinite Bombs P1:
800fc17a0000
Infinite Bombs P2:
800fc1d90009
Infinite Health P1:
800fc1740005
Infinite Health P2:
800fc1d00005

MechWarrior 2

Infinite Ammo:
800d12de0064
800d12fa0064
800d13160064
800d13320064
800d134e0064
800d136a0064
800d13860064
800d13a20064
800d13bc0064
800d13da0064
Never Overheat:
800d12680000
800d126c0000

Mega Man B

Flash Bomb:
801b1eb40001
Homing Sniper:
801b1ecc0001
Ice Wave:
801b1ebc0001
Water Balloon:
801b1eca0001
Infinite Flash Bombs:
801b1eb62800
Infinite Homing Snipers:
801b1ecc2800
Infinite Ice Waves:
801b1ebe2800
Infinite Water Balloons:
801b1ec62800

NBA Shoot Out '97

Away Team Scores 0:
800b3e3c0000
Home Team Scores 0:
800b3e380000

MANY HIDDEN ITEMS

If you're fortunate enough to own this first set, you're in for a treat! Within these two discs, there are tons of little tricks, videos, demos and more that you can access. Just follow the instructions as shown for various results:

First CD

Twisted Metal 2 tricks: At "The Vault" Screen, press Circle, Triangle and Square.

Cool Boarders tricks: Inside the "Tech Q&A" Screen, quickly press Circle, Triangle, Square, Triangle, Circle.

NFL Gameday '97 hints: Inside "Behind the Scenes," hold L1, L2, R1, R2.

Jet Moto tricks: Inside "Code Book," press Triangle, Triangle, Triangle.

Hidden Credits: On the Main Menu Screen of the CD, press Square, Triangle, Circle, X.

Upcoming Game demo: In download station, and inside Carnage Heart at the Download Screen, press and hold R1, L1, R2, L2 in sequence.



At the Main Screen, hold Square, Triangle, Circle. Now press L1.



You will get to see an entire video by a band called "Urge."



On the Main Screen of the first CD, press Square, Triangle, Circle, X.

Second CD

Urge Video: At the Main Screen of the CD, hold Square, Triangle and Circle. With these held, press L1.

Genuine Video: At the "In Stores Now" Screen, hold L1, R1, L2, R2 in succession. While held, let go and press L1, R1, L2.



You will be rewarded with a video credits scene with the creators!

R2 again simultaneously.

NHL Faceoff Contest: At the "Coming Soon" Screen, press Square, Triangle, Circle, Triangle, Square.

Resident Evil 2 preview: At the "Coming Soon" Screen, hold Square, Triangle, Circle, then press X.

System: PlayStation Publisher: Sony Computer Entertainment

TNN M.S. HARDCORE 4X4

HIDDEN TRUCK AND RAINING FROGS

First, access the Race Type (Steering Wheel icon) and choose Time Trial. Next, access the "Start Race" option (Key icon) and enter either one of these codes in the "Edit Names" Option for the results as shown:

MAINLINE: This will access the hidden truck called Mother.

RAINFROG: This will



When selecting your truck, scroll until you see "Mother" in black!

cause the weather to rain frogs. Press Triangle twice to go back to



Change the weather conditions to Daytime Severe for it to rain frogs!

the Main Menu and choose your new truck and weather.

System: PlayStation Publisher: ASC Games

TUROK: DINOSAUR HUNTER

GREG AND DANA MODE

Begin playing your game and press Start. A Pause Menu will appear with many options including one to enter your cheats. Highlight the "Enter Cheat" Option and access it. On the Cheat Code Screen, enter **GRGCHN**. This will access "Greg Mode" (Credits, Unlimited Ammo, All Weapons and Big Head Mode). You may also enter



At the Pause Menu, go to the Cheat Menu. Put in one of the codes.

DNCHN This will give you "Dana Mode" (Tiny Enemy and Credits).



With both codes entered, you will have a plethora of fun options!

Josh Krier
Okemos, MI

System: Nintendo 64 Publisher: Acclaim

TO HELL WITH YOU,



DOOM 3 BFG EDITION

Only the NG4 could handle this game.

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Independence Day

—by Fox Interactive for PlayStation

If you have a memory card inside the PlayStation, remove it. Select the Options Screen and press Start. Choose Load Game and press Start. At this point, put in the password of the level you wish to enter:

Easy
Canyon=BBFHB
Washington=DBKHN
New York=GBKHW
Paris=LLSHW
Moscow=NL9HW
Tokyo=R39JD
Oahu=T59HW
Las Vegas=Z99HY
Mothership=399HG

Normal
Canyon=BBFMC
Washington=DBKMO
New York=GBKMX
Paris=LLSMX
Moscow=NL9MX
Tokyo=R39NF
Oahu=T59MX
Las Vegas=Z99MZ
Mothership=399MH

Hard
Canyon=BBFQC
Washington=DBKQO
New York=GBKQX
Paris=LLSQX
Moscow=NL9QX
Tokyo=R39RF
Oahu=T59QX
Las Vegas=Z99QZ
Mothership=399QH

DOOM 64

—by Midway for Nintendo 64

Level Codes

These passwords will take you to some of the hardest levels in the game. On the Title Screen, go into the Options. From the options, choose Password and enter these codes as shown:

The Terraformer:
CB02NBPLSVL?JO27

Main Engineering:
BXVY?G416Z4JP?Z

Holding Area:
CYCCMGPKK47GS2B

Tech Center:
CF3?PG6DS12ZPFKB

Alpha Quadrant:
BXR0TH1F5ZGGW?B

Research Lab:
BBXWHLG5X8BFARKB

Final Outpost:
FVV9FL5SQGFVDWJB

Even Simpler:
FFLBMQ6CVV1C1PFB1

Kris Kubasta; Detroit, MI

SCUD: THE DISPOSABLE ASSASSIN

LEVEL SKIP AND MIMIC MODE

To get a level skip in this game, get to the Title Screen. Press and hold diagonally Down-Right and press Y button and Start simultaneously (This spells DRY). You will know it worked if you hear a hilarious skit called "Answering Machine" by the Dead Awlives on the Confirmation Screen. During gameplay in D-pad Mode, press Start to Pause. Press the top L and R buttons simultaneously to skip to the next level.

To skip levels in Gun Mode, do the DRY code and then pause the game by pressing Start on the gun. Use the trigger to select the



On the Title Screen, press Down-Right with Y. Then press Start.

Quit Option. After asking for confirmation, choose YES. Then it will advance you to the next level.

To get Mimic Mode, do the DRY code again. Go in D-pad Mode. Choose two players with button B. On the Confirmation Screen, go to "Let's Play" and press C. When the screen fades to black, pull out



In Mimic Mode, you control both characters for maximum firepower!

controller two. Make sure you do this before the disc spins or it won't work. You'll be in control of two players after it's done loading. Using the first controller, you can control both characters and sport double the firepower! (Note: The skit is meant for a mature audience.)

System: Saturn Publisher: SegaSoft

BRAHMA FORCE

SPECIAL MENU VIEW-POINT CONTROL ETC.

To get a Special Menu in the game Brahma Force, you must finish the entire game within two hours. Keep the memory card, which has the Clear Data, inside the slot. While the "Press Start Button" at the Title Screen is flashing, press Start. The system will check for save data. A new option named "Special" will appear underneath the other options.

Highlight and enter this special mode. You will now have access to a Stage Select, Stream View Mode (see all the full-motion video from the game), XA



After beating the game within two hours, a Special Option will appear.

Test Mode (test out all of the voice acting from the game), and the SE Test Mode (test all the sound effects in the game).

To turn on Map Viewpoint Control, begin your game and press Start to get the Command Screen. Highlight "Map" and enter



You will be able to access a Stage Select, FMV test, sounds and more!

this mode. Press Select to stop the map rotation. Now you can use the control pad and the top L and R buttons to move yourself freely all around the map.

To return to the Title Screen, press L1+R1+L2+R2>Select at the same time.

System: PlayStation Publisher: Jaleco

INT. SUPERSTAR SOCCER

NEW TEAMS, BIG HEADS

It has been found that this game has two additional teams that have been hidden. There are two ways you can find them. You can either play through and beat the entire League Mode, or go to the Title Screen and put in the code as follows with the control pad and buttons: Up, L button, Up, L button, Down, L button, Down, L button, Left, R button, Right, R button, Left, R button, Right, R button, B. A press and hold the Z button and press Start. You will hear a sound confirming that it worked. Now, choose your mode of



Do the code at the Title Screen for two new teams to be available!

play and a one- or two-player game, both VS. CPU or CPU VS. CPU. On the next screen, scroll through the teams and you will see there are two new team icons to choose.

Another code is big heads for the players. Go to the Title Screen



Enter the Big Head code at the Title Screen for a hilarious soccer match!

and enter this code as shown: Top C, Top C, Bottom C, Bottom C, Left C, Right C, Left C, Right C, B, A, then hold the Z button and press Start. All of the players on the screen now have huge heads!

*Note: This trick was done on a Japanese version of the game and is subject to change on the European American version.

System: Nintendo 64 Publisher: Konami

Sweet Dreams.

In the nightmarish world of the Swagman, members of the Dreamflight are being held captive. The twins Zack and Hannah need your help to make the night safe again for happy dreams.

Explore the eerie house of the real world and learn the bizarre secrets of the dream world with Zack and Hannah in 6 massive levels of adventure with 16 graphically intense 3-D settings.

"Swagman is eye-popping!"

-GameFan

"Swagman's dream-like graphics and involving gameplay will capture the player's imagination!"

-PS Extreme



SwagMan

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For Swagman hints and tips: CALL 1-900-77EIDOS \$.95 per minute / must have touchtone phone. If under 18, must have parent's permission.



Virus-Hudson/Sega



Goeman-Konami



Silhouette Mirage-Treasure



Go Go Soccer-Tecmo



Samurai Shodown RPG-SNK



Spring brings a breath of fresh air and the promise of new games from your favorite game companies. There's no better place to kick off the season than the Tokyo Game Show, which is sponsored by the Computer

Entertainment Software Association and held at the Tokyo Big Site. The event is a showcase for companies such as Sega, Sony and third parties (Nintendo has their own show in Japan) who want to let the press and the general public check out what will be available in the coming months.

Sony: It seems Japanese gamers have warmed up to Crash Bandicoot, who was in attendance, but still peddling his last effort and still quiet on the sequel (at least at the show, but check the rest of the mag for more info). Drawing the most attention at their booth was the game based on the hot anime movie and comic series, *Ghost in the Shell*. The game story follows more closely to the comic (which is making fans jump for joy) while the action looks to be mainly a shooter with the player taking control of a tank-like vehicle and exploring vast areas. The other game garnering excitement was the action RPG *Alundra* which is made by (mostly) the same team who worked on *LandStalker* for the Genesis. The action looks intense and the puzzles promise to baffle gamers for hours on end.

Sega: A large screen with a playable 3-D Sonic greeted visitors at the Sega booth which

CESA PRESENTS

1997
SPRING

TOKYO GAME SHOW

Hundreds of new games including surprises from Sony and Sega

Multiracing Championship-Imagineer



SF Collection-Capcom



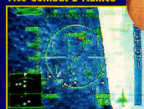
Dungeons & Dragons-Capcom



Breath of Fire 3-Capcom



Ace Combat 2-Namco



made many take a hard second look. Unfortunately, that second look proved a bit disappointing since *Sonic Jam* is a compilation disc of the four Sonic adventures that came out for the Sega Genesis. The 3-D play in question comes from a Level Select sort of area as opposed to some bonus round reward. *Last Bronx* is the latest arcade-to-Saturn port from the AM3 division responsible for the outstanding *Sega Rally* translation. The street punk weapon-based brawler is looking great and is slated for

release later this year. *Azel Panzer Dragon RPG* is the next chapter in the "boy and his large flying lizard series" and as the title implies, is an RPG. The game looks great and has action sequences in addition to traditional menu battles. Other notable games were *Sky Target* which is an indirect chapter of the Afterburner series of jet fighter games and the greatly anticipated military sim sequel, *Iron Storm 2*. Sega did hint about their next big game which was referred to as "Project Sonic" and is slated to appear at the E

show in Atlanta to go up against Crash Bandicoot 2.

Konami: *Goeman* for the N64 was the biggest game available for play on the floor, but they did show lots of new footage of *Metal Gear Solid* for the PlayStation. The big surprise was the first look at the 64-bit version of the classic saga of vampires and the Belmont family, *Castlevania 64* is still fairly early, but what was shown looked promising. Other notable games were the arcade driving game *Midnight Run* for the PlayStation



King of Fighters '96-SNK



Thunderforce V-Technosoft



Runabout-Climax



Croc-Argonaut

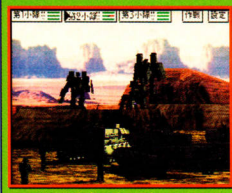


Fighter's Impact-Taito

and the **Salamander Deluxe Pack** which is a compilation shooter.

Square: The main action was happening around the **Final Fantasy Tactics** area which got rather crowded as it was next to the **Saga Frontier** area which had their own mass of people. There was a competition to promote the release of **Tobal 2** with **Bun Bun Maru** (a top-ranked Japanese fighting champion) on hand to show off his skill and the game. The mystery game Square uncovered was **Front Mission Alternative**. This is the third in a very popular simulation/action series on the Super Famicom which never saw the light of day here.

Capcom: As far as third-party software developers are concerned, none had as many hot software titles as Capcom. Topping the list is none other than the sequel to last year's megahit, **Resident Evil 2**. It will no doubt be one of the hottest titles when it gets released. Not to leave Saturn owners out, the first **Resident Evil** will be out for the Saturn with a couple of planned



Front Mission Alternative-Square

perks like extra costumes. **Marvel Super Heroes** which has been on-again/off-again for months is on again. **Breath of Fire 3** which was scrapped and reworked for the PlayStation is almost ready and the latest in the mega-series, **Mega Man X4**, is being regarded as the best-looking version on console systems yet. **Street Fighter Collection** is a collector's pack which has Super SFII, Super SFII Turbo and an unnamed game exclusive to the collection. **Dungeons & Dragons Collection** is like the SF compilation except with the D&D arcade titles.

their port of the arcade fighter **Dead or Alive** was given a quick sneak preview.

Taito: The biggest game for them was **Fighter's Impact** which is their entry into the crowded 3-D fighting game market for the PS.

Virgin: They pulled out a huge coup by taking a funky license like Gamera and making a cool shooter that paid homage to Panzer Dragoon.

Hudson: They had a booth for their hot collaboration game with Sega called **Virus**. It mixes CG graphics with animation-style characters designed by the talented Madhouse studio.

Imagineer: **Multitracing Championship** was making the rounds and looked hopeful to make it Stateside. They also had a soccer game that had nice animation, but lacked graphical punch.

Rounding out the other standouts were **Croc** (action) which looked like an N64 game on the PS, **Silhouette Mirage** (adventure) from Treasure, **Grandia** (RPG) from Game Arts, **Vector** (a fantastic-looking shooter) from T.G.S. and **Thunderforce V** (shooter) from Technosoft which are all for the Saturn. It was a show filled with games, but there are still a ton of third- and fourth-quarter games to be announced.



GVector-T.G.S.



Cool Boarders 2-Up Systems



Hard Blow-EA



Namco: **Ace Combat 2** and **Time Crisis** near even closer to completion while the debut of **Gun Bullet** (known as cult favorite **Point Blank** here) delighted fans. **Gun Bullet** is a light-hearted shooting game with often wacky and offbeat titles to shoot at. The sequel to their huge 16-Bit, 40-Meg RPG looks right at home on the PlayStation. **Tales of Destiny** has the same basic play as its predecessor with the obvious enhancements in color and special effects.

SNK: Arcade ports of the popular **King of Fighters '96** appeared on both the Saturn and PlayStation. **Samurai RPG** seemed to be coming along nicely and there was a few minutes of new footage for **Samurai Shodown 64** which is looking very impressive.

Tecmo: Tecmo Go Go Soccer looked great and



Time Crisis-Namco



Point Blank-Namco



Tales of Destiny-Namco



Salamander Deluxe Pack-Konami



Midnight Run-Konami



SONIC JAM SEGA



Ever since the mediocre Sonic Blast title (medicore for the Saturn, but great on the Genesis), loyal Sega buffs have been yearning for the "Blue" to really be back. Well, it's going to be just a little longer, but at least Sonic Jam will tide you over until "Project Sonic" unveils itself.

Sonic Jam is a compilation disc packing in the first four Sonics including Sonic and Knuckles. You'll also be able to play with the features you got from putting the Sonic 2 and 3 cartridges into the Sonic and Knuckles cart! The cool 3-D gameplay you see here in



these screens is apparently from a Level/ Game Select starting point similar in style to the Namco classic discs. This playable stage, full of rivers, spring jumps and lots of floating platforms, was great and showed that the

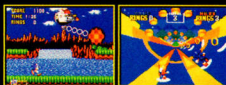


Saturn still has some surprises left in it. The camera angles move much in the same way as Mario and

the action is controllable with the Sega analog thumb pad. So take a look at what this level has to



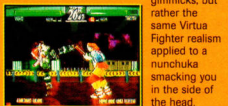
offer, because this is what the next Sonic title for Saturn (not Sonic Extreme) will most likely look like come its projected release in September. Till then, it's only up to Sonic Jam to keep our hedgehog appetites healthy!



LAST BRONX SEGA



Sega has been hurtin' for a fighting game that would appeal to fans in America who aren't as thrilled with the Virtua Fighter style of play. Last Bronx could be the game that makes these people take notice with weapon-based combat that is probably the most brutal to date. The brutality doesn't stem from excessive blood or any cheap



gimmicks, but rather the same Virtua Fighter realism applied to a nunchuka smacking you in the side of the head.



On the graphics side, you'll notice that it approaches the high-resolution quality seen previously in the Saturn port of Virtua Fighter 2, but sacrificed in Fighting Vipers and Fighters Megamix. Those games favored



light-sourcing and shading over resolution. AM3 is the Sega division behind this brawler and their track record of Saturn ports (Sega Rally, Virtual On) which really points out that Last Bronx is going to be one fantastic fighter.



AZEL PANZER DRAGOON RPG SEGA



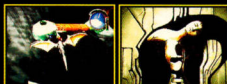
It's pretty much a no-brainer that Sega would have another installment of its popular Panzer Dragoon series ready, but imagine the surprise when they revealed that it was an RPG! Alright, we at EGM knew the



details and saw early screen shots prior to the show, but when we actually saw the game live, it made us salivate like the dogs we are.

There are elements of the game that are similar to the action we're used to, but there are menu-based battles that reveal its role-playing side. The extent of the action side of Azel Panzer Dragoon RPG has yet to be revealed and there is word that there will be shooting sequences at certain intervals of the game to keep a sense of continuity to this update.

You'll be able to walk around towns which are realtime 3-D rendered structures. The exploration elements as far as landscapes are yet to be released. Sega states that there will be a cast of at least 20 different characters with the lead character being a 15-year-old boy. The best part for Panzer fans is that the story of the characters and especially the world will be fleshed out in greater detail.



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CASTLEVANIA 64 KONAMI



While we're waiting for Dracula's appearance on the PlayStation later this summer, Konami is preparing the venerable series for Nintendo's 64-Bit system.

Castlevania 64 is still in very early stages and is tentatively scheduled to be ready by year's end. As you can see by the pictures, the characters and objects are all made from polygons. There are light-sourcing effects, but it remains to be seen how detailed the characters are. To achieve a vast, viewable landscape, Konami may sacrifice some details



or they may cover things up a bit with fog effects and draw the game with a higher amount of detail. Whichever they choose, the recent PlayStation version proved that Konami has not forgotten how to do a good Castlevania game while pessimists will insist they won't be able to transfer the spirit of the series into the 3-D realm.



METAL GEAR SOLID KONAMI



Many here at EGM have longed for a follow-up to the classic NES games that seemed like they would be forgotten in the sands of time (Bionic Commando from Capcom is still MIA). Luckily for us, Konami has brought back the original mind behind Metal Gear and allowed him to realize his true vision of the game.

The way the game was intended to be was



one of an espionage theme in which avoiding detection came before killing. The adventure-style mechanics should still remain mostly intact with the addition of full 3-D environments that are drawn in realtime instead of prerendered backgrounds.

It seems Konami is going to make a serious run at getting back their previous reputation of being one of the elite software makers in the field.



YUKE YUKE TROUBLEMAKERS ENIX

The award for most hyperkinetic action game of the show could easily go to Yuke Yuke Troublemakers. Enix thought so much of the game that it was the only game in their entire booth showcased (either that or they really didn't have any other software titles).



The game is developed by Treasure and it shows in the gameplay and cute character design. The game is

basically a 2-D multidirectional scrolling action fest that features 3-D backgrounds. As evidenced by their McDonald's game (Genesis) a while back, Treasure has the ability to make any game play great regardless of looks. Yuke Yuke Troublemakers should see the light of day in the States and seems destined to become an underground hit in much the same way all Treasure games (Gunstar Heroes and Guardian Heroes) do.



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RESIDENT EVIL 2-CAPCOM

Resident Evil 2 is certainly a game that needs no introduction. Ever since it was released last year to critical acclaim and blockbuster sales, players have been anxiously awaiting the next installment.

There is good news and bad news. The good news is that the game looks awesome and is totally upgraded from the previous chapter. The characters have head-tracking ability, the polygon count is way higher and the levels are incredibly diverse. The bad news is that it has been delayed yet again and the U.S. release is expected to be sometime in 1998!

This news only goes to show how enormous this game is going to be since it is set to occupy two CDs. We'll have more updates soon.



Of course there are new places to explore and ugly foes to dispatch.

There's plenty more zombie-busting mayhem so be prepared for heads to roll again!

MARVEL SUPER HEROES-CAPCOM

Marvel Super Heroes has been one of those games that has appeared and disappeared from release charts for almost a year now. The game gave Marvel comics fans a chance to take control of characters like Spider-Man and Captain America, Capcom style. Now it has resurfaced in the form of a 60 percent complete version running on both the Saturn and the PlayStation. Both versions looked about the same at this point, but the Saturn version is said to support the SNK Ram cart for extra frames of animation and slightly quicker loading time. The PlayStation version already showed a marked improvement over Capcom's previous 2-D fighting efforts like DarkStalkers and Street Fighter Alpha 2. We'll have to wait until both versions are finished before we know which game machine can claim a superior version.



Saturn and PlayStation owners have been waiting a long time for the animated and frantic action of this Capcom 2-D brawl-fest.

FINAL FANTASY TACTICS-SQUARE

We first witnessed the game in the sampler CD for Tobal No.1 and since have wondered when we would see this puppy over here.

The good news is that it is indeed being picked up for domestic release and more importantly, the game looks great. The battle system seemed uncomplicated and familiar to anyone who's ever played a Final Fantasy game. It looks really long and should provide hours of strategy and war mongering for all good kids out there.



War simulation game players will go nutty with Square's take on the genre.



Some of the cool variables are the changing weather and time of day during battles.

SAGA FRONTIER-SQUARE

It seems there was a time when there were no RPGs in sight for the Sony machine, but it seems hard to remember that now. Saga Frontier updates the Saga series of games on the Super Famicom and could well be the first version that will appear in the States (aside from the Game Boy titles which were renamed Final Fantasy Side Quests.)

The graphic look differs from FFVII in that the characters are rendered sprites as opposed to full polygonal creations. As with



previous Saga adventures, this one is fairly non-linear and can be completed in a different order than the last time you played.

This one is also in Sony of America's plan for release, and we'll have extensive coverage as soon as we get our dirty hands on the sucker.



GAMERA 2000-VIRGIN

One of the greatest surprises of the show was found in the Virgin booth of all places. Gamera 2000 puts you in control of a jet and at other times on the back of a speeder-bike-type of vehicle. The premise is that you fly around with Gamera and help him (or in some cases have him help you) shoot down the bad guys.

The most interesting thing is the way you move around your gun sight—it is very



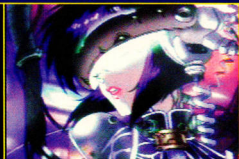
similar to that of Panzer Dragoon. Of course the graphics ain't too shabby either, and the early version we



played was plenty hard. There are lots of lighting effects and explosions that light up the screen. It still remains to be seen whether the Gamera name will entice gamers to give the over-grown turtle a try.



GHOST IN THE SHELL-SONY JAPAN



Ghost in the Shell has garnered quite a following through the Manga by Masume Shirow and next gained a wider audience with the nationwide release of the full-length



animated movie at theaters and then on video last year. Now, Sony of Japan is set to unleash its game based on this fan favorite, which will follow the comic story lines instead of the movie



(which seemed like it was based on a single issue of the series). The tank shooting action is fast and with the correct adventure elements, could shape into a solid title.

REV LIMIT-SETA



Games aren't exactly plentiful on the Nintendo 64, so when one looks as promising as Rev Limit, we follow it very closely. The game features unique car and road details



and moves along at a smooth frame rate. The control is very good and car mechanics seem solid. It is definitely miles ahead of Cruis'n USA in terms of control and play mechanics. The



Japanese release is set for late spring, so we'll have a copy very soon in order to give you a complete blowout on all the final details. This is something you won't want to miss!

WILD CHOPPERS-SETA



In the same booth as Rev Limit, Wild Choppers is the air-based shooting game from Seta. The graphics seem to be improving from early pictures we have seen, but the



gameplay was not as refined as it needed to be at this point.

However, those seem to be problems that Seta is capable of fixing with enough play testing.



The little graphical touches did stand out, though, and explosions and other dramatic flares looked to be on par with what the system has proved to be capable of.

BACK ² THE BANDICOOT



SONY'S MARSUPIAL COMES BACK TO PUT NEO CORTEX DOWN A SECOND TIME



hat PlayStation owner doesn't know who Crash Bandicoot is or at least heard of him? Unless they've been living in a cave since September of last year, more than

likely PlayStation fanatics do know him. And many Nintendo and Sega junkies can't help but hate his commercials and print ads that ran a little while back,

portraying him as the coolest mascot around (or at least the funniest) and disrespecting Nintendo in front of their headquarters in Seattle.

Ever since the first Crash came out, many have hungered for a sequel. This is no surprise considering the hustle-bustle surrounding the title at last year's E³ show in Los Angeles. Sony,

Universal Interactive Studios, along with Naughty Dog, knows that PlayStation owners have this thirst and that's why they've been working on a second installment to the Crash saga. The title should be out sometime in the fourth quarter this year (probably early November, but nothing has been decided).

So what's to be expected from this new Crash? It's still far from completion, but we'll give our readers what we know so far, even though the info could change.

First, Sony has made it clear that the sequel will be even better than the previous one (what company wouldn't say this about their product?) by sporting a new game engine. With this revamped engine,

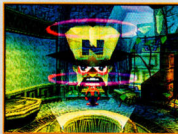
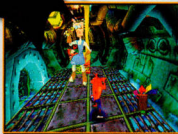
gamers will see 10 times the number of frames in animation, increased number of



polygons in both the foreground and background, more detailed renders and other goodies that Sony has yet to release. One feature in particular, spot and directional lighting, should make the levels look incredible, according to Sony.

Crash 2 will feature a new level format similar to Mega Man in that players will be able to choose from five or six levels in any order instead of going through level 1 to level 2 and so on. The game is broken up into "Warp Rooms." In these Warp Rooms, players can choose one of the different levels. The few shots we've seen are early, but from what we can tell, there is a sewer level and a snow level, among many others which we'll expound on as this year's E³ draws near. Sony says the levels in Part 2 will be larger than before—twice as large in some cases—with more secret paths and bonus areas.

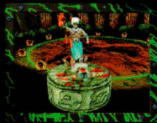
On top of changes in the game engine and levels, Crash will also feature some new moves.



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Gamers may remember Crash being able to do some standard moves like running and jumping. In the sequel, the main marsupial will be able to swing, hang, climb, crawl, duck and do what seems to be belly-flip attacks, among other moves...pweh!

The story in Crash 2 goes as such: After Neo Cortex's hot-air balloon was destroyed by Crash in the first game, Neo Cortex falls to the Earth below, but he doesn't stop there. Cortex continues to fall through a hole in the ground—the entrance to a hidden cavern. More than likely Neo Cortex rebuilds his evil empire and tries again to take over the world—in the process destroying Crash. From that point the adventure begins and the rascally bandicoot must face the madman once again.



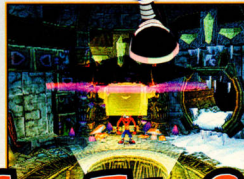
Players will see some characters from the first Crash making an appearance in the second one. Some include: Crash (of course), Neo Cortex (as mentioned), N. Brio and Ripper Roo. Does this list seem short? Gamers can count on others being in there, and *EGM* will update you as we get our hooked-toe on more info. On top of the old, faithful characters, Crash 2 will have a whole new lineup, too (allies and enemies).

With interactive backgrounds (i.e., Crash can hang from the ceiling) Crash 2

adds more for gamers to do. With added goodies like falling snow in some levels as well as new, colored lighting, Crash 2 looks to have what a sequel should have: plenty of new stuff! But since Crash 2 is far from done, and *EGM* hasn't even played a version of it yet, let us be your source for updates.

Some of the same views are back in this one like the side-scroller view and the third-person view.

The little bits and pieces we've seen on Crash 2 look promising. Once the game gets closer to completion, new info, screen shots, character art and more on this sequel will be sent your way.



LEAPIN' LEVELS

This isn't an approved graphic from Sony, but gamers may find that this is how the levels in Crash 2 may be laid out. There will be more than one Warp Room, each with around five or six different levels (these also may have sub-levels). This, of course, doesn't include any of the hidden and bonus levels.



REMEMBER ME?



Here is a real-life bandicoot. Slightly rattish, isn't it?

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SPAWN

HORROR IS
COMING TO THE
PLAYSTATION



What is horror and how can it be embodied? If Todd McFarlane, creator of Spawn and president of McFarlane Toys, has anything to do with it, Spawn will be that embodiment. But how does a PlayStation title and the complicated backstory of Spawn—one of lost love and constant conflict—mesh?

McFarlane knows what and where he wants Spawn to be—he wants to keep hold of his creation to ensure Spawn doesn't start popping up on items like lunch boxes and kids' toothpaste (although *EGM* can't help but wonder what Spawn toothpaste would taste like). That's why McFarlane is cool with Spawn being in a PlayStation game—although he's not a gamer by nature. He knows what Sony is capable of when it comes to making games (even though he still approves it).

Players must control Spawn through Hell's Orchard and then work their way back through time, facing each of that time period's most powerful magicians. These magicians hold the keys to unlock the gate to enter the Tower of Hell. After making their way through these levels, players will be faced with the Tower of Hell and its seven levels. All of these stages have loads of enemies to face and plenty of power-ups to use.

Even though there is plenty of exploring to do in the game, the fighting element in Spawn is a big part. The version *EGM* played had a full set of moves, combos and grabs for Spawn and other moves for his enemies. There are also weapons which can be found. Some include swords, clubs, guns and limbs among others.

Although it was started in February of 1996, the game is just now coming close to completion (it should be released sometime in August). All shots shown are from two of the 18 levels in Spawn. The game takes place from a third-person perspective with a possible First-person Mode to be added. Gamers



Possible choices for the jewel-case cover

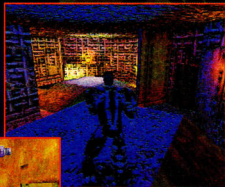


These are some of the possible jewel-case designs. Gamers will end up seeing one of these when they go to the store when Spawn hits the shelves. The third one, if chosen, will have red foil on it. Which one will it be?

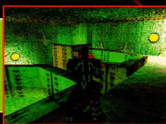
can also use a "Free Camera" Mode which allows them to look around by holding down Select and moving the D-pad.

The game features effects unlike most PlayStation titles previously released, which is probably attributed to the high resolution being used (512x240). All lighting in Spawn is dynamic in color and placement, and the graphics will be polygonal as far as characters and most objects go. The only sprites will be flames and mist, etc.

All 39 of Spawn's characters feature animation that, according to Sony, will not drop below 30 frames per second. All of this animation was captured in-house at Sony's grab lab in San Diego. Look in upcoming issues for more coverage.

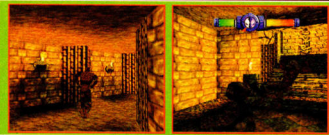


Although the game is early, it's easy to see where it's going. The lighting gives the game an eerie mood and the severed limb to the left adds to the horror.



A Level From the Past:

Gamers familiar with the comic book and the toy line might remember Savage Spawn. This version of Spawn, who has been transported to the past to collect the magic key that'll transport him to the next level, wears a furry, loincloth ensemble. After all, Spawn adapts to whatever time period he's plopped into. In this level, players will make their way through, battling enemy after enemy along with plenty of exploration.



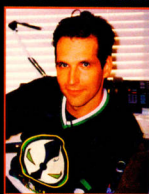
Spawn takes on the persona of a savage when he ventures back in time to obtain one of the keys to the Tower of Hell. Each level has its own motif.

The Sixth Level of Hell:

Nobody ever said hell was a nice place to hang out—especially the sixth level of hell! Players will be frightened by multicolored clouds in the sky, but it's not just the sky that makes this level of hell a little spooky. Like all levels in this early version of Spawn, the levels are pretty much unpopulated. There are few enemies to run into and no objects. In the finished level, players will battle several enemies and have to find their way through it.



Words of Wisdom With Todd McFarlane:



If gamers who are also die-hard Spawn fans, are wondering if the upcoming PlayStation title will feel like the comic, know that Todd McFarlane and his crew (along with Sony's production team) wouldn't let Spawn come off the wrong way.

McFarlane is approving the title every step of the way along with his friend and right-hand man, Terry Fitzgerald, president of Entertainment Publicity and Licensing.

The approval process goes as such: The Spawn team from Sony sends Fitzgerald and McFarlane revised copies of the game as they become available. McFarlane then looks at the game and says what he likes and doesn't like.

McFarlane said, "It becomes a wish list of sorts...since there are technological barriers." McFarlane compared the process to slinging a lot of arrows: "Every now and again you hit your target... as long as it keeps the Spawn attitude."

This attention to what his creation is really about should keep Spawn from selling out, McFarlane went on to say. "Whatever we put in [the game] we ask ourselves if it feels right."

On technological boundaries, McFarlane knows that there's a line that people need to go all the way up to. "...sometimes you cut yourself on it...then you'll know what your boundaries are," McFarlane said.

Look for Spawn on the big screen, on HBO and on toy shelves soon if not now.

Although not all the characters in the game are shown below, gamers can get an idea of how they'll look—especially if gamers are familiar with the comic book. McFarlane created a world full of different characters, bad and good. In the game, though, the bad apples are the ones players will face. After all, that is more fun. For more info on Spawn check out the comic or see: <http://www.spawn.com>.



THE SPAWN
WORLD IN 3-D



STAR FOX 64

The 25th Century Fox Flies Again

Call it a case of better late than never. More than two years after Super NES owners were supposed to get a sequel to Star Fox, Nintendo has finally delivered; for a new system and with nary a Super FX Chip in sight. But is this 64-Bit update to the classic 3-D shooter worth the wait?

Well, fans of the original need not fear (and critics need not apply). Star Fox 64, like the N64 version of Mario Kart, stays true to the first game, except—with an apt industry cliché—with more of everything. The game throws more enemies at you than just about any other shooter. And when you're not dodging enemy fire, you're zigging and zagging through caves, around asteroids and beneath crumbling buildings. The Bosses are as

huge and outrageous as before (not the least of which is the giant head of Andross you face at game's end).

Star Fox 64 packs 15 levels in all, and most have you Arwing battling along a predetermined path (although it was previously believed that your ship could turn around and fly back to the beginning of each level, this is not the case). Yet a few stages—the Boss levels especially—let you cruise around in 3-D freedom, sort of like the snowspeeder level from Shadows of the Empire.



As in the first game, you'll traverse the entire Lyat Star System, starting in Comeria's capital city, moving on to an asteroid belt, then battling on through a variety of other inter-planetary locales. But you'll have more than the Arwing at your disposal. One level has you driving the



Kaboom! Fox's Super Bombs come in handy when things get rough.

Landmaster, a hefty, high-speed tank whose jumpjets can rocket you into the air for brief, chasm-crossing spurts. Another level sends you on a deep-sea search-and-destroy mission in a one-man (er...one-fox) attack sub.

All three vehicles share the same basic capabilities. Kick on turbo for a boost of speed or slam on the brakes to avoid collisions. As in the original, the Arwing can perform barrel rolls to dodge enemy fire, but now it can fly



Multiplayer Mode's fun—even if the tiny screens are hard on the eyes.

Gamer's EDGE

Arwings For Everybody

Fox McCloud has apparently taken a cue from his kart-drivin' buddy Mario. Star Fox 64 packs several Multiplayer Modes, which let between two and four players prove their Arwing-piloting prowess. The three modes are:

Point Match
Players compete to see who can be the first to destroy five enemy ships.

Battle Royal
Think of it as an airborne version of the Mario Kart Battle Mode. The last man flying wins.

Time Trial
Victory goes to the pilot who scores the most kills before the timer runs out.

Players can fly together in one of three sprawling arenas, which offer the same freedom of movement as the Boss levels.



When zigging and zagging just aren't enough, Fox can perform a barrel roll or loop to dodge fire.

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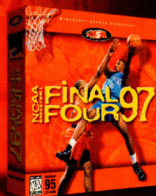
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Behind The SCREENS

Shake it up, baby

Here's the good news: Star Fox 64 comes packed with the Rumble Pak, Nintendo's new vibrating peripheral. The catch? The pack-in pumps the game's price up to \$80, making it the most expensive first-party N64 title to date. And despite rumors that the Pak would be compatible with Mario Kart 64 and Blast Corps, only Star Fox 64 takes advantage of its palm-shaking capabilities.



True to its name, the Rumble Pak shakes whenever you get baked by enemy fire, making it sort of a poor man's force-feedback device. The harder you get hit, the stronger the vibration. The Pak also hums to life when you punch your Arwing's afterburners. Sure, a vibrating joystick may sound lame—even a little naughty—but trust us: it's cool. The Pak's only drawback is that it slips into your analog stick's memory cartridge port and doesn't offer a through port. Rumble Pak-using games, therefore, cannot access memory cartridges (fortunately, Star Fox 64 saves your stats to the cartridge). At present, Nintendo has no plans to sell Rumble Paks separately in stores, although you will be able to order them directly from Nintendo (they're expected to sell for around \$20). Two triple-A batteries power the Pak.



Star Fox 64's two new vehicles—the tank and attack sub—make Fox lethal in the air, sea and on land.



Although it makes the game harder, you can switch to a Cockpit View.

loops and U-turns, too. The Arwing's guns have also been supercharged. By holding down the Fire button and sweeping your crosshairs across a wave of enemies, you can lock onto them and unleash ultrapowerful guided laser blasts.

Story-wise, Star Fox 64 isn't so much a direct sequel as it is a variation of the original game's theme. As before, the evil scientist Andross is besieging planet Comeria—home to millions of talking animals with weird metal feet. General Pepper, Comeria's canine head honcho, once again sends the Star Fox team out to battle Andross's minions. All the first

game's familiar furry faces are along for the ride, including wing-leader Fox McCloud (whom you control), Slippy Toad, Falco Lombardi and Peppy Hare.

The McCloud crew is much chattier than they were in the first game. According to Nintendo, a third of the cartridge's memory is used to store digitized voice. So you can expect to hear your wingmen shoot their mouths off throughout the game. They'll call for help when under attack, for instance, or give advice when the heat gets extra thick.

You'd better keep a close eye on your wingmen, too. Each one brings a certain ability to the battle—an ability that's lost if he should be shot down. Slippy, for example, will analyze the Bosses and display their health meter when you engage them in combat. Peppy gives you advice during normal combat, telling you when to barrel roll or fly a loop. And Falco will lead you to the secret mission areas.

Each level has one of these hidden areas, which open when you complete certain objectives (and when Falco leads you to the area's entrance). For instance, to reach level one's hidden area—where you'll battle the Boss from the Super NES game's first level—you have to fly under several



Each level has a hidden area. Some—like this one—are surreal.

archways, then protect Falco from an enemy squadron. In addition to these secret missions, you can also earn access to an ultra-tough Expert Mode, if you destroy enough enemies in each level.

Whatever secret missions you accomplish determine your path through Star Fox 64. Discover no secrets and you'll take the easiest, most direct route through the Lyat System. But once you complete a hidden mission, other, more difficult levels become available. And it's a good thing the game's so full of hidden stuff. Seeing as how it'll be a while until Nintendo's next N64 title (possibly Yoshi's Island 64, not due until at least the fall), Star Fox 64 will have to last. ■



Your route to Andross is determined by how many secret areas you find.



And then there are the Bosses, now bigger than the original's. Learn their attack patterns to topple 'em.



PUBLISHER	Nintendo
DEVELOPER	NCL
THEME	Shooter
PLAYERS	1-4
% DONE	95%
RELEASE DATE	June
ALSO ON	None

They have been born of fire —
hopefully they won't melt.

CLAY FIGHTER 63 1/3™



RATING PENDING
RP
ES ESRB

NINTENDO
64

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N64



Wake-up attacks mean you're not defenseless when knocked down.

Voodoo's Snake Grab looks familiar. Hmm...maybe Scorpion can sue?

Each god's Hold attack will keep enemies right where you want 'em.

No pixelation here. Antialiasing makes even flyin' skulls look purty.

WAR GODS

Ten Gods You Don't Want To Make Angry

Let's be honest here. War Gods was an arcade flop. Few gamers played it (thanks to its limited distribution), and even fewer liked it (thanks to its less-than-spectacular gameplay). And this cold reaction was a surprise considering the hype surrounding the game, not to mention that Midway is famous for producing arcade gold, not garbage.

But to Midway's credit, they're trying to set things right with the home versions of their first 3-D fighter. For starters, War Gods is now 20 percent faster, not just in animation but in control response. New moves have been added, too, including combo breakers, a few counters and Wake-up moves (which are activated by holding Forward, A and B as soon as your warrior is knocked to the ground).

While both the Nintendo 64 and PlayStation versions benefit from these improvements, only the N64 game boasts the supercharged, antialiased visuals we've come to expect from the system. Projectile attacks—although they're still 2-D-looking bitmaps—no longer look as pixelated as they did in the arcade and



PlayStation versions. And the arenas look especially spectacular. The war gods themselves appear fairly faithful to the arcade original's motion-captured combatants, except for the occasional few frames of choppy animation (noticeable when one warrior throws another).

Since War Gods' debut in the arcades was preceded by a tidal wave of hype, most gamers are already familiar with its workings. Yes, the game is 3-D, but it plays like no other 3-D fighter out there. Instead, it adheres to the old-school fighting-game rules written by Ed Boon and John Tobias with their Mortal Kombat bloodfests (but then what would you expect of the first non-MK fighter from Midway?). War Gods' 10 warriors can perform uppercuts, just like in the MK games. They rely on a

Block button, just like in the MK games. Their



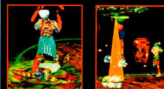
special moves are of the Backward, Forward, High Punch, Low Punch variety, just like in the MK games. They gush blood when injured and can perform over-the-top fatalities, just like in...are we beginning to see the pattern here? The war gods can also perform combos, this time scoring up to 10 hits instead of the paltry eight or so maximum of the MK titles.

But that's not to say War Gods is without 3-D gameplay elements. Why, it even has a "3-D button" that lets you sidestep attacks and maneuver freely around the arenas. Hold this button while blocking and you can perform a leaping, sidestepping dodge. But are these features cool or just gimmicky? Check the Review Crew section for a critical look. ■

Gamer's EDGE

Fatality Gallery

If you thought the fatalities of the MK games were over the top, wait until you see 'em in 3-D. Each of War Gods' warriors has a gruesome ender. Some are theatrical, with lots of camera switches and pans. Some are downright disgusting (our favorites). Here's a peek at a few fatal finishers.



PUBLISHER	Midway
DEVELOPER	Midway
THEME	Fighting
PLAYERS	1 or 2
% DONE	100%
RELEASE DATE	Now
ALSO ON	PlayStation

WAR GODS

TOMB RAIDER

HAVE YOU
GOT YOURS YET?

If you know **Tomb Raider**, you know why **Lara Croft** is the #1 cover girl in gaming. No other game has won more awards, sold more copies, or kicked more ass. Hardcore gamers have made **Tomb Raider** the undisputed megahit of the year. Have your got yours yet?

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Lara Croft, gaming's #1 covergirl.

N64



The projectile attacks vary greatly. In this case, grenades do the job.



Sure, it's mean, but a blast to the back takes them to the ground.



DARK RIFT

Stick It To Your Enemy...Literally!

Do any Nintendo 64 owners want a 3-D fighter on their system? More than likely a unanimous "yes" comes from the thousands of N64 players who have been able to only play *Mortal Trilogy* and *Killer Instinct Gold*. Does *Dark Rift* have what it takes to please them?

Originally slated for the PlayStation, *Dark Rift* is soon to be released for the Nintendo 64. The weapon-based fighter, that plays similar to *Soul Blade*, has graphics and sound that are par for the N64 course—which is just fine with us.

There has been a strange event that caused an entire galaxy to explode. Its remnants (particles from the planets that once were there) orbit around the explosion. The cause of the explosion is known as the "Dark Rift"—hence the name of the game. Gamers need to gather the keys to unlock this Rift and obtain its special powers.

Dark Rift features 10 characters—two of which are secret. Each of them has his/her own weapon whether it's a spiked axe, a light saber-esque weapon or others. The *Gamer's Edge* takes a look at each of the characters and their respective weapons.

The characters in the game are polygonal with detailed textures giving each his/her own unique feel. One character in particular, Morphix, has an animated texture that brings him to life even more.

The lighting effects of the weapons and some of the special attacks have the same result as *Star Gladiator* on the PlayStation—one of serious power or at least the look of serious power.

The backgrounds vary, but all have an eerie mood. Of course, *Dark Rift*'s characters each has his/her own arena.

The animation in the game was done by Ted Warnock and his team. Warnock has worked in traditional animation (like



Ren & Stimpy) before coming to the gaming industry. This may account for the fluid, realistic movement of the characters.

Dark Rift, like *Soul Blade*, lends itself to two-player action. This may be attributed to the use of weapons. After all, when gamers use a giant plasma gun or a large sword to clobber a friend, things tend to be more fun.

In One-player Mode, if gamers can finish the game in either Normal or Hard Mode, they will get to play as one of two hidden characters (one is shown to the right).

Check the Review Crew this month to see what the editors thought of the game. ■



The throw attacks don't cause that much damage, but they look cool!



Slash right up the middle to ensure this demon doesn't propagate.

Gamer's EDGE

The Characters

Dark Rift has eight characters to select from at first, with two more secret ones after finishing the game. Here's a look at the eight main fighters and a character who could be hidden:



Niiki

Weapon: Spiked Hoops



Scarlet

Weapon: Sword and Shield



Zenmuron

Weapon: Samurai Sword



Gore

Weapon: Giant, Spiked Axe



Aaron

Weapon: Plasma Gun



Morphix

Weapon: Spikes of Light



Eve

Weapon: Light Saber



Demonica

Weapon: Poisoned Claws



?????

Weapon: Spiked Hand

PUBLISHER	Vic Tokai
DEVELOPER	Kronos
THEME	Fighting
PLAYERS	1 or 2
% DONE	100%
RELEASE DATE	June
ALSO ON	None



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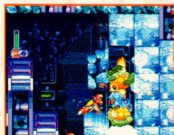
SATURN



You can't see Mega Man X because he's squashed under the big claw.



The early beta previewed here does not have all the special weapons yet.



Bombs hidden in the ice blocks can help you clear out blockaded areas.

Behind The SCREENS

Mega History 101

It all started with Mega Man for the Nintendo (and Rockman, as he is known in Japan, on the Famicom). Here's a quick look at a few of the more notable games in the series (and you thought Capcom put out too many Street Fighter games!).

Mega Man I-6 (NES)

Mega Man 7 (Super NES)

Mega Man 8 (PS/Saturn)

Mega Man XI-X3 (Super NES, Rockman X3 came out on the Japanese PS and Saturn as well, but with new cinematics and improved music.)

Mega Man X4 (Japanese PS/Saturn, American Saturn, Sony Comp. Ent. of America will not approve this game for American shores yet. It seems SCEA has a problem with the game being 2-D. MMB was an exception that they made for Capcom, and the fantastic sales of that title may convince SCEA to let Capcom bring out MM X4 here. It's a good thing Saturn owners don't have to put up with this garbage!).

Rockman: The Wily Wars

(This is the Japanese Genesis' compilation of MM I through 3 with improved graphics—seen in America as Mega Man: The Wily Wars on the Sega Channel only.)

Mega Man Soccer (Super NES)

Mega Man: Battle & Chase (Japanese PS, B&C will probably not be coming out here. So far, SCEA will not give this game their approval.)

MEGA MAN X4

10 Years With The Blue Bomber

It's been 10 years since the release of the original Mega Man on the NES. Now, Capcom is celebrating the Blue Bomber's 10th anniversary with the release of the newest games in the series, Mega Man 8 (for the PlayStation and Saturn) and the latest, Mega Man X4 for the Saturn.

The X series, as many of you might know, takes place in a future alternate time line in the Mega Man universe. The gameplay is the familiar style that we've all grown to love. It's a delicate mix of an action/side-scroller and a shooter. The style of play is nothing spectacular, really, but Capcom has managed to capture a magical formula that works particularly well. Everything from the unique weapons and enemies to the cute animation cries out fun!

The screen shots shown are from a very early version of the game. So far, we haven't seen any Bosses or any of Mega Man X's signature power-up weapons. But, we did get a chance to play as

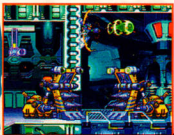


both X and Zero, the sword-slashing Strider look-alike. The controls worked without a hitch.

The levels also showed off the Saturn's sprite and background processing power beautifully. The screen often fills with bright explosions and menacing enemies, without a hint of slowdown. The backdrops are colorful and vivid. In the waterfall level, for example, you may find yourself surrounded by rushing water, both in the back and foreground. In the snow level, the screen may be so busy with a heavy snowstorm, that you may be amazed that you can see anything underneath. This was done on purpose, however, to add to the challenge and immersiveness of the game.



Mega Man X4 is, thank goodness, a 2-D game. Capcom decided to utilize 32-Bits of power to make the game look better, but the basic game is still there, as solid as ever. So here's to Mega Man's 10th birthday and his entrance into the next generation of video game systems. ■



PUBLISHER	Capcom
DEVELOPER	Capcom
THEME	Action
PLAYERS	1
% DONE	50%
RELEASE DATE	July
ALSO ON	See Sidebar

Eye Be Nimble, Eye Be Quick, Or Eye Be Sliced by Gore's Big Stick.



DARK RIFT™

Dark Rift brings out the best in people. Eye works her butt off to turn Gore into a meaty pin cushion. Gore busts his gut to move Eye into the path of his axe. And you'll need your best, because **Dark Rift** gives it up. **Dark Rift** delivers more fight, more often with more speed than you have ever seen before. Check out **Dark Rift** for **N64** or **Win 95** and get flesh scorching projectiles, hyper quick ten hit combos, blazing frame rates and some very unpleasant surprises for the competition.

NINTENDO⁶⁴



N64



N64



N64

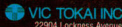


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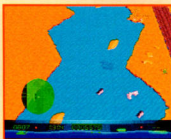
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SATURN



MASS DESTRUCTION

Learn To Love The Smell Of Hot Napalm

It hasn't been all that long since the last time we ran a Next Wave on Mass Destruction (EGM #89) but there have been some updates to make the game even better, so EGM thought it'd be nice to pass along the information.

The first preview pretty much covered what Mass Destruction was all about, but here's what has been added since then.

First, the game features more detail than the first version EGM received originally. Now the 3-D graphics look even more crisp than before.

Next, NMS Software has populated the levels with more buildings and other objects to blow up—for the mission objective or just for fun.

The game features three types of playing areas: the desert, the icy tundra and the urban jungle. Although the ice stages were mentioned in the last preview of Mass Destruction, no pictures

were available at that time.

This time around there are eight weapons to use against the hordes of enemies that occupy the levels in the game (last time there were a total of seven shown). Some include the standard shell, the flamethrower and the high explosion cannon, among others.

Of course missions have been added (whereas the version we played before only had a couple random levels) as well as mission briefings for each.

Players will be up against a rebel army plotting to take over the world or blow it up, and they have a few tricks up their sleeve to help them with this task (i.e., plutonium for a nuclear bomb).

Still included are the awesome reflections of explosions and buildings/bridges in the water. Small details like these are what make Mass Destruction really stand out.

To recap, for those readers who didn't have a chance to read the previous article, the basic idea of

Look above for a soldier bursting into flames after being shot—OUCH!

The tanks in Mass Destruction are not amphibious—stay under and die!



Mass Destruction is just that: Create mass destruction.

Gamers control one of three tanks, each with its own attributes. Once gamers choose their tank though, they use it throughout the whole game—or until they bite the bullet...literally!

The missions are similar to Soviet Strike in that there are various objectives to complete but with less of a serious agenda. In addition to the standard ones, players can take on bonus objectives for more points.

The scoring system adds depth to the game by giving players a chance to beat their own (or a friend's) score by completing the level faster or by taking out more troops, among other ways.

The graphic similarities to Return Fire are easy to see. The control is comparable as well, but that's as far as it goes. From what we've seen, Mass Destruction is complex but still "arcade" enough to be fast and fun. Check for it on store shelves the first half of June for Saturn and PlayStation. ■

PUBLISHER	BMG Interactive
DEVELOPER	NMS Software
THEME	Action
PLAYERS	1
% DONE	80%
RELEASE DATE	June
ALSO ON	PlayStation

Gamer's EDGE

Tank 1: Fast but as weak as a baby squirrel! Shoot fast and speed away for best results.

Tank 2: Slow as all hell but it has very powerful armor. Shoot fast and...uh...roll away kind of slow.

Tank 3: The speed is moderate and, you guessed it, so is the armor. Since it's in the middle, it's generally a good choice.



Jets and bombers send missiles and napalm especially for your tank.



Destroying sites—like the comm link above—takes care of objectives.



SATURN



DUKE NUKEM 3D

The R-rated Hero Rocks The Saturn

Blue hedgehogs aside, Duke Nukem is the ultimate video game "dude with 'tude." He's a foul-mouthed, ultra-buff tough guy who knows when it's time to kick butt and when it's time to chew bubblegum (don't worry—he tells you early in the game that he's all outta gum). Now Saturn owners are getting their chance to kick butt Duke style, well before PlayStation and N64 gamers can "come get some" (one of Duke's infamous catchphrases).

Duke Nukem 3D redefined the Doom clone when it appeared on the PC last year, and not just because Duke could jump, crouch, look around and soar with a jetpack—all abilities far beyond the reach of the average Space Marine. Duke's 30-plus levels are a far cry from Doom's dank corridors. They unleash players onto gritty city streets, where they'll explore skyscrapers, strip clubs, military bases, porn theaters, subways, movie sets and posh hotels. Ten of the game's levels are even set in space,



Yes, Duke's in a porno theater. No, that's not Pee Wee with the blaster.

where Duke will battle invading aliens in an orbiting station and lunar base. Tongue-in-cheek pop-culture touches pop up everywhere, giving the levels as much personality as the Duke man himself. And Sega plans on adding a few new, Saturn-specific levels.

Just as impressive as the level design are the weapons at Duke's disposal. The pistol, shotgun and RPG are nothing new to Doom vets, but the shrink ray, freeze gun, trip mines and pipe bombs revolutionize 3-D warfare. And while Duke's weapons are certainly more than up to the job of eliminating the game's alien



Intestines and eyeballs fly when Duke pulls out the big guns. Yuck!

baddies, they're best suited for another kind of prey—fellow human players. Sega is still not sure how the game will work with the Net Link, but at the very least

the peripheral will let players call each other for one-on-one deathmatches. Sega is also thinking about establishing a service that matches players with death-match partners, or even hosting six-player fragfests over the Net.

Duke is being ported to the Saturn by Lobotomy, the same team that created Powerslave. And the early levels we've seen play as smoothly as Powerslave, with none of the chopiness that dogs the disappointing Saturn ports of Doom and Hexen. That's good news, for sure, because if Duke's done right, it could easily be one of the Saturn's biggest titles this year. ■



PUBLISHER	Sega
DEVELOPER	Lobotomy
THEME	Shooter
PLAYERS	1 or 2
% DONE	75%
RELEASE DATE	July
ALSO ON	PS and N64

Behind the SCREENS

Will Sega Censor The Duke Boy?

Sega (unlike Nintendo) is famous for not flinching when it comes to bloody or mature themes in their games, but will Duke's R-rated antics push Sega too far? Sega has remained vague on the issue, only to say they plan to keep the game faithful to the PC original. So far so good; the early version we played is every bit as bloody as the PC game, and—as the accompanying screen shot taken in a porn theater nudie booth shows—Saturn

gamers can expect to see some skin.

On a side note, GT Interactive—which is porting Duke to the other consoles—also intends to keep the gore, strippers and swearing intact, at least for the PlayStation incarnation. In the Nintendo 64 version on the other hand, GT will dress the strippers in T-shirts emblazoned with non-politically correct slogans. To make up for its tampering, GT plans to make the game extra bloody.





ALBERT ODYSSEY

The Super NES' Loss Is the Saturn's Gain

After publishing the kick-butt strategy/RPG hybrid *Dragon Force*, Working Designs has decided to go back to the basics. The Redding, Calif.-based company's next game, *Albert Odyssey*, is a very traditional, menu-driven RPG—and one that just happens to look and sound pretty damn good, by the way.

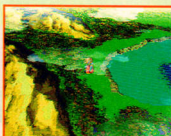
Albert Odyssey's graphics are sharp, colorful and more than a little cutesy. And if the game looks a bit Nintendish, well, it ought to; *Albert Odyssey*, developed by Sunsoft, was originally planned as a Super Famicom game (as a sidestory installment in the Super Famicom's *Albert Odyssey* series), but those plans fell through and now the game's finding new life on the Saturn. This rebirth on a next-gen system means *Albert Odyssey* looks better than it ever could on Nintendo's 16-Bitter, of course, but the game has been supercharged in the sound department, too. *Albert Odyssey* boasts a fully



It may look *Secret of Mana*-ish, but *Albert* is as traditional as RPGs get.

orchestrated, often soaring musical score, making it one of the best-sounding RPGs ever.

Players guide Pike, a teenage orphan who was raised in a village of harpies after his parents were murdered by marauding beast men. Unfortunately, such attacks have become commonplace, ever since the tenuous truce between the world's warring tribes of monsters broke down. This truce was forged centuries ago by the legendary warrior *Albert*, and now Pike has decided to set out and discover why *Albert*'s legacy has gone sour. Players start the game



The map is lush and plenty pretty—just like the rest of the game.

alone, but soon their party will swell to five characters—some human, some beasts (not all monsters are bad, after all).

Fans of old-school RPGs will find *Albert Odyssey*'s gameplay instantly familiar. Travel through the world takes place on a 3-D map similar to the one in *Dragon Force*—except better looking, with transparent clouds and lush terrain. The game switches to an overhead perspective when the party enters towns or dungeons, and combat—which is turn-based—is handled in a side view (get used to the combat sequences, too, because battles pop up more frequently than they do in other RPGs).

Although the game relies on menus, they are icon-based, like the cross-shaped menus in *Lufia* and *Wild Arms*. And unlike most other Working Designs' offerings, *Albert Odyssey* contains very little voice and few cinematics. The translated text, however, is filled with Working Designs' trademark sense of very American

Working Designs has built a reputation for seeking out quality RPGs and strategy games from Japan and then translating them for Sega's systems (but then fans of *Iron Storm*, *Dragon Force* and the Sega CD *Lunar* games already knew that). So what was it about *Albert Odyssey* that caught the company's eye?

"It's just that it was a true RPG," said Victor Ireland, Working Designs' president. "At the time we licensed it, there were none, and even in Japan there are very few. In Japan, the big deal with RPGs at the moment is action- or strategy-oriented hybrids. True RPGs like *Lunar* are hard to come by, because they've fallen out of favor."

Ireland explained that Japanese developers just grew tired of making RPGs that followed the tried-and-true formula. Still, the success of traditional titles such as Konami's *Suikoden* shows old-school RPGs aren't gone forever. "It is swinging back the other way a little bit," Ireland said, "because now you're starting to see more of the menu-driven, true RPG."

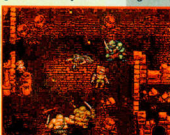
Of course, *Albert Odyssey*'s gameplay wasn't the only thing that attracted Working Designs. "Its gorgeous graphics and awesome orchestral soundtrack made it really easy to appreciate when we first saw it. It was like, 'Hey, this is cool! Let's buy it!'"

humor (one character even gives a lesson in *Ebonics*).

Working Designs claims *Albert Odyssey*'s quest will last between 35 and 50 hours. But you might want to take your time and make the game last until late summer, when Working Designs publishes its next Saturn RPG—this one more action-oriented—*Magic Knight Rayearth*. ■



Hotty-plut? Working Designs' humor is as American as ever.



Talk about depressing—your parents get whacked in the intro.

PUBLISHER	Working Designs
DEVELOPER	Sunsoft
THEME	RPG
PLAYERS	1
% DONE	60%
RELEASE DATE	May
ALSO ON	None

SEGA
**FIGHTERS
MEGAMIX**

Verona
Fighter 3

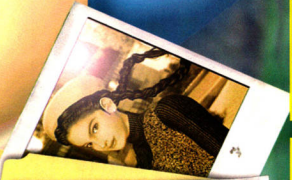
**ELECTRONIC
GAMING
MONTHLY**



Dai Chou

Chan

Chan, Pai



Sex: Female
Hobby: Dancing
Height: 5'6"
Weight: 106 lbs.
B/W/H: 33/21/35
Blood type: O
Date of Birth: 05/17/75
Country: Hong Kong
Fighting Style: Ensei-Ken

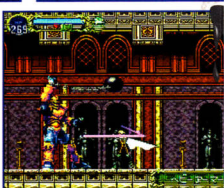


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fm

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PLAYSTATION



CASTLEVANIA SYMPHONY OF THE NIGHT

Classic Gameplay In A 32-Bit World

Metroid, Contra, Mega Man, Castlevania. These are a few of the all-time best games that were founded during the 8-Bit era which have thrived on several platforms. These classics are revered by gamers and critics alike and often bring a tear to one's eye in fond remembrance. One by one, these games are making their way to the new generation of 32- and 64-bit

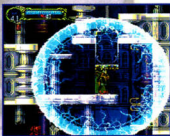
systems. Castlevania: Symphony of the Night is the latest one; it is out now in Japan and will be coming out for the PlayStation in the U.S. fairly soon.

Symphony is the latest chapter in the long-running macabre story line about the famous Belmont family's attempt to destroy the infamous Dracula. In this installment Alucard (Dracula's son, who was recruited in Castlevania 3 to help kill his evil



pappy) is woken up from his self-induced eternal slumber to fight evil once again. Although Alucard (Dracula spelled backward, in case you didn't figure it out yourself) is the main character, you will eventually find a way to play the entire game from the start as Richter Belmont as well.

The game starts out with you reliving the final events that happened in Dracula X as Richter. After Dracula is killed, you find out that Richter mysteriously disappears. Soon after that, Castlevania mysteriously *reappears* out of season. Being that this ancient castle only appears once each hundred



The screen-clearing bomb is just one of the useful items in the game.

All of these glass containers hold a different weapon or power-up.

Gamer's EDGE

More Than Meets the Eye

As if Symphony of the Night didn't give you enough with its numerous spells, special weapons and companions, it also offers you the chance to transform into various entities. In addition, each creature can gain new powers when you collect certain orbs.

The bat can fly (which allows you access to new areas), shoot fireballs and see in the dark (if you collect the proper orbs). The gaseous cloud will initially allow you to pass through gates and such, but it

will eventually be upgraded into an invincible weapon that does continuous damage to all enveloped in it. The dog has a lunging attack and a high jump (which will also allow you to get into previously inaccessible areas).

You can only be in a transformed state for a limited period of time, and if you are hit by an enemy, you will revert back to Alucard (unless you are in cloud form, in which case, you can't be touched).





The beginning of the Symphony has you temporarily replaying (as Richter) the final battle from *Dracula X*.



years, you realize that strange events are at work here. So you set off as Alucard to figure out what's going on.

To the delight of Castlevania purists (at least here in the EGM offices), *Symphony of the Night* has the same traditional side-scrolling action as found in the previous games in the series. The major differences are the better graphics and larger color palette and the inclusion of a (short) FMV intro. But it is obvious that the game designers used the PlayStation's power to enhance, but not change, the basic game at heart. In fact, once you look past the graphics, you might swear that you are



The "bouncy" diamond can be your best friend in small, enclosed areas.

playing a classic 8- or 16-Bit game that you've grown up loving.

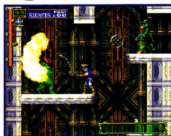
Throughout *Symphony*, you can find tons of awesome features that may make you think this was as much a role-playing game as a side-scroller. For example, you can find a weapon for each hand (or wield one weapon and one shield) and wear different types of armor, rings, headgear, cloaks, etc. Everything can modify your various basic attributes, like Strength, Constitution and Luck, or they can



change how much damage your weapons can do. You'll also gain experience and raise levels as you progress, making you stronger and preparing you for the greater challenges ahead.

You, as Alucard, also have a powerful magic casting ability. As you gain spells, you can execute them by performing various controller motions. (Can anyone say "fireball?") By avoiding a typical RPG menu-driven system, *Symphony* can keep this a smooth-flowing action game.

You can also transform Alucard's physical state to help in offensive or defensive maneuvers or to help him reach normally inaccessible areas (see sidebar). In that way, you may also find one of many companions. A fairy might tag along and resurrect you. If you find yourself say...dead, or she might cast a fire protection spell on



You'll eventually learn how to play as Richter for the whole game.

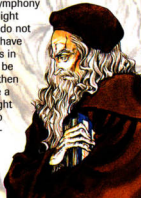
you, if you are getting blasted too much by flame-tossing enemies. You may also call upon more offensive-oriented sidekicks, like a demon or a sword.

Be careful when playing through this game. Looks may initially be deceiving. We don't want to spoil anything here, but when you finally get your hands on the game, and it appears to end too quickly, try something else. You may end up being pleasantly surprised. (Hint: If you look at the screen shots on these two pages, you might find one in particular that has something strange going on in it. And we're not talking about the ability to play as



Richter in the game either!

Being that we were so impressed with the finished Japanese version of the game, we can't wait for the American version. And if game companies continue to make sequels like they made *Symphony of the Night* (games do not have to have polygons in them to be good!), then we have a very bright future to look forward to indeed.



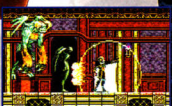
PUBLISHER	Konami
DEVELOPER	Konami
THEME	Action/Side-scroller
PLAYERS	1
% DONE	75%
RELEASE DATE	August
ALSO ON	Nintendo 64



Lucky Japanese

The Japanese version of *Castlevania: Symphony of the Night* is called *Dracula X: Nocturne in the Moonlight*. Besides Japanese text, the game also comes with a *Dracula X* mini-comic and an art book chock-full of beautiful illustrations (some of these pieces you can see on these two pages faded out in the background), all done by artist Ayami Kojima.

Also packed in is a 75-minute music CD containing tracks from every *Castlevania* game (yes, including the Game Boy versions). Konami of America does not know if these bonus items will be included in the U.S. release, but it is highly doubtful. Don't forget, video game music CDs are a big thing in Japan, much more so than they are here.



Magical spells are done by doing *Street Fighter*-style moves.

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PLAYSTATION

PUBLISHER	SCEA
DEVELOPER	Square
THEME	Fighting
PLAYERS	1 or 2
% DONE	75%
RELEASE DATE	3rd Qtr. '97
ALSO ON	None

Some are better for hacking, some for stabbing, but all of Bushido Blade's eight weapons can drop a foe in one well-aimed attack. Although each of the game's six warriors can use any weapon, the more diminutive characters should stick with the lighter blades. Only the hulking, stronger fighters have the muscle to wield the heavyweight weapons with speed and grace. Here's a look at Bushido Blade's lethal hardware, listed in order of each weapon's weight.

Gamer's EDGE



Rapier
2.0 lbs



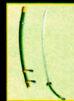
Saber
2.6 lbs



Long Sword
3.1 lbs



Katana
3.3 lbs



Nodachi
4.2 lbs



Naginata
4.8 lbs



Broadsword
9.0 lbs



Hammer
10 lbs

BUSHIDO BLADE

Slice, Dice And Die Really Quick

Bushido Blade—the second fighter from Square—decapitates most of the time-worn conventions of the fighting-game genre. It does away with life gauges, time limits and 10-hit combos. It gives players the freedom to not only roam its sprawling arenas, but to interact with them, as well. And, most refreshing of all, it's the first fighting game in which combat can begin and end in two hits—you hitting your opponent and his mortally wounded body hitting the ground.

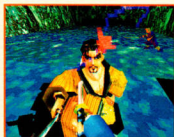
Realistic combat is what this weapons-based brawler is all about, thanks to Bushido's unique body-damage system. Damage is recorded on your fighter's arms and legs, torso and head, instead of on the traditional life meter. Slash an enemy's leg, for instance, and he'll crumble to his knees, unable to stand for the rest of the fight. Stab an arm and it'll hang limply to the opponent's

side, degrading his performance big time. And if your weapon should pierce a vital organ, such as the heart or brain, then your opponent tumbles lifelessly to the ground and it's game over, man. Fights can therefore end seconds after they begin. Not exactly Soul Blade, is it?

But Bushido Blade's innovations don't end at its damage system. Each arena is enormous, and by holding the L1 button and using the D-pad, players can run around in complete, 3-D freedom. (There's even an option to link two PlayStation 3s so that players can pursue each other in a first-person perspective, sorta like a Duke Nukem 3D with swords.) Each of the arenas, all set in and around a castle in feudal Japan, have multiple levels. They also have obstacles, such as trees and tombstones, that players can duck behind and use as impromptu shields from enemy attacks. (Keep in mind, though, that the thin bamboo trees won't shield



Tap the Select button to surrender when you can't stand no more.



Link two PlayStations for some first-person, deathmatch mayhem.

you from an opponent's slashing charge. Can you say, "Timber!"

Bushido Blade gives players six fighters to choose from, all with the same basic moves. It's the game's selection of eight weapons that gives these warriors their more specialized attacks (see sidebar). Each warrior has three offensive stances—high, medium and low—and each stance has its own attacks. These are usually of the press-a-direction-then-tap-a-button variety (although you have to muck about with the R buttons to jump or launch secondary weapons such as shurikens and daggers). The fighters do have combo attacks, but few do more than two or three hits.

Besides its two-player Duel Mode and a survival game that pits you against 100 ninjas of increasing skill, Bushido offers a Story Mode, which uses in-game cinemas to tell of your character's quest to leave Kage, a mysterious assassin's guild. Unlike in other modes, your damage—in the form

of slower responses and blood-soaked bandages—carries over to future battles during the story.

The bloody bandages are the only signs of carnage you'll find in Bushido Blade. You can run people through and hack limbs all day, but you'll never see drop one of the red stuff. But then, this game isn't about MK-style mayhem. It's about the subtleties of weapons combat, the dance of parry-thrust, parry-thrust. Of course, you don't need fatalities when one hit can be fatal. ■



Injuries stay with you in Story Mode. Note the bloody bandages.



Fighting dirty may be fun, but cheaters get lame-o endings.



Timber! Wild slices in the bamboo jungle will turn trees into firewood.



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Why RayStorm
on the PS?

EGM recently had the opportunity to ask the President of Working Designs, Victor Ireland, why they've decided to start making games for the PlayStation, specifically why RayStorm. Here's what Victor had to say: "RayStorm is a hot shooter. We originally tried to get Layer Section, but missed the license by only a few days to [Acclaim], so when we heard about a sequel, we knew we had to get this one. The title just happened to be on the PlayStation which was fine. We started seeing the change of attitude toward RPGs at Sony and thought RayStorm would be a good way to become an active publisher with Sony—a way to test the waters for more active publishing with Working Designs titles."

Victor Ireland mentioned that Working Designs will be making plenty of shooters for Saturn owners as well.

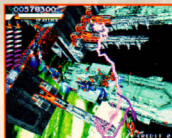
The sound effects are electrical with plenty of speaker-thrashing explosions and hearty laser effects. The soundtrack is fast-paced, perfect for a shooter.

First released in Japan by Taito, RayStorm is a sequel to RayForce (aka Galactic Attack on the Saturn). ■

PUBLISHER	Spaz Games
DEVELOPER	Taito
THEME	Shooter
PLAYERS	1 or 2
% DONE	85%
RELEASE DATE	May
ALSO ON	None



While in orbit, gamers will be bombarded by enemies and debris.



One ship taking on an entire fleet? Sure, it seems crazy, but it's fun.



RAYSTORM

A Storm Is Brewin' On The PS

The olden days of shooters that caused gamers' hands to sweat because of the intense action are about to return—in one game at least. Spaz

Games, a division of Working Designs, makes their PlayStation publishing debut with RayStorm.

In the future when space travel is commonplace, colonies start and prosper on other planets. To maintain order, Earth lays down martial law. Many of the inhabitants of the colonies revolt and plan to take back control.

The revolution turns ugly and the leaders of the revolt want to destroy Earth, after removing all of the people from it.

A special attack force was formed within the revolutionary community just in case this happened. After all, they can't just go around destroying planets. So it's one gamer against an entire fleet.

These gigantic odds are what shooters are all about and are what gamers can't help but love.



Is that the ship from Tigershark? Most of the Bosses are hard kills.



Electrical feelers can really wreak havoc in mechanized enemies.

RayStorm features two modes of play: Arcade Mode and Extra Mode. Arcade Mode gives players the opportunity to play RayStorm as it was in the arcade, while Extra Mode gives players a chance to go against even greater odds and see some enhanced graphical effects.

All of the graphics are polygonal—even in the cinemas. The hi-res look of the game could very well be the best graphics on the PlayStation in a while. There is no weird polygon break-up at all. Along with these great graphics come lighting effects that die for—explosions never looked so intense!

The game features huge Bosses with multiple hit areas. For example, the first stage Boss, a large spider-type vehicle, has different segments and legs that explode and blow off if hits are concentrated on them.

After each level, a percentage meter appears letting gamers know how they scored. By hitting



Enemies go deep into the backdrop just asking for a missile.

more enemies, a higher hit percentage is achieved, thus a higher score. If players use lock-on missiles to take out the ships, then this percentage is higher.

RayStorm also has large background effects that players can blow up. In one level, large battleships can be destroyed by locking on and shooting them with missiles. Even though they're far in the distance, the ships explode. This can increase gamers' scores.



Power-ups are a must in later levels. Use lock-ons for the big ships.



The Bosses can be taken out piece by polygonal piece, with much joy.

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LAST-MINUTE UPDATE



We have very little on this coin-op as of press time. In fact, we got these screens just in time for a last-minute update! Bio Freaks from Midway is due out sometime later this year, and it appears you can choose from several different "freaks" (imagine that!) such as a funky-looking clown, a couple different large, armored robots and a few hot chicks with big guns! Your characters will also have the ability to fly!



The game does look somewhat like War Gods, but better.



Just when you thought the world was safe from crossovers...As of press time, X-Men vs. Street Fighter has really hit its stride. When it came out late last year, it was received well, but not hugely popular. But as time went by, kids realized that any game in which you can juggle someone 100 percent did have fun points, and it's being played more than SF3 or Tekken 3 in some arcades. Welcome to part two. In this one we have all the characters from Marvel Super Heroes including Spider-Man, Omega Red, Captain America and more, mixed with some new SF characters to the engine such as Sakura and Dan. This game will have 17 characters in all, not including the funky Japanese comedian that probably won't show up in the U.S. version. The animation is all the same, so the best part here is having all of the awesome MSH guys to choose from!



Whoah! It seems like Apocalypse gave Akuma a major makeover!



M2

World Championship Racing from Studio 3DO is a combination of intense, easily accessible arcade driving action with all the detail of a realistic simulation. You are strapped into the seat of a sleek, high-performance Professional Sports car Racing (former IMSA) car and pitted against other drivers in a

completely 3-D polygonal racing environment. What does that mean? Well, it's the M2! We're talking kick-ass graphics and a hell of a lot of attention to detail. The game features an incredibly realistic car physics model, varied artificially intelligent opponent drivers, four different camera views, one training and four competition tracks, spectacular crashes that result in realtime car damage (affecting your car's performance), choice of car components such as changes to your engine, chassis, gearing, transmission, tires and spoiler, plus 3-D sound!



Car damage actually affects your car's driving performance!



VIDEO GAMES: PLAYSTATION

Title	Release Price	Title	Release Price	Title	Release Price	Title	Release Price
A-Train	NOW \$29	Cryt Cyber	NOW \$48	Jumping Flash 2	NOW \$48	Need for Speed 2	NOW \$49
Alen Trilogy	NOW \$51	Dark Crusier	NOW \$49	Justice Strike	NOW \$42	PGA Tour '97	NOW \$50
Alen vs Predator	08/97 \$50	Dark Siders	NOW \$51	KJB: Paradise	NOW \$45	Resident Evil 2	06/97 \$54
Andrew Racing '97	NOW \$49	Dark Souls	NOW \$51	Kil Yarns	NOW \$44	Factor General	NOW \$32
Asa 51	NOW \$51	DeFcon 5	NOW \$44	King of Fighters '95	NOW \$50	Psychic Force	NOW \$56
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Big Bess 2	NOW \$52	Die Hard 2	06/97 \$52	Kuroki	NOW \$55	Resident Evil 2	06/97 \$54
Bladeslayer	08/97 \$54	Dig Digger X	NOW \$51	Legend Fighters Edge	NOW \$48	Star Wars	NOW \$49
Blades of Rage	NOW \$52	Dragonheart	NOW \$52	Last Dynasty	NOW \$46	Revelations Persona	NOW \$54
Blatt Chamber	NOW \$49	Duke Nukem 3D	NOW \$54	Legacy of Cain	NOW \$52	Ridge Racer Revolt	NOW \$54
Blazing Dragons	NOW \$50	FIFA Soccer '97	NOW \$49	Legends Football '97	07/97 \$50	Solo Blade	NOW \$45
Blaze of Fire 3	NOW \$54	FIFA 98	NOW \$50	Lost World	06/97 \$54	Soviet Soccer '97	NOW \$49
Bubby 3-0	NOW \$50	Fatal Frac	NOW \$52	MVP Baseball '97	NOW \$52	Space Hulk	NOW \$52
Carriage Heart	NOW \$54	Fatal Frac	NOW \$52	MVP Baseball '97	NOW \$52	Spider-Man	NOW \$52
Casper	NOW \$46	Final Fantasy VII	09/97 \$72	Magic Carpet	NOW \$49	Tecmo Deception	NOW \$49
Castellana Blooding	07/97 \$42	Formula 1 World Champ	NOW \$52	Magic the Gathering	NOW \$50	Tekken 3	06/97 \$54
Chronicles of Soud	NOW \$50	Fox Hunt	NOW \$38	Marvel 2099	NOW \$50	Ten Pin Alley	NOW \$52
Colony Sand Baseball	NOW \$29	Game Shark	NOW \$50	Marvel Super Heroes	08/97 \$52	Top Gun Den 3	NOW \$54
Command & Conquer	NOW \$46	Ghost in the Shell	09/97 \$52	MechWarrior 2	NOW \$49	Tom Racer	NOW \$50
Contra: Legacy of War	NOW \$46	Grand Theft Auto	NOW \$51	Meqz Man 8	NOW \$44	Track & Field	NOW \$44
Crash Bandicoot	NOW \$52	Grim Runner	NOW \$36	NAMCO Museum 3	NOW \$44	Triple Play '97	NOW \$52
Creators Shock	NOW \$54	Harbald 5	NOW \$49	NASCAR Racing	NOW \$48	Twisted Metal 2	NOW \$52
Crusader	NOW \$52	IDA Independence Day	NOW \$50	Need for Speed	NOW \$50	Spatial Hell	NOW \$48
Crossroads	NOW \$52	Incredible Hulk	NOW \$49	NHL Shootout '97	NOW \$54	WWF in the House	NOW \$50
Crusoe of King	NOW \$50	Island of Dr. Moreau	NOW \$52	NFL Game Day '97	NOW \$50	Wing Commander 4	NOW \$49
Crusader No Remorse	NOW \$49	Jit Moto	NOW \$50	NHL Hockey '97	NOW \$50	Wipeout 2	NOW \$50

VIDEO GAMES: SATURN

Abuse	NOW \$54	Black Dawn	NOW \$52	Crusader No Remorse	NOW \$49	MechWarrior 2	NOW \$49
Aerobiz 2000	NOW \$52	Blazing Demons	NOW \$49	Cryt Cyber	NOW \$48	NBA Live '97	NOW \$49
Alen Trilogy	NOW \$29	Blatt Chamber	NOW \$42	Destruction Derby 2	NOW \$54	Nights	NOW \$46
Alen vs Predator	08/97 \$50	Broken Heroes	NOW \$59	Die Hard Arcade	NOW \$54	PGA Tour '97	NOW \$54
Alen in the Dark	NOW \$52	Brat-Bat 13	NOW \$50	Die Hard 2	NOW \$50	Resident Evil 2	06/97 \$54
Alen 51	NOW \$46	Broken Heat	NOW \$44	Fighting Yarns	NOW \$44	Resident Evil 2	06/97 \$54
Andrew Racing '97	NOW \$48	Buty 3-0	NOW \$50	Heroes' Adventures	NOW \$52	Soul	NOW \$46
Atlas Greatest	NOW \$47	Buty 3-0	NOW \$50	IDA Independence Day	NOW \$52	Shining Wisdom	NOW \$38
Asa 51	NOW \$51	Bust-A-Move 2	NOW \$36	Incredible Hulk	NOW \$50	Sonic 3D Blast	NOW \$43
Armed	08/97 \$50	Caiper	NOW \$46	Legacy of Cain	NOW \$52	Soviet Soccer '97	NOW \$49
Asa 2	NOW \$18	Castellana Blooding	07/97 \$42	Legend of Oasis	NOW \$48	Space Hulk	NOW \$48
Battle Monsters	NOW \$34	Clockwork Knight 2	NOW \$52	Legends Football '97	07/97 \$50	Ten Pin Alley	NOW \$52
Battlestations	NOW \$54	Command & Conquer	NOW \$52	Lunar Directors Cut	09/97 \$54	Virtual On	NOW \$46
Biotechian 5	NOW \$52	Contra: Legacy of War	NOW \$46	Madden Football '97	NOW \$54	WWF in the House	NOW \$50

VIDEO GAMES: SNES

Beats Masters Pro 96	NOW \$59	Lethal Enforcers Gun	NOW \$16
Breath of Fire 2	NOW \$62	Lofo	NOW \$56
Chro-Tron	NOW \$62	Lofa 2	NOW \$56
Code of Honor USA '97	NOW \$81	Madden FB '97	NOW \$59
Contra	NOW \$58	Need for Speed	NOW \$50
Contra: Legacy of War	NOW \$54	NHL '97	NOW \$51
Dorkey Kong Country 3	NOW \$64	NHL '97	NOW \$51
FIFA Soccer '97	NOW \$56	Super Mario Kart	NOW \$34
Final Fight 3	NOW \$44	Top Gun Den	NOW \$54
Killer Instinct	NOW \$29	WWF Arcade	NOW \$39

VIDEO GAMES: GENESIS

Arcade Classics	NOW \$36	NBA Live '97	NOW \$56
College Sand Basketball	NOW \$29	NHL All Star Hockey	NOW \$19
Demolition Man	NOW \$29	NHL Hockey '97	NOW \$36
Genesis Homad	NOW \$169	Phoenix 2040	NOW \$29
Lethal Enforcers 2	NOW \$16	Sonic & Knuck	NOW \$29
Lost World	07/97 \$49	Sonic Blast	NOW \$49
Lunar 2	NOW \$49	TNN Outr Bass '96	NOW \$31
Madden FB '97	NOW \$54	TCM Super Bowl 3	NOW \$49
NBA Hang Time	NOW \$52	WWF Super Bowl 06	NOW \$30

VIDEO GAME HINT BOOKS

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Heavy Gear	NOW \$25	Warhammer	NOW \$24

MEGA MAN 8 A gigantic space explosion send two mysterious strange monsters crashing to Earth. Mega Man speeds to the site where he sees Dr. Wily fleeing with one of the monsters. Mega Man must uncover their secret, starting on step ahead of Wily and his new deadly breed of Robots.
Capcom
Release Date: NOW SAT \$44 PSX \$44

'DOMM 64 One demon, dead, has escaped detection, allowing the deceased, dirty, black carriage into living tissue. The demons are now stronger and more vicious than before. Your mission is clear!
Midway
Release Date: NOW NING4 \$76

MECHWARIOR 2 The year is 2057. A struggle for power fuels a society of warring clans. Better infighting perpetuates a universe of unrest. War is constant. Victory is temporary. Cause-free life is nonexistent. Time is scarce. For the Mechwarrior, war is life and death is the only true pace.
Acclaim
Release Date: NOW PSX \$49 SAT \$49

'NBA LIVE '97 mirrors the style of the NBA, capturing 3D animation from real players, so they look and move naturally at both ends of the court. Choose players from all NBA teams, over 300 players. Create, trade and draft players and more.
Electronic Arts
Release Date: NOW SAT \$49 SAT \$49

MARVEL SUPER HEROES: WAR OF THE GODS Choose your favorite Marvel characters and battle Thanos, the most dangerous villain in the Marvel Universe!
Capcom
Release Date: NOW SNES \$54 SAT \$52 PSX \$52

'04 You are in the cockpit against Earth's deadliest menace: Battle alien attack fighters, as your mission progresses from an city, climaxing in a whip-lash-paced assault on the Mothership. Fight for freedom and celebrate your Independence Day!
Fox Interactive
Release Date: NOW SAT \$52 PSX \$52

'NEED FOR SPEED II Gearing uploads of pavement from majestic Highway highways to Inviting Yucatan roads, you are driving the most coveted vehicles ever to incinerate a race gun.
Electronic Arts
Release Date: NOW PSX \$49

'CRYPT KILLER Fast paced 3D, arcade shooting game where you will encounter skeletons, gargoyles, zombies and a seven headed Hydra, as you search the crypts for the Eyes of Gansax.
Konami
Release Date: NOW PSX \$48 SAT \$48

'WARHAMMER 40,000 You fight deadly futuristic conflict with all the essential elements including detailed miniatures of the 2 rival armies, the heroic Imperial Space Marines and the Brutal Space Orks.
Games Workshop
Release Date: NOW BG \$50

'MAGIC THE GATHERING BOOSTER PAK The majestic civilization with boast magical traditions dating back countless eons. Beneath the burning sun, what power can you draw from the potent forces.
Wizards of the Coast
Release Date: NOW CG \$8

'CONSPIRACY X In a world of dark secrets, the only certainty is nothing is what it seems. The president may not be human. The staff is ordinary paranoid on the street ranting mind control satellites may be real.
New Millennium
Release Date: NOW RPG \$20

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\$2.00	\$1.00	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00

SPORTS

F1 POLE POSITION

UBI Soft revs up the first realistic Nintendo 64 racing game

F1 Pole Position is the first true racing sim for the N64. While Mario Kart 64 and Cruis'n USA had some good racing excitement to offer (Mario Kart 64 more than Cruis'n) it's just not the same as the Formula One racing experience offered in F1 Pole Position.

Looking similar to Psygnosis' Formula One, Pole Position takes the racing experience a step further with greater gameplay and overall superior graphics. The traditional formula cars are piloted by any one of several non-licensed drivers (that represent real ones), for example Alesi is Jalesi, Hill is Dill, etc. Sixteen circuits across Europe and Asia provide the challenging yet easily adaptable racing tracks. Of course, the best thing about the game is the high-polygon count coupled with a fast frame rate. The rendered cars look great and carry



The awesome processing power of the Nintendo 64 is the best thing to happen to console racing simulations in a very long time.

several different team paint jobs and logos. Also worthy of mention is the excellent lighting and weather effects present in the game especially on the longer courses. While variable weather options can be selected from the Prerec Menu, often the bad weather occurs in the middle of a race. Thick fog, overcast skies or rain showers can hit the race at anytime forcing players to head for the pits for a tire change or wing adjustment.


Car control is exceptional using the Nintendo analog stick, but works just as well using the digital pad. Players may choose from seven functional views at any time during the race, which comes in handy especially when variable

weather makes it hard to see the track ahead. The only downside to the game is its lack of a Two-player Mode which seems unusual in this day of multiplayer gaming, plus there is a bit more pop-up than would be expected from an N64 game.

Still, as the only authentic racing sim to be released for the N64 to date, we're not complaining one bit.



Notice that the tires actually appear to be round rather than octagonal, a symptomatic problem many 32-bit racing sims suffer from.

SYSTEM	RELEASE DATE
	July
	THEME
	Racing
PUBLISHER	SIZE
UBI Soft	64-Meg
PLAYERS	% DONE
1	70%

NASCAR 98

EA's new sim could solidify them as king of the racers

With stock car racing becoming more and more popular, it's only natural that gamers would want a console equivalent to create their own racing excitement. EA answers that call with what looks to be this season's front runner—NASCAR 98.

Looking reminiscent of the stock car portion of last year's *Andretti Racing* (also by EA), *NASCAR 98* is fortified with 24 officially licensed drivers and their brightly colored cars. Eleven of the 17 tracks are licensed including standbys like Darlington, Sears Point and several others. Some hidden tracks are included as well.

Created by Stormfront (the same guys who

did *Andretti Racing*), it's a pretty good bet that this sim will be just as fun to play as *Andretti*. In fact, with options such as weather variants, adjustable vehicle physics, real motor sound and individualized driver AI, *NASCAR 98* may be even better. Another improvement over *Andretti Racing* will be the option of having

several other cars included in a two-player duel.

Even at this stage of development, *NASCAR 98* looks like a great sim.



SYSTEM	RELEASE DATE
	October
	THEME
	Racing
PUBLISHER	SIZE
EA	CD-ROM
PLAYERS	% DONE
1 or 2	70%



A new trend in racing is the use of fluorescent paint jobs to get the cars noticed; look for the same treatment in *NASCAR 98*.

WORLD SERIES BASEBALL '98

Sega pins its World Series pennant hopes on 3-D

Sega's *World Series Baseball* is the reigning champ of 32-Bit baseball games—at least when it comes to fun (and isn't that what counts?). What this series of titles lacked in options and in-depth strategy was easily made up by the sheer fun and simplicity of the games.

The biggest (and most obvious) change in the latest *World Series* is that it is now entirely 3-D. The 2-D players that once were the mainstay of this popular baseball game have been replaced with fully rendered players. This change could benefit the game tremendously by allowing the players to animate more realistically, in addition

to offering numerous camera angles. It will be interesting to see if this transformation into a full 3-D game will hamper or change the excellent gameplay this line of games has traditionally offered. So far, no fully 3-D baseball game has been quite able to muster fast, fluent player animation that ultimately translates in a realistic game. Hopefully, this one will deliver.

If Sega manages to marry these new 3-D graphics to a game that plays as well as previous games in this series of titles, *World Series Baseball '98* will no doubt be a hit just like its predecessors.



The blue pitch placement box on the left side of the picture is one of the new features in this edition of *World Series* (above).



Several camera angles are offered from which to view the action.



SYSTEM	RELEASE DATE
	July
	THEME
	Baseball
PUBLISHER	SIZE
Sega	CD-ROM
PLAYERS	% DONE
1 or 2	N/A

VR BASEBALL TIP

9

LAY DOWN THE PERFECT BUNT AND
SQUEEZE THE RUNNER HOME WITH
SIMULTANEOUS BATTER AND
BASERUNNER CONTROL.



Officially Licensed by
Major League Baseball™ and
Major League Baseball Players
Association™



Check out VR Baseball '97 at www.vrsports.com

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MAINTAIN CONTROL


NEW! VR BASEBALL '97.


MORE CONTROL THAN ANY OTHER BASEBALL GAME!


VR Baseball '97 is the next generation baseball game that lets you control both the batter and baserunners simultaneously. Hit and run, tag up, steal, stretch out a double or execute a squeeze play. VR Baseball's completely new, easy-to-use controller design provides total bat control for power, contact, bunt and pull-hitting as well as control over pitch selection and speed with unlimited pitch locations. You can even control a real 3-D camera that let's you play from any position or angle because VR Baseball has a true 3-D engine.

After 3 years of internal development and a total commitment to quality, VR Sports delivers a winning roster for the '97 season:

 Virtual FieldVision™ technology creates an immersive, ultra-realistic, gaming environment that lets you play the game from any view or perspective. You can even play from the ball's view if you don't mind getting knocked around.

 Four uniform options per team including updated colors and team logos for 1997. Plus, four play options and three difficulty settings for the skill level most challenging to you.

 Instant access to pitch selection, speed and control for unlimited plate locations without menus. Total bat control for power, contact, bunt and pull-hitting without tipping your hand to your opponent.

 Super-fast Season Play mode with top 10 or full stats. Plus, mid-season All-Star voting and game.

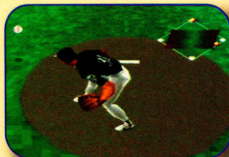
Plus, a true physics model controls velocity, rotation, gravity and air friction for true flight, bounce and roll for varying surfaces like AstroTurf, grass, dirt and fences.

VR Baseball '97

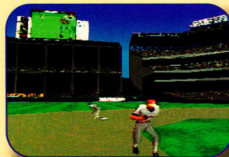
Try it. It's new. It's different. You may never go back to your old game again.



Total control over all aspects of game play including simultaneous batter and baserunner control.



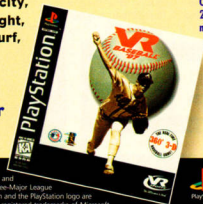
Play baseball in a true real-time 3-D world with unlimited 360° views and motion captured polygon models for all players.



Updated stats, rosters, uniform styles, logos and inter-league play with a real-time in stadium scoreboard and big screen in stadium television.



Over 700 Major League Baseball™ Players and all 28 3-D Major League Baseball™ stadiums including three new stadiums: Atlanta, Anaheim and Oakland.



VR SPORTS™

The Difference Is Real.™

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COMING SOON!!!

NHL POWERPLAY '98

Virgin hopes to shoot and score with their second Powerplay attempt

To many hockey fans, NHL Powerplay was one of the pleasant surprises to hit 32-Bit platforms last year. With its good graphics and competent gameplay, it held its own with EA Sports' and Sony's hockey offerings.

Arriving on store shelves in September, NHL Powerplay '98 is still in its early stages of development. Even so, the 3-D graphics in the game

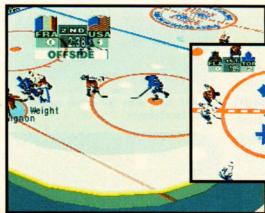
are looking quite impressive—hopefully they will move and animate just as well. To help facilitate this, Virgin is using motion-capture technology to make things as realistic as possible.

NHL Powerplay will provide a variety of options and features, but the one that many

NHL Powerplay's detailed 3-D graphics should make for some interesting close-up replays (right).



purists will be glad to see is the age-old hockey tradition of fighting. Once you're bored of brawling however, Powerplay will include features such as extensive stat tracking and the creation and trading of players. At this stage of development, Powerplay looks nice and the feature list is robust. It'll be interesting to see if this formula translates into a great game.



In this early stage of development, NHL Powerplay's 3-D graphics are looking very impressive.

SYSTEM	RELEASE DATE
	September
	THEME
	Hockey
PUBLISHER	SIZE
Virgin	CD-ROM
PLAYERS	% DONE
1-8	N/A

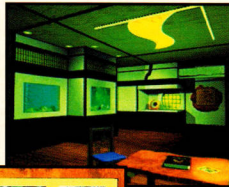
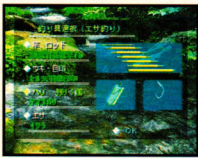
REEL FISHING

Natsume reels in Japan's most popular fishing game

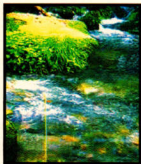
Fishing games are big business in Japan, and Natsume is quick to point out that they are reeling in the most popular one to U.S. shores. Known as "Fish Eyes" in Japan, Reel Fishing is a one-of-a-kind fishing title that offers much more than the name suggests.

Obviously, the main objective in this game is to catch fish. There are many tools available to help your cause consisting of multiple rods and reels (in addition to numerous lures). The

notable thing here is that after you catch the fish, they can be deposited into your personal aquarium, if you so choose. Once they are put in the aquarium, you can feed your new-found pets and watch them grow (maybe the game should have been called SimFish). Regardless, this is not your typical game. If fishing is your thing, or you're looking for a game unlike any other, Reel Fishing may be reel tempting.



You can do many things in your house such as look up information on different fish or even look at the aquariums along the wall on the left.



SYSTEM	RELEASE DATE
	July
	THEME
	Fishing
PUBLISHER	SIZE
Natsume	CD-ROM
PLAYERS	% DONE
1	80%



After the lure hits the water, the game switches to an underwater view, allowing you to watch as you reel in your unsuspecting prey. Poor fish.

Current Favorites:

Kraig Kujawa - ISS Soccer 64 • ShootOut '97
Dean Hager - Goal Storm '97 • F1 Pole Position

Sporting Game Reviews

FIFA 64 • NINTENDO 64 • EA SPORTS

Kraig Kujawa

I really had high hopes for FIFA 64, but they were dashed once I played this title. FIFA is chock-full of options, real teams and players, but it doesn't have well-rounded gameplay. The control over the soccer players is imprecise and confusing. Much of this is caused by players who look nice, but animate quite badly. There are some nice (but useless) features using the N64's power such as the "picture-in-picture" camera which allows you to view two camera angles at once. If you want a good soccer game, wait for Konami's SuperStar soccer.



One would think making the jump to the 64-Bit world would be good for the FIFA Soccer series. Well...I have the same complaints as I had for the latest 32-Bit FIFA plus a few more. There is way too much emphasis put on options and details and not enough on game-play! Moving around the field seemed slow and unresponsive while actually going up against opponents was painful. Also, the Blur Option is overused, making the field and players much too fuzzy. This is still a competent sim—it's just that we expect better from EA.

Dean Hager

TRIPLE PLAY 98 • PLAYSTATION • EA SPORTS

Kraig Kujawa

Never has a baseball game delivered so complete a package of features and options than Triple Play 98. From in-depth statistics to a fabulous "Create-a-player" Option, this game has it all—except for great gameplay. Triple Play sports incredibly detailed 3-D baseball players, but the problem is that the frame rate of the game is too choppy. This makes the game feel overly sluggish and sometimes not too fun to play. There are other flaws, but this is the most evident. It's too bad, because with a little tweaking, this game could have been awesome.



Triple Play 98 is a good example of how 32-Bit sports games have become very in-depth. Options galore, stats upon stats and 3-D polygonal players all contribute to the complexity of the game. The question is: Do we really need so many "peripheral" details when gameplay is all that really matters? Triple Play 98 could have done without a lot of the bells and whistles and put a little more energy into the "fun factor" as I like to call it. At times the screen is so filled with windows and text that playing becomes too complex.

Dean Hager

GRAND SLAM • PLAYSTATION • VIRGIN

Kraig Kujawa

Grand Slam is one of the oddest baseball games I've played in awhile. It's a title that is in direct contrast to EA's Triple Play because it lacks the snazzy options and graphics, but is a fun game to play. One of the best things about Grand Slam is that it offers some innovative gameplay elements. The batting meter allows you to control the amount of power in your swing by holding down the button, and the pitching interface resembles something ripped from a golf game. If you don't mind the lack of features, Grand Slam is definitely worth a try.



This baseball sim is a good mix of nostalgia, gameplay and basic graphic quality. While it has a few problems (such as some fielding glitches and sound skipping), it makes up for them by being darned fun to play. First of all, the game in general moves quickly. Baseball sims can get boring when they're too slow, ya know! Not using polygonal players helped facilitate the game speed issue. Secondly, the batting and pitching power meters increase the level of control players experience. Simply put, this one is just a whole lot of fun to play.

Dean Hager

NBA LIVE 97 • SATURN • EA SPORTS

Kraig Kujawa

The Saturn's lineup of basketball games has been incredibly weak, and this title doesn't help the situation. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, the Saturn version of NBA Live is very much like Triple Play: The game has excellent features and options, but lacks crisp control and gameplay. The graphics are also a concern, as the players look and move sloppily. At times it appears that they are sliding across the court, making the action look silly. It's too bad that NBA Live plays so badly, because it has the depth that so many Saturn sports games lack.



Ouch! Everything else aside, the graphics on this game are not good, especially when compared to the PlayStation version. If you can get past the appearance (good luck! things get a little better in the gameplay department. Yet, even the player animation skips around a bit too much. Losing sight of your player in the "chunky pixel soup" is a common occurrence. The depth of the game is fine with numerous options, views, substitutions, etc. It's just that Live's graphics and gameplay are too damaging to the game as a whole.

Dean Hager

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Interface gives you the chance to praise, gripe, ask, speculate or simply reflect. *EGM* will discuss some of today's top issues in the video game industry. You can reach *EGM* by writing to:

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Note: *EGM* cannot and will not personally respond to any letters. We reserve the right to edit all correspondence for space and grammar purposes.

ONCE AGAIN, IT'S APRIL FOOL'S TIME AT EGM!

Dear *EGM*,
Your April Fools' joke this year was pretty convincing, and I have to admit even I fell for it. The Neo-Geo 64 and Samurai Shodown 64? Come on guys, you can do better than that! Being an avid Neo-Geo fan, I tried to find the article, but it wasn't there, so I immediately knew it was your joke. Better luck next year, and try not to make it so obvious.

goku-san@juno.com

Sorry, Neo-Geo 64 (and Shodown 64) is the real deal. It was on page 79 in the April issue (#93), by the way.

Dear *EGM*,
I have a pretty good bet that the joke is Armadillo Racing [also on pg. 79]. I don't think Namco would make a game of armadillos trying to avoid heart attacks.
Alex Mitchell
WaRxDooBie@aol.com

Well, actually...they would.



EGM witnessed Armadillo Racing in all of its ultrasmooth action at this year's AOU show.

Dear *EGM*,
I think your April Fools' joke is in the Coming Soon section. In June, Resident Evil is coming to the Saturn???

Doug Lee
Wichita, KS

Capcom says the widespread PlayStation hit should be coming to the Saturn this summer. Saturn owners should be pleased that you are wrong on this one, Mr. Lee.

Dear *EGM*,
I found your April Fools' joke. It's on pg. 20 (about a top comedian being a hidden joke character in Capcom's upcoming Marvel Super Heroes vs. Street Fighter). It's all a hoax! Besides, Capcom already has a joke character; his name is Dan.

John Lamb
Marietta, GA

Sorry again. That is all real too. Very funny comment on SF Alpha's Dan...Sushi-X and the rest of the *EGM* staff agree with you whole-heartedly.

Dear *EGM*,
Ho ho ha hee hee,
Your joke is apparent to me, Page 115 as you can see, That's where the joke may be, 2 days and 3 nights is a fight, But 3 days and 2 nights is what's right, So what do I get for this stupid rhyme? I hope this e-mail got to you on time.

Joel Alambra
shokwave@ix.netcom.com

Wow! We are thoroughly impressed that you found that tiny misprint in the WCW contest's legal text. But alas, it is not the April Fools' joke. And we think that you have a bit too much time on your hands.

AND THE 1997 JOKE IS...

Dear *EGM*,
I'm going to go out on a limb here and say that your little Sheng Long Street Fighter III news is your April Fools' joke. At first, I didn't think you'd try it again (remember the uproar you guys caused five years ago?), but Sheng Long being born on April 1, 1941? I don't think so! So what's the story? Don't make me look bad here...

Jason Sussman
jasuss@umich.edu

Congratulations to you and the few others who figured out our April Fools' joke. As many of our long-term readers may remember, this is our second Sheng Long trick (the first was in issue #33, April 1992). Here are some of the other interesting comments we've received.

Dear *EGM*,
Once again Sheng Long is the April Fools' joke. You did a nice job of integrating him into a game which nobody has seen on the street, so I must commend you. I must

TOP 5 GAMES WE WANT TO SEE AT E³

- 5 Tomb Raider 2**
PlayStation/Saturn
Eidos Interactive
- 4 Duke Nukem 3D**
PS&NG4/Saturn
GT Interactive/Sega
- 3 Castlevania; SotN**
PlayStation
Konami
- 2 Resident Evil 2**
PlayStation
Capcom
- 1 Zelda 64 (and the 64DD)**
Nintendo 64
Nintendo

INTERFACE

ventilated area). What is Sony going to do about it? Nothing but make new PlayStations. Since Sony does not believe the skipping problems are caused by a product defect, they do not feel obligated to fix it for free once the 90-day warranty expires. The new batch of PSes apparently dissipate heat better and should have fewer woes. We didn't find overheating to be the cause of the old PSes' problems (if overheating was indeed the culprit, why would turning the machine upside down solve 90 percent of the problems?). Some old PlayStations' CD lenses become loose after time. Turning the system over or tightening a screw inside (which we don't recommend you do) usually fixes this problem. The new PlayStations have a different CD lens assembly. We haven't seen or heard of any problems with these...yet. So the newer PlayStations should be OK (let us know if you have any problems with them), but if you have an old, skipping one, the only option you have is to call 1-800-345-SONY and ask for (and pay for) help. The friendly service reps there will offer some suggestions (like unplugging the system when not in use, or not cleaning the lens) and give you an address, and a price, for you to send your PS in for repairs.

DELAYS AND DELAYS

Dear EGM,

I read in your July 1996 issue that GT Interactive would be bringing out Duke Quake 3D by December of 1996 and Nukem by the first quarter of 1997, both for the PlayStation. I have written and spoken to Sony and GT Interactive several times; both companies have stated to me that there are no plans for these game to ever come out for the PlayStation! Now, I just read in your April 1997 issue that Duke 3D will be coming out for the Saturn in the third quarter of '97 and will be made by Sega. Will you guys make up your mind on for whom and when this game will be coming out? I suggest that you get your facts straight before getting us hardcore gamers all worked up.

Raphael Martino
Campbell, CA

It never ceases to amaze us when certain readers get upset at our magazine when game companies decide to delay projects or change release dates—things EGM obviously has no control over. But our readers are always the first to get the most updated information around, and here it is: As of this writing, GT Interactive is planning on bringing out Duke Quake 3D for the PlayStation and Nintendo 64 around November of this year. Sega is planning on an earlier July release for the Saturn Duke 3D. Quake's release dates are currently on hold. Sega will be bringing out the Saturn

version at some point in the future. GT Interactive will be doing the PS and N64 versions. There is a very slight possibility that the PlayStation Quake may not happen. The inside word is, Sony's machine may not be powerful enough to handle Quake's powerful true 3-D engine, which is strange considering that the PS (in general terms, mind you) has better 3-D capabilities than the Saturn (and work has already started on the Saturn Quake).



Why do some readers get upset at EGM when game companies decide to delay their products? It's not our fault! We can't help it!

A LITTLE TOO LATE

Dear EGM,

In issue #92, on page 110, you have a list of the Top 5 games that look good... but aren't. Two weeks before I read that, I bought Myst. Why didn't you say something earlier?

Zeb Banham
pantheon@webtv.net

Sorry about that! All we can say is that maybe you should get a subscription so you can get your EGMs sooner (hint hint)!

RETRO GAMER

Dear EGM,

I was wondering if there are still people out there who play and buy retro systems and games, such as the Atari and Intellivision systems. If so, who can I contact?

Ben Trotter
bntrotter@utc.campus.mcl.net

A lot of us at EGM still play the classic! But if you are looking to buy or sell older systems, you may want to hit trade shows, yard sales and flea markets. And since we just printed your e-mail address, we're sure that a few people will be trying to contact you as well.

MISGUIDED READER?

Dear EGM,

A while back, when I was a loyal subscriber to *VideoGames Magazine*, I received a little card in the mail. It said that

VG had stopped publication! It also said that the rest of my subscription would be turned over to *Electronic Gaming Monthly* (alias, EGM). I was outraged! I thought, "Do these lowly dogs think they could move into the space in my heart once occupied by *VideoGames*?" So, I waited for that first evil issue, and it arrived...I read it. And I closed it. I found that your reviews are full of thought, I could tell you spend time analyzing each and every game, your news are based on facts, and you are surprisingly unbiased toward the different game systems.

Justin Okroi
Pierz, MN

What? No accusations of EGM being biased toward so and so and biased against blah and blah? No problems with how we review games? How peculiar!

READERS ON TUROK

Dear EGM,

Your reviews for Turok [March, EGM #92] were pretty lame. You guys say the game's too repetitive. I have to agree with you...to a certain extent. The only levels I found repetitive were the first three! I've owned many systems and played many games. I know what's good and what's not. I have to strongly stress that Turok kicks some major butt! I'm sorry if I sound rude, but I'm just a little upset. Don't worry, I still love ya!

Michael Geiss
C.Gable-clarity@connect.com

Oh, there it is.

TOP 5 THINGS WE WANT (OR CAN'T WAIT) TO SEE AT E³

- 5** T*HQ's WCW Party (complete with an actual WCW event)
- 4** Nonstop BEVerages!
- 3** Celebrity Game Stars (Bruce Willis???)
- 2** A "Girls of E³" Calendar
- 1** Ziff-Davis' Party (we hope we're invited...)



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INTERVIEW

ANOTHER READER'S LOOK ON TUROK

Dear EGM,

Despite the much-ballyhooed size of Turok's levels, I didn't like the murky backgrounds, the lack of horizons and the dingy colors. Plus, that jumping and falling business makes this game hard but not fun. I could play Doom for decades, but Turok is only a two-time rental for me.

Norman Cutter
norman9@webtv.net

So some people liked it more than the Review Crew, and some liked it less (and some like it the same). Surprise, surprise. But Mr. Cutter wasn't kidding about the lack of horizons. As our friend Secret Turtle paraphrased (from a *Mystery Science Theater* scene), "Turok has more fog than the movie, *The Fog*." Very articulate, Turtle.



Turok's causing some controversy, but it's not because of its violent content.

RUDE, CAN'T SPELL, AND HATES GAMERS

Dear EGM,

I agree with Taylor Acosta [January 1997 EGM #90], people who play video games need to get a life, most game systems stink like crap and frankly, EGM is the stinkiest magazin I've ever scripsited to and im going to desscipe next week

Brando Deshazo
deshazo1@juno.com

Please do "desscipe" to EGM. Save the money and get a dictionary (or better yet, a first-grade education). This is yet another obvious attempt to stir up trouble from an insecure and lonely individual. Normally, we would toss a letter like this into the recycling bin, but since Mr. Deshazo didn't tell us not to print his e-mail address, we figured that the hundreds of people who wanted to complain to Mr. Acosta can now direct their energies toward this guy. Happy e-mailing! And please, no more attention-starved correspondence (we're not going to print any more of these kinds of letters). "Get a life!"

RIGHTS ON THE NUMBER 64

Dear EGM,

How could you call it Samurai Shodown "64" [April, EGM #93] without some sort of specification? It's got nothing to do with the Nintendo 64! Even if you were to print something as non-Nintendo as, say, *Virtua Fighter 64*, my first notion would be that it

was coming out for the N64. I would appreciate some kind of apology.

Damon Hollins
c639982@showme.missouri.edu

Sorry, you aren't getting one. *Samurai Shodown 64* is the early title that SNK has given to their new game (it may very well change, but that's not up to us). We did not name the game ourselves! We can't help what game companies call their products, nor can we help it if you automatically assume every "64" game is an N64 game. We don't blame you for thinking it, but Nintendo does not own the number "64." With four upcoming 64-Bit systems (PlayStation 2, Saturn 2, M2 and Neo-Geo 64), you may see plenty of non-Nintendo titles with "64" in it. Anyone can use the number (and in this case SNK, not EGM, did), so don't get upset with us if you've been misled!

SHORT AND RIGHT TO THE POINT

Dear EGM,

Hello. I like to read EGM.

(end of letter)

That's the best letter I could possibly write, right? Please send me my FREE PlayStation control pad for being Letter of the Month. Thank you.

Jesse Langanki
Champlin, MN

Nice try! You might have won if you would have said, "I love to read EGM."

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Next Month

EGM²

Tips, Tricks and Strategies for Home and Arcade

June 1997

They say that variety is the spice of life, and in the next issue of *EGM* we will have so much variety in our gaming strategies that you'd think we were makin' chili!

In June's issue, we throw you into the driver's seat with *Rage Racer*. Find out all the



Overblood is action-packed with lots of mind-boggling puzzles.

ins and outs (maybe a few secrets too) about this cool driving game.

What would you do if you had no memory of who you were, plus on top of that, you had a disease that slowly turned you into a freak? In the *Overblood* strategy guide, we'll tell you exactly what to do.

Once again it's either dino-stompin' or human-eatin' time in the sequel to *Jurassic Park*. In our *Lost World: Jurassic Park* guide, *EGM* will show you the strategy for both scenarios!

FEATURE STORY



Humans can be a tasty treat or a danger depending on what character you play as in the sequel to *Jurassic Park*.



Beware Sunday drivers: *Rage Racer* is on the loose!

ELECTRONIC GAMING MONTHLY

July 1997

FEATURE STORY



The *EGM* editors have just returned from a major tour of all the big-name game developers. Watch for a huge preview of all the new games that will be coming out this fall.



There has been some top-secret U.S. M2 game development going on and *EGM* found out what and by whom!

The *EGM* editors have returned from their U.S. travels with dozens of new games that even we didn't know about! Don't miss our huge blowout on some of the best-kept secrets in the industry (until now!) on the year's hottest games.

Also our editors are on their way to England to visit Psygnosis and a few other European developers to see what games we might be playing this fall from that side of the ocean.

The M2 is going to be hot news at E*. No need to wait that long as we went



Capcom might bring out a Saturn-only version of *Cyberbots*. We've got the story!

underground and got the news on the system, secret analog controller and the games.

Finally, we will have an extra-special bonus surprise packed inside the polybag. This is one issue that you won't want to miss!

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


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