

NEWS FEATURES

HAVE GUN--WILL TRAVEL

ABC has decided to take a financial interest with Gun, a one-hour dramatic anthology, produced by Kushner-Locke Co. and award-winning producers. Gun is an anthology about the travels of a pearl-handled, semi-automatic gun as it passes from one situation to another in each of the episodes. There will be prominent guest stars and directors featured in each episode. Peter Horton (thirtysomething), Rosanna Arquette (Pulp Fiction) and James Gandolfini (Crimson Tide) star in the pilot.

SNITTY STORY

You may recall prima donna Nightline host, Ted Koppel, who stomped out of the Republican National Convention in a tantrum after saying he found no story there, will not be covering the Democratic convention this week.

FOOTBALL FRENZY

If you were not aware, this weekend opens the National Football League season. Software publishers involved in the fine art of creating sports sims were not just fully aware of this fact, they managed to do something about it! They have brought forth titles, football simulations, that can leverage their presence by simply "being there" for gamers as the first games of the season are played.

One company who has managed to meet this deadline is Acclaim Entertainment. They have released NFL Quarterback Club '97 for the Sony PlayStation, Sega Saturn and DOS CD-ROM. The game features all 30 NFL teams, as well as the current rosters for those teams. You can possess the great throwing arm of Dan Marino, or the scrambling ability of Steve Young, or even the talents of Troy Aikman or John Elway. Using their acclaimed motion-capture technology, the movements of actual NFL players has been captured and incorporated into the video gameplay. Actions like running, diving, catching, throwing and tackling have been transferred to the computer screen--what you see on the field is what you see in the game. There are more than 500 new plays and the title also offers instant replay, player trading--even detail down to the players' numbers on their jerseys and the logos on their helmets. Plus, there's a supertrack cam that closely follows every play.

SPACE COLONY ON THE NET

The intrigue and delight of multiplayer gaming over the Internet, as well as singularly on your own computer, continues to lead the desires of consumers when asked what they wish in computer gameplay. Accolade has certainly taken note of this desire, as they are now shipping Deadlock, a planetary conquest strat that includes play over the Internet. This title represents the largest internal development ever undertaken by the company. You become the leader of a space colony and compete against others, or computer-controlled opponents, for planetary dominance,. You subdue opposing colonies through military and economic domination, while building and developing your colony's culture, economic and military strengths. You

may select from seven different species, each with its own, unique attributes. Even when gaming with other folk over the net, 3D lip-synch technology enables communication via chat mode while playing. For online play, you may indulge modem-to-modem, direct-connect serial plug, via LANs, and over the Internet through Mplayer and Total Entertainment Network game services. Full motion sequences are played back through Smacker Video Technology, licensed by Accolade from RAD Software. You'll need a Windows 3.1/95/NT machine to play this grand strat.

PERSUASION EVOLVES

It's been a long time--1994--since Persuasion, originally from Aldus Corp., has offered an upgrade. Now owned by Adobe System Inc., Persuasion version 4.0 is scheduled to be released in the fourth quarter. Persuasion has caught up to the new technology on the Web and will offer integration with Web authoring via Adobe Acrobat, not HTML, and links, interaction with other Adobe applications, and an increased focus on cross-platform solutions.

Menus, dialog boxes, palettes and keyboard shortcuts will more closely resemble those of Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. Persuasion 4.0 will let users drag and drop graphics files in EPS, TIFF, PICT, JPEG, GIF, Illustrator or Photoshop format. Photoshop files will retain their layers, and Illustrator files will keep their full color and resolution.

Web-focused users will be able to incorporate hyperlinks, movies, sounds and graphic elements within presentations, then export them as Portable Document Format (PDF) files using the bundled Acrobat Distiller 3.0 software. PDF presentations can be launched with any browser that supports PDF, including Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Internet Explorer, and played back with anti-aliased text on virtually any platform, including DOS; Windows 3.1, 95 or NT; or Mac OS systems. Users will be able to add URLs to their presentations by dragging them from a Web browser onto a slide and preserve links to URLs when saving presentations to PDF. Adobe Systems Inc. of Mountain View, Calif., can be reached at (800) 833-6687 or <http://www.adobe.com>.

AMERICAN GREETINGS GOES INTERACTIVE

American Greetings is the world's leader in the greeting cards category and now they have plans for expansion. American Greetings will enter the realm of digital animation, forging a major licensing agreement with new-media company Enteraktion Inc., which will create and produce an extensive series of interactive storybooks and other products based upon the company's most beloved characters such as Strawberry Shortcake, The Popples, The Holly Hobbie Blue Girl and The Birthday Bear. Folks can get their hands on the interactive products at retail and specialty stores.

THIS AMTRAK CAN'T DERAILED

A redesigned Amtrak station was introduced on the Internet at <http://www.amtrak.com>. Amtrak, the nation's passenger railroad, drew upon the talents of DIGEX, Incorporated, a national Internet Service Provider based in Beltsville, Md., to provide hosting services for its Web site.

FUN IN A TREEHOUSE

Broderbund, well known for their edutainment titles, has a new kid on the block. The Treehouse™ CD-ROM hybrid for folks ages five to eight is designed to help develop skills that are introduced in the first and second grade level such as language, math, science and music. With some new Treehouse friends, Casey and Lloyd the Lightning Bug, kids are encouraged to use skill sets that help develop word recognition, vocabulary building, coin value, natural science facts, creative expression, music styles and instruments.

CHUCK E. CHEESE INVESTS IN ARISTO

Nolan Bushnell, who founded Atari Corp. and created Chuck E. Cheese restaurants, will debut high-tech jukeboxes and video games next month that are linked to the Internet. These units will be located in bars, hotels and other public places with the potential of making billions of dollars. Nolan, as director of strategic planning for Aristo International Corp., has helped to contribute more than \$10 million to develop these machines. TeamNet, MusicNet Plus and TouchNet enable people to play video games with opponents in another location, order music as well as hear it, and access the Internet with the drop of a coin or the swipe of a credit card. The TeamNet machine, which is the size of a small billiard table, allows two teams of as many as eight players each, to compete against each other, or against teams elsewhere through an Internet connection. Aristo is already seeking corporate sponsors for its tournament billiard games. Another product, TouchNet, allows people to use a compact, coin-operated countertop touch-screen computer to play games and send messages via the Net. The MusicNet Plus product plays high-quality digital music and enables customers to buy recordings and merchandise from bands as well as tickets to events.

CBS PROGRAMS LAUNCH

CBS will be bringing several old familiar names to their TV line-up this fall. On Big Comedy Monday, September 16, CBS begins with the Bill Cosby sitcom *Cosby* and the Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen comedy *Ink*. CBS, which ended last season in third place, is putting its money on *Cosby* to give it a ratings boost and ordered an unprecedented 44 episodes of the series. *Murphy Brown* features a new cast member, Lily Tomlin. *Chicago Hope* will begin its new season and a sneak preview of the Rhea Perlman sitcom *Pearl* will be shown.

60 Minutes returns for its 29th season September 15. The CBS Sunday and Tuesday movies commence September 15 and 17 with a miniseries, *Undue Influence*. Other shows to return are: *The Nanny* on September 18; *48 Hours* returns for its 10th season with a two-hour retrospective September 12, *Dave's World* kicks off on a Friday schedule one week early on September 13 which will lead a new show *Everybody Loves Raymond*.

Promised Land, starring Gerald McRaney will debut September 17 and is a spinoff of *Touched by an Angel*. Meanwhile, *Touched by an Angel* premieres in its new Sunday night time slot September 22. On Thursday, September 19, the Dick Van Dyke vehicle *Diagnosis Murder* returns for a fourth season, followed by the premiere of *Moloney*, a drama starring Peter Strauss. *Mr. & Mrs. Smith* with Scott Bakula and Nash Bridges hits the airwaves September 20. Saturday's returning slate of *Dr. Quinn*, *Medicine Woman* and *Walker Texas Ranger* bow on September 21, while the night's third drama, *Early Edition*, will debut a week later. There'll be new episodes of *Cybill* beginning September 23. *Almost Perfect* will be reworked and the premiere

dates for new shows Public Morals and EZ Streets will be announced after the dates of the presidential and vice presidential debates are determined. (08/26/96)

TV GUIDE IMPOSTER

Sounds like a lot of work--NetGuide Live (<http://www.netguide.com>) from CMP Media has a Web search, listings and news site that it hopes will be the first place most folks will go on the Internet. NetGuide Live will present, in real-time, an hour-by-hour grid listing of events taking place on the Web and online services--a kind of TV Guide for Web content. NetGuide Live will offer a search engine; reviews of about 50,000 sites; provide the capability for parents to lock out objectionable sites; bring news headlines from CNN; and deliver reports about new items on the Web. NetGuide Live is in beta now, and advertisers will start paying Sept. 2. The service formally launches with beefed up content Sept. 15th. Later this year, NetGuide Live will offer users ways to personalize the service. NetGuide Live will charge \$3,900 for 100,000 impressions, not including discounts for those who sign on before September. (08/25/96)

THE ULTIMATE BUY--HSN

Barry Diller, chairman of both Silver King Communications and Home Shopping Network, announced Silver King's purchase of the Home Shopping Network (HSN) for about \$1.3 billion in stock. This announcement further fueled speculation that Diller was getting set to launch another major television network. Diller led the launch of Fox, which is owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., and already plans to drop HSN programming from Silver King's stations and replace it with a traditional mix of locally oriented news, sports and other shows.

Diller is seen by some experts to be positioning his companies to compete head on with ABC, NBC, CBS and Fox, whose launch Diller spearheaded in the 1980s. The deal would reunite Silver King, which owns 12 TV stations spun off in 1992 by HSN, with its old parent. Diller said speculation that he would start a new national network was premature but he said cash generated by HSN would help Silver King pay for programming and other costs in developing its stations. Diller is also buying Savoy Pictures, a money-losing studio that owns other television stations, for about \$117 million in stock.

SHY DI SAYS 20/20 IS A NO GO

Word got out that Princess Diana had agreed to an interview in November with Barbara Walters on TV's 20/20 in which Diana would take a fee of around \$1.1 million. Princess Diana promptly denied the rumor, and a spokesperson for 20/20 also denied any interview as well as issuing the statement that 20/20 doesn't pay anybody for interviews. And by the way--Diana's divorce is now final.

HOW CIVILIZED

Word has it that the famous Sid Meier, the one responsible for several major mega-hits from MicroProse, is now actually going to be helping a competitor of Spectrum HoloByte's develop more fantastic hits. Sid and Firaxis Software, Inc., the company that developed Civilization, have now received more than just moral support from Electronic Arts--that game company has now acquired a minority interest in Firaxis. You can bet your conquered world some similar sims'll be bearing that good ol' Electronic Arts distribution label.

THE SEASON STARTS--DIGITALLY

The hopes and dreams of millions of football fans initiate this coming weekend with the start of the regular NFL season. To tie in with football season, EA Sports is going to debut their new Madden NFL 97 CD-ROM football sim in October. Multiple play sets are included as well as over 100 NFL teams, with NFL penalties and player fatigue all playing their role in this offering. A new Iso-cam option lets you play the game through the eyes of an offensive lineman or another player.

ACTIVITY DOES NOT LESSEN

Seems as though each week, one of the online game companies has a lot to say about themselves. Once again, Engage has another announcement . . .this time the company is going to collaborate with Concentric Network Corp. The two of them are going to design an advanced, next-generation, dial-up network and the appropriate software to enable Internet-based gaming by this fall. The game environment programmers from Engage and the engineers from Concentric's network systems group will work together to optimize the current Concentric Network so that it will support both low and fixed latency and high-throughput. This network will support something called adaptive call processing. Such allows several different classes of applications to share the same network resources, while each still receives the specific required resources. You can access the Engage WWW site at <http://www.gamesonline.com>.

FAMILY PLANET, A SAFE PLACE TO VISIT

Adults are questioning the safety of the Internet when it comes to communications that involve minors. Concerned parents are looking for a way to protect their youngsters from indecent programming such as pornography and violence. Enter Family Planet (<http://family.starwave.com>), a comprehensive resource on the Internet that brings Best of the Web, a new editorial feature that offers a directory of educational and entertaining Web sites. These Web sites have been screened and approved by Family Planet as fun and educational resources for children. Each listing includes a review that is rated on a scale of one to ten using criterion such as usefulness, content, aesthetics, editorial tone, and safety. (08/29/96)

A CRASH-PROOF ASSIST FOR NEW FOLKS ON THE SUPERHIGHWAY

Not everyone on the Information Superhighway is experienced. With this thought in mind Ruby Yeh created FolksOnline a product of Yinspire Inc. FolksOnline is described as a community designed to assist newcomers and casual users with their computer and Internet needs. There are also recommendations of software that can help people achieve their goals. A 10-to-50 percent rebate is offered for all software purchases, and readers can receive \$100 for their first-hand stories if they are published on FolksOnline. FolksOnline also offers a database that can link people to house-call computer consultants, web designers, and local ISPs, who offer dependable service and support. Another feature of the site, called Helping Hands, gives people ideas for activities they can achieve on the Web, such as develop a business, service, or engage in some other experience with the potential to change the way they live and work.

COMING TO A THEATRE NEAR YOU--A TV SHOW

Fox is pulling a first in promoting its new series Millennium. Millennium

is set to fill the very popular slot on Friday night that belonged to X-Files, which will now move to Sunday. In order to get the word out about this new series, Fox is spending about \$2 million in the promotion of the premieres. Both shows are created by Chris Carter, who is expected to speak as part of a live event beamed from Los Angeles via satellite to audiences in 28 theaters in the top 25 markets.

PATTY HEARST COMBINES FACT AND FICTION

Patty Hearst, who made national headlines in 1974 when she was kidnapped by Symbionese Liberation Army members, has written *Murder at San Simeon*, described as fact. *Faction*, as Hearst describes the title, is a mixture of fiction and fact. *Murder at San Simeon* is a mystery based on a death more than 70 years ago aboard William Randolph Hearst's luxury yacht, *Oneida*. Due September 4, *Murder at San Simeon* is about film producer, Thomas Ince, who died aboard *Oneida* in 1924. The death had been attributed to acute indigestion, but rumors have persisted that such is not the case. Hearst's writing goal was to create enough jealousy and rivalry in her characters without making them unlikable.

ACTION MECH STRAT DEBUTS

One of the hottest genres in computer games these days is the real-time, action title. Interplay Productions fully intends to share, if not lead, in this genre. The company has just announced a street date for their mech-action title, *Shattered Steel*. The game will blast its way into retail locations on September 27th. The game was developed by Bioware and features Voxel routines and real-time polygonal shading methods. Message activity on online services, such as America Online, and in usenet newsgroups, all proclaim *Shattered Steel* as a smash-hit, even before the game's release.

There are 50 missions for single play, and 15 multiplayer missions. You inflict real-time terrain damage when nukes blast huge holes in the landscape. Only pits of burned-out damage are left in their wake, but you have to do what you have to do to win! As many as 16 players can engage in anarchy death matches. Check out Interplay's WWW site at <http://www.interplay.com> where you'll not only find more info about the game, but can also download a five mission demo.

THAT'S NO GORILLA, THAT'S MY SON!

An announcement from Jim Henson Pictures informs us that their first feature film, *Buddy*, has begun production. This announcement comes from Brian Henson, president and chief executive officer of Jim Henson Productions, and Stephanie Allain, president of production for Jim Henson Pictures, both of whom serve as executive producers of the film, along with Francis Ford Coppola. Steve Nicolaides and Zoetrope's Fred Fuchs are producing this movie. *Buddy*, starring Rene Russo, is about Gertrude Lintz, an eccentric socialite who raises a gorilla as her son. Supporting her in the film are Robbie Coltrane as her husband, Dr. William Lintz; Alan Cumming as her assistant, Dick Kroener; Irma P. Hall as her housekeeper, Emma; and Paul Reubens as Professor Spatz. Filming is to take place in Los Angeles with a release date of summer '97 under the direction of Caroline Thompson through Columbia Pictures.

ACTIVEX SHOCKED

As ActiveX gains more and more developer attention as to its usefulness,

Macromedia has decided to certainly parlay their expertise with Shockwave into this Microsoft environment. Now shipping is Shockwave for ActiveX control and it will be bundled in Microsoft's Windows 95 OEM Kit, their Internet Explorer 3.0, and their Internet Starter Kit. Shockwave lets you view and interact with multimedia and graphics on the WWW, as well as stream voice to CD-quality audio.

DUMMIES IN CYBERSPACE

From the conception of the original Dummies series of self-help books, IDG Books now boasts over 25 million books currently in print, worldwide. Now Dummies aficionados can continue their relationship in cyberspace at <http://www.dummies.com>. Here visitors can check out sample chapters from the newest books, speak with other Dummies readers in threaded chat rooms or in real-time chat, learn about upcoming events in the Calendar section and access other exclusive information in the Resources area. (08/25/96)

THIS BEAR'S IN THE DARK

Some folks are afraid of the dark. To this end, Living Books® has released The Berenstain Bears in the Dark CD-ROM. The Berenstain Bears in the Dark helps children aged three to seven overcome their fear of the dark and get excited about reading. Based on the well-loved book by Stan and Jan Berenstain, this interactive storybook not only inspires children to develop reading and computer skills, but also guides them in confronting their fear of the dark with the encouragement of this famous bear family. The Berenstain Bears in the Dark incorporates Living Books' high standards for humor, animation and sound effects that have won the company over 60 awards for technical and educational excellence.

MOVIESTAR

MovieStar 1.5 from Intelligence at Large is the only multimedia authoring tool that creates fast start QuickTime movies as well as Web animations in looping GIF89 and compressed JPEG formats. MovieStar enables Macintosh users to combine video, 3-D graphics, pictures, sounds and MIDI music into fast start QuickTime, animation or multipart MIME (Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions) files that can be streamed from a Web server. Folks that find this tool useful are designers, QuickTime authors, media labs and multimedia enthusiasts.

Each element of a fast start QuickTime movie or Web animation is interpreted by MovieStar 1.5 as an object that appears at time and space intervals which are designated by the user. There's a lot of flexibility here--objects can simply be dragged or pasted into a project window, giving consumers the ability to change their minds by undoing any step. This makes it possible for nonprofessionals to produce movies that would normally require professional film production skills. Customers can order MovieStar 1.5 from Intelligence at Large by calling 800-IAL-SOFT, or by downloading and purchasing the product directly from the company's web site at www.ialsoft.com. A free trial version of MovieStar 1.5 is also available from the Web site.

In addition, MovieStar 1.5 includes a plug-in for Netscape Navigator 3.0 and Microsoft Internet Explorer. The product comes with an Apple plug-in that supports the fast start feature. Web users can watch fast start QuickTime files as they are downloading. As an extra benefit, MovieStar 1.5

works with all QuickTime plug-ins, helper applications, viewers and editors.

MovieStar 1.5 requires a Power Mac or any 68040 processor, such as the Quadra, Centris, Performa 630r and Powerbook 190 or higher, with 12MB of RAM and a CD-ROM drive. You can record video with MovieStar, use any video source that can be connected to a Macintosh, including video cameras, VCRs, video disk players, live video feeds and the Connectix QuickCam.

NAOMI JUDD TO HOST TALK SHOW

Country and western singer Naomi Judd will do a one-hour talk show in 1997 for Rysher Entertainment. Quincy Jones and David Salzman in Los Angeles will produce Naomi with no distribution terms available. The show is said to be formatted along the line of the Oprah Winfrey Show with a single-topic talk of information and issues.

Due to Naomi's life experiences of begin a single mom, raising two daughters, and struggling to put herself through nursing school, not to mention her battle with chronic hepatitis, she's sure to enjoy a sympathetic audience. Naomi's life story of coming from nothing to celebrity status will be inspirational to her viewers.

MORE MINISERIES COMING

Plans are in the works for New Line Television to provide more made-for-television movies and miniseries. In fact an exclusive arrangement with Randwell Productions, the new company formed by producer Randy Robinson, was signed to develop and produce long-form programming. TV movies and miniseries are popular not just in the US but internationally--so much so that Randwell Productions will make at least four projects a year and help feed the company's overseas output. deals. New Line has developed a method in promoting new properties as well as continuing the strategy of exploiting New Line's movie franchises such as The Mask and Dumb & Dumber for TV. (08/27/96)

SKIDDING AT SLATE

Well, seems as though coffee is as important to John Williams as the beverage is to us at our publication. Recall the hoopla surrounding Microsoft's launch and subsequent issues of SLATE, their online magazine? Recall the hype surrounding Michael K's installation as the editor of the publication? Well, barely two months into his job, the publisher of SLATE--John Williams--has left the magazine to take a job with Starbucks. We personally believe this to be a good move for Mr. Williams--we certainly don't expect Mr. K to hang around much longer, either! Now, for a good dose of Java!

PRICE DROP CONFIRMED

Remember all of the concern over the fact that Nintendo was going to intro their new Nintendo 64 at a price point that seemed to forecast consumer disregard for the machine? Your concerns are now over--Nintendo now plans to intro the N64 at \$199, instead of the earlier announced \$249. Coming out at the end of next month, this price drop is seen as giving the machine a fighting chance against the lower-priced Sega Saturn and Sony PlayStation video console systems. N64 software titles remain priced between \$50 and \$80 per unit. Nintendo continues to forecast nearly one-and-a-half million

unit sales in the U.S.

HUMAN VISION EMULATED

The up-and-coming revolution in 3D eyeware is a fact. It's simply a matter of time and cost before a majority of game systems have 3D game options that include the wearing of special vision accouterment to really envelop the gamer in worlds of virtual reality. On September 1st, NuVision Technologies is going to be shipping their new PC gaming product, 3-D SPEX. These offer the user a stereoscopic 3D experience. The complete package is comprised of 3D glasses with liquid crystal shutter eye wear, 3 premium games, and all of the necessary accessories. What is amazing about this eye wear is the SRP -- less than \$100, for the eye wear AND the games.

\$\$\$ MILLIONS TO QUELL RUMORS

A budget of \$10 million in TV and print advertising has been appropriated in the promotion of Sega's NiGHTs, the software title Sega hopes will jump-start sales of its languishing 32-bit Sega Saturn machine. Then Sega's Sonic the Hedgehog will follow, promoting its playability on multiple platforms, including (of course) Sega Saturn. Sega of America will try to zap itself back into young video-gamers' sights by Christmas with a \$60 million marketing campaign from a new agency Ingalls Moranville of San Francisco, but it may be too little, too late.

Analysts have expressed concern about Sega's future following the devastating events of the past year, when Sega fell from No. 1 in the \$6 billion videogame industry to No. 2, where it now trails Sony Computer Entertainment's 32-bit Sony PlayStation. One expert expressed concern stating that this could be the end of the line for Sega as a hardware manufacturer, due to the fact that Sega squandered their momentum over the last year and failed to appreciate some of the competitive moves of rivals. This fear is contagious--even Sony Computer Entertainment is scared, according to industry observers, based upon the latest news that Nintendo of America may drop the entry price of its long-awaited 64-bit videogame machine, billed as the fastest videogame player on earth, to \$199 when it debuts next month.

You may remember that the launch prices of Sega and Sony's 32-bit machines were originally \$299 last year, whereas now both of these manufacturers have since dropped prices to \$199. And both companies are losing millions on hardware sales just to hook consumers on the lucrative software titles that are not interchangeable among systems.

NASTIE STUFF GOING BYE-BYE

The debate over the impact of sex and violence in computer games is going to become rather moot for Sega Enterprises. Starting this October, the game maker is going to remove all violence and sex for their digital entertainments. Not only will the company's adult-category games be discontinued, but stricter restrictions will be applied to all titles.

Photos and animated images of nude women will not appear in any offering. In games for those over 18 years of age, images of women in swimsuits or underwear may appear. This change is reportedly not due to consumer pressure but due to technological advancements that make such images too realistic. Plus, let us not forget Sony Computer Entertainment and Nintendo have already determined that there will be no nude women in the games for