Contact: Ace bug-hunter Nathan Mates is the author of many GS utilities and other programs. You can reach him at nathan@visi.com. Nathan also posts the current FAQ's each month on csa2 (comp.sys.apple2).

READY FOR ADVENTURE?
by Tom Zuchowski

Eamon adventures are text-style quests which look and play much like those published by Infocom. Currently, there are 238 "Eamons" in the public domain with scenarios running the gamut from Swords & Sorcery through Sci-fi. Play times range from one to many hours.

Since nearly all Eamons are available in upper-case 40-column DOS 3.3 format, you can play on any Apple II or A2 emulator. The 62 titles for 80-column ProDOS are conversions of the top-rated one-quarter of the entire list and offer excellent gaming experiences.

Some of the best fun in Eamon-ing is creating your own adventure using the software tools contained on the Eamon Dungeon Designer Disk. DDD 7.1 represents a quantum leap over earlier versions and has the potential for quite sophisticated scenarios. In fact, Softdisk published three very high quality Eamon titles in issues 137, 152, and 156. When finished, your adventure can be registered— Eamon #239?!— and become part of a great gaming tradition.

You can obtain Eamon adventures and Designer materials from several sources, including ...

Caloke Industries, P.O. Box 18477, Raytown, MO 64133

Kula Software, 2118 Kula St., Honolulu, HI 96817

ftp://apple2.caltech.edu/Zocalo/apple2/8bit/games/eamon

ftp://ftp.gmd.de/if-archive/games/appleII/eamon/guild/original

The Eamon Adventurer's Guild supplies regular news, updates, and reviews, via a quarterly newsletter. EAG has been around for almost 13 years now, and it is still going strong!

Contact: Tom Zuchowski, developer of Eamon designer materials and editor of the EAG Journal, can be reached at tjz@mindspring.com or, via mail, at 7625 Hawkhaven Dr., Clemmons, NC 27012-9408.

NEW USER GROUP GOES ON-LINE

Numbering such notables as Steve Wozniak among its founding members, the new Apple II Worldwide User Group is now on-line. Though currently in its infancy, Chat rooms and other features to make II computing more interesting and productive are on the drawing board. Membership is free. To join or just visit, enter http://wco.com/~3d5d1wsw/us-a2wug/.

MORE NEW WARES NEWS

Evan Day is searching for Infocom veterans interested in Beta-testing Frotz, a stand-alone Z-code interpreter for running the popular text adventure games on the IIgs. Frotz features include super-res display, sound and graphics support, elimination of disk accesses during play, and compact, speedy Game Save. You can reach Evan at day@mail.cs.orst.edu.

Brian Hammack is doing some final checking on version 2.03 of 2qwk!, the freeware offline email/newsgroup reader for all Apple II's. Originally described in the Spring '96 issue, 2qwk!'s latest revision is said to fix bugs, improve speed, and add a number of 'most wanted' features. For the latest on v. 2.03 status, check csa2 postings or email Brian at brian.hammack@rook.wa.com.

Developer, Clayburn Juniel, has announced release of Music Composer 4.0.0, complete with a finished Sheet Music interface, as a commercial product. For current price and product details you can contact Clay at clay1@primenet.com or, via phone, at 602-274-6905.

NinjaForce programmers are finishing the GS port of Bomber Man, a game where up to four players get to blow up each other using bombs. "It's just the best multi-player game in the world!" reports Alexander Siegfried. You can look for project updates on csa2 or email Alexander at ug0@rzstud1.rz.uni-karlsruhe.de.

COOL WRITING

Like many GS users, I've used Teach as my quickie Text file viewer for years ... and put up with the program's "File too large" complaints, lock-ups, and other assorted quirks. Not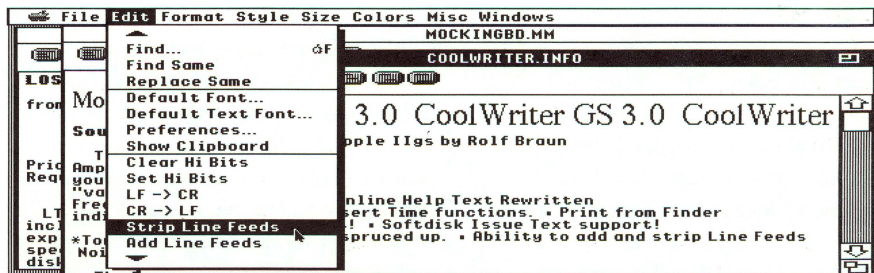 any more! Rolf Braun's Coolwriter 3.0 is a compact super-res freeware word processor that loads Text, Appleworks, Teach, AND SoftDisk-GS files. Except for Appleworks, it can save in each format, as well.

Coolwriter is packed with handy features, like an Edit option to strip those annoying Line Feed characters from net downloads. Mainly, Coolwriter doesn't choke, complain, or crash. To make it your choice for click-and-view Text file reading, just download from apple2.caltech. Use an icon editor, such as Paul Elseth's nifty IconEd 2.0, to create a Text file icon and set the application path to Coolwriter— easy and, also, very cool!

VOICES FROM THE ID?

There were two surprises in store for Apple II users who tuned their radios to a recent edition of the popular Art Bell late-night talkshow. One was speech researcher John David Oats's demonstration of Reverse Speech as "truth detector". Recordings of presidential candidates, celebrities, and children, when played in reverse, did seem to show what, really, the speaker had in mind.

One particularly effective illustration was the reversal of a young child's response to having a tape recorder mike thrust at her. Forward, it sounds like normal pre-speech babble. In reverse, you hear "What's that?"!

The second surprise? John and Art, both experienced PC users, viewed the reversal process as something of a barrier to home experimentation requiring, perhaps, a special tape player! Yet, GS users have had access to sound recording and reversal for years. Dave Klimas's Sound Shop, Paul James's Sound Studio, and Lance Walley's Sound Ace can all handle voice or taped voice input and do reversals without a hitch. John says that the phenomenon is independent of language but cautions that much speech does not contain any meaning in reverse. You can get more details in John's book: Reverse Speech, Voices from the Id. ($27.95, 800-231-1776)