

Point of ORIGIN

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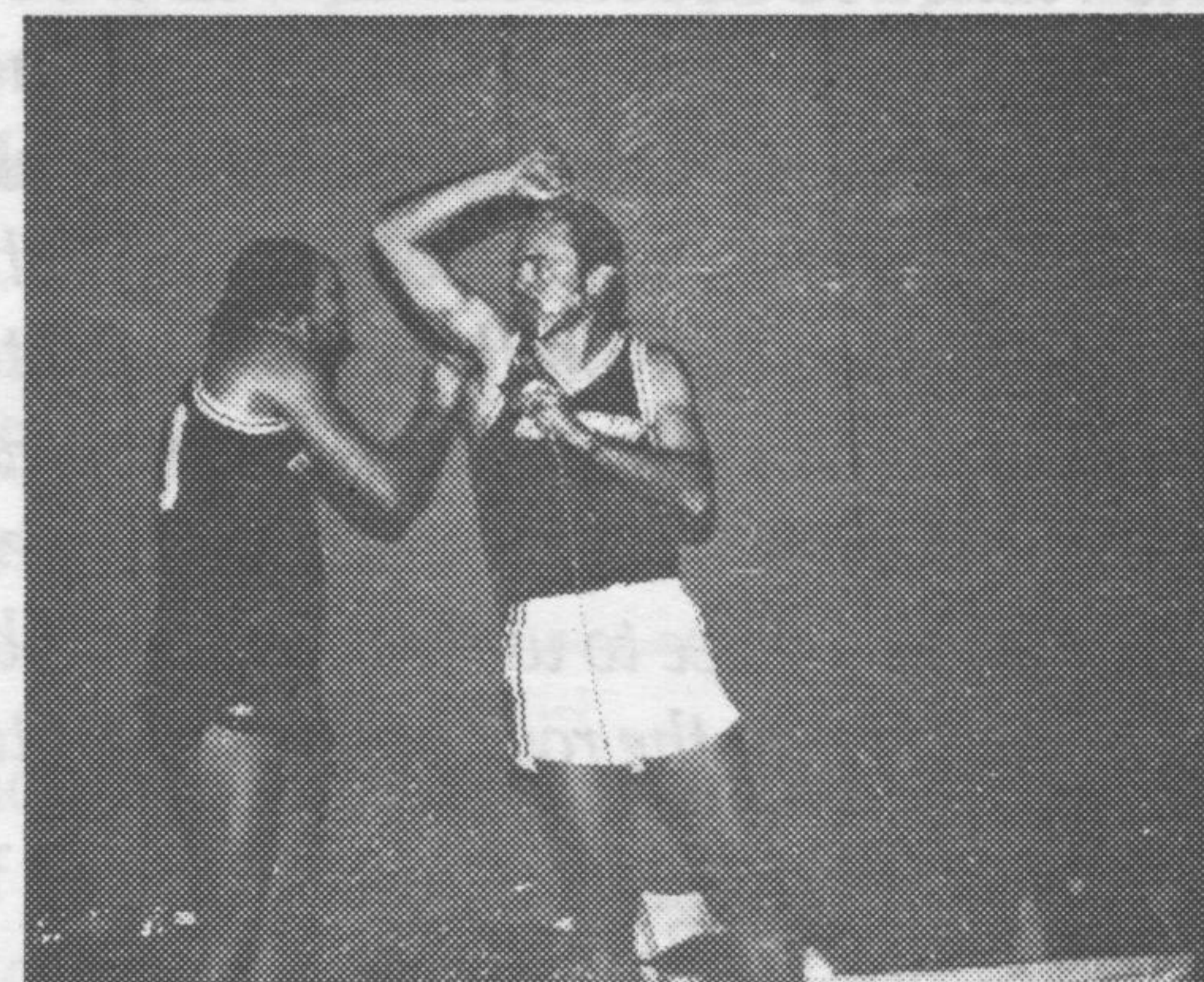
❖❖ Austin, Texas

Yule Never Eat Jif Again

Doubletree Hotel—No doubt about it. The biggest talk of the ORIGIN Christmas party had to be the "Rich and Rob Show." Their discovery of the peanut-butter cure-all had some holding their sides and others their stomachs.

Glib ramblings from remaining management marked the awards ceremony. Kay Gilmore was spotlighted as "Most Valuable Player." Curtis Wood checked in as "Rookie of the Year." The biggest surprise of the evening was Pat Shelton's winning the "Unsung Hero" award. Not that he didn't deserve it, Marten just forgot to read his name as a nominee.

Holiday spirits flowed freely and our breathalyzer just couldn't keep up with our drinkers. That meant good old-fashioned sobriety checks for some at the end of the night: touching your nose with your eyes closed, etc. For those of you who keep score, only 5 people needed the free cab ride home. A note to those 5: when you've re-generated enough brain cells, please turn in your receipts to Kay.



Richard and Robert provide a little apres-dinner entertainment while Dallas gets in touch with his yuletide alter-ego. (r)



Close, But No Cigar

Wing 2 misses Brit Game of the Year

London— All eyes (ours, at least) were on *Wing 2* last night at the Industry Awards dinner. *Wing 2* was up for "Game of the Year" against some stiff competition. Alas, the intercontinental word from Jennie Evans is that *Lemmings* got the nod.

"Software House of the Year" went to Electronic Arts. "Magazine of the Year" went to *Zero*. Sega

also won several categories.

As they say at the Academy Awards, "It's an honor simply to be nominated," especially when you consider that *Wing 2* was the only PC title to make it to the ballot.

Wing 2 is still picking up other trophies, though. Check out "At Press Time" on page 2.

In This Issue...

Underworld and *Wing 2* dominate Computer Game Review's January issue.

At Press Time.....Page 2

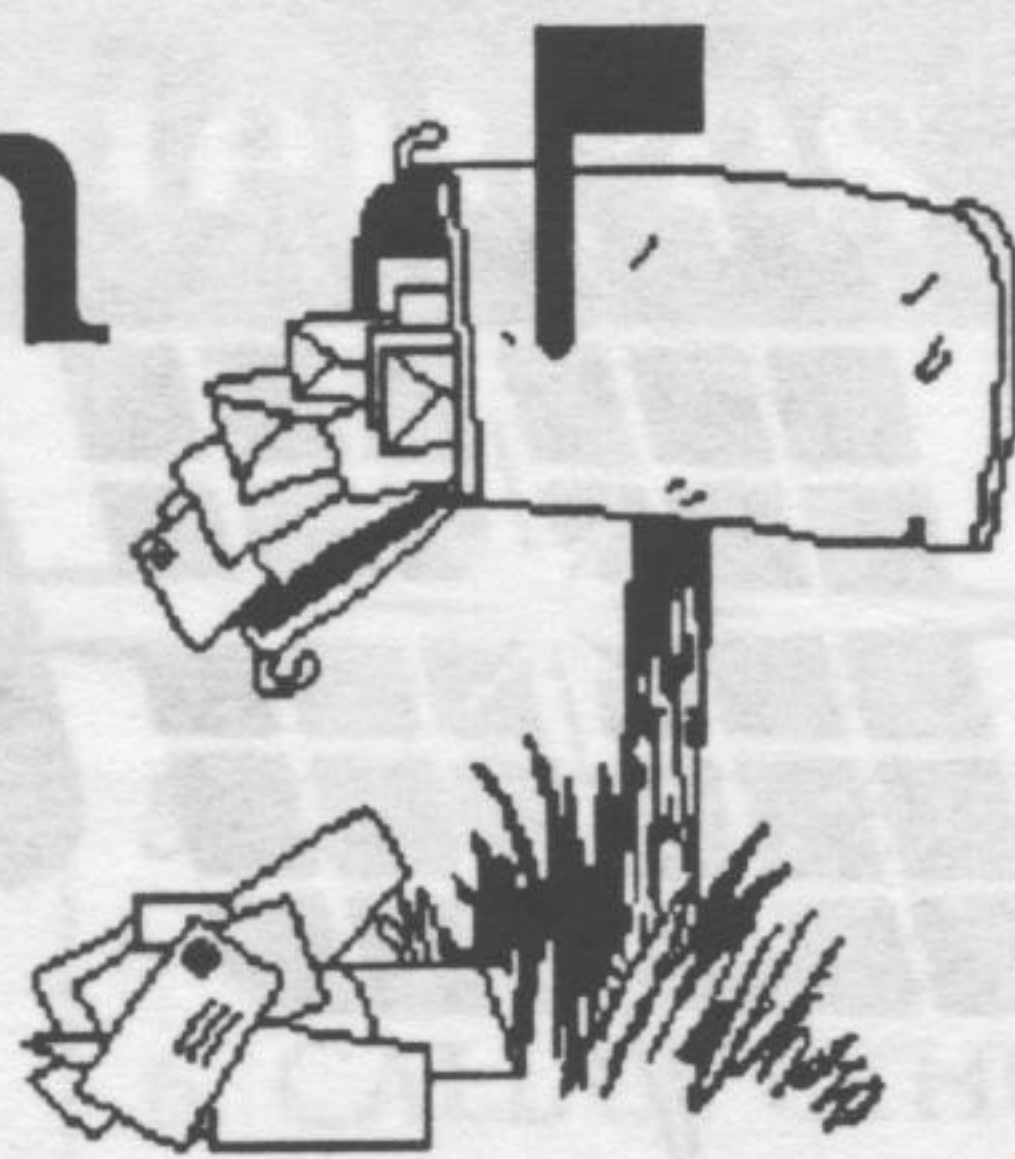
What's in a name? How about the future of new products and new releases?

The Name Game.....Page 3

Raymond Benson gives Gallup a run for its money with a look at What Influences Us?Page 4

Dear Point Man

Killer Correspondence for the Well-Informed Employee



Dear Point Man,

Thanks for the directory—very helpful and useful.

How about a network-based system? It might be easier to keep updated and MUCH harder to lose.

"I don't have a problem with having an electronic version of the directory," Fred says, "if there's someone who'll put it all in. We can put a copy of it on the network right now, but you'll need Excel 3.0 to use it. That's possible on the PC network, but the Mac network's still running an older version of Excel. After the holidays, we'll see about updating it. In the meantime, that's why everybody has a hard copy and a place to write in new numbers. A hard copy is also helpful if you're at home or on the road and you need to reach people at the company."

Dear Point Man,

Many places that require overtime also have a comp time policy. Does ORIGIN offer any kind of compensatory time off in this manner?

I had to plumb the Point of ORIGIN archives for this one. Volume 1, Number 2 reads: "No provision is available for compensatory paid time off for any hour worked. However, limited compensatory time may be given on an informal basis at the discretion of your supervisor and the department head, and as can be scheduled by these managers so as not to disrupt general work patterns or projects." Fred says ORIGIN only expects salaried employees to work "reasonable schedules" (40 hours minimum) to get their jobs done. Employees classified as "hourly" receive overtime pay as required by law and their hours are far more limited and controlled.

Dear Point Man,

Is there any plan to move the Wall of Fame Letters?

The wall will stay put, at least for the time being. When we move into our final resting place (some new building), there are plans to have a demonstration room with Customer Service letters, assorted trophies and awards and even a ready-to-run computer with the latest games. That's the place we'll take press and visitors to be bowled over.

Just to let you know, Point of ORIGIN gets a well-deserved Christmas vacation for the next few weeks. There won't be a January 3rd issue because the company's closing down. But we will be back in all our journalistic glory on January 17th with a full CES report. See you then.

Point Man

At Press Time

Computer Game Review's January issue is rolling off the presses. Emblazoned across the cover is Denis Loubet's art for *Underworld*. Very impressive. Inside, *Wing 2* picks up the award for "Action/Adventure Game of the Year," "Best Opening Sequence," and "Best Sound Effects & Speech." The CGR staff also voted it one of the three best sequels of 1991. Once again, congrats to the team for an unbeatable product.

In the same issue, *Martian Dreams* wins 2nd place for "Role Playing Game of the Year," edged out by *Might & Magic III*.

Underworld coverage is picking up steam, too. In addition to being on the cover, there's a 3-page spread on game play and our 8-page advertising gatefold. Whoa!

My favorite part of the mag, though, is a letter to the Editor. "I have a yearning beyond explanation to be a part of the wonderful world of game creation and design," it reads. "I wish to be able to give (game-playing) satisfaction to others, as well as be praised for producing the same type of quality work as the ORIGIN staff has shown they are capable of." So CGR gave the guy Dallas' name and address here.

Tim Smith with PC Format (U.K.) will be here January 15th to look at *Strike*. The other European journalists will be coming later. For those of you who'd like to meet Jennie Evans, our Brand Manager at Mindscape, she'll be here January 2nd until CES and again afterwards until the 22nd. Don't miss her!



Door Prizes

Michelle Lindner, Michael Madewell and Alan Davis snagged the Grand Prize (worth \$15) for the Christmas door decorating contest. Their entry, labeled by the judges as "Most Evocative of the Child Within Us," is still on display on the second floor of ORIGIN West.

First Prize (worth \$10) went to Mike Simms, Bill Armintrout and Sherri Hobbs for their "Santa in a Crunch Mode," in which Mike, dressed as Kris Kringle and strapped to the door, handed out candy canes. Second Prize (also worth \$10, if you can figure that one out) went to Jake Lemmons, Chris Douglas and Bruce Lemons for their x-mas nouveau work dubbed "Most Unrecyclable" by the judges.

Every other door with a serious effort qualified as Honorable Mention and will be awarded a \$5 prize. Thanks to the judges: Ellen Guon, Alan Gardner, Joye McBurnett, Dana Glover and Raymond Benson.

Name Game

Here's something to think about over the Christmas holidays: names for two of the next releases. Both "Serpent Isle" and "Next Frontier" are out of the running because of possible trademark problems.

"Serpent Isle" was the working title of *U7 1/2*, which takes place back in or near Britannia. "Next Frontier" was the working title for the system simulator deal-

ing with the commercialization of space. If you want an idea of how dire the situation is, "This Space for Rent" is one of the top entries right now. Warren promises a free lunch to anyone who comes up with a name for either game.

We're still looking for more names for the hero in the *Wing Commander* fiction. The person submitting that winning entry will also get to name a character and call sign in the computer version of *Wing 3*.

Ellen Guon's looking for a title

for her next urban fantasy novel. "The story is about a young girl with magical healing abilities who is caught in a street gang war in Los Angeles," Ellen says. The winner of this contest has a choice: either a free Amy's ice cream sundae or immortality as a character in the novel (no other rights or compensation). FYI: *Summoned to Tourney*, the sequel to *Knight of Ghosts and Shadows* is scheduled to be published in June by Baen books.

Christmas Wrap-up

Everybody needs to tie up a few loose ends before the company shuts down for Christmas.

Michelle's planning to clean out all the refrigerators and freezers at ORIGIN East, so eat it or kiss it goodbye.

Turn in your time cards to department heads by Friday afternoon. Just a reminder: if you're not on the direct-deposit system, paychecks will be available between 9:00 am and Noon on December 27th in Mark Chandler's office in ORIGIN West, Suite 214.

New Faces

Victoria Fields is burning up the phones in Consumer Sales. She quenched her thirst for non-profit organizations with Clean Water Action.

Brendan Segraves is back, working as a programmer on *U7* (Part 2) after deciding grad school wasn't all it was cracked up to be.

Richard Mather is handling graphic illustrations in the Art Department. He's joining James "Whitney" Ayres there in the same capacity.

Randy Buck will be produc-

ing all the speech in the Sound Department. Ask him to sing part of his jingle repertoire.

Russell Byrd's the new guy in playtesting. Besides having Kirk Winterrowd as a cousin, Russell's been a "soccer counsellor." Sounds like another ringer for Product Development.



What Influences Us?

As compiled by Raymond Benson

LORD BRITISH (Senior Vice President, Creative Director)
NAMES HIS TEN FAVORITE FANTASY/SCIENCE FICTION FILMS:

(alphabetically)

1. ALIENS (1986; James Cameron)
2. BRAINSTORM (1980; Doug Trumbull)
3. DRAGONSLAYER (1981; Matthew Robbins)
4. EXCALIBUR (1981; John Boorman)
5. METROPOLIS (1926; Fritz Lang)
6. MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL (1975; Terry Jones/Terry Gilliam)
7. THE STAR WARS TRILOGY (1977/1980/1983; George Lucas/Irvin Kershner/Richard Marquand)
8. TIME BANDITS (1981; Terry Gilliam)
9. THE TERMINATOR (1984; James Cameron)
10. THE WIZARD OF OZ (1939; Victor Fleming)

CHRIS ROBERTS (Director of New Technology)
NAMES HIS TEN FAVORITE ACTION/ADVENTURE FILMS:

1. STAR WARS (1977; George Lucas)
2. ALIENS (1986; James Cameron)
3. RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK (1981; Steven Spielberg)
4. DIRTY HARRY (1971; Don Siegel)
5. THE TERMINATOR (1984; James Cameron)
6. THE THREE MUSKETEERS (1974; Richard Lester)
7. BLADE RUNNER (1982; Ridley Scott)
8. HIGHLANDER (1986; Russell Mulcahy)
9. JAWS (1975; Steven Spielberg)
10. BACK TO THE FUTURE (1985; Robert Zemeckis)

(Note the crossover genre titles! — ed.)

KEN DEMAREST (Programmer)
NAMES HIS TEN FAVORITE COMPUTER GAMES:

1. AKALABETH
2. ULTIMA I
3. ULTIMA II
4. ULTIMA III: Exodus
5. ULTIMA IV: The Quest of the Avatar
6. ULTIMA V: Warriors of Destiny
7. ULTIMA VI: The False Prophet
8. THE SAVAGE EMPIRE
9. MARTIAN DREAMS
10. ULTIMA VII: The Black Gate

"This list was in no way influenced by my producer." — KD

WARREN SPECTOR (Producer)
NAMES HIS TEN FAVORITE NON-COMPUTER GAMES:
(no particular order)

1. ACQUIRE (board game) (the best game of all time, ever, all categories...)
2. MONOPOLY (board game)
3. RAIL BARON (board game) (except the boring endgame)
4. CIVILIZATION (board game)

5. DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS (rpg) (the old 3 booklet version, of course)

6. CALL OF CTHULHU (rpg)
7. SPEED CIRCUIT (board game)
8. JUNTA (board game)
9. OGRE/G.E.V. (board game)
10. TOON (rpg) (so sue me...)

RAYMOND BENSON (Writer)
NAMES HIS TEN FAVORITE NOVELS:
(alphabetically)

1. THE CATCHER IN THE RYE (J. D. Salinger)
2. DRACULA (Bram Stoker)
3. FROM RUSSIA, WITH LOVE (Ian Fleming)
4. A JUDGEMENT IN STONE (Ruth Rendell)
5. LONESOME DOVE (Larry McMurtry)
6. LUCKY JIM (Kingsley Amis)
7. MAIA (Richard Adams)
8. THE SHINING (Stephen King)
9. THE TIME MACHINE (H. G. Wells)
10. THE WORLD ACCORDING TO GARP (John Irving)

DENIS LOUBET (Artist)
NAMES HIS TEN FAVORITE ANIMATED FILMS:
(alphabetically)

1. ALLEGRO NON TROPPO (1976; Bruno Bozzetto)
2. BALANCE (1989)
3. FANTASIA (1940; Walt Disney Prod.)
4. THE LITTLE MERMAID (1989; Walt Disney Prod.)
5. PINOCCHIO (1939; Walt Disney Prod.)
6. SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS (1937; Walt Disney Prod.)
7. VINCENT (1985; Tim Burton)
8. WATERSHIP DOWN (1978; Martin Rosen)
9. WHAT'S OPERA DOC? (date unknown; Warner Bros. short)
10. WIZARDS (1977; Ralph Bakshi)

DANA GLOVER (Composer)
NAMES HIS TEN FAVORITE FILM COMPOSERS/SCORES:

1. DANA GLOVER (Everything)
2. QUINCY JONES ("The Color Purple")
3. DANNY ELFMAN ("Night Breed")
4. BILL LEE, BRANFORD MARSALIS, TERENCE BLANCHARD ("Mo' Better Blues")
5. PAT METHENY ("The Falcon and the Snowman")
6. MAX STEINER ("Gone With the Wind")
7. HENRY MANCINI ("The Pink Panther")
8. VINCE GUARALDI (Every "Peanuts" soundtrack)
9. JERRY GOLDSMITH (Anything)
10. MICHAEL KAMEN (Anything)