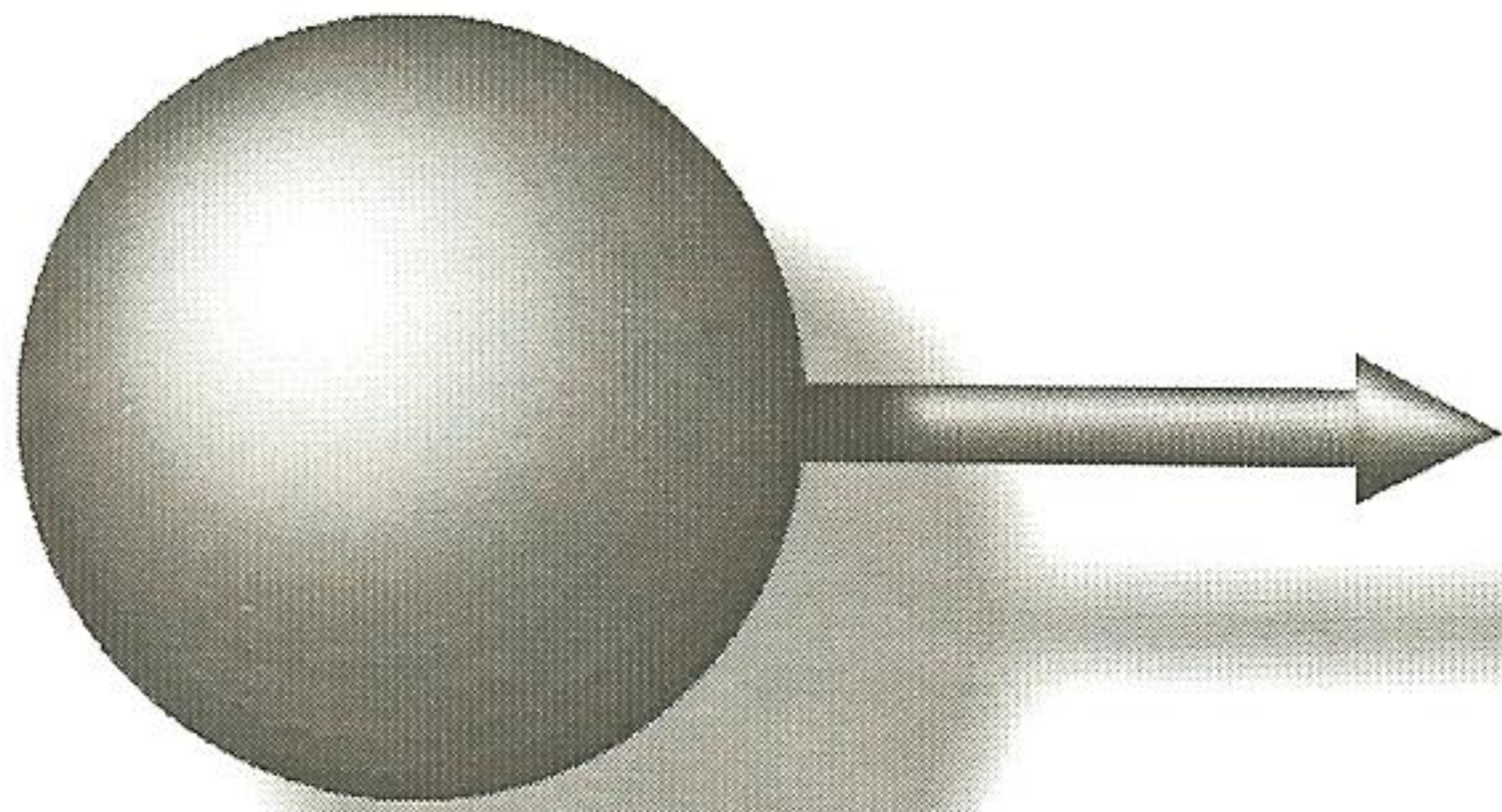


Point



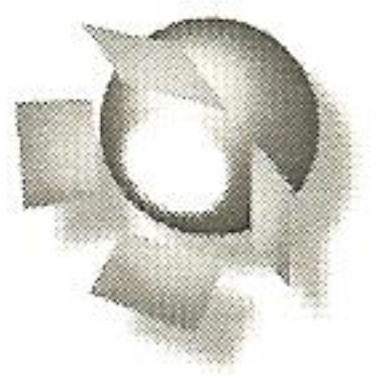
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ONLY 6 SHOPPING DAYS TIL XMAS

Volume VI, Number 9, December 19, 1996

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Spotlight



ORIGIN Honors the Best



Will McBurnett
takes home the
Manager of the
Year Award



Susan Bednar is
the **ORIGIN MVP**
of the Year

1996 was not only a year of much change at ORIGIN, but also a time for some of the same old shenanigans we've all come to know and love. Whatever your take on the year may be, you'd probably agree that there have been many, many outstanding contributions by staff across the board.

Last Friday, ORIGIN rolled out the red carpet and put on the ritz (well at least **Mike**, **Richard**, and **Angela** dressed up) to recognize staff who have contributed that certain extra je ne sais quoi.

The following day, ORIGIN held its annual Holiday Dinner at the historic Driskill Hotel. Taking on the theme "Ghosts of Christmas Past," the party was a great success. It featured music by The Lucky Strikes, as well as a ghostly quest.

The Point of ORIGIN tips its hat to everyone who helped make the awards ceremony, Holiday Dinner and Kids' Christmas Party a reality — **Angela Lyons**, **Linda Powers**, **David Ladyman**, **Teresa Potts**, **Catherine Cantieri**, **Robin McShaffry**, **Kathie Beagle** and the Entertainment Committee. Special thanks to the non-EC folks, too — the Runners and **Wendi Dunn**.

More article and pictures on Page 3!

GOTO 3



PRODUCT SUPPORT SPOTLIGHT LETTER

Dear Ms. Lindner,

I write this letter to complement you on **Chico**, one of your employees.

I recently had some trouble running the videos in AH-64D Longbow. I filled out a description of the problem at your website and promptly received help and advice from Chico. He requested some more info. I sent it to him and he sent me back some recommended changes to my configuration files. The changes he recommended solved my problem.

I think it is exceptional in this day and age of unanswered and forgotten e-mail, letters, etc., that Chico and your company took the time to handle my problem in a prompt and professional manner.

Congratulations and thank you.

Sincerely,

John M.
St. Marys, Georgia

Since we didn't get to see all the great pictures of most of the Award Nominees, The Point has dedicated some room to showing off Outstanding Originites. (We couldn't get everyone's picture.) And the nominees are



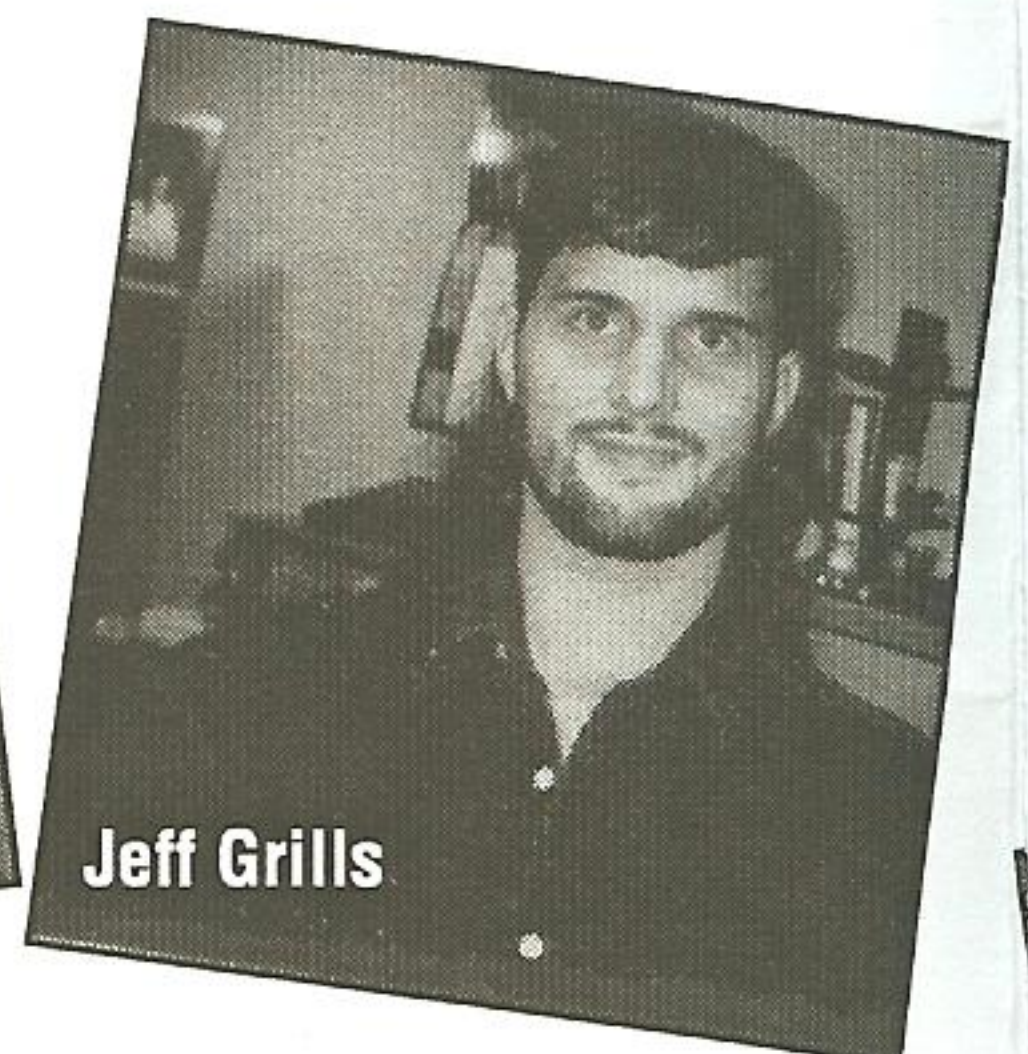
Herman Miller



Chuck Crist



Stretch Williams



Jeff Grills



Kat's Korner of Phon Phone Phacts

- ORIGIN will be implementing a job line soon ... it is currently under construction. It should be functioning by the time the next Point comes out.
 - New phone books will be here by the first of the year. We will be recycling old phone books — you will receive an update via mail when more information is available.
 - Do you have spunk or attitude? Then, how would you like to be the voice of ORIGIN's automated phone attendant? There are several menus that currently need updating ... so come try your voice at recording the ORIGIN script! Contact Kathie for details.
- (a little data bit for ya!!!)
- ORIGIN is implementing a frame-relay network between Austin and Baltimore. Although this involves data, it will be operating over our current long distance lines isn't technology cool?
 - When playing back a voicemail, you can speed up a message by pressing 6. To slow it back down, press 4.

The Point of ORIGIN is published every six weeks, coinciding with the Company Happy Hour. **Deadline for Submissions is the Monday before publication. Contact the editor for more details.**

Managing Editor: Richard Steinberg. Editor-in-Chief: David Swofford. Staff Writer, Photographer and Clip Art Queen: Teresa Potts. Contributing Writers: Kathie Beagle, Michelle Lindner. Contributing Photographers: Richard Steinberg and David Swofford. Layout and Production: Robin McShaffry.



FROM 1

* marks winner in category

Most Valuable Player of the Year

Jorg Neumann
Sergio Rosas
* Susan Bednar

Rookie of the Year

Hugh David
Mike Pickett
* Chuck Crist

Unsung Hero

Kathy Dorsett
Pat McKinney
* Bruce Gilmore

Eternal Flame

Mark Vittek
Marie Williams
* Mike McShaffry

Firefighter of the Year

Kathie Beagle
Joye McBurnett
* Jorg Neumann

Right Brain Award

Bob Frye
Stretch Williams
* Paul Stankie

Left Brain Award

Herman Miller
Allen Jackson
* Jeff Grills

Manager of the Year

Harvey Smith
David Swofford
* Will McBurnett

Lt. Columbo Award

* Richard Steinberg

Tourette's Syndrome Award

* Billy Cain



Jeff Grills — Left Brain Award



Bruce Gilmore — Unsung Hero



Jorg Neumann — Firefighter



Chuck Crist — Rookie of the Year



Paul Stankiewicz — Right Brain



Mike McShaffry — Eternal Flame



Dustin Cryer — Wool Hat & Mittens!



Richard Steinberg — Lt. Columbo



Billy Cain — Tourette's Award

Even more pictures on page 4!



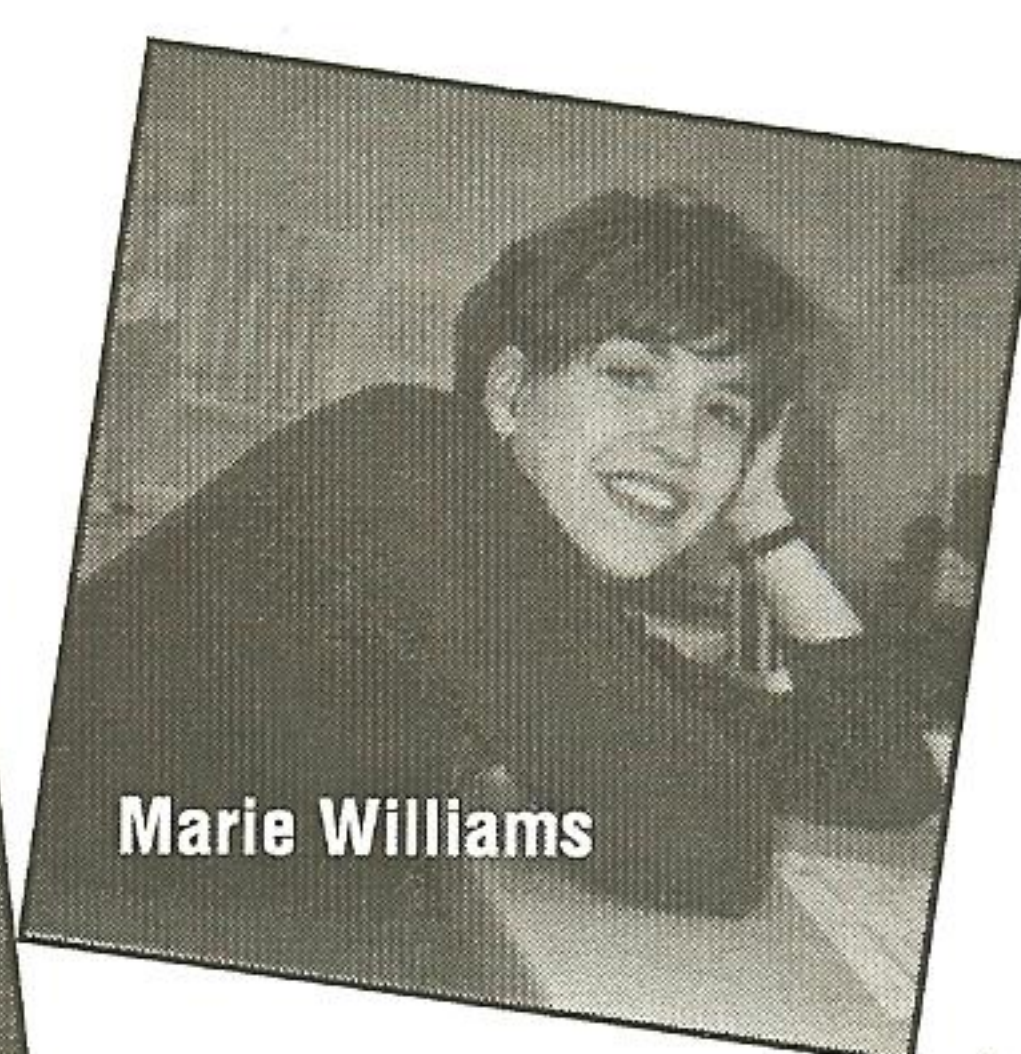
Bruce Gilmore



Pat McKinney



Joye McBurnett



Marie Williams

Spotlight



FROM 3

Everybody HOL



Congratulations to the Longbow Team for taking the Best Team Award!



See if you can identify your favorite 5-Year Veteran! Congrats!



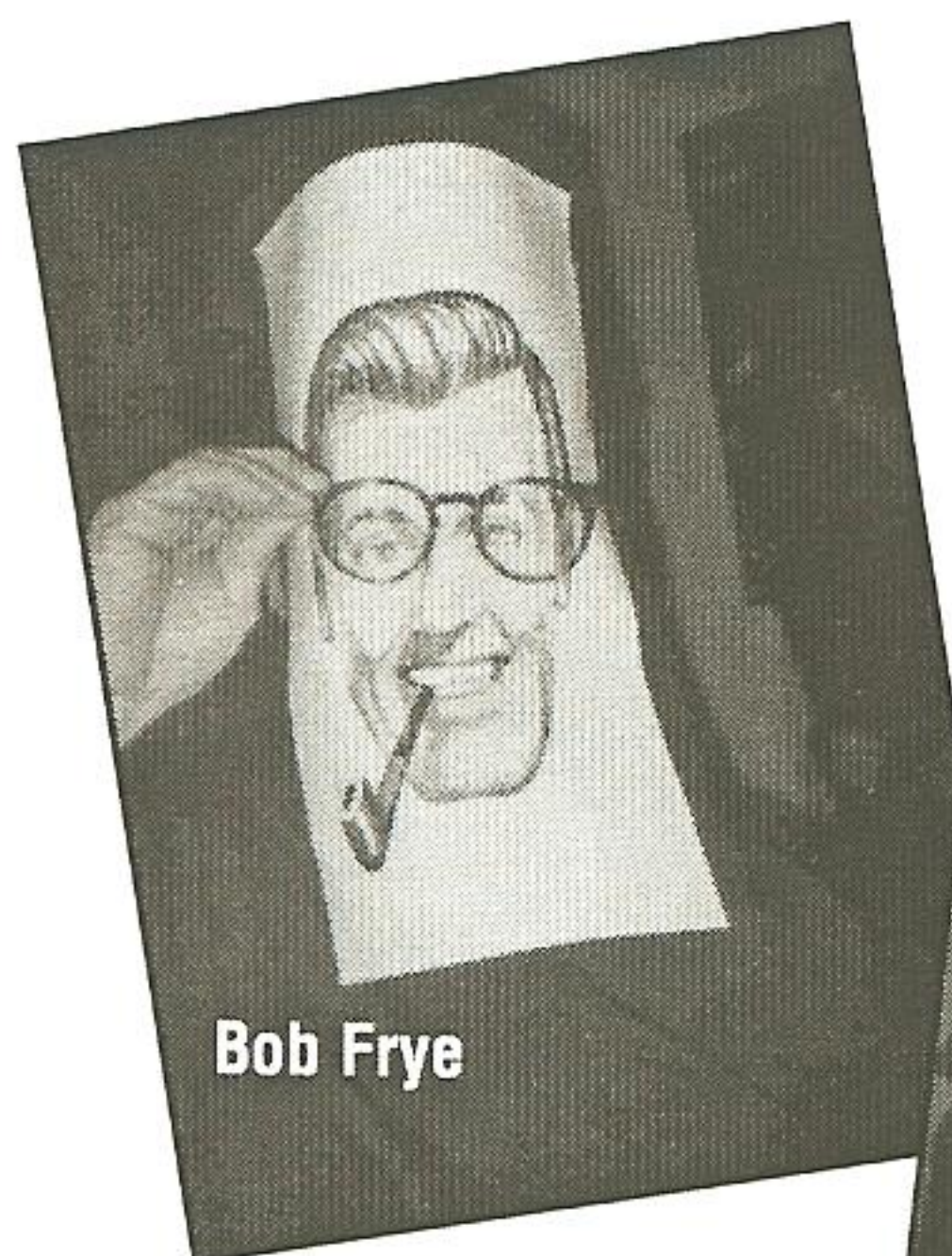
The lovely Chico Marvici and friend



Lisa Goodrich and her date, Paul, look like they're having a good time, don't they?



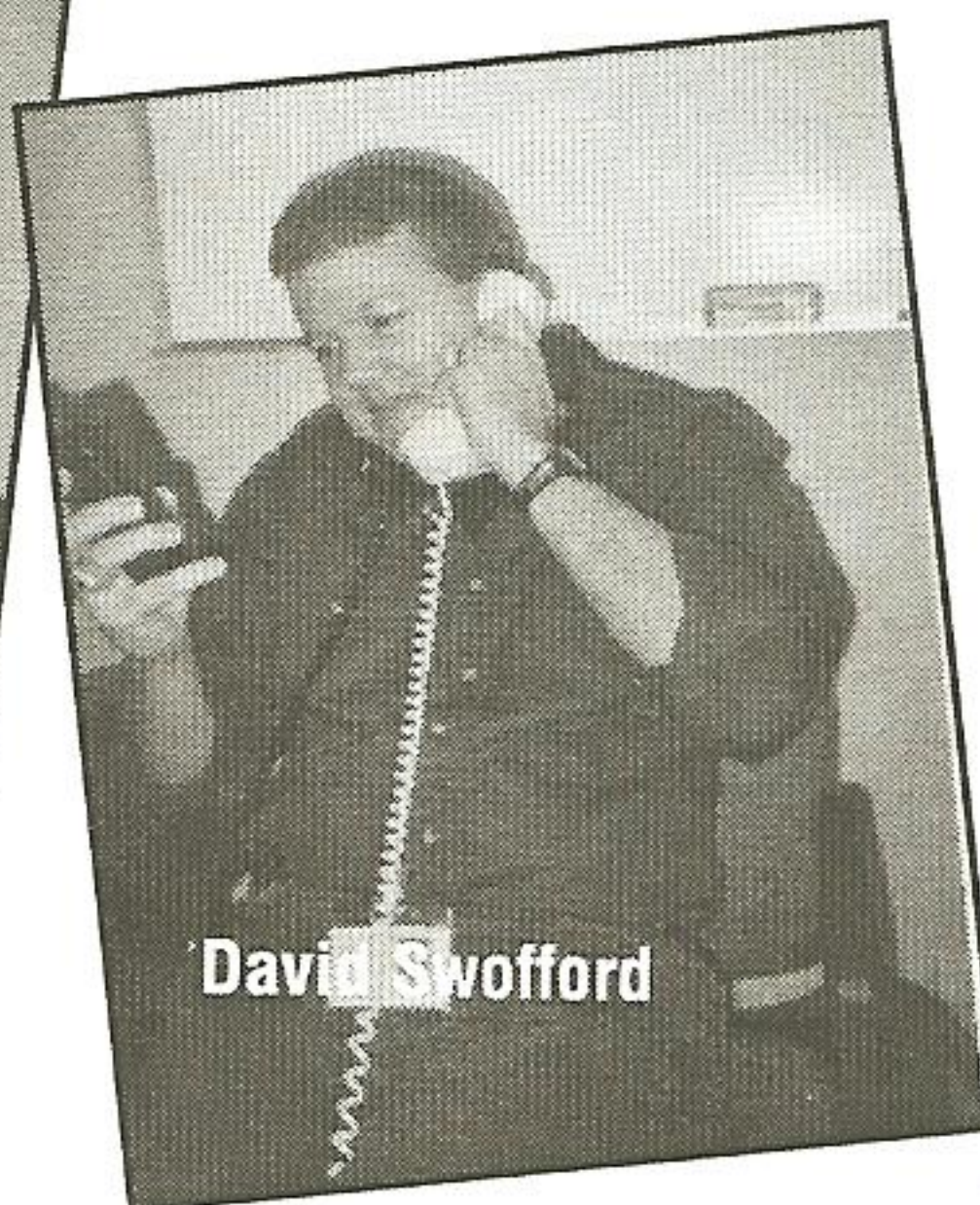
Lee Gibson and friend



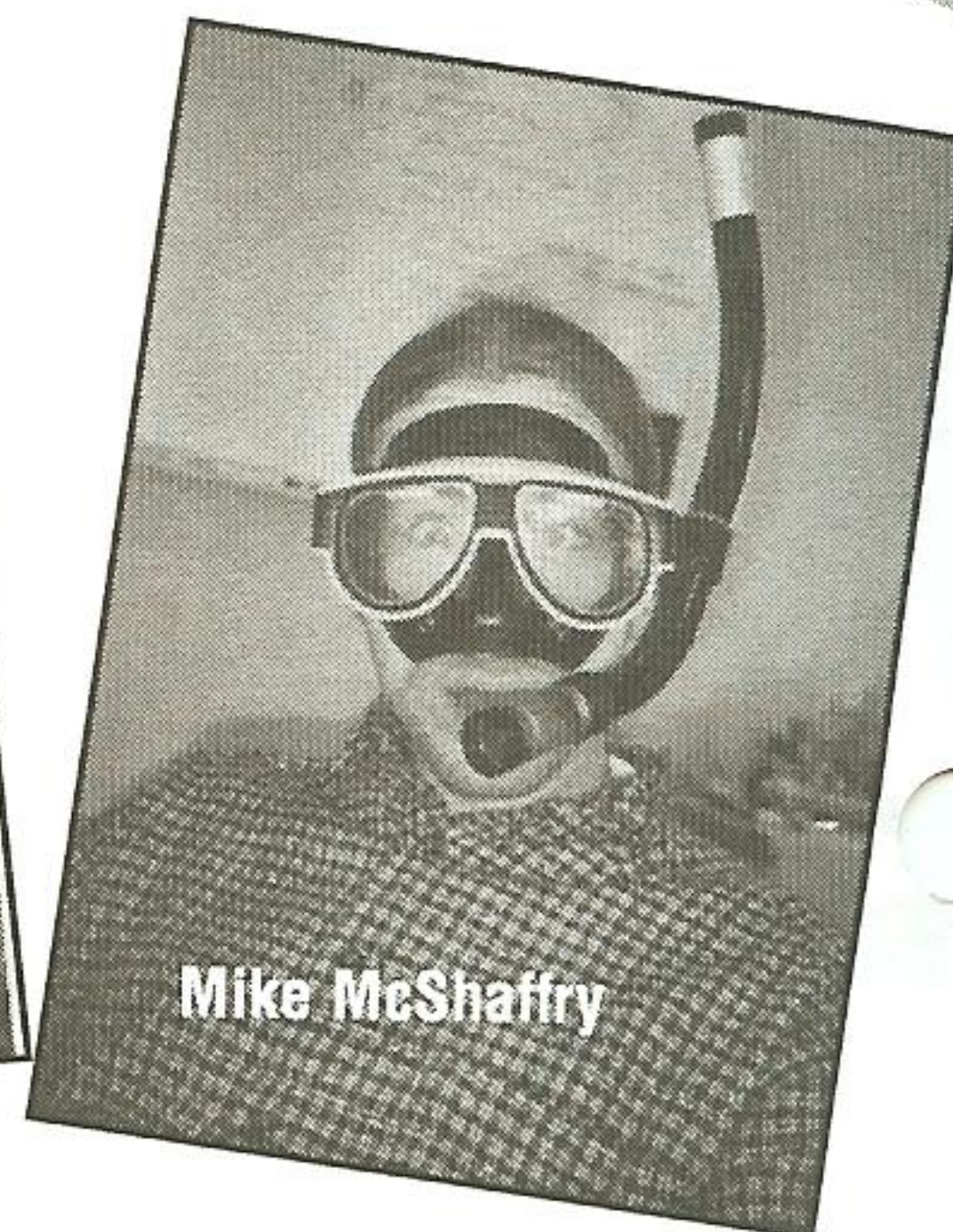
Bob Frye



Will McBurnett



David Swofford



Mike McShaffry

ly Loves the olidays

KIDS' HOLIDAY PARTY!



Thanksgiving carving for your enjoyment:
Gary McElhaney, David Ladyman and
Jennifer Spohrer



Yo! David Abelt, Chuck Lupher, Courtney
McMillan, Cinco Barnes and Greg Wilson



Chow down, boys. Mark Leon, Trey
Hermann and Chris Douglas eat turkey.



Karol Roberts paints
Dillan Jarvis's face



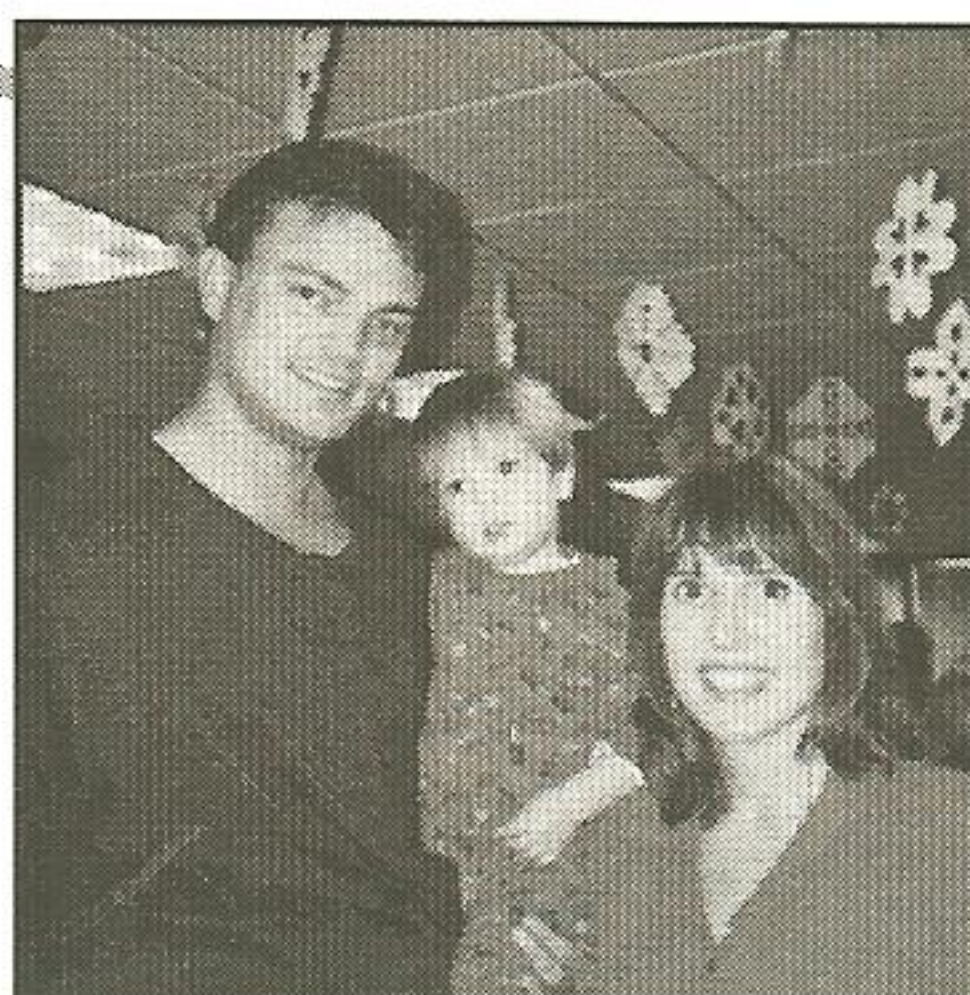
Michelle Martinez and
her daughter Kassy



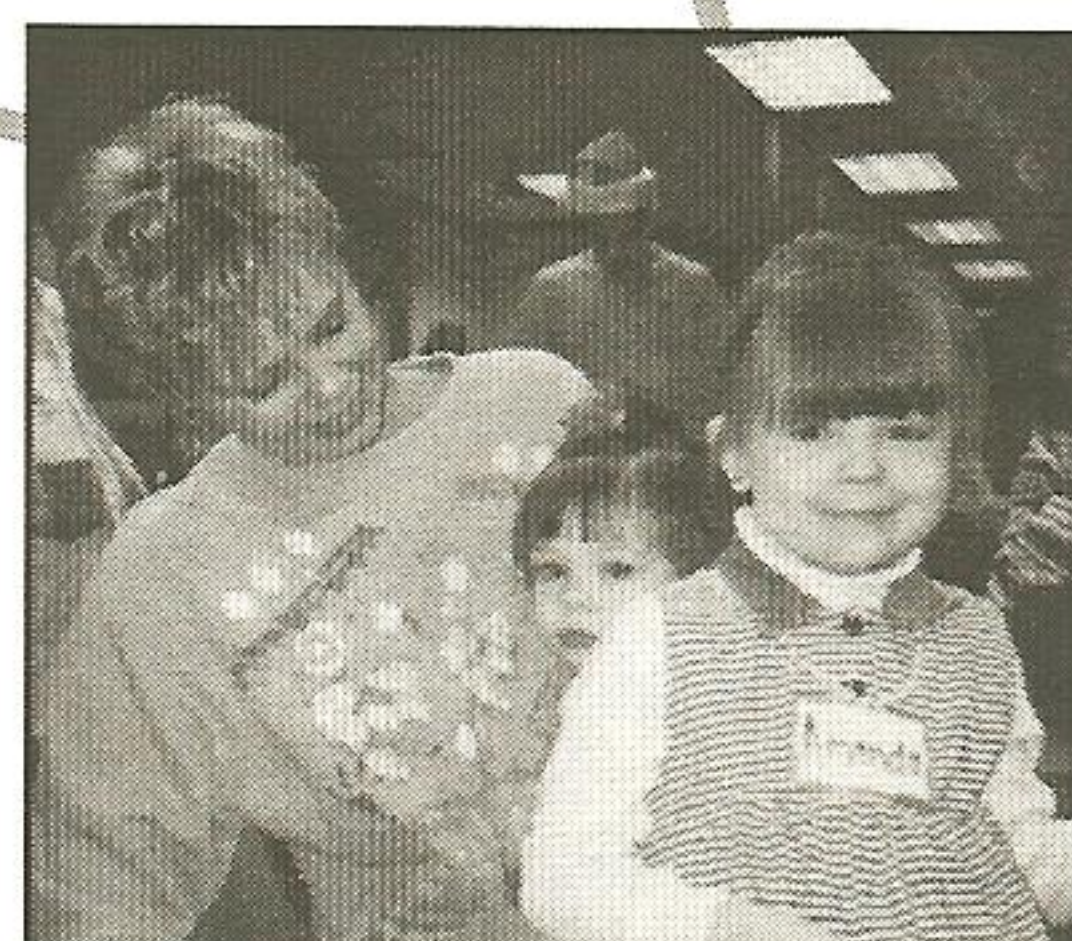
Gary McElhaney works with
Steve Muchow's daughter Tori



John McLean's kids Francis
(left) and Oona (right) won-
der if they can trust Paul
Stankie



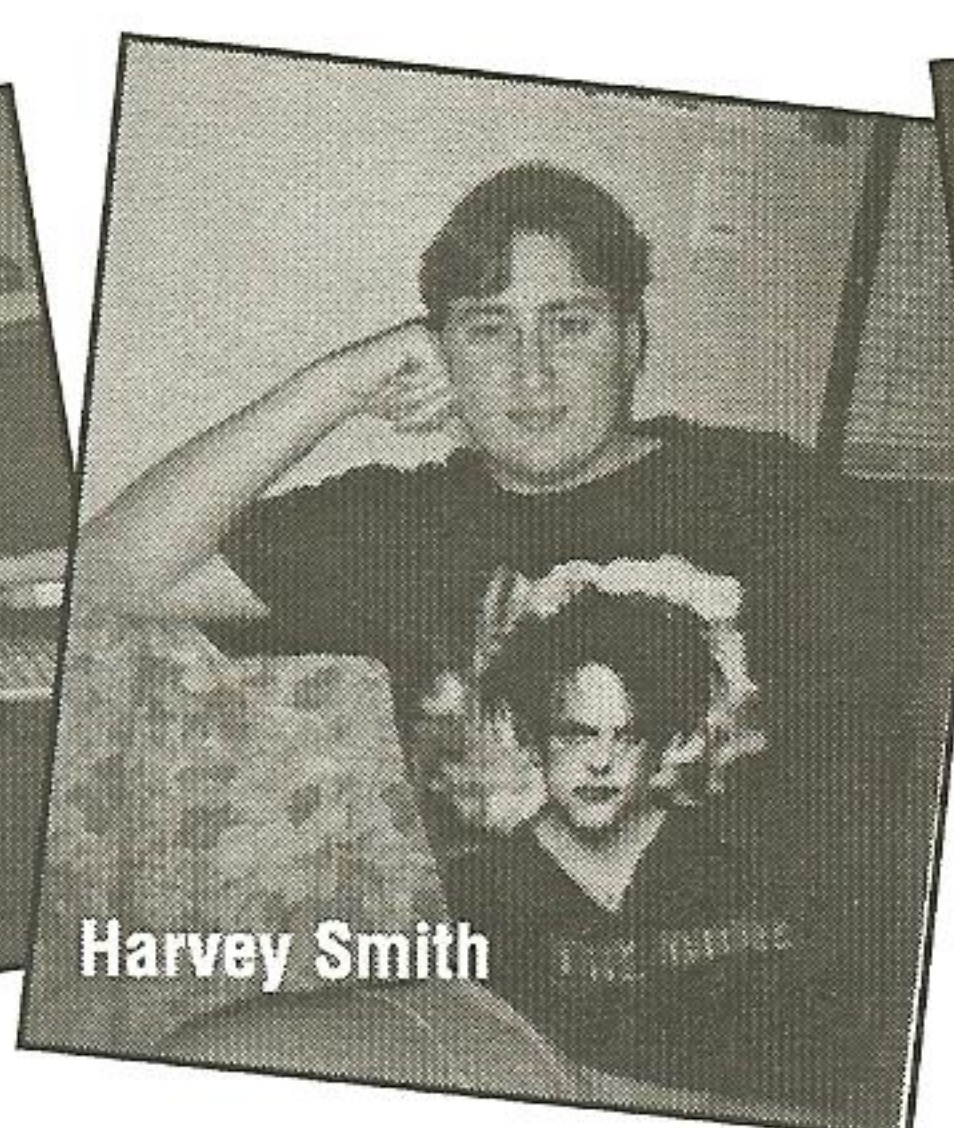
Jeff, Drew and Missy Hillhouse



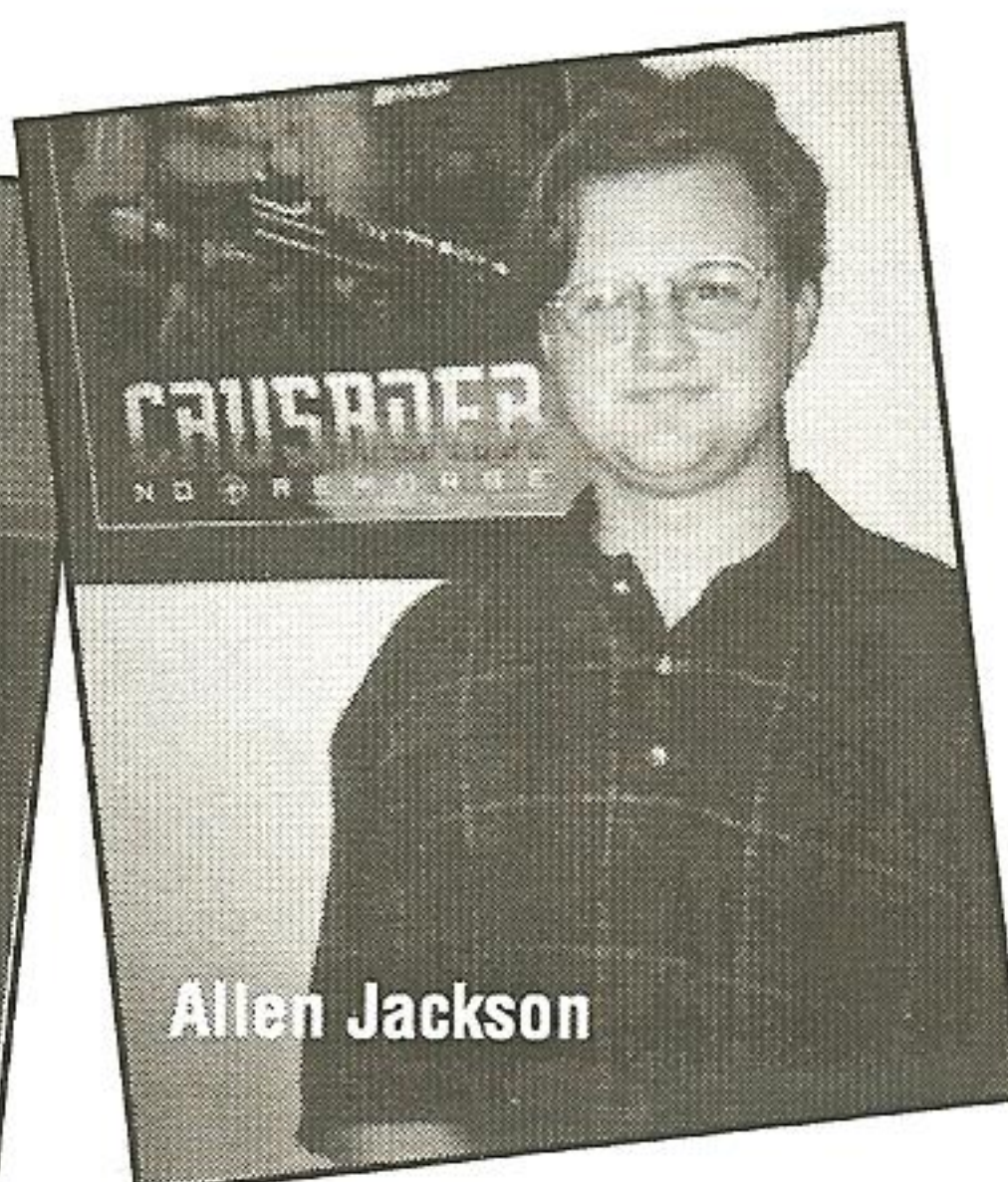
Susan Williamson and her grand-
daughters Christin and Amanda



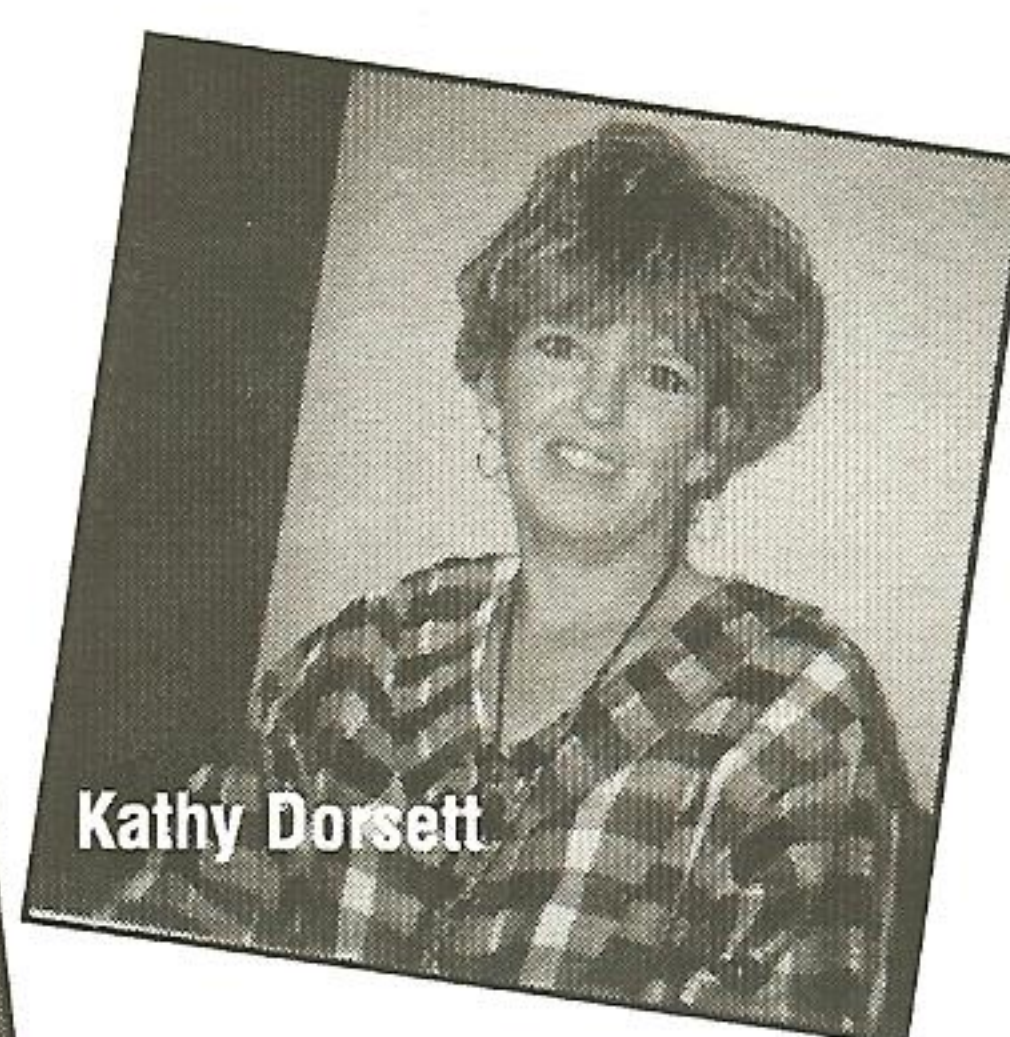
Mark Vittek



Harvey Smith



Allen Jackson



Kathy Dorsett



It's Christmas time and magazines have come out with their recommendations for the best computer game holiday gifts. And it appears that ORIGIN and Jane's didn't do too badly on those lists.

Computer Gaming World listed four titles from ORIGIN studios among their "100 Hot Gift Ideas for Your Favorite Gamer." Crusader was listed at number three in the action category.

"No Regret will not disappoint any action fan who loves big explosions, gory death sequences and challenging level design and traps.

ORIGIN has a couple of titles in CGW's space sim category. Privateer 2 came in at number two and Wing Commander IV was number five. "The Darkening looks like a fantastic game," editors wrote. "What great action — the combat will surely satisfy any space sim fan," they exclaimed about Wing Commander IV.

AH-64D Longbow came in at number five in the simulation category. "One of the rare sims that's accessible to beginners, yet accurate enough to please the most hard-core sim experts."

Speaking of Longbow, this month it was named the Best Flight Sim of 1996 by PC Games. "Jane's Combat Simulations' AH-64D Longbow is the most involving, you-are-there experience in the air this year. Its stunning terrain, edge-of-seat missions, and teeth-gritting gameplay were second to none." Congrats to the Skunkworks team.

Meanwhile PC Gamer is out with its Top 40 Games article. (Essentially it's a holiday gift guide). Wing Commander IV, Crusader: No Regret, AH-64D Longbow and CyberMage made the final cut. These were all games that scored 88% or higher in PC Gamer this year. Take notice of this because it means that every PC game that this studio released this year made it in the Gamer's Top 40. Congrats to all the development, QA and marketing teams behind these products.

Additionally, PC Gamer listed a couple of ORIGIN titles in its holiday season previews. Kilrathi Saga was one of those. "Here's your chance to enjoy some of the most popular and enduring space shoot-'em-ups around the way they were meant to be played." Another title in the preview category was Privateer 2. "If you enjoy the Wing Commander universe, it's a sure bet this will be right up your alley."

Speaking of Wing Commander, the just-released Consumer Guide's Computer Buying Guide listed Wing Commander IV as a "Best Buy" and gave the

game a final score of 10. "Playing Wing Commander IV: The Price of Freedom is like stepping inside a movie. A perfect mixture of movie sequences and combat missions."



Soft World Magazine's cover. We don't know what it says either.

Privateer 2 is getting its coming out party in Taiwan. Check out the accompanying picture with this article from Soft World Magazine. The Chinese publication sent one of its writers to Austin a couple of months ago for a two-part cover story on ORIGIN. You may recall the cover of Lord British in the last Point of Origin. This month it's Privateer 2 featured on Soft World's cover. There are additional articles inside on Ultima IX, Ultima Online and the ORIGIN Skunkworks team.

Now on to more product reviews, where Crusader: No Regret continues to cash in. In December's Computer Gaming World, No Regret scored a 4.5 out of 5 stars and a CG Choice Award.

"ORIGIN's follow-up to No Remorse explodes with more action and tougher challenges. It's No Remorse, but better."

Computer Player magazine scored No Regret at 8 out of 10. "Great presentation, an amazing array of weapons, cool environments, solid playability, a good story and mass destruction and explosions."

Intelligent Gamer magazine gave No Regret an A-. "Death at its finest," wrote editors. The game received the mag's "Highly Recommended" designation.

Overseas, Crusader is receiving high grades, also. PC Player in Germany scored No Regret at 4 out of 5. In Australia, PC Powerplay graded the game at 95% and Ross Clarksmith was practically hyperventilating over the game. "Every so often a game comes along that immediately takes over your life. This game is amazing. The wizards at ORIGIN have turned out an excellent final product."

Longbow shipped six months ago but it's still getting good reviews. The latest comes from Tim Belehrand, who writes for the Baton Rouge (Louisiana) Advocate. "The navigation and weapons systems are stunning," Tim writes. "With the game's superb sights and sounds, it's easy to slip away and imagine you're really flying and fighting."

Next time we should have some reviews on Flash Point Korea and some of what the early reviews are saying about Privateer 2.

New Hires



Happy Holiday Greetings to the New Hires!



Left to right: Rick Holtrop, Kenny Hott, Tim Bell, Sam Arnold, Lee Gibson and Kanon Lillemon

Here's what they'd like to find under their tree —

Congratulations to all the new full-time guys in Product Support. **Sam Arnold** would like a new Kurzweil 2000. **Tim Bell** would like his very own copy of Privateer 2: The Darkening Hint Book. **Lee Gibson** is asking for a new puppy. World peace would make **Rick Holtrop** happy. **Kenny Hott** is asking for three signs that say: "I'm joking," "I'm being sarcastic," and "car." (You'll have to ask him.) **Kanon Lillemon** is hoping for a third political party — how would you wrap that?

Over in Marketing, **Marcia Harelik** joins as the Creative Services Manager and **Lisa Walston** is a new graphic designer. Marcia would like get a copy of the Selena CD that has the David Byrne duet on it. Lisa would like a plane ticket to D.C. to see her folks.

Kerry Miller joins Maverick as a graphic artist. Kerry's hoping Santa gives her a winning lotto ticket.

Up in Lord British Productions, **Jason Spangler** and **Scott** (I have a very long last name) **Wetterschneider** both join as artists. A Lego Explorer Starship would make Jason a happy camper. Scott hoping for a "handmade, folk art, tin truck from South America, which by the way, is available at Tesoros." We'll be sure to pass that along to the elves., Scott.

E O M



He's always in a good mood and has a kind word for everyone. He's willing to help anyone, any time with any problem they are having, plus, he brings really good donuts!

Congratulations to December's Employee of the Month,

Dennis Beyers. As a techie, Dennis is responsible for overseeing the needs of both Loose Cannon and Skunkworks. Co-workers commend him for always going that extra mile, to the point that people who aren't on his team often seek his assistance. As **Dave Reeves**

said, "He works magic a screwdriver. He has obtained Nerdvana and become one with the chips and circuits."

Dennis started at ORIGIN 4 years ago and loves all the challenges his job provides on a daily basis. He's also very glad to work normal hours, having worked many graveyard shifts for Motorola and IBM. Dennis is originally from Pennsylvania, and although he sometimes misses down-hill skiing, he loves Austin and is happy to be raising his beautiful daughter, Madison Rae here.

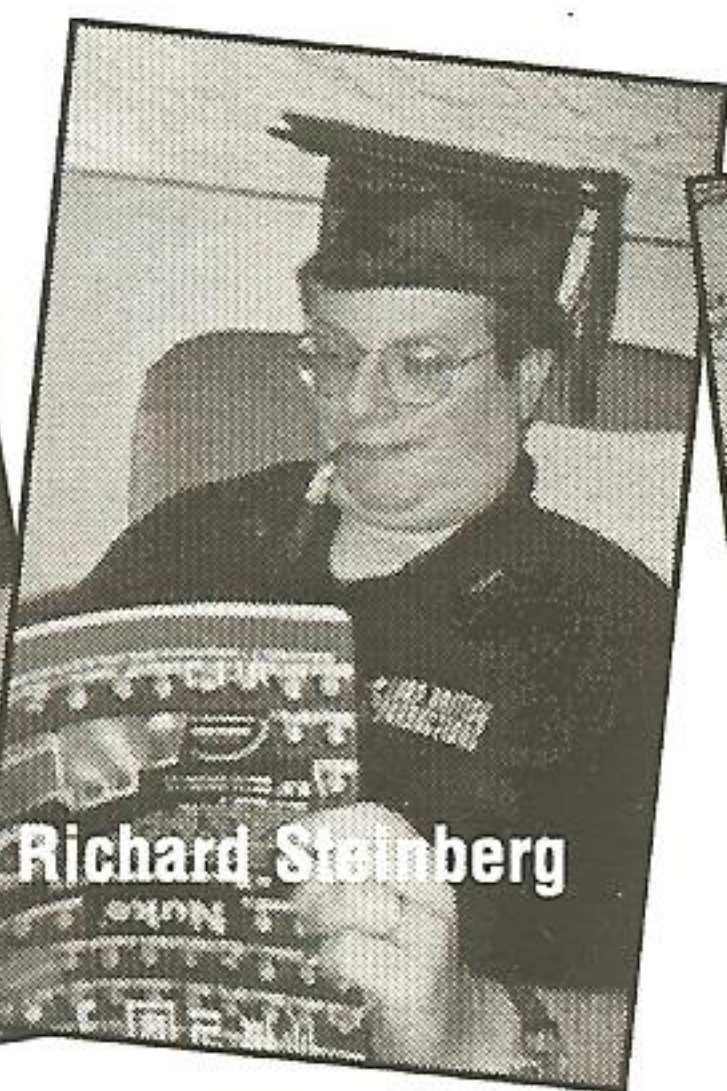
Keep up the great work, Dennis!



Left to right: Lisa Walston, Jason Spangler, Kerry Miller, Marcia Harelik and Scott Wetterschneider



Susan Bednar



Richard Steinberg



Jorg Neumann



Kathie Beagle



Sergio Rosas



Happy New Year!

T i c k e r

The latest from Wall Street at close, 12.18.96.

	LAST	CHANGE
ERTS (Electronic Arts)	32.125	+1.500
THDO (3DO)	5.250	-0.125
MSFT (Microsoft)	82.625	-2.750
BROD (Bröderbund)	31.750	+1.562
NSCP (Netscape)	52.500	-1.750

What stocks would you like to see listed here? Let us know! E-mail Richard Steinberg with your picks.

Who is this guy?



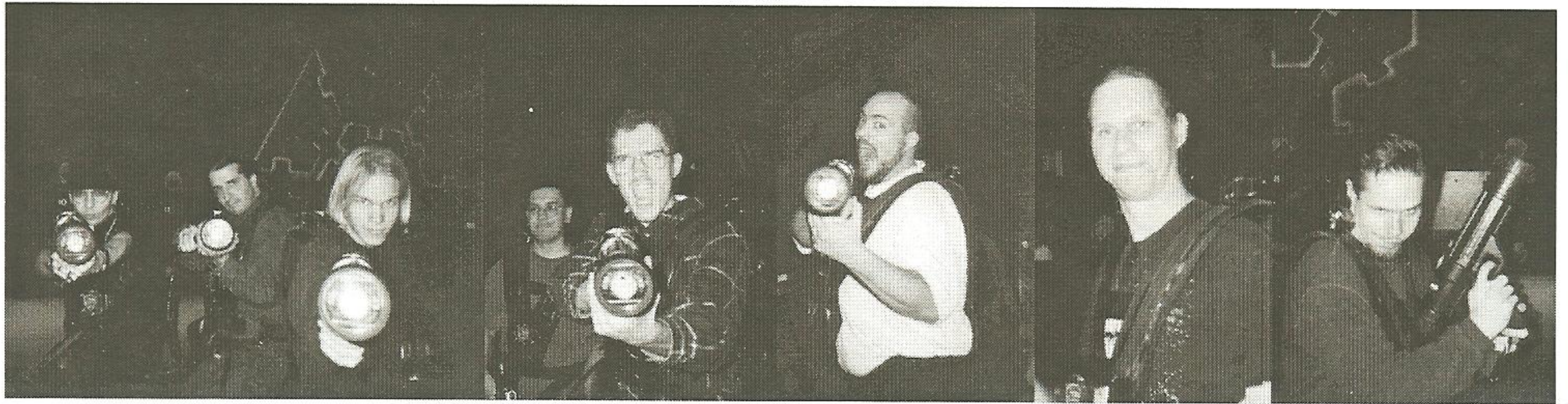
Wondering who that new guy is in the corner office on the fourth floor? Why it's none other than **Rod Nakamoto**, the new executive producer of Maverick and Loose Cannon Productions.

A pioneer in the hardware and software industry, Rod comes to ORIGIN by way of SegaSoft. However, his first introduction to EA was way back in 1981 when he introduced the MockingBoard® sound and synthesized speech board for the Apple II.

From 1984 to 1992, he was president and owner of Interactive Designs. Working with a myriad of companies, he developed products primarily for the PC, but also for the Apple II, Amiga, and Commodore 64. His successes range from the 1984 release, Ikari Warriors, one of the first games to utilize EGA graphics technology, to Sega's 1992 release, Eternal Champions, the division's first million unit seller.

Rod says, "I'm excited to be a part of Origin and hope that my efforts will be both fun and successful."

Welcome aboard! ●



Consider yourself terminated. Loose Cannon took on Lord British Productions in a show of force at Laser Quest. Showing off here are (L-R) Eric Willmar, Brian Allen, Matt Sheffield, Ruben Garza, Jason Ely, Brian Martin, Bob White and Joe Rabbit.