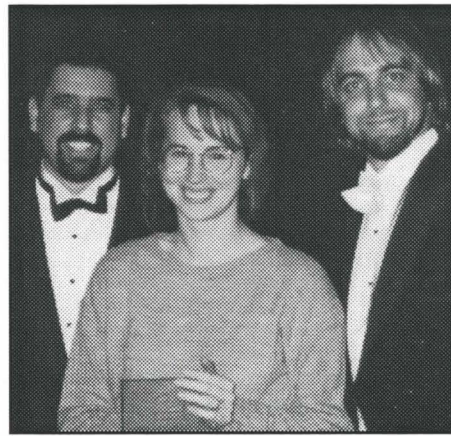
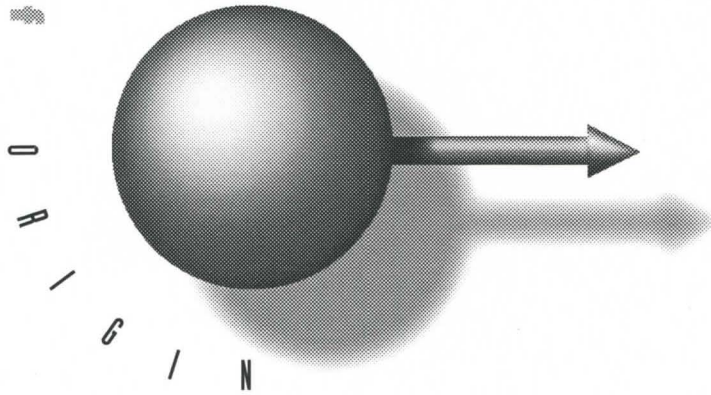


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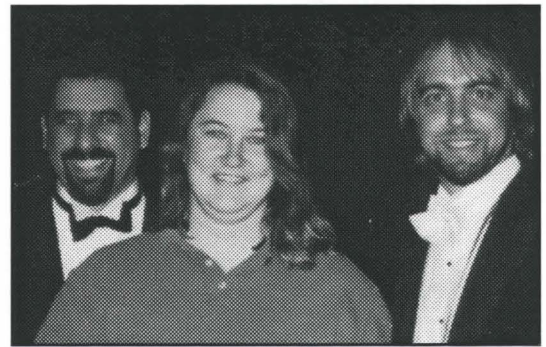
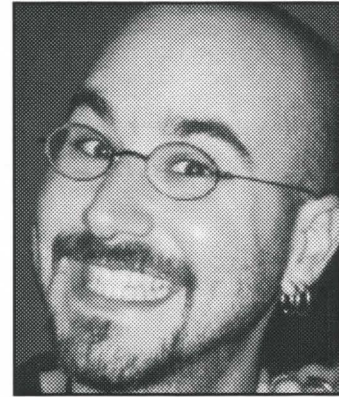


**Our Best...**

(Jennifer Davis is Most Valuable Player)

**...and Our Baldest...**

(Starr Long and his hairstyle)



**...are Honored.**

(Joye McBurnett is Manager of the Year)

**S** p o t l i g h t



In a company like ORIGIN where talent and dedication abounds, it's hard to pick and choose the most outstanding employees. After much consideration of ballots, which were sent to all employees, the "great minds" of the company got together and made their choices. On December 1, they let their decisions be known to one and all.

At a luncheon/award ceremony/special screening of "Toy Story" held at the Lake Creek Theatre, Mike Grajeda and Richard Garriott recognized the following nominees and winners of 1995 ORIGIN Employees of the Year (winners are marked with an \*).

**I** n s i d e

SPECIAL MIKE AND RICH EDITION

Volume V, Number 11, December 11, 1995

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## HR SPREADS HOLIDAY CHEER!

The following boys and girls have been so good that they got an early Christmas present in the form of a new job here at ORIGIN. So let's find out who they are and if there's anything else they'd like from Santa.

Our new Director, Finance and Administration, **Ross Plummer**, comes to us from Dell Computers. In his spare time, Ross likes to go biking—or at least think about going biking. He also likes beer, but (hopefully) not at the same time. For the holidays, he'd like a big batch of chocolate chip cookies, but please hold the nuts!

**Richard Garriott's** MULTIMA team has added a few new faces. **Bryan Pritchard** is an advanced graphic specialist who would like to start a support group at ORIGIN for men who are losing their hair. He'd also like to find a Sony Playstation under his tree. **Niqui** (and that's pronounced like St. "Nick"-y) **Wright** is also an advanced graphic specialist. Niqui says her freckles are her claim to fame, and cites **Gary Snyder** as her hero. She'd just like to have a real office for Christmas. Another graphic specialist is our resident Hugh Grant look-a-like, **Clay Hoffman**. At one time Clay worked at an ice skating rink, but we're sure he's just as happy to be working here. Clay's got an empty living room, so he's really hoping Santa brings him a new sofa, or at least a decent looking old one.

Joining the **Andy Hollis'** Skunkworks team are **Christopher Yesh** and **Alison Rogers**. A recent Michigan transplant, Christopher is happy to be living in Austin and working as a graphic designer, though a Sony Playstation would make him even happier. His heroes are Chuck Yeager and Neil Armstrong. Alison Rogers is providing administrative support and basically keeping Andy out of trouble. Alison would like a new car for Christmas, and says her claim to fame is always finding a good sale!

**Anja Rumbarger** is now working in **Kirsten Vaughan's** international translations group. While Anja is enjoying her work, she'd like Santa to bring her some extra sleep. And maybe if you're really nice to Anja, she'll take you with her when she goes home to Germany for the holidays.

**David Ladyman** lucked out with two new hires. **Lisa Goodrich** is a graphic designer who likes to read trashy post-modern fiction when she has the time. One of her heroes is Pee Wee Herman for the "Big Shoe Dance." Her holiday wish is an old Metropolitan to drive around in. Some of you might remember **Jennifer Spohrer** from her days in the deli. Although she's now writing for a living, Jennifer also painted that really cool Grinch on the deli door. Jennifer would like the elves to fix the backend of her car that someone recently ran into.

Over in Product Support, **Paul D. Sage** joins on as "Vishnu," though we're not exactly sure what that means. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, computer games, and

GOTO 7



Dear Point Man,

In the latest copy of Next Gen (December issue), there's an ad for Wing IV with a web address.

So I (like any other techno proficient customer) decide to check it out.

I'm very disappointed.

1> Our web address should be [www.origin.com](http://www.origin.com), or at the very least, [www.origin.ea.com](http://www.origin.ea.com). [www.ea.com/origin.html](http://www.ea.com/origin.html) is unintuitive and difficult to remember. I can easily get to most sites by just slapping a www and a com at the end of the name (I.E. Magnavox. [www.magnavox.com](http://www.magnavox.com). See, I've seen the ad ONCE, and I remember it. Without looking right now, what's the origin address?)

2> I checked out our parent page ([www.ea.com](http://www.ea.com)). First thing that comes up is:

"This page is best viewed with [Netscape V1.1 or v2.0B](#)

If you prefer a text version, [click here](#)" (Underline denotes hotlinks) And nothing else for about 10 seconds (a rather large image was loading).

First thing I did was assume that it wanted me to click on the Netscape hotlink because nothing was coming up. This of course showed me the Netscape page (nice of us to give them business). Going back to the EA page was also futile because, without the graphic (which wasn't loaded now), you can't click on anything.

Okay, reload the page. New problem. Not ORIGIN, Bullfrog, or ANY of EA's sub companies show up on this top page. Nor is there any information about how to get them. The graphic is also poorly designed and difficult to understand (too many unfamiliar icons). About all I got out of it was that Sega and EA were doing cross band development. And there was a link to give me a tour of EA.

3> The ORIGIN on-line product catalog has NO descriptions. Sorry, I just crawled out of a rock, what exactly is CyberMage? I know it costs 59.95, but what does that do for me?

4> Okay, American flag = American 1-800 ordering number. Fine, fine. Do you take Visa? MasterCard? Discover? Personal Check? How will you ship? Do you ship overseas? I'm not in America or Canada, how do I order? Can I fax an order?

5> Why can't I order through the internet? Get a netscape secure server, and take credit card orders over the net. Here's a perfect opportunity to have one to one contact with your customer, and we're blowing it. For my idea of a perfect web site, check out the Criterion Laserdisc daily special (<http://www.voyagerco.com/CC/featured/special.cgi>) (Or just [www.voyagerco.com](http://www.voyagerco.com) for the main menu). Every day Criterion selects one of their laserdiscs and marks it down by 30%, but only if you order it over the internet. Today they're showing Robocop. Click on the Robocop title, and you get a brief description, an icon to order it, an icon for a more in depth description, and an icon to download a clip of the movie. Click on order, and you can fill out an order form, right there, for transmission to the Criterion order dept. They respond immediately when they receive it, and ship it out by UPS 2 day. I've bought 3 laserdiscs this way. And believe me, I wouldn't have bought them otherwise.

Anyway, all I can think of is all the direct sales (y'know, where we get to keep 50% of the sale price that normally goes to the store?) we're missing because of this.

Here's what I'd suggest:

GOTO 4

# Spotlight

FROM 1

## MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

**Billy Cain**  
**Andy Sommers**  
**Jennifer Davis \***

## ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

**Scott Jones**  
**Myque Ouellette**  
**Chris Plummer\***

## UNSUNG HERO

**Michelle Bratton**  
**Robin McShaffry**  
**Meg Curtis \***

## THE ETERNAL FLAME

**Paul Isaac**  
**Mike McShaffry**  
**David Ladyman\***

## FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

**Linda Powers**  
**Brian Wachhaus**  
**Sean Kelley\***

## RIGHT BRAIN AWARD (ARTISTIC)

**Trey Hermann**  
**Stretch Williams**  
**Whitney Ayres\***

## LEFT BRAIN AWARD (TECHNICAL)

**Paul Isaac**  
**Jason Yenawine**  
**Dominique Iyer\***

## MANAGER OF THE YEAR

**Evan Brandt**  
**Craig Miller**  
**Joye McBurnett\***

## HUMOROUS AWARD TITLES

Best Nude Model: **Gary Snyder**  
Most Trendsetting Hair-Style: **Starr Long**  
Most Devious Prankster: **John McLean**

**Paul Isaac's** special technical contributions were recognized with the Fellowship Award.

The following evening, ORIGIN held its annual Christmas Party at the Stouffer Hotel. During the party, a few more special recognitions were made, including five- and ten-year Originites.

**Jeff Hillhouse, Dallas Snell and Richard Garriott** were all presented with plaques celebrating their ten-year anniversaries with Origin.



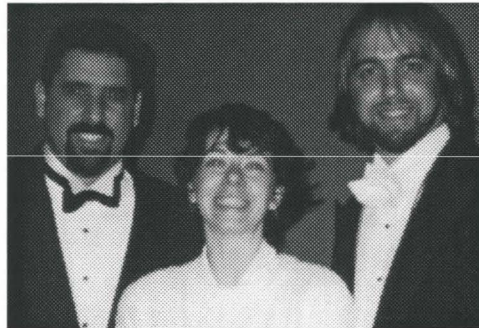
Meg Curtis



David Ladyman



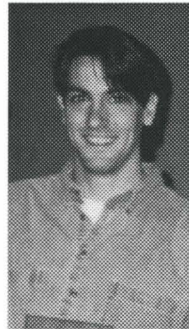
Sean Kelley



Dominique Iyer



Whitney Ayres



Chris Plummer

Taking on a Mardi Gras theme, the night of festivities featured various assorted street performers, food, music, and prizes galore, and a costume contest whose winners were:

## BEST GUY

**Dee Starns** (In Victorian top hat and cape)

## BEST GAL

**Marie Williams** (A dream in red)

## BEST COUPLE

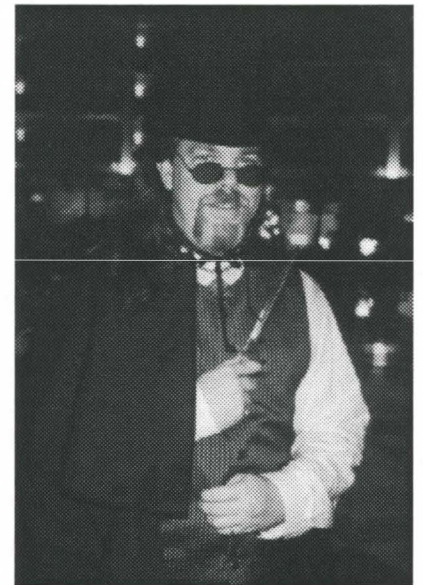
**Glen Johnson** and his lovely lady (Wild Elizabethan ruffles and flourishes)

## FUNNIEST

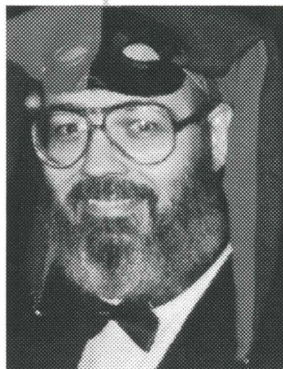
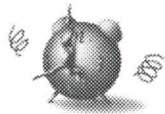
**Richard Fox** (part of Richard's entourage) (A nightmare in red – the transvestite Carmen Miranda)

Special recognition for the costume most representing a screaming need for a social life was given to **Richard Garriott** (Punch meets Santa's security fence)

Thanks to the judges, **Donna Mehnert, Galen Svanas, and Harvey Smith.**



Trust me. Don't mess with this dude. (Dee Starns wins "Best Guy" in Costume Contest).



(Editor's note: *David Ladyman* supplied the *Point of ORIGIN* with this month's Entertainment Committee profile.)

The Entertainment Committee has been a part of ORIGIN since I've been here. Its first head was Kay Gilmore, followed by Sharon Miller, Jennifer Davis and Andrea Brannan. Membership on the EC is loosely defined, but essentially, if you want to pitch in to make ORIGIN a more interesting place to work, you're part of the EC. The EC includes producers, managers, programmers, artists, and designers, plus folks from Product Support, Ops and Marketing—pretty much folks from every part and from every level at ORIGIN.

There are two things that make it work—the fact that ORIGIN (and EA) are willing to budget a significant amount of money and allow us to take time to do these things, and the fact that folks here are willing to spend their time making life a little nicer for everyone at ORIGIN. What I'd like to do now is recognize some specific people and help remind all of us how much these folks do. This is a pretty random list, especially since I've only been head for five months, so please forgive me if I accidentally overlook you.

**Jennifer Ayers** was responsible for the Halloween trick-or-treat bags—the eyeballs and glasses and so forth—and next year's picnic, which she's already mostly planned and booked. (Mark your calendars: Saturday, May 18—so it won't be as hot—at Volente Beach—so the water will be warmer.) **Kathie Beagle** was responsible for the kids' Christmas party this weekend. **Billy Cain** is in charge of EC recruitment, and is one of the driving forces behind the monthly surprises you get. He was also pretty involved in last summer's picnic. **Jennifer Davis** hasn't had as much time this year as in previous years, but she always plans and directs the Easter egg hunt. **Angela Lyons**, **John McLean**, and **Steve Muchow** always respond to e-mail cries for help—setting up, organizing, doing whatever needs doing—they're always ready to pitch in. **Robin McShaffry** is the one who make sure you get a crunch pack if (if?) you've been working long crunch hours. **Donna Mehnert** was responsible for the Halloween festivities, and makes sure someone's signed up for each monthly surprise. **Linda Powers** covers two very important areas. She keeps the EC's books honest, and she took over planning for the Holiday party when Andrea left. **Chris Primozech** was one of the movers and shakers on this year's picnic, helps out with other events and is always ready to give an opinion. (If he'd had his way, last Saturday would have been a toga party.) **Karol Roberts**, along with Jennifer Ayers, has started covering an area that we haven't covered well in the past—community service. She made the arrangements for us to adopt a family for Thanksgiving, and she's working to tie us into things like Hands-On-Housing. You'll also be hearing from her for food bank collections over the next few weeks. **Melissa Tyler** has organized two blood drives, and will be making that a semi-annual event. You might have noticed that folks have started getting balloons, a card and a free deli cookie on their birthday—she's responsible for that, too. **Wendy White** has a hand in several things, but her primary responsibility is as ORIGIN's sports commissioner. She helps organize any sponsored teams we have, so if you want to start a team, let her know. ●

FROM 2

Put the EA and ORIGIN catalog ON-LINE. Just one graphic for each page with back and forth buttons to leaf through the catalog. Like something you see? Click on the page and it comes up with an in depth description, plus the ability to download a demo or a flick of the game being played and an ordering button. Have the customer type in his address and credit card (see the Criterion Daily special for this) and transmit that back to EA. Alternatively, just display a FAX form that the customer can fill out (with the product name/number and price already inserted) and have the customer fax it to EA directly if there are fears about distributing the credit card number. (Almost all modems sold today are fax compatible, and Win'95 allows you to transmit any document as a fax from the desktop!)

Thanks for letting me soap box, and feel free to pass this up the chain.

Signed,  
Caught in the Web

*Dear Caught in the Web,*

*ORIGIN's internet access is through Electronic Arts and the domain name that EA owns is ea.com. Because of this, all of our internet addresses must be part of ea.com. For example, your internet e-mail address is username@origin.ea.com. In order for us to have www.origin.com we would have to own the domain origin.com and as it turns out this name is already in use by another company.*

*In regards to the address, the server for the ORIGIN web site is located in San Mateo, so the address must link to that server. Until we get a server here in Austin, you're still going to have to type in http://www.ea.com/origin.html to get to the ORIGIN site. Try making a bookmark, it's a lot faster.*

*In the meantime, here's a letter that was sent out to everyone a couple of weeks ago, updating the status of ORIGIN's plans for the web. This may answer some of your other questions:*

*Many of you may know that we contracted with an outside company several months ago to completely revamp the look of the ORIGIN page. After several weeks of work with this company, we decided to cancel the deal and begin working on the design in house. That effort is now being coordinated within the Creative Services department, with Trey Hermann doing the design work. According to Creative Services Manager Craig Miller, the new design should be wrapped up and html coding should be complete within a late December/early January time frame. The new ORIGIN logo will be a big part of the new design launch. BTW, Craig is currently looking for an html programmer to code the design into the web page. If anyone within the company is interested, you're urged to contact Craig.*

*The content for the web page (not the design) is currently being coordinated thru the Public Relations department. Many of you have met Richard Steinberg, who started working for us in September. Richard is in charge of content on our external web page (in addition to his duties as on-line Marketing Dept. support) and already has made some significant changes to the ORIGIN site. He has some great ideas that are currently in the works and plans on incorporating those into our current content in the weeks to come. You may not know this, but we plan on having complete German and French versions of our site accessible off the English ORIGIN home page. Those pages should be in place very soon.*

*Regarding your questions about EA's Web page and ordering through the Web: We forwarded your questions to EA, but were unable to get a response by presstime. Look in a future issue of the Point for the answers.* ●

# Bits and Bytes

## *Food for thought*

If you didn't know already, ORIGIN Systems, Inc. and Bridgepoint Plaza are participating in the 1995 Capitol Area Food Bank's Home Town Harvest Food Drive.

Each year, the CAFB provides food for 320,000 people (55,000 of them children age 12 and younger) in the 22 county Central Texas area. The food is distributed through a network of 181 agencies including soup kitchens, church food pantries, neighborhood centers, halfway houses, family crisis shelters, hospice programs, and low-income day care facilities.

By getting their food from the CAFB, instead of purchasing it, the 181 agencies will save \$8 million—money for essential programs and services for their clients. Some of the Austin agencies that benefit from the CAFB are AIDS Services of Austin, Any Baby Can, Center for Battered Women, Dayglo\MHMR, Mary Lee Foundation (all 4 locations), and United Austin for the Elderly.

\* 3.5 pounds of food will provide one hot meal for a single mother and her baby.

\* 18-20 pounds of food provides enough nutrition for a working poor person to have the stamina to go to his or her job for a week.

\* 25 pounds of food feeds 25 children one well balanced lunch.

\* 75 pounds of food feed a house-bound invalid 3 times a day for a month.

So, as you can see, those donations really add up to make a positive impact on hunger in Central Texas. Our goal is to raise 918 lbs. of food, that is 1/2 of the daily need for the CAFB. If anyone one wants more info on the CAFB, contact **Rebecca Wilson**.

## *A conference room by any other name would be just as...*

In case you missed it, here are the new names of ORIGIN's meeting rooms and the staff who named them:

Company Meeting Room—THE MOSH PIT—**Harvey Smith**

Video Conference Room—SHOW AND TELL—**John Hausmann**

Small Conference Room—THE FISH BOWL—**Kraig Count**

#526—THE BAT CAVE—**Dee Starns**

#505—THE STAR CHAMBER—**Todd Bailey**

3rd floor—THE WAR ROOM—**Dave Brandt**

Hollis' Group—Has been made into an office now—so no winner. Congratulations to the winners who received a free lunch at Control-Alt-Deli.



## *Who is that bearded man?*

According to **Marsha Petit**, a young boy recently called to ask if Crusader: No Remorse had been released. After telling him the game was indeed out and giving him the toll-free order number, he then asked her if she had ever met **Lord British** before. Marsha said "yes," explaining that he actually worked in the same building as she did. He then wanted to know if he (Richard) really thought he was "Lord British." She replied, "I couldn't say."

## *Fans the world over*

Months ago, someone in Mosul, Iraq wrote ORIGIN requesting demos and a catalog. Since it's not easy to get computer software in Iraq, and word travels fast in Mosul, everyone with a computer in Mosul has now sent in a request for free stuff.

So far, **Rebecca Wilson** has gotten 15 or so letters from Mosul, Iraq. They usually open their letters with catchy phrases like: "Dear kind person, you are the most generous. I am hoping that you can send me some information about your fantastic games. I hope this is the beginning of a long relationship between us...." According to Rebecca, they're getting really flowery and flattering.

Rebecca says she ran out of demos to send them, so she now sends form letters letting them know that they will need to download all demos that they need from now on. Since she cut off their free demos, she hopes she hasn't upset them too badly.

Speaking of war-torn zones: **Chuck Lupher** in QA has recently been bringing some holiday cheer to a boy representing a computer club in Yugoslavia. Chuck first corresponded with him when ORIGIN was at its old building on 183, eventually sending him several of our posters in one big mailout. "When we all lost every hope about receiving them, postman came up and delivered that anti-tank-missile-shaped tube to me," wrote the boy. "When I spotted the ORIGIN logo on it, I almost broke my roof with (my) head from jumping. They are all absolutely brilliant, especially Pacific Strike and Wings of Glory."

The club's members are unable to play ORIGIN's recent games because their computers consist of three Amiga 500s, one Amiga 1200, one 386, and a few Commodore 64s. Still, they appreciate the posters just the same. Chuck recently sent him a Wing Commander IV poster.

On a similar note, United Nations soldiers stationed in Bosnia recently requested and were sent a picture of Ginger Lynn Allen, star of Wing Commander III. The soldiers said they were well aware they could find lots of "different kinds" of pictures of Allen, but specifically wanted one of her "in a TCS Victory uniform rather than in her birthday suit." ●



This has been an incredible month for ORIGIN and coverage by the press. Let's get right to business and start with **Crusader**, which garnered its second magazine cover since it left the building in September. Thanks in no small part to Associate Publicist **Teresa Potts**, you'll find Crusader gracing the cover of Electronic Entertainment this month. "Crusader plays great and looks even better. It's our Game of the Month," exclaimed Anthony Lukban. He awarded the game five stars for game play, graphics and value.

Todd Vaughn delivered more kudos for Crusader in his review in PC Gamer. "Without a doubt, one of the best action-adventure titles of the year. Incredible graphics, sound and gameplay. Crusader emerges as an action game tour de force." Big Todd gave Crusader a grade of 93%, good enough for PC Gamer's Editor's Choice honor.

In the same magazine Crusader was listed among the 40 Can't Miss Games for the Holidays. "Don't bother wearing socks when you play Crusader," editors exclaimed, "the sights and sounds in this game will knock 'em right off." (More on the 40 Can't Miss Games a bit later.)

In Computer Gaming World, Crusader rated 4 1/2 out of 5 stars by reviewer Paul Schuytema. "ORIGIN's stunning Crusader unleashes the ultimate in bad attitudes. ORIGIN has created the most graphically stunning game world I've seen." CGW also listed Crusader among its Holiday Hot 100 games. "This is one of the best action games of the year, hands down," wrote George Jones.

There were more honors from Computer Game Review magazine, which scored Crusader overall at 90, good enough for the mag's Golden Triad Award. Among Tasos Kaiafas' grades was a 95 for visuals. "Crusader blends action and adventure in a way only the good folks at ORIGIN can," he added.

Meanwhile, the **Wing Commander IV** juggernaut continues to roll. Three magazines on the shelf now have

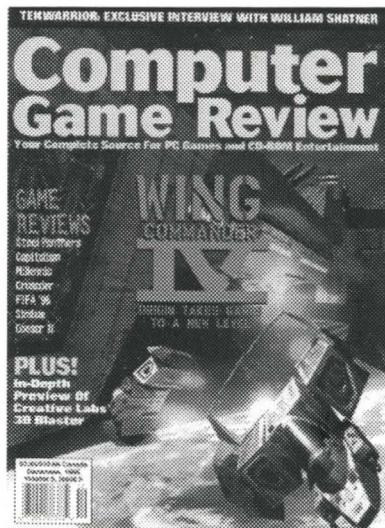
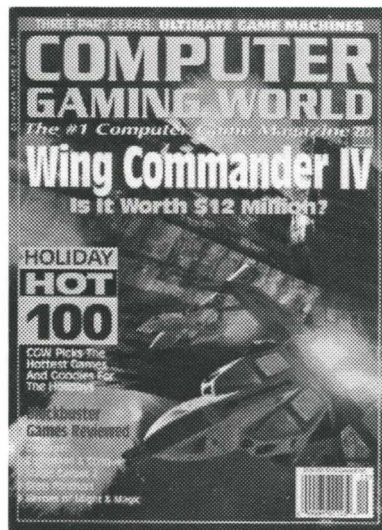
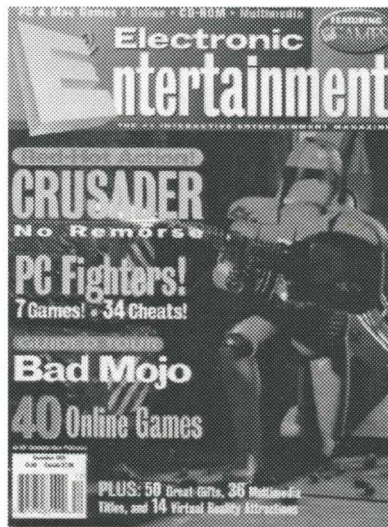
WC IV on their covers (we told you about Strategy Plus last month). Overall, Terry Coleman, with Computer Gaming World, has perhaps the most thorough coverage. That probably has a lot to do with the fact that he spent an entire day with the team one month ago. Though he inflated the game's price tag a bit (\$12 million) and had a couple of other questionable points, overall it was a good preview. Terry had high marks for the game's acting, story and interactive elements. "There's no doubt of the technical brilliance involved in WC IV," he wrote.

CGW also listed WC IV among its Holiday Hot 100 games. George Jones wrote, "No series to date has managed to capture such a Hollywood feel and successfully combine it with such quality action."

In Computer Game Review, where WC IV is also front and center, Steve Honeywell writes, "ORIGIN takes games to a new level." The cover article included interviews with several from the WC team, including **George Oldziey, Chris Douglas, Tony Morone, and Chris Roberts**. Honeywell says, "Wing Commander III broke new ground in the technical arena and its stronger, bigger sibling, Wing Commander IV looks to do the same thing in the artistic realm."

BTW, Wing Commander was one of the featured games in a recent article in Business Week. In Paul Eng's article about interactive movies, WC III was cited as "one of the better examples" of games that make extensive use of digitized video footage and Hollywood production techniques to create a new level of game realism. Eng wrote, "While the gaming sequences were enjoyable, I was so intrigued by the game's story line that interacting with the other actors became more compelling."

Did someone mention holidays? ORIGIN is well represented in all the holiday gift guides you'll find in practically every magazine this month. Computer Gaming World's Holiday Hot 100 included the already mentioned Wing Commander IV, Crusader, and **CyberMage**. About





## Kat's Korner of Phun Pfone Pfacts

- In case you hadn't heard, you now have a direct dial number. It is 434-6XXX where XXX is your 3-digit extension. Encourage people who call often to dial directly.
- There's a Phun Pfone Pfacts bulletin board/place of knowledge outside my office on the first floor. Area code and voice mail maps are available, so take one if you need one.
- It took 24 hours for phone service to be restored to ORIGIN after workers accidentally cut the wire bundles across the street on Dec. 1. So ... check before you dig (just kidding!).
- There are about 50-60 phone moves, additions, or changes every month.
- ORIGIN has purchased a true conference phone. It's even space-age looking. The phone is on the way and will be out in the video conference room.
- If you have a black, digital phone with a display, you can now see the number of a person who is calling you.
- A loan company here in Austin recently listed one of our phone numbers as an information point for late payment letters. As a result, **Marsha Petit** received more than 300 calls in two days. The number has since been blocked.

Got any questions? Write **Kathie Beagle**. Stay tuned for more pfone pfacts next month. Kathie has mailbox "maps" that will help you find your way around the voice mail system. See her and she'll set ya up. 🌟

## N e w H i r e s



FROM 2

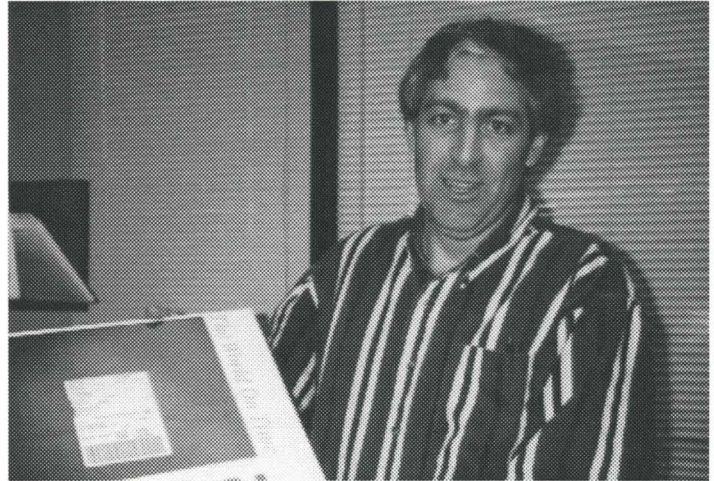
needlepoint. He'd like Santa to get us all new P133's. **Dieter Martin** is the new departmental "king of rock." Dieter is presently pursuing a degree in Zoology and cites the inventor of "Fiddle Faddle" as his hero. Dieter would like to find a big raise in his Christmas stocking. Also in Product Support is **Tom Godsey**. We don't know much about Tom, but we think he'd like Santa to bring him a new motorcycle.

Whew! Congratulations to all ... and to all a happy holiday season! 🌟

## E O M



## December



"Hey, can I get it there by tomorrow?" Such is the life of our in-house mail-room guru, **John Hausman**. John's responsible for all the mail that comes in and goes out of the ORIGIN building, including all those Federal Expresses that go all over the world. Co-workers praise him because "he's always cheerful, even when he's got lots of work to do (which is often)." One co-worker said, "He is always prompt and courteous when given requests, and I know that he has made my job much easier when it comes to getting materials to our customers in a prompt manner. He handles special requests with the same enthusiasm that he does his daily tasks." And yet another said, "He sticks with it like a trooper! You would think we're paying him well or something <g>!"

John's only been with ORIGIN since June, and in that time he's revamped and streamlined the mail department so that it runs smoothly. Originally from Champagne, Illinois, he's happy to be working here and living in Texas. John enjoys the friendly nature of the office and the challenging dynamics of his job. Because of John, we now have an exclusive deal with Federal Express. John solicited bids from all the major couriers, and concluded that "using one courier that gives us the best price makes life easier for everyone." And John's getting well versed in those international territories, shipping things everywhere from Australia to Korea.

When he's not working, John enjoys spending time with his family. He's also on the ORIGIN bowling team that bowls every Monday night in Round Rock.

Congratulations John, and keep up the good work! 🌟



FROM 6

CyberMage, the editors wrote, "The story is spellbinding. A blend of fast-paced first-person action; the non-linear, character building world of an RPG; and the plot of a comic-book adventure."

PC Gamer has its 40 Can't Miss Games for the Holidays. We've already mentioned that Crusader made that list. Also included were **BioForge** ("It's an amazing hybrid: part graphic adventure, part arcade game, part movie—and all entertaining."), **System Shock** ("As close to virtual reality as a PC game has ever gotten.") and **Wing Commander III** ("Still the reigning champion of space shoot-'em-ups, and it belongs in every gamer's collection.").

There's certainly a curiosity brewing amongst the press about the new Jane's Combat Simulations line. Most of the comments we're seeing are very upbeat. Julie Cohen wrote in Home PC magazine, "Electronic Arts is calling in heavyweight reinforcements, teaming with defense-journal publisher Jane's Information Group to develop super-realistic war games." And from PC Gamer Sims Columnist Lee Buchanan this month, "With the Jane's name on the box, I'm betting the emphasis will be on realism. Bring 'em on."

Finally, hats off to the Wing Commander III crew for some top honors. Games magazine recently named WC III as the Best New Simulation Game of 1996. Also, WC III received nine nominations for the Academy of Interactive Arts and Sciences awards. Nominations include Best Computer Game, Best Sound, Best Action, Best Director (Chris Roberts), Best Editor (Phil Gessert), Best Producer (Chris Roberts), Best Composer (George Oldziey), Best Writer (Frank DePalma & Terry Borst) and Best Marketing Campaign (Your very own ORIGIN Marketing Dept.). WC III received more nominations than any other game, according to an article in the Hollywood Reporter. The winners will be announced at a special award ceremony on national television next month. Check out the AIAS web site at <http://www.interactive.org>. Good luck! 🌐



We thought you really needed to see another picture of Mike and Rich. We just can't get enough of these guys. (Congrats on 11 good years, Rich.)



December

20 Product Review Show and Tell  
 25-Jan.1 Christmas/New Year's Holiday  
 ORIGIN Employee Days Off

January

5-8 Winter CES Las Vegas, NV  
 8-12 EA Quarterly Sales Meeting San Mateo  
 10 Product Review Show and Tell  
 12 Happy Hour TBA  
 Lord British Productions

February

9 Happy Hour TBA  
 14 Valentine's Day



Ticker



The latest from Wall Street at 10:00 am, 12.11.95.

	LAST	CHANGE
EATS	20.375	-1.625
THDO	11.250	-0.125
MSFT	93.125	-1.375
PIXR	26.250	-1.000
NSCP	123.250	-5.250



Now, there's a good lookin' couple. Bruce and Kay Gilmore!

