

VR. The quality of acting is good to excellent, with actors participating under a performance agreement approved by the Screen Actors Guild. Whether or not this latest CD extravaganza is a "quantum" leap beyond the competition, it's nonetheless one of the most engaging CD titles yet to appear. IBM CD-ROM with Windows (\$79.95). Circle Reader Service #10.

MicroLeague Interactive Software
University Office Plaza, Bellevue Bldg.,
Suite 201
262 Chapman Road
Newark, DE 19702
(800) 334-6572

ALIEN BREED: *Alien Breed* brings some traditional top-down perspective, four-way scrolling arcade action to the PC. Your mission, as stated on the box, is to "kick some mean, green Alien butt!" That about sums up the game. Trapped on a space station set to self-destruct, you must survive 18 levels of alien-infested turf before losing all your allotted lives. Run out of ammo before locating a new supply and say your prayers! One or two players can take part in this 256-color alien blast-fest. Though hampered by asinine copy protection (you must locate code numbers on one of four faint yellow code tables—each time you begin play), *Alien Breed* is still a good action title for those who like their play quick and simple. IBM (\$29.95). Circle Reader Service #11.

MicroProse
180 Lakefront Dr.
Hunt Valley, MD 21030-2245
(410) 771-0440

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE CD-ROM: Yes, it's a wonderful movie, but this heavenly story did give us a devil of a time with some improperly working control mechanisms. Still the prospect of examining the entire film under the multimedia microscope can be worth it. This package includes on its two CD-ROMs the full, uncut (black & white) film, the trailer, the entire shooting script, stills, reviews—all cross-indexed for reference use. While this product has enough bells to earn its wings, at least *one* CGW editorial curmudgeon still prefers the jazzy night life in Pottersville to the warmth of Bedford Falls. IBM CD-ROM (\$79.95). Circle Reader Service #12.

Microsoft Corporation
One Microsoft Way
Redmond, WA 98052-6399
(206) 882-8080

MICROSOFT NEW YORK and MICROSOFT PARIS: It's only been a short time since Microsoft took off with *Flight Simulator 5.0*. Now with a couple of new add-ons, pilots everywhere can strap them-



Alien Breed



It's A Wonderful Life CD-ROM



Microsoft New York and Microsoft Paris



The Red Crystal



Quest For Glory: Shadows of Darkness

selves in and take an aerial tour of two of the world's most interesting and renowned cities: New York and Paris. Both of these new scenery packs offer the latest in photo-realistic detail, adding a much needed touch of life. While over Paris, you can soar above the Eiffel Tower or the Louvre, and test your skills as you maneuver through the pinnacles of the French skyline. In New York, you can circle the Statue of Liberty or swoop in low over Central Park. As you dive between the canyons of towering skyscrapers, keep an eye on the streets below. There you'll see the tiny yellow taxis cruising in search of their fares. Requires *Microsoft Flight Simulator 5.0*. IBM (\$39.95 each). Circle Reader Service #13.

QQP, Inc.
1046 River Ave.
Flemington, NJ 08822
(908) 788-2799

THE RED CRYSTAL: This arcade strategy can be summed up as *Gauntlet* gone amuck. In a good-sized world inhabited by many towns and castles, a player's fantasy character will travel from encounter to encounter to defeat the ubiquitous UBG (ultimate bad guy) and, in the process, learn the seven secrets of life. Although players can interact with others in towns and dungeons, it is in the latter where the arcade combat takes place, and one must use cowardly hit and run tactics to excess in order to develop their characters early on. While modem play is supported, many have reported difficulty making connections via the game's software. Other communication programs, however, can be used. IBM (\$59.95). Circle Reader Service #14.

Sierra On-Line, Inc.
P.O. Box 485
Coarsegold, CA 93614
(800) 757-7707

QUEST FOR GLORY: SHADOWS OF DARKNESS: The latest installment in the award winning *Quest for Glory* series by Lori and Corey Cole, *Shadows of Darkness* takes our fighter/mage/thief to a mythical Transylvanian valley in an unusual blend of the adventure and role-playing genres. Prior to their final encounter with the Dark One himself, you will have to face a land fraught with the undead, wraiths, vampires and grotesque monsters. Of course, your success in *Shadows of Darkness* will depend primarily on how well you can fight, conjure or steal your way to the game's conclusion. Improved features in this new Sierra title include a refined icon bar with more available options and an upgraded arcade combat system. As before, you can begin anew or import your hero from previous *Quest for Glory* titles. Three skill levels allow for basic customization to provide just the right blend of arcade elements and puzzle

solving, while audio and graphics are of traditional Sierra quality. Offering a unique mix of dark mystery and light humor, *Shadows of Darkness* is another award winning adventure. IBM (\$69.95). Circle Reader Service #15.

Spectrum HoloByte
2490 Mariner Square Loop
Alameda, CA
(510) 522-1164

HORNET: NAVAL STRIKE FIGHTER: Flying against those *MiG-29s* got you down? Reinforcement for *Falcon 3.0* fans is on the way in the form of the F/A-18 Hornet, everyone's favorite carrier-based strike fighter. Flight sim fanatics will thrill to this craft's ability to make tight turns at high speed. Sleek, beautiful and deadly, the Hornet sports Hughes AN/APG-65 multimode radar, with which to more effectively target its complement of Maverick missiles. A real challenge is the trial of landing this high-tech, expensive aircraft on a moving carrier. If you survive the landing, your next mission could take you to Bosnia, Israel, or any of five other theatres, where you can fly via network with your compatriots against those dreaded MiGs. Quite stunning for those whose systems—both human and computer—can handle it. Requires *Falcon 3.0* or the stand-alone version of *MiG-29*. IBM (\$48.00). Circle Reader Service #16.

TAC Enterprises
422 210th Ave. N.E.
Redmond, WA 98053
(206) 868-6150

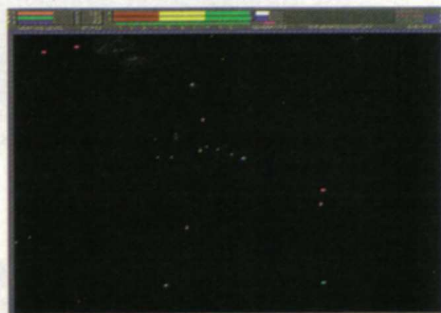
GALAXY TREK: The zero-gravity action of *Asteroids* combines with features from the early *Trek* games to create this strategic science fiction shooter. The player takes command of a supership on a mission to blast the alien hordes threatening the galaxy. Not only must you cleverly probe sectors and blast tiny spaceships, but you must also acquire comets and space pods that will provide the materials for continued existence and full operating capacity. Choosing between three weapons types, using the tractor beam, switching power between engines and shields, and so forth, are the strategic options of which this simplistic game is made. IBM (\$34.00). Circle Reader Service #17.

Villa Crespo Software, Inc.
1725 McGovern St.
Highland Park, IL 60035
(708) 433-0500

CASINO GAMBLER KIT: This "shovelware" collection combines five of *Villa Crespo's* games into a single collection. Included are *Dr. Wong's Jacks+ Video Poker* (an excellent little program for students and addicts of the game), *Dr. Thorp's Mini-Blackjack* (again,



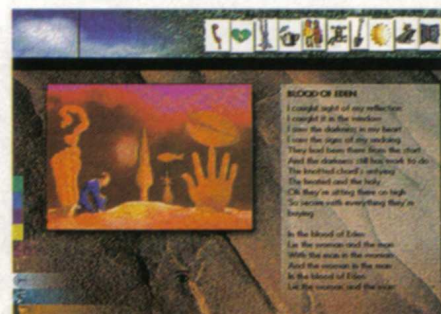
Hornet: Naval Strike Fighter



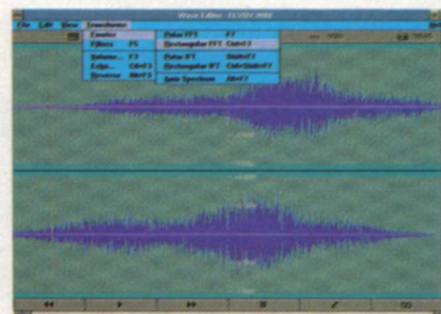
Galaxy Trek



Casino Gambler Kit



Xplora 1: Peter Gabriel's Secret World



Sound Effects Playhouse

another fine learning tool), *Ruckus Roulette*, *Ruckus Poker* (for less serious, more ruckus games, complete with rudimentary player personalities), and *Casino Craps* (a quick-and-dirty foray that covers all the basics and then some). Nothing new has been added to the games, but many dollars have been subtracted from their individual retail prices. IBM (\$49.95). Circle Reader Service #18.

Interplay Productions, Inc.
17922 Fitch Ave.
Irvine, CA 92714
(714) 553-6655

XPLORA 1: PETER GABRIEL'S SECRET WORLD: From his early days with the art-rock group Genesis, Peter Gabriel has been nothing but innovative. Musically, he draws from every influence imaginable, and his music videos defy all traditions with their originality and depth. No surprise then, that Gabriel comes up with a multimedia presentation of his work, focusing on his latest album, *Us*. Nearly two hours of video footage and 30 minutes of audio combine with more than 100 still images, allowing you to search through the making of *Us*, the filming of the *Kiss That Frog* video, or sample music of 40 different artists from around the world. While viewing artwork, videos or backstage shots at the Grammy's might be interesting, explorers will have the most fun remixing their own Peter Gabriel music videos and joining in on jam sessions. Multimedia is a much abused term, but this beautiful work deserves the title. Macintosh CD-ROM (\$44.99). Circle Reader Service #19.

Waite Group Press
200 Tamal Plaza
Corte Madera, CA 94925
(800) 368-9369

SOUND EFFECTS PLAYHOUSE: From those productive folks at *Waite Group* comes another entertaining book/disk combo for the DOS or Windows user. With *Sound Effects Playhouse*, you can create, edit and play sounds on your PC, plus assign sounds to events such as switching drives, scrolling the screen, and changing directories. In addition, you can instruct your computer to execute DOS commands at the sound of your voice or direct the action of voice-activated games (microphone not included). Among the many shareware and freeware programs provided on the two supplied 3.5" floppy disks are QSound samples that exhibit multi-dimensional sound effects and several sound editors. Anyone with an ear to hear more about WAV, VOC, IBK, MID, and MOD files, and how to edit them, should tune in to *Sound Effects Playhouse*. A Sound Blaster compatible sound card is required. IBM (\$24.95). Circle Reader Service #20. **CGW**