

HOLLOW VOICE

What has push technology done for you lately? Well, today the URL-minder agent that notifies my Web readers when the XYZZYnews home page is updated sent out a message to subscribers that the XYZZYnews Home Page was dead. I guess the agent was really dutifully noting that my service provider was temporarily down — but it certainly filled my e-mailbox with inquiries from worried readers. Let me thank everyone who wrote in and reassure all that this news of XYZZYnews' death was greatly exaggerated.

Speaking of Internet gripes, I can't resist mentioning a letter recently I spotted in the Webmaster mail at my day job. In its entirety, it read: "Your Web site has become increasingly difficult to locate what I'm looking for!! If I didn't know better, I'd say that the people who create your Web site are the same people who create these adventure role playing games!" It was such a flattering thought, even if it was unintentional! :-)

Thanks to Ivan Cockrum for pointing out a correction for XYZZYnews #14 — in listing the 1997 IF competition game responses to the XYZZY command, I had an incomplete response for his game *Sunset Over Savannah*. You can see the full response to typing 'XYZZY' once you leave the first room in the game — try it yourself!

Most of the preparation for this issue was taken up with trying to whittle down the transcript of the XYZZY Awards ceremony, held back in February, down to a manageable size for print. As it is, this issue still wound up running to 56 pages in print and in PDF. For brevity's sake I edited out a lot — transcript messages about who entered or left the room, many simple reactions to comments, and most of the raciest bits — but you can find the unabridged transcript online in a couple of places:

- http://www.ministryofpeace.com/text/ceremony_1997.html
- <http://www.spatch.net/ifmud/xyzy-trans.txt>

Until next issue, happy gaming!

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Issue # 15 Top 10 Picks for IF on the World Wide Web

Blorb: A Z-Machine Resource Collection Format Standard
<http://www.edoc.com/zarf/blorb/>

Graham Nelson's Blorb page
<http://www.gnelson.demon.co.uk/blorb/>

Inform en Espagnol
<http://www.geocities.com/TimesSquare/Fortress/9939/>

Interactive Fiction at the Mining Company
<http://interactfiction.miningco.com/>

Interactive Fiction for the PalmPilot
<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/9590/interactive.htm>

Interactive Fiction Hall of Shame
<http://www.retina.net/~ddyte/>

Programmers Vault: How to make a text adventure
http://homepages.thefree.net/achesworth/vault/v_text.htm

rec.arts.int-fiction Online Archive
<http://www.truespectra.com/~svanegmo/raif/>

Westfront PC
<http://www.fortunecity.com/skyscraper/stephenson/115/westfront.html>

You Be the Hero
<http://t2.technion.ac.il/~site>



The Denizens of r.a.i.f.

Click on the picture description to view. This collection has taken, oh, minutes to assemble. Be share and enjoy. And play my game, A BOMB'S BIRTHDAY, 5th place winner in the 1997 Interactive Fiction Competition.

- Lucia Smith (lucasm), author of The Estates. (25k)
- David York (dyork), author of A Bear's Night Out. Also me. (16k)
- Dan Skovitz (dskov), author of Lake Fire Phoenix. (60k)
- Art Blankowitz (ablan), Orange Springs Inn. (10k)
- R. Steven Lee's Speech, author of Pick Up The Phone Book and Die. (49k)
- Lisa Daly (lidal), founder and guardian angel of r.a.i.f. (20k)
- Neil deMause (ndma), author of Last New York. (10k)
- MCT Adam Smith (Adams), author of Interactive Zoo. (37k)
- Mark Marano (markm), farm boy from Iowa. (9k)
- Richard de Cybus (rcybus), author of Zerk: A Troll's Eye View. (12k)
- Aron Allen (alake), r.a.i.f.'s resident Finnish musician. (2k)
- Thurston Anderson (tanderson), author of Robots. (9k)
- The Hand of Chris F. James (cfjames), author of Mercy. (24k)
- Andrew Harkin (ahark), author of A Change in the Weather. (outside link)

Ever wonder what the other denizens of r.a.i.f. look like? You can get a glimpse of some of the newsgroup correspondents at the Interactive Hall of Shame.

Hi Eileen,

I have just become interested in IF again and I agree with your editorial [XYZZYnews #14] completely. I tried to play the competition games but I found them very late (November) and just didn't have the time it takes to spend with them ahead of the judging deadline. Not only that, but I have lots of other IF to catch up with (tons, in fact) since playing Infocom in the '80s.

With the amount of this stuff coming out, it is hard to get a good grasp of what's out there and what's good, not to mention having the hours to play them. Plus, I've now developed an interest in writing IF as well.

Anyway, since Whizzard seems to be exhausted by the contest project, maybe this would be a good time to go to an every other year format?

Just a thought.

—Lelah Conrad
lconrad@lane.k12.or.us

Hi Eileen,

I just wanted to pass along my compliments on your XYZZY page and ask a few questions too. I've been an on-again, off-again IF fan since the '70s. I even wrote an adventure on the VIC-20 with its whopping 3 1/2 K. (Let's just say superterse (not the Rick James song) was always on.) Well, I have the "bug" again — and have been hunting down any resource I can to get me a-programmin'. Your XYZZYnews is great — just publish more, will ya?! :-)

Again, keep up the good work.

—Jim
berryj@comm.hq.af.mil

To XYZZYnews:

Phew! XYZZYnews isn't dead, after all.

I have only recently re-entered the world of IF for the first time since my Commodore 64 days and was a little worried that I may have found you all just as things were winding up. The new issue came at just the right time.

Well done for creating such an excellent magazine, there is always something of interest and the links page is very useful indeed.

Keep up the good work,
—Stuart Houghton
shoughto@amnesty.org.uk

Dear Eileen,

I agree with some of Neil deMause's criticisms of my electronic storyworld, Shattertown Sky. The storyworld is a prototype, and it has some quirks — some kludges and awkward work-arounds. These are being addressed in the current round of upgrades.

But what's going on here isn't simply a critique of a particular work. It's a conflict over what should lie at the core of interactive storytelling.

deMause calls emotions a "narrow arena." He rates the ability to pick up an object (by the way, you *can* pick up and carry objects in Erasmafiction, when to do so is dramatically interesting) as more important than the ability to evoke and display emotion and character interaction.

For how many thousands of years have emotion and character have been at the very heart of fiction — be it prose, play, movie, or yes, even Erasmafiction?

War and Peace is narrow? Hamlet, deficient? Hmmm.

Shattertown Sky may not be interactive fiction's answer to War and Peace, but until we storytellers get our hands on technology that lets us inject emotion, character, and theme into interactive media, there never will be. Chris Crawford has grasped what most software developers have persistently and obdurately missed: interactive entertainment that doesn't address the human condition in fundamental and meaningful ways will never appeal to a broad audience. Because most people *do* care about emotion, character interaction, theme, and meaning.

Erasmatron products — Shattertown included — are not intended for those who, like deMause, dismiss the interplay of characters and display of human emotion as some trivial sideshow. Fortunately, as the long history in other forms of storytelling bears witness to, there are plenty who disagree with him, and those are the people we hope to reach with this new technology.

—Laura J. Mixon
ljm@thuntek.net

Dear Eileen,

Just wanted to tell you how much I enjoy XYZZYnews. I just found you and IF in the last month. I had several of the original Zork games a million years ago (Zork, Mystery, Planetfall), but was a lousy player so they were sold with the Apple II+. This Christmas a friend asked me to get her MYST so I asked if she could find any of the older Zork games. She found Return to Zork.

I found XYZZYnews and the IF site. I've started to play some of the easier games to try to learn to "think" properly. I also play some of the harder, well rated games, because they sound so good. I think hints may be necessary for a long time.

I enjoy reading the reviews. They are well written and just fun to read. I will read several reviews of a game to get the flavor or feel of the game. It helps me get into the game and stick with it while I try to learn to play. I hope you are able to tell your reviewers how much their game reviews, standing on their own, are enjoyed.

I've used nearly a ream of paper printing out the back issues of XYZZYnews. I like to read from paper and XYZZYnews is best enjoyed with a cup of coffee or tea and a cookie.

Different topic. I've been wondering if [the national dog club I belong to] might be able to save some money publishing at least our flyer like you do XYZZYnews.

All that intro to ask if you could provide me some pointers. I know a bit about computer networks, but I'm not experienced in publishing or publishing/layout programs. Actually I would take the info and pass it to the people who put out the newsletter. In addition to a word processing program what would they need? Estimated costs? I know the Adobe Reader is free, but are there costs for the program to put it in PDF form?

Thanks for XYZZYnews and any help you can give on the newsletter.

—Maralee Johnson
wbh2ok9@doubled.com

Maralee,

I can't say enough good things about PDF. This is definitely the easiest way to distribute typeset publications across computer platforms. It allows you to retain page layout formatting, file sizes are relatively small, and readers can search for keywords or click hotlinks you've embedded for URLs.

You need a commercial program called Adobe Acrobat to create PDF files; the reader that folks need for reading PDF files (Acrobat Reader) is freeware. I honestly don't remember how much Adobe Acrobat costs these days, but you can find that out from any computer retailer or mail order software catalog. It's also bundled with some other Adobe products; I seem to remember that at work when we upgraded to Adobe Photoshop 4.0, the CD-ROM also included the latest version of Acrobat for free as well.

Adobe Acrobat comes with two apps that can be used to create PDF files -- Acrobat Exchange and Acrobat Distiller. The Distiller program is the only one I use. I usually lay out pages with the QuarkXpress desktop publishing program, output my Quark documents as PostScript files, then use Acrobat Distiller to convert the PostScript files to PDF format. If your newsletter is created with another program, well, as long as you can output it to PostScript somehow you can then get it into PDF. You can find out more about Adobe Acrobat at its official Web site, <http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/>.

Hope this helps, and let me know if I can be of further assistance! — EM

Dear Eileen,

I was bored while I was playing Zork I recently, so I tried:

```
>kill knife
What do you want to
kill the knife with?
>mouth
You don't have the
blast of air.
```

This is quite interesting. Is there a "blast of air" described in Zork? How is the word "mouth" associated with it? I'm no Zork expert, so I'm probably overlooking something simple with this one.

—An IF fan

To XYZZYnews:

I have found a bug in Spellbreaker which is not listed on the bugs list:

If you have water in the bottle then casting tinsot on any body of water except for the one in the Oubliette will give the message "The water and bottle freeze and shatter into a million pieces!" and destroy the bottle even if the bottle is not in the same room or if it is inside the closed zipper.

If that's not clear, here's a concrete example. At the Enchanters' Retreat I dropped the bottle which contained water. I then blorpled the earth cube and went west then south to get to the Ruins Room. I then cast tinsot on the water there and received the message about the bottle shattering. Going back to the Enchanters' Retreat I found that the bottle was gone.

I found this in version 87/860904 of Spellbreaker.

—Paul
rizzo@best.com

Infonotes: Serious Infocom Trivia

Some incredibly niggling facts about Infocom games

by Graeme Cree (gramecree@aol.com)

When I was very young my father read Tolkien's *The Hobbit* out loud. A couple of years later, after learning to read and reading the book on my own, I was very puzzled to find that a couple of minor things I remembered were missing. I specifically remembered a mention that Hobbits were larger than Lilliputians, and a mention that less friendly neighbors said that one of the Took ancestors had married a goblin, but these things simply weren't there, leaving me to wonder if the book had been embellished during the reading, or if I was just imagining things. It wasn't until years later, when I turned up a second edition of the book, that I realized that these things were in that edition, but deleted in the third, which I had read later. This led me to compile a couple of pages of other minor changes in the book that I kept until a complete list was published in *The Annotated Hobbit* years after that.

Infocom games are subject to the same syndrome, especially *Zork 1*, of which no less than 12 different versions exist. People who played this game on their old Commodore 64's and TRS-80's who now try to play it on a PC with Masterpieces of Infocom, *Lost Treasures of Infocom*, *The Zork Anthology*, *The Zork Legacy Collection*, et al, may have the same kind of phantom memories — along the lines of "Wait a minute, I could have sworn that *Zork I* gave credit to *Colossal Cave!* Wasn't the bat supposed to be from *Wumpus*?"

In maintaining *The Infocom Bugs List* (<http://members.aol.com/gramecree/infobugs/>), I have had to play through most of the games many times, and in so doing have come across several oddities and changes to the various games that did not qualify as bugs, but still seemed worth mentioning. Most of them involve changes made to the programs over time, but there is also an assortment of observations, and miscellany. To some people, this stuff might seem incredibly niggling and unimportant, but to others it might just save their sanity. Items brought to my attention by others have been so credited.

This list is a work in progress, and like the *Infocom Bugs List* may be updated periodically.

As with *The Infocom Bugs List*, commands that should be entered into the game verbatim are in all caps and bold face. Direct quotes from a game are in bold monospace (in quotes if within a paragraph, and blockquoted otherwise).

General comments

1 FORMERLY AN INTERLOGIC GAME: Infocom's first 9 games, Zork 1, Zork 2, Zork 3, Deadline, Starcross, Suspended, The Witness, Planetfall, and Enchanter, all bore an additional trademark that described them as Interlogic games. This can usually be seen by issuing the VERSION command, or watching the copyright information at the beginning of the game.

The first four games after the Zork Trilogy have the Interlogic trademark in all known versions of the program. However, Planetfall and Enchanter have it in some versions, but not others. Enchanter is an Interlogic game in versions 10, 15, and 16, but not in versions 24 and 29. Planetfall is an Interlogic game in versions 20, 26, and 29, but not in versions 37 or 10.

The Zork Trilogy itself is a special case. The original blister pack versions of all of these games describe them as Interlogic Games on the cover of the manual, but none of them have the word mentioned inside the program itself (Although, "Xe Zoork triloojee" are all described as being "Inturlajik" games in the Lawanda Complex's computer in Planetfall).

With Infidel and all succeeding games, the Interlogic trademark was gone for good, however three versions of Planetfall and Enchanter compiled after Infidel's release still retained it.

Arthur: The Quest for Excalibur

1 A CLASSIC STYLE GAME?: Arthur is the only one of the .z6 games that can be made to look exactly like one of the .z1 - .z5 games. Zork Zero and Shogun both look garbled if run this way. Journey is readable, but still retains the screen layout of the graphic version.

Arthur has a built-in function to make the screen look like a classic game, but this still uses the .z6 graphic font. However, if you start the game in text mode (i.e. frotz -d 1 arthur.zip), then hit F6 on the first turn, the results will be virtually indistinguishable from a classic Infocom game.

Of course with Frotz being continually updated, Arthur may not be the only game able to do this for long.

Ballyhoo

1 GUESS THE VERB: One of the biggest foibles in this game is the fact that the command WHIP LION is completely different from HIT LION WITH WHIP. The first will work, the second will tell you that you are too scared to do it.

I went through a major hassle playing the first time when I had to start over from the beginning, and suddenly could no longer tame the lion even though I knew I had done it before. I then went off on a long false trail, believing that the character had to perform some act of bravery to obtain the courage needed to whip the lion. When everything failed, I got a complete walkthrough from Quest for Clues, which got me past the lion, but left me wondering how it was different from what I had been doing. Only much later, did I notice that the two commands were different.

Beyond Zork

- 1 Brian Moriarty was very fair in implementing the effect of potions. The rule that they will not work unless you shake them first applies to bad potions as well as good ones (i.e. drink a Potion of Death without shaking it first, and it won't kill you).
- 2 THE NEW NON-VIOLENT ZORK?: In Beyond Zork it is extremely rare to actually kill an opponent in combat. Most victorious melees end with the defeated monster running away in defeat (the Dust Bunny being an exception). Even the Wand (or Rod, Stick, Stave, etc.) of Annihilation produces this result. The old woman tells you that it produces "Instant death, with few exceptions.", though about the only being that you can actually kill with it is yourself.

What was the reason for this decision? Was it to make the game less violent? Or was it merely to provide a more realistic way of disposing of the bodies after combat than having them disappear in a cloud of sinister black fog?

Enchanter Trilogy

- 1 UNFROTZING: Have you ever frotzed something, and wished that you hadn't? In Enchanter and Spellbreaker you can do something about it with the EXTINGUISH command. In Sorcerer, you're out of luck.

In Spellbreaker, trying to EXTINGUISH anything you have frotzed generates the response, "The magical glow fades."

In Enchanter, you can EXTINGUISH anything except yourself. EXTINGUISH ME generates the response "You can't turn that off." EXTINGUISH SPELL BOOK (or anything else) generates the response "The [item] is now off."

In Sorcerer, trying to EXTINGUISH any frotzed item generates the response, "How? It's glowing by magic."

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

- 1** I got a note from Wei-Hwa Huang which described a *Games* magazine article about Infocom that mentioned a container bug similar to the ones in *Zork I*, *Infidel*, and *Starcross* (this time involving the gown and the thing), which had been caught in betatesting. This bug does not appear in any versions of the game.

I tried to reproduce it by typing PUT GOWN IN THING, and then PUT THING IN GOWN, and got the amusing response: "You can't put the thing your aunt gave you which you don't know what it is in your gown when your gown is already in the thing your aunt gave you which you don't know what it is!"

The Lurking Horror

- 1** Here's an amusing little sequence you can generate at the beginning of the game:
- >HACKER, GIVE ME THE MASTER KEY.
 "Fat chance! This is a master key!..."

Well, duh!

Planetfall

- 1** When I originally played *Planetfall* (my first ever Infocom game, and still the best one IMHO) I was thrown for a while by the fact that the description of the Patrol uniform said that it protected against "radiation and mosquitoes." This gave me the idea that the uniform must provide a way to get the spool in the Radiation Lab, if only I could find a helmet or something.

Apparently others had the same problem, because in all versions after Version 20, the description of the uniform is changed to say that it protects against "*mild* radiation." (my italics)

- 2** ARE YOU GONNA TAKE THAT?: In versions 20, 26, 29, and 37, if the player gives a TAKE ALL command, while Floyd is present, the game will (understandably) try to pick him up with all the other items, generating this response:

multiple purpose robot: You manage to lift Floyd a few inches off the ground, but he is too heavy and you drop him suddenly. Floyd gives a surprised squeal and moves a respectable distance away.

In a typical game, the player may see this several times, but fortunately in the *Solid Gold* version (version 10), Infocom had mercy and eliminated the problem. In the *Solid Gold* version, if you TAKE ALL or GET ALL while Floyd is present, the game interprets it as if you had typed TAKE ALL EXCEPT FLOYD.

3 MORE THAN FAIR: Planetfall certainly gives you ample opportunity to win the game. Although you begin feeling the effects of the disease when you wake up after your first night's sleep, it will not prove fatal until Day 9 (you die in your sleep after going to bed at the end of the 8th day).

A player who knows what he is doing can easily finish the game on the 2nd day. Even if you're playing for the first time, it will probably not take more than 4 days.

As the disease progresses, you become weaker and need more sleep. The medicine will help with this, but will not affect the time that you die. The game may become unwinnable before you actually die if you are no longer strong enough to carry the laser and miniaturization card, but no matter how you slice it, you have so much time to complete your mission that time is really not a factor at all.

4 LESS THAN FAIR: You must actually reach the Cryo-Room in order to survive. Although the rescue ship is waiting for you when you reach the Cryo-Room (assuming you have fixed Planetary Defense and the Radio), if you simply fix the proper items and wait around the Kalamontee Complex for the ship to arrive, it never will.

Similarly, if you repair the computer, start the reactivation process, and then just hang around the Lab Office waiting for Veldina's troops to come rescue you, they never will. You must pass through the mutants and go to them.

5 A CHRONIC PAIN: Planetfall (and Stationfall) measure time in chrons. There are 10 chrons in a day. Assuming that a day in these games is still 24 hours, that gives us the following conversions:

1 chron = 2 hours and 24 minutes
 1 centichron = 1 minute and 26 seconds
 1 millichron = 8.64 seconds

6 Floyd, like the adventurer in Enchanter, will hand you things if you ask for them, even if your load is too heavy to normally accommodate them. This makes solving the rift puzzle a tad quicker, and has been reported as a bug by Chris Lang and several others, although I don't think it is. If you're loaded down with items, holding onto something handed to you is simply not as difficult as bending over to pick it up yourself.

7 SHORTCUT TO RESIDA: The journey to Resida got a little shorter in versions 37 and 10. Try this experiment. Start the game and WAIT until you see the message about the explosion (i.e. "A massive explosion rocks the ship. Echoes from the explosion resound deafeningly down the halls. A door to port slides open."). Immediately go WEST, and then issue WAIT commands until you land on Resida and die (because you never got in the webbing).

In versions 20, 26, and 29, you will die after 14 WAIT commands. In versions 37 and 10, it will only be 13.

What changed? Well, in versions 37 and 10, the turn where you get the message:

Through the viewport of the pod you see the Feinstein dwindle as you head away. Bursts of light dot its hull. Suddenly, a huge explosion blows the Feinstein into tiny pieces, sending the escape pod tumbling away! You are thrown against the bulkhead, bruising a few limbs. The safety webbing might have offered a bit more protection.

and the turn where you get the message:

As the escape pod tumbles away from the former location of the Feinstein, its gyroscopes whine. The pod slowly stops tumbling. Lights on the control panel blink furiously as the autopilot searches for a reasonable destination.

were combined into one turn.

Sorcerer

- 1** All versions of Sorcerer have two images from Spellbreaker among the selection of images you get when casting the VeZZa spell. One of them shows Spellbreaker's opening scene in the Guild Hall, and the other shows a pile of Foundation Cubes, already labeled. Apparently the general plot of Spellbreaker was outlined long in advance.
- 2** In all versions of the game, the description of your room mentions what an unusual privilege it is to have your own private quarters. However Frobar and Helistar also have them, and no bunkroom is to be found anywhere. Of course, the Guild Hall has probably been condensed for game purposes....

Suspended

- 1** Normally, when humans enter a room where Auda is present, you will get the message: "AUDA INTERRUPT: Some talking mechanisms just entered the room." However, in no version of the game do you get this message when the humans first enter the complex through the Sterilization Chamber. Not a bug, but an omission, nevertheless. — Frederick Ramsberg

The Witness

- 1** COMPUTER DATING?: Here's a list from the New York Times of interesting responses you can get while in Monica's presence (in all versions of the game):

>MAKE LOVE TO MONICA

(Sorry, but English is my second language. Please rephrase that.)

>ASK MONICA TO MAKE LOVE

(Your request was incomplete. Next time, say what you want Monica to make the love from.)

>MAKE LOVE FROM MONICA

"Eat, drink, and make merry, for tomorrow we shall die!"

>ASK MONICA ABOUT LOVE

"That's between Mother and me."

Zork I: The Great Underground Empire

1 ZORK 4 - A NEW HOPE?: The title of Zork 1 was changed after its commercial release. Originally the name "The Great Underground Empire" applied to the series as a whole, and Zork 1 was called "ZORK: THE GREAT UNDERGROUND EMPIRE - Part 1," in Versions 5 and 15. From Version 20 onward, the roman numeral "I" was added to the game, and "The Great Underground Empire" applied to Zork 1 only.

2 PYRRHIC VICTORY?: Zork 1 is probably the only Infocom game where you don't have to survive to win. If you get the ancient map, and then get killed, you don't have to come back to life by praying at the altar. Simply go to the Stone Barrow in your undead condition to win with the full number of points.

Neither do the treasures matter after you've gotten the map. You can throw all of the Treasures of Zork into the Frigid River before going to the barrow, or you can take as many as you can carry with you. Your score and victory will be unaffected.

3 HUNT THE WUMPUS: In all versions of Zork 1 through version 30, if you enter the Bat Room without the garlic, you get the following message:

Fweep!
Fweep!
Fweep!

A deranged giant vampire bat (a reject from WUMPUS) swoops down from his belfry and lifts you away....

In versions 75, 76, 88 and 52, the reference to the Wumpus game is deleted and the message simply reads:

A large vampire bat, hanging from the ceiling, swoops down at you!

Fweep!
Fweep!
Fweep!

The bat grabs you by the scruff of your neck and lifts you away....

4 FINITO?: The game's final message also changed. Here is the original message, as it appeared in versions 5 and 15:

As you enter the barrow, the door closes inexorably behind you. Around you it is dark, but ahead is an enormous cavern, brightly lit. Through its center runs a wide stream. Spanning the stream is a small wooden footbridge, and beyond a path leads into a dark tunnel. Above the bridge, floating in the air, is a large sign. It reads: All ye who stand before this bridge have completed a great and perilous adventure which has tested your wit and courage. You have gained the mastery of the first part of the Great Underground Empire. Those who pass over this bridge must be prepared to undertake an even greater adventure that will severely test your skill and bravery!

Play "ZORK: The Great Underground Empire, Part II".

In version 20, the final sentence was changed to:

Play "ZORK II: The Wizard of Frobozz".

In versions 23, 25, 26, 28, and 30, the phrase "You have gained the mastery of..." was changed to "You have mastered the first part of..."

In version 75 and 76, "You have mastered the first part of the Great Underground Empire," was changed to "You have mastered the first part of the Zork Trilogy," and "Play "ZORK II: The Wizard of Frobozz"." was changed to:

The ZORK trilogy continues with "ZORK II: The Wizard of Frobozz" and is completed in "ZORK III: The Dungeon Master," available now at fine stores everywhere.

In versions 88 and the Solid Gold version (version 52), the phrase "available now at fine stores everywhere" was deleted.

5 EBCDIC: Extended Binary-Coded-Decimal-Interchange-Code was a (infamous) file format formerly used by IBM as an alternative to ASCII. In all versions of Zork I through Version 30, the description of the maintenance room is like so:

Maintenance Room

This is what appears to have been the maintenance room for Flood Control Dam #3. Apparently, this room has been ransacked recently, for most of the valuable equipment is gone. On the wall in front of you is a group of buttons, which are labeled in EBCDIC. However, they are of different colors: Blue, Yellow, Brown, and Red. The doors to this room are in the west and south ends.

In Versions 75, 76, 88 and 52, the last three sentences of this description are changed to remove the reference to EBCDIC:

On the wall in front of you is a group of buttons colored blue, yellow, brown, and red. There are doorways to the west and south.

Interestingly, the description of the Machine Room in Zork 2, which also had buttons labeled in EBCDIC, was never changed, even though at least one version of the game was released after the change was made to Zork 1. In fact, the Zork 2 description says that "naturally" the buttons are labeled this way, meaning that you must have expected that after seeing it in Zork 1.

6 NORTH OF HOUSE: In all versions of Zork 1 up to version 30, if you are at "North of house", and want to go to "Behind House", you can only go east. In versions 75 and later, you can go either east or southeast.

7 GOTTA MATCH?: In all versions of Zork 1 after Version 30, opening the matchbook will tell you how many matches are left. In versions through Version 30, trying to open it will generate the message "You must tell me how to do that to a matchbook." In these versions, the only way to tell how many matches you have is with the command COUNT MATCHES.

8 ODD SYNONYMS: In all versions of Zork 1, the deflated pile of plastic can be referred to as a "boat", but not as a "raft." Once inflated, it can be called either one.

9 THE WORST DAM PUZZLE: In most versions of Zork 1, there are two ways to obtain the platinum bar; either by saying ECHO in the Loud Room to change the acoustics, or by entering the room while the dam is refilling. In the first version of the game (version 5), the second solution does not work.

In most versions of the game, the room is "loud" when the dam is full, "extremely loud" (meaning you can't stay there at all) while it is emptying, and "quiet" when it is refilling. In Version 5, it is "loud" in all three circumstances.

10 GUESS THE VERB: The coal machine long provided one of Infocom's very rare guess-the-word puzzles. In all versions up to Version 30, FLIP was about the only verb that would work on the switch (i.e. FLIP SWITCH WITH SCREWDRIVER). In Versions 75 and later, PUSH, MOVE, and probably a few more would work.

11 READING MATERIAL: In Zork 1, there are four bits of reading material: The leaflet in the mailbox, the Zork Owner's Manual, the Tour Guidebook, and the matchbook. The text of each of these was revised in various versions of the game.

11a THE LEAFLET: The leaflet in the mailbox in Zork 1 underwent a couple of revisions. This is the leaflet as it appeared in Versions 5 and 15:

WELCOME TO ZORK

ZORK is a game of adventure, danger, and low cunning. In it you will explore some of the most amazing territory ever seen by mortals.

No computer should be without one!

The original ZORK was created by Tim Anderson, Marc Blank, Bruce Daniels, and Dave Lebling. It was inspired by the ADVENTURE game of

Crowther and Woods. This version was created by Marc Blank, Dave Lebling, Joel Berez, and Scott Cutler.

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After version 15, the third paragraph with it's reference to the Colossal Cave Adventure game, was deleted, and the fourth paragraph was expanded. This is how the leaflet looked in Versions 20, 23, 25, 26, 28 and 30:

WELCOME TO ZORK

ZORK is a game of adventure, danger, and low cunning. In it you will explore some of the most amazing territory ever seen by mortals.

No computer should be without one!

Copyright 1982 by Infocom, Inc.

All rights reserved.

ZORK is a trademark of Infocom, Inc.

Finally, the copyright paragraph was also deleted and the whole leaflet message was put in quotation marks, and combined into one paragraph. The leaflet in versions 75, 76, 88, and 52 looks like this:

"WELCOME TO ZORK!

ZORK is a game of adventure, danger, and low cunning. In it you will explore some of the most amazing territory ever seen by mortals. No computer should be without one!"

11b

THE ZORK OWNER'S MANUAL: There were four separate versions of the Zork Owner's Manual. The first one, appearing only in Version 5, looked like this:

Congratulations!

You are the privileged owner of a genuine ZORK Great Underground Empire (Part I), a self contained and self maintaining universe. As a legitimate owner, you have available to you both the Movement Assistance Planner (MAP) and Hierarchical Information for Novice Treasure Seekers (HINTS). For information about these and other services, send a stamped, self-addressed, business-size envelope to:

Infocom, Inc.
GUE I Maintenance Division
PO Box 120, Kendall Station
Cambridge, Mass. 02142

For version 15, the funny acronyms and hint instructions were removed in favor of a commercial for Zork 2, and looked like this:

Congratulations!

You are the privileged owner of a genuine ZORK Great Underground Empire (Part I), a self contained and self maintaining universe. If used and maintained in accordance with normal operating practices for small universes, ZORK will provide many months of trouble-free operation. Please check with your dealer for Part II and other alternate universes.

After Version 15, the manual was altered slightly to remove the reference to Zork 2, and to this game being part 1. Here's how the manual looked in Versions 20, 23, 25, 26, 28, and 30:

Congratulations!

You are the privileged owner of a genuine ZORK: The Great Underground Empire, a self-contained and self-maintaining universe. If used and maintained in accordance with normal operating practices for small universes, ZORK will provide many months of trouble-free operation.

After Version 30, the manual was changed even more slightly, simply by adding a blank line after "Congratulations!" It appeared that way in Versions 75, 76, 88, and 52.

11c

THE TOUR GUIDEBOOK FOR FLOOD CONTROL DAM #3: Except for minor pagination changes, The Tour Guidebook only changed once; for the Solid Gold version. Here is how it appeared there:

" Flood Control Dam #3

FCD#3 was constructed in year 783 of the Great Underground Empire to harness the mighty Frigid River. This work was supported by a grant of 37 million zorkmids from your omnipotent local tyrant Lord Dimwit Flathead the Excessive. This impressive structure is composed of 370,000 cubic feet of concrete, is 256 feet tall at the center, and 193 feet wide at the top. The lake created behind the dam has a volume of 1.7 billion cubic feet, an area of 12 million square feet, and a shore line of 36 thousand feet.

The construction of FCD#3 took 112 days from ground breaking to the dedication. It required a work force of 384 slaves, 34 slave drivers, 12 engineers, 2 turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree. The work was managed by a command team composed of 2345 bureaucrats, 2347 secretaries (at least two of whom could type), 12,256 paper shufflers, 52,469 rubber stampers, 245,193 red tape processors, and nearly one million dead trees.

We will now point out some of the more interesting features of FCD#3 as we conduct you on a guided tour of the facilities:

1) You start your tour here in the Dam Lobby. You will notice on your right that....

In previous versions, the paragraph beginning with "The construction of FCD#3 took 112 days" was not present.

11d THE MATCHBOOK: The matchbook remained virtually identical in all versions of Zork 1. It was changed only once, and very slightly. This is how it appeared in versions 5, 15, 20, 23, 25, 26, 28, and 30:

(Close cover before striking)

YOU too can make BIG MONEY in the exciting field of PAPER SHUFFLING!

Mr. Anderson of Muddle, Mass. says: "Before I took this course I used to be a lowly bit twiddler. Now with what I learned at GUE Tech I feel really important and can obfuscate and confuse with the best. "

Dr. Blank had this to say: "Ten short days ago all I could look forward to was a dead-end job as a doctor. Now I have a promising future and make really big Zorkmids. "

GUE Tech can't promise these fantastic results to everyone. But when you earn your MDL degree from GUE Tech, your future will be brighter.

In versions 75, 76, 88, and 52 the grammar was changed to eliminate a slight redundancy. The phrase "I used to be a lowly bit twiddler," was changed to "I was a lowly bit twiddler."

Zork II: The Wizard of Frobozz

- 1** In the first release of Zork 2 (version 7), the game is subtitled "The Great Underground Empire - Part 2.", in addition to "The Wizard of Frobozz." (See the discussion of the series title under Zork 1, for more about this).
- 2** In versions 18, 19, 22, 23, and 48, you must have the Wizard's Wand with you when you descend the staircase to the Zork 3 area, or else you will be killed by the green lines of force. In versions 7, 15, and 17, the wand is not necessary to win.
- 3** All versions of Zork 2 know the words "Ulysses" and "Odysseus" (from Zork 1), but have no response for them. The game simply returns no output at all and goes to the next turn. This is obviously a holdover from the days of the mainframe Zork. No version of Zork 3 knows either word. — P. Darnows ☒

Works in Progress

Sneak previews of two up-and-coming text adventures

The Nindstrom Effect is an upcoming TADS game. On board a space ship in orbit around Planet Earth, things begin to happen which awaken suspicion in the crew. Situations develop leaving the player puzzled. The Terran Space Administration seems different than a few years ago, or is it just the Captain? Players will have to sort their way through a series of puzzles for the first part of the game, and then deal with a completely unlinked plot twist — or so it seems. The Nindstrom Effect promises to take place in no less than 10 locations and provide the player with no less than 200 or more rooms to explore, plenty of puzzles from simple to hard to keep the IF game players mind thinking hard. The full release is expected to be around mid 1998, barring any unforeseen problems.

—Angus McLaren
neelix@hydra.com.au

Tantomile's Journey starts with the player character standing in complete darkness. While you try to figure out what's wrong, you will be told about some rather painful changes in your body. A bit later, you emerge from the darkness as a chimaera girl, walking on four legs, with deep violet fur, a demon's tail, three-toed feet (right, hind legs), gleaming eyes and batlike wings. But you were a human before...

That's the intro. The real game starts when Januar, the Muse of Dreams, visits you and offers you a unique chance: She will allow you to re-write your history. You were shape-changed by magic, and now have the chance to make this transformation undone. To do so, you will need the help of the Sapphire of Dreamweaving; this sacred gem will allow you to go back in time, and try to change your own history. To find the Sapphire is the first task, but it is merely the introduction, forcing you to create a magical potion, figure out what a foxfire is any good for, and reunite a Nymph and the skeleton of a dead Knight. Once the Gemstone is in your hands, you will still need to trigger its magic, and then, you will be sent back to the night of your transformation- and you will find out why you were transformed, and what the effects where, are, and will be...

So far, Tantomile's Journey consists of about twenty rooms, and takes my Playtester about an hour to be solved. I spent quite a lot of time to make Tantomile a fleshed-out character, without confusing the player. I found few games featuring a definitely female main character, and Tantomile is not even human. Then again, this allows some nice features: Tantomile is able to fly, has extremely well-developed senses, and still is a human soul trapped in the body of a beast. There was some trouble with that, too, since holding about twenty items while walking on four legs is quite tricky (well, there are automatic sack_object...).

I also thought of a great online-help: Whenever you type "help", you'll be given a sandwich. Thinking isn't easy if you're hungry...

—Björn Ludwig
seniorat@germanistik.rwth-aachen.de

Live from the MUD: The Second Annual XYZZYS

The Second Annual XYZZY Awards Ceremonies were held live on February 5, 1998 on Liza Daly's ifMUD: A MUD Forever Voyaging. The following transcript outlines the games and the authors that won top honors. Some of the MUD activity (such as attendees signing on, leaving the room, or laughing in general) not affecting the course of events has been omitted for brevity's sake.

Auditorium

Newly dug, this immense auditorium is almost pristine. Hundreds of rows of plush velvet seats surround the main stage in a graceful 'U.' Wide aisles allow easy passage, and converge into a shallow orchestra pit. There is a brightly-lit doorway to the west, over which hangs the helpful sign, "Exit."

On the stage you can see a podium.

Spatch hollers, "FREE PIE to whoever can help me with our MUD's wildcard/substitution system!"

neild says, "Mmm... pie."

Atomic looks impressed at the nice comfy seats.

In front of the entire MUD: jaysmith hollers (at Spatch), "What's the problem?"

Atomic looks impressed with all the famous names from r.a.i-f here...

DGlasser waves at all.

eileen tugs nervously at her little black dress.

mamster storms out, forgetting his pants.

Atomic straightens his bow tie

ddyte tugs nervously at his little black dress.

Jstn asks, "is it possible to block out everything the audience says, and only hear what the person on the podium says?"

Den levitates to ten feet and then remains there, cross-legged

Grocible wonders if he should be wearing something special

neild says (to Jstn), "SHUT EARS."

Spatch changed especially for the occasion.

mamster stares, enrapt, at the funky chicken.

Adam says (to Jstn), "That would kill mimesis."

>KILL MIMESIS

Mimesis cries!

ddyte says, "Mimesis is dead, Jim."

Jalkio ashes a cigarette into the collar of the person sitting in front of him.

markm says, "It's his game, after all."

zarf turns around and whaps Jalkio

You were supposed to nurture mimesis.

Sargent dozes off, his nose dipping into his program.

A hollow voice says, "No smoking please."

eileen exclaims, "That would be a crime! No, a sin!"

neild cranes his neck to see over all the tall people.

Jalkio says (to zarf), "Sorry."

markm stands on his chair.
Ivan exclaims (to ddyte), “Dammit Jim, I’m a Doctor, not an editor!”
zarf eats the curtains.
Grocible pulls on a casual chainmail shirt over his leopardskin spandex bodysuit
neild lops off the head of the person in front of him.
zarf says (to curtains), “Sorry.”
Grocible puts on his pith helmet
ddyte exclaims (to neild), “Ow!”
Jalkio puts off his cigarette on Zarf’s neck.
jaysmith take a seat.
Spatch says, “oh boy.”
Sargent says, “If Cask wins, I’m rushing the stage.”
mamster says (to Sargent), “It’s going to win. I rigged it.”
Spatch asks, “Is Matt Barringer getting the Lifetime Achievement Award this year?”
markm raises his hand. “Um,” he says. “I appear to have broken my chair.”
Sargent exclaims (to mamster), “Sweet!”
Den asks, “Sadie Hawkins?”
Jalkio shouts “HEIST! HEIST! HEIST!”
ddyte says (to Spatch), “You da man.”
Grocible says, “poor matt barringer”
mamster says (to Den), “The best rock band made up of all ifMUD regulars.”
zarf says, “Hell, poor anyone who the newsgroup decides to laugh at.”
Grocible says, “I think we should stop using Matt Barringer’s name in vain”
The newsgroup laughs at zarf.
mamster tries to start a mosh pit, but is shut down by security. Off the pig!
devil says (to neild), “Good afternoon.”
Jalkio draws a banderoll saying “Andy Rules!”
DGLasser exclaims (to devil), “Satan!”
Spatch says (to zarf), “actually, all I did was use the MUD’s new %easy-target substitution feature.”
ddyte says (to Grocible), “Do we have to? I had 57 slagging references to him all lined up for my next game.”
Spatch says (to zarf), “it automatically figures out the person who will least likely be able to defend themselves from whatever pithy barbs you choose to fling.”
Den says, “I’ll never release anything in my own name then.”
eileen checks her watch. It’s 3:59! We’ll be starting soon...
Den says, “Of course, that was always inevitable.”
TikiBoy says, “This security is pretty harsh.”
Ghogg calmly takes out a ray gun and vaporizes security.
mamster says (to TikiBoy), “Rock and roll is not a pretty thing.”
Ghogg asks, “There, isn’t that better?”
neild begins clapping in unison. At least as unison as one person can get, anyway.
zarf offs the pig.
devil says, “I trained all the security guards myself.”
DGLasser claps with neild.
Spatch starts logging.
Jalkio joins neild.
mamster is on the edge of his seat.

neild says, "CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP"
ddyte syncopates on that rhythm.
Ender begins clapping out of unison.
TikiBoy asks (to mamster), "No kidding!! What's the deal with most alternative bands looking like they need a flea dip?"
Ender attempts to throw off neild's rhythm.
eileen walks over to the podium.
Den practices clapping but forgot to code his hands as separate objects...
mamster says (to Tiki), "Mmm...sheep dip."
ddyte plays bass to the rhythm.
Spatch sells overpriced t-shirts, incense sticks, and wall hangings.
eileen clears her throat to get everyone's attention.
DGlasser claps with one hand.
Grace Jones is Slave to the Rhythm.
Sargent lets his attention wander.
devil waves his wand and gives everyone a few more hands.
Ender walks over to the podium and orders a Tom Collins.
eileen says, "Welcome to the second annual XYZZY awards!"
DGlasser listens to eileen. Sort of.
Ghogg buys an incense stick reading 'I Went to the Second Annual XYZZY Awards and All I Got Was This Stupid Incense Stick.'
neild says, "Last year's was better."
eileen says, "We have 10 winners to honor tonight, in both old categories and new."
Dilbon asks, "What was it like last year?"
neild exclaims, "Best Game for best old category!"
DGlasser lost already.
markm exclaims, "shhh!"
eileen says, "It's just like the academy awards.."
Would the owner of a red toyota, license plate xyzy, please remove your car from the handicapped parking zone?
Gunther puts baby in blender
blender cries!
zarf says, "Guess it was Bruce's car."
devil asks, "I wonder if the devil will win this year (again)?"
eileen says, "I will present the first award, the winner of the Best Use of Medium award."
DGlasser asks (to eileen), "The big overpriced games win?"
mamster asks (to eileen), "Wait--what about the part where Billy Crystal sings that damn song?"
eileen says, "And the nominees are..."
Den munches pop-corn contentedly.
neild asks, "Where are the people from the polling firm?"
TikiBoy cuts the suspense with a butter knife.
devil turns Den's popcorn into stones.
eileen says, "A New Day (Jonathan Fry)"
eileen says, "Interstate Zero (Adam Cadre)"
zarf whistles
liza says, "YEAH SADIE RULEZ!!!1"

Ipsmith pats Adam on the back.
TikiBoy pats Adam on the back soundly.
Ipsmith exclaims (to TikiBoy), "Timing!"
Sargent exclaims, "Play Freebird!"
eileen says, "Sunset Over Savannah (Ivan Cockrum)"
TikiBoy says (to adam), "You know, it's an honor just to be nominated..."
ddyte sits quietly sipping mineral water waiting for the Great Prophet Zarquon.
Pastiche sings, "I been up and down that highway, haven't seen a goddamn thing..."
Atomic wishes he'd played more games...
eileen says, ""The Space Under the Window (Andrew Plotkin)"
Den wishes he'd played any games.
Jstn votes for Titanic.. oops wrong awards
eileen says, "and The Tempest (Graham Nelson)"
Adam asks (to Jstn), "But what about all the nudity?"
Dilbon asks, "A draw?"
neild exclaims, "Yay William!"
mamster exclaims, "Yay nudity!"
eileen waits for the drumroll
Bruce drumrolls.
Drums roll.
And Titanic wins for Most Nekkid People Award.... She's Got A Thing gets honorable mention...
Drum rolls!
Ghogg rolls a drum.
Spatch rolls a drum nosily down the aisle.
Sargent says, "BrrrrrRRRRrrrrrrRRRRrrrrrr..."
Jstn says, "ok, they could have taken stuff out of it, but the story was still good"
Den says, "Verily, 'tis a fine gamme."
eileen says, "And the winner is..."
Drums roll into the audience, injuring hundreds.
neild dies from the suspense.
Sadie rolls a wicked snare.
devil revives neild.
zarf bates breath
Jalkio starts stomping his foot. "Savannah, savannah!"
eileen exclaims, "The Tempest ... Graham Nelson!!!!"
DGlasser exclaims (to devil), "Timing!"
neild exclaims, "Whoa!"
Ipsmith Whoops!
markm cheers wildly.
Den exclaims, "Huzzah!"
Ellison asks, "what award was this?"
ddyte exclaims, "Woohoo Graham!"
Sargent applauds madly.
DGlasser cheers!
Atomic dies of suspense
liza says, "Wow."
Bruce claps.
Spatch exclaims, "AWRIGHT! Acceptance speech in iambic pentameter!"

devil asks, "Is he here?"
Sargent says, "Someone needs to do their parody of Graham now."
Grocible exclaims, "Graham wins again!"
zarf cpas
lpsmith boogies.
DGLasser exclaims, "Go Ariel!"
Jemima Applauds!!!
TikiBoy applauds loudly!!
Stu042 applauds
Adam says, "Man, Angela M. Horns was robbed."
devil says, "I prefer Caliban myself."
Ellison applesauces
Gunther applauds madly (he voted this)
eileen asks, "Is Graham here to accept his award?"
Graham says, "I have prepared a three-hour acceptance speech in the style of
Stephen Douglas.
NamelessAdventurer asks, "Anyone here to take this trophy off my hands?"
markm looks around.
Adam exclaims, "Er, I'm Graham!"
Spatch asks, "doesn't the Earl of Oxford get to accept the award?"
markm slaps Adam.
Sargent says, "_I_ am Graham."
Taj cheers
neild exclaims, "No, I'm Graham. And so's my wife!"
ddyte exclaims, "I'm Graham and so is my ex-wife!"
lpsmith exclaims, "I'm Graham, and so is my wife!"
mamster says, "I am Tiger Woods, dammit."
DGLasser exclaims, "Me too!"
neild exclaims, "Mega-timing!"
Bruce exclaims, "Timing!"
lpsmith exclaims, "Eeeagh! Timing!"
Spatch asks, "Which of you is the author they call Grahamacus?"
DGLasser quoted everything first.
Jalkio exclaims, "Graham is my ex-wife!"
liza says, "NEXT."
Spartacus says, "I'm Graham."
markm asks, "Which award was that?"
eileen exclaims, ""OK, no worry. We will make sure Grapham gets his award, and
the XYZZYnews T-shirt that will be sent to all winners!"
DGLasser says, "Always look on the bright side of life."
TikiBoy munches some Graham crackers.
NamelessAdventurer sadly packs the humongous trophy away for shipment to
Grahamland.
Ellison says (to Spatch), "keep up with that and we'll all be crucified before the
awards are done.."
Grocible senses a little impatience
Bruce applauds wildly.
Shakespeare says, "I'll take that trophy, thank you."
Ivan exclaims, "Gramaclese cares not for beans!"

DGlasser exclaims, "There's a prize? Wow!"
devil asks, "Hey! Why weren't there t-shirts last year?!?"
mamster says (to zarf), "Yep. You were robbed."
Bruce robs Zarf.
neild zarfs Rob.
ddyte says, "Shakespeare's use of his medium sucked. Only Graham made The Tempest live."
Ellison zarfs Rob
lpsmith robs Zarfus to pay Graham.
Adam exclaims (to ddyte), "Ha!"
eileen asks, "Zarf, I'll send you a belated T-shirt, okay?"
edharel says, "Hello, all"
zarf mutters, "If I'da known there were shirts I woulda voted for myself."
Bruce exclaims, "Timing!"
Stephen Keaton says (to neild), "Is it Bob or Rob?"
eileen says, "Now let me introduce our next presenter..."
Grocible asks, "is zarf low on shirts?"
devil asks (to eileen), "Just Zarf?"
mamster says, "Okay, I can't even type fast enough to make jokes here."
NamelessAdventurer asks, "Now?"
devil weeps.
SadieHawkins strikes up a stunning rendition of, "You Made My Dog Not Love Me Anymore."
Bruce cries!
Ellison makes a witty joke that impels all to laugh
lpsmith sets up a collection for the "Keep Zarf Clothed" Fund.
markm cheers! Oh, wait...
TikiBoy says (to mamster), "You know, it's an honor to just be able to type..."
Ellison says, "make that compels"
Jstn asks, "who won the first award?"
Adam says (to mamster), "Load Film Now."
NamelessAdventurer asks, "Now?"
Sargent sets up a collection for the "Make Zarf Unclothed" fund.
eileen says, "Here to present"
DGlasser says (to jstn), "Shakespeare."
eileen says, "...the award for Best Individual PC..."
Grocible asks, "wasn't it mamster cheering nudity just now?"
neild says, "ZARF, UNDRRESS."
Dilbon shakes his spear.
Spatch says, "MAKE.NEKKID.FAST"
markm closes his eyes.
mamster says (to Grocible), "That is correct. But not random acts of nudity."
A jumbo jet zooms noisily by overhead, temporarily drowning out the proceedings.
damned airport hotel ballrooms!
Den stares in horror as time slows to a standstill - on his server, anyway. :-(
eileen exclaims, "...is the Adventurer! Take it away!"
Gunther donates sums of money to lpsmith's fund
Grocible says, "pffft! anarchist nudity is nudity at its best"
NamelessAdventurer clears his/her throat.

mamster says (to Grocible), "Actually, random acts of nudity are fine, depending on who is doing the displaying."
 DGlasser says (to sargent), "Black."
 Bruce opens a bottle of champagne and sprays it about wildly.
 mamster says (to Grocible), "Actually, they're fine in general."
 devil shoots flame at everyone in glee.
 Grocible says, "mamster: come visit Wreck Beach sometime in the summer"
 Grocible listens to the Nameless Adventurer
 mamster wrecks beach.
 Spatch echo beaches.
 markm listens with abated breath.
 Den freezes, flickers badly, comes to life briefly then freezes again.
 Bruce puts the baby in the blender.
 NamelessAdventurer exclaims, "Hi! I'm the Nameless Adventurer! You know me from such games as the Zork Trilogy and the Pick Up The Phone Booth And Die! series!"
 devil heats Den up a bit so he won't freeze any more.
 Sargent asks (to Spatch), "There's a series?"
 DGlasser says (to sarge), "Unfortunately."
 >PICK UP NAMELESS ADVENTURER
 ddyte says, "I always thought that adventurer's name was David Dyte. Damn."
 *****You have died*****
 NamelessAdventurer exclaims, "Today I get to introduce one of the new categories, instituted by popular acclaim: Best Individual PC!"
 Gunther picks up the phone booth
 Bruce dies.
 zarf attempts to shackle Stu042 to his chair, too
 NamelessAdventurer says, "This is my only moment of glory. Other than lugging around this stupid trophies..."
 Ender exclaims, "The Phone Booth for Best Individual PC!"
 Ender ignores NamelessAdventurer's moment of glory.
 Gunther dies.
 markm shivers slightly, turns translucent and, without warning, evaporates into the aether.
 Dilbon says, "The most PC award."
 Ellison sighs, wistfully, and remembers his childhood dream to lug around trophies...
 NamelessAdventurer says, "Really, after last year, I'm a bit upset that they didn't let me MC the whole thing this year..."
 lpsmith says (to NamelessAdventurer), "Well, you won Zork III,..."
 Jstn likes the teddy bear from Bear's night out
 Adam exclaims, "Best Individual Mac: Macaulay Culkin!"
 Jalkio says, "Votes himself for the best individual PC."
 Spatch surreptitiously wanders around the aisles selling rotted fruits and vegetables.
 DGlasser buys fruit.
 NamelessAdventurer wobbles on the podium in a drug-induced haze.
 Jemima listens to that Nameless guy.
 DGlasser joins the horde.
 ddyte exclaims (to Spatch), "Tomato here!"
 There's some confusion as no one can tell apart the Daddy Mac or the Mac Daddy...

Spatch exclaims (to ddyte), "that's no tomato, that's my sister!"
Adam exclaims, "Warm it up, Chris!"
Ellison exclaims, "I'm about to!"
Ellison exclaims, "haah!"
NamelessAdventurer says, "1. The Bear, from A Bear's Night Out (David Dyte)"
Ivan exclaims (to Spatch), "Oh fruit boy! I'll take a cabbage while you're at it!"
Jstn cheers for the bear
ddyte exclaims, "Woohoo! Yeah! Awright!"
Adam exclaims, "Snuggle must die!"
DGlasser exclaims, "YEAAAHH DAVE AND BEAR!!!!"
Ender gives the bear a hug.
NamelessAdventurer says, "2. David, from Babel (Ian Finley)"
Sargent chants, "bear...Bear...BEAR!"
Ellison cheers for the bear
mamster says (to Adam), "Blue is pretty."
devil cheers and whoops for the bear!
DGlasser exclaims, "YEAH IAN!!!!!!!!!"
Bruce exclaims, "BEAR! BEAR! BEAR!"
even if the bear doesn't molest that dumb guy in the bed...
Atomic go Ian!
Spatch exclaims, "And then the bear comes back for more fighting!"
NamelessAdventurer says, "3. Tracy Valencia, from I-0 (Adam Cadre)"
DGlasser says (to nameless), "You just gave away the whole plot."
Tracy Valencia cries! Naked!
Taj exclaims, "Tracy! Tracy!"
IF rushes in, tying his bow tie and slipping on his tailcoat
Sargent says, "Tracy does IF."
edharel says, "I-0! (The only one I've played :))"
NamelessAdventurer says, "4. Improv, from Frenetic Five (Neil deMause)"
Ender exclaims, "Hey! We used up the nudity jokes already!"
zarf hugs Tracy.
ddyte exclaims, "Nude Improv!"
Bruce licks Tracy.
DGlasser exclaims (to neild), "YEAH!!! NEIL!!!"
edharel exclaims, "Oh, err, and FrenFive too!"
NamelessAdventurer says, "5. Mattie, from the Lost Spellmaker (Neil James
BRown)"
devil exclaims, "Improv rocks!"
Grocible says, "nudity is an endless source of hilarity"
Guest says, "Yay neil!"
Tracy slaps Zarf. "And dinner was no fun either!"
NamelessAdventurer says, "And the winner is..."
mamster says (to ddyte), "Live nude improv would be really funny."
mamster says (to ddyte), "Actually someone always gets naked during theatre
sports."
NamelessAdventurer tears open the envelope.
Sargent says, "Shh."
DGlasser strips.
Spatch exclaims, "bare bear!"

NamelessAdventurer looks.
 Jalkio exclaims, "Why wasn't the player character from Symetry a nominee!?! Boo!"
 Sargent whomps Spatch.
 zarf exclaims, "bare dwarf!"
 Ellison says, "someday, we may have an award with only Neil nominees..."
 NamelessAdventurer cringes.
 devil exclaims, "Say it already!"
 NamelessAdventurer exclaims, "The inner is Tracy Valencia, from I-0!"
 NamelessAdventurer exclaims, "The winner, even!"
 DGlaser asks, "The inner?"
 Sargent asks, "Who's the outer?"
 DGlaser asks, "What's the outer?"
 mamster exclaims, "I thought she was an outie!"
 edharel says, "I-0!!!! *clap* *clap*"
 Taj cheers wildly!
 Spatch says, "WOOOOOHOOOOO"
 Guest asks, "Um, the inner?"
 Ipsmith asks, "She's an innie?"
 Adam says, "Wow! What can I say? I'm touched. And even though Tracy couldn't be here to accept this award, I'm sure she's touched too. In fact, she's probably being touched this very moment."
 DGlaser exclaims (to sarge), "Timing!"
 Sargent politely applauds Tracy and her muse Adam.
 unicorn congratulates Adam
 Atomic congratulates Adam!
 DGlaser exclaims, "YAY!!!! Adam!!!!!!!!!"
 Spatch exclaims (to adam), "you practiced that one for weeks! admit it!"
 Guest exclaims, "congrats Adam!"
 Adam says, "What makes this award especially meaningful is that Tracy won it on merit. See, she'd planned to rig the awards by sleeping with everyone on r*if. But she got mixed up and ended up sleeping with everyone on alt.tv.teletubbies instead."
 IF says, "Bravi"
 DGlaser says (to adam), "You see, this is why I didn't cheer earlier."
 Bruce shakes Adam's hand.
 ddyte congratulates Adam and heads off to sulk somewhere.
 zarf cheers for sex in IF.
 IF says, "Thank you zarf :)"
 Jstn cheers for the bear, winner of People
 Spatch says (to zarf), "wait'll adam enhances I-0 for Blorb."
 NamelessAdventurer asks, "Adam, would you like to say a few words?"
 Ipsmith and a bunch of others hoist Adam to their shoulders, chanting.
 liza says (to Adventurer), "He already did."
 NamelessAdventurer realizes Adam's already saying words, and slumps in disgrace.
 NamelessAdventurer gives Best Individual PC trophy to Adam.
 NamelessAdventurer says, "Here."
 SadieHawkins jams out to "Free Bird" in celebration.
 Ellison mistakes the Nameless Adventurer for the head from 'Losing'... and after growing tired of making fun of it, kicks it in the head

Den says, "Phew!"

Jalkio mutters: "At least there was nothing commercially sexual about the PC in Symetry."

Sargent says, "I want to hear about the accounting firm responsible for handling voting."

Adam says, "I-- I believe that art is about giving, so I want to ask Mr. Jack Lemmon to come up on stage and take this award."

mamster falls over.

DGlasser exclaims (to jalkio), "Hey! I liked symmetry!"

mamster asks (to Adam), "Who do you think you AHFFF? Ving RHAAAAAMES?"

edharel asks, "I don't 'know the word 'sex'. What would your mother say?"

Adam says (to mamster), "I knew you'd be the only one to get that."

Ivan gives Tracy Valencia to zarf.

Ellison plots to make fake XYZZY awards t-shirts and sell them to shafted nominees for outrageous prices...

eileen says, "Now let me introduce the presenter of the next award..."

Sargent exclaims (to Ellison), "Hey! This t-shirt says "yzyX" on it!"

Sargent exclaims (to Ellison), "That's not right!"

eileen exclaims, "Here to present the award for Best Individual NPC is last year's winner: the devil from Small World!"

Spatch says (to sargent), "That's ok, sir it'll ride up with wear. No, wait. Sorry."

mamster asks, "Hey, is Kim Basinger going to be presenting?"

Ellison exclaims (to Sargent), "you read the warranty, right? that's right, buddy, there wasn't one!"

devil says, "Thank, you all. No, don't boo, really."

Sargent says (to Ellison), "Oh, man, oh, man, I was such a fool."

edharel dropped XYZZY t-shirt.

Sargent says (to Ellison), "AND this thing needs batteries. Geez."

devil pushes Sargent off the podium

edharel got XYZZY t-shirt.

devil says, "The nominees for best individual NPC are..."

neild exclaims, "De-VIL! De-VIL!"

edharel asks, "Alright, who wanted an Xyzy shirt?"

devil says, "...Taco Junta girl in Interstate Zero (Adam Cadre)..."

Adam says, "Sheila the Taco Junta girl says thanks for the nomination, and she'll meet you all here at six o'clock to thank you all personally."

Dilbon asks, "Cruella DeVil?"

devil says, "2. The big tree in Sum Game Zero."

mamster exclaims, "Taco!"

edharel exclaims, "Taco Junta!"

Spatch exclaims, "It'll be a sapphic shocker should she win!"

devil says, "...Pick Up the Phone Booth and Die (R. Noyes)..."

Grocible asks, "Sheila eh?"

Bruce shocks a Sapphic.

devil says, "Sorry, that last one I think was wrong."

Ender chants, "Phone booth! Phone booth!"

devil says, "I'm pasting these in here from another text program, gimme a sec..."

Ellison exclaims, "who's going to tell the phone booth? he'll be crushed!"

Paul bows to Liza in gratitude

devil says, "...Bob in She's Got a Thing for a Spring (Brent vanFossen)..."
 IF cuts tension with knife
 ddyte says, "Once again the devil gets his ass whipped, just like in Georgia."
 devil says, "...The devil in Sins Against Mimesis (Adam Thornton)..."
 IF applauds wildly for Brent
 > HIT BOB WITH FIST
 Adam says, "3. Bob the Microsoft OS..."
 Taj repairs tension with glue.
 mamster says (to ddyte), "I hear Jesus just left Chicago."
 Bruce cheers wildly for his own game.
 devil says, "...The Stranger in The Edifice (Lucian Smith)..."
 DGlasser exclaims, "YAY Other DEVIL!!!!"
 devil says, "...The cow in The Lost Spellmaker (Neil James Brown)..."
 DGlasser exclaims, "YAY STRANGER!!!!"
 ddyte says, "Moooooo"
 neild says, "Mmm... cow."
 lpsmith attempts to look modest, and fails.
 Spatch exclaims, "COWS ALWAYS WIN!"
 DGlasser exclaims, "YAY NEIL's COW!!!!"
 Dilbon says, "Don't have a cow, man."
 edharel asks, "moo?"
 Taj exclaims, "Go Stranger! Go Friend!"
 Ender says, "This is nothing out of the ordinary. Cows turn themselves inside out all the time."
 TikiBoy says, "Jesus kicks Satan's ass."
 devil takes the envelope.
 DGlasser exclaims, "GO EVERYONE!"
 DGlasser asks (to tiki), "South Park?"
 devil tears it open.
 mamster exclaims, "Go Fighting Marmosets!"
 Ellison feels compelled to cheer for the cow...
 TikiBoy exclaims (to dglasser), "of course!"
 neild exclaims, "Let's go, devil!"
 devil loses the envelope in all the confusion.
 Spatch says, "Rise, and shout, the Ameobas are out..."
 Ender butchers and eats the cow.
 devil picks it up again.
 Ellison eats the envelope!
 Armed thugs from Price Waterhouse commit mass slaughter.
 Spatch thinks the spear and stump should get a co-nomination
 lpsmith gives devil the envelope. Really!
 devil says, "And the winner is..."
 Spatch says, "What a team."
 For good measure, Ender butchers and eats Tracy Valentia.
 liza exclaims, "YOUR MOM!"
 devil says, "She's Got a Thing --> Bob"
 lpsmith cheers!
 Spatch exclaims, "YAY BOB!"
 neild applauds!

Ghogg exclaims, "Whee!"
ddyte exclaims, "Woohoo! Yay Bob!"
devil exclaims, "Congratulations!"
Paul exclaims, "Yay Bob!"
IF says, "emotes continues to cheer wildly"
Adam exclaims, "Eww! She's got a THING!"
Bruce cheers, then breaks into explosive sobs.
ct applauds for bob!!
liza asks, "But what about Bob?"
edharel says, "*clap* *clap*"
Jemima applauds loudly, even though she hasn't played that game yet.
mamster exclaims (to Adam), "Some kind of SQUID THING!"
Spatch exclaims, "She's got a thing for a squid!"
devil levitates from the podium.
Dilbon says, "Bob killed Laura Palmer."
Jalkio exclaims, "Yay Bob! A man to my liking!"
Ellison exclaims, "Now you can afford a real house that's not out there in nowhere!"
ddyte feels Bruce's pain in return. Ooh, squishy.
Spatch says (to dilbon), "no, that was BoB. or bOb."
Ender sings, "Jesus brother Bob, Jesus brother Bob, a nobody relative of the Son of God."
TikiBoy says, "Microsoft Bob."
NamelessAdventurer asks, "Is Brent here anywhere?"
devil goes and sulks that he didn't win 2 years in a row. Then he cheers up again and congratulates Brent vanFossen.
Jalkio says (to dglasser), "Bob."
DGlasser asks, "Wasn't the devil bob too?"
DGlasser asks, "The cool nature photo guy, right?"
Paul looks over his shoulder to make sure his boss isn't watching.
Gunther congratulates
Atomic asks, "Maybe someone can pick up the award on his behalf?"
lpsmith says (to DG), "Yup."
eileen says, "Congratulations, Brent! If you're not hear -- ps, here -- we'll send you your trophy and t-shirt"
Brent's wife comes forward to accept the award.
devil says, "There's a trophy, too?!? Damn, I've got to write more games."
Paul says, "He's out taking pictures somewhere in Florida. No, really."
Ganvira hollers, "Uh, I think someone killed the lounge area."
Ellison asks, "do I smell incense?"
eileen says, "Well, just a virtual trophy. The t-shirt will be real."
ddyte says, "T-shirt *and* trophy? Geez now I'm really cut up."
Dilbon says, "I have never seen a real T-shirt."
lpsmith says, "Hey, some wizzard teleport inky in here."
eileen exclaims, "Not a real trophy! Sorry to get anyone's hopes up!"
Bruce smells incense.
Grocible says, "I have a bowling trophy that some dork gave me as an office Christmas party present that I could donate to the next awards"
Bruce buys some pot.
ddyte plays with Matt and Terry in the corner.

edharel gives band aid to Bruce.
 NamelessAdventurer goes up to the podium again.
 DGLasser says, "The scoreboard is screwed up."
 NamelessAdventurer says, "Where are we? Best individual puzzle? Oh, yeah."
 mamster says (to Grocible), "I have a Boys Club soccer trophy. So nyaa."
 west_pillar asks, "Am I on? What?"
 NamelessAdventurer says, "Here to introduce the award for Best Individual Puzzle is a puzzle you all know and love..."
 liza asks (to Ganvira), "Is that better?"
 west_pillar rocks back and forth.
 edharel says, "I'll close my ears/eyes. Don't want to see any spoilers..."
 NamelessAdventurer exclaims (to west_pillar), "Not yet!"
 Jalkio exclaims, "I vote all of Symetry for best individual puzzle!"
 Adam exclaims, "They'll R2-45 our asses!"
 Dilbon says, "Where is the Worst Individual Puzzle Award? I really should get it for the statue puzzle in Leaves"
 NamelessAdventurer exclaims, "Here it is! The west pillar from So Far!"
 mamster says (to Adam), "Amnesia ray."
 west_pillar exclaims, "Hiya!"
 Stu042 exclaims, "yay pillar!"
 west_pillar looks only slightly confused.
 Ganvira says, "Oh, OK."
 markm tips the pillar.
 mamster asks, "Pilar?"
 liza says, "Mmm... rice pilar."
 mamster asks, "?Pilar, es tu?"
 neild picks up the pillar, and dies.
 edharel says, "I'll go check r.[a]g].if"
 west_pillar exclaims, "It's great to see so many people here today!"
 Atomic says, "zarf "How does it feel to meet your creation?""
 NamelessAdventurer gives Best Individual Puzzle nominees to west_pillar.
 Gunther tries to assassinate Nameless, shouting "I AM THE CATCHER IN THE RYE!"
 west_pillar says, "And... um..."
 Ellison asks (to pillar), "you're not going to preach the faith on us, are you?"
 Grocible asks, "so what's the next award?"
 Bruce exclaims, "I want some snackycakes!"
 west_pillar fumbles for the list of nominees
 Jalkio eats a banana in honor of Rybread.
 neild wonders where the hors d-oeuvres went.
 west_pillar says, "I forgot my big list of catchy intro lines."
 mamster says (to Ellison), "I'm gonna preach the faith all over your mom."
 devil asks (to west_pillar), "Do pillars have hands?"
 Bruce asks, "Where the hell are the Cheezy Poofs?"
 Adam notes that the pillar isn't wearing the customary lapel ribbon! Shame!
 Shame!
 TikiBoy exclaims, "Yeah, I want some cheezy poofs!!"
 Ender exclaims (to Bruce), "Yeah, I want Cheezy Poofs!"
 Dilbon poofs.

mamster says (to Tiki), "That does sound pretty goood."
west_pillar asks, "Hey, why is an Egyptian mummy like a gospel singer?"
devil says (to Ender), "Poof! You're Cheezy."
Spatch says (to adam), "i gotcher Cause-Of-The-Moment ribbons HANGING LOW, PAL."
Bruce asks, "How about some chocolate chicken pot pie?"
lpsmith pushes the west_pillar.
neild exclaims (to west_pillar), "They both slept with Bill Clinton!"
west_pillar exclaims, "Because they're both bound for the promised land!"
DGlasser exclaims, "su-weet!"
TikiBoy exclaims, "No, kitty, it's my chicken pot pie!!"
mamster says, "Eeagh! Elliott Abrams! "
Spatch says, "I thought it was cause they both hang out in Memphis."
west_pillar rocks back and forth.
liza sets the pillar on fire.
Ender exclaims (to TikiBoy), "MOM!!!! Kitty's being a dildo!"
Bruce exclaims, "Bad Kitty! MY POT PIE!"
Ganvira exclaims, "Oy!!"
NamelessAdventurer says (to west), "Cut to the chase, I think..."
Spatch spray-paints "STINKY POOP ASS" on the pillar.
Bruce exclaims, "Well, I know a certain kitty kitty who's sleeping with mommy tonight!"
edharel asks, "The question is: Who is Lewinsky and Hillary?"
Ender asks, "What?"
west_pillar looks disappointed.
west_pillar says, "Ok, I'll cut to the chase."
Jemima listens attentively to West Pillar.
Bruce exclaims, "Ultra-vibe pleasure 2000!"
Jalkio counts 47 visitors at the moment.
Ellison listens to the crickets, chirping in the meadow
neild cheers!
Adam says, "You know, 'west pillar' anagrams to 'rapscallion'."
edharel asks, "Sell some? what, are we getting the ads and flames of newsgroups on here?"
Bruce cries!
west_pillar exclaims, "The nominees for Best Individual Puzzle!"
Ganvira tries to listen to West but is spam.
Bruce exclaims, "You go to hell, Kyle! You go to hell and you die!"
Adam says (to liza), "Except for a brief period in 1989."
Grocible says, "liza: it's to your credit"
west_pillar exclaims, "Setting the digital clock in Heist!"
devil asks (to Bruce), "Would you like me to damn him for you?"
mamster says (to neilb), "Three awards, I think."
DGlasser exclaims, "YEAH ADNREW!!!!"
ddyte says (to neilb), "Yeah, Bob won best NPC. Bad luck for the cow :-("'
Dilbon says, "I solved that by trial and error"
west_pillar says, "Pick Up the Phone Booth and Die"
Dilbon says, "the first time, I mean"
Bruce exclaims, "Bad luck for the Devil! No sympathy for the Devil!"

Paul salutes Lucian
IF exclaims, "Congratulations!"
west_pillar falls over with excitement.
markm exclaims, "L!P! L!P! L!P!"
Bruce exclaims, "Ix-nay on-ay everroot-Fay!"
NamelessAdventurer gives Best Individual Puzzle trophy to lpsmith.
Ellison exclaims, "wtg!"
Ganvira shouts GoLP!!!!
DGLasser says, "You know, any game that makes a vegetarian want to kill a Beast is good."
mamster says (to lpsmith), "I made you this marshmallow sculpture."
lpsmith alsens the trophy.
Spatch holds up a large sign with an L on it. Then he holds up one that says P. Over and over.
DGLasser says, "Or not, good, but at least well done."
lpsmith steps up to the podium.
Bruce says, "My beast was kind of medium-rare."
Ellison asks (to Spatch), "wow, you were just prepared for everybody, huh?"
RedoFromStart jumps on spot, fruitlessly
Their_from_Dungeon takes the trophies from the adventurer's sack.
mamster says (to neilb), "Watch me."
mamster emotes.
Bruce tears liza's eyes.
Ellison asks, "okay, who blew spice into liza's eyes?"
DGLasser sits back on the center of the seat.
lpsmith exclaims, "Uh, thanks everyone!"
neilb asks, "what ? was that it?"
neild exclaims (to lp), "More speech!"
mamster says (to Ellison), "The spice girls, of course."
liza cheers lpsmith wildly.
lpsmith exclaims, "Oh, and one more thing!"
DGLasser says (to neilb), " :emotes."
Bruce cheers! He loves Lucian!
Spatch exclaims, "The Beef-A-Roni must flow!"
Paul says, "He's just learning our language."
ddyte says, "So much for command of language."
Gunther wonders why Tempest didn't even show up in this section..
Ellison says (to mamster), "hehe"
DGLasser says, "alanasen takramul."
lpsmith says, "As thanks for this lovely prize, I've given you all a present."
DGLasser says, "ne rema fe"
devil says, "I haven't finished that puzzle yet."
lpsmith says, "You'll find it in incoming/if-archive."
Taj exclaims, "Rakasha a ben selme!"
lpsmith grins.
Ellison just noticed that both neilb and neild are here..
liza yells, "Dear lord, Lucian, PUT THAT AWAY!"
neilb says, "this would have been a lot cheaper on a Saturday, you know..."
west_pillar shakes lpsmith's hand, somehow

lpsmith exclaims, "No more infinite loops!"
 Paul whines "I want to know NOW!"
 Ganvira asks, "infinite loops??"
 eileen goes up to the podium
 Jstn says, "yea, I think my Latin course just came"
 Adam exclaims, "They're been replaced with froot loops!"
 neilb says, "people tell me that all the time"
 Adam says, "They've"
 Jalkio exclaims, "The infinite loop should have been nominated in the best use of medium!"
 TikiBoy places Paul on the Golden egg checker thingie, through which he falls.
 lpsmith exclaims, "It's nothing spectacular, but I've finally finished Release 2. So if you haven't played it yet, you can play the fumigated version. Thanks!"
 ddyte collects his present.
 DGlasser exclaims, "YAY LP!!!!!"
 Ellison says, "whee! where are the oompaloompas"
 Grocible feels he should take this moment to thank one of the Bruces for crediting him as being the original poster of the mimesis plant joke.
 lpsmith steps down.
 Grocible exclaims, "I'm immortalized!"
 Spatch is immortalized!
 Paul whips out a gobstopper, and starts to chew
 TikiBoy is mortified.
 mamster is paralyzed by your peril eyes!
 liza says something immoral.
 liza exclaims (to mamster), "HA!"
 neilb tests the coommands. ignore him and his bad spelling.
 mamster says (to liza), "You're welcome."
 eileen exclaims, "And now, presenting the award for Best NPCs, we have last year's winner... Evan, from Kissing the Buddha's Feet!!"
 Spatch says, "There's no way of really knowwing which direction we are goooing"
 DGlasser asks (to neild), "What are the files by you in incoming?"
 markm says (to zarf), "Was that pillar costume stuffy? :-)"
 DGlasser cheers for LEON and EVAN!!!!
 neild asks (to DGlasser), "New versions of FrenFive?"
 Bruce stuffs the pillar costume.
 DGlasser exclaims, "Everyone, get Small World Two. Much better than one. It is great!"
 Jalkio waves a depressing dirty rag that states "Rybread Rules" in barely readable dirt-like ink.
 Evan exclaims, "Hello, everyone!"
 neild says, "ASK EVAN ABOUT AWARD."
 mamster says (to Jalkio), "That rocks."
 RedoFromStart is looking for his camera
 leonlin says to Evan, "I created you!" to which Evan responds, "No one user created me..."
 ddyte says (to neilb), "Yeah. I got hosed."
 Evan says, "NPCs are a very important part of IF."
 neilb says, "this client is so naff"

devil exclaims (to Evan), "Hey, Evan!"
Ipsmith runs a 'tron' on Evan, which shuts him down.
HairBrain moos
neild says (to ddyte), "Your day will come..."
Ellison exclaims, "haha!"
Evan exclaims, "If it weren't for NPCs, we'd all be exhibiting signs of impending mental collapse with no one else to talk with!"
Ganvira asks, "What's the file for wsmall world?"
Evan says, "Anyway..."
Evan says, "The nominees for Best NPCs are..."
Evan exclaims, "Everybody Loves a Parade, by Cody Sandifer!"
devil says, "The Small World files are for release 2, which I'll announce in a little bit."
DGlasser exclaims, "YAY CODY!!!!!! YAY!!!!!"
DGlasser exclaims, "YAY CODY!!!!!"
devil exclaims, "Parade rocks!"
DGlasser exclaims, "YAY CODY!!!!!"
Evan exclaims, "Interstate Zero, by Adam Cadre!"
neilb asks, "did IF and zarf leave together then?"
liza exclaims, "WOO!"
mamster exclaims, "Everybody Loves Everybody Loves a Parade!"
DGlasser exclaims, "YAY Adam!"
Evan exclaims, "She's Got a Thing For a Spring, by Bren vanFossen!"
markm claps!
Spatch exclaims, "Everybody Loves Raymond Who Loves A Parade!"
neild cheers a bit more.
DGlasser exclaims, "YAY cool nature photo guy!"
Evan says, "Oops, that's Brent vanFossen."
TikiBoy says (to neilb), "I think Zarf is too old for IF. ;-)"
zarf claps belatedly (was lagged)
Ellison exclaims, "Everybody's got a thing for She's Got A Thing!"
neilb says, "I wish I could understand what's going on..."
DGlasser says (to evan), "Just do what I do, call him cool nature photo guy."
Evan exclaims, "The Frenetic Five vs. Sturm and Drang by Neil deMause!"
Ender says, "Bran Van Fossen is Drinking in L.A."
ddyte exclaims, "Woohoo heroes and villains!"
DGlasser exclaims, "YAY NEILD!!!!!!!!!!!"
Spatch exclaims, "YEEEEHAW!"
neild exclaims, "YAY, ME!!!!!! WHO-HOO!!!!!"
liza exclaims, "NEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEILLLLLLL!"
Evan exclaims, "And Zero Sum Game by Cody Sandifer!"
devil claps frenetically for Fren5.
neild says, "Cody. Yeah."
ct exclaims, "FUNKY FIVE! Yay!"
DGlasser exclaims, "YAY CODY AGAIN!!! WOO-HOOO!!!! CODY RULES!!!!!! YAY!!!!!"
mamster exclaims, "They're all, like, good and stuff!"
DGlasser exclaims, "CODY! CODY! CODY!"
Spatch exclaims, "I can't make up my mind!"

Evan says, "And the winner is..."
 ddyte says (to mamster), "Nah, they all suck."
 DGlasser is a die-hard cody fan.
 neild implodes.
 Bruce makes up spatch's mind.
 Evan exclaims, "The Frenetic Five vs. Sturm und Drang by Neil deMause!"
 Bruce cheers.
 neild exclaims, "Gak!"
 Bruce claps.
 Evan applauds
 DGlasser exclaims, "YAY NEILD!!!! YAY!!!! YAY!!!!"
 Grocible exclaims, "woohoo!"
 devil exclaims, "WHOOOOOOOO!"
 lpsmith's left half explodes, but he's all right.
 TikiBoy exclaims, "YAY NEIL!!!!!!!!!"
 edharel says, "BAh."
 mamster says, "I voted fer that."
 neild is baffled.
 ct cheers wildly!! yay for the famous five!
 Grocible exclaims, "rock on neild!"
 Paul claps frenetically
 Atomic congratulates Neil
 markm NEIL! EIL! NEIL! NEIL!
 Jalkio exclaims (to neild), "Congrats!"
 Stu042 exclaims, "go neil!"
 lpsmith exclaims, "Yaaaaaaay!!!!!!!!!"
 devil congratulates Neil.
 Evan exclaims, "Congratulations, Neil!"
 zarf exclaims, "Heil Neil!"
 neild goes up to the podium.
 TikiBoy shoots lpsmith's remaining half for that horrible pun.
 Adam exclaims, "So Leon Lin wins two years straight!"
 eileen gives Best NPCs trophy to neild.
 DGlasser exclaims, "YAY NEIL!!!!!!!!!"
 neilb says, "what a great name that chap's got."
 Atomic waves at Neil
 mamster exclaims, "Yay, Leon!"
 neild says, "Really, you shouldn't be talking to me! You should be talking to the welfare recipients..."
 lpsmith exclaims, "Spooooooooooooooooon!"
 Ender says, "As people clap, small objects pop up all over..."
 lpsmith exclaims, "Not in the face! Not in the face!"
 markm cheers wildly.
 neild says, "I really didn't prepare for this. Just like for releasing the game in the first place..."
 Ganvira is going to do the infocom fantasy collection first.
 neild says, "I guess I'd just like to thank the Frenetic Five, for being such interesting characters. And for forcing me to release this game despite my utter lack of coding skills."

lpsmith recants.
devil asks, "Cody skills?"
markm cheers!
neild looks to the sky. "This one's for you, Pastiche!"
neild gets down from the podium.
neilb asks, "if it's only five o'clock over in the US... why aren't you all working?"
zarf applauds
neild gets down and gets funky.
lpsmith claps some more.
Jalkio gets lost in New York.
markm says (to neilb), "I'm *supposed* to be working..."
Dilbon says, "Work is a four letter word."
devil says, "I'm doing the devil's work."
Paul says, "Define 'working'. I'm at my job."
Grocible is at werk, but isn't werking. I'm using "lunch break" as an excuse.
neild says, "Damn. Now I need to change my T-shirt..."
TikiBoy says, "This awards thing is actually making my work very unproductive."
zarf says, "Offer me a job, and I'll work."
lpsmith exclaims, "I'm working, and so is my wife!"
Bruce does the devil's work.
Hordes of tiny donuts suddenly invade the auditorium, freed from their jail! They run around screaming wildly for a moment or two, then disappear as mysteriously as they arrived.
ddyte says (to neild), "Now you can get rid of that t-shirt."
mamster asks (to lpsmith), "What is that, anyway?"
edharel dropped XYZZY t-shirt.
NamelessAdventurer says, "Okay. So without further ado..."
liza says (to Spatch), "Hold me closer, tiny donut."
Atomic says, "I had to come to the computer labs in the middle of the night to get here... :)"
mamster got XYZZY t-shirt.
lpsmith says (to mamster), "Life of Brian."
DGLasser says (to mamster), "Life of brian,"
mamster says (to lpsmith), "Ah."
Ganvira finished classes at 11:00.
Adam exclaims, "No! More ado! People are crying out for ado!"
Grocible says, "I'm Brian of Nazareth..."
Atomic says, "Well, 9pm anyway... :)"
devil says, "I finished classes in 1994."
NamelessAdventurer says, "To present the award for Best Puzzles..."
Spatch says (to liza), "count the head lice on the highway."
mamster dropped RNA polymerase.
mamster dropped XYZZY t-shirt.
NamelessAdventurer says, "Someone else you all know and love..."
Jalkio exclaims, "HEIST! HEIST! HEIST!"
edharel asks, "Much ado about nothing?"
NamelessAdventurer says, "From the award-winning So Far..."
Paul is puzzled. Lots.
Bruce got XYZZY t-shirt.

DGlasser exclaims, "It's Zarf!!!!!!!"
ct says (to Atomic), "I was thinking edinburgh's not that far off my latitude..."
Spatch exclaims, "THE SHADOWS!"
devil exclaims, "Zarf! Zarf! Zarf!"
liza exclaims, "THE BIG ANIMAL THING!"
mamster says, ">ENTER SHADOW"
edharel asks, "When did Babylon 5 come into it?"
DGlasser exclaims, "PUZZLES!!! PUZZLES!!"
Adam exclaims, "Rito! As played by Leonardo di Caprio!"
ragged_boy has arrived.
ct says (to mamster), "(You must be thinking of some other game)"
DGlasser hates games without puzzles, but hates games with puzzles that he can't solve.
Grocible exclaims, "ew! please! not dicaprio!"
ragged_boy looks around
ddyte asks (to boy), "Hey how'd you get out of there?"
TikiBoy asks (to Dglasser), "Picky, ain't ya?"
NamelessAdventurer gives Best Puzzles nominees to ragged_boy.
mamster pours himself a crunchy bowl of DiCapri-O's.
Spatch throws breadfruit at the ragged boy!
Ellison orders a decaprichino.
neild bangs on pipes!
ragged_boy blinks in the bright light.
mamster hums that tune from Close Encounters.
Dilbon is puzzled.
lpsmith gives ragged_boy a pipe.
DGlasser says, "I want to hear happy news. About Leonardo DiCaprio."
liza gives small pipe to neild.
ragged_boy smiles hesitantly at everyone.
neild goes back on the pipe.
Jemima gives a daisy chain to ragged boy.
mamster exclaims (to DGlasser), "hee hee!"
Jalkio exclaims (to ragged_boy), "Hello Rybread, it must be you!"
Bruce bangs on Leonardo DiCaprio.
Ender says (to DGlasser), "He's dead. Be happy."
DGlasser hits the daisy chain key on his mac.
TikiBoy says (to DGlasser), "He came out of the closet. Ha!! Yeah, right."
neild wonders how this is going to work.
ragged_boy holds up the list of Best Puzzles nominees
liza bangs Leonard DiCaprio. "Boo-yah!"
Spatch don't wanna work, he just wanna bang on de drum all day.
ragged_boy holds up a scrap of paper which says: Babel (Ian Finley)
DGlasser says, "(Actually, that wasn't me. That was a 10-year-old Philadelphia girl.)"
edharel asks, "hmm, how do you do an action?"
mamster says (to edharel), ":cries."
Dilbon actions.
ragged_boy holds up a scrap of paper which says: Everybody Loves a Parade (Cody Sandifer)

neilb asks, "c'mon, tell us... what is a zarf?"
 liza says (to mamster), "You misspelled 'cries!'. Hope that helps."
 lpsmith cheers some more.
 Atomic cheers wildly for Babel (which he gave a 10)
 mamster says (to liza), "Oops."
 neild exclaims, "Yay Cody!!!!"
 ragged_boy holds up a scrap of paper which says: Heist (Andy Phillips)
 mamster exclaims, "Codex Leicester!"
 neild asks (to Evan), "You want to change back to Leon now?"
 Spatch says, "This is a first! The presenter is GIVING the cue cards to the AUDIENCE."
 Jalkio exclaims, "HEIST! BRAVO!"
 devil exclaims, "Heist! Heist! Heist!"
 Adam exclaims, "YAY, HEIST, AND, ANDY!"
 ragged_boy holds up a scrap of paper which says: The Edifice (Lucian Smith)
 liza says, "WOOOOOOO."
 Atomic decides he should play Everybody loves a parade...
 Taj throws spear!
 Ender says (to ragged_boy), "I'm not reading that. No, not that either."
 neild exclaims, "Yay LP!!!"
 mamster exclaims, "Edificio DiCaprio!"
 edharel Hmm, are the Shadows related to the grues?
 ragged_boy holds up a scrap of paper which says: Zero Sum Game (Cody Sandifer)
 ct exclaims, "Eddy! Eddy! Ed! Ed! Ed!"
 Gunther asks, "Ah my love. Can you forgive me?"
 neild asks, "Leonardo Orgasmo? What?"
 lpsmith realizes he's cheering his own game, but what the heck. He goes back to cheering Zero.
 neild exclaims, "Yay Cody yet again!"
 ragged_boy opens an envelope
 Spatch says, "Edificssorshands."
 Atomic dies of suspense
 > PUSH EDIFICE
 ragged_boy smiles secretly
 Edifice wrecks!
 Ellison kills the silent boy...
 liza wonders when the edifice and the west pillar are going to get it on.
 The Edifice does not yield to your efforts.
 Atomic regenerates himself with a puff of smoke... :)
 Ender exclaims (to liza), "We'll have none of that!"
 edharel says, "I think I liked the newsgroups better... not so crowded and noisy :)"
 Adam turns ragged_boy in to Child Protective Services.
 ragged_boy pulls out a brush and draws a small picture of an edifice.
 markm cheers wildly!
 Grocible asks, "liza: you *sure* you've never been a teenage boy before?"
 Bruce cheers wildly!
 Spatch exclaims, "YAAAAAY!"
 neild exclaims, "Yay!"
 Taj whoops wildly!

leonlin cheers!
jaysmith cheers!
ct says, "Eddy Eddy Eddy Ed Ed Ed"
mamster exclaims, "EDIFICE!"
Atomic says, "Congrats!"
liza exclaims, "YAYAYAYAYAYAYAYAYAYAY!"
Ellison exclaims, "yeah, Cody won!!!"
Stu042 stomps his feet and cheers!
ct exclaims, "Yay!"
Paul gives Lucian a thumbs up. No, make that two thumbs up!
mamster exclaims, "More speech!"
ragged_boy gives the picture to lpsmith
devil claps!
Jalkio claps muttering something about Heist.
lpsmith grins.
Bruce gives Lucian Three Thumbs Up.
Grocible claps vigorously and with approval
markm exclaims, "L!P!L!P!L!P!L!P!"
Zarf passes the mantle of Xyzzy king to LP.
Ellison asks, "the edifice is just an abstract representation of the tree sloth, right?"
liza throws an edifice at Jalkio.
Taj throws spear at Jalkio!
Atomic wishes he could write a game like The Edifice... :(
leonlin gives Lucian two opposable thumbs up!
TikiBoy says (to mamster), "The graveyard is out there, and the aliens are up there,
but I'll be safe in there."
mamster giggles.
markm gives LP all his thumbs.
edharel wishes he had the time to finishhh a game :/
lpsmith takes the podium.
RedoFromStart looks at his watch: 22:59... the ceremony will begin soon.
Jalkio says (to liza), "But Edifice already won the individual category... There were
many cool puzzles in heist."
mamster says (to Jalkio), "Not to mention Punkirita."
lpsmith takes a piece of paper out of his pocket.
DGlaser asks, "Who won puzzles?"
lpsmith unfolds it.
Paul considers whether he should start charging for straight lines.
edharel says, "mef, this is it."
lpsmith says, "Uh, this isn't an acceptance speech, so don't worry."
mamster wins a zloty, finds the perfect liver, and settles for that.
Bruce worries.
liza exclaims (to lpsmith), "Your speech is unacceptable!"
liza says, "Crap."
lpsmith says, "It is, however, a rough draft of an article I'm attempting to write for
XYZZYnews."
Bruce exclaims, "Takramul!"
Bruce asks, "Grignr?"
Adam exclaims (to Bruce), "Topramen!"

DGlasser exclaims, "YAY LUCIAN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"
Spatch exclaims, "PL!PL!PL!PL!PL!PL!"
Ender exclaims (to Bruce), "Grignr the Ecordian!"
Ender plays the Ecordian.
lpsmith grins.
Bruce squeezes the Ecordian.
eileen approaches the podium
DGlasser says, "But then again, edifice was great."
lpsmith steps down.
Taj injects Atomic with coffee.
liza asks, "Umberto Ecordian?"
neild says (to Dilbon), "This is so over."
Atomic jumps up, wide-eyed and buzzing gently
Ender says (to liza), "Careful, you might inspire Graham."
Spatch exclaims, "let's go out to the lobby, let's go out to the lobby, let's go out to the lobby, and have ourselves a snack!"
neild says (to Dilbon), "This is so five minutes ago."
neilb says, "tikiboy, I don't know how to whisper, but probably. I am he."
liza says, "Okay, next award - Best Legs."
Dilbon says, "Happy endings make me cry."
Atomic thanks Taj
eileen exclaims, "Here to present the award for Best Setting is least, oops, last year's winner... the devil from Small World!"
mamster exclaims (to liza), "I nominate Abe Vigoda!"
DGlasser exclaims, "YAY ANDREW!!!!!"
Taj exclaims, "Mercy! Mercy!"
Spatch exclaims (to mamster), "my vote's for walter matthau!"
devil takes nominees list.
DGlasser exclaims, "SETTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTIIIIIIINNNGG!"
Taj says, "The game, not the request."
mamster says (to Spatch), "The gams on that feller are breathtaking."
neild exclaims, "Yeahhhhhhhhh, Beelzebub!"
inky stomps feet.
Paul applauds
devil tries to get everyone to sign it...whoops, wrong game.
ct exclaims, "Devil! Make us proud!"
Ellison says, "I nominate the table setting from 'space'"
inky says, "sa-tan sa-tan sa-tan"
Spatch asks, "Beelzebub, do you have a devil put aside for me?"
devil says (to Spatch), "A minor one."
ddyte asks (to Devil), "Just gimme this one. You can take my soul, ok?"
liza says (to mamster), "Ooh, varicose veins. He'll lose points for that."
inky asks (to devil), "Do you ever dance with yourself in the pale moonlight?"
devil says, "The nominees..."
Bruce hopes everyone remembers the Scrapple Factory.
DorianX has arrived.
mamster says (to liza), "The closer the better, I say."
DGlasser is the devil. in Damn Yankees, at least.
Ender says (to devil), "Time... is on my side. Yes it is..."

devil says, "...for best setting in an IF game..."
 ddyte says (to Bruce), "You are the man :-)"
 edharel asks, "devil, you're not wearing a blue dress, are you?"
 Sargent says, "Bleah. I remember the factory."
 devil says, "...are..."
 neild has sympathy for the presenter.
 Grocible says, "mmmm scrapple"
 inky asks (to Bruce), "that's like "Remember the Alamo", right?"
 liza exclaims (to neild), "Hee!"
 Bruce chews on a head-sized chunk of Scrapple.
 Sargent asks (to Bruce), "54-40 or Scrapple?"
 mamster chews on head cheese.
 devil says, "...A Bear's Night Out (David Dyte)..."
 DGlasser says, "and just a high school production."
 SadieHawkins plays a quick medley of Stryper.
 ddyte exclaims, "Woohoo!!!! Yeah! Awright! Yay!"
 Ghogg exclaims, "Bear! Bear! Bear!"
 mamster exclaims, "DAVEEED!"
 Dilbon exclaims, "Beer! Beer!"
 DGlasser exclaims, "YAY BEAAAAAR! YAY DAVID!!!!!!!!!"
 Ender chews on the head from Grip.
 devil says, "...Interstate Zero (Adam Cadre)..."
 The San Burro Chamber of Commerce cheers!
 edharel asks, "Someone brought beer?"
 ddyte exclaims, "Woohoo!!!! Yeah! Awright! Yay!"
 Atomic remembers the bears home fondly
 DGlasser exclaims, "AAAAAAAADAM!!!!!!!!!"
 devil says, "...Mercy (Chris Klimas)..."
 mamster says, "TRACEEE."
 mamster says, "MERCEEE."
 neild exclaims, "Yay David and Adam! And Chris!"
 Ellison exclaims, "if David wins, there's a huge bash at his house after the ceremony!"
 Dilbon asks, "So do we get beer after this?"
 ddyte says, "Woohoo!!!! Yeah! Awright! Yay! Cough, splutter, die."
 devil says, "...She's Got a Thing For a Spring (Brent vanFossen)..."
 DGlasser exclaims, "MERCY! MERCY!!!!!!!!!!!!!"
 edharel says, "Oh mercy"
 leonlin applauds!
 lpsmith hopes people don't think he's trying to turn the awards into a personal grandstand, and realize that he's just trying to give back to the IF community. But he'll shut up now, and cheer.
 markm claps.
 Adam exclaims, "Whee! Non-comp games r001!"
 neild bashes David's house.
 lpsmith cheers wildly!
 Sargent says, "applauds."
 ddyte says, "Woohoo!!!! Yeah! Awright! Yay! Swim."
 devil says, "...Sins Against Mimesis (Adam Thornton)..."

Sargent says, "applauds."
leonlin applauds!
Paul cheers
Spatch exclaims, "SCRAPPLE! SCRAPPLE!"
markm claps.
lpsmith cheers!
ddyte exclaims, "Woohoo!!!! Yeah! Awright! Yay! Go Stiffy Makane!"
DGlasser exclaims, "YAY BRUCE!!!!!"
Spatch exclaims, "TIMING! TIMING!"
Dilbon says, "cheer"
DorianX says, "tide"
neilb sings a little ditty
mamster exclaims, "All-temperature Cheer!"
Ghogg eats the potted plant.
lpsmith exclaims, "Wheeee!"
ddyte says, "Stiffy Makane meets Tracy Valencia..."
devil says, "...And the winner is..."
ct exclaims, "Compass Rose floor for Best Setting!!"
Dilbon plants the pot plant in the plant pot.
edharel asks, "are we giving awards or doing laundry?"
Ellison *BUFO*s in excitement
devil asks, "Is everybody listening?!?"
Black says, and after that whole long relationship of you and me we won't know
 who it is in terms of gender.
Bruce exclaims (to Ellison), "Don't Bufo ME!"
Atomic says, "helpo commands"
Grocible asks, "someone dissing hamsters?"
Grocible says, "harrumph"
devil exclaims, "A Bear's Night Out (David Dyte)!!!!!!!!!"
edharel exclaims, "no, not the psychologist!"
Dilbon says, "Helpo does sound like a Marx brother."
Sargent says, "applauds loudly."
lpsmith cheers!
Ender exclaims, "Die Gottercocktailpartie!"
markm cheers wildly!
DGlasser exclaims, "YAY DAVID!!!!!!!!!!!!!"
mamster exclaims, "Deeeedyte!"
neild exclaims, "Who-hoo!!!!!!!!!"
Ellison exclaims, "she'll have me talking about my mother in no time!"
ct exclaims, "Davy!!!"
jaysmith cheers for Ddyte!
Sargent says (to Grocible), "No, dissing mamsters."
Ghogg says, "WOOwooWOOwooWOOwoo"
leonlin cheers!
unicorn applauds loudly!
Bruce cheers!
Adam exclaims, "Yay, suburbia!"
Paul asks, "Why do you feel Eeeagh?"
Stu042 exclaims, "yay mooses!"

lpsmith exclaims, "Wheeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!"
liza asks (to neild), "Why is it that you say 'Eeeagh! Eliza!'"
neild exclaims, "YAY DAVID'S HOUSE!!!!!!!"
mamster says (to Sargent), "Pinhead."
neilb says, "says sorry... that should be mamsters..."
ct exclaims, "Love that funky teddy-bear!"
Sargent exclaims, "Let's hear it for the bear!"
edharel asks, "Does it bother you that Helpe sounds like a Marx Brother?"
markm exclaims, "GO DD!"
Atomic says, "congratulations!"
ddyte goes to the podium in shock.
devil cheers for the darn bear!
Paul claps for David
jaysmith exclaims, "Ddyte! Ddyte! Ddyte! Ddyte! Ddyte!"
DGlaser says, "Makes a similar comment that neilb earlier made, about names."
Ellison exclaims (to ddyte), "clean your pipes now ya lousy bastard!"
Dilbon asks, "So where's the beer?"
Grocible says, "MamsterWorld"
Bruce exclaims, "D-DYTE! D-DYTE!"
edharel says, "Let us talk more about that funky teddy-bear"
Sargent pushes ddyte towards the stage.
Torbjorn says (to ddyte), "Now, hand over that soul you promised the nice Mr Devil."
Atomic turns himself into an IF-mud expert...
ddyte says, "Um, well, I'd just like to say what a sad day it is that a suburban house can win best setting."
devil gives Best Setting trophy to ddyte.
Sargent exclaims, "We love you, suburban house!"
neild exclaims, "YAY REALISM!!!!!"
DGlaser exclaims, "YAY HE OF THE IFHOS!"
Elroy T. Funbun, CEO of Taco Junta, cries!
neilb asks, "what did I say about names?"
Paul exclaims, "But it was such a NICE house!"
neild says, "Good tea. Nice house."
liza says, "<http://www.retina.net/~ddyte>, btw."
ddyte hands Dilbon a beer... "That's Foster's... Australian for piss that we sell to the Americans..."
lpsmith exclaims, "Yay! Setting things in your own house!"
DGlaser says (to neilb), "About how the winner had a nice one."
mamster screams (at ddyte), "VING RHAMES DESERVED THAT AWARD, YOU BASTARD!"
ct says, "But Own House settings did so well in Comp97..."
devil leads ddyte to the podium and then chains him there.
ddyte says, "And I'd like to thank my real estate agent for letting me the house so I could write the game. Thanks all."
ddyte says, "Ok, now I'm off to buy a plaque for the door."
devil releases the chains. "Unfortunately, he's not for me."
Spatch exclaims, "SEE? A "house" setting CAN be good IF!"
ct says, "Ah, ddyte has sold soul to real estate agent already."

devil buys everyone's souls.
lpsmith bids for ddyte's soul.
Ender asks (to devil), "Can I buy a vowel?"
markm sold his previously.
Paul says, "I have no soul. I'm a critic."
Ender exclaims, "Grignr!"
devil says, "devil sells them back for outrageously inflated prices."
DGlasser buys his soul back for 10% interest.
ddyte says, "I bet it ends up being traded for Alf pogs..."
eileen approaches the podium
devil gives Sargent his soul for free.
TikiBoy exclaims (to ddyte), "Awww, I miss Alf!"
ct mortgaged his soul ages ago. monopoly debts 'n' all that.
DGlasser exclaims, "WRITE A NEW GAME!!!!!"
Jalkio asks (to ddyte), "Plaque with the text: "Here lives the creator of the winning game in "The best setting" category in the annual XYZZY awards 1998"?"
Ellison exclaims (to ddyte), "in your house again!"
eileen exclaims, "And now to present the award for Best Story, I give you once more... the Nameless Adventurer!!!"
ddyte says (to Jalkio), "No, better. 3/16 Golflink Avenue. Winner, Best Setting in an IF Game, 1997."
Sargent says (to devil), "no."
Dilbon asks, "Is this the 1998 award ceremony or the 1997 award ceremony?"
DGlasser boos the nameless guy.
devil says (to eileen), "Oops. Can I make an announcement first? I forgot something."
markm says (to ddyte), "Now you have to update your game again. :-)"
NamelessAdventurer asks (to devil), "What now?"
Spatch heckles rather poorly. "Hey, Nameless Adventurer! get a name, you nameless freak!"
eileen says, " "OK, go for it, devil."
ddyte says (to markm), "No."
edharel asks, "devil, been playing Amnesia?"
Adam exclaims (to Spatch), "Hee hee!"
NamelessAdventurer exclaims (to Spatch), "Can I have one of yours? You got too many!"
the Nike commercial plays on the tv... "The XYZZY awards this year won't be televised..." (fade out)
DGlasser exclaims, "LISTEN TO THE DEVIL'S ANNOUNCEMENT!"
Jalkio shouts: "Symetry for Best Story!"
DGlasser exclaims, "IT IS REALLY COOL!"
devil says, "Just to let you all know:"
Spatch says (to namelessadventurer), "I hereby dub thee Sir Shabadoo of Bad Breakdance Movies."
edharel says, "The devil, stealing. What low morals."
ct exclaims (to Jalkio), "Cask rox!"
devil exclaims, "Small World Version 2 is now out!!!!!!!!!"
DGlasser betatested it, and it is great.
inky exclaims, "Now, smaller than ever before!"

mamster exclaims (to Spatch), "Beat Street rules!"
 neild cheers the shameless plug.
 Bruce exclaims, "Mimesis Version Three is Available! Hide Your Children!"
 ct adds SW2 to the end of his 'must-play-sometime' list.
 NamelessAdventurer says, "So the nominees for--"
 DGlasser puts it on the beginning of ct's list.
 NamelessAdventurer peers at the cue card.
 NamelessAdventurer says, "...for Best Story are:"
 DGlasser says, "And Babel 2 too. Play that one also."
 Jalkio peers at his grue card.
 Spatch says, "aah. simpsons refs. better than south park refs."
 NamelessAdventurer exclaims, "Babel, by Ian Finley!"
 DGlasser exclaims, "YAY BABEL!!!!!"
 DGlasser exclaims, "YAY IAN!!!!!"
 DorianX cheers
 Atomic cheers for Babel!
 NamelessAdventurer exclaims, "Glowgrass, Nate Cull, executive producer!"
 markm applauds.
 Grocible babbles
 DGlasser hasn't played Babel v1 though.
 edharel applauds, even though he hasn't played more than a little bit of babel
 Spatch exclaims, "that's the spirit!"
 lpsmith babbles about Glowgrass.
 Atomic thinks that Babel is the best IF game he's played
 ddyte exclaims, "Yay SF games!"
 DGlasser exclaims, "YAY NATE!!!! NATE!!!!!"
 NamelessAdventurer exclaims, "I-0, written and directed by Adam Cadre!!!"
 mamster exclaims, "Glowgrass ruled!"
 DGlasser exclaims, "YAY ADAM!!!!!"
 edharel applauds, and he has played I-0
 ddyte exclaims, "Nekkid IF! Yeah! Awright!"
 Grocible exclaims, "zarf!"
 NamelessAdventurer exclaims, "Madame L'Estrange and the Troubled Spirit, by Ian
 Ball and Marcus Young!"
 Spatch says, "She's Got A Thing for Babbling About Glowgrass Over Savannah's
 Night Out."
 markm cheers.
 Den enthuses about Glowgrass, but can't pronounce it properly...
 ddyte exclaims, "Australian IF!!!!!!!!!"
 NamelessAdventurer exclaims, "...and Mercy, a Chris Klimas production!"
 DGlasser makes a mental note to remind Nate to write Hero 2.
 mamster says (to Den), "I think it's GLAU-GROSS."
 Sargent says, "MER-cy. MER-cy."
 ddyte exclaims, "Sick twisted IF! Yeah!"
 edharel applauds, even though he never even downloaded Mme L'etc.
 DorianX says, "Foster's.... Australian for Beer,"
 NamelessAdventurer says, "And the winner is..."
 NamelessAdventurer exclaims, "Babel, by Ian Finley!"

Ender says, "She's Got A Thing for Babbling About Glowgrass Over Savannah's Night Out and the Troubled Spirit"
Sargent exclaims, "Woo-hoo!"
mamster exclaims, "Babool!"
ddyte exclaims, "Yay!"
Bruce whoo-hoos.
DGLasser exclaims, "YAY MERCY!!!!!!!!!"
Spatch exclaims, "YAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAY!"
TikiBoy exclaims, "YAY IAN!!!"
Ghogg exclaims, "Whee!"
neild exclaims, "Babelfish!"
Grocible claps
DorianX cheers, applauds, claps, etc
Atomic applauds
ct asks (to DorianX), "Fosters, beer?"
Spatch says, "She's Got A Thing for Babbling About Glowgrass Over Savannah's"
DGLasser exclaims, "YAY IAN!!!! YAY IAN!!!! YAY IAN!!!!!"
Atomic goes wild
Paul cheers wildly!
Adam exclaims, "'Babe' won? Yay, talking pig!"
mamster says (to Den), "Wow, you are so right."
DGLasser exclaims, "YAY IAN!!!! YAY IAN!!!!!"
Taj exclaims, "Yay flashbacks!"
Spatch says, "Night Out and the Troubled Spirit versus the Frenetic Five"
DorianX says (to ct), "Commercial"
ddyte says, "Babel, it's Australian for Best Story."
DGLasser exclaims, "Babel! Babel! Babel!"
NamelessAdventurer says, "Ian Finley couldn't be here tonight,..."
inky says, "my money's on pastiche."
Ellison /nukes all the ops and takes over the channel...
Grocible says, "Ian Finley, a man whose initials spell IF"
DGLasser says, "though he was"
Dilbon asks, "What does a babel fish taste like?"
edharel He, it's only day here
DGLasser says, "Come play the newest version of that one too."
Atomic says, "You're not supposed to eat babel fish - you put them in your ear..."
NamelessAdventurer exclaims, "...so we'll be giving this trophy instead to Kilivor, for being lost!"
edharel asks, "Kil, let me guess... in NY?"
markm says, "bye ghogg."
NamelessAdventurer says, "Okay, I'm done."
DorianX says (to ct), "ABNO"
Dilbon says (to atomic), "Then it must taste like earwax."
Jalkio says, "Somebody update the green scoreboard."
liza exclaims (to Kilivor), "Yay!"
neild examines the tote board.
Ipsmith realizes he's been standing for an hour, and sits down.
Grocible asks, "mamster: that'd be I-0, no?"
eileen approaches the podium again.

Spatch exclaims, "STIFFY MAKANE!"
eileen clears her throat.
neild clears the room.
DorianX applauds
Jalkio says, "Best surrealist game."
edharel I think the best use of medium of all would be Infocom's Nord & Burt
ddyte says, "Best implementation of the verb WAYLAY."
Ellison asks (to Jalkio), "hmmm, would that be Symetry?"
Spatch says, "Best Abuse Of The Z-Machine"
edharel says, "Or am I confusing it with Ernie and Bert"
Grocible thanks eileen for working so hard on these awards
Stu042 says, "best use of pointless logic puzzles"
Bruce asks, "Hey, is that it?"
mamster says (to Spatch), "That would be PUTPBAD."
Jalkio says (to ellison), "Surely."
Kilivor sits down
Sargent says, "Best game named 'Glowgrass.'"
Spatch exclaims (to mamster), "kickass!"
ddyte says (to Stu), "You win."
Stu042 exclaims, "yaaay!"
Ender exclaims (to Spatch), "Beefcake! BEEFCAKE!"
Grocible says, "longest gestation period? right now a two-way race twixt Avalon and
my game in progress, I suspect"
DGLasser says, "Best VR game."
Spatch says, "Best game, which has puzzles, and some great descriptions, which are
good too."
eileen exclaims, "And now, presenting the award for Best Writing, we have a rep
from last year's winning game... Tato from So Far!!!"
Ellison rambles on about how IF lacks something it had in the previous era...
"Where are our wine cellar mazes like in Deadline?..."
Tato bows grandly
Sargent asks, "Does he speak in iambic pentameter?"
NamelessAdventurer gives Best Writing nominees to Tato.
Ipsmith asks (to Jemima), "You've tried this?"
Paul says, "Tato Jackson! The lesser-known brother."
mamster exclaims, "PICKUPDAWNMCGATNEY!!!!"
ct asks (to Tato), "Who are you??"
Tato says, "Attend you all! For on this paper scroll,"
Jalkio says, "There should be a category for best 'novel' or major length game."
Tato says, "I find the names of every nominee."
Grocible exclaims, "oooh! a prepared speech!"
Tato says, "I'll list them first, and then we shortly see,"
edharel asks, "Tato is that the scroll from Witness?"
Tato exclaims, "Of all, which one will rock and which will roll!"
mamster asks (to Jalkio), "Best Abuse of Contest Rules?"
Lone Ranger greets Tato. No, wait, Tonto.
Ellison says, "ah, yes, the Tato Junta boy..."
Spatch exclaims, "hoohoo! iambic pentameter!"
Den says 'Glowgrass' ten times quickly, then grins self-impressed.

Bruce picks up Dawn McGatney!
ct exclaims, "He sounds like he was in Tempest!"
Bruce dies.
DorianX asks, "That was a boy?"
Spatch says, "DAwn McGatney."
neild exclaims, "Mr. Tato Head!"
edharel asks, "What about an award of efficiency? Best game in X rooms or X many bytes?"
Tato says, "Ok, enough with the poetry -- I'm just an actor, you know."
Jemima says (to lpsmith), "yes. :)"
Sargent says (to neild), "I wondered why he had three eyes."
Jalkio says (to mamster), "Well, those plus Heist, for example,"
Grocible says, "the Thespian's Confession"
Den says, "I always preferred dactylic hexameter anyway."
Spatch says (to den), "you would."
Tato says, "Whaddawe got here..."
edharel asks, "Paul, have you been messing about with the phone booth?"
Paul prefers pterodactylic hexameter.
mamster says (to Den), "I like spondaic duodecameter."
Spatch says (to paul), "you would."
Tato exclaims, "The nominees for Best Writing!"
liza runs away with 'Best Sequel/Parody/In-joke Game Not Available on GMD.
Den says, "you would."
Tato mugs for applause
Gunther says, "I like spontaneous explosion"
Jalkio exclaims, "Heist! Symetry!"
devil mugs Tato.
Spatch says (to liza), "you would."
ct gives applause to tato. Right in the eye.
Tato exclaims, "Babel (Ian Finley)!"
DorianX cheers
Tato exclaims, "Interstate Zero (Adam Cadre)!"
DGLasser exclaims, "YAY BABEL!!!!!!!!!!!"
ddyte exclaims, "Wooo Babel!"
DGLasser exclaims, "IAN!!!!!"
DGLasser exclaims, "IAN!!!!!"
Spatch exclaims, "YAY ALL THESE GAMES!"
DGLasser exclaims, "IAN!!!!!"
devil claps for Babel again.
Tato says, "Sunset Over Savannah (Ivan Cockrum)!"
DGLasser exclaims, "IAN!!!!!"
neild exclaims, "Yay! Adam!!!!!!!!!"
Dilbon exclaims, "Babel Fish! Babel fish!"
Sargent says, "applauds."
Tato exclaims, "She's Got a Thing For a Spring (Brent vanFossen)!"
Jalkio exclaims, "Hurrah Savannah!"
DGLasser exclaims, "YAY IVAN!!!!!!!!!!!"
Sargent says, "applauds."
Bruce feeds back.

edharel exclaims, "Babelonian, Babelinian!"
 Ender claps.
 ct exclaims, "Springy!!"
 Gunther exclaims, "Yay Brent!"
 DGlasser exclaims, "YAY cool nature photo guy!!!!!!!!!"
 Spatch exclaims, "Comp97!"
 Spatch exclaims, "Comp97!"
 Dilbon says, "Babelon 5"
 ct says, "love that egg puzzle..."
 Spatch starts a last-minute write-in campaign for Com97 out of sheer randomness.
 Tato says, "And The Space Under The Window by ..."
 Tato tries to read the writing
 Ender claps.
 ddyte says, "Some guy."
 Sargent says (to Tato), "Show-off."
 Tato exclaims, "Some guy!"
 Paul says, "cheers"
 Jemima yells out loudly "The Space Under The Window! Go, zarf!!! :)"
 mamster says, "The nominees for best game that ends with a carnal encounter with the author are:"
 edharel says, "One of those andrews"
 Sargent says, "applauds."
 ddyte says (to mamster), "Well, my game ended in the same bed..."
 Sargent whispers loudly to Grocible, "I bet he rigged it."
 Bruce says, "Yeah. The window breaks."
 mamster says (to Gunther), "I did. At the end, the window breaks."
 inky asks (to mamster), "for that to be 'best', you have to have a cute author, don't you?"
 Tato drags out the delay with perfect timing
 Den asks, "Finished?"
 ct says, "Space, space space"
 Torbjorn asks (to Gunther), "You mean there was an ending?"
 mamster says (to ddyte), "That's not the same thing."
 The window did it.
 Atomic exclaims, "I finished it with five more points than the maximum total!"
 Ender exclaims (to mamster), "HEY! Spoiler warnings!"
 Den asks, "Did anyone get the one lousy point?"
 Tato says, "And the win..."
 lpsmith gets back and cheers, belatedly.
 Tato says, "ner..."
 Ender says (to mamster), "So was that."
 Tato says, "is..."
 Gunther says, "Well, the *optimum* ending... if there is one... :-)"
 neild exclaims, "Best Winer! CASK!"
 mamster says (to Ender), "Good."
 mamster exclaims (to neild), "CASK is the winner!"
 liza puts her feet up on the chair, kicking mamster in the back of the head.
 ddyte rofls.
 edharel groans LOUDLY

Spatch says, "Somebody wind Tato back up!@"
Sargent exclaims, "Yes! It works flip-flip!"
Bruce exclaims, "Flip THIS!"
Adam laughs.
Tato exclaims, "Sunset Over Savannah!"
markm cheers wildly!
Ender exclaims (to spatch), "flip-FLOP, dummy!"
liza flips mamster off.
Sargent says, "applauds loudly."
neild exclaims, "Yay!!!!!"
Ellison cheers
inky exclaims, "yay!"
unicorn applauds
Paul cheers for Sunset!
TikiBoy exclaims, "Yay Ivan!!!!"
Jalkio says (to mamster), "No, symtry winns in agony in you pain."
Jemima cheers loudly!
Spatch exclaims (to ender), "Quit flappin yer lip!"
devil says, "At least he doesn't have to give the award to himself."
ddyte exclaims, "Woohoo!!!! Yay! Ivan! Ivan! Ivan!"
Tato claps.
Stu042 exclaims, "sunset! yay!"
lpsmith cheers!
mamster exclaims, "Ivanovich!"
Stu042 exclaims, "go ivan! go ivan!"
lpsmith exclaims, "Yaaaaaaaay!"
lpsmith says (to mamster), "No, that's his kid."
ct didn't see sunset, it all went dark too quickly. But he cheers along anyway.
Sargent says, "I am therefore entitled to 1.2% of the trophy."
Ivan asks, "Um...did I win?"
Sargent nudges Ivan.
inky exclaims, "go ivan!"
devil asks (to Sargent), "Where was your major hand?"
NamelessAdventurer gives Best Writing trophy to Ivan.
markm exclaims, "I-VAN I-VAN I-VAN!"
Tato gestures Ivan up to the podium.
Sargent says (to devil), "Shh. This is a family awards show."
Den says, "Yay Ivan!"
devil exclaims (to Ivan), "Congratulations, you x-New Yorker you!"
neild says, "I-VAN COCK-RUM! (CLAP CLAP CLAPCLAPCLAP)"
Dilbon says, "'e won"
liza blushes.
The crowd picks up the chant.
Den shoots a rogue double-quote.
neild hands Ivan a bagel.
Grocible says, "I would like to point out that I didn't beta test Sunset, owing to extreme sloth."
markm exclaims, "speech!"
markm says, "mmmm... bagel"

Ivan exclaims, "Whoo hoo!"
Sargent throws himself at the stage.
Ender says, "mmmm.... Rum...."
Sargent exclaims, "We love you, Ivan Cockrum!"
Den holds up a microphone.
Jemima :throws Sargent at the stage.
Kilivor is shouting for joy
Dilbon hands liza a pot.
Grocible says, "dagnabbit"
Ivan says, "Gosh! Willikers! Zowie! I'm speech-less."
Ender asks (to dilbon), "Is it a plant pot?"
Ellison asks, "Australia's only in the movies, right?"
Ipsmith gives speech to Ivan.
Sargent points out the goofiness of Ivan's statement.
Den throws some speechmarks at Ivan.
Tato 'accidentally' upstages Ivan
liza got RNA polymerase.
devil says, "Ivan Cockrum. Author with the coolest name."
liza gives RNA polymerase to mamster.
eileen approaches the podium
Ellison says, "that's why my two favorite bands are fictional- GWAR and Midnight Oil..."
TikiBoy says (to Ellison), "That's right, it doesn't exist outside of Hollywook."
Tato goes backstage.
eileen says, "And now, presenting today's final award..."
Jalkio exclaims, "Somebody update the scoreboard!"
Bruce cheers!
Ipsmith sings "You say Ian, and I say Ivan,..."
HairBrain asks, "Hey Den! You didn't leave anyway?"
ddyte says, "You say chewbacca and I say choobahka..."
Gunther exclaims, "COCK-RUM? How disgusting!"
Spatch exclaims (to jalkio), "IT IS UPDATED! YES WE HAVE A VIDEO!"
eileen exclaims, "We have a rep from last year's winning game... Aessa from So Far!!!"
Taj exclaims (to Ender), "Cardinal Biggles!"
Den says, "changed my mind - or something."
Grocible asks, "Aessa, eh?"
eileen says, "This is the award for Best Game of 1997"
Spatch says, "place yer bets now"
Paul asks, "What about the greek chorus from So Far?"
Grocible asks, "can we ask Aessa why she stood the author up?"
Ganvira says, "Oh, yeah, Aesa."
Ellison bets on Daddy's Smelly Helper
Bruce exclaims, "SYMETRY!"
Bruce exclaims, "STIFFY MAKANE!"
Paul catches a flash of auburn, and puts it in his pocket.
Sargent says, "> MAYBE"
Spatch says, "This has ceased to be Interactive Fiction and gone straight on to Hyperactive."

inky asks, "auburn flasher?"
Den sticks a close-parenthesis at the end of his last statement
Jalkio exclaims, "HEIST!"
neild waits impatiently for Aessa.
Gunther exclaims, "BABEL! BABEL!"
liza exclaims, "DRAGON TOWN!"
Sargent catches Aessa and Tracy in a passionate embrace.
Ender says (to neild), "You'll never actually see her, you know..."
markm wants to whistle at Aessa...
lpsmith exclaims (to liza), "Yes!"
Paul starts cheering, and won't stop til the nominees are announced.
Stu042 cheers wildly!
Stu042 exclaims, "go swivel chair!"
Dilbon says, "chair-pak"
markm says, "Aessa's last name is Godot."
lpsmith exclaims, "Chair-pak!"
Bruce exclaims, "Stiffy Makane Meets The Chair-Pak 2000!"
Grocible says, "chair-pak. hehe"
Ender is Looking for Godot.
inky says (to zarf), "although I bet "sexfar.z8" would be a popular download."
Sargent exclaims, "Dammit, I've said this before: we're waiting for LEFTY!"
Gunther has used a time machine, and already knows the winners, but he won't tell
Dilbon says, "No Sex So Far"
liza clears her throat. Loudly.
NamelessAdventurer asks, "Is that stupid Aessa here yet?"
Spatch says, "Aessa downloaded a virus off the web."
mef says, "Ahem."
Ganvira exclaims, "Aesa! Aesa!! Aesa!! Aesa!!"
Den asks, "Best use of an obscenity in a title?"
Atomic says, "Whenever you're ready..."
liza shakes her head. "Aessa."
Adam shakes his head. "Aessa."
Sargent says, "Man, that's worse than you both wearing the same dress."
NamelessAdventurer gives Best Game nominees to zarf.
zarf goes to to the podium
zarf says, "Well, there's not much chance of me winning this year, but I'll read the
nominees anyhow."
zarf exclaims, "For best game!"
zarf exclaims, "We have!"
zarf says, "(netlag, damn.)"
zarf exclaims, "A Bear's Night Out (David Dyte)!"
Grocible has noticed a modicum of frustration all afternoon
Ender chants: "HECK NO TECHNO! HECK NO TECHNO!"
zarf exclaims, "Babel (Ian Finley)!"
neild exclaims, "YAYYYYYY!!!!!!!!!!!!!"
zarf exclaims, "Glowgrass (Nate Cull)!"
devil exclaims, "David Dyte is God!"
markm exclaims, "Yay!"
Den says, "(Don't tell _me_ about netlag. Sheesh.)"

Spatch exclaims, "WOOOOOOHOOOO!!"
zarf dances around the stage, albeit for someone else's game.
Atomic says, "well done, Adam..."
Adam exclaims, "Eeeagh!"
Sargent claps Adam on the back.
mef slaps Adam heartily on the back.
markm exclaims, "A-DAM A-DAM!"
ddyte exclaims, "Filth and perversion rules!"
Paul gives adam the "Mile High Salute"
Sargent exclaims, "Drinks are on Adam!"
TikiBoy exclaims, "Yay AdaM!!"
Bruce pours a drink on Adam.
Gunther wants an autograph from Adam
Adam says, "And here all my prepared remarks were for Best PC."
Spatch dumps an entire cooler of Gatorade over Adam's head.
Ganvira asks, "It was I-0?"
Adam says, "Wow. I am stunned."
Adam says, "Really."
NamelessAdventurer gives Best Game trophy to Adam.
Sargent says (to Adam), "Your speech must be in the form of a question."
eileen escorts Adam to the podium.
Ivan can hardly wait to see next year's crop of pornographic imitators.
Paul says, "If Aessa wouldn't show up for this, she's not worth chasing."
Adam says, "Golly."
Adam says, "I honestly don't know what to say here. I guess all the fans of games without hardcore nudity split their votes four ways or something."
Spatch hollers, "POST-AWARDS PARTY ARE LOCATED IN THE ROOM ABOVE THE LONG HALL"
eileen exclaims, "'Thank you all for coming to the awards today!!!"
Waiter says (to anyone) who gets this check for \$1,037.86?
Jalkio starts eating the hundreds of chockolate bars with "Heist" and "Symetry" scribed on them. He was going to share them in a celebration. He gets a sugar high that eases his depression a bit.
NamelessAdventurer asks, "Damn. You mean we gotta clean all this up?"
lpsmith says, "The *real* party's here, right? ;-)"
Paul blushes, then congratulates the winners for real.
Ivan asks, "Wasn't that party enough already?"
mef says, "I don't know, I just see this grumpy old guy sweeping up..."
[Spatch] Return to your pants, citizens. There is nothing more to see.
[liza] Mmm... disconnect message. ☒

First, here's a response we received to a query in XYZZYnews #14 from a reader looking for a text adventure game called Asylum:

This game was actually around for about five years--but most of them were spent only on the TRS-80. The game was written by William Denman and published by Med Systems Software. Your summation of the game's simple plot (escape from a lunatic asylum) is correct, as is your recollection that looking up anywhere in the game causes a piano to fall on you.

Asylum was notable for being a graphic adventure with a "3D" Doom-like perspective (yes, even on the TRS-80). It had about 1,000 locations; this is a misleading figure in that most of the "locations" were hallway segments, but it was still very large. Even though it was graphic, it used text for most communication, and all commands other than movement were typed in; its full-sentence parser was slightly above that of the early Infocom games. One of its other interesting features was the command "VOCABULARY," which would list all the keywords the game knew (in the neighborhood of 600, as I recall). Its puzzles relied on being bizarre rather than making you guess the vocabulary word, and they were indeed bizarre: at one point in the game, for instance, you find a note reading "LOOK UP" (how most people find out about the piano). Later on, you are sealed in a loop of a maze with an axe-wielding maniac. The only way to kill him is to hand him the note: he looks up and the piano falls on him.

Med Systems Software produced several graphic adven-

tures using this system, including "Labyrinth" and "Deathmaze 5000" (both with Scott Adams-style parsers), and "Asylum" and its sequel "Asylum II." When they decided the TRS-80 market was shrinking, they changed their name to Screenplay. The game "Asylum" that they released for other computers was actually a port of "Asylum II."

These games may be accessible through emulation software on other machines; I haven't checked the net for intact copies yet.

—Watts Martin
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...and below are some new queries I've received recently from readers looking for hard-to-find games, or who are in need of specific help. If you can help answer any of these requests, please don't be shy about chiming in with an answer! —EM

To XYZZYnews,

Hi. I'm a new reader, and a long-time fan of IF. I'm curious to know if you have any idea how I might be able to get my hands on a copy of Robert Pinsky's Mindwheel for PC. I've been trying to get one as long as I can remember.

—Jonathan Allen
wallen@tallships.istar.ca

To XYZZYnews,

I've been a fan of IF since 1984 and I've just recently re-discovered my passion when I bought a Palm Pilot. My question is this: do you know of any IF games that are hacker/cyberpunk related? I'd

appreciate any help you can give me.

Thanks,

—John Kirchen
jbk@laughlin.com

To XYZZYnews:

I started to download some issues of your e-zine and I think you're perhaps the person who could help me:

I don't know if you are fond of programming but I have a little problem. For many years I dreamed about an interactive fiction application I could program. I made a few tries, I wrote a lot (on paper) of technical ideas, but something is lacking: I need to find a track, a way to know *where* to start first. I mean: the task of doing "if" program is incredibly complex, and even if I have some ideas it takes me some knowledge. I think this knowledge could come from people who worked a lot on the subject. For the moment the papers about the Oz project have two problems

- a lot of information is missing, even in the thesis
- it relies a lot on LISP and others strange dialects (I would like to use only C++)

Thus, perhaps do you have some information on WHERE on the Net I could find technical docs which could help me to implement some principles of IF: a lot of articles and papers deals with "something missing" or "why do not..." or "it could be interesting to" or "the most real thing is..." but with few programming solutions or ideas.

Thanks.

—Chris
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