John’s Editorial

Greetings, once again! I hope you all have had a wonderful spring and are ready for summer. I have started another diet, as I do every spring, but THIS time I’m SERIOUS!

Not much has happened since the last issue as far as new Eamon Adventures, but we’ve fixed a lot of bugs and done some re-organization.

Bob is gone permanently now so I can start talking about him any way I want. (Nya!) Anyway, since Bob is gone and I am running the whole show here, I am asking for volunteers.

I have been unable so far to find anyone highly qualified to work long hours in their spare time for nothing and also be willing to re-locate to Des Moines (Doesn’t seem like so much to me!)

Tom Zuchowski and Pat Hurst have been very helpful to me in putting stuff together for the club and I really appreciate it very much. While they aren’t really on the staff, it helps when they can provide so much input. I would like to hear from more of you, with input we can share with all of the members.

Correspondence of a specialized nature (questions requiring special attention, etc.) is about the most time consuming of the activities I perform around here. I would like to be able to play adventures more often, and I would really like to write some more adventures, but I haven’t had much time for that lately.

Well, I’ve rambled long enough. I didn’t really have a point to make -- I just wanted to encourage you all to be more active in the club and contribute something we can all benefit from. ‘Muff said!

EAMON NEWS

by Tom Zuchowski

New adventures:
145 Buccaneer! by Pat Hurst
146 The House of Horrors by Dan Cross
147 The Dark Brotherhood by Pat Hurst
148 Journey to Jotunheim by Tom Zuchowski
149 Elemental Apocalypse by Sam Ruby

Pat Hurst just keeps getting better, fine tuning plot and play to a nicety. ‘Buccaneer!’ and ‘The Dark Brotherhood’ will surely rank among the finest Eamons ever written. They are both 2-disk adventures, and both disks are crammed full. In ‘The Dark Brotherhood’, you must find a way to break the power of the evil god behind the Brotherhood, and restore the power of the good god Phrax. ‘Buccaneer!’ is reviewed in this issue.

‘Journey to Jotunheim’ is a Norse Saga, in which you must aid the gods in the recovery of Thor’s Hammer from the Frost Giants. Tons of special programming, 96 Effects, and a vocabulary of several hundred words.

‘Elemental Apocalypse’ is a FOUR disk adventure, in which you must undertake a long journey and throw down the evil Element Lords. Each disk is a separate adventure that you MUST complete before undertaking the next. It is full of traps and difficult to survive at times, but I personally got quite involved in it. Sam is getting much better at getting the bugs out before release, too.

John tells me that ‘The House of Horrors’ has some good stuff in it, too. Unfortunately I haven’t seen it, so I can’t tell you what it’s about.
A lot of the new adventures that we see were designed with the old version 5.0 Dungeon Designer Diskette. It is a mistake to design a new dungeon with an old DDD. Get the new 6.2 DDD! The 6.0 DDD had a number of bugs and minor problems that will make your work look sloppy compared to using 6.2. And the 5.0 version is hopelessly outdated by today's standards, with only about half the features of the 6.x version.

SPECIAL OFFER: Your Master Dungeon Designer Diskette is subject to the same upgrade offer that John has made in this issue's Bug Bytes column: Send in your old DDD Master Diskette to John, and he will upgrade it to the latest, most up-to-date version for $1.00. John has also offered to sell the 6.2 DDD for $1.00 if it is ordered at the same time as 5 or more adventures.

It isn't at all necessary to include tons of special programming in your own adventure's MAIN PGM. You only need to look at John Nelson's adventures to see that! John is the Master at doing really great adventures without performing major modifications to the base MAIN PGM. But it is the special features that can turn what might be an otherwise mundane adventure into Something Special. I have seen great implementations of magic spells, multiple saves, multiple disks, 40/80 column display, music, and so on.

The list goes on and on. John hopes in the future to get 'Guest' Designer's articles from people who would like to share their tricks with the rest of us (see the Designer's Den in this issue.) If you are interested in doing one, let John know about it.

As a new feature to offer to the Club members, I propose to act as a clearinghouse and information desk for those who are struggling to work out special stuff for their own adventures. I can suggest which adventures to refer to for specific features, and I have seen some very powerful techniques used in other non-Eamon Apple programs. Is your adventure 15 sectors too long for a single diskette? Do you want to use lower-case text that will automatically print out in upper-case on the old (like mine) Apple II's? Do you want to use more than 100 rooms? Having trouble making that special routine come out right? Concerned about old Apple II 80-column compatibility?

For assistance of a technical nature, drop me a line:
Try to be as specific as you can in describing the problem you are having or the feature you would like to implement.

The important thing is for you to go that extra distance. There are several adventures out there now have good maps and quests but make so little use of 6.0 features and special programming that they wound up being about as exciting as the Beginner's Cave. It is important to add those extra features, but there is no reason to spend weeks re-inventing something that has already been worked out; that time would be much better spent figuring out some extra puzzles or adding a secondary quest to the plot.

If you can find a MAIN PGM in an existing adventure that can do everything you want, feel free to adapt it to your own use. I think that most if not all Eamon authors would be flattered to see that someone else thought that their work was so good that it was worth borrowing. After all, this stuff IS public-domain, and believe me, it HAS been done before! But if the adventure you want to borrow from is not at least version 6.0, you would probably be better off just taking the special routines that you like and adding them to the 6.2 version. This way you will have the considerable built-in power of the 6.2 MAIN PGM available for your OWN special stuff.

Get to it! We are all waiting anxiously for YOUR Eamon adventure!

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DESIGNER'S DEN
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by John Nelson

Okay, last month I wanted to bring you some information from Pat Hurst, but I lost it. Pat has been kind enough to supply me with another copy (although I wish he hadn't thumb-tacked it to my forehead!) Anyway, thanks for the contribution, Pat.

Pat is, in my opinion, one of the best Eamon authors we have. (Actually, probably my favorite, but I won't tell him for fear of giving him a swelled head.) Pat has written Brunewalde, Buccaneer, Pyramid of Anharos, and The Dark Brotherhood. Most of his adventures are real epics and won't fit on a single disk.

The descriptions are very good and continue to keep a person's interest. Pat would like to explain one of the techniques he used in one of his adventures. So, I turn the rest of the column over to Pat:

In designing my adventure, Buccaneer!, I had a problem in setting the reactions of the various monsters. There are several islands that the adventurer may visit and the inhabitants of each island react to the actions of the adventurer while on the island. The adventurer may peacefully trade on one island, but on another he may have to fight for his life. By his choice of actions, the adventurer is responsible for monster reactions. If he does the wrong thing (such as attack one of the inhabitants, intrude on a sacred area, or disturb an important ritual), the monsters may become very unfriendly. The problem is that each group of monsters must be treated separately from the other groups while each individual in the group must be treated the same as other members in the group.

The 6.0 DDD contains a mechanism for a temporary truce involving decrementing the variable TT. This variable is checked in line 318 of the MAIN PGM so that monsters won't attack until TT = 0. By setting TT, the designer sets the number of turns that must elapse before unfriendly monsters attack. But in my case this truce period could be of unlimited duration as long as the adventurer didn't provoke a fight. Using a single variable TT to handle all of the possibilities was impossible. (Note: impossible means too much programming for me!)

My solution requires that all monsters in a group should be assigned the same group number. This group number was placed in the agility field, since this field is not used for monsters in the Eamon base program.

I reserved an agility number of zero for independent monsters. Each group of monsters is given a unique agility number, greater than zero, common to all monsters of that group. During the initialization phase, each monster is assigned a neutral reaction (MOD(M,14) = 2). When an event occurs to change this reaction, a subroutine changes the reaction for all monsters in the group by searching the monster agility field.

In my adventure, the process is further simplified by dropping the GIVE command, which redetermines reaction. Of course, the GIVE routine could have been modified to also function in this manner, but it was unnecessary in my adventure. I also assumed that if certain events occurred, the monsters involved would become enemies of the player. Again, this may be altered to your needs.
The steps to follow are:

1) Assign monster agility numbers in the design process of editing monsters.

2) Assign monster reactions in the INIT phase (starting in line 1000) of the MAIN PGM (see example below).

```
1145 FOR K = 1 TO 8: MDZ(K,14) = 2: NEXT
1150 FOR K = 10 TO 12: MDZ(K,14) = 2: NEXT
1151 FOR K = 18 TO 22: MDZ(K,14) = 2: NEXT
```

Monsters 1-8, 10-12, and 18-22 all have neutral reactions until provoked.

3) Check for events that trigger reaction changes, and do a GOSUB 7950 (code given below) when these reactions change.

In line 7301, below, the player has attacked monster 1. In line 11475, the player has blasted monster 1, and in line 30330, he has done something drastic that the monster didn’t like.

```
Example:

(delete line 7330)
7301 IF MDZ(K,2) = 0 THEN GOSUB 7950
7302 IF NOT HIT THEN 7360
11475 IF MDZ(K,2) = 0 THEN GOSUB 7950
30330 PRINT "THE HERETIC BLASPHEMES! ATTACK!":
       M = 1: GOSUB 7950
```

4) Change the reaction of all monsters in the affected group. This will be all monsters with the same agility as monster M.

```
7950 FOR K = 1 TO NM: IF MDZ(K,2) = MDZ(M,2) THEN MDZ(K,14) = MDZ(M,14)
7951 IF MDZ(K,14) <> 2 THEN MDZ(K,2) = 0
7953 NEXT: R3 = ROOM: GOSUB 3600: RETURN
```

5) Eliminate all references to TI. (optional)

Editor’s Note: The above routine was altered slightly from Pat’s original routine to make it faster and more efficient. Line 7951 is optional. Its purpose is to make the monsters only change their reaction once and never change their mind. If you want to be able to change a group back and forth, it should be removed. Also, Pat’s original routine made monsters unfriendly and would not work to make a group friendly. This was altered by the editor to work either way.

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**SPOTLIGHT ON**

(Ratings are given on a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 highest. Format is R:D where R = rating for setting, description and plot; D = rating for difficulty, problem solving and survivability.)

$124 - Assault on Dolni Keep (10:6) by Tom Zuchowski

Reviewed by Pat Hurst

Extra commands: REQUEST, INFO
Deleted commands: TAKE, BLAST, HEAL, POWER, SPEED, WAVE, SAY, READ

Special features: 40/80 column capability, extra file containing notes and hints for the adventure, fast start feature, comments by adventuring companions, multiple saves possible.

Playing time: 30 minutes - 2 hours

Description: You have been sought out to aid your two friends (from Thror’s Ring, $114), Goria the Dwarf and Balehir the Wood Elf, in the rescue of the High-Elf, Froimir. Froimir’s wisdom is a vital asset to the forces of good in Middle-earth, but he has been seized by Orcs and imprisoned in Dolni Keep. Storming the keep would insure the quick demise of Froimir, but a small group might be able to penetrate the keep and effect the rescue. Goria is going because the keep is of Dwarven construction. Balehir is going because the rescue of an Elf warrants an Elven representative. You are invited to join because the expedition needs a salty adventurer experienced in arms.

Comment: Despite the fact that this adventure has a small number of rooms, uniform monsters (orcs), and a reduced command list, it is a real treat to play. A consistent theme is developed and adhered to throughout. This is not a hack-and-slash adventure but a realistic treatment of the rescue theme. It plays more realistically than most Eeon adventures. The player is an actor in the flow of events rather than the agent who determines everything that happens. Thus, the adventure can be undertaken by an inexperienced character as well as an experienced one with almost equal chances of success. The experienced player must always bear in mind the ultimate purpose of the foray and sublimate the usual Eeon instincts to plunder and kill that he has probably nurtured through his previous adventuring.
The descriptions are well done and lend a feeling of action to the adventure. It's almost a pleasure to go astray occasionally to see how well the author has covered all the bases. Your companions offer comments which add an extra touch of realism and imbue them with a personality not usually accorded to non-player characters. You may check their health, inventory, the items they are carrying, or request objects from them. They each have special skills and the ability to switch weapons in combat. For example, Galehr carries spare bowstrings in case one should break in combat.

The adventure can be played on either 40 or 80 columns and is compatible with several 80-column cards. Vixen or Apple II/e compatible. There is a fast start feature which loads the initial status of variables and parameters in the same way as restoring a saved game. This significantly reduces start-up time. The NOTES-COMMENTS-HINTS file discusses some of the special programming and how it is designed. In addition, this file lists adventure hints in chronological order so that the player can get help without revealing more of the adventure than necessary.

Overall it is an excellent adventure with several innovations which greatly improve playability. The MAIN PGM (similar to that of Thror's Ring) marks a radical departure from the standard one and warrants some study by prospective Exon adventure designers.

#129 - Return to Moria (8:9) by Sam Ruby

Reviewed by Pat Hurst

Extra commands: FULL, DIG, WEAR, REMOVE
Delete commands: TAKE, POWER, SPEED, WAVE

Special features: sequel to #108 - The Mines of Moria; extensive background information about Sam's Middle-earth adventures is provided in separate programs; two-disk adventure; intro pgm provided in both upper and lower case versions; SAVE to a separate disk

Playing time: 6 - 24 hours (depending on how many times you meet an automatic death)

Description: A desperate council has gathered in Minas Tirith, stronghold of Gondor, to determine a course of action to save Middle-earth from the hordes of Sauron. Sauron's armies have taken Osgiliath, the bridge into Gondor, and only Minas Tirith stands between Sauron and the conquest of all Gondor. In the last attack the mithril bars that seal the main gate of Minas Tirith were broken, and another attack could easily breach it. Although most of the fighting men of Gondor have been gathered into Minas Tirith, they are still hopelessly outnumbered and will certainly be destroyed if Sauron's legions penetrate the city. The council quickly decides that new mithril bars must be obtained to secure the main gate, but this brings back bad memories of Moria, the only known source of mithril.

Even if mithril can be retrieved from Moria, Sauron may still overrun Minas Tirith by sheer force of numbers unless additional forces aid Gondor's cause. The dwarves would help, but they have sustained heavy losses and are contemplating acceding to Sauron's will. The various groups of dwarves are splintered and there is no leader to unite them against Sauron. The return of Durin the Deathless is necessary to rally the dwarves. He is said to sleep in the depths of Moria where he awaits the time of the dwarves' greatest need. Again, Moria is the focus of your interest.

The council decides to send an expedition into Moria. Boromir, the steward of Gondor, volunteers to go since Gondor no longer requires a steward when the king is present. Gili, an emissary from the dwarves, volunteers to go to find Durin and to search for a group of dwarves who tried to retake Moria four years ago. Legolas, an elven prince, volunteers to help his good friend Gili. Then everyone looks to you. Will you venture again into the underground haunts of Moria?

Comments: This adventure is a solid offering and provides both hack-and-slash and problem solving. The first half of the adventure is mainly hack-and-slash while the problem solving occurs mainly in the second half. This creates the major drawback of this adventure - if you don't successfully solve the problems, you can easily die. This means replaying the adventure from the beginning and repeating all of the hack-and-slash (and there's a lot - why else would we give you 3 comrades at the start?). There are quite a few ways of meeting instant death in the second half of this adventure. It pays to look things over carefully before doing something potentially fatal.

There are more artifacts than usual since dead bodies are not artifacts but merely markers. This abundance of artifacts allows the player to interact with environment to a greater extent than in many adventures. The descriptions are extensive although
somewhat repetitive in places, particularly in
describing orcs and trolls - but then again, there are
lots of orcs and trolls. The author strongly suggests
that a player first adventure in 0108 - The Mines of
Moria, before trying Return to Moria. This is not
absolutely necessary but there are references to events
from 0108 that would make more sense to someone who has
played that adventure.

This disk has some additional 'specials' to recommend
it. There are 3 extra programs included that provide
extensive background information. PRONUNCIATIONS lists
the pronunciations of some of the names of
Middle-earth. THE HISTORY OF THE DWARVES provides an
extensive history of Middle-earth with emphasis on the
dwarven race but covering much more besides. MIDDLE
EARTH ADVENTURES is a listing of the 8 Middle-earth
adventures designed by the author. He notes their
chronological order and their thematic connections. In
addition, he reviews each one individually with a plot
synopsis; ratings for monster content, treasure
content, descriptions, problem solving, etc.; and his
own overall rating of the adventure.

#130 - Haradwaith (7:7) by Sam Ruby

Reviewed by Pat Hurst

Extra commands: MAIN, WEAR, REMOVE, BUY, SELL, SAIL
Deleted commands: BLAST, POWER, SPEED, LIGHT, PUT, FREE

Special features: a special naval pgm; requires an
extra blank disk

Playing time: 3 - 6 hours

Description: The land of Gondor is menaced by its
traditional enemies who are massing forces to attack
and destroy it. Corsairs from Umbar and Black
Remember, play
Númenoreans have assembled a large fleet to assault
Gondor by sea. The Haradrim, the warlike people of the
southern desert waste of Harad, has assembled an army
to assault Gondor by land. If either attack surprises
Gondor, it will surely fall to its archenemies.

Advance knowledge of the attacks is paramount to the
defense of Gondor. If a spy could penetrate the
southern waste, Haradwaith, and steal the battle plans,
then perhaps Gondor could be saved. Anyone who
undertook this mission would be confronted by the
arduous task of crossing Haradwaith, locating the plans
in the midst of the army, and escaping with the plans
back to Gondor. And there is little chance of finding
any help in the land of the enemy, although the three
foes don't always get along well with each

other. It's a solo job for an experienced adventurer
with courage, strength, and battle skill - namely you!

Comments: This is a relatively straight-forward
adventure with plenty of combat. There is one problem
in that two sets of plans must be obtained, which is
not clear from the adventurer's introduction. The
author makes this clear in his MIDDLE EARTH ADVENTURES
PROGRAM (see review of 'Return to Moria'). This
problem is compounded in that if the naval plans are
obtained first, the program terminates without giving
the player a chance to obtain the second set. The
combat involves a lot of monsters, many of which are
quite tough. The adventurer needs a strong weapon to
have any hope of defeating these monsters.

Unfortunately, since there is so much combat, it's
likely that the adventurer's weapon will be fumbled,
broken, and severely injured or killed the adventurer.
If you like to slug it out, this is a good choice for your
Eamon library.

The naval program is an interesting change from the
normal Eamon format and is well done. It requires some
disk swapping, but the directions are clear and easily
followed. The command format may seem strange at
first, but it isn't really difficult. Remember, play
this part of the adventure last.

There is also an interesting subplot which requires a
good deal of attention to details. All that can be
said is that the reward is commensurate to the effort.

#141 The Infested Fortress (3:4) - Mike & Paul Hamaoka

Reviewed by Pat Hurst

Extra commands: TOUCH
Deleted commands: none

Special features: none that I could find

Description: Kildarin's fortress was known for its
hospitality, exemplified by its excellent food and
drink. It was stormed by a large group of monsters led
by Gakkan warriors. Outnumbered, Kildarin fled to the
nearest city for help. He hires you to recapture the
fortress. You can keep any treasure that you find and
he will send along a paladin from his own forces to
assist you. As a final gesture, Kildarin blesses you
with a medallion of Hupp, the Great Wanderer of the
North.

Comments: This adventure is a routine
kill-the-monsters dungeon. There is nothing
particularly memorable about it; and if I hadn't been planning to review it, I probably wouldn't have finished it. Many of the commands are useless as the authors haven't done anything with them. The POWER spell has the standard outcomes provided on the D&D. There is one artifact to open, but it isn't locked and there is nothing in it. There is nothing to read. There appears to be a set of bound victims to free, but the authors didn't deal with that and have short-circuited the FREE command. The touch command was added, but it is only effective in a single place. There are no problems to solve or tasks to accomplish. There are no Effects in the EAMON.DESC file at all. The one saving grace that this adventure has over some others of this genre is that it is not full of grammatical errors in the descriptions. (Not that there aren't some; just not as many as something like The Brewer's Brewery- a real dog.) The difficulty rating of 4 is due to the toughness of some of the monsters. This may be a problem for weak adventurers. Overall, I wouldn't recommend this adventure unless you are looking for a mindless kill campaign.

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#145 - Buccaneer! (9:9) by Pat Hurst

Reviewed by Tom Zuchowski

Extra Commands: PAY, GAMBLE, STATUS, DIG, PACE, SEARCH, SELL, VOYAGE

Special Features: Two-disk adventure; SAVE to an extra diskette; voyaging on the open sea.

Playing Time: 10-20 hours

Description: "It promises to be an exciting day in Evenhold. The pirate Henri Le Marque, scouge of the Malphigian Sea, is slated to arrive today. The execution will take place at the jailyard in the harbor district. In case the hanging isn't enough of a lure, Le Marque was the most successful pirate of the Malphigian Sea, and reputed to have hidden a king's ransom in booty. Perhaps, when faced with the gallows, he will make the grand gesture of sharing what he won't be able to enjoy.

"Be on your best behavior, because the harbor patrol is accustomed to dealing with waterfront scum. If you want to scrap with someone, be sure that you are in a very private place; a place where no one will summon the watch."

Comments: Pat Hurst has shaped up as one of the best EAMON authors of all time. His puzzles are tough, his reasoning tight, his stories consistent, and his descriptions are so rich with detail that they are generally two-disk adventures. Buccaneer! is no exception. It is a two-part adventure, one part to a disk, and each disk is jammed to the limit with detailed descriptions, scores of special effects, and special programming.

The first part of Buccaneer! involves your escapades in the harbor district of Evenhold. There is no specific quest here, but there are dozens of things to get involved in. You can drink, fight, gamble, steal, get arrested, get shanghaied, bribe your way into places you don't belong, attend the hanging of Henri Le Marque, make business deals, hire a ship, crew it, prepare for a sea voyage, and many other things as well. The general idea is to pick up some clues about the whereabouts of Le Marque's treasure, and prepare to put to sea in search of the treasure in part two. It even appeared possible to set yourself up in business as a smuggler or freebooter.

Part two is actually a completely separate adventure, with its own MAIN.PGM and text files. There is a transfer of information from part one, so that part two uses the ship, crew, and artifacts that you obtained in part one. Part two is an adventure on the Malphigian Sea, in which you can sail to a half-dozen islands in search of treasure and adventure. There is a lot that can happen while on the high seas, including encounters with merchants ships, pirates, naval vessels, sea monsters, uncharted reefs, storms, and mutinies. How well you fare will depend on how complete your preparations were in part one. Every island is unique; a mini-adventure in its own right. The sea is not structured into rooms but allows you to sail where you will; also, the sea is quite large and requires expert navigation.

The seagoing adventure is unique in its execution. The effects are very good, and the ship-to-ship battles are very well done and full of surprises. It is not difficult to get yourself killed on some of the islands, but Pat has made it very easy to restart part two without needing to return to part one or perform a SAVE.

My first impression of Buccaneer! was that I was smothering in detail. It is very richly described, with most descriptions running to 10-12 lines, and takes a bit of play to familiarize yourself with things before you can begin to really figure them out. It is not an adventure that you can casually sit down to and expect to get anywhere quickly. I had to make pages and pages of notes and maps before I had learned enough in part one to take a shot at part two. It
takes a lot of thought to figure out how you want to go about the sea voyage. There are eight ships to choose from, ranging from a small felucca with a crew of 4 (good for smuggling?) to a huge packet ship with 12 guns, 3 officers, and a crew of 24. You have 50 or 60 prospective crewmen to choose from, and each is a distinct person, with differing abilities and morals. You will need to select officers if your ship requires them. If you choose to ship cargo for trading in the islands, you will need to determine which of the many merchants you wish to deal with. And you must be certain that you have obtained everything that you need for the voyage, from grog for the crew's morale to materials to repair damage at sea.

This was a very enjoyable adventure, and all the more satisfying for requiring a great deal of thought and careful decision among the many options. However, it was an expensive undertaking; I had to spend nearly 20,000 in gold to outfit my ship and put out to sea. I found less treasure than that and actually had a net LOSS of 6,000 by the end of the adventure, an experience that must be nearly unique in the history of EAMON.

THE LETTERS

The following is your letters column. We will start printing letters from our members as a service to our other members who might want to read what others are doing. If you want your letter to appear in our letters column, please let us know and we'll do our best to oblige. If you don't want your letters printed, please let us know that, too.

Since those of you who wrote and are being printed here have had no warning, your name and address will not appear. In the future issues it may be printed unless you request that we not print it.

The editor reserves the right to print all or part of the letter and to edit it for inclusion in the newsletter.

Let us know how you like this feature of our newsletter.

Dear People,

Help! I need all the help I can get as both an adventurer and designer. I teach reading and find Eamon Adventures are fantastic because students love them. They are also learning how to think, solve problems, make decisions, make maps and read.

I am hoping someone has re-written the manuals. Also hope that someone has appended the save routine to the base load program.

In any case I need information.

(name and address not printed)

** I agree with Eamon’s potential for aiding educators. I think more teachers could benefit from the Eamon series. Especially since you can design your own adventures to teach your students a specialized lesson.

The manuals have been updated since designer diskette 6.0 was released and are available in printed form from the club. The text files for the designer manual is included on the DDD. Any DDD version greater than 4.0 includes the save game routine. -- John **

Dear Sirs, (or whatever)

Me and my best friend Bill love Eamon!!! And we want to make our own adventures, but don't know all that much programming. Do you have any disks or books that could help us?!

And keep printing your newsletter! It's great!!!!

** We don't have any books that teach programming. Try your local bookstore or library for that. We do have documentation on using your programming knowledge for Eamon adventures. The Designer's Manual that is found on the DDD is a good place to start, but it isn't much of a tutorial. I am working on a manual called The Designer's Guide that will be a much bigger help, but it is not complete yet. It should be released in the next few months. I think the best way to learn is to look into the MAIN PGMs of other people's adventures to see how they do what they are doing. Between looking at the adventure's code, the Designer's Manual, * and the Designer's Den column of the newsletter, you should be able to develop some nice adventures. -- John **

Dear John,

I have a question about the Buglog program on the Utility disk. When I try to run it on the original disk, I get a DISK FULL error message. When I put it on a disk by itself, I either get an OUT OF DATA IN 10
or a BREAK IN 15 error message. What am I doing wrong?

I also would like to get the updates to the adventure log program that allows the program to have more than 99 adventures.

I also have a question about adventure numbers. Would it be possible to call or write to you to get the next available number for a new adventure before sending it in? And speaking of adventure numbers, what are you going to do when the number of adventures goes above 254? At the present rate of growth, that will be in 12-18 months. Since the Apple INIT command does not work over 254 are you going to start over from one again?

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Do you have any plans to convert Eaanon for any of the 68000 chip machines? The new Amiga looks like a real dream machine. -- Roger Pender

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** On the Buglog program, it sounds like you have it on a full disk and when you copy it to a new disk you aren’t copying the text file that it uses for a tape file. If you have done both of these things and it is still not working, let me know. Maybe there is a problem with it. I know I spent a lot of time re-writing the original version. Maybe you have an old version.

The modifications to the adventure log program to allow more than 99 adventures may not be quite right. I made modifications to the program to handle this, but when I would run the 3 column listing option, it would trash the front of the program and you couldn’t run the program again from memory. I ultimately solved the problem by greatly enhancing the program and re-writing it for the IBM-PC. I now run it exclusively on the PC and have had no further problems with it. I will run some more tests on the old Apple version to see if it is working properly before I send it to you.

On adventure numbers, if you would like to get a number before you send in your adventure, I can do that over the phone on the condition that the adventure is ready to put into production. Otherwise, we would have gaps in the numbers while some of our longer adventures were being finalized.

Once the adventure numbers reach 254, I am planning on changing the DDD to not use the adventure number as a volume number anymore. The adventure will still be numbered that high, but the volume number for all of the adventures above 254 will have disk volume of 254.

I do not have any plans to convert to any of the 68000 chip machines, but that won’t stop someone else from doing it. I can’t afford to keep buying new computers as they come out. Especially for Eaanon, when it doesn’t cost justify the new machines. I will continue to be a central collection point of information to put people in contact with someone who has the application for their machine, though. -- John

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### BUG BYTES

by John Nelson and Tom Zuchowski

I’m giving Tom credit for this column because he has more than earned it. Tom has been responsible for fixing most of the bugs in the last few months. I wish I knew how he found the time to go through all these.

Anyway, there are a couple of things I would like to cover before getting into the bugs themselves. First, I know there are some of you out there who aren’t sure of how to go about making a program fix to the Eaanon diskettes, so I will cover the process again in general. I have covered this in past issues, but I know you don’t want to dig through volumes of past issues to try to dig it out, so I’ll repeat myself.

First thing you should have is a program line editor. I recommend GPLF, distributed by Beagle Brothers. The line editor makes program changes a lot easier. If you are not willing to spend the money on a program line editor, then I hope you like doing things the hard way.

I feel that a program line editor is the single most important piece of software you should own. Before you buy a database, a word processor, a game or any other program, the line editor should be first.

Anyway, onward — load your line editor before attempting to change any program lines. Program line fixes listed in this newsletter will usually take two forms. Sometimes we will list how the line should appear after the fix. At other times, we will simply list the things that should be changed on the line. It will depend on what the easiest method will be. The advantage of giving the line after the fix is that you can see what the whole line should look like. This will make it apparent when your diskette already has the fix that is being described.
When you have to make program fixes to an adventure, the file to be changed will be the base program, unless otherwise specified. The program will usually have the name MAIN PGM. When we standardize an adventure, one thing we do is rename this file if necessary.

To make a program fix, be sure the line editor is loaded and type in LOAD MAIN PGM. Then make the changes shown in the newsletter. You will want to check the line first, so type in LIST mnnn where mnnn is the line number to be changed. If your line does require a fix, then make the change described. Do this for all lines that need to be changed. When you are done, type UNLOCK MAIN PGM followed by SAVE MAIN PGM.

Another kind of change is one that you must edit the files to correct. This kind of change is harder to make if you are not familiar with the process, but we won't suggest it if we don't think you can do it. If the editing is extensive, or was large enough that we didn't keep a close record of it, we will suggest you order a new copy. If you ordered your copy from the club, we will re-copy it for you for $1.00. We charge the dollar mainly to pay for shipping materials and postage.

IMPORTANT NOTES

PLEASE TAKE NOTE --- If you are going to fix your own adventures, please be sure you are familiar with the process and comfortable with it. We'd hate to see you mess up your adventures. Also, make sure the version you have needs the fix described. It is possible that the copy you have has already been fixed. You should be able to tell by the version number and the date. If you get your adventures from some source other than the club, the adventure will most likely contain no version number, or at least a different one than we are using. To explain this in more detail, I am going into the process we use at the club for bug reports. This will help you understand how the version numbers work and what they mean. Basically, the rule is: if it isn't broken, don't fix it.

When we receive an adventure from the author, or any other source, we 'standardize' it. That involves taking all extra files not needed for the adventure and not put there by the author, making sure the names of the files are standard, making the number the next sequential number on our list, and running it through a few verifications. Once this is complete, we add the adventure to our list. The adventure will be assigned a version number of 1.00.

If bugs are discovered, we log the bug and the fix in the Change Log. This is a log of all Eamon adventure changes. All bugs discovered at one time are logged, investigated, and corrected. The version number is incremented by .01. Therefore adventures that have had only one set of bugs fixed on it will be 1.01. Ones that have had two sets of bugs fixed will be 1.02, etc.

If the adventure undergoes a major revision, where the changes are not recorded in detail, the version number is incremented to the next whole number. For example, if an adventure comes in, is reviewed and placed on the list as version 1.00, and the author totally goes through it and makes major changes, the version is set to version 2.0. (There is no difference between 2.0 and 2.00.)

At the time we log the change to the adventure, we also record the date the change was made and the changes made (if minor). The information is also recorded on the Master Bugs List. Bug numbers are assigned in the format nnn-bbbb, where nnn is the number of the adventure and bbbb is the bug number. The bug number is a sequential number starting at 0001 for each adventure. (Sometimes we will omit I or more leading zeroes from the bug number and you may see nnn-01 or nnn-001.

We will notify you via the newsletter when there is a major revision of the Master Bugs List, but we would like to begin updating it every time we correct a bug, rather than wait until there are lots of corrections.

We are also starting to put the version number and the latest revised date in the catalog of the revised diskette. A few of these already have this, and as soon as I have the time, I'd like to do the rest.

The number of bugs fixed since the last newsletter number is in the hundreds, and frankly, I don't know how to proceed with getting the fixes to those of you who need them. The bugs have been documented in the Master bugs List and in the Change Log, but they are far too lengthy to print in the newsletter.

I will therefore list the adventures that have had corrections made since the last issue, the nature of the bugs corrected for each, the version number and the revised date, and let you decide if you need the fix. If so, the best way to get them would be to order the Master bugs List. We are now distributing this on disk, as it is more economical to put it on disk than to print it.
I would like to start distributing the individual adventure’s fixes on diskette. That way, it would save printer wear and tear here and save time on your part to be able to (possibly) fix the changes from a text file.

Pat Hurst has revised his first three adventures:

119 - Grumenwaide
126 - Pyramid of Amharos
145 - Buccaneer!

Buccaneer was not released yet, so there is no problem there unless you happen to know Pat personally and he gave you a copy.

These new versions involve extensive changes to improve the playability and enjoyment of the adventures. Many of the changes were the results of suggestions made by Master Tester and bug stomper extraordinare (I know — my spelling checker tells me there is no such word — fine — what does it know?) Tom Zuchowski.

Anyway, Pat has graciously offered to exchange your old copies of his adventures for new copies. If you received your copy prior to 3-30-87, you may exchange it with Pat for a new version. Send your treasures wrapped carefully to:

Patrick R. Hurst
811 Clark #3
Ames, IA 50010

Pat has also compiled a nifty Gazetteer that gives a lot of details about his adventures, done in a downloaded font and including illustrations, that he would like to share with you. He seems willing to eat the costs, but it would be nice if you could include a loose stamp for the Gazetteer or a buck for disk updates to cover his postage expenses.

Adventures 069 - Black Castle of Norgog
Date Fixed: 6-2-87
Fix: Spelling corrections

Adventure 070 - Tomb of Y'Bolonac
Date Fixed: 6-7-87
Fix: Delete line 16875

Adventure 086 - Castle Mantru
Date Fixed: 6-5-87
Fix: rewrote FLEE routine

-----------------------------------------------
Adventure 088 - The Shopping Mall
DISCONTINUED and NO LONGER SUPPORTED

-----------------------------------------------
Adventure 0100 - Socreror's Spire
Problem: Bad Subscript error in 26310
Date Fixed: 2-14-87 (Club copy was OK)
Fix: Change line 26310 from ADI(MDZ(DF,Y)) = 0 TO
ADI(MDZ(DF,Y),4) = 0.

Problem: NBLT not reset when monster is polymorphed.
Date Fixed: 6-3-87
Fix: Change line 26715:
  change + MDZ(DF,1) to - MDZ(DF,1)
  change + MDZ(DF,13) to - MDZ(DF,13)

Problem: Program hangs if you GET ALL when magic amulet is in room.
Date Fixed: 2-14-87
Fix: Line 4220: insert A = 11 before RETURN

-----------------------------------------------
Adventure 0104 - The Lost World
Problem: Undefined Statement error in 19025
Fix: change 60SUB 4950 to 60SUB 7650 in line 19025

-----------------------------------------------
Adventure 0107 - The Last Dragon
Problem: Monster not reacting right
Date Fixed: 6-2-87
Fix: 640 IF MDZ(13,5) = ROOM AND II = 0 THEN
  II = 1: R = 21: 60SUB 23800: PRINT:
  60SUB 660
  680 RETURN
880 IF MDZ(29,5) = ROOM THEN IF ROOM > 85
  THEN IF MDZ(29,14) = 3 THEN MDZ(29,14)
  = 1: R3 = ROOM: 60SUB 3600: PRINT;PRINT
  MM$2(29)$1 BEGINS TO LAUGH WILDLY!!": 60TO 360

-----------------------------------------------
Adventure 0110 - Fire Island
Date: 6-11-87 New version submitted by the author.

-----------------------------------------------
Adventure 0114 - Thor's Ring
Problem: OUT OF MEMORY error after resurrection
Date Fixed: 3-31-87
Fix: 31002 IF DI THEN PRINT: PRINT "YOU HAVE DIED!"
  31005 IF DI AND (X$1(1,5) = R1 OR X$2(5,5) = R1)
  AND PM THEN PW = PW - 1: PRINT: PRINT "A
  COMPANION INVOKES A POWER SPELL AND REVIVES
  YOU!": X$1(1,13) = 0: DI = 0: 60TO 35000
  35000 REM resurrected!
35810 IF TX(11) THEN 60SUB 56: RETURN
35820 60TO 365

Date: 3-30-87 New version sent by Author contains several minor fixes and play refinements.
Adventure #116 - The Iron Prison
Problem: Impossible using Don Brown's guideline of difficulty, this adventure is roughly 29 times harder than any player could be expected to complete.
Date Fixed: 6-4-87
Fix: Hefty cuts were made in the enemies' strengths, bringing the adventure down to a more reasonable 12 times normal limits. A new copy is recommended.

Adventure #122 - The Valley of Death
Date Fixed: 5-1-87
Lower case text was converted to upper case; several minor fixes and speed-up mods were done.

Adventure #127 - Hunt for the Ring
Problem: Syntax error in Line 9330
Date Fixed: 5-5-87
Fix: Retype 9330: GOSUB 23800

Problem: Gollum never appears at lake, but is the only way out of cave.
Date Fixed: 5-5-87
Fix: 117 IF FPL = 1 AND NOT TT THEN FPL = 2: MDI(10,5) = ROOM: R3 = ROOM: GOSUB 36000: TT = 2

Also, there were a large number of problems with lower-case text and assorted minor bugs. These were all fixed, and a number of speed-up enhancements were made. A new copy is recommended.

Adventure #128 - Quest for Erebor
Problem: Syntax error in Line 28010
Date Fixed: 3-26-87
Fix: 28010 IF NOT S6 THEN PRINT "THE GUARD HEARS YOU.": MDI(86,3) = 0:
MDI(86,12) = 0: R3 = ROOM: GOSUB 36000: NBTL = 1: GOTO 300

Problem: Fleeing from Smaug causes a program hang.
Date Fixed: 3-26-87
Fix: 8017 IF ROOM = B6 THEN PRINT "YOU'LL BE ROASTED.": GOTO 100

Problem: Duplicate variable
Date Fixed: 3-26-87
Fix: change SPWS to S6 in 28009, 28010, 21505, 21560

Problem: opening barrels at dock causes program hang.
Date Fixed: 3-26-87
Fix: 20123 FOR I = 1 TO 53: IF MDI(I, 5) = R THEN MDI(I, 5) = ROOM: LK = 1

20126 NEXT I: GOSUB 36000
20127 IF LK THEN IF ROOM = 31 OR ROOM = 32 OR ROOM = 33 THEN PD = 1: GOSUB 58120
20130 IF LK THEN PRINT: PRINT "YOU FOUND SOMETHING INSIDE!"

Also there were a number of minor bug fixes and speed-up enhancements. A new disk is recommended.

Adventure #129 - Return to Moria
Problem: Undefined statement error in 23010
Date Fixed: 2-23-87
Change: 23010 to 23190 in line 23010

Adventure #130 - Haradwaith
Problem: Return Without GOSUB error
Date Fixed: 6-2-87
Fix: change RETURN to GOTO 300 in Line 13030.

Problem: Undefined statement error in 3501
Date Fixed: 6-2-87
Fix: 3501 IF B6 THEN GOTO 3510

Problem: Syntax error in 9510
Date Fixed: 6-2-87
Fix: change INM = 15 to IF N = 15

Adventure #131 - Nucleus of the Ruby
Problem: Syntax error in 5050
Date Fixed: 5-7-87
Fix: Recopy line to remove hidden control characters.

Also some minor bug fixes; a new copy is recommended.

Adventure #132 - Rhadshur Warrior
Problem: Artifact 33 record is trashed.
Date Fixed: 5-11-87
Fix: Enter and then Run this small program to fix it:
10 D4 = CHR$(4): ?D4:"OPEN EAMON.DESC,1256":?
20 "WRITE EAMON.DESC,3153"
30 ?CHR$(34);"YOU SEE A TINY WHITE BOX,
MAKE OF PUREST WHITE IVORY.";CHR$(34)
35 ?CHR$(3)

Also a number of minor bug fixes and speed-up enhancements were done, and the adventure was modified to fit on a single disk. A new copy is recommended.

Adventure #134 - Pyramid of the Ancients
Problem: You can't exit the adventure
Date Fixed: 5-13-87
Fix: Change ROOM2 to ROOM in line 3045.
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<tr>
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<th>Last Issue</th>
<th>Fix</th>
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Ratings are given on a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 highest. Format is R:D where R = rating for setting, description, and plot; D = rating for difficulty, problem solving, and survivability.

The 'Last Fixed' column gives the date of the latest bug fix in month/year format.

The 'Issue' column gives the Eamon newsletter volume/number in which a review may be found.

An (89-col.) notation signifies that the adventure requires 89-column capability. 9117 is also available in 49-column format.
| 81. The Rescue Mission | D. Brown | 7:8 | B/85 |
| 82. Escape from Manasi Island | S. Starkey | 5:25 | 12/86 |
| 83. The Twin Castles | J. Tandard | 5:4 | 12/86 |
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| 92. The Fugitive | D. Doukakes | 7:8 | 6/87 |
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| 99. In the Clutches of Torrik | J. Nelson | 8:9 | 2/87 |
| 100. Sorcerer's Spire | J. Nelson | 8:9 | 11/85 |
| 101. Ground Zero | Sam | 1:2 | 7/87 |
| 102. Eamon Railroad | Sam | 2:2 | 7/87 |
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| 111. Vacation in Europe | D. Smith | 5:4 | V2N2 |
| 112. Hills of History | D. Smith | 5:4 | 6/87 |
| 113. Or. of Mervalek | R. Volberding | 7:8 | 5/86 V2N3 |
| 117. Dungeon of Doom (80 col-1) | D. Knezev | 12:86 | 3/87 V2N3 |
| 118. Pittfall | S. Lamer | 4:5 | 5/87 |
| 119. Grunwalde | P. Hurst | 4:5 | 5/87 |
| 120. Or. of My Life | J. Nelson | 4:5 | 5/87 |
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| 122. Valley of Death | S. Ruby | 9:8 | 12/86 V2N3 |
| 123. Wizard of the Spheres | M. Elkin | 5:4 | 5/87 |
| 124. Assault on Duriq | T. Zuchowski | 10:6 | 7/87 |
| 125. The Mattimoa Palace | J. Actor | 5:4 | 4/86 |
| 126. The Pyramid of Anharos | P. Hurst | 5:4 | 4/86 |
| 127. Hunt for the Ring | S. Ruby | 7:9 | 5/87 |
| 128. Quest of Erebor | S. Ruby | 7:9 | 5/87 |
| 129. Return to Moria (2 disks) | S. Ruby | 7:9 | 5/87 |
| 130. Hardawith | S. Ruby | 7:9 | 5/87 |
| 131. Nucleus of the Ruby (80 col-1) | S. Ruby | 7:9 | 5/87 |
| 132. Rhadshur Warrior | R. Pender | 9:9 | 5/87 |
| 133. The Final Frontier | R. Pender | 9:9 | 5/87 |
| 134. Pyramid of the Ancients | J. Pirone | 4:3 | 5/87 |

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| 135. The Tomb of Evron | M. Greifenkamp | 2:2 |
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| 140. Beginner's Forest | M. Anderson | 5:4 |
| 141. The Infested Fortress | M.A. Ando | 5:4 |
| 142. The Beeradester's Brewery | J. Actor | 5:4 |
| 143. The Alternate Zone | J. Actor | 2/87 |
| 144. Gartin Manor | G. Gioia | 2/87 |
| 145. Buccaneer! (2 disks) | J. Hurst | 9:9 |
| 146. The House of Horrors | D. Cross | 9:9 |
| 147. The Dark Brotherhood (2 disk) | J. Hurst | 9:9 |
| 148. Journey to Jotunheim | T. Zuchowski | 9:9 |
| 149. Elemental Apocalypse (4 disk) | S. Ruby | 9:9 |

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S-1. Dungeon Designer Diskette Version 6.2
S-2. Eamon Utilities I Player's Utilities
S-3. Eamon Utilities II Designer's Utilities
S-4. Eamon Utilities III Monster Battles
S-5. Eamon Utilities IV Customizer's Tools
S-6. Eamon Master 3 Special Weapons Shoppe
S-7. Eamon Master 2.0 Expanded Master
S-8. Eamon Master 2 Graphics Main Hall
National Eamon User's Club
Des Moines, IA 50310

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Address
City/State/Zip
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Membership ( ) New ( ) Renewal Change of Address ( )

Documentation / Special Products / Back-Issue Orders:

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<td>Master Bugs List 60 pg. 5.00</td>
<td>V1N7 03/85 -- $2.00</td>
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<td>DOD 6.0 Addendum 5 pg. 1.00</td>
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<td>Eamon Notebook 12.50</td>
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Total Documentation / Special $_________-

Membership ( ) New ( ) Renewal $12.00 $_________-

Eamon Diskettes (Apple - $3.00 per diskette IBM - $5.00 per diskette)

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