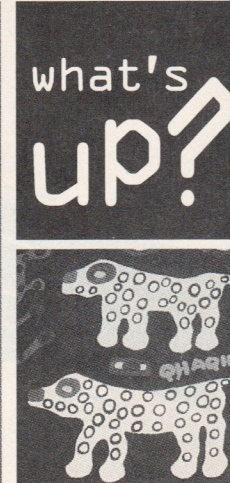
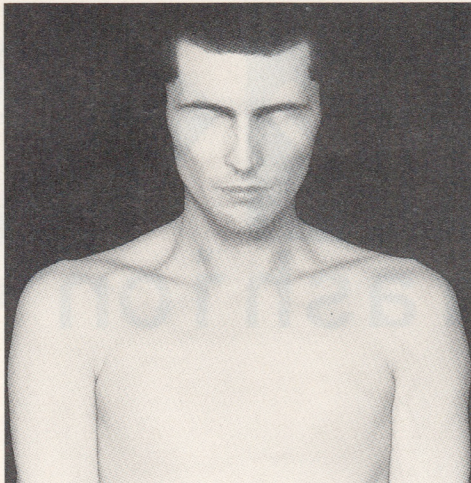


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TECHNOLOGY

**computer games Play computer games with your mates across the world:** US Baton technologies have developed a modem (compatible with both Megadrive and NES systems) that permits one-on-one link-ups via phone lines to connect game players in different cities or countries. The *Teleplay System* is available in the US this month for around \$90 with sci-fi shoot-'em-up *Terran Wars*. Back in Britain, currently available on both Megadrive and SNES systems is the French *cinematique* game *Another World*. Asking you to free a scientist trapped into a threatening alternate reality, the theme element is in the form of set animated sequences over which you have no control but can trigger by reaching certain points. Visually appealing, although play is difficult and requires demanding brain-logic that transcends the instinctive jump-'n'-shoot mindset of its contemporaries. For an unusual animal rights perspective, check the Megadrive's *Rolo To The Rescue*: a small Dumbo-styled elephant circus scapee whose ET-influenced mission is to 'go home' and free a brace of furry friends from their cages. Classic platform stuff but visually it's a total cute-out, with gameplay that demands both calculated thought and joyous pumping, running and bouncing about. **Tony Marcus**

**techno toy i-D's techno toy of the month is a CD created by Hex for the Philips D-i system.** An eight track disc, *eScape* features music from Irresistible Force, B12, Coldcut and Eon with a visual dimension of computer graphics. The product's main strength is its inter-reaction; achieved through the CD-i's mouse which enables the player/user to change backgrounds, shift and cycle colours, wiggle graphics and cut the visuals to the beats. "Philips have created some extraordinary tech with the CD-i," explains Coldcut/Hex's Mat Black, "but they don't know what to do with it and need us to develop a relevant application for the youth market." Black anticipates that they will develop similar interactive products for other CD Rom systems (like the Sega-CD) and views *eScape* as just the first in a new breed of hip techno software products. As he says, "this is modern art written in code". **Tony Marcus**  
*eScape* by Hex - £15.99 available now.  
Philips CD-i from £529.99.

**hedgehogs and megabytes** For those who like a smart bit of gadgetry: Hedgehogs And Megabytes is a weekend focusing on interactive media and digital technology as part of the ICA's continuing series exploring the impact of future tech on the arts. From Sonic to VR clubbing; the event includes talks, discussions and hands-on opportunities. At the ICA, The Mall, London SW1, April 24-25. Info: 071 873 0061.

**electronic art Not so much an art exhibition, more of a technodelic visual experience:** the Video Positive festival of creative video and electronic media art takes place this month at in galleries and public sites around Liverpool. Info: 051 709 2663.

INFO

**berlin squat bars There is perhaps no more true expression of 'underground' than Berlin, east side.** As the German government ply Berlin's squat community with legal contracts, hoping to persuade them to quit lucrative properties in the previously undesirable Mitte and Kreuzberg areas, the hardcore heels of the underground dig themselves deeper. The warped environment of squatted creative centre and bar Eimar (Rosenthaler Strasse) is just one example of a vibrant, imaginative and magical Berlin art-bar scene. Eimar worker Ben explains: "The Eimar is a never-ending experiment in possibilities. We bring together film, live music, sound system, slide and video projections, performance, sensory and interactive events, painting and sculpture. Change is the only constant thing. By squatting and remaining self-sufficient we don't have to conform." On a similar vibe is the strange, den-like Go-Go bar (Neune Schönhauser Strasse), run by performance group Dead Chickens, who exist by making and selling salvage sculptures and jewellery built from post-reunification debris. Finding a seat in the Go-Go bar is a totally new experience: a bizarre arrangement of perches made from welded-together, sculpted metal, fluffy ladies' dressing stools and dentists' chairs, all positioned at different heights, and a worn velvet couch nailed halfway up the wall. Industrial and experimental music and videos contribute to a unique, surreal and enigmatic atmosphere. **Karen Peet**

**brain food Working within the biochemistry of the brain, Californian life-extension gurus Durk Pearson and Sandy Shaw create products designed to improve mental fitness and stimulate the brain.** From a mixture of amino acids, vitamins, minerals, herbs and other nutritional substances come Blast Capsules, Rise & Shine and Fast Blast drinks. The designer brain foods are now, for the first time, widely available in Britain: info - including medical and scientific articles and mail order - from Prime Performance on 0272 706670. **Tony Marcus**

**sony winner The winner of Mau Mau and Insane's customised Sony Walkmans,** as featured in last month's issue, are Graham Kerr from Glasgow and Melanie Miller from London.

**ron arad Best known as a creator of complex sculpted furniture, One Off Three,** a book of essays by Cedric Price and Volker Albus,

is the first examination of Ron Arad as architect, focusing on the studio he designed for himself in Camden. Published this month by Artemis.

**urine sculptures Challenging taboos in the same way as artist Andres Serrano's controversial Piss Christ,** sculptor Helen Chadwick's latest work *Piss Flowers* subverts perceived ideas of artistic medium, art and femininity - her 12 bronzes were cast from the holes she made by urinating in snow. *Helen Chadwick - Bronzes* is at the Angel Row Gallery, Nottingham until May 1.

**african bushmen art The first exhibition of work from African Bushmen ever to be shown in this country, Mongongo** is the start of a series of contemporary art from indigenous people at London's Rebecca Hossack Gallery. Organised in association with Survival International, the event aims to highlight the human rights abuses that the Bushmen are facing in the Kalahari desert of southern Africa. At 35 Windmill Street, London W1, May 17-June 19.

**swinging '60s The Sixties Film Scene In London is a timely look back at how London became the movie mecca of the world in the '60s as directors like Truffaut, Kubrick and Polanski flocked to the city to make films;** inspired by its reputation as the cultural capital of the decade. The short season includes such seminal work as *A Hard Day's Night*, *Performance*, *Blow Up* and *Fahrenheit 451*,... and, of course, appearances by suave secret agent James Bond and the *Carry On* crew. At The Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 from Apr 30-May 15 (071 638 8891).

Above, left to right: Video Positive: a technodelic visual art experience.

Ron Arad's celebrated bookworm bookcase.

Art from the African Bushmen: *Mongongo*.

Below: *Blow Up*, part of a celebration of '60s film at The Barbican.

