## UNREAL TOURNAMENT
Real Redemption

The new *Unreal Tournament* is tournament-based, has fast and furious gameplay along with a single-player component to prepare you for the multiplayer matches. The storyline is pure fluff material, of course. You enter the deathmatch league and then progress through an additional three leagues before winning it all in the Challenge league. When you finish, you'll have earned a new character to play with, filled a nice trophy room, and have 41 matches under your belt. The matches start off small and slow but the final Challenge league cranks up the speed to the max. The biggest improvement is in the weapon department. Each weapon has been overhauled and they are all perfectly balanced. There is no one dominating weapon; each can equally snag or miss frags based on the situa-

tion. The Impact Hammer can kill in one hit, yet it's a melee weapon; the Rocket Launcher can unload six rockets at once, yet the rockets move slowly enough to dodge. Even the almighty Redeemer can be avoided, if you shield yourself from the blast with a wall. The only downside to the weapons is the lack of a trapping kind.

The overall level design is richly varied. Environments range from standard warehouses to pirate galleons to spacecraft in flight. The levels are designed more for playability and flow, while retaining some aesthetically pleasing architecture.
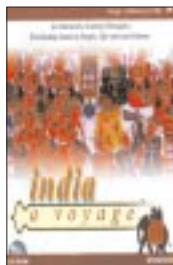
Price: Rs 1,299
Contact: Milestone Interactive
**Phone:** 022-8381614 **Fax:** 022-8378204
RATING: ▲▲▲▲▲
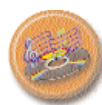
INDIA—A VOYAGE
Visit India

As the name suggests, this CD is a virtual voyage through India. The CD starts off with a picturesque front page that also hosts the contents. The videos give a brief overlay of each topic and consist of still images with camera panning accompanied by interesting documentary and music. The negative aspect of this is that some of the images have been repeated in the videos of certain topics. The textual section of each topic gives the viewer more thorough information on the particular topic and is accompanied by pictures and occasional music. The CD should prove extremely useful for those of you who are fascinated by India and would like to have more information about the country.

Price: Rs 1,595
Contact: Magic Software
Phone: 011-6950150 **Fax:** 011-6950148
**E-mail:** mail@magicsw.com
RATING: ▲▲▲△△
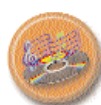
YODDHA—THE WARRIOR
Street Fighting

Yoddha–The Warrior is based on a plot that can be part of any Bollywood *masala* story. The hero has to disarm nuclear missiles and stop the villain 'Gaddar Singh' while combating armies. Based upon a modified *Quake II* engine, *Yoddha* looks surprisingly dated. 3D acceleration support is ordinary at best, with the software-rendering mode absolutely horrendous. The 'villains' are half-wits, with no artificial intelligence. They stand there aimlessly until you cross into their personal space, after which they go into a never-ending animation loop of firing at you. Sound effects are well done and the in-game music gets you in the mood for kicking some terrorist butt. The use of Hindi dialogues with censor-certified '*gaalis*' gives it that Indian flavour.

Price: Rs 499
Contact: India Games
**Phone:** 022-6496712 **Fax:** 022-6498756
RATING: ▲▲△△△
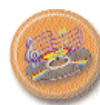
Theme Park World

Are you one of those people who love amusement and theme parks more than anything else in the world? If you do, then Theme Park World is for you. With this CD you can actually build your own Theme park with your selected rides, shops, sideshows and even hire and fire your staff. So the next time you feel like visiting a theme park, you can just stay at home and build your own!

Price: Rs1,199
Contact: Gayatri Impex
Phone: 022-3881443 **Fax:** 022-3863367
**E-mail:** 022-3863367
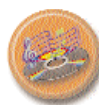
Visual Basic 6

This CD is brought to you by BPB Multimedia and provides a training course in Visual Basic 6. Users can master programs such as ActiveX, TCP/IP networking, VBScript, GUIs and a whole lot more. The CD is suitable for experienced VB 5, C/C++, and Java programmers as well as relatively new programmers.
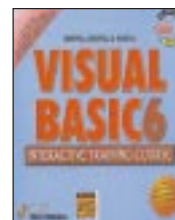
Price: Rs 399
Contact: BPB Multimedia
Phone: 011-3255271 **Fax:** 011-3266427
E-mail: bpbmm@del3.vsnl.net.in
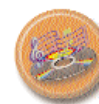
My Body, Myself

This CD came as part of a series of three educational titles. The CD, targeted at children, serves as an educational tour of the human body. It offers the users a lot of knowledge in a multimedia-based environment.

Price: Rs 790
Contact: Origin Marketing
**Phone:** 022-8801335 **Fax:** 022-8835886

Pressing Needs

Just because you are from the press doesn't give you automatic entry to events as the CHIP writers found out

If you thought that press and media persons are given maximum importance by Event organisers, read on about the travails of two Chipsters on assignment for a whole new perspective.

November started on a high note for the 'nascent' Indian IT industry with the organization of version 3.0 of BangaloreIT.com, which is India's largest IT exhibition. Or at least that is what the organisers–the Government of Karnataka in this case–would have us believe. Two writers from the CHIP team, Manu Khanna and Sunil Srinivasan (Remember the July 2000 CHIP on Assignment) were sent off to Bangalore, 'The IT Capital of India' to cover the event. Getting valid press passes for the event shouldn't have been a problem for people from CHIP (after all we are the largest selling computer magazine in India!). So both writers promptly reached the venue–the picturesque and sprawling Palace Grounds (many a Govinda/Jeetendra movie has been shot here) at 9:30 am sharp.

From here on their troubles began. For starters, they were not allowed to enter the venue without a valid pass by the people manning the gates. Their claims of being press people fell on deaf ears. Ultimately
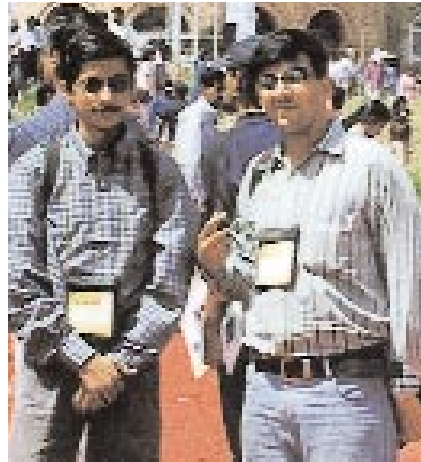
they ended up spending Rs. 400 to enter hoping that inside they would receive better treatment! Their next stop was the Media Center, set up in the Palace itself. Here they met Mr Visvakumar, a Government of Karnataka and the Media Coordinator (dictionary meaning: somebody who is supposed to help people from the media) for the event, who was supposed to issue them press passes. But here as well, their pleas fell on deaf ears. They even produced a letter from Mr Vivek Kulkarni, IT Secretary, Government of Karnataka, inviting them to cover the event, but they were still not given the passes. So the first day was completely wasted. But these two guys stuck to their guns and decided to try again the next day.

The next day they marched off to the Media Center and were again denied passes by Mr. Kumar. Fuming with anger and embarrassment these two decided to still make the best of the whole thing and reached a hotel that was the venue for a 'free for all seminar'. Here they met a saviour in the form of Mr Ramanareddy, Director IT, Government of Karnataka, who seemed shocked on hearing the treatment handed out to the Chip writers. He apologized and gave them passes enabling them to cover the event.

Good for you guys for not giving up and let's hope you receive better treatment on your next assignment.

Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow

Think Goa and the vision to crop up in your mind will most likely be of sun-kissed beaches, lots of fun and feni. Well, that's what we thought too…and all of us at CHIP were extremely envious when we learnt that Hakim Badshah and Deepak Dhingra from the Test Centre, Srinivas Rao from the Mumbai sales team, and Gunjan Kapoor from the Delhi sales team were going to Goa for a three-month residential training course at our very own training centre in Goa.

Well, their three months are nearing an end but from recent eye-witness accounts, it seems that life in paradise has had a rather strange effect on these men. Hakim of the bushy hair (*see picture*) now looks like a monk with close cropped hair; Deepak and Srinivas, who were so proud of their respective moustaches, are now sans any facial hair. As for Gunjan,

the change is not so much in prized personal effects, but in that he seems to have developed a wiser, quieter demeanour.

The foursome are silent about what prompted them to sacrifice their hair (one way or the other). It couldn't be the rigorous training schedule–others have been for training in Goa and have come back with their hair intact. Speculation is rife at CHIP about this and each batch that goes to Goa for smaller 'refresher courses' has been trying its best to dig out the information.

So far we've been unsuccessful, but we haven't given up and hope to crack the mystery soon. Another question on everyone's mind is whether it is wisdom acquired in Goa that makes Hakim see things in a better light or is it the fact that his hair no longer falls in his eyes? Time will tell.
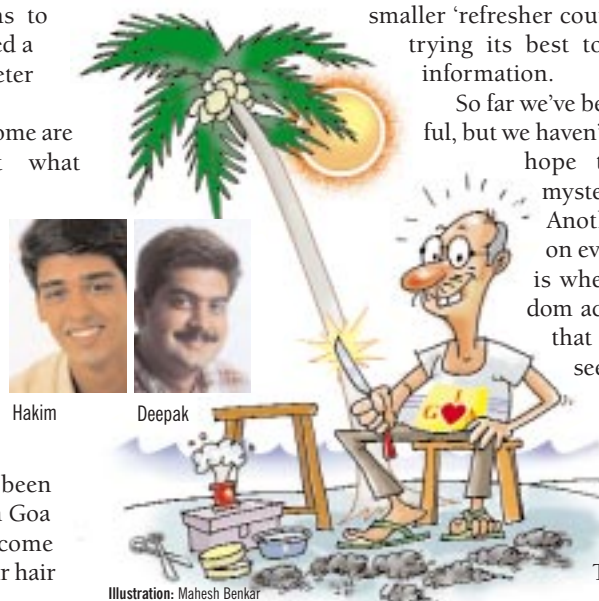
Hakim

Deepak

Illustration: Mahesh Benkar

All con and no fact

'Life is a tale, told by an idiot...', that's what Shakespeare wrote eons ago. But Life Insurance Corporation seems to have taken this literally as can be seen from one of its hoarding in Meerut. Sure guys, we know you con people into going for your insurance schemes, but do you have to publicise it so openly?
Contributed by Puneet Anand, Meerut

Filter Request

You are probably used to filtering software and passwords to block out unwanted intruders. But have you ever heard of protecting your computer from cats? That's what Pawsense claims to do. For more details, check out
www.bitboost.com/pawsense/

In sleep mode

We don't have anything against Microsoft or Windows, nor does Kiran Navade. But, he has sent us screenshots which shows the 'true' nature of Windows. A sample is shown alongside.

Bollywood films

The IT bug has hit the film industry too. So, can we expect to see some Bollywood blockbusters with these titles in the future?

- *Mera hardisk tumhare paas hai*
- *Pati patni aur computer*
- *Aao chat kare*
- *Programmer no 1*
- *Aaj ka body shopper*
- *Badalate platforms*
- *Kahani Keyboard ki*
- *H1 ko aane do*
- *Mouse ka gulam*
- *Java wale job le jayenge*
- *Hum aapke memory mein rahat hain*
- *Password Apna Apna*
- *Hum Hain Programmer Oracle ke*
- *Virus Aur Antivirus*
- *Network Ke Us Paar*
- *Mera naam developer*
- *Login karo sajana*
- *Jis Desh mein Bill (Gates) rahata Hain*
- *Hum To US jaayega*
- *Aa ab KUCH KAAM kare*
- *Raju ban gaya IT MAN..!*
- *Dekhte Dekhte Connection mil Gaya*
- *Client ek numbari Programmer Dus Nambar*
- *Dhai akshar HRD ke*
- *Hackers ke Site par Hacker*

Contributed by Gautam, via e-mail

Hype without content

It was a big event. Shah Rukh Khan was also present. After all, it was the launch of his official Web site, www.srk-world.com with Microsoft and Compaq as technology partners. But then, when we looked at the site on the evening of the launch, it still wasn't working.
Case of counting your chickens before they hatch?
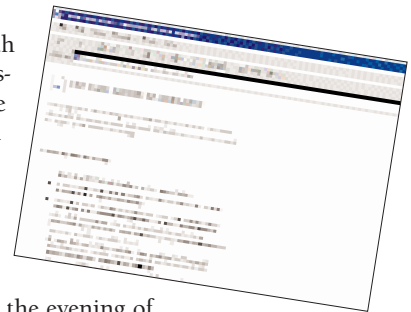
HONOURABLE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM READERS

Duplicate Identities

Indiatimes.com threw up the challenge in its front page (we will backbyte on the blatant misuse of Times of India newspaper for publicity some other time), so Anand Rathi took it up.

He searched for Alicia Silverstone and sure enough in some pages inside he found pictures of Kate Winslet. Talk about relevance here.

LATE KATE

There are a few CHIP subscribers who complain that they don't get their copy on time, but at least we are better off than some other IT magazines which take years to deliver their first copy. See for yourself, if you don't believe us.
Contributed by Devesh Bhargava, Varanasi
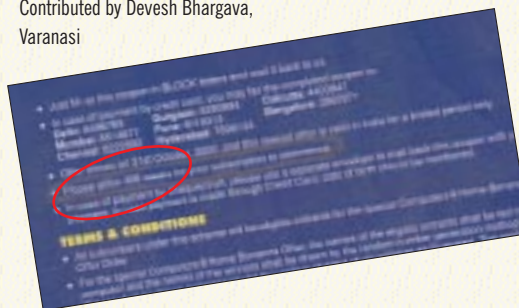
Your chance to Backbyte!

Seen something ridiculous or plain funny that highlights the lighter side of computing? Mail your contributions to
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or send e-mail to
backbyte@chip-india.com