

*BVS Reviews is a monthly e-zine dedicated to reviews on a variety of media.*

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## **Table Of Contents**

Credits	1
Table of Contents	2

### **Software**

Take No Prisoners	3
Stay Tooned	4
The Print Shop Publishing Suite	5
MasterCook Deluxe 4.0	6
Videotrope	7
ClickArt 125,000	8
ClickArt Celebrations & Holidays	9
Street Racer	10
Collier's Encyclopedia 1998 Edition	11
Total Annihilation	12

### **Books**

#### *Mysteries*

The Leaning Land	13
King Con	14
Illusions	15
Princess Charming	16

#### *General Fiction*

Vendetta: Lucky's Revenge	17
---------------------------	----

#### *Science Fiction*

X Files: Ruins	18
----------------	----

#### *Westerns*

Billy Gashade	19
---------------	----

#### *Computer Related*

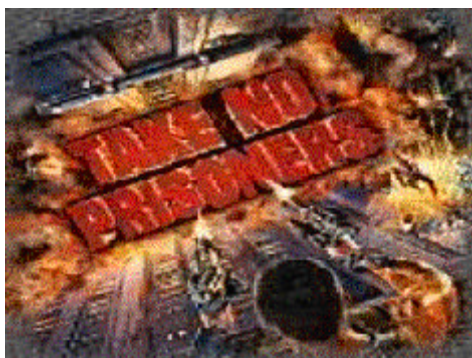
Byte By Bite: Windows 95	20
Creating Killer Interactive Web Sites	21
Javascript For TheWorld Wide Web: Visual Quickstart Guide	22
The Economics Of Electronic Commerce	23

### **Music**

Depeche Mode - Ultra	24
Kathy Mattea - Love Travels	25
Kansas - Leftoverture	26

### **Videos**

To Gillian On Her 37th Birthday	27
That Thing You Do	28
Love Is All There Is	29



## *Slade's Killing Spree*

*Bruce Von Stiers*

There is this guy named **Slade** who used to be a real tough Special Operations operative. He has all the survival and combat skills that anyone needs. You'll find him in the post apocalyptic town of Austin, Texas in the new game called **Take No Prisoners**. The game is from the **Red Orb** division of *Broderbund*. It has a rating of **17+** for the animated blood and gore.

This game is not for the faint at heart. It is a hard core shoot - em up in the vein of Duke Nukem. One of the main differences is that **Take No Prisoners** is a Top - Down game. That means that you are looking down on the action from above and not like you are actually viewing it from eye level.

There are 20 different areas that Slade has to fight through to meet his final objective. He has to get into a power dome and steal the energy crystal that powers the city so that another dome can be built. Along the way, he has to fight and kill all kinds of mutants and zoned out people who are just looking for trouble.

There is a multiplayer function in the game that allows for play over a network. There are a total of 6 different multiplayer games. **Assassin** gives each player a person to track down and kill while **Stockpile** rewards players for developing offensive and defensive strategies during gameplay.

As shoot - em up's go, this one is a winner. It is fast, violent and gory. If you don't want the violence, don't buy it.

But if you crave for the decadent side of computer gaming, **Take No Prisoners** is just what the doctor ordered. Grab a copy , get locked and loaded, and kill some mutants.



## LOONY TOONEY

*Josh Von Stiers*

This is *Stay Tooned* from **Sierra On-Line** and **Funny Bone** (*Davidson & Associates*).

Pixel, Chisel, Scoops, Fiddle, Schmooze, Purple Glop, Frank, Dr. Pickles, Katrena, Mrs. Findley, Mr. Fishy, and the Penguins, have broken out of your Television set and you are going to have to do something about it. Explore your apartment building find your remote and zap them back into your TV land. Over 30 different games to play.

Some of my favorite games are this **The Quick And The Tooned**, a wild west show down, *Shlepardy* a Jeopardy like game with subjects like Kitty Litter and Dogs. And finally **Kartoon Kombat**. Pull your opponents underwear or smash them. You will get a pair of 3-D glasses in the box for certain games. Fiddle is on your side. Watch out for Pies and bombs going towards your face.

Requirements are as follows:

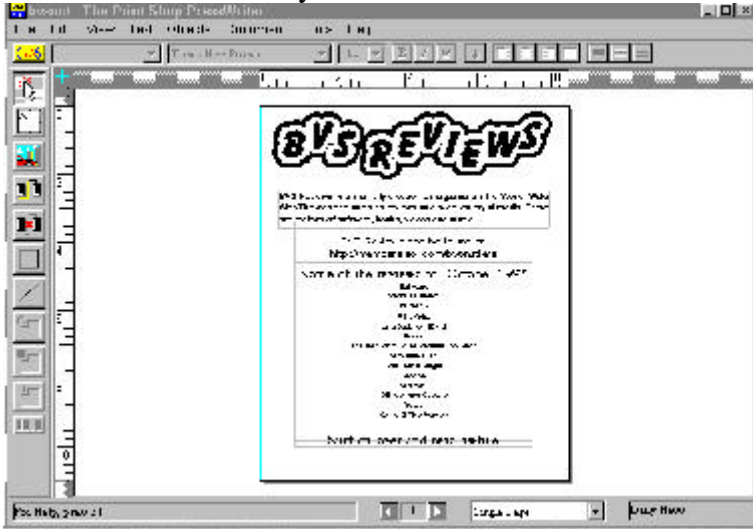
WINDOWS 3.1 or 95 Macintosh  
compatible computer Mac Centrus or better  
486DX/33 MHz or better System 7.1 or higher  
1 MB to run the prog. 3500K unused block of memory  
Double speed CD-ROM drive Double speed CD-ROM drive  
Sound Blaster (or compatible Sound device) Quick time 2.0 (included)  
256-color monitor and 640x 480 resolution Quick time power plug (included for power mac only)

Quick time soft ware (included)

## *Publishing The Printshop Way*

*Bruce Von Stiers*

**Broderbund** has continually upgraded their **Printshop** products. The latest versions have been released in *The Print Shop Publishing Suite*. The programs included in this package are *The Print Shop Premier Edition 5.0* and *The Print Shop Press Writer*. It comes bundled with *ClickArt's 65,000* clipart collection. It sells locally for under \$50.



*Premier Edition* allows you to make banners, posters, greeting cards, letterheads, certificates and many more desktop publishing items. The program has a *QuickStart Layout* wizard that takes some of the guesswork out of putting together a project. If you don't like an element simply eliminate it or do some creative editing.

You can create on-line greeting cards to send out over the net. As with other versions of Print Shop, inserting a graphic is easy to do. Create a headline and change the appearance of it with a click or two of the

mouse. Import graphics use them in your projects. The down side to the export feature is that you still can't export an entire project to another program. You can only export a graphic.

*The Print Shop Press Writer* lets you make professional looking documents, brochures, business cards and other desktop publishing items. Reports are easy to produce using the *QuickStart Layout* wizard. Most of the features include here have been borrowed from the Premier Edition of Print Shop.

Pre formatted style sheets are available through the Style Sets area. There are a lot of *Quotable Quotes* to place in your documents. Over 100 fonts can be added to your already bulging Fonts folder. If you can't get started , there are demos that lead you through the document process.

For both programs you'll need a 486/66 computer with Windows 95. 8MB of RAM is a must , although I wouldn't recommend anything less than 16 meg. About 80MB of free hard drive space is needed to install the programs. A 2x CD ROM drive is needed but it runs better with a 4 or 8x drive.

There are two CD discs for the suite. The first contains all the program files. If you don't do the full install, you'll have to have the first disc in your CD drive to use either program. The second disc has all the product and graphic files.

With *The Print Shop Publishing Suite*, Broderbund has made it's mark among the small footprint desktop publishers. It's as good or better than Microsoft's Publisher and costs a lot less.

## *Cooking Masterly*

*Bruce Von Stiers*

There are a lot of cookbook programs out there, some good and some bad. One of the best is *Master Cook Deluxe* from **Sierra On-Line**. It is now into *version 4.0*.

The features that Master Cook Deluxe has are enormous. You can set up menus and meal plans based on recipes that are selected. There is a built-in Ingredients List which allows you to create nutritional and cost analyses for your recipes. And to top it all off, the program can automatically produce a shopping list for any recipe, menu or meal plan that you put together.

*Master Cook Deluxe* can be used on either Windows based computer or a Macintosh. For the Windows side, you'll need a 486/66 and Windows 3.1. 8MB of RAM and 10MB of free hard drive space is also needed. A 2x CD-ROM drive and a sound card are a must. For the MAC side of the house, you'll have to have System 7.1 or later. 4MB of RAM and 15MB of free hard drive space is needed also. You've got to have a 2x CD-ROM drive also.

Open up an existing cookbook or create a new one. Change the ingredients of a recipe or the serving selection. Add recipes to a specific category or make up a new category for yourself. You can import recipes from other programs such as MealMaster. You can also copy recipes from one cookbook to another. The cookbooks can be printed as well as individual recipes. They can be printed in booklet form if you want.

*Master Cook Deluxe* has all of the bells and whistles that any electronic cookbook needs. Pick up a copy and cook up a storm.

## *Video Files The Easy Way*

*Bruce Von Stiers*

**JASC** and **Digital Workshop** keep bring out these neat little utility programs. They have just released a new program that lets you edit or create new AVI files. The program is called *Videotrope* and costs around \$50.

Videotrope allows you to view and edit video and animation files. You can alter individual frames within the file or change the soundtrack. Need some cool music in your video file? Simply blend it into the file using the sound editing feature. You can cut, copy and paste pictures into the frames of the file.

The editing that you do is not saved until you close the file. That way, if you don't like how you've edited the video, simply make the changes before closing and saving the file. There is also a scripting feature that allows for almost flawless editing.

For those of you who haven't moved on to the more complicated video formats like Apple's Quicktime, then this is the program to get. It's quick, easy to use, and fun to play with.

## *A Ton Of ClickArt*

*Bruce Von Stiers*

Do you have the need for clipart? Do you need a whole bunch of it? Then **ClickArt 125,000** may be just what you are looking for. As the name implies, there are 125,000 pieces of clipart, photos, sound files and fonts in this package.

The **125k** package comes on 9 *CD-ROM discs*. It also comes with a .wmf image editor and a *Compupic* image browser. Both of the utilities are kind of clunky, but they'll do if you don't have a program like *Paint Shop Pro* available. The main reason to get the package is the images anyway, right?

The package is kind of heavy on account of the two catalogs that come with it. Volume # 1 has the user information for the utilities and some design tips. It also contains thumbnails of all of the images and fonts from the first 5 CD's. The second volume has thumbnails of the remaining 4 CD's.

There are separate windows for each utility. Want to look at a piece of clipart? Fire up the Compupic browser and peek at it. Need to edit that puppy? Use Metafile Companion to work your magic. Want to use a sound file? Open it up ClickArt Sounds and grab it.

This is a great clipart package. And for under \$50, it makes a good present to throw under the Christmas tree.

## *Clipart For The Holidays*

*Bruce Von Stiers*

**Broderbund** recently took over **T-Maker** and their entire line of clipart. Now they have released a new ClickArt package. This one is called *ClickArt Celebrations & Holidays*. You can get it for around \$30 at your favorite software store.

The package comes on one CD with a **Compupic** image browser and the **Metafile Companion** graphic editor. It also comes chock full of graphics. There are all kinds of Christmas Tree graphics. Need a snowman? There are as snowbank full of them. Want some party hats on your birthday party flyer? There are several to choose from.

The clipart contained on the CD is either in *.wmf*, *.tif* or *.jpg* formats. There doesn't seem to be any *.bmp* files available. There is a users manual that contains thumbnails of all of the graphics.

This is a good clipart package. It allows the user to purchase specialized clip art without having to spend a bundle.

## *Street Zany Power*



*Josh Von Stiers*

This is a review on *Street Racer*, the zaniest racing game ever to hit your monitor. It's from **UBI-SOFT Entertainment**, the creators of **Ray Man**.

Race against *Sumo*, *Frank*, *Surf*, and others as you battle it out to the finish. Use your special abilities and slap them and do any thing to slow the others down or even give them a little bit of trouble to the other racers. Go for the *Championship*. If you win you move up from bronze to silver to gold to the *Super Cup*. There's also a demolition derby. they call it Rumble mode..

This is a very good game I recommend it to every one that reads this review -

p.s. The game comes with a CD that has 6 levels from the original Rayman game.



### Requirements

IBM pc or 100% compatible computer  
486 DX2 66 minimum and 100% compatibles  
8 MB RAM  
VGA graphics card  
Double speed CD-ROM or better

**RAY MAN GOLD COMING SOON!!!**

## *Looking Up Collier's*

*Bruce Von Stiers*

It seems everyone now has an encyclopedia on CD-ROM. Microsoft has *Encarta*. Then there is *Grolier's*. Now **Sierra On-Line** is marketing *Collier's Encyclopedia 1998 Edition* as part of it's *Sierra Home* series.

The encyclopedia use **Netscape Communicator** as it's interface. From the main screen you can access the Dictionary, World Atlas, Simulations and the Encyclopedia. There are also pull down menus if you need them.

The *Encyclopedia* has an A-Z Index. There is also a *Multimedia Gallery* that lets you view video files of ships, astronauts etc. The *Simulations* section has a Virtual Chemistry Lab and lessons on economics. The Timeline allows you to check on events during a particular time frame.

*Collier's Encyclopedia* comes on 3 CD discs. It is relatively inexpensive. At this time, it is probably the best encyclopedia available for your computer.

## *Blowing Up and Busting out*



*Josh Von Stiers*

*This a review on **Total Annihilation** from **Cave Dog Entertainment**.*

*Play with the Arm or the Core You decide the destiny for your side. Destroy your enemies and burn things to a crisp with your Commander's D-gun. Launch an assault of **Peewee scout bots** (they pack a pretty mean punch) to knock out a line of A.K.s and Raiders.*

*Fire your lasers and missiles to destroy your enemies vehicles. There are also under water and air assaults. Collect resources to build up your metal and energy meters. There's 2 multi player modes games for single player mode or go with other people on the net. They also has a handy hint book it has vehicles specifications and hints to help you win your missions. There are over 150 units in the game, 75 for each side, and over 200 structures.*

### *Requirements:*

*100 MHz pentium or faster  
16 MB  
Windows 95  
40 MB storage space  
4x speed CD-ROM or better  
640 x 480 x 256 colors  
Microsoft or 100% compatible mouse  
direct X 5 {included}*

## *Dry Indians*

*Bruce Von Stiers*

*Gabe Wager* is a Denver Homicide detective. He is asked by his chief and the government to be the go-between for the F.B.I., the Bureau of Land Management and the local law enforcement in a Colorado desert area. There have been three homicides that need to be resolved. This is the beginning of *The Leaning Land*,. The newest book in the Gabe Wager series.

The author of *The Leaning Land* is *Rex Burns*. The book is published by **Walker and Company** and was copyrighted in 1997. It has **269** pages and lists for **\$22.95**.

Wager meets with the principal agents involved in the cases. He tries to slowly uncover why each person was murdered. Most of the people around don't want to get involved or won't help. The local militia group may be responsible for a least one of the murders. Or it may be one of the Squaw Point Ute Indians , whose reservation is close by.

A subplot involves Wager's girlfriend, Liz, who is on the Denver City Council. Liz's friend Evelyn is being sued for custody of her daughter by her ex-husband. The ex farms in the area that Wager is going to. Liz asks for Wager to help get information about the ex to give to her friend.

This is a good solid detective novel. Gabe Wager is a tough but fair cop. He tries to do his job the right way and not get caught up in the turf disputes between all of the government agencies. The book also explains about how money is distributed to Indian tribes and how some members are cheating both the government and their own people.

*The Leaning Land* is a must read for any mystery fan.

# *A Con By Cannell*

*Bruce Von Stiers*

**Stephen Cannell** just keeps coming up with good books. First there was *The Plan*. Next came *Final Victim*. Now he has written a book about con men called *King Con*. It is a crime novel that reminded me of both *Elmore Leonard* and *Donald Westlake*. Not bad for a television producer. Cannell has put together shows like the *A - Team* and *Wiseguy*.

Beano X. Bates gets into a card game under an assumed name. He ends up winning by cheating. Unfortunately for Beano, the man he cheated was a crazed mob boss. The man catches Beano in the parking lot and nearly beats him to death. Beano ends up in the hospital and charges are pressed against Joe "Dancer" Rina for attempted murder. Beano disappears from the hospital and the case seems to be over until a witness to the beating steps forward to testify. Then the witness disappears, probably at the hands of Rina's older brother, Tommy, who is crazier than Joe.

Beano X. Bates is a con man. So good at it, Beano has been given the dubious title of King Con. He disappeared because he's on the 10 Most Wanted List. The witness was his cousin Carol, a nurse, who didn't actually see the beating but wanted revenge for what happened to Beano. Carol's body is found and Beano constructs a con to avenge Carol's death.

Thrown into the mix is Federal Prosecutor "Tricky Vicky" Hart, who was prosecuting the case against Rina. She forces herself into the con and finds out first hand how grifters work. They go back and forth across the country, pitting Joe against Tommy.

With the help of a lot of Bates cousins ( it seems that the entire Bates clan are con men), Beano puts together the Big Sting. There's "Fit Throwing" Duffy and "Paper Collar" John Bates who help out a lot. Then there is the vivacious Dakota. She and Beano had a minor thing going once but it didn't work out. As the sting gets more involved, so do Beano and Vicky,

This book is a funny, irreverent look at con men and gangsters. It would be well worth your time to read it.

*King Con* is published by **William Morrow and Company**. It was copyrighted in 1997 and has **407** pages. The book lists for **\$24.00**.

## *Not Smoke and Mirrors*

*Bruce Von Stiers*

At the end of **Sentinels**, “*Nameless*” found out that his ex-partner *Eberhardt* had committed suicide. In the beginning of the new “*Nameless Detective*” book, *Illusions*, we are treated to Eberhardt’s funeral. Nameless wonders what could go so wrong that Eb would take his own life.

*Illusions* is the 24th mystery in the series written by **Bill Pronzini**. He has fashioned his private detective after *Dashell Hammit’s Continental Op*. Neither man was ever called by his given name in the stories.

On top of dealing with Eb’s death, Nameless has a new case. It is a skip trace for an ex husband. The wife divorced him and left their son behind. The boy is dying of cancer and the father wants the mother to know. Through some diligent work by Nameless and his assistant, Tamara Corbin, find the mother. Then the father ends up dead. He supposedly accidentally shot himself while cleaning a gun in his motel room.

Nameless thinks that the motel accident was actually murder. He investigate that along with trying to find out why Eberhardt killed himself. Along the way Nameless shatters some illusions about himself and the people that surround him.

*Illusions* is published by **Carroll & Graf Publishers**. It was copyrighted in **1997**. It has **243** pages and lists for **\$23.00**.

*Illusions* is a great detective book. Bill Pronzini is a master at the art of mystery writing.

## *Sailing With Charm*

*Bruce Von Stiers*

*Princess Charming* is a murder mystery novel. The only thing is that nobody has been killed yet. You find out in the prologue that someone is hired to kill a man's ex-wife. The woman is one of the "Three Blond Mice". You spend the rest of the book trying to guess the killer and who the victim is.

**Jane Heller** is the author of *Princess Charming*. Her other works include *Infernal Affairs*, *Cha Cha Cha* and *The Club*. She was a publishing industry executive before turning her talents to writing. *Princess Charming* is brought to you by **Kensington Publishing Corp.** It has **295** pages and was copyrighted in 1997. It lists for **\$22.00**.

The main character is *Elaine Zimmerman*, who along with her friends, *Pat Kovecky* and *Jackie Gault*, make up the "Three Blond Mice". They met each other at the courthouse on the day of their divorces and became immediate friends. Thus they became the "Three Blond Mice". Every year they go on a trip together. This time out it is a Caribbean cruise. The ship is called *The Princess Charming*.

Through a series of events, Elaine ends up trying to make a call from the ship. She intercepts a call that leads her to believe one of her group is going to be murdered. She tries to protect herself and her friends while trying to determine who the killer might be.

*Princess Charming* is an uproariously funny mystery. Elaine can be tough as nails or as sweet as pie. As she tries to uncover the killer you get to meet all kinds of fun and interesting characters. As each suspect is trotted out, you are left to ponder their guilt or innocence.

You'll both furrow your brow and laugh out loud reading *Princess Charming*. Cruise over and pick up a copy.

## *Lucky Strikes*

*Bruce Von Stiers*

A lot of people have read **Jackie Collin's** flash and trash novels. She even has sort of a series about a woman named *Lucky Santangelo*. The latest in the series is called *Vendetta:Lucky's Revenge*. It is published by the ReganBooks imprint of **HarperCollins Publishers**. It was copyrighted in 1997 and has **531** pages. The hardcover release lists for **\$25.00**.

Lucky Santangelo runs Panther Studios. She and her husband Lenny Golden have a good marriage. He goes off to Corsica to do a movie. He is killed in a car wreck. Her best friend, Venus kicks out her husband. And someone does a hostile takeover of Lucky's studio. Lucky seems to be having a bad year.

Donna Landsman is behind all of Lucky's misfortune. Who is Donna and what does Lucky do to get her studio back? You'll find out if you read *Vendetta*. It is typical of Ms. Collin's style of prose. Good story telling with some trash thrown in. Even though the sex scenes aren't very explicit, there are plenty of them.

If you want the continuing saga of the Santangelo clan or just read some fairly clean trashy stuff, then *Vendetta:Lucky's Revenge* is just the book. If not, then don't pick it up.

## *Digging Up Ruins*

*Bruce Von Stiers*

There are a lot of people who watch the *X-Files*. It is a chilller - thriller sci fi show on the **Fox Network** for those of you who don't watch it. Now there are books being written based on the show. The one I just finished reading is called The *X-Files:Ruins*. It is published by **HarperPrism** and was copyrighted in 1997. It has **291** pages and lists for **\$22.00**. *Ruins* was written by **Kevin J. Anderson**. Kevin wrote another X-Files book called *Ground Zero*. Some of his other works include *Blindfold* and *Climbing Olympus*.

Cassandra Rubicon is an American archaeologist who is in the Yucatan exploring for old Mayan cities. Her group disappears and through a chain of events F.B.I agents **Fox Mulder** and **Dana Scully** are asked to investigate. They take along Cassandra's father, Vladimir, who is also an archaeologist. Together they try to unravel what happened to Cassandra and her crew. Unknown to the investigating team, the area that they are in is a haven for drug lords. This haven is in a tug of war between the various drug lords. Everyone wants to control the area.

Mulder sees aliens behind every event and circumstance. Scully provides the logical explanations behind Mulder's assumptions. Together with the elder Rubicon, they try to uncover what has happened. There are legends to debunk and curses to duck around. The ending of the story will either be delightful or annoying depending on whether you like everything tied up into a neat package at the end of a book.

*X-Files:Ruins* is a quick,easy to read sci fi mystery novel. Even if you've never watched the show, you'll enjoy the book.

## *Playing Some Western*

*Bruce Von Stiers*

A great writer of detective novels, **Loren D. Estleman** also puts out good westerns. He has written books like *This Old Bill* and *High Rocks*. His latest western is called *Billy Gashade*. The cover subtitle's the book as "**An American Epic**." Starting in the 1860's and moving to the 1930's, Billy Gashade covers a lot of the Western legends of yesterday.

Billy Gashade begins in New York City as a young man gets involved in a riot and wounds someone. This was in July of 1863. The young man is forced to flee New York and make his way across the country. He assumes the name Billy Gashade. After meeting up with people like Jack Fabian and his boss, Alan Pinkerton of Pinkerton's National Detective Agency, Billy makes his way to Lawrence, Kansas. There he is accepted into a house of ill repute ran by Drucilla Patakos.

Then comes Quantrill's Raid of Lawrence. Billy is captured and forced to go with the rebels. Then he befriends Frank James. The two finally break off and visit Frank's mother and brother Jesse James. Through a lot of movement across Kansas, Billy meets a lot of people who became legends of the Wild West. Jim Bridger saves him from an angry mob. George Custer hires him to put together a regimental band for Fort Riley. He observes the famous meeting between John Wesley Hardin and Wild Bill Hickok.

Along the trail that is Billy's life, he observes what the West was and how it changed the course of history. From the streets of New York to the movie studios of Hollywood., Billy Gashade has seen it all.

Billy Gashade is a brief glance at the American West. I was impressed by the way Billy was interweaved into some of the West's history.

Billy Gashade is published by **Tom Doherty Associates**. It was copyrighted in 1997 and has **351** pages. It lists for **\$23.95**.

## *A Small Bite Of Training*

*Bruce Von Stiers*

**Glenda Friesen** has been doing computer training for quite some time. In talking with clients she uncovered a reoccurring theme. The manuals that came with software was not user friendly. And most of the self help books were either not very helpful or real expensive. She decided to put together her own books for the people who aren't exactly techno nerds. The result is the **Byte By Bite** series.

I took a look at a couple of the **Byte By Bite** books. They are set up like flip charts with various topics followed by a *Frequently Asked Question* section. The size of the books are 5 1/2 inches by 8 1/2 inches and they are spiral bound.

**Byte By Bite: Windows 95** starts out with a diagram of the Desktop. From there the book takes you through minimizing and restoring a window, setting the default printer, closing a locked up program and shutting down Windows 95. There are tips on customizing the Win 95 interface. The section on managing folders and files has easy to follow instructions. Creating a shortcut and installing a program are discussed also.

**Byte By Bite: Word 97** starts you out with two pages of shortcuts. From there you go into creating and working with Word documents. There is a section on the Word editing features. Formatting features such as Bulleted Text, Numbered Text, Margins are discussed. Drop Caps and WordArt are just two of the publishing features that are outlined. If you need to create a table, the Tables section will show you how. The book ends with a listing of things found in Word 97 that wasn't available in earlier versions.

The Windows 95 book costs **\$5.00** and has 21 pages, while the Word 97 books has 80 pages and goes for **\$10.00**.

You can order either one of these books from Glenda Friesen's company, **Training Solutions**. Their address is *P O Box 1226, Raymore Mo 64083*. The shipping costs vary according to the quantity ordered. If you need to call them, their phone number is **1 888 - 858 - BYTE**. You can also e-mail Glenda at **[gfriesen@ix.netcom.com](mailto:gfriesen@ix.netcom.com)**.

For quick, easy to use reference guides, the **Byte By Bite** books are good to have around.

## *Makin' Killer Sites*

*Bruce Von Stiers*

Depending on who you talk to or what you read, Web sites are either hard as nails to put together or as easy as pie. I think that the answer lies somewhere in between. I just picked up a new book that might help me in my quest to be a better webmaster. The title of the book is *Creating Killer Interactive Web Sites*. It was written by *Andrew Sather, Ardith Ibanez, Bernie DeChant* and *Pascal*. It was published by **Hayden Books**. It has 211 pages and was copyrighted in 1997. It lists for **\$49.99**.

The people that put this book together are professional web designers. They have developed web sites for many major companies. They did the on-line version of the Motorola Annual Report and a complete makeover of the Rollerblade site. This gives them a leg up on telling someone how to put together a great web site.

One of the things that the authors stress is something I already do. They say to continually test your site against all the available browsers and verify the screen and window sizes. They remind you that not everyone has a great monitor and sometimes you can have a broken link and not even know it.

The book is a little pricey for the average Joe. But if you want advice from the Pros, sometimes you just have to pay for it.

*Creating Killer Interactive Web Sites* is a good, easy to read reference book. I think that you might pick up a pointer or two.

## *Scriptin' Some Java*

*Bruce Von Stiers*

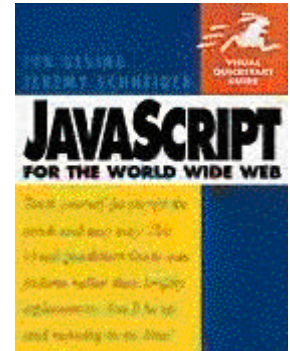
I've been writing about the **Peachpit Press Visual Quickstart Guide** series for a while now. In my quest to better my knowledge of all things Internet, I just finished reading *JavaScript for the World Wide Web: Visual Quickstart Guide*. It was written by *Ted Gesing* and *Jeremy Schneider*. It has 182 pages and lists for \$ 17.95. JavaScript was copyrighted in 1997.

The book starts you out by discussing what a scripting language is and how it can be used on the World Wide Web. Then it takes you through the basics like adding your script to HTML and displaying alert boxes. Setting up an event for the web page can be relatively painless by following the steps outlined in the book.

Want some radio buttons on your web page? How about some scrolling text in the status bar line? Or do you want images on your page to change every time it is accessed? All of the above functions are explained within this book.

As with every book in the Quickstart series, JavaScript has a lot of illustrations and pictures. This is a great feature of the book as it shows you both the scripting code and the visible result.

JavaScript For The World Wide Web: Visual Quickstart Guide is a good book to read to learn about how to script for the Web. I learned quite a few things that I didn't know before. And I was able to incorporate JavaScript into my web site by using techniques learned from the book.



## *Reading About Commerce Electronically*

*Bruce Von Stiers*

For those of us who want to understand how commerce can be done via computers and the Internet there is a new book out. It is called *The Economics of Electronic Commerce* and is put out by **Macmillan Technical Publishing**. The authors are *Soon-Yong Choi, Dale O. Stahl* and *Andrew B. Whinston*. The book has 624 pages and lists for \$49.99.

The book covers competition and market organization for the various companies doing business on the Web. It discusses businesses that exist solely on the Web. It talks about the various types of advertising that is done electronically and how each might benefit or harm your company.

There is an entire chapter dedicated to copyrights and how things can and cannot be copyrighted. Did you know that if you make a copy of a book just so you have to buy it, you have violated the fair use doctrine and are in violation of the international copyright laws? The book details the various aspects of digital products and how the copyright laws apply to them.

There are chapters that deal with electronic payment systems and policy implementation . The last chapter deals with the new frontiers of electronic commerce. Reading about Virtual Communities seems almost like something out of a sci - fi book.

As this book comes from Macmillan's techie side of the house, it looks and reads like a college text. Each chapter ends with a summary and references to other works. It has a wealth of information about what has been and will be going on in the way of electronic commerce.

If you are needing to bone up on the future of commerce, then read this book.

# *Depeche Mode*

*Cassie Sebring*

**Depeche Mode's** latest album *Ultra* was released this past summer. You may have heard their ever so popular ballad *It's No Good*, or the hard rock sound of *Barrel Of A Gun* on your radio station.

Although they are not as popular here in the U.S as they are in their home country of the U.K, the band has been around since 1980. Their earlier hits such as *People Are People* (1985) and *Enjoy The Silence* (1990) have made it in the top 15.

The remaining members - David Gahan, Andrew Fletcher and Martin Gore have put this CD together with EMI Records. This album contains other hard rock songs such as *Useless* and *Sister Of Night*, with great vocals. And if you enjoy those mystical and enchanting instrumental songs, this CD contains a few such as *Uselink* and *Jazz Thieves*.

Another cool thing about this album is that it contains a *hidden song* that has no name ..... which I guess if it did it wouldn't be hidden, would it ? :- )

***Overall I rate this album an 8 1/2 out of 10.*** ( I guess there's maybe a couple of songs that couldn't get any stranger). I can't say much more or otherwise I would give the whole CD away.... there is more to find.

***Until next time! :-)***

## *Traveling With Love*

*Bruce Von Stiers*

**Kathy Mattea** keeps making albums full of heartbreak and love songs. Her latest effort is called *Love Travels*. She has been doing a lot of traveling herself lately, promoting this new CD through a series of concerts.

The song *Love Travels* speaks about keeping love strong even though the people are so far away from each other. *Sending Me Angels* is about the people that God keeps sending to help the sinner. *455 Rocket* is about an old hot rod car. *Beautiful Fool* speaks about Martin Luther King and the dream speech. *The End Of The Line* is about the end of a relationship.

*Love Travels* is from **Mercury Records**. It was copyrighted in 1997. There are 11 tracks that make for almost 55 minutes of music.

*Love Travels* is good country music. It's songs are both sad and happy, making it a well rounded Country album.

## *Pondering Over Some Classic Kansas*

*Bruce Von Stiers*

I was about 16 years old when the album *Leftoverture* came out. I had heard about *Kansas* when they were just starting out. For the most part they were local **Topeka** boys who put together a unique sound. They played at parties and places like *Grandmothers* (a Topeka club where **Ted Nugent** jammed on his way up).

*Leftoverture* has songs like *Carry On Wayward Son*, *Questions Of My Childhood* and *The Wall* . These songs are about a man trying to come to terms with himself and others. *What's On My Mind* tells about a dissolving relationship that a guy is trying to save.

For a mixture of guitar, keyboard, drums and violins *Leftoverture* can't be beat. The unique sound that *Kansas* brought forth during the 70's is much better than some of the music made today.

*Leftoverture* was released on **Don Kirshner's** label and distributed by **Capital Records**. It was copyrighted in 1976.

*If you owned the vinyl album, you've probably worn it out and need to replace it. If you've haven't heard it yet, go grab a copy. The CD is usually priced under \$10.*

## *To Live For Gillian*

*Bruce Von Stiers*

**Michael Brady** wrote a wonderful play about a man trying to come to terms with his wife's death. This play was made into a movie starring *Peter Gallagher*. The name of the play and movie is *To Gillian On Her 37th Birthday*.

The film was produced by **David Kelley** and **Mary Kay Powell**. It was directed by **Michael Proseman**. The screenplay was also written by *David Kelley*. *Triumph Films/Rastar* put out the movie. It runs for 93 minutes and was copyrighted in 1996. It carries a **PG-13** rating for some of the profanity and adult situations.

Daniel Lewis (**Gallagher**) lives on an island with his daughter Rachel (**Clare Danes**). His brother-in-law Paul (**Bruce Altman**) and sister-in-law Esther (**Kathy Baker**) come out for the weekend. They bring along Kevin Dollof (**Wendy Crewson**), a friend of Esther's. The idea is to fix up Kevin with Daniel. But what she wasn't told is that this weekend is the anniversary of Daniel's wife Gillian's death. It is also to have been her 37th birthday.

The problem with the whole weekend is that Daniel is still very much in love with Gillian. He sees her as if she were really still there. He talks with Gillian and takes walks on the beach with her. **Michelle Pfeiffer** does a great job as Gillian.

The film shows the struggle that Daniel has putting his life back together. It is a story that tugs at your heartstrings. What would you do if you lost someone that you were very much in love with? Could you get on with life or be like Daniel, chasing your Gillian down the beach, really knowing that she's not actually there?

## *Doing That Thing*

*Bruce Von Stiers*

**Tom Hanks** is big enough in the movie industry that he can develop his own projects. One of the things he has put together is a movie called *That Thing You Do*. It came out on video earlier this year. I just got a chance to watch it. It is a great movie.

The film takes place during the 1960's. *Guy Patterson* works in his dad's appliance store in Erie, Pennsylvania. He plays drums and is pretty good at it. He is asked by the *Oneders* to fill in for their drummer, who broke his arm. They win a local talent contest and catch the eye of a talent agent. From there they move on to bigger and better things.

**Tom Everett Scott** plays Guy. **Johnathan Schauch** plays Jimmy, the leader of the group. **Steve Zahn** plays Lenny and **Ethan Embry** plays the band's bass player. **Liv Tyler** puts in a good performance as Jimmy's girlfriend, Faye Dolan. **Tom Hanks** is Mr. White, the executive from Play - Tone Records. There are cameo appearances by *Alex Rocco*, *Clint Howard*, *Peter Scolari* and *Chris Isaak*.

After a name change to the Wonders and under the careful eye of Mr. White, the group flourishes on a whirlwind tour. There are a couple of subplots about how the various band members deal with their instantaneous fame. The language is mild and there is little violence in the film.

*That Thing You Do* is a funny look at what can and probably did happen to musical groups that got discovered back in the 1960's. You'll want to watch it over and over again. A friend of mine told me his son watched it so many times that he could quote dialog from the film. Go grab a copy today.

## *Falling In Love*

*Bruce Von Stiers*

A lot of people know the story of *Romeo and Juliet*. I just finished watching a video that uses the story as a base for comedy hijinx. The name of the film is *Love Is All There Is*. Made in 1996, this video was distributed by **Evergreen Entertainment**.

Mike (*Joseph Bologna*) and Sadie (*Lanie Kazan*) run a catering business. Their son Rosario (*Nathaniel Marston*) is to be Romeo in the local 4th of July pageant. When the girl who plays Juliet is injured another girl steps in. Her name is Gina (*Angelina Jolie*) and she is the daughter of Piero (*Paul Sorvino*) and Maria (*Barbara Carrera*). Gina's parents are new to the area and are competitors of Mike and Sadie.

From there the film borrows a lot from the Shakespeare tale. The parents feud and the kids fall in love. The couple are forbidden to see each other and yet seem to get together. There is a subplot involving a psychic (*Renee Taylor*) and another about the play director and a doctor.

The film was written and directed by *Joseph Bologna* and *Renee Taylor*. It was produced by *Broderick Anderson* and *Andrew Kosove*. There are small roles for *Dick Van Patten*, *Connie Stevens* and *Abe Vigoda*. *William Hickey* plays the Monsignor.

For a nonsensical romantic comedy, this film is all right. It doesn't take itself too seriously. Watch it and enjoy.