

## Alien—game of the film

ARGUS Press Software has acquired the rights from Twentieth Century Fox to produce a computer game based on the film *Alien*.

"*Alien* will form part of our *Mind Games* series," explained Peter Holms, Argus's market-

The team of programmers for *Alien* includes people who used to work for failed Liverpool company Imagine Software, although Peter was unwilling to name names.

The *Alien* computer game will be released in November



ing manager. "The player controls the commander of the space ship, but must manipulate and interact fully with the other characters in the game, who all have their own individual personalities.

"You must save the ship and crew from the alien; the rating at the end of the game depends on whether you succeed, or let the beast get to Earth and destroy the human race.

"Because of the changing personalities of the characters in the game, the play will be quite different each time. For instance, if someone picks up a weapon, their confidence factor automatically increases."

## Sinclair

Continued from page 1

upgraded Spectrum machine to sell for around £150: "Such a machine would bring us into head-on competition with the Commodore 64.

"Also it would encourage software authors to write for an expanded Spectrum and Z80 chip at a time when we want to focus attention on writing for the QL and 68008."

## US games

Continued from page 1

set to release Broderbund's *Loderunner* on Commodore 64 next week, at £9.95.

"*Loderunner* has 150 screens, and also incorporates a games designer, in that the player can alter the parameters of the game. Graphically it's not

to coincide with the relaunch of the film. It will be published simultaneously for the Spectrum and Commodore 64 and will cost £9.95.

● Argus has also recently completed the takeover of another Liverpool software house, Starcade. Its latest release, *Savage Pond*, for the BBC and Atari, is to be converted for the Spectrum, and relaunched by Argus.

"Starcade is a father and son team, who wanted to concentrate on programming, rather than spend time on administration, so the sale to Argus was advantageous for them," said Peter.

## Tune in to Channel 8

CHANNEL 8 Software has launched a MIDI keyboard interface—Midisoft 1—to run with the BBC, Commodore 64 and the Sinclair QL.

Also included in the package is software enabling the user to create polyphonic sequences in segments and chords, edit scores from staves displayed on screen, and

going to bowl anyone over, but it has an enormously addictive quality," said Software Projects sales manager Colin Stokes.

"As far as I am aware, our contract with Broderbund is non-exclusive, and we are currently negotiating with them to market the top US title *Raid on Bungling Bay* in Britain as our next release."

## Ex-Imagine directors in court

AT a committal hearing at Liverpool High Court, ex-Imagine Software directors Dave Lawson and Mark Butler were ruled to be in contempt of court, after failing to attend a previous hearing.

Lawson and Butler had been instructed under a court order to release former Imagine shareholder Steve Blower from the personal guarantee on Imagine's £100,000 bank overdraft.

The High Court judge said, however, that it would not benefit Steve Blower if Lawson and Butler were sent to prison or fined for contempt. The order to remove Blower's name still stands.

"This dispute about the overdraft has been going on since February 10th this year, when I reached an out of court settlement with Dave Lawson and Mark Butler to pay me damages and take all possible steps to release me from the guarantee," said Steve Blower. "They did not do so."

The overdraft, at Lloyds Bank in Water Street, Liverpool, is jointly guaranteed by

## Oric

← continued from page 1

"Oric will continue as it is, without any cash injection," the Oric spokesman confirmed.

Two Oric directors, Barry Muncaster (managing) and Paul Johnson (technical) have, however, refinanced Tansoft, the software company which has written extensively for both Oric machines. The two, between them, have acquired Tansoft for an undisclosed sum.

all three men, each of whom are personally responsible for the full amount if one or both of the others cannot meet their share of the debt.

After Imagine went into liquidation in July, Steve Blower obtained the court order instructing Lawson and Butler to remove his name within three days.

"They failed to do that, and then did not attend the court hearing when the three days were up," Steve Blower said. "The judge said that the court order was still in force and that Lawson and Butler must pay all the legal costs. With interest, the overdraft is now around £112,000. I am now talking to my solicitor to see what we can do next."

## Dungeons & Dragons from PSS

*Swords and Sorcery* is the next major release from Coventry based software house PSS.

The program is a Spectrum adventure combining text, 3D and maze graphics and many Dungeons and Dragons role-dump music scored to a printer.

"With Midisoft 1, you can use the computer's memory to store tunes in real time and manipulate them. You can correct the timing on your playing, or alter the tempo if you wish," said Channel 8's chairman Norman Perriam. "Connecting to the micro means that you can control up to 16 synthesizers at any one time.

Midisoft 1 should be available in November, priced at £189.95.

Details from Channel 8, 51 Fibergate, Preston, Lancs.

● The QL monitor produced for Sinclair by MRS Data Efficiency will sell for £269, not £199 as reported in last week's issue.

playing games type features.

The playing screen is divided into three sections, a bottom text screen, a 3D view of a maze and a top view of part of the same maze. As in role-playing games your 'character' develops in skills and exper-



ience over a number of games.

There are a variety of objectives within the game including treasures to be found and quests to be undertaken. All the characters are animated in high resolution 3D. The game is due for release in October.