Coming soon to a C64 near you... Clur rounds up the games that'll be hitting your monitor screens over the next couple of months.

BATMAN RETURNS
UPDATE

B et you're wondering where the hell *Batman Returns* is aren't you? We Previewed it a couple of months ago and you haven't seen hide nor hair of it since. Well we were wondering how it was getting along, too so I trudged all the way up north to Denton Design's fair offices to find out what had happened to it.

When I arrived the programmer, Roy Bannon, was hard at work on the menu bar of the game. He wasn't quite satisfied with the energy bar and was fiddling with the weapon selection display. The first two levels are virtually ready now – apart from the sound which will be one of the last things to be added the program. Roy's doing everything but designing the graphics, which are being ported directly from the Amiga game's graphics (the main sprite alone takes up 20K of the 64's memory).
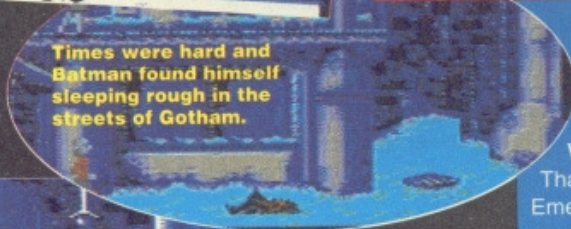
The last time we saw the game there was only the Batman sprite on screen. Now the baddies are there too. There are acrobats, clowns and bikers for Batman to bash the brains out of. Well as near to bashing brains

as you can get without committing murder. Y'see there's no blood in this game. If you hit someone enough, they run away – but they soon pluck up the courage to come back and attack you again.

The completion date for the game is estimated to be at the end of June. If nothing goes wrong we should have a demo on our Power Pack for you around that time too. So you can see for yourself the loveliness of the main sprite's animation. Watch this space.

"Hold it right there, Kid! This tyre hasn't been pumped up properly. I'm taking you in!"
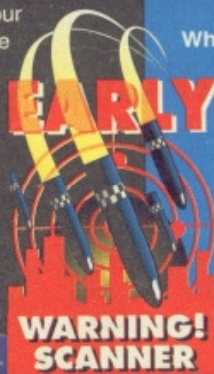
Times were hard and Batman found himself sleeping rough in the streets of Gotham.

When the Wayne fortune dried up he resorted to busking outside the Cathedral.

Finally, he decided the only way to regain his dignity was to take part in the Gotham City Half Marathon. It didn't work – he got the wrong day.

EARLY WARNING! SCANNER

THE LONG-HAIRED CODER FROM LIVERPOOL

What do programmers do for fun? What fills their time when they're not working? We asked Toy Bannon, Batman's programmer about this and other things.

So, how did you get into programming in the first place?
My big brother was a computer nut. He introduced me to programming. I actually got the job through an ad in the local job centre, believe it or not.

Which other games have you programmed on the C64?
I wrote *World Class Rugby* for Audiogenic and I've also done a few things for the Australian market.

What's your favourite game of all time?
It has to be the original *Elite* on the BBC micro. Fab game.

Now for the rapid batch of totally-useless-but-interesting-all-the-same-sort-of quezzies. What's your favourite food?
I like nothing better than a hot pastie and chips all washed down with a mug of steaming Mantunna.

A mug of what?
Mantunna, it's a cheap brand of tea that you only tend to get around Liverpool. It's brown, strong and full of caffeine. Yum!

Who's your favourite band?
That's easy, a hot 70s troupe named Emerson, Lake and Palmer

Which film would you give an Oscar to?
Blade Runner, definitely. It's the only film I know that portrays an accurate vision of the future (*er, how do you know? – Ed*).

What's your favourite book?
The Wasp Factory – I think that everybody should read it.

Finally, have you got any messages?
Erm, er, yeah… Hi Mum… her name's Maureen – she'd love to see her name in print. (*There you go then, anything to please… well almost – Ed*).

The fact that this man likes Emerson, Lake and Palmer might not seem important initially, but you never know when trivia might come in handy.