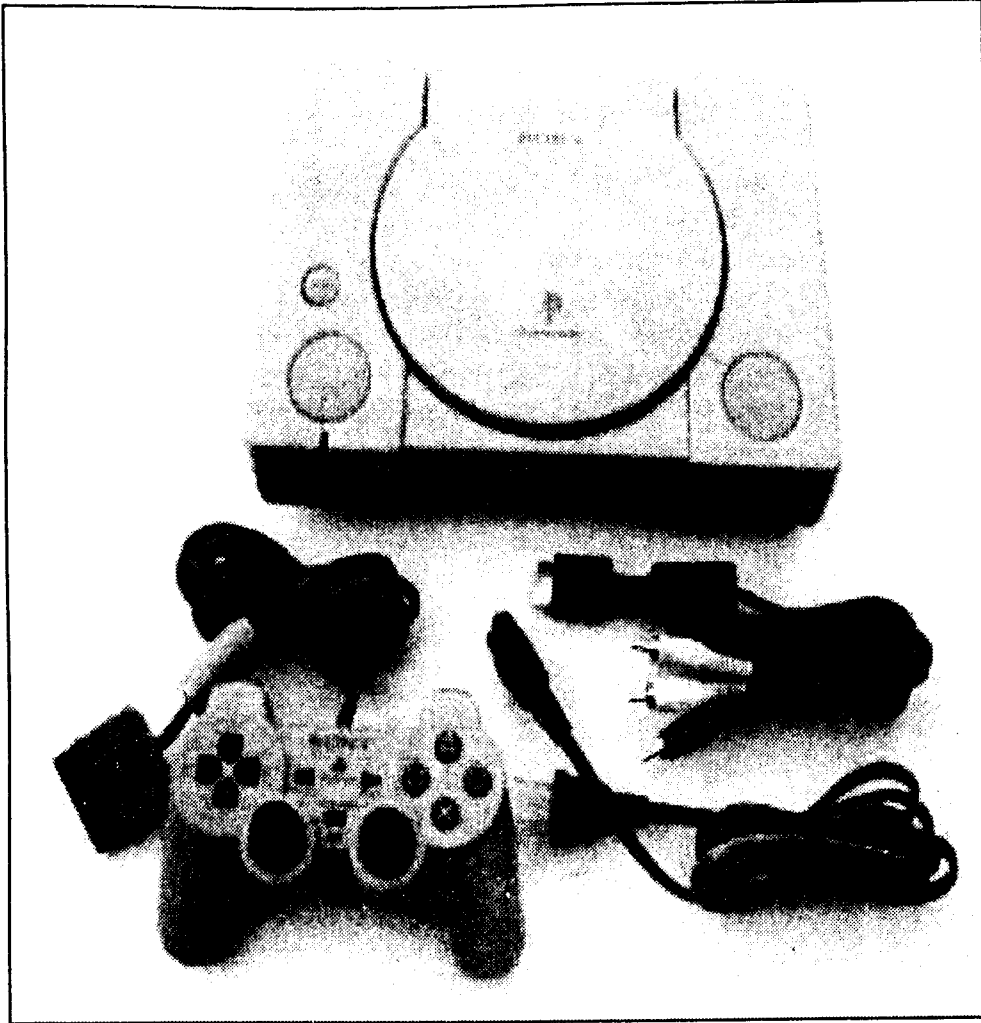


Another reason not to go to class

by Billy O'Keefe
Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service



A Playstation game console screams "Play me!"

PHOTO BY KARL BENACCI

OKAGE: SHADOW KING

System: PlayStation 2
Publisher: Sony Computer Entertainment
Available: Now

Putting its premise into words doesn't do justice to "OKAGE: Shadow King," Sony's wildly bizarre and imaginative role-playing game. Just know that the bad guy's name is Stan; he's your shadow, and your shadow is on a massive power trip. Everything else somehow falls into place in this artful game, which is loaded with wonderful characters, brilliant visuals and a fantastically weird story. Some of "OKAGE's" challenges are so simple that you may wish you could skip them just to see what happens next, and you'll have to put up with the limited character development, the somewhat shallow gameplay and occasionally clunky battle controls in order to do so.

KINETICA

System: PlayStation 2
Publisher: Sony Computer Entertainment
Available: Now

Sony's "Kinetic" raises the innovation bar without forgetting that the point of a racing game is, ultimately, to race. The game eschews cars in favor of full-body racing suits, transforming the racers into a hybrid of human and machine (think Robocop, only with wheels for hands and feet). This adds some fancy footwork and a creative, if underutilized, stunt engine to the action, which is fairly easy to maneuver despite the game's often blazing pace. "Kinetic's" levels are inspired and attractive, and the racer models feature a chic mix of cloth, steel and skin. A create-a-rider feature would have increased the game's depth, but the rush of speed and sound mechanics give "Kinetic" a fun factor that won't soon get old.

CASTLEVANIA CHRONICLES

System: PlayStation
From: Konami
Available: Now

"Castlevania Chronicles" is not a new game, but rather a re-release of a 1986 PC title that never made it out of Japan. The visuals are largely unchanged, and the gameplay resembles the old Nintendo Entertainment System titles. "Chronicles," priced cheap and available in limited quantities, is a fans-only affair, a classic game of "Castlevania" that eschews storytelling, character development and non-linear play. Casual fans will likely be turned off by these features, but old-school Castlevaniacs will enjoy the game's length and challenge factor, as well as the stylish bonus interview with "Castlevania" producer Koji Igarashi. Until the next big sequel arrives, consider this Konami's way of saying thanks.

THE WEAKEST LINK

Available: PlayStation
Publisher: Activision
Available: Now

If you are familiar with NBC's "The Weakest Link," you'll know what to expect from the game, which includes just about every ingredient of the popular game show. Each of the 24 contestants have a full range of voice samples that best come into play when players are voted off the show, and host Anne Robinson naturally has a few cracks at her disposal as well. The game itself is what you see on television and is handled well, boasting a library of 100,000 questions. "Link" also allows seven players to go play at once, making for great party game for all gamers. Love it or hate it, "Link" is as faithful as a game can be to the real thing.

Horoscopes

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 7 - You're a straightforward, honest person. With you, what people see is what they get. Right now, love and money both fit into that category. You can be confident and successful without telling everybody how you do it.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 5 - Don't expect much progress until later tomorrow. You're locked in negotiations.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 6 - OK, now it's time to really get serious. You may not get far, though. If the best you can do is to keep somebody from running all over you, that's good enough. Tonight, stay close to home. There's work to be done.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 7 - Love is plentiful, but money is temporarily scarce. Put your heads together and come up with a plan. Doing without isn't so bad when you're doing it together.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 6 - Home is where your heart is tonight, and that's where your body should be, too. That may require a slight modification to your schedule, but it's worth the effort.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 7 - An insider tip could help you find the perfect thing for your home.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 6 - Be careful about what you say for the next few weeks. Let business take top priority. Learn to be a strategist.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 7 - You're getting stronger, smarter and cuter. Not everyone agrees with you yet, but don't let that slow you down. Don't holler to convince them. You'll win more votes with your smile.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 7 - Conditions are changing again. Although you're exuberant and enthusiastic, it's best not to gloat. Keep recent victories to yourself, and start planning your next move.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 7 - Your friends mean the world to you, even though you rarely say so.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 6 - You'll have to hold off for a little while longer. There'll be too much opposition to your suggestions. Instead of feeling squashed, take notes. If you address those issues, the opposition will dissolve.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 7 - Your attention turns to a new idea or a very attractive person. The two may even be linked. But something is in the way.

Kool Karl's Krazy Korner!

"Scooby Doo"

You may ask, "What's so special about Scooby Doo's 'Scooby Snacks?'"

Well, have you ever noticed how Scooby HAS to have a Scooby snack? He'll do anything for them! I've seen him chase ghosts and hop on alligator's snouts for the luscious snack.

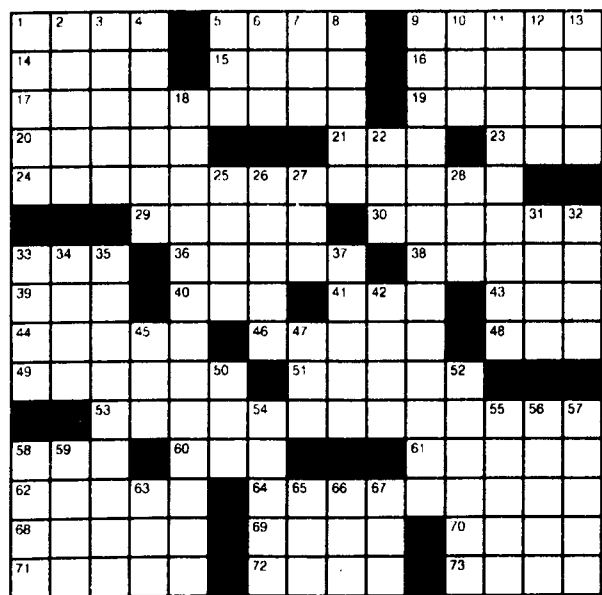
In fact, his paws sometimes shake when he needs one. Why is this? Because Scooby snacks are a narcotic! It's true!

Shaggy likes them, too, and he's the hippie out of the bunch. He must be on drugs. In all actuality, Shaggy probably works the nightshift at the local 7-11 and has hallucinatory dreams about his made-up friends Fred, the gang and that talking dog, Scooby. We all know dogs can't talk.

Hanna Barbera rules!!!

Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 In this place
 - 5 Separate
 - 9 Torn tickets
 - 14 Above
 - 15 Small combo
 - 16 Painter Matisse
 - 17 Packs heat
 - 19 Ryan or Tatum
 - 20 Waiting in the
 - 21 Crow's cry
 - 23 Picnic invader
 - 24 SUV's ancestors
 - 29 Irk
 - 30 Iroquois tribe
 - 33 Truck compartment
 - 36 Cafeteria stack
 - 38 Water pitchers
 - 39 "Ben"
 - 40 "And I Love ..."
 - 41 Vegas
 - 43 Ready to go
 - 44 Delete
 - 46 "Thou ... not..."
 - 48 A couple
 - 49 Japanese horseradish
 - 51 Climbing plants
 - 53 Fire-safety device
 - 58 Unruly group
 - 60 Hanoi holiday
 - 61 Figure of speech
 - 62 Unsuitable
 - 64 Became more severe
 - 68 Kiel or Suez
 - 69 Needle case
 - 70 Rachel or Simon
 - 71 Dawson or Gide
 - 72 Latvian
 - 73 Bump off



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Solutions

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 1 | IN PLACE | 5 | SEPARATE | 9 | TORN TICKETS | 14 | ABOVE | 15 | SMALL COMBO | 16 | MATISSE | 17 | PACKS HEAT | 19 | RYAN OR TATUM | 20 | WAITING IN THE | 21 | CROW'S CRY | 23 | PICNIC INVADER | 24 | SUV'S ANCESTORS | 29 | IRK | 30 | IROQUOIS TRIBE | 33 | TRUCK COMPARTMENT | 36 | CAFETERIA STACK | 38 | WATER PITCHERS | 39 | BEN | 40 | AND I LOVE ... | 41 | VEGAS | 43 | READY TO GO | 44 | DELETE | 46 | THOU ... NOT ... | 48 | A COUPLE | 49 | JAPANESE HORSE RADISH | 51 | CLIMBING PLANTS | 53 | FIRE-SAFETY DEVICE | 58 | UNRULY GROUP | 60 | HANOI HOLIDAY | 61 | FIGURE OF SPEECH | 62 | UNSUITABLE | 64 | BECAME MORE SEVERE | 68 | KIEL OR SUEZ | 69 | NEEDLE CASE | 70 | RACHEL OR SIMON | 71 | DAWSON OR GIDE | 72 | LATVIAN | 73 | BUMP OFF |
|---|----------|---|----------|---|--------------|----|-------|----|-------------|----|---------|----|------------|----|---------------|----|----------------|----|------------|----|----------------|----|-----------------|----|-----|----|----------------|----|-------------------|----|-----------------|----|----------------|----|-----|----|----------------|----|-------|----|-------------|----|--------|----|------------------|----|----------|----|-----------------------|----|-----------------|----|--------------------|----|--------------|----|---------------|----|------------------|----|------------|----|--------------------|----|--------------|----|-------------|----|-----------------|----|----------------|----|---------|----|----------|

- DOWN
- 1 Tramps
 - 2 Phenomenon
 - 3 Ranch name in "Giant"
 - 4 Listed mistakes
 - 5 Sch. group
 - 6 Schedule abbr.
 - 7 Edge
 - 8 Puccini opera
 - 9 Carry a big stick
 - 10 Sawbuck
 - 11 Superlatively apprehensive
 - 12 Husk of grain
 - 13 Sediment
 - 18 Kissing game
 - 22 Earlier
 - 25 Fairy-tale monster
 - 26 Draws closer
 - 27 Sardonic
 - 28 Innovative
 - 31 Sketched
 - 32 Concerning
 - 33 Masticate
 - 34 Surrounding glow
 - 35 Parade group
 - 37 Great Lake
 - 42 Came down to earth
 - 45 Newsmen
 - 46 Donaldson
 - 47 Concealed
 - 50 Likable '50s candidate?
 - 52 Threaded fasteners
 - 54 Lucy's landlady
 - 55 Of musical sounds
 - 56 "Martha" or "Norma"
 - 57 "I Am Woman" singer
 - 58 Isinglass
 - 59 Son of Judah
 - 63 Excellence
 - 65 Goddess of criminal folly
 - 66 Same old same old
 - 67 Mind the children

Anyone caught stealing Karl's ideas will be attacked by rabid Yetis and then, after being mauled, they will be thrown into a pile of manure...face down. We welcome your humorous submissions. Send them to behrcoll5@aol.com

The Weekly Funnies

DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling



"You may sniff the bride."

Recipes for You!

Fruit Soup

Ingredients:

- 3 cups of fruit juice (orange, pineapple, apple, your choice)
- 1 banana
- 1/2 tsp. dried mint (or fresh equiv.)
- juice of 1 lemon
- 1 chopped peeled peach
- cup of cantaloupe
- 2 tsp. honey, or to taste
- 1 cup sour cream, yogurt (her choice) or buttermilk

Preparation

Puree in a food processor or blender. Its summertime all over again!

We want your recipes! Send your submissions to behrcoll5@aol.com. And don't cop out and raid your mom's recipe box. We want recipes from college students, for college students!

CAPTAIN RIBMAN in A Financial Situation

by Sprengelmeyer & Davis



PAUL

