

ARE YOU GAME?

BY CASEY LYNCH



GRAND THEFT AUTO: VICE CITY STORIES (ROCKSTAR; PSP)

Vice City Stories looks better than its PSP predecessor *Liberty City Stories*, has longer missions and boasts an in-game radio station (V Rock) with an entirely new metal soundtrack including Dio's "Holy Diver" and Ratt's "Round And Round". Oh, and it's also chock full of easy women, hot cars, helicopters, jet skis and lots of guns.



BATTLEFIELD 2142 (EA; PC)

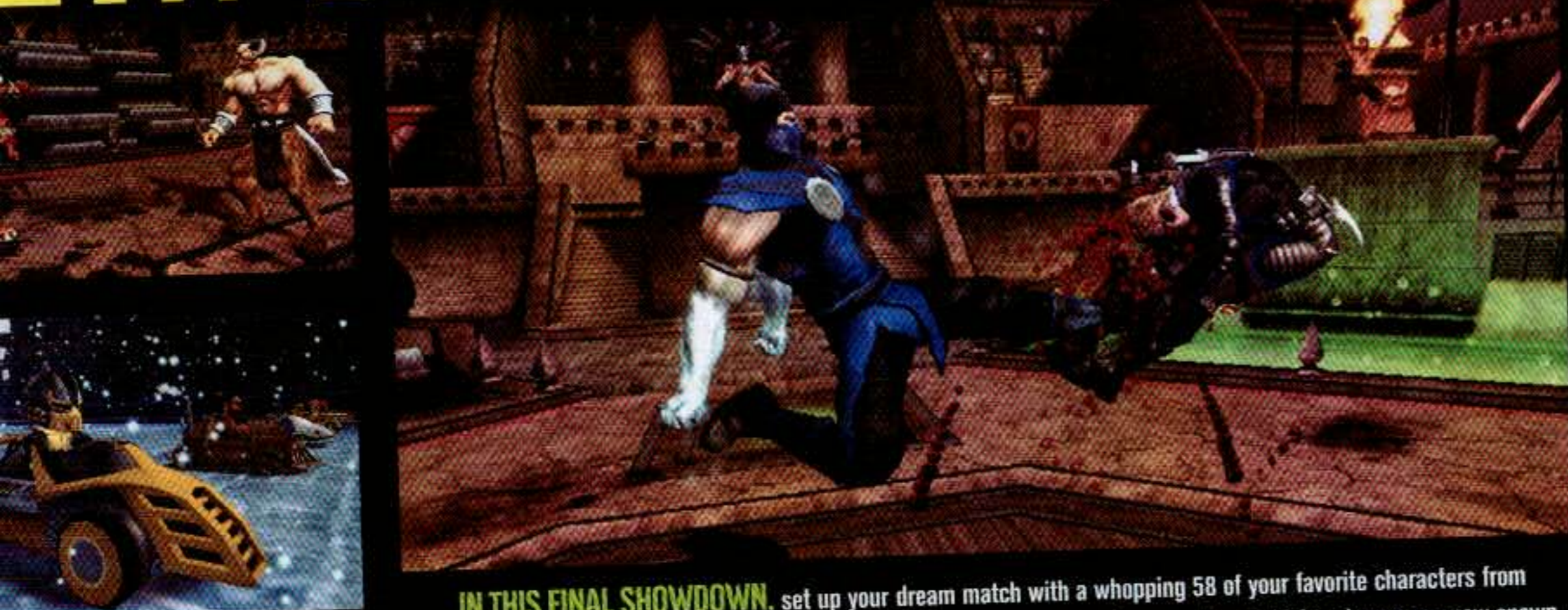
The *Battlefield* franchise is known for great combat and hyper-entertaining multi-player capabilities, and *Battlefield 2142* is no exception. Sure, there's a futuristic plot with an ice age and not enough food for everyone and stuff, but what's really important is that all you mouse-happy warriors have a new online frag fest to keep you up at night.



DEATH JR. 2: ROOT OF EVIL (KONAMI; PSP)

Death, Jr. and Pandora are back and teaming up to take on a powerful spirit they accidentally released. (Don't you hate it when that happens?) *Root Of Evil* features smooth platforming, tons of creepy-crawly possessed baddies, complex enemy AI and its very own unique sense of humor.

THE END IS NIGH



MORTAL KOMBAT: ARMAGEDDON

PUBLISHER: MIDWAY
PLATFORMS: PS2, XBOX, Wii

IN THIS FINAL SHOWDOWN, set up your dream match with a whopping 58 of your favorite characters from the *MK* pantheon. And, if that's not enough to get you doing celebratory roundhouse kicks, players can now spawn their own characters! There are at least 14 separate character classes available with hundreds of tweaking choices, making the possibilities for creation combinations in the millions—literally. Think *Grand Theft Kombat*—well, sort of. What's more, players can create their own fighting style for their custom character, ranging from specific moves taken directly from their favorite warriors to completely new chained combinations, super moves and even fatalities. You can even string together custom-made fatalities with any series of buttons you choose. While *MK: Deception* was known for its various mini-games, including "Puzzle Kombat," *Armageddon* boasts "Motor Kombat," which is like a bizarre *Mario Kart* meets *Mortal Kombat*, complete with inflated heads and all.

THIS MONTH: CHRIS FAFALIOS (BASS) OF PUNCHLINE

WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING?

"I'm not into the fancy-pants new video game systems or anything like that. If I want to play a video game, I'll get on my laptop and play an old-school Sierra computer game—especially any **SPACE QUEST** game. *Space Quest IV* is especially good because it involves time travel, and I love time travel! I grew up playing awesome Sierra games and I credit them for contributing to my awesomeness now." *alt*



DVD WRAP-UP

BY LESLIE SIMON & SCOTT HEISEL



BEVERLY HILLS, 90210: THE COMPLETE FIRST SEASON (PARAMOUNT)

If you missed the mother of all teen dramas when it originally aired on Fox or was syndicated on FX, now's your chance to play catch up. Don't make us call Andrea Zuckerman to tattle on your ass.

EXTRAS ▶ Audio commentary, interactive featurette, episode recaps.



BAD RELIGION: THE RIOT! SPECIAL EDITION (MVD)

So the actual "riot" footage from Bad Religion's aborted Christmas show in 1990 is pretty weak, but a complete live set from '88's *Suffer* tour definitely makes up for it. Plus, you get to see Greg Hetson's flowing locks and Jay Bentley's creepy facial hair, which is just priceless.

EXTRAS ▶ Director's comments, backstage footage.



EVERY TIME I DIE: SHIT HAPPENS (FERRET)

Bowel movements can be just as unpredictable as *Every Time I Die*, so it's no surprise that Buffalo's beloved metalcore band named their DVD after the often unmentionable number two. Oh, and there should be music and stuff on there, too.

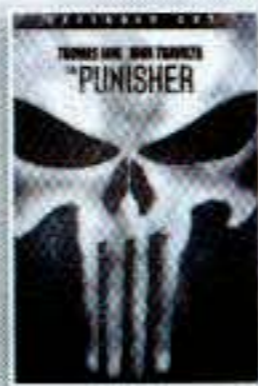
EXTRAS ▶ Behind-the-scenes footage, home movies, hidden treats that only a true ETID fan will be able to uncover.



WASSUP ROCKERS (FIRST LOOK PICTURES)

Known for his true-to-life yet disturbing depiction of youth culture, director Larry Clark does it again as he sets his lens on a bunch of L.A. Latino skateboarders. Sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll ensue. Shocker.

EXTRAS ▶ Audio commentary, photo gallery, deleted scenes.



THE PUNISHER: SPECIAL EDITION (LION'S GATE)

FBI agent Frank Castle retires from the biz only to face unfinished business with a corrupt businessman who kills Castle's family. Better say your prayers, Howard Saint, because payback's a bitch.

EXTRAS ▶ Deleted animated scene, comic book gallery, ringtones.



STRANGERS WITH CANDY (THINKFILM)

Some people can't stomach watching Amy Sedaris play Jerri Blank. They say a mere glimpse of her pocked face causes nausea and, sometimes, bouts of diarrhea. To that we say, "Bring on the Mylanta! We wouldn't miss this for the world!"

EXTRAS ▶ Filmmaker commentary, deleted scenes, theatrical trailer.