

What's happening at Papyrus?

By Adam Levesque

Well, first of all, thanks to Julie for organizing this newsletter. I think it's a great idea for information to get to the whole company. I thought this particular section would be a good way for me to let everyone know what is happening with the company.

Project Update

1. Well, to nobody's surprise, our NASCAR products are selling very well. To date, we have sold over 400,000 units of NASCAR 2 and close to 170,000 units of Sony NASCAR. NASCAR 2 is the number one Sierra title right now (Diablo still beats us for the top "CUC Software" title).
2. NROS is getting revved up for the final push. Right now, it looks like we may be live on TEN by early/mid July. The team has been hard at work trying to identify remaining tasks and get them in the schedule. They are also working closely with TEN to make sure we are all in the "same page." Hopefully, we'll be in a more open Beta very soon.
3. Grand Prix Legends is rolling along as well. As everyone knows, we have recently lost some engineers on that project so it has been a little difficult trying to adjust everything accordingly. But, we have been hard at work finding new engineers and have had some good progress in that area. In terms of the product, the team has a version up and running on Spa, with sound, in Win95 native mode. That's a great milestone. I was over at Sean Turbitt's desk yesterday and he gave me a quick tour of Monza. Man, that track looks unbelievable. The transparent fence texture is great. This game is going to rock!
4. Soda Off-Road Racing, by Software Allies, is cruising along. Sean Nash and company are working non-stop hours to try and get the product completed by early September. I think this product could be a "sleeper" hit for us. We are getting ready to start talks with them about their next product. If anyone wants to try the game, talk to Steve Travers.
5. NASCAR 3 is deep in the design phase. Rich Yasi has been recruited to help Matt Marsala with the design. It's been a little tough, especially as GPL and N3 are so closely related. But, we are working through those issues as we speak. If anyone has any suggestions or thoughts about N3, drop by and talk to Matt and Rich.

6. **NASCAR Manager** is well under way. The whole team has really dived in head first with this project. I know they have a demo which people can see to get a good idea about the project. See Mike Lescault about this; he's here at all hours pounding out the design.
7. The **Grand National Expansion Pack** is also progressing well. The plan is to release the two fantasy tracks from Sony NASCAR first on magazine cover disks. Hopefully, that will generate enough hype before the release of the add-on. Hats off to the art department for working on these tracks without much info (same goes for the GPL guys). They have made the best of a difficult situation.
8. We are working on the **Drag Racing** game part-time while JR and Rich help in other areas. While it was disappointing to find out NHRA gave an exclusive license to another company (I can't remember their name, nobody I knew), we have still decided to proceed with the project. After all, we can still get the licensing drivers, teams, tracks, events, etc, so it will still be a "licensed" drag racing game.

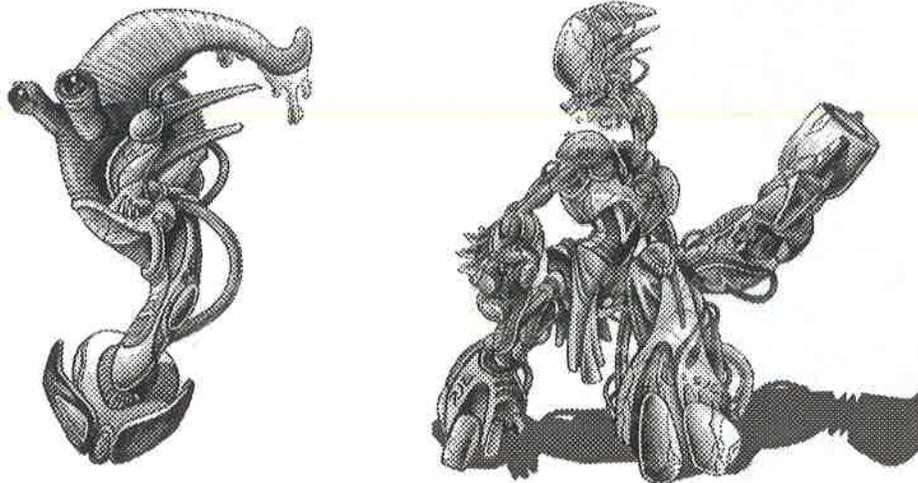
Rumor Mill

1. Rich Garcia is working on a Rally game. I had initial discussion with him about having Papyrus publish the product. Stay tuned for more info about this.
2. A hot topic around the office right now is "branding". We have talked about doing a "Papyrus Racing" brand. After talking with other GMs at the meeting in Phoenix, I really think the way to go is a "Sierra Sports" brand which would encompass all Sierra sports products – Front Page Sports, NASCAR, etc. The rational is we could sit back and lament the fact that EA is number one in sports games, or we could go right after them. I prefer to go right after them. Doing a "Sierra Sports" brand would allow us to leverage marketing dollars across the whole line. This means TV advertising would be well within reach. Anyway, I'll keep you guys up-to-date on this. But if you have any thoughts/suggestions, stop by and we'll talk about it.

That's all I have today. But, please, if anyone has any thoughts/questions/ideas/suggestions, about anything, feel free to stop by and see me.

FEATURED ARTIST

Lou Catanzaro



"Jim"



What are you currently working on inside Papyrus?

Michelle Balkan – I am currently working on defining the concept of the interface for Nascar Manager.

Charley Bandes – Currently associate producer on GPL.

Hannah Burr – I am working on the track pack track South Boston Speedway.

Lou Catanzaro – Designing a Papyrus-sponsored Indycar and Busch Track Pack tracks.

Yoosun Cho – I'm working on 3d art work for GPL tracks. (Currently Spa, soon Watkins Glen, Mexico City, Kayalami.)

Kasson Crooker – Sound design for Nascar Manager and GPL and thinking of Nascar3 off in the distance.

Jill Dolan – I am currently putting together a crash course in “how to effectively interview” for people here so they will know what to do when they interview candidates.

Ken Driskell – Texture Mapping Tool. NASCAR Manager game. Higher Asteroid score.

Tom Faiano – I'm managing the Busch Track pack project and participating in the design for NASCAR3 while lending a hand here and there on UI/layout issues for both GPL and NASCAR3. Oh, yeah, and racing PMS whenever possible.

Dave Flambeavis – Currently I'm helping Sandro to facilitate the growth of peace and excellence within the DOA through whatever violence necessary.

Paula Gaete – Receptionist and Human Resource Assistant.

Isabelle Garbani – Working on track pack: painting cars, getting ready for Nazareth (yes, that's in Pennsylvania) and helping Lou with the California track (for ramp-up purposes). Thinking about the web and what we could do to enhance the little space we have reserved for us. Hopefully I am finished with NROS for now.

Evelyn Ginsparg – Updating 3d tools, mostly trk23d and ope, for GPL.

Morgan Hastings – Currently I'm working on making the Maserati distance dependent and soon I will be working on Gateway for the trackpack.

Tony Johns – Ostensibly, my main function will be the Web producer for Papyrus. However, that's on hold while things get sorted out about the whole Web issue, so I've basically been doing track testing and sticking my nose into NASCAR 3, NASCAR Manager, NROS, GPL, and everything else I can. I'm starved for attention and so I try to contribute ideas and stuff even where it isn't necessarily wanted. Oh, I forgot — I annoy Steve all day playing my Mark Isham music (“Dammit, Tony, that music is just too *haunting!*”) and I am the designated Papyrus Multiplayer Series Annoyer and Getter-Together of Stuff(tm).

Priscilla Kilbride – Licensing stuff.

Mike Lescault – Producing/Designing NASCAR Manager.

Adam Levesque – Keeping my sanity. :) Actually, getting used to the job has been a big factor.

Matt Marsala – Producer of NASCAR 3, Grand Nat'l Expansion Pack, N2 Tradeshaw (single and multiplayer).

John Scott – Too much. SONAR (yes, still), NROS, N3.

Bryan Shutthead – Texas Motor Speedway for the N2 Busch Track Pack.

Jane Sieczkiewicz – Managing testing of all products – currently SODA, NASCAR Manager, Grand National Expansion Pack, GPL, N3. Helping out Licensing with research so Priscilla doesn't lose her mind.

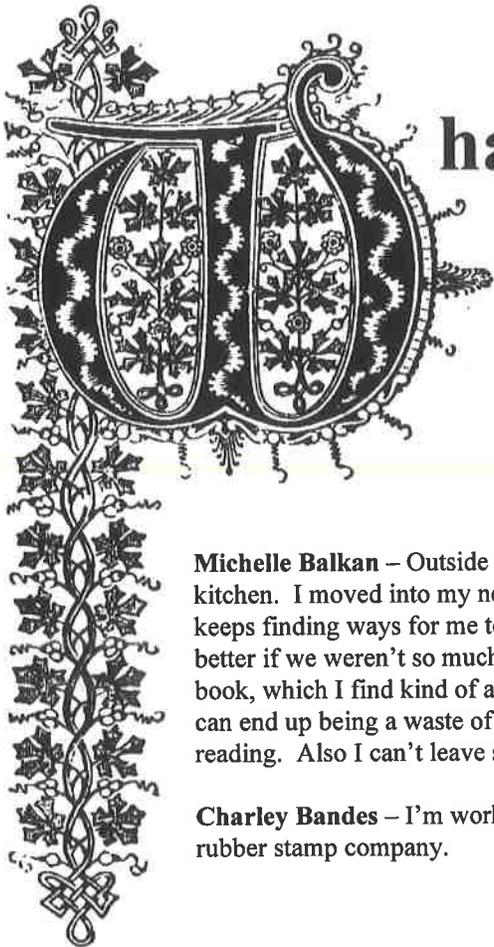
Ryan Smart – N2 demo, tradeshaw, Busch trackpack, N3.

John Spadafora – The Nascar Racing Online Series (NROS) project, Lead Engineer Nascar 3, Lead Engineer.

Julie Sparks – I'm working on the car textures for the Busch Track Pack, and am gearing up to start the track textures for the Milwaukee Mile. In my spare time I'll be hassling all of you about this newsletter. :)

Steve Travers – SODA Off-Road Racing! producer.

Danny Walles – I have been busy with reviews/performance plans and helping the 3d people with the Track Pack, NASCAR 3, and GPL. (But if you ask any of them, they will probably tell you that I just get in the way. :-)). I have also been protecting my cube against the infestation of brown shoes. I hear they are bad this year.



What are you currently working on outside Papyrus?

Michelle Balkan – Outside Papyrus I am currently working on helping my mother remodel her kitchen. I moved into my new place with Ron in October right before the wedding, and my mom keeps finding ways for me to come back home and spend time with her. It's okay but it would be even better if we weren't so much alike... that can get on one's nerves. I just finished reading an 'okay' book, which I find kind of annoying. I just can't put a bad story down. Which is a shame because it can end up being a waste of time. But I just keep thinking it's going to get better. So I keep on reading. Also I can't leave something half done.

Charley Bandes – I'm working on a body of abstract photographs, and helping to run my family's rubber stamp company.

Hannah Burr – I am painting and drawing and playing around with new ideas, focusing on not letting the summer pass me by, force-feeding my cat Dexter pills for the next month twice a day, going to four family weddings by September, and it seems to keep going like this in a pleasant way, though I only wish there was more time. Also, I am trying to hone in my joke-remembering skills, which are very poor presently but of central importance to my life somehow.

Lou Catanzaro – Moving into my new apartment.

Yoosun Cho – Friends and families had come and gone (all of them are living on the other side of the earth), so I had a lot of guests at home. Now, I'm little more relaxed so that I'm trying to do some more physical exercise like swimming, pingpong, tennis, golfing (do I know how to ???). Most of all, I want to spend more time with my new computer and new 3d software.

Kasson Crooker – Recording a second Splashdown CD, working on my first solo CD, and world domination.

Jill Dolan – I just finished up a graduate course and am looking forward to the sunny weekends of summer!

Ken Driskell – Raising 3 kids. Playing foosball (table soccer) on Monday nights.

Tom Faiano – Various little photo-type things and the usual failed prose fiction scribblings.

Dave Flambeavis – Maintaining our family culture, trying to find a house, basic Dad stuff, etc. This is the worst area I've ever seen for even thinking one can live in an area conducive to my kid's development without going broke. If anyone knows of any cool, quiet New England-like towns less than an hour from Papyrus that are affordable and where a kid can grow up with relatively little fear (parents too) give me a ring. I'd be eager to listen.

Paula Gaete – Soccer mom, sports enthusiast – watching my son play sports. Spare time – make jewelry and go Latin dancing with my husband. And love to travel.

Evelyn Ginsparg – Scooping cat litter, fighting with landlord, looking to buy an overpriced house in Arlington, finishing up drawing class, sleeping (ideally).

Morgan Hastings – Outside of Papyrus I have been working on a Lakota language learning program which when completed is to be used as a template for other native languages.

Tony Johns – Most of my spare time is used helping my wife around the house and changing my daughter's diapers. When we get spare spare time, I can be found drawing cartoons, playing with Photoshop and a scanner (I'm trying to reclaim my lost calling as an artist), and composing electronic music on my very limited home studio (okay, it's an Ensoniq T-10 and a tape deck). I never miss a NASCAR race on TV, and I muck around with books when I get some time to read. Most often Civil War history, classics, and some good current fiction. Someday I hope to write the Great American Novel, but until then I'm satisfied to read a few.

Priscilla Kilbride – Finished a course in skin care.

Mike Lescault – Outside Papyrus? What's that? Well, I've really been meaning to get my motorcycle summerized... hopefully by fall.

Adam Levesque – Right now, raising my 15-month-old son, Connor. It's quite a challenge, though my wife has the harder part.

Matt Marsala – Do you mean extra-curricular activities? If so, I am the Softball Captain of a slow pitch men's softball team (0-3 so far this season, but we're trying!), and I try to play golf once a week with fellow employees, but I end up only playing once a month.

John Scott – Learning about K-12 science education (I'm wrapping up a class in that now.), learning/reviewing biology. (The above is because I'm interested in educational software.) Also, in theory I'm reading the "Classics" (like Gulliver's Travels). I say "in theory" because I've not been reading lately.

Bryan Shutthead – Not a hell of a lot actually. Finding cool stuff to put in my apartment.

Jane Sieczkiewicz – I have begun hiking, and love it. For now, it is only day-hiking, but if I can get used to the idea of sleeping on the ground, I may do some overnight hikes.

Ryan Smart – Live role-playing.

John Spadafora – Not much.... My wife Joy and I are fixing up a room for our son, arriving August 15th or so. I'm playing Ultimate Frisbee 3 nites a week. The teams name is 12 Fluid Ounces.

Julie Sparks – Busying my fingers with cross-stitching in an effort to start a small business. Attempting to organize all of my crap into my new apartment. Combing yard sales for Fisher Price toys.

Steve Travers – Softball (left field). Homebrewing (someday). Reading evolutionary biology, and short stories. Learning to play the stock market. Learning how to use my new eMate 300 (hey, Batgirl has one!). Holding on to the futile belief that the Red Sox will some day win it all.

Danny Walles – Outside of Papyrus, I have been playing golf. I don't play inside because someone may get hurt.



What's the most embarrassing event of your life that you can think of? (Not necessarily something that took place at Papyrus.)

Michelle Balkan – Hmm... the most embarrassing event of my life.... That would have to be the time that I exposed myself to a bunch of 'half in the bag' bikers at a pool party. I can't believe I'm telling this... but this memory is one from when I was little so I guess that makes it alright. It had to have happened before I was 5. I don't know the exact age that I was. But I was little. I only know that I wasn't older than 5 because my now deceased biological father, who was only around until I was 5, was in attendance. (My dad met his maker after a fatal motorcycle ride on the night of September 16th 1977... trivia – exactly one month after Elvis died.) So, he was there. So was my mom, my brother Michael, and about 30 Harley-Davidson Bikers who called themselves the 'Centaur's'. It was at a pool party over this guy Lori's house. He was a friend of my dad's, and played music in a band with him. I distinctly remember this guy's pool because my dad (who was also an artist) had painted an american flag on the entire bottom of this guy's in-ground pool. (And it looked really cool under the water... especially when people jumped in it and the waves would distort the image of the flag.) Well, now to get on to the embarrassment.... I was having a wonderful time swimming and splashing when I realized mother nature had other plans for me. I had to go pee. So, I got out and I went into this guy's house all by myself to use the bathroom. Now, getting my one piece bathing suit down 'to go' wasn't that difficult. My bathing suit, which was my *favorite* bathing suit, was an american flag design that matched the pool, so to speak. It was soaking wet from just jumping out of the pool and running

into the house. When I 'rolled' the bathing suit down it got all rolled up and tangled. And when I was ready to leave the bathroom I couldn't get it untangled to put the damn thing back on!! Being wet made untangling the suit an impossible feat for a small child on her own in a strange place. I needed my mom's help bad! And where was she??? Where I had left her, by the pool... with everyone else. So, naturally, being perplexed trying to untangle the suit, I was not thinking consciously. So I went to seek the help of my mom... not thinking, or caring, that I wasn't wearing my suit. But when I walked into the pool area I was forced to acknowledge the fact that I wasn't wearing my suit, when all the people started to laugh hysterically at me (or so it seemed). They thought it was cute. I thought it was horrifying. What possessed me? I have no idea. The only memory I have after that, of that day, was waking up in the back seat of the station wagon, on the way home, bearing the aftermath of catching my breath from crying so hard, with my bathing suit on... and dry.



Little Michelle Balkan.

Charley Bandes – Embarrassing thing? High school yearbook photo.

Hannah Burr – There are many situations in which I have made a fool of myself; in fact they happen daily much to the amusement of myself and everyone around. Perhaps it was the time when my field hockey skirt decided to fall off in the middle of a game (luckily bike shorts were worn) that was being both filmed and photographed for the rival school's paper. Perhaps it was the time I drooled on the desk of a woman at whose business I was applying for work; and to try and make light of the situation I decided to remark loudly, "Ha, I drooled," which was probably not the best idea; needless to say I did not get the job. Or the times I have walked into trees, meters, cars; or the times I am having an in-depth conversation with a friend and turn to see it is someone else walking next to me and my friend is back tying a shoe.

Lou Catanzaro – When I was in the ninth grade the space shuttle blew up. On that day there was an interruption over the intercom announcing the tragedy. I was giggling around with my friends at the time, trying *so very* hard to be cool. I turned to my friend, took a pencil, and mocked a rocket launching. Then gestured with my hands an explosion sending the pencil crashing back to my desk. My teacher saw what I had done. She exploded at me. She screamed at me from deep within her flesh. I was young and very ignorant. I prayed to vanish from existence. You wish sometimes you can go back and change things. Instead I'll live with that the rest of my life.

Yoosun Cho – I don't have any big big embarrassing event that I can remember, maybe because I have a thick face. Although I still remember these events I had when I visited U.S. for the first time. Korean pronounce 'F' and 'P' almost same because they don't have 'f' sound. I was at this restaurant, and I asked for a 'f'ork to this waiter. He look little confused for a while and then he brought me a menu. Then I realized that I said, "Can I have another 'p'ork, please?" In Korea, people make one line in front of one toilet in a public restroom, so you have as many lines as the number of toilets, so you look and take the shortest line you can find. When I went to a public bathroom for the first time in this country, there were full of people waiting in a line. I thought all the toilets were out of order except one has full of people in front of it, so I decided to check it out. Imagine what happened next.

Kasson Crooker – Once at a tennis match in high school I was playing doubles and my teammate was serving and he hit me in the back of the head with a wild serve and it knocked me into the net and it hurt. :((Explains a lot now though, don't it??)

Jill Dolan – There are so many I can't decide which one to tell you about.

Ken Driskell – Some friends of my parents were traveling across country. They stopped by to visit and recall old times. During dinner, my father made a joke. The joke was SO stupid it caught me by surprise. I burst out laughing with a mouth full of milk. Everyone helped clean up the mess all over the table of food. Now, they just call to chat.

Tom Faiano – When Ann Chef kissed me in front of the entire class in first grade. I still haven't recovered.

Dave Flambeavis – I plead the fifth on that one. At least from what I can remember of it I probably should. Hmmm. Well, it's hard to think about this. The histories are vast and clouded. I do recall... nope. And then there was the night... uh... um.... Well, I did get a rejection letter from Papyrus when I first applied. I took the guerrilla approach after that. You know, the way things were way back when.... So this is embarrassing right now to share WITH EVERYONE IN THE WHOLE DARN COMPANY! But, hey, there you go. Hope you're happy! :-)

Paula Gaete – Thought I would just die when I asked a woman if the 3 beautiful children she was with were her grandchildren. She was the mother.

Isabelle Garbani – You know that I am not embarrassed by anyone or anything.... (If only that were true.)

Evelyn Ginsparg – No way do I reveal, but thanks so much for reminding me.

Morgan Hastings – One of the most embarrassing things that ever happened to me was once I had toilet paper stuck to one of my moccasins.

Tony Johns – Must I answer this? Okay. I was a very very young kid. Impressionable (okay, that part hasn't changed). Anyway, my babysitter had allowed me to eat another peanut-butter/M&M/Pixie Stix sandwich, and so for some strange reason I decided to do my version of "The Streak" around the house. I made about five or six circuits around the place before I realized what I was doing, whereupon I jumped for the couch, grabbed an afghan and wrapped it around me, and made a break for my room. To this day I can still see the expression on the babysitter's face. Ranking a close second, I actually mailed in one of those "You could be a winner, but only if your entry gets here by such and such a date!" I was so glib that I actually FedExed this letter to them.

Priscilla Kilbride – Several to choose from. One was the time I went on a double date and didn't realize till the very end of the date I was supposed to be paired up with the other guy.... It was just a casual, friendly, nothing physical date, but still, I didn't sit in the same row at the theatre, I rode in the other guy's car... sure felt stupid.

Mike Lescault – (Not the *most* embarrassing event, but close.) While working the Papyrus booth at the IndyCar Banquet with a bunch of drivers and wannabes hanging around, I made the mistake of asking a question loud enough for all to hear. As some guy finished driving ICR2 and got up and stormed away mad, I asked, "Who was that guy? He wasn't very good." Of course, it was Michael Andretti.

Adam Levesque – I've had so many it would be hard to pinpoint any one event. :) I'll need to think a bit about that and get back to you.

Matt Marsala – Tough question. I can't think of the most embarrassing event in my life, but the most recent embarrassing event was coming back from McDonald's with Matt Sentell. I was walking up the back staircase (by the lounge) and missed a step. I ended up falling on my lunch, and the cover of my Coke came off and half of it dumped all over my head and neck. Not very suave....

John Scott – Ack! Allow me to pass on this, please... :-)

Bryan Shutthead – I was walking down a beach on Martha's Vineyard and gradually more and more people had less and less clothes on until I realized I had accidentally stumbled onto some nudist colony. I tried to play it cool like I was just strolling through but it came to a dead end and I had to turn around and walk the mile back across the nude beach section again. People were really into it, playing Frisbee, all sorts of skin flanging around as they ran and jumped. Sometimes the paths got extremely narrow and I had to squeeze by naked people coming in the other direction. I tried to just stare at the sand as I walked but I'm only human so I took a couple of peeks. By the time I got back to my car I thought it was pretty amusing. I took my hat off to wipe the sweat from my brow and it was only then that I realized the hat I had been wearing all day said "PERVERT 69" on it. Boy did I feel dumb.

Jane Sieczkiewicz – Being in the shower at my parents' house and having my mother hand me the phone for a business phone call. Hasn't she ever heard of taking a message? :-)

Ryan Smart – Assistant-coaching pee-wee baseball too aggressively and accidentally getting in the way of a slide. Anything to do with clowns - they terrify me.

John Spadafora – Though there have been many embarrassing events... I can't think of a "most embarrassing event" off the top of my head. I think that's probably a good thing.

Julie Sparks – Realizing I can't come up with an answer to my own question. Hah! Actually, Dave came up with this question, not me. :)

Steve Travers – When I was out on a date with Christy Turlington and I called her "Naomi" by mistake.



The Charlotte Trip – A Retrospective in the key of 'G'

By John Scott

For most of us, the trip to Charlotte started early Tuesday morning. Way early.

We met at the office at 6 am and caught cabs to make our 8:05 flight. Our first task after arriving in Charlotte was to help host a dinner for some of the NASCAR drivers and their crews. Papyrus staff set up three computer stations so people could race each other with NASCAR 2. People had their pictures taken with such drivers as Dick Trickle and Johnny Benson. Randy LaJoie and Elliot Sadler also enjoyed the festivities, as did a number of the Busch drivers.

Wednesday morning meant it was time to start the main business of the trip: having timed lap competitions at four locations around Charlotte. The idea was simple: set up machines at four locations around Charlotte, and let people come and drive three laps around our version of the Charlotte Speedway. The 30 people with the fastest times from each location would be chosen to compete for Thrustmaster wheel and pedal setups, and ultimately a computer system.

At CompUSA, Isabelle, Dan Collins and myself worked feverishly to get three computers linked up and ready to go, but couldn't get the system to recognize the Thrustmaster 2 pedals. We finally learned that they wouldn't work under Windows 95b. As much as we hated to, we had to reassign the gas and brake pedals to buttons on the Thrustmaster console.

Little did we know that over at the main lobby of the tallest building in Charlotte (known as Founder's Hall) Tom, Dave Miller, and Josette were sweating over the same problem – when a mysterious voice behind them announced, "Maybe I can help." They turned around to see a man produce a diskette from his pocket and state, "I am from Thrustmaster, and I have a patch for your game." Moments later, the patch had worked its magic, enabling many a gamer a richer, more

enjoyable experience that day. "Thanks, Thrustmaster Man!" they all waved, as Thrustmaster Man bounded out the door, scouring the country for anyone who might be having Thrustmaster setup problems.

Or something very close to that happened. At any rate, this guy showed up at the CompUSA location the next morning to fix our problem as well.

On Wednesday evening some of us went to dinner at a place known as "The Sandwich Construction Company," which Dave Flamburis had recommended to us. The first clue that this was not your typical eating establishment was the existence of three NASCAR cars fastened atop its sloping roof. The interior was adorned with NASCAR side panels, bumpers, and hoods all over the ceilings and walls; and whatever space was left over was taken up with NASCAR racing photographs and posters.

The parking lot of the same restaurant was the site of a special event Friday morning as several hundred people crammed in hoping to win prizes from a live radio show in an event known as "Breakfast of Champions." Evidently, a champion's breakfast includes the consumption of large quantities of beer, as we found many of the fans in attendance sloshed. (And this was just 7am.)

For those of you who have never been to a NASCAR race (as I had not been before this trip), you may not be aware of all the fanfare that can surround such an event. Roads were closed off in the heart of Charlotte that weekend, the traffic being replaced with a kind of NASCAR carnival. As one walked out of Founder's Hall, the senses were assaulted with the sound of live bands, the smell of frying bratwursts and Polish sausage, and the sights of people trying to grab free goodies being shot out over the crowd.

Squeezing through this throng of people, I made my way past motion simulators, stockcars with built-in video games, a strongman competition, and a robot, to find myself at the Papyrus booth which was being expertly manned by Steve Travers and Joanna. Papyrus was also represented at two other locations: the Kellogs trailer and the Bayer booth, each of which had two stations running our simulation, and which had free demos of NASCAR 2 available.

Inside at Founder's Hall, Dave Matson and Dan Collins prepared the machines for the final competitions. On Friday evening, Steve Jackson announced the action as we whittled down the semi-finalists to ten people who returned Saturday to compete for a new computer system. Ron Gaines, the spotter voice of NASCAR 2, called the action for the final competition, a 10% race with full damage on.

On Sunday, we were free to attend the Winston Cup race which started at 6pm. After two hours of racing, rain brought things to a standstill just four laps short of the point where the race could be considered official. The crowd waited for two and a half hours for the track to dry so the race could continue.

Imagine returning from the concession stand during this interval, and listening to the rows of people as you walk up the stands:

"Bill just maht pull it off if we can eveh get this track drah agehn..."

Next row...

"...pass me anothah Bud, would ya?"

Next row...

"... so you multiply 44 pit crews by 6 people by 200 polygons per person, and your frame rate dwindles to something horrid..."

Which row do you think was from Papyrus?

No surprise, then, that a guy in front of us turned around to ask, "Hey, where ur you all from, anyhow?"

Dan answered, "Uh, Boston, Massachusetts, sir."

"Yeah, cuz you all shore don't sound lak yore from around here... you all must sound lak weall sond ~lak - s*mbdy wud ahnd beah#ahl talking through a hamburger!"

"Yeah, right!"

I was confused. "What did he say?"

"I have no idea."

Finally, it was time to leave Charlotte, bringing a close to an exhausting but fun trip.