

commented, it was time to 'Ride my bike into the hills, learn how to garden, anything except do another Bon Jovi record.'

He subsequently concentrated on his solo career, married karate champion Dorothea Hurley and appeared in his first movie, *Young Guns II*, and released a quasi-soundtrack of songs inspired by the film as his debut solo album in 1990.

However, the commercial incentive to return to Bon Jovi was inevitably hard to resist. *Keep The Faith*, with a more stripped-down sound, was an impressive album, satisfying critics and anxious fans alike who had patiently waited almost four years for new material. To those who had considered the group a spent commercial force, the success of the slick ballad, 'Always', a chart fixture in 1994, announced no such decline. On the back of its success, Bon Jovi occupied the UK number 1 spot with the compilation set *Crossroad*, amid rumours that bass player Alec John Such was about to be replaced by Huey McDonald. Meanwhile, Bryan released his first solo album, through *Phonogram* in Japan, and Sambora married Hollywood actress Heather Locklear (ex-*Dynasty*).

These Days was a typically slick collection of ballads and party rock, and included the hit single 'This Ain't A Love Song'. With their position already secure as one of the world's most popular rock bands, the album lacked ambition, and the band seemed content to provide fans with more of the same old formula. Their profile had never been greater than in 1995, when, in the annual readers poll of the leading UK metal magazine *Kerrang!*, the band won seven categories, including best band and best album (for *These Days*) and, astonishingly, worst band and worst album (for *These Days*).

These Days Tour Edition was a live mini-album released only in Australia. Jon Bon Jovi began to nurture an acting career in the 90s with starring roles in *Moonlight And Valentino* and *The Leading Man*, and enjoyed further solo success with 1997's *Destination Anywhere*. Recently Bon Jovi released another live album called "Crush".



From The Final Frontier



This image taken from NASA's Galileo Internet site 08 June, 2000 shows an active volcanic eruption on Jupiter's moon captured 22 February, 2000 by imaging equipment on board the Galileo Spacecraft. Tvashtar Catena, a chain of giant volcanic calderas was the location of an eruption in November, 1999.

OUTER HOLIDAYS

Aliens Versus Predator, Gold Edition

By Shahid Ibne Mahbub

What happens when three of the most dangerous species in the universe are pitted against one another with nowhere to hide? That's exactly what Fox Interactive and Rebellion have managed to pull off in their title "Aliens versus Predator".

The game brings together three characters from two famous Hollywood blockbuster movies, James Cameron's Aliens and Predator. The game is a 1st person shooter that allows you to play three characters representing their race in this intergalactic conflict. You can play as a marine crop, as the Predator or as the Alien.

Although AvP was released earlier last year, the near masterpiece had a few glitches and lacked a couple of features, which gamers need. But with their re-release of Aliens versus Predator, Gold edition, Rebellion and Fox Interactive have solved all the problems and also included some new features in the game.

The original release lacked the save game feature, which has been corrected in this edition and new weapons like the automatic pistols and the skeeter launcher has been added to the marine arsenal. The game also features nine new multiplayer skirmish levels like the meat factory, subway, law 14, and the lead works.

If you have played AvP before, then I don't need to tell you about how the game plays, but if you haven't then here is the basic guideline of the game. "SHOOT ANYTHING THAT MOVES!" AND ALSO, "PENETRATE the enemy lines. RETALIATE the threat, and DETONATE the opposition base!"

Plot: The game has a very straightforward story line: When one race (may it be the humans, the predators or the aliens) is attacked by the other race, they indulge in battle, where it is the survival of the fittest, or in this case the one with the most "Frags".

If you are playing as the marine crop, then you start off by escaping from your spacecraft, which the aliens have invaded, bagging a few alien frags in the process. Ultimately you will confront both the aliens and the predator, and should you be able to defeat them, you can establish the supremacy of your race in the universe.

Game play: The movements of the marine are similar to that of the other 1st person shooters like Quake III and Unreal Tournament; but once you play as the Predator or the Alien you are in for a treat! As the Alien clings on to the roof you feel like you are crouching on the floor, for the whole point of view is also turned upside down giving the player a surreal feeling of not knowing which is the floor and which is the ceiling and the walls. You can use this skill to pounce on your unsuspecting prey.

Each character has its own arsenal of weapons, movements and inventory items. One of the more cool features of the game is the cloaking device, which the Predator has. Just like the movie, the Predator can become invisible and sneak up behind its victim and finish him off quietly. The Predator has four modes of vision, including the heat sensing vision (seen in the movie).

Level design and graphics: For each of the characters, the levels are extremely well designed with plenty of opportunity for straightforward shooting, stealth attacks and strategic moves. But ultimately it doesn't matter what style suits you as long as you finish the mission. The marine character's levels range from marine troops spacecraft's, alien infested surveillance bases, to the Alien Queen's hive!

As the Predator you can penetrate into military bases,

high security labs and even the Predator's own ship!

The Alien explores underground caverns, Alien temples and human colonies. The levels are huge and the graphical details of the characters and objects are very high. All the levels are very spacious and require some good accurate, quick shooting. All the characters in the game are very agile and their speed allows the game to be played at a fast pace. The lighting effects and the video clips add the finishing touch on a game. AvP gold edition comes with its own soundtrack collection, which complements the game.

Pros: Graphics are an eye candy./ Fast game play./ Impressive enemy AI.

Cons: Lack of interactivity./ The game can be quite tough and frustrating at times.

Web links: <http://www.avsp.net> / <http://www.mplayer.com>
<http://www.aliensversuspredator.com>

System requirements: PII 233MHz, 64Mb RAM, 3D accelerator. The game is available at Electronics Museum, Eastern Plaza.

USEFUL DOWNLOAD

DeadLetter: This Eudora Light or Eudora Pro plug-in provides extensive and easy-to-use criteria to scan your in-coming mail for likely junk e-mail messages. When it finds one, it inserts the tag "Send to Deadmail" into the body of the message. This tag can then be used by a Eudora filter to transfer, delete, or otherwise deal with the message. Download from <http://znet.com>

More on MIRC

By Monzur Morshed (#MonzurWorld)

* New MIRC: Mirc 5.71 is out. Get it from <http://www.irc-scripts.com/files/mirc57.exe>

* Register Code: name- Monzur Morshed/ code- 12568-1281102

* Personal Info: I suggest you not to use your real name or e-mail address. Anyone can see your e-mail address (If you enter your real one) using "WHOIS" option.

* Ban: Ban is more dangerous than Kick. Because if you are banned from a channel, not only you are kicked but you will also be unable to chat in that channel. But I think there is a way. Change all the infos and then try to enter that channel again. I was once banned and I was able to return by changing the nick and others. Oh, another thing, alike "kick", only OPs can "ban" people.

* Scripts: Have you seen the difference between IE5 & Neoplanet? You'll see the same with the normal Mirc & CoolMirc. Programs like CoolMirc/MafiaScript/ BDScript are Mirc softwares with many cool scripts. There are a lot of cool scripts for slap, kick, ban etc.

* How to reach me: I am available in my own channel #MonzurWorld or in #bangladesh. My nick is Monzur. See ya!

GAME CORNER:

Get ready for the spicy visual effect movie of the year- X-Men! Straight out of Stan Lee's comic book X-Men will be released next month. Though the X-Men comics had been there for several decades, these have become very popular in the nineties.

Synopsis: Adapted from the most popular Marvel comics of the 1990s, The X-Men are a group of genetic mutants with amazing abilities, brought together and trained by the world's most powerful telepath, Professor Charles Xavier (Patrick Stewart) to help fight for his dream- a world where the mutant minority and human majority can live together in harmony- to be judged not by the fancy powers they possess, but by the content of their character.

However, the Mutant Master of Magnetism, Magneto (Ian McKellen), scarred by the human brutality he's experienced, has come to believe the mutant race is superior to humanity, and should rule over them as their betters, and he's amassed a brotherhood of like-minded mutants to help achieve his goals by any means necessary. With anti-mutant sentiment prevailing at every turn, the X-Men strive to protect the very humans that fear and hate them.

Type: Action/Adventure and Science Fiction/Fantasy.

Starring: Patrick Stewart, Ian McKellen, Halle Berry, James Marsden, Famke Janssen

Director: Bryan Singer. **Producers:** Richard Donner, Lauren Shuler Donner and Ralph Winter. **Writers:** Christopher McQuarrie, Ed Solomon, Laeta Kalogridis, Blanche McDermaid, Josh Whedon and David Hayt. **Distributor:** 20th Century Fox. **Release Date:** July 14, 2000 USA

