Write Now!

from Cardco

Word processing program
for the Commodore 64

Review by Michael Quigley

Cardco's **Write Now! 64** word processor is very similar to their like-named program for the VIC 20, which I reviewed in the May 1984 issue.

Some improvements have been made, including:

- An Insert Mode, which makes it much easier to put copy in the middle of previously typed text.

- An 80-column preview mode, useful for correcting errors in formatting before text is sent to the printer.

- The choice of four different screen/text colour combinations.

- The ability to generate multiple copies.

- A 'mail merge' feature that allows you to generate form letters with different names, addresses, etc.

- A non-destructive directory that pauses with the **CTRL** key.

- Four 'help' screens listing most of the program's formatting commands.

Some of the VIC 20 version's features have not undergone a successful transition. The joystick is supposed to be able to scroll copy, but it doesn't work in either C-64 port. Copy is saved with function key **F3**, and loaded with **F4**, which can lead to disaster. And the program's tab positions are only across the 40-column width of the screen.

There are a few bugs, as well. A line beginning with a period won't be printed, because the program recognizes it as a 'dot command', used for sending special information to the printer. The at-sign ('@') should not be used when saving copy to tape, since it is used as an end-of-file marker, and any copy after it will be lost. And, when using tape, prompt messages sometimes don't appear, since they are the same colour as the screen.

These problems aside, **Write Now! 64** is easy to use, has excellent recovery from operator errors and is reasonably friendly. Like the VIC 20 version, I recommend it for the user who needs a good 'basic' word processor. □