

TRICKS & STRATEGIES FOR PS ONE AND PS2 | TEKKEN TAG, FINAL FANTASY IX
AND TONY HAWK'S PRO SKATER 2

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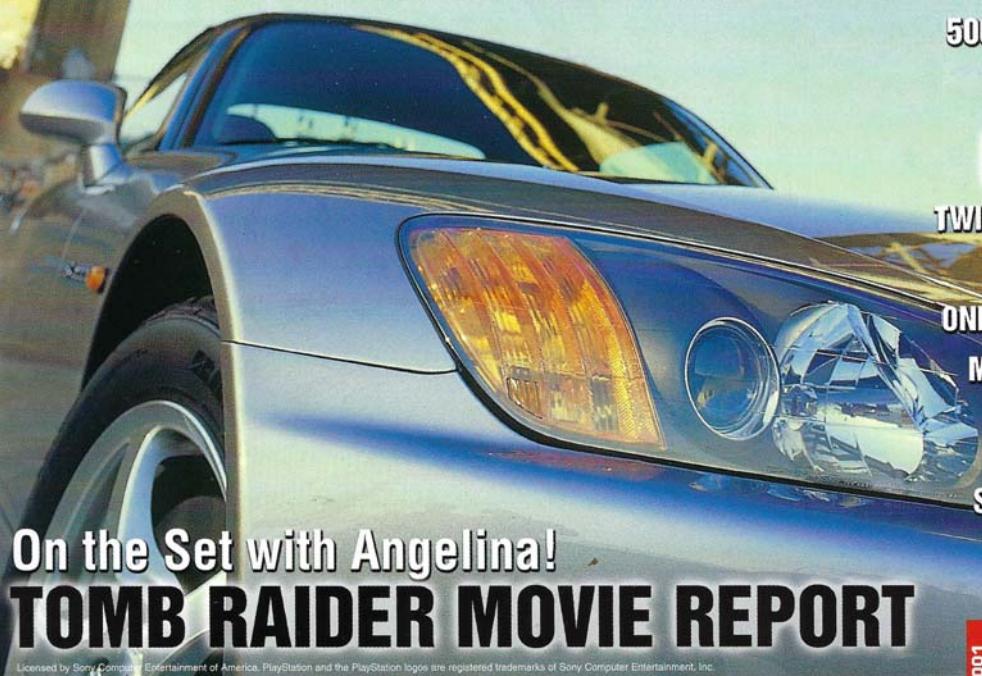


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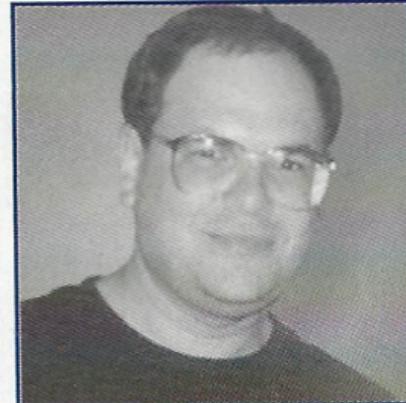
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LEONARD HERMAN CAUGHT UP IN THE HYPE

As a historian, I've always been more concerned with the past than the present. Today never interests me until it becomes yesterday. So whenever a new video game console comes on the market I tend not to be interested in it until it's not so new anymore. During my 22-year love affair with video games I've never purchased a console on its launch date. I never had to. With a collection of more than 1,600 games, I have plenty to keep me busy.



That all changed on Oct. 26, 2000.

I should have learned my lesson last year. When the Dreamcast went on sale I fell victim to the hype and conveniently found myself at a Comp-USA on its launch day. The mere fact that Comp-USA was sold out made me want to buy the system even more. I picked one up a week later and by that time there were plenty in stock.

So did I learn the valuable lesson of preordering? Of course not!

Last December I began purchasing DVDs even though I didn't have a player to watch them on. Some of my favorite movies were available and they were inexpensive. I reasoned that I would be buying a DVD player eventually and these movies might not be available then.

By January I was itching for that DVD player, and by that time stores were beginning to take preorders for the PS2. But I couldn't decide whether I was going to get a DVD console that played games (NUON) or a game console that played DVDs (PS2). After seeing the two at E3 last May I was leaning toward the NUON, especially since the first DVD console with the NUON chip was scheduled to be on shelves a month later. I knew I would get a PS2 eventually, but my priorities had shifted.

Well that first NUON-powered DVD player arrived in June, but it cost \$500 and the reviews for it didn't exactly rave about the games. By then I had amassed over 20 DVD titles and was impatient to watch them, so I went out and bought a no-name bare-bones DVD player for \$140. I couldn't wait around until the PS2's debut in October. Hence, once again no reason to preorder.

By then the news started coming out that Sony wouldn't have enough consoles to fulfill demand. Since I hadn't preordered, I figured there was no sense in doing so, because stores couldn't guarantee delivery. Then the news arrived that Sony would be cutting by half the number of consoles that it would deliver.

On Oct. 26 I went to my local Software Etc., where I was greeted by a list of names of those who would be getting consoles. Inside I watched those who had the forethought to preorder pick up their machines. I actually got to see a PS2 box! I then promised myself that I would never let this happen again.

So now I'm waiting for the preorders to begin for the PS3. Hey, who knows? I may get one before I can get a PS2!

Leonard Herman is the author of a definitive book on video game history, *Phoenix: the Fall & Rise of Videogames*. He's currently working on a third edition, which he hopes to publish in early 2001.