

# NEWS BREAK

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## APRIL 13, 2004 MEETING

### Notetaker and the Personal Response System in Education – Jack Kotz

Join us on **Tuesday, April 13** at 7:30 p.m. in **Hodgdon IRC, lecture hall 1** on the SUNY Oneonta campus. MUG ONE member Dr. John Kotz, S.U.N.Y. Distinguished Professor and best selling author, will demonstrate two of his favorite tools: Notetaker from Aquaminds ([www.aquaminds.com](http://www.aquaminds.com)) and the Personal Response System from Educue ([www.educue.com](http://www.educue.com)).

*Notetaker* from Aquaminds has been described as a “multimedia binder.” Jack uses it to organize volumes of information about his textbooks and his courses, and to keep a to-do list. URLs, photos found on the net, sound files and digital data from instruments, all can be dragged into the notebook and stored for ready access.

Then Jack will show us the PRS system from Educue. Students are given or purchase a transmitter that has a unique ID number, so the instructor can collect the information students have sent and match them to it. Thus, the PRS can be used as a class polling device, to give a quiz, or to take attendance. It is relatively inexpensive, and the software runs on both Macs and PCs.

In addition, hear the latest news and helpful hints, win goodies like software, tee shirts and hardware (members only) and share refreshments with us. Everyone is welcome.

See our [map](#) or SUNY Oneonta’s detailed campus maps: <http://www.oneonta.edu/navigation/directions.asp>

## MAY IS MARRA MONTH!

### Apple’s Dave Marra Returns on May 4th

We’re thrilled to announce that Apple Senior Engineer Dave Marra is coming to MUG ONE on May 4 to offer his third annual Apple Product Overview extravaganza.

Join Dave for an exciting evening exploring the amazing new recent product announcements from Apple. We will have fun with iLife ‘04 as well as Final Cut Express 2.0. We will also take an in-depth look at the cool new iPod mini, the world’s smallest 1,000 song player. Be prepared for an exciting show! For more information about Dave, please visit his web site at <http://www.marrathon.com>.

The meeting will feature door prizes from [Apple](#), [McGraw Hill/Osborne, O’Reilly](#), [Peachpit Press](#), [Sybex](#), [Tidbits/Take Control](#), [You Software](#) and more (members only).

Visit MUG ONE’s web site at <http://www.mugone.com>



*Aquaminds Notetaker and Educue’s Personal Response System*

## MACWORLD EXPO BOSTON DISCOUNTS

The User Group Advisory Board (UGAB) would like to remind you that Macworld Conference & Expo is coming to Boston’s new Convention and Exhibition Center from July 12-15.

For a limited time, user group members are eligible for free or discounted attendance.

- Register before May 7 for a free Exhibit Hall Pass.
- Register before June 18 for 15 percent off all conference packages.

To receive your discount, enter the user group discount code \*\*\*\*\* on the registration page.

<http://www.macworldexpo.com>

Visit the MUG Center to keep up with all the latest information on user group activities at Macworld Expo Boston.

<http://www.mugcenter.com/macworld/mwboston2004/>

### **MUG ONE OFFICERS FOR 2003-2004**

Elsa Travisano, President mugone@stny.rr.com	607/433-2569
Tom Fitzpatrick, Vice President TFITZ77@stny.rr.com	607/433-2514
Terry Helser, Sec. & OSC Liaison: helsertl@oneonta.edu	607/638-9885
Joanne Johnston, Treasurer ejohnston@stny.rr.com	607/432-6320
John Maas, Program Co-Chair xaxat@stny.rr.com	607/437-0665
Brian Foley, SIG Coordinator foleymb@dmcom.net	607/988-7031
Johanna Koenig, Librarian email: jkoenig@dmcom.net	607/432-4975

## MARCH 9, 2004 MEETING

### Mac Computer Art Lab Tour & Macworld Expo Report – Sven Anderson, Benjamin Barnard and Elsa Travisano

President Elsa Travisano began the meeting at 7:30 p.m. by introducing herself and welcoming us to the Computer Art Lab in room 321 of the Fine Arts Building on the SUNY Oneonta campus. Welcome back all to a new year of MUG ONE!

Elsa started by announcing the upcoming programs for spring semester. On April 13 Dr. John Kotz will demonstrate NoteTaker from AquaMinds and the Personal Response System (based on hand-held remotes) that is being installed in many classrooms worldwide. May is Dave Marra month. On May 4 Dave will again take us on a whirlwind tour of the latest and best from Apple. June will be iLife '04 and Garage Band month, if Elsa can entice a musician to try it out and show us how it works. [A willing victim, er, volunteer has been found.- Editor]

Treasurer Joanne Johnston announced that she still had a couple of copies of the Macworld OS X 10.3 Panther special edition with DVD available for \$7. Elsa announced that Newsbreak, MUG ONE's newsletter, will no longer be distributed in paper version. Each issue will be announced with an email to all members and distributed by PDF, as was done this month. Issues will also be available for download (without the codes for user group discounts) at MUG ONE's website - <http://www.mugone.com/pages/newsbreakissues.html>. As moving to electronic distribution saves lots of time and money, not to mention Elsa's sanity, we all agreed with this change. In response to Elsa's query, no one raised any problems with the delivery format. Finally, Elsa mentioned that user groups now have access to Macworld Magazine's Breen's Bungalow QuickTime video instruction presentations. When asked if anyone would be interested in CD-ROMs of these, several people indicated that they would. Brian Foley offered to burn the first set of videos to distribute to members. Stay tuned. The Q&A session didn't take place this month.

Sven Anderson started a tour of the new lab by describing the "Digital Printing and Technology Workshop" he attended in California. Elsa showed her 15" PowerBook with lighted keyboard, and Sven showed the brand new 17" PowerBook he was using. They both were fitted with iSight cameras to demonstrate iChat later in the program. Sven also set up a new Apple 23" Cinema HD Display to show its resolution and clarity. For \$1999 (\$1299 for 20" Cinema Display and \$700 for 17" Studio Display), there is no better color monitor available, according to Sven.

He then put his new dual processor, G5 equipped Computer Art lab through its paces. First he showed Adobe Photoshop CS, which now works with 16 bit, high-end "raw" digital camera images. These have much wider exposure latitude than film, so underexposed and particularly "over" exposed shots can be corrected without loss of detail. Sven showed how the Pho-

tomerge tool could stitch photos together automatically into a seamless panorama. As an aside, he recommended using the RGB mode for working with color rather than CMYK, which is primarily used for printing color separations.

Sven then showed how to Adjust Levels and Curves to bring out the dark and light parts of an image to make it more interesting. And then he used the Clone tool to remove one cloud from a photo and replace it with others from a different one. Nifty. He then started to show "Studio Artist" from Synthetik Software, a powerful Mac-only raster and vector-based art application.-

Sven became suddenly ill (jetlag? The food? Or the CA pollution?), so he asked his student Benjamin Barnard to take over. Ben showed a kitchen still life he made with Maya 5, and animation with Bryce software. He talked about mapping the surface of objects and then putting textures and light reflections on them. In addition, he showed how complex simple animations like making a robot blink, dilate an eye or kick can be. In one example, the knee joint stopped while the rest of the leg kicked without it. Then there was the Gremlin, which had to get the spots on his skin to fit the skeletal shapes under it. It was evident why it takes years and megabucks to make a film! If you want to try Maya, there is a free version you can get from [aliaswavefront.com](http://aliaswavefront.com).

Elsa then took over to demonstrate iChat AV, part of OS X 10.3 and \$29.95 for OS 10.2 users, using the two iSight cameras. There can be some delay in transmission, and the video can be a bit jerky (depending on bandwidth), but it was impressive to think you could talk to anyone in the world in real time with video and not pay long distance phone rates. You need the iChat software, a DSL or cable internet connection and the \$150 iSight camera or a Firewire digital video camera for video iChat. A standard dial-up modem should do audio iChat fine. Text iChat will work at the lowest modem speeds. iChat also works with Mac and Windows AOL users. iChat will be the way to bring busy presenters in to our user group meetings without paying for travel, food etc.

Elsa described January's Macworld Expo in San Francisco in a video presentation stored on her latest techie toys, a USB watch from LaCíe that had a USB cable, no less, and a key chain Microdrive. GarageBand (part of iLife '04) seems to be the hottest product rolled out, so we will try to have it demonstrated later in the year.

Excellent job, Sven, Ben and Elsa!

Next, we drew raffle tickets from the hat. Door prizes included AppleWorks 6, CD wallets donated by MacAddict, iLife books, Apple turtlenecks and tee shirts, pens, luggage tags and other booty. The diet Coke, Sprite, chocolate Toll House, ginger and Oreo cookies disappeared as we all communed. Thanks to everyone who made it a memorable program.

– TERRY L. HELSER, SECRETARY



## TechTool Pro 4

Micromat 800-829-6227 <http://www.micromat.com/>

\$97.97; \$59.57 upgrade from Drive 10, TechTool Pro 3 or TechTool Pro 2 for OS X.

**T**echTool Pro 4 is the long, and I mean *long*, awaited OS X version of Micromat's essential Macintosh problem-solving application. Why the wait? To work with OS X, the program had to be completely rewritten from scratch. The result is a powerful new application with a redesigned interface, new suites of tests, an added disk optimization function, and eDrive, an innovative tool that lets you create an emergency startup partition on your hard drive. TechTool Pro 4 works with OS X 10.2 and higher, and is fully Panther-compatible. Note that it does not work with beige G3 Macs.

The TechTool product line is a standard-bearer among Mac troubleshooting utilities. Apple distributes TechTool Deluxe (essentially a scaled-down version of TechTool Pro 3) as the diagnostic utility that comes with AppleCare. A freeware application, TechTool Lite, which performs very basic diagnostics on older Macs running OS 9, is still available for download from Micromat's web site at the time of this writing. TechTool Pro is the full-fledged, fully featured program of the product line, and version 4 lives up to its well-deserved reputation.

So what does TechTool Pro 4 do? Basically, the program is an array of diagnostic, repair and optimizing utilities that can be run in sets or individually. The main application window organizes these utilities into five categories: test suites, individual tests, performance utilities, tools, and safety utilities.

The easiest way to use TechTool Pro 4 is to run one of the three pre-configured suites of tests: Basic, Intermediate and Advanced. Running one of these test sets is as simple as clicking a button. The Basic suite tests major hardware; the Intermediate suite adds Finder info, file structures and volume structures tests and is recommended for preventive maintenance, and the Advanced suite adds a surface scan, a time-consuming but

sometimes necessary test of a hard drive's function. Tests run concurrently, thanks to OS X's multitasking abilities, which moves things along at a much faster clip than in previous TechTool versions.

If you prefer, you can run separate checks of your Mac's hardware, drives, volumes and files by clicking on the appropriate tab in the Tests category. Within each of these areas, you can zero in on particular tests by clicking the disclosure triangle below the icon for that test, and selecting the individual tests you wish to run. For example, within the Hardware tests you can check your Mac's cache, clock, Firewire ports, main memory, mathematics, Ethernet port, processor, USB ports, and/or video memory. An Aqua-style indicator flashes green next to the progress bar of each test as it is executed. When the test is finished, a green indicator shows a passed test, and a red indicator shows a failed test. A flashing red indicator shows a test is failed, but is still in progress. If TechTool Pro 4 might able to repair a problem, you're offered the option of beginning repairs. As always, it is recommended that you back up your data before attempting any repairs.

Next comes the Performance category, with maintenance and optimization utilities to improve your Mac's performance by optimizing directory structures and defragmenting files and disks. The Tools category includes tools for data recovery, for secure deletion of data, for enabling and disabling volume journaling (a feature of OS 10.2.2 and above which can aid stability but in some instances can slow performance) and for monitoring and calibrating audio and video. There are even screens to help you identify dead pixels on LCD displays. The star of the category is eDrive, which creates an emergency startup partition on your hard drive containing the TechTool Pro 4 application. This allows you to run maintenance or repairs without needing to boot from an external drive or CD-ROM, quite an amazing feat.

The final category is Safety, which allows you to set up various protections, diagnostics and alerts to run automatically. These features are designed to detect problems before they become full-blown. One regularly tests the S.M.A.R.T. diagnostics built in to ATA drives, alerting you in advance to signs of drive failure.

The application comes with a detailed, well-written manual, complete with a glossary and one of the most lucid explanations I've seen of Macintosh file systems in OS X.

TechTool Pro 4 is an indispensable part of my toolkit as a consultant, and as a Mac owner running OS X. This powerful and versatile application belongs in your toolkit too.

– ELSA TRAVISANO

### TechTool Pro 4

System Requirements: Macintosh running Mac OS X 10.2 or 10.3 or greater, CD-ROM or DVD drive, 256MB RAM or higher.



## MAC 911 – HELP DESK

By Christopher Breen

Mac OS X 10.3 (Panther) is a mighty fine feline, but it isn't sleek enough to make this column obsolete. If you're confounded by Panther's ability to create a bootable disc, confused about

installing missing language resources, seeking a replacement for Copy Agent, or distressed by ungainly games, read on.

### Boot Camp

I'd like to create bootable copies of my OS X 10.3 installation discs for backup. How do I do this in Panther?

— Terry Byers, Aptos, California

In earlier versions of OS X, you did this with Disk Copy, but in Panther, Disk Utility does the job. To copy your discs, follow these steps:

1. Launch Disk Utility (in the Applications: Utilities folder).
2. Insert the first Panther CD, and when its icon appears in the left side of the Disk Utility, select Mac OS X Install Disc 1.
3. Click on the New Image button at the top of the Disk Utility window and, in the resulting sheet, name the file (Panther 1, for example); then select DVD/CD Master from the Image Format pop-up menu. Don't change the None setting in the Encryption pop-up menu.
4. Click on Save and eat half a snack while Disk Utility creates an image of the disc.
5. Select the image and click on the Burn button.
6. Insert a blank CD-R and enjoy the other half of your snack while Disk Utility burns and verifies your disc.
7. Repeat for all the other Panther discs that you want to back up.

### Relocalizer

I used Mike Bombich's free Delocalizer (<http://software.bombich.com>) to remove extraneous language files from my hard drive. It turns out that one of my Microsoft Word files includes a letterhead that contains foreign characters -- characters that no longer appear. How can I restore language files?

— Larry Grossberg, Hillsborough, North Carolina

Both Jaguar and Panther include language files you can install with a simple double-click. If you have the multidisc Jaguar installation set, you'll find these files in the Optional Installs folder on the first disc. If you received Jaguar on a single DVD, the Optional Installs folder is inside the Welcome To Mac OS X folder, which may be invisible.

If you don't see it, download a copy of Marcel Bresink's free TinkerTool ([www.bresink.com/en/index.html](http://www.bresink.com/en/index.html)), launch it, se-

lect the Finder button, enable the Show Hidden And System Files option, and click on Relaunch Finder. The Welcome To Mac OS X folder will now be visible. (Because invisible files are invisible so you won't accidentally delete them, be sure to use TinkerTool to make your files invisible again when you're done.)

Restoring language files is much easier in Panther. Insert the second Panther CD, open the Packages folder, and double-click on the Languages.mpkg item. The Install Language Translations installer will open. After selecting a destination for the installed files, click on Continue to move to the Easy Install screen. Click on that screen's Customize button to view a list of all the language files you can install or upgrade. Deselect the languages you don't want to install, and click on Install. When you're asked for it, enter your administrator's password and click on OK.

### Replacing Smart Replace

In the law office where I work, I use a set of 10,000 Word master documents, which is duplicated on each user's computer. I make changes to the master set of documents and then regularly update the other users' set of copies. Connectix's Copy Agent's Smart Replace feature allowed us to change only the documents that had been updated, but it doesn't run on OS X. Is there another tool that can do the same thing?

— Scott Darling, Riverside, California

I can recommend three -- Econ Technologies' \$20 ChronoSync (407/365-4209, [www.econtechologies.com](http://www.econtechologies.com)), Jason Weber's \$20 ExecutiveSync ([www.executivesync.com](http://www.executivesync.com)), and Qdea's \$30 Synchronize X Plus (800/933-9558, [www.qdea.com](http://www.qdea.com)). Although classified as synchronization utilities, they work well for backing up files, and because they're designed to synchronize folders and volumes, they replace only changed files.

I wrote about the synchronization abilities of each program in my May 2003 column ([www.macworld.com/2003/05/secrets/mac9110305](http://www.macworld.com/2003/05/secrets/mac9110305)), so I won't repeat myself here, other than to say that you might prefer ChronoSync or Synchronize X Plus because they offer scheduling features. You could put the schedule to good use by placing the master folder of your Word documents on the office's server, providing each user with a copy of one of these utilities, and configuring each user's utility to synchronize with that master folder as often as you deem necessary.

### Blame Game

What is it about games that, when they crash, OS X locks up completely? If my other applications go belly up, I can force-quit that application and the OS keeps on truckin'.

— Todd Harding, Duluth, Georgia

Games that perform slowly stink. To produce games that don't stink, programmers employ various forms of trickery to pull

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– *Mac 911, continued from page 5*

as many resources from the Mac and its video card as possible. Because a game demands so much from your computer, if something goes wrong, your Mac may not be able to back out from it gracefully.

Glenda Adams – Aspyr Media’s director of PC and Mac development – confirmed that games often push settings higher than a video card can handle, thus not leaving enough for the OS to politely exit if the game crashes. All is not lost, however. Ms. Adams passed along this hint:

Sometimes the Force Quit command works even if you can’t see the dialog box. Try pressing 1-option-escape and then press the return key twice. This may safely force-quit the game even if you can’t see anything happen. In Panther, you can also try pressing 1-shift-option-escape. This force-quits the active application without asking for confirmation.

### Time for Resets

There was a power failure in my neighborhood while my Power Mac G4 was plugged in. I unplugged it until the power returned but when I plugged it back in, it wouldn’t start -- the button glowed when I pushed it, but I heard no activity from the computer. Is it dead?

– Kerin Tyrrell, Macworld.com forums

Probably not. This has happened to my Power Mac G4 when the lights have gone out, and I’ve put things right by pressing the PMU reset button, which is located on the Mac’s motherboard (see “One-Touch Repair”) – its exact location varies depending on which Power Mac you own. Pushing this button resets the Power Management Unit and usually allows the Mac to start up.

The Apple-recommended method for performing this operation is to unplug the power cord and press the PMU reset button only one time (pressing it more than once could keep the PMU chip from responding and reduce the internal battery’s life from five years to two days). Wait ten seconds, plug the Mac back in, and then press the power button.

After resetting the PMU, it’s also a good idea to reset the Mac’s nonvolatile RAM (NVRAM). To do so, shut down the Mac and restart while holding down 1-option-P-R. Continue to hold these keys until you hear the startup sound twice. Let go, and the Mac will continue to start up. After resetting the PMU and NVRAM, use System Preferences to verify your time zone, startup volume, and volume settings.

### Tip of the Month

In the January 2004 Mac 911 column (“Missing Link”), you suggested using iMovie to string together iTunes songs into a single track that could be played behind an iPhoto 2 slide show. Here’s another way to create a single track from multiple songs:

In the Burning tab of iTunes’ Preferences window, select

Audio CD as the disc format and set the desired gap between songs. Now create a playlist with the tunes that you’d like to accompany the slide show. Burn the playlist to a CD.

From iTunes’ Source list, select the CD you just burned and select all the songs on it. From the Advanced menu, choose Join CD Tracks and then click on the Import button. All the joined tracks -- which must be consecutive tracks on the CD -- will be imported as a single track that you can use as the audio background for your slide show.

– David Martin, Columbia, Missouri

### Unsolicited Advice

At the risk of injuring the feelings of Apple’s Panther user-interface team, I have to admit that I find Panther’s metallic Finder windows overbearing and unattractive. Because I do, I’ve scrounged the Web for tools that banish any trace of metal from my otherwise attractive OS.

One such tool is the free Whiteout, available from [www.versiontracker.com](http://www.versiontracker.com). Whiteout replaces the system resource that brushes on the metal appearance in the Finder, iChat, iCal, and Safari (sorry, iTunes is still metallic) with a modified version of the resource that creates off-white, dimly pinstriped windows.

If you’d like your Mac to sport a wildly different appearance, check out Unsanity’s \$20 ShapeShifter ([www.unsanity.com/haxies/shapeshifter](http://www.unsanity.com/haxies/shapeshifter)), which allows you to apply themes to Panther’s interface. Changing more than Finder windows, these themes alter the appearance of windows, menus, buttons, scroll bars, and sliders.

*Macworld contributing editor Chris Breen is the author of Macworld’s tips and troubleshooting column, “Mac 911,” as well as Secrets of the iPod:*

*Second Edition and Mac 911 (Peachpit Press). Find Chris’ books at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and [www.peachpit.com](http://www.peachpit.com). User Group Special: Get 12 issues of Macworld for \$12! Subscribe today at [www.macworld.com/dollarperissue](http://www.macworld.com/dollarperissue)*

### BREEN’S BUNGALOW CD-ROMS FOR MUG ONE MEMBERS

Each month Macworld contributing editor Christopher Breen creates an instructional video in QuickTime format for the CD-ROM that comes with newsstand issues of Macworld Magazine. Now Breen and Macworld Magazine are generously making these videos available to user groups and their members.

We have collected the September 2003—March 2004 videos and created a CD-ROM for MUG ONE members. Topics include iChat, Panther tips, backing up, finding stuff on your Mac, upgrading your iMac, and creating an emergency disk.

Brian Foley has taken on CD duplicating duty, and promises to bring copies to the April and May meetings. We’re asking a nominal \$2 each (members only!) to cover duplication costs.

## APPLE USER GROUP BULLETIN SPECIAL OFFERS

These special offers are brought to you by the Apple User Group Advisory Board. You must be a current user group member to qualify for these savings. Not a member? Join today and take advantage of all the benefits of membership.

### Macaroni

Macaroni handles regular maintenance for Mac OS X, such as repairing privileges and Unix-style maintenance. Without Macaroni, some tasks don't run unless the Mac stays on all night. Others don't run automatically at all. Macaroni remembers for you and runs these maintenance tasks on a regular schedule, regardless of when your Mac is on.

Take advantage of the user group member special by using the coupon code \*\*\*\*\* when ordering. It's good for \$1 off the \$8.99 price.

To order, go to <http://www.atomicbird.com/>

Offer expires July 31, 2004.

### iClip

Inventive, Inc. offers user group members a discount on the purchase of iClip, an OS X native, multi clipboard/scrapbook utility. List price \$19.95, user group price \$14.96.

iClip is a customizable utility that floats above your other applications, allowing easy access to its multiple "clipping bins." You can store, organize and access all kinds of data, including text, pictures, URLs, sound, movies and more. iClip is a versatile application that helps streamline your workflow so you can be more productive.

Read more about iClip: <http://inventive.us/iClip/>

To receive your user group discount, use the coupon code \*\*\*\*\* at the time of purchase.

Offer expires July 31, 2004.

### McGraw-Hill/Osborne

McGraw-Hill/Osborne is offering the following titles to user group members for 35 percent off:

*How to Do Everything with Mac OS X Panther* by Kirk McElhearn

*How to Do Everything with iTunes for Macintosh and Windows* by Todd Stauffer

*How to Do Everything with iLife* by Guy Hart-Davis

*How to Do Everything with Your Genealogy* by George Morgan

Regular price: \$24.99 each, discounted price: \$16.24 each. To order the books at the discounted price, go to \*\*\*\*\*.

Offer expires June 30, 2004

### NovaMind

NovaMind Mind Mapping

Produce stylish, information rich, vivid solutions for enhanced organizational skills, creative thinking and compelling presentations.

NovaMind Mind Maps are a compact, meaningful and powerful way to record and remember information, excellent for problem-solving, planning, brainstorming and summarizing information.

Renowned as the most elegant, affordable and user-friendly, NovaMind is the preferred Mind Mapping program - available in 9 languages including Chinese and Japanese.

Normally \$79, user group members pay only \$51.35. To enable the discount, you must use coupon \*\*\*\*\* during online purchase .

Visit <http://www.nova-mind.com> for more info, to download the free trial and to purchase.

Offer expires June 30, 2004.

### The MUG Store

The MUG store always has great deals for user group members. This month's highlights include:

Refurbished eMac G4/1Ghz w/Combo drive: \$788

Refurbished iMac G4/1 Ghz w/Combo drive: \$1,149

Refurbished 15" PowerBook G4/867 w/Combo drive: \$1,549  
And a special buy on brand new G4/1.25 Duals for only \$1,599, plus a free USB watch (after rebate).

The passwords to get into this exclusive User Group site are:

4/1/2004 - 7/31/2004- User ID: \*\*\*\*\* / Password: \*\*\*\*\*

Don't forget - your group gets one percent return toward anything the MUG Store sells when your members buy from the store.

<http://www.applemugstore.com>

### MacDesign Conference, June 2-4

The User Group Advisory Board has arranged for a \$50 discount for all user group members attending the MacDesign Conference in Chicago, June 2-4.

- Register before April 30 for \$349 (US)

- Register after April 30 for \$449 (US)

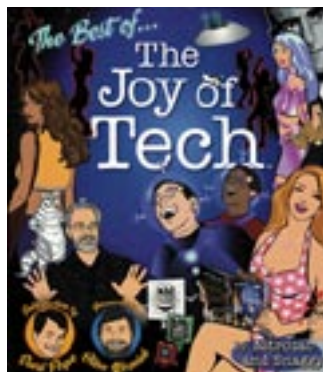
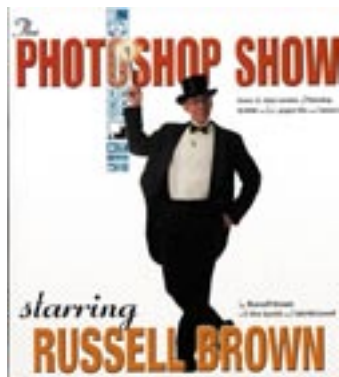
To receive your discount, call 800-738-8513 and mention code \*\*\*\*\*.

Get more info on the Mac Design Conference.

<http://www.macdesignconference.com>

Learn about Mac Design Conference user group events on The MUG Center.

<http://www.mugcenter.com/macdesign/2004>



## REVIEWS: PHOTOSHOP SHOW, BEST OF THE JOY OF TECH, PRESENTING KEYNOTE

*The Photoshop Show Starring Russell Brown*, by Russell Brown, with Brie Gynchild and John McConnell. 160 pp. plus CD-ROM. Adobe Press, 2004. \$35.

If you've visited the Adobe booth at a Macworld Expo, you may have seen a mesmerizing (and oddly-attired) presenter deliver a knock-your-socks-off Photoshop demonstration. That, my friends, was the inimitable Russell Brown. *The Photoshop Show Starring Russell Brown* book and CD-ROM brings Brown's one-of-a-kind instruction to the rest of the world. Here you'll find some of the best Photoshop teaching available, delivered by Adobe's acclaimed senior creative director and leavened with a healthy helping of his inspired goofiness.

*The Photoshop Show* begins with seven projects that leverage the power of layers. You'll learn techniques for revealing detail in oversaturated photos (the secret – channels), applying the illusion of motion, retouching a portrait through “digital shaving” and creating the best black and white images from color originals. The book's second part, inspired by digital effects artist John McConnell, pulls together seven Photoshop techniques that turn an ordinary face (guess who's?) into Frankenstein's monster.

The book and CD-ROM's production values are high, as one would expect from Adobe Press. Step by step instructions are entertaining and clearly written, and are plentifully illustrated with color photos and screen shots. Photos of Brown pop up on almost every page as he delivers tips and observations in cartoon-like speech bubbles.

The CD-ROM includes eleven excellent instructional Quick-Time movies and a collection of project images that allow you to try the techniques yourself. The CD-ROM “covers” Photoshop 7 and higher for Mac and Windows (I assume this refers to the format of the included Photoshop files), but the book's techniques and the ideas behind them can be used in most any version of Photoshop.

The book assumes a familiarity with Photoshop, and is aimed at intermediate to advanced Photoshop users. If you're ready to have fun, get inspired, and think about Photoshop in new ways, don't miss *The Photoshop Show Starring Russell Brown*.

*The Best of The Joy of Tech*, by Nitrozac and Snaggy. 192 pp. O'Reilly, 2004. \$14.95

*The Joy of Tech* has long been my favorite web comic. Nitrozac and Snaggy (their real identities are revealed in an introduction by David Pogue) revel in poking fun at the Mac, Unix, science and science fiction communities in their several-times-weekly cartoons posted at [www.geekculture.com](http://www.geekculture.com). No tech or pop culture target is safe from their laser-sharp and occasionally off-the-wall wit.

*The Joy of Tech's* artwork is simply beautiful. It's no surprise that Nitrozac and Snaggy met in art school. Dead-on caricatures of techie stars like Steve Jobs and Bill Gates share space with geeks of all sorts in their natural habitats and techno-talking babes who are perfect in every way. (Keep dreaming, guys.)

Anyone who has “sipped the rainbow colored Kool-Aid” (that now-anachronistic term for die-hard Apple devotees) will get a charge out of the geek who asks for time off from work to “make a pilgrimage to my temple of worship” - his Mecca, of course, is Macworld Expo. Beleaguered tech spouses will feel the pain of “modern as anniversary gift.” And where else can you find a geek crooning a torch song for Apple's dropped Happy Mac start-up icon? Even user groups make their appearance, from the Klingon Mac User Group Meeting to my favorite, the guy who takes his girl to meet his “family: – his Macintosh User Group!

For extra fun be sure to read the JoyPolls collection at the end of the book. JoyPolls are online polls published to the web with every Joy of Tech. These enhanced Joy-Polls include notes by the authors, comments, and the occasional geeky tidbit.

If you follow the Mac world, *The Joy of Tech* will make you feel like an insider – most of the time. (Some of the

*continued on page 8*

**Newsbreak** is the monthly newsletter of MUG ONE – the Macintosh User Group of Oneonta, NY

Editor: Elsa Trivisano

Contact *Newsbreak* at:

mugone@stny.rr.com

http://www.mugone.com

*Newsbreak*

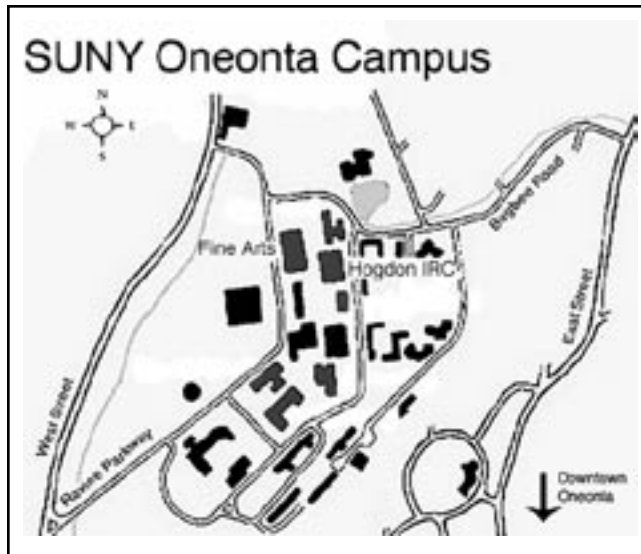
28 State Street

Oneonta, NY 13820

607/433-2569

Fax: 607/433-0909

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– Reviews, continued from page 7

Unix cartoons go waaay over my head.) Even if you don't, *The Best of the Joy of Tech* is too much fun to miss.

*Presenting Keynote, the Insider's Guide to Creating Great Presentations*, by Erik Holsinger. 248 pp. plus CD-ROM. Sybex, 2003. \$24.99.

*Presenting Keynote, the Insider's Guide to Creating Great Presentations* is a very cool book about a surprisingly versatile application. Keynote is Apple's innovative presentation software, first developed for Apple CEO Steve Jobs to use in delivering his Macworld Expo keynote speeches. The program is easy to use, delivers advanced graphic and multimedia capabilities, and comes with stunning (a word overused by Apple's PR, but here richly deserved) themes, typography and special effects that put Microsoft PowerPoint presentations to shame. In *Presenting Keynote*, author Erik Holsinger shows how to get the most from this presentation powerhouse in the real world settings of business, education and art.

Holsinger starts with an overview of Keynote's interface, then introduces Keynote's twelve themes and recommends best uses for each: Sandstone for business presentations, Parchment for presos selling image or creative projects, and Fun for party announcements and "surprise resignations." He then details the steps for building a presentation. Five tutorial chapters keyed to the CD-ROM cover sales presentations, class lessons, an artist portfolio, a video storyboard and a do-it-yourself documentary.

Finally, in "Keynote Meets World," he delves into the nitty-gritty of networks, PowerPoint and Windows compatibility, choosing and using projectors, remote controls and Mac laptops, setting up your presentation system, and selecting and working with AV companies, and outputting to print, slides and video.

Especially valuable are Tips from the Pros, which offer advice from designers, photographers and trainers. The CD-ROM is loaded with applications and demos including Photoshop Elements 2, DeBabelizer, ColorTheory and Peak, as well as tutorial

files, source images and demonstration movies, all delivered in a nice Macromedia Director interface.

*Presenting Keynote* will help you hone your Keynote skills and take your presentations to a new level. Who knew a book on presentation software could be so fascinating?

– ELSA TRIVISANO

**MUG ONE Treasurer's Report – 1/5/03-1/1/04**

	Received	Paid	Total
<b>Bank Balance 1/5/03</b>			<b>\$1130.92</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
Dues through 12/31/03	\$912.00		
Magazines	73.00		
Books	486.20		
Other	2.00		
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>\$1473.20</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Creative Pro Expo		\$95.31	
Printing		233.70	
Postage		259.00	
PO Box		38.00	
Magazines		95.00	
Books		239.89	
Domain registration		35.00	
Door Prizes		60.00	
Software		43.74	
Programs		39.50	
Executive meetings		75.00	
Misc.		10.25	
<b>Total Expenses</b>			<b>\$1224.39</b>
<b>Bank Balance 1/1/04</b>			<b>\$1379.73</b>

Respectfully submitted, Joanne Johnston, Treasurer

This is an amended report to reflect expenses incurred in 2003 but not submitted until after the initial report was made.