Welcome Week introduces IIT to a new generation

By Chris Roberts

Students at IIT spent their first week familiarizing themselves with the campus over the course of several sessions spaced throughout the summer. The first day featured the famous Orientation Counselors, ten incoming freshmen hung out with each Orientation Counselor. Freshmen Doug Geiger, Fabio Buffa of Student Activities, and others.

Monday afternoon brought Taste of the Commons for a frankly delicious one-pod tender mercies of the Orientation Counselors, where groups bonded through playing games with each Orientation Counselor.

Firstly, forces conspired to keep me from the Commons during Tuesday’s Salsa Dancing, which I was told was a stellar display of awkwardness. Oddly enough, apparently the more shameless one was, the less awkward the dancing looked.

Wednesday afternoon was trying, at first. Delta Tau Delta arranged a steak dinner followed by a boat trip down the Chicago River. Unfortunately, more people showed than they anticipated – way more. The large crowd was fed in groups, the others waited outside the house. The last group ate around 8pm. I wouldn’t recommend making new freshmen wait from 5:30 (the scheduled start of dinner) until 8 for a meal if you haven’t eaten since morning – just my two cents. Capacity problems aside, the dinner was quite good, if a bit rushed. Aside from a brief turn down the wrong way of a one-way street, the bus trip to the river went smoothly. The boat trip was terrific! The weather was breezy and clear, allowing for great views of the city. We returned to shore just in time for fireworks display at Navy Pier, which, coupled with a bit of kayak traffic and a reported mooning, made for interesting sightseeing. Poor planning aside, I personally commend Delta Tau Delta for their hard and natchless work in pulling off such an unexpectedly large event.

Coming from a rather anesthetic, suburban community college, Welcome Week was definitely a culture shock. I played more volleyball and Frisbee in 4 days than I have in years. Discussions at the Quad have been some of the most off-kilter, varied, and above all interesting I’ve ever had. One that stands out to me was a chat with the Skulls about potential flaws in the theories of Stephen Hawking, which somehow veered into a tangent about Doctor Who. This was shortly before someone, upon seeing Triangle’s emblem, said, “All I see is the Triforce.” The atmosphere easily made one feel much more comfortable about being nerdy.

Orientation entertains and excites

By Linda Goldstein

Welcome to IIT Orientation! Students at each of the six day-and-a-half sessions spaced throughout the summer were greeted at 8 am in MSV by Orientation Counselors wearing bright orange shirts. Throughout the first day of Orientation, ten incoming freshmen hung out with each Orientation Counselor.

MSV check-in allowed the students in the first five sessions to familiarize themselves with the MSV building, pick up their room keys, and munch on a continental breakfast with their Orientation Counselors. Freshmen familiarized themselves with their temporary roommates, settled in, and generally got the first taste of living in a maze of white walls.

Finally, at 9:45 or so, large clumps of confused freshmen followed orange-shirted Orientation Counselors to the HUB, where the first session of the day featured the famous IIT Overview, by Provost of Undergraduate Affairs Mike Gosz, Executive director of the Career Management Center Bruce Mueller, Dean of Students Doug Geiger, Fabio Buffa of Student Activities, and others.

Finally, the freshmen were released to the tender mercies of the Orientation Counselors, where groups bonded through playing games like Adjective Andy, the Human Knot, the Quiz your Partner game, and Never Have You Ever. The games tired out the students sufficiently and they were subsequently calm enough to leave to the Commons for a frankly delicious one-pod meal comparable to any Campuses Weekday spread.

Moving on, students were herded back to the HUB, where the large, small paddlets of students were told to answer quiz questions to the best of their ability for the honor of their team. Questions were administered by: Director of Housing Jennifer Lutting-Komarowski, Head of Res Life Paul Habinski, Director of Greek Life Erin Grey, Director of Public Safety Steve Horton, Melody Jack from Health Services, and Fabio Buffa from Office of Student Activities. Teamwork was encouraged. In the next session, University Experience, Residence Hall Director Amber Miller gave students a guided tour of the Counseling Center representative talked to students about common stresses of beginning college – and Orientation Counselors spiced things up by performing skits about procrastination, peer pressure, and other relevant topics like “watching movies.” Finally, students were handed over to a librarian, the director of the Academic Resource Center, and

Architecture Lecture by Roger Frechette

Roger Frechette will lecture at IIT on Tall Buildings at 3:30 PM in the MTCC Auditorium on Wednesday, September 3. Frechette is a forward looking mechanical engineer who works with Skidmore Owings and Merrill. Currently he is involved with the 69 story office building under construction on an island in the Pearl River in Guangzhou (Canton), China. Over 50 science principles are being applied in order to achieve zero net energy usage. These range from Biomimetics to Black Body Radiation to Computational Fluid Dynamics. In addition he is part of a new and novel organizational entity within SOM, the Performative Design Group. In the world of architecture, thanks in part to Helmut Jahn who spoke about this subject when he received an honorary degree from IIT in December 2006, Acshio-seeing (as Jahn dubbed it) reflects the coming together of design with technology in construction projects.

Frechette’s popular lecture has been well received and provides an inspirational insight into modern practice in architecture and engineering.

This lecture has been arranged by the IIT Chapter of Sigma Xi, the National Honorary Research Society.
Hey IIT! Welcome back to another exciting school year. More importantly, welcome back to another exciting year of SexTech! For those of you that have never heard of SexTech before, it was by tradition a Q&A-style article similar to Dear Abby spiced up with a little satire and cynicism. This year, however, we are looking to expand our format to include a greater number of features such as product reviews, general advice and a few other surprises. So be sure to pick up TechNews each week to see what we have in store.

Thanks,

SexTech Staff

Summer Lovin’

Most people think of summer as a time for vacations, quality hours with the family, or a chance to enjoy the outdoors. The SexTech staff naturally had something else in mind. The summer fling, the holy grail of noon-time debauchery: though many seek it, few know the keys to pulling it off. A lot of people will say they are OK with the idea of hooking up, but we’ll break it down into three simple steps: the hookup, the follow-up, and the dismount.

The key to following up is discretion. Reducing the amount of personal information shared will add to the spontaneity of the time shared together and add a sense of secrecy and mystery to your relationship. Naturally you would try to avoid these things during a long term relationship, but keeping things simple and uninvolved will allow both parties to break off the relationship as early as decided by the TechNews and SexTech staff. Additionally, any articles submitted to the TechNews website are subject to our discretion for printing and can be used at any time as decided by the TechNews and SexTech staff.

Lastly, we have the dismount. The dismount is more of an active step to consider throughout the entire duration of the fling. Vital points such as making your partner aware of the short shelf life of your relationship as well as keeping the romance factor low will make this part much easier. Don’t fall in love! Though this sometimes cannot be helped, interviewing your emotions in a physical relationship is setting yourself up for failure. If you were unable to shake one of the wilder, unstable prospectives, it’s important to leave a false trail as to where you’re actually heading at the end of the summer. If possible, try not to provide any information as to your future whereabouts. Finally, keep contact to a minimum. Continued contact after the relationship’s expiration date will get in the way of both ends, possibly starting a healthy long term relationship.

That’s it folks. Though the rules and suggestions are simple most people fall off of the basic guidelines and find themselves in a sticky situation come Fall.

See ya next week. And as always, please send us emails with any questions you may have about your sex life to sextechnews@gmail.com.

SexTech Staff

Disclaimer: SexTech is intended for entertainment purposes only. TechNews and the SexTech staff are in no way accountable if you are stupid enough to try something suggested within this weekly article. All emails submitted to the SexTech email address become the property of TechNews and TechNews is free to print them at its discretion. Additionally, any articles submitted to the TechNews website are subject to our discretion for printing and can be used at any time as decided by the TechNews and SexTech staff.

Thanks, and remember, “Don’t be a fool, wrap your tailights, steal the second half of every sock you own, or stalk you for three years. However, there are warning signs. For example, if someone is going to go Louisville Slugger on your tailights, steal the second half of every sock you own, or stalk you for three years. However, there are warning signs. For example, if someone is going to go Louisville Slugger on your tailights, steal the second half of every sock you own, or stalk you for three years. However, there are warning signs. For example, if someone is going to go Louisville Slugger on your tailights, steal the second half of every sock you own, or stalk you for three years. However, there are warning signs. For example, if someone is going to go Louisville Slugger on your tailights, steal the second half of every sock you own, or stalk you for three years. However, there are warning signs. For example, if someone is going to go Louisville Slugger on your tailights, steal the second half of every sock you own, or stalk you for three years. However, there are warning signs. For example, if someone is going to go Louisville Slugger on your tailights, steal the second half of every sock you own, or stalk you for three years. However, there are warning signs. For example, if someone is going to go Louisville Slugger on your tailights, steal the second half of every sock you own, or stalk you for three years. However, there are warning signs. For example, if someone is going to go Louisville Slugger on your tailights, steal the second half of every sock you own, or stalk you for three years. However, there are warning signs. For example, if someone is going to go Louisville Slugger on your tailights, steal the second half of every sock you own, or stalk you for three years. However, there are warning signs. For example, if someone is going to go Louisville Slugger on your tailights, steal the second half of every sock you own, or stalk you for three years. However, there are warning signs. For example, if someone is going to go Louisville Slugger on your tailights, steal the second half of every sock you own, or stalk you for three years. However, there are warning signs. For example, if someone is going to go Louisville Slugger on your tailights, steal the second half of every sock you own, or stalk you for three years. However, there are warning signs. For example, if someone is going to go Louisville Slugger on your tailights, steal the second half of every sock you own, or stalk you for three years. However, there are warning signs. For example, if someone is going to go Louisville Slugger on your tailights, steal the second half of every sock you own, or stalk you for three years. However, there are warning signs. For example, if someone is going to go Louisville Slugger on your tailights, steal the second half of every sock you own, or stalk you for three years. However, there are warning signs. For example, if someone is going to go Louisville Slugger on your tailights, steal the second half of every sock you own, or stalk you for three years. However, there are warning signs. For example, if someone is going to go Louisville Slugger on your tailights, steal the second half of every sock you own, or stalk you for three years.
Got a problem with IIT?

By Rachel Walker

TECHNEWS WRITER

Another summer has come and gone bringing with it a fresh group of students eager to be impressed. These students are ready to find out exactly what IIT has to offer. While making ranks on some of the Princeton Review’s “Room for Improvement” lists and achieving a whopping 96th on U.S. News’ Top National Universities of 2008, IIT leaves something to be desired.

Fortunately for the student body, last year things began to change. Many Voices, One Vision allowed students to submit their opinions on issues that will be considered in the new strategic plan, the Residence Hall Association (RHA) developed a “food committee” to be the liaison between the students and Sodexo, and forums like ChangeIIT gave students a place to discuss their qualms with this institution, just to name a few.

With all these positive responses to the outrages of the students, I’m still left unsatisfied. Why, you ask? Because I’m not seeing many changes. There is an endless list of changes that need to be made at IIT, and they’re just not happening. If you approach any of these members with your research done and a serious attitude to fix the problem, I bet they’ll actually listen. If you’re unsure who to approach or what to do next, go to the Student Government Association (SGA) meetings. I’m sure these elected members of the IIT student body will be more than willing to assist, especially if you’re trying to make a change.

In summary, if you have a problem with IIT, do something about it. Initiate the change that will positively affect you as well as the rest of the IIT community. Nevertheless, don’t limit yourself to only fixing issues that arise. Try creating something useful. Try giving something useful. Try giving yourself to only fixing issues that arise. Try creating something useful. Try giving something useful. Try giving yourself to only fixing issues that arise. Try creating something useful.

I am a member of the student body, don’t know about you. It is happening, I, as a member of the student body, need to be made at IIT, and they’re just not happening. If you approach any of these members with your research done and a serious attitude to fix the problem, I bet they’ll actually listen. If you’re unsure who to approach or what to do next, go to the Student Government Association (SGA) meetings. I’m sure these elected members of the IIT student body will be more than willing to assist, especially if you’re trying to make a change.

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The world needs a healthy USA

By Anant K.S. Puri

TECHNEWS WRITER

I recently marked two years since my arrival in the USA. What a ride it’s been. When I look back, memories of preparing for the GRE and the TOEFL exams flash before me. Getting a good score in the exam is the initial step in realizing your dreams to study in the USA. The ensuing months were spent preparing a Statement of Purpose and getting the required Letters of Recommendations from my professors and Head of Department.

Why would a student like me, who had a plum assignment as an RF Engineer, leave everything behind to come to the USA? It was a tough decision leaving behind my parents and home country to come to a new country and make the necessary adjustments. Looking back at the last two years of my stay in the USA, the reasons have become all too obvious.

The kind of freedom the USA offers is unparalleled in the world. Why do we have so many students, immigrants, H1 workers and even asylum seekers come to the US every year? They all share the same hope of being nurtured in a society which will not only make them global citizens but also give them the freedom to learn anything, practice any religion and realize dreams they felt would have remained otherwise unrealized.

I feel very strongly that one is a product of his/her society. There are innumerable cases when future Nobel Laureates and scientists came to the USA to pursue research which made the world a better place.

Contrary to popular belief, there is no brain drain. The USA has always been a land of opportunity to pursue research which made the world a better place.

A good example would be NASA, which attracted an aspiring astronaut like Kalpana Chawla from a relatively unknown Northern Indian city of Chandigarh, Punjab. She may not be amongst us today, but her work and research has inspired millions. This opportunity was provided by the United States. Had they stayed back in their respective countries, they may not have achieved what she sought out to do. Oppressive regimes, war torn countries, poor infrastructure, riots, corruption and state oppression has forced millions to come to the USA in search of a better future. These immigrants have shaped the destiny of the US in wave after wave of immigration, which left an indelible mark on US culture, making it wealthier and more diverse.

Democracies like India and the United States are case studies in “Unity in Diversity.” Both countries have people from almost every religion known to man and have granted their people the right and the power to choose their leaders and shape their future.

In times like today when there seems to be a power struggle in the world trying to wrest control from the US as the dominant player in world politics, I feel all of us who have been here and realized the American Dream should stick firm and united in our support for this great country. The US economy may have taken a few punches, but hasn’t it in the past too? The world—our world—needs a strong and healthy USA. I have put faith in this country just like I did when it was strong when I came here as a student two years ago. Why shouldn’t I do the same when it is ailing?
1. Offer expires 9/30/08. Present flyer to a banker when opening a Chase College Checking account. For Chase College Checking accounts a minimum opening deposit of $25 is required. To qualify for the $25 bonus, you must make five qualifying purchases (PIN or signature) with your Chase Debit Card within 60 calendar days of account opening. The $25 bonus will be automatically deposited into your account within four to six weeks of the final qualifying purchase. ATM transactions are not considered purchases and will not count toward the five purchases. Offer not available on account conversions or in combination with any other offer. Limit one consumer checking account-related reward/premium per customer, per calendar year. Checking account must remain open for six months or the bonus will be debited from the account at closing. Account is subject to approval. Cash bonus may be considered interest reportable on IRS Form 1099-INT.

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The Dark Knight: a descent into madness

By Alex Czubak

The genre of comic-book films has been defined since Christian Bale. The Movie. It has to pay homage not only to the comic book it adapts from, but to its creators. No matter how serious the story or the comic’s origins, X-Men and its creation from the civil rights struggles of the 1960s, or Unbreakable and Malcolm X, for example, the film should be the highest form of entertainment. Even if the story is a trifle, one still has to be fun in some way, shape, or form.

The Dark Knight is no comic-book film, not in the traditional sense at least. It cannot be compared to any comic-book film before it, not even the gold standards – Superman: The Movie and Spider-Man 2. It cannot even be compared to its first film in the reboot of the Batman film, Batman Begins. Although the title is a reference to Batman, the fact that this film is the first in the entire series not to include the word Batman makes it a bold statement. Thankfully, it supports that bold statement with what may be destined to become a classic film.

Gotham City has slowly become a safer city because of Bruce Wayne/Batman (Christian Bale – American Psycho, Rescue Dawn) and his influence not only has weakened the actions of the Joker (Heath Ledger – Brokeback Mountain, A Knight’s Tale) is working parallel to the mob, seeking ways to increase the chaos among the citizens of Gotham. His motivation is not from money or power; he is an unnatural force of evil, one who is only consumed by an endless desire to deconstruct a stable society. The only one who can stop him is someone not afraid of going to the darkest depths of him or herself.

Joker’s face of justice and is becoming the vision of Nolan. Opening the film with the Batman symbol appearing from and devolving into a ball of fire, Nolan sets up the film from the very beginning as a descent into menace. The film begins with a carefully orchestrated bank heist. With overhead shots of the city, close-ups of the masked robbers, and ending with Batman’s punching involving a grenade in a mouth, the heist establishes the look and feel of the film.

In Batmen Begins, none of the actors were wasted. In The Dark Knight, each actor takes it a step further and sells the film without question. Christian Bale became the best actor to don the role of Batman. With overhead shots of the city, close-ups of the masked robbers, and ending with the Joker’s face and half of Gotham’s face, visible, and just the simple cross-cutting in the sequence provides atmosphere to the shots.

In Batmen Begins, some of the actors were wasted. In The Dark Knight, all of the actors were given their proper time to shine. Some of the less important roles have more depth, and the supporting cast is just as good as the Batman or the Joker. The editing, led by Lee Smith, adds believability, starting with the relationship with Rachel and his connections to Batman and Lt. Gordon. Eckhart got everyone’s attention in Thank You for Smoking, and now he proves his character is just beginning.

At the core, the cinematographer, is one of the main reasons the look works so well. The camera never wavers a shot, and moments that would be wasted in other films are expanded. The hands of many others, such as Batman standing on the Sears Tower, come off with grace and intensity. The editing, led by Lee Smith, adds more character to the camera. One of the best examples is in the interrogation room with the Joker and Gordon. The lightning renders only the Joker’s face and half of Gotham’s face, visible, and just the simple cross-cutting in the sequence provides atmosphere to the shots.

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Gary Oldman has the task to play the noble Lt. Gordon, and he helps the character grow into the last movie. Gordon is the symbol of unending good, something not typical in Oldman’s canon, yet he carves a detailed portrait of a man in need of a hero, and Oldman has given everyone the ideal interpretation of Jim Gordon.

Michael Caine and Morgan Freeman, the elder statesmen of the film, as well as Academy Award winners, define what a supporting role truly is with their respective roles as Wayne’s butler Alfred and Wayne Enterprises CEO Lucius Fox. These two men allow the other actors to have the moments they need, yet they are treated and treat the other roles as equals. Caine and Freeman become memorable in their own right by making what could be two-dimensional characters have real depth.

A special note should be made for the script. Chris and Jonathan Nolan created a multifaceted, complex script that is the foundation for the film’s transcendentism of the comic-book genre. By weaving the stories of Batman/Bruce Wayne, Harvey Dent, Jim Gordon, the Joker, Alfred, Lucius Fox, and Rachel Dawes with such delicate precision and telling the story of the effects of a man who, as Alfred puts it in the film, “wants to tell the world the word” the Nolan brothers have crafted one of the best original scripts in years. The depth of each character and his or her actions is conveyed expertly, and the script shines because of it.

The comic-book genre has in the past been seen as a genre for well-crafted and altogether fan films. The genre, as well as most summer films, is seen as just great entertainment. The Dark Knight isn’t entertainment in the pure sense; it’s a bold, action drama, one that is a mirror of the world at large underneath the superhero veneer. It’s an art film disguised as entertainment, and it is one of the best films of the decade.
Welcome Week 2008 in Photos
Continued from page 1: Freshman summer orientation

features of Banner, the new IIT web system that will make everything work faster and better (and indeed appears to be fulfilling its promise more every day.) The other half of the incoming freshmen were not stashed in the basement, but after a short skit presented by Orientation Counselors about different levels of participating in school, were allowed to mingle with each other, the OCs, and students representatives, ostensibly to converse about different school clubs. TechNews was mentioned loudly and often by yours truly, the incomparable Orientation Counselor 10.

Dinner was held in the BOG and featured typical BOG food; as soon as the Orientation Games were set up in the HUB Ballroom or in Morton Park, freshmen and OCs filed upstairs to compete in a winner-take-all competition which featured games like the Build a Tower out of Straws, the Bat Spin, the Circle Sit, the Hula Hoop Pass, and others. After the award ceremony, conducted by Lead Orientation Counselors Alex and M. C. Lane, the party moved downstairs to the BOG with free bowling, ping-pong, pool, Wii, Guitar Hero, and iced water drinks - although the jukebox is apparently incapable of being reprogrammed to be free. After long loud hours of playing card games in the MSV McCormick lounge, our new-to-campus heroes retired to their respective rooms to sleep. Bright and early the next morning, some large percentage rose, breakfasted, and met their academic counselor. Schedules were decided upon, FAFSAs were signed, and the Parent Lounge supplied free coffee. During this time, the Department Fair rattled on, basilly occupying the idle parents and those students waiting for their advising time to arrive. A few notable tables at the Fair included the Sodexo table (free cookies!), and the Office of Spiritual Life (with really cool stickers).

Orientation will happen again next year, same time, same place. Consider being an Orientation Counselor - the advantages are obvious.

Photos by Linda Goldstein
Incident Type: SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY  
Location: ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY : MAIN CAMPUS : RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS : MCCORMICK STUDENT VILLAGE - 3241 S WABASH
Date/Time Reported: 8/20/2008 6:25 AM  
Incident Occurred Between: 8/20/2008 3:00 AM and 8/20/2008 4:00 AM
Case #: 08202008-000583  
Int. Ref. #: Disposition: CLOSED PENDING ADTL INFO
Notes: PSD RESPONDED TO LOCATION AFTER INTOXICATED STUDENT WAS FOUND WANDERING THROUGH THE HALLS UNABLE TO FIND HIS DORM ROOM.

Incident Type: ASSAULT-SIMPLE : VERBAL COMMANDS  
Location: ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY : MAIN CAMPUS : RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS
Date/Time Reported: 8/20/2008 6:30 AM  
Incident Occurred Between: 8/20/2008 6:30 AM and 8/20/2008 6:30 AM
Case #: 08202008-000581  
Int. Ref. #: Disposition: CLOSED PENDING ADTL INFO
Notes: STUDENT MADE PSD AWARE OF VERBAL THREATS HE WAS RECEIVING FROM ANOTHER STUDENT VIA THE INTERNET.

Incident Type: TRESPASSING : CRIMINAL TRESPASS TO LAND  
Location: ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY : MAIN CAMPUS : ACADEMIC/ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS : ENGINEERING 1 - 10 W 32ND
Date/Time Reported: 8/20/2008 9:06 AM  
Incident Occurred Between: 8/20/2008 8:45 AM and 8/20/2008 8:45 AM
Case #: 08202008-000584  
Int. Ref. #: Disposition: CLEARED BY ARREST
Notes: WHILE CONDUCTING AN UNLOCK OF A CLASSROOM PSD BECAME AWARE OF AN UNAUTHORIZED FEMALE ON THE PREMISE AFTER BEING GIVEN A VERBAL WARNING NOT TO RETURN. CPD NOTIFIED AND ARREST MADE.

Incident Type: BURGLARY : UNLAWFUL ENTRY-NO FORCE W/LARCENY  
Location: ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY : MAIN CAMPUS : ACADEMIC/ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS : MCCORMICK TRIBUNE CAMPUS CENTER - 3201 S STATE
Date/Time Reported: 8/22/2008 6:00 PM  
Incident Occurred Between: 8/21/2008 5:15 PM and 8/21/2008 5:15 PM
Case #: 08222008-000593  
Int. Ref. #: Disposition: CLOSED - NO FURTHER ACTION POSSIBLE
Notes: PSD RESPONDED TO LOCATION UPON REPORT OF A STOLEN PURSE AFTER AN UNIDENTIFIED MALE WAS OBSERVED IN THE BACK STORAGE ROOM OF THE BOOKSTORE.

No TechNews next week!
TechNews is taking Labor Day off.  
Our next issue will be released Tuesday, September 9.  
Submit your articles by 11:59pm, September 6, to technews.iit.edu.
TechNews is Hiring!

A&E Editor

Recruit writers and provide content for the Arts & Entertainment section.

Provide in-depth coverage of any music, gallery openings, museum exhibits, theater shows, etc. of interest occurring in the Chicago area.

Obtain press passes to any events possible and assign writers to cover those events.

Layout Editor

Be proficient in Adobe InDesign before starting production of the paper.

Ensure the completion of layout before the specified deadline every week.

Communicate with section editors about the desired layout style for their section and teach section editors how to use InDesign properly if they want to do their own layout.

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Contribute your ideas!
Voice concerns and complaints!
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Meeting Wednesday, August 27th, 1:10pm-1:40pm
MTCC Room 202
(Conference Room by the MSV entrance)
The Rundown
In the late 1500s, heroic warriors of diverse fighting styles from all over the globe clash in a quest to gain or destroy the evil power of the sword Soul Edge and the less morally questionable sword Soul Calibur. Their no-holds-barred one-on-one matches will decide the fate of the world.

Graphics
Soul Calibur 4 is most definitely a next-gen game. Hair and cloth mostly move acceptably, and the character models are very detailed. There are plenty of flashy lighting effects, but they are just moderate enough so as not to be a major distraction. The rendered "special effects," though, are not always the best, as electricity effects look very spindly. Nonetheless, as three dimensional fighting games go this is one of the best to look at.

Sound
The voice acting is probably the best it’s ever been in the series, often sounding like dialogue from a mediocre movie, though sometimes its tone is not appropriate to the speech. The faceless narrator/announcer is unapologetically cryptic and the series, often sounding like dialogue from a mediocre movie, makes such an attempt to mimic a movie. The music, though sometimes its tone is not appropriate to the speech. The faceless narrator/announcer is unapologetically cryptic and the series, often sounding like dialogue from a mediocre movie, makes such an attempt to mimic a movie.

Gameplay
The gameplay in Soul Calibur 4 will be very familiar to players of the previous games, but it incorporates new elements as well. The basics of the system are that players move mostly two dimensionally on a flat stage and fight until one is knocked out, time runs out, or one falls out of the arena (in a "ring out"). Attacks can be high, mid, or low, and each can be directly dealt with differently. A high attack can be dodged under by crouching or a low attack can only be blocked standing, and a low attack can only be blocked while crouching but can be jumped over. Furthermore, all characters can perform precisely timed counters called guard imprints and guard breaks which both block an attack and send the opponent reeling, and some have special dodge or counter moves that are more efficient for stopping specific types of attack. Characters can also avoid attacks indirectly by sidestepping them or withdrawing out of range.

If it sounds complex, it’s because it is, at least as fighting games go. However, with a few hours of practice the basics feel very intuitive to even an uncoordinated player. This type of game along with relatively simple controller inputs lends itself to games being decided more by tactical savvy and timing than they are in the "special move"-centric style of traditional two-dimensional fighting games like Street Fighter, though it also means that very lucky button mashers can occasionally pull off miracle victories against experts despite being ignorant of their moves.

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Overall
Soul Calibur 4 delivers a graphically updated and streamlined game that both innovates new mechanics and preserves the feel of earlier games in the franchise. It is packed with content, moderate in size, and mostly gets this right. The Star Wars guest characters, however, are of questionable fairness at best, and in the case of Yoda they introduce a character more broken than a comminuted fracture.

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Final Verdict
4.5 out of 5

By Jonathan Mikesell

TechNews
TECHNOLOGIST EDITOR
Kamashki Palakodey, EDITOR

HP TouchSmart: Touchable, smooth experience?

By Kamashki Palakodey

TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

With the advent and growing popularity of the iPhone, touch screens are more in demand now than ever before. There have made their way from the more expensive to the mainstream with the introduction of the IQ-506 HP TouchSmart desktop PC. Though HP introduced the TouchSmart line in 2007, it failed to take the market by storm. The IQ-506 may not be the first at the end of the box, but it has a decent line of features that might be of interest to us.

For starters, if it isn’t already obvious, the IQ-506 is a touch screen desktop PC. It comes with some impressive hardware features like a 64-bit processor and more power than the previous versions, but the custom-made HP interface software is what the IQ-506 is all about. Many of the applications are an added advantage. The rapid response to touch is all due to the HP software, which is tailor-made to enable the touch screen functionality. The interface is user friendly and is analogous to the sliding features you can find in an iPhone, allowing users to simply slide their finger across the screen to view the next array of items. You can even rearrange the current placement of icons freely and interchange the icons in the top and bottom rows.

The applications provided are displayed in two rows of icons, which can be selected by touch. The first row hosts the icons most frequently used by the user, whereas the second row displays the necessary but less often visited applications. If you are not happy with a limited set of icons and would like to customize your desktop, you can do so by just dragging and dropping with the simple slide of a finger. That’s how easy it is! Some standard applications are included to complete the whole picture. These include, but are not limited to, video, music and picture applications.

Everyone now has access to an iPod in iPhone and simply can’t do without an extensive and thoroughly organized iTunes library. The IQ-506 has a music application to facilitate the migration of music files in your iTunes library into its own music application. The transition is not so smooth, however. You cannot drag and drop playlists as they are. The IQ-506 is not yet able to differentiate playlists and so you have to drag and drop each playlist individually if you don’t want to alter the setting. More audio files can be added with drag and drop. The silver lining is that the IQ-506 music application can arrange the music files by artist or album so you can even search by artist. It will also go the extra mile and include the artwork for you.

The video application can access all your video files, regardless of where they may be stored. Each video needs to be dragged into the application. This work is done for you. Also, regardless of where they may be stored. Each video needs to be dragged into the application. This work is done for you.

A photo application is also included in the package. This photo browser lets you crop the photos by touch, but that’s about it. Editing capabilities are limited. Other basic changes such as brightness and contrast can be applied, as well. Each of the apps provided makes use of the touch screen functionality, which is even more useful in case of the photo application. You can even rearrange the music files by artist or album so you can even search by artist. It will also go the extra mile and include the artwork for you.

The applications provided include a desktop calendar, a weather application, and post-it notes.

As mentioned earlier, the HP interface has been custom made to cater to the user’s touch using special software of its own. But when the same features are used with, say, Windows Vista, the response time isn’t as great and the touch screen functions become limited. So it is advisable to use the right software environment if you want that touchable smooth experience.

When the software itself is so dominant, the hardware features are hardly talked about. But they are nevertheless worth commenting on for the sake of completeness. The screen is a pleasure to watch as it is a 22 inch wide screen and is therefore very user friendly. It runs on a 2.1 to Core duo processor and has 4GB of RAM. You can plug in many devices using the 5 USB ports provided. The hard drive has 500 GB memory, and the computer is also equipped with an ATSC tuner and a SDHC reader.

The IQ-506 may not be all that – especially because it doesn’t support multi-touch, but if HP is trying to carve a niche in the area of touch-screens, and are possibly aiming to compete with Apple, then it might be on the right path. This is only the beginning though, as several features have yet to be implemented. Priced at $1,499, the market performance of the HP IQ-506 TouchSmart Desktop PC will be highly impressive and possibly help decide the future of the HP TouchSmart line.

TechNews WRITER

FRAG: Soul Calibur IV

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Crossword

Across
1. Singer Sheryl
7. Urban haze
10. Pit viper
11. __ Piper
12. “I had no ___”
13. Microbe
15. “Evening” actress Collette
17. Some forensic evidence
18. Navigator’s need
20. Stage signal
21. Pecan, e.g.
23. Balloon filler
24. Sri Lanka export
26. Animal with a mane
27. Last name in cosmetics
29. Friend in war
31. Shopping ___
32. Jacket
33. Hockey score
35. Beat
37. Listening devices
39. Marry
40. Marry
41. Homer’s TV neighbor
42. Common connector
43. Lodge member
44. Diamonds, to hoods
45. Electrical unit
47. Cried
50. Cold war initials
52. “General Hospital,” e.g.
53. San Francisco’s Nob
54. Advance booking
55. “The Far ___”
56. Freudian topics

Down
1. Rome’s Eros
2. Pizza herb
3. Walk in water
4. Flower stalk
5. Hannah played one in “Splash”
6. Shoelace problem
7. Scrape, as the knee
8. The ‘M’ of E.M.T.
9. Vineyard fruit
10. Decay
16. Ump’s call
18. Cocktail
19. Go before
22. Aunt’s husband
24. Common connector
25. Consumed
26. Journey part
27. Gallery display
28. Silent assent
30. “Absolutely!”
31. Chummy
36. Get
38. Like fans
40. Party bowlful
42. Personals, e.g.
43. Lets up
44. Yard pests
46. Fencer’s blade
48. Long hike
50. “What’ve you been ___?”
51. Soft ___ shuffle

Copyright, Lovatts Crosswords

Sudoku

4 1 8 7
6 2 3
5 7

2

8 1 3
5 1 7
4 6

3 2

By Randall Munroe

xkcd

THERE ARE FEW FORCES MORE POWERFUL THAN GEEKS DESPERATELY TRYING TO GET INTERNET IN A NEW APARTMENT.

There are few forces more powerful than geeks desperately trying to get Internet in a new apartment.

OKAY, THE PRINGLES CANTENNA HAS LET US PATCH IN TO THE WIFI NETWORK ACROSS THE ROAD.

And they have Internet?

NO, BUT I THINK THE CABLE VAN WILL HOOK UP THEIR HOUSE FIRST.

There are few forces more powerful than geeks desperately trying to get Internet in a new apartment.
Women’s Soccer ties Davenport, 2-2, August 22nd